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 DESTROY

FOIPA# NA

Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 55186 Date: 11-20-2017

VZCZCHQ0 019

RR JN

DE HQ 0019 0732309

ZNR UUUUU

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

ASAC

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.

4-Bureau
1-Jackson (62-544)
JWS/bjw
(5)

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
Indexed
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62-544-8

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

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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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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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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.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 10

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [x] 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.

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

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

62-544-9

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

VZCZCHQ0135

RR JN KX ME

DE HQ 0135 1380140

ZNY EEEEE

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)

Buford Wallace Posey 157-2088 100-441 157-4326-167

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

T-5/26/78 00: FBIHQ #4

62-549-14

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 17 1978
FBI-JACKSON

Please check indices

Indices Search Slip
FD-180 (Rev. 10-1-59)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date 5/18/78

Subject Buford Wallace Posey

Aliases

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex
	8/28/25			☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling
✓ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
157-2083*			
100-491*			
157-9326-109			

Xerox Copy of all the above serials sent Bureau.

please file
w/62-544-14
pw

Segmented by	Squad	Extension	File No.

Searched by Karen Bracey 5/18/78 (date)

Consolidated by (date)

Reviewed by (date)

File Review Symbols
0 - Identified
? - Not Identifiable

VZCZCHQ0135

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R 172149Z MAY 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI JACKSON ROUTINE

FBI KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

FBI MEMPHIS ROUTINE

BT

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BT

0135

62-544-14

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____

SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

MAY 17 1978

FBI

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [X] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date 5/23/78

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)

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)

4

62-117290-15

DD 11/23/78

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

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

VZCZCHQ0 106

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 18, 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

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 24 1978
FBI-JACKSON

T: 5/31/78
001 Dwen
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Re
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JB

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

1. JN 340-R, BUREAU FILE 170-1565, JACKSON FILE 170-459, 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

PETER BEESON, BOTH HSCA STAFF ATTORNEYS, WHO CAN BE CONTACTED COLLECT AT 202-225-8353. 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 HQ0 106

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)

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62-544-16

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___

MAY 24 1978

FBI-JACKSON

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

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

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VZCZ 000166

RR JN

DE HQ 0166 1440055

ZNR UUUUU

R 242119Z MAY 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

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SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
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2. JACKSON 337-R, BUREAU FILE 170-1313, JACKSON FILE 170-457, OPERATED BETWEEN JULY, 1967 - NOVEMBER, 1973.

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BT

0106

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [x] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [x] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [x] ~~CLEAR~~ Unclas

Date 5/26/78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATION (HSCA)

RE BUREAU TELETYPE DATED MAY 24, 1978.

ON MAY 26, 1978, JN 340-R, BUREAU FILE 170-1565, JACKSON FILE 170-459, INTERVIEWED AND OBJECTS TO INTERVIEW BY REPRESENTATIVES OF HSCA IN VIEW OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS. JN 340-R STILL EMPLOYED AT JOHN'S CAFE, LAUREL, MISS., AND FEELS LIFE WOULD BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY IF IDENTITY WAS MADE KNOWN.

REVIEW OF JACKSON FILE 170-457 PERTAINING TO JN 337-R DISCLOSED A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM THE LAUREL LEADER CALL, A LAUREL, MISS., NEWSPAPER, DATED MARCH 4, 1974, COPY FURNISHED

62-544-18

1 - Jackson
LCB/njb
(1)

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Approved: K/JEB

Transmitted 003 (Number) 2200 Z (Time)

Per J

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO JN 62-544 UNCLAS

TO FBIHQ WHICH REFLECTS THAT INFORMANT WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY A SHOTGUN BLAST FIRED BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW. INFORMANT WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON ARRIVAL AT JONES COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AND CAUSE OF SHOOTING HAD NOT BEEN DETERMINED AS OF THE DATE OF THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.

BT.

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

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

VZCZCHQ0085

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ME MM MI MP MO NK NH NO NY OM PH PX PG PD RH SC SL SD SF SE SI

TP WF

DE HQ 0085 1570042

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62 1172900)

TO FBI ALBANY

FBI ATLANTA

FBI BALTIMORE

FBI BIRMINGHAM

FBI BOSTON

FBI BUFFALO

FBI CHARLOTTE

FBI CHICAGO

FBI CINCINNATI

FBI CLEVELAND

FBI DENVER

FBI DETROIT

FBI HOUSTON

FBI INDIANAPOLIS

FBI JACK SON

FBI JACKSONVILLE

62-544-22

SEARCHED X INDEXED
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JUN 5 1978

FBI—JACKSON

Note Buded.

FBI KANSAS CITY

FBI LOS ANGELES

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MIAMI

FBI MILWAUKEE

FBI MINNEAPOLIS

FBI MOBILE

FBI NEWARK

FBI NEW HAVEN

FBI NEW ORLEANS

FBI NEW YORK

FBI OMAHA

FBI PHILADELPHIA

FBI PHOENIX

FBI PITTSBURGH

FBI PORTLAND

FBI RICHMOND

FBI SACRAMENTO

FBI SAN DIEGO

FBI SAN FRANCISCO

PAGE THREE DE HQ ØØ85 UNCLAS E F T O

FBI SEATTLE

FBI SPRINGFIELD

FBI ST. LOUIS

FBI TAMPA

FBI WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUDED JUNE 12, 1978.

RE: BULET TO ALBANY, ET AL, AUGUST 25, 1967, CAPTIONED "COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, BLACK NATIONALIST-HATE GROUPS, INTERNAL SECURITY" AND "BUAIRTEL TO ALBANY, ET AL, MARCH 4, 1968, CAPTIONED "COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, BLACK NATIONALIST-HATE GROUPS, RACIAL INTELLIGENCE".

THE HSCA WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NOTING THAT REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS ASKED RECIPIENT OFFICES TO MAKE PERIODIC REPORTS TO THE BUREAU, HAS REQUESTED THAT RECIPIENT FIELD OFFICE FILES BE SEARCHED AND ALL REPORTS, LETTERHEAD MEMORANDA, AIRTELS, LETTERS AND TELETYPES CONCERNING

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., OR THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 1968, BE PREPARED FOR DELIVERY.

THE HSCA REQUESTED THAT OUR RESPONSE IN THIS MATTER BE GIVEN TOP PRIORTY OVER ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF KING INVESTIGATION.

FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) FILES HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY PROCESSED IN RESPONSE TO A SIMILAR REQUEST, BUT TO INSURE COMPLETENESS AND THOROUGHNESS, EACH R ECIPIENT OFFICE FURNISH FBIHQ TWO XEROX COPIES OF ANY COMMUNICATION MEETING ABOVE CRITERIA. COPY SHOULD REACH FBIHQ BY JUNE 12, 1978.

ALL COPIES SHOULD BE CLEARLY LEGIBLE AND SHOULD BE SENT REGISTERED MAIL, MAILED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, ANY QUESTIONS CAN BE RESOLVED BY CONTACTING SUPERVISOR RICHARD C. BUSCHING, EXTENTION 3685.

RECIPIENT OFFICES HAVING NO COMMUNICATION MEETING CRITERIA ARE TO SO NOTIFY FBIHQ.

BT

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6/8/78

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

FROM: JACKSON (62-544) (C)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Re Bureau letter to Albany, ET AL, 8/25/67, captioned "Counterintelligence Program, Black Nationalist-Hate Groups, Internal Security"; Bureau airtel to Albany, ET AL, 3/4/68, captioned "Counterintelligence Program, Black Nationalist-Hate Groups, Racial Intelligence" and Bureau airtel to Albany, ET AL, 6/5/78, captioned as above.

Enclosed herewith are copies of serials 3, 5, and 7 of Jackson file 100-980. Said file is concerning same matter as set forth in referenced communications dated 8/25/67 and 3/4/68.

Review of above file was made for the period 8/25/67 through 12/31/68, and only for information concerning Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and The Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL ATTACHED

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
1 - Jackson
AJW/dgf
(3)

62-544-23

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

DO NOT DESTROY FILE

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DE HQ 0085 1652149

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

FBI BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

FBI JACKSON IMMEDIATE

FBI KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

FBI LOUISVILLE IMMEDIATE

FBI MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

FBI MIAMI IMMEDIATE

FBI NEW ORLEANS IMMEDIATE

FBI ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

FBI WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

HSCA, BY LETTER DATED JUNE 12, 1978, REQUESTED THAT THE FIELD OFFICE FILES ON THE SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 1956-1978 FROM ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSON, 62-544-25

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 14 1978
FBI—JACKSON

Buded 6/19/78
00: Buffalo
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Re
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PAGE TWO DE HQ 0085 UNCLAS E F T O

KNOXVILLE, LOUISVILLE, MEMPHIS, MIAMI, NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, AND WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE, BE PROVIDED ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO SEARCH FOR ANY FILES OR REFERENCES ON THE SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 1956-1978. ANY MATERIAL LOCATED ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE DUPLICATED AND ONE COPY FURNISHED TO FBI HEADQUARTERS, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 19, 1978.

BT

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

FBI BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

FBI JACKSON IMMEDIATE

FBI KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

FBI LOUISVILLE IMMEDIATE

FBI MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

FBI MIAMI IMMEDIATE

FBI NEW ORLEANS IMMEDIATE

FBI ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

FBI WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

HSCA, BY LETTER DATED JUNE 12, 1978, REQUESTED THAT THE FIELD OFFICE FILES ON THE SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 1956-1978 FROM ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSON,

62-544-25

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

JUN 14 1978

FBI-JACKSON

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0085 UNCLAS E F T O

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FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [X] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [X] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [X] ~~CLEAR~~ UNCLAS

Date 6/19/78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RMD

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA). BUDED: JUNE 19, 1978.

RE FBIHQ TELETYPE, JUNE 14, 1978, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE, TO SELECTED FIELD OFFICES.

REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED INFORMATION CONCERNING "SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL".

A REVIEW OF ELSUR AND GENERAL INDICES, JACKSON OFFICE, HAS FAILED TO REVEAL FILES AND/OR REFERENCES UNDER THE NAME "SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL".

FOR FBIHQ INFORMATION, ABOVE SEARCH REVEALED SEVERAL REFERENCES CONCERNING "SOUTHERN STATES UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPER PRESS CONFERENCE". "SOUTHERN STATES TELEPHONE INDUSTRY

26
62-544-

(1) - Jackson (62-544)
JAW/val
(1)

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Serialized
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Approved: K/JAB Transmitted 002 (Number) 2117 (Time) Per

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [X] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [X] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [X] ~~CLEAR~~ UNCLAS

Date 6/19/78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RMD

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA). BUDED: JUNE 19, 1978.

RE FBIHQ TELETYPE, JUNE 14, 1978, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE, TO SELECTED FIELD OFFICES.

REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED INFORMATION CONCERNING "SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL".

A REVIEW OF ELSUR AND GENERAL INDICES, JACKSON OFFICE, HAS FAILED TO REVEAL FILES AND/OR REFERENCES UNDER THE NAME "SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL".

FOR FBIHQ INFORMATION, ABOVE SEARCH REVEALED SEVERAL REFERENCES CONCERNING "SOUTHERN STATES UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPER PRESS CONFERENCE". "SOUTHERN STATES TELEPHONE INDUSTRY

62-544-26

1 - Jackson (62-544)
JAW/val
(1)

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Waits

Approved: K/ZGB

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(Number) (Time)

Per

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

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- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO JN 62-544 UNCLAS

LEADERS DELEGATION" AND "SOUTHERN STATES FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY LEADERS TOUR"; HOWEVER, FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NO INDICATION SAID REFERENCES ARE IDENTICAL TO "SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL".

BT

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

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

JNØØØ2 1692110Z

PP HQ

DE JN

P 192111Z JUN 78

M JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RMD

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA). BUDED:

JUNE 19, 1978.

RE FBIHQ TELETYPE, JUNE 14, 1978, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE, TO SELECTED FIELD OFFICES.

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FOR FBIHQ INFORMATION, ABOVE SEARCH REVEALED SEVERAL REFERENCES CONCERNING "SOUTHERN STATES UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPER PRESS CONFERENCE". "SOUTHERN STATES TELEPHONE INDUSTRY

62-544-26

Searched
Serialized KH
Indexed
Filed KH

LEADERS DELEGATION" AND "SOUTHERN STATES FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY LEADERS TOUR"; HOWEVER, FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NO INDICATION SAID REFERENCES ARE IDENTICAL TO "SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL".

BT

1702018HQ 1

Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 3-23-71)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date 6/14/78

Subject (THE) SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling
☒ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
☐ Restrict to Locality of 1956 — 1978

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
Southern States Underground Newspaper Press Conference			100-1216 100-1675
Southern States Telephone Industry Leaders Delegation			105-68-28
Southern States Forest Products Industry Leaders Tour			100-0-112

Please file

Requested by	Squad	Extension	File No.
Waits	4	70	62-544-27

Searched by 6-15-78 (date)

Consolidated by (date)

Reviewed by (date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

☆G.P.O. 1972-471-961

VZCZCHQ0122

RR JN

DE HQ 0122 2101035

ZNR UUUUU

R 282030Z JUL 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI JACKSON (62-544) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED AUGUST 4, 1978.

REBUTEL TO JACKSON, MAY 24, 1978, JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY 26, 1978.

HSC A IN ITS CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., REQUESTED THAT THE THREE INFORMANTS REFERRED TO IN THE FOLLOWING SERIALS BE CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TO INTERVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE:

SERIAL 1: BUFILE 157-1654-23, PAGE 18, PARAGRAPH 2.

SERIAL 2: BUFILE 157-1654-23, PAGE 21, PARAGRAPH 3.

SERIAL 3: BUFILE 157-1654-23, PAGE 25, PARAGRAPH 4.

62-544-28

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SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___

JUL 29 1978

FBI—JACKSON

Alt pls, handle. Note Budd.

Waits

SPECIAL

GPO 909-767

THE HSCA ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE BUREAU SOLICIT THESE INFORMANTS TO EXECUTE A WAIVER OF RELEASE OF ALL THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD OFFICE FILES.

THE ABOVE SERIALS ARE LOCATED IN JACKSON REPORT OF SA THOMAS E. BURG, DATED AUGUST 9, 1968, AND CAPTIONED "SAM HOLLOWAY BOWERS, JR., AKA, RM-KLAN." THE JACKSON FILE NUMBER IS JN 157-18.

INFORMATION IN SERIAL REQUEST 1 WAS FURNISHED BY JN 184-R, BUFILE 17-733, JACKSON FILE 170-279, OPERATED BETWEEN NOVEMBER, 1965, AND MARCH, 1973.

INFOR MATION IN SERIAL REQUESTS 2 AND 3 WAS FURNISHED BY JN 340-R (PROB), BUFILE 170-1565, JACKSON FILE 170-459, OPERATED BETWEEN AUGUST, 1967 AND APRIL, 1973.

JN 340-R PER REFERENCED JACKSON COMMUNICATION HAS ALREADY DECLINED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY HSCA.

FBIHQ FILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION REGARDING CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF FORMER JN 184-R.

JACKSON LOCATE AND INTERVIEW FORMER JN 184-R TO DETERMINE IF HE HAS ANY OBJECTION TO HIS IDENTITY BEING DISCLOSED TO THE HSCA AND IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED BY A REPRE-

SENTATIVE OF THE HSCA. INFORMANT SHOULD BE TOLD THAT IF HE AGREES TO DISCLOSURE, HE HAS NO GUARANTEES FROM THE FBI OR THE HSCA OF IMMUNITY OR CONFIDENTIALITY, THAT THE FBI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT RESULTING ACTION THE HSCA MAY TAKE; AND THAT TO DATE THE FBI HAS NOT ADVISED THE HSCA OF HIS FORMER INFORMANT STATUS, AND THAT THE HSCA MAY HAVE INFORMANT'S IDENTITY BASED ON A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION FILE.

IF INFORMANT IS AGREEABLE TO DISCLOSURE, A WITNESSED, SIGNED WAIVER SHOULD BE OBTAINED, WORDED SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE FBI TO RELEASE ANY AND ALL FILES (FBI AND FIELD OFFICE) CONCERNING HIMSELF TO THE HSCA, INCLUDING THOSE RECORDS PERTAINING TO ANY CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP THEY MAY HAVE HAD WITH THE FBI.

IF INFORMANT DESIRES HIS IDENTITY NOT BE DISCLOSED, HE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THE FBI WILL DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY; HOWEVER, HIS FILE COULD BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA.

JACKSON SUTEL TO FBIHQ, CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, RESULTS OF CONTACT WITH INFORMANT AND FORWARD WAIVER, IF OBTAINED, BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION. IF INFORMANT HAS RELOCATED, SET FORTH APPROPRIATE LEADS TO EFFECT

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INTERVIEW.

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI JACKSON (62-544) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED AUGUST 4, 1978.

REBUTEL TO JACKSON, MAY 24, 1978, JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY 26, 1978.

HSC A IN ITS CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., REQUESTED THAT THE THREE INFORMANTS REFERRED TO IN THE FOLLOWING SERIALS BE CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TO INTERVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE:

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SERIAL 2: BUFILE 157-1654-23, PAGE 21, PARAGRAPH 3.

SERIAL 3: BUFILE 157-1654-23, PAGE 25, PARAGRAPH 4.

62-544-28

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JUL 29 1978

FBI - JACKSON

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R 2608302 JUL 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117293)

TO FBI JACKSON (62-544) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED AUGUST 4, 1978.

REBUTEL TO JACKSON, MAY 24, 1978, JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY 26, 1978.

HSC A IN ITS CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., REQUESTED THAT THE THREE INFORMANTS REFERRED TO IN THE FOLLOWING SERIALS BE CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TO INTERVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE:

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SERIAL 3: BUFILE 157-1654-23, PAGE 25, PARAGRAPH 4.

62-544-28

DW DW

JUL 8 1978

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0122 UNCLAS

INTERVIEW.

BT

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2011040Z JN 2.

THE HSCA ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE BUREAU SOLICIT THESE INFORMANTS TO EXECUTE A WAIVER OF RELEASE OF ALL THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD OFFICE FILES.

THE ABOVE SERIALS ARE LOCATED IN JACKSON REPORT OF SA THOMAS E. BURG, DATED AUGUST 9, 1968, AND CAPTIONED "SAM HOLLOWAY BOWERS, JR., AKA, KG-KLAN." THE JACKSON FILE NUMBER IS JN 157-1E.

INFORMATION IN SERIAL REQUEST 1 WAS FURNISHED BY JN 184-R, BUFILE 17-733, JACKSON FILE 176-279, OPERATED BETWEEN NOVEMBER, 1965, AND MARCH, 1973.

INFORMATION IN SERIAL REQUESTS 2 AND 3 WAS FURNISHED BY JN 340-R (PROB), BUFILE 176-1565, JACKSON FILE 176-459, OPERATED BETWEEN AUGUST, 1967 AND APRIL, 1973.

JN 342-R PER REFERENCED JACKSON COMMUNICATION HAS ALREADY DECLINED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY HSCA.

FBIHQ FILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION REGARDING CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF FORMER JN 184-R.

JACKSON LOCATE AND INTERVIEW FORMER JN 184-R TO DETERMINE IF HE HAS ANY OBJECTION TO HIS IDENTITY BEING DISCLOSED TO THE HSCA AND IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED BY A REPRE-

SENTATIVE OF THE HSCA. INFORMANT SHOULD BE TOLD THAT IF HE AGREES TO DISCLOSURE, HE HAS NO GUARANTEES FROM THE FBI OR THE HSCA OF IMMUNITY OR CONFIDENTIALITY, THAT THE FBI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT RESULTING ACTION THE HSCA MAY TAKE; AND THAT TO DATE THE FBI HAS NOT ADVISED THE HSCA OF HIS FORMER INFORMANT STATUS, AND THAT THE HSCA MAY HAVE INFORMANT'S IDENTITY BASED ON A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION FILE.

IF INFORMANT IS AGREEABLE TO DISCLOSURE, A WITNESSED, SIGNED WAIVER SHOULD BE OBTAINED, WORDED SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE FBI TO RELEASE ANY AND ALL FILES (FBI AND FIELD OFFICE) CONCERNING HIMSELF TO THE HSCA, INCLUDING THOSE RECORDS PERTAINING TO ANY CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP THEY MAY HAVE HAD WITH THE FBI.

IF INFORMANT DESIRES HIS IDENTITY NOT BE DISCLOSED, HE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THE FBI WILL DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY; HOWEVER, HIS FILE COULD BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA.

JACKSON SUTEL TO FBIHQ, CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, RESULTS OF CONTACT WITH INFORMANT AND FORWARD WAIVER, IF OBTAINED, BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION. IF INFORMANT HAS RELOCATED, SET FORTH APPROPRIATE LEADS TO EFFECT

JNO003 214 0715Z

RR HQ

DE JN

R 01 2300Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290) ROUTINE

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED:

AUGUST 4, 1978.

RE DIRECTOR TELETYPE JULY 28, 1978, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REVIEW OF DEATH RECORDS, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AUGUST 1, 1978, REFLECTS FORMER JN184-R NOW DECEASED.

BT

62-544-29

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

FD-36 (Rev. 3-24-77)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [X] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] _____

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [X] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [X] CLEAR

Date 8-1-78

003

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290) ROUTINE

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED:

AUGUST 4, 1978.

RE DIRECTOR TELETYPE JULY 28, 1978, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REVIEW OF DEATH RECORDS, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AUGUST 1, 1978, REFLECTS FORMER JN184-R NOW DECEASED.

BT

62-544-29

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

1 - Jackson
JAW/kbn
(1)

Approved: K/ZCB

Transmitted 003 (Number) 07162 (Time) Per

FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO : SAC, JACKSON

DATE: 8/18/78

FROM :

SPC, KELLY R. HUGHES

SUBJECT:

BILL WILSON,
INFO CONCERNING

MR. WILLIAM D. GLADEN, RT. 1, BOX 205H3, OCEANS SPRINGS, MISS. PH #875-3518, telephonically contacted this office at 1:15 A.M. instant date to furnish the following info:

On 8/17/78 at 11:45 P.M. he was telephonically contacted by BILL WILSON, W/M, 46 years of age, an employee of his, who requested to meet with he and his wife. MR. GLADEN met with WILSON at a card and gift shop owned by him in Oceans Springs, Ms.

MR. WILSON told MR. & MRS. GLADEN about how he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING. WILSON went into one hour of details of the plan to kill KING.

MR. GLADEN advised that he rented part of his shop to WILSON in July 1978 to operate a watch repair service. WILSON told the GLADEN'S he was sorry for the expense he caused them in setting up his watch repair business but he had to get this off his chest. He stated that the sheriff from Memphis, Tenn. was the only person he would surrender to and that this Memphis, Tenn, sheriff was to meet him at the Holiday Inn, Biloxi, Miss. morning of 8/18/78.

MR. GLADEN said WILSON is a very intelligent man and although he was drinking at time of meeting he thinks WILSON is serious about the murder of KING.

62-544-30

KRH

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

FBI/DOJ

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62-544-30
OKB DK

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

FBI/DOJ

FD-36 (Rev. 3-24-77)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [x] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] _____

PRECEDENCE:
- [x] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [x] CLEAR

Date 8-18-78

FM JACKSON (62-544)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) IMMEDIATE

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

RE JACKSON TELEPHONE CALL TO FBI HQ, AUGUST 18, 1978.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, 1:15 A.M., MR. WILLIAM ~~V~~ D. GLADEN, ROUTE 1, POST OFFICE BOX 205H3, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 875-3518, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THE JACKSON FBI OFFICE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ON AUGUST 17, 1978, 11:45 P.M., GLADEN WAS TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BY BILL WILSON, WHITE MALE, 46 YEARS OF AGE, EMPLOYEE OF GLADEN, WHO REQUESTED TO MEET WITH GLADEN

31

62-544-[redacted]

Searched
Serialized
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Filed

Watts

1 - Jackson
JAW/kbn
(1)

Approved: K/7 50

Transmitted 001 (Number) 1631Z (Time)

Per lp FBI/DOJ

FD-36 (Rev. 3-24-77)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
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GLADEN ADVISED THAT HE RENTED PART OF HIS SHOP TO WILSON IN JULY, 1978, TO OPERATE A WATCH REPAIR SERVICE. WILSON TOLD THE GLADENS HE WAS SORRY FOR THE EXPENSES HE CAUSED THEM IN SETTING UP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS BUT HE HAD TO GET THIS OFF OF HIS CHEST. HE STATED THAT THE SHERIFF FROM MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WAS THE ONLY PERSON HE WOULD SURRENDER TO AND THAT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, SHERIFF WAS TO MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, MORNING OF AUGUST 18, 1978.

GLADEN ADVISED THAT WILSON IS A VERY INTELLIGENT MAN AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS DRINKING AT THE TIME THE MEETING TOOK PLACE, HE THINKS WILSON IS SERIOUS ABOUT THE MURDER OF KING.

LHM FOLLOWS.

BASED ON DESCRIPTIVE DATA AVAILABLE, THE NAME BILL

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____ FBI/DOJ

FD-36 (Rev. 3-24-77)

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Date _____

PAGE THREE JN 62-544 UNCLAS

WILSON NOT IDENTIFIABLE THROUGH JACKSON OFFICE INDICES.

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OO HQ

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FM JACKSON (62-544)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) IMMEDIATE

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FURNISHED FOLLOWING:

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SUB-STATION, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILSON FURNISHED SHERIFF BARKSDALE BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING BARKSDALE AND INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS KNOWN TO BARKSDALE AS MEMBERS OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, IN WHICH BARKSDALE HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR 26 YEARS. WILSON RELATED

62-544-32

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ...
SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
AUG 18 1978
FBI—JACKSON
Bureau

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WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE HE HAD COMMITTED A FAMOUS CRIME- THAT HE WAS THE MAN WHO KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE RELATED THAT HE WAS THE TRIGGER MAN AND WAS STANDING ABOUT 65 FEET FROM DR. KING IN A POSITION BELOW THE BALCONY WHERE DR. KING WAS STANDING. ABOUT THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEATH OF DR. KING WILSON'S DAUGHTER, WHOSE IDENTITY HE DECLINED TO FURNISH, DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE WOULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE STORAGE OR USE OF THIS WHITE MUSTANG AFTER THE MUSTANG REACHED MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE DECLINED TO FURNISH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE KILLING OF DR. KING OTHER THAN NOTED ABOVE, BUT STATED THAT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY JAMES EARL RAY IS ACCURATE.

WILSON REQUESTED THAT SHERIFF BARKSDALE MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 20, 1978. BARKSDALE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ENTER THE DINING ROOM AT THE HOLIDAY INN WITHOUT A COAT AND THAT WILSON WOULD SURRENDER TO

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AT APPROXIMATELY 11:45 PM, WILSON AGAIN TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

HE HAD A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, HAD TALKED WITH HIS FAMILY, AND WAS READY TO CONFESS TO SHERIFF BARKSDALE ALONE. HE AGAIN REQUESTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978 IN THE DINING ROOM WITHOUT HIS COAT ON AND ALONE. SHERIFF BARKSDALE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT HE, BARKSDALE, WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY MEETING HIM AT GULFPORT AT THE APPOINTED TIME AND REQUESTED THAT THEY ARRANGE A MEETING AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON COUNTERED BY INFORMING BARKSDALE THAT BARKSDALE WAS A PILOT AND HAD ACCESS TO AIRCRAFT AND THAT HE COULD OBTAIN A PLANE AND REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. WILSON ABSOLUTELY DECLINED TO MEET WITH BARKSDALE IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WAS THEN IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AND THAT

HE COULD REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN ABOUT ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:45 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978, REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 875-0654, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

REVEREND FANNON WAS IN A CAFE IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 18, 1978, HAVING BREAKFAST. BURGESS WILSON APPROACHED HIM AND RELATED INFORMATION INDICATING HE, WILSON, HAD SHOT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE IN APRIL OF 1968. HE INFORMED REVEREND FANNON THAT HE WAS TO MEET SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AND REQUESTED REVEREND FANNON TO FOLLOW HIM TO THE HOLIDAY INN.

WILSON ALSO TALKED WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE ON THIS OCCASION AND ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FAILURE OF SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET WITH HIM AT 9:30 AM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED. SHERIFF BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE HAD BEEN ON DUTY ALL NIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKE INVOLVING THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE MATTERS SO THAT HE COULD MEET WITH HIM. BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIM. WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WOULD STAY IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, AND WOULD CONTACT THE DESK CLERK AT THE HOLIDAY INN PERIODICALLY IN ORDER FOR BARKSDALE TO ARRANGE TO MEET WITH HIM. WILSON FURNISHED BARKSDALE TELEPHONE NUMBER 601-864-4310 AS THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF A HOLIDAY INN HE WOULD PERIODICALLY CONTACT.

BARKSDALE REPORTED THAT WILSON APPEARED TO BE COHERENT AND THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO FURNISHED TO BARKSDALE BY REVEREND FANNON.

BARKSDALE FURNISHED INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, INDICATING THAT BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, FBI NUMBER 879 421 E, WAS ARRESTED AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF"S OFFICE ON MAY 14, 1964, BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 26, 1964, AND BY THE

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON MAY 27, 1964 AND MARCH 24, 1965, WITH RESIDENCE AT 3612 COVINGTON PIKE, MEMPHIS. WILSON WAS ARRESTED BY THE BEXAR C OUNTY, TEXAS AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 12, 1972 FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT DRAWING OUT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT QUESTIONED IN BEXAR COUNTY. AT THE TIME WILSON RESIDED AT 1505 WEST CANYON LAKE DRIVE, CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HIS EMPLOYMENT WAS SHOWN AS A JEWELER.

THE FBI FINGERPRINT RECORD INDICATES THAT WILSON IS KNOWN AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. HE IS A WHITE MALE BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5'10" TALL, 155 POUNDS, BROWN EYES AND BROWN HAIR. WHEN ARRESTED IN MAY OF 1964, HE RESIDED AT 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DURING CONVERSATION WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE, WILSON INDICATED HE HAS A FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 3095

RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 386-4628, AND THAT HIS FATHER WAS FORMERLY PASTOR AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, CHELSEA AND HOLLYWOOD AVENUES, MEMPHIS, AND AT THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU SUPERVISOR DREW CLARK, AUGUST 18, 1978. SUCOP

MEMPHIS INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WAS ELIMINATED AS A SUSPECT IN AN 87 MATTER INVOLVING THE TRANSPORTATION OF JEWELRY IN 1973. AT THE TIME, IT WAS DETERMINED HE HAD BEEN IN BUSINESS AS THE NORTH STAR DIAMOND CIRCLE, VALLEY HILL MALL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, FROM EARLY 1971 TO MIDDLE 1971.

JACKSON AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF R ECORDS AT LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., FBI NUMBER 879-421 E.

SAN ANTONIO AT BEXAR, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW APPROPRIATE RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., NOTING HE WAS BOOKED AT BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972, FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT GROWING OUT OF CHILD SUPPORT QUESTION IN BEXAR COUNTY.

BT

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO IMMEDIATE

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THE FBI FINGERPRINT RECORD INDICATES THAT WILSON IS KNOWN AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. HE IS A WHITE MALE BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5'10" TALL, 155 POUNDS, BROWN EYES AND BROWN HAIR. WHEN ARRESTED IN MAY OF 1964, HE RESIDED AT 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DURING CONVERSATION WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE, WILSON INDICATED HE HAS A FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 3095

RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 386-4628, AND THAT HIS FATHER WAS FORMERLY PASTOR AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, CHELSEA AND HOLLYWOOD AVENUES, MEMPHIS, AND AT THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU SUPERVISOR DREW CLARK, AUGUST 18, 1978. SUCOP

MEMPHIS INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WAS ELIMINATED AS A SUSPECT IN AN 87 MATTER INVOLVING THE TRANSPORTATION OF JEWELRY IN 1973. AT THE TIME, IT WAS DETERMINED HE HAD BEEN IN BUSINESS AS THE NORTH STAR DIAMOND CIRCLE, VALLEY HILL MALL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, FROM EARLY 1971 TO MIDDLE 1971.

JACKSON AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF R ECORDS AT LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., FBI NUMBER 879-421 E.

SAN ANTONIO AT BEXAR, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW APPROPRIATE RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., NOTING HE WAS BOOKED AT BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972, FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT GROWING OUT OF CHILD SUPPORT QUESTION IN BEXAR COUNTY.

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO FBIHQ AND JACKSON, AUGUST 18, 1978, AND MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS TO FBIHQ AND JACKSON, AUGUST 18, 1978.

AT 3:15 P.M., ON AUGUST 18, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILSON STATED HE WILL APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN DINING ROOM, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, WITH REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AT

62-544-33

Bureau

6:30 P.M., ON AUGUST 18, 1978. SHERIFF BARKSDALE DOES NOT PLAN TO LEAVE MEMPHIS AND MEET WITH WILSON. SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON DIVISION WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT WILSON AND INTERVIEW HIM REGARDING INFORMATION HE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO SHERIFF BARKSDALE INDICATING HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968.

JACKSON WILL PROMPTLY FURNISH FBIHQ AND MEMPHIS RESULTS OF CONTACT WITH WILSON. IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AFTER INTERVIEW, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY OF ALLEGATION AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT.

THE MEMPHIS OFFICE WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO REPORTEDLY RESIDES IN THE MEMPHIS AREA, RE ANY INFORMATION OF WILSON'S ALLEGATION.

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

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62-544-33

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JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, BEXAR COUNTY JAIL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, INDICATE BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, 5 FT, 11 INCHES, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BOOKED INTO BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972 ON CONTEMPT OF COURT OUT OF STATE DISTRICT COURT 57 (CASE NUMBER F 248-084). WILSON SERVED TWELVE DAYS AND WAS RELEASED JUNE 30, 1972.

CENTRAL RECORDS, BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL AUGUST 21, 1978.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TEL, AUGUST 18, 1978. SAN ANTONIO INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, BORN 8/28/31, TEXAS DRIVERS LICENSE (TDL)

62-544-34

Bureau

NUMBER 7911315 EXPIRING 8/20/80, PREVIOUS ADDRESS, 113 MILLS STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS IS SUBJECT OF SAN ANTONIO FILE 29-2620 CAPTIONED "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.: BF&E"; OO: SAN ANTONIO. WILSON ALLEDGEDLY DEFAULTED ON A $1,000 NOTE AT KYLE STATE BANK, KYLE, TEXAS AND IN A SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FINANCING STATEMENT FILED WITH THE HAYES COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE, WILSON INDICATED THAT THE $1,000 NOTE WAS OBTAINED TO PURCHASE CATTLE.

NCIC INQUIRY REVEALED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., BORN 8/28/31 IN MISSISSIPPI, SSAN JFK Act 6 (3), TDL 77911315 WANTED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AS PROBATION VIOLATOR, DATE OF WARRANT 4/18/78.

SAN ANTONIO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. IN EFFORT TO LOCATE FORMER WIFE FOR INTERVIEW.

AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., SSAN JFK Act 6 (3)

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, WILL CONDUCT DISCREET INQUIRY TO DETERMINE IF RESIDENCE OF FORMER WIFE AND FAMILY FOR INTERVIEW.

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TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, BEXAR COUNTY JAIL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, INDICATE BURGESS EDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, 5 FT, 11 INCHES, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BOOKED INTO BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972 ON CONTEMPT OF COURT OUT OF STATE DISTRICT COURT 57 (CASE NUMBER F 248-084). WILSON SERVED TWELVE DAYS AND WAS RELEASED JUNE 30, 1972.

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Is case opened

NCIC INQUIRY REVEALED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., BORN 8/28/31 IN MISSISSIPPI, SSAN JFK Act 6 (3), TDL 7911315 WANTED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AS PROBATION VIOLATOR, DATE OF WARRANT 4/18/78.

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AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, WILL CONDUCT DISCREET INQUIRY TO DETERMINE IF RESIDENCE OF FORMER WIFE AND FAMILY FOR INTERVIEW.

BT

Locate each family member

Fulton

NCIC.ZW.MSFBIJN00.NAM/WILSON,BURGESS AUDIE JR.DOB/082831
NCIC MESSAGE DISPATCHED

MESSAGE FROM NCIC
08/18/78 19:19:34

1001FBI1
MSFBIJN00
EW TX0460100 NAM/WILSON,BURGESS AUDIE JR SEX/M RAC/W POB/MS
DOB/082831 HGT/511 WGT/170 EYE/BRO HAI/GRY SKN/LGT
FPC/200303101219TT541015 SOC/ JFK Act 6 (3)
OLN/77911315 OLS/TX OLY/80 OFF/5012 DOW/041878 OCA/7712
MIS/PROBATION VIOLATOR
NIC/W186769905

MESSAGE FROM NCIC
08/18/78 19:19:35

1L02FBI1
MSFBIJN00
ORI IS NEW BRAUNFELS PD TX
NIC/W186769905
IMMED CONFIRM WARRANT AND EXTRADITION WITH ORI

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Indexed
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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE 0850Z

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE 0625Z

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (IMMEDIATE) 0724Z

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UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT 6 PM, MR. WILLIAM DON GLADDEN, AGE 46, W/M, RT. 3, BOX 205H-3 (MEADOW LARK DRIVE), GULF PARK ESTATES, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS., TELEPHONE 875-3518 ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

HE IS EMPLOYED AS MGR. OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE IN GULFPORT, MS. (TELEPHONE 896-3221). HE AND HIS WIFE, ALICE A. GLADDEN, OWN A GIFT SHOP, "SEASONS AND REASONS," 2446 HIGHWAY 90 EAST, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS. (TELEPHONE 875-2531). ON OR ABOUT JULY 26, 1978, A W/M BY THE NAME OF "BILL"

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WILSON CAME TO THEIR GIFT SHOP IN OCEAN SPRINGS SAYING THAT HE PLANNED TO OPEN A WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN THE EDGEWATER MALL SHOPPING CENTER, BILOXI, MS., AND WOULD LIKE TO USE THE GLADDENS' GIFT SHOP AS A PICKUP POINT FOR HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. GLADDEN ADVISED NEITHER HE NOR HIS WIFE HAD EVER MET WILSON PRIOR TO THIS TIME. FOUR OR FIVE DAYS LATER, GLADDEN AGREED TO LET WILSON RENT A ROOM TO THE REAR OF GLADDEN'S GIFT SHOP IN WHICH WILSON SET UP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. GLADDEN AGREED TO LET WILSON KEEP 20 PERCENT OF PROFITS COMING FROM THE WATCH REPAIR.

GLADDEN AGREED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE "GREW TO TRUST" WILSON FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AND CONSIDERED HIM TO BE A VERY HARD WORKER, WHO PUT A LOT OF HIS OWN MONEY INTO LOCAL RADIO ADVERTISING BUILDING UP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. WILSON LATER TOLD GLADDEN HE HAD "POSTPONED" OPENING UP A BUSINESS IN THE EDGEWATER MALL. WILSON HAD HIS OWN JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR EQUIPMENT AND, ACCORDING TO GLADDEN, SPENT SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS OF HIS OWN MONEY TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AFTER RENTING THE SPACE IN GLADDEN'S BUSINESS. WILSON KEPT A KEY TO THE GIFT SHOP

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WHICH HE OPENED EVERY MORNING. HE WORKED HARD IN THE SHOP COMPLETING HIS WATCH REPAIRS AFTER WHICH HE WOULD LEAVE THE SHOP FOR PLACES UNKNOWN.

WILSON INDICATED TO GLADDEN THAT HE HAD A DRINKING PROBLEM AND WAS TRYING TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AND WORK HARD IN THE WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN HOPES OF GETTING OVER THIS PROBLEM.

AT THE BEGINNING, WILSON RESIDED AT APARTMENT NO. 9, TWIN PINES MOTEL, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS., BUT AT AN UNKNOWN LATER DATE MOVED TO ROUBE 6, BOX 387, ROUTE SPRINGS (TELEPHONE 875-9542).

NEITHER GLADDEN NOR HIS WIFE HAD EVER VISITED WILSON AT THE ABOVE TWO RESIDENCES AND ONLY TOOK WILSON'S WORD THAT HE LIVED THERE. ACCORDING TO GLADDEN, WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE IS STAYING IN A HOUSE OWNED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED FRIEND AND IS NOT PAYING ANY RENT AS LONG AS HE KEEPS THE HOUSE IN REPAIR.

WILSON RECENTLY TOOK GLADDEN AND GLADDEN'S SON FOR A RIDE IN AN AIRPLANE PILOTED BY WILSON. GLADDEN CONSIDERS

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KNOW EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT FLYING AIRPLANES IN ROUGH WEATHER.

GLADDEN FURTHER ADVISED THAT IN HIS OPINION WILSON IS AN "EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT MAN"; HOWEVER, HE IS UNAWARE OF THE EXTENT OF WILSON'S EDUCATION.

GLADDEN ADVISED THAT AT 11:45 PM, ON 8/17/78, WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HIM AT HIS RESIDENCE SAYING HE HAD TO TALK TO GLADDEN AND HIS WIFE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL THE MORNING. WILSON REFUSED TO STATE BY TELEPHONE WHY HE WANTED TO TALK TO GLADDEN AND HE REFUSED TO COME TO GLADDEN'S RESIDENCE. WILSON SAID HE NEEDED TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING OF "NATIONAL URGENCY." THEY AGREED TO MEET AT GLADDEN'S GIFT SHOP AT OCEAN SPRINGS AT 12:15 AM, 8/18/78. GLADDEN ADVISED HE TOOK HIS WIFE AND 18 YEAR OLD SON, JOHN W. GLADDEN, TO THE SHOP WHERE HE MET WILSON AT THE ABOVE TIME. WILSON ARRIVED ALONE, DRIVING AN OLD MODEL BLUE CHEVROLET SEDAN WITH WHITE TOP, BEARING UNKNOWN LOUISIANA TAG. WILSON APPARENTLY HAD BEEN DRINKING INASMUCH AS HIS EYES WERE VERY RED AND HE SMELLED OF ALCOHOL; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT TALK LIKE AN INTOXICATED PERSON IN

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GLADDEN'S OPINION AND SEEMED TO BE "VERY DEPRESSED."

WILSON SAID "I'M THE MYSTERY MAN. I'M THE MAN THAT MURDERED MARTIN LUTHER KING." THEY TALKED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AND 15 MINUTES. WILSON STATED THAT HE GREW UP IN GRENADA, MS., WHERE HIS FATHER WAS A BAPTIST MINISTER. THE BLACKS (REFERRED TO AS "NEGRES AND NIGGERS" BY WILSON), WHO LIVED IN THE AREA WERE WELCOMED TO WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH; HOWEVER, WHEN THE NORTHERN BLACKS BEGAN TO COME DOWN SOUTH, WILSON'S FATHER WELCOMED THEM INTO HIS CHURCH ONLY IF THEY CAME TO WORSHIP AND NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE. ACCORDING TO WILSON, THE BLACKS HAD COME FOR TROUBLE AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT HIS ATTITUDE BEGAN TO CHANGE TOWARD BLACKS.

WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS, "I AM THE ONE THAT PULLED THE TRIGGER. THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY. I WAS THE LOGICAL ONE." WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS HE HAD "BEEN WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND GOT INVOLVED IN SOME UNDECLARED WARS." (HE DID NOT FURTHER ELABORATE; HOWEVER, GLADDEN RECALLED THAT WILSON ONCE MENTIONED HE HAD BEEN IN THE AIR FORCE.) WILSON CLAIMED TO KNOW MARTIN LUTHER KING'S FATHER AND BROTHER AND STATED HE GREW UP NEXT DOOR TO A COUSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND

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"KNEW HIS ENTIRE FAMILY."

GLADDEN RECALLED THAT HE (GLADDEN) HAD ONCE PURCHASED A USED MUSTANG FOR HIS DAUGHTER. ON SEEING THE VEHICLE WILSON REMARKED HE HAD ONCE PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

DURING THE CONVERSATION ON THE EARLY MORNING OF 8/18/78, WILSON STATED THAT HIS DAUGHTER HAD DRIVEN THE WHITE MUSTANG TO MEMPHIS AT THE TIME OF THE KING KILLING. WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE WAS IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME, BUT HAD DOCUMENTED HIMSELF TO BE IN KANSAS CITY AS AN ALIBI. WILSON STATED THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS THE "FALL GUY." "RAY ONLY SAW ME TWICE, BUT I KNEW HIM. RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GOTTEN AWAY CLEAN. I'M SURPISED RAY HAS BROUGHT IT ALL BACK UP AGAIN BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE HIS PAROLE IN TWO YEARS."

WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT HE WOULD NOT SEE THEM ANYMORE AFTER TONIGHT AND HE WANTED THEM TO HAVE ALL HIS EXPENSIVE WATCH REPAIR EQUIPMENT.

WILSON, AGAIN REFERRING TO THE KING ASSASSINATION, STATED, "IT WAS PART OF A GROUP CONSPIRACY." HE PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS STATING HE WOULD ONLY DEAL WITH THE

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"SHERIFF OF MEMPHIS (TENN.), WHO HE USED TO FLY WITH. WILSON FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED IT TO HAPPEN TO KING. "I KNEW IT NEEDED TO BE DONE." WILSON DID NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD HAVE TO SERVE MUCH TIME FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT, STATING "I'M NOT SORRY I DID IT. THE NIGGERS ARE BETTER OFF." LATER IN THE CONVERSATION WITH THE GLADDENS, WILSON SAID HE WAS SORRY HE HAD DONE IT.

WILSON STATED HE HAD TALKED WITH THE MEMPHIS SHERIFF BY PHONE AND WAS TO MEET HIM AT THE GULFPORT, MS., HOLIDAY INN DURING THE MORNING OF 8/18/78. WILSON SPECULATED AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A TV IN HIS CELL AND INDICATED HE PROBABLY WOULD BE GIVEN WORK AS AN INSTRUCTOR OR REPAIRMAN OF WATCHES WHILE IN JAIL.

REVERTING TO THE KING ASSASSINATION, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT HE SHOT KING "NOT FROM 50 YARDS AWAY, BUT 50 FEET AWAY." HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THE BULLET HIT AND STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT "I SHOT THE SHIT OUT OF HIM AND SAW IT FLY." WILSON NEVER MENTIONED TO GLADDEN THE TYPE OF GUN HE ALLEGEDLY USED OR THE LOCATION FROM WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY SHOT KING.

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AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION WITH THE GLADDENS, WILSON APPARENTLY FEELING A DISAPPROVING GLANCE FROM GLADDEN'S 18 YEAR OLD SON, WARNED THE SON HE HAD BETTER NOT INTERFERE.

CONCERNING THE UNIDENTIFIED MEMPHIS SHERIFF, WILSON OFFERED TO FURNISH THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND TELEPHONE NO. TO GLADDEN FOR VERIFICATION OF HIS REMARKS; HOWEVER, GLADDEN REFUSED. WILSON SAID HE HAS "GONE THROUGH TEN YEARS OF HELL, AND BECAUSE HE KILLED KING, IT RUINED 26 YEARS OF MARRIAGE; HOWEVER, HIS CONSCIENCE ONLY STARTED BOTHERING HIM IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. HE SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MS. (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED), WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM. WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED VARIOUS FAMILY MEMBERS TO LET THEM KNOW HE WAS TURNING HIMSELF IN.

WILSON ALSO STATED THAT HE, AT ONE TIME, INTENDED TO OPEN A WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN TUPELO, MS., BUT DECIDED

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AGAINST IT BECAUSE OF THE TENSE RACIAL SITUATION.

WILSON ALSO ONCE TOLD MRS. GLADDEN THAT HE GETS "FLIGHT PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS" AT KEESLER AIR FORCE, BILOXI, MS.

GLADDEN ADVISED THAT WILSON REPEATED HIMSELF MANY TIMES DURING THE ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTE CONVERSATION ON 8/18/78, BUT HE PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE KING ASSASSINATION, OTHER THAN THAT STATED HEREIN.

AT THE END OF THEIR CONVERSATION, GLADDEN ADVISED WILSON DEPARTED THE STORE IN HIS AUTOMOBILE AND HEADED IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION. THE GLADDENS WERE AFRAID AND DISTURBED AT THE CONVERSATION AND PROMPTLY TELEPHONED THE JACKSON FBI OFFICE.

GLADDEN ADVISED THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION DURING THE SHORT TIME HE AND HIS WIFE KNEW WILSON, HE NEVER TALKED ABOUT HIS PAST, OTHER THAN TO MENTION THAT HE HAD BEEN IN THE U. S. AIR FORCE; HAD BEEN MARRIED FIVE TIMES, TWICE TO THE SAME WOMAN; HE GREW UP IN MISS.; AND HAD BEEN ON THE GULF COAST LESS THAN THREE MONTHS. THE GLADDENS DO NOT KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM OR WHAT HE HAS DONE PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVING AT THEIR PLACE OF BUSINESS 7/26/78.

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GLADDEN ADVISED THAT IN HIS REGULAR BUSINESS AS SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE MANAGER HE HAS PERSONAL DEALINGS ON A FREQUENT BASIS WITH PEOPLE HAVING MENTAL PROBLEMS AND WHILE HE IS NOT A QUALIFIED PERSON IN THIS FIELD, HE IS NOT OF THE OPINION WILSON HAS MENTAL IMPAIRMENT. HE DESCRIBED WILSON AS A WHITE MALE; 5 FT. 8 INCHES; 155 LBS; MEDIUM BUILD; RUDDY COMPLEXION; GRAYING HAIR; AGE 46, WHO LIKES TO DRINK VODKA AND COKE.

ON 8/18/78,SHORTLY BEFORE NOON, WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED GLADDEN ADVISING THAT HE HAD BEEN BETRAYED, THAT HE HAD BEEN TO GULFPORT, MS., HOLIDAY INN, ALONG WITH "THE FATHER" (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED BY WILSON), WHERE HE HAD SEEN PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE WITH THE FBI. HE WAS NOW BACK AT HIS RESIDENCE WATCHING THE WINDOWS AND WOULD BLOW THE HEAD OFF OF ANYONE WHO CAME, EXCEPT "THE FATHER."

ABOUT THREE HOURS LATER, MR. AND MRS. GLADDEN WERE SURPRISED TO SEE WILSON WALK INTO THEIR GIFT SHOP, HE WAS CLEAN SHAVEN AND NEAT. HE APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN DRINKING. HE IMPLIED HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE FBI, BUT THEY WERE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO HIM. HE HAD MADE SOME KIND OF

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BARGAIN. HE NOW WANTED TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AND ASKED IF HE COULD KEEP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN THE BACK OF GLADDEN'S STORE AS USUAL.

THE GLADDENS ADVISED WILSON THEY WERE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING SELLING THE BUSINESS AND HAD ALREADY CONTACTED A REALTOR.

AT 6:28 PM, 8/18/78, FIVE FBI AGENTS ESTABLISHED PHYSICAL OBSERVATION AT THE HOLIDAY INN, U. S. HIGHWAY 90, GLFPORT, MS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 6:45 PM, A 1970 PLYMOUTH BEARING JACKSON COUNTY, MS., LICENSE JAH-637 STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE HOLIDAY INN AND A WHITE MALE, WHO LATER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., EXITED THE VEHICLE AND ENTERED THE HOLIDAY INN. THE WHITE MALE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE THEREAFTER PARKED THE VEHICLE AND CAME TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOLIDAY INN, WHERE HE WAS APPROACHED BY SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES AND WAS ASKED IF HE WAS FATHER NOEL FANNON AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS.

FATHER FANNON WAS ADVISED THAT GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF OF SHELBY COUNTY, MEMPHIS, TENN., WAS NOT GOING TO MEET

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WILSON. HE WAS ADVISED THAT AGENTS OF THE FBI WERE IN THE MOTEL AND HE WAS REQUESTED TO TELL WILSON THAT THE SHERIFF WAS NOT GOING TO MEET HIM; HOWEVER, THE FBI AGENTS WERE AT THE MOTEL AND DESIRED TO TALK WITH HIM IF HE, WILSON, WOULD AGREE TO TALK WITH THE AGENTS. FATHER FANNON STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO WILSON BECAUSE SHERIFF BARKSDALE HAD LIED ABOUT HIS APPEARANCE IN GULFPORT.

FATHER FANNON THEREAFTER ENTERED THE MOTEL AND TALKED WITH WILSON IN THE LOBBY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THEY BOTH RETURNED TO THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE MOTEL AND SA GRAVES IDENTIFIED HIMSELF TO WILSON AND ASKED HIM IF HE WERE BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS AND LATER STATED HE WAS A JUNIOR.

WILSON WAS ADVISED THAT SHERIFF BARKSDALE WAS NOT THERE TO MEET HIM, HOWEVER, FBI AGENTS WERE THERE AND DESIRED TO TALK WITH HIM, PARTICULARLY ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER SUPPOSEDLY HAVING DRIVEN A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MO., TO MEMPHIS, TENN. HE STATED HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO FURNISH THE FBI. WILSON INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS UNDER ARREST AND HE WAS ADVISED HE WAS NOT UNDER ARREST. WILSON

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COMMENTED HE WAS NOT GOING TO GIVE ANYONE ANY TROUBLE. HE WAS ASKED IF HE HAD ANY WEAPONS ON HIM AND HE STATED HE DID NOT AND THAT SA GRAVES COULD SEARCH HIM IF HE SO DESIRED. WILSON WAS THEN "PATTED DOWN" AND NO WEAPONS WERE FELT ON HIS BODY.

WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE AND FATHER FANNON HAD BEEN TO THE MOTEL AT 9:30 AM, 8/18/78, AND AGAIN AT 6:30 PM, 8/18/78, TO SEE SHERIFF BARKSDALE AND THE SHERIFF HAD LIED TO THEM.

WILSON THEN ASKED FATHER FANNON IF HE WOULD DRIVE HIM BACK TO THE PLACE HE HAD BEEN PICKED UP AND FATHER FANNON AGREED TO DO SO.

WILSON WAS AGAIN ADVISED THAT FBI AGENTS WERE AT THE MOTEL AND WERE STILL WILLING TO TALK TO HIM AND HE REITERATED HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY TO THE FBI AND, AS HE DEPARTED, COMMENTED THAT THE FBI IN THE PAST HAD HARASSED HIS FATHER WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION.

FATHER FANNON AND WILSON THEREAFTER LEFT THE AREA OF THE HOLIDAY INN IN FATHER FANNON'S VEHICLE PROCEEDING EAST ON HIGHWAY 90. A SURVEILLANCE WAS MAINTAINED ON THE VEHICLE.

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SHORTLY AFTER WILSON AND FATHER FANNON LEFT THE MOTEL, JACKSON ASAC TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THE GULFPORT RA THAT INFORMATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT NCIC REVEALED WILSON WAS WANTED BY THE NEW BRAUNSFELS, TX., PD FOR PROBATION VIOLATION ON A WARRANT ISSUED APRIL 18, 1978.

THE OCEAN SPRINGS PD WAS NOTIFIED OF THIS OUTSTANDING WARRANT AND THE SURVEILLANCE OF FATHER FANNON'S VEHICLE WAS MAINTAINED UNTIL THE VEHICLE ENTERED OCEAN SPRINGS, MS. (APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES), AT WHICH TIME THE VEHICLE WAS STOPPED BY OFFICERS OF THE OCEAN SPRINGS PD AND WILSON WAS ARRESTED AT 7:35 PM, AND INCARCERATED IN THE OCEAN SPRINGS JAIL.

WILSON WAS RIDING AS A PASSENGER IN A PLYMOUTH SEDAN OWNED AND DRIVEN BY FATHER NOEL FANNON, PRIEST AT ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS. WILSON ADMITTED HIS FULL IDENTITY AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AND WAS TAKEN TO THE OCEAN SPRINGS PD. HE DECLINED TO TALK TO THE FBI.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT 9:17 PM, REV. NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS,

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MS., APPEARED AT THE OCEAN SPRINGS PD TO VISIT WILSON. FATHER FANNON WAS INTERVIEWED, AT WHICH TIME HE ADVISED HE FIRST MET WILSON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 18, 1978, WHILE EATING BREAKFAST AT THE MASTER GRILL RESTAURANT, HIGHWAY 90, OCEAN SPRINGS. HE HAD NEVER SEEN WILSON BEFORE THIS TIME.

WILSON INDICATED HE WANTED TO CONFIDE IN FATHER FANNON AND FOLLOWING THEIR CONVERSATION, THE NATURE OF WHICH FATHER FANNON REFUSED TO DIVULGE, FANNON AGREED TO FOLLOW WILSON IN THEIR AUTOMOBILES TO THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MS., WHERE WILSON HAD TOLD FATHER FANNON HE WOULD MEET SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE. AFTER THE MORNING MEETING IN GULFPORT DID NOT COME OFF, AND AT THE URGING OF WILSON, FATHER FANNON PERSONALLY TELEPHONED SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE IN MEMPHIS. DURING THEIR CONVERSATION, SHERIFF BARKSDALE ASSURED FATHER FANNON HE WOULD PERSONALLY FLY TO GULFPORT, MS., IN ORDER TO MEET WITH FATHER FANNON AND WILSON AT 6:30 PM AT THE HOLIDAY INN.

FATHER FANNON ADVISED HE CANNOT COMMENT ON WILSON PERSONALLY DUE TO THE SHORT LENGTH OF TIME HE HAD CONTACT ~~WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL. HE CONTINUED TO POLITELY REFUSE TO~~

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REVEAL THE NATURE OF WILSON'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

FATHER FANNON WAS ADVISED BY JACKSON SA IN BRIEF CONCERNING WILSON'S REMARKS TO THE GLADDENS ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE KING ASSASSINATION; HOWEVER, FATHER FANNON REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS ALSO HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WILSON'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION AT NEW BRAUNSFELS, TEXAS. CONTACT NEW BRAUNSFELS PD AND ADVISED THEM OF WILSON'S INCARCERATION AT OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., PD, TELEPHONE 875-2211.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING JACKSON DIVISION.

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SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (IMMEDIATE)

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UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT 6 PM, MR. WILLIAM DON GLADDEN, AGE 46, W/M, RT. 3, BOX 205H-3 (MEADOW LARK DRIVE), GULF PARK ESTATES, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS., TELEPHONE 875-3518 ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

HE IS EMPLOYED AS MGR. OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE IN GULFPORT, MS. (TELEPHONE 896-3221). HE AND HIS WIFE, ALICE A. GLADDEN, OWN A GIFT SHOP, "SEASONS AND REASONS," 2446 HIGHWAY 90 EAST, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS. (TELEPHONE 875-2531). ON OR ABOUT JULY 26, 1978, A W/M BY THE NAME OF "BILL"

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WILSON CAME TO THEIR GIFT SHOP IN OCEAN SPRINGS SAYING THAT HE PLANNED TO OPEN A WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN THE EDGEWATER MALL SHOPPING CENTER, BILOXI, MS., AND WOULD LIKE TO USE THE GLADDENS' GIFT SHOP AS A PICKUP POINT FOR HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. GLADDEN ADVISED NEITHER HE NOR HIS WIFE HAD EVER MET WILSON PRIOR TO THIS TIME. FOUR OR FIVE DAYS LATER, GLADDEN AGREED TO LET WILSON RENT A ROOM TO THE REAR OF GLADDEN'S GIFT SHOP IN WHICH WILSON SET UP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. GLADDEN AGREED TO LET WILSON KEEP 20 PERCENT OF PROFITS COMING FROM THE WATCH REPAIR.

GLADDEN AGREED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE "GREW TO TRUST" WILSON FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AND CONSIDERED HIM TO BE A VERY HARD WORKER, WHO PUT A LOT OF HIS OWN MONEY INTO LOCAL RADIO ADVERTISING BUILDING UP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. WILSON LATER TOLD GLADDEN HE HAD "POSTPONED" OPENING UP A BUSINESS IN THE EDGEWATER MALL. WILSON HAD HIS OWN JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR EQUIPMENT AND, ACCORDING TO GLADDEN, SPENT SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS OF HIS OWN MONEY TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AFTER RENTING THE SPACE IN GLADDEN'S BUSINESS. WILSON KEPT A KEY TO THE GIFT SHOP

WHICH HE OPENED EVERY MORNING. HE WORKED HARD IN THE SHOP COMPLETING HIS WATCH REPAIRS AFTER WHICH HE WOULD LEAVE THE SHOP FOR PLACES UNKNOWN.

WILSON INDICATED TO GLADDEN THAT HE HAD A DRINKING PROBLEM AND WAS TRYING TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AND WORK HARD IN THE WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN HOPES OF GETTING OVER THIS PROBLEM.

AT THE BEGINNING, WILSON RESIDED AT APARTMENT NO. 9, TWIN PINES MOTEL, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS., BUT AT AN UNKNOWN LATER DATE MOVED TO ROUBE 6, BOX 387, ROUTE SPRINGS (TELEPHONE 875-9542).

NEITHER GLADDEN NOR HIS WIFE HAD EVER VISITED WILSON AT THE ABOVE TWO RESIDENCES AND ONLY TOOK WILSON'S WORD THAT HE LIVED THERE. ACCORDING TO GLADDEN, WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE IS STAYING IN A HOUSE OWNED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED FRIEND AND IS NOT PAYING ANY RENT AS LONG AS HE KEEPS THE HOUSE IN REPAIR.

WILSON RECENTLY TOOK GLADDEN AND GLADDEN'S SON FOR A RIDE IN AN AIRPLANE PILOTED BY WILSON. GLADDEN CONSIDERS

KNOW EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT FLYING AIRPLANES IN ROUGH WEATHER.

GLADDEN FURTHER ADVISED THAT IN HIS OPINION WILSON IS AN "EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT MAN"; HOWEVER, HE IS UNAWARE OF THE EXTENT OF WILSON'S EDUCATION.

GLADDEN ADVISED THAT AT 11:45 PM, ON 8/17/78, WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HIM AT HIS RESIDENCE SAYING HE HAD TO TALK TO GLADDEN AND HIS WIFE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL THE MORNING. WILSON REFUSED TO STATE BY TELEPHONE WHY HE WANTED TO TALK TO GLADDEN AND HE REFUSED TO COME TO GLADDEN'S RESIDENCE. WILSON SAID HE NEEDED TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING OF "NATIONAL URGENCY." THEY AGREED TO MEET AT GLADDEN'S GIFT SHOP AT OCEAN SPRINGS AT 12:15 AM, 8/18/78. GLADDEN ADVISED HE TOOK HIS WIFE AND 18 YEAR OLD SON, JOHN W. GLADDEN, TO THE SHOP WHERE HE MET WILSON AT THE ABOVE TIME. WILSON ARRIVED ALONE, DRIVING AN OLD MODEL BLUE CHEVROLET SEDAN WITH WHITE TOP, BEARING UNKNOWN LOUISIANA TAG. WILSON APPARENTLY HAD BEEN DRINKING INASMUCH AS HIS EYES WERE VERY RED AND HE SMELLED OF ALCOHOL; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT TALK LIKE AN INTOXICATED PERSON IN

GLADDEN'S OPINION AND SEEMED TO BE "VERY DEPRESSED."

WILSON SAID "I'M THE MYSTERY MAN. I'M THE MAN THAT MURDERED MARTIN LUTHER KING." THEY TALKED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AND 15 MINUTES. WILSON STATED THAT HE GREW UP IN GRENADA, MS., WHERE HIS FATHER WAS A BAPTIST MINISTER. THE BLACKS (REFERRED TO AS "NEGRES AND NIGGERS" BY WILSON), WHO LIVED IN THE AREA WERE WELCOMED TO WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH; HOWEVER, WHEN THE NORTHERN BLACKS BEGAN TO COME DOWN SOUTH, WILSON'S FATHER WELCOMED THEM INTO HIS CHURCH ONLY IF THEY CAME TO WORSHIP AND NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE. ACCORDING TO WILSON, THE BLACKS HAD COME FOR TROUBLE AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT HIS ATTITUDE BEGAN TO CHANGE TOWARD BLACKS.

WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS, "I AM THE ONE THAT PULLED THE TRIGGER. THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY. I WAS THE LOGICAL ONE." WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS HE HAD "BEEN WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND GOT INXOLVED IN SOME UNDECLARED WARS." (HE DID NOT FURTHER ELABORATE; HOWEVER, GLADDEN RECALLED THAT WILSON ONCE MENTIONED HE HAD BEEN IN THE AIR FORCE.) WILSON CLAIMED TO KNOW MARTIN LUTHER KING'S FATHER AND BROTHER AND STATED HE GREW UP NEXT DOOR TO A COUSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND

"KNEW HIS ENTIRE FAMILY."

GLADDEN RECALLED THAT HE (GLADDEN) HAD ONCE PURCHASED A USED MUSTANG FOR HIS DAUGHTER. ON SEEING THE VEHICLE WILSON REMARKED HE HAD ONCE PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

DURING THE CONVERSATION ON THE EARLY MORNING OF 8/18/78, WILSON STATED THAT HIS DAUGHTER HAD DRIVEN THE WHITE MUSTANG TO MEMPHIS AT THE TIME OF THE KING KILLING. WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE WAS IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME, BUT HAD DOCUMENTED HIMSELF TO BE IN KANSAS CITY AS AN ALIBI. WILSON STATED THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS THE "FALL GUY." "RAY ONLY SAW ME TWICE, BUT I KNEW HIM. RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GOTTEN AWAY CLEAN. I'M SURPISED RAY HAS BROUGHT IT ALL BACK UP AGAIN BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE HIS PAROLE IN TWO YEARS."

WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT HE WOULD NOT SEE THEM ANYMORE AFTER TONIGHT AND HE WANTED THEM TO HAVE ALL HIS EXPENSIVE WATCH REPAIR EQUIPMENT.

WILSON, AGAIN REFERRING TO THE KING ASSASSINATION, STATED, "IT WAS PART OF A GROUP CONSPIRACY." HE PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS STATING HE WOULD ONLY DEAL WITH THE

"SHERIFF OF MEMPHIS (TENN.), WHO HE USED TO FLY WITH.
WILSON FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED IT TO HAPPEN TO KING.
"I KNEW IT NEEDED TO BE DONE." WILSON DID NOT BELIEVE HE
WOULD HAVE TO SERVE MUCH TIME FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT, STATING
"I'M NOT SORRY I DID IT. THE NIGGERS ARE BETTER OFF."
LATER IN THE CONVERSATION WITH THE GLADDENS, WILSON SAID HE
WAS SORRY HE HAD DONE IT.

WILSON STATED HE HAD TALKED WITH THE MEMPHIS SHERIFF
BY PHONE AND WAS TO MEET HIM AT THE GULFPORT, MS., HOLIDAY
INN DURING THE MORNING OF 8/18/78. WILSON SPECULATED AS
TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A TV IN HIS CELL
AND INDICATED HE PROBABLY WOULD BE GIVEN WORK AS AN
INSTRUCTOR OR REPAIRMAN OF WATCHES WHILE IN JAIL.

REVERTING TO THE KING ASSASSINATION, WILSON TOLD
THE GLADDENS THAT HE SHOT KING "NOT FROM 50 YARDS AWAY, BUT
50 FEET AWAY." HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE THE BULLET HIT
AND STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT "I SHOT THE SHIT OUT OF HIM AND
SAW IT FLY." WILSON NEVER MENTIONED TO GLADDEN THE TYPE OF
GUN HE ALLEGEDLY USED OR THE LOCATION FROM WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY
SHOT KING.

AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION WITH THE GLADDENS, WILSON APPARENTLY FEELING A DISAPPROVING GLANCE FROM GLADDEN'S 18 YEAR OLD SON, WARNED THE SON HE HAD BETTER NOT INTERFERE.

CONCERNING THE UNIDENTIFIED MEMPHIS SHERIFF, WILSON OFFERED TO FURNISH THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND TELEPHONE NO. TO GLADDEN FOR VERIFICATION OF HIS REMARKS; HOWEVER, GLADDEN REFUSED. WILSON SAID HE HAS "GONE THROUGH TEN YEARS OF HELL, AND BECAUSE HE KILLED KING, IT RUINED 26 YEARS OF MARRIAGE; HOWEVER, HIS CONSCIENCE ONLY STARTED BOTHERING HIM IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. HE SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MS. (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED), WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM. WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED VARIOUS FAMILY MEMBERS TO LET THEM KNOW HE WAS TURNING HIMSELF IN.

WILSON ALSO STATED THAT HE, AT ONE TIME, INTENDED TO OPEN A WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN TUPELO, MS., BUT DECIDED

AGAINST IT BECAUSE OF THE TENSE RACIAL SITUATION.

WILSON ALSO ONCE TOLD MRS. GLADDEN THAT HE GETS "FLIGHT PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS" AT KEESLER AIR FORCE, BILOXI, MS.

GLADDEN ADVISED THAT WILSON REPEATED HIMSELF MANY TIMES DURING THE ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTE CONVERSATION ON 8/18/78, BUT HE PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE KING ASSASSINATION, OTHER THAN THAT STATED HEREIN.

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GLADDEN ADVISED THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION DURING THE SHORT TIME HE AND HIS WIFE KNEW WILSON, HE NEVER TALKED ABOUT HIS PAST, OTHER THAN TO MENTION THAT HE HAD BEEN IN THE U. S. AIR FORCE; HAD BEEN MARRIED FIVE TIMES, TWICE TO THE SAME WOMAN; HE GREW UP IN MISS.; AND HAD BEEN ON THE GULF COAST LESS THAN THREE MONTHS. THE GLADDENS DO NOT KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM OR WHAT HE HAS DONE PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVING AT THEIR PLACE OF BUSINESS 7/26/78.

GLADDEN ADVISED THAT IN HIS REGULAR BUSINESS AS SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE MANAGER HE HAS PERSONAL DEALINGS ON A FREQUENT BASIS WITH PEOPLE HAVING MENTAL PROBLEMS AND WHILE HE IS NOT A QUALIFIED PERSON IN THIS FIELD, HE IS NOT OF THE OPINION WILSON HAS MENTAL IMPAIRMENT. HE DESCRIBED WILSON AS A WHITE MALE; 5 FT. 8 INCHES; 155 LBS; MEDIUM BUILD; RUDDY COMPLEXION; GRAYING HAIR; AGE 46, WHO LIKES TO DRINK VODKA AND COKE.

ON 8/L 8/78, SHORTLY BEFORE NOON, WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED GLADDEN ADVISING THAT HE HAD BEEN BETRAYED, THAT HE HAD BEEN TO GULFPORT, MS., HOLIDAY INN, ALONG WITH "THE FATHER" (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED BY WILSON), WHERE HE HAD SEEN PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE WITH THE FBI. HE WAS NOW BACK AT HIS RESIDENCE WATCHING THE WINDOWS AND WOULD BLOW THE HEAD OFF OF ANYONE WHO CAME, EXCEPT "THE FATHER."

ABOUT THREE HOURS LATER, MR. AND MRS. GLADDEN WERE SURPRISED TO SEE WILSON WALK INTO THEIR GIFT SHOP, HE WAS CLEAN SHAVEN AND NEAT. HE APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN DRINKING. HE IMPLIED HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE FBI, BUT THEY WERE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO HIM. HE HAD MADE SOME KIND OF

BARGAIN. HE NOW WANTED TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AND ASKED IF HE COULD KEEP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN THE BACK OF GLADDEN'S STORE AS USUAL.

THE GLADDENS ADVISED WILSON THEY WERE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING SELLING THE BUSINESS AND HAD ALREADY CONTACTED A REALTOR.

AT 6:28 PM, 8/18/78, FIVE FBI AGENTS ESTABLISHED PHYSICAL OBSERVATION AT THE HOLIDAY INN, U. S. HIGHWAY 90, GLFPORT, MS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 6:45 PM, A 1970 PLYMOUTH BEARING JACKSON COUNTY, MS., LICENSE JAH-637 STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE HOLIDAY INN AND A WHITE MALE, WHO LATER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., EXITED THE VEHICLE AND ENTERED THE HOLIDAY INN. THE WHITE MALE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE THEREAFTER PARKED THE VEHICLE AND CAME TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOLIDAY INN, WHERE HE WAS APPROACHED BY SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES AND WAS ASKED IF HE WAS FATHER NOEL FANNON AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS.

FATHER FANNON WAS ADVISED THAT GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF OF SHELBY COUNTY, MEMPHIS, TENN., WAS NOT GOING TO MEET

WILSON. HE WAS ADVISED THAT AGENTS OF THE FBI WERE IN THE MOTEL AND HE WAS REQUESTED TO TELL WILSON THAT THE SHERIFF WAS NOT GOING TO MEET HIM; HOWEVER, THE FBI AGENTS WERE AT THE MOTEL AND DESIRED TO TALK WITH HIM IF HE, WILSON, WOULD AGREE TO TALK WITH THE AGENTS. FATHER FANNON STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO WILSON BECAUSE SHERIFF BARKSDALE HAD LIED ABOUT HIS APPEARANCE IN GULFPORT.

FATHER FANNON THEREAFTER ENTERED THE MOTEL AND TALKED WITH WILSON IN THE LOBBY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THEY BOTH RETURNED TO THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE MOTEL AND SA GRAVES IDENTIFIED HIMSELF TO WILSON AND ASKED HIM IF HE WERE BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS AND LATER STATED HE WAS A JUNIOR.

WILSON WAS ADVISED THAT SHERIFF BARKSDALE WAS NOT THERE TO MEET HIM, HOWEVER, FBI AGENTS WERE THERE AND DESIRED TO TALK WITH HIM, PARTICULARLY ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER SUPPOSEDLY HAVING DRIVEN A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MO., TO MEMPHIS, TENN. HE STATED HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO FURNISH THE FBI. WILSON INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS UNDER ARREST AND HE WAS ADVISED HE WAS NOT UNDER ARREST. WILSON

COMMENTED HE WAS NOT GOING TO GIVE ANYONE ANY TROUBLE. HE WAS ASKED IF HE HAD ANY WEAPONS ON HIM AND HE STATED HE DID NOT AND THAT SA GRAVES COULD SEARCH HIM IF HE SO DESIRED. WILSON WAS THEN "PATTED DOWN" AND NO WEAPONS WERE FELT ON HIS BODY.

WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE AND FATHER FANNON HAD BEEN TO THE MOTEL AT 9:30 AM, 8/18/78, AND AGAIN AT 6:30 PM, 8/18/78, TO SEE SHERIFF BARKSDALE AND THE SHERIFF HAD LIED TO THEM.

WILSON THEN ASKED FATHER FANNON IF HE WOULD DRIVE HIM BACK TO THE PLACE HE HAD BEEN PICKED UP AND FATHER FANNON AGREED TO DO SO.

WILSON WAS AGAIN ADVISED THAT FBI AGENTS WERE AT THE MOTEL AND WERE STILL WILLING TO TALK TO HIM AND HE REITERATED HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY TO THE FBI AND, AS HE DEPARTED, COMMENTED THAT THE FBI IN THE PAST HAD HARASSED HIS FATHER WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION.

FATHER FANNON AND WILSON THEREAFTER LEFT THE AREA OF THE HOLIDAY INN IN FATHER FANNON'S VEHICLE PROCEEDING EAST ON HIGHWAY 90. A SURVEILLANCE WAS MAINTAINED ON THE VEHICLE.

SHORTLY AFTER WILSON AND FATHER FANNON LEFT THE MOTEL, JACKSON ASAC TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THE GULFPORT RA THAT INFORMATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT NCIC REVEALED WILSON WAS WANTED BY THE NEW BRAUNSFELS, TX., PD FOR PROBATION VIOLATION ON A WARRANT ISSUED APRIL 18, 1978.

THE OCEAN SPRINGS PD WAS NOTIFIED OF THIS OUTSTANDING WARRANT AND THE SURVEILLANCE OF FATHER FANNON'S VEHICLE WAS MAINTAINED UNTIL THE VEHICLE ENTERED OCEAN SPRINGS, MS. (APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES), AT WHICH TIME THE VEHICLE WAS STOPPED BY OFFICERS OTHE OCEAN SPRINGS PD AND WILSON WAS ARRESTED AT 7:35 PM, AND INCARCERATED IN THE OCEAN SPRINGS JAIL.

WILSON WAS RIDING AS A PASSENGER IN A PLYMOUTH SEDAN OWNED AND DRIVEN BY FATHER NOEL FANNON, PRIEST AT ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS. WILSON AMITTED HIS FULL IDENTITY AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AND WAS TAKEN TO THE OCEAN SPRINGS PD. HE DECLINED TO TALK TO THE FBI.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT 9:17 PM, REV. NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS,

MS., APPEARED AT THE OCEAN SPRINGS PD TO VISIT WILSON. FATHER FANNON WAS INTERVIEWED, AT WHICH TIME HE ADVISED HE FIRST MET WILSON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 18, 1978, WHILE EATING BREAKFAST AT THE MASTER GRILL RESTAURANT, HIGHWAY 90, OCEAN SPRINGS. HE HAD NEVER SEEN WILSON BEFORE THIS TIME.

WILSON INDICATED HE WANTED TO CONFIDE IN FATHER FANNON AND FOLLOWING THEIR CONVERSATION, THE NATURE OF WHICH FATHER FANNON REFUSED TO DIVULGE, FANNON AGREED TO FOLLOW WILSON IN THEIR AUTOMOBILES TO THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MS., WHERE WILSON HAD TOLD FATHER FANNON HE WOULD MEET SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE. AFTER THE MORNING MEETING IN GULFPORT DID NOT COME OFF, AND AT THE URGING OF WILSON, FATHER FANNON PERSONALLY TELEPHONED SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE IN MEMPHIS. DURING THEIR CONVERSATION, SHERIFF BARKSDALE ASSURED FATHER FANNON HE WOULD PERSONALLY FLY TO GULFPORT, MS., IN ORDER TO MEET WITH FATHER FANNON AND WILSON AT 6:30 PM AT THE HOLIDAY INN.

FATHER FANNON ADVISED HE CANNOT COMMENT ON WILSON PERSONALLY DUE TO THE SHORT LENGTH OF TIME HE HAD CONTACT WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL. HE CONTINUED TO POLITELY REFUSE TO

REVEAL THE NATURE OF WILSON'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

FATHER FANNON WAS ADVISED BY JACKSON SA IN BRIEF CONCERNING WILSON'S REMARKS TO THE GLADDENS ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE KING ASSASSINATION; HOWEVER, FATHER FANNON REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS ALSO HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WILSON'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION AT NEW BRAUNSFELS, TEXAS. CONTACT NEW BRAUNSFELS PD AND ADVISED THEM OF WILSON'S INCARCERATION AT OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., PD, TELEPHONE 875-2211.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING JACKSON DIVISION.

BT

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FM JALLAS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

JACKSON (INFO)

SAN ANTONIO (INFO)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH. MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU 8/18/78 AND SAN ANTONIO TELETYPE TO BUREAU 8/18/78.

ON 8/19/78 BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMIH RD. BURLESON, TEXAS WHO IS FORMER WIFE OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, STATES SHE WAS MARRIED TO WILSON ON 4/4/68 AND CAN POSITIVELY STATE WILSON WAS AT GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, THAT DATE AND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS, TENN., AS HE IS CLAIMING. SHE SAID THEY RESIDED AT AN UNRECALLED ADDRESS ON HERRICK ST. AND WILSON HAD A JEWELRY BUSINESS AT THE KATZ DRUG STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WADE SAID MR. KATZ SUBSQUENTLY SOLD THE DRUG STORE AND THE BUSINESS WAS MOVED TO BELTON, MISSOURI, WHERE IS WAS ESTABLISHED IN A SMALL SHOPPING CENTER UNDER THE NAME OF WILBUR'S JEWELRY.

62-544-37

ATTACHED ... FILED

AUG 1 1978

FBI-JACKSON

Bureau

WADE SAID WILSON NEVER OWNED OR HAD ACCESS TO A WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE AND HER DAUGHTER DEBRA ANN JONES NEE WILSON NEVER DROVE ANY VEHICLE FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENN., ON OR ABOUT 4/4/68.

WADE ADVISED SHE HAS BEEN DIVORCED FROM WILSON FOR OVER 5 YEARS. SHE SAID WILSON HAS EXPERIENCED MENTAL PROBLEMS FOR YEARS AND SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS A "LIAR AND CON ARTIST WHO CAN'T DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN TRUTH AND FANTASY". SHE SAID HE DEFINITELY NEEDS MEDICAL HELP.

WADE SAID SHE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATENING AND HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS FROM WILSON OVER THE PREVIOUS 5 YEARS AND HAD HIM ARRESTED AT CELBURN, TEXAS IN 1976 FOR NON-CHILD SUPPORT AND HARASSMENT. SHE SAID WILSON WAS COMMITTED TO A HOSPITAL AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS IN 1974-1975 FOR HIS UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITION. WADE STATES WILSON ALWAYS CARRIES A 38 CAL. PISTOL AND SHE WOULD CONSIDER HIM DANGEROUS.

SHE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF WILSON'S RELATIVES WHO CAN SUBSTANTIATE HIS MENTAL CONDITION: SISTERS, LYDA MCGAHEY, 2002 EAST 8TH AVE. NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 327-

1141, CHRISTINE GUNTHORP, ROUTE 1 BOX 36, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; BROTHER, ALLISON WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; CHILDREN, STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSOON, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 923-9414, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, APT. 132, BURLESON, TEXAS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 295-2854, DEBRA ANN JONES, 2628 NEWBURG RD. LOT NUMBER 106 AT BELVDERE, ILLINOIS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 543-9734.

DALLAS INDICES SEARCH NEGATIVE RE WILSON.

FURTHER LEADS BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS.

BT

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FM JALLAS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

JACKSON (INFO)

SAN ANTONIO (INFO)

BT

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62-544-37

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BT

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

JACKSON PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN.

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FOR THE INFORMATION OF BIRMINGHAM AND DALLAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., ADVISED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED 2 TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENN., WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT MEMPHIS ; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS 3 DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO

62-544-38

Bureau

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ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON AND OPAL HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN RD., BARTLETT, TENN., THE FORMER FATHER-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF WILSON, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER BETTY LOU, AGE 47, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER PRESENT HUSBAND KEITH WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, WERE MARRIED IN THE 1940'S AND THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR 1973. THE WILSONS HAD 3 CHILDREN, DEBORAH ANN, AGE 28, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER HUSBAND CHARLIE JONES IN BELLEVIEW, ILL., SPECIFIC ADDRESS NOT KNOWN; STEVEN, AGE 26, AND MARK ANTHONY, AGE 21, BOTH OF

WHOM RESIDE IN BURLESON, TEXAS, SPECIFIC ADDRESSES UNKNOWN. WILSON HAS ONE BROTHER AL WILSON, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND 2 SISTERS, LYDA MC GAHA, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, WHO RESIDES IN FULTON, MISS. HIS PARENTS ARE DECEASED.

BURGESS AND BETTY LOU WILSON RESIDED IN MEMPHIS, TENN., AT VARIOUS TIMES, SPECIFIC PERIODS OF TIME NOT RECALLED, AT KANSAS CITY, MO., AND CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THEY MOVED TO KANSAS CITY, MO., IN 1963 FROM MEMPHIS WHERE THEY OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE. BETTY LOU WILSON LEFT BURGESS AT KANSAS CITY AFTER THEY HAD RESIDED THERE 2 OR 3 YEARS AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS. WHILE RESIDING IN KANSAS CITY, MO., BURGESS PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE FOR HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH. THE HOOTENS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE WAS NEVER TRANSPORTED TO MEMPHIS, TENN. AFTER BETTY LOU AND THE CHILDREN LEFT KANSAS CITY AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS, BURGESS FOLLOWED AND THE FAMILY RESIDED IN MEMPHIS AS A FAMILY UNIT FOR A YEAR OR 2 BEFORE MOVING TO CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR

1973. BURGESS WILSON WAS SELDOM GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BUT DID FROM TIME TO TIME ATTEMPT TO OPERATE JEWELRY STORES AND WATCH REPAIR SHOPS.

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 PM. WILSON ASKED GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE HOOTENS AND REMARKED THAT HE RESIDED IN NEW ORLEANS, LA. WILSON FURNISHED NO OTHER PERSONAL DATA REGARDING HIMSELF AND THE PHONE CALL WAS TERMINATED AFTER THE LAPSE OF A FEW MINUTES. ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN TALKED WITH HIS SON JAMES HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, AND HIS SON INFORMED HIM THAT BURGESS WILSON HAD ALSO CALLED HIM ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978. WHILE WILSON WAS TALKING WITH EITHER JAMES HOOTEN OR HIS WIFE MARIE, HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. JAMES AND MARIE HOOTEN ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON WAS EXAGGERATING AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE IN FACT PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

THE HOOTENS DESCRIBED WILSON AS A VERY HEAVY DRINKER; HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN DRINKING HE TALKS COHERENTLY

AND HIS MOVEMENTS DO NOT GIVE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS INTOXICATED. HE IS A BOASTFUL TALKER AND OFTEN MAKES EXAGGERATED STATEMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WHO ARE LISTENING TO HIM. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE TOWARD HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ON ONE OCCASION HELD HIS FORMER WIFE'S HEAD UNDER WATER IN THE BATHTUB FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. HE HAS MADE THREATS TO KILL VERNON HOOTEN AND HIS FORMER WIFE BETTY DU WILSON. ON ONE OCCASION HE CHECKED IN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, TENN., DATE NOT RECALLED, AND COMPLAINED OF A HEART ATTACK; HOWEVER, MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NO HEART PROBLEM. ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE CHECKED IN AT THE VA HOSPITAL AND COMPLAINED OF A CRIPPLED LEG AND AGAIN MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH HIM. VERNON HOOTEN BELIEVES THAT WILSON WOULD FALSELY CONFESS TO A CRIME IN ORDER TO HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP AND EAT IF HE WAS IN NEED OF FOOD AND SHELTER. IN THE OPINION OF THE HOOTENS, WILSON IS A COMPULSIVE LIAR AND BOTH ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY CANNOT RECALL SPECIFICALLY WHERE HE

RESIDED IN 1968 BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT MAINTAIN A RESIDENCE IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE EVER OWNED OR POSSESSED A GUN OR OTHER WEAPON BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, JAMES HOOTEN, 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, TENN., FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ABOUT 9:30 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BILL WILSON, CALLED JAMES HOOTEN STATING HE WAS CALLING FROM CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HE MADE GENERAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF JAMES HOOTEN AND HIS WIFE MARIE, AND THEN HE REQUESTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE FOR HIM. HOOTEN QUESTIONED HIM REGARDING THE NATURE OF HIS REQUEST, AND WILSON TOLD HIM HE HAD TELEPHONED BARKSDALE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978, AND HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON AUGUST 20, 1978, PLACE NOT STATED. HE INFORMED HOOTEN HE HAD CALLED BARKSDALE AND WAS MEETING WITH HIM TO SURRENDER HIMSELF BECAUSE HE SHOT AND KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. HE WANTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHERIFF BARKSDALE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING HIS, WILSON'S, IDENTITY

AND THE APPOINTMENT. HOOTEN REFUSED TO HONOR WILSON'S REQUEST AND QUESTIONED HIS SINCERITY REGARDING HIS CLAIM FOR BOTH THE KILLING AND THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SHERIFF. WILSON INSISTED HE HAD KILLED KING AND STATED HE HAD MET WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE PERSONALLY ABOUT 2 WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HE TERMINATED THE CALL WHEN HE REALIZED HOOTEN WOULD NOT CALL THE SHERIFF AS HE REQUESTED.

ACCORDING TO HOOTEN, WILSON IS AN EXTREMELY HEAVY DRINKER. HE FEELS THAT WILSON WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL WHEN CALLED AND THAT HIS HEAVY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL HAS HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON HIS MIND. WILSON WAS AT ONE TIME PLACED IN AN UNKNOWN HOSPITAL IN TEXAS BY HIS SON, STEVEN, TO HAVE HIM TREATED FOR ALCOHOLISM. HOOTEN IS OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING BUT DUE TO THE MENTAL DETERIORATION OF HIS MIND MAY BELIEVE HE DID. HOOTEN IS NOT CERTAIN BUT BELIEVES WILSON WAS NOT IN THE MEMPHIS AREA AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED.

DALLAS WILL CONTACT BETTY LOU WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AS WELL AS THE ADDRESSES OF WILSON'S CHILDREN DEBORAH ANN, STEVEN, AND MARK ANTHONY. STEVEN AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED FOR INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM REGARDING BURGESS WILSON AND APPROPRIATE LEADS SHOULD BE SET FORTH REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF DEBORAH ANN WILSON JONES, BELLEVIEW, ILL.

THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WILL INTERVIEW LYDA MC GAHA AND AL WILSON AT REFORM, ALA., AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON FROM HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.

JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, AT FULTON, MISS., AND DEVELOP ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATIONS AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD (APRIL 4, 1968) AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS.

ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE ATTENTION.

BT

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PP HQ BH DL JN
P 190530Z AUG 78
FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY
BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY
DALLAS PRIORITY
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LCB

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WILSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER BETTY LOU, AGE 47, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER PRESENT HUSBAND KEITH WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, WERE MARRIED IN THE 1940'S AND THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR 1973. THE WILSONS HAD 3 CHILDREN, DEBORAH ANN, AGE 28, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER HUSBAND CHARLIE JONES IN BELLEVIEW, ILL., SPECIFIC ADDRESS NOT KNOWN; STEVEN, AGE 26, AND MARK ANTHONY, AGE 21, BOTH OF

WHOM RESIDE IN BURLESON, TEXAS, SPECIFIC ADDRESSES UNKNOWN. WILSON HAS ONE BROTHER AL WILSON, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND 2 SISTERS, LYDA MC GAHA, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, WHO RESIDES IN FULTON, MISS. HIS PARENTS ARE DECEASED.

BURGESS AND BETTY LOU WILSON RESIDED IN MEMPHIS, TENN., AT VARIOUS TIMES, SPECIFIC PERIODS OF TIME NOT RECALLED, AT KANSAS CITY, MO., AND CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THEY MOVED TO KANSAS CITY, MO., IN 1963 FROM MEMPHIS WHERE THEY OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE. BETTY LOU WILSON LEFT BURGESS AT KANSAS CITY AFTER THEY HAD RESIDED THERE 2 OR 3 YEARS AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS. WHILE RESIDING IN KANSAS CITY, MO., BURGESS PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE FOR HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH. THE HOOTENS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE WAS NEVER TRANSPORTED TO MEMPHIS, TENN. AFTER BETTY LOU AND THE CHILDREN LEFT KANSAS CITY AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS, BURGESS FOLLOWED AND THE FAMILY RESIDED IN MEMPHIS AS A FAMILY UNIT FOR A YEAR OR 2 BEFORE MOVING TO CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR

1973. BURGESS WILSON WAS SELDOM GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BUT DID FROM TIME TO TIME ATTEMPT TO OPERATE JEWELRY STORES AND WATCH REPAIR SHOPS.

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 PM. WILSON ASKED GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE HOOTENS AND REMARKED THAT HE RESIDED IN NEW ORLEANS, LA. WILSON FURNISHED NO OTHER PERSONAL DATA REGARDING HIMSELF AND THE PHONE CALL WAS TERMINATED AFTER THE LAPSE OF A FEW MINUTES. ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN TALKED WITH HIS SON JAMES HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, AND HIS SON INFORMED HIM THAT BURGESS WILSON HAD ALSO CALLED HIM ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978. WHILE WILSON WAS TALKING WITH EITHER JAMES HOOTEN OR HIS WIFE MARIE, HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. JAMES AND MARIE HOOTEN ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON WAS EXAGGERATING AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE IN FACT PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

THE HOOTENS DESCRIBED WILSON AS A VERY HEAVY DRINKER; HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN DRINKING HE TALKS COHERENTLY

AND HIS MOVEMENTS DO NOT GIVE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS INTOXICATED. HE IS A BOASTFUL TALKER AND OFTEN MAKES EXAGGERATED STATEMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WHO ARE LISTENING TO HIM. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE TOWARD HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ON ONE OCCASION HELD HIS FORMER WIFE'S HEAD UNDER WATER IN THE BATHTUB FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. HE HAS MADE THREATS TO KILL VERNON HOOTEN AND HIS FORMER WIFE BETTY DU WILSON. ON ONE OCCASION HE CHECKED IN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, TENN., DATE NOT RECALLED, AND COMPLAINED OF A HEART ATTACK; HOWEVER, MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NO HEART PROBLEM. ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE CHECKED IN AT THE VA HOSPITAL AND COMPLAINED OF A CRIPPLED LEG AND AGAIN MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH HIM. VERNON HOOTEN BELIEVES THAT WILSON WOULD FALSELY CONFESS TO A CRIME IN ORDER TO HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP AND EAT IF HE WAS IN NEED OF FOOD AND SHELTER. IN THE OPINION OF THE HOOTENS, WILSON IS A COMPULSIVE LIAR AND BOTH ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY CANNOT RECALL SPECIFICALLY WHERE HE

RESIDED IN 1968 BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT MAINTAIN A RESIDENCE IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE EVER OWNED OR POSSESSED A GUN OR OTHER WEAPON BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, JAMES HOOTEN, 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, TENN., FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ABOUT 9:30 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BILL WILSON, CALLED JAMES HOOTEN STATING HE WAS CALLING FROM CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HE MADE GENERAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF JAMES HOOTEN AND HIS WIFE MARIE, AND THEN HE REQUESTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE FOR HIM. HOOTEN QUESTIONED HIM REGARDING THE NATURE OF HIS REQUEST, AND WILSON TOLD HIM HE HAD TELEPHONED BARKSDALE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978, AND HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON AUGUST 20, 1978, PLACE NOT STATED. HE INFORMED HOOTEN HE HAD CALLED BARKSDALE AND WAS MEETING WITH HIM TO SURRENDER HIMSELF BECAUSE HE SHOT AND KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. HE WANTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHERIFF BARKSDALE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING HIS, WILSON'S, IDENTITY

AND THE APPOINTMENT. HOOTEN REFUSED TO HONOR WILSON'S REQUEST AND QUESTIONED HIS SINCERITY REGARDING HIS CLAIM FOR BOTH THE KILLING AND THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SHERIFF. WILSON INSISTED HE HAD KILLED KING AND STATED HE HAD MET WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE PERSONALLY ABOUT 2 WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HE TERMINATED THE CALL WHEN HE REALIZED HOOTEN WOULD NOT CALL THE SHERIFF AS HE REQUESTED.

ACCORDING TO HOOTEN, WILSON IS AN EXTREMELY HEAVY DRINKER. HE FEELS THAT WILSON WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL WHEN CALLED AND THAT HIS HEAVY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL HAS HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON HIS MIND. WILSON WAS AT ONE TIME PLACED IN AN UNKNOWN HOSPITAL IN TEXAS BY HIS SON, STEVEN, TO HAVE HIM TREATED FOR ALCOHOLISM. HOOTEN IS OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING BUT DUE TO THE MENTAL DETERIORATION OF HIS MIND MAY BELIEVE HE DID. HOOTEN IS NOT CERTAIN BUT BELIEVES WILSON WAS NOT IN THE MEMPHIS AREA AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED.

DALLAS WILL CONTACT BETTY LOU WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AS WELL AS THE ADDRESSES OF WILSON'S CHILDREN DEBORAH ANN, STEVEN, AND MARK ANTHONY. STEVEN AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED FOR INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM REGARDING BURGESS WILSON AND APPROPRIATE LEADS SHOULD BE SET FORTH REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF DEBORAH ANN WILSON JONES, BELLEVIEW, ILL.

THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WILL INTERVIEW LYDA MC GAHA AND AL WILSON AT REFORM, ALA., AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON FROM HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.

JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, AT FULTON, MISS., AND DEVELOP ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATIONS AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD (APRIL 4, 1968) AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS.

ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE ATTENTION.

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELS TO SAN ANTONIO AUGUST 18, 1978.

INSTANT DATE JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 MILL, SAN MARCOS, TX, ADVISED SHE MET BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL WILSON, AT SATLER, TX, IN SEPTEMBER OF 1977, AND THEY WERE MARRIED IN NOVEMBER OF 1977. THEY SEPARATED FEBRUARY 15, 1978 AND DIVORCE FINALIZED APRIL 26, 1978. ON AUGUST 12, 1978 SHE RECEIVED TELEPHONIC MESSAGE FROM WILSON INDICATING THAT HE WAS IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE AND WAS INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT. WILSON STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS ACCIDENT BOTH OF HIS LEGS WERE AMPUTATED. CHILDRESS ADVISED THAT WILSON IS A "VERY CONVINCING LIAR AND A CON MAN". HE HAS NEVER MENTIONED THE DEATH OF

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MARTIN LUTHER KING AND HAS NEVER DISPLAYED ANY HATRED OR DISLIKE FOR MEMBERS OF THE BLACK RACE. ACCORDING TO CHILDRESS, SHE BELIEVES THAT WILSON WAS IN THE U. S. ARMY DURING 1968, AND WILSON HAS STATED THAT HE WAS A P.O.W. DURING VIETNAM CONFLICT. SHE IS AWARE THAT WILSON VISITED THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BUT SHE POSSESSES NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIM SUFFERING FROM ANY PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. BY A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE WILSON HAS 3 CHILDREN, 2 SONS, AND 1 DAUGHTER, LOCATIONS NOT KNOWN BY CHILDRESS.

CHILDRESS ADVISED THAT IT IS HER PERSONAL OPINION THAT WILSON IS SICK AND SHE IS NOT IN THE POSTIION TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING HIS WHEREABOUTS IN 1968 OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT HE DID MENTION THAT HE ONCE RESIDED IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

LEAD: SAN ANTONIO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WILL ATTEMPT TO VERIFY VISITS TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL.

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

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MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

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LEAD: SAN ANTONIO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WILL ATTEMPT TO VERIFY VISITS TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

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ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

FOR INFORMATION OF HOUSTON, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ADVISED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT

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MEMPHIS; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS THREE DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH, AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TO APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 6:30 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE TO BE CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE. WILSON WAS CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE; HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS INFORMATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WITH THEM.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL WILSON, WAS ARRESTED BY OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT, 7:35 PM, AUGUST 18, 1978, BASED ON PROBATION VIOLATOR WARRANT DATED APRIL 18, 1978, ISSUED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT. WILSON PRESENTLY INCARCERATED OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT. OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE LATTER DESIRES HIS RETURN TO TEXAS.

WILSON CONTACTED AM, AUGUST 19, 1978, BY FBI AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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HE WAS BORN ON AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, AND RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISSISSIPPI, UNTIL 1936, WHEN THEY MOVED TO ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA, WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE EIGHTH GRADE AND THEN WENT TO CARBON HILL, ALABAMA, HIGH SCHOOL, UNTIL 1947.

ON MAY 2, 1947, HE ENTERED U. S. AIR FORCE AND WAS DISCHARGED 1950. AFTER BEING OUT OF THE AIR FORCE FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS, HE WAS RECALLED INTO THE KOREAN WAR UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FEBRUARY, 1960.

HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU WILSON, MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE AND WORKED FOR PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. AFTER LEAVING PRUDENTIAL, HE OPERATED A LAUNDRY AND CLEANING BUSINESS IN MEMPHIS. DURING THIS TIME HE WAS ALSO IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

HE LEFT MEMPHIS, WENT TO GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WHERE HE BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND REMAINED WITH THE RESERVE UNTIL 1970. ALSO, FROM 1966 UNTIL 1970, HE OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS.

IN 1970, HE AND WIFE BETTY WILSON MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND OPENED A JEWELRY BUSINESS IN BARTLETT, TENNESSEE. IN ADDITION

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TO JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE BUILT ALUMINUM STORAGE BUILDINGS, BUT IN JUNE, 1970, HIS BUSINESS WAS DESTROYED BY A TORNADO.

HE THEN WENT TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND BECAME EMPLOYED BY AIR FORCE RESERVE AS A FLIGHT ENGINEER. HE ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE IN SAN ANTONIO UNTIL 1974, AND AT THIS TIME HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY, WERE DIVORCED. HE THEN MOVED TO MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, OPENED A JEWELRY STORE, AND MARRIED AVIS LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE. HE THEN WENT TO COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, WHERE HE WORKED IN THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR CLIFF FINCH. WHILE IN COLUMBUS, HE MARRIED PATRICIA SHINDALA OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN IT WAS SUGGESTED HE TELL PEOPLE HE WAS A RETIRED COLONEL AND AN EX-PRISONER OF WAR. HE LEFT COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, JANUARY, 1976, WENT TO TYLER, TEXAS, AND STAYED WITH LARRY HUGHEY, A FRIEND. HE WENT TO TEXAS FOR PURPOSE OF CLEARING UP SOME CHARGES AGAINST HIM AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS. HE WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS, TO SEE A FRIEND, AND WHILE THERE CALLED HIS SON, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED HIM ON CHARGE OF NON CHILD SUPPORT ON A WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIM AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS. HE WAS RELEASED

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TO AUTHORITIES FROM NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WHERE HE PLED GUILTY TO A CHARGE OF THEFT BY CHECK AND RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. HE THEN STAYED IN VICINITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS WHERE HE WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK. HE HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE AND WAS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF HIS PROBATION BUT WAS RELEASED A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER. HE CONTINUED WORKING AROUND NEW BRAUNFELS AND WAS AGAIN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MERCHANDISE, BUT THE CHARGES WERE LATER DROPPED. HE CONTINUED IN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS AND MARRIED JO ANN CHILDRESS AND WAS DIVORCED AFTER THREE MONTHS. IN JANUARY, 1978, HE DEPARTED FOR HOUMA, LOUISIANA, AND WORKED FOR LOUISIANA OFF-SHORE CATERERS UNTIL APRIL, 1978, WHEN HE WENT TO WORK FOR GULF COAST CATERERS OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, 1978. HE CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AND OPENED A JEWELRY SHOP AND RESIDED AT TWIN PINES APARTMENTS IN OCEAN SPRINGS FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS THEN MOVED TO ROUTE 6, BOX 387.

WILSON IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL; DOB AUGUST 28, 1931; POB FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; 5 FEET 11 INCHES; 170 POUNDS; BROWN EYES; GRAY HAIR; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER JFK Act 6 (3); HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

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MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. AIR FORCE, 1947 - 1960; FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; MOTHER MITTIE DALE (DECEASED); STEPMOTHER LILLIE MAE WILSON (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; BROTHER ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; SISTER LYDA MC GAHEY, 2002 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI; SISTER CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, BURLESON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AVIS LEA HUNTER, 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE; EX-WIFE PATRICIA SHINDALA, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI (BELIEVED KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT); EX-WIFE JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 MILL STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS; DAUGHTER DEBORAH ANN JONES, HUSBAND CHARLES, BELVEDERE, ILLINOIS; SON STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS; SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS.

BIRMINGHAM REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, BROTHER, REFORM, ALABAMA.

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, EX-WIFE, BURLESON, TEXAS, AND SONS STEVEN WAYNE WILSON AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF DEBORAH ANN JONES, DAUGHTER, FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW, WHO IS REPORTEDLY RESIDING IN EITHER BELVEDERE OR BELLVIEW, ILLINOIS.

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HOUSTON REVIEW POLICE RECORDS AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, FOR FULL DETAILS OF NON CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT ISSUED BY THAT DEPARTMENT AGAINST WILSON.

MEMPHIS INTERVIEW AVIS LEA HUNTER, EX- WIFE.

SAN ANTONIO INTERVIEW JO ANN CHILDRESS, EX-WIFE, AND ALSO REVIEW RECORDS AT THE AIR FORCE RESERVE CENTER.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF APRIL 4, 1968, AND IF WILSON MAY HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ALL LEADS SHOULD BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY AND KEEP FBIHQ, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSON APPRISED.

INTERVIEW OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., CONTINUING AT OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, CONCERNING ASSASSINATION.

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TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

FOR INFORMATION OF HOUSTON, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ADVISED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT

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MEMPHIS; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS THREE DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH, AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TO APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 6:30 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE TO BE CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE. WILSON WAS CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE; HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS INFORMATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WITH THEM.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL WILSON, WAS ARRESTED BY OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT, 7:35 PM, AUGUST 18, 1978, BASED ON PROBATION VIOLATOR WARRANT DATED APRIL 18, 1978, ISSUED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT. WILSON PRESENTLY INCARCERATED OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT. OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE LATTER DESIRES HIS RETURN TO TEXAS.

WILSON CONTACTED AM, AUGUST 19, 1978, BY FBI AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

HE WAS BORN ON AUG UST 28, 193L, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, AND RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISSISSIPPI, UNTIL 1936, WHEN THEY MOVED TO ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA, WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE EIGHTH GRADE AND THEN WENT TO CARBON HILL, ALABAMA, HIGH SCHOOL, UNTIL 1947.

ON MAY 2, 1947, HE ENTERED U. S. AIR FORCE AND WAS DISCHARGED 195Ø. AFTER BEING OUT OF THE AIR FORCE FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS, HE WAS RECALLED INTO THE KOREAN WAR UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FEBRUARY, 196Ø.

HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU WILSON, MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE AND WORKED FOR PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. AFTER LEAVING PRUDENTIAL, HE OPERATED A LAUNDRY AND CLEANING BUSINESS IN MEMPHIS. DURING THIS TIME HE WAS ALSO IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

HE LEFT MEMPHIS, WENT TO GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WHERE HE BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND REMAINED WITH THE RESERVE UNTIL 197Ø. ALSO, FR OM 1966 UNTIL 197Ø, HE OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS.

IN 197Ø, HE AND WIFE BETTY WILSON MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND OPENED A JEWELRY BUSINESS IN BARTLETT, TENNESSEE. IN ADDITION

TO JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE BUILT ALUMINUM STORAGE BUILDINGS, BUT IN JUNE, 1970, HIS BUSINESS WAS DESTROYED BY A TORNADO.

HE THEN WENT TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND BECAME EMPLOYED BY AIR FORCE RESERVE AS A FLIGHT ENGINEER. HE ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE IN SAN ANTONIO UNTIL 1974, AND AT THIS TIME HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY, WERE DIVORCED. HE THEN MOVED TO MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, OPENED A JEWELRY STORE, AND MARRIED AVIS LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE. HE THEN WENT TO COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, WHERE HE WORKED IN THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR CLIFF FINCH. WHILE IN COLUMBUS, HE MARRIED PATRICIA SHINDALA OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN IT WAS SUGGESTED HE TELL PEOPLE HE WAS A RETIRED COLONEL AND AN EX-PRISONER OF WAR. HE LEFT COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, JANUARY, 1976, WENT TO TYLER, TEXAS, AND STAYED WITH LARRY HUGHEY, A FRIEND. HE WENT TO TEXAS FOR PURPOSE OF CLEARING UP SOME CHARGES AGAINST HIM AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS. HE WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS, TO SEE A FRIEND, AND WHILE THERE CALLED HIS SON, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED HIM ON CHARGE OF NON CHILD SUPPORT ON A WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIM AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS. HE WAS RELEASED

TO AUTHORITIES FROM NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WHERE HE PLED GUILTY TO A CHARGE OF THEFT BY CHECK AND RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. HE THEN STAYED IN VICINITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS WHERE HE WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK. HE HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE AND WAS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF HIS PROBATION BUT WAS RELEASED A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER. HE CONTINUED WORKING AROUND NEW BRAUNFELS AND WAS AGAIN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MERCHANDISE, BUT THE CHARGES WERE LATER DROPPED. HE CONTINUED IN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS AND MARRIED JO ANN CHILDRESS AND WAS DIVORCED AFTER THREE MONTHS. IN JANUARY, 1978, HE DEPARTED FOR HOUMA, LOUISIANA, AND WORKED FOR LOUISIANA OFF-SHORE CATERERS UNTIL APRIL, 1978, WHEN HE WENT TO WORK FOR GULF COAST CATERERS OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, 1978. HE CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AND OPENED A JEWELRY SHOP AND RESIDED AT TWIN PINES APARTMENTS IN OCEAN SPRINGS FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS THEN MOVED TO ROUTE 6, BOX 387.

WILSON IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL; DOB AUGUST 28, 193L; POB FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; 5 FEET 11 INCHES; 170 POUNDS; BROWN EYES; GRAY HAIR; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER JFK Act 6 (3) HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. AIR FORCE, 1947 - 1960; FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; MOTHER MITTIE DALE (DECEASED); STEPMOTHER LILLIE MAE WILSON (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; BROTHER ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; SISTER LYDA MC GAHEY, 2002 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI; SISTER CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, BURLESON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AVIS LEA HUNTER, 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE; EX-WIFE PATRICIA SHINDALA, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI (BELIEVED KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT); EX-WIFE JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 MILL STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS; DAUGHTER DEBORAH ANN JONES, HUSBAND CHARLES, BELVEDERE, ILLINOIS; SON STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS; SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS.

BIRMINGHAM REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, BROTHER, REFORM, ALABAMA.

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, EX-WIFE, BURLESON, TEXAS, AND SONS STEVEN WAYNE WILSON AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF DEBORAH ANN JONES, DAUGHTER, FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW, WHO IS REPORTEDLY RESIDING IN EITHER BELVEDERE OR BELLVIEW, ILLINOIS.

HOUSTON REVIEW POLICE RECORDS AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, FOR FULL DETAILS OF NON CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT ISSUED BY THAT DEPARTMENT AGAINST WILSON.

MEMPHIS INTERVIEW AVIS LEA HUNTER, EX- WIFE.

SAN ANTONIO INTERVIEW JO ANN CHILDRESS, EX-WIFE, AND ALSO REVIEW RECORDS AT THE AIR FORCE RESERVE CENTER.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF APRIL 4, 1968, AND IF WILSON MAY HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ALL LEADS SHOULD BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY AND KEEP FBIHQ, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSON APPRISED.

INTERVIEW OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., CONTINUING AT OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, CONCERNING ASSASSINATION.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

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all offices via FBIHQ

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ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., INMATE, OCEAN SPRINGS CITY JAIL, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, WAS INTERVIEWED BY FBI AGENTS, AUGUST 19, 1978, REGARDING HIS ALLEGED KNOWLEDGE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AFTER HAVING WAIVED HIS RIGHTS, AND HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON ADVISED THAT THE TIME PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, HE WAS LIVING IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, IN A HOUSE ON

(1) - JACKSON

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BYERS ROAD WITH HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU, AND HIS THREE CHILDREN, DEBORAH, STEVE, AND MARK. HE WAS IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE.

IN THE COURSE OF HIS JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE MET A WHITE MALE ITALIAN WHO WAS IN HIS LATE SIXTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 9 INCHES TALL, WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 230 POUNDS, AND WHO OPERATED A JEWELRY TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET. HE STATED THAT THIS WHITE MALE INTRODUCED HIM TO ANOTHER WHITE MALE ITALIAN BY THE NAME OF MITCH (LNU), WHO WAS IN HIS MID FIFTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL, AND WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 190 POUNDS, WHO HAD BLACK, WAVY HAIR AND HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH A BONDING COMPANY, AND ALSO MITCH'S BROTHER, NAME NOT RECALLED, WHO FIT THE SAME PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS MITCH, BUT WHO HAD NUMEROUS CUT SCARS ON HIS FACE.

HE STATED THAT MITCH STARTED DELIVERING JEWELRY TO HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING THE STONES REMOVED FROM THE FITTINGS. HE STATED MITCH USUALLY MET HIM AT A BAR ON WALNUT STREET WHICH WAS RUN BY A WHITE FEMALE AND IT ALSO APPEARED THAT MITCH MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PART OWNER OR HAD AN INTEREST IN THIS BAR. HE STATED THAT DUE TO THE VOLUME OF JEWELRY THAT MITCH WAS BRINGING TO HIM, HE

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ASKED MITCH ABOUT IT, AND MITCH ADVISED HIM THAT IT WAS STOLEN JEWELRY. MITCH TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THAT HE, WILSON, WAS IN AS DEEP AS HE, MITCH, WAS AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH MITCH. HE STATED THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MITCH CONTINUED UNTIL 1970.

HE STATED THAT MITCH BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF KILLING KING AND SAID THAT THERE WAS A $50,000 CONTRACT ON HIM. HOWEVER, HE NEVER SAID WHO PUT OUT THE CONTRACT BUT SAID THAT HE COULD GET THE MONEY FOR WILSON IF HE KILLED KING.

WILSON STATED THAT MITCH WAS WELL AWARE OF HIS, WILSON'S, THOUGHTS CONCERNING KING AND THE BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, IN THAT HIS FATHER, WHO WAS A PASTOR OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH AT GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI, DIED OF A HEART ATTACK WHICH HE, WILSON, THOUGHT WAS CAUSED AS A RESULT OF RACIAL TENSIONS AT GRENADA BROUGHT ON BY THE FORCEFUL INTEGRATION OF HIS FATHER'S CHURCH.

WILSON STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS BEFORE KING'S MURDER, HE STARTED GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE MOVEMENTS, HABITS, AND WHEREABOUTS OF KING.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, WHICH

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WAS BLUE AND WHITE, WHICH PLANES HE USED TO FLY TO DIFFERENT PLACES WHERE KING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. HE STATED THAT HE RECALLS GOING TO HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA; TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI; JACKSON, TENNESSEE; ATLANTA, GEORGIA; AND GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA. HE STATED THAT WHILE AT TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, HE STAYED IN THE RAMADA INN AND BELIEVES THAT IN THE OTHER PLACES HE VISITED HE STAYED IN HOLIDAY INNS.

HE STATED THAT MITCH FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE. HE STATED THAT HE KEPT THE RIFLE AND THAT JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS OF 1975, HE HAD IT REWORKED AT A GUNSHOP IN COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, ON FOURTH STREET ACROSS FROM A BANK. HE STATED THAT THE LAST KNOWLEDGE HE HAD OF THE RIFLE, HIS OLDER SON, STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, HAD THE RIFLE AND A SHOTGUN BUT HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD SOLD IT.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT THERE WAS A GARBAGE STRIKE IN PROGRESS AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND THAT MITCH CALLED HIM AT HIS STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND TOLD HIM THAT KING WAS COMING TO MEMPHIS FOR A RALLY AND INSTRUCTED WILSON TO COME TO MEMPHIS WHERE HE WAS TO MEET TWO MEN AT THE WONDER BAR LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF SUMMER AVENUE AND WHITE STATION ROAD.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IN THE

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BONANZA AIRCRAFT AND LANDED AT AN AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF RALEIGH, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT WAS OPERATED BY A LONG-TIME ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO HAD ATTENDED A CHURCH WHICH WAS PASTORED BY WILSON'S FATHER IN THE PAST. WILSON STATED THAT HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH, PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT IN HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG, WHICH WILSON HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HER AND WHICH WAS REGISTERED IN HIS NAME IN MISSOURI.

HE ADVISED THAT DEBORAH AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU, WERE STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE OF WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT HOOTEN HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK AND THAT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER WERE TEMPORARILY STAYING AT THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE WENT TO THE WONDER BAR AND WHILE HAVING A DRINK TWO WHITE MEN APPROACHED HIM, ONE HAVING AN ACCENT SIMILAR TO A PUERTO RICAN.

THE TWO WHITE MALES FURNISHED HIM WITH FBI CREDENTIALS, WHICH HE STATED HAD A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIMSELF ON IT, AND THEY TOOK HIM AND SHOWED HIM WHERE KING WAS TO HOLD THE RALLY. THEY THEN TOOK WILSON TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. THEY TOLD HIM

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HE WAS TO BE IN THE CROWD AT THE RALLY AND THAT A DECOY SHOT WAS TO BE FIRED AND THAT HE WAS THEN TO SHOOT. THEY SAID THAT KING HAD A HABIT OF RAISING HIS ARMS OVER HIS HEAD WHEN HE WAS MAKING A SPEECH AND THAT THE SECOND TIME THAT HE DID SO, THE SHOTS WERE TO BE FIRED.

WILSON STATED THAT ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER HE WAS IN THE CROWD STANDING NEAR A WOOD FENCE APPROXIMATELY 60 FEET FROM WHERE KING WAS STANDING AND THAT WHEN KING RAISED HIS ARMS THE SECOND TIME HE SHOT HIM.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD THE RIFLE WHICH HE USED STRAPPED TO HIS BELT UNDER A SUIT COAT AND ATTACHED TO HIS BELT ON A SWIVEL. HE STATED THAT THE BARREL PROTRUDED FROM BELOW HIS COAT BUT NO ONE QUESTIONED HIM CONCERNING IT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PRACTICED A GREAT DEAL SWIVELING THE RIFLE AND FIRING IT.

HE ADVISED THAT AFTER THE SHOOTING, HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE, BUT HE SHOWED THEM THE CREDENTIALS, AND THEY LET HIM GO, AND HE WALKED ON DOWN THE STREET APPROXIMATELY TWO BLOCKS TO WHERE HE HAD LEFT THE MUSTANG PARKED. HE ADVISED THAT HE GOT IN THE MUSTANG AND DROVE BACK TO THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE, AND HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH, THEN TOOK HIM TO THE AIRPORT, AND HE GOT HIS PLANE AND FLEW BACK TO KANSAS CITY. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT

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THAT HE USED WAS ON THE KANSAS SIDE ON THE HIGHWAY TO OLATHE, KANSAS. HE STATED THE AIRPORT WAS RUN BY (FNU) FISHER. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD PURCHASED THE BONANZA AIRCRAFT FROM FISHER.

WILSON ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM $25,000 IN $20 BILLS, AND FOLLOWING THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM ANOTHER $25,000, AT WHICH TIME HE GAVE THE CREDENTIALS BACK TO MITCH.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF JAMES EARL RAY HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION REFLECTS COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH WILSON.

WILSON HAS SIGNED EXTRADITION PAPERS, AND EXTRADITION IN PROGRESS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

APPROPRIATE RECIPIENTS REQUESTED TO REINTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES CONCERNING HIS APPEARANCE IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 4, 1968.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING TWO AGENTS FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MURKIN MATTER TO REINTERVIEW WILSON CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ALSO INTERVIEW

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BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

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BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

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WILSON STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS BEFORE KING'S MURDER, HE STARTED GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE MOVEMENTS, HABITS, AND WHEREABOUTS OF KING.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, WHICH

WAS BLUE AND WHITE, WHICH PLANES HE USED TO FLY TO DIFFERENT PLACES WHERE KING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. HE STATED THAT HE RECALLS GOING TO HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA; TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI; JACKSON, TENNESSEE; ATLANTA, GEORGIA; AND GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA. HE STATED THAT WHILE AT TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, HE STAYED IN THE RAMADA INN AND BELIEVES THAT IN THE OTHER PLACES HE VISITED HE STAYED IN HOLIDAY INNS.

HE STATED THAT MITCH FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE. HE STATED THAT HE KEPT THE RIFLE AND THAT JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS OF 1975, HE HAD IT REWORKED AT A GUNSHOP IN COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, ON FOURTH STREET ACROSS FROM A BANK. HE STATED THAT THE LAST KNOWLEDGE HE HAD OF THE RIFLE, HIS OLDER SON, STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, HAD THE RIFLE AND A SHOTGUN BUT HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD SOLD IT.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT THERE WAS A GARBAGE STRIKE IN PROGRESS AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND THAT MITCH CALLED HIM AT HIS STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND TOLD HIM THAT KING WAS COMING TO MEMPHIS FOR A RALLY AND INSTRUCTED WILSON TO COME TO MEMPHIS WHERE HE WAS TO MEET TWO MEN AT THE WONDER BAR LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF SUMMER AVENUE AND WHITE STATION ROAD.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IN THE

BONANZA AIRCRAFT AND LANDED AT AN AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF RALEIGH, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT WAS OPERATED BY A LONG-TIME ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO HAD ATTENDED A CHURCH WHICH WAS PASTORED BY WILSON'S FATHER IN THE PAST. WILSON STATED THAT HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH, PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT IN HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG, WHICH WILSON HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HER AND WHICH WAS REGISTERED IN HIS NAME IN MISSOURI.

HE ADVISED THAT DEBORAH AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU, WERE STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE OF WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT HOOTEN HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK AND THAT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER WERE TEMPORARILY STAYING AT THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE WENT TO THE WONDER BAR AND WHILE HAVING A DRINK TWO WHITE MEN APPROACHED HIM, ONE HAVING AN ACCENT SIMILAR TO A PUERTO RICAN.

THE TWO WHITE MALES FURNISHED HIM WITH FBI CREDENTIALS, WHICH HE STATED HAD A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIMSELF ON IT, AND THEY TOOK HIM AND SHOWED HIM WHERE KING WAS TO HOLD THE RALLY. THEY THEN TOOK WILSON TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. THEY TOLD HIM

HE WAS TO BE IN THE CROWD AT THE RALLY AND THAT A DEC OY SHOT WAS TO BE FIRED AND THAT HE WAS THEN TO SHOOT. THEY SAID THAT KING HAD A HABIT OF RAISING HIS ARMS OVER HIS HEAD WHEN HE WAS MAKING A SPEECH AND THAT THE SECOND TIME THAT HE DID SO, THE SHOTS WERE TO BE FIRED.

WILSON STATED THAT ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER HE WAS IN THE CROWD STANDING NEAR A WOOD FENCE APPROXIMATELY 60 FEET FROM WHERE KING WAS STANDING AND THAT WHEN KING RAISED HIS ARMS THE SECOND TIME HE SHOT HIM.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD THE RIFLE WHICH HE USED STRAPPED TO HIS BELT UNDER A SUIT COAT AND ATTACHED TO HIS BELT ON A SWIVEL. HE STATED THAT THE BARREL PROTRUDED FROM BELOW HIS COAT BUT NO ONE QUESTIONED HIM CONCERNING IT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PRACTICED A GREAT DEAL SWIVELING THE RIFLE AND FIRING IT.

HE ADVISED THAT AFTER THE SHOOTING, HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE, BUT HE SHOWED THEM THE CREDENTIALS, AND THEY LET HIM GO, AND HE WALKED ON DOWN THE STREET APPROXIMATELY TWO BLOCKS TO WHERE HE HAD LEFT THE MUSTANG PARKED. HE ADVISED THAT HE GOT IN THE MUSTANG AND DROVE BACK TO THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE, AND HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH, THEN TOOK HIM TO THE AIRPORT, AND HE GOT HIS PLANE AND FLEW BACK TO KANSAS CITY. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT

THAT HE USED WAS ON THE KANSAS SIDE ON THE HIGHWAY TO OLATHE, KANSAS. HE STATED THE AIRPORT WAS RUN BY (FNU) FISHER. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD PURCHASED THE BONANZA AIRCRAFT FROM FISHER.

WILSON ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM $25,000 IN $20 BILLS, AND FOLLOWING THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM ANOTHER $25,000, AT WHICH TIME HE GAVE THE CREDENTIALS BACK TO MITCH.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAS NO K NOWLEDGE OF JAMES EARL RAY HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION REFLECTS COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH WILSON.

WILSON HAS SIGNED EXTRADITION PAPERS, AND EXTRADITION IN PROGRESS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

APPROPRIATE RECIPIENTS REQUESTED TO REINTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES CONCERNING HIS APPEARANCE IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 4, 1968.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING TWO AGENTS FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MURKIN MATTER TO REINTERVIEW WILSON CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ALSO INTERVIEW

PAGE 8 JN 62-544 UNC[illegible] E F T O

BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS PLESASE CONTACT JACKSON

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FM HOUSTON (44-15Ø9)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

REFERENCE JN TEL TO DIRECTORN 8/19/78.

ON 8/19/78, LARRY ALLEN, PATROLMAN, CLEVELAND, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT (CPD), REVIEWED CPD FILES AND COULD LOCATE NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., DOB 8/28/31. ALLEN ADVISED NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT, IF FILED IN CLEVELAND, TEXAS, PROBABLY FILED THROUGH CLEVELAND CITY COURT AND WARRANT ISSUED BY CITY JUDGE GLEN JONES. RECORDS CITY COURT NOT AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL 9 AM, 8/21/78 AND JUDGE GLEN JONES CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE.

LEAD: HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS:

ASAP, MONDAY, AM, WILL REVIEW CLEVELAND CITY COURT RECORDS PER LEAD SET OUT IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

BT

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33361) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

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ASAP, MONDAY, AM, WILL REVIEW CLEVELAND CITY COURT RECORDS PER LEAD SET OUT IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

62-544-42

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO : SAC, JACKSON (62-544) DATE: 8/19/78

FROM : SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following are among items found in the wallet of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.:

San Antonio — Current Texas Driver's License #7911315 under name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas, DOB 8/28/31, license expires 1980.

Memphis — Handwritten note on back of card giving address of 1005 Hickory Hill Lane, C-103, Hermitage, Tennessee, 37076, no name on card.

San Antonio — Business card for MAX D. MURRAY, Advertising Representative, Austin, Texas, American-Statesman.

Jackson — Business card for DAN WERNER, Craftsman Workshop, Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, MS, telephone 388-9601.

Jackson — Note with name KARL FASOID, 863-4761 (apparently Gulfport, MS, telephone no.)

N.O. — Business card for Louisiana Off-Shore Caterers, name JIM FONTENOT, Personnel Director, Houma, Louisiana, telephone 876-3642.

N.O. — Pay voucher from Gulf Coast Catering Co., New Iberia, Louisiana, for pay period ending 6/16/78.

N.O. — Card with name TAD MURRAY, Monroe, Louisiana, 323-7382 or 728-4060.

62-544-43

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Bureau

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan FBI/DOJ

JN 62-544

Dallas Card with name BOB CAZOET, 214-521-4195.

San Antonio Bill of sale, mainly illegible, but made out to VERA M. NEVILL, Route 4, Box 620-G, Canyon Lake, Texas.

San Antonio Veterans Administration patient data card, #422341275, under name of BURGESS A. WILSON, Canyon Lake, Texas.

San Antonio 1977 VFW membership card, #990998, for Post Number 8573, Canyon Lake, Texas.

Jackson Names STAN BULLARD and Jones Builders, Long Beach, Mississippi.

San Antonio Business card for Bill Wilson Builders, Custom Homes, Canyon Lake, Texas, and 817 East Euclid, San Antonio, Texas.

Jackson Plastic credit card for Security State Bank, Starkville, MS, #37-3894-0, under name of Colonel BURGESS A. WILSON, USAF retired.

(WILSON advised he was discharged from USAF in 1960 after 12 years service with rank of Technical Sergeant.)

O.C. Private pilot's certificate #1106770, under name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., 13125 Herrick Avenue, Grandview, Missouri, 64030, giving him authorization to fly single and multi engine land airplanes, issued by FAA, Oklahoma City.

WILSON claims to be personally acquainted with Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff GENE BARKSDALE, calling BARKSDALE an old flying buddy who flew with WILSON in the Tennessee Air National Guard. At that time, BARKSDALE headed the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department Vice Squad.

M.O. WILSON has advised that he arrived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast around 7/1/78. He came to the Gulf Coast from Houma, Louisiana, where he worked for the Louisiana Off-Shore Company (not further identified).

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 175

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO : SAC, JACKSON (62-544)

DATE: 8/19/78

FROM : SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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Business card for DAN WERNER, Craftsman Workshop, Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, MS, telephone 388-9601.

Note with name KARL FASOID, 863-4761 (apparently Gulfport, MS, telephone no.)

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

Pay voucher from Gulf Coast Catering Co., New Iberia, Louisiana, for pay period ending 6/16/78.

Card with name TAD MURRAY, Monroe, Louisiana, 323-7382 or 728-4060.

Sent RTM 8/19/78 Telecopier

62-544-43

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(2) - Jackson

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

FBI/DOJ

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Names STAN BULLARD and Jones Builders, Long Beach, Mississippi.

Business card for Bill Wilson Builders, Custom Homes, Canyon Lake, Texas, and 817 East Euclid, San Antonio, Texas.

Plastic credit card for Security State Bank, Starkville, MS, #37-3894-0, under name of Colonel BURGESS A. WILSON, USAF retired.

(WILSON advised he was discharged from USAF in 1960 after 12 years service with rank of Technical Sergeant.)

Private pilot's certificate #1106770, under name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., 13125 Herrick Avenue, Grandview, Missouri, 64030, giving him authorization to fly single and multi engine land airplanes, issued by FAA, Oklahoma City.

WILSON claims to be personally acquainted with Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff GENE BARKSDALE, calling BARKSDALE an old flying buddy who flew with WILSON in the Tennessee Air National Guard. At that time, BARKSDALE headed the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department Vice Squad.

WILSON has advised that he arrived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast around 7/1/78. He came to the Gulf Coast from Houma, Louisiana, where he worked for the Louisiana Off-Shore Company (not further identified).

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AUG 21 1978

FBI—JACKSON

LCB

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

Sent ME CW
8/19/78 Telecopied

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill, date of birth August 28, 1931, Social Security Account Number [JFK Act 6 (3)], furnished the following information to SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT:

Mr. WILSON advised that he was born August 28, 1931, at Fulton, Mississippi, and that he resided with his family at Golden, Mississippi, until 1936, at which time the family moved to Eldridge, Alabama, where he attended school until the eighth grade and then went to high school at Carbon Hill, Alabama, until 1947.

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

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

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

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

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

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

by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He furnished the following description of himself:

Name	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.
Also known as	Bill
Date of birth	August 28, 1931
Place of birth	Fulton, Mississippi
Height	5 feet 11 inches
Weight	170 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Gray
Social Security Number	JFK Act 6 (3)
Education	High school graduate
Military service	U. S. Air Force 1947-1960
Father	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi
Mother	MITTIE DALE (deceased)
Stepmother	LILLIE MAE WILSON (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi
Brother	ALLISON TOWERS WILSON Reform, Alabama
Sister	LYDA MC GAHEY 2002 East Eighth Avenue North Columbus, Mississippi
Sister	CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE Fulton, Mississippi
Ex-wife	BETTY LOU WILSON WADE Burleson, Texas
Ex-wife	AVIS LEA HUNTER 1010 Hickory Hill Lane Hermitage, Tennessee
Ex-wife	PATRICIA SHINDALA Starkville, Mississippi (believed killed in car accident)
Ex-wife	JO ANN CHILDRESS 113 Mill Street San Marcos, Texas

JN 62-544
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Daughter	DEBORAH ANN JONES, husband CHARLES, Belvedere, Illinois
Son	STEVEN WAYNE WILSON Burleson, Texas
Son	MARK ANTHONY WILSON Burleson, Texas

62-544-45

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AUG 21 1978

FBI—JACKSON

LCB

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dist ME Jea
telecopied, 8/19/78

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

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

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

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

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

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

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

by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR.
SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/RDH/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON advised that he flew to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Bonanza aircraft and landed at an airport just north of Raleigh, Tennessee. He stated that the airport was operated by a long-time acquaintance of his who had attended a church which was pastored by WILSON's father in the past. WILSON stated that his daughter, DEBORAH, picked him up at the airport in her 1965 white Mustang, which WILSON had previously bought for her and which was registered in his name in Missouri.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JN 62-544

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO : SAC, JACKSON (62-544) (P)

DATE: 8/19/78

FROM : SA KENNETH P. HUGHES

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following investigation was conducted by SA KENNETH P. HUGHES on 8/19/78:

FREDDY TILGHAM, Chief of Police, Grenada, MS, Police Department, could locate no arrest record on BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., DOB 8/28/31, Fulton, MS.

Grenada, MS, City Directory shows Central Baptist Church, 333 Second Street, Grenada, MS, and pastor Reverend JOE BELL.

HUBERT SPEARS, U. S. Post Office, Grenada, advised they did have a B. A. WILSON as a preacher at the Central Baptist Church, Grenada, approximately four or five years ago when he died. SPEARS stated WILSON's wife, first name possibly GLADYS, stayed in Grenada approximately one year and lived at 375 Levee Street, which house is now vacant and in the process of being torn down. While in Grenada, B. A. WILSON and wife lived in the church parsonage located behind Central Baptist Church. There were no children living with WILSON and his wife at that time, and if they had any children, they were all grown.

Review of City Directory shows Mrs. LILLY M. WILSON residing 375 South Levee Street, Grenada.

Reverend JOE BELL, Pastor, Central Baptist Church, advised BURGESS AUDIE WILSON was pastor at Central Baptist Church for approximately 13 years until he died of a heart attack on 1/7/67. BELL estimated WILSON was pastor from 1954 to 1967. He stated WILSON and his second wife, LILLY, lived in the church parsonage.

BELL stated WILSON had four children who were as follows: Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE (phonetic), who lives in Fulton, MS; BILL WILSON, Kansas City, Kansas; LIDA (LNU), Columbus, MS; and one other son, name not known. 62-544-46

(2) - Jackson

KPH/mae
(2) mae

SEARCHED OK INDEXED OK
SERIALIZED OK FILED OK
AUG 1 1978
FBI—JACKSON

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

BELL believed all of WILSON's children were married and knew that B. A. WILSON had churches at Camp Creek, Fulton, MS; Lynn Station, north of Jasper, Alabama; and at Eldridge, Alabama, prior to coming to Grenada in 1954. LILLY WILSON, wife of B. A. WILSON, died approximately one year ago in a nursing home at Fulton, MS. B. A. WILSON and his wife, LILLY, had a house in Grenada located at the corner of Levee and 4th Street, and BELL knew of no other land the WILSONs owned in Grenada. Concerning BILL WILSON, BELL stated that he was a pilot and flew for a freight line or unknown airline in Kansas City, Kansas, and reportedly flew freight to Guam and other islands.

BELL knew that BILL WILSON had caused his father problems concerning debts that his father, B. A. WILSON, had to pay, and he believed that BILL WILSON had been arrested on an embezzlement charge possibly in California. BELL recalled that BILL WILSON flew into Memphis, Tennessee, on Sunday, the day before the funeral, which was on a Monday, with his second wife. BELL did not know if BILL WILSON had any children. BELL did not know how long BILL WILSON stayed in Grenada as he, BELL, left on Tuesday, the day after the funeral. BELL did know that BILL WILSON's stepmother, LILLY WILSON, had no use for BILL WILSON, and LILLY WILSON told BELL she never wanted to lay eyes on him again or have BILL WILSON put a foot in her house. LILLY WILSON told BELL that BILL WILSON did not deserve any part of his father's inheritance as the father had already paid off many of his debts.

BELL stated he did hear that BILL WILSON did obtain his father's shotgun during the settlement of the estate, which shotgun at that time was valued between $150 and $200. BELL further stated BILL WILSON's other brother and BILL WILSON apparently argued over the shotgun, and the other unknown brother left in disgust, leaving the shotgun to BILL WILSON. BELL stated an attorney by the name of FREDERICKS in Grenada read B. A. WILSON, SR.'s will.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 189

SAC, JACKSON (62-544) (P) 8/19/78

SA KENNETH P. HUGHES

MURKIN

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(2) - Jackson

KPH/mae
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OVB OVB
AUG 18 1978
LCB

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NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 191

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OO HQ ME JN

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O 212045Z AUG 78

FM DALLAS (44-2649) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR 8-20-78.

BETTY LOU WADE RECONCATED 8-20-78, AND STATES VISIT TO MEMPHIS TO SEE VERNON HOOTEN, BAPTIST HOSPITAL, WAS SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER KING MURDER.

WADE CONFIRMS WILSON BOUGHT DAUGHTER A CREAM COLORED MUSTANG IN FEBURARY 1968, BUT SAYS HE NEVER DROVE VEHICLE ON ANY TRIPS TO HER KNOWLEDGE. SHE ALSO RECONFIRMS THAT WILSON WAS AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, MO. AT TIME KING MURDERED. SHE STATED THAT SHE HAS NEVER HEARD WILSON MAKE ANY STATEMENT THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON SAYS HE WAS 15 ON 4-4-68, AND RECALLS SEEING OF KINGS DEATH ON TV AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, MO. HE CONFIRMS FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON WAS ALSO HOME AT THAT TIME. STATES THAT THERE WAS NO WAY HIS FATHER COULD HAVE KILLED KING. 62-544-47

AUG 20 1978
FBI—JACKSON

STEPHEN WILSON CONFIRMED SISTER OWNED 1965 MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT DOES NOT RECALL HE EVER DROVE IT TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DESCRIBES FATHER AS ALCOHOLIC WITH SERIOUS MENTAL PROBLEMS. SAID HE PLACED FATHER IN ALCOHOLIC REHABILITATION CLINIC AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS FOR 3 - 4 DAYS IN JANUARY 1976 TO DRY HIM OUT. FATHER LIVED WITH HIM FOR BRIEF TIME AFTERWARDS AND WOULD DRINK CONSTANTLY AND DO AND SAY CRAZY THINGS. SAYS NEVER HEARD FATHER EVER MAKE STATEMENT THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

MARK ANTHONY WILSON INTERVIEWED 8/20/78 AND STATED FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON IS A VERY SICK MAN AND POSSIBLY INSANE. SAYS HIS FATHER COULD NOT HAVE KILLED DR. KING SINCE TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION BURGESS WILSON WAS AT HOME IN GRAND VIEW, MO. ON THAT DATE. THINKS MOTHER AND SISTER VISITING GRANDMOTHER AT MEMPHIS, TENN. AND FATHER WAS HOME WITH HIM AND BROTHER STEPHEN.

WILSON DECRIBES FATHER AS HABITUAL LIAR AND ALCOHOLIC WHO "WOULD WALK AROUND THE TRUTH TO TELL A LIE." SAYS FATHER HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT AND HAS EXPRESSED THE OPINION NUMEROUS TIMES THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS CRAZY AND HE IS THE ONLY SANE PERSON IN IT. STATES FATHER WAS PRIVATE PILOT AT ONE TIME AND DID HAVE BONANZA AIRCRAFT WHILE THEY LIVED AT GRANDVIEW, MO. CONFIRMS SISTER HAS CREAM MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT NEVER TOOK IT OUT OF TOWN.

HE SAYS HE LAST SAW HIS FATHER IN SAN MARCUS, TEXAS IN JANUARY 1978 WHEN STEPHEN AND HE HAD DINNER WITH THEIR FATHER. SAID HE SEEMED TO BE DOING OK AND NO INDICATION OF ANY PROBLEMS AT THAT TIME. SAYS HE NEVER HEARD HIS FATHER MAKE ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BT

REC ONE TEL CLR TO U

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OO HQ ME JN

DE DL

O 212045Z AUG 78

FM DALLAS (44-2649) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

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DKW DKW

LCB

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BT

REC ONE TEL CLR TO U

MEO003 2321730Z

OO HQ JN

DE ME

O 201730Z AUG 78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN

RE JACKSON TEL TO BUREAU 8-19-78.

ON 8-19-78, MRS. AVIS LHEA HUNTER, NEE PRUETT, C 103, RAVENWOOD APARTMENTS, 1005 HICKORY HILL LANE, NASHVILLE, TENN., ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

SHE MARRIED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, AKA, BILL ON 12-31-74 AT MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, AFTER KNOWING HIM FOR ONLY 5 WEEKS. SHE DIVORCED HIM IN JUNE, 1975 AT HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA. WILSON TOLD HER HE WAS 42 YEARS OLD AND HE WORKED AS A JEWELER. DURING THEIR MARRIAGE WILSON DRANK FREQUENTLY AND WOULD BECOME CRAZY, RAMBLING, AND SILLY, ALTHOUGH NEVER VIOLENT. HE WOULD FREQUENTLY TELL HER "WILD" UNTRUE STORIES INCLUDING THAT HE WAS IN THE MAFIA. SHE LEFT HIM BECAUSE OF HIS INSTABILITY AND THE FACT HE WAS RECEIVING DIAMONDS THAT HE APPARENTLY WAS NOT PAYING FOR. SHE IS NOT AWARE OF WILSON

62-544-48

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AUG 20 1978

FBI — JACKSON

Bureau 2/10
Wants

EVER BEING INSTITUTINALIZED FOR MENTAL PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY JAILED AT NEW BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS IN 1975 AFTER THEIR DIVORCE.

SINCE DIVIRCE, WILSON CALLS HER FREQUENTLY AND ON THIS PAST THURSDAY, 8-17-78, HE PHONED AT ABOUT 10 TO 10:30 P.M. CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME. HER SON, LANCE AGE 14, ANSWERED THE PHONE BUT SHE LISTENED ON THE EXTENSION. WILSON WAS VERY DRUNK AND TOLD LANCE HE WOULD BE ON TV SOON AS HE HAD KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING. WILSON SAID THE FBI WOULD ARREST HIM SOON THEN HUNG UP.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WILSON EVER MENTIONED KING AS THE TOPIC OF KING'S ASSASSINATION NEVER CAME UP DURING THEIR MARRAIGE. WILSON HAS NEVER MENTIONED JAMES EARL RAY TO HER. SHE KNOWS NONE OF WILSON'S ASSOCIATES AND DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS IN APRIL, 1968. MRS. HUNTER ADVISED WILSON'S STORY ABOUT KILLING KING WAS ATTENPT ON HIS PART TO GAIN ATTENTION.

BT.

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

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BT.

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P 182218Z AUG 78

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (PRIORITY)

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (PRIORITY)

JACKSON (62-544) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICES, AUG. 19, 1978.

ON AUG. 19, 1978, MR. ALLISON T. WILSON, P. O. BOX 23, (HIGHWAY 17 SOUTH), REFORM, ALA., ADVISED THAT BURGESS AUDIE WILSON IS HIS BROTHER AND HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN AN ALCOHOLIC AND IS A CONFIRMED LIAR AND THINKS OF HIMSELF AS A RETIRED COLONEL AND POSES AS A VIET NAM VETERAN WHEN HE IS DRUNK. HE STATED THAT HIS BROTHER HAS OFTEN CONFESSED TO VARIOUS CRIMES IN ORDER TO BE LOCKED UP SO HE WILL BE ABLE TO GET SOBER. MR WILSON STATED HE CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE SPECIFIC TIME THAT HIS

62-544-49

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SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___

AUG 20 1978

FBI-JACKSON

Butler
Watts

BROTHER CONFESSED TO A CRIME AND WAS LOCKED UP IN NEW BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS. HE COULD NOT RECALL THE DATE OR THE SPECIFIC CRIME.

MR. WILSON STATED THAT THE FAMILY HAD RECENTLY SOLD HIS FATHER'S HOME AND HIS BROTHER WAS SENT HIS SHARE WHICH WAS $2,075. HE FEELS THAT HIS BROTHER AT THE PRESENT TIME IS ON A "TOOT". MR. WILSON STATED THAT HIS BROTHER HAD RECENTLY CALLED THEIR SISTER, MRS. LYDA MC GAHA, COLUMBUS, MISS., AND TOLD HER THAT HE, ALLISON T. WILSON, HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK AND WAS ALMOST DEAD. MR. WILSON STATED THAT HE RECALLS ON ONE OCCASION, HIS BROTHER CALLED HIM AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN ELECTED MAYOR OF GRANDVIEW, MO., AND HE KNOWS THAT HIS BROTHER WAS LIVING AT GRANDVIEW, MO. AND OPERATING A JEWELRY STORE ON APRIL 4, 1968. HE STATED AT THIS TIME HIS BROTHER WAS MARRIED TO BETTY WADE, WHO PRESENTLY RESIDES 233 SMITH STREET, BURLESON, TEXAS. HE STATED THAT HIS BROTHER'S SON, STEVE WILSON, 117 LIVINGSTON, FT. WORTH, TEXAS, AND HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. CHARLES (DEBBIE) JONES, 2628 NEWBURG ROAD, TRAILER 106, BELVIDERE, ILL., WAS LIVING AT HOME AT THIS TIME, AND THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS ALSO. MR. WILSON CONCLUDED BY STATING HIS BROTHER WOULD NOT BE ABLE

TO COMMIT A CRIME OF VIOLENCE INASMUCH AS HE ONLY WANTED TO GET SOMETHING TO DRINK AND GET DRUNK.

BT

REC ONE TEL JN CLR TO U

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P 182218Z AUG 78

FM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (PRIORITY)

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB N) (PRIORITY)

JACKSON (62-544) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

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AUG 20 1978

FBI-JACKSON

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BT

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDATE

JACKSON IMMEDATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIREIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN.

RE DALLAS TEL TO BU 8-19-78.

CHIACAGO TEL TO BU 8-20-78, NO COPY TO DALLAS.

FOR INFORMATION DALLAS, ON 8-19-78 DEBRA ANN JONES, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS, DAUGHTER OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ADVISED WILSON FAMILY RESIDED KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI FROM 1964 TO SEPTEMBER, 1968. IN 1968 HER FATHER GAVE HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG AS GRADUATION PRESENT. SHE NEVER DRIVOVE THIS VEHICLE TO MEMPHIS, TENN. SHE AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU WADE VISITED HER MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO WAS IN HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, AT TIME OF THE KING MURDER. THEY USED COMMERCIAL AIRLINE FOR ROUNDTRIP TRANSPORTATION, . DURING TIME THEY WERE IN MEMPHIS AREA BETTY WADE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HER HUSBAND, BURGESS WILSON TWO TIMES IN KANSAS CITY WHERE HE REMAINED

62-544-50

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED 010 AUG 29 1978 FBI—JACKSON

Bureau 1295

Wants

WITH HER TWO BROTHERS, STEVEN AND MARK WILSON.

BURGESS WILSON WHO WAS INTOXICATED, TELEPHONED DEBRA JONES ON EVENING OF 8-17-78 AND TOLD HER FBI WAS GOING TO PUT HIM IN JAIL FOR THE MURDER OF KING AND THAT FBI HAD GIVEN HIM A POLYGRAPH TEST. HE TOLD HER SHE WOULD BE CONTACTED BY THE FBI AND TOLD HER TO SAY NOTHING.

MRS. OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, CONTACTED 8-20-78 AND UNABLE TO RECALL VISIT OF BOTH BETTY LOU WADE AND DEBRA JONES ON OCCASIONS HER HUSBAND VERNON HOOTEN SUFFERED HEART ATTACKS, BUT RECALLS BETTY LOU WADE VISITING ON OCCASIONS WHEN BOTH SHE AHE MR. HOOTEN WERE ILL. SHE WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES BUT WILL CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS AND ATTEMP TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC DATES OF MR. HOOTEN'S ILLNESSES.

DALLAS WILL REC ONTACT BETTY LOU WADE REGARDING VISIT TO MEMPHIS NOTED ABOVE AND ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY INFORMATION SHE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED REGARDING LACK OF OWNERSHIP OR ACCESS TO WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE BY WILSON. INTERVIEW STEVEN AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF BURGESS WILSON'S ALLEGATIONS THT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD OF 4-4-68 AND WHETHER WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ATTEMPT TO VERIFY INFORMATION FURNISHED BY DEBRAJ JONES.

HANDLE IMMEDIATELY AND ADVISE FBIHQ, MEMPHIS AND JACKSON.

BT.

232 1605Z JN 1

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OO HQ DL JK

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O 2Ø15ØØZ AG 78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDATE

JACKSON IMMEDATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIREIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

NURKIN.

RE DALLAS TEL TO BU 8-19-78.

CHIACAGO TEL TO BU 8-20-78, NO COPY TO DALLAS.

FOR INFORMATION DALLAS, ON 8-19-78 DEBRA ANN JONES, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS, DAUGHTER OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ADVISED WILSON FAMILY RESIDED KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI FROM 1964 TO SEPTEMBER, 1968. IN 1968 HER FATHER GAVE HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG AS GRADUATION PRESENT. SHE NEVER DRIVOVE THIS VEHICLE TO MEMPHIS, TENN. SHE AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU WADE VISITED HER MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO WAS IN HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, AT TIME OF THE KING MURDER. THEY USED COMMERCIAL AIRLINE FOR ROUNDTR IP TRANSPORTATION, . DURING TIME THEY WERE IN MEMPHIS AREA BETTY WADE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HER HUSBAND, BURGESS WILSON TWO TIMES IN KANSAS CITY WHERE HE REMAINED

62-544-50

WITH HER TWO BROTHERS, STEVEN AND MARK WILSON.

BURGESS WILSON WHO WAS INTOXICATED, TELEPHONED DEBRA JONES ON EVENING OF 8-17-78 AND TOLD HER FBI WAS GOING TO PUT HIM IN JAIL FOR THE MURDER OF KING AND THAT FBI HAD GIVEN HIM A POLYGRAPH TEST. HE TOLD HER SHE WOULD BE CONTACTED BY THE FBI AND TOLD HER TO SAY NOTHING.

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DALLAS WILL REC ONTACT BETTY LOU WADE REGARDING VISIT TO MEMPHIS NOTED ABOVE AND ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY INFORMATION SHE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED REGARDING LACK OF OWNERSHIP OR ACCESS TO WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE BY WILSON. INTERVIEW STEVEN AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF BURGESS WILSON'S ALLEGATIONS THT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD OF 4-4-68 AND WHETHER WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ATTEMPT TO VERIFY INFORMATION FURNISHED BY DEBRAJ JONES.

HANDLE IMMEDIATELY AND ADVISE FBIHQ, MEMPHIS AND JACKSON.

BT.

232 1605Z JN 1

Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 3-23-71)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

Subject: BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.

Social Security Account #

Aliases: Bill Wilson

FBI # 879-421 E

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex
3095 Ruskin Rd., Memphis	8/28/31	Fulton, Ms.	W	[X] Male [ ] Female

[X] Exact Spelling
[ ] All References
[ ] Main Subversive Case Files Only
[ ] Subversive References Only
[ ] Main Criminal Case Files Only
[ ] Criminal References Only
[ ] Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
[ ] Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
[ ] Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
[illegible]	[illegible]		W, M, approx 50 years old
3287	TN Harold	Dewitt Rollton	

Requested by	Squad	Extension	File No.
White	4	70	62-5444-51

Searched by _____ (date)

Consolidated by _____ (date)

Reviewed by _____ (date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

OKW OKW

3218

FBI/DOJ

SPECIAL

GPO 909-767

62-544-52

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

AUG 21 1978

FBI—JACKSON

LCB

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

CARL D. FORTNA, Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-0220, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. FORTNA, a white male, born June 2, 1932, in Great Bend, Kansas, advised that he completed the tenth grade of high school, and he could read and write.

FORTNA stated that he met BILL WILSON in Belton, Missouri, in 1966 or 1967. FORTNA was in the Air Force at this time stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that WILSON and WILSON's wife owned a jewelry store in Belton, Missouri, and that WILSON was a member of the 442nd Air Force Reserve Unit stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base. FORTNA stated he knew WILSON through their association in the VFW in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that he, FORTNA, retired from the Air Force in 1969 and did not see WILSON again except for one brief moment in 1972 until approximately two months ago. WILSON came to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, from Lafayette, Louisiana, about two months ago and lived in the Twin Pines Motel on Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. On July 23, 1978, WILSON moved into a house owned by FORTNA located next door to FORTNA's present residence.

At approximately 4:15 PM on August 18, 1978, WILSON asked FORTNA to come into WILSON's house, that he had something very important to tell him. WILSON told FORTNA, "I killed that black son-of-a-bitch." FORTNA asked WILSON who he was talking about, and WILSON replied MARTIN LUTHER KING. FORTNA stated that he told WILSON he did not believe him, and WILSON said, "I am telling you the truth. I actually killed him. I've been living with it for ten years, and I can't take it anymore." WILSON told FORTNA that MARTIN LUTHER KING was responsible for WILSON's father's death. WILSON did not elaborate further on this. WILSON told FORTNA that this killing was "engineered" by LOU CRUZ (phonetic). FORTNA stated that he knows LOU CRUZ and that LOU CRUZ owned or still owns Lou Cruz Jewelry, 1505 Main Street, Grandview, Missouri. WILSON told FORTNA that he drove to the State Line Airport in Kansas City, Missouri, driving a new Ford Thunderbird. WILSON told FORTNA that CRUZ

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

by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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also owned an identical Ford Thunderbird. WILSON left his Thunderbird at the airport and flew to Memphis, Tennessee. CRUZ came to the airport and picked up WILSON's Thunderbird and took it from the airport so it would not be noticed. When WILSON arrived in Memphis, he borrowed a white Ford Mustang that he had purchased for his daughter, DEBORAH. DEBORAH had driven from Kansas City to Memphis in the Mustang. WILSON told FORTNA that he went to the motel where MARTIN LUTHER KING was staying and that he used a Japanese sniper rifle and shot KING holding the rifle on his hip. He stated that this rifle is now in the possession of WILSON's son, STEVE. WILSON told FORTNA that he was driving away from the scene in the Mustang, and he was stopped by the Memphis police, but he talked himself out of a ticket, and the car was not searched. He stated that the rifle was in the trunk of the car at this time. WILSON told FORTNA that he then flew his airplane back to Kansas City, and CRUZ picked him up at the airport and took him home.

FORTNA stated that when WILSON told him the above information, he, FORTNA, believed that WILSON thought he was telling the truth and that he swore on his mother's grave in front of a priest that it was the truth. FORTNA stated that WILSON had never mentioned this subject prior to this instance. FORTNA stated that WILSON has been drinking heavily for the past two months and has lied to him several times in the past two months. WILSON, on occasion, would tell FORTNA that he had been married three or four times since divorcing his first wife and then come back at a later date and say that he had not been married after divorcing his first wife.

FORTNA stated that WILSON is an excellent pilot, that he, FORTNA, has flown with WILSON through bad weather, and WILSON had no problems flying the aircraft.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (62-544) DATE: 8/18/78

FROM : SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER JR.

SUBJECT: SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS;
ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING
INFO CONCERNING

On 8/18/78 at 8:13 am the writer was telephonically advised by Jackson Office (ASAC MURRAY) that one WILLIAM D. GLADDEN, Rt. 1 Box 205 H-3, Ocean Springs, Miss. (tel # 875-3518), had telephonically contacted the Jackson Office at 1:15 am this date advising he had information concerning captioned matter. According to GLADDEN, one BILL WILSON, who works for GLADDEN as a watch repairman, had met with him last night and had given him lengthy details of how he (WILSON) and not JAMES EARL RAY, had killed DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The writer was instructed to make immediate arrangements to thoroughly interview GLADDEN.

The writer telephoned GLADDEN at his residence and arranged to meet with GLADDEN there. GLADDEN advised he is employed as Manager of the Social Security Office in Gulfport, Miss. (tel # 896-3221), but lives in the Gulf Park Estates area of Ocean Springs. His house is the 1st house on the left on Meadowlark Dr. which is the second street to the right after passing the golf course in Gulf Park Estates.

The writer and SA ROYCE D. HIGNIGHT were enroute to GLADDEN'S residence when instructions were received from Gulfport SRA BEN GRAVES to discontinue.

Telephonic inquiry of SRA GRAVES determined FBI HQS had instructed that no action be taken regarding the foregoing. GLADDEN was then telephonically advised the FBI apparently was aware of information in WILSON'S possession and that no interview of GLADDEN would be conducted.

62-544-53

GLADDEN related he and his wife own a gift shop, Seasons & Reasons Gift Shop, Hwy 90, Ocean Springs, Miss. (tel #875-2531). This shop is located near the Keesler AFB Federal Credit Union and City Lumber Co. On 7/26/78, BILL WILSON came to the store saying he was a watch repairman. GLADDEN had never met WILSON before but employed him and for a short time, WILSON lived in the back of the

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AUG 21 1978

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

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store. (WILSON now lives somewhere in Ocean Springs but GLADDEN did not have his address at time of this conversation with the writer).

GLADDEN advised he became aware WILSON apparently has a drinking problem. At 11:45 pm 8/17/78, WILSON telephoned GLADDEN at home insisting he had urgent business to discuss with both GLADDEN and his wife. WILSON insisted he meet with the GLADDENS immediately so they met at the gift shop at 12:15 am this date and conversed for the next 1½ hours. WILSON did not appear or act like he was under the influence of alcohol. The GLADDEN'S 18 year old son was also present.

According to GLADDEN, WILSON furnished them details of how he (WILSON) had killed DR. KING rather than JAMES EARL RAY. GLADDEN stated he feels or rather felt at the time, WILSON was truthful in what he was telling them and that is why he promptly contacted the FBI in Jackson.

No further details were asked of GLADDEN by the writer and he was advised he would be recontacted in the event further information was required.

GLADDEN advised he will probably terminate WILSON'S employment as a result of this matter.

Per instructions of ASAC MURRAY, no further action being taken.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 218

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FM HOUSTON (44-15Ø9) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, EJH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978; HOUSTON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 2Ø, 1978.

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AT THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WERE CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT OR ANY TYPE OF CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCESS CONCERNING A BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.:

62-544-54
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG 21 1978
FBI—JACKSON

1. GLENN JONES, CITY JUDGE, CLEVELAND, TEXAS;

2. LOUIS HOUGH, SECRETARY FOR JACK HARTELL, COUNTY ATTORNEY, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;

3. LOUISE MORRIS, CLERK, LIBERTY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;

4. NELL WHITTINGTON, IDENTIFICATION DIVISION, LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LIBERTY, TEXAS.

FOR INFORMATION, THE SUBJECT MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO CLEBURNE, TEXAS, RATHER THAN CLEVELAND, TEXAS, INASMUCH AS CLEBURNE IS RELATIVELY CLOSE TO DALLAS WHERE SUBJECT WAS ARRESTED ON THE NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT.

LEADS. DALLAS AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS. WILL COVER LEAD AS SET OUT FOR HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, IN ABOVE REFERENCED JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978.

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, EJH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978; HOUSTON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 20, 1978.

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AT THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WERE CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT OR ANY TYPE OF CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCESS CONCERNING A BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.:

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AUG 21 1978

FBI—JACKSON

1. GLENN JONES, CITY JUDGE, CLEVELAND, TEXAS;

2. LOUIS HOUGH, SECRETARY FOR JACK HARTELL, COUNTY ATTORNEY, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;

3. LOUISE MORRIS, CLERK, LIBERTY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;

4. NELL WHITTINGTON, IDENTIFICATION DIVISION, LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LIBERTY, TEXAS.

FOR INFORMATION, THE SUBJECT MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO CLEBURNE, TEXAS, RATHER THAN CLEVELAND, TEXAS, INASMUCH AS CLEBURNE IS RELATIVELY CLOSE TO DALLAS WHERE SUBJECT WAS ARRESTED ON THE NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT.

LEADS. DALLAS AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS. WILL COVER LEAD AS SET OUT FOR HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, IN ABOVE REFERENCED JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978.

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FM DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELCALL TO DALLAS, AUGUST 21, 1978.

BY REFERENCE, MEMPHIS REQUESTED STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON BE RECONTACTED RE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HIS FATHER, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ALLEGED TO HAVE OBTAINED FROM A MITCH, NO DATE INDICATED.

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSTON, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, CONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

THE WILSONS WERE CLOSELY-KNIT FAMILY, AND WERE VERY

62-544-55

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AUG 21 1978

FBI—JACKSON

CONSCIOUS OF EACH OTHER'S ACTIVITIES. HE IS POSITIVE HIS FATHER OBTAINED THE JAPANESE RIFLE FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE AFTER HE WAS IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AFTER 1970. RECALLED HIS DAD SHOWING IT TO HIM WHEN HE CAME HOME ON MILITARY LEAVE. STEVEN NEVER FIRED THE WEAPON BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT IT WOULD NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY, AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THEY NEVER HAD ANY AMMUNITION FOR THE RIFLE. HE PERSONALLY NEVER KNEW OF HIS DAD USING THE WEAPON. HIS DAD HAD THE STOCK OF THE WEAPON WORKED ON BY A FRIEND WHO WAS A FURNITURE REFINISHER IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY WORK EVER DONE ON THE RIFLE. THE GUN WAS OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURER, AS IT HAD JAPANESE PRINTING ON ITS VARIOUS PARTS.

WILSON'S DAD GAVE THE GUN TO HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE SERVICE, AND HE HOCKED THE RIFLE AT A PAWN SHOP IN SAN ANTONIO SOMETIME IN THE EARLY 1970'S, DATE UNRECALLED. HE HAS NO RECEIPT OR BILL OF LADING FOR THE RIFLE.

MARK WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, BURLESON, TEXAS, CONTACTED AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THE FOLLOWING:

HE PERSONALLY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS FATHER'S WEAPONS, AS HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THEM. HIS DAD WAS DEFINITELY AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, TEXAS, TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS. HIS DAD FLEW HIS PLANE, A BONANZA BEECH-CRAFT, USUALLY ON WEEKENDS, FROM A SMALL AIRFIELD NEAR TOWN. HE BELIEVED HIS DAD OWNED THE PLANE, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT POSITIVE. WILSON STATED HIS DAD WAS NOT AWAY FROM THE HOUSE ON THE DAY DR. KING WAS KILLED, AS HE WAS TAKING CARE OF HIS BROTHER AND HIMSELF AT THE TIME, WHILE HIS MOTHER AND SISTER FLEW TO MEMPHIS TO SEE THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

MRS. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH ROAD, BURLESON, TEXAS, RECONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THAT SHE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF HER FORMER HUSBAND HAVING A JAPANESE RIFLE. SHE STATED SHE SEPARATED FROM BURGESS WILSON IN 1974, WHICH WOULD MEAN HE MOST PROBABLY OBTAINED THE RIFLE AFTER THAT PERIOD. SHE IS SURE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GUN, IF HE HAD BOUGHT IT

WHILE THEY WERE LIVING TOGETHER.

ADMINISTRATIVE

DALLAS IS NOT COVERING LEAD AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS, REGARDING NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT FOR WILSON, AS IT HAS NO BEARING ON PERTINENT FACTS OF CASE, UACB.

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FM DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELCALL TO DALLAS, AUGUST 21, 1978.

BY REFERENCE, MEMPHIS REQUESTED STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON BE RECONTACTED RE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HIS FATHER, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ALLEGED TO HAVE OBTAINED FROM A MITCH, NO DATE INDICATED.

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SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
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AUG 21 1978

FBI—JACKSON

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WHILE THEY WERE LIVING TOGETHER.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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BT

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987, SUB M.) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

RE ME TEL TO BUREAU, ET AL, AUGUST 18, 1978, AND SA TEL TO BUREAU, AUGUST 18, 1978, REGARDING INCARCERATION OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., IN BEXAR COUNTY JAIL, JUNE 19, 1972, TO JUNE 30, 1972, ON CONTEMPT OF COURT, STATE DISTRICT COURT 59, (CASE NUMBER F248084).

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, REVIEW OF COURT RECORDS, BEXAR COUNTY 57TH DISTRICT COURT, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, REVEALED WILSON INCARCERATED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT GROWING OUT OF CIVIL SUIT ENTITLED ALLISON - KAUFMANN COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION VS. NORTH STAR DIAMOND CORPORATION (CASE NUMBER F248-084) OF

62-544-56

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N 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 234

WHICH WILSON WAS LISTED AS OWNER. THIS CIVIL SUIT INVOLVED FRAUD CASE AND WILSON INCARCERATED FOLLOWING HIS REFUSAL TO FURNISH THE COURT AN INVENTORY OF MERCHANDISE IN HIS POSSESSION BELONGING TO ALLISON - KAUFMANN COMPANY. THIS INCARCERATION DID NOT INVOLVE ANY ACTION GROWING OUT OF CHILD SUPPORT AND IDENTITY OF CHILDREN NOT SET FORTH IN COURT RECORDS.

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987, SUB M.) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN.

RE ME TEL TO BUREAU, ET AL, AUGUST 18, 1978, AND SA TEL TO BUREAU, AUGUST 18, 1978, REGARDING INCARCERATION OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., IN BEXAR COUNTY JAIL, JUNE 19, 1972, TO JULE 30, 1972, ON CONTEMPT OF COURT, STATE DISTRICT COURT 59, (CASE NUMBER F248084).

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, REVIEW OF COURT RECORDS, BEXAR COUNTY 57TH DISTRICT COURT, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, REVEALED WILSON INCARCERATED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT GROWING OUT OF CIVIL SUIT ENTITLED ALLISON - KAUFMANN COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION VS. NORTH STAR DIAMOND CORPORATION (CASE NUMBER F248-084) OF

62-544-56

DW DW

1978

BJD

WHICH WILSON WAS LISTED AS OWNER. THIS CIVIL SUIT INVOLVED FRAUD CASE AND WILSON INCARCERATED FOLLOWING HIS REFUSAL TO FURNISH THE COURT AN INVENTORY OF MERCHANDISE IN HIS POSSESSION BELONGING TO ALLISON - KAUFMANN COMPANY. THIS INCARCERATION DID NOT INVOLVE ANY ACTION GROWING OUT OF CHILD SUPPORT AND IDENTITY OF CHILDREN NOT SET FORTH IN COURT RECORDS.

BT

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544 -57

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

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-58

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

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-59

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

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

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
[XX] Teletype
[ ] Facsimile
[ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
[XX] Immediate
[ ] Priority
[ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
[ ] TOP SECRET
[ ] SECRET
[ ] CONFIDENTIAL
[XX] E F T O
[ ] CLEAR

Date 8/22/78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY 1556Z

KANSAS CITY IMMEDIATE 1539Z

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY 1645Z

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

CARL D. FORTNA, ROUTE 6, BOX 387, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, STATED THAT HE MET BILL WILSON IN BELTON, MISSOURI, IN 1966 OR 1967. FORTNA WAS IN THE AIR FORCE AT THIS TIME STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON AND WILSON'S WIFE OWNED A JEWELRY STORE IN BELTON, MISSOURI, AND THAT WILSON WAS A MEMBER OF THE 442ND AIR FORCE RESERVE UNIT STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE. FORTNA STATED HE KNEW WILSON THROUGH THEIR ASSOCIATION IN THE VFW IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT HE, FORTNA, RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN 1969

1 - JACKSON

LCB/mae
(1) mae

62-544-60

Searched
Serialized OKs
Indexed
Filed OKs

Approved: K/KGB

Transmitted 001 (Number) see above (Time)

Per OKs

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

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- [ ] Priority
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- [ ] CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

AND DID NOT SEE WILSON AGAIN EXCEPT FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT IN 1972 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO. WILSON CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, FROM LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO AND LIVED IN THE TWIN PINES MOTEL ON HIGHWAY 90, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI. ON JULY 23, 1978, WILSON MOVED INTO A HOUSE OWNED BY FORTNA LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO FORTNA'S PRESENT RESIDENCE.

AT APPROXIMATELY 4:15 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, WILSON ASKED FORTNA TO COME INTO WILSON'S HOUSE, THAT HE HAD SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO TELL HIM. WILSON TOLD FORTNA, "I KILLED THAT BLACK SON-OF-A-BITCH." FORTNA ASKED WILSON WHO HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND WILSON REPLIED MARTIN LUTHER KING. FORTNA STATED THAT HE TOLD WILSON HE DID NOT BELIEVE HIM, AND WILSON SAID, "I AM TELLING YOU THE TRUTH. I ACTUALLY KILLED HIM. I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH IT FOR TEN YEARS, AND I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE." WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WILSON'S FATHER'S DEATH. WILSON DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THIS. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT THIS KILLING WAS "ENGINEERED" BY LOU CRUZ (PHONETIC). FORTNA STATED THAT HE KNOWS LOU CRUZ AND THAT LOU CRUZ OWNED OR STILL OWNS LOU CRUZ JEWELRY, 1505 MAIN STREET, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE DROVE TO THE STATE LINE AIRPORT IN KANSAS CITY,

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

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

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Date _____

PAGE 3 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

MISSOURI, DRIVING A NEW FORD THUNDERBIRD. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT CRUZ ALSO OWNED AN IDENTICAL FORD THUNDERBIRD. WILSON LEFT HIS THUNDERBIRD AT THE AIRPORT AND FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. CRUZ CAME TO THE AIRPORT AND PICKED UP WILSON'S THUNDERBIRD AND TOOK IT FROM THE AIRPORT SO IT WOULD NOT BE NOTICED. WHEN WILSON ARRIVED IN MEMPHIS, HE BORROWED A WHITE FORD MUSTANG THAT HE HAD PURCHASED FOR HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH. DEBORAH HAD DRIVEN FROM KANSAS CITY TO MEMPHIS IN THE MUSTANG. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE WENT TO THE MOTEL WHERE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS STAYING AND THAT HE USED A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE AND SHOT KING HOLDING THE RIFLE ON HIS HIP. HE STATED THAT THIS RIFLE IS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF WILSON'S SON, STEVE. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE WAS DRIVING AWAY FROM THE SCENE IN THE MUSTANG, AND HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE, BUT HE TALKED HIMSELF OUT OF A TICKET, AND THE CAR WAS NOT SEARCHED. HE STATED THAT THE RIFLE WAS IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR AT THIS TIME. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE THEN FLEW HIS AIRPLANE BACK TO KANSAS CITY, AND CRUZ PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT AND TOOK HIM HOME.

FORTNA STATED THAT WHEN WILSON TOLD HIM THE ABOVE INFORMATION, HE, FORTNA, BELIEVED THAT WILSON THOUGHT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THAT HE SWORE ON HIS MOTHER'S GRAVE IN FRONT OF A PRIEST THAT IT

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- [ ] CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE 4 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

WAS THE TRUTH. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON HAD NEVER MENTIONED THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO THIS INSTANCE. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON HAS BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND HAS LIED TO HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. WILSON, ON OCCASION, WOULD TELL FORTNA THAT HE HAD BEEN MARRIED THREE OR FOUR TIMES SINCE DIVORCING HIS FIRST WIFE AND THEN COME BACK AT A LATER DATE AND SAY THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN MARRIED AFTER DIVORCING HIS FIRST WIFE.

FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON IS AN EXCELLENT PILOT, THAT HE, FORTNA, HAS FLOWN WITH WILSON THROUGH BAD WEATHER, AND WILSON HAD NO PROBLEMS FLYING THE AIRCRAFT.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL, WAS BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5 FEET 11 INCHES, 170 POUNDS, BROWN EYES, GRAY HAIR, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER JFK Act 6 (3), MILITARY SERVICE U. S. AIR FORCE 1947-1960.

KANSAS CITY AT GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WILL LOCATE LOU CRUZ (PHONETIC), 1505 MAIN STREET, RE KNOWLEDGE OF WILSON AND FACT HE "ENGINEERED" ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI. WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AND CHECK FLIGHT PLANS IF POSSIBLE AT STATE LINE AIRPORT IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF WILSON FLEW FROM THIS AIRPORT TO MEMPHIS,

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GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

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- [ ] CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE 5 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

TENNESSEE, ON OR ABOUT APRIL 4, 1968.

FOR INFORMATION OF KANSAS CITY, IN A PRIOR INTERVIEW OF WILSON, HE STATED HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY

KANSAS CITY IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

CARL D. FORTNA, ROUTE 6, BOX 387, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, STATED THAT HE MET BILL WILSON IN BELTON, MISSOURI, IN 1966 OR 1967. FORTNA WAS IN THE AIR FORCE AT THIS TIME STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON AND WILSON'S WIFE OWNED A JEWELRY STORE IN BELTON, MISSOURI, AND THAT WILSON WAS A MEMBER OF THE 442ND AIR FORCE RESERVE UNIT STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE. FORTNA STATED HE KNEW WILSON THROUGH THEIR ASSOCIATION IN THE VFW IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT HE, FORTNA, RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN 1969

62-544-60

Searched
Serialized 016
Indexed
Filed 016

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BT

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13 2341506Z HQ-1 CLR

2341553Z KC 1 TKS

JN 62-544
/blc
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AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTER, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

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

AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

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

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

62-544-61
AUG 2 1978
FBI-JACKSON
245

JN 62-544
HHC/kbn
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The following investigation was conducted at Ocean Springs, Mississippi by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER on August 19, 1978:

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

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

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

62-544-62

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG 22 1978
FBI—JACKSON

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Jackson, Mississippi
August 21, 1978

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On August 18, 1978, 1:15 A.M., Mr. William D. Gladen, Route 1, Post Office Box 205H3, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-3518, telephonically contacted the Jackson Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation. He advised that on August 17, 1978, one of his employees, Bill Wilson, telephonically requested that he and Mrs. Gladen meet with him. Thereafter, he and Mrs. Gladen met Wilson at their card and gift shop located in Ocean Springs.

Mr. Wilson told them he had killed Martin Luther King. He talked for one hour concerning the details of the plan to kill King and stated the sheriff, Memphis, Tennessee is the only person to whom he will surrender. Also, he said he is to meet the sheriff at the Holiday Inn, Biloxi, Mississippi, the morning of August 18, 1978.

Mr. Wilson further advised Mr. and Mrs. Gladen he is sorry for the expense he caused them in setting up his watch repair business but he had to get this off his chest.

4 - Bureau (62-117290)
2 - Memphis (Info)
1 - Jackson (62-544)
JWA/njb
(7)

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Indexed
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62-544-63

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
UNITES STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Gladen advised that in July 1978, he had rented Mr. Wilson part of his shop to establish a watch repair service.

Mr. Gladen described Wilson as a white male, 46 years of age. He stated that Wilson is a very intelligent man and although he was drinking at the time of above meeting he thinks Wilson is serious about the murder of King.

HW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 254

X AIRTEL

8/21/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (62-544)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Re Jackson teletype to Bureau, 8/18/78, captioned as above, concerning BILL WILSON.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau and Memphis are four and two copies, respectively, of an LHM dated 8/21/78, captioned "House Select Committee on Assassinations, United States House of Representatives.

For the Bureau's information, page one, paragraph one, line one of referenced teletype should read WILLIAM D. GLADEN.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
1 - Memphis (Enc. 2) (Info)
1 - Jackson
JAW/njb
(4)

62-544-64

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:	PRECEDENCE:	CLASSIFICATION:
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☐ Facsimile	☐ Priority	☐ SECRET
☐ Airtel	☐ Routine	☐ CONFIDENTIAL
		XX E F T O
		☐ CLEAR

Date 8/22/78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE 2156Z

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE 2222Z

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, JACKSON SPECIAL AGENT VISITED OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE STATUS OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. JACKSON SPECIAL AGENT ADVISED BY CHIEF OF POLICE MATT COX THAT A TELETYPE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ADVISING THEY WOULD ARRIVE IN OCEAN SPRINGS DURING MORNING OF AUGUST 23, 1978, IN ORDER TO TAKE WILSON BACK TO TEXAS.

CHIEF OF POLICE COX ADVISED HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND LOCAL OCEAN SPRINGS NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES PRESSING HIM FOR A STATEMENT CONCERNING WILSON'S ALLEGED REMARKS

62-544-65

(1) - JACKSON

KWS/mae
(1) mae

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Approved: John T Kelly Transmitted 003 (Number) 2148Z (Time) Per

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

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- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

REGARDING KING ASSASSINATION. CHIEF COX ADVISED HAS GIVEN NO PRESS STATEMENT TO DATE; HOWEVER, HE ADVISED THAT MISSISSIPPI STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS GOLLOTTE, ALONG WITH REVEREND NOEL FANNON, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, WERE APPARENTLY IN CONTACT WITH LOCAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THIS MATTER. CHIEF COX FURTHER ADVISED HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY JACKSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CLINTON LOCKARD, WHO HAS BECOME AWARE OF THIS MATTER AND HAS INSTRUCTED CHIEF COX TO BRING INMATE WILSON TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN ORDER THAT HIS STATEMENT CAN BE TAPE RECORDED. CHIEF COX FURTHER ADVISED THAT WILSON APPARENTLY HAS MADE REMARKS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FBI INTENDS TO "COVER UP" INFORMATION HE HAS FURNISHED.

FOREGOING SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND MEMPHIS IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES FORTHCOMING.

BT

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

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OO HQ ME

DE JN

O 222148Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, JACKSON SPECIAL AGENT VISITED OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE STATUS OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. JACKSON SPECIAL AGENT ADVISED BY CHIEF OF POLICE MATT COX THAT A TELETYPE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ADVISING THEY WOULD ARRIVE IN OCEAN SPRINGS DURING MORNING OF AUGUST 23, 1978, IN ORDER TO TAKE WILSON BACK TO TEXAS.

CHIEF OF POLICE COX ADVISED HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND LOCAL OCEAN SPRINGS NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES PRESSING HIM FOR A STATEMENT CONCERNING WILSON'S ALLEGED REMARKS

62-544-65

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

REGARDING KING ASSASSINATION. CHIEF COX ADVISED HAS GIVEN NO PRESS STATEMENT TO DATE; HOWEVER, HE ADVISED THAT MISSISSIPPI STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS GOLLOTTE, ALONG WITH REVEREND NOEL FANNON, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, WERE APPARENTLY IN CONTACT WITH LOCAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING THIS MATTER. CHIEF COX FURTHER ADVISED HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY JACKSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CLINTON LOCKARD, WHO HAS BECOME AWARE OF THIS MATTER AND HAS INSTRUCTED CHIEF COX TO BRING INMATE WILSON TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN ORDER THAT HIS STATEMENT CAN BE TAPE RECORDED. CHIEF COX FURTHER ADVISED THAT WILSON APPARENTLY HAS MADE REMARKS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FBI INTENDS TO "COVER UP" INFORMATION HE HAS FURNISHED.

FOREGOING SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND MEMPHIS IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES FORTHCOMING.

BT

2342103Z HQ 1

2342225Z ME 1

HOO008 2342333Z

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DE HO

0222333Z AUG 78

FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 21, 1978.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, BOB SORRELL, ROUTE ONE, BOX 260, (BEAUMONT COLONY), KOUNTZE, TEXAS, TELEPHONE 246-2705, (UNLISTED), WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE WHERE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED. SORRELL BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH BILL WILSON THROUGH HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WHICH WAS PASTORED BY BROTHER WILSON. SORRELL HAD NO OTHER ASSOCIATION WITH BILL WILSON

62-544-66

1978

EXCEPT THROUGH CONTACT AT CHURCH. SORRELL ATTENDED THAT CHURCH AS A YOUNGSTER AND CONTINUED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1958, WHEN HIS FAMILY MOVED FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ATTENDANCE STOPPED.

HE, SORRELL, HAD NO OTHER CONTACT WITH BILL WILSON UNTIL AFTER 1967, WHEN SORRELL EMPLOYED AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE, CHARLES W. BAKER AIRPORT, MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONE 872-2261. SORRELL WAS PART-TIME EMPLOYEE AT HAGLER UNTIL OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER OF 1967, WHEN HE BECAME FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AS A LINEMAN.

SORRELL RECALLED THAT SOMETIME AFTER BECOMING A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE BILL FLEW INTO THE AIRPORT, EXACT DATE UNRECALLED, IN A TWIN BEACHCRAFT (D-18) BELIEVED RED AND WHITE IN COLOR WITH POSSIBLY A BLUE STRIPE. SORRELL RECALLED THAT HE REFUELED THIS AIRPLANE, BUT THE TIME OF DAY OF ARRIVAL WAS UNKNOWN. AS RECALLED WILSON WAS WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND PAID CASH FOR THE FUEL PURCHASE. SORRELL AND WILSON HAD LITTLE CONVERSATION OTHER THAN GREETING. AS BEST RECALLED BY SORRELL, WILSON STAYED OVERNIGHT AND LEFT THE FOLLOWING DAY, TIME UNKNOWN. SORRELL DOES NOT KNOW HOW WILSON WAS

TRANSPORTED FROM AND TO THE AIRPORT.

WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS WILSON MADE A SECOND VISIT TO HAGLER IN THE SAME AIRCRAFT WHERE HE RECEIVED GAS, PAID CASH AND LAID OVER FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. AGAIN, SORRELL HAS NO IDEA AS TO HIS TRANSPORTATION FROM AND BACK TO THE AIRPORT. SORRELL HAS NO INFORMATION AS TO WHERE HE CAME IN FROM OR HIS DESTINATION UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRPORT. SORRELL COULD SUPPLY NO INFORMATION ABOUT A 1965, WHITE MUSTANG AND DID NOT KNOW THAT WILSON HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED DEBORAH.

SORRELL HAS NOT SEEN NOR HEARD FROM WILSON SINCE THE LAST VISIT TO HAGLER.

SORRELL TERMINATED HIS EMPLOYMENT AT HAGLER IN OCTOBER OF 1976. HE CANNOT RECALL THE EXACT TIME OF ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE BUT DOES BELIEVE BOTH VISITS OCCURRED IN EITHER 1968 OR 1969. SORRELL ADVISED FUEL RECEIPTS BROKEN DOWN BY SINGLE ENGINE OR MUTLI-ENGINE AIRCRAFTS ARE MAINTAINED ON A MONTHLY BASIS. SORRELL ADVISED THAT MR. GLENN MITCHELL, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, HAGLER AERO SERVICES, COULD ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF ARRIVAL.

SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION HOW WILSON CAME INTO POSSESSION OF AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS LEASED OR OWNED BY HIM. IN RECALLING THE TWO VISITS BY WILSON, SORRELL HAS A GUT FEELING THAT SOMEONE MAY HAVE BEEN WITH HIM ON EACH OCCASION, BUT THIS IS JUST A FEELING ON HIS PART AND HE CAN SUPPLY NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS FEELING. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT AN AIRPORT IN OLATHA, KANSAS, WHERE WILSON ALLEGEDLY LANDED ATER DEPARTURE FROM MEMPHIS.

AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, SORRELL RECALLED THAT DURING ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON WAS IN AND OUT OF TROUBLE, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW THE TYPE. HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS, NAMES UNRECALLED. THROUGH CONTACT WITH WILSON AT CHURCH, WILSON IMPRESSED SORRELL AS THE TYPE OF GUY WHO ALWAYS HAD A "BIG DEAL", "KIND OF A CONMAN PERSONALITY". AGAIN, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS WHO MENTIONED IT, SORRELL GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND RECEIVED TIME FOR AN UNKNOWN OFFENSE. SORRELL ADVISED THAT CONTACT WITH WILSON'S SISTERS WAS AT CHURCH. HE AGAIN STATED THAT HE HAS A GUT

FEELING THAT ONE OF THEM MAY HAVE BEEN AT THE AIRPORT ON ONE OF THE ABOVE OCCASIONS.

SORRELL DID NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT WILSON SERVED IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, BUT RECALLED THAT WILSON WORE A UNIFORM AT CHURCH ON OCCASION. SORRELL WAS NOT AWARE THAT WILSON WAS EMPLOYED AT PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY BUT DOES RECALL HIS MARRIAGE TO BETTY LOU, MAIDEN NAME UNKNOWN, BECAUSE BETTY LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT WILSON'S CLEANING BUSINESS OR TIME SPENT IN THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD OR THAT WILSON HAD EVER LIVED IN THE MEMPHIS AREA.

SINCE NO INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED FROM SORRELL CONCERNING THE AIRPORT IN KANSAS AND DID NOT KNOW (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) FISHER, FROM WHOM WILSON ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED THE AIRCRAFT, ANY LEADS FOR KANSAS WILL BE LEFT UP TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS.

LEADS. MEMPHIS AT MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE. CONTACT GLENN MITCHELL AND ATTEMPT TO REVIEW LOGICAL GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF WILSON'S REFUELING AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE.

HOUSTON AT HOUSTON, WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

B

FBI [illegible] 3347377E

CO MR. JONES

DE MU

0223333Z AUG 71

FM [illegible] (44-1543) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-36331) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1547) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, [illegible], DEK.

RE: [illegible]; CO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 31, 1971.

ON AUGUST 30, 1971, LOU SORRELL, ROUTE ONE, BOX 29, (PRESENT SOLON), MONTTZE, IOWA, TELEPHONE 246-2705, (DIALTPE), WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE WHERE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS DISCLOSED. SORRELL BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH BILL WILSON THROUGH HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WHICH WAS PASTORED BY BROTHER WILSON. SORRELL HAD NO OTHER ASSOCIATION WITH BILL WILSON

62-544-66

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[illegible]

[illegible]

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022233Z AUG 78

FM HOUSTON (44-1500) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 5988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 21, 1978.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, BOB SORRELL, ROUTE ONE, BOX 260, (BEAUMONT COLONY), KOUNTZE, TEXAS, TELEPHONE 246-2785, (UNLISTED), WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE WHERE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED. SORRELL BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH BILL WILSON THROUGH HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WHICH WAS PASTORED BY BROTHER WILSON. SORRELL HAD NO OTHER ASSOCIATION WITH BILL WILSON

62-544-66

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
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AUG 22 1978
FBI—JACKSON

EXCEPT THROUGH CONTACT AT CHURCH. SORRELL ATTENDED THAT CHURCH AS A YOUNGSTER AND CONTINUED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1958, WHEN HIS FAMILY MOVED FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ATTENDANCE STOPPED.

HE, SORRELL, HAD NO OTHER CONTACT WITH BILL WILSON UNTIL AFTER 1967, WHEN SORRELL EMPLOYED AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE, CHARLES W. BAKER AIRPORT, MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONE 872-2261. SORRELL WAS PART-TIME EMPLOYEE AT HAGLER UNTIL OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER OF 1967, WHEN HE BECAME FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AS A LINEMAN.

SORRELL RECALLED THAT SOMETIME AFTER BECOMING A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE BILL FLEW INTO THE AIRPORT, EXACT DATE UNRECALLED, IN A TWIN BEACHCRAFT Ø-18) BELIEVED RED AND WHITE IN COLOR WITH POSSIBLY A BLUE STRIPE. SORRELL RECALLED THAT HE REFUELED THIS AIRPLANE, BUT THE TIME OF DAY OF ARRIVAL WAS UNKNOWN. AS RECALLED WILSON WAS WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND PAID CASH FOR THE FUEL PURCHASE. SORRELL AND WILSON HAD LITTLE CONVERSATION OTHER THAN GREETING. AS BEST RECALLED BY SORRELL, WILSON STAYED OVERNIGHT AND LEFT THE FOLLOWING DAY, TIME UNKNOWN. SORRELL DOES NOT KNOW HOW WILSON WAS

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SORRELL HAS NOT SEEN NOR HEARD FROM WILSON SINCE THE LAST VISIT TO HAGLER.

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SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION HOW WILSON CAME INTO POSSESSION OF AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS LEASED OR OWNED BY HIM. IN RECALLING THE TWO VISITS BY WILSON, SORRELL HAS A GUT FEELING THAT SOMEONE MAY HAVE BEEN WITH HIM ON EACH OCCASION, BUT THIS IS JUST A FEELING ON HIS PART AND HE CAN SUPPLY NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS FEELING. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT AN AIRPORT IN OLATHA, KANSAS, WHERE WILSON ALLEGEDLY LANDED AFTER DEPARTURE FROM MEMPHIS.

AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, SORRELL RECALLED THAT DURING ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON WAS IN AND OUT OF TROUBLE, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW THE TYPE. HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS, NAMES UNRECALLED. THROUGH CONTACT WITH WILSON AT CHURCH, WILSON IMPRESSED SORRELL AS THE TYPE OF GUY WHO ALWAYS HAD A "BIG DEAL", "KIND OF A CORNAN PERSONALITY". AGAIN, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS WHO MENTIONED IT, SORRELL GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND RECEIVED TIME FOR AN UNKNOWN OFFENSE. SORRELL ADVISED THAT CONTACT WITH WILSON'S SISTERS WAS AT CHURCH. HE AGAIN STATED THAT HE HAS A GUT

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LEADS. MEMPHIS AT MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE. CONTACT GLENN MITCHELL AND ATTEMPT TO REVIEW LOGICAL GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF WILSON'S REFUELING AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE.

HOUSTON AT HOUSTON, WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

B

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

CARL D. FORTNA, Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-0220, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. FORTNA, a white male, born June 2, 1932, in Great Bend, Kansas, advised that he completed the tenth grade of high school, and he could read and write.

FORTNA stated that he met BILL WILSON in Belton, Missouri, in 1966 or 1967. FORTNA was in the Air Force at this time stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that WILSON and WILSON's wife owned a jewelry store in Belton, Missouri, and that WILSON was a member of the 442nd Air Force Reserve Unit stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base. FORTNA stated he knew WILSON through their association in the VFW in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that he, FORTNA, retired from the Air Force in 1969 and did not see WILSON again except for one brief moment in 1972 until approximately two months ago. WILSON came to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, from Lafayette, Louisiana, about two months ago and lived in the Twin Pines Motel on Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. On July 23, 1978, WILSON moved into a house owned by FORTNA located next door to FORTNA's present residence.

At approximately 4:15 PM on August 18, 1978, WILSON asked FORTNA to come into WILSON's house, that he had something very important to tell him. WILSON told FORTNA, "I killed that black son-of-a-bitch." FORTNA asked WILSON who he was talking about, and WILSON replied MARTIN LUTHER KING. FORTNA stated that he told WILSON he did not believe him, and WILSON said, "I am telling you the truth. I actually killed him. I've been living with it for ten years, and I can't take it anymore." WILSON told FORTNA that MARTIN LUTHER KING was responsible for WILSON's father's death. WILSON did not elaborate further on this. WILSON told FORTNA that this killing was "engineered" by LOU CRUZ (phonetic). FORTNA stated that he knows LOU CRUZ and that LOU CRUZ owned or still owns Lou Cruz Jewelry, 1505 Main Street, Grandview, Missouri. WILSON told FORTNA that he drove to the State Line Airport in Kansas City, Missouri, driving a new Ford Thunderbird. WILSON told FORTNA that CRUZ

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-67

by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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

also owned an identical Ford Thunderbird. WILSON left his Thunderbird at the airport and flew to Memphis, Tennessee. CRUZ came to the airport and picked up WILSON's Thunderbird and took it from the airport so it would not be noticed. When WILSON arrived in Memphis, he borrowed a white Ford Mustang that he had purchased for his daughter, DEBORAH. DEBORAH had driven from Kansas City to Memphis in the Mustang. WILSON told FORTNA that he went to the motel where MARTIN LUTHER KING was staying and that he used a Japanese sniper rifle and shot KING holding the rifle on his hip. He stated that this rifle is now in the possession of WILSON's son, STEVE. WILSON told FORTNA that he was driving away from the scene in the Mustang, and he was stopped by the Memphis police, but he talked himself out of a ticket, and the car was not searched. He stated that the rifle was in the trunk of the car at this time. WILSON told FORTNA that he then flew his airplane back to Kansas City, and CRUZ picked him up at the airport and took him home.

FORTNA stated that when WILSON told him the above information, he, FORTNA, believed that WILSON thought he was telling the truth and that he swore on his mother's grave in front of a priest that it was the truth. FORTNA stated that WILSON had never mentioned this subject prior to this instance. FORTNA stated that WILSON has been drinking heavily for the past two months and has lied to him several times in the past two months. WILSON, on occasion, would tell FORTNA that he had been married three or four times since divorcing his first wife and then come back at a later date and say that he had not been married after divorcing his first wife.

FORTNA stated that WILSON is an excellent pilot, that he, FORTNA, has flown with WILSON through bad weather, and WILSON had no problems flying the aircraft.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 272

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

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

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

On August 19, 1978, FRED TILGHMAN, Chief of Police, Grenada, Mississippi, Police Department, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants for BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, date of birth, August 28, 1931, place of birth, Fulton, Mississippi.

On August 19, 1978, JACK SIMMONS, Deputy Sheriff, Grenada County Sheriff's Office, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants on BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, white male, date of birth, August 28, 1931, at Fulton, Mississippi.

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

62-544-68

AUG 23 1978

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

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

JN 62-544
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AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTER, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

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

AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

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

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

62-544-69

AUG 23 1978

62-544-70

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AUG 23 1978

FBI - JACKSON

Waites

JN 62-544
GLH/bjw
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA GWYNNE L. HUPFER at Columbus, Mississippi, on August 19, 1978:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FD-36 (Rev. 3-24-77)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [x] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] _____

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [x] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [x] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date 8/23/78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P) 19552

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY 20502

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY 20027

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

ON AUGUST 23, 1978, SERGEANT LAURA MIZE, DESK SERGEANT, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THAT DEPUTY (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) REYUN, OF THE COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAD ARRIVED AT THE OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT EARLY THIS MORNING TO PICK UP PRISONER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. DESK SERGEANT MIZE ADVISED THAT DEPUTY REYUN DEPARTED OCEAN SPRINGS AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.M., THIS DATE WITH WILSON EN ROUTE TO NEW BRAUNFELLS, TEXAS.

BT

62-544-71

1-Jackson
KWS/bjw
(1) bjw

Searched bh
Serialized bh
Indexed bh
Filed bh

Approved: K/Zzb

Transmitted _____ (Number) See above (Time)

Per bh FBI/DOJ

JNO 001 2351958Z

PP HQ ME SA

DE JN

R 231955Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-3386) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; 00: MEMPHIS.

ON AUGUST 23, 1978, SERGEANT LAURA MIZE, DESK SERGEANT, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THAT DEPUTY (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) REYUN, OF THE COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAD ARRIVED AT THE OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT EARLY THIS MORNING TO PICK UP PRISONER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. DESK SERGEANT MIZE ADVISED THAT DEPUTY REYUN DEPARTED OCEAN SPRINGS AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.M., THIS DATE WITH WILSON EN ROUTE TO NEW BRAUNFELLS, TEXAS.

BT

2351901 HQ 1

2352005 SA 1

62-544-71

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

2351957Z ME 1

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8-21-78

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

BRODERICK, a white male, stated that he was born February 7, 1940, and has completed three years of college.

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

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

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Interviewed on 8-19-78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-12

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

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GPO : 1975 O - 566-118

BRODERICK that he was scheduled to turn himself in at 9:30 a.m., on August 18, 1978, at the Holiday Inn in Biloxi, Mississippi. At the time WILSON was telling BRODERICK the above information, WILSON had tears in his eyes and said he had been living with this on his conscience for ten years and could not stand it anymore. Also listening in to a portion of the above conversation was part-time bartender, DOROTHY WOODSIDE.

BRODERICK stated that he asked WILSON during the conversation on the night of August 16, 1978, if he was RAOUL and WILSON did not either deny or confirm this statement.

BRODERICK stated that WILSON had dated a female, RITA HERRINGTON, and that RITA HERRINGTON's son, HOWARD HERRINGTON, went to New Orleans with WILSON at one time.

BRODERICK stated that WILSON came into the Angle Inn on the morning of August 18, 1978, and stated that he was turning himself in to the Sheriff of Shelby County at 6:30 p.m., on that day at the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi. WILSON used the pay telephone in the Angle Inn to call the Sheriff of Shelby County and he wrote the number of the sheriff on a Yellow Cab Company card on the wall by the pay telephone. BRODERICK made available this Yellow Cab Company sign to the interviewing Agent. Written on this sign was the telephone number 901: 528-3600. WILSON stated that he could not turn himself in on the morning of August 18, 1978, because the sheriff could not be at the motel because of the police strike now going on in Memphis, Tennessee.

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8-21-78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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GPO : 1975 O - 566-118

JN 62-544

6.5

application for employment

PERSONAL INFORMATION Date 7-5-78 Social Security Number JFK Act 6 (3)

Name WILSON (Last) BILL (First) AUDIE (Middle) Age 46 Sex M

Present Address TWIN PINES APT #9 (Street) OCEANS SPRINGS (City) MS (State) 39564 (Zip)

Permanent Address (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Phone Number 875-0220 Own Home Rent ✓ Board

Date of Birth 8-28-31 Height 5'11" Weight 170 Color of Hair BLACK Color of Eyes BROWN

Married Single Widowed Divorced ✓ Separated

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

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

EMPLOYMENT DESIRED

Position CARPENTER Date You Can Start 7-6-78 Salary Desired 4.00 HR

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

Ever Applied to this Company Before? NO Where When

EDUCATION	Name and Location of School	Years Attended	Date Graduated	Subjects Studied
Grammar School	ITAWAMBA HIGH FULTON, MISS	12	MAY/47	GEN
High School				
College				
Trade, Business or Correspondence School				

Subjects of Special Study or Research Work

What Foreign Languages Do You Speak Fluently? NONE Read Write

U. S. Military or Naval Service USAF Rank M/SGT Present Membership in National Guard or Reserves NO

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

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

(Continued on Other Side)

Form 660-26 U. S. A. WILSON JONES APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

JN 62-544

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

Date Month and Year	Name and Address of Employer	Salary	Position	Reason for Leaving
From JAN 78	LA. OFFSHORE			TIRED WORKING
To JUN 78	HOUMA, LA.	4.05 HR	STEWARD	OFFSHORE
From FEB 75	CONTRACTOR		SELF	NO WORK
To NOV 77	COLUMBUS, MISS.	200.00 WK	EMPLOYED	AVAILABLE
From MAY 49	US AIR FORCE	1100.00 MO	M/SGT	RETIRED
To FEB 75	KEESLER AFB, MS			
From				
To				

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

	Name	Address	Business	Years Acquainted
1	CARL FORTNA	OCEAN SPRINGS DRIVE OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS	RETIRED USAF	12
2	LARRY MCQUEEN	207 BALLANTRAE HOUSTON, TX	ENGINEER	15
3	MARVIN BRADSHAW	P.O. BOX 40 BRUSSARD, LA.	LA-OFFSHORE	3

PHYSICAL RECORD:

List Any Physical Defects NONE

Were You Ever Injured? NO Give Details

Have You Any Defects In Hearing? NO In Vision? NO In Speech? NO

In Case of Emergency Notify MRS RUSSELL MCGAHEY (Name) 2002 E. 8TH AVE N. COLUMBUS MISS (Address) 601-327-1141 (Phone No.)

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

Date 7-5-78 Signature [signature]

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Interviewed By Date

REMARKS:

Neatness		Character	
Personality		Ability	

Hired For Dept. Position Will Report Salary Wages

Approved: 1. Employment Manager 2. Dept. Head 3. General Manager

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

DOROTHY RUTH WOODSIDE, 203 Morris Noble Road, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-4721, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. WOODSIDE stated that she is a part-time bartender at the Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge located on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. She stated she works full time as an accountant at Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries, Pascagoula, Mississippi. WOODSIDE is a white female, born August 27, 1924, and has a high school education plus graduating from business college.

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

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-74

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

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

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

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

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 287

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

B

UNCLAS

MURKIN

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

62-544-75

WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH (LNU) FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BCAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR BRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING 4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED FOR USA MEMPHIS.

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

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FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

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FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

B

UNCLAS

MURKIN

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62-544-75
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WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE WITCH (LNU) FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR BRAWDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING 4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

ALL OFFICES VIA FBI HQ ------

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING. MURKIN.

RE SA TEL AUGUST 18, 1978; DL TEL AUGUST 19, 1978, SETTING FORTH INTERVIEW OF BETTY LOU WADE IN WHICH SHE INDICATED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WAS "COMMITTED TO A HOSPITAL AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, IN 1974 - 1975 FOR HIS UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITION" AND SA TEL AUGUST 19, 1978, SETTING FORTH INTERVIEW OF JO ANN CHILDRESS WHICH INDICATED WILSON TREATED AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT SAN ANTONIO.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, WALTER FELLERS, SHERIFF, COMAL COUNTY, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT BURGESS WILSON, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) NUMBER 1808984 HAD BEEN INCARCERATED IN

62-544-76

SEARCHED INDEXED
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AUG 23 1978
FBI-JACKSON

THE COMAL COUNTY JAIL ON THE FOLLOWING OCCASIONS: ARREST NUMBER A8491, MARCH 1, 1976, THEFT OVER $200 AND UNDER $10,000, ADDRESS 401 FIFTH STREET, SOUTH COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, PLED GUILTY AND WAS SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS IN THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, HOWEVER, SENTENCE PROBATED FOR EIGHT YEARS. ARREST NUMBER A8942, JUNE 8, 1976, FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION. ARREST NUMBER A9636, NOVEMBER 21, 1976, ON A CAPIAS FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION AT WHICH TIME HIS ADDRESS WAS LISTED AS ROUTE 4, BX 6206, CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. ARREST NUMBER A10576 ON JULY 13, 1977, FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, HAZEL KUHN, DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE, STATE DISTRICT COURT, COMAL COUNTY, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, MADE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW RECORDS OF THE COMAL COUNTY DISTRICT COURT. A REVIEW OF THESE RECORDS REVEALED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1974, WILSON WAS INDICTED BY GRAND JURY FOR THEFT OVER $200, A COLOR TV SET BEING THE PROPERTY OF DOROTHY E. WIMBERLY. ARREST WARRANT WAS SERVED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1974, IN BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS, (MOUNTAIN HOME). WILSON WAIVED EXTRADITION AND RESTITUTION WAS MADE. CHARGE WAS FORMALLY DISMISSED ON MARCH 30, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 7, 1975, INFORMATION WAS FILED IN COMAL COUNTY DISTRICT COURT CHARGING WILSON WITH THEFT BY CHECK. A CAPIAS WAS ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1975. WILSON, AKA WILLIAM WILSON, HIGHWAY 5, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, WAS DOING BUSINESS AS OZARK JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR. THE CHARGE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISMISSED ON DECEMBER 22, 1977.

ON AUGUST 7, 1974, WILSON WAS INDICTED FOR THEFT OF ØER $2ØØ AND UNDER $1Ø,ØØØ. WILSON SUBSEQUENTLY PLED GUILTY TO CHARGES AND PLACED ON EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. AS OF MARCH, 1976, WILSON ALSO HAD CAUSE NUMBER 21-797 PENDING IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS, FOR CRIMINAL NON-SUPPORT AND A CASE PENDING IN OKTIBBEHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FOR FRAUD BY FALSE PRETENSES.

HIS SPOUSE AT THAT TIME WAS LISTED AS PATRICIA WILSON, 103 KATHERINE DRIVE, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. WLSON WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION ON JUNE 8, 1976, NOVEMBER 2Ø, 1976, JULY 9, 1977, AND JULY 13, 1977. WILSON WAS RELEASED FOLLOWING EACH OF THESE CHARGES AND PROBATION CONTINUED.

ON APRIL 22, 1974, BETTY LOU WILSON FILED PETITION FOR DIVORCE IN COMAL COUNTY DISTRICT COURT SEEKING TO DISSOLVE HER MARRIAGE TO BURGESS A. WILSON. THE PETITION LISTED A SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BORN JANUARY 25, 1958, AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

A CROSS PETITION FILED BY WILSON INDICATED THEY WERE ORIGINALLY MARRIED ON DECEMBER 13, 1948, AND DIVORCED ON NGUST 28, 1966, IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. THEY REMARRIED ON FEBRUARY 28, 1967, AND SEPARATED ON MARCH 28, 1974. A DECREE OF DIVORCE WAS ENTERED ON JUNE 27, 1974, GRANTING CUSTODY OF MARK ANTHONY WILSON TO BETTY LOU WILSON AND REQUIRING BURGESS A. WILSON TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT. A MOTION FOR CONTEMPT WAS FILED N AUGUST 19, 1974, AS WILSON WAS IN ARREARS IN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS. THE COURT HAS BEEN UNABLE UNTIL THIS TIME TO LOCATE WILSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVING NECESSARY PAPERS.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, FRANK ALLEN, PROBATION OFFICER, COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT BURGESS WILSON WAS REFERRED TO HIS FICE FOR PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION. ALLEN ADVISED THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION HE REPORTED THAT HE CHANCES OF SUCCESSFUL PROBATION BY WILSON WOULD BE POOR.

ALLEN FURTHER ADVISED THAT ON JUNE 8, 1976, WILSON REPORTED TO THE PROBATION OFFICE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING WITH U.S. SECRET SERVICE, IN SEGUIN, TEXAS, ON A COUNTERFEITING RING AND THAT MEMBERS OF THIS RING WERE ATTEMPTING TO KILL HIM. HE ADMITTED TO BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND ASKED HIS PROBATION BE REVOKED. WILSON WAS INCARCERATED IN THE COMAL COUNTY JAIL. SUBSEQUENT INQUIRY BY ALLEN WITH U.S. SECRET SERVICE DETERMINED THAT WILSON HAD FURNISHED INFORMATION OF NO VALUE TO THAT AGENCY AND THAT THERE WAS NO COUNTERFEITING RING. AFTER APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS INCARCERATION WILSON ADVISED ALLEN THAT THE REASON HE HAD REQUESTED HIS PROBATION BE REVOKED WAS BECAUSE HE WAS SEEKING PROTECTION. HE INDICATED THAT HE WANTED HIS PROBATION CONTINUED.

ALLEN STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE WILSON TO BE CAPABLE OF VIOLENCE AND NOTED THAT HE EXPERIENCES ILLUSIONS OF GRANDEUR AND IS CAPABLE OF TELLING "WILD STORIES" WHEN DRINKING.

ON APRIL 22, 1978, BARBARA HARTIGAN, RECORDS, MCKENNA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT WILSON WAS ADMITTED TO THAT HOSPITAL ON MAY 23, 1974, SUFFERING WITH

SEVERE CHEST PAINS AND NUMBNESS IN THE RIGHT ARM. HE HAD AN ABNORMAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAM AND WAS TREATED FOR CORONARY OCCLUSION. HE FOLLOWING DAY THE PAIN DISAPPEARED AND THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAM WAS NORMAL. WILSON LEFT THE HOSPITAL AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE ON MAY 24, 1974.

WILSON WAS AGAIN ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL ON MAY 28, 1974, FOR A POSSIBLE RATTLESNAKE BITE. NO FANG MARKS WERE LOCATED HOWEVER, THERE WAS A SLIGHTLY RAISED SCRATCHED AREA ON HIS LEFT WRIST. SUCTION WAS APPLIED, HOWEVER, NO VENOM WAS LOCATED. HE WAS DISCHARGED ON MAY 30, 1974.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, HAZEL KUHN, SUPRA, ADVISED THAT ON THE DAY WILSON WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN COMAL COUNTY DISTRICT COURT IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE MCKENNA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR AN "ALLEGED" RATTLESNAKE BITE. HIS ATTORNEY, IRVIN BOARNET OF NEW BRAUNFELS, WITHDREW FROM THE CASE FOLLOWING THIS INCIDENT.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, MARGI MARTIN, VA HOSPITAL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT WILSON WAS TREATED AS AN IN-PATIENT FROM JUNE 27, 1976, TO JUNE 29, 1976, FOR INSECT BITES. HE WAS

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REPRESENTATIVE OF COMAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPARTED NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ON AUGUST 22, 1978, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETURNING WILSON TO NEW BRAUNFELS. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 25, 1978.

REPORT FOLLOWS.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS OR CORRECTIONS PLS CONTACT SAN ANTONIO

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

ALL OFFICES VIA FBI HQ ------

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8938, JEH BUILDING. MURKIN.

RE SA TEL AUGUST 18, 1978; DL TEL AUGUST 19, 1978, SETTING FORTH INTERVIEW OF BETTY LOU WADE IN WHICH SHE INDICATED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WAS "COMMITTED TO A HOSPITAL AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, IN 1974 - 1975 FOR HIS UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITION" AND SA TEL AUGUST 19, 1978, SETTING FORTH INTERVIEW OF JO ANN CHILDRESS WHICH INDICATED WILSON TREATED AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT SAN ANTONIO.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, WALTER FELLERS, SHERIFF, COMAL COUNTY, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT BURGESS WILSON, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) NUMBER 1838984 HAD BEEN INCARCERATED IN

62-544-76

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FBI-JACKSON

THE COMAL COUNTY JAIL ON THE FOLLOWING OCCASIONS: ARREST NUMBER A8491, MARCH 1, 1976, THEFT OVER $200 AND UNDER $10,000, ADDRESS 401 FIFTH STREET, SOUTH COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, PLED GUILTY AND WAS SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS IN THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, HOWEVER, SENTENCE PROBATED FOR EIGHT YEARS. ARREST NUMBER A8942, JUNE 8, 1976, FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION. ARREST NUMBER A9636, NOVEMBER 21, 1976, ON A CAPIAS FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION AT WHICH TIME HIS ADDRESS WAS LISTED AS ROUTE 4, BX 6206, CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. ARREST NUMBER A10576 ON JULY 13, 1977, FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, HAZEL KUHN, DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE, STATE DISTRICT COURT, COMAL COUNTY, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, MADE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW RECORDS OF THE COMAL COUNTY DISTRICT COURT. A REVIEW OF THESE RECORDS REVEALED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1974, WILSON WAS INDICTED BY GRAND JURY FOR THEFT OVER $200, A COLOR W SET BEING THE PROPERTY OF DOROTHY E. WIMBERLY. ARREST WARRANT WAS SERVED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1974, IN BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS, (MOUNTAIN HOME). WILSON WAIVED EXTRADITION AND RESTITUTION WAS MADE. CHARGE WAS FORMALLY DISMISSED ON MARCH 30, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 7, 1975, INFORMATION WAS FILED IN COMAL COUNTY DISTRICT COURT CHARGING WILSON WITH THEFT BY CHECK. A CAPIAS WAS ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1975. WILSON, AKA WILLIAM WILSON, HIGHWAY 5, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, WAS DOING BUSINESS AS OZARK JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR. THE CHARGE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISMISSED ON DECEMBER 22, 1977.

ON AUGUST 7, 1974, WILSON WAS INDICTED FOR THEFT OF OVER $200 AND UNDER $10,000. WILSON SUBSEQUENTLY PLED GUILTY TO CHARGES AND PLACED ON EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. AS OF MARCH, 1976, WILSON ALSO HAD CAUSE NUMBER 21-797 PENDING IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS, FOR CRIMINAL NON-SUPPORT AND A CASE PENDING IN OKTIBBEHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FOR FRAUD BY FALSE PRETENSES.

HIS SPOUSE AT THAT TIME WAS LISTED AS PATRICIA WILSON, 103 KATHERINE DRIVE, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. WLSON WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF PROBATION ON JUNE 8, 1976, NOVEMBER 20, 1976, JULY 9, 1977, AND JULY 13, 1977. WILSON WAS RELEASED FOLLOWING EACH OF THESE CHARGES AND PROBATION CONTINUED.

ON APRIL 22, 1974, BETTY LOU WILSON FILED PETITION FOR DIVORCE IN COMAL COUNTY DISTRICT COURT SEEKING TO DISSOLVE HER MARRIAGE TO BURGESS A. WILSON. THE PETITION LISTED A SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BORN JANUARY 25, 1958, AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

A CROSS PETITION FILED BY WILSON INDICATED THEY WERE ORIGINALLY MARRIED ON DECEMBER 13, 1948, AND DIVORCED ON AUGUST 28, 1966, IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. THEY REMARRIED ON FEBRUARY 28, 1967, AND SEPARATED ON MARCH 28, 1974. A DECREE OF DIVORCE WAS ENTERED ON JUNE 27, 1974, GRANTING CUSTODY OF MARK ANTHONY WILSON TO BETTY LOU WILSON AND REQUIRING BURGESS A. WILSON TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT. A MOTION FOR CONTEMPT WAS FILED ON AUGUST 19, 1974, AS WILSON WAS IN ARREARS IN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS. THE COURT HAS BEEN UNABLE UNTIL THIS TIME TO LOCATE WILSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVING NECESSARY PAPERS.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, FRANK ALLEN, PROBATION OFFICER, COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT BURGESS WILSON WAS REFERRED TO HIS OFFICE FOR PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION. ALLEN ADVISED THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION HE REPORTED THAT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESSFUL PROBATION BY WILSON WOULD BE POOR.

ALLEN FURTHER ADVISED THAT ON JUNE 8, 1976, WILSON REPORTED TO THE PROBATION OFFICE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING WITH U.S. SECRET SERVICE, IN SEGUIN, TEXAS, ON A COUNTERFEITING RING AND THAT MEMBERS OF THIS RING WERE ATTEMPTING TO KILL HIM. HE ADMITTED TO BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND ASKED HIS PROBATION BE REVOKED. WILSON WAS INCARCERATED IN THE COMAL COUNTY JAIL. SUBSEQUENT INQUIRY BY ALLEN WITH U.S. SECRET SERVICE DETERMINED THAT WILSON HAD FURNISHED INFORMATION OF NO VALUE TO THAT AGENCY AND THAT THERE WAS NO COUNTERFEITING RING. AFTER APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS INCARCERATION WILSON ADVISED ALLEN THAT THE REASON HE HAD REQUESTED HIS PROBATION BE REVOKED WAS BECAUSE HE WAS SEEKING PROTECTION. HE INDICATED THAT HE WANTED HIS PROBATION CONTINUED.

ALLEN STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE WILSON TO BE CAPABLE OF VIOLENCE AND NOTED THAT HE EXPERIENCES ILLUSIONS OF GRANDEUR AND IS CAPABLE OF TELLING "WILD STORIES" WHEN DRINKING.

ON APRIL 22, 1978, BARBARA HARTIGAN, RECORDS, MCKENNA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT WILSON WAS ADMITTED TO THAT HOSPITAL ON MAY 23, 1974, SUFFERING WITH

SEVERE CHEST PAINS AND NUMBNESS IN THE RIGHT ARM. HE HAD AN ABNORMAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAM AND WAS TREATED FOR CORONARY OCCLUSION. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE PAIN DISAPPEARED AND THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAM WAS NORMAL. WILSON LEFT THE HOSPITAL AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE @ MAY 24, 1974.

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REPORT FOLLOWS.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS OR CORRECTIONS PLS CONTACT SAN ANTONIO

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CLASSIFICATION:
[ ] TOP SECRET
[ ] SECRET
[ ] CONFIDENTIAL
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Date AUGUST 23, 1978

FM JACKSON (62-544)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY 2235Z

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY 2245Z

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL, AUGUST 22, 1978.

ON AUGUST 19, 1978, MRS. LEON (CHRISTINE) GUNTHARP, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, WAS TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED AT HER RESIDENCE AT WHICH TIME SHE ADVISED THAT SHE IS THE SISTER OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHOM SHE HAS HAD LIMITED CONTACT WITH DURING THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF THEIR NATURAL FATHER AT GRENADA, MISS. MRS. GUNTHARP ADVISED THAT HER PAST EXPERIENCE WITH HER BROTHER HAS PROVEN HIM TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH ALCOHOL AND APPARENT MENTAL PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF HIS ERRATIC BEHAVIOR AND TENDENCY TO FABRICATE. SHE ADVISED THAT UNTIL THIS CONTACT SHE

62-544-77

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- [ ] E F T O
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Date _____

HAS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HER BROTHER'S WHEREABOUTS AND HAS HAD ONLY ONE TELEPHONE CALL FROM HIM IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, FROM AN UNKNOWN LOCATION. SHE ADVISED THAT ALTHOUGH SHE CONSIDERS HER BROTHER TO BE AN INTELLIGENT INDIVIDUAL, SHE RARELY BELIEVES ANYTHING HE SAYS, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HAS BEEN DRINKING. SHE STATED THAT HE AT ONE TIME FLEW FOR AN AIR FREIGHT SERVICE OUT OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AND ALSO HAS THE CAPABILITY OF JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR.

MRS. GUNTHARP EMPHATICALLY STATED ON AUGUST 23, 1978, THAT SHE DID NOT CONTACT HER BROTHER "BILL" WILSON IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., IN THE RECENT PAST CONCERNING HER RECOGNITION OF A LIKENESS TO HIM WITH REGARD TO A SKETCH OF THE KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING SEEN IN A NEWSPAPER.

INVESTIGATION, COLUMBUS, MISS., DETERMINED THE GUN REPAIR SHOP LOCATED BEHIND BANK IDENTIFIED AS BOX 4N GUN SHOP. THIS SHOP WAS RUN BY A GUNSMITH NAMED PARKER NEELY WHO HAS SINCE MOVED TO TENNESSEE, AND WHOSE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN TO HIS PAST ASSOCIATES IN COLUMBUS, MISS.

INVESTIGATION AT STARKVILLE, MISS., DETERMINED WILSON WAS MARRIED TO PATRICIA SHINDALA. SHINDALA WAS A DIVORCEE AND WILSON

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Date _____

PAGE THREE JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

USED HER ALIMONY MONEY ALONG WITH HER SETTLEMENT MONEY TO OBTAIN A LOAN AND START A JEWELRY STORE AT A MALL IN STARKVILLE, MISS. THIS OCCURRED IN THE SPRING OF 1975 AND THE BUSINESS LASTED APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS BEFORE WILSON "FLED IN THE NIGHT," DESERTING HIS WIFE AND OWING SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS. SHINDALA IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE NURSING PROGRAM AT WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, SILVA, NORTH CAROLINA. WILSON IS WELL KNOWN IN THE STARKVILLE AREA AS A "CON-ARTIST".

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING TO LOCATE PARKER NEELY AND HAVE HIM INTERVIEWED RE WILSON'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD THE JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE REWORKED AT A GUN SHOP IN COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI.

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FM JACKSON (62-544)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

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FM DALLAS (44-2649)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

JACKSON (62-544) PRIORITY

OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE OKLAHOMA CITY TELETYPE TO DALLAS, AUGUST 23, 1978.

FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES, REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED DALLAS TO CONDUCT TITLE SEARCH RE BONANZA AIRCRAFT, REGISTRATION NUMBER 34L, REPORTEDLY OWNED BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

A REVIEW OF RECORDS AT THE FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (FRC) REFLECTS REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L WAS ASSIGNED TO A TWIN ENGINE BEACH CRAFT IN CONTRAST TO A SINGLE ENGINE BEACH BONANZA.

THIS AIRCRAFT WAS ORIGINALLY IMPORTED INTO SWITZERLAND

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SOME TIME AROUND 1950. THE AIRCRAFT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES IN 1956, AT WHICH TIME IT RECEIVED THE REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L. IN 1959 THE OWNER, MR. LEAR, SR., OF LEAR, INC. SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK THE AIRCRAFT BACK TO SWITZERLAND AND SOLD IT TO AN ITALIAN CORPORATION IN 1962. APPARENTLY, FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES, THE AMERICAN REGISTRATION NUMBER, N34L, WAS REQUESTED TO BE DEREGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IT WAS ON JULY 27, 1962.

THERE IS NO INFORMATION IN THE FILES REGARDING A SINGLE ENGINE BONANZA, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, OR ANY PREVIOUS OWNER WITH LAST NAME FISHER.

JERRY PACE, SECURITY, SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, FAA, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, ADVISED HE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED FAA, OKLAHOMA CITY, AND DETERMINED REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L HAS BEEN UNASSIGNED SINCE 1962. PACE ALSO STATED A REVIEW OF THE 1963, 1968 AND 1969 UNITED STATES CIVIL AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION BOOKS FAILED TO REFLECT THIS REGISTRATION NUMBER.

JACKSON WILL RE-INTERVIEW BURGESS AUDIE WILSON RE CORRECT REGISTRATION NUMBER OF BONANZA AIRCRAFT HE CLAIMED HE OWNED AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH.

FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES, IT IS NOTED WILSON GAVE THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF HIS AIRCRAFT AS 34L. ALL UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT BEAR THE PREFIX "N" BEFORE THE REGISTRATION NUMBER.

DALLAS WILL SUBMIT RUC REPORT.

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FM DALLAS (44-2649)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

JACKSON (62-544) PRIORITY

OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

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UNCLAS

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DALLAS WILL SUBMIT RUC REPORT.

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

JACKSON (62-544) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987)(SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

MURKIN.

RE BUTEL AUGUST 22, 1978.

ON AUGUST 23, 1978, A SEARCH OF BROWNSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS, CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECORDS, AND CAMERON COUNTY JAIL RECORDS, FAILED TO REFLECT ANY RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.

BT

White-Sparrow
ord'd 8/24/78
Jan

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

JACKSON (62-544) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987)(SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

MURKIN.

RE HUTEL AUGUST 22, 1978.

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PRECEDENCE:
[ ] Immediate
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CLASSIFICATION:
[ ] TOP SECRET
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[ ] CONFIDENTIAL
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Date AUGUST 24, 1978

FM JACKSON (62-544)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY 1545Z

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY 1840Z

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY 1555Z

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELETYPE, AUGUST 23, 1978; AND DALLAS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 23, 1978.

DALLAS DIVISION ADVISED THAT SEARCH OF RECORDS AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (FRC) CONCERNING REGISTRATION NUMBER 34L, REPORTEDLY FOR A BONANZA AIRCRAFT OWNED BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, REVEALED THAT THE CORRECT NUMBER WOULD HAVE BEEN N34L INASMUCH AS ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES HAS THE PREFIX "N". REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED FOR USE ON A TWIN ENGINE BEACH CRAFT IN 1956, THE OWNER BEING MR. LEAR, SR., OF LEAR,

62-544-80

D- JACKSON
JWN/lrm
(1)

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Approved: John T. Kelley Jan Transmitted 001 (Number) A.Berm (Time) Per _____ FBI/DOJ

5-36 (Rev. 3-24-77)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] _____

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

INC., WHO SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK THE AIRCRAFT TO SWITZERLAND AND SOLD IT TO AN ITALIAN CORPORATION IN 1962. A REQUEST WAS RECEIVED THAT THE PLANE BE DE-REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IT WAS ON JULY 27, 1962. NO RECORD COULD BE LOCATED WHICH WOULD INDICATE ANY USE OR REFERENCE TO THIS REGISTRATION NUMBER AFTER THAT DATE. NO RECORD WAS LOCATED REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION AT NEW BRAUNFELLS, TEXAS. WILL REINTERVIEW BURGESS AUDIE WILSON RE CORRECT REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE BONANZA AIRCRAFT HE CLAIMED HE OWNED AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH.

BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____ FBI/DOJ

JNO ØØ1 2361545Z

PP HQ ME SA

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P 241530Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

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BT

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2361515Z SA 1

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/22/78

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

Current Texas driver's license #7911315 under the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas. License expires 1980 and indicates the date of birth of August 28, 1931.

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

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

A business card for DANIEL D. GUICE, JR., Field Supervisor, Mississippi Probation and Parole Office, Biloxi, Mississippi, telephone 432-2271.

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

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

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

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

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

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-81

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business card for Louisiana Off-short Caterors, JIM FONTENOT, Personnel Director, Houma, Louisiana, 876-3642.

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

A bill of sale bearing the name of VERA M. NEVILL, Canyon Lake, Texas, Route 4, Box 620G.

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

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

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

A Veteran's Administration patient data card under the name of BURGESS A. WILSON, Canyon Lake, Texas, card #422341275.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A card bearing WILSON's Social Security Number JFK Act 6 (3).

A credit type card from the Security State Bank, Starkville, Mississippi, under the name of Colonel BURGESS A. WILSON, USAF, retired, #3038940.

Private pilot certificate number 1106770 issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, showing BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., of 13125 Herrick Avenue, Grandview, Missouri, 64030, is authorized to fly single and multi-engine land airplanes.

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

A Department of Transportation medical certificate first class form signed by Dr. JAMES B. MARTIN, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on August 9, 1978, giving the examining physician serial as 12021-1.

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

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

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

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

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

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-82

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

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill, date of birth August 28, 1931, Social Security Account Number JFK Act 6 (3), furnished the following information to SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT:

Mr. WILSON advised that he was born August 28, 1931, at Fulton, Mississippi, and that he resided with his family at Golden, Mississippi, until 1936, at which time the family moved to Eldridge, Alabama, where he attended school until the eighth grade and then went to high school at Carbon Hill, Alabama, until 1947.

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

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

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

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

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-83

by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He furnished the following description of himself:

Name	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.
Also known as	Bill
Date of birth	August 28, 1931
Place of birth	Fulton, Mississippi
Height	5 feet 11 inches
Weight	170 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Gray
Social Security Number	JFK Act 6 (3)
Education	High school graduate
Military service	U. S. Air Force 1947-1960
Father	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi
Mother	MITTIE DALE (deceased)
Stepmother	LILLIE MAE WILSON (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi
Brother	ALLISON TOWERS WILSON Reform, Alabama
Sister	LYDA MC GAHEY 2002 East Eighth Avenue North Columbus, Mississippi
Sister	CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE Fulton, Mississippi
Ex-wife	BETTY LOU WILSON WADE Burleson, Texas
Ex-wife	AVIS LEA HUNTER 1010 Hickory Hill Lane Hermitage, Tennessee
Ex-wife	PATRICIA SHINDALA Starkville, Mississippi (believed killed in car accident)
Ex-wife	JO ANN CHILDRESS 113 Mill Street San Marcos, Texas

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

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

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

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

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

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

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

SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR.
SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/RDH/mae

by Date dictated 8/19/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON advised that he flew to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Bonanza aircraft and landed at an airport just north of Raleigh, Tennessee. He stated that the airport was operated by a long-time acquaintance of his who had attended a church which was pastored by WILSON's father in the past. WILSON stated that his daughter, DEBORAH, picked him up at the airport in her 1965 white Mustang, which WILSON had previously bought for her and which was registered in his name in Missouri.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

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

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

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

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

BELL identified the WILSON children as follows:

1. Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE (phonetic)
   Fulton, Mississippi

2. BILL WILSON
   Kansas City, Kansas

3. LIDA (Last Name Unknown)
   Columbus, Mississippi

4. One other son, name not known.

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Oxford, Mississippi File # JN 62-544 -85

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/22/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Columbus, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-86

2XH

by SA GWYNNE L. HUPFER/bjw Date dictated 8/21/78

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

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

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

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

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

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 345

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

Mr. WILLIAM DON GLADDEN, age 46, white male, Route 3, Box 205-H-3 (Meadowlark Drive), Gulf Park Estates, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-3518), was contacted at the Seasons and Reasons Gift Shop located at 2446 Highway 90 East, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-2531). Mr. GLADDEN furnished the following information:

He is employed as the manager of the Social Security Administration Office in Gulfport, Mississippi (telephone number 896-3221), but also is owner of the above noted gift shop along with his wife, ALICE A. GLADDEN. GLADDEN advised that he and his wife opened the gift shop in Ocean Springs on July 3, 1978.

On or about July 26, 1978, a man came to the gift shop and identified himself as "Bill" WILSON. He talked with GLADDEN's wife stating that he was getting ready to open a watch repair business in the Edgewater Shopping Mall in Biloxi, Mississippi, and wanted to use the GLADDEN's gift shop as a pickup point for watches to be repaired. Mrs. GLADDEN discussed the matter with her husband and he and WILSON agreed approximately four or five days later to permit WILSON to rent repair shop space in the rear of GLADDEN's gift shop.

According to GLADDEN, neither he nor his wife had ever met WILSON before but he was a friendly outgoing individual whom they came to trust. He was a very good worker and always was the first one to open the store in the morning. WILSON paid his own money for a lot of radio ads for his watch repair business. WILSON had some of his own jewelry and watch repair equipment but after moving into GLADDEN's gift shop, spent several thousand dollars of his own money for additional equipment. GLADDEN advised that the only investment he (GLADDEN) had in the watch repair effort was that he agreed to go in half with WILSON on an $800 sign for the store.

GLADDEN again described WILSON as being a very fast, good worker, who was tactful with customers and was

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-57

by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT and SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./KWS/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

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always trying to "drum up new business". According to GLADDEN, all signs were that BILL WILSON was going to stay with the gift shop as a watch repairman on a permanent basis. After a few days, WILSON advised Mr. and Mrs. GLADDEN that he had changed his mind about opening up a watch and jewelry repair business in the Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, Mississippi.

GLADDEN advised that neither he nor his wife ever visited the WILSON residence in Ocean Springs but it was their understanding that WILSON resided in Apartment No. 9 at the Twin Pines Motel on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs for several days after first arriving in town. Later WILSON advised the GLADDENs that he had moved to a residence located at Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs (telephone number 875-9542). GLADDEN advised that this residence apparently is located on the Vancleave Road north of the Ocean Springs Hospital. WILSON told the GLADDENs that the house is owned by an unidentified friend who was letting him live there in exchange for keeping the house in good repair.

GLADDEN advised that WILSON is an excellent pilot. GLADDEN and his son flew with WILSON in a rented plane and according to GLADDEN, WILSON appeared to know everything about flying the plane and could handle it well in rough weather. GLADDEN did not know the extent of WILSON's education but described him as being an "extremely intelligent man". WILSON would come and go in the shop every day and had numerous advertising fliers printed up which he apparently hand delivered in various businesses around the Ocean Springs area.

GLADDEN advised that sometime after WILSON began working at his watch repair business in Ocean Springs, he became aware that WILSON had a drinking problem. The drinking problem, however, did not effect WILSON's work because he would come into the shop early every morning and do all of the watch repairs that were waiting for him and then he would leave for the day. GLADDEN advised that one salesman (identity unrecalled) who apparently had some contact with WILSON stated that WILSON told him that he had a drinking problem but was trying to work hard at the watch repair business in order to defeat this problem.

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On August 17, 1978, at around 11:45 p.m. WILSON telephoned ALICE GLADDEN at the GLADDEN residence in Ocean Springs. He asked to speak to WILLIAM D. GLADDEN who at that time was asleep. GLADDEN answered the phone and WILSON told him that he had to see him and his wife immediately about a matter which would not wait until the morning. WILSON refused to come to the GLADDEN residence and stated that they should meet at the gift shop to discuss a matter of "national urgency". GLADDEN stated that he became worried at WILSON's insistance so besides his wife, he took his 18 year old son along and met WILSON at the gift shop at 12:15 a.m. on August 18, 1978.

WILSON arrived at the gift shop at the appointed time driving his old model blue Chevrolet with a white top and unrecalled Louisiana license tags. He had been drinking because his breath smelled of alcohol and his eyes were extremely red; however, he did not talk like an intoxicated person. He appeared very depressed according to GLADDEN.

WILSON opened the conversation by saying, "I am the mystery man." When questioned by GLADDEN as to what he meant by this remark WILSON said, "I am the man that murdered Martin Luther King." GLADDEN advised that WILSON then talked with him for the next hour and 15 minutes about how he had grown up in Grenada, Mississippi, where his father was a Baptist preacher. WILSON described how his father's church was open for local blacks to worship in and they were treated like neighbors. When the racial unrest was running rampant in the State of Mississippi in 1967 some "northern" blacks came to the church escorted by FBI Agents. WILSON's father welcomed them to the church only if they were not there "for trouble". However, according to WILSON, they did come for trouble and his father subsequently died of a heart attack as a result of the racial unrest.

WILSON then stated again that, "I am the one that pulled the trigger." He stated that the KING killing was a conspiracy and that he was the logical one to pull the trigger. WILSON told the GLADDENs that he had been with the Government (not further described) and had been involved in undeclared wars (not further described). WILSON also said that he knew MARTIN LUTHER KING's father and brother and grew up right next door to KING's cousin and knew the entire family.

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(WILSON did not furnish the name of KING's cousin to the GLADDENs.)

GLADDEN advised that WILSON told him that he had purchased a white Mustang for his daughter and that it was similar to a vehicle which GLADDEN had purchased for his daughter in Ocean Springs. WILSON told GLADDEN that his daughter had driven the white Mustang to Memphis, Tennessee, just prior to the KING assassination. WILSON was supposed to be in Kansas City, Missouri, at the time of the assassination and had alibis to prove it when actually he too was in Memphis.

WILSON told GLADDEN that JAMES EARL RAY was the "fall guy". He said that RAY only saw him twice but WILSON knew who RAY was. RAY was supposed to have gotten away clean. WILSON said that he was surprised that RAY has brought it all back up again inasmuch as he (RAY) is probably due for parole in about two years.

WILSON told GLADDEN, "You won't see me anymore after tonight." He wanted the GLADDENs to have his watch repair equipment. WILSON again insisted to the GLADDENs that the KING assassination was a "group conspiracy". WILSON stated that he would only deal with the "Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, whom WILSON use to fly with". WILSON also said that he felt the Government (not further described) wanted the KING killing to happen and he (WILSON) knew it needed to be done and did not expect to get much time for it.

WILSON told GLADDEN that he was not sorry he did the KING killing since the "niggers are better off". Later in their conversation WILSON did say he was sorry that he had pulled the trigger.

WILSON told the GLADDENs that the Sheriff of Memphis had talked to him on the telephone and had agreed to meet WILSON in the Gulfport, Mississippi, Holiday Inn the morning of August 18, 1978. WILSON speculated that he would probably be allowed to have a television set in his cell and would probably be allowed to repair watches or give instruction in watch repair while in prison.

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WILSON also told the GLADDENs that he fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING not from 50 yards but from about 50 feet away and he saw the bullet hit. WILSON said that, "I shot the shit out of him and saw it fly." WILSON never mentioned the type of gun he used nor did he tell the GLADDENs the location from which he allegedly fired the shot.

At one point during their conversation, WILSON looked at GLADDEN's son who apparently appeared disturbed by WILSON's revelations. WILSON told GLADDEN's son that he could tell he did not approve of what he had done but that he had better keep his nose out of it.

WILSON, who apparently had served in the U. S. Air Force, indicated that he had worked in some type of investigative work while in the military service.

WILSON kept bringing up the fact that he was going to meet with the Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, the morning of August 18, 1978, and even offered to furnish GLADDEN this individual's name and telephone number if he wanted it for verification. GLADDEN declined.

WILSON said that he had gone through 10 years of hell because he killed KING. He said that it had ruined 26 years of a good marriage and now his conscience was bothering him more than ever in the last few years.

WILSON referred to a sketch of the KING murder suspect which apparently had been recently shown on television and told GLADDEN that the sketch was almost an exact likeness of him (WILSON).

WILSON said that he has a sister in Fulton, Mississippi, who telephoned him in Ocean Springs after the sketch was shown on television saying that the sketch looked exactly like him. According to WILSON he called his sister and other members of his family to let them know he was turning himself in.

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GLADDEN advised that at the end of their conversation, WILSON left the gift shop and drove east on Highway 90. GLADDEN feels sure that WILSON probably drove to the Angular's Inn Tavern which is located a short distance from the gift shop and was apparently frequented by WILSON.

GLADDEN advised that shortly before noon on August 18, 1978, he was telephonically contacted by WILSON who said that he was now at home and that he had been to the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi, accompanied by "the father" (not further identified). The sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, had not shown up; however, there were individuals there believed by WILSON to be FBI Agents. He believed he had been betrayed and was now ready to "blow anyone's head off who comes to my house except the father". About three hours after this conversation WILSON walked into GLADDEN's gift shop. He was clean and neat and told GLADDEN that he apparently had been in touch with the FBI and that the FBI was not going to do anything to him. According to GLADDEN, WILSON indicated that he had worked out some "bargain" with the FBI and now WILSON wanted to live a normal routine life. He asked GLADDEN if he could continue working in the watch repair business. GLADDEN advised WILSON that he and his wife were seriously contemplating selling the business and they would make no decision about retaining him.

Outside the possibility that WILSON had a drinking problem, GLADDEN observed nothing unusual about the person and did not consider him to be "the typical psychopath". GLADDEN stated that in his job as manager of the Social Security Office he deals with a lot of people who have mental problems. He does not fit WILSON into any of the categories of mental imparities that he has observed. He recalled that he has heard a lot about WILSON's past life but nothing about his activities within the past 10 years. He recalled WILSON saying he had been married five times, twice to the same woman. WILSON said that he had been on the Mississippi Coast only for about three months even though he grew up in the State of Mississippi.

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

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JN 62-544
BWW/lrm
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PARKER W. NEELY, 1814 Short Main Street, Columbus, Mississippi, advised he did business until 1976 as the Box 4-N Gun Shop. His business concerned gunsmithing. NEELY's records reflect on July 17, 1975, B. A. WILSON, JR., Starkville, Mississippi, brought in an Arisaka 25 caliber rifle, which rifle was a Japanese military type with the serial number obliterated. The rifle was a long barrel model. NEELY redid the stock and action. The gun was in working order when he got it. The gun was picked up on December 9, 1975. NEELY advised all other records regarding the gun were destroyed; however, he does recall the subject as he sold the subject a Colt Diamondback 38 revolver, two inch barrel, for which the subject still owes him. NEELY stated he determined later the subject was arrested somewhere in west Texas and this revolver was confiscated. NEELY could provide no other information regarding the subject or his activities. NEELY did recall the subject stated he obtained the rifle from some individual in Tupelo, Mississippi, name unrecalled.

62-544-88

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED KH FILED KH

AUG 23 1978

FBI-JACKSON

FD-350 (Rev. 10-19-77)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Evidence Distorted, James Earl Ray Says

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray says the House Assassinations Committee, aided by reporters, is distorting evidence and trying to "nail us to the cross."

Last week, federal marshals took Ray to Washington to testify before the committee about the killing of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And as he has for nearly a decade, Ray recanted his 1969 guilty plea, saying he was duped by a mysterious man named Raoul, ill-served by his former lawyer and coerced by the the rigors of his confinement.

In a letter written on Brushy Mountain Penitentiary stationery and addressed to The Associated Press here, Ray said: "Concerning the hearing, apparently they had everything layed out to, quotating Cong. Mandel Davis, 'nail us to the cross' ... My assesment of the hearings are the same as Cong. Davis, and it seems that most of the press did their best to assist the committee."

Some questions and evidence presented during Ray's three days of testimony in Washington concerned his whereabouts just before the King was shot on April 4, 1968, in Memphis. There were suggestions that Ray stalked King through Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

The committee produced a laundry ticket purportedly placing Ray in Atlanta on April 1, a day Ray says he was driving through Mississippi toward Memphis to meet Raoul.

"They can surprise you with documents that you have not viewed for years and thus give a false impression of the evidence," Ray wrote in his letter. "I was in Mississippi April 1, 1968 but I may have a problem proving it now."

Ray also alleged that the committee paraphrased a letter he wrote in 1968 about his inability to sleep in a Memphis jail cell, and turned its emphasis around.

"There are other examples of this and the next time we should be ready for the committee's distortions," he said. "In fact the committee has now agreed to provide us with the material they will in future sessions use in their questioning."

The committee's investigation of King's death resumes this winter. Ray has recanted his guilty plea to King's killing. He is serving a 99-year prison term.

Flown by helicopter from the Petros prison on April 15, Ray said he was taken to a federal prison near Petersburg, Va.

"I got into an altercation with prison officials first thing — they wanted me to fill out forms, take pictures, etc.," he wrote. "I was checked into the prison under the name Michael Brewer. I suppose the 'row' was supposed to effect my ability to testify. There was not much to it, my shirt was torn off and I intended wearing it to the hearing, however, the FBI came and confiscated it."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4A
The Clarion Ledger
Jackson, MS

Date: 8/26/78
Edition: Home

Title: MURKIN

Character:
or
Classification: CIVIL RIGHT
Submitting Office: JACKSON

62-544-89

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED 0104 FILED 0104

AUG 28 1978

FBI—JACKSON

FBI/DOJ

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

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

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

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

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Tupelo, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544 - 90

by SA DONALD H. GREENE/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

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

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

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

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

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

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 359

Mrs. GUNTHARP concluded by stating that she has very little confidence in any statements made by her brother in view of her past experience with him.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 360

FD-263 (Rev. 7-15-75)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
SAN ANTONIO	MEMPHIS	8/30/78	8/18-23/78

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM	SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV	mmk
	CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCES: Memphis teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/18/78;
San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/18/78;
Dallas teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
Jackson teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/21/78;
Bureau teletype, dated 8/22/78;
San Antonio teletype, dated 8/23/78;
Jackson teletype, dated 8/23/78; and
Jackson teletype, dated 8/24/78.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE

A review of San Antonio indices revealed that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. is a subject of San Antonio file 29-2620

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☐ NONE						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

62 544 91

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

SEP 6 1978

FBI-JACKSON

COPIES MADE:
4-Bureau (44-38861)
3-Memphis (44-1987 Sub M)
(1-USA, Memphis, Tennessee)
1-Jackson (62-544)
1-San Antonio (44-1242)

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

A
COVER PAGE

FBI/DOJ

captioned "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., BF&E, OO: San Antonio." WILSON allegedly defaulted on a $1,000.00 note at the Kyle State Bank, Kyle, Texas, and in a security agreement and financing statement filed with the Hayes County District Clerk's Office, WILSON indicated that the $1,000.00 note was obtained to purchase cattle.

By teletype, dated August 24, 1978, Jackson Division requested San Antonio to re-interview WILSON regarding a discrepancy in the registration number of the Bonanza Aircraft he claimed he owned at the time of KING's death. This interview was not conducted based on telephonic instructions received from ASAC, Memphis Division, on August 24, 1978.

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COVER PAGE

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-U. S. Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: THOMAS E. MOODY, IV
Office: San Antonio, Texas
Date: 8/30/78

Field Office File #: 44-1242
Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: NCIC inquiry revealed BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., born 8/28/31, in Mississippi, Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [JFK Act 6 (3)], wanted by New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department as Probation Violator as of 8/18/78. WILSON presently on probation out of Comal County District Court, Texas, for theft over $200.00 and under $10,000.00. WILSON previously treated at McKenna Memorial Hospital, New Braunfels, Texas, and Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. No record located for treatment of mental disorders. Results of record reviews of both hospitals, Comal County District Court Clerk's Office, Comal County Probation Office, Comal County Sheriff's Office, and interview of ex-wife set forth.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On August 18, 1978, inquiry of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) revealed that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., born August 28, 1931, in Mississippi, Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [JFK Act 6 (3)], Texas Drivers License Number 77911315, was wanted by the New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department as a Probation Violator, date of warrant April 18, 1978.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk DAVID A. WALL:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

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A review of the records, Identification Bureau, Bexar County Jail, San Antonio, Texas, on August 18, 1978, indicated that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., white male, born August 28, 1931, height 5'11", hair black, eyes brown, was booked into the Bexar County Jail on June 19, 1972 on Contempt of Court charges out of State District Court 57 (case number F248-084). WILSON served twelve days and was released on June 30, 1972.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk CARMEN J. HINES:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On August 21, 1978, a review of court records, Bexar County 57th District Court, San Antonio, Texas, revealed WILSON was incarcerated for Contempt of Court growing out of a civil suit entitled "Allison-Kaufmann Company, a California corporation, v. North Star Diamond Corporation (case number F248-084) of which WILSON was listed as the owner. This civil suit involved a fraud case and WILSON was incarcerated following his refusal to furnish the court with an inventory of merchandise in his possession belonging to Allison-Kaufmann Company. This incarceration did not involve any action growing out of child support.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WAYNE SMITH:

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

On August 19, 1978, JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 Mill, San Marcos, Texas, advised that she met BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill Wilson, at Sadler, Texas, in September, 1977, and they were married in November of 1977. They separated February 15, 1978 and the divorce was finalized on April 26, 1978. On August 12, 1978, she received a telephonic message from WILSON indicating that he was in the state of Tennessee and was involved in an automobile accident. WILSON stated that as a result of this accident both of his legs were amputated. CHILDRESS advised that WILSON is a "very convincing liar and a con-man". He has never mentioned the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING and has never displayed any hatred or dislike for members of the black race.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 364

According to CHILDRESS, she believes that WILSON was in the United States Army during 1968, and WILSON has stated that he was a Prisoner Of War (POW) during the Vietnam conflict. She is aware that WILSON visited the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in San Antonio, Texas on several occasions, but she possesses no knowledge of him suffering from any psychiatric problems. By previous marriage, WILSON has three children, two sons and one daughter, locations not known by CHILDRESS.

CHILDRESS advised that it is her personal opinion that WILSON is sick and she is not in a position to provide any information regarding his whereabouts in 1968 other than the fact that he did mention that he once resided in Memphis, Tennessee.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 365

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SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at San Antonio, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, MARGI MARTIN, Records, Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, after having been furnished an Authority to Release Medical Information executed by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., furnished the following background and descriptive data:

Name	BURGESS A. WILSON
VA Claim Number	14592430
Social Security Account Number	JFK Act 6 (3)
Date of Birth	August 28, 1931
Place of Birth	Fulton, Mississippi
U. S. Air Force Service Number	142 25 795
Dates of Service	May 2, 1947 - February, 1960
Type of Discharge	Honorable
Address	2601 Westward Drive Apartment 104 San Antonio, Texas (June, 1976)
	Route 4, Box 620-D Canyon Lake, Texas 78130 (August 4, 1976)
Occupation	Jeweler
Relatives	STEPHEN WILSON (Son) 5627 Culebra San Antonio, Texas Telephone 433-0588

Further review of the record indicated that no compensation was being received from the VA by WILSON and that he had received no treatment at that facility for mental disorders. In June, 1976, his claim folder was located in the Wichita VA Center.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 366

On June 27, 1976, WILSON was admitted as an in-patient to the VA hospital in San Antonio for insect bites. Initial diagnosis indicated Cellulitis of the right knee, Lymphangitis and Lymphadenitis; inflammation of lymph glands and multiple pus nodules on all extremities and neck. Additional diagnosis included chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; mild cardio infarction and a questionable cerebral vascular attack at age 30.

On June 29, 1976, WILSON went on pass from the hospital to visit his son who had been involved in a motorcycle accident in Dallas, Texas. WILSON did not return to the hospital.

On August 4, 1976, WILSON was treated as an out-patient for lime burn on his left foot. He was seen and released. On August 6, 1976, he telephonically contacted the hospital to report that his foot was healing properly.

On December 11, 1976, he was again treated as an out-patient for a swollen left elbow. He returned on December 14, 1976, for additional treatment. On December 21, 1976, WILSON failed to keep an appointment at the VA hospital for additional treatment and has not been treated subsequent to that time.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 367

1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at New Braunfels, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, WALTER FELLERS, Sheriff, Comal County, advised that BURGESS WILSON, also known as BILL WILSON, Texas Department of Public Safety Number 1808984, had been incarcerated in the Comal County Jail on the following occasions:

Arrest Number	A 8491
Date	March 1, 1976
Charge	Theft Over $200 and under $10,000
Address	401 5th Street South Columbus, Mississippi
Disposition	Pled guilty and sentenced to 8 years in the Texas Department of Corrections - probated to 8 years

Arrest Number	8942
Date	June 8, 1976
Charge	Violation of Probation
Address	401 5th Street South Columbus, Mississippi

Arrest Number	9636
Date	November 21, 1976
Charge	Violation of Probation (Capias Number 7721)
Address	Route 4, Box 6206 Canyon Lake, Texas

Arrest Number	A 10576
Date	July 13, 1977
Charge	Violation of Probation
Address	Route 4, Box 6206 Canyon Lake, Texas
Disposition	On bond to District Court

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 368

Sheriff FELLERS advised that a Deputy from his office departed on August 22, 1978, en route to Ocean Springs, Mississippi to return WILSON to New Braunfels, Texas. He indicated that he expects WILSON to be returned prior to the end of the week.

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1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV at New Braunfels, Texas:

On August 22, 1978, HAZEL KUHN, Clerk, District Clerk's Office, Comal County District Court, New Braunfels, Texas, made available for review the records of the Comal County District Court. She noted that on the day BURGESS WILSON was scheduled to appear in Comal County District Court in connection with his divorce proceedings set forth hereinafter, he was admitted to the McKenna Memorial Hospital for an "alleged" rattlesnake bite. His attorney, IRVIN BOARNET of New Braunfels, withdrew from the case following this incident.

A review of the Comal County District Court records revealed that on September 3, 1974, WILSON was indicted by a Comal County Grand Jury for Theft Over $200, a color television set being the property of DOROTHY E. WIMBERLY, under Cause Number 7520, in the 22nd Judicial District Court. An arrest warrant was served on WILSON on September 20, 1974, in Baxter County, Arkansas (Mountain Home). WILSON waived extradition and restitution was made. The charge was formally dismissed on March 30, 1976.

On February 7, 1975, an information was filed in Comal County District Court charging WILSON with Theft By Check. A capias was issued on February 7, 1975. WILSON, also known as WILLIAM WILSON, Highway 5, Mountain Home, Arkansas, was doing business as Ozark Jewelry and Watch Repair, (501) 425-8636. The charge was subsequently dismissed on December 22, 1977.

On August 7, 1974, WILSON was indicted by the Grand Jury in Comal County for Theft of Over $200 and Under $10,000 from ALBERT J. CRAUSE, Apartment 18, 1786 Austin Highway, San Antonio, Texas, under Cause Number 7712. WILSON pled guilty to this charge on March 11, 1976, at which time the following other charges were pending against him:

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 370

Cause Number 7520	Theft Over $200 - To be dismissed upon Restitution
Cause Number 7686	Theft Under $200 - To be dismissed upon Restitution
Cause Number 21,797	Pending in the 18th Judicial District Court, Johnson County, Texas - Criminal non-support case
	Case Pending in Oktibbeh, Mississippi - Fraud by False Pretenses

WILSON's spouse at that time was listed as PATRICIA WILSON, 103 Catherine Drive, Starkville, Mississippi.

As a result of WILSON's guilty plea, he was placed on 8 years probation by the 22nd Judicial District Court, Comal County, beginning March 25, 1976. He was to report weekly to the Probation Officer and pay $2500 restitution and $62.50 for court costs.

On June 8, 1976, the 22nd Judicial District Court issued a warrant for WILSON's arrest for violation probation. On June 9, 1976, a hearing to revoke his probation was held based on his appearance in the Comal County Courthouse under the influence of intoxicating liquors; his admission to frequently consuming alcoholic beverages and his failure and refusal to pay restitution.

On June 25, 1976, an order for continuing probation was issued after his serving 20 days in jail.

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On November 18, 1976, an order for arrest was issued by 207th Judicial District Court, Comal County, for WILSON's arrest for violation of probation. The capias was served on November 20, 1976. On November 25, 1976, an order continuing probation was issued after WILSON spent four days in jail.

On July 8, 1977, an order for WILSON's arrest was issued by the 207th Judicial District Court. Capias was served on July 9, 1977. Also on that date, an order for his arrest was issued by the 207th Judicial District Court for violation of probation involving the Theft of Over $200. The capias was served on July 13, 1977.

On April 18, 1978, an order was issued for WILSON's arrest by the 22nd Judicial District Court for violation of probation. The capias was issued on April 18, 1978.

On April 22, 1974, BETTY LOU WILSON filed a petition for divorce in Comal County District Court seeking to dissolve her marriage to BURGESS A. WILSON. The petition listed a son, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, born January 25, 1958, at Memphis, Tennessee. In the petition BETTY LOU WILSON listed her address as 1505 West Canyon Lake Drive, Startzville, Texas, and BURGESS WILSON's address as 101-B Wonderland Shopping Center, Timex Center, San Antonio, Texas. The petition indicated that they were married on February 25, 1967, and separated on March 28, 1974.

In a cross petition filed by BURGESS WILSON on May 21, 1974, he indicated that they were originally married on December 13, 1948, and divorced on August 28, 1966, in Memphis, Tennessee. They were remarried on February 28, 1967, and separated on March 28, 1974.

The cross petition indicated that the son, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, was residing with WILSON's daughter, DEBORAH ANN JONES. A degree of divorce was entered on June 27, 1974, granting custody of MARK ANTHONY WILSON to BETTY LOU WILSON and requiring BURGESS A. WILSON to pay child support. A motion for Contempt was filed on August 19, 1974, as WILSON was in arrears in child support payments. The court has been unable, until this time, to locate WILSON for the purpose of serving the necessary papers.

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1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV at New Braunfels, Texas:

On August 22, 1978, FRANK ALLEN, Probation Officer, Comal County, New Braunfels, Texas, advised that BURGESS WILSON was referred to his office for pre-sentence investigation on March 11, 1976. As a result of his pre-sentence investigation, he reported that the chances of successful probation by WILSON would be poor.

ALLEN stated that he did not believe WILSON to be capable of violence and noted that WILSON experiences illusions of grandeur and is capable of telling "wild stories" when drinking.

A review of the records of the Comal County Probation Office regarding WILSON revealed the following information:

Name	BURGESS WILSON
Date of Birth	August 28, 1931
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'11"
Weight	165 pounds
Eyes	Brown
FBI Number	879 421 E
Texas Department of Public Safety Number	1,80-898-4
Social Security Account Number	JFK Act 6 (3)
Mississippi Driver's License Number	
Address	5627 Culebra, Number 1401 San Antonio, Texas 78228
Spouse	PATRICIA ELSIA
Length of Marriage	7 months
Number of Marriages	3
Number of Dependents	4

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References

KENNETH L. KING
Pastor, First Baptist
Church of Canyon Lake,
Star Route #2
Box 94,
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
(512)964-3457

LAWRENCE F. HUGHEY
Route 1
Box 1955
Winona, Texas
(In letter of recommendation, HUGHEY indicated that he had never known WILSON to be hostile, although he did drink too much)

Relatives

Sister: Mrs. LYDIA MCGAHEY
2002 East 8th Avenue
North Columbus,
Mississippi

(WILSON indicated that this sister is the relative who understands him best)

Sister: Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHORP
Route 1
Fulton, Mississippi

One Brother (not further identified)

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Previous Employments	Crittenden Drywall 8310-A Speedway San Antonio, Texas Telephone 341-2407 (5/76)
	Austin Power, Incorporated Buda, Texas Telephone 295-7351 (12/77)
	U. S. Air Force (May, 1947 - February, 1960)
	Knights Life Insurance Memphis, Tennessee (July, 1963 - December, 1965)
	Prudential Insurance Company Memphis, Tennessee (February, 1960 - July, 1963)
	U. S. Air Force Reserve Richards - Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri - Panel Engineer (January, 1966 - January, 1967)
	Self-employed Jewelry and Watch Repairs, Starkville, Mississippi (January, 1967 - January, 1976)
Prior Marriages	BETTY LOU (HOOTEN) WILSON, December 13, 1948 - 1966; 1966-1973
	AVIS LEA (PRUETT) WILSON, December 31, 1974 - June 7, 1975

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Prior Arrests

1963 - Los Angeles, California - Bad Check - Restitution Made - Dismissed

1973 - San Antonio, Texas - Contempt of Court - Dismissed

1972 - San Antonio, Texas - Post-dated check - Made Good

1966 - Memphis, Tennessee - forgery - Dismissed

February, 1975, Mountain Home, Arkansas - Public Drunk - Fined

January, 1976, Hurst, Texas - Child support - pending

1974 - Fulton, Mississippi DWI - Fined

On March 25, 1976, under Cause Number 7712, WILSON was placed on 8 years probation by the 22nd Judicial District Court, Comal County, for Theft Over $200 and Under $10,000. The charge resulted from WILSON's taking a check for $2500 from a supposed business partner to Dallas, Texas, for the purpose of purchasing stock for their jewelry store. WILSON did not return. A condition of the probation was the restitution of $2500 and payment of court costs in the amount of $62.50.

On June 8, 1976, WILSON reported to the Probation Office while under the influence of alcohol. WILSON advised that he had been working for the U. S. Secret Service in Seguin, Texas, on a counterfeiting ring and that members of this ring were attempting to kill him. He admitted to being under the influence of alcohol and asked that his probation be revoked. WILSON was incarcerated in the Comal County Jail.

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Subsequent inquiry by ALLEN with the U.S. Secret Service determined that WILSON had furnished information of no value to that agency and that there was no counterfeiting ring. After approximately three days of incarceration WILSON advised ALLEN that the reason he had requested his probation be revoked was because he was seeking protection. He indicated that he wanted his probation continued. By report dated February 6, 1978, to the Probation Office, WILSON indicated that he was residing at 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas, 78666, telephone number 392-2776. He listed his employment as self-employed - construction. The report indicated that he was living with his wife, JO ANN WILSON.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 377

1
SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at New Braunfels, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, BARBARA HARTIGAN, Records, McKenna Memorial Hospital, New Braunfels, Texas, after having been furnished an Authority to Release Medical Information, executed by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR, furnished the following background and descriptive data:

Name	BURGESS WILSON
Date of Birth	August 28, 1931
Address	Box 1444 Startzville, Texas
Relatives	STEPHEN WILSON (son) 5427 Little Creek San Antonio, Texas 78242 Telephone 623-4939, U. S. Air Force
Occupation	Retired
Telephone Number	899-2764

Medical records indicate that on May 22, 1974, at 10:35 p.m., WILSON arrived at the Emergency Room, McKenna Memorial Hospital by ambulance experiencing severe chest pains and numbness of his right arm. Examination indicated an abnormal electro-cardiogram. WILSON was admitted at 12:05 a.m., May 23, 1974. He was treated for coronary occlusion. The following day the pain disappeared and the electro-cardiogram was normal. His past medical history listed alcoholism and heart attack, the last "heart attack" being in 1963 in Memphis, Tennessee.

On May 24, 1974, WILSON left the hospital via taxi against medical advice at 3:20 p.m.

It was noted in the medical records that WILSON has upper dentures.

On May 28, 1974, WILSON again appeared at the McKenna Memorial Hospital Emergency Room at 8:45 a.m., indicating that he had received a rattlesnake bite at approximately 7:30 a.m.,

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 378

while pulling weeds at his residence near Canyon Lake. He was admitted to the hospital at 9:45 a.m., with the initial diagnosis being "rattlesnake bite, possible; toxic hepatic dysfunction probably secondary to ethanol intake."

Examination of the wound revealed a slightly raised, scratched area on the left wrist, however, no fang marks were located. WILSON was determined to be allergic to anti-venom. Suction was applied to the wound area, however, no venom was located.

His medical history indicated that he supposedly has carcinoma of the prostate which was diagnosed at the University of Tennessee about six months prior to May 30, 1974. Patient admitted to slightly heavy use of alcohol.

WILSON was discharged at 9:10 a.m., on May 30, 1974.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 379

The following investigation was conducted by SA MANUEL MARQUEZ, JR.:

AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

On August 23, 1978, a search with Brownsville, Texas, Police Department records, Cameron County Sheriff's Office records, and Cameron County Jail records, failed to reflect any record identifiable with BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 380

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/25/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Gulfport, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-92

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

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

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 382

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

At 6:28 p.m., SAs LOUIS S. BULLARD and GEORGE L. HOLDER arrived at the Holiday Inn, Gulfport, Mississippi, to assist in a physical observation of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. SAs BULLARD and HOLDER parked in the rear parking lot of the Holiday Inn.

Approximately 6:55 p.m., SSRA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES instructed SAs BULLARD and HOLDER to maintain a loose surveillance of WILSON, who was traveling with Father NOEL FANNON, a Catholic priest, in a 1970 green Plymouth four-door sedan, bearing Jackson County, Mississippi, license JAH 637.

SAs BULLARD and HOLDER followed FANNON's vehicle to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where the vehicle was stopped by Ocean Springs police officers, at which time WILSON was placed under arrest as a state probation violator from Texas.

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Gulfport, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-93

by SA GEORGE L. HOLDER
SA LOUIS S. BULLARD LSB/blc Date dictated 8/23/78

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FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

Approximately 6:25 p.m., SA EDGAR L. O'NEILL, JR. arrived at the Holiday Inn, Gulfport, Mississippi, and instituted a physical observation in the dining room area to determine the possible presence of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. and Father NOEL FANNON. From available physical descriptive data, it was determined that these two men were not then present in the dining room of the Holiday Inn.

A few minutes later, SA BENJAMIN F. GRAVES was observed to be talking with a man fitting the physical description of Father NOEL FANNON, and a few minutes thereafter, SA GRAVES was observed to be speaking with an individual fitting the physical description of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.

SA GRAVES thereafter advised SA O'NEILL that he had been talking to BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. and that WILSON and Father NOEL FANNON had departed the Holiday Inn in a green Plymouth automobile bearing Mississippi license JAH 637, and SA O'NEILL was instructed to maintain a physical surveillance of this vehicle, which was traveling in an easterly direction toward Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

SA O'NEILL maintained this vehicle under continuous observation until such vehicle arrived in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, when it was stopped by units of the Ocean Springs Police Department and WILSON was arrested by officers of the Ocean Springs Police Department for state probation violation, such warrant being outstanding from the State of Texas.

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Gulfport, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-94

by SA EDGAR L. O'NEILL, JR. /blc Date dictated 8/23/78

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.

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/24/78

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

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

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

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Gulfport, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-95

b7d

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

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FD-263 (Rev. 7-15-75)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
JACKSON	MEMPHIS	9/12/78	8/18/78 - 8/23/78

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM	SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.	lrm
	CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY (B)	

REFERENCE:

Jackson airtel to Bureau, dated 8/21/78.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

In the interest of brevity, numerous teletypes generated by this investigation are not included in above references.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☒ NONE						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED WB SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

2 - 44 96

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3 - Memphis (44-1987 Sub M)
(1 - USA, Memphis, Tenn.)
1 - Jackson (62-544)
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Booth WB

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Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations
Waits

A*
COVER PAGE

c43—16—83489-1 GPO

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Report of: SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR. Office: JACKSON
Date: September 12, 1978

Field Office File #: Jackson 62-544 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., claims that he is "man that murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING" and conveyed this admission in recent past to at least eight non-law enforcement personnel (confirmed by enclosed interviews). WILSON arrested 8/18/78, by Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Police Department on probation violation from New Braunfels, Texas, PD and remanded to custody of Texas authorities on 8/23/78. WILSON variously described by relatives and associates as a quiet man, intelligent and coherent, while also at the same time, a "problem drinker" who, while under the influence of alcohol, loses contact with truth and reality.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970 O - 406-840

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

Mr. WILLIAM DON GLADDEN, age 46, white male, Route 3, Box 205-H-3 (Meadowlark Drive), Gulf Park Estates, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-3518), was contacted at the Seasons and Reasons Gift Shop located at 2446 Highway 90 East, Ocean Springs, Mississippi (telephone number 875-2531). Mr. GLADDEN furnished the following information:

He is employed as the manager of the Social Security Administration Office in Gulfport, Mississippi (telephone number 896-3221), but also is owner of the above noted gift shop along with his wife, ALICE A. GLADDEN. GLADDEN advised that he and his wife opened the gift shop in Ocean Springs on July 3, 1978.

On or about July 26, 1978, a man came to the gift shop and identified himself as "Bill" WILSON. He talked with GLADDEN's wife stating that he was getting ready to open a watch repair business in the Edgewater Shopping Mall in Biloxi, Mississippi, and wanted to use the GLADDEN's gift shop as a pickup point for watches to be repaired. Mrs. GLADDEN discussed the matter with her husband and he and WILSON agreed approximately four or five days later to permit WILSON to rent repair shop space in the rear of GLADDEN's gift shop.

According to GLADDEN, neither he nor his wife had ever met WILSON before but he was a friendly outgoing individual whonthey came to trust. He was a very good worker and always was the first one to open the store in the morning. WILSON paid his own money for a lot of radio ads for his watch repair business. WILSON had some of his own jewelry and watch repair equipment but after moving into GLADDEN's gift shop, spent several thousand dollars of his own money for additional equipment. GLADDEN advised that the only investment he (GLADDEN) had in the watch repair effort was that he agreed to go in half with WILSON on an $800 sign for the store.

GLADDEN again described WILSON as being a very fast, good worker, who was tactful with customers and was

Interviewed on 8/18/78 at Ocean Springs, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT and SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR./KWS/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

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always trying to "drum up new business". According to GLADDEN, all signs were that BILL WILSON was going to stay with the gift shop as a watch repairman on a permanent basis. After a few days, WILSON advised Mr. and Mrs. GLADDEN that he had changed his mind about opening up a watch and jewelry repair business in the Edgewater Mall, Biloxi, Mississippi.

GLADDEN advised that neither he nor his wife ever visited the WILSON residence in Ocean Springs but it was their understanding that WILSON resided in Apartment No. 9 at the Twin Pines Motel on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs for several days after first arriving in town. Later WILSON advised the GLADDENs that he had moved to a residence located at Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs (telephone number 875-9542). GLADDEN advised that this residence apparently is located on the Vancleave Road north of the Ocean Springs Hospital. WILSON told the GLADDENs that the house is owned by an unidentified friend who was letting him live there in exchange for keeping the house in good repair.

GLADDEN advised that WILSON is an excellent pilot. GLADDEN and his son flew with WILSON in a rented plane and according to GLADDEN, WILSON appeared to know everything about flying the plane and could handle it well in rough weather. GLADDEN did not know the extent of WILSON's education but described him as being an "extremely intelligent man". WILSON would come and go in the shop every day and had numerous advertising fliers printed up which he apparently hand delivered in various businesses around the Ocean Springs area.

GLADDEN advised that sometime after WILSON began working at his watch repair business in Ocean Springs, he became aware that WILSON had a drinking problem. The drinking problem, however, did not affect WILSON's work because he would come into the shop early every morning and do all of the watch repairs that were waiting for him and then he would leave for the day. GLADDEN advised that one salesman (identity unrecalled) who apparently had some contact with WILSON stated that WILSON told him that he had a drinking problem but was trying to work hard at the watch repair business in order to defeat this problem.

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On August 17, 1978, at around 11:45 p.m. WILSON telephoned ALICE GLADDEN at the GLADDEN residence in Ocean Springs. He asked to speak to WILLIAM D. GLADDEN who at that time was asleep. GLADDEN answered the phone and WILSON told him that he had to see him and his wife immediately about a matter which would not wait until the morning. WILSON refused to come to the GLADDEN residence and stated that they should meet at the gift shop to discuss a matter of "national urgency". GLADDEN stated that he became worried at WILSON's insistence so besides his wife, he took his 18 year old son along and met WILSON at the gift shop at 12:15 a.m. on August 18, 1978.

WILSON arrived at the gift shop at the appointed time driving his old model blue Chevrolet with a white top and unrecalled Louisiana license tags. He had been drinking because his breath smelled of alcohol and his eyes were extremely red; however, he did not talk like an intoxicated person. He appeared very depressed according to GLADDEN.

WILSON opened the conversation by saying, "I am the mystery man." When questioned by GLADDEN as to what he meant by this remark WILSON said, "I am the man that murdered Martin Luther King." GLADDEN advised that WILSON then talked with him for the next hour and 15 minutes about how he had grown up in Grenada, Mississippi, where his father was a Baptist preacher. WILSON described how his father's church was open for local blacks to worship in and they were treated like neighbors. When the racial unrest was running rampant in the State of Mississippi in 1967 some "northern" blacks came to the church escorted by FBI Agents. WILSON's father welcomed them to the church only if they were not there "for trouble". However, according to WILSON, they did come for trouble and his father subsequently died of a heart attack as a result of the racial unrest.

WILSON then stated again that, "I am the one that pulled the trigger." He stated that the KING killing was a conspiracy and that he was the logical one to pull the trigger. WILSON told the GLADDENs that he had been with the Government (not further described) and had been involved in undeclared wars (not further described). WILSON also said that he knew MARTIN LUTHER KING's father and brother and grew up right next door to KING's cousin and knew the entire family.

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(WILSON did not furnish the name of KING's cousin to the GLADDENs.)

GLADDEN advised that WILSON told him that he had purchased a white Mustang for his daughter and that it was similar to a vehicle which GLADDEN had purchased for his daughter in Ocean Springs. WILSON told GLADDEN that his daughter had driven the white Mustang to Memphis, Tennessee, just prior to the KING assassination. WILSON was supposed to be in Kansas City, Missouri, at the time of the assassination and had alibis to prove it when actually he too was in Memphis.

WILSON told GLADDEN that JAMES EARL RAY was the "fall guy". He said that RAY only saw him twice but WILSON knew who RAY was. RAY was supposed to have gotten away clean. WILSON said that he was surprised that RAY has brought it all back up again inasmuch as he (RAY) is probably due for parole in about two years.

WILSON told GLADDEN, "You won't see me anymore after tonight." He wanted the GLADDENs to have his watch repair equipment. WILSON again insisted to the GLADDENs that the KING assassination was a "group conspiracy". WILSON stated that he would only deal with the "Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, whom WILSON used to fly with". WILSON also said that he felt the Government (not further described) wanted the KING killing to happen and he (WILSON) knew it needed to be done and did not expect to get much time for it.

WILSON told GLADDEN that he was not sorry he did the KING killing since the "niggers are better off". Later in their conversation WILSON did say he was sorry that he had pulled the trigger.

WILSON told the GLADDENs that the Sheriff of Memphis had talked to him on the telephone and had agreed to meet WILSON in the Gulfport, Mississippi, Holiday Inn the morning of August 18, 1978. WILSON speculated that he would probably be allowed to have a television set in his cell and would probably be allowed to repair watches or give instruction in watch repair while in prison.

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WILSON also told the GLADDENs that he fired the shot that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING not from 50 yards but from about 50 feet away and he saw the bullet hit. WILSON said that, "I shot the shit out of him and saw it fly." WILSON never mentioned the type of gun he used nor did he tell the GLADDENs the location from which he allegedly fired the shot.

At one point during their conversation, WILSON looked at GLADDEN's son who apparently appeared disturbed by WILSON's revelations. WILSON told GLADDEN's son that he could tell he did not approve of what he had done but that he had better keep his nose out of it.

WILSON, who apparently had served in the U. S. Air Force, indicated that he had worked in some type of investigative work while in the military service.

WILSON kept bringing up the fact that he was going to meet with the Sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, the morning of August 18, 1978, and even offered to furnish GLADDEN this individual's name and telephone number if he wanted it for verification. GLADDEN declined.

WILSON said that he had gone through 10 years of hell because he killed KING. He said that it had ruined 26 years of a good marriage and now his conscience was bothering him more than ever in the last few years.

WILSON referred to a sketch of the KING murder suspect which apparently had been recently shown on television and told GLADDEN that the sketch was almost an exact likeness of him (WILSON).

WILSON said that he has a sister in Fulton, Mississippi, who telephoned him in Ocean Springs after the sketch was shown on television saying that the sketch looked exactly like him. According to WILSON he called his sister and other members of his family to let them know he was turning himself in.

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GLADDEN advised that at the end of their conversation, WILSON left the gift shop and drove east on Highway 90. GLADDEN feels sure that WILSON probably drove to the Angular's Inn Tavern which is located a short distance from the gift shop and was apparently frequented by WILSON.

GLADDEN advised that shortly before noon on August 18, 1978, he was telephonically contacted by WILSON who said that he was now at home and that he had been to the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi, accompanied by "the father" (not further identified). The sheriff of Memphis, Tennessee, had not shown up; however, there were individuals there believed by WILSON to be FBI Agents. He believed he had been betrayed and was now ready to "blow anyone's head off who comes to my house except the father". About three hours after this conversation WILSON walked into GLADDEN's gift shop. He was clean and neat and told GLADDEN that he apparently had been in touch with the FBI and that the FBI was not going to do anything to him. According to GLADDEN, WILSON indicated that he had worked out some "bargain" with the FBI and now WILSON wanted to live a normal routine life. He asked GLADDEN if he could continue working in the watch repair business. GLADDEN advised WILSON that he and his wife were seriously contemplating selling the business and they would make no decision about retaining him.

Outside the possibility that WILSON had a drinking problem, GLADDEN observed nothing unusual about the person and did not consider him to be "the typical psychopath". GLADDEN stated that in his job as manager of the Social Security Office he deals with a lot of people who have mental problems. He does not fit WILSON into any of the categories of mental imparities that he has observed. He recalled that he has heard a lot about WILSON's past life but nothing about his activities within the past 10 years. He recalled WILSON saying he had been married five times, twice to the same woman. WILSON said that he had been on the Mississippi Coast only for about three months even though he grew up in the State of Mississippi.

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

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

BRODERICK, a white male, stated that he was born February 7, 1940, and has completed three years of college.

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

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

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

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BRODERICK that he was scheduled to turn himself in at 9:30 a.m., on August 18, 1978, at the Holiday Inn in Biloxi, Mississippi. At the time WILSON was telling BRODERICK the above information, WILSON had tears in his eyes and said he had been living with this on his conscience for ten years and could not stand it anymore. Also listening in to a portion of the above conversation was part-time bartender, DOROTHY WOODSIDE.

BRODERICK stated that he asked WILSON during the conversation on the night of August 16, 1978, if he was RAOUL and WILSON did not either deny or confirm this statement.

BRODERICK stated that WILSON had dated a female, RITA HERRINGTON, and that RITA HERRINGTON's son, HOWARD HERRINGTON, went to New Orleans with WILSON at one time.

BRODERICK stated that WILSON came into the Angle Inn on the morning of August 18, 1978, and stated that he was turning himself in to the Sheriff of Shelby County at 6:30 p.m., on that day at the Holiday Inn in Gulfport, Mississippi. WILSON used the pay telephone in the Angle Inn to call the Sheriff of Shelby County and he wrote the number of the sheriff on a Yellow Cab Company card on the wall by the pay telephone. BRODERICK made available this Yellow Cab Company sign to the interviewing Agent. Written on this sign was the telephone number 901: 528-3600. WILSON stated that he could not turn himself in on the morning of August 18, 1978, because the sheriff could not be at the motel because of the police strike now going on in Memphis, Tennessee.

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Date of transcription August 21, 1978

DOROTHY RUTH WOODSIDE, 203 Morris Noble Road, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-4721, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. WOODSIDE stated that she is a part-time bartender at the Angle Inn Restaurant and Lounge located on Highway 90 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. She stated she works full time as an accountant at Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries, Pascagoula, Mississippi. WOODSIDE is a white female, born August 27, 1924, and has a high school education plus graduating from business college.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Date of transcription 8/24/78

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

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

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

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of Transcription 8/25/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Date of transcription 8/23/78

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

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

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

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

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

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Date of transcription 8/22/78

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

Current Texas driver's license #7911315 under the name of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas. License expires 1980 and indicates the date of birth of August 28, 1931.

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

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

A business card for DANIEL D. GUICE, JR., Field Supervisor, Mississippi Probation and Parole Office, Biloxi, Mississippi, telephone 432-2271.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A bill of sale bearing the name of VERA M. NEVILL, Canyon Lake, Texas, Route 4, Box 620G.

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

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

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

A Veteran's Administration patient data card under the name of BURGESS A. WILSON, Canyon Lake, Texas, card #422341275.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A card bearing WILSON's Social Security Number JFK Act 6 (3).

A credit type card from the Security State Bank, Starkville, Mississippi, under the name of Colonel BURGESS A. WILSON, USAF, retired, #3038940.

Private pilot certificate number 1106770 issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, showing BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., of 13125 Herrick Avenue, Grandview, Missouri, 64030, is authorized to fly single and multi-engine land airplanes.

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

A Department of Transportation medical certificate first class form signed by Dr. JAMES B. MARTIN, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on August 9, 1978, giving the examining physician serial as 12021-1.

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 8/21/78

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

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

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

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/21/78

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

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

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

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill, date of birth August 28, 1931, Social Security Account Number JFK Act 6 (3) furnished the following information to SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT:

Mr. WILSON advised that he was born August 28, 1931, at Fulton, Mississippi, and that he resided with his family at Golden, Mississippi, until 1936, at which time the family moved to Eldridge, Alabama, where he attended school until the eighth grade and then went to high school at Carbon Hill, Alabama, until 1947.

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

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

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

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

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

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

by SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He furnished the following description of himself:

Name	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.
Also known as	Bill
Date of birth	August 28, 1931
Place of birth	Fulton, Mississippi
Height	5 feet 11 inches
Weight	170 pounds
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Gray
Social Security Number	JFK Act 6 (3)
Education	High school graduate
Military service	U. S. Air Force 1947-1960
Father	BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi
Mother	MITTIE DALE (deceased)
Stepmother	LILLIE MAE WILSON (deceased) Grenada, Mississippi
Brother	ALLISON TOWERS WILSON Reform, Alabama
Sister	LYDA MC GAHEY 2002 East Eighth Avenue North Columbus, Mississippi
Sister	CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE Fulton, Mississippi
Ex-wife	BETTY LOU WILSON WADE Burleson, Texas
Ex-wife	AVIS LEA HUNTER 1010 Hickory Hill Lane Hermitage, Tennessee
Ex-wife	PATRICIA SHINDALA Starkville, Mississippi (believed killed in car accident)
Ex-wife	JO ANN CHILDRESS 113 Mill Street San Marcos, Texas

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 19, 1978

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

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

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

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

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

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

by SA K. P. WHITE-SPUNNER, JR.
SA ROYCE DAVID HIGNIGHT/RDH/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON advised that he flew to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Bonanza aircraft and landed at an airport just north of Raleigh, Tennessee. He stated that the airport was operated by a long-time acquaintance of his who had attended a church which was pastored by WILSON's father in the past. WILSON stated that his daughter, DEBORAH, picked him up at the airport in her 1965 white Mustang, which WILSON had previously bought for her and which was registered in his name in Missouri.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 8/21/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

On August 19, 1978, FRED TILGHMAN, Chief of Police, Grenada, Mississippi, Police Department, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants for BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, date of birth, August 28, 1931, place of birth, Fulton, Mississippi.

On August 19, 1978, JACK SIMMONS, Deputy Sheriff, Grenada County Sheriff's Office, Grenada, Mississippi, advised he could locate no arrest record or outstanding warrants on BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as BILL WILSON, white male, date of birth, August 28, 1931, at Fulton, Mississippi.

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

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

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

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

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

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

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

BELL identified the WILSON children as follows:

1. Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE (phonetic)
   Fulton, Mississippi

2. BILL WILSON
   Kansas City, Kansas

3. LIDA (Last Name Unknown)
   Columbus, Mississippi

4. One other son, name not known.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/22/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

by SA GWYNNE L. HUPFER/bjw Date dictated 8/21/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/23/78

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

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

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

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

by SA DONALD H. GREENE/njb Date dictated 8/21/78

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FBI/DOJ

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

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

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

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

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

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Mrs. GUNTHARP concluded by stating that she has very little confidence in any statements made by her brother in view of her past experience with him.

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JN 62-544
HHC/kbn
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The following investigation was conducted at Ocean Springs, Mississippi by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER on August 19, 1978:

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

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

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

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription August 21, 1978

CARL D. FORTNA, Route 6, Box 387, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, telephone number 875-0220, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. FORTNA, a white male, born June 2, 1932, in Great Bend, Kansas, advised that he completed the tenth grade of high school, and he could read and write.

FORTNA stated that he met BILL WILSON in Belton, Missouri, in 1966 or 1967. FORTNA was in the Air Force at this time stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that WILSON and WILSON's wife owned a jewelry store in Belton, Missouri, and that WILSON was a member of the 442nd Air Force Reserve Unit stationed at Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base. FORTNA stated he knew WILSON through their association in the VFW in Belton, Missouri. FORTNA stated that he, FORTNA, retired from the Air Force in 1969 and did not see WILSON again except for one brief moment in 1972 until approximately two months ago. WILSON came to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, from Lafayette, Louisiana, about two months ago and lived in the Twin Pines Motel on Highway 90, Ocean Springs, Mississippi. On July 23, 1978, WILSON moved into a house owned by FORTNA located next door to FORTNA's present residence.

At approximately 4:15 PM on August 18, 1978, WILSON asked FORTNA to come into WILSON's house, that he had something very important to tell him. WILSON told FORTNA, "I killed that black son-of-a-bitch." FORTNA asked WILSON who he was talking about, and WILSON replied MARTIN LUTHER KING. FORTNA stated that he told WILSON he did not believe him, and WILSON said, "I am telling you the truth. I actually killed him. I've been living with it for ten years, and I can't take it anymore." WILSON told FORTNA that MARTIN LUTHER KING was responsible for WILSON's father's death. WILSON did not elaborate further on this. WILSON told FORTNA that this killing was "engineered" by LOU CRUZ (phonetic). FORTNA stated that he knows LOU CRUZ and that LOU CRUZ owned or still owns Lou Cruz Jewelry, 1505 Main Street, Grandview, Missouri. WILSON told FORTNA that he drove to the State Line Airport in Kansas City, Missouri, driving a new Ford Thunderbird. WILSON told FORTNA that CRUZ

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

by SA HARRY H. CARPENTER/mae Date dictated 8/19/78

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also owned an identical Ford Thunderbird. WILSON left his Thunderbird at the airport and flew to Memphis, Tennessee. CRUZ came to the airport and picked up WILSON's Thunderbird and took it from the airport so it would not be noticed. When WILSON arrived in Memphis, he borrowed a white Ford Mustang that he had purchased for his daughter, DEBORAH. DEBORAH had driven from Kansas City to Memphis in the Mustang. WILSON told FORTNA that he went to the motel where MARTIN LUTHER KING was staying and that he used a Japanese sniper rifle and shot KING holding the rifle on his hip. He stated that this rifle is now in the possession of WILSON's son, STEVE. WILSON told FORTNA that he was driving away from the scene in the Mustang, and he was stopped by the Memphis police, but he talked himself out of a ticket, and the car was not searched. He stated that the rifle was in the trunk of the car at this time. WILSON told FORTNA that he then flew his airplane back to Kansas City, and CRUZ picked him up at the airport and took him home.

FORTNA stated that when WILSON told him the above information, he, FORTNA, believed that WILSON thought he was telling the truth and that he swore on his mother's grave in front of a priest that it was the truth. FORTNA stated that WILSON had never mentioned this subject prior to this instance. FORTNA stated that WILSON has been drinking heavily for the past two months and has lied to him several times in the past two months. WILSON, on occasion, would tell FORTNA that he had been married three or four times since divorcing his first wife and then come back at a later date and say that he had not been married after divorcing his first wife.

FORTNA stated that WILSON is an excellent pilot, that he, FORTNA, has flown with WILSON through bad weather, and WILSON had no problems flying the aircraft.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8-21-78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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JN 62-544
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6

application for employment

PERSONAL INFORMATION Date 7-5-78 Social Security Number JFK Act 6 (3)

Name WILSON (Last) BILL (First) AUDIE (Middle) Age 46 Sex M

Present Address TWIN PINES APT #9 (Street) OCEAN SPRINGS (City) MS (State) 39564 (Zip)

Permanent Address (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Phone Number 875-0220 Own Home Rent ✓ Board

Date of Birth 8-28-31 Height 5'11" Weight 170 Color of Hair BLACK Color of Eyes BROWN

Married Single Widowed Divorced ✓ Separated

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

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

EMPLOYMENT DESIRED

Position CARPENTER Date You Can Start 7-6-78 Salary Desired 4.00 HR

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

Ever Applied to this Company Before? NO Where When

EDUCATION	Name and Location of School	Years Attended	Date Graduated	Subjects Studied
Grammar School	ITAWAMBA High FULTON, MISS.	12	MAY/49	GEN
High School				
College				
Trade, Business or Correspondence School				

Subjects of Special Study or Research Work

What Foreign Languages Do You Speak Fluently? NONE Read Write

U. S. Military or Naval Service USAF Rank M/SGT Present Membership in National Guard or Reserves NO

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

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

(Continued on Other Side)

Form 660-26 U. S. A WILSON JONES APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

JN-62-544
3

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

Date Month and Year	Name and Address of Employer	Salary	Position	Reason for Leaving
From JAN 78	LA. OFFSHORE			TIRED WORK
To JUN 78	HOUMA, LA.	4.05 HR	STEWARD	OFFSHORE
From FEB 75	CONTRACTOR		SELF	NO WORK
To NOV 77	COLUMBUS, MISS.	200.00 WK	EMPLOYED	AVAILABLE
From MAY 63	U.S. AIR FORCE			
To FEB 75	KEESLER AFB, MS	1100.00 MO	M/SGT	RETIRED
From				
To				

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

	Name	Address	Business	Years Acquainted
1	CARL FORTNA	OCEAN SPRINGS DRIVE OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS	RETIRED USAF	12
2	LARRY MCQUEEN	207 BALLANTRAE HOUSTON, TX	ENGINEER	15
3	MARTIN BRADSHAW	P.O. BOX 40 BRUSSALD, LA.	LA-OFFSHORE	3

PHYSICAL RECORD:

List Any Physical Defects NONE

Were You Ever Injured? NO Give Details

Have You Any Defects In Hearing? NO In Vision? NO In Speech? NO

In Case of Emergency Notify MRS. RUSSELL MCGAHEY (Name) 2002 E. 8TH AVE N. COLUMBUS MISS (Address) 601-327-1141 (Phone No.)

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

Date 7-5-78 Signature [illegible]

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Interviewed By Date

REMARKS:

Neatness		Character	
Personality		Ability	

Hired For Dept. Position Will Report Salary Wages

Approved: 1. Employment Manager 2. Dept. Head 3. General Manager

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JN 62-544
/blc
1

AT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTER, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

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

AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

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

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

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 438

JN 62-544
BWW/lrm
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The following investigation was conducted by SA BRENT W. WARBERG at Columbus, Mississippi:

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

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 439

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

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

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 440

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
JACKSON	MEMPHIS	9/19/78	8/23/78

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM	SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.	bal
	CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY (B)	

REFERENCE:

Jackson report of SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR., dated 9/12/78.

-RUC-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☐ NONE						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED ZB SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

4 - Bureau (44-38861)
3 - Memphis (44-1987 Sub M)
(1 - USA, Memphis, Tenn.)
1 - Jackson (62-544)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

62 544 97

Searched OK
Serialized OK
Indexed OK
Filed OK

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

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c43—16—83489-1 GPO

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Report of: SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.
Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 1978

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: 62-544

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHARP, sister of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., emphatically stated on 8/23/78, that she did not contact her brother, "BILL" WILSON, in Ocean Springs, Ms., in the recent past concerning her alleged recognition of a likeness to him with regard to a sketch of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, which supposedly was shown on television.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

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☆ U.S.GPO:1975-0-575-841

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/19/78

Mrs. CHRISTINE (LEON) GUNTHARP, Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi, was recontacted, at which time she was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent. She was advised specifically that the purpose of this interview was to resolve a statement attributed to her brother, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., to the effect that GUNTHARP's brother indicated that a sketch of a suspect in the Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., murder case, which was allegedly shown on television recently, was almost an exact likeness of WILSON. GUNTHARP was advised that WILSON said his sister (GUNTHARP) telephoned WILSON in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, after the sketch was allegedly shown on television, saying that the sketch looked exactly like him.

Concerning the above matter, Mrs. GUNTHARP stated emphatically that she did not contact her brother, "BILL" WILSON, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, in the recent past concerning her alleged recognition of a likeness to him with regard to a sketch of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, which supposedly was shown on television.

Interviewed on 8/23/78 at Fulton, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA DONALD H. GREENE: bal Date dictated 9/19/78

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VZ CZ CKC 0141

DR BR JR AT NO LA

DE HQ 0141 2627123

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM ROUTINE

FBI JACKSON ROUTINE

FBI ATLANTA ROUTINE

FBI NEW ORLEANS ROUTINE

FBI LOS ANGELES ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUREAU DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 26, 1978.

THE HSCA, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., REQUESTED BY LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1978, ACCESS TO ALL BUREAU FILE MATERIAL AS WELL AS MATERIAL FROM THE FIELD OFFICES OF BIRMINGHAM, JACKSON, ATLANTA, NEW ORLEANS AND LOS ANGELES, ON THE CITIZENS COUNCIL OF AMERICA FOR THE YEARS 1967-1968. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE CITIZENS COUNCIL OF AMERICA IS A

62-544-98

SEP 19

Wants

Buded 9/26/78
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SEPARATE ORGANIZATION FROM THE WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL.

RECIPIENT OFFICES FURNISH FBI HEADQUARTERS TWO COPIES OF ANY COMMUNICATION MEETING ABOVE CRITERIA. ALL COPIES SHOULD BE CLEARLY LEGIBLE AND SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, MAILED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BT

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FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/19/78

Mrs. CHRISTINE (LEON) GUNTHARP, Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi, was recontacted, at which time she was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent. She was advised specifically that the purpose of this interview was to resolve a statement attributed to her brother, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., to the effect that GUNTHARP's brother indicated that a sketch of a suspect in the Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., murder case, which was allegedly shown on television recently, was almost an exact likeness of WILSON. GUNTHARP was advised that WILSON said his sister (GUNTHARP) telephoned WILSON in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, after the sketch was allegedly shown on television, saying that the sketch looked exactly like him.

Concerning the above matter, Mrs. GUNTHARP stated emphatically that she did not contact her brother, "BILL" WILSON, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, in the recent past concerning her alleged recognition of a likeness to him with regard to a sketch of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, which supposedly was shown on television.

Interviewed on 8/23/78 at Fulton, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544-99

by SA DONALD H. GREENE: bal Date dictated 9/19/78

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FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [x] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] E F T O
- [ ] CLEAR

Date 9/26/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
ATT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Re FBIHQ teletype, dated 9/19/78, captioned as above.

Enclosed, under separate cover, are two Xerox copies of documents from indicated Jackson files:

JN 157-316 (CITIZENS COUNCIL OF AMERICA) (Bufile 105-46604)

(1) 45 serials numbered 314-357. It is noted that two serials are numbered 338.

(2) 21 exhibits numbered 1A-37 (two separate pamphlets); 1A-43 - 1A-61

JN 157-59 (GREATER LOS ANGELES CITIZENS COUNCIL) (Bufile 105-34237)

3 serials numbered 24-26

JN 157-527 (ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI) (Bufile 105-34237-33)

8 serials numbered 526-533

JN 157-1799

One serial numbered 23

62-544-100

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

"CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL ATTACHED"

3 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Package Copy (Enc. 268)
1 - Jackson
JAW/bal (4)

DO NOT DESTROY

Approved: Transmitted (Number) (Time) Per

Files + index cards marked not to be destroy these two pages

GPO: 1977 O - 225-590

JN 62-544

JN 157-1909

(1) 7 serials numbered 26-32

(2) 1A-1

JN 157-9577

12 serials numbered 1-12

JN 157-1801

8 serials numbered 158-165

JN 157-6614

16 serials numbered 8-24 (serial 15 skipped)

JN 157-9335

2 serials numbered 1 and 2

JN 157-6711

One serial numbered 10

JN 157-1742

2 serials numbered 6 and 7

JN 157-1806

(1) One serial numbered 11

(2) 1A-1

JN 157-1796

(1) 3 serials numbered 34, 56, 57

(2) 2 exhibits numbered 1A-1, 1A-2

It should be noted that above Jackson file numbers not immediately followed by title of case represent individual cases opened concerning local groups by county within the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, supra.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 448

Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 3-23-71)

Elsur indices negative 9/21/78 [illegible]

Check General & Elsur indices

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date 9/20/78

Subject
CITIZENS COUNCIL OF AMERICA

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling
☒ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
157-316*	Provide copies of serials 314-357		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
157-59*	Provide copies of serials (24-26)		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.

Please file JW

Requested by	Squad	Extension	File No.
Waits	4	70	62-544

Searched by [illegible] 9/21/78 (date)

Consolidated by _____ (date)

Reviewed by _____ (date)

62-544-101
KH KH
SEP 1978

File Review Symbols
I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

☆G.P.O. 1972-471-961

Indices Search Slip
FD-162 (Rev. 3-23-71)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

Subject: Citizens Council of America

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
X 157-11614*	Info. subsequent to 1968		
X 157-1742*	✓ Provide serials 6 & 7.	DO NOT DESTROY FILE.	
X 157-1743*	Info. prior to 1967		
X 157-1800*	No info. for years 1967 & 1968.		
X 157-2250*	No info. for years 1967 & 1968.		
X 157-9335*	✓ Provide copies of serials 1 & 2		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.

DO NOT DESTROY FILE.

Requested by	Squad	Extension	File No.

Searched by _____ (date)

Consolidated by _____ (date)

Reviewed by _____ (date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

FBI/DOJ

Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 3-23-71)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

Subject: Citizens Council of America

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
X 157-1808*	No info. for years	1967 + 1968	
X 157-1694*	No info. for the years	1967 + 1968	
X 157-658*	Reviewed - Info. prior to 1967.		
X 157-1847*	No info for years	1967 + 1968	
X 62-2-575	" " " "	" "	
X 157-527*	Association of Citizens' Comm. of Miss.		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
	✓ Provide copies of serials 526-533 - Relative re IA data		
X 105-86*	Info. re Drew County Citizen Council, Monticello, Arkansas		
	Reviewed - Info. prior to 1967.		
X 157-9577*	✓ Provide copies of serials (1-12)		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
X 157-6711*	✓ Provide copies of serial 10		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
~~157-1799*~~			
X X 157-1841*	No info for 1967 + 1968.		
X 157-1739*	" " " "	"	
X 157-1835*	No info for years	1967 + 1968	
X 157-1549*			
X 157-1838*	No info for years	1967 + 1968.	
X 157-1909*	✓ Provide copies of serials (26-32)		+ DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
X 157-1908*	No info. for years	1967 + 1968	

DO NOT DESTROY FILE.

DO NOT DESTROY FILE.

Requested by | Squad | Extension | File No.

Searched by _____ (date)

Consolidated by _____ (date)

Reviewed by _____ (date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

FBI/DOJ

Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 3-23-71)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date 9-21-78

Subject Citizens Council of America

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
X 157-1690*	No info. for years 1967 + 1968		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
X 157-1856*	" " " "	" "	DO NOT DESTROY FILE
X 157-454*	No info for 1967-1968		
X 157-5958*	" " " "	"	
X 157-658*	Reviewed - Info prior to 1967		DO NOT DESTROY FILE
X 157-1823*	No info for years 1967 + 1968.		
X 157-1840*	No info for 1967 + 1968		
X 157-2403*	" " " "	"	
X 157-1847*	" " " "	"	
X 157-6614*	✓ Provide copies of serials (8-24)		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
X 157-1882*	No info. for 1967 + 1968.		
X 157-1795*	No info. for 1967 + 1968.		
X 157-1799*	✓ Provide copies of serial 23		DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
X 157-1798*	No info. for years 1967 + 1968.		
X 105-86*	Info. re Drew County Citizens Council, Monticello, Arkansas Reviewed - Info. prior to 1967.		
X 157-1843*	Re - Dwent, min., Citizens Council Reviewed - Info. prior to 1967.		
~~157-1909*~~			

Requested by	Squad	Extension	File No.

Searched by _____ (date)

Consolidated by _____ (date)

Reviewed by _____ (date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

FBI/DOJ

Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 3-23-71)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

Subject: Citizens Council of America

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address	Birth Date	Birthplace	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

☐ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only
☐ Criminal References Only
☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)
☐ Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
157-1692*	No info for years	1967 + 1968	DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
157-1693*	No info. for years	1967 + 1968.	
157-1883*	" " " "	" "	
157-5028*	" " " "	" "	
157-717*	No info. for years	1967 + 1968.	DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
157-1837*	No info for years	1967 + 1968.	
157-1886*	" " " "	" "	
157-1904*	No info. for years	1967 + 1968.	
157-1801*	✓ Provide copies of serials	158-165	DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
157-1895*	No info. for 1967 + 1968		
157-1896*	" " " "	"	
157-1806*	✓ Provide copies of serials	11 and 141	DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
157-1798*	No info for years	1967 + 1968	
157-1694*	No info for years	1967 + 1968.	
157-1796*	✓ Provide copies of serials	34, 56, 57 + 141, 142	DO NOT DESTROY FILE.
157-1789*	No info for 1967 + 1968		
157-1807*	No info. for years	1967 + 1968	

Requested by	Squad	Extension	File No.

Searched by _____ (date)

Consolidated by _____ (date)

Reviewed by _____ (date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not identical
? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

FBI/DOJ

AIRTEL

10/2/78

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Chicago (44-1114)
Dallas (44-2649)
Houston (44-1509)
Jackson (62-544)
Kansas City (44-760)
Memphis (44-1987 sub M)
Oklahoma City (44-686)
Pittsburgh (44-1572)
San Antonio (44-1242)
St. Louis (44-775)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

RE: ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON

Copies of all reports from recipient offices have been received and have been forwarded to the Department.

Based on the extensive investigation conducted re this Burgess Audie Wilson allegation including the fact investigation determined he did not have access to the airplane in April of 1968, nor to a vehicle in Missouri as he claimed, the Department requested no further investigation re the Wilson allegation.

Promptly report any additional information to FBIHQ volunteered re the Wilson allegation; however, conduct no active investigation unless instructed by FBIHQ as directed by the Department.

62-544-102

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

OCT 4 1978

FBI-JACKSON

Watts

FIRTEE

10/2/78

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Chicago (44-1114)
Dallas (44-2643)
Houston (44-1508)
Jackson (62-544)
Kansas City (44-740)
Memphis (44-1987 sub N)
Oklahoma City (44-630)
Pittsburgh (44-1572)
San Antonio (44-1342)
St. Louis (44-775)

From: Director, FBI (44-38661)

NUBKIN

RE: ALLEGATION BY DOROTHY AUDIE WILSON

Copies of all reports from recipient offices have been received and have been forwarded to the Department.

Based on the extensive investigation conducted re this Burgess Audie Wilson allegation including the Feet investigation determined he did not have access to the airplane in April of 1968 nor to a vehicle in Missouri as he claimed, the Department requested no further investigation re the Wilson allegation.

Promptly report any additional information to FBIHQ volunteered re the Wilson allegation; however, conduct no active investigation unless instructed by FBIHQ as directed by the Department.

62-544-102

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

OCT 4 1978

FBI—JACKSON

0-3 (Rev. 7-27-76)

TRANSMIT VIA: airtel

PRECEDENCE:

CLASSIFICATION: DATE: October 2, 1978

To: SAC, Jackson (62-544)

From: Director, FBI (62-117290)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Re Jackson airtel, 9/26/78.

Enclosed for Jackson is one copy of "The Citizen" dated November, 1968, which was included with Xerox copies of other documents.

Enclosure

(This line for LEFT MARGIN.)

(Do not type BEYOND THIS MARGIN.)

also enclose Lauter
157-316-1860
AW

62-544-103

(Do not type below this line.)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

OCT 1978

FBI/DOJ

Wants
Wheels

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [xx] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] _____

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [xx] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] UNCLAS E F T O
- [x] UNCLAS

Date 10/16/78

FM JACKSON (62-544)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY 1917 Z

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, JEH BUILDING

MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB-M) PRIORITY 1924 Z

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS; MURKIN.

RE JACKSON AIRTEL TO BUREAU AND MEMPHIS, APRIL 18, 1969.

FOR INFO OF BUREAU, THE ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, CORINTH, MS., IS IN RECEIPT OF A LETTER DATED OCTOBER 10, 1978, FROM JAMES EARL RAY, IN WHICH RAY STATES THAT UNTIL "JUST RECENTLY" HE ASSUMED THAT AUTHORITIES KNEW THAT HE HAD REGISTERED IN A MOTEL IN CORINTH, MS., ON APRIL 1, 1968. IN THE LETTER, RAY REQUESTS THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND ANY RECORDS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE AT THAT DEPARTMENT TO VERIFY THAT HE AND/OR A 1966 MUSTANG BEARING ALA. LICENSE B8993, REGISTERED TO ERIC S. GALT, WAS SEEN IN CORINTH, MS., ON APRIL 1, 1968. RAY

1 - Jackson

DHG/bal (1)

62-544-104

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Greene

Approved: K/Z48

Transmitted 0001 (Number) (Time)

Per

FBI/DOJ

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [ ] _____

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] UNCLAS E F T O
- [ ] UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO DE JN 0001 UNCLAS JN 62-544

ATTACHED TO HIS LETTER A SKETCH OF HIS RECOLLECTION AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE MOTEL IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY STAYED APRIL 1, 1968.

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE ABOVE DESCRIBED MUSTANG AUTO AND RAY AND HIS KNOWN ALIASES WAS CONDUCTED IN ALCORN COUNTY, MS., AT LOCAL MOTELS DURING THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION WTIH THE KILLING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. REFERENCED AIRTEL DISCLOSED THAT CONTACT WAS MADE WITH ALL MOTELS LOCATED IN CORINTH, MS., AND VICINITY AND NO RECORD WAS LOCATED UNDER SUBJECT'S TRUE NAME, KNOWN ALIASES AND ALABAMA LICENSE IN CONNECTION WITH CAR DRIVEN BY SUBJECT.

LHM TO INCLUDE COPY OF RAY'S OCTOBER 10, 1978, LETTER TO THE ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU.

BT

#0001

NNNN

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____ FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Post Office Box 1450
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
November 28, 1978

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

(X)

On October 12, 1978, Edwin B. Coleman, Sheriff, Alcorn County, Corinth, Mississippi, telephonically contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation advising that on that date, he received a letter from James Earl Ray, postmarked Petros, Tennessee, Zip Code 37845, requesting that the Alcorn County Sheriff's Department furnish any records they may have to indicate that a 1966 Mustang displaying Alabama License B8993, was observed in Alcorn County, Corinth, Mississippi, April 1, 1968. In his letter, Ray claims to have been registered at a Corinth motel on April 1, 1968.

As reflected in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, extensive investigation concerning Eric S. Galt and a 1966 Mustang registered in the Galt name, was conducted subsequent to the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee.

62-544-105

3 - Bureau (44-38861)
2 - Memphis (44-1987 SUB M)
(1) - Jackson (62-544) (RUC)
DHG/drw
(6)

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

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.

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

The entire scope of this investigation is a matter of record in the FBI investigative reports.

Since all logical investigation concerning this matter has been concluded, no additional investigative effort in response to Ray's letter is being pursued at this time.

A photocopy of the envelope, letter, and attached diagram is attached hereto.

NW 55186 DocId:32989768 Page 460

JN 62-594

ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

P. O. BOX 1573
CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI 38834

EDWIN B. COLEMAN, SHERIFF
TERRY W. DOLES, CHIEF DEPUTY

PHONE (601) 286-5521
286-5522
JAIL 286-3952

October 13, 1978

Donald Green
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Ref: Enclosed letter

Dear Don,

On October 12, 1978, I recieved a letter from James Earl Ray requesting that this Department try to locate a motel that he stayed in or April 1, 1968. The motel is supposed to be on Highway 72 in Corinth. I checked with the Southern Motel and they have no record. I also checked with the Corona Plaza. They have no record but the ownership has changed hands several times since 1968 and the present owner is trying to locate the old records.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter and diagram of the location of the motel. Also enclosed is a message from the National Sheriff's Association addressed to Mr. Ray.

Do you think there is any reason why we should check any further into this matter since you checked all the motels in 1968?

If we can be of any assistance to you in the future, please feel free to call on us.

With kindness and best regards,

Edwin

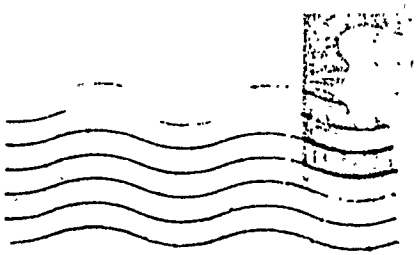
Edwin B. Coleman, Sheriff

EBC;bet

cc

enc

R y,j-65477
[illegible]
Petros, [illegible] 37845.



Sheriff Edwin E. Coleman
Alcorn County Sheriff's Dept.
Corinth, Mississippi...38834.

Mr. Edwin B. Coleman
Sheriff, Alcorn County
Corinth, Mississippi. 38834.

10 October 1978

James E. Ray #65477
B.M.P.
Petros, TN.37845.

Dear Sheriff Coleman:

This letter pertains to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr homicide and related matter as follows:

On April 1, 1968, I checked into a Motel in Corinth, Mississippi, and departed the following morning. Until just recently I assumed the authorities knew this consequently I never asked anyone to check into the matter. Now I learn the authorities believe I was else where April 1st.

My reason(s) for this letter is to enquire if your office has a record, through perhaps a routine check of cars registered in Motels on the aforementioned date, of the automobile I was driving. It was a 1966 Mustang registered under the name of Eric S. Galt; Alabama tag no. B 8993.

Also, assuming Motels have to be licensed by the city or county in Mississippi, would either of thoes Governments require Motels to retain, or furnish them to retain, a list of the Motel Guests ? possibly for tax purposes.

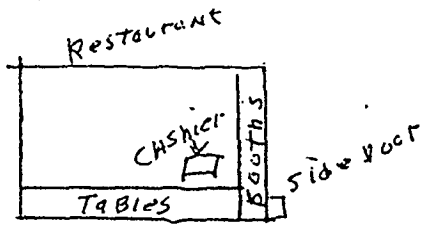
Finally any other information about the above subject from your office would be very mush appreciated, such as the 1968 Owner of the Motel I stayed in (see disgram attached), providing the Diagram can be matched with the Motel.

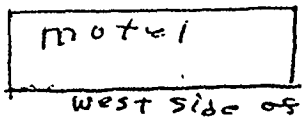
Sincerely:

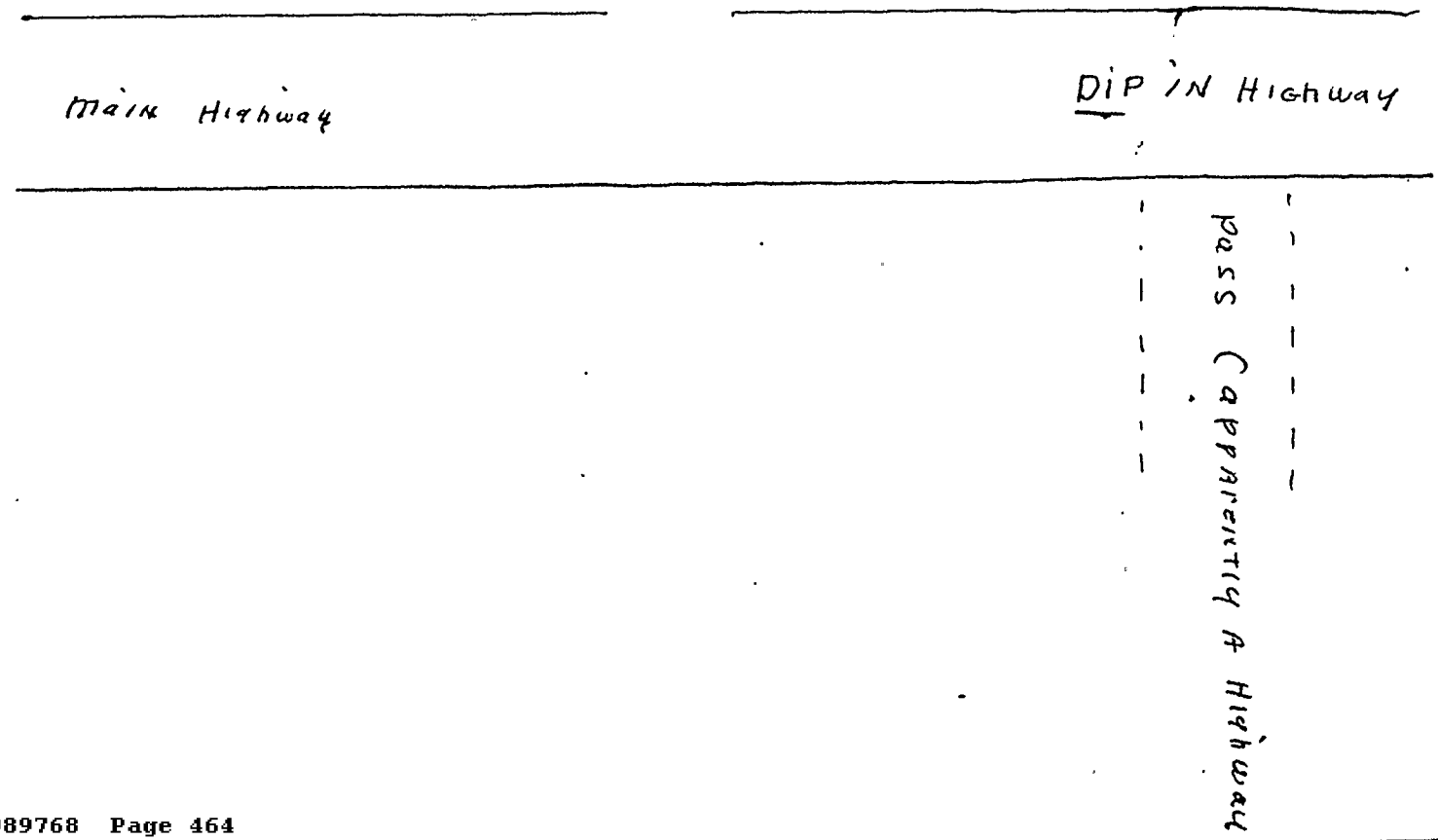
James Ray

from Dip.

2. Not sure about restaurant or just how far from Motel. Restaurant. EVEN with motel I believe. I had breakfast there







MESSAGE	REPLY
TO James E. Ray #65477 B.M.P. Petros, Tennessee 37845	DATE
DATE October 3, 1978	

Per your recent request the following are the current sheriffs in the areas which you mentioned:

1. Sheriff Van Ward
   Morgan County Sheriff's Dept.
   Decatur, Alabama 35601

2. Sheriff J. Z. Aldridge
   Colbert County Sheriff's Dept.
   Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

3. Sheriff Edwin B. Coleman
   Alcorn County Sheriff's Dept.
   Corinth, Mississippi 38834

Cordially,

BY Denise D. Field, Lt. Col.

SIGNED

Form 11-N73U ©The Drawing Board, Inc., Box 505, Dallas, Texas 75221

RECIPIENT KEEP THIS COPY, RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER

x Airtel

11/27/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

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

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY (B)
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Jackson teletype to FBIHQ, dated 10/16/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of one LHM captioned and dated as above. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished to Memphis.

Since no further investigation remains in the Jackson Division, this matter is being RUC'd.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - Memphis (44-1987 SUB M) (Enc. 2)
1 - Jackson
DHG/dhw
(5)

62-544-100

Mr. Edwin B. Coleman
Sheriff, Alcorn County
Corinth, Mississippi. 38834.

10 October 1978

James E. Ray #65477
B.M.P.
Petros, TN.37845.

Dear Sheriff Coleman:

This letter pertains to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr homicide and related matter as follows:

On April 1, 1968, I checked into a Motel in Corinth, Mississippi, and departed the following morning. Until just recently I assumed the authorities knew this consequently I never asked anyone to check into the matter. Now I learn the authorities believe I was else where April 1st.

My reason(s) for this letter is to enquire if your office has a record, through perhaps a routine check of cars registered in Motels on the aforementioned date, of the automobile I was driving. It was a 1966 Mustang registered under the name of Eric S. Galt; Alabama tag no. B 8993.

Also, assuming Motels have to be licensed by the city or county in Mississippi, would either of thoes Governments require Motels to retain, or furnish them to retain, a list of the Motel Guests ? possibly for tax purposes.

Finally any other information about the above subject from your office would be very mush appreciated, such as the 1968 Owner of the Motel I stayed in (see disgram attached), providing the Diagram can be matched with the Motel.

Sincerely:

James E Ray

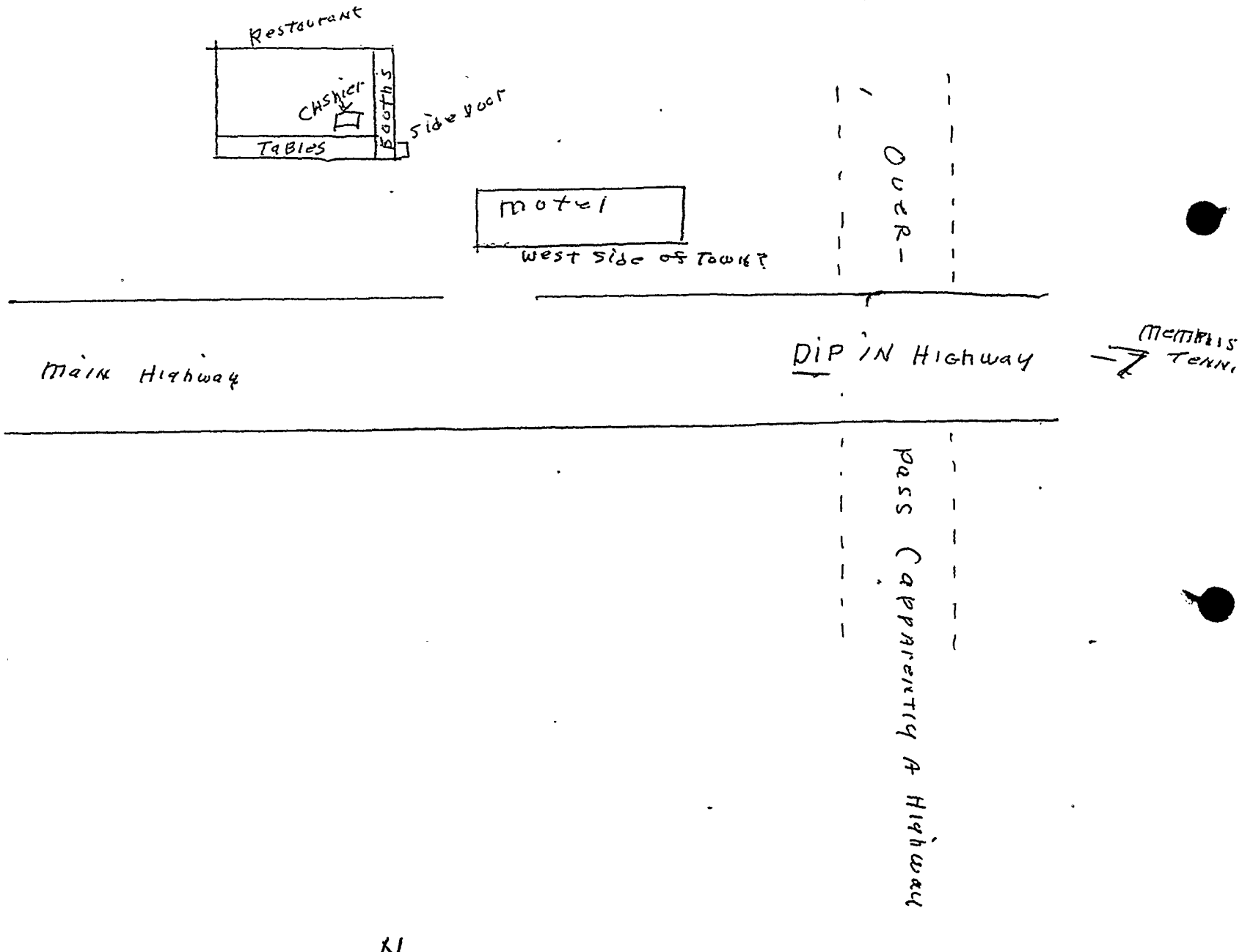
62-544-187
KH KH

NOV 1978

BCWB

from DIP.

2. Not sure about restaurant or Just how far from Motel. Restaurant EVEN with motel I believe. I had breakfast there.



MESSAGE	REPLY
TO ETROS, JENA	DATE
DATE	
BY	SIGNED

Form N-N73U ©The Drawing Board, Inc., Box 505, Dallas, Texas 75221

RECIPIENT KEEP THIS COPY, RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER

JN 62-544

ALCORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

P. O. BOX 1573
CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI 38834

EDWIN B. COLEMAN, SHERIFF
TERRY W. DOLES, CHIEF DEPUTY

PHONE (601) 286-5521
286-5522
JAIL 286-3952

October 13, 1978

Donald Green
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Ref: Enclosed letter

Dear Don,

On October 12, 1978, I recieved a letter from James Earl Ray requesting that this Department try to locate a motel that he stayed in on April 1, 1968. The motel is supposed to be on Highway 72 in Corinth. I checked with the Southern Motel and they have no record. I also checked with the Corona Plaza. They have no record but the ownership has changed hands several times since 1968 and the present owner is trying to locate the old records.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter and diagram of the location of the motel. Also enclosed is a message from the National Sheriff's Association addressed to Mr. Ray.

Do you think there is any reason why we should check any further into this matter since you checked all the motels in 1968?

If we can be of any assistance to you in the future, please feel free to call on us.

With kindness and best regards,

Edwin

Edwin B. Coleman, Sheriff

62-544-108
KH KH
1978

EBC;bet

cc

enc.

B/CWB

62-544-109

FEB - 5 1979

FBI-JACKSON

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Dallas, Texas
February 1, 1979

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

On January 30, 1979, an anonymous woman caller telephonically furnished the following information to Special Agent Udo H. Specht, FBI, Dallas, Texas:

She stated that an individual by the name of C. H. Wilson, residing at Boyd, Texas, in a brick house on the road between Boyd and Azle, Texas, might have been responsible or somehow involved in the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. She described Wilson as a white male, 6', 180 pounds, 51 years of age, and a pipe welder by trade. Wilson was involved in Ku Klux Klan activities and lived in Greenville, Mississippi in 1968 and prior to that. Prior to the assassination of King, Wilson allegedly stated that he would kill or was going to kill Martin Luther King. Wilson and another man, whom she would not identify, were in Memphis the day King was assassinated. At that time, Wilson owned a relatively new white Ford Mustang bearing Mississippi license plates. After Wilson returned to Greenville, Mississippi, from Memphis, Tennessee, he hid the white Mustang for approximately one month.

The caller stated that Wilson is an alcoholic and was during that time. He was drinking two and three quarts a day. The caller stated that Wilson is mean and capable of murder, especially if he has been drinking.

The caller would not identify the other man who was in Memphis with Wilson until she found out somehow that someone is investigating what she is saying.

On January 30, 1979, a telephone company information operator advised that a C. H. Wilson is listed as residing in Boyd, Texas, telephone number (817)433-5105.

The Dallas, Texas FBI indices to investigatory records did not reflect any information identifiable with C. H. Wilson.

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.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [x] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] UNCLAS E F T O
- [ ] UNCLAS

Date 2/1/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (C)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(MURKIN)
CIVIL RIGHTS

OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above.

One copy of same is being designated for Memphis and Jackson.

3 - Bureau (Encs - 5)
1 - Jackson (Encs - 1)
1 - Memphis (Encs - 1)
1 - Dallas
UHS/mpc
(6)

62-544-110

FEB - 5 1979

FBI-JACKSON

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____ FBI/DOJ