

File #:

62-SL-5097

Serial Scope:

10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, 23, 30-32,

35-55, 57-62, 69-73, 75-78,

80-148, 150-157

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Panel Focuses On South St. Louis As Scene Of Plot To Kill Dr. King

44-776*
62-5097*

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WASHINGTON — The House Assassinations Committee is focusing on a small group of south St. Louis segregationists — most of them now dead — in its investigation of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, committee sources say.

Committee investigators say the group may have been the link between James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty of the murder, and a St. Louis lawyer who may have wanted King killed.

Committee sources say they consider this avenue of investigation the most promising explanation of a conspiracy theory in the assassination of the civil rights leader in Memphis in April 1968. But they acknowledge that thus far they have little hard evidence to prove it.

The theory revolves around St. Louis members of the Citizens Council and the George Wallace for President campaign of 1968. Investigators have learned that members of those groups lived and worked in the vicinity of the former Grapevine Tavern in the 1900 block of Arsenal Street. The tavern, which went out of business in December 1968, was operated by John Larry Ray, a brother of James Earl Ray.

Investigators believe that John H. Sutherland, a St. Louis patent lawyer

This article was prepared by William Freivogel, Gerald M. Boyd and Louis J. Rose of the Post-Dispatch Staff.

and segregationist, contacted a south St. Louis man involved with him in several right-wing groups conveying a money offer for King's murder. At the time the man was canvassing businesses in the neighborhood of the Grapevine for the Wallace campaign.

The committee's theory is that the man could have mentioned the offer to John Larry Ray, who could have passed it on to his brother. John Larry Ray denied to the Post-Dispatch that any such proposal was made. Sutherland and the other man are dead.

Gordon Baum, of St. Louis, field director of the Citizens Council, has been subpoenaed to testify before the committee, and sources said other subpoenas are likely.

Baum, who was active in the work of the council and the Wallace campaign in 1968, confirmed in an interview that the committee appears to be scrutinizing persons who were connected with both groups in that period.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Front Page, St.
Louis Post-Dispatch,
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 10/1/78
Edition: 5 Star Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-167
OCT 02 1978

King

■ FROM PAGE ONE

Road, in the day and the man ran it at night.

John Ray acknowledged in an interview Friday that he had often gone to this headquarters to pick up Wallace literature for himself and friends, but said he did not remember meeting the man or the woman there or anywhere else.

He said he recalled seeing Wallace signs on the woman's home down the street from the tavern, but did not remember going in the house. He said that Wallace workers who had been at the house often came into his tavern, but said he could not remember their names. He said he did not remember to whom he had given his contribution for the Wallace campaign.

Ray said he had never been propositioned on the King assassination by anyone he met in the Wallace campaign.

The committee believes that the Wallace Canvasser may have conveyed an offer from Sutherland to Ray for these reasons, sources say:

The man, an engineer, had a cordial relationship with Sutherland. Both were active not only in the Citizens Council and the Wallace campaign but also in the John Birch Society.

The man was one of the most radical participants in the Citizens Council meetings. He often brought right-wing movies showing blacks rioting in the streets. He would make provocative speeches linking blacks and Communists and urging his listeners to take action to stop them.

A police source who attended some of the meetings described him as a shrewd, well-educated man who knew how to manipulate a crowd.

Sutherland was the driving force behind the formation in 1964 of the Citizens Council in St. Louis, a race-oriented organization opposing civil rights laws. He was its first president. In 1968 he was active in the Wallace campaign, serving

as an elector.

Some Citizens Council members told the Post-Dispatch that they did not believe that Sutherland was well acquainted with the man and woman who ran the Wallace office.

The first meeting of the council was Oct. 10, 1964 in the Electrical Workers Hall on Elizabeth Avenue. Sutherland presided and 125 attended. A news account says Sutherland condemned the Supreme Court and Congress for desegregation actions.

At the second meeting, Sutherland brought his friend Thurman Sensing to town to speak. Sensing was executive director of the Southern States Industrial Council on which Sutherland served as board member. The group, now called the United States Industrial Council, opposed civil rights laws in addition to lobbying for industry legislation.

Sensing was an ultra-conservative who said in a speech after King was assassinated that the resulting rioting was the civil rights leader's fault.

Well known segregationists Sheriff James G. Clark of Selma, Ala., and Lester Maddox of Georgia, followed Sensing to town to speak to the Council.

Baum says that Sutherland began dropping out of Citizens Council affairs in 1965, but committee sources say he was still deeply involved.

A police intelligence source supports Baum's version. The initial meeting of the Council in 1964 had been composed of middle-and upper-class persons, the policemen said, but by 1967 and 1968 most of the membership was working class. Sutherland did not feel as comfortable with this crowd, he said.

But Sutherland was deeply involved in the Wallace campaign in 1968. Most of the top positions in the Missouri Wallace campaign were held by Citizens Council members, some of whom also were members of the Birch Society.

He accused the committee of "a systematic purge of right-wing groups in St. Louis."

The committee has held hearings on the King assassination and plans to continue them in November. The panel has heard testimony from Russell G. Byers of Rock Hill that Sutherland and another man offered him \$50,000 in 1967 to arrange for King's murder. Byers said he turned down the offer.

Investigators believe that Sutherland then contacted his acquaintance with the Wallace campaign, who was canvassing around the Grapevine.

The committee also has learned that a woman who was a top official of the Citizens Council and the Wallace campaign lived in the 2100 block of Arsenal Street, within 100 yards of the Grapevine.

The woman, who also is dead, often had planning meetings of the two groups at her home. The Wallace canvasser was a good friend of hers and together the two shouldered most of the responsibilities of the Wallace state headquarters. The woman generally ran the office, near Gravois Avenue and Morganford

See KING, Page 12

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FM DIRECTOR, FBI

TO FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

FBI SPRINGFIELD ROUTINE

FBI KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA), U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

REBUTEL TO ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD DATED AUGUST 4, 1978,
ENTITLED "JERRY RAY; POSSIBLE OOJ."

ALSO REBUTEL TO ST. LOUIS, SPRINGFIELD AND KANSAS CITY
DATED AUGUST 4, 1978, ENTITLED "JERRY RAY; NELSON STONEY, AKA;
UNSUB, AKA; BANK ROBBERY SUSPECTS."

ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1978, THE DIRECTOR RECEIVED A LETTER FROM
G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR OF CAPTIONED
COMMITTEE ALLEGING THAT THE BUREAU IN HANDLING INFORMATION FUR-
NISHED BY THE COMMITTEE ENDANGERED THE SOURCE WHO FURNISHED THIS

Copy in 77-88 *9-29-78*

62-5097-158

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| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |

[Signature]

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0113 UNCLAS E F T O

INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE.

THE NECESSARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER WILL BE FOUND IN THE REFERENCED TELETYPES.

SACS ST. LOUIS, SPRINGFIELD AND KANSAS CITY ARE REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW ANY SPECIAL AGENTS WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN REFERENCED TELETYPES AS TO ANY MEDIA CONTACTS REGARDING THIS INFORMATION. ANY EMPLOYEE HAVING SUCH CONTACT WITH THE MEDIA CONCERNING THIS INFORMATION IS TO FURNISH AN AFFIDAVIT AS TO THE DETAILS OF THE CONTACT.

SACS ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD ARE REQUESTED TO HAVE AFFIDAVITS SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL AGENTS WHO CONTACTED (OLIVER PATTERSON) AND [JFK Act 6 (4)] REGARDING ANY CONTACT WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. THESE AFFIDAVITS SHOULD ALSO COVER WHETHER DURING THE INTERVIEW WITH PATTERSON AND [JFK Act 6 (4)] THE COMMITTEE WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION. THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER PATTERSON'S NAME WAS MENTIONED AS ALSO BEING IN DANGER DURING THE INTERVIEW WITH [JFK Act 6 (4)] AND DURING THE INTERVIEW OF PATTERSON WHETHER [JFK Act 6 (4)] NAME WAS MENTIONED. IF SO, REASON FOR DOING SHOULD BE FURNISHED.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE ADVISED PATTERSON THAT

17-1

62

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0113 UNCLAS E F T O

THE BUREAU WOULD CONTACT HIM, PRIOR TO HIS CONTACT BY THE
INTERVIEWING SPECIAL AGENTS. THESE INTERVIEWS ARE TO BE GIVEN
EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER ARE TO BE HANDLED
TELEPHONICALLY WITH SA GEORGE KEENAN, CRIMINAL INVESTIGA-
TIVE DIVISION, EXTENSION 4195.

BT

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HOLD

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date 9/19/78

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
 ON ASSASSINATIONS
 BUDED: 9/21/78

Re Bureau teletype dated 9/14/78 and Bureau
 telephone call on 9/18/78.

Enclosed herewith are xerox copies of all serials
 (total of 7) in St. Louis file captioned "INTERFERENCE BY
 ACTION WITH VEILED PROPHET PARADE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,
 10/2/65; RACIAL MATTERS, SL file 157-1513". It is noted that
 Serial 2 of this file is an LHM dated 10/4/65 which refers to
 a release on page 2 of the LHM. That release is not completely
 legible and, accordingly, there is also enclosed a typed copy
 of that release.

Also enclosed are xerox copies (total of 12) of all
 serials in file captioned "DEMONSTRATION BY ACTION AT VEILED
 PROPHET BALL, 10/6/67, AND PARADE, 10/7/67, ST. LOUIS,
 MISSOURI, RACIAL MATTERS, BUfile 157-6-42, SL file 157-5823."

St. Louis indices contain no information concerning
 the Veiled Prophet. The only such references are to the
 Veiled Prophet Ball (SL 157-1513) and the Veiled Prophet
 Parade and Ball (SL 157-5823).

2 - Bureau (Enc - 24)

① - St. Louis

JFS:kmt

(3)

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62-5097-155

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
 (Number) (Time)

Per _____
 FBI/DOJ

SL 62-5097

St. Louis files contain no rosters of Agents assigned to the office for the years 1967, 1968, and 1974 nor support personnel for the year 1974. At the request of the Bureau, a compilation of such information from data available to the St. Louis Office has been made and, noting that this compilation may not be all inclusive, there is enclosed 4 lists titled as follows: "Special Agents Assigned to the St. Louis Field Office During the Calendar Year 1967", "Special Agents Assigned to the St. Louis Field Office During the Calendar Year 1968", "Special Agents Assigned to the St. Louis Field Office During the Calendar Year 1974", and "Support Personnel Assigned to the St. Louis Field Office During the Calendar Year 1974".

SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1967

THOMAS J. GEARTY (Special Agent in Charge)
EDWARD J. KRUPINSKY (Assistant Special Agent in Charge)
EDMUND C. WELTON
GEORGE M. PEET
CLETIS B. BIDEWELL
WILLIAM K. BOCK (retired, effective 8/25/67)
PATRICK W. BRADLEY
EARL E. BROWN
JOHN J. BUCKLEY
LOUIS F. CAPUTO
HAROLD R. DOBSON
KENNETH N. DELANOY
JAMES A. DUFFEY
JACK J. FISHER
KELLY E. GIBBONS
WILLIAM G. HARRY (resigned, effective 11/9/67)
WALTER A. HILGENDORF
RICHARD T. HRADSKY
S. T. JOHNSON
WALTER C. JOHNSON
HARRY C. JUNG
HOWARD C. KENNEDY
JAMES E. LINDSAY
J. ROBERT MEIGS
EDWARD M. MORELAND
DONALD R. NORIE
AUBREY D. PARK
SPURGEON J. PETERSON
DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER
ALBERT J. RUSHING
CLARK S. SMITH (departed 6/13/67, transferred to Seattle)
BAILEY M. STANFIELD (resigned, effective 12/29/67)
ROBERT S. STEWART
JAMES A. TALLEY (retired, effective 6/16/67)
FRANKLIN J. WALLS (departed 6/17/67, transferred to San Diego)
ROBERT J. WILKISON
KENNETH A. WILLIAMS
WILLIAM R. BURTON
JACK A. FRENCH
ROBERT A. HESS
THOMAS JOHN DONOHUE (departed 6/7/67, transferred to Columbia)
RALPH J. ESPOSITO (departed 8/19/67, transferred to WFO)
A. JAMES FISHER (departed 9/2/67, transferred to Dallas)
JEROME S. MURPHY (departed 5/8/67, transferred to Indianapolis)
JAMES M. PAIGE (departed 11/17/67, transferred to Detroit)
PHIL K. WALTER (departed 12/20/67, transferred to Sacramento)

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SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1967
(CONTINUED)

JOHN K. ROSS (departed 1/4/67, transferred to Boston)
PAUL D. GIAMANCO (resigned, effective 3/18/67)
BERNARD W. CASHDOLLAR (retired, effective 3/24/67)
ALLEN H. SMITH (retired, effective 3/24/67)
GERALD J. WOLTEMADE (departed 3/31/67, transferred to Memphis)
TOM E. CHAPOTON, JR. (departed 4/6/67, transferred to San Antonio)
MELVIN E. DE GRAW (arrived 4/24/67, transfer-in)
WILLIAM R. DUNCAN (arrived 5/15/67, transfer-in)
HOWARD G. SLACK (arrived 5/24/67, transfer-in)
WILLIAM H. WARFIELD (arrived 5/24/67, transfer-in)
THOMAS L. BUCKLEY (arrival date unknown, transfer-in)
WALDEN L. GREEN (departed 7/3/67, transferred to Dallas)
MARVIN R. DORAN (arrived 6/19/67, transfer-in)
MARTIN JOHN WEBER (arrived 7/24/67, transfer-in)
JAMES T. DEARBORN (arrived 10/5/67, transfer-in)
LAWRENCE B. CURTIN (arrived 10/19/67, transfer-in)
PETER J. STANKOSKI (arrived 10/30/67, transfer-in)
ALAN E. MC ELWAIN (arrived 12/1/67, transfer-in)
JOHN O. TRETHEWEY, JR. (arrived 12/9/67, transfer-in)
JOSEPH A. DUBYAK (arrived 12/27/67, transfer-in)
MICHAEL M. WILLIAMSON (arrived 12/27/67, transfer-in)

SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1968

JOSEPH H. GAMBLE (Special Agent in Charge: arrived 8/19/68,
transfer-in)
THOMAS J. GEARTY (Special Agent in Charge: retired,
effective 8/26/68)
EDWARD J. KRUPINSKY (Assistant Special Agent in Charge)
EDMUND C. WELTON
GEORGE M. PEET
ROBERT L. BENDER
CLETIS B. BIDEWELL
PATRICK W. BRADLEY
EARL. E. BROWN (resigned, effective 7/12/68)
JOHN J. BUCKLEY
LOUIS F. CAPUTO
KENNETH N. DELANOY
HAROLD R. DOBSON
MARVIN R. DORAN
WILLIAM R. DUNCAN
JAMES A. DUFFEY
JACK J. FISHER (resigned, effective 6/28/68)
KELLY E. GIBBONS
RICHARD T. HRADSKY
S. T. JOHNSON
WALTER C. JOHNSON
JAMES E. LINDSAY
J. ROBERT MEIGS
EDWARD M. MORELAND
DONALD R. NORIE
AUBREY D. PARK
SPURGEON J. PETERSON
DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER
ALBERT J. RUSHING (resigned, effective 7/5/68)
RICHARD BOYD SMITH
ROBERT S. STEWART
ROBERT J. WILKISON
KENNETH A. WILLIAMS
THOMAS L. BUCKLEY
WILLIAM R. BURTON
DONALD S. DE FONCE
MELVIN E. DE GRAW
JACK A. FRENCH
ROBERT A. HESS
LAWRENCE B. CURTIN
JAMES T. DEARBORN
JOSEPH A. DUBYAK
CHARLES S. DUKE

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SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1968
(CONTINUED)

ALAN E. MC ELWAIN
HOWARD G. SLACK
JOHN O. TRETHEWEY, JR.
WILLIAM H. WARFIELD (departed 7/10/68, transferred to Los Angeles)
PEMBROKE WASHINGTON
MARTIN JOHN WEBER
F. JACK WILLIAMS
MICHAEL M. WILLIAMSON
PETER J. STANKOSKI (resigned, effective 1/24/68)
DEAN R. SHUMWAY (reappointed, effective 3/6/68)
JOHN M. DUNAY (arrived 7/3/68, transfer-in)
LEO T. CONNOLLY (arrived 8/6/68, transfer-in)
LEO R. MORRIS (arrived 8/2/68, transfer-in)
ROBERT L. COLEMAN (arrived 11/25/68, transfer-in)
JOHN S. WILLIS (arrived 11/26/68, transfer-in)
HARRY C. JUNG
HOWARD C. KENNEDY
THOMAS L. BUCKLEY
WALTER A. HILGENDORF (retired, effective 2/28/68)

SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1974

WESLEY T. WHALEY (Special Agent in Charge)
ROBERT J. MC CARTHY (Assistant Special Agent in Charge)
ROBERT L. BENDER
LOUIS F. CAPUTO
JACK A. FRENCH
WILLIAM R. BURTON
C. JAMES CHRISTY
LEONARD V. DAHL
DONALD S. DE FONCE
MELVIN E. DE GRAW
MARVIN R. DORAN
WILLIAM R. DUNCAN
DOUGLAS A. DUNNAM
JOSEPH T. FOX, JR.
JOHN R. HAWKEN
ROBERT A. HESS
RICHARD T. HRADSKY
WALTER C. JOHNSON
DONALD E. JONES
HOWARD C. KENNEDY
EDWARD M. MORELAND
AUBREY D. PARK
MARVIN R. PENNINGTON
DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER
JAMES E. SNIEGOCKI (departed 11/21/74, transferred to Louisville)
ROBERT S. STEWART
ROBERT J. WILKISON
DAVID F. CUNNINGHAM
JOHN M. DUNAY
JAMES T. HAGGERTY
JOSIAH L. HUGHES
JAMES R. LUMMUS
DEAN R. SHUMWAY (departed 11/8/74, transferred to Milwaukee)
MARTIN JOHN WEBER
F. JACK WILLIAMS
WILLIAM J. AHLER, JR.
LARRY B. BEAN
BENJAMIN L. CAGLE
JOHN N. CAMPBELL
MICHAEL S. CLAPP
MICHAEL E. CROWLEY
WILLIAM A. DEAL
MARSHALL P. GORHAM
JOHN C. HALL
RICHARD W. HERMAN

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SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1974
(CONTINUED)

KEVIN R. ILLIA
BARRY A. JONES
REGINALD J. JOSEPH
STEPHEN D. KETTNER
THOMAS T. KUBIC
JAN A. LINDSEY
GEORGE A. MILLER
JEFFREY D. MOSS
MICHAEL N. MURPHY
HERMAN S. NICHOLS
RUSSEL JAY NIELSEN
RONALD W. PARKER
THOMAS R. PARKER
JAMES J. REINAGEL (died 8/6/74)
PAUL E. RITZ
ALLAN J. ROGERS
CARL A. SCHULTZ
JOHN W. STRICKLAND, JR.
PETER B. SYMONDS
T. RICHARD O. VAN MATRE
WARREN B. WYMAN
LEON J. CANTIN (departed 8/27/74, transferred to Minneapolis)
PHILIP GRIVAS
STEPHEN M. LARGENT
ROBERT J. LA VERE (departed 10/12/74, transferred to New York Office)
JEFFREY A. MEYER
DOUGLAS B. MOKE (departed 7/1/74, transferred to New York Office)
MICHAEL E. NEZ
RICHARD W. RITTER
IVIAN C. SMITH
MICHAEL E. STAPLETON
MARSHALL C. WELDY
THOMAS F. WESTBERG
S. T. JOHNSON
KENNETH A. WILLIAMS
JOSEPH E. GERBER (arrived 1/9/74, transfer-in)
GEORGE E. BLOUNT (departed 1/14/74, transferred to San Francisco)
LARRY D. CORDELL (departed 1/19/74, transferred to Detroit)
JOSEPH T. WOODALL (departed 1/2/74, transferred to Washington Field
CLAUDE H. HILDRETH (departed 1/30/74, transferred to Los Angeles) Office
DONALD H. TAYLOR (arrived 3/11/74, transfer-in)
MICHAEL J. IRWIN (resigned, effective 2/8/74)
JOANNE E. PIERCE (departed 2/22/74, transferred to Pittsburgh)
LEON RAY FUTRELL, JR. (departed 3/4/74, transferred to Chicago)

SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1974
(CONTINUED)

JOSEPH G. A. GLOVER (departed 2/28/74, transferred to Chicago)
FLOYD W. RATLIFF, JR. (arrived 4/22/74, transfer-in)
HERBERT NORTHCUTT, JR. (arrived 7/15/74, transfer-in)
DONNA LYN PRICE (arrived 10/21/74, transfer-in)

SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1974

KEITH D. CONWAY
RICHARD P. BUTTON
JOSEPH N. HURST
SHIRLEY E. GEISLER
MARK C. NIPPER
WILLIAM J. EBERT
JOSEPH O. ELDER, JR.
GLORIA M. FRIGO
ROBERT IVAN HARSH
GEORGE T. JENKINS
NORMA L. NELSON
LENORE H. CAMPBELL
MICHAEL L. HOLT
ANTHONY E. MEADOWS (reinstated March 25, 1974)
JOHN L. SINGLETON
DAVID R. SKELTON
KAREN L. BUB
JOAN T. CLAUS
TERRY LEE COFF
WILLIAM R. FARHAT
JEAN ANN GOEBEL
ROSEMARY C. GRUBB
BRUCE G. HORSFALL
VIRGIL JOHNSON, JR.
BEVERLY A. KAIMAN
PEGGY R. KERNER
ANN THERESE LA VERE (departed October 12, 1974, transferred to
New York Office)
MARY JEAN LENTZ
SHARON M. SEDOVIC
VICKI L. SIMPSON
WANDA B. SUKOVSKY
PAMELA DIANNE PIERCE
JANET E. TUCKER
SHIRLEY F. WAGNER
CHRISTINE A. WANGLER
CAROL S. KLEMME (departed July 5, 1974, transferred to Belleville,
Illinois, Resident Agency)
GREGORY J. DIFANI
KATHERINE M. FRIGO
JANICE M. GODEFROID
LOIS ANN JOHNSON

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SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE ST. LOUIS
FIELD OFFICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1974
CONTINUED

MARGARET E. LUEPKER
KATHLEEN C. MC VEY
PATRICIA J. MEADOWS
ETHEL LEE MIX
DIANE M. NEWBY
TERRY JOHN OLLIGES
JOYCE L. RUDD
CHARLES F. SCHALLER
GLORIA A. SHIDLER (entered on duty, January 7, 1974)
DIXIE L. SLAZINIK (departed October 5, 1974, transferred to Springfield)
KATHLEEN M. THOMAS
DEBORAH LYNN VOELKER (entered on duty, March 25, 1974)
MARSHA K. BARGE
BOBBIE JEAN BLUM
LYNDA J. BUCHER (entered on duty September 30, 1974)
PAMELA C. BAKER (entered on duty September 30, 1974)
CONSTANCE M. ANTOFF (entered on duty October 21, 1974)
ROBERT J. FARHAT (entered on duty June 23, 1974)
JOHN M. HOCHSTATTER
CYNTHIA A. KRIER (resigned March 29, 1974; reinstated July 1, 1974)
LINDA L. SCHWARTZ (entered on duty, March 18, 1974)
MARY ANN TUCKER
VIRGIL D. WOOLLEY, JR. (entered on duty March 4, 1974)
M. SUSAN MURABITO
MARY CLAIRE KORTE
JUDITH M. STEWART (resigned February 1, 1974)
MARSHA K. HALLEMANN (entered on duty March 18, 1974)
LINDA S. LINDSEY (resigned August 2, 1974)
MARY LOU LAGEMANN (resigned August 21, 1974)
JANIE LEE WARD (arrived December 2, 1974, transferred in)
KATHLEEN A. MC HUGH (entered on duty November 25, 1974)

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RR SL

DE HQ 0106 2580150

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUREAU DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 21, 1978.

THE HSCA, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BY LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 1978, REQUESTED ACCESS TO ALL AVAILABLE REFERENCES AND FILES, BUREAU FILES AND FIELD OFFICE, ON A ST. LOUIS ORGANIZATION NAMED THE VEILED PROPHET. THE LETTER ALSO REQUESTED ACCESS TO ANY ROSTERS OF AGENTS FOR THE ST. LOUIS FIELD OFFICE FOR THE YEARS 1967, 1968 AND 1974.

PARTIAL SEARCH OF BUREAU INDICES REVEALS THAT THE VEILED PROPHET APPEARS TO BE A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE HIGHER SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL STRATA OF THE ST. LOUIS AREA.

62-5097-150

SEP 17 1978

RECEIVED

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0106 UNCLAS E F T O

IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE REQUEST, ST. LOUIS SHOULD REVIEW INDICES TO IDENTIFY ALL RETRIEVABLE INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE WITH THE VEILED PROPHET AND FURNISH FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) ONE LEGIBLE COPY OF EACH SERIAL.

ST. LOUIS SHOULD ALSO FORWARD ANY RETRIEVABLE ROSTERS OF AGENTS FOR THE REQUESTED YEARS.

ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE FORWARDED BY COVER AIRTEL TO FBIHQ ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BT

0106

NNNN

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

Subject

THE VEILED PROPHET⁰

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address

Birth Date

Birthplace

Race

Sex

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐

Exact Spelling

☐

Main Criminal Case Files Only

☐

Restrict to Locality of

☐

All References

☐

Criminal References Only

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Main Subversive Case Files Only

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Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)

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Subversive References Only

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Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

THE VEILED PROPHET PARADE

157-1513

THE VEILED PROPHET PARADE + BALL

157-5823

Requested by

Squad

Extension

File No.

Searched by

J

(date)

Consolidated by

(date)

Reviewed by

(date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical

? - Not identifiable

NI - Not identical

U - Unavailable reference

★ G.P.O. 1972-471-961

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DE HQ 0106 2580150

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R 142050Z SEP 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUREAU DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 21, 1978.

THE HSCA, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BY LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 1978, REQUESTED ACCESS TO ALL AVAILABLE REFERENCES AND FILES, BUREAU FILES AND FIELD OFFICE, ON A ST. LOUIS ORGANIZATION NAMED THE VEILED PROPHET. THE LETTER ALSO REQUESTED ACCESS TO ANY ROSTERS OF AGENTS FOR THE ST. LOUIS FIELD OFFICE FOR THE YEARS 1967, 1968 AND 1974.

PARTIAL SEARCH OF BUREAU INDICES REVEALS THAT THE VEILED PROPHET APPEARS TO BE A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE HIGHER SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL STRATA OF THE ST. LOUIS AREA.

9/14/78
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SEP 1 1978

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PAGE TWO DE HQ 0106 UNCLAS E F T O

IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE REQUEST, ST. LOUIS SHOULD REVIEW INDICES TO IDENTIFY ALL RETRIEVABLE INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE WITH THE VEILED PROPHET AND FURNISH FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) ONE LEGIBLE COPY OF EACH SERIAL.

ST. LOUIS SHOULD ALSO FORWARD ANY RETRIEVABLE ROSTERS OF AGENTS FOR THE REQUESTED YEARS.

ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE FORWARDED BY COVER AIRTEL TO FBIHQ ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BT

0106

NNNN

XX

AIRTEL

9/7/78

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)
SUBJECT : HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS - MURKIN

Enclosed herewith are four copies of an LHM setting forth the results of a telephone interview between former SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL and MICHAEL EBERHARDT, Staff Attorney, House Select Committee on Assassinations, Washington, D. C., on 8/31/78.

Former Agent BIDEWELL had previously been advised in late July, 1978, by SA JAY ALDHIZER, FBIHQ, that former Agent BIDEWELL might be contacted telephonically by Mr. EBERHARDT of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Former Agent BIDEWELL, on 8/31/78, received a telephone call at his home, 1116 Culverhill Drive, Webster Groves, Mo. 63119, telephone #962-0972, from an individual who identified himself as MICHAEL EBERHARDT, requesting an interview by telephone.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
1 - St. Louis
CBB:kam
(3) *kam*

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| SEARCHED | <i>km</i> |
| SERIALIZED | <i>km</i> |
| INDEXED | |
| FILED | <i>km</i> |

3

62-5097-148

St. Louis, Missouri
September 7, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Former Agent Cletis B. Bidewell advised on questioning that he had on at least one occasion interviewed Carol Pepper, sister of James Earl Ray, suspect in the assassination of Doctor Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. At that time, Carol Pepper was residing in Maplewood, Missouri, and the unlawful flight to avoid confinement case against James Earl Ray, resulting from his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, was assigned to Special Agent (SA) Bidewell in the St. Louis Division. At this time, no information had been developed indicating that James Earl Ray was a suspect in the murder of Doctor King.

The interview with Carol Pepper was most frustrating since it appeared she was completely uncooperative in furnishing any information concerning the possible whereabouts of James Earl Ray. To the best of his recollection, SA Bidewell advised that no other Agent accompanied him on this interview and two or three young children, presumably children of Carol Pepper, were in the home at the time of the interview.

With respect as to how the lead to interview Carol Pepper was obtained, it was recalled by SA Bidewell that the lead was developed as a result of background information furnished by the Kansas City Division, office of origin in the unlawful flight to avoid confinement case. To the best of his recollection, SA Bidewell advised that no information was obtained through the interview of

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.

4 - Bureau
1 - St. Louis (62-5097)
CBB:kam

(5) *kam*

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SERIALIZED *Ram*
INDEXED
FILED *Ram*

62-5097-147

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Pepper as to the possible whereabouts of her brother John Ray. Former SA Bidewell advised that investigation conducted by him failed to develop any information indicating that James Earl Ray had been in the St. Louis area subsequent to his escape from Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Missouri.

SA Bidewell further recalled that shortly after his interview with Carol Pepper, James Earl Ray became the prime suspect in the Doctor King murder and the case on James Earl Ray was reassigned to an Agent who could give full time to this matter and no further investigation was conducted in this matter by SA Bidewell, other than to cover an occasional minor lead which was developed during the course of the investigation.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Carl Rowan's

CARL ROWAN

JAMES EARL RAY, the FBI and DR. KING

WASHINGTON---Attorney Mark Lane's verbal blasts at Rep. Louis Stokes (D.-Ohio) and other members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations might lead you to think that Lane really considers his client, James Earl Ray, to be the greatest victim of political oppression since Anatoly Shcharansky.

But don't be misled by Lane's frequent cries of "McCarthyism" or his assertions that House members were heaping onto the confessed killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the worst abuses "in the history of Congress."

Understand that Mark Lane's recent life has been devoted to imagining, and writing about, evil conspiracies. He took Ray before this committee in the hope of convincing the American public, if not the Congress, that Ray was coerced into confessing that he murdered King and into accepting a 99-year term in person, and that Ray was a pawn in an FBI plot to kill the noted Black civil rights leader.

There was a stormy suspension of Ray's testimony partly because, for all of Lane's voluble interruptions, he and his client were faring badly.

Lane arrived at the hearings surely feeling that millions of Americans, especially the Blacks in Congress, were predisposed to believe that former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was somehow behind King's killing. After all, hadn't the Rev. Jesse Jackson just stated publicly that he didn't think Ray pulled the trigger?

But under intense questioning from Stokes, Ray and his testimony dealt a blow to any notion that he was an innocent patsy in a government conspiracy to kill King.

Ray said he had lied deliberately to newspaper reporters, TV interviews, book writers and even his own lawyers. But now he wanted the committee and the world to believe him when he said that his mysterious partner in crime, "Raoul," probably shot Dr. King.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P12

St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Mo.

Date: 8/31/78

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-146

Lyle
Down

Team

SEP 11 1978

The problem was, Ray left many who believe in a conspiracy thinking that he was lying through his teeth. He said he and "Raoul" had smuggled narcotics across the U.S. borders, that they had runs across those borders. He said he had bought, at the suggestion of "Raoul," the rifle with which Dr. King was slain. But in the long period of their travels and criminal activities together, according to Ray, he never bothered to ask "Raoul" his last name. Ray could not name a single person who knew "Raoul" or could give the committee a single clue as to his identity or location.

If Lane's theory was to be that "Raoul" was the hired killer of the FBI, Ray gave him a blow because it takes almost no skepticism to conclude from Ray's testimony that there is no "Raoul."

Yet, there is the nagging documented fact that at the behest of Hoover the FBI launched at least 25 separate campaigns to destroy Dr. King as a national force. The FBI tried, with futility, to prove him a financial crook, a tax cheat, a tool of the Communists. The FBI bugged his hotel rooms, his office, tapped his telephone, cooked up dirty schemes to alienate him from other Black leaders, or to break up his marriage. The FBI even tried to induce Dr. King to commit suicide.

This, and a lot more, will surely come out when the Assassinations Committee gets around to probing the FBI's work in finding the killer of Dr. King. We may get answers as to why, with Ray's fingerprints all over the gun and other things found near the scene of the murder, it took so long for the FBI to establish the involvement of Ray.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jesse Jackson, Coretta King Agree

Conspiracy In King Killing Suspected!



CORETTA KING



JESSE JACKSON

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
FRONT PAGE
 St. Louis Argus
 St. Louis, Mo.

Date: 8/31/78
 Edition:
 Author:
 Editor:
 Title: HOUSE SELECT
 COMMITTEE ON
 ASSASSINATIONS
 Character:
 or
 Classification: 62-5097
 Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-145

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*Orig. B-18
Sent 9-6-78
gmc*

BY KARL EVANZZ

ARGUS Washington
Correspondent

Washington--"With all the plots, all the continuous surveillance and all the sophisticated methods used by the CIA and the FBI," the widow of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said Monday, "I cannot believe that they had no idea that Martin was about to be assassinated."

Thus, Mrs. Coretta Scott King joined the list of other prominent civil rights leaders, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, who have publicly expressed some doubt as to whether they are convinced that James Earl Ray was involved at all, and that they emphatically believe there was a conspiracy to kill Dr. King.

James Earl Ray appeared before the House Assassinations Committee for three days two weeks ago and told committee members and the

public what he had told Jackson in a letter one week before he testified: "I did not kill King."

Mrs. King's opinion of the FBI was buttressed in recent weeks by a report concerning an alleged plot to assassinate King received by the FBI's St. Louis field office. The report remained unchecked for five years because a St. Louis FBI agent "disregarded" a basic regulation concerning the dissemination of criminal information, according to bureau officials.

The allegations, transmitted to the St. Louis bureau in 1973 by an informer, were basically that Russell G. Byers, a former auto parts dealer in St. Louis, had said he was offered \$50,000 in 1966 or 1967 to arrange for the murder of Dr. King.

The agent, whom FBI officials refused to identify, reportedly prepared a report containing the information.

(See 2nd Section-Page 8)

—Conspiracy

placing one copy in a file on the informer and another on Byers. Bureau officials said the agent, however, failed to follow a regulation requiring agents to forward any information about a specific crime to agents working on the case.

The information remained buried in St. Louis FBI files until about four months ago when an FBI agent checked the file on Byers, who had been implicated in the theft of a statue from a St. Louis museum.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassination Panel 'Spy' To Meet With Congressman

By JO MANNIES
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Oliver Patterson, the Black Jack man who contends that he was hired to spy for the House Assassinations Committee, will discuss his allegations tomorrow in Washington with a member of the House Administration Committee.

Rep. Mendel J. Davis, D-S.C., confirmed on Monday that he will meet with Patterson tomorrow. "But I'd rather not say what we will talk about," he said.

Davis noted, however, that a subcommittee of which he is a member is reviewing the Assassinations Committee's request for an additional \$800,000, which members contend is needed to complete inquiries into the killings of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Mar-

tin Luther King Jr.

Last month, the Administration Committee decided to postpone consideration of the request until its accounts subcommittee has investigated Patterson's allegations.

Patterson said at a news conference here on Aug. 7 that he used illegal investigative techniques at the direction of House investigators.

Patterson, 34, of 12350 Old Halls Ferry Road, said Monday that he had telephoned several members of the accounts subcommittee last week to ask whether they wanted to meet with him.

Only Davis accepted the invitation. Patterson said he was making the trip to Washington at his own expense because "I have nothing better to do."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P9C
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
St. Louis, Mo.

Date: 9/5/78

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title: HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5097

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-144

Team [signature]

SEP 10 1978

[signature]

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Patterson said he is scheduled to meet with House investigators Sept. 15 in New York to discuss the allegations. at the Assassinations Committee's expense.

Patterson said he had once been an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was employed in recent months by the Assassinations Committee to spy on Jerry Ray, a brother of James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of King.

Patterson said his duties included tape-recording telephone conversations with Jerry Ray, sifting through Ray's belongings for letters from his brother — and even acquiring samples of Jerry Ray's hair.

Rules adopted by the committee last year forbid tape-recording conversa-

tions "without the prior knowledge of the person whose conversation is being recorded." Wiretapping and electronic surveillance also are prohibited.

In April, Patterson testified before the Assassinations Committee's investigative staff.

He now contends that Conrad Baetz, a staff investigator, handed him written 'answers' — some false — for his official testimony.

The news conference here was conducted by Mark Lane, attorney for James Earl Ray.

Lane maintained that Patterson had been part of a "conspiracy" to prevent a fair investigation into King's death and to discredit Ray's contention that, despite his guilty plea, he is innocent.

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

8/31/78

SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype to St. Louis 8/31/78.

Enclosed for FBIHQ are Xeroxed copies of serials and
1As contained in St. Louis file 76-4797 captioned, "JOHN LARRY
RAY; EFP; OO: St. Louis".

2 - Bureau (Enc. 30)
② - St. Louis (1 - 76-4797)
 (1 - 62-5097)
CJC/sfm/lsn
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| FILED | <i>[initials]</i> |

62-5097-143

SAC, ST. LOUIS (183-117) P

8/31/78

SA ROBERT R. KAEMPFER

STEVEN FINER;
MARTIN FINER;
RICO

On 8/30/78 SIDNEY FINER telephonically advised writer that on 8/28/78 after noon he was contacted by MEL WAXMAN, Washington, D. C., and CONRAD BATES, Wood River, Illinois, investigators for the Select Committee on Assassinations who stated they had information regarding an incident between SID FINER and RUSSELL BYERS in 1974.

FINER advised them he had not known BYERS then except to see him occasionally at Finer Metal Company when BYERS apparently was visiting SID's brother ALBERT aka ASH FINER (now deceased).

Investigators stated they were going to see ALBERT's widow NORMA FINER.

The above is furnished for the information of the file.

2 - 183-117
① - 62-5097

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62-5097-142

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BY LETTER AUGUST 23, 1978, THE HSCA REQUESTED THAT THE FBI
FURNISH A COPY OF THE ST. LOUIS FIELD OFFICE FILE REGARDING THE
RECENT FUGITIVE CASE INVOLVING JOHN LARRY RAY ⁶²⁻⁵⁰⁹⁷ ~~WHICH~~ ^{WAS} DETERMINED
TO BE ENTITLED "JOHN LARRY RAY; EFP (A); OO: ST. LOUIS
(SL 76-4794)". <sup>Re
Kam
reg 62-5097-143</sup>

ST. LOUIS IS REQUESTED TO DUPLICATE ONE COPY OF ABOVE-
MENTIONED FILE INVOLVING JOHN LARRY RAY AND PROVIDE IT TO FBI
HEADQUARTERS, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS
MANAGEMENT DIVISION, BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 5, 1978.

BT

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8/30/78
WFF

Original to
76-4794
4794

62-5097-141

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| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| AUG 31 1978 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray says House group, press tried to 'nail us to the cross'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—James Earl Ray said in a letter that the House assassinations committee, aided by reporters, distorted evidence and tried 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.

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 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, quoting 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." The spelling and grammar are Ray's.

Some questions and evidence presented during Ray's three days of testimony in Washington concerned his whereabouts just before Dr. King was shot April 4, 1968, in Memphis. There were suggestions that Ray stalked Dr. King through Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

The committee produced a laundry ticket purportedly placing Ray in Atlanta 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.

The committee's investigation of Dr. King's death resumes this winter.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
P6A, St. Louis
Globe-Democrat,
St. Louis, Mo.

Date: 8/26-27/78

Edition: Sat.-Sun.

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-140

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| AUG 29 1978 | |

Fut. Bureau 8/29/78

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Won Battle, Apparently Lost War

WASHINGTON (UPI) — James Earl Ray was back behind bars Saturday and, barring an abrupt turnabout when his congressional "trial" resumes in November, appears destined to serve his full 99-year sentence for killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

The House Assassinations Committee took Ray out of his Tennessee prison and gave him the public forum he has sought for years to plead his innocence despite a formal confession of guilt. But it also disclosed new evidence that Ray and his attorney, Mark Lane, found "most damaging."

Two surprise developments Friday dealt severe blows to Ray's contentions — a retired British policeman's statement that Ray boasted of killing King shortly after his arrest in London in 1968, and the admission of another witness that his support of Ray's alibi was fabricated.

Lane responded angrily to the written statement from the policeman, saying he understood the officer had been charged with corruption and fired in disgrace. That forced the delay until November in further questioning of Ray.

Scotland Yard later said the officer — Alexander Anthony Eist, now a pub owner — was found innocent of corruption in a trial earlier this year.

When Ray reappears before the committee in November, questioning is expected to focus on whether he was part of a conspiracy rather than a lone killer. The committee holds hearings in September on conspiracy theories about the killing of President John F. Kennedy.

The three days of hearings produced:

— Testimony that Ray left Los Angeles in 1968 and, paralleling King's movements, went to Selma, Ala., Atlanta, and finally to Memphis, Tenn., where the civil rights leader was killed by a bullet from the rifle Ray admits he bought.

— Evidence that Ray was in Atlanta on April 1, 1968.

In an outburst that made his attorney wince, Ray told the committee that if anyone could show that he was in Atlanta on April 1, "I'll just take responsibility for the King case right here on TV." The committee produced a woman, now 75, who said from a wheelchair that she had made out laundry and dry-cleaning receipts to a man calling himself Eric Galt, an alias used by Ray, in Atlanta on that day.

— An admission of lying from the only living supporter of Ray's alibi that Ray was at a Memphis service station when King was killed.

"This story is completely false," said Dean Cowden, who had first corroborated Ray's alibi. Cowden, a commodity dealer, said he was more than 400 miles away at his Port Neches, Texas, home at the time and had given false information to help a friend who was an investigator for one of Ray's earlier attorneys.

— Fingerprints connecting Ray to a \$600 bank robbery in London June 4, 1968, shortly before his arrest, and committee indications that there is evidence linking Ray to a still-unsolved \$27,000 bank robbery at Alton, Ill.

That would conflict with Ray's claim that he was financed by a mysterious crony named "Raoul" and possibly explain where he got the money to buy a car and travel extensively.

— Agreement by Ray that he had been offered a deal by a member of the committee for a lighter sentence if he could name anyone involved in a conspiracy to kill King. No names came either from Ray or Rep. Harold S. Sawyer, R-Mich., who said he made the offer.

— Finally, Friday's blockbuster, from Scotland Yard's Eist, a sergeant on the famed Flying Squad who guarded Ray while the prisoner was awaiting extradition to the United States.

Rep. Samuel L. Devine, R-Ohio, read aloud the transcript of an interview with Eist that he said the committee obtained just two weeks ago.

Of Ray's role in the King killing, Eist said: "During the course of conversation, he definitely — he didn't actually come out with it — but it was there in the conversation that he done it. He was quite proud of it."

Eist's statement concluded: "If you want an impression of James Earl Ray, and from what he told me,

gentlemen, for what it is worth: I haven't any doubt in my mind that he did that on his own. For whatever reason he did it, he did it on his own. If it had been anything or anybody behind him on that particular job, during the days of many conversations that I had with him, it would have come out."

"It's false," said Ray. Both he and Lane said the statement was the most damaging evidence yet presented.

te page, name of
aper, city and state.)

Pg. 6A

ST. LOUIS
POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS, MO.

8/20/78

Title:

HSCA

Character:

or

Classification: SL 62-5097

Submitting Office: St. Louis

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-139

Per Per

Int. Bureau 8/21/78

Ray brother puts on show in Alton

James Earl Ray's younger brother, Jerry, came to Alton with an entourage of television cameras Friday, in hopes of dispelling accusations that he was involved in the 1967 holdup of the Bank of Alton.

But he was given a cold shoulder by police and bank officials, some of whom called Ray's visit a publicity stunt.

Ray arrived at the Bank of Alton about 10 a.m. and said he would like bank employees who witnessed the robbery to see if they could identify him.

"I didn't rob this bank or any other banks," Ray said. "I have been accused on national television of being a robber, and I want to clear myself."

PAUL UTTERBACK, president of the bank, told Ray the witnesses were no longer employees of the Bank of Alton.

"I was very surprised Mr. Ray came to the bank," Utterback said. "I really don't know why he did it, or what he hoped to accomplish."

"The whole thing was a publicity stunt," said another bank official. "The cameras were rolling, so it was a perfect stage for him to say what he wanted."

Ray was implicated in the July 13, 1967 robbery in statements made by Rep. Floyd J. Fithian, D-Indiana, during testimony by James Earl Ray before the House Assassinations Committee Thursday. Fithian said the convicted killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and one of Ray's brothers may have been the two stocking-masked men who robbed the bank of \$36,000.

The congressman said Jerry and James Earl Ray had met in Chicago shortly before the holdup, and evidence from the robbery was found 1½ blocks from their uncle's Alton home.

ACCORDING TO ONE theory, James Earl Ray could have used the loot to elude authorities for more than a year. That would discredit Ray's contention that he was paid by a mysterious conspirator named Raoul.

After a brief stop at the bank, Jerry Ray and a television crew went to the Alton police station to deny his involvement in the robbery. Alton authorities told The Globe-Democrat Thursday that the Rays were not suspects in the holdup.

Ray told Lt. Walter Conrad that he was willing to waive the expired statute of limitations on the robbery and submit to a polygraph test. Conrad said that if Ray did not intend to admit to the robbery, there was no need to question him.

Ray told reporters that he was working at a country club in Northbrook, Ill. at the time of the robbery and has not been in Alton since 1961.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

14A ST. LOUIS
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

Date: 8/19-20/78
Edition: Weekend
Author:
Editor:
Title: HSCA

Character:
or
Classification: SL 62-5097
Submitting Office: St. Louis

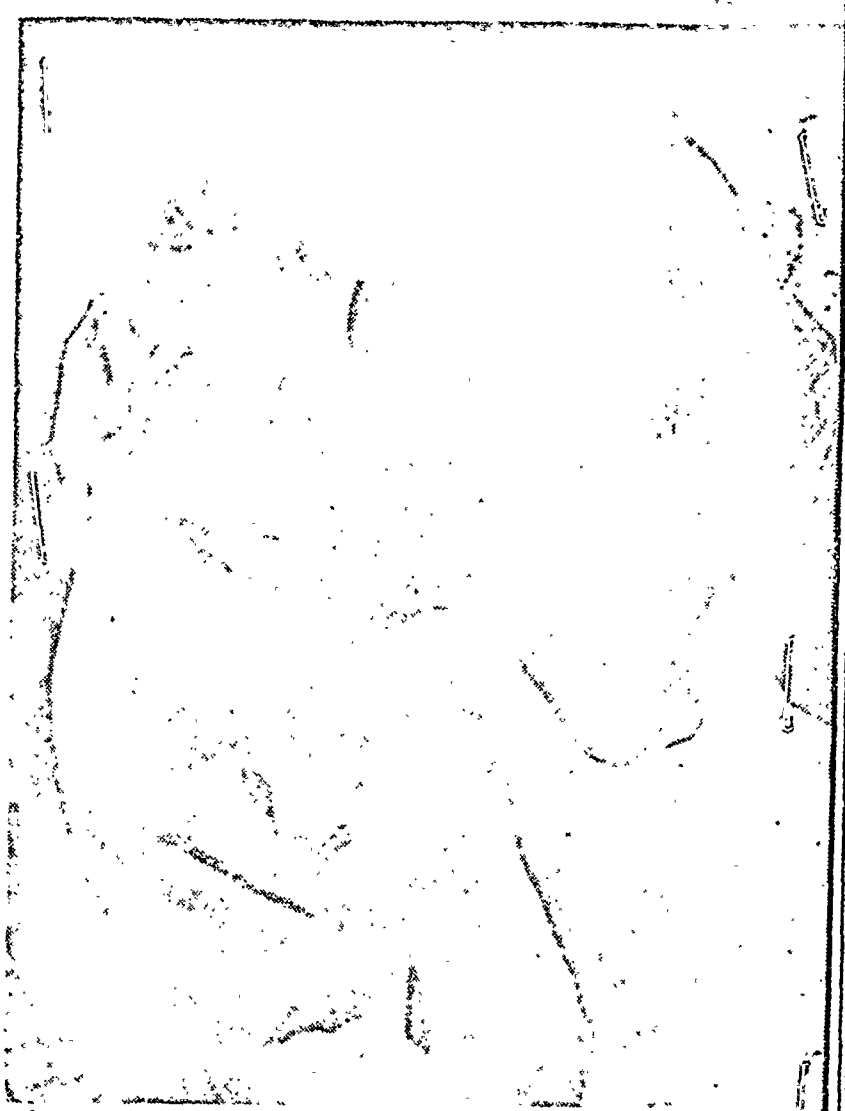
☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-138

Ind. Bureau 8/21/78

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray alibi witness admits lying



James Earl Ray: "That's probably the most damaging statement that's been made against me...admitting guilt on a murder charge...It is false."

— AP Wirephoto

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3A ST. LOUIS
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Date: 8/19-20/78
Edition: Weekend
Author:
Editor:
Title:

HSCA

Character:
or

Classification: SL 62-5097
Submitting Office: St. Louis.

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-137

4/21/78

8/21/78

Ind. Bureau 8/21/78

By DENNIS J. MCCARTHY
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — An abili witness for James Earl Ray admitted under oath Friday that he had lied when he said he saw Ray at a Memphis service station at the time Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot to death.

Coy Dean Cowden testified before the House assassinations committee that he was actually in Beaumont, Texas, 400 miles from Memphis, when Dr. King was slain April 4, 1968.

RAY, WHO IS serving a 99-year sentence for Dr. King's murder, has said that at the time of the shooting he was at a Texaco station in Memphis to have a tire repaired on his white Mustang.

Mark Lane, the attorney for Ray at the committee hearings, had said in a 1977 book titled "Code Mark Zorro" that Cowden claimed to have seen Ray at the station at the time of the assassination.

"This is completely false," Cowden testified during questioning by Rep. Robert Edgar, D-Pa.

Cowden said his part of the alibi story was rehearsed with Renfro Hays, a private investigator, who gave the same story to the National Enquirer newspaper last year.

ON THE WITNESS stand, Cowden, who testified that he was a former mental patient, said Hays had hoped to "make a million dollars" out of the Dr. King case.

"I let Renfro lead me into this," Cowden said. "I didn't have to go along with it, but I did."

Cowden was asked by a committee member whether Lane had realized that his story was false.

"He bought it hook, line and sinker," Cowden replied.

"That seems like appropriate equipment for Mr. Lane," commented Rep. Harold Sawyer, R-Mich.

LANE TOLD The Globe-Democrat later, "I don't know when Cowden is telling the truth . . . He lied before in talking about the matter. Now he says he's telling the truth."

Cowden's testimony dealt another blow to the 50-year-old Ray's claim that he did not kill Dr. King. He pleaded guilty to the shooting in 1969 but repudiated the plea several days later. For years he has sought a new trial.

Ray insists that he was framed by a mystery man known only as Raoul.

Other testimony introduced Friday alleged that Ray had indicated that he had killed Dr. King when he talked with a Scotland Yard inspector shortly after his arrest in London in June 1968.

RAY, HOWEVER, denied to the committee that he had made such a confession while awaiting extradition to the United States.

"That's probably the most damaging statement that's been made against me . . . admitting guilt on a murder charge . . . It is false," Ray declared.

His attorney contended that the allegations by former Inspector Alexander Anthony Eist, who is now retired, are unreliable.

Rep. Samuel L. Devine, R-Ohio, read aloud a report on a recent interview of Eist by the committee's staff.

DEVINE QUOTED Eist as saying that he was one of Ray's guards during the weeks of his incarceration in London and that Ray often confided in him.

Committee investigators asked Eist, who now has a pub in Cambridge, England, whether Ray had admitted killing Dr. King.

"Oh, no, no, no," Eist replied. "He didn't actually come out with it, but it was there in the conversation that he had done it."

At one point, Eist was asked, "Did he express hatred for blacks?"

"Yes," Eist replied. "There wasn't any doubt at all . . . He said he was trying to get to Africa to shoot some more."

EIST SAID Ray's ego was such that he began describing the assassination of Dr. King.

"He told me about a gun. He said he threw it away. He told me he had left this place (where the shooting of Dr. King occurred), saw a policeman, panicked and threw away the gun."

Eist also said Ray boasted that he could only be convicted of conspiracy — that authorities couldn't prove that he had fired the weapon that killed Dr. King.

The former inspector quoted Ray as saying that he thought he would be sentenced to one to 10 years in prison on a conspiracy charge. Eist said Ray was happy about this prospect, and hoped that it would be concurrent with a 20-year sentence he had been serving in Missouri.

RAY ESCAPED from the Missouri State Penitentiary April 23, 1967. He had been convicted of robbing a St. Louis supermarket of \$191 in 1959.

Eist also quoted Ray as saying that "For him to have shot a black man of note in certain parts of American would make him a national hero . . . He seemed absolutely mad about publicity. He really wanted it."

Ray predicted, according to Eist, that he would receive \$250,000 to \$500,000 for killing Dr. King because

he would "have no shortage of friends, no shortage of fund-raisers. He would get them to go on TV and . . . he could write books . . ."

After Devine read the interview report, Ray charged that it showed that the assassinations committee "intends to crucify me."

ABOUT THAT TIME, Lane returned to the hearing room after being away briefly and said he had made a call to a British lawyer.

He said the lawyer described Eist as corrupt and "a disgrace to the English police force," and that he had been forced to leave his job for unlawful conduct.

In London, a Scotland Yard spokesman said later that Eist was charged in 1976 with conspiracy to

pervert justice in connection with jewel robberies but was found innocent of the charges earlier this year.

When Lane was asked after the hearing how dependable the British lawyer was, Lane replied, "How do I know! I don't know the guy."

ACTING COMMITTEE

Chairman Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., promised that the committee would explore the issue of Eist's credibility. It was announced that Eist would be called as a witness.

Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia delegate, asked that Ray be excused indefinitely while other witnesses were heard.

Preyer granted the request and said it was likely that Ray would not be recalled until November.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

12A St. Louis Globe-Democrat Aug. 19-20, 1978.

Kelley says nothing new in Ray's testimony

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Former FBI Director Clarence Kelley said testimony by James Earl Ray, convicted murderer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had shown no new evidence of any conspiracy in the 1968 slaying.

"He (Ray) did it. He did it alone. We have no showing of any conspiracy," Kelley, whose agency investigated the killing of the civil rights leader, said Friday.

"I AM OF THE opinion that the story is as it was investigated by the FBI," Kelley said at a news conference. "If additional leads come up, they traditionally have been pursued. But there has been nothing to counter the original and definite conclusion that Martin Luther King was slain by James Earl Ray."

The FBI has been under fire in the case, with civil rights leaders and Ray's attorney charging the federal agency was behind a conspiracy to kill Dr. King.

But Kelley said Ray's testimony before the House assassinations subcommittee had not supported those charges,

and that conspiracy theories were only speculation.

Kelley called the news conference to announce he would not run for mayor of Kansas City. But he said he would accept an appointment to the city's Police Board if it were offered.

"MY COMMITMENTS are so demanding I could not give it the time the job of mayor takes," he said.

Kelley said he was committed to work with a private management consulting firm, to lecture monthly at the University of Alabama in Birmingham and to make other speeches around the country.

"I had hoped my lifestyle would level off when I left the FBI, but instead I am more deeply enmeshed than ever before and cannot forsake commitments made long ago," he said.

He said he turned down offers to be police chief in four different cities, including Los Angeles, after he left the FBI.

Ray's brother granted parole

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Larry Ray, a brother of convicted assassin James Earl Ray, has been granted a parole from a federal prison in Marion, Ill., where he is serving a bank robbery sentence, the Justice Department said Friday.

Ray was granted parole effective Sept. 18 by the U.S. Parole Commission.

He was originally scheduled for parole June 14, but that was rescinded while the commission looked into a complaint about possible perjured testimony before the House assassinations committee.

The complaint was made by the committee, which is investigating the assassination of civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the slaying but later recanted, is the key witness in current committee hearings.

John Larry Ray was sentenced to 18 years in prison in U.S. District Court in St. Louis in 1971. He was convicted of robbing the Bank of St. Peters in St. Charles County on Oct. 26, 1970.

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Witnesses Expected To Refute Ray's Service Station Alibi

By GERALD M. BOYD
A Washington Correspondent
of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON — The House Assassinations Committee has witnesses from a Memphis service station who are prepared to testify that James Earl Ray was not on the premises when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, the Post-Dispatch has learned.

The testimony, considered crucial, would directly contradict both the alibi Ray has used to contend that he was not involved in the murder of the civil rights leader and his testimony under oath to the committee.

A source said Thursday that the witnesses were in Washington and would testify if Ray completed his appearance before the committee today, when the public hearing ends. If not, they are expected to be called by the committee in November when it resumes its public sessions on the King assassination.

The witnesses, the source said, worked at the Memphis service station where Ray says he was getting a tire repaired about the time King was killed April 4, 1968.

His sworn statement to the committee Wednesday said he was at the station, although he could not name it.

The witnesses, whom the source would not identify, are expected to be a part of the committee's attempt to discredit Ray's account of his role in the King assassination. Detailed questioning by the committee on Thursday raised several doubts about Ray's story and left him seemingly shaken. Committee members appeared openly skeptical.

Evidence offered by the committee

showed that Ray visited at least four cities where King was present in the months before the assassination. Ray denied the implication that he was stalking King.

The committee, for the first time, presented documents that showed that a Ray thumb print had been found on a note that was used in a robbery of a bank in London when Ray was in that country.

A committee member, Rep. Floyd J. Benthian, D-Ind., suggested while questioning Ray that Ray might have used

the London bank robbery and the robbery of a Bank of Alton, Ill., to finance his travels and other activities from April 1967 to his capture in connection with the King killing about 15 months later.

The committee members, through detailed questions Thursday, suggested that Ray not only murdered King but acted alone. However, the grilling, which continued today, gave no suggestion as

to a motive for Ray to kill King.

"A motive is the hardest thing to prove," one committee staff attorney said at the end of the hearing. "What we are trying to do is to present the facts, and I guess you will have to decide on the motive yourself."

The day-long questioning of Ray was repeatedly interrupted by his attorney Mark Lane. Lane, who has been critical of the committee's investigation, said at several points that the session was similar to the anti-Communist hearings conducted by Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the '50s.

In his first public statements on the assassination, Ray testified under oath Wednesday that he did not kill King and that he had been framed by a man whom he knew only as "Raoul."

After the two men met in Montreal in August 1967, they engaged in several smuggling ventures and in many southern cities, the last time in Memphis the day of King's murder, Ray said.

In relationship to the King assassination, Ray said Raoul had on different occasions, instructed him to purchase a high-powered rifle, a pair of binoculars and to register in the rooming house in Memphis from which the shot that killed King is believed to have been fired.

Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, said neither

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Federal authorities nor committee investigators have ever been able to find anyone who might be Raoul. The committee, through files, witnesses' statements and other documents, then attempted to establish that Ray's account of events was doubtful or, in some instances, false.

Ray's possible involvement in the Alton bank robbery, raised by Fithian, drew a heated objection from Lane, and a quick no from Ray about having a role in the crime.

Through questioning, Fithian established that Ray had been in Alton on July 14, 1967, the day the holdup occurred. The bank was robbed of \$27,000 by two men, and the case has gone unsolved, Fithian said.

Fithian said clothing and several items used in the robbery were found by authorities about a block from the house of a Ray relative living in Alton at the time. In addition, he said, one of Ray's brothers, Jerry, who was then working in Chicago, had been off work on the day of the holdup.

Fithian noted that Jerry Ray and another brother, John, had been arrested in 1970 for the robbery of another bank. He said John Ray had been involved in four other bank robberies during 1969 and 1970.

Fithian's implication is that the bank robbery could have given Ray money to live on for several months. Following that line of thought, he then introduced evidence that showed that Ray might have robbed the London bank, when he fled the country after King's death.

Ray said he knew nothing about the London bank holdup, in which about \$250 was taken.

But Fithian said a note demanding money had Ray's thumbprint on it and said the fingerprint had been verified by Scotland Yard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a private consultant hired by the committee.

Fithian said that, if Ray was making false statements on the robbery, other parts of his testimony might also be untrue.

But Ray noted that British authorities had never charged him with the crime, although he said two other charges were filed at the time of his capture.

"If they had something, why didn't they charge me with it?" he asked.

Fithian said that authorities were more concerned about having Ray extradited to the United States to stand trial for the King killings. And after his guilty plea, no reason existed to pursue the matter since he had been given a 99-year sentence, Fithian said.

Earlier Thursday, the committee heard evidence that showed that Ray

was in at least four cities at the same time as King. Ray said that fact was only a coincidence.

Stokes submitted evidence that showed that Ray had been in Los Angeles, Selma, Ala., Atlanta and Memphis during the same time periods as King. Lengthy questioning by Stokes attempted to challenge accounts that Ray has given to the committee under oath and in newspaper and television interviews about his visits to those sites.

Stokes, at one point, asked Ray whether he had planned to go to Atlanta when he left Los Angeles in February 1968. Ray had told the committee Wednesday that his original destination had been New Orleans but that he changed his plans when en route there.

After answering "no" Thursday, Ray seemed shaken as Stokes introduced into evidence a change-of-address form filled out by Ray in Los Angeles and showing that his mail should be forwarded to Atlanta general delivery.

The form said the mail should be forwarded until April 25. It was signed by an Eric S. Galt. Galt is one of several aliases Ray has said he used during the year he was free after escaping from the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City.

Stokes asked Ray whether he had known that King had been in Los Angeles while Ray was there. He said that he had

not.

Persisting, Stokes then asked Ray to trace his travels after leaving Los Angeles and Ray said that he had gone to New Orleans and then to Birmingham and finally to Atlanta. His statement says that after leaving Los Angeles he went to New Orleans, to meet the person named Raoul.

Ray said that he arrived late and was instructed to go to Birmingham. After meeting Raoul, the pair went to Atlanta, Ray said.

Stokes, however, pointed out that on the automobile trip from New Orleans to Birmingham Ray had spent the night in a hotel in Selma, Ala. A map offered into evidence showed that Selma is not on one of two direct routes between the two cities.

Stokes then showed newspaper articles that pointed out King had been in Camden, Ala., which is near Selma, about the same time that Ray was in Selma.

Ray said, in response, that he had taken a wrong road after leaving New Orleans and had decided to spend the night in Camden because it was dark.

In perhaps the most damaging evidence offered, Stokes offered testimony and a cleaner's receipt that indicated that Ray was in Atlanta at least until April 3. The evidence contradicted Ray's

sworn statement that he left Atlanta on March 28 to drive to Memphis.

One document that Stokes offered was a statement from the owner of a rooming house in Atlanta that Ray had given him a week's rent in advance on March 31. In addition, Stokes showed the cleaner's receipt indicating that articles of clothing had been left by an Eric Galt on April 1.

Ray has admitted picking up the clothes the day after King was assassinated and has said that he fled then to Canada.

In trying to emphasize the significance of Ray being in Atlanta in early April, Stokes read from the transcript of a television interview with Ray in which Ray said that such evidence would be damaging.

"If I left Los Angeles planning to return to the Deep South, then I will take responsibility for the King assassination right now," Ray said, in a "60 Minutes" television interview. Ray told the committee that he could not recall why he had made that assessment.

Stokes assailed Ray's statement to the committee that Raoul had never handled the .30-06 rifle that is believed to have been the weapon used to kill King.

Ray said he had bought the weapon for Raoul in Birmingham, Ala., for what he thought was a gun-running scheme.



James Earl Ray
...during committee testimony

Ray accused of robbing Alton bank

By DENNIS J. MCCARTHY
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — A House investigator tried to show Thursday that James Earl Ray's travels for nearly a year after he escaped from a Missouri prison were not financed by a mystery man named Raoul but by a bank robbery in which Ray and one of his brothers allegedly were involved.

Rep. Floyd J. Fithian, D-Ind., a member of the House assassinations committee, cited what he called a \$27,000 robbery of a bank in Ray's birthplace, Alton, Ill., on July 13, 1967, while Ray was in the area.

(Alton police records show that \$36,000 was taken in the robbery of the Bank of Alton on that date.)

RAY TOLD Fithian he did not participate in the Alton robbery.

His exchange with Fithian came on the

second day of his appearance before the committee to give testimony about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on April 4, 1968, in Memphis.

Ray, 50, pleaded guilty in 1969 to shooting Dr. King and is serving a 99-year sentence for murder. But he repudiated his guilty plea shortly after making it and for years has been seeking a new trial.

IN PREVIOUS testimony before the committee, Ray said he supported himself by part-time jobs, by the \$1,700 robbery of a pimp in Montreal and on money paid to him by Raoul for the smuggling of contraband.

Ray has contended that he was framed for Dr. King's slaying by Raoul.

Fithian and committee staff members also produced evidence that Ray was involved in a London area bank robbery June 4, 1968, a few days before his capture.

THE CONGRESSMAN said a right thumbprint found on a paper bag after the robbery matched Ray's, according to Scotland Yard, the FBI and an independent firm hired by the assassinations committee.

Ray's attorney Mark Lane objected that such evidence was irrelevant.

Referring to the allegation about the Bank of Alton robbery, Lane told Fithian "I would add that you shed your congressional immunity for five minutes so we might later settle this in court ... that was an outrageous statement."

AT THIS POINT, acting committee chairman Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., asked Fithian, "How is this relevant?"

Fithian replied, "In the course of this investigation, this committee will provide substantial evidence of what I just said (about the Bank of Alton)."

(In Alton, Capt. John Light, assistant police chief, said that after Ray was implicated in Dr. King's slaying, police and FBI agents were tipped by informants that Ray was involved in the bank holdup there. But Light said no evidence was found to support the tips and the case is still carried on the records as unsolved.)

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Ray is accused of robbing bank

AT ONE POINT in his questioning of Ray, Fithian asked, "Are you aware that on July 13 (1967), the Bank of Alton was robbed by two masked gunmen, one carrying a shotgun, of \$27,000, and that remains unsolved to this day? That the robbers were two white males?"

"No, sir," Ray replied.

"Were you in the St. Louis area on July 13?" Fithian asked.

"No," replied Ray.

FITHIAN established during the questioning that Ray met with one of his brothers, Jerry W. Ray, in Chicago after he escaped from the Missouri State

Penitentiary April 23, 1967, and before the Alton bank robbery.

"Are you aware the bank was robbed on Jerry's day off in Chicago?" Fithian asked.

"No . . .," Ray replied.

IN LATER questioning, Fithian asked Ray, "Are you aware that some physical evidence in the (Alton) bank robbery, clothing and the shotgun, were found 1 1/2 blocks from your uncle's Alton home?"

"My uncle's home?" asked Ray. "I didn't know where he lived."

After the committee hearing was recessed until Friday morning, Lane told reporters, "Ray's a crook, not a truthful crook — he lied about the crimes he's committed. Of course, he may be lying before the committee, but what's at issue is whether or not he pulled the trigger (on the rifle that killed Dr. King)."

IN OTHER developments at Thursday's hearing session, the committee produced evidence which suggested that Ray stalked Dr. King through three other cities before the Memphis slaying.

Ray said the evidence was wrong.

Ray declared he would take the blame for the assassination "right here on television" if the committee could prove he was in Atlanta on April 1, 1968, three days before King was slain.

ON APRIL 1, the civil rights leader was in Atlanta, his headquarters.

The committee submitted evidence that Ray was in Selma, Ala., the day after Dr. King visited there two weeks before the assassination.

It also exhibited evidence aimed at showing that Ray was in Atlanta just before the murder.

THE COMMITTEE displayed an enlargement of two laundry tickets that showed "Eric S. Galt," the alias which Ray admitted using, had put clothing in the Piedmont Laundry in Atlanta on April 1.

Ray said he was certain that he checked the clothes into the laundry on March 25. He said the laundry records were either forged or the wrong date had been written by a clerk.

Previously, the committee had produced a motel receipt showing that Ray stayed in Selma on March 22, the day after King was there.

RAY CLAIMED he merely got on the wrong road while driving from New Orleans to Atlanta, wound up in Selma and spent the night in that city.

The committee also displayed a blow-up of a postal change-of-address card proving that Ray was wrong when he testified under oath that he thought he was going from Los Angeles only to New Orleans — not Atlanta.

The card indicated that Ray was leaving California on March 16. A copy of a Los Angeles newspaper was displayed to show that King had been in that city on the same date.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Recounts Travels. Meetings Before, After Dr. King's Killing

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By a Washington Correspondent
Of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON—Here is the chronology given by James Earl Ray, to the House Assassinations Committee concerning his travels and his meetings with Raoul:

April 23, 1967—Escaped from the Missouri State Prison in a bread box. Took a freight train to St. Louis and later boarded a bus in Edwardsville for Chicago. Worked as a dishwasher until late June and drove to Montreal in a newly purchased automobile after stopping in several places. While in Montreal, robbed a pimp of approximately \$1,700.

July 1967—First met Raoul at a tavern. After a couple of meetings, was told that Raoul could get him a forged passport in return for his help in moving contraband.

August 21, 1967—Smuggled three packages with Raoul across the Canadian border to Detroit. Received \$1,500 in payment from Raoul instead of the travel documents.

August 28, 1967—Went by bus to Birmingham, Ala., to meet Raoul. Was then traveling under the alias of Eric S. Galt. Was told by Raoul to buy a light-model automobile. Found a white Mustang, which was purchased the next day with \$2,000 from Raoul. Gave Raoul a set of keys to the car and received \$500 for

living expenses and \$500 for camera equipment. Also received a telephone number in Baton Rouge, La., where a message could be left for Raoul.

Oct. 6, 1967—Reached by Raoul's apparent representative. Left Birmingham to meet Raoul in New Orleans. After making telephone contact en route, was told to instead travel to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and was given a name and address of a motel to check into. Met Raoul at the hotel. With Raoul, smuggled contraband across the Mexican-U.S. border, and returned to Mexico. Left Raoul the next day and was given \$2,000. Was also given another New Orleans contact number. Traveled through Mexico for

the following weeks, spent most of his time in Puerto Vallarta.

Nov. 15, 1967—Left Mexico for the United States. Arrived in Los Angeles Nov. 19. Sought several jobs there, including employment with the Internal Revenue Service. Also tried to find ways to leave the United States without a passport.

December 1967—Telephoned New Orleans number given by Raoul and was told to travel to the city in late December. Met Raoul after arriving there and was told that Raoul wanted help in transporting rifles into Mexico. Received \$500. After the meeting, returned to Los Angeles.

February 1968—Received letter from

Raoul setting up a meeting in New Orleans in March to plan a trip to Atlanta. Arrived late and was told by telephone contact to go to Birmingham. Met Raoul there and proceeded to Atlanta. They rented a room there. About a week later, drove back to Birmingham with Raoul and bought a rifle on Raoul's instructions. After the purchase, was given the name of a Memphis hotel to deliver the gun and was told to meet Raoul there April 3, 1968.

April 2, 1968—Arrived in Memphis and checked into hotel. Raoul arrived and said to take a room for a few days in a rooming house near the Lorraine Hotel.

Chose the name of John Willard as an alias. Checked into the rooming house the next day.

April 4, 1968—Met Raoul at the rooming house. Was told to bring some personal items from the Mustang to the room and to buy a pair of binoculars. Followed both instructions. Went to a tavern, then to a restaurant and had a flat tire fixed. Returned, saw police in the area and fled in the car. Later learned that King has been assassinated. Never saw Raoul again.

April 5, 1968—Drove to Atlanta. Took a bus to Detroit, then went to Toronto. Later went to London, Lisbon and back to London; captured there.

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Panel Puts Ray In Four Cities With King

By GERALD M. BOYD
A Washington Correspondent
of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON—The House Assassinations Committee has submitted evidence that shows that James Earl Ray was in at least four cities at the same time as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the months prior to the killing of King.

Testifying under oath today, Ray denied that the evidence was any more than a coincidence. The last city where the two were in together was Memphis, Tenn., where King was assassinated April 4, 1968.

Ray, the confessed assassin of King, came under slow and detailed questioning in an apparent attempt by committee members to dissect a carefully prepared 40-page statement that he had delivered Wednesday.

Ray appeared nervous at several points in the questioning and his attorney, Mark Lane, repeatedly objected to the way some of the questions were phrased.

Committee chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, who did all of the questioning, submitted evidence that showed that Ray had been in Los Angeles, Selma, Ala., Atlanta and Memphis during the same time periods as King. Lengthy questioning by Stokes attempted to challenge accounts that Ray has given to the

committee under oath and in newspaper and television interviews about his visits to those sites.

Stokes, at one point, asked Ray if he had planned to go to Atlanta when he left Los Angeles in February 1968. Ray had told the committee Wednesday that his original destination had been New Orleans but that he changed his plans when en route there.

After answering "no" today, Ray seemed shaken as Stokes introduced into evidence a change-of-address form filled out by Ray in Los Angeles and showing that his mail should be forwarded to Atlanta general delivery.

The form said the mail should be forwarded until April 25. It was signed

by a Eric S. Galt. Galt is one of several aliases Ray has said he used during the year-period he was free after escaping from the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City.

Stokes asked Ray if he had known that King had been in Los Angeles while Ray was there. He said that he had not.

Persisting, Stokes then asked Ray to trace his travels after leaving Los Angeles and Ray said that he had gone to New Orleans and then to Birmingham and finally to Atlanta. His statement says that after leaving Los Angeles he went to New Orleans, to meet a person named Raoul, who Ray has said implied

placed him in the assassination.

Ray said that he arrived late and was instructed to go to Birmingham. After meeting Raoul, the pair went to Atlanta, Ray said.

Stokes, however, pointed out that on the automobile trip from New Orleans to Birmingham Ray had spent the night in a hotel in Selma, Ala. A map offered into evidence showed that Selma is not on one of two direct routes between the two cities.

Stokes then showed newspaper articles that pointed out King had been in Camden, Ala., which is near Selma, about the same time that Ray was in Selma.

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In perhaps the most damaging evidence offered, Stokes offered testimony and a cleaner's receipt that indicated that Ray was in Atlanta at least until April 3. The evidence contradicted Ray's sworn statement that he left Atlanta on March 28 to drive to Memphis.

One document that Stokes offered was a statement from a the owner of a rooming house in Atlanta that Ray had given him a week's rent in advance on March 31. In addition, Stokes showed the cleaner's receipt indicating that articles of clothing had been left by an Eric Galt on April 1.

Ray has admitted picking up the clothes the day after King was assassinated and has said that he fled then to

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Before he could respond to Stokes' questions about the Atlanta-related evidence, the committee recessed for lunch.

Trying to emphasize the significance of Ray being in Atlanta in early April, Stokes read from the transcript of a television interview with Ray in which Ray said that such evidence would be damaging.

"If I left Los Angeles planning to return to the Deep South, then I will take responsibility for the King assassination right now," Ray said, in a "60 Minutes" television interview. Ray told the committee that he could not recall why he had made that assessment.

Ray, who pleaded guilty to the murder of King in March 1969, has contended since then that he did not commit the crime.

Wednesday's testimony was the first time that he had given statements under oath about the assassination. During that appearance, he said that he had not killed King and had been the victim of a complicated plot that involved the mysterious Raoul. He said that Raoul had steered him to Memphis under the guise of smuggling guns and that he had left Raoul at the rooming house from where King is believed to have been killed shortly before the shots were fired. During his testimony today, Ray refused to stray from his story about Raoul. But Stokes said the committee had been

unable to find anyone who saw the pair together.

Stokes assailed Ray's statement to the committee that his unfound and never fully identified accomplice had never handled the .30-06 rifle that is believed to have been the weapon used to kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968.

Ray said he had bought the weapon for a man named Raoul in Birmingham, Ala., for what he thought was a gun-running scheme. Ray said he and Raoul had worked together for months, from Canada to Mexico, in various smuggling deals.

Ray said that if he had killed King, his fingerprints never would have been found on the murder weapon.

"I would have wiped my fingerprints off the rifle if I knew it was going to be used in a serious crime," Ray said. He insisted that even as a petty criminal he was too smart to leave his prints behind.

It was suggested that he did not have time to wipe his prints off the rifle because he was in a hurry to flee the scene of the shooting.

"Usually you do that (remove the prints) beforehand — before the crime," Ray said. "There are several things you can use to prevent your fingerprints from getting on the rifle. Every novice knows enough to keep your fingerprints off a weapon if it's going to be used for a

serious crime.

"I used flesh-colored Band-Aids (to prevent fingerprints) in the past," he said.

Ray's fingerprints were found on the rifle when it was recovered near the shooting scene. Ray contends he had given it the day before to the man he knew only as "Raoul."

"When we think about the fact that Raoul's fingerprints don't exist on that rifle at all, doesn't that indicate that Raoul doesn't exist at all?" Ray was asked.

"It doesn't to me," Ray replied.

Ray admitted earlier today that he had given conflicting stories to House investigators, but said these "small errors" do not dispute his denial that he shot King.

Ray said the initial testimony he gave to committee staff members at Brushy Mountain Prison in Tennessee was not based on a thorough review of the case.

"It was my intention to tell the truth," Ray said. "I wanted to be as factual as possible because of the problem of (my) credibility. There have been some small errors in details. Some confusion in dates."

Ray said in his opening testimony Wednesday that he never shot King and was several blocks away from the murder scene having his car serviced at a gas station at the time King was killed.

Ray told investigators in Tennessee that he returned the first rifle to a sporting goods store and bought a second one which Raoul inspected. But in his initial testimony Wednesday, Ray said Raoul

inspected the first rifle, but never approved the second one.

"Where I had the problem was that I thought I had purchased the second rifle the same day as the first," he said. "When I saw government documents that I bought the second rifle the next day, I realized I had made an error."

Ray had testified earlier that he drove from Birmingham to Memphis, gave Raoul the rifle the day before King was shot and after that never saw the gun again.

Stokes noted that Ray had told the committee's staff in an earlier interview that Raoul had in fact handled the .30-06 rifle.

Ray conceded that he had said this.

"At first, at the staff interview, I thought it was exchanged the same day, and Raoul would have been there," Ray said.

Ray's faulty — if not selective — memory was attacked over and over. Why had Raoul never been found? Who could have seen them together? Why couldn't Ray furnish more descriptive information about Raoul, such as his real name?

Ray had no hard answers. "Possibly a barmaid in Birmingham. Possibly a waitress in Jim's Grill in Memphis" had seen him in Raoul's company, he said. But he couldn't be sure. And he mentioned no one in Montreal, where he alleged he had met the man.

"Mr. Ray, I say to you, this committee has reviewed every FBI document relative to this case, every other investigative document, and nowhere is

there a reference to a man named Raoul," Stokes said.

To that, Ray replied only that perhaps not all documents had been found in the matter.

Stokes: "If we can't find Raoul, we can't help you very much, can we?"

Ray: "I think the only thing that could help me is a judge."

Q: Don't you think if we had more information about Raoul, we might be able to locate him?

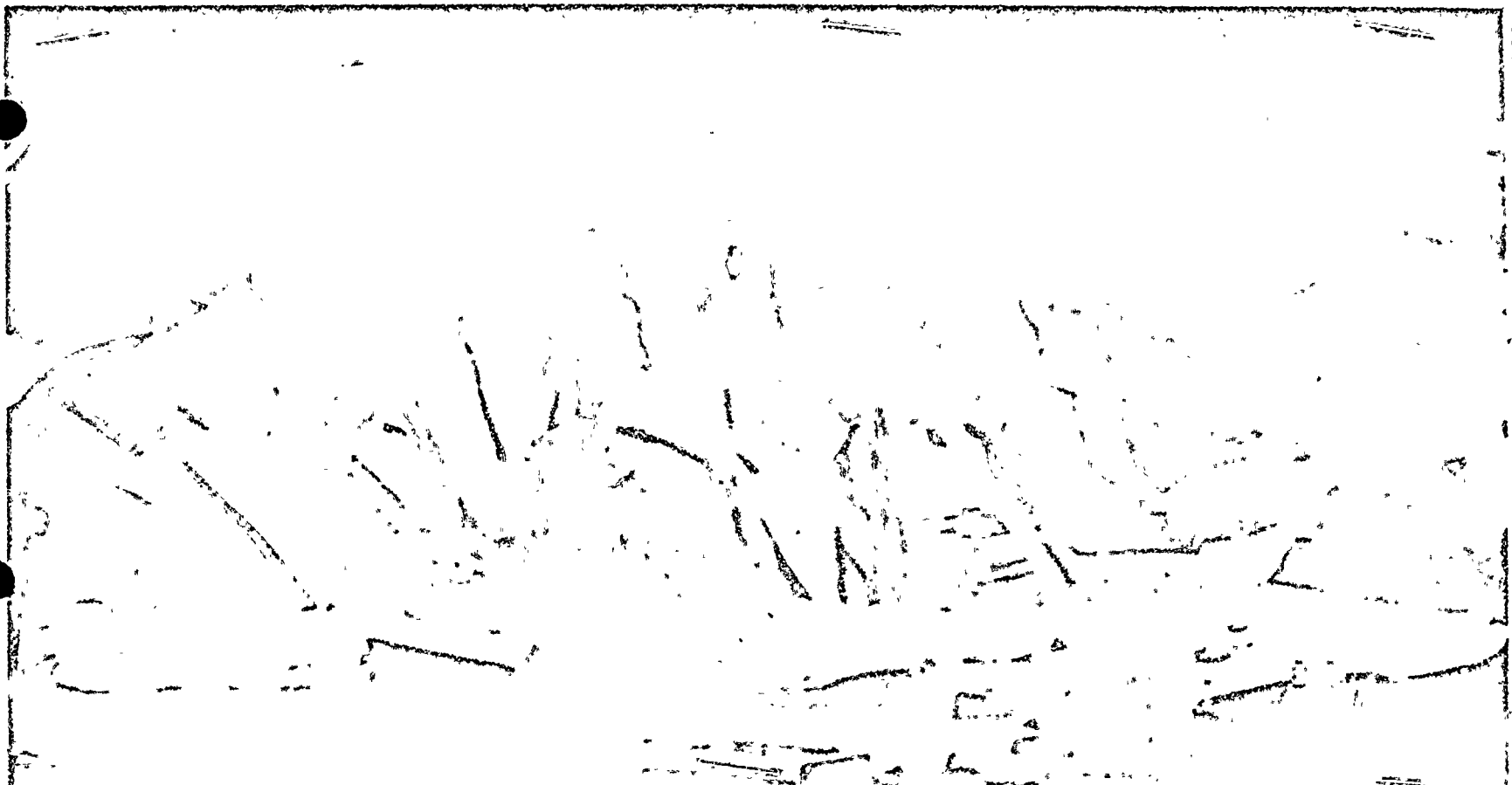
A: If I had gone to trial in 1968, he most likely would have testified against me anyhow.

The proceedings were interrupted and delayed over and over when Ray's attorney, Mark Lane, a longtime postulator of conspiracy theories in the King and John F. Kennedy assassinations, objected to the course of the questioning.

Lane repeatedly complained of not having transcripts and other documents related to the interrogation. "This is not an investigation by (the late) Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's hearing," he cried. "We demand the common courtesies due any defendant in a court of law."

The panel accorded Lane the papers he asked for, but Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., the acting chairman, appeared to be losing patience with Lane's tactics. "This is not a court of law," he said. "Your role as counsel is simply to advise your client of his constitutional rights."

But Lane pressed on, accusing the committee of trickery and unfairness. Preyer threatened to have him ejected if he persisted.



STAR WITNESS: James Earl Ray (right) testifying before the his attorney, Mark Lane. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for
House Assassinations Committee on Wednesday. Beside him is the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. (UPI Telaphoto)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

How Ray escaped Missouri prison

By DENNIS J. MCCARTHY
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — James Earl Ray gave details Wednesday about his 1967 escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary and told how he obtained a pistol from a South St. Louisan known as the "Cat Man" after the breakout.

In a statement which he read to the House assassinations committee, Ray identified the man first as "Jack Gorwin" but later referred to him as "Jack Gowrin."

He said Gorwin got the pistol for \$200 from "a fence in East St. Louis."

Ray, the star witness in the committee's hearings on the April 4, 1968, assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., gave this account of his escape from the penitentiary in Jefferson City:

"SEVERAL DAYS prior to the escape, I fashioned a board approximately 3x4 feet which would fit inside a box used to transport bread outside the prison."

He said that earlier he had used a hammer and nails to punch holes in the box.

"On April 23, 1967, I entered the prison kitchen early — I worked afternoons — at approximately 8 a.m."

Later, he said, he got into the box and covered himself with the board he had prepared. Then another prisoner filled the box with bread and the box was placed on a truck, he said.

Ray said the truck was stopped at the prison security gate and a guard looked in the box but "all he would see was bread."

"AFTER PASSING through the prison gate, I got out of the box. After the truck crossed the Missouri River bridge near the prison farm, it stopped before turning into a road leading to the farm. When the truck stopped, I disembarked."

Ray said he spent the night in a junk car he found on a rural road.

At this time, he said, he had with him several candy bars, some bread he had taken from the truck, \$250 in cash, a radio and a Social Security card in the name of John L. Rayns.

He said he began walking the next night. His shoes finally fell off and he "had to make a forcible entry into a store to obtain another pair," he said.

Ray said he was heading in the general direction of Kansas City, but on the sixth day after his escape, he hopped a freight train to St. Louis.

"I made my way to South St. Louis, to the residence of an individual who called

himself 'Cat Man' (Jack Gorwin)," Ray continued.

HE SAID GORWIN wasn't at home, so he took taxis to East St. Louis and Edwardsville and then a bus to Chicago. He arrived in Chicago April 30 and worked there for two months as a dishwasher, Ray said.

He said he bought a car and wound up on June 27 in East St. Louis where he stayed in a rundown hotel.

Ray had been sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary after being convicted of first-degree robbery in December 1951 in connection with a \$191 holdup of a Kroger store at 3417 Ohio Ave. in St. Louis on Oct. 10 that year.

Ray also was convicted Aug. 7, 1959, of robbery of Vincent's IGA Food Market, 1102 Park Ave., St. Louis. A seven-year sentence for that robbery was to run simultaneously with the 20-year term.

RAY, ONE OF 10 children, was born March 10, 1928, in Alton, Ill.

Probation records show that his family moved several times during his early years, first to Quincy, Ill., and then to Ewing, Mo. He quit school after the ninth grade.

Ray joined the U.S. Army in 1946 and spent much of his service in West Germany. In 1948 he was discharged because of "ineptness and lack of adaptability to military service."

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Judge issues order to protect Ray

From Globe-Democrat
News Services

WASHINGTON — A court order to protect James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., from prison abuse while he is waiting to testify at sessions of the House assassinations committee was issued Wednesday, his attorney said.

Earlier the attorney, Mark Lane, had accused guards at the Federal Correctional Institution at Petersburg, Va., of beating Ray Monday night and putting him in a tiny punishment cell where lights burned 24 hours a day.

"The lights will be out in Ray's cell tonight so he can sleep," Lane said after he won an order from U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant here for Ray "to be taken out of the hands of prison officials and put in the hands of U.S. marshals."

LANE SAID government lawyers had opposed issuance of the order.

U.S. Marshal J. Jerome Bullock, in charge of holding Ray for the House committee testimony, said his understanding was that three marshals will now have to watch Ray themselves rather than leave him under the care of prison officials.

Bullock said this did not necessarily mean that Ray would have to be transferred from the Petersburg prison — only that marshals must watch him directly whether he is kept there or somewhere else.

Ray was taken to the federal prison from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn., where he is serving a 99-year sentence for the slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, plus an additional one-to-two-year term for escape.

LANE SAID RAY told him that he was beaten at the Petersburg prison, where he is being held under the name "Michael Brewer," because he objected to being photographed.

Ray balked at being photographed because he was wearing old clothes at the time and didn't want photos of him to be "sold to the press," Lane said.

The attorney said that when someone tried to take a picture, Ray jumped to



Mark Lane
...Ray's attorney

his feet and two prison guards grabbed him.

"One gave him a rabbit punch in the back of the neck and another ripped his shirt," Lane said.

The attorney said a federal marshal pulled both guards away.

Lane quoted Ray as saying he had not eaten in 24 hours because he feared that officials would put something in his food "to deter the function of his mind" in advance of his public testimony Wednesday before the House committee.

THE ATTORNEY SAID Ray also told him that he couldn't sleep because of the burning lights in his cell and a headache from being punched.

Bullock denied that Ray had been beaten. He said Ray resisted a routine fingerprinting procedure and marshals insisted that he must submit to it.

But there was no scuffling or beating during the incident, Bullock said.

Michael Aun, a spokesman for the federal Bureau of Prisons, denied that Ray had been injured. Aun said an officer was kicked and another elbowed in the mouth during a struggle with Ray.

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James Earl Ray takes the oath before the House assassinations committee Wednesday.

—AP Wirephoto

Ray blames guilty plea on pressure from lawyer

By DENNIS J. MCCARTHY
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Convicted assassin James Earl Ray swore Wednesday that if he had been given a trial, he would have testified that "I did not shoot Martin Luther King Jr."

Ray told the House assassinations committee that he "could have offered conclusive proof in support of the denial."

He is serving a 99-year prison sentence in Tennessee for the slaying of Dr. King

Ray's Missouri escape. . . 13A

April 4, 1968, in Memphis. Three days after entering a guilty plea in 1969, Ray recanted — but his statement before the committee was the first time he had outlined his case publicly under oath.

"In respect to the guilty plea . . . it is not a difficult matter for an attorney to maneuver his client into a guilty plea

. . . especially when the attorney has the active cooperation of the judge and prosecutor," Ray testified as eight federal marshals stood around him.

The 50-year-old Ray, in a soft Southern staccato, spent more than an hour reading a 38-page prepared statement in which he declared his innocence in the shooting of Dr. King, but admitted his guilt in a series of other crimes including robberies and smuggling.

HE OFFERED AS conclusive proof of innocence his oft-repeated declaration that he was at a service station in Memphis, having a tire repaired, at the time Dr. King was gunned down on a balcony in front of Room 306 at the Lorraine Motel.

Ray hinted in his statement that a man he identified as "Raoul" may have been the killer of Dr. King, an allegation he has made before.

He said he and Raoul met in a tavern in Montreal in July 1967, about three

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months after Ray escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, where he was serving a 20-year sentence for first-degree robbery.

Ray said Raoul indicated he could obtain papers for Ray to leave Canada for Europe or Africa. But first, Ray said, Raoul asked for his help in smuggling "certain items" of contraband which Ray did not specify.

He said that he and Raoul smuggled contraband from Canada into the United States, and from the United States into Mexico.

RAY SAID THAT early in 1968, Raoul told him to buy a rifle as a sample for a gun-running operation into Mexico, and that he bought a rifle in Birmingham, Ala.

This rifle, Ray testified, was later exchanged by him for a 30.06 Remington rifle identified by authorities as the murder weapon.

Ray said he and Raoul met in Memphis the day before the assassination, and that Raoul took the rifle — saying he wanted to show it to possible Mexican customers.

That was the last time he saw the rifle, Ray testified.

He said Raoul instructed him to rent a room at 422½ S. Main St., the rooming house from which Ray is accused of shooting Dr. King.

Raoul was to meet him there at 3 or 4 p.m. April 4, Ray said.

RAY SAID HE RENTED the room and Raoul arrived sometime after 4 p.m. April 4.

He said Raoul sent him to buy a pair of binoculars the possible customers wanted to see and that he had a sandwich in a restaurant, leaving for the service station about 5:40 p.m. for the tire repair.

Dr. King was assassinated at 6:03 p.m. by a shot from the rifle fired from a bathroom window about 20 feet from the room which Ray had rented, according to the FBI and Memphis police.

Ray said his first lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes Sr., "had me enter into a series of literary contracts with him and William Brford Huie ... in order, Mr. Hanes said, to finance a jury trial ..."

In November 1968, Ray said, his brother, Jerry W. Ray, visited him in prison and told him that Huie had offered \$12,000 "if I would not take the witness stand."

Ray quoted Huie as saying any trial testimony (by Ray) would "destroy the literary value of the book" on the King slaying which Huie was writing at the time.

"Consequently," Ray said, "when Percy Foreman, a member of the Texas bar, appeared at the Memphis jail a few days later and visited me, I agreed with Mr. Foreman's suggestion that I fire Mr. Hanes and hire Foreman."

Ray said Foreman "then promised me, and later the trial judge, that if I retained him in the case, he (Foreman) would not become involved with Huie."

This promise, Ray said, was of a "short duration."

IN JANUARY 1969, Ray continued, Foreman gave him a \$5,000 check from Huie for endorsement and told Ray he needed the money to hire a lawyer to assist him.

Ray said that in February 1969, Foreman got another \$5,000 check from Huie.

"This time," Ray said, "he did not bother to have me endorse it. He just forged my name to it and cashed it in complicity with Planter's Bank of Memphis."

Ray said that "after collecting all the money that was available from Huie (the \$10,000), attorney Foreman then commenced on Feb. 13, 1969, maneuvering me into a guilty plea."

He said that among Foreman's arguments was one that "it would in some manner be in my financial interest to plead guilty as charged."

Another argument used by Foreman, Ray said, was that "the trial judge (W.

Preston Battle) wanted a guilty plea because he was concerned that blacks might burn the town down."

RAY SAID FOREMAN also told him that Ray's brother Jerry might be arrested "under some type of conspiracy charge."

Ray also said Foreman told him the FBI "would most likely arrest my father, George Ray, who was then near 70 years of age, and have him returned to the Iowa state prison wherein he had escaped in the 1920s."

"... Foreman convinced me he would 'throw' the case if I managed to force him to trial."

Ray wore a blue-and-tan plaid sport jacket, shirt and tie, and tan slacks in his appearance before the assassinations committee.

Wednesday's hearing had been scheduled to end at noon, but it was announced that it would continue until 5 p.m. After a recess, Mark Lane, attorney for Ray, requested that the hearing not continue because Ray had been forced to sleep with lights on in his cell and his hands were shaking, "something he never does."

Lane's request was granted and the hearing was recessed until Thursday morning.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Lawyer Says His Client Was Beaten By Prison Guards

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON — James Earl Ray's lawyer charged today that federal prison officials and guards beat his client and put him in a hot, tiny punishment cell with the lights on 24 hours a day.

Attorney Mark Lane said the incident occurred Monday night at a federal penitentiary some distance from Washington. A spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons acknowledged a struggle had taken place and said the lighting problem had been solved, but denied that Ray had been injured.

Ray, who is serving a 99-year state prison term in Tennessee for the slaying of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and an additional 1- to 2-year term for escape, testified today before the House assassinations committee under high security.

Lane said in an interview that he visited Ray at the prison Tuesday night and that he was "pale and shaking and looked haggard, as if he had not slept at all."

Lane said Ray told him that prison officials and guards had punched him in the back of the neck, knocked him to the ground and tore his shirt when he objected to being photographed, then put him in the cell.

He said Ray also reported that he had not eaten in 24

hours because he feared that officials would put something in his food "to deter the function of his mind" at the hearing. He said Ray told him he could not sleep because of the lights and suffered a headache from being punched.

Lane said that a Memphis attorney would file a writ of habeas corpus today to have Ray removed from the federal prison cell where he is being held.

The writ, he said, will charge that Ray "is being held in a punitive, solitary confinement cell with lights on him 24 hours a day. Lane said the writ would also contend that "the temperature in the cell seemed to be excess of 90 degrees."

Lane said U.S. marshals had told Ray he would not have to be photographed but prison officials did so anyway and Ray objected.

Michael Aun, a spokesman for the Bureau of Prisons, denied that Ray was injured. He said that one officer had been kicked and another elbowed in the mouth during the struggle.

The identity of the prison where Ray is being held has not been disclosed. That prison has a policy of photographing and fingerprinting all inmates with a history of escape, but the processing of Ray was halted after the scuffle, Aun said.

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Didn't Kill King, Was Framed, Ray Testifies

By GERALD M. BOYD
and PAUL WAGMAN
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

WASHINGTON — Convicted assassin James Earl Ray has told a House committee that he did not kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and that he was the victim of a complicated web involving a mysterious man who apparently framed Ray.

In his first public statement on the case, Ray today recanted his March 1969 guilty plea at a public hearing of the

House Select Committee on Assassinations.

He said he had been pressed into pleading guilty by two attorneys who represented him, including one who said that he would not present an adequate defense if Ray pleaded not guilty.

Following closely a prepared statement for more than an hour, Ray carefully laid open a complicated scenario that began when he escaped from the Missouri Penitentiary in Jefferson City in April 1967 and ended with his guilty plea 2 years later.

LAWYER SAYS Ray was beaten by prison officials and guards. Page 15A

During that period, he said, he had assumed several false identities, traveled to Canada, Mexico and several U.S. cities, and had met a mysterious figure named Raoul who hired him for several illegal activities. It was Raoul who ultimately led him to Memphis on April 3 under the guise of accompanying him on a gun-purchasing mission.

In implicating the Raoul character in the assassination plot, Ray said he had left Raoul in a rundown boarding house in Memphis. The house is in back of the Lorraine Motel, where King was assassinated.

Ray said that he had gone to dinner, leaving Raoul in a room he had rented, and that when he returned he noticed scores of policemen in the area. Fleeing in a late-model white Mustang, Ray said he had heard about an hour later that King had been shot and that police were looking for a man driving a car similar

to his.

That was his first knowledge of the assassination attempt on the prominent black civil rights leader, who was killed on April 4, 1968, Ray said.

Ray, who was dressed in a blue and brown plaid jacket, testified under unusually tight security. He was accompanied by his attorney, Mark Lane.

In a surprise development, the committee adjourned its hearing, scheduled to run all afternoon, shortly after lunch. The hearing had recessed for lunch with Ray starting to answer ques-

tions from committee members, after his prepared statement.

The adjournment came after Lane complained that Ray was tired and had not had any sleep over the last 48 hours. At an impromptu press conference at lunch, Lane said that federal marshals had kept lights on in Ray's cell while he was being kept at Memphis (on his way to Washington) and Ray had been unable to sleep.

Originally, Ray had been scheduled

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to testify until 5 p.m. The committee held a quick meeting and decided to adjourn.

"We didn't want it to be said that he (Ray) was not fresh and able to testify," said Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy, D-District of Columbia.

Ray is scheduled to continue his testimony tomorrow and Friday.

Among the statements made by Ray this morning in his prepared text were:

- That he had escaped from the Missouri prison alone and without the help of anyone outside. Ray said he had hidden in a bread box and had left the prison in a truck that was making a delivery.

- That he had \$250 in cash when he escaped, and that after stopping briefly in St. Louis he had gone to Chicago where he worked as a dishwasher for several months.

- That he purchased a car and drove to Canada from Chicago, staying in Montreal. It was in Montreal that he first met Raoul, who indicated that he could obtain for Ray illegal passport documents in return for Ray engaging in smuggling activities for him.

- That the subsequent association with Raoul included meetings in several U.S. cities including Atlanta, Birmingham and New Orleans. The final meeting, Ray said, took place in Memphis the day before King was killed.

Ray, who read rapidly from the prepared statement, seemed to embrace a conspiracy theory behind King's assassination, in which he said he had no part. He said that Raoul had paid him to purchase a high-powered rifle in Birmingham, supposedly to show some "parties" in New Orleans who were interested in gun smuggling.

Ray said after buying the rifle, he gave it to Raoul and never saw it again. Ray's fingerprints were found on a high-powered rifle, which is believed to have been the murder weapon.

Ray offered explanations for several other elements that seemed to implicate

him in the assassination. He said, for example, that Raoul had asked him to buy a pair of binoculars on the day assassination, and also had him register under a fictitious name at the rundown boarding house.

A Ray fingerprint was also found on the binoculars, and a man at the boarding house identified Ray as having fled from the house shortly after King was shot. Ray said he had left several personal items, including a blanket, in the rooming house with Raoul when he left for dinner.

Several black civil rights leaders and persons close to Ray who have sought a new trial have contended that Ray could not have fled from Memphis and journeyed to Canada, England and Lisbon without outside help. His escape has given rise to the possibility of a conspiracy.

But during his testimony, Ray denied having any assistance in his escape. He said after leaving Memphis he went to Atlanta, where he boarded a bus for Detroit. He then took another bus to Toronto, where on his own and using a false identity, he managed to obtain a Canadian passport.

The passport, he said, enabled him to fly to London and later to Lisbon. He unsuccessfully sought to journey to Rhodesia, but could not obtain the necessary visa.

At that point, Ray said, he returned to London, where he was arrested.

Ray, during the 90 minutes of his testimony, attempted to explain why he had pleaded guilty by harshly criticizing his first two lawyers.

After his arrest in London, he had retained Arthur Haynes of Birmingham, but before his scheduled trial date he dismissed Haynes and retained Percy Foreman of Houston, Texas. Haynes and Foreman, Ray said, were involved in a contract with a writer who was doing a book on the King assassination. Ray said both lawyers had told him that a guilty plea was desirable for the book.

Ray said that Foreman had told him

that the press already had convicted him and that the government had a witness it had bribed who would say that Ray had been seen leaving the boarding house after the shot was fired.

Foreman argued also, Ray said, that unless he pleaded guilty, Ray's brother, Jerry, would be arrested on a conspiracy charge, and his father, George, would have to return to prison. Ray's father, who Ray said was 70 at the time, had escaped from an Iowa prison in 1930.

The testimony began in a verbal exchange between Ray's lawyer, Lane, and several committee members. Lane has accused the committee of trying to present evidence that would show Ray guilty of the crime in an effort to cover up involvement by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Lane said that Ray had been beaten by federal marshals before leaving Memphis for Washington yesterday. A committee member, however, said such charges were out of order and were not related to Ray's testimony.

During his testimony, Ray said several times that he thought the FBI had arranged King's assassination. He offered no evidence, however.

In another development, Lane, continued his attacks Tuesday on the House committee, calling for the disbarment of its general counsel, G. Robert Blakey, and of its deputy counsel, Michael Eberhardt.

Lane told reporters that Blakey, Eberhardt and Conrad Baetz, a staff investigator who is based in Madison County, Ill., had "suborned perjury, criminally received stolen property, monitored and tape-recorded telephone conversations and violated their own rules"

The charges were similar to those Lane made recently in St. Louis at a news conference with Oliver Patterson, a Black Jack, Mo., man who says that he informed on Jerry Ray, a brother of Ray, for the committee. Patterson alleges that he secretly tape-recorded telephone conversations with Jerry Ray,

stole some letters sent to Jerry Ray by James Earl Ray, and even stole strands of Jerry Ray's hair — all at the behest of Baetz.

The allegations prompted Blakey to begin an investigation. Last week, he announced that the preliminary finding was that committee staff had done nothing illegal.

But Lane said Tuesday that the committee had not checked with the persons making the allegations — Patterson, himself or Susan Wadsworth, a Florissant woman who says she participated with Patterson in some of his activities. Therefore, Lane said he was mystified by the clean bill of health. In addition, Patterson said Tuesday he had taken — and passed — a polygraph test on all his statements. He said he had requested the test last week of Chris Gugas, whom he identified as former head of the American Polygraph Association.

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HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 8, 1978, AND BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL FROM SA TRON W. BREKKE TO ST. LOUIS, AUGUST 14, 1978.

IN REFERENCED TELEPHONE CALL ST. LOUIS WAS ADVISED THAT BASED ON A FOIA REQUEST, HOWARD C. KENNEDY'S MEMORANDUM DATED MARCH 19, 1974, AT ST. LOUIS, MO., WAS DISSEMINATED WITH PORTIONS DELETED. ALSO, THAT PAGE TWO OF THE MEMORANDUM REFERRING TO OK NOVELTY AND "SNITCH" HAD BEEN DELETED IN ITS ENTIRETY.

TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT OTIS KING GREIF, JR. SAW IN THE POSSESSION OF RUSSELL BYERS ON AUGUST 7, 1978, ST. LOUIS RECONTACTED GREIF ON AUGUST 15, 1978. GREIF STATED THAT BYERS HAD SEVERAL PAGES OF MATERIAL. GREIF ONLY READ THE PART OF THE

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TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
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PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
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CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO SL 62-5097 UNCLAS E F T O

MATERIAL WHICH CONCERNED BYERS BEING DESCRIBED AS TREACHEROUS.

GREIF SAID THAT HE (GREIF) HAD BEEN ASKED BY BYERS ABOUT RICH O'HARA SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY REFERENCE ABOUT THAT IN THE MATERIAL IN BYERS' POSSESSION. GREIF SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY REFERENCE TO OK NOVELTY OR "SNITCH" IN THE MATERIAL. GREIF SAID HE WOULD CONTACT THE FBI SHOULD BYERS CONTACT HIM AGAIN.

ST. LOUIS FURTHER DETERMINED THAT NO DISSEMINATION WAS MADE BY THE ST. LOUIS OFFICE UNDER A FOIA REQUEST CONCERNING THE KENNEDY MEMORANDUM, MARCH 19, 1974.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Will James Earl Ray say anything new?

From Globe-Democrat
News Services

WASHINGTON — How much does James Earl Ray really know about the events leading up to and away from a moment of violence in Memphis April 4, 1968? And will he talk?

Those are the most tantalizing questions among many that will be on the minds of congressional investigators Wednesday when Ray is scheduled to testify in public for the first time about the 10-year-old murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

IN 1969, RAY pleaded guilty to the murder and is serving a 99-year term at the Brushy Mountain Penitentiary in Tennessee. But he was brought to Washington under heavy guard for his public appearance before the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

It is possible, however, that Ray's testimony, which is scheduled for three days, will be cut short. Since his plea of guilty, Ray has been insisting on his innocence and has been struggling desperately to reopen his case and obtain a new trial.

If Ray chooses only to make a statement defending himself and declines to answer the detailed questions committee members have prepared, staffers have indicated he may not be permitted to testify.

Tuesday, a criminal pathologist told the House committee that medical evidence cannot determine precisely where the shot that killed Dr. King was fired from.

Dr. Michael Baden, a prominent pathologist who examined medical records in the King case for the assassinations committee, testified in public hearings on the assassination that, based on his findings, the assassin might have shot from one of two places.

ONE LOCATION IS the second-floor bathroom of a rooming house in Memphis across the street from the motel balcony where Dr. King was standing when he was killed by a single rifle shot. The other is a bushy area about 10 feet from the rooming house.

Ray was in the rooming house bathroom at the time of the shooting, according to witnesses. Most law enforcement officials who worked on the case have concluded that the fatal shot came from there.

But Ray has now recanted his confession, and his attorney, Mark Lane, has suggested that the shot might have come from the bushy area. Baden's testimony leaves open that possibility.

Accordingly, Lane was elated at the end of Tuesday's hearing, where Baden was the only witness. "They've given away their whole case," Lane told reporters. "They can't prove that the shot came from the bathroom."

Some members of the committee and the committee's counsel, G. Robert Blakey, urged reporters after the session not to emphasize the uncertainty about the source of the fatal shot. "We'll have more evidence proving this came from the (bathroom) window later on," said Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio.

SUCH EVIDENCE apparently will not be forthcoming for at least three months. Under the committee's schedule, the King hearings will run through this week and then be reconvened in mid-November.

Testimony for the remainder of this week should raise further questions about the case because the only scheduled witness is Ray. In Ray's testimony, which will be televised beginning at 8 a.m. St. Louis time Wednesday on public broadcasting, the convicted assassin is expected to argue that he was framed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Ray has submitted a long statement to the committee for its approval. And Lane, who has made a career out of investigating the murders of Dr. King and President Kennedy, is insisting that the committee has been trying to discredit Ray and that Ray should be free to testify however he chooses.

However, Rep. Harold Ford, a committee Democrat who represents the Memphis district in which Dr. King was killed, said Tuesday that he expects Ray to testify extensively "no matter what Lane says."

Ford added, "It will be hard to keep Ray from talking for the whole three days."

BUT THE QUESTION is whether Ray, who has been interviewed for 26 hours by the committee staff, will say anything new.

Ever since Ray pleaded guilty and stopped his own trial, many have been persuaded that he was protecting others who conspired to murder Dr. King. The skeptics, including former King associates, suspect that the FBI may have had a hand in the conspiracy.

Ray has told writers and investigators he didn't fire the shot that killed Dr. King, but was framed and used as patsy by the conspirators. But aside from the name "Raoul," whom Ray has said helped him in the purchase of the rifle and in his escape, he has refused to name those who framed him.

The most important question is whether Ray will supply the names or details that could lead to the conspirators — if they exist at all.

RAY HAS WRITTEN to Dr. King's closest friend, Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, offering to give him the names of those who helped and financed his escape from Memphis and his flight to Canada, Portugal and London, where he was arrested.

Ford said the committee would not bargain with Ray, but would consider the possibility of helping him get a trial if, during his testimony, he names those who helped him.

Expert Reconstructs Dr. King's Killing

By PAUL WAGMAN
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

WASHINGTON — The shot that killed the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King could have been fired from a bathroom window of a rooming house across the street from King's motel or from a bushy area in a yard behind the house, a pathologist told the House Select Committee on Assassinations today.

Dr. Michael M. Baden, the pathologist, said there were no medical tests which would be precise enough to rule out either site.

The bathroom window has been cited by prosecutors of James Earl Ray, King's convicted assassin, as the site from which Ray was alleged to have shot King as he stood on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

However, according to some other theories that have arisen about the murder, the fatal shot was fired by someone other than Ray from the back yard of the rooming house.

In another development, Mark Lane, Ray's attorney, raised new questions about the Assassination Committee's investigatory techniques. Lane said he had evidence that a St. Louis-area man had been paid by two committee investigators to lie to Jerry Ray, James Earl Ray's brother, and to another man in an effort to learn how they would respond to a subpoena from the committee.

Lane said the St. Louis-area man had

been instructed by investigators Conrad Baetz, a former Madison County, Ill., sheriff's deputy, and Melvin Waxman to tell Ray and the other man that he had been subpoenaed and that they would probably be subpoenaed, too. Lane said the man flew to Atlanta to meet with the pair and to learn whether they would plead the Fifth Amendment, who their lawyers were, and other information.

Lane, also an author, showed a reporter a copy of a check written to the St. Louis man which carried the identification "U.S. House of Representatives." Lane showed the reporter the check only on the condition that the man's name not be disclosed. He said that the man did not want publicity.

The check was for \$69. Lane said the man was paid \$50 plus \$19 expenses.

Earlier this month, Lane created a small uproar when at a St. Louis press conference he and Oliver Patterson of Black Jack accused the committee of commissioning Patterson to spy on Jerry Ray. The alleged spying included alleged illegal taping of telephone conversations.

The allegations led to an investigation by the Assassinations Committee. Last week, chief counsel G. Robert Blakey reported that "on the strength of a preliminary investigation the committee categorically denies each and every allegation of wrongdoing."

Today, Lane said he was mystified by

Blakey's statement, because, he said, the committee had never interviewed any of the people making the allegations: himself, Patterson or Susan Wadsworth, an alleged participant in some of the improper activities.

Today's testimony by Dr. Baden came in the second day of the committee's public hearings into King's death. James Earl Ray is scheduled to testify tomorrow. Ray arrived in Washington Monday night under tight security from Brushy Mountain, Tenn., State Prison.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Baden, chief medical examiner for New York City, was one of three pathologists picked by the committee to answer a variety of questions. Among them was whether King received proper medical care in the ambulance and in the hospital emergency room, and whether the bullet wound could be used to determine the origin of the fatal shot.

The other pathologists, Dr. John I. Coe, chief medical examiner of Hennepin County, Minn., and Dr. Joseph H. Davis, chief medical examiner of Dade County, Fla., did not testify. Baden said there were no disagreements among them.

Illustrating his testimony with drawings and photographs, Baden said that King had been killed by a single 30.06

rifle shot which entered his right cheek about an inch from his mouth.

The bullet then passed through King's right jaw and exited from his body before re-entering it on the right side of his neck. Then it passed through the neck before lodging on his left side near the collar-bone.

The high-velocity rifle blast fractured the civil rights leader's jaw, two vertebrae and two ribs. It also did major damage to the spinal cord and large blood vessels, including the carotid artery, which brings blood to the brain.

Death, Baden said, resulted from the injuries to the blood vessels and the spinal cord.

Baden said that he had been impressed with the "vigorous medical attention" that King received after reaching St. Joseph's Hospital emergency room. He did not testify about the ambulance care.

He said King's heart was still beating when he arrived at the hospital at 6:15 p.m. But that King's brain had already been "irreparably damaged."

The pulse stopped within minutes, but Baden said physicians continued to work on King until 7:04 p.m., when they pronounced him dead.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Denies Illegal Methods Were Used In King Inquiry

By GERALD M. BOYD
A Washington Correspondent
of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON — The staff director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations has denied a charge that a committee investigator used illegal methods in attempting to gain information for the committee's inquiry into the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But director G. Robert Blakey confirmed that Oliver Patterson of St. Louis, who made the charge, had testified to the committee.

"On the strength of a preliminary investigation, the committee categorically denies each and every allegation of wrongdoing," said Blakey, who is directing the committee's \$4.5 million inquiry into the murders of King and President John F. Kennedy, at a news conference Thursday.

Facing criticism from members of Congress concerned about Patterson's charge, Blakey broke a news blackout that had been in existence since he became the committee's chief counsel in June 1977. But after issuing a four-paragraph statement, he refused further comment and declined to answer questions.

At a news conference in St. Louis on Monday, Patterson accused an investigator of attempting to gain information about King's assassination by using Patterson's friendship with Jerry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, in prison for King's death. The charges generated unusual attention, because Patterson said he had worked for the committee for the last few months and had once been an informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Blakey said Patterson had never been an employee of the committee. He implied that Patterson and Ray's attorney, Mark Lane, who was also at the news conference Monday, were attempting to discredit the two-year inquiry.

"The committee is determined that the American people will not be misled by attempts to discredit the committee and its investigation," he said.

Patterson, who had not been publicly linked to the assassination investigation before Monday's news conference, cited a series of questionable and possible illegal actions that he said he had performed for the committee. He said an investigator, Conrad Baetz, had requested the acts.

Baetz, he said, asked that he illegally record Jerry Ray's telephone conversations and sift through his belongings for letters from his jailed brother. On another occasion, he contended, Baetz attempted to have him arrange a news conference to discredit Lane and to offer further evidence of Ray's guilt.

Ray pleaded guilty of the April 1968 murder of King and is serving a 99-year term in Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee. However, he now maintains that he is innocent. He has been subpoenaed by the committee to testify for three days next week.

A source close to the committee said Thursday that he was uncertain whether Ray would be a cooperative witness. He said that although the subpoena would force Ray to be present he might not answer questions from the 12-man committee.

"It is possible that Ray's testimony could end on

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Wednesday," the source said.

A dispute could arise, he said, over the points on which the committee wants Ray to testify and what, instead, he might want to tell the committee. Ray's attorney, Lane, has long contended that King's assassination was arranged by the FBI, for example. He has accused the committee of attempting to cover up that fact and of attempting to use the investigation to

establish that Ray was the assassin.

If Ray refuses to answer questions, the source said, the committee could release its file of about 28 hours of tape-recorded conversations with him; transcribed, the tapes fill about 1,500 pages. The source, for the first time, confirmed that the committee has talked with Ray and said that the interview would probably be made public with the committee's final report.

Jesse Jackson Doubts Ray Killed King

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson has emerged from a face-to-face talk with James Earl Ray with a "profound doubt" that Ray is the killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jackson, who was with King when he was killed by a sniper in Memphis in 1968, said he called the Justice Department on Thursday before he left Brushy Mountain Penitentiary to back Ray's demands for a new trial.

Ray, who confessed to the killing and is serving a 99-year sentence, now maintains that he is innocent.

Jackson, a civil rights leader from Chicago, said he told Deputy Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti that a new trial for Ray would be "in the national interest" because there are still strong doubts about the Federal Bureau of Investigation's true role in King's assassination.

"We're seeking to meet with Attorney General Grif-

fin Bell on Tuesday of next week in a real effort to challenge the Justice Department to take a new look at the evidence," Jackson said.

Pointing to years of FBI harassment of King and Ray's contention that he was part of a conspiracy, Jackson accused the agency of complicity in King's death.

"The very thought of a conspiracy is what compels me to file for a new trial," he said. "The FBI followed Dr. King 24 hours a day. The motives of the FBI are far greater than this man's (Ray's) motives."

Jackson, president of Operation PUSH and one of America's most prominent black leaders, said he came away from the unprecedented three-hour meeting doubting that Ray fired the bullet that killed King.

"I am convinced that he was involved but was not alone. It may very well be that Mr. Ray was a diversion in a grander scheme," Jackson said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dr. King Seemed To Expect Assassination, Abernathy Says

By GERALD M. BOYD
A Washington Correspondent
of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON — The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was probably aware that he would be assassinated and underwent severe periods of depression in the months preceding his murder, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, his chief lieutenant in the civil rights movement, has testified.

Abernathy said that, over the last four months of his life, King showed a marked change in his mental state, which seemed to indicate that he knew that he would be killed.

He said that King had been harassed constantly by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that neither the FBI nor other police authorities provided adequate security for King, even though they had been told that King was constantly receiving death threats.

The charges against the FBI and the description of King's last months emerged as the key elements of Abernathy's remarks today at a public hearing of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Under continuous questioning from the 11-member committee, Abernathy said he had no evidence to substantiate his belief that King knew that he would be killed. But he said that he was certain that King did know.

The testimony of Abernathy, which included a moving description of King's last hours, came at the start of five days of hearings on the civil rights leader's death. King was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray was later arrested and confessed to the assassination.

Since his confession, Ray has denied committing the murder. He has sought a new trial and said that he would tell the "real" story if a new trial ever was held.

Abernathy is the current head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference — the group King founded. He had

been a constant companion and friend of King since 1955 and was with King when he was fatally shot.

Today's testimony represented an attempt by several committee members to determine King's relationship with the FBI and to determine whether the agency knew about the assassination plan in advance or failed to adequately pursue leads in the case.

One committee member, Rep. Samuel L. Devine, R-Ohio, said he hoped the committee was not attempting to dwell on the FBI at the expense of pursuing other angles of the assassination.

Abernathy said that King was reluctant to report death threats to the FBI. He said that the slain civil rights leader was aware, as early as 1955, that he was a target of telephone tapping, electronic bugging and other surveillance methods of the FBI and other government agencies.

"The FBI was aware of some of the threats," Abernathy said. "We did not report all of them, because we believed that the FBI was not interested in doing anything about them. Some of the FBI agents were from the Deep South and were quite racist.

"Just because you take a person and put a badge on him doesn't change his heart."

Abernathy said that King was aware that then FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, had called him "the most notorious liar in America."

On the day before the assassination, Abernathy said, a plane King was riding on was delayed for about an hour while it was searched. Abernathy said he had no idea who had ordered the precaution, but that no special security had been available after King's party reached Memphis, either from the FBI or from local police.

Several committee members also questioned Abernathy about a group of Memphis blacks called the "Invaders." Abernathy said they had been paid FBI

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informants. He said that they had disrupted a march led by King on March 8.

King had originally gone to Memphis at the invitation of local black leaders to lead a non-violent march to aid striking city refuse collectors. The first march ended in violence, but King and other Southern Christian Leadership Conference officers returned to Memphis a week later to conduct a second march. He was killed on the return trip.

Abernathy said that King had learned on April 3, when he returned to Memphis, that the Invaders were paid FBI informants. Efforts were made, he said, to shield King from them because of concern for his safety.

"We were aware that they might impose a threat to Dr. King's safety, and that is why we insisted that he not see them," Abernathy said. "Before he died, he was aware that they were FBI informants."

The committee is apparently examining the Invaders in an attempt to determine their relationship with the FBI.

One committee member said, for example, that some persons in the group had rented a room at the Lorraine Motel, where King had been staying.

Abernathy's most dramatic testimony dealt with his relationship with King and King's mental condition during the last four months of life. When asked how he knew that King believed he would be assassinated, Abernathy said that he had no direct knowledge, but that after January 1968 the civil rights leader seemed more concerned about his death.

"His attitude was altogether different," Abernathy said. "He seemed more troubled, more nervous and a more worried person."

At one point, he said, the two took a trip to Acapulco, Mexico, in an attempt to get King to relax. But all the time, Abernathy said, King seemed to be concerned about problems.

During that period, Abernathy said, King turned over to him more duties as vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference than ever before.

And King authorized the organization's bylaws to say that Abernathy should replace him in the event of his death.

"Before 1968, he wasn't talking like that," said Abernathy, who noted that the Southern Christian Leadership Con-

ference was busy at that time organizing a national "Poor People's Rally" in Washington. "But then he was a different person, and my conclusion in retrospect is that he knew he would be killed."

SAC, ST. LOUIS (137-16523) (C)

8/10/78

SA MARTIN JOHN WEBER

FORMER SL 3549-PCI

Former SL 3549-PCI telephonically contacted the St. Louis FBI office 8/7/78 stating that he was contacted on 8/7/78 by RUSSELL BYERS. BYERS had with him a copy of a "FBI memo which had portions inked out", and which may be a copy of a memorandum of HOWARD C. KENNEDY dated 3/19/74. BYERS' copy said that BYERS contacted someone at OK Novelty Co. in St. Louis regarding an unnamed individual. The unnamed individual was identified by BYERS as RICH O'HARA. The memo further said that the person at OK Novelty vouched for O'HARA as not being a "snitch".

Former SL 3549-PCI identified himself as the person at OK Novelty contacted by BYERS about O'HARA. He had known O'HARA through O'HARA's past ownership of the Pirates Cove Tavern, in which OK Novelty had a vending machine. He said that BYERS was trying to identify the source of the information in the same memo who referred to BYERS as "A very treacherous guy". He said he told BYERS he could not identify who may have characterized BYERS in that manner. He said he had absolutely no knowledge of BYERS possible connection in the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., but wanted to notify the FBI of BYERS contact with him.

GREIF is the owner of OK Novelty Co., a St. Louis vending machine Company from 8/21/75 to 3/3/77. Bureau 137-43581, SL 137-16523. A review of SL 137-16523 fails to reflect any reference to Dr. KING's assassination or RUSSELL BYERS.

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Abuse Allegations Put Cloud On King Inquiry

By PAUL WAGMAN
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

WASHINGTON — A House administration subcommittee has held up consideration of additional financing for the House Assassinations Committee partly because of allegations by a Black Jack, Mo., man that he engaged in illegal investigatory techniques on behalf of the assassinations panel.

Without the additional financing, the Assassinations Committee maintains that it cannot finish its inquiries into the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

The committee will run out of money by mid-September unless it is allocated about \$800,000 more through the end of the calendar year, Rep. Samuel L. Devine, R-Ohio, maintained yesterday. The committee's investigations into the assassinations of Kennedy and King are scheduled for completion by Dec. 31.

But the House subcommittee believes that the assassinations panel has enough money to last through September, a staff source said this morning. And the subcommittee was also disturbed about allegations made Monday in St. Louis by Oliver Patterson, the Black Jack man, and by Mark Lane, the attorney for James Earl Ray, King's convicted killer.

"The subcommittee wants to know if they (the allegations) are true or not true," the source said.

To find out, the source said, the subcommittee plans to ask Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the assassinations panel, to testify before it in September.

If the allegations are true, the source said, it would mean that "taxpayers' money had been used for illegal purposes."

Meanwhile, the assassinations panel plans to conduct its own inquiry into Lane's and Patterson's allegations. A spokesman for the committee refused today to say when the investigation would start or make any further comment regarding the inquiry.

Patterson, 34, of 12350 Old Halls Ferry Road, said Monday that his duties as an informant to the Assassinations Committee had included tape-recording telephone conversations with Jerry Ray, James Earl Ray's brother; sifting through Jerry Ray's belongings for letters from his brother, and acquiring samples of Jerry Ray's hair.

Patterson asserted also that he had been told by Conrad Baetz, a staff investigator for the committee, to tell the panel that "I had seen Jerry Ray carry a gun — which is not true."

Under rules adopted by the assassinations panel last year in the midst of another controversy, "no conversation of committee members or staff with any person shall be recorded without the prior knowledge and/or written consent of the person whose conversation is to be recorded." In addition, the rules state, "there shall be no electronic surveillance or wiretapping of any person."

Baetz, a Madison County, Ill., sheriff's deputy who is reportedly on leave for a year, was said to be closeted with committee officials Tuesday. A representative of the committee quoted him as saying he could make no comment.

The assassinations panel was given \$2.5 million by Congress last spring to conduct its work through the end of the year. The panel said at the time that that was not enough and that it would be asking for more. On July 18, it requested an additional \$790,000.

The subcommittee could still recommend to grant the committee the additional funds when it reconsiders the matter, probably in September.

By that time, a staff source said, the committee should have been able to appraise the accuracy of Patterson's allegations. In addition, it will have had a chance to judge the quality of the committee's entire effort, because the committee will begin holding its public hearings Monday. The hearings are currently being held in secret.

"Then we may have the whole picture," the subcommittee source said.

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FBI-ST. LOUIS

Charges House Panel Hired

By JO MANNIES
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The attorney for James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., says House investigators hired a Black Jack man to spy on Ray's brother.

And, said attorney Mark Lane, investigators for the House Select Committee on Assassination then gave the "spy" answers — some false — for his official testimony.

Lane was in St. Louis on Monday for something of a three-ring circus of disclosures and allegations. In addition to the charges about spying, Lane:

— Accused the committee staff of using illegal means to gain evidence, including wiretapping and thefts, all as part of a "conspiracy" to prevent a fair investigation into King's death.

— Engaged in a mild shoving match with a New York Times reporter and accused the Times of being an unwitting "transmission belt" for false disclosures about the King murder. Lane maintained that committee investigators had intentionally leaked the information to the Times to discredit Ray's contention that, despite his guilty plea, he is innocent.

Lane said he decided to make his allegations public because, "Members of Congress have not the faintest idea that they are being betrayed by their own staff."

A spokesman for the committee said Monday night only that the staff is aware of Lane's contentions and that

"we consider them serious. We will be investigating." Ray is expected to testify publicly before the committee later this month, the spokesman said.

U.S. Rep. Harold Sawyer, D-Mich., a member of the committee, denied Lane's contention that Ray was offered

his freedom in exchange for an admission of guilt.

But he said Ray had been told that authorities in Missouri and Tennessee would be asked to consider a reduction in Ray's sentence if Sawyer was given "hard evidence that others were in-

involved."

Sawyer defended the proposal. "Every prosecutor in the country does this at times to gain information," he said.

Such a deal is now almost impossible, Sawyer said, because Lane "has just

deliberately blown it" by discussing it publicly.

The news conference was held in St. Louis at the Hilton Inn near Lambert Field. Its primary aim, Lane said, was to explain the role of Oliver Patterson, 34, of 12350 Old Halls Ferry Road, an alleged undercover agent for the committee who said he had become disenchanted with his job.

Patterson said he had once been an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and had been employed for the last few months by the House special committee to spy on James Earl Ray's brother, Jerry, a friend of Patterson's for several years.

He said his duties included tape-recording telephone conversations with Jerry Ray, sifting through Ray's belongings for letters from his jailed brother and even acquiring samples of Jerry Ray's hair.

In April, Patterson said, he appeared before the committee's investigative staff to answer questions about his undercover work. "During that testimony, I was asked questions by a lawyer for the committee named Michael Eberhardt, and on several occasions I was handed written 'answers' to the questions by Conrad Baetz, a staff investigator."

Other staff members appeared to be aware of what was happening, Patterson said, but "the stenographer apparently took the answers down as my own."

Patterson said he was told by Baetz to say that "I had seen Jerry Ray carry a gun — which is not true" and "to say something nice about" J.B. Stoner, an advocate of white supremacy.

Baetz, who lives in Madison County and is a sheriff's deputy there, could not be reached for comment.

Ray Case Spy

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Classification: SI 62-5097
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-119

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| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| AUG 9 1978 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |

Inv. Bureau 8/9/78

The spying continued, Patterson said, until he was told by an FBI agent and Baetz that Lane had somehow learned of the undercover work. "I was told that Lane or Ray might take retaliatory action against me or my family," he said.

Patterson said he was advised by Baetz to hold a news conference Sunday, where he was to accuse Lane of being a homosexual and contend that his undercover work had reinforced James Earl Ray's guilt.

The conference was postponed, Patterson said, after he and Baetz learned of Pope Paul VI's death. After a meeting with Lane, Patterson said he had a change of heart and decided to "tell the whole truth about the secret operation."

Patterson said he was displeased with the job, because the committee owed him \$900 and was "just going to dump everything on me — the illegal wire taps, the opening of mail, the thefts, everything. I'm willing to take a lie detector test, too," he said.

To lend credence to Patterson's story, Lane displayed an armload of tapes, said to be recordings of conversations with several persons, including Baetz and a New York Times reporter. Lane said Patterson had been instructed to "leak" false information to the Times during a St. Louis interview scheduled for Monday.

But instead of a being given a private interview, Times reporter Anthony J. Marro found himself walking into a hotel room full of news cameras and reporters. Marro pushed his way out of the room, saying that he was being used. Lane followed Marro out into the hall, shouting, "Don't you want to print the truth?"

Lane believed that the incident supported his contention that "the staff of the House committee panicked when they learned that I was aware of what was going on. So they decided to set up a secret meeting with The New York Times and discredit me."

Patterson said he knew nothing of recent reports by Russell E. Byers of Rock Hill that Byers had been offered money by two Imperial, Mo., men to arrange King's killing.

Marro, whose newspaper broke Byers' allegations, reported that Patterson "had never been reached by the Times and had never provided the paper with any information concerning the King assassination prior to Monday."

In a brief telephone interview, Marro added, "We chase a lot of leads. Some are good — some aren't. I'm going to Washington to chase a few more."

Lane said he was disturbed with his findings. An assassination buff who has written two books — "Rush to Judgment" and "Code Name Zorro" — about the murders of King and President John F. Kennedy, Lane contended that "it seems impossible for anybody to now take the House Select Committee on Assassinations seriously."

Patterson, a self-proclaimed gypsy salesman who says he has sold everything from real estate to geraniums, says he now has other matters to worry about.

Because he fears for his life, he said, he was to leave the St. Louis area Monday night. "I don't know where I'll go," he said. "But when it comes to knuckles, I think mine are going to get slapped."

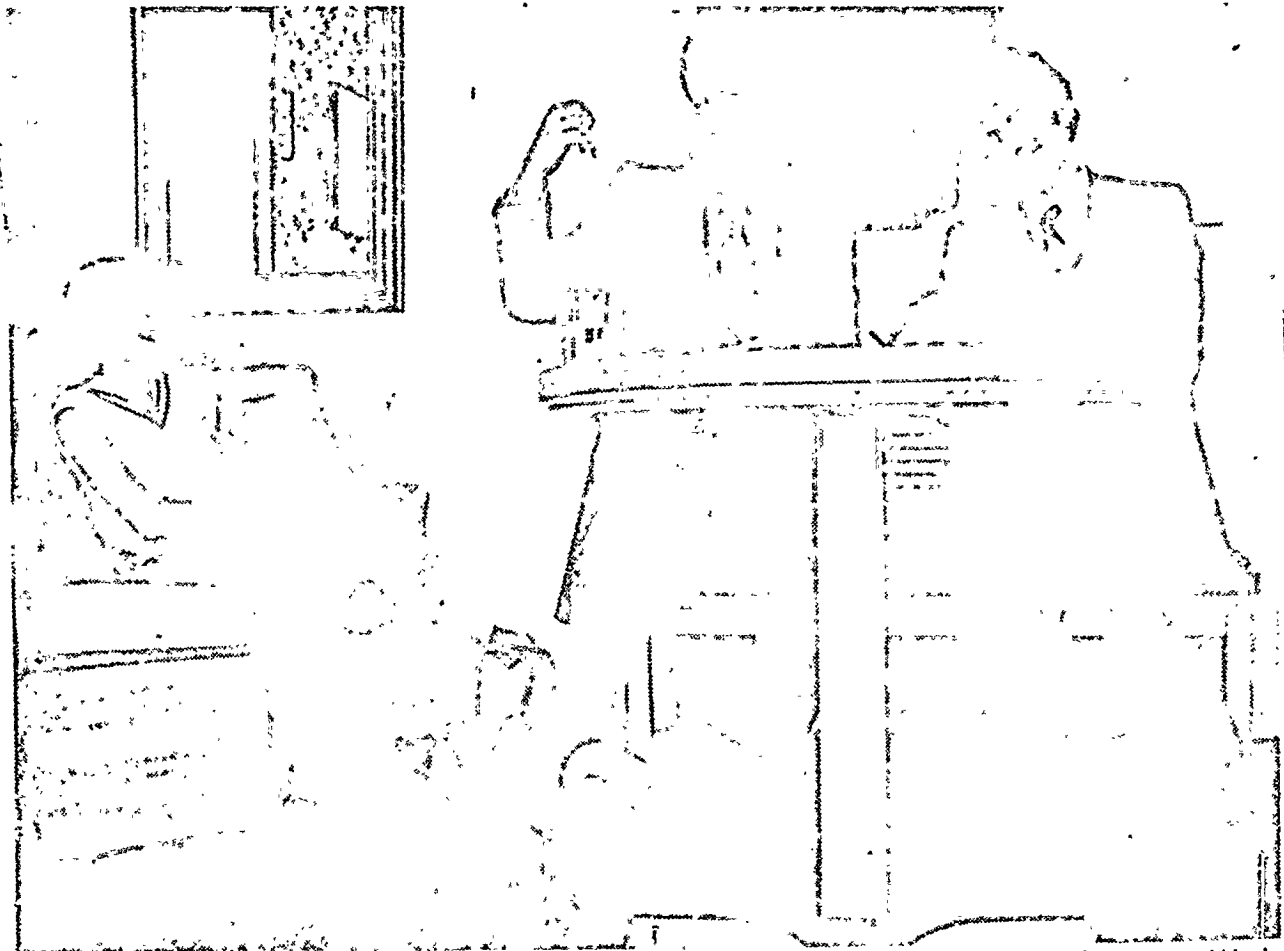
In a related development, FBI director William H. Webster said Monday that the 1974 FBI report containing an informant's statement about a payoff made to Ray after King's killing was never turned over to federal investigators because of "simple inadvertance."

This document came to light last March, along with an earlier document, which was an FBI report that Byers had told two lawyers that he had turned down a \$50,000 offer to arrange King's death. The FBI here had been checking into Byers after he had become a prime suspect in the two break-ins at the St. Louis Art Museum. Charges against Byers were subsequently dropped.

The second document quoted an informer as saying he was told by Byers that a Missouri businessman was "the individual who made the payoff to James Earl Ray after the killing" on April 4, 1968.

Webster said that the second document constituted "heresy three times removed." In New York to address the American Bar Association's national convention, Webster said that although an investigation by his office concluded that the report's misplacement was a mistake, it was not overly significant because "it has not yet been verified that the informant spoke the truth."

Although the document, as censored when it was made public, did not specify who Byers said had paid off Ray. The report contained the first allegation that money was actually paid to Ray.



NO JOKE: Attorney Mark Lane (center) making a joke at an otherwise serious press conference here Monday. With him are Oliver

Patterson of Black Jack and Susan Wadsworth, a friend of Patterson's. (Post-Dispatch Photo by Karen Elshout)

Broker named as conspirator in FBI memo

WASHINGTON (AP) — An FBI agent was given a second-hand account by an informant several years after the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that a St. Louis stockbroker was "the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray," according to the agent's report released Thursday.

The stockbroker and a lawyer who also was implicated in the claimed conspiracy have died. Their wives deny their husbands had any such involvement.

THE FBI AGENT, whose name has not been released, wrote a memo for his own files in March, 1974, after a wide-ranging interview with an unnamed informant. Among the criminal matters they discussed was the informant's claim that he had been told the previous year by Russell G. Byers, a former St. Louis auto parts dealer, of a conspiracy by the lawyer and the stockbroker to murder King.

According to the informant, Byers said he originally was offered \$10,000 to \$20,000 by the lawyer, subsequently identified as John Sutherland, to kill King himself, but that Byers declined.

Byers said another man, subsequently named as stockbroker John H. Kauffmann, was present when the murder contract was offered, and that he (Kauffmann) was the man who later paid Ray an unspecified amount for the actual killing.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for King's killing. He pleaded guilty, but now says he had no part in the shooting.

The agent did not forward his report of the interview to FBI headquarters and it was not discovered until last March, during a review of St. Louis bureau files on an unrelated matter.

THE AGENT'S report was dated March 19, 1974. Kauffmann died less than three weeks before, on March 1, 1974.

Top FBI officials say that on learning of the episode, they immediately forwarded the document to the Justice Department and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The committee called Byers to testify in closed session.

Some elements of the story were publicized last week, when Byers himself disclosed he had told the committee he was offered \$50,000, rather than the lesser figure mentioned in the FBI report, to kill King.

But in an interview with The New York Times, Byers said nothing about a Kauffmann payoff to Ray, and there has been no indication from official sources that he offered any corroboration of that allegation to the committee.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 2A, St. Louis
Globe-Democrat, St.
Louis, Missouri

Date: 8/4/78

Edition: morning

Title: "Broker named
as conspirator in
FBI memo"

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

62-5097-118

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|---------------|---------|
| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| AUG 7 1978 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |
| JTA | |

FBI/DOJ

FBI

3657

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 8/8/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

~~E F T O~~ UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

FOR THE INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, JFK Act 6 (4) JR.

TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THE ST. LOUIS FBI OFFICE AUGUST 7, 1978, STATING THAT HE WAS CONTACTED ON AUGUST 7, 1978, BY RUSSELL BYERS. BYERS HAD WITH HIM A COPY OF A "FBI MEMO WHICH HAD PORTIONS INKED OUT" AND WHICH MAY BE A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM OF HOWARD C. KENNEDY DATED MARCH 19, 1974. BYERS' COPY SAID THAT BYERS CONTACTED SOMEONE AT OK NOVELTY COMPANY IN ST. LOUIS REGARDING AN UNNAMED INDIVIDUAL. THE UNNAMED INDIVIDUAL WAS IDENTIFIED BY BYERS AS RICH O'HARA. THE MEMO FURTHER SAID THAT THE PERSON AT OK NOVELTY VOUCHERED FOR O'HARA AS NOT BEING A "SNITCH".

GREIF IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THE PERSON AT OK NOVELTY CONTACTED BY BYERS ABOUT O'HARA. GREIF HAD KNOWN O'HARA THROUGH O'HARA'S

2 - ST. LOUIS (1 - 62-5097
 1 - 137-16523)

MJW:ljs
 (2) *lp*

62-5097-117

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED *hpl*
 INDEXED _____
 FILED *hpl*

Approved: *RK*Transmitted 2106
(Number) (Time)Per *bip*
FBI/DOJ

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO SL 62-5097 ~~E F T O~~ UNCLAS E F T O *lf*

PAST OWNERSHIP OF THE PIRATES COVE TAVERN, IN WHICH OK NOVELTY HAD A VENDING MACHINE. GREIF SAID THAT JFK Act 6 (4) WAS TRYING TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION IN THE SAME MEMO WHO REFERRED TO BYERS AS "A VERY TREACHEROUS GUY". GREIF SAID HE TOLD BYERS HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY WHO MAY HAVE CHARACTERIZED BYERS IN THAT MANNER. GREIF SAID HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWLEDGE OF BYERS POSSIBLE CONNECTION IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUT WANTED TO NOTIFY THE FBI OF BYERS CONTACT WITH HIM.

GREIF IS THE OWNER OF OK NOVELTY COMPANY, A ST. LOUIS VENDING MACHINE COMPANY. GREIF IS FORMER SL 3549-PGI OPERATED FROM AUGUST 21, 1975 TO MARCH 3, 1977, BUFILE 137-43581, ST. LOUIS FILE 137-16523. A REVIEW OF SL 137-16523 FAILS TO REFLECT ANY REFERENCE TO DR. KING'S ASSASSINATION OR RUSSELL BYERS.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

FBI/DOJ

#

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Report on King killing called only hearsay

NEW YORK (AP) — A 1974 FBI report alleging a conspiracy in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was filed away for four years instead of being turned over to federal investigators because of "simple inadvertence," FBI Director William H. Webster said Monday.

However, Webster downplayed the significance of the slip-up, saying the report contained "hearsay three times removed" and that it was written long after the original investigation was concluded.

The recently released document quotes an informant as saying he was told a Missouri businessman was "the individual who made the payoff to James Earl Ray after the killing." Ray is serving a 99-year term in Tennessee for the 1968 murder of the civil rights leader.

The report "would normally have been filed with the King investigative file. This was not done," Webster said in an interview.

"It hasn't been verified that the informant spoke the truth. It hasn't been verified" that the informant was told the truth, Webster said.

Webster said he first learned of the FBI report last March and that it was turned over to the House Assassinations Committee at that time. He said his office concluded after its own investigation that the report's misplacement was a matter of "simple inadvertence."

He declined to characterize the status of the King investigation or comment when asked whether the report's existence represented a break in the investigation.

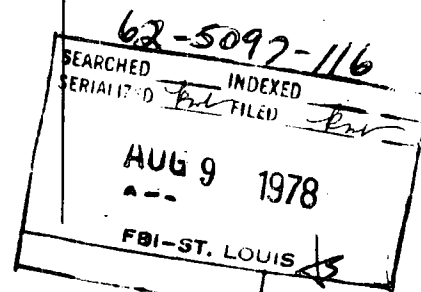
(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5A ST. LOUIS
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

Date: 8/8/78
Edition: Daily-Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character: HSCA
or
Classification: SL 62-5097
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated



Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for King's killing. He pleaded guilty, but now says he had no part in the shooting.

The agent did not forward his report of the interview to FBI headquarters and it was not discovered until last March, during a review of St. Louis bureau files on an unrelated matter.

THE AGENT'S report was dated March 19, 1974. Kauffmann died less than three weeks before, on March 1, 1974.

Top FBI officials say that on learning of the episode they immediately forwarded the document to the Justice Department and the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The committee called Byers to testify in closed session.

Some elements of the story were publicized last week, when Byers himself disclosed he had told the committee he was offered \$50,000, rather than the lesser figure mentioned in the FBI report, to kill King.

But in an interview with The New York Times, Byers said nothing about a Kauffmann payoff to Ray, and there has been no indication from official sources that he offered any corroboration of that allegation to the committee.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Broker named as conspirator in FBI memo

WASHINGTON (AP) — An FBI agent was given a second-hand account by an informant several years after the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that a St. Louis stockbroker was "the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray," according to the agent's report released Thursday.

The stockbroker and a lawyer who also was implicated in the claimed conspiracy have died. Their wives deny their husbands had any such involvement.

THE FBI AGENT, whose name has not been released, wrote a memo for his own files in March, 1974, after a wide-ranging interview with an unnamed informant. Among the criminal matters they discussed was the informant's claim that he had been told the previous year by Russell G. Byers, a former St. Louis auto parts dealer, of a conspiracy by the lawyer and the stockbroker to murder King.

According to the informant, Byers said he originally was offered \$10,000 to \$20,000 by the lawyer, subsequently identified as John Sutherland, to kill King himself, but that Byers declined.

Byers said another man, subsequently named as stockbroker John H. Kauffmann, was present when the murder contract was offered, and that he (Kauffmann) was the man who later paid Ray an unspecified amount for the actual killing.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
P2A, St. Louis
Globe-Democrat,
St. Louis, Mo.

Date: Aug. 4, 1978
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-115

for file

Aug 9 1978

274

62-5097

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Byers Knew Of Ray

Payoff, Informant

Told FBI In 1973

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation received information in 1973 that Russell G. Byers, a former auto parts dealer and police character from Rock Hill, Mo., knew who "made the payoff of James Earl Ray" after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Byers' accusation, reported by an informant, is contained in an internal St. Louis FBI office memorandum made available Wednesday to the Post-Dispatch under the Freedom of Information Act.

The memorandum, which went unnoticed for four years in the wrong file in St. Louis, does not give the name of the man identified by Byers. But it describes the man as "a short, stocky man who walked with a limp."

This description, several sources have told the Post-Dispatch, fits John R. Kauffmann, a one-time stockbroker of Imperial, Mo. Byers has reportedly told investigators for the House Assassinations Committee that Kauffmann and John H. Sutherland, both now dead, asked Byers to arrange King's murder.

Byers refused to comment on the FBI memo when reached at his Rock Hill home Wednesday night. He said the House committee had asked him not to make public statements.

Byers was keenly interested, however, in the new disclosures. He carefully analyzed the copy of the FBI memo released Wednesday. And, while humming a tune, he read through a New York Times story about the memo.

Byers' allegations are currently under scrutiny by the House Committee on Assassinations. A committee source told the Post-Dispatch Wednesday night that the committee was still trying to assess the significance of Byers' story.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Front Page, St.
Louis Post-Dispatch,
St. Louis, Mo.

Date: Aug. 3, 1978
Edition: 3 Star Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

62-3097-114

pl *pl*

62-3097-114

37H

All names but that of Byers, were deleted from the FBI memorandum by the Freedom of Information Privacy Acts Branch. But the memorandum discussed a meeting among Byers and two men in which Byers said he "had been offered either \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill King."

Sources have told the Post-Dispatch that Byers told House investigators that Kauffmann and Sutherland, a patent

Information for this story was provided by Paul Wagman, Robert Adams, Gerald M. Boyd, William Freivogel and J. Pulitzer, all of the Post-Dispatch staff.

lawyer, also from Imperial, asked him to arrange King's murder.

The memorandum, dated March 19, 1974, was written by a St. Louis agent of the FBI on the basis of information supplied by an informant.

"In the fall of 1973," the memorandum reads, "Beyers (the name is consistently misspelled in the memo) talked freely about himself and his business, and they later went to (short deletion by FBI) where Beyers told a story about visiting

a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill Martin Luther King. He said that also present was a short, stocky man, who walked with a limp."

The memorandum then continues with this sentence, enclosed in parentheses:

"(Later, with regard to the latter individual, Beyers commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray after the killing.)"

Several sources have told the Post-Dispatch that Kauffmann was short, overweight and walked with a marked limp after being injured in an automobile accident several years prior to the events described by Byers.

One source said that accident also seemed to have impaired Kauffmann

mentally. "He was a completely different man after that." In fact, when Kauffmann was arrested in 1967 for selling 500,000 amphetamine pills to a federal agent, he asked his attorney if he could plead innocent by reason of insanity, the source said. That idea was abandoned, however, and Kauffmann was convicted. Kauffmann, a stockbroker and businessman, died in 1973.

His wife Beulah G. Kauffmann testified for about three hours last week before the House select committee.

The committee did not ask her about the allegation that a "short, stocky man, who walked with a limp," had paid off Ray, the Post-Dispatch was told by a source familiar with her interrogation. Mrs. Kauffmann refused to discuss the

See BYERS, Page 8

Byers

■ FROM PAGE ONE

matter, hanging up on a reporter Wednesday night.

The memorandum largely jibes with an account Byers gave about the same time to a reputable St. Louisan.

In about 1974, the St. Louisan told the Post-Dispatch, Byers told him that a stockbroker who had lost his license was involved in offering Byers \$50,000 for King's murder. The stockbroker apparently was Kauffmann.

The \$50,000 figure differs from the \$10,000 to \$20,000 figure cited in the FE memo. Byers said he never intended to go through with the plot, but followed along for awhile out of curiosity.

Byers' allegations have led investigators to speculate that his brother-in-law, John Paul Spica, might have conveyed word of the bounty to Ray at the Missouri Penitentiary, where both were serving sentences at the time of the alleged offer in late 1966 or early 1967.

Spica, who now runs a fruit stand in St. Louis, has denied having any dealings with Ray.

Members of the House committee have refused to say how seriously they are

taking Byers' story. One committee source told the Post-Dispatch that the panel is undecided.

"We're just working on it," the source said. "We haven't come to any conclusions as to how seriously to take it."

The source noted, however, that the intensity of the committee's efforts shows that the panel considers the story well worth investigation.

"Certain things appear to corroborate the story," the source said, without elaborating. "But at this point, we're just following up all angles. . . Basically, we take anything like this seriously until we prove otherwise."

Byers' allegations have focused attention on Kauffmann and Sutherland, whose names had not been mentioned publicly in connection with the King case until last week.

The FBI memorandum went unnoticed by investigators looking into King's assassination for four years because it was filed under Byers' name and not cross-referenced. It was uncovered in March when investigators were reviewing Byers' file in connection with the

theft of statues from the St. Louis Art Museum earlier this year.

Byers is described in the memorandum as a "very treacherous guy." The description apparently came from an associate of the FBI informant, who cautioned the informant "to stay from him if he wanted to stay out of trouble."

One of the investigators on the staff of the House committee was the federal drug agent who 11 years ago led the investigation into Kauffmann's illegal sale of amphetamines. Kauffmann was convicted in 1967.

The investigator Harold D. Leap, has been on the committee staff since last year. That indicates that he was not just hired to follow up on the Kauffman angle, which was disclosed to the committee in March.

While heading the successful effort to prosecute Kauffmann and seven co-defendants, Leap was wounded in a shooting on a country road in St. Louis County.

No arrests were ever made in the shooting.

A well-placed source said drug agents suspected one of Kauffmann's co-defendants, but no evidence was developed linking any co-defendant to the shooting.

In addition two St. Louis County policemen who investigated said they and federal drug agents had questioned the authenticity of Leap's story.

Leap told county police that a car blocked his path on Sulphur Springs Road on his way back home after a late night meeting Sept. 22, 1967, with the informant, who had helped make the case against Kauffmann. The informant, Dallas Barr, had taken active part in Kauffmann's illegal amphetamine operation.

Leap said he struggled outside his car with two men from the other car before being shot in the head by his own pistol. The wound was superficial and he soon regained consciousness.

Leap refused to comment on his work with the assassinations committee or the shooting.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (62-5097)

DATE: 8/4/78

FROM : SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR.

SUBJECT: HSCA

Attention is directed to two FD-302s in this file, reflecting interviews conducted on 7/28/78 and 8/4/78, respectively, by me, of former SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY. Particular attention is directed to the interview with KENNEDY on 8/4/78 as it pertains to dissemination of information by him, which information is reflected in serial 5 of St. Louis file 137-16185. In this interview of 8/4/78, KENNEDY stated that he recalls with reasonable certainty that certain information was disseminated by him to the St. Louis Police Department.

In order to document such dissemination, this is to record that I personally searched our dissemination control file, 66-2340, for the months of April through July of 1974 and found no record of such dissemination having been made.

It should be noted that the volume of 66-2340 for the month of March, 1974, and prior months are no longer maintained as they have been destroyed under the file destruction program.

There is no FD-159 (dissemination form) concerning this matter contained in 137-16185 or the related file 87-21859.

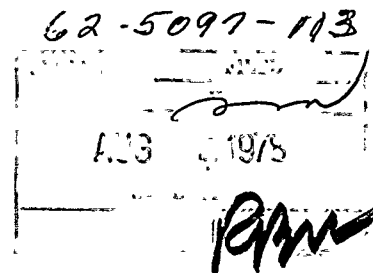
RBK:n/n

(4)



5010-110

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



X AIRTEL

8/4/78

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Re St. Louis telephone call to Bureau 8/4/78.

Enclosed herewith are three copies each of an FD-302
on interview of former SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY and a memorandum from
SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR.

3 - Bureau (Encs.)
1 - St. Louis

RBK:nln

(4)

len

RBK

62-5097-112

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|------------|-------|
| SEARCHED | _____ |
| SERIALIZED | _____ |
| INDEXED | _____ |
| FILED | _____ |

PM

Transmit attached by Facsimile - CLEAR

Precedence PRIORITY

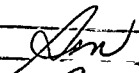

To: DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
RM 8988, JEH)
From: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)
Subject: HSCA

Date: 8/3/78
Time: Transmitted - 1901
Initials - MD

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☒ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☐ Other _____

Special handling instructions:

SPECIAL - HANDCARRY TO ADDRESSEEApproved: 

62-5097-111
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED  _____
INDEXED _____
FILED  _____

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/4/78

Mr. HOWARD C. KENNEDY resides at 55 Harneywold Drive, Ferguson, Missouri 63136, residence telephone number (314) 521-8221.

Mr. KENNEDY is presently self-employed as a private investigator and polygraph examiner. He retired from FBI service on February 28, 1977. Prior to his retirement he was assigned to the St. Louis Division of the FBI from 1954 to the date of his retirement. During 1974 he was assigned to general criminal matters and worked as a Special Agent under the supervision of Field Supervisor ROBERT L. BENDER.

Mr. KENNEDY's recollection was refreshed regarding an interview with him at the FBI Office in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 28, 1978, by SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR., concerning a closed St. Louis file 137-16185; more specifically, serial 5 of that file. Mr. KENNEDY recalled having read this serial in detail. He further recalled earlier discussion on July 28, 1978, concerning a notation appearing on the above serial which states, "Notify locals of info re killing", and his earlier reply that in his recollection this comment pertained to a matter appearing on page 2 of the memorandum and unrelated to the MARTIN LUTHER KING information.

Mr. KENNEDY was asked if he did in fact disseminate the information in keeping with the above-cited handwritten notation. He related that he recalls with reasonable certainty that he did disseminate the information appearing on page 2 to someone in the St. Louis Police Department whose identity he does not now recall.

Mr. KENNEDY called further attention to the last paragraph of page 3 of the memorandum in question which refers to another killing, unrelated to the MARTIN LUTHER KING matter. He volunteered that this additional unrelated information was also disseminated, to the best of his recollection, to the St. Louis Police Department; however, he similarly does not recall to whom this information was given.

Interviewed on 8/4/78 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 62-5097-111

RBM
by SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR./nlm

Date dictated 8/4/78

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.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Byers Knew Of Payoff, FBI Was Told

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation received information in 1973 that Russell G. Byers, a former auto parts dealer and police character from Rock Hill, knew who "made the payoff of James Earl Ray" after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Byers' accusation, reported by an informant, is contained in an internal St. Louis FBI office memorandum made available Wednesday to the Post-Dispatch under the Freedom of Information Act.

The memorandum, which went unnoticed for four years in the wrong file in St. Louis, does not give the name of the man identified by Byers. But it describes the man as "a short, stocky man who walked with a limp."

This description, several sources have told the Post-Dispatch, fits John R. Kauffmann, a one-time stockbroker of Imperial, Mo. Byers has reportedly told investigators for the House Assassinations Committee that Kauffmann and John H. Sutherland, both now dead, asked Byers to arrange King's murder.

However, one source said that at least one other man fitting the description could not be ruled out as the person described in the memorandum. The second man was described by St. Louis police sources as an avowed segregationist and an acquaintance of Sutherland's.

Byers refused to comment on the FBI memo when reached at his Rock Hill home Wednesday night. He said the House committee had asked him not to make public statements.

Byers was keenly interested, however, in the new disclosures. He carefully analyzed the copy of the FBI memo released Wednesday. And, while humming a tune, he read through a New York Times story about the memo.

Byers' allegations are currently under scrutiny by the House Committee on Assassinations. A committee source told the Post-Dispatch Wednesday night that the committee was still trying to assess the significance of Byers' story.

All names but that of Byers were deleted from the FBI memorandum by the Freedom of Information Privacy

Acts Branch. But the memorandum discussed a meeting among Byers and two men in which Byers said he "had been offered either \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill King."

Sources have told the Post-Dispatch that Byers told House investigators that Kauffmann and Sutherland, a patent lawyer, also from Imperial, asked him to arrange King's murder.

The memorandum, dated March 19, 1974, was written by a St. Louis agent of the FBI on the basis of information supplied by an informant.

"In the fall of 1973," the memorandum reads, "Beyers)(the name is consistently misspelled in the memo) talked freely

about himself and his business, and they later went to (short deletion by FBI) where Beyers told a story about visiting a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill Martin Luther King. He said that also present was a short, stock man, who walked with a limp."

The memorandum then continues with this sentence, enclosed in parentheses:

"Later, with regard to the latter individual, Beyers commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray after the killing.)

Several sources have told the Post-Dispatch that Kauffmann was short, overweight and walked with a marked limp after being injured in an automobile accident several years prior to the events described by Byers.

The other man fitting that description, however, is known to have testified before the subcommittee in April. Roy A. Walther III, an attorney for Byers, refused to say whether the other man was implicated in Byers' testimony. Walther said he had never heard of the other man until the time of Byers' testimony before the House committee.

St. Louis Police Department sources

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1A ST. LOUIS
POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Date: 8/3/78
Edition: Bulldog
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: SL 62-5097
Submitting Office: St. Louis
☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-110

3

PMW

said the man was an avowed segregationist, and had appeared in St. Louis frequently to speak at segregationist rallies during the late 1960s. He was also known to have been acquainted with Sutherland.

The man is further known to be closely associated with Ray, who pleaded guilty of King's murder in 1969 and is serving a 99-year prison sentence in Petros, Tenn. Since pleading guilty, however, Ray has denied full responsibility for the shooting and has sought a new trial.

Kauffmann, a one-time stockbroker who was convicted in the late 1960s of selling 500,000-amphetamine pills to a

Federal agent, died in 1973. His wife, Beulah G. Kauffmann, testified for about three hours last week before the House Select Committee:

The committee did not ask her about the allegation that a "short, stocky man, who walked with a limp," had paid off Ray, the Post-Dispatch was told by a source familiar with her interrogation. Mrs. Kauffmann refused to discuss the matter, hanging up on a reporter Wednesday night.

The memorandum's account of Byers' story jibes in all but one detail — the amount of money involved — with an account Byers gave at about the same time to a reputable St. Louisan.

X AIRTEL

7/31/78

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

SUBJ: SL 3567-PC

ReButel call to St. Louis 7/28/78.

By way of retelcall, Unit Chief GEORGE J. FOSTER, Congressional Inquiry Unit, Records Management Division, directed that a Xerox copy of the entire St. Louis file 137-16541, pertaining to captioned subject, be transmitted by mail to the Congressional Inquiry Unit.

A Xerox copy of the file requested above is enclosed herewith.

2 - Bureau (Enc.)

② - St. Louis (1 - 62-5097; 1 - 137-16541).

RBK:nln

(4)

ADDENDUM - SAC, ST. LOUIS: On 7/31/78, Unit Chief FOSTER of the Congressional Inquiry Unit was reminded by SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR. that the transmittal of an informant file through the mail, identifying the informant with his symbol number and other identifying data, is in violation of current Bureau regulations. FOSTER instructed that the file be mailed anyhow.

62-5097-109

X AIRTEL

7/31/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290) (ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION).
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS

ReButel to St. Louis 7/28/78.

Enclosed herewith are three copies each of FD-302s reflecting interviews at St. Louis, Missouri, on 7/28/78 with ROBERT L. BENDER, former FBI Field Supervisor, and HOWARD C. KENNEDY, former FBI Agent.

2 - Bureau (Encs.)
① St. Louis

RBK:nlm

(3)
nlm

Rmm

62-5097-108

Don
Don

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/31/78

Mr. ROBERT L. BENDER resides at Route 1, Box 388, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017, residence telephone number (314) 391-6518.

Mr. BENDER is presently unemployed, having retired from FBI service on 2/28/77. Prior to his retirement he was assigned to the St. Louis Field Division of the FBI from 1953 to the date of his retirement. Additionally, he served in the capacity of Field Supervisor in the St. Louis Division of the FBI for approximately nine years prior to and until the date of his retirement. He supervised general criminal matters.

Mr. BENDER was interviewed at the St. Louis FBI Office, at which place he voluntarily appeared.

Mr. BENDER was exhibited sufficient portions of a closed St. Louis file 137-16185 to enable him to identify it as a matter which was at one time under his supervision and assigned to an Agent under his supervision by the name of HOWARD C. KENNEDY.

The file in this instance pertains to one RICHARD F. O'HARA, a former informant of the St. Louis Division of the FBI.

The attention of Mr. BENDER was directed to a memorandum in this file dated 3/19/74 to the SAC, St. Louis, from Special Agent HOWARD C. KENNEDY. This memorandum is identified as serial 5 of the file. Mr. BENDER was permitted to read this memorandum in order to refresh his memory concerning its contents. Although he had no independent recollection of the memorandum or its contents, after reading it he concluded that the memorandum had crossed his desk on or about 3/19/74, as attested to by the appearance of his handwriting on the memorandum. BENDER's attention was further directed to paragraph 2, page 3 of the memorandum, which paragraph begins, "During the fall of 1973....," and ending with "... \$20,000 to kill KING."

Mr. BENDER related that he had no independent recollection of the paragraph in question; however, upon reviewing the entire memorandum dated 3/19/74, he found no evidence that the information contained in the above-cited paragraph was either acted upon or

Interviewed on 7/28/78 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 62-5097-107

Rm by SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR./nlm Date dictated 7/31/78

disseminated beyond the file in which the memorandum is located. He did note that there is a handwritten notation in his handwriting on page 1 of the memorandum which states, "Notify locals of info re killing." Upon reading the memorandum in detail, it was BENDER's conclusion that this handwritten notation did not apply to the above-cited paragraph but, instead, applied to an unrelated matter of interest to local authorities appearing on page 2 of the memorandum.

Mr. BENDER stated that he has absolutely no recollection as to why the information contained in the above-cited paragraph on page 3 of the memorandum in question was not disseminated or acted upon. He can only assume that such failure was through inadvertence. He can make no judgment whatsoever concerning the credibility of the information as a possible reason for not acting on it. BENDER related, however, that because of his long association with the FBI in St. Louis, he does recall an individual by the name of RUSSELL BYERS as a well-known thief and fence.

At the conclusion of interview, Mr. BENDER stated that in retrospect and in light of today's climate, the information concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING in the memorandum of 3/19/74 should have been acted upon.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/31/78

Mr. HOWARD C. KENNEDY resides at 55 Harneywold Drive, Ferguson, Missouri 63136, residence telephone number (314) 521-8221.

Mr. KENNEDY is presently self-employed as a private investigator and polygraph examiner. He retired from FBI service on 2/28/77. Prior to his retirement he was assigned to the St. Louis Division of the FBI from 1954 to the date of his retirement. During 1974 he was assigned to general criminal matters and worked as a Special Agent under the supervision of Field Supervisor ROBERT L. BENDER.

Mr. KENNEDY was interviewed at the St. Louis FBI Office, at which place he voluntarily appeared.

Mr. KENNEDY was exhibited sufficient portions of a closed St. Louis file 137-16185 to enable him to identify it as a matter which was at one time assigned to him while he was an FBI Agent.

The file in this instance pertains to one RICHARD F. O'HARA, a former informant of the St. Louis Division of the FBI. The attention of Mr. KENNEDY was directed to a memorandum in this file dated 3/19/74 from him to the SAC, St. Louis. This memorandum is identified as serial 5 of the file. He was permitted to read this memorandum in order to refresh his memory concerning its contents. KENNEDY related that from his review of this memorandum it reflects the results of a contact by him with O'HARA at which time O'HARA furnished him several pieces of information. KENNEDY's attention was further directed to paragraph 2, page 3 of the memorandum, which paragraph begins, "During the fall of 1973," and ending with "... \$20,000 to kill KING."

Mr. KENNEDY stated that upon having his memory refreshed by reading the above memorandum, he vaguely recalls receiving the information. He has no recollection, however, of having disseminated the information contained in the above-cited paragraph or that the information was otherwise acted upon. He can cite no reason for such failure other than inadvertence. To the best of his recollection, no action was, in fact, taken concerning the information about MARTIN LUTHER KING, as contained

Interviewed on 7/28/78 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 62-5097-106
by SAC ROY B. KLAGER, JR./nlm Date dictated 7/31/78

SL 62-5097

in the memorandum, and he shared this information with no other personnel in the office.

Mr. KENNEDY was unable to provide an evaluation of the information and he is sure that no other information concerning KING was furnished to him by O'HARA. He can make no comment with regard to the credibility of the information at this late date. He does not believe, however, that credibility of either O'HARA or BYERS entered into any decision or lack of decision with regard to dissemination of the information concerning KING.

KENNEDY recalls, however, from his many years of service in the FBI at St. Louis that RUSSELL BYERS was a well-known fence.

KENNEDY reiterated that he has no idea or reason for the failure to disseminate the information contained in paragraph 2 of page 3 of the cited memorandum as it relates to MARTIN LUTHER KING. He noted that there is nothing written on the memorandum to indicate such dissemination was made or action taken otherwise.

Mr. KENNEDY's attention was further directed to a handwritten notation on the first page of the memorandum which states, "Notify locals of info re killing." He identifies this notation as being in the handwriting of his former Supervisor, ROBERT L. BENDER. Upon reading the memorandum in detail, it was KENNEDY's conclusion that this handwritten notation did not apply to the above-cited paragraph but, instead, applied to an unrelated matter of interest to local authorities appearing on page 2 of the memorandum.

At the conclusion of interview, Mr. KENNEDY stated that in retrospect, the information concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING in the memorandum of 3/19/74 should have been acted upon.

Transmit attached by Facsimile - CLEAR

Precedence IMMEDIATETo: DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE)

Date: 7/26/78

From: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

Time: Transmitted - 2030

Subject: HSCA

Initials - SDF

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☒ Newspaper clippings ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☐ Other _____

Special handling instructions:

SPECIAL - HANDCARRY TO MR. T. J. HARRINGTON, JR., ROOM 7222, JEH
62-5097-105Approved: 

SEARCHED _____
SERIAL _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

REBUTELCAL TO ST. LOUIS DATED JULY 28, 1978.

BY AIRTEL TO BUREAU DATED MARCH 13, 1978, ST. LOUIS ADVISED THAT INFORMATION RE POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY IN MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ASSASSINATION HAD BEEN LOCATED IN ST. LOUIS FILE 137-16185. INFORMANT (SL 3167-C) HAD BEEN CONTACTED IN MARCH, 1974, AND INFORMATION RE CRIMINAL MATTERS, INCLUDING THE ABOVE, PLACED IN CONTACT MEMORANDUM MARCH 19, 1974, AND APPARENTLY NEVER DISSEMINATED OR ACTED ON.

ST. LOUIS IS DIRECTED TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AGENT AND AGENT SUPERVISOR WHO HANDLED SL 3167-C (IDENTIFIED BY ST. LOUIS OFFICE AS FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS HOWARD C. KENNEDY AND ROBERT L. BENDER) AND THOROUGHLY INTERVIEW THEM RE THE ABOVE. ORIGINAL

*file cc
destroyed
9/4/78
Jm*

*Handled
Rm
7/31*

62-5097-105

[Signature]
JUL 1978

Rm

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0094 UNCLAS

CONTACT MEMORANDUM MARCH 19, 1974, FROM ST. LOUIS 137-16185
SHOULD BE SHOWN TO FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS KENNEDY AND BENDER TO
FACILITATE COMPLETE RE CALL OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCES RE THIS
MATTER.

POINTS TO BE COVERED DURING INTERVIEWS INCLUDE, BUT ARE
NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

SPECIAL AGENT KENNEDY:

1. RECOLLECTION OF INFORMATION OBTAINED IN MEMORANDUM.
2. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING RECEIPT OF THAT INFORMATION.
3. EVALUATION OF THAT INFORMATION.
4. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FURNISHED BY ST. LOUIS
3617-C RE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ALLEGATION.
5. EVALUATION OF INFORMATION, I.E., CREDIBILITY.
6. EVALUATION OF RUSSEL GEORGE BYERS.
7. REASON FOR FAILURE TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION.
8. ANY ORAL DISSEMINATION TO OTHER SPECIAL AGENTS IN
ST. LOUIS, BUREAU OR OTHER FIELD OFFICES.

SPECIAL AGENT BENDER:

1. RECOLLECTION OF INFORMATION IN MEMORANDUM.
2. REASON FOR FAILURE TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION.

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0094 UNCLAS

RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE TELEPHONICALLY PROVIDED
TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT (CIU), FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ),
EXTENSION 3685, AND CONFIRMED IN FD-302 FORM BY AIRTEL TO
FBIHQ, ATTENTION CIU, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Area Man Allegedly

By J. PULITZER
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A 46-year-old Rock Hill man has told the House Select Committee on Assassinations that he was once offered \$50,000 to kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the New York Times reported today.

Russell G. Byers, a former auto parts dealer who was implicated last January in the theft of several statues from the St. Louis Art Museum, said he turned down the offer in late 1966 or early 1967, according to the Times. King was shot to

death on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

The Times story said Byers told the committee that two men from Imperial, Mo., had offered him the money in behalf of a group of conservative businessmen to kill King. Both are now dead.

Sources said Byers' testimony has spurred an inquiry by committee investigators because his brother-in-law, John Paul Spica, was then serving a life sentence for murder at the Missouri State Penitentiary with James Earl Ray, who later pleaded guilty in the death of King.

An FBI spokesman in Washington told the Post-Dispatch that the St. Louis office of the FBI had received "certain information" about the King assassination in 1973, but would not confirm it came from Byers.

He said the information was never investigated and was placed in the wrong file, and then was turned up by accident last March. The spokesman took pains to suggest the information may not have been considered reliable.

A Post-Dispatch reporter who attempted to interview Byers at his residence in

the 9300 block of Fredric Court was told that Byers was out of town and was not available for comment.

The Times account of a three-month investigation by the House committee indicated that investigators suspected that word of a contract offer on King's life had reached the prison through Spica. But Byers said he had told Spica of the offer only recently, according to the Times.

Records from the State Penitentiary indicate that Spica and James Earl Ray shared the same cell block, and for a

Got Offer To Kill King

short time worked together in the prison bakery. Ras. escaped on April 23, 1967, almost a year before the fatal shooting of King.

The Times said investigators are now concentrating on a theory of conspiracy by the conservative business group mentioned by Byers in his testimony.

Spica, 40, who was paroled in 1973 and now runs a fruit stand at Shaw Boulevard and Vandeventer Avenue, declined to be interviewed by New York Times reporters, threatening "I'll blow your head off" if they did not leave, the Times said. Spica could not be reached by the Post-Dispatch Tuesday night.

Byers also told the House committee that he had told an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the \$50,000 offer to kill King, the Times said.

Byers said the FBI office in St. Louis had been given details of the offer, but had never investigated, according to the Times report.

A source close to the St. Louis FBI office told the Post-Dispatch that he had never heard of the information on the alleged approach to Byers.

In Washington, FBI spokesman Homer Boynton told the Post-Dispatch that "certain information relating to the Martin Luther King assassination" was furnished to the St. Louis FBI office in 1973.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PLA, St. Louis Post
Dispatch, St. Louis,
Missouri

Date: 7/26/78
Edition: Bulldog

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COMMITTEE ON
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or

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| AUG 2 1978 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |

[Signature]
FBI/DOJ

"We're not saying that it was reliable information," he said. "We're just saying certain information was furnished." He declined to say whether the information came from Byers.

Boynton said the information was never investigated by the St. Louis office. He said it was not cross-indexed under the Martin Luther King file, as it should have been.

Last March, Boynton said, St. Louis FBI agents discovered the material more or less by accident.

"They were reviewing a file in connection with another matter," he said, "and as a result of that, they found the information and realized that it had never been properly indexed. And they immediately advised FBI headquarters."

Boynton said the St. Louis field office then sent the information to FBI headquarters in Washington. FBI headquarters in turn gave it to the Department of Justice, and the Department of Justice turned it over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Boynton said.

"It was just put in the file," Boynton said of the 1973 information. "Nothing further was done with it," until it was found last March.

Asked whether the 1973 tip should have been investigated, Boynton said he was not going to second-guess the judgment of the FBI agent in St. Louis who handled it.

"It's kind of hard to tell what judgment the agent and the supervisor made about the reliability" of the information, Boynton said. "In the Kennedy investigation, we checked out thousands and thousands of these. Some of them were very bizarre. And many of them ended in absolutely nothing. And it could have been the judgment of the agents that this was not worthy of following through on."

Boynton said he could not discuss the specifics of the allegations as reported in the Times.

He said the FBI is not currently investigating the information that was furnished in 1973. He said the agency had an agreement with the House committee

that the committee would investigate such leads unless the panel asked the FBI for help.

A member of the House committee's staff in Washington said it was committee policy not to confirm or deny reports about matters related to the King and Kennedy assassinations. He said the committee's findings would be contained in its final report to Congress, which is due by the end of the year.

"I just can't comment," the staff member said.

The Times story said House investigators learned that Byers believed the offer to him had been an effort to recruit a "fall guy" who would not actually commit the murder, but who would be arrested for it.

A St. Louis Police Department captain who investigated the Art Museum thefts said he had heard recently that Byers testified before the House committee.

Other officers in the Police Department's intelligence unit said Byers was seen frequently at Spica's fruit stand. Byers had been charged in connection with the Art Museum thefts, but the charges were later dropped by the St. Louis circuit attorney's office.

The widow of one of the men alleged to have approached Byers with the offer on King's life denied such a thing had happened, the Times said. She was quoted as saying that Byers had probably concocted the whole story to "help himself get out of the art case," the Times said.

The woman told the Post-Dispatch Tuesday night that her husband knew Byers through a business associate, but would not elaborate. She insisted that the allegation about her husband was "a glaring mistake."

The widow of the other man from Imperial refused to talk to the Post-Dispatch or the New York Times because she is co-operating with the House committee, according to her attorney.

The Times report said that Byers had been granted immunity from prosecution in King's death for his sworn testimony before the House committee in Washington.



Russell G. Byers
Questioned in King inquiry

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Byers Was Implicated In Museum Thefts

By BECKY MCREYNOLDS
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Russell G. Byers has been in the news frequently in recent months in connection with the theft of seven statues in two separate incidents from the St. Louis Art Museum.

Byers was described by police — for a while — as the "mastermind" behind the first theft of four statues, including Frederic Remington's "Bronco Buster," Jan. 29. Three other statues, all by the French sculptor Francois Auguste Rodin, were taken in a second burglary Feb. 20.

However, all charges against Byers were dropped after the statues were recovered. Police had received anonymous phone calls leading them to the locations of the missing statues.

Byers had been implicated by another suspect in the thefts, John A. Crenshaw, 25. On Feb. 28, police raided the Byers home in the 9300 block of Fredric Court, Rock Hill. None of the stolen statues was recovered, but 138 other items, believed to be stolen, were confiscated.

Since the first burglary, two men believed to be associates of Byers and Crenshaw, and also believed to have been involved in the first museum theft, have met violent deaths.

On Feb. 17, the body of Charles H. Gunn, 29, was found behind the 5900 block of Hamilton Terrace. Gunn, who had been identified by Crenshaw as an accomplice, had been shot in the head.

On June 11, the body of Samuel Ernest White, 42, was found in a field in Madison County. He had been shot three times and his body was severely burned.

When Byers was arrested March 2, he gave his occupation as a vending-machine dealer. Police records show many arrests for him in St. Louis and St. Louis County since 1960.

He was convicted in U.S. District Court here in 1965 of conspiracy to commit auto theft. He was fined and placed on probation.

In March, Byers' wife and daughter filed suit in St. Louis County Court seeking recovery of the items taken from their home and, in addition, \$75,000 in damages from St. Louis Police Chief Eugene J. Camp and County Police Superintendent G. H. Kleinknecht to compensate for the loss of the goods. The suit is pending.

Byers was charged in the art museum burglary after police said Crenshaw led them to the first statue to be recovered and implicated Byers as a middleman. That charge was dropped April 27 after Crenshaw told St. Louis Circuit Attorney George S. Peach that he would not testify against Byers.

Byers was charged with receiving stolen goods in connection with the lithographs found in the raid. That charge was dismissed on May 25 after county prosecutors said their case was not strong enough to proceed.

Byers' wife was seeking the return of three Oriental rugs, eight lithographs and 22 antique objects police confiscated as stolen. Police said the all of the other items taken in the raid were already returned. An attorney for the Byers family said the police had no right to release the goods without a court determination of proper ownership.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P6A, St. Louis Post
Dispatch, St. Louis,
Missouri

Date: 7/26/78
Edition: Bulldog

Title: HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON
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Character:
or

Classification: 62-5097-103
Submitting Office: SL

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| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Spica In Jail 10 Years, Paroled

In Killing

John Paul Spica was paroled from the State penitentiary in October 1973 at the age of 36 after serving 10 years of a life sentence in the fatal shooting of an Uplands Park real estate dealer in 1962.

John J. Myszak, 50, the real estate dealer, was shot four times from an automobile as he stood in the driveway of a friend and business associate in Normandy on the night of June 8, 1962.

Spica, then 25, was accused of arranging the killing after he was approached by Marie Myszak, the dead man's wife, who wanted her husband murdered.

During the sensational case, which was given much publicity here, the 48-year-old widow admitted plotting the killing of her husband with Spica. However, she said she told Spica to call off the deal about three weeks before the murder because she couldn't raise the \$3,000 Spica demanded.

Mrs. Myszak said she wanted her husband killed because she was "fed up" with the repeated beatings he had given her. She also was the beneficiary of about \$165,000 in life insurance carried by him.

Spica, although never accused as the actual killer, was convicted by a St. Louis County jury in May 1963 of conspiring to murder Myszak and sentenced to life in prison. Before his conviction, Spica had been arrested in investigations of several burglaries, but had never been convicted of a felony. But at the time of his arrest in the Myszak case, police detectives described him as a "well-known St. Louis hoodlum."

Spica began serving his life term in the State Penitentiary on July 1, 1963.

Mrs. Myszak was acquitted by a St. Louis County jury in January 1964 of the murder of her husband.

While Spica was serving his sentence, he pleaded guilty to charges of second-degree burglary in connection with a break-in at a Wellston jewelry store in 1962, and stealing over \$50 by deceit in an automobile deal. He was sentenced to two years on each conviction, the sen-

tences to run concurrently with his life sentence.

Spica is the son of Paul J. Spica, a clerk in the county magistrate courts and former Democratic politician. Paul Spica is a former Democratic committeeman from Normandy Township. John Spica lives with his father in Normandy.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
P6A, St. Louis Post
Dispatch, St. Louis,
Missouri

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ASSASSINATIONS

Character:

or

Classification: 62-5097-
Submitting Office: SL 1020

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| AUG 2 1978 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |

FBI/DOJ

Confirms Byers Told Of King Offer

By WILLIAM FREIVOGEL
and CARTER STITH
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A reputable St. Louisan confirms that Russell G. Byers told him that he had been offered \$50,000 by two Imperial, Mo., men to arrange the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

Byers twice mentioned the plot, first in generalities shortly after the assassination in 1963 and later in more detail in about 1974, the St. Louisan told the Post-Dispatch. He said that in the latter conversation Byers told of a stockbroker taking him to the Imperial farm of a patent lawyer to discuss the plot.

Byers did not use names, the prominent citizen said, but he apparently was referring to stockbroker John R. Kauffmann and lawyer John H. Sutherland,

whom he has accused of the plot in recent testimony to the House Assassinations Committee.

Previous accounts of the alleged assassination plot have said that Byers has said that he told two lawyers and other unidentified persons about it some years ago. But this is the first direct confirmation from one of those persons.

In another development, a Clayton lawyer, who has been questioned by the House Assassinations Committee staff, told a reporter he had seen Byers and Kauffmann meeting several times in the late 1960s. The lawyer represented both Kauffmann and Byers on separate legal matters.

The lawyers said Kauffmann had introduced him to Byers during a lunch in about 1966. He got the impression that Byers and Kauffmann knew each other

from growing up in the same part of south St. Louis and that they had some kind of business dealings in the 1960s.

Byers was particularly close to Kauffmann's late brother Gil Kauffmann, who was a deputy St. Louis County coroner before his death in 1962, the lawyer said.

Asked whether Byers had told him about the alleged assassination offer, the lawyer said he could not respond because the confidential relationship between an attorney and his client. He said he had given the same answer to the House committee's staff.

The lawyer's account adds new detail about Byers' relationship with Kauffmann.

Both sources agreed to talk with the Post-Dispatch only after they were given assurances that their names would not

be revealed. One insisted that the newspaper not even identify his occupation, apparently because he feared reprisals from Byers or other.

The House Assassinations Committee is conducting an intensive investigation into Byers' allegations. It held closed hearings on them last week. Byers was reported to have told the committee that he turned down the offer from Sutherland and Kauffmann, which he says was made in late 1966 or early 1967. Sutherland died in 1970, and Kauffman died in 1973.

The St. Louisan said that Byers told him shortly after the King assassination in 1963 that he might know something about it, and that the Ku Klux Klan or some organization was behind it.

"That's all he said. I thought it was just street talk," the St. Louisan said.

Later, in about 1974, Byers mentioned the plot again. The St. Louisan gave this account of what he said: A stockbroker who had lost his license, apparently Kauffmann, approached Byers with the \$50,000 offer. Byers asked him whom he had to kill. Kauffmann took Byers to a St. Louis patent attorney who lived on a nearby farm in Imperial who said King was the target. Byers said he never had intended to follow through on the plot but had gone along out of curiosity.

Sutherland, the patent lawyer owned a farm in Imperial near Kauffmann's Imperial home. Sutherland was a segregationist and the organizer of the Citizens Council in St. Louis, a states rights group formed in 1964 that distributed anti-black literature.

The St. Louisan said his recollection of the conversation with Byers differed in one way from the recently published accounts of Byers' testimony to the House committee.

"From what I read, Byers seems to be saying now that he thinks Ray (James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the King assassination) is a fall guy. But that's not the impression I got then. I thought Russell thought they probably approached Ray through some friend of Kauffmann, a doctor who worked at the prison."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1B ST. LOUIS
POST-DISPATCH
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Date: 7/30/78
Edition: Sunday

Title: HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS

Character:
or
Classification: SL 62-5097
Submitting Office: St. Louis

62-5097-102

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| JUL 3 1978 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |

Int. Bureau 7-31-78

Dr. Hugh W. Maxey, the former chief physician at the Missouri State Penitentiary, was a friend of Kauffmann.

The St. Louisan said Byers had not mentioned his brother-in-law, John Paul Spica, who was serving a murder sentence in the Penitentiary at the time Ray escaped from the institution. Byers too, in his recent statements reportedly told the House committee that Spica was not involved. But press accounts have speculated whether he could have transmitted word of the \$50,000 offer to Ray.

The St. Louisan said he believed Byers in 1974. "I mean you do believe someone if you don't have any reason to think they lied," he said. But in the wake of Byers' arrest in connection with thefts of statues from St. Louis Art Museum last

winter, he said he wondered whether Byers might then have been in trouble too and put out the assassination story to get the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the police to ease off him. Byers was not prosecuted for the museum thefts.

The St. Louisan refused to say whether the House committee has questioned him.

The Clayton lawyer knew Kauffmann quite well in the late 1950s and early 1960s when Kauffmann was a stockbroker in Clayton and a client. Kauffmann also entertained the lawyer at his Jefferson County home.

The lawyer said that Kauffmann, long active on the periphery of Democratic politics in St. Louis and Jefferson counties, had been involved in the presidential campaign of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace in 1968. Sutherland also was a leader of the Wallace campaign here.

The lawyer said he thought only money or the promise of it would have motivated Kauffmann to get involved in Wallace's campaign or the King plot.

"John was not a racist," he said.

"He was growing old and a little scared, maybe, and he wanted money,"

the lawyer said. He said the same fears may have led to Kauffmann's federal conviction in 1967 for illegally selling

500,000 amphetamine pills. In the 1940s, by contrast, Kauffmann had been in aircraft executive, stock broker and member of the St. Louis Stock Exchange. But when he died his estate was worth only \$40,000.

Kauffmann made his living in the 1960s by selling so-called "penny stocks," the lawyer recalled. For example, Kauffmann would start a company with capital of about one-cent per share and then sell stock for \$1 per share.

There was nothing illegal about that when Kauffmann was involved, the lawyer said, but changes in the securities laws in later years put an end to penny stocks and to Kauffman's main source of income.

The lawyer said he always found Byers to be truthful and could see no advantage to Byers in telling about the alleged plot. The lawyer said he thought the plot was plausible. He represented Byers in a civil case about five years ago.

So far, there has been no corroboration of Byers' allegation or any credible link to Ray. The wives of both Sutherland and Kauffmann have told the House committee that they knew nothing about such a plot and branded as incredible the idea that their husbands could be involved in a scheme to assassinate Dr. King.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Byers, Spica have been in the headlines before

Russell G. Byers and John Paul Spica, whose names are now in the spotlight in connection with a House investigation into the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., have made front-page headlines here in the past.

Byers was charged with burglary in the theft of four statues from the St. Louis Art Museum Jan. 29. One of the statues was the famous "Bronco Buster" by Frederic Remington.

THREE OTHER STATUES by Auguste Rodin, the French sculptor, were stolen in another museum burglary Feb. 20.

John A. Crenshaw, 25, a transient laborer, was also charged in the Jan. 29 burglary and is now in jail awaiting trial.

Charges against Byers were dropped April 27 by Circuit Attorney George Peach after Crenshaw said he wouldn't testify against Byers.

Spica was sentenced in May 1963 to life imprisonment after being convicted of first-degree murder in connection with

the fatal shooting of John T. Myszak, 50, a prominent St. Louis County real estate dealer, in June 1962.

SPICA TESTIFIED during his trial that he made demands for money on Mrs. Marie Myszak, the victim's wife, but they represented attempted extortion and not murder.

Mrs. Myszak was indicted on charges of arranging the death of her husband but was acquitted in January 1964.

She made a statement to county police that she had discussed with Spica the possibility of getting rid of her husband, but had changed her mind and told him to drop the matter.

Mrs. Myszak died in October 1971 at the age of 56.

Spica was paroled from the Missouri State Penitentiary in October 1973. He now lives in Normandy.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
P3A, St. Louis
Globe Democrat,
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 7/27/78
Edition:

Title: HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS

Character:
or

Classification: 62-5097-
Submitting Office: SL 101

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| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |

*original forwarded
to Bureau on
7/27/78 - fnt*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Area men named in King inquiry

The affairs of a convicted Jefferson County drug dealer and a St. Louis area segregationist, both dead, are under investigation by the



Byers

House Select Committee on Assassinations looking into the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., according to authorities.

The drug dealer was John R. Kauffmann, who authorities say was about 73 when he died in 1974. The segregationist was John H. Sutherland, a patent attorney, who was 64 when he died in 1970.

RUSSELL G. BYERS, 46, who was allegedly involved in the theft of several statues from the St. Louis Art Museum last January, has told the House Committee that Sutherland and Kauffmann offered him \$50,000 in late 1966 or early 1967 to kill the Rev. Dr. King. Burglary charges against Byers in the Art Museum case were dropped.

Byers, of the 9300 block of Frederic Court, Rock Hill, is a brother-in-law of convicted murderer John Paul Spica, 40, who for a short time lived in the same cell block with James Earl Ray in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in Tennessee for the slaying of Dr. King in April 1968.

He escaped from the Missouri peniten-

tiary almost a year before Dr. King was shot in Memphis.

SPICA WAS sentenced to life imprisonment in 1963 after being convicted of first-degree murder in connection with the fatal shooting of St. Louis County real estate dealer John T. Myszak. Spica was paroled in 1973.

Byers told the New York Times in an interview that he turned down the \$50,000 offer to kill Dr. King and said he did not tell Spica about it. However, he said he thought word of the offer might have circulated through the penitentiary grapevine.

One federal official described Byers as a "very, very unreliable person."

However, an investigator for the House committee, The Globe-Democrat learned, went to Sutherland's former residence near Imperial, Mo., Wednesday, seeking information on the late attorney.

THE WIDOWS OF Sutherland and Kauffmann could not be reached for comment.

According to the New York Times, the House committee plans to give Ray a lie-detector test as a result of the Byers report to the committee.

A Globe-Democrat reporter confirmed a Times statement that probate records in the Jefferson County courthouse concerning Sutherland's estate contain a note which reads: "Do not destroy this file — may be subpoenaed by Congressional Committee (Select Committee on Assassinations.)" The note is dated May 29, 1978.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P3A, St. Louis
Globe Democrat,
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 7/27/78
Edition:

Title: HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON
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Character:

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| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |

*original forwarded
to Bureau on
7/27/78 - fml*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rays' Testimony Sought In Alleged Plot On Dr. King

By GERALD M. ROYD
and J. PULITZER
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

WASHINGTON — A House committee investigating the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King is seeking the testimony of James Earl Ray as a result of allegations by Russell G. Byers of Rock Hill that Byers was offered \$50,000 to kill King, the Post-Dispatch has learned.

Sources close to the investigation said that testimony this spring by Byers, 46, of the 9300 block of Fredric Court, had raised questions among committee members of a conspiracy to kill King.

But Mark Lane, an attorney for Ray, said Ray had never had any dealings with Byers and that the Byers' allegations were leaked to promote the idea of a conspiracy and thus shift attention from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which Lane contends is involved in the King killing.

Ray is serving a 99-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to the shooting death of King on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. Since pleading guilty, however, Ray has denied responsibility for King's assassination and has asked repeatedly for a new trial.

Byers testified that he turned down the offer by two men from Imperial, Mo., in late 1966 or early 1967, sources said. Byers said the men offered him the money in behalf of a group of conservative businessmen who wanted King silenced as a civil rights leader, the sources said. Both men implicated by Byers are dead.

The Post-Dispatch was told that the committee might never have heard from Byers had he not become implicated in last winter's burglaries at the St. Louis Art Museum. A routine check of his file at the St. Louis FBI office turned up a version of Byers' allegations written five years ago and inadvertently misfiled, sources told the Post-Dispatch.

The file search on Byers was requested by local officials investigating the Art Museum burglaries, sources told the Post-Dispatch. An FBI spokesman in Washington said it was forwarded in March to the Washington office for use by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which is investigating King's death.

Lane, reached at his home in Venice, Calif., said he was present last May when four members of the House committee interviewed Ray at the Tennessee state prison where Ray is incarcerated. No questions were asked at that time, or at other interviews where Lane was present, concerning Byers or other individuals implicated by Byers in the alleged offer to kill King, Lane said.

"I don't think James (Earl Ray) knows anything about them," Lane said. "It's a deliberate selective leak of alleged evidence to make it seem like James got some money while trying to cover up the fact that the FBI was involved somehow in the murder."

Lane said James L. Wolf, deputy chief counsel of the House select committee, had informed him Wednesday that Ray must take a lie-detector test to determine whether his statements were true.

Wolf, reached in Washington, would not comment on Lane's charges and would not confirm or deny talking to Lane. He said, however, that under procedural rules of the select committee, polygraph tests were voluntary and were not a condition for giving testimony. Wolf refused to confirm that Ray would testify before the committee, saying that the information was still confidential.

Lane said that making Ray take a lie-detector test was an attempt to cast doubt on Ray's credibility in the event that his testimony should implicate the FBI in King's assassination.

Sources close to the select committee said members were concerned about the five-year delay in obtaining the FBI informant's account of the alleged offer to Byers.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PLA, St. Louis
Post Dispatch,
St. Louis, Missouri

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Edition: Bulldog
Author:
Editor:
Title: HOUSE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS
Character:
or
Classification: 62-5097
Submitting Office: SL
☐ Being Investigated

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JUL 27 1978
FBI-ST. LOUIS

Homer Boynton, an FBI spokesman in Washington, told the Post-Dispatch Wednesday that the bureau's St. Louis office had received "certain information relating to the Martin Luther King assassination" in 1973.

But that information was filed only under the names of the informant and Byers, sources said, and never cross-indexed under the King file. It was discovered only by accident in checking

Byers' file on a request from local authorities investigating the Art Museum thefts, sources said.

Boynton said that the agent who had misfiled the information had retired and that no internal inquiry was planned. He also refused to identify the agent.

Other FBI sources told the New York Times that the agent had violated bureau rules by not notifying other agents or authorities investigating King's death.

"He may have thought it was a frivolous allegation, but that wasn't his decision to make," an FBI source told the Times. "The information was supposed to go to a supervisor or some agent who had worked that investigation for them to evaluate."

Byers' allegations have led House investigators to his brother-in-law, John Paul Spica, who at the time of the alleged offer to Byers was serving a life sentence for murder at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Prison records indicate that Spica and James Earl Ray were housed in the same cell block at that time, and that they worked in the prison bakery together for a period. Authorities have speculated that word of a bounty on King's life may have reached the prison from Spica.

Byers, however, told the House committee that he had not informed Spica of the offer until recently, sources said. But Byers speculated that word of

the bounty on King's life might have reached inmates there from other sources in his testimony to the House select committee, the sources said.

Spica, who was paroled in 1973, now operates a fruit stand at Vandeventer and Shaw avenues. He said in an interview Wednesday that he knew nothing of a bounty on King's life.

"Byers is a liar," Spica said. "At no time did I ever convey an offer of \$50,000 to James Earl Ray to kill Martin Luther King Jr. Byers never told me about that."

Spica said he and Ray were prisoners in the Missouri Penitentiary at the same time, "but we never worked together in the same section."

"I did see him from time to time, but I didn't know anything about any contract to kill Martin Luther King," Spica said.

"The investigators in Washington know all about Byers' story and they have checked it out and they know there's no truth in it," Spica said.

He said that a House investigator had talked to him, but had informed him that he would not be called to testify before the House committee.

Spica appeared nervous and shaken and said he was worried that news stories about Byers' allegations would destroy his present life.

"You know I'm out on life parole on a murder case, and this'll blow it," Spica said. "I've been working in this stand 12 to 15 hours a day for two years without a

vacation. I've been going with a very nice girl who doesn't know all my back ground, and it'll blow that, too."

"I guess I'll just have to close up because I won't have any business any more," Spica said.

In his testimony, Byers speculated that he was offered the \$50,000 to arrange King's death so that he would be a "fall guy" who would not actually commit the murder, but who could be blamed for it later because of the alleged offer, sources said.

Authorities familiar with Byers described him as a "middle man" in criminal dealings and generally believed that he would not be approached as a hired killer.

Byers was charged with burglary in connection with the theft of several statues from the Art Museum last January, but the charges were later dropped by the St. Louis circuit attorney's office.

The New York Times account of Byers' appearance before the House committee said that he had been granted immunity from prosecution in King's assassination in return for his sworn testimony.

A widow of one of the Imperial, Mo., men implicated by Byers in the offer to kill King said her husband knew Byers, but denied that he had ever heard of any such offer. She said she believed that Byers had concocted the whole story "to help himself get out of the art case," the Times said.

The woman told the Post-Dispatch Wednesday that her husband knew Byers through a business associate, but would not elaborate. She insisted that the allegation about her husband was a "glaring mistake."

Sources said the woman had left St. Louis for Washington Wednesday to testify before the House committee. A spokesman for the committee would not confirm or deny the report.

The widow of the other man implicated by Byers has refused to grant interviews to the New York Times or the Post-Dispatch because she is co-operating with the House committee, her attorney said.

Her attorney said, however, that the woman told House investigators that the allegations about her husband were a complete surprise to her.

A spokesman for U.S. Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy, D-District of Columbia, chairman of the House subcommittee investigating King's death, said neither he nor other committee members or staff members would have any comment on the New York Times story.

He noted that the full House Select Committee on Assassinations is scheduled to begin public hearings Aug. 14. The assassinations panel has two subcommittees. The other subcommittee is focusing on the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and his brother, U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, in 1968.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

DATE: 7/25/78

FROM : CLERK W.R. FARHAT

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Instant date at 10:00 PM this office was contacted by Bob Kelly, St. Louis Post Dispatch. Mr. Kelly was seeking a comment from SAC Roy B. Klager in reference to Russell G. Beyers, who is presently being questioned by the (HSCA). Mr. Kelly further stated that the New York Times Newspaper would be carrying a front page story concerning this matter on 7/26/78, and that Mr. Boyton, FBI, Washington, D.C., had already made a comment concerning this matter.

SAC Roy B. Klager was advised of the above information and stated he wouldn't make any further comments concerning this matter since Mr. Boyton had already commented on this issue. Mr. Kelly was contacted by writer and advised that SAC Roy B. Klager would stand on Mr. Boyton's comment.

Above being submitted for information purposes.

62-5097-98

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| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| JUL 25 1978 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |
| 1774 | |



5010-110

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

X AIRTEL

7/25/78

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
(HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype to Chicago and St. Louis
dated 7/25/78.

Enclosed herewith is one copy each of Serials 1
through 34 in St. Louis file 137-16185, plus a copy of the
Criminal Informant Review Sheet (FD-237) for the same file.

A copy of instant communication will also be
added to 137-16185.

2 - Bureau (Enc - 35)
2 - St. Louis
(1- 62-5097)
(1- 137-16185)

JFS:kmt
(4)

62-5097-97

Haggerty
(info)

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

FBI ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

BT.

UNCLAS E F T O

*-62-5097**

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

FOR INFORMATION OF CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS ADVISED ON MARCH 13, 1978, THAT DURING A FILE REVIEW OF SL 137-16185, FOR AN UN-RELATED MATTER, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SL 3167-C FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING RUSSELL GEORGE BEYERS. BEYERS, IN THE FALL OF 1973, MET WITH SL 3167-C AND TOLD HIM OF A MEETING WITH AN ATTORNEY IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY, NOW DECEASED, AND ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL, AND OF THEIR POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. APPARENTLY, THIS INFORMATION WAS NEVER DISSEMINATED OR ACTED ON.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS DISSEMINATED TO THE HSCA. HSCA REQUESTED, ON JULY 14, 1978, THAT THE INFORMANT REFERRED TO

*Supervisor
Haggerty*

62-5097-96

JUL 25 1978

FBI-ST. LOUIS

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0098 UNCLAS E F T O

(SL-3167-C) BE CONTACTED AND REQUEST BE MADE OF HIM TO
(1) SUBMIT TO INTERVIEW BY HSCA, AND, (2) THAT HE AGREE TO
EXECUTE WAIVER RELEASING ALL FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) AND FIELD
OFFICE (SL) FILES FOR REVIEW BY HSCA.

ON JULY 21, 1978, ASAC JOHN SHANLEY, ST. LOUIS, ADVISED
THAT FORMER SL-3167-C HAD MOVED FROM THE ST. LOUIS AREA TO
CHICAGO. HE IS CURRENTLY SUSPECT IN CASE ENTITLED "UNSUB,
THEFT OF \$250,000 WORTH OF ART OBJECTS, AMERICAN ART GALLERIES,
LTD., 4820 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, NOVEMBER 6,
1976; ITSP-MAJOR THEFT; 00: CG (CG 87-45634)". HE IS ALLEGEDLY
OWNER OF CONNOISSEUR GALLERIES, 720 NORTH WELLS, CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS, AND MAY RESIDE ABOVE HIS BUSINESS. FORMER INFORMANT
DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

NAME: RICHARD FRANCIS O'HARA

DATE OF BIRTH: DECEMBER 14, 1941

HEIGHT: 6'

WEIGHT: 190

HAIR: BROWN

CHICAGO SHOULD CONTACT O'HARA AND OBJECTIVELY INQUIRE
AS TO HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE HSCA CONCERNING

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0098 UNCLAS E F T O

THE ABOVE INFORMATION RELATING TO DR. KING. O'HARA SHOULD BE TOLD THAT HE HAS NO GUARANTEE FROM THE FBI OR HSCA OF IMMUNITY OR CONFIDENTIALITY; THAT THE FBI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT RESULTING ACTION THE HSCA MAY TAKE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW; THAT SINCE THE COMMITTEE MAY ALREADY KNOW HIS IDENTITY, HE COULD BE SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY; AND, THAT IF HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE INTERVIEWED, THE FBI WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY.

IF O'HARA AGREES TO HSCA INTERVIEW, HE SHOULD BE FURNISHED NAME OF HSCA STAFF MEMBER MIKE EBERHARDT, (202) 225-8791, AND TOLD TO CALL HIM COLLECT REGARDING MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THAT INTERVIEW.

CONTACTING AGENT SHOULD ALSO INQUIRE WHETHER O'HARA WILL EXECUTE A WAIVER ALLOWING FOR REVIEW OF ALL FBIHQ AND FIELD OFFICE INFORMANT FILES BY HSCA. IF HE AGREES, WAIVER SHOULD BE OBTAINED WRITTEN SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE FBI TO RELEASE ANY AND ALL FILES (FBIHQ AND FIELD OFFICE) CONCERNING THIS INFORMANT TO THE HSCA, INCLUDING THOSE RECORDS PERTAINING TO ANY CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP THE INFORMANT MAY HAVE HAD WITH THE FBI. THE WAIVER SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT THE INFORMANT UNDERSTANDS THAT

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0098 UNCLAS E F T O

THESE FILES WILL DISCLOSE TO THE HSCA ANY CONFIDENTIAL
RELATIONSHIP INFORMANT MAY HAVE HAD WITH THE FBI.

CHICAGO TELEPHONICALLY FURNISH RESULTS OF CONTACT WITH
O'HARA TO SA TRON W. BREKKE, CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, FBIHQ, EXTENTION 3685, AND FOLLOW
WITH AIRTEL INCLUDING ORIGINAL OF WAIVER IF HE AGREES TO
DISCLOSURE.

ST. LOUIS SHOULD PROMPTLY FURNISH ONE XEROX COPY OF
ST. LOUIS 137-16185. ALL SERIALS SHOULD BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR
ENTIRETY. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY COVER AIRTEL
TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS
MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BT

0098

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Got Offer To Kill King, County Man Says

By J. PULITZER
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A 46-year-old Rock Hill man has told the House Select Committee on Assassinations that he was once offered \$50,000 to kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the New York Times reported today.

Russell G. Byers, a former auto parts dealer who was implicated last January in the theft of several statues from the St. Louis Art Museum, said he turned down the offer in late 1966 or early 1967, according to the Times. King was shot to

death on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

The Times story said Byers told the committee that two men from Imperial, Mo., had offered him the money in behalf of a group of conservative businessmen to kill King. Both are now dead.

Sources said Byers' testimony has spurred an inquiry by committee investigators because his brother-in-law, John Paul Spica, was then serving a life sentence for murder at the Missouri State Penitentiary with James Earl Ray, who later pleaded guilty in the death of King.

Ray is now serving a 99-year prison term in Tennessee. Since pleading guilty, Ray has repeatedly denied his guilt in the King murder and has requested a new trial.

An FBI spokesman in Washington told the Post-Dispatch that the St. Louis office of the FBI had received "certain information" about the King assassination in 1973, but would not confirm it came from Byers.

He said the information was never investigated and was placed in the wrong file, and then was turned up by accident

last March. The spokesman took pains to suggest the information may not have been considered reliable.

Byers refused to talk to a Post-Dispatch reporter who visited his house in the 9300 block of Fredric Court last night and another who waited outside for several hours today. At about 10:30 a.m., two men who said they were Byers' attorneys entered the house and remained there for more than two hours. Shortly before noon, one of them came outside to announce that Byers had nothing to say.

In an interview with a Post-Dispatch reporter today, Spica denied any knowledge of the matter.

The Times account of a three-month investigation by the House committee indicated that investigators suspected that word of a contract offer on King's life had reached the prison through Spica. But Byers said he had told Spica of the offer only recently, according to the Times.

Byers said, however, that he suspected information about the bounty on King's life may have reached men inside the Missouri prison "through other routes," the Times reported.

According to the Times, Byers said he was so shocked by the alleged offer that he told two lawyers and two other unnamed persons about it after King was shot. So far, Byers has not provided any documentary evidence to support his story, the Times said.

Records from the State Penitentiary indicate that Spica and James Earl Ray shared the same cell block, and for a

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 1A, St. Louis
Post-Dispatch, St.
Louis, Missouri

Date: 7/26/78
Edition: ***Final

Title: "Got Offer To
Kill King,
County Man Says"

Character:
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Submitting Office:

62-5097-95

JUL 27 1978

FBI/DOJ

short time worked together in the prison bakery. Ray escaped on April 23, 1967, almost a year before the fatal shooting of King.

The Times said investigators are now concentrating on a theory of conspiracy by the conservative business group mentioned by Byers in his testimony.

Spica, 40, interviewed by a Post-Dispatch reporter this morning, said, "Byers is a liar."

Interviewed at the fruit stand he operates at Shaw and Vandeventer avenues, Spica said, "At no time did I ever convey an offer of \$50,000 to James Earl Ray to kill Martin Luther King Jr. Byers never told me about that."

Spica said he and Ray were prisoners in the Missouri Penitentiary at the same time, "but we never worked together in the same section."

"I did see him (Ray) from time to time but I didn't know anything about any contract to kill Martin Luther King," Spica said.

"The investigators in Washington know all about Byers' story and they have checked it out and they know there's no truth in it," Spica said.

He said that an investigator had talked to him but had informed him that he would not be called before the House committee.

Spica, who was paroled in 1973, appeared nervous and shaken and said he feared news stories about Byers' allegations would destroy his present life.

"You know I'm out on a life parole on a murder case, and this'll blow it," Spica said. "I've been working in this stand 12 to 15 hours a day for two years without a vacation. I've been going with a very nice girl who doesn't know all my background, and it'll blow that, too."

"I guess I'll just to close up because I won't have any business any more," Spica said.

Byers also told the House committee that he had told an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation about

the \$50,000 offer to kill King, the Times said.

Byers said the FBI office in St. Louis had been given details of the offer, but had never investigated, according to the Times report.

A source close to the St. Louis FBI office told the Post-Dispatch that he had never heard of the information on the alleged approach to Byers.

In Washington, FBI spokesman Homer Boynton told the Post-Dispatch that "certain information relating to the Martin Luther King assassination" was furnished to the St. Louis FBI office in 1973.

"We're not saying that it was reliable information," he said. "We're just saying certain information was furnished." He declined to say whether the information came from Byers.

Boynton said the information was never investigated by the St. Louis office. He said it was not cross-indexed under the Martin Luther King file, as it should have been.

Last March, Boynton said, St. Louis FBI agents discovered the material more or less by accident.

"They were reviewing a file in connection with another matter," he said, "and as a result of that, they found the information and realized that it had never been properly indexed. And they immediately advised FBI headquarters."

Boynton said the St. Louis field office then sent the information to FBI headquarters in Washington. FBI headquarters in turn gave it to the Department of Justice, and the Department of Justice turned it over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Boynton said.

"It was just put in the file," Boynton said of the 1973 information. "Nothing further was done with it," until it was found last March.

Asked whether the 1973 tip should have been investigated, Boynton said he was not going to second-guess the judgment

of the FBI agent in St. Louis who handled it.

"It's kind of hard to tell what judgment the agent and the supervisor made about the reliability" of the information, Boynton said. "In the Kennedy investigation, we checked out thousands and thousands of these. Some of them were very bizarre. And many of them ended in absolutely nothing. And it could have been the judgment of the agents that this was not worthy of following through on."

Boynton said he could not discuss the specifics of the allegations as reported in the Times.

He said the FBI is not currently investigating the information that was furnished in 1973. He said the agency had an agreement with the House committee that the committee would investigate such leads unless the panel asked the FBI for help.

A member of the House committee's staff in Washington said it was committee policy not to confirm or deny reports about matters related to the King and Kennedy assassinations. He said the committee's findings would be contained in its final report to Congress, which is due by the end of the year.

"I just can't comment," the staff member said.

The Times story said House investigators learned that Byers believed the offer to him had been an effort to recruit a "fall guy" who would not actually commit the murder, but who would be arrested for it.

A St. Louis Police Department captain who investigated the Art Museum thefts said he had heard recently that Byers testified before the House committee.

Other officers in the Police Department's intelligence unit said Byers was seen frequently at Spica's fruit stand. Byers had been charged in connection with the Art Museum thefts, but the charges were later dropped by the St. Louis circuit attorney's office.

The widow of one of the men alleged to have approached Byers with the offer on King's life denied such a thing had happened, the Times said. She was quoted as saying that Byers had probably concocted the whole story to "help himself get out of the art case," the Times said.

The woman told the Post-Dispatch Tuesday night that her husband knew Byers through a business associate, but would not elaborate. She insisted that the allegation about her husband was "a glaring mistake."

The widow of the other man from Imperial refused to talk to the Post-Dispatch or the New York Times because she is co-operating with the House committee, according to her attorney.

Her attorney said, however, that the woman told House investigators that the allegations about her husband were a complete surprise to her and she was dumbfounded by the charges.

The Times report said that Byers had been granted immunity from prosecution in King's death for his sworn testimony before the House committee in Washington.

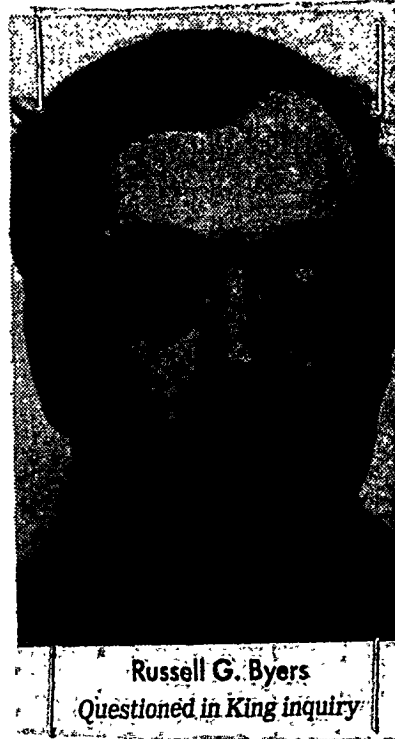
A spokesman for Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy, D.D.C., the chairman of the House subcommittee investigating the King murder, said neither Fauntroy nor the subcommittee would have any comment on the New York Times report.

"The committee's policy is not to comment on the investigation or any aspect of it," the spokesman said.

He noted that the full House Select Committee on Assassinations is scheduled to start public hearings Aug. 14. James Earl Ray is to be one of the witnesses.

"If this story is true, I imagine it will come out at that time," the spokesman said.

The assassinations panel has two subcommittees. One of the subcommittees, which Rep. Fauntroy heads, is focusing on the King assassination.



Russell G. Byers
Questioned in King inquiry

SAC, ST. LOUIS (137-16185)
(ATTN: SA JEFFREY A. MEYER)

3/19/74

SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY

SL 3167-PCI

This informant, who was contacted in the area of Manchester and Chouteau, St. Louis, Mo., on 3/13/74, furnished the following information, advising that he is doing so strictly on a confidential basis, and he would never under any circumstances testify to any of this information.

UNSUBS;
Theft of sterling silver busts of
CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, sterling
silver bust of ANNE MARIE LINDBERGH;
ITSP - MAJOR THEFT
SL 87-21859

In early 8/73, as he was moving into a new business location in the area of Kingshighway and Mayland, St. Louis, he and an associate were engaged in setting up a new shop when they were approached by a black couple, described as looking like "an affluent doctor and his wife", who proceeded to walk through the shop examining various articles and requesting information about a small broken item, inquiring as to whether it was Dresden or Meissen. They were informed that it was believed the item was a small piece of Dresden, and that it was for sale for \$10. They left the shop within a few minutes. The man was described as 30-35, 6', 170 pounds, handsome, wearing a business suit. The woman was described as 30 years old, 5'6", and well-dressed in a dress and accessories. Both were described as having a very fine bright or golden brown complexion.

Within two or three days time, as the associate was alone in the shop, she was approached by a white man, whose identity was later learned as RUSSELL MEYERS, 9329 Frederick, Ladue, Mo., an employee of Rainbow Vending Co., St. Louis, Mo. At the time, however, his identity was not

3 - St. Louis (1 - 137-16185)
(2 - 87-21859)

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| FBI - SAINT LOUIS | |

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SL 137-16185

known, and he inquired about a small item in the store that had been priced at about \$50, but purchased for \$15 in the St. Charles area. He offered to pay \$15 for the item, exhibiting considerable interest in and knowledge of antiques. He left the store without buying anything, but within a day or two returned to the store, also meeting informant, and still having interest in the piece he had previously looked at. This was the first meeting with informant. This individual brought with him a small pottery tea set, described as golden brown, with a set of cups and saucers, pitcher, sugar, and creamer, having a gold-brown shiny glaze. The set was believed to be worth about \$100, but he offered to sell it for \$300. He then identified himself as RUSSELL BEYERS. He is believed to be a very intelligent, perceptive person. No business was transacted. On that occasion, however, BEYERS "opened up" with informant, advising that he is personally represented by Attorney MURRAY RANDALL (former attorney, USDJ, and former AUSA, EDMO), and that he and RANDALL are very close personal friends. He said he had inquired of an individual at OK Novelty Co., St. Louis, also inquiring of informant as to "what kind of guy" was the informant. He said he had learned that he could talk to informant, advising further that it was his understanding that informant was not a "snitch". He also advised that he had personally sent the aforementioned black couple into informant's shop to "have him knocked off", but that after learning that he could be trusted, he had advised the black couple against taking anything from him. He asserted that if there was anything in St. Louis that informant wanted to buy, he would have it stolen and sell it to him at the right price. He came into informant's shop at least once or twice for the next several weeks, and shortly after the aforementioned second meeting in the shop, BEYERS told informant that he had a painting recently stolen, referring to it as the "Norman Rockwell". He said he intended "to have it on ice", but would sell it to informant for \$5,000. Informant advised he personally contacted his lawyer, inquiring as to whether it would be feasible to buy the painting and sell it to an insurance company. Reportedly, this lawyer, not identified by informant, made some inquiries and found that the involved insurance company was not interested in paying that amount

SL 137-16185

for same. A few days later, BEYERS again came to the shop offering to sell the painting for \$3,000, and then made a final offer to sell it for \$2,000. BEYERS then said that the painting was "going into cold storage". BEYERS has never again mentioned this painting.

During the fall of 1973, five or six months ago, date not recalled, BEYERS came to the shop inquiring as to whether they could get together to talk, and they later did so at Pizza and Cream, Clayton, Mo., in the area of a Brod-Dugan Paint Store, where informant had traveled on business. BEYERS talked freely about himself and his business, and they later went to informant's house where BEYERS told a story about visiting a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said that also present was a short, stocky man, who walked with a limp. (Later, with regard to the latter individual, BEYERS commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of JAMES EARL RAY after the killing.) BEYERS said he had declined to accept this contract. He did remark that this lawyer had Confederate flags and other items about the house that might indicate that he was "a real rebel". BEYERS also commented that he had been offered either \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill KING.

Sometime later, informant talked to JOSEPH "JO JO" OLIVESTRO, a known fence, with whom he is acquainted. This individual advised informant that BEYERS truly is a "very treacherous guy", cautioning him to stay away from him if he wanted to stay out of trouble.

About two or three months ago, BEYERS telephoned him at 7:00 on night, probably a Monday night, date not recalled, advising that he was going to kill a North St. Louis man, indicating that the man had "snitched ^{on} guns". He said BEYERS could have said that the man had "snitched ^{on} drugs". At 10:00 P.M. the same night, BEYERS again called him, advising that "the job is done". The next day, informant read about a man being killed at his home or in front of his house in North St. Louis, further details not recalled.

SL 137-16185

At about that same time, informant recalled that BEYERS inquired as to whether he knew anyone by the name of EUGENE ZIGLER who lives somewhere in West St. Louis County. BEYERS referred to him as an old man, believed by him to have stolen some paintings in Florida. BEYERS said he intended to find out whether the man had the paintings and if so, he intended to have them stolen from him.

About one month prior to the date of the reported burglary of the Jefferson Memorial, St. Louis, in which several items of Lindbergh trophies were taken, exact date not recalled, BEYERS came to his shop asking him if he was interested in buying any articles from the Jefferson Memorial, commenting specifically that he had in mind some "commemorative pieces" that were included in the Lindbergh trophies. Informant said he told him this would be "too hot to handle" whereupon BEYERS said they could be used to "set up enemies" by "stashing them in the trunk of somebody's car". Informant said he told BEYERS he was not interested in that kind of job since he had been in trouble once (robbery of Four Seasons Antique Shop) and did not care to get in that kind of trouble again. Within several days, informant heard the news of the breakin of the Jefferson Memorial and the theft of several items there. A day or two after that publicity, BEYERS came to informant's shop, advising that "now I've got my hands full - I've got a lot of problems". Informant recalled that it appeared BEYERS had not shaven for several days. Ordinarily, BEYERS is a very conservative, well-dressed person.

BEYERS never again mentioned the Jefferson Memorial items, and he never mentioned same to BEYERS, despite the recent publicity.

He firmly believes that BEYERS at one time had both these items and the Norman Rockwell painting and may still have same. He does not believe that BEYERS would ever confess to anything, BEYERS having told him on one occasion that the police would never get anywhere with him since he absolutely would never talk, even if confronted with information from other sources attributed to him.

BEYERS is further described as follows:

SL 137-16185

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Age | 47-48 years old |
| Height | 5'9" to 5'10" |
| Weight | 170 lbs. |
| Build | Slightly stocky |
| Hair | Black curly, graying |
| Clothing | Usually dressed in sport jacket and slacks or suit with tie |
| Miscellaneous | Wearing dark horn-rimmed glasses |

BEYERS is married to a sister of JOHN PAUL SPICA, an ex-convict involved several years ago in the MYZAK murder, and has several children. BEYERS drives two different automobiles, including a 1972 or 1973 skyblue four-door Chevrolet with dark blue vinyl top and a 1973 Oldsmobile two-door or four-door sedan, gray-brown with light cream vinyl top. BEYERS gives the appearance of a successful jewelry businessman. He is believed to be engaged in contacting customers for Raiffee Vending Co. equipment.

Informant has not had any contact with BEYERS in any way whatsoever for the past month or more. Most recently, BEYERS was talking about pulling a burglary at the Hollander Galleries, St. Louis County, where there are more than \$200,000 worth of paintings stored. Reportedly, BEYERS has been arrested many times, BEYERS advising informant that he had a "long Hoover sheet".

Informant advised he will immediately furnish any additional information received concerning these matters.

SAC, ST. LOUIS (137-16185)

3/19/74

SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY

SL 3167-PCI

This informant, on 3/11/74, who was contacted on 3/5, 6, 7, 8, and 11/74, concerning this matter, advised on those days that, to his knowledge, JEFFERY WOLFSON is operating daily a 1972 Cadillac El Dorado, bearing Missouri license ZEL-910. This automobile, he said, is usually parked at sometime during the day in front of the 71 Club, a night-club location that is currently being rebuilt by A.J. CERVANTES, Jr., who intends to open it as a new club in about one month.

On 3/11/74, informant advised that the estranged girlfriend of WOLFSON, ZIGRID LEE TUCCI, is now living with her family in the Jennings, Mo., area. Her former husband, KIM TUCCI, a waiter now employed at the new Rich and Charlie's place in Ballwin, Mo., also lives in Jennings, Mo. WOLFSON is an associate of A.J. CERVANTES, Jr., whose car is usually parked in a bus zone directly across Maryland Ave. from Straub's at the corner of Kingshighway and Maryland. CERVANTES' car is described as a 1973 Monte Carlo, gun-metal gray, bearing Calif. license 1AJC.

Records of the Marriage License Bureau, St. Louis County, Clayton, Mo., disclosed on 3/11/74, that ZIGRID LEE TILLEY, residing 5726 McLaran, Jennings, Mo., a divorcee, on 3/31/68, was married at Clayton, Mo., by Judge WEINSTEIN to JOHN KIM (KIMBROUGH) TUCCI, 10555 Longford, St. Louis, Mo., born 1/3/41. TILLEY was born 5/10/48.

The foregoing information was supplied on 3/11/74, to SA C. JAMES CHRISTY, for use in investigation pertaining to the aforementioned stolen Cadillac automobile.

2 - St. Louis (1 - 137-16185)
(1 - 26-38787)

HCK:prk
(2)

26-38787-239
Christy
fm

Transmit attached by Facsimile - CLEAR

Precedence PRIORITY

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

Date: 7/28/78

From: (ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION)

Time: Transmitted - 1600 (11:00 AM)

SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

Subject: HSCA

Initials - VYS

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☒ Other 2 St. Louis memorandums

Special handling instructions:

SPECIAL - HANDCARRY TO UNIT CHIEF, GEORGE J. FOSTER,
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, 62-5097-94
ROOM 8988, JEH

Approved: 

SEARCHED _____
SERIAL _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

FBI/DOJ

XX AIRTEL

7/27/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
(ATTN: UNIT CHIEF GEORGE J. FOSTER,
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
ROOM 8988)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Enclosed for FBIHQ is one copy of 3/19/74
memo of SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY, captioned "SL 3167-PCI."

3 - Bureau
1 - St. Louis
JTH:dmn
(4) *dmn*

62-5097-93

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fe

SAC *Rem*
JTH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

FROM : SUPERVISOR JAMES T. HAGGERTY

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

DATE: 7/27/78

On 7/27/78 at approximately 3:45 P.M., Unit Chief GEORGE FOSTER, Congressional Inquiry Unit, advised that a teletype would be coming to St. Louis requesting the SAC or ASAC to interview retired Bureau supervisor ROBERT L. BENDER and retired SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY.

Mr. FOSTER requested a xerox copy of the original document (SA KENNEDY's memorandum) which was forwarded by airtel on 7/27/78.

2 - St. Louis
JTH:kmt
(2)

[Signature]
8/7/78

62-5097-92

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| JUL 27 1978 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |

[Signature]



5010-110

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

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☒ Priority☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☒ E F T O☐ CLEAR

4449

Date 7/26/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION,
ROOM 8988, FBIHQ

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

REFERENCE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ST. LOUIS, JULY 26, 1978.

ST. LOUIS FILE 137-16185 ON RICHARD FRANCIS O'HARA (SL 3167-C)
AND ALL FILES LOGICALLY RELATED THERETO, INCLUDING MURKIN MAIN FILE,
ALL FAIL TO REVEAL ANY INDICATION AS TO WHY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
O'HARA CONCERNING MURKIN WAS NOT DISSEMINATED OR OTHERWISE ACTED
UPON.

BT

S P E C I A L① - St. Louis
RBK:cms
(1) *cms*62-5097-91
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Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per *[Signature]*

FBI/DOJ

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)

DATE: 7/24/78

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS -
MURKIN

Enclosed herewith are 4 copies of an LHM in which the results of an interview of former SA HAROLD R. DOBSON (1941 - 1972), who was case agent in captioned matter, by staff employees of the House Select Committee on Assassinations in Washington, D. C. on 6/28/78, are set out. The interview was voluntary on the part of Mr. DOBSON, in accordance with current cooperative Bureau policy and was conducted by MICHAEL EBERHARDT, Assistant Deputy Chief Counsel to the Committee. An unknown female in her mid to late 20s was in the room during the interview. She was originally introduced by EBERHARDT but no mental note as to her name was made as it was assumed she was a stenographer. She was later observed to be taking notes in longhand, from which it was presumed she was another staff attorney.

The interview was preceded by a conference with SA JAY ALDHIZER, and a legal briefing by SA RON HELLER, at the Bureau.

SA ALDHIZER was telephonically given a summary of the interview immediately upon its completion.

No indication was given that Mr. DOBSON would be requested to appear before the Committee in executive or public session.

2 - Bureau (Enc - 4)

① - St. Louis

HRD:kmt

(3)



5010-110

*copy of letter & LHM
forward to Harold Dobson,
8831. Backer Circle, SCMP
on 7/25/78 - Pkt*

62-5097-90

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

St. Louis, Missouri

July 24, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Former Special Agent Harold R. Dobson (1941 - 1972), residence: 8831 Bracken Circle, St. Louis, Missouri 63123, who was St. Louis case Agent on the M. L. King - James Earl Ray case in 1968, was interviewed, not under oath, by Mr. Michael Eberhardt, Assistant Deputy Chief Counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, at the offices of that committee, Room 3386, Second and "D" Streets, Southwest, Washington, D. C., from 2:00 P.M. to 2:45 P.M. on the afternoon of June 28, 1978, at which time he furnished the following information in response to direct questions:

Dobson served as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from October 20, 1941 to retirement on June 30, 1972, being assigned to the Boston, Newark, St. Paul, and St. Louis Divisions. He was in St. Louis from 1947 until retirement. He was assigned to the Security Squad from 1948 to retirement, concerned primarily with investigation of the Communist Party and its members, nationalistic tendency, espionage, sabotage, and Security of Government Employee cases. He had comparatively little knowledge or experience regarding New Left, racial and hate group cases. He was an alternate supervisor but declined authorization as supervisor for personal reasons.

Dobson was generally aware of the existence of the Cointel Program in St. Louis, but was unable to recall any specific activities, objectives, or accomplishments of same.

Dobson was unable to suggest why the case was assigned to him, except that he had the first St. Louis lead in the case, to trace the weapon used through officials of Browning Arms Company, with whom he had continuing liaison, and for the further reason he had been utilized in an administrative capacity on

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.

62-5097-89

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HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

virtually every major case of national importance in the St. Louis Division beginning with the surveillance and apprehension of St. Louis Communist Party leaders in 1952. Another Special Agent since retired handled the Ray penitentiary escape case prior to the assassination.

Special Agent in Charge Thomas Gearty supervised the King case in St. Louis. It was Dobson's responsibility to coordinate the investigation, handle the resulting "mountain of paper", see that obvious, logical, reasonable, or merely desirable leads or avenues of investigation were appropriately assigned (with Special Agent in Charge approval), promptly and adequately covered, and properly reported, and to keep the Special Agent in Charge, Bureau, Memphis, and other interested offices promptly advised of pertinent developments.

Until the true identity of Ray was established, every Special Agent in the St. Louis Division was assigned exclusively to the case. Twenty-four hour coverage of all leads was mandatory. Developments of the day were discussed, and "brain busting" sessions were held at nightly conferences of all Special Agents, at which most new assignments were made. All employees clearly gave of their best efforts.

Dobson was unable to recall specifically what efforts were made to determine the whereabouts of John Ray on the day of the assassination. He suggested the file would be the best evidence in this regard. He believed the possibility of John Ray's involvement was undoubtedly recognized and that appropriate steps were taken to resolve.

Dobson was unable to recall any surreptitious entries to Ray's relatives' premises. St. Louis had no technical surveillances on relatives. Requests for authorization for same may have been made, but if so, were without his knowledge.

To the extent of his knowledge, the St. Louis Division had never placed a technical surveillance on King.

Toll call records of relatives were obtained in accordance with a then current Bureau policy subpoena process. Relative bank accounts were monitored and results set forth in reports with a statement that the information would only be available after issuance of a subpoena duces tecum. Coverage of relatives consisted of this, plus personal interviews and contacts

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

with informants, sources, neighbors, and associates, and available public records.

Relatives were initially uncooperative in varying degrees, but subsequently became generally cooperative, although Dobson never fully trusted any of them. He was unable to recall any evidence developed that Ray was ever in St. Louis territory, or in contact with any relatives there, subsequent to his penitentiary escape. He doubted financial contributions to Ray by them, as their combined incomes and assets, in his estimation, were insufficient to support the life style Ray apparently enjoyed following his escape.

Dobson had no knowledge or any information as to the source of Ray's income following his escape. He conjectured the same would have logically had to result from successful criminal activity or be contributed by an unknown person or group. He recognized Ray's record stamped him as a "loser", but opined it was not beyond the realm of possibility access to an excellent prison library and association with convicts less unsuccessful than himself could have enhanced the quality of Ray's thought processes to a point where he could have conceived and carried out a successful supermarket or other similar robbery. At least his escape was successful. He considered Ray's technically proper preparation and filing of a motion for a new trial, which was pending at the time of his escape, as evidence of this possibility. Dobson recalled that, as a Missouri prosecutor prior to entering the Bureau, he had uniformly recommended alternative punishment for non-habitual criminals, as the Missouri Penitentiary, even then, was generally considered a "finishing school for criminals". Supermarkets offered the possibility of being almost as lucrative as banks, without the disadvantage of incurring Federal jurisdiction. He feels sure major police departments in the St. Louis territory had been contacted to determine if Ray could be a logical suspect in unsolved supermarket robberies. He recalled some indication Ray might have been involved in a bank robbery in Alton, Illinois and that the Springfield, Illinois Division had been so advised, but he had no knowledge as to the outcome of investigation there.

Dobson was generally aware of the existence of white hate organizations, but was of the opinion members of such organizations in St. Louis territory lack sufficient organization,

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

intelligence, and financial capability for significant involvement in the King killing. Such organizations, in his estimation, should have been able to reasonably foresee King's death would elevate him to the status of a martyr, which would have been counterproductive to their aims and purposes. He was of the further opinion that any intelligent co-conspirator would undoubtedly have eliminate Ray as a security measure. He suggested that, if then current rumors that King had become a liability to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference were true, that organization had the most to gain from King's demise.

All St. Louis informants, potential informants and sources regarding criminal, security, racial, hate group, or other matters, were under continuing instructions to immediately report even the slightest information which they could obtain or which might come to their attention regarding the King case.

Dobson recalled John Gawron as an elderly, self-confessed habitual criminal, who had lived with Ray's mother several years until her death. He never met, saw, or talked to Gawron. If Gawron was initially carried as a PCI, but later appeared openly, Dobson was unable to recall why, but suggested Gawron may have initially indicated some potential for furnishing information regarding current criminal matters and was later found incapable of doing so. Having lived with Ray's mother, Gawron was undoubtedly able to furnish some factual personal history and background information as to the family in the past, but it was Dobson's impression that Gawron was not fully trusted by them and was capable of furnishing only conjectural information as to their then current activities. According to Agents handling Gawron, he would start with a half-truth or conjecture, and embroider upon it, and therefore was considered generally to be unreliable.

St. Louis Agents contacting released fellow inmates were instructed to not only obtain all possible information as to Ray's whereabouts, but all possible information as to their degree of association with him, his sentiments, his plans, the identities of any associates or friends either in or out of prison, and the manner of his escape.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Dobson was unable to recall any telephonic contacts with the Memphis case agent, although there may have been one or two. He was in frequent telephonic contact with the Chicago Assistant Special Agent in Charge, who was handling the case there, as Jerry Ray made at least one trip to visit St. Louis relatives.

Dobson never met, saw, or spoke with any Ray relatives, with the exception of Jerry Ray who contacted him telephonically on two or three occasions during a visit to St. Louis pursuant to instructions from the Chicago Division.

Dobson had no idea as to the basis for any friction which may have existed between Director Hoover and King. Mr. Hoover never confided in Dobson and never sought his advice.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☒ E F T O☐ CLEARDate 7/21

24126

FROM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (C)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

RE BUTEL TO KANSAS CITY, LOS ANGELES, AND ST. LOUIS JULY 18,
1978.

PER RE BUREAU TELETYPE FORMER SL 1215-C WAS INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT DESIRE TO BE INTERVIEWED OR CONTACTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BY ANYONE FROM HSCA. FORMER SL 1215-C WAS ADVISED OF ALL OF THE CONTENTS IN RE BUREAU TELETYPE AND WAS NOTIFIED THAT FBI WOULD DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY, HOWEVER HIS FILE COULD BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA.

ST. LOUIS INDICES REVIEW AND FILE CHECK SHOWS ALL ST. LOUIS FILES RE FORMER SL 1215-C HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

BT

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(1)

62-5097-88

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FBI/DOJ

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R 182228Z JUL 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

FBI LOS ANGELES ROUTINE

FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

62-5097

BY LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DATED JUNE 20, 1978, THE HSCA ADVISED IT MUST DETERMINE IF ANY ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THE FBI IS ONE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. THE COMMITTEE IS PROCEEDING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IF THE FBI WAS INVOLVED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EFFECTED BY DIRECT AGENT OR INFORMANT CONTACT WITH JAMES EARL RAY. THE HSCA ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER A 34-PAGE LIST OF KNOWN, PROBABLE AND POSSIBLE CONTACTS OF RAY AND REQUESTED THESE NAMES BE SEARCHED TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF THESE PERSONS IS A PRESENT OR FORMER INFORMANT, SOURCE OR OPERATIVE OF

7/18/78
Wef

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| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |
| R. Miller | |

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0133 UNCLAS E F T O

THE FBI. IF SO, THE HSCA REQUESTED THAT THE FBI DETERMINE IF THAT INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE AND THAT HIS INFORMANT FILE BE PREPARED FOR REVIEW BY THE HSCA'S DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL.

A SEARCH OF FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) FILES DISCLOSED THAT ONLY THREE INDIVIDUALS ON THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED LIST COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS PRESENT OR FORMER FBI INFORMANTS. THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. ALEXANDER GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, FORMER KC 644-C, WHITE MALE, LAST KNOWN TO BE AN INMATE OF THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI. INFORMANT WAS OPERATED DURING 1958-1959 AND REOPENED FOR A BRIEF PERIOD IN 1968. INFORMANT IS SUBJECT OF BUREAU FILE 137-7738, KC FILE 137-4907. DURING INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION, INFORMANT FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING THE MEANS ONE COULD UTILIZE IN GAINING ENTRY INTO CANADA, PROCURING PASSPORTS, CONTACTS FOR PASSPORTS, AND METHODS OF TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA WHILE IN A FUGITIVE STATUS.

2. JOHN MARSHAL BEFFEL, JR., ALSO KNOWN AS JOHN R. BONELLI, JOHN R. BONNELLI, FORMER LA 7932-PC, WHITE MALE, BORN

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0133 UNCLAS E F T O

DECEMBER 5, 1932. INFORMANT WAS OPERATED FROM 1972-73, BUREAU FILE 137-30709, LA FILE 137-10611. FILE INDICATES INFORMANT LAST RESIDED AT 2700 NEILSON WAY, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. IN 1967-68, ACCORDING TO HSCA, INFORMANT WAS EMPLOYED AT THE SULTAN ROOM, RABBIT'S FOOT LOUNGE, LOS ANGELES.

3. HOMER B. TOWNSLEY, FORMER SL 1215-C, WHITE MALE, BORN MAY 6, 1923. INFORMANT WAS OPERATED FROM 1960-66, BUREAU FILE 137-6583, SL FILE 137-7328. WHEN LAST CONTACTED, INFORMANT OPERATED THE NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, 1929 HICKORY STREET, ST. LOUIS. FBIHQ FILES REVEAL NO KNOWN CONNECTION OF INFORMANT IN THE KING ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION.

FBIHQ FILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION REGARDING CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF THE ABOVE THREE INFORMANTS.

RECIPIENTS LOCATE AND INTERVIEW ABOVE-LISTED INFORMANTS, RESPECTIVELY, TO DETERMINE IF THEY HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THEIR IDENTITIES BEING DISCLOSED TO THE HSCA AND IF THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HSCA. INFORMANTS SHOULD BE OBJECTIVELY TOLD OF THE HSCA INTEREST AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 1. INFORMANTS SHOULD BE TOLD THAT IF THEY AGREE TO DISCLOSURE, THEY HAVE NO GUARANTEES FROM THE FBI OR

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0133 UNCLAS E F T O

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 THEIR FORMER INFORMANT STATUS, AND THAT THE HSCA MAY HAVE INFORMANTS' IDENTITIES BASED ON A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION FILE.

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

IF ANY OF THE INFORMANTS 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.

RECIPIENTS SUTEL RESULTS OF CONTACTS WITH INFORMANTS AND FORWARD WAIVER, IF OBTAINED, BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION. IF ANY INFORMANT HAS RELOCATED, SET FORTH APPROPRIATE LEADS TO EFFECT INTERVIEW.

PAGE FIVE DE HQ 0133 UNCLAS E F T O

IN ADDITION, RECIPIENTS FURNISH FBIHQ ONE LEGIBLE XEROX COPY OF THESE FILES. ALL SERIALS SHOULD BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY. ANY SERIALS OR ENCLOSURES WHICH CANNOT BE REPRODUCED SHOULD BE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN THE COVER PAGES TRANSMITTING THIS MATERIAL TO FBIHQ. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY COVER AIRTEL TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION. IF ANY FILES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, SET FORTH DATE AND BASIS OF DESTRUCTION.

BT

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7/13/78

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

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (RUC)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUDED: 7/18/78

Re: Bureau teletype dated 7/12/78.

Enclosed for the Congressional Inquiry Unit are two copies of four serials which comprise entire St. Louis file 157-4529 entitled "RHONDA GIBSON, RM-NSRP".

Review of St. Louis indices reflect only reference to RHONDA GIBSON or VERONICA STROTHERS is enclosed main file.

Review of St. Louis destruction record reveals that St. Louis file 91-5121 destroyed 11/19/77 pursuant to file destruction program.

3-Bureau (Encl. 8)

1-St. Louis

[Signature]
HMK:kyw
(4)

[Signature]
62-5097-86

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

FBI CHICAGO ROUTINE

FBI SPRINGFIELD ROUTE

BT

UNLAS E F T

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA) 62-5097*

BUDED JULY

18, 1978.

THE HSCA WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN A LETTER DATED JULY 5, 1978, REQUESTED PRIORITY ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES AND RELATED FIELD OFFICE FILES PERTAINING TO RHONDA GIBSON, AKA VERONICA STROTHERS, DATE OF BIRTH JULY 19, 1947, FOR THE PERIOD 1965 TO THE PRESENT. BUREAU FILES CONTAIN ONLY ONE REFERENCE TO A RHONDA GIBSON AND THAT IS A TELETYPE FROM ST. LOUIS TO THE BUREAU, CHICAGO AND SPRINGFIELD DATED JUNE 11, 1970, AND CAPTIONED "UNSUBS; TWO, LADDONIA STATE BANK,

62-5097-85

7/12/78
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| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |
| Northcutt | |

*Rhonda Gibson
157-45298*

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0071 UNCLAS E F T O

LADDONIA, MISSOURI, JUNE 11, INSTANT, BANK ROBBERY, OFFICE OF
ORIGIN ST. LOUIS." ST. LOUIS FILE NUMBER IS 91-5121. A
RHONDA GIBSON IS MENTIONED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THIS
TELETYPE. NO OTHER RETRIEVABLE INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES.

*destined
11/14/77*

RECIPIENT OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO REVIEW THEIR FILES
FOR ANY INFORMATION REGARDING RHONDA GIBSON, AKA VERONICA
STROTHERS, DATE OF BIRTH JULY 19, 1947.

FURNISH FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) TWO COPIES OF ANY SERIAL
OR SERIALS REGARDING GIBSON. ALL COPIES SHOULD BE CLEARLY
LEGIBLE AND SENT REGISTERED MAIL TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.
RECIPIENT OFFICES HAVING NO INFORMATION REGARDING GIBSON
ARE TO SO NOTIFY FBIHQ.

BT

0071

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6/30/78

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) RUC

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)
BUDED: 7/6/78

Re Bureau teletype, 6/28/78.

Enclosed for Congressional Inquiry Unit are two
copies of serials 46-73 of SL 157-582 which is entitled
"White Citizen Council, RM."

It is noted that serial 71 does not appear in the
file and, therefore, has not been provided. A search of
St. Louis files has failed to reveal fate of this document.

It is also noted that not all of enclosed serials
fit criteria set forth in referenced teletype, but are being
furnished to provide continuity.

3- Bureau (Encs. 54)

①- St. Louis

HN:jtc

(4)

62-5097-84

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File Stripped

7/11/78 *wfk*

RUC 6-24

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DE HQ 0146 1780005

ZNY EEEEE

R 272127Z JUN 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI NEW ORLEANS ROUTINE

FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

62-5097.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

BUDED JULY 6, 1978.

THE HSCA, WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., REQUESTED BY LETTER DATED JUNE 19, 1978, ACCESS TO ALL BUFILE MATERIAL, NEW ORLEANS AND ST. LOUIS FIELD OFFICE FILES PERTAINING TO THE WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 1966-L968.

NEW ORLEANS AND ST. LOUIS FURNISH FBI HEADQUARTERS TWO COPIES OF ANY COMMUNICATIONS MEETING ABOVE CRITERIA. ALL COPIES SHOULD BE CLEARLY LEGIBLE AND SHOULD BE SENT REGISTERED MAIL, MAILED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BBT

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6/16/78

FM CHICAGO (62-7385) (RUC) (SQ 15)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

ST. LOUIS (AIRMAIL)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS, JUNE 2, 1978,
AND CHICAGO TELCALLS TO BUREAU AND KANSAS CITY, JUNE 16, 1978,
REGADING FILE CAPTIONED "JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; UFAC -
ROBBERY FIRST; OO: KC."

CHICAGO INDICES NEGATIVE REGARDING ABOVE CASE. INQUIRY OF
KANSAS CITY DETERMINED CG FILE NUMBER WAS 88-11505 AND CHICAGO
FILE DESTROYED IN APRIL, 1978, UNDER FILE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM.

BT

(1) St. Louis (AM)

RWG:jk
(2)

62-5097-82

Northcutt

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TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ E F T O☒ CLEARDate 6/15/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) P

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

REVIEW OF THE GENERAL INDICES OF THE ST. LOUIS FIELD OFFICE
FAILED TO LOCATE ANY REFERENCES TO THE "SOUTHERN STATES INDUSTRIAL
COUNCIL."

BT

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62-5097-81

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JTHApproved: RBK:JTHTransmitted 2010

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Per bjh

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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

*-62-5097**
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,

62-5097-80

file

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Northcutt

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

0085

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6/9/78

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (P)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)
BUDED: 6/12/78

Re Bureau teletype 6/5/78.

Enclosed for the Congressional Inquiry Unit are 62 (two copies each of 31) serials from the following St. Louis files pertaining to request in captioned Bureau teletype:

105-4027-53
157-5839-3 and 4
157-5818-1 through 28

Not enclosed are the following St. Louis files relating to Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or the S.C.L.C.:

"MURKIN", SL 44-775, Bufile 44-38861;
"MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM - C", SL 100-17801,
Bufile 100-106670;
"Communist Infiltration of Southern Christian
Leadership Conference; IS - C", SL 105-4027,
Bufile 100-438794.

It is suggested that the Congressional Inquiry Unit review the enclosed serials in order to determine if each serial meets the requirements in referenced Bureau teletype.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 62) (RM)
2 - St. Louis
DAM/lsm
(4)

62-5097-78

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Reviewed by Sgt. [Signature] 6/9/78
+ #3
JTH

6/5/78

FM CHICAGO (62-7385) (P) (SQ. 5)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

ST. LOUIS AIRMAIL

BT

UNCLAS

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT
DIVISION.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS, MAY 30,
1978.

CHICAGO INDICES REFLECTS ALL REFERENCES TO CAROL
PLEPPLA, JOHN RAY AND/OR JERRY RAY ARE CONTAINED IN
CHICAGO FILE 44-1114 ENTITLED, "MURKIN". ⁶²⁻⁵⁰⁹⁷ A REVIEW OF
THIS FILE DOES NOT REFLECT ANY EVIDENCE OF SURREPTITIOUS
ENTRY AT ANY OF THE RESIDENCES OR PREMISES OWNED OR LEASED
BY THE ABOVE PERSONS.

CWC/sjl

(1) St. Louis (AM)

(2)

*Assignment to
Kulue
6/9/78*

*62-5097-77
J. J. [unclear]*

*Northcutt
370*

PAGE TWO CG 62-7385 UNCLAS

THERE WAS AN FD-302 IN THIS FILE WHICH REFLECTED THAT PAYROLL RECORDS WERE LEGITIMATELY OBTAINED FROM RAY'S EMPLOYER, HARVEY A. KLINGMAN, WINNETKA, ILLINOIS, ON AUGUST 23, 1968. COPIES OF THIS FD-302 BEING FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU AND ST. LOUIS BY SEPARATE AIRTEL.

ST. LOUIS ADVISED AM COPY.

BT

x

6/5/78

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
(Attention: Congressional Inquiry Unit
Records Management Division)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (62-7385) (SQ. 5) (RUC)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE⁰
ON ASSASSINATIONS

ReButel to Chicago and St. Louis dated 5/30/78, and
Chicago teletype to Bureau and St. Louis dated 6/5/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau and St. Louis is one copy of
FD-302 of HARVEY A. KLINGEMAN of Winnetka, Illinois.

2 - Bureau (Encl. 1)
② - St. Louis (Encl. 1)
1 - Chicago

CWC:jeo
(5)

62-5097-76

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
Northcutt 5710

Number of 1
Exemptions
Marital Status Single

In addition, the KLINGEMANs also made available the Employee's Withholding Exemption Certificate made out in the same name and address and Social Security Number as set forth above, dated May 10, 1968.

They also made available the following listed payroll checks all drawn on the Winnetka Trust and Savings Bank bearing the identification in the upper left-hand corner of Indian Trail Restaurant, Inc., 507 Chestnut Street, Winnetka, Illinois, 60093, made out to either JOHN L. RAYNS or JOHN RAYNS and signed by HARVEY A. KLINGEMAN. The checks are endorsed by JOHN L. RAYNS or JOHN RAYNS, two of which have the address 1648 Lunt, Chicago, underneath the signature. These checks are as follows:

| <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 4838 | \$57.69 | May 7, 1967 |
| 4913 | \$84.89 | May 14, 1967 |
| 4987 | \$84.89 | May 21, 1967 |
| 5058 | \$84.89 | May 28, 1967 |
| 5130 | \$89.63 | June 11, 1967 |
| 5283 | \$95.19 | June 18, 1967 |
| 5357 | \$77.53 | June 25, 1967 |

The foregoing checks total \$664.34.

Mr. KLINGEMAN advised that to the best of his recollection at this time, the last check, Number 5357, was mailed to RAY's brother, name unrecalled, in Northbrook, Illinois, at RAY's request since he left his employment prior to receipt of the check, stating that he was going to work on boats with his brother. As Mr. KLINGEMAN recalls, he received a letter from RAY requesting that the pay due be sent to his brother.

Both of the KLINGEMANs characterized JAMES EARL RAY as an excellent employee, quiet, attentive, prompt, polite, a very good worker, but to their knowledge, had no friends or visitors during the time of his employment. They did recall that during the subject's last week of employment, he received three or four phone calls from a male individual who stated that he was RAY's brother. They could not recall the individual's name, nor did they believe that they would recognize this person's voice if they heard it again.

In conversation with Mr. HUIE, the KLINGEMANs received the following information on a confidential basis and advised that they were rather reluctant to divulge it, but felt that it was their duty as citizens. They requested that this information be maintained on a confidential basis within the FBI. They advised that they contacted Chief DERNING because of his reputation and are now following his advice in furnishing this information to the FBI:

Mr. HUIE showed the KLINGEMANs letters from RAY in which RAY listed employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant. (It should be noted that this restaurant is an old, large, upper class restaurant, of excellent reputation. Chief DERNING advised that the KLINGEMANs themselves have an excellent reputation within the community and that he holds them in very high regard). HUIE told them that RAY had served seven years of a twenty-year sentence at Jefferson, Missouri, prison, during which time he had eight visitors, one of whom was his brother, however, HUIE did not identify which one. Prior to his escape, RAY had stashed away a razor, green prison trousers which had been dyed black, and 12 hersey bars in anticipation that he would have to go without food for some time. RAY also had \$300 in his shoe. He escaped in a bread truck and walked to Chicago, Illinois, from Jefferson City, Missouri, which took him about eight days. (The KLINGEMANs do recall that when the subject first appeared at the restaurant, his feet were swollen and that their sister-in-law gave him two Ace bandages to use which he returned three or four days later. This supposedly was mentioned in the letter in HUIE's possession).

Thereafter, RAY read the advertisement in the Tribune wherein the KLINGEMANs had advertised for help in the restaurant. HUIE said that the subject in the letter

mentioned that the employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant was the "high point of his life".

HUIE mentioned that RAY had had only three jobs in his life, one of which was in a shoe factory outside of East St. Louis, Illinois, which was prior to his going to prison the last time. He also said that during the time RAY was employed at the restaurant, he was "tapped on the shoulder" by an individual who recognized him and who threatened to reveal his identity to the police and cause RAY's return to prison if he, RAY, did not work for this person. HUIE said that RAY was given \$1,200 during the initial contacts, by the alleged conspirators, and was ultimately paid \$15,000, but was due to receive more.

Again, according to HUIE, RAY was told to go to Canada to investigate the difficulty of crossing the border. Supposedly RAY made two trips through the Detroit Tunnel into Canada. He also made a third trip to Canada, date and sequence not given, and "was instructed" to obtain a 40-year-old newspaper, get the names of the males born that date, and search the current phone directory for similar names. He was then to surveil the individuals with similar names to determine whether or not his physical description was similar to theirs. Thereafter, he telephoned persons of his like description, utilizing a pretext, and thereby found a man who had never applied for a passport. RAY then applied for a passport in this name.

The KLINGEMANs advised that they were not sure that they were furnishing this information in its proper sequence, but that to the best of their recollection, the information preceding and following was given to them in this order by HUIE. Thereafter, RAY was given more money to purchase a Mustang which was to be driven to Acapulco, Mexico, for the purpose of obtaining a tourist sticker. He then drove through Mexico to the West Coast and hid out there to receive further instructions from the other individuals in the alleged conspiracy. HUIE stated that RAY was flown to Atlanta from the West Coast, but the time was not right, there was no action and he was sent back to California. He was also told to be in Mississippi at a certain time and place. Supposedly Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was at a Holiday Inn Motel in Atlanta, Georgia, when RAY was flown there.

Subsequently, RAY was given money to obtain binoculars and a shotgun and was to go to Memphis to be somewhere at 3 p.m. in room 312 or 313. Supposedly there were other individuals who also came to this room and there was a Negro male who purportedly called KING out to the balcony. According to HUIE, the actual murderer of KING was not RAY, although RAY was present and at a later time (probably the trial) RAY will identify the murderer. RAY did pick up the rifle, ran to his car, and sped to a rendezvous in Atlanta, Georgia. He was supposed to pick up a "bundle of money", however, the conspirators did not appear. RAY allegedly spent several days or hours at this apartment in Atlanta, Georgia, awaiting the arrival of his "fellow conspirators".

According to HUIE, the plan was for RAY to go to Mexico, but immediately fly north to throw off pursuit and to steer all investigation to Mexico. However, since the conspirators did not appear in Atlanta, RAY fled to Canada thereafter utilizing his knowledge to obtain a passport and fled to England.

The KLINGEMANs advised that the rest of HUIE's story substantially follows the newspaper accounts which appeared after subject RAY's arrest in England. They did note that HUIE stated that RAY did rob a bank in London because he "got real low on money". HUIE at no time identified the alleged fellow conspirators of RAY. He did swear the KLINGEMANs to secrecy and told them that he would mail the "Look" proofs on September 10, 1968, and the story would be in the November 10, 1968, issue of Look magazine. Both Mr. and Mrs. KLINGEMAN advised that they would make these proofs available to the interviewing Agents for review.

The KLINGEMANs advised that RAY began working for them as a dishwasher and because of his excellent attitude was advanced to cook's helper. During the time he was in their employ, they did not observe him in a car, nor did they know him to own an automobile. He had no visitors, he did not wear glasses, he had no women friends, nor did he make any advances toward the female personnel employed at the restaurant and they noted that his hair was "less bushy" during the time he was at the restaurant than shown in the photographs.

They are not sure how he came to work from his apartment, but believe he might have been met at the Eden's Expressway by WILLIE PERRY and FRED BURNS, who were also employees at the restaurant.

His conduct was excellent and they cannot recall him making any comments one way or another about members of the Negro race and specifically no comments whatsoever concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RAY made no reference to his previous employment, but did mention that he was in Brimerhaven, Germany, during World War II. They advised that when RAY received the phone calls during his last week of employment he seemed to be disturbed and that his concentration on his work was not as good as it usually was.

They then recalled that according to HUIE, that when JAMES EARL RAY left England, he was going to Lisbon to get to Africa, however, he was unable to do so which is when he returned to England and held up a bank receiving about \$200 in loot. They again stated that the information furnished to them by HUIE came from letters which RAY had written to his attorney, who in turn turned them over to the author. Also Mr. KLINGEMAN stated that in one of the letters which he believed was to the attorney from RAY, while he was in London, England, there was a drawing identifying a location which appeared to be Diversey Street and Sheffield Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Klingemans again requested that this information be maintained in confidence and expressed a willingness to co-operate with the FBI in any way possible.

X Airtel

6/6/78

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (P)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype dated 6/2/78.

A review of St. Louis indices and files re JAMES EARL RAY determined St. Louis has no file "JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST, OO:KC, BUFILE 88-41730."

St. Louis has two serial references to RAY in addition to the following two main files:

"MURKIN" - SL 44-775; Bufile 44-38861.

"JAMES EARL RAY; UFAC - ESCAPE, OO:KX" - SL 88-10663.

UACB, St. Louis will not furnish any copies of files regarding RAY.

2 - Bureau
② - St. Louis
DAM:edr
(4)

62-5097-73
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

Kubie

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ E F T O☒ CLEAR

Date

5614
6/2/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) P

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

RE BUREAU TELETYPE, MAY 30, 1978.

MAY 30 - JUNE 2, 1978, REVIEW MADE OF ST. LOUIS MURKIN FILE
AND FILES RELATING TO CAROL PEPPER, JOHN RAY, AND/OR JERRY RAY, AND
THE GRAPEVINE TAVERN REVEALED NO INFORMATION PERTAINING TO
SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY OF RESIDENCE OR PREMISES OWNED OR LEASED BY
AFOREMENTIONED INDIVIDUALS.ST. LOUIS ELSUR INDICES CHECKED BY SA THOMAS T. KUBIC WERE
NEGATIVE REGARDING THIS MATTER.

BT

62-5097-72

JLH:kyw
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| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |

*Kubic*Approved: *RK*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per *KSC*

FBI/DOJ

VZCZCHQ0119

00 CG SL

DE HQ 0119 1532140

ZNY EEEEE

O 022114Z JUN 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

FBI ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

HSCA, BY LETTER DATED MAY 25, 1978, REQUESTED THAT FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) FURNISH THE COMMITTEE WITH A COPY OF THE CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS FIELD OFFICE FILES CAPTIONED, "JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST; 00 KC" (BUFILE 88-41730). ALL MATERIAL REGARDING THIS FILE AT FBIHQ WAS CONSOLIDATED INTO THE MURKIN FILE (BUFILE 44-38861).

ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED THAT THE ST. LOUIS OFFICE PROVIDE THE NAMES OF ALL SPECIAL AGENTS WHO HANDLED COVERAGE OF THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, BETWEEN JANUARY, 1960, AND MAY, 1967.

RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO SEARCH FOR THEIR FILE

* St Louis disregard per FBIHQ
Supervisor Tom Brekke, 5:56 PM 6/2/78

62-5097-71

| | |
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| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| JUN 2 1978 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |
| Miller | |

See ASAC

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0119 UNCLAS E F T O

ON ABOVE-MENTIONED UFAC CASE INVOLVING JAMES EARL RAY. ANY MATERIAL REGARDING THIS MATTER SHOULD BE DUPLICATED AND ONE COPY FURNISHED TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS

(including
1-17s)

JUNE 12, 1978. ONLY THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY SERIAL PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED FBIHQ IN THIS MATTER SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

* [THE ST. LOUIS OFFICE SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE NAMES OF THOSE SPECIAL AGENTS WHO HANDLED COVERAGE OF THE AREA WHERE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, IS LOCATED FOR PERIOD SET OUT ABOVE.

BT

0119

* See note page 1.

NNNN

VZCZCHQ0085

RR AL AT BA BH BS BU CE CG CI CV DN DE HO IP JN JK KC LA

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 1562356

ZNY EEEEE

R 052105Z JUN 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62 117290)

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 JACKSON

FBI JACKSONVILLE

6/5/78
WPK

62-5097-70

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| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| JUN 5 1978 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |
| <i>R. Miller</i> | <i>m</i> |

WPK

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0085 UNCLAS E F T O

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 0085 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 NATION-
ALIST-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

62-5097

157-5818*

157-5818*

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0085 UNCLAS E F T O

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 PRIORITY 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 RECIPIENT 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 G. BUSCHING,
EXTENTION 3685.

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

BT

0085

VZCZCHQ0038

00 CG SL

DE HQ 0038 1501918

ZNY EEEEE

O 301838Z MAY 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

FBI CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O
- 62-5097*

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

HSCA, BY LETTER DATED MAY 17, 1978, REQUESTED THAT A DETERMINATION BE MADE AS TO WHETHER THE ST. LOUIS OR CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE "MADE ANY ATTEMPTS AT SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY, OR IN FACT SUCCEEDED AT SURREPTITIOUSLY ENTERING THE RESIDENCES OR THE PREMISES OWNED OR LEASED BY CAROL PEPPER, JOHN RAY, AND/OR JERRY RAY".

⁰
190-35-1
88-10663-2, 4, 6, 9

ON MAY 24, 1978, MIKE EBERHARDT, STAFF MEMBER, HSCA, ADVISED THAT THE COMMITTEE IS INTERESTED IN RESOLVING AN ALLEGATION THAT ENTRY WAS MADE TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL RECORDS OF JAMES EARL RAY'S FAMILY OR TO INSTALL ELSUR OR MISUR. PREMISES MENTIONED REFERS TO GRAPEVINE TAVERN, ST. LOUIS.

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62-5097-69

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| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| MAY 30 1978 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |
| Hughes | 1914 |

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0038 UNCLAS E F T O

RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO REVIEW RESPECTIVE
MURKIN OR APPROPRIATE FILES FOR ANY INFORMATION REGARDING ENTRY
BY FBI OF RESIDENCES OF ABOVE THREE INDIVIDUALS OR THE GRAPEVINE
TAVERN. ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION SHOULD BE DUPLICATED AND ONE
COPY SHOULD BE FURNISHED TO FBI HEADQUARTERS, ATTENTION:
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, BY
CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 9, 1978.

BT.

0038

NNNN

RAY, JOHN

JUL 64

163-95*

Destroyed

b. 6-9-15, Budapest, Hungary

RAY, JOHN

JUN

1977

88-10663-2

1982 Arsenal, St. Louis, Mo.
Brother of James Earl Ray
OO: KX

RAY, JOHN

APR 66

26-28118*

Destroyed

aka Fred Williams
FBI# 1 617 279

RAY, JERRY

5/71

105-1564-563

*reclassified at
B2 4879*

NO DESC

RAY, JERRY

APR

1971

91-5279*

FBI 862 651 A
white male DOB: 7/16/35
5'9" tall weight 160 lbs.

RAY, JERRY

6/77

88-10663-2, 6,

Orchard Country Club, Longrove, Ill.
or 591 Cherokee, St. Louis, Mo.
OO: KX

RAY, JERRY

6/77

88-10663-4

father of James Earl Ray
2025 Bellview, Maplewood, Mo.
OO: KX

x

4/5/78

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

FROM :SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (RUC)

SUBJECT:HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
(HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype to St. Louis 3/31/78.
St. Louis telcall to Bureau 4/5/78.

A review of the St. Louis Murkin file (SL 44-775) revealed that all information re financial and/or bank records pertaining to JERRY RAYNES was forwarded to the Bureau in St. Louis reports of SA HAROLD R. DOBSON dated 5/10/68 and 6/25/68.

On 4/5/78, SA TRON W. BREKKE, Congressional Inquiry Unit, Records Management Division, telephonically advised that since requested information was already at the Bureau it would not be necessary for St. Louis to forward duplicate material.

2 - Bureau
1 - St. Louis

GPW:mt
JM(3)

File Shipped
5/2/78

62-5097-62

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RR SL

DE HQ 0132 0910644

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R 312210Z MAR 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

RE INVESTIGATION INTO ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HSCA BY LETTER DATED MARCH 27, 1978, REQUESTED BANK AND/OR FINANCIAL RECORDS WHICH WERE OBTAINED BY ST. LOUIS OFFICE FOR JERRY RAYNES, JAMES EARL RAY'S FATHER, IN CONNECTION WITH MURKIN INVESTIGATION.

ST. LOUIS SHOULD SEARCH THEIR MURKIN FILE (SL 44-775) FOR FINANCIAL AND/OR BANK RECORDS PERTAINING TO JERRY RAYNES AND FURNISH COPY OF THESE RECORDS TO ATTENTION OF CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 7, 1978.

BT

0132

62-5097

submit by 4/5/78

(A)

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| SERIALIZED <i>WJF</i> | FILED <i>Ex</i> |
| APR 1 1978 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |
| <i>A. WILLIAMS</i> | <i>W</i> |

62-5097-61

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

9967

Date 3/23/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

REBUTEL CALL TO ST. LOUIS, MARCH 23, 1978; ST. LOUIS TEL TO
 BUREAU, DECEMBER 22, 1975, CAPTIONED "SL 3567-PC; TECIP"; ST. LOUIS
 LETTER TO BUREAU, MARCH 31, 1976; ST. LOUIS LETTER TO BUREAU, JULY
 29, 1976; ST. LOUIS LETTER TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER 22, 1976.

SL 3567-PC OPENED OCTOBER 3, 1975, AS PCI. ON OCTOBER 30,
 1975, INFORMANT PROVIDED INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING CASES:

"UNSUB; THEFT OF 68 CASES OF CIGARETTES, JUNE 8, 1975; TFIS;
 ST. LOUIS FILE 15-18872 (CLOSED)"; "UNSUB; BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE
 OF MRS. KING; ITSP; ST. LOUIS FILE 87-21548 (CLOSED)"; "RICHARD
 O'HARA; ITSP; ST. LOUIS FILE 87-23087 (CLOSED)"; "RAY SCHARF;
 BENJAMIN GOINS; AR - HOBBS ACT; MF; ST. LOUIS FILE 92-2104
 (PENDING)".

62-5097-60

JTH:pdp

(1) *pdp*

*cc placed in
 137-16511
 wth*

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 SERIALIZED *wfk*
 INDEXED _____
 FILED *wfk*

Approved: *K/IRH*Transmitted 2230
(Number) (Time)Per *lyb*

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO SL 62-5097 UNCLAS E F T O

ON DECEMBER 17, 1975, INFORMANT PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING CASES: "ST. LOUIS AREA CRIME CONDITIONS; ST. LOUIS FILE 92-702"; "RAY SCHARF; ET AL; RICO; ST. LOUIS FILE 92-2104 (PENDING)"; "JOHNNY TOLIVER; AR - HOBBS ACT; ST. LOUIS FILE 92-2828 (CLOSED)".

ON FEBRUARY 11, 1975, HE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING: "RAY SCHARF; ET AL; RICO; ST. LOUIS FILE 92-2104 (PENDING)".

ON MARCH 8, 1976, HE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING: "RAY SCHARF; ET AL; RICO; ST. LOUIS FILE 92-2104 (PENDING)"; NORMAN OWENS, AKA; ET AL; ITSP - MAJOR THEFT; CONSPIRACY; RICO; ST. LOUIS FILE 87-23091 (PENDING)".

ON MARCH 26, 1976, AND JUNE 29, 1976, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED REGARDING RAY SCHARF; ET AL; RICO.

INFORMANT CLOSED BY LETTER TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER 22, 1976.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

COPY OF PREVIOUSLY SET FORTH MEMORANDUM DATED MARCH 19, 1974, IS SHOWN IN INFORMANT FILE VIA CORRELATION MEMO DATED OCTOBER 7, 1975. INFORMANT FILE REVIEWED MARCH 16, 1976, BY INSPECTION STAFF.
BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

xx

3/13/78.

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) C

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Re St. Louis telétype to FBIHQ, 3/13/78.

Enclosed for FBIHQ are the original and three
copies of LHM captioned as above.

LHM is being furnished for information and no
action being taken UACB.

2- Bureau (Encs. 4)
1- St. Louis
JTH:jtc
(3) *tw*
f

Close-4
JTH
62-5097-59

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| FILED | _____ <i>wfc</i> |

Saint Louis, Missouri

March 13, 1978

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

In the course of a file review in an unrelated matter, SL 3167-C, St. Louis File 137-16185, Bureau File 137-36945, was reviewed. This file contained a contact memorandum dated March 19, 1974, which contained information relating to several criminal matters and also contained the following paragraph:

"During the Fall of 1973, five or six months ago, date not recalled, Beyers came to the shop inquiring as to whether they could get together to talk, and they later did so at Pizza and Cream, Clayton, Mo., in the area of a Broad-Dugan Paint Store, where informant had traveled on business. Beyers talked freely about himself and his business, and they later went to informant's house where Beyers told a story about visiting a lawyer in St. Louis County, now deceased, not further identified, who had offered to give him a contract to kill Martin Luther King. He said that also present was a short, stocky man, who walked with a limp. (Later, with regard to the latter individual, Beyers commented that this man was actually the individual who made the payoff of James Earl Ray after the killing.) Beyers said he had declined to accept this contract. He did remark that this lawyer had confederate flags and other items about the house that might indicate that he was 'a real rebel'. Beyers also commented that he had been offered either \$10,000 or \$20,000 to kill King."

Extensive further research in the St. Louis indices and files failed to reveal this information was if any way disseminated and the information simply reposes in the informant file.

4- Bureau
X- St. Louis (62-5097)
JTH:jtc (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.

62-5097-58

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

1051

Date 3/13/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT
 DIVISION

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

RE ST. LOUIS TEL CALL TO BUREAU, MARCH 13, 1978.

IN THE COURSE OF FILE REVIEW IN AN UNRELATED MATTER,
 SL 3167-C, ST. LOUIS FILE 137-16185, BUFILE 137-36945, WAS REVIEWED.
 THIS FILE CONTAINED A CONTACT MEMORANDUM DATED MARCH 19, 1974,
 WHICH CONTAINED INFORMATION RELATING TO SEVERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS
 AND ALSO CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

"DURING THE FALL OF 1973, FIVE OR SIX MONTHS AGO, DATE NOT
 RECALLED, BEYERS CAME TO THE SHOP INQUIRING AS TO WHETHER THEY
 COULD GET TOGETHER TO TALK, AND THEY LATER DID SO AT PIZZA AND
 CREAM, CLAYTON, MO., IN THE AREA OF A BROAD-DUGAN PAINT STORE,
 WHERE INFORMANT HAD TRAVELED ON BUSINESS. BEYERS TALKED FREELY

62-5097-57

- ① - 62-5097
 1 - 137-16185
 1 - 44-775

JTH:pdp

(3)

SEARCHED

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FILED

Approved: RBK JTHTransmitted 2029Z

(Number)

(Time)

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO SL 62-5097 UNCLAS E F T O

ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS BUSINESS, AND THEY LATER WENT TO INFORMANT'S HOUSE WHERE BEYERS TOLD A STORY ABOUT VISITING A LAWYER IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY, NOW DECEASED, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, WHO HAD OFFERED TO GIVE HIM A CONTRACT TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE SAID THAT ALSO PRESENT WAS A SHORT, STOCKY MAN, WHO WALKED WITH A LIMP. (LATER, WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER INDIVIDUAL, BEYERS COMMENTED THAT THIS MAN WAS ACTUALLY THE INDIVIDUAL WHO MADE THE PAYOFF OF JAMES EARL RAY AFTER THE KILLING.) BEYERS SAID HE HAD DECLINED TO ACCEPT THIS CONTRACT. HE DID REMARK THAT THIS LAWYER HAD CONFEDERATE FLAGS AND OTHER ITEMS ABOUT THE HOUSE THAT MIGHT INDICATE THAT HE WAS 'A REAL REBEL'. BEYERS ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE HAD BEEN OFFERED EITHER \$10,000 OR \$20,000 TO KILL KING."

EXTENSIVE FURTHER RESEARCH IN THE ST. LOUIS INDICES AND FILES FAILED TO REVEAL THIS INFORMATION WAS IN ANY WAY DISSEMINATED AND THE INFORMATION SIMPLY REPOSES IN THE INFORMANT FILE.

ABOVE IS BEING FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION AND NO ACTION BEING TAKEN UACB. LETTER AND LHM FOLLOW.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

X

12/2/77

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (P)
SUBJECT : HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS,
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM reflecting interviews of SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN, St. Louis Division, by Committee staff members on 11/21 and 29/77 and his testimony before the Sub-committee on 11/30/77.

HO

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
2 - St. Louis
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62-5097-55

St. Louis, Missouri
December 2, 1977

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
INTERVIEW OF SPECIAL AGENT WILLIAM R. DUNCAN,
ST. LOUIS DIVISION, BY STAFF INVESTIGATORS
ON NOVEMBER 21 AND 29, 1977, AND HIS
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUB-COMMITTEE
ON NOVEMBER 30, 1977

At approximately 3:00 p.m., November 21, 1977, Special Agent (SA) William R. Duncan was interviewed by Mrs. Sheila Lee and Mr. Michael Everhart, Attorneys for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, at the U. S. House of Representatives, Annex Number Two, Washington, D. C.

SA Duncan was told his name came up as having made an offer in the Louisville Police Department to kill Dr. Martin Luther King in 1965. Duncan told them he was assigned to the Louisville Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from February, 1952, until May, 1967, and had responsibilities as Liaison Agent with the Louisville Police Department during most of this period.

The allegation involved an incident which allegedly took place at a roll-call time in the First District Office sometime in the fall of 1965. Reportedly making the allegation was Clifton Baird, white male, 50, a retired Louisville police officer who retired in 1975 after 27 years of service. Also present was Chief of Detectives, Major Robert Gregory, Captain Priest M. Fry, formerly Chief of Detectives and possibly the Captain of the First District; Lieutenant James Bibb, a uniformed First District Lieutenant; Sergeant Brent Hardin, a Third District Sergeant; possibly Herman Mitchell, Homicide Squad; Lieutenant Vernon Austin; and possibly Robert E. Peters (SA), formerly of the Louisville Division of the FBI.

Duncan was asked what he knew about the allegation and he related that in late March or early April, 1977, he received in the FBI mail an Associated Press clipping about a Clifton Baird making an allegation that FBI Agents and police made him

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4 - Bureau

1 - St. Louis (62-5097)

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HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
INTERVIEW OF SPECIAL AGENT WILLIAM R. DUNCAN

an offer to kill Dr. Martin Luther King. The clipping came in the regular FBI mail and Duncan stated he did not know who sent it to him.

A few days later, while on the phone to ex-FBI Supervisor Robert E. Peters in Louisville regarding a social engagement, Duncan asked him about the clipping and who Clifton Baird was and what the clipping referred to. Peters said Baird was a tall, heavy-set man who was in the Vice Squad for a while and that Duncan should have known him from seeing him in the Vice Squad while Duncan worked with the Detective Bureau in Louisville.

Approximately April 25, 1977, FBI Headquarters sent a communication to Louisville and St. Louis FBI Offices requesting the present locations of former Special Agent in Charge of Louisville, Bernard C. Brown; Supervisor Robert E. Peters; and SA William R. Duncan as they were named by former Police Officer Clifton Baird alleging improprieties in the Martin Luther King assassination case.

SA Duncan initially had no recollection of the incident and he called former SA Peters at Louisville and asked him if he knew anything about this. Peters replied that he had no idea. Duncan later called retired Police Captain John Hampton of Louisville, a close personal friend, to determine if he knew anything about this. Hampton advised he did not know but would ask and find out what he could and call Duncan. He later called back and gave the names of some police officers who had been interviewed and named former Major Priest M. Fry; former Major Robert Gregory; Lieutenant James Bibb; Sergeant Brent Hardin and Lieutenant Vernon Austin. Hampton apparently talked to Austin and advised that he had learned that the event was supposed to have taken place in the First District Offices sometime in 1964 or 1965. Duncan called Lieutenant Vernon Austin, whom he had known for 25 years, and asked him about the matter. Austin related to Duncan who the Committee had asked about and generally who was supposed to be present when the alleged offer took place.

Duncan told the investigators that he had no recollection concerning this matter and that he had in fact not slept and walked the floor a number of nights for approximately ten days to two weeks. At this time he recalled one night that Sergeant William Baker of the First District Vice Squad met him in the

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second floor hallway sometime in the afternoon and asked Duncan to help him with a joke with a couple of officers at the First District. Duncan was told to go to the roll-call at roll-call time and say that he had heard that there was a \$250,000 or \$500,000 reward for the death of Dr. Martin Luther King and was to add to or verify something that had already been said. Duncan recalled going down to the area and making the general statement that he had heard that there was a \$250,000 or \$500,000-price on Dr. Martin Luther King from either the Ku Klux Klan or the Communist Party. Duncan added if verification was wanted, one should contact Bob Peters or B. C. Brown of the FBI.

Duncan did not recall who was there except several uniformed officers who were coming and going and that there were several in the area. There were a number of questions regarding whether it was a big roll-call area or the Captain's, Sergeant's, Lieutenant's offices or a hallway. Duncan was asked whether or not there were three or a dozen people present and Duncan replied that there could have been between three and twelve people, exact number unrecalled.

Duncan was asked whether Bob Peters was there. Duncan said he did not recall his being there, otherwise he would not have made the statement that "if you want to verify the price on Dr. Martin Luther King contact Bob Peters or B. C. Brown." Duncan identified one person he thought was there as Arlie Blaire (because Duncan had heard that he was supposed to have been there from the questions asked). Duncan recalled a younger, red-haired officer with a crew-cut or brush-cut. Duncan said he had talked to Blaire and possibly his partner in connection with a fugitive murder case that Duncan was working.

Duncan was asked about his relationship with Robert Peters and also with Fry, Hardin, Gregory, Bibb, Austin, Herman Mitchell, John Mitchell and B. C. Brown of the FBI.

The Committee Investigators apparently could not understand why Duncan could not remember who was at the meeting. They asked Duncan about an attempted bombing of Sergeant Brent Hardin's car and if Duncan worked on the case. Duncan recalled a bomb being placed on Hardin's car but that it apparently did not go off. Duncan recalled it was possibly in connection with

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an election regarding some of the police organizations. Duncan did not recall whether the FBI worked on the case at all other than to offer the FBI Laboratory facilities; however, Duncan did not work on the bombing of the car.

Duncan was asked about the Louisville Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and if it was a racist or a white-hate group. Duncan replied he did not know, but he did receive a plaque and an honorary life-time membership in the Louisville Chapter of the FOP for cooperation with the Louisville Police Department when he transferred from Louisville in 1967 and that this plaque was signed by Lieutenant Leo Joseph, then secretary and also secretary to the Chief of Detectives.

Duncan was asked if the Ku Klux Klan was active in Louisville and if any FBI Agents or Louisville Police Officers belonged. Duncan replied that he had little knowledge of the Ku Klux Klan at that time. He heard in later years after he left Louisville that it did become active in Kentucky.

At this point the investigators requested Duncan to wait a while. Subsequently they came back and took Duncan to another room and introduced Duncan to Mr. Edward M. Evans, Chief Investigator for the Committee, and Mr. Robert J. Lehner, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Committee. They then asked some of the same questions, including who was at the alleged meeting.

Mr. Lehner said that the Louisville Police Officers were "stonewalling" the issue and maybe when they were put under oath they would recall some of the incident. There were some questions asked of Duncan such as did Duncan know black officer Virgil White and a John Mitchell. Duncan recalled that he was acquainted with Virgil White, who was a Vice Squad Detective, but did not recall John Mitchell, but did recall Detective Herman Mitchell.

Duncan was asked if he knew Dr. King and Mr. Hoover's relationship and Duncan said no, except what he had heard in the newspaper and other media sources.

Duncan was asked if he knew Dr. Martin Luther King and Duncan replied that he never recalled seeing him in person. Duncan was asked if he knew King's brother, the Reverend A. D. Williams King who lived in Louisville. He was told that Duncan

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met him in 1963 with the then-Special Agent in Charge when Duncan was to drive them and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, when Kennedy came to Louisville to speak to a group on the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Duncan met Rev. A. D. Williams King with the Special Agent in Charge at his church as he met everyone else who was to appear on the platform with Attorney General Kennedy as Duncan wanted to be personally acquainted with everyone on the platform.

Duncan was asked if he knew Aaron Duke, Arlie Blaire's partner, and Duncan replied that he did not recall him.

Duncan was asked if he had been the subject of any disciplinary action as a result of this matter and he replied that he had not.

Duncan was asked if he had brought this incident to the attention of any of his supervisors and, if so, when. Duncan replied that it was brought to the attention of SA Danny O. Coulson, FBIHQ, when he knew that he was to be called to the Committee for interview.

Duncan was asked if he ever surveilled Dr. King and if he knew of any telephone taps regarding Dr. King. Duncan replied that he did not surveil him and he had no personal knowledge of any telephone taps.

Duncan was asked if he thought the matter was a joke and if he could see anything funny in it and Duncan replied that at the time it was meant as a joke, but at the present time it was a most serious and stupid thing, particularly in light of events subsequent to 1965. Duncan stated he would take a polygraph examination to verify that what he was saying was true.

Duncan was asked if he knew that Dr. King was a frequent visitor in Louisville during the racially troubled period. He advised that he recalled the racially troubled times really climaxed after 1967. Duncan was asked if he would know Arlie Blaire's voice and Duncan replied he did not think he would.

Duncan was then told that he was to appear before the Sub-Committee to give sworn testimony on November 30, 1977, and would a subpoena be necessary. Duncan advised a subpoena would not be necessary. Duncan was given the phone number of the Committee and told to contact Mr. Everhart should he recall anything else.

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On November 29, 1977, Duncan again contacted Committee Staff Members Mrs. Sheila Lee, Mr. Michael Everhart and Mr. William Webb.

Duncan told them that he had recalled that he might have known Aaron Duke, Arlie Blaire's partner. Duncan recalled a person described as a white male, in his late 30's or early 40's as of 1965 or 1966, stocky, not fat, with gray cropped hair, approximately 5' 10" and 180-185-190 pounds.

Duncan advised that he had no first-hand knowledge of Dr. King and Mr. Hoover's difficulty but that he had heard rumors about it and had a faint recollection that he may have mentioned this at the time he told of the Ku Klux Klan and/or the Communist Party rumor in the First District Police area.

Duncan told them that he did not tell someone of his recollection as a joke earlier because when the communication was received from the Bureau, it was pointed out that he would be contacted regarding the matter by the Committee Investigators and that he would at that time be briefed by legal personnel from FBIHQ.

Duncan was asked if he had discussed this matter with anyone outside the Bureau and his family. Duncan told them he had talked one time with Lieutenant Vernon Austin by phone and he did not discuss the joke other than ask if it could have been a joke. Duncan told them he had discussed it with Robert Peters at least on three occasions. Once when it came to his attention from a newspaper clipping, once when he received a communication from FBI Headquarters, and one time after he realized that it was a joke, at which time he told Peters that he (Peters) and B. C. Brown had nothing to do with it. Duncan was asked about their get-together for the football game on November 11-12, 1977. Duncan told them that Duncan and Peters seriously considered not getting together for this year's football game but decided since they had known each other for 25 years and had plans to attend this football game for over a year, that they would go ahead and get together. They agreed not to discuss the matter, however.

Duncan also told them that when he realized that it was a joke and that he was involved, he contacted a long-time personal friend and lawyer to assist in the analysis and action regarding the entire matter.

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The Investigators asked if Duncan would be represented by Counsel before the Committee and Duncan replied he would not.

On the night of November 29, 1977, Duncan went back to the Washington National Airport to pick up his luggage. While there, a flight from Louisville came in and he saw his long-time friend, P. M. Fry, with whom he shook hands. Accompanying Fry was Lieutenant James Bibb whom Duncan did not recall for a minute, and former Police Officer Arlie Blaire. Blaire came up to Duncan and at this time was recognized as being a former Louisville Police Officer. At this time SA DUNCAN realized BLAIRE was not the red-headed person he thought that he had remembered at the First District Office. Blaire volunteered to Duncan that he knew Duncan only professionally and that he had been discharged for being an alcoholic, that he had cured himself without going to Alcoholics Anonymous and he was there at the request of the Committee. He was asked by Duncan if he ever recalled working on the Nashan Lane murder case. He did recall this. He was asked what his partner, Aaron Duke, looked like and he gave a description meeting the one Duncan had recalled. He also advised that they rode in car 102 rather than car 101.

On November 30, 1977, Duncan brought the aforementioned airport meeting to the attention of Mr. Michael Everhart and Mr. Edward Evans of the Committee staff.

Duncan appeared before the House Sub-Committee on November 30, 1977. The Committee members present part or full time were Mr. Louis Stokes; Mr. Walter E. Fauntroy; Mr. Robert W. Edgar; Mr. Samuel L. Devine; Mrs. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; and possibly Harold E. Ford.

Mr. Michael Everhart of the Committee staff questioned Duncan.

At this time Duncan asked Mr. Fauntroy if he would be out of order if he asked when this incident was supposed to have taken place and who was present. Mr. Fauntroy advised that he would be out of order.

Duncan was asked how long he had been in Louisville, Kentucky, and if he knew P. M. Fry, Robert Gregory, James Bibb,

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Brent Hardin, Arlie Blaire, Clifford Baird, Herman Mitchell, Robert E. Peters, B. C. Brown and Warren Walsh. He gave them a similar reply as he had given the Investigators. He told them that he did not recognize or know Clifton Baird for sure until he saw him coming out of the Committee room on November 30, 1977.

He was asked if he knew a Sergeant William Baker and if he was known to pull jokes. Duncan said "yes". He was asked if he knew any of the jokes pulled by Baker. He related one of Baker's pranks that he allegedly pulled on someone with the Louisville Ministerial Alliance.

Duncan was asked if he ever pulled any jokes and the answer was "on occasion", and he gave one example. He was asked in great detail about where the meeting or joke was pulled and how he was to know who he was to tell the story to. Duncan did not recall except that he thought there were two officers from the district and undoubtedly one of them would have been Baird, otherwise Baird would not have told the story. He was asked how the statement was made and if there was anything else said. Duncan replied that there could have been a question asked and he could have replied something about Mr. Hoover and Dr. King's relationship.

He was asked about the racial climate in Louisville and replied that he thought it was fairly calm until after 1967. He also pointed out that the Louisville City School System was one of the few in the United States that was integrated without incident but that the County School System several years later had difficulty. He was asked about Dr. Martin Luther King and A. D. Williams King again. He again gave the reply except that he had checked the newspaper accounts and found that Dr. King, according to the newspaper accounts, was in Louisville three times between 1963 and 1965 and they were May 29, 1963, at the Convention Center; May 16, 1965, when he was at the Zion Baptist Church, his brother's church; and again on December 16, 1965, at the Zion Baptist Church when he spoke to the Kentucky NAACP Group on civil rights.

He was again asked about Dr. King and Mr. Hoover's trouble and if Dr. King was surveilled every time he came to a town and who put the telephone taps on him. Further, if they had people from Louisville or people that went around the country putting on telephone taps on Dr. King. Duncan replied that he had no knowledge of any surveillances or any telephone taps on Dr. King.

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He was asked if he ever was a supervisor, either in Louisville or St. Louis, if he had worked on the bombing of Sergeant Brent Hardin's car, and if he worked on a civil rights case concerning Clifton Baird. Duncan replied negatively to all these questions.

Duncan was given a statement which allegedly was a transcription of a recording between Arlie Blaire and Clifton Baird which discussed blacks and King in derogatory terms, and there were some references made to an offer. He was asked if this was typical of the Louisville Police feelings at that time. He advised that he did not know and that he had never heard this discussed. The transcription was signed by Clifton Baird on November 30, 1977, and the recording was supposed to have taken place on September 29, 1965.

Duncan was asked if he knew about the assassination of Malcolm X and he replied that he had probably heard about it. He thought it was a Black Muslim killing in Chicago. He was told that it was a Black Muslim killing in New York.

He was asked about the Louisville Division's participation in the Cointelpro. Duncan advised that he had no knowledge of any program, pointing out that he was a Criminal Investigative Agent. He was asked who handled racial type investigations in Louisville and if he had informants. Duncan advised him that Warren Walsh formerly handled these kind of matters and he was then asked if George Hutchison also worked these cases. Duncan replied "yes", but that he did not know Walsh's informants but undoubtedly he did have informants.

Duncan was questioned by Committee members and asked generally what guidelines he had been given by the FBI to answer questions. He replied that he was given complete clearance to discuss any matter concerning the Dr. Martin Luther King matter. He was asked concerning the description of Sergeant Bill Baker. Duncan told the Committee members that he was instructed by the FBI to tell the truth at all costs.

Duncan was asked how many times he made the "offer" or the statement and was it made on more than one occasion and on two different dates. Duncan replied that he only recalled the one time and the one date. Mr. Sawyer made the remark that he had the unpleasant experience to be present to hear the late Director J. Edgar Hoover say some very bitter things regarding Dr. King.

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Duncan was asked if he thought that the incident was an offer by the FBI to kill Dr. King. Duncan replied that it definitely was not. However, it was in poor taste and something that should not have occurred. He was asked his definition of a joke and Duncan gave his definition of a joke as something made in fun. He was asked several times regarding the anonymous newspaper clipping suddenly appearing in the FBI mail, and was this not a crack-pot way of doing things. He added that Congressmen frequently receive anonymous items in the mail also.

Mr. Stokes asked if SA DUNCAN knew that Dr. King had won the Nobel Peace Prize and that he preached peace wherever he went. Duncan replied he did know, but did not know the date. Mr. Stokes stated that he thought the American public should hear and judge this matter.

Duncan was asked where he was assigned and where he was physically the date that Dr. King was killed. He replied he was assigned to the St. Louis Division and at the Mexico, Missouri, Resident Agency.

Mr. Everhart of the staff summed up the questioning by asking if it was possible that P. M. Fry, Vernon Austin, Robert Gregory, Brent Hardin, Herman Mitchell, Arlie Blaire, and Robert Peters could have been present when the matter was discussed regarding Dr. King. Duncan replied that it was possible, but he had no recollection of any of them, especially Peters.

SA Duncan acknowledged limited participation as described in instant incident, but stated this was done on his own initiative spontaneously and wanted it known the FBI as an organization had no involvement whatsoever. Further, that he would cooperate fully in resolving this matter satisfactorily.

Mr. Lehner requested Duncan not to contact any of the police officers or discuss his testimony with any of them.

XX

2/10/78

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

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (C)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

Re Bureau teletype to St. Louis, 2/10/78, captioned
as above.

Enclosed under separate cover for Headquarters
is a Xerox copy of each serial in SL 170-1767 and SL 170-1767
Sub A as was requested in retel. Also enclosed is destruction
memoranda concerning SL 1495-E (former) substantive file.
Case closed in St. Louis.

3- Bureau
(1 - via package) (Enc. 1)
② St. Louis
(1- 62-5097)
(1- 170-1767)

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Case - 4
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FM DIRECTOR (62-117290)

TO ST. LOUIS ROUTINE

BT

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HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ST. LOUIS DATED
JANUARY 25, 1978; ST. LOUIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU JANUARY 27,
1978, AND JANUARY 31, 1978.

ON FEBRUARY 8, 1978, G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUN-
SEL AND DIRECTOR, HSCA, ADVISED HIS STAFF HAD CONTACTED
FORMER SL 1495-E, WHO HAS AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH THE
HSCA. ON FEBRUARY 9, 1978, STAFF ATTORNEY MICHAEL
EBERHARDT, HSCA, ADVISED THAT SL 1495-E HAS EXECUTED A
SIGNED WAIVER AUTHORIZING HSCA ACCESS TO ALL FBI INFORMA-
TION CONCERNING HIM, INCLUDING THAT PERTAINING TO HIS
INFORMANT ACTIVITIES.

62-5097

*Amited Sent
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PAGE TWO 62-117290 E F T O

ST. LOUIS PROMPTLY FURNISH FBIHQ ON ~~ON~~ XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL IN INFORMANT'S MAIN FILE AND SUB A FILE (170-1767) AND ONE COPY OF ANY VOUCHER OR DOCUMENT WHICH CONCERNS ANY ASPECT OF SOURCE'S OPERATION AND ANY PAYMENT WHICH WAS MADE TO HIM. ADDITIONALLY, PROVIDE FBIHQ WITH ONE COPY OF ANY MAIN FILE OR REFERENCE IN YOUR OFFICE WHICH MAY BE IDENTIFIABLE WITH INFORMANT.

THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE FORWARDED BY COVER AIRTEL TO FBI HEADQUARTERS, ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION. UPON RECEIPT AT FBIHQ, THE MATERIAL WILL BE PROCESSED FOR ACCESS OF ~~STAFF~~ STAFF MEMBERS OF HSCA, PROVIDED THE WAIVER DESCRIBED AS ABOVE IS RECEIVED.

BT

FBI

9967

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☒ CLEAR

Date

1/31/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) C

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.
 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA).

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 27, 1978, CAPTIONED
 AS ABOVE.

BY LETTER RECEIVED THIS DATE AT ST. LOUIS OFFICE FROM
 SL 1495-E (FORMER), SOURCE ADVISED HE HAS "CHANGED HIS MIND" ABOUT
 BEING INTERVIEWED BY HSCA. SOURCE NOW UNWILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED
 AND WANTS "TO BE KEPT OUT OF IT."

CASE CLOSED BY ST. LOUIS.

BT

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2/3/78

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Per

F B I

9665

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☒ Teletype
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PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 1-27-78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (C)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.
 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

RE BUREAU TEL TO ST. LOUIS, JANUARY 25, 1978, CAPTIONED AS
 ABOVE.

SL 1495-E (FORMER) CONTACTED THIS DATE. HE WAS ADVISED OF
 HSCA'S EXISTENCE AND ITS DESIRE TO INTERVIEW HIM CONCERNING CONTENTS
 OF LHM DATED MAY 28, 1971, CAPTIONED "NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY,
 RM - NSRP".

SOURCE (FORMER) WAS ADVISED THAT HSCA HAS INTERVIEWED OTHER
 INDIVIDUALS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER AND WILL BE ISSUING SUB-
 POENAS. INITIAL REACTION OF SOURCE WAS THAT HE HAD NO STRONG
 OBJECTION TO BEING INTERVIEWED BY HSCA.

SOURCE (FORMER) WAS THEN ADVISED THAT CONFERENCES WITH HSCA
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1- St. Louis
 JLV:cw
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2150

(Time)

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FBI

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PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO SL 62-5097 E F T O

AND DOJ WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO WORK OUT DETAILS RE PROTECTION,
CONFIDENTIALITY, LOCATION AND SCOPE OF INTERVIEW.

IT IS NOTED THAT SOURCE (FORMER) UNDERWENT MAJOR HEART AND
ABDOMINAL SURGERY DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1977, IS CURRENTLY
RECOVERING AND UNDER DOCTOR'S CARE. HE RESIDES 12350 OLD HALLS
FERRY ROAD, FLORISSANT, MO., (314) 355-1500 AND IS UNEMPLOYED.

BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
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original to 170-1767 1/31/78
wfk

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62-5097-49

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| JAN 31 1978 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |
| 1978 | |

12350 Old Heller Ferry
Florissant, Mo. 63035
January 28, 1978

Jim Haggerty -
P.O. 7251
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Jim -

As per our conversation at the restaurant the other morning (1/22/78) I have kind of changed my mind about whether or not I would be willing to talk to anybody about anything I might know.

I really don't feel that I could add anything that would really be earthshaking and for the hassle that might be involved - newspapers - etc. I really don't think it would be worth it.

If I can be kept out of it, I would certainly appreciate it.

Bob
Chris Patterson
355-1500

HQ0067 0252212

RR SL

DE HQ

R 252151Z JAN 78

FM DIRECTOR

TO ST. LOUIS (ROUTINE)

BT

E F T O *62-5097**

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

REFERENCE ST. LOUIS AIRTEL AND LHM TO BUREAU DATED
MAY 28, 1971, CAPTIONED, "NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY, RM-
NSRP."

THE HSCA IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION INTO THE
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IN THAT CONNECTION,
VARIOUS DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING REFERENCED COMMUNICATION, HAVE
BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR HSCA REVIEW.

ON JANUARY 23, 1978, G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND
DIRECTOR, HSCA, ADVISED THAT THE HSCA DESIRES TO INTERVIEW THE
FBI INFORMANT WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION IN REFERENCED LHM.
BLAKEY REQUESTED THAT INFORMANT BE CONTACTED AND ADVISED OF
THE HSCA'S INTEREST IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT
INFORMANT HAD ANY OBJECTIONS TO BEING INTERVIEWED BY

Interviewed 1/27/78
Resides: 12350 Old Hall Ferry Rd
7102, mo
355-1500

HD
may see reply #1
before going to
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62-5097-48

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| SEARCHED <i>HP</i> | INDEXED <i>HP</i> |
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| JAN 25 1978 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |
| <i>Vermersch</i> | |

PAGE TWO E F T O

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HSCA.

INFORMANT IS SL 1495-E (FORMER), WHO WAS OPERATED FROM JANUARY, 1970, TO APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 1971. INFORMANT WAS PRIMARILY TARGETED AGAINST WHITE-HATE GROUPS AND WAS SUBJECT OF BUREAU FILE 134-19686 AND ST. LOUIS FILE 170-1767.

ON JANUARY 24, 1978, SUPERVISOR JAMES HAGGERTY DETERMINED THAT INFORMANT IS LISTED IN THE CURRENT ST. LOUIS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CONTACT WITH INFORMANT SINCE HE WAS CLOSED IN 1971.

ST. LOUIS PROMPTLY CONTACT FORMER SL 1495-E. ADVISE HIM
① OF THE HSCA'S EXISTENCE, AND ② ITS DESIRE TO INTERVIEW HIM APPARENTLY CONCERNING THE CONTENTS OF REFERENCED LHM.
ADVISE HIM ③ THE HSCA HAS INTERVIEWED OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN CONNECTION WITH REFERENCED LHM AND WILL BE ISSUING SUBPOENAS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER. DETERMINE AT THIS POINT ONLY HIS INITIAL REACTION TO BEING INTERVIEWED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HSCA. IF HE HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO AN INTERVIEW, HE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT CONFERENCES WITH THE HSCA AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO WORK OUT ADDITIONAL DETAILS

PAGE THREE E F T O

REGARDING THE EXTENT OF PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY
THE HSCA IS WILLING TO EXTEND AS WELL AS DETAILS REGARDING
THE LOCATION AND SCOPE OF INTERVIEW.

SUTEL RESULTS TO FBIHQ, ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY
UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION.

BT

0252216Z SL 2

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☒ CLEAR

Date 1/10/78

4287/9282

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE
 DIVISION

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA); BUDED JANUARY 13,
 1978.

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE DATED JULY 27, 1977.

(1) FORMER SPECIAL AGENT HAROLD R. DOBSON WAS CASE AGENT ASSIGNED TO MURKIN INVESTIGATION, ST. LOUIS FILE 44-775, BUREAU FILE 44-38861, IN ST. LOUIS DIVISION. FORMER SPECIAL AGENT DOBSON WAS ASSIGNED TO SECURITY SQUAD AND HANDLED SECURITY TYPE CASES PRIOR TO HIS INVOLVEMENT IN MURKIN INVESTIGATION.

(2) ST. LOUIS FILE 157-5818 ENTITLED "COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS, BLACK NATIONALISTS, HATE GROUPS, RACIAL INTELLIGENCE" WAS OPENED AS A PENDING INACTIVE STATUS CONTROL FILE ON AUGUST 29, 1967.

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

① - St. Louis
 RSS:cms
 (1) cms

Stewart
 62-5097-47

62-5097-47

Approved: HCLTransmitted 1950

(Number)

(Time)

Per hjl

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

Date _____

PAGE TWO SL 62-5097 CLEAR

ON FEBRUARY 27, 1968, THROUGH JANUARY 8, 1969, WAS ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL AGENT JACK A. FRENCH OF SECURITY SQUAD AT ST. LOUIS DIVISION. HIS ASSIGNMENT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THIS CASE ASSIGNMENT WAS TO HANDLE SECURITY TYPE CASES.

ST. LOUIS FILE 100-17801, BUREAU FILE 100-106670, ENTITLED "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; SECURITY MATTER - C" WAS ASSIGNED TO FOLLOWING AGENTS: FORMER SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD B. SMITH, JANUARY 15, 1965, THROUGH JANUARY 19, 1965, FEBRUARY 3, 1965, THROUGH APRIL 10, 1965; SPECIAL AGENT ROBERT S. STEWART, APRIL 28, 1965, THROUGH APRIL 28, 1965; FORMER SPECIAL AGENT WALTER A. HILGENDORF, NOVEMBER 11, 1965, THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 1965, AND JUNE 14, 1966, THROUGH JUNE 17, 1966; FORMER AGENT RICHARD B. SMITH, OPENING DATE UNKNOWN THROUGH JULY 6, 1966, AND MARCH 25, 1967, THROUGH MARCH 27, 1967.

ST. LOUIS FILE 105-4027, BUREAU FILE 100-438794, ENTITLED "COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE; RM; IS - C" WAS ASSIGNED TO FOLLOWING AGENTS: FORMER AGENT WALTER A. HILGENDORF, SEPTEMBER 23, 1964, THROUGH DECEMBER 10, 1964, AND MARCH 21, 1965, THROUGH APRIL 19, 1965; SPECIAL AGENT JACK A. FRENCH, JUNE 3, 1965, THROUGH JUNE 16, 1965; FORMER AGENT WALTER A.

Approved: _____

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(Time)

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TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

9282

Date _____

PAGE THREE SL 62-5097 CLEAR

HILGENDORF, FEBRUARY 24, 1966, THROUGH DATE UNKNOWN; SPECIAL AGENT JACK A. FRENCH, JUNE 6, 1969, THROUGH JULY 23, 1969. THE ABOVE AGENTS AND FORMER AGENTS WERE ASSIGNED TO ST. LOUIS DIVISION SECURITY SQUAD DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

A REVIEW OF ABOVE FILES DISCLOSED NO INSTANCES WHERE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WERE CONSIDERED OR CARRIED OUT AGAINST KING OR THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

HQ0024 3612154

RR AT BH CG LA LS ME MM NO SL

DE HQ

R 272010Z DEC 77

FM DIRECTOR (62-117290)

TO ATLANTA (ROUTINE)

BIRMINGHAM (ROUTINE)

CHICAGO (ROUTINE)

LOS ANGELES (ROUTINE)

LOUISVILLE (ROUTINE)

MEMPHIS (ROUTINE)

MIAMI (ROUTINE)

NEW ORLEANS (ROUTINE)

ST. LOUIS (ROUTINE)

BT

E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA), BUREAU

DEADLINE JANUARY 13, 1978.

THE HSCA IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION INTO THE
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (MURKIN) BY LETTER
DATED DECEMBER 13, 1977, THE HSCA REQUESTED THE FBI PROVIDE
THE FOLLOWING:

62-15097-46
ADDED W/RECEIVED
DEC 27 1977
Re O
A
Joanie set tickle
for 1/11/78
27R
Don't
Stewart
27R

PAGE TWO E F T O

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF FIELD OFFICE CASE AGENT(S) ASSIGNED TO THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION IN ALL ABOVE LISTED OFFICES (EXCEPT LOUISVILLE). INCLUDED SHOULD BE THE DIVISION, SECTION OR SQUAD OF ASSIGNMENT AND THE NATURE OF THE AGENT'S ASSIGNMENT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF FIELD OFFICE CASE AGENT(S) ASSIGNED TO COUNTERINTELLIGENCE (COINTELPRO) EFFORTS DIRECTED AGAINST KING AND THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) DURING THE PERIOD 1965-1968 IN ALL ABOVE LISTED OFFICES. AS ABOVE, INCLUDED SHOULD BE THE DIVISION, SECTION OR SQUAD OF ASSIGNMENT AND THE NATURE OF THE AGENT'S ASSIGNMENT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE COINTELPRO, KING AND SCLC INVESTIGATIONS.

BECAUSE MOST COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY AGAINST KING AND SCLC WAS HANDLED IN THE SUBSTANTIVE INVESTIGATIONS, YOU SHOULD IDENTIFY THE CASE AGENT(S) INVOLVED IN THE SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS OF KING AND SCLC, AS WELL AS THE COINTELPRO. THIS REVIEW SHOULD INCLUDE INSTANCES WHERE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES WERE EITHER CONSIDERED OR CARRIED OUT AGAINST KING AND SCLC.

PAGE THREE E F T O

RESPONSES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY TELETYPE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, BY JANUARY 13, 1978.

UNDER CURRENT OPERATING PROCEDURES EXISTING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE HSCA, DISCLOSURE OF ABOVE AGENT IDENTITIES TO THE HSCA CANNOT BE PREVENTED. HOWEVER, THE LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION OF FBIHQ IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE HSCA IN EFFORT TO LIMIT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF NAMES OF ANY AGENT PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE COINTELPRO ACTIVITIES. SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD FOLLOW PRECEDENT OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WHICH IN ITS REPORT DURING 1976 DID NOT LIST THE NAMES OF ANY FBI PERSONNEL BELOW THE POSITION OF SECTION CHIEF.

BT

St. Louis, Missouri
October 25, 1977

The Honorable Griffin R. Bell
Attorney General of the United States
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bell:

By letter dated October 7, 1977, Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Staff Director for House Select Committee on Assassinations, requested Mr. Robert L. Keich, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, authorize my interview by Committee Staff personnel. I understand this interview will concern alleged improprieties on the part of Bureau Agents with regard to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am requesting that the Department authorize an attorney of my choice at Departmental expense to represent my interests and the interests of the FBI during this interview.

Very truly yours,

William R. Duncan
Special Agent
FBI, St. Louis, Mo.

- 2 - Addressee
- 1 - St. Louis (62-5097)

WRD:nlm
(3)

Hil

62-5097-45
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED *es*
INDEXED
FILED *es*

10/25/77

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-117290)
(ATTENTION: DANNY O. COULSON, LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097)

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Re Bureau phone calls to St. Louis 10/19/77.

Enclosed are the original and copy of a letter from SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN, St. Louis Division, to the Honorable Griffin R. Bell, Attorney General of the United States, requesting that the Department of Justice authorize an attorney of his choice to be paid for by the Department to represent him during an interview by Committee Staff members.

2 - Bureau (Encs.)
1 - St. Louis

WRD:nlm

(3)

File Stripped

11/11/77

62-5097-44
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

XX

10/5/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION)
(ATTN: SUPERVISOR J. T. ALDHIZER)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) RUC

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS

Re Bureau teletype, 8/18/77, and St. Louis airtel,
9/22/77.

Enclosed for Bureau are two copies of serial
44-775-483.

3- Bureau (Encs. 2)

① St. Louis

HN:jtc

4) jtc

62-5097-43

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

RUC
JTA

16

Do Not Destroy

XX

9/22/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT,
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (RUC)

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS
BUDED: 9/23/77

Re Bureau teletype, 8/18/77.

Enclosed under separate cover for Bureau are two boxes each containing a set of documents prepared as outlined in referenced teletype concerning SL 44-775 entitled "MURKIN".

4 - Bureau
(2 via packages)
① - St. Louis
HN:kmt
(5)

62-5097-42

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILE

RUC
10/1

File Stripped

9/23/77

Do not Destroy

Following is list of items contained in SL 44-775-1A.
Items with asterisk are attached.

- 1A (1) Photographs of tee shirts and slacks bearing laundry mark.
- 1A (2) Photographs of artist conception of assailant:
- 1A (3) Artist conception photos from description of Memphis and Birmingham.
- 1A (4) Photos of artist conception furnished by witnesses at Memphis, Tennessee.
- 1A (5) Composite of UNSUB, aka ERIC STARVO GALT.
- 1A (6) 1960 photos JAMES EARL RAY.
- *1A (7) Guest Registration Card #5737, Allstate Ins., Columbia, Missouri.
- 1A (8) Photo WALTER T. RIFE.
- 1A (9) Photo JAMES EARL RAY with WALTER T. RIFE.
- 1A (10) Photo JAMES EARL RAY.
- 1A (11) Photo copy Death Certificate LUCILLE MARY RYAN.
- 1A (12) Photo RUSSELL LEE MARTIN, MSP #08014.
- 1A (13) Photos JAMES EARL RAY, 1966 Mo. Dept. of Corrections.
- 1A (14) Photos JAMES EARL RAY taken 1967 Mexico.
- 1A (15) Photos GEORGE FREDERICK BRASS.
- 1A (16) Photos ROBERT DALE PORTER.
- *1A (17) Copies of 12/8/67 Mo. State Penitentiary Release Fingerprint Card re ROBERT DALE PORTER.
- 1A (18) Photos ROY EUGENE WARREN.
- 1A (19) Photo LEE HOLLAND PARKER.
- 1A (20) MSP Photo JAMES EARL RAY.
- 1A (21) Photo JACK EUGENE GAWRON.

- *1A (22) Copy of Mo. Dept. of Liquor Control license for CAROL PEPPER.
- *1A (23) 3 Registration Cards of McArthur Hotel.
- *1A (24) Xerox copies Application for Tenancy at 1982 Arsenal St., St. Louis, Mo.
- *1A (25) Xerox copy of lease for 1982 Arsenal St., St. Louis, Mo.
- 1A (26) Photo ROBERT DALE PORTER.
- 1A (27) Photos JAMES EARL RAY (taken 1968 in Calif.)
- 1A (28) Photos JAMES EARL RAY.
- 1A (29) Photos JAMES EARL RAY and JAMES OWENS.
- 1A (30) Photo JAMES EARL RAY.
- 1A (31) Photos of laundry marks on shirt and bed linen.
- 1A (32) Photo JAMES LOMA OWENS.
- 1A (33) Photo JAMES LAONA OWENS.
- *1A (34) Signature card of JAMES CARL O'CONNOR.
- *1A (35) Application for rental of 1912 California (10/9/67).
- *1A (36) Copy of rental check from JOHN RAY.
- *1A (37) Copy of bank record re checking account of JOHN RAY.
- *1A (38) Copy of bank record re account of JAMES CARL O'CONNOR.
- 1A (39) Photo of KENNETH LEE WADE.
- *1A (40) Telephone toll tickets re CARMEN PATTON.
- *1A (41) Telephone toll tickets re phone JERRY RAYNES.
- *1A (42) Telephone toll tickets re phone J. D. DAILY.
- *1A (43) Xerox copy toll tickets JERRY RAYNES.
- *1A (44) Xerox copy toll calls from PR 6-3540.

- *1A (45) Toll tickets on LaFonts Service Station.
- *1A (46) Toll info on phone J. D. DAILEY #379-3136.
- 1A (47) Photo of OWEN I. FOX.
- 1A (48) 1967 Photo of JAMES H. CARPENTER.
- 1A (49) Photo of JAMES DAVID DAILEY.
- 1A (50) Photos of VINCENT JOSEPH WALKER.
- *1A (51) Exemplified copy of armed robbery sentence of RAY.
- *1A (52) Xerox copy of toll calls re TO 5-0449.
- *1A (53) Copies of invoices.
- 1A (54) List of members and non-members of National Institute of Dry Cleaners furnished by Baltimore Division.

HQ0077 2300204

RR AT BH CG LA MM NO SL

DE HQ

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FM DIRECTOR

TO ATLANTA (ROUTINE)

BIRMINGHAM (ROUTINE)

CHICAGO (ROUTINE2

LOS ANGELES (ROUTINE)

MIAMI (ROUTINE)

NEW ORLEANS (ROUTINE)

ST. LOUIS (ROUTINE)

BT

CLEAR

62-5097*
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS; BUREAU DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 23, 1977

THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA),
WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY
AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HAS REQUESTED ACCESS TO INVESTI-
GATE FILES OF THE ABOVE FIELD OFF CE FILES CONCERNING OUR

KRD
8-17-77

62A

62-5097-41

62-5097-41

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| AUG 16 1977 | |
| FBI - ST. LOUIS | |
| HAWKEN | |

PAGE TWO CLEAR

MURKIN INVESTIGATION (ASSASSINATION OF KING).

AT A MEETING WITH HSCA OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 16, 1977, CHIEF COUNSEL ROBERT G. BLAKEY AGREED THAT, TO AVOID DUPLICATION, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR HIS STAFF TO REVIEW ONLY THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY FIELD OFFICE DOCUMENT WHICH WAS DIRECTED TO OR RECEIVED FROM FBI HEADQUARTERS OR THE MEMPHIS FIELD OFFICE (FBIHQ FILES HAVE BEEN PROCESSED AND MEMPHIS FILES ARE CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED FOR THE HSCA). THIS FIRST PAGE WILL PROVIDE THE HSCA A CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF ALL SERIALS IN THE FILE. ALL SERIALS NOT DIRECTED TO OR RECEIVED FROM FBIHQ OR MEMPHIS WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

THE HSCA ALSO DESIRES TO SEE ALL NOTATIONS IN THESE FILES UNLESS THE NOTATIONS ARE FOR INDEXING PURPOSES OR GRAMMATICAL CORRECTIONS. THEREFORE, IF A FIELD NOTATION APPEARS IN OTHER THAN THE FIRST PAGE OF A SERIAL THAT EXISTS IN THE FBIHQ OR MEMPHIS FILE, COPIES OF THAT PAGE WILL HAVE TO BE REPRODUCED AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

EACH RECIPIENT, EXCEPT MIAMI, USING THE ABOVE CRITERIA, FURNISH FBIHQ TWO XEROX COPIES OF YOUR MURKIN INVESTIGATIVE FILE.

PAGE THREE CLEAR

FILES SHOULD REACH FBIHQ BY SEPTEMBER 23, 1977. IF YOUR FILE CONTAINS ANY EXHIBIT, PHOTOGRAPH OR DOCUMENT WHICH CANNOT BE REPRODUCED, SET FORTH A DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THAT ITEM IN THE COVER PAGES OF YOUR COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTING THE FILES TO FBIHQ.

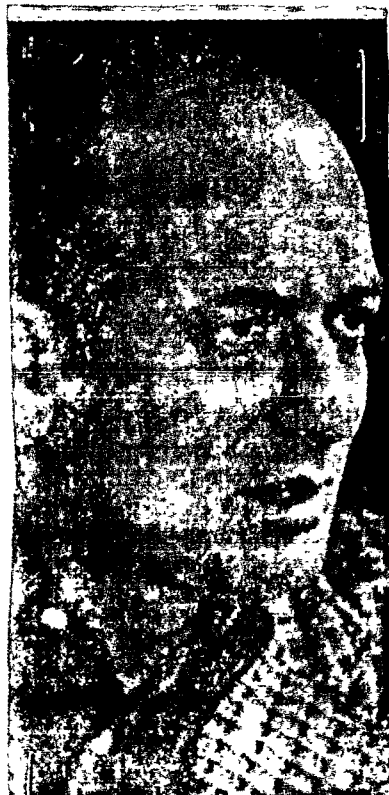
ALL COPIES SUBMITTED SHOULD BE CLEARLY LEGIBLE AND SHOULD BE SENT REGISTERED MAIL, MARKED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION. ANY QUESTIONS CAN BE RESOLVED BY CONTACTING SUPERVISOR J. T. ALDHIZER, EXTENSION 3685.

SINCE MIAMI PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED A COPY OF ITS MURKIN FILE DURING REVIEW OF THE KING CASE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE, IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO REPRODUCE YOUR FILES IN LINE WITH THE ABOVE. HOWEVER, FILES SHOULD BE REVIEWED FOR PAGES NOT PREVIOUSLY FORWARDED FBIHQ WHICH MAY CONTAIN NOTATIONS. ADVISE FBIHQ RESULTS OF YOUR REVIEW, FURNISHING TWO COPIES OF ANY PAGE CONTAINING NOTATION AND CLEARLY IDENTIFYING SERIAL INVOLVED.

BT

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Brother 'Goes Public' With Details What Ray Told Assassinations Panel



Jerry Ray
James "wanted to be cleared"

By JAKE MCCARTHY
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Copyright 1977, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

James Earl Ray and his brothers have decided to "go public" with the story of how they say Ray was drawn into the events surrounding the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

Jerry Ray, 42 years old, of Long Grove, Ill., told the Post-Dispatch yesterday that he and another brother, John Larry Ray, now an inmate at the Marion, Ill., Federal Penitentiary, had decided Sunday to reveal to the Post-Dispatch what James Earl Ray has told the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations. A spokesman for the committee yes-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pl-8, St. Louis
Post-Dispatch,
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 6/28/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

62-5097

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SL

☐ Being Investigated

62-5097-40

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| JUN 30 1977 | |
| FBI-ST. LOUIS | |

Howden *JTH*

Friday refused any comment on the case.

A number of the assertions have never been made public before, including the contention that James Earl Ray possesses the telephone numbers in New Orleans that were his link to a mysterious figure called "Raoul."

But some of the information supplied the Post-Dispatch by Jerry Ray is diametrically opposed to previous statements attributed to him on the subject of James Earl Ray's involvement in the Rev. Dr. King's murder.

Jerry Ray was previously quoted as saying that "Raoul" was "just a story Jimmy made up for (William Bradford) Huie," James Earl Ray's biographer. And Jerry Ray has previously been quoted as saying,

"The whole thing about Raoul and running drugs from Canada was a lie."

The quotations are contained in a new book on the King assassination written by George McMillan. Excerpts from the book "The Making of an Assassin," appeared in the Post-Dispatch earlier this month. Jerry Ray filed suit in January against McMillan, charging him with libel in the book.

Raoul and James Earl Ray's involvement in complicated smuggling operations are central parts of the story Jerry Ray told the Post-Dispatch yesterday.

Raoul's involvement in the events surrounding the Rev. Dr. King's murder first was alleged in letters Ray wrote to Huie while Ray was in jail in Memphis. Raoul's identity

and indeed, his very existence, have been debated for more than eight years.

Ray has maintained that he bought the gun that killed the Rev. Dr. King and rented the room from which the fatal shot was fired at Raoul's direction. The phone numbers purportedly linking James Earl Ray to Raoul have been copied by Jerry Ray and are in two safety deposit boxes belonging to Jerry Ray and his sister, a St. Louis resident, Jerry Ray now says.

"He (James) gave us the numbers and said even if something happened to him in prison, he wanted to be cleared someday," Jerry said.

James Earl Ray, according to his brother, said that the day of the Rev. Dr. King's killing he discovered a business card stuffed into the

seat of the white Mustang in which he fled from Memphis, an automobile to which three people including Ray and Raoul had keys. The business card bore the penciled name of one Randy R

(the last name is known to the House panel) who, says Jerry Ray, has dropped out of sight. James Earl Ray's attorneys have been unable to track him down without the power of subpoena.

They have met a similar deadend in trying to trace two telephone numbers that Ray says he used to reach Raoul in New Orleans.

James Earl Ray, says Jerry Ray, was involved with Raoul in delivering cars to cities in various parts of

the United States and Mexico "at \$1000 to \$2000 per trip." Said Jerry Ray: "James assumed he was delivering dope or some other kind of contraband."

"James is a crook," said Jerry Ray. "He's been one since he got out of the Army, to make money without working. He thinks being a thief is an honorable profession, but he never wanted to be known as a murderer."

Now, says the brother of the man convicted of assassinating the Rev. Dr. King, James Earl Ray fears that if he is transferred to federal custody after his short-lived escape from a Tennessee state prison recently, "he will be sent to the federal medical facility at Springfield (Mo.), given shock treatments, die of a heart attack in three years, and the case will be closed."

Here is the story Jerry Ray told the Post-Dispatch of how James Earl Ray found himself in Memphis at the time the Rev. Dr. King was killed:

"After he escaped from the Missouri Penitentiary in 1967, he came to Chicago and called me," said Jerry Ray. "He later told me he didn't escape in a bread truck as the story goes. He climbed over the wall on some pipes, like he did in Tennessee."

"When they found he was missing, they thought he was hiding inside the prison as he had done on a previous attempt. This gave him some valuable time to walk along the railroad tracks and get away. They put out the bread truck story because James was working in the bakery and they just figured that was what happened."

"I met him in Chicago when he got there. He never once mentioned King or any other political matters. James doesn't give a damn about politics. He never cared who was governor or who was running the country. If you're a racist in prison, where he was, you're in deep trouble. These stories that he carried around pictures of Hitler and stuff, that's a lot of bunk. He's not violent. When he was arrested on an armed robbery charge in St. Louis in 1959, he had a gun but didn't use it. Even the black prisoners in Tennessee think he was framed."

When Ray arrived in Chicago, said his brother, "he took a job as a dishwasher at a restaurant in Winnetka. After a couple of days he was promoted to the cafeteria line. He worked there six weeks until he got enough money to get out of the country, because he was 'hot.'"

"He went to Montreal and started hanging around some sleazy bars and let it be known that he was a thief and was looking for a way to make some money. That's where he met Raoul."

"He knew Raoul was a phony name but he was using one, too. He used last names like Willard, Lohmyer, Eric Galt and finally Sneyd. If you're a crook, you don't ask, 'What's your name' or, 'what's in the car?' They'll think you're a cop or a stool pigeon and they wouldn't hire you."

"After a while, James came back to Chicago and I could tell he had something good. He asked me to come to Chicago by train because he wanted to give me his car. He said I should get new license plates because the old ones were hot. He said he was going to take a bus to Alabama for 'a good job.' He said Raoul told him to establish residence in Birmingham and gave him \$2000 to buy a car. He bought a Mustang."

Raoul operated out of New Orleans. From there he started sending James out across the country and into Mexico to deliver cars. All over — Puerto Villarta, Acapulco, the West Coast, New Orleans. He was getting paid \$1000 or \$2000 a trip. He figured the cars might be full of dope but he didn't ask any questions. All he cared about was that he had a job and was getting paid good. It was better than being in Jeff City, he told me. James told me Raoul never talked politics, either."

James Earl Ray has said that a gun he purchased was probably the one used to kill Dr. King. This is his brother's explanation:

"James tells me that one day Raoul asked him to buy a gun in Alabama and bring it to Memphis. At this point James thought Raoul might also be in the gun-running business. He brought the gun to Raoul. He said it wasn't the right kind. So James went back and bought another one. Raoul said that was the right kind. He picked it up from James at the new

Rebel Motel just across the Mississippi line from Memphis.

"Then Raoul told James to move into a boarding house in Memphis. In this job James was always doing what he was told. The money was good. James had only been to Memphis once before in his life. He kept getting lost there. He rented the room in the name of Willard."

"Raoul came to the boardinghouse and sent James out on several other errands — to buy some binoculars and other things. The afternoon Dr. King was shot, Raoul told James he wanted to use the Mustang that night."

"There were three keys to it. James had one, Raoul had one, and he (James) didn't know who had the third one. James told him he would have to go get a tire fixed because he had had a flat tire."

"He drove to a service station nearby and they were busy. He talked to two attendants for awhile. When he was driving away he saw all this commotion, police cars everywhere. He heard on the radio that Dr. King had been killed. When he heard they were looking for a white Mustang, he realized he had been set up."

In the Mustang, James Ray discovered a card stuffed into the seat, says Jerry Ray. The front part was crossed out. The back bore a name, Randy R—, with a telephone number on it.

"Only James and my sister and myself have known this name up to now," said Jerry Ray. "Plus the Assassinations Committee. James kept this card."

It was discovered by attorneys for James Earl Ray that Randy R— had homes in Miami and Gulfport, Miss., and that he was subsequently apprehended in New Orleans and convicted on a dope charge, says Jerry Ray. "But whether he ever served any time or not, we can't find out, and after that he dropped out of sight. He is said to have been an informant for the FBI," Jerry Ray said.

James Earl Ray drove to Atlanta, abandoned the Mustang, and took a train to Montreal. "He knew he was hot. The only way to get out of the country is through Canada. He didn't know how to get a passport so he went to the public library and looked up the names of people born around the same time he was."

"One was named Ramon George Sneyd. James found him in the phone book, called him up, said he was from Immigration, and asked if he had ever had a passport. When the man said, 'No,' James took out a passport in his name. He still had plenty of money from driving cars across country for Raoul. He flew to England.

"From there he went to Portugal, but he couldn't speak the language and he was beginning to run out of money. He wanted to get a ship somewhere to a place like Rhodesia. But he had to wait. Now he was down to \$200. He has told me if he had still had his contacts, he would still be going.

"But meantime the U.S. had asked Mexico and Canada to check passports for somebody that looked like James Earl Ray. They had a picture of him. Canada said they had one named Sneyd that looked like James. When James flew back to London, they arrested him.

While Ray was on the run, things were happening in Memphis. In the boarding house from which the fatal shot was fired, a woman resident saw the fleeing killer. Her name, said Jerry Ray, is Grace Walden. She was shown a picture of James Earl Ray, he said, and declared that it was not the man. Grace said the man who ran had fair hair, not dark hair like James. James Earl Ray has described Raoul as a blond Latin.

Says Jerry Ray: "They took her and



James Earl Ray

put her in a nuthouse where no one could find her. In case she was ever called to testify, they could say she was mentally ill."

A spokesman for attorney Mark Lane, who has recently written a book about the Ray case, told the Post-Dispatch yesterday that the woman, under the name Grace Stephens, was committed to a mental institution in Tennessee in 1968 "under suspicious circumstances" and was still confined. Her attorney, C. M. Murphy of Memphis, has charged that she is "being sedated and her mind is being destroyed," according to Lane's spokesman.

"She was living in the rooming house with a guy named Charlie Stephens," Jerry Ray told the Post-Dispatch. "This is a flophouse and he was a liquor head. He was supposed to see the killer running down the steps. This is their other witness. The facts we have found out are that a half-hour before Dr. King was killed, this man called a cab to take him to the liquor store. He was so drunk the cabbie refused to take him. This is the key witness."

When the killer ran out, says Jerry Ray, he placed a bundle in a park near the rooming house. "He didn't put it in a trash barrel or in his car. It contained the gun, some beer cans, and the binoculars wrapped in a bed spread. They all had James's fingerprints on them.

"Well, James doesn't drink beer. He doesn't smoke either. They found cigarette butts in the ashtray of his Mustang. They found clothes in the car that didn't fit him. This is the car Raoul and somebody else had keys to."

Said Jerry Ray: "When James was apprehended in London, he wanted Arthur Hanes, a former major of Birmingham, Ala., to represent him. Hanes went there and said it would cost money, but he brought contracts with him for a book to be done by William Bradford Huie, and if James would sign the contracts, the proceeds would pay for his defense.

"James signed them, then had me fly to Huntsville, Ala., to meet Huie. Huie told me that if James told him his story, he didn't want to get called to the stand because he would have to tell the story and it would ruin the book sales.

"He offered \$12,000 from the proceeds to either me or my sister or anybody

James wanted if I would go to James and tell him not to call Huie on the stand. Huie told me, 'I control Hanes.'

"I saw James two days later and told him about this. I said 'You oughta get rid of Hanes.' He told me to look around for another lawyer.

"I asked another lawyer, Richard J. Ryan, and he said, 'It's too big for me.' So I decided to call Percy Foreman. I'd read his name a lot. Nobody told me to. He said, 'Tell James to write me a letter asking me to be on the case.'

"But James said he'd rather have a Tennessee lawyer so he could talk to him every day. I called Foreman again. He asked if I had copies of the contracts with Huie. I did. He flew to Memphis. Me and John Ray met him and he said, 'I can break these contracts.'

"He took the case. He has admitted that he was in touch with Attorney General Ramsey Clark all through this time. He wanted James to plead guilty, telling him he would get the death penalty if he didn't. James didn't want to. Foreman wanted me and John to talk him into it. We wouldn't. Two days before the trial, James said he wouldn't plead guilty. The night before, Foreman himself said he didn't think James would plead guilty.

"The judge knew James wanted to fire Foreman but he told him if he did, he would not get any more continuances and would have to use a public defender. The day of the trial, Foreman got up and began to praise the FBI and said there was no conspiracy.

"James stood up. Everybody thought he was going to fire Foreman but instead he agreed that he would enter a guilty plea. But he said he would not agree that there was no conspiracy. The next day he wrote a letter asking for a new trial."

James Earl Ray has subsequently filed several motions seeking a new trial. All have been denied.

Jerry Ray visited James Earl Ray in the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary at Petros, Tenn., four days before his escape. "It's the first time I saw him depressed," he said. "There had been a story that people were trying to get the Assassinations Committee to disband and that they hadn't learned anything.

"James told me, 'All my appeals have run out. If they abandon the Assassinations Committee, I don't have any hope left. I'll have to get out a different way.'

"When I heard about the escape, I thought either it was legitimate or he was tricked into it. James usually works by himself or with one other person. We were scared he might be killed when he escaped. If he was tricked, he would probably wind up dead. We were thankful one of the prison guards captured him. There are a lot of people who would like to see him silenced."

Jerry Ray has been employed since 1973 as a night watchman at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, Ill., outside Chicago, but was laid off after his brother's escape "because of the notoriety."

Said Jerry Ray: "Critics are always saying to me, 'Why don't you finally put up or shut up?' But we don't have subpoena power to find out about those telephone numbers. We have given our information to the House assassinations group but it's a one-way street. We tell them what we know, but they won't tell us anything. But one of its members, Walter Fauntroy from Washington, D.C., told me, 'Before this is over, we will solve this case.'

"James is pretty rational about it all. He doesn't make any wild charges. If the FBI or the Justice Department wasn't in on it, he figures, they wouldn't be fighting so hard against having a trial to find out what really happened. He just doesn't know himself."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Conspiracy' Talk Is Mush

James Earl Ray's latest escape caper should prove to the satisfaction of everyone, Doubting Thomases included, that the talk of him being a victim or beneficiary of "conspiracy" is so much mush.

Quite likely there was laxity on the part of some individuals in charge of security at the Tennessee state prison from which Ray and his pals fled. There may even have been payoffs to guards to look the other way while the fugitives went over the wall. That's a matter for Tennessee authorities to investigate thoroughly.

The quick capture of Ray and the other convicts shows that they were not aided in any meaningful way by anyone from the outside.

If the confessed slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was depending on anyone to whisk him off to safety, he certainly was let down with a thud. After 55 hours of roaming in rattlesnake-infested country, Ray probably welcomed the bloodhound that tracked him down.

The other conjecture—that Ray's escape

was engineered by agents who wanted to mow him down and silence him forever—has been proved equally silly. Ray is a daring man who will take chances to gain liberty. He may try the same stunt again, given the opportunity.

The mindless "conspiracy" chatter from some sources merely serves to undermine confidence of citizens in their government and in law enforcement authorities.

Based on what is known, there is no evidence of a plot linking anyone else to Ray's activities.

The unfounded rumors about plots surrounding the assassinations of Dr. King, President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy cause suspicion and distrust between races and between government and the people.

There should be a stop to all the nonsensical assassination inquiries and theories about James Earl Ray. A bloodhound named Sandy and an expert handler have proved that Ray is no Superman, nor is he a tool of sinister agents.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Conspiracy Theories Tenuous

By WILLIAM FREIVOGEL
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

PETROS, Tenn., June 16 — Little evidence supports the notion so popular last Saturday that James Earl Ray's escape from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary in Tennessee was the result of an elaborate conspiracy aimed at silencing him.

Rather the escape Friday evening appears to have been an old-fashioned "over-the-wall" jailbreak planned by a few convicts with expertise in unscheduled exits from prisons.

Ray did receive outside help. The Post-Dispatch learned yesterday that the \$290 found on Ray when he was captured Monday included a \$100 bill and two \$50 bills that would have had to come from outside the penitentiary.

But prison officials believe that friends

news analysis

or relatives could have got the money to Ray through the mail, which is uncensored, or during visiting periods.

The officials note also that little else about the prison break supports the theory of an elaborate conspiracy. They note that:

(1) There was nothing elaborate about Ray's desperate 53-hour attempt to escape by foot from the densely wooded Tennessee mountains that surround the prison. Clever conspirators could have extricated Ray from the woods, they say.

(2) The curious occurrences that coincided with the escape, such as the loss of

telephone service in the prison town of Petros, have been explained satisfactorily. These occurrences fueled speculation that the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in the escape, just as there had been suspicion that one or both of those agencies was involved in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, for which Ray was in prison.

(3) Ray was not killed as supporters of the conspiracy theory had suggested he would be. It had been suggested that because Ray was implicating others in the killing of the Rev. Dr. King, he would

(4) Ray and three of the five prisoners who escaped with him had tried previously to escape from jails, Ray himself

has tried to escape from authorities at least seven times in the last 20 years.

The evidence supporting the conspiracy theory was considerably more compelling just after the break Friday evening.

It was well known that Ray had spoken five times in recent weeks to investigators of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which is investigating whether others were involved in the assassination.

In addition, the escape itself was ingenious, some aspects of it initially defying explanation. How did the convicts construct and conceal the make-shift ladder used to scale the wall? And how could Ray and the others have scaled the 14-foot prison wall, avoided two lengths of electrified barbed wire and jumped to the other side before ever drawing a shot from prison guards.

Five of the seven men who tried to escape already were in the woods out of sight of guards when the first shots were fired, wounding the last man trying to escape. That man was returned to the prison with minor wounds.

And finally there was the intriguing question of why the telephones in the prison town of Petros went dead for several minutes after the prison break. It seemed to some, like just the kind of

tactic the FBI or the CIA would use.

The telephone question was resolved easily. The Highland Telephone Co. Co-operative explained it this way:

Immediately after the escape a huge steam whistle at the prison sounded the warning that there had been an escape. A large number of the town's inhabitants picked up their telephones to see what had happened. The circuits were immediately overloaded and the main breaker in the telephone office opened just as a circuit breaker opens in a house with an overload.

The Petros office of the telephone company is unmanned so there was a delay while a serviceman from a nearby town was sent. The serviceman closed the circuit breaker but it immediately popped again because the lines still were overloaded. At that the serviceman arbitrarily disconnected some of the telephones in Petros to remove the overload. Service was restored.

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Few reporters doubted the explanation. On Sunday, when reporters were calling in their stories, the same thing happened. The Highland company is an independent telephone firm not connected with American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

How the prisoners had circumvented the electrified barbed wire proved a

knottier problem. At first prison officials said that the convicts had slipped through a one-foot space between the top of the wall and the barbed wire that runs above it, a feat that appeared to require gymnastic talent.

But later officials said that scratch marks showed that the men escaped where there is a five-foot section of wall with no barbed wire. One of the walls of the prison yard meets a sheer rock cliff in this section, the cliff forming the fourth side of the prison yard. Over the years the rock on the cliff has worn away from the end of the barbed wire, leaving an area without coverage.

Prison officials still have not fully explained how all seven convicts scaled the wall before guards fired at them.

Of course, other prisoners staged a fight to distract the guards and another prisoner faked a leg injury. But attention focuses on guard Floyd Hooks, who was responsible for the corner of the wall over which the convicts escaped.

A fellow guard, Lemwood Butler has criticized Hooks for reacting too slowly. It was Butler who fired the first shots at the escapees.

Warden Stonney Lane said yesterday that he knew Hooks personally and found it unbelievable that Hooks had intentionally permitted the convicts to escape. Lane

said Hooks might have been negligent but was not bribed.

The ladder used to scale the wall turned out to have been made of pieces of pipe taken from a prison renovation project by one of the men who escaped with Ray. Officials still do not know where the ladder was concealed just before the escape.

If the escape from the prison was elaborate, the escapees' next actions were not. Tennessee mountain men say they themselves would have trouble finding their way out of the mountains on foot as Ray and the others tried to do. Ray was captured only seven miles from the prison. But the authorities noted that if Ray had been supported by powerful conspirators, one of two things would have happened:

—A helicopter could have landed at a fire station on top of the mountains behind the prison and whisked Ray away before the search for him was under way.

—A four-wheel drive vehicle could have been hidden in the mountains with which Ray could have escaped by following old roads built by coal companies. The roads lead all the way to the Kentucky border, the men said.

There still are investigations into the Ray escape, so new information may be uncovered.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

No evidence found Ray got outside aid

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON—House Assassinations committee investigators said Monday they did not know if James Earl Ray received outside help in his prison escape during the week-end.

They reported that Ray's brother, Jerry, visited the prisoner the week-end before the escape but that James Earl Ray apparently had no money or weapons on him when he was captured Monday.

Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, said Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton told him that a full investigation of prison security will be made, particularly whether "there was any laxity in the security" for Ray.

Two committee investigators went to Tennessee's Brushy Mountain State Prison Saturday because of the committee's interest in the convicted killer of civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "I cannot report to you whether

there was any aid from the outside," Robert Lehner, deputy chief counsel of the King assassination investigation, told the committee. "No evidence of aid from the outside has been found."

"One possibility is that he acted alone," Lehner said. "Another possibility is that there was outside help. There is even a possibility he was a latecomer to the escape."

The chief investigator for the committee's King assassination inquiry, Edward Evans told the committee Ray's brother visited at the prison the weekend before the escape.

But Evans said "there is no evidence he (James Earl Ray) had any funds or arms."

Evans said the investigators tried to find out if there was any previous association between Ray and the other escapees. He said they found none except that one was Ray's cellmate.

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Flawless

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Gregory's suspicions aroused

By MILES CORWIN
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

James Earl Ray's escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison, Tenn., is linked to a conspiracy surrounding the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, said Dick Gregory at a press conference Sunday at the Bel Air Hilton Hotel.

Gregory, an entertainer who frequently is involved in political and social issues, recently co-authored a book exploring the King assassination.

"There is no way the escape could have been successful unless there were outside forces who could benefit from Ray's disappearance," said Gregory, who was reared in St. Louis and attended Sumner High School.

RAY ESCAPED from the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City 10 years ago. Anyone who has a history of escape attempts, Gregory said, would be under close surveillance.

With Ray's notoriety, it's hard to believe he was able to slip out of prison, Gregory added.

Ray was an incompetent criminal, according to Gregory. While doing research for his book, Gregory learned Ray had been caught in less than 30 minutes after every crime he committed

before the killing of the Rev. Dr. King.

"This is a man who has never been smart in regards to crime and now he escapes from a nearly inescapable prison. There had to be other people involved."

About 200 inmates staged a fight to enable Ray and five others to escape, Gregory said.

"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE for so many people to be involved without the warden knowing about it. And, how many convicts in their right mind would escape with a man as famous as Ray?"

Gregory believes Ray was aided in his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary by persons involved in a conspiracy to assassinate King and place the blame on Ray. It's suspicious, he said, that the Missouri prison warden and the FBI sent out the wrong fingerprints immediately after Ray's escape.

Ray had no history of violent crime. It's unlikely he would have committed one of the most notorious murders of the century, Gregory said. Suspicious incidents after the assassination point to a cover-up, he added.

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Ray's brother was arrested on a phony bank robbery charge, Gregory said, perhaps to keep him quiet.

A young man who overheard a plot to assassinate King a week before it happened and talked to the Justice Department, was recently given a six-year jail term. Gregory said a shipment of heroin had arrived at the young man's house, indicating somebody wanted the man discredited and jailed.

GREGORY'S THEORY is that agents of the FBI, Justice Department and possibly the CIA were involved in the King assassination.

"They thought if King was killed, riots and killings in 50 or 60 cities would have resulted. In order to regain order, martial law would have been declared and the Constitution could have been suspended. Certain forces could have tried to overthrow the government under the guise of protecting the people."

Gregory believes the King killing has connections to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"The authorities better keep a close eye on Sirhan Sirhan."



There had to be other people involved.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray didn't seem to be racist, ex-warden says

By Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY — A former warden says he told congressional investigators he had no reason to believe that James Earl Ray, convicted of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was a racist while he was an inmate at the Missouri State Prison.

Ray escaped from the prison in April, 1967, one year before the civil rights leader was gunned down in Memphis.

"I never had any reason to believe that he was a racist but there are some things you may not know, of course," said Harold Swenson, warden at the time of Ray's escape.

Swenson met with two investigators from the U.S. House Assassinations Committee Tuesday.

The current warden, Donald Wyrick, said the investigators were starting interviews Wednesday with people who knew Ray before he escaped from the penitentiary where he was serving a 20-year term for robbery. Wyrick said he had identified eight to 10 inmates for the pair to interview as well as six prison employees.

"We're not allowed to make any comment," said Shelai Lee, one of the investigators.

The congressional panel has been

looking into the King assassination as well as the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert. In an interim report, the panel quoted Ray's fellow inmates as saying Ray told them he intended to kill King "if the price is right."

The report quoted the inmates as saying Ray claimed he would look for a "businessmen's association" that he had heard was offering \$100,000 for King's death. The report said the panel intended to determine the validity of those statements.

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State To Give Details On Ray

JEFFERSON CITY, June 6 (UPI) — Investigators from the House Assassinations Committee plan to interview inmates and employees at the State Penitentiary this week concerning James Earl Ray's escape from the prison a decade ago.

Prison warden Donald Wyrick said he was asked last week to set up interviews with those who knew Ray during his seven years in the prison from 1959-1967.

Ray is the convicted assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The committee is conducting secret investigations into the April 4, 1968 King slaying in Memphis and the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas.

Ray escaped from the Jefferson City prison on April 23, 1967, almost one year before the King assassination. According to a state investigation, Ray escaped by hiding in a bread truck that left the main penitentiary to deliver supplies to a nearby prison farm.

Former warden Harold Swenson, who was in charge when Ray escaped, was the only specific person the investigators asked to interview, Wyrick said.

"They said they wanted to interview several inmates and employees," he said. "I don't have a specific number. They said if they talked to some they might need to talk to some others."

"They said they'd be here about a week, beginning the early part of this week."

The committee staff in Washington refused to comment on the interviews, except to say no members of the committee would attend.

Committee investigators have interviewed Ray on four separate occasions recently in the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee, where he is serving a 99-year sentence for the assassination. Those interviews have also been secret.

Swenson in 1968 described Ray as a loner who presented no special problems, although in 1966 he escaped from his cell and spent several chilly nights hiding in the prison's ventilating system before he was found.

A book by freelance author George McMillan published last year said Ray had financed the assassination of the Rev. Dr. King by selling drugs when in the Missouri prison. Former prison system director George Campbell said he investigated and could find no evidence to support McMillan's claims.

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C L E A R

PERSONAL ATTENTION

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

62-5097

REFERENCE FBIHQ TELETYPE TO ALL SACS AND LEGATS DATED
NOVEMBER 24, 1976.

RECENTLY THE HSCA, RELATIVE TO THEIR INVESTIGATION INTO
THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, REQUESTED THAT FBIHQ
FURNISH THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF THREE FBI PERSONNEL WHO WERE
ASSIGNED TO THE LOUISVILLE DIVISION IN 1965. THESE INDIVIDUALS
ARE BERNARD C. BROWN, FORMER SAC RETIRED; SA WILLIAM ROBERT

62-5097-31

KRL
4-25-77

SA Duncan advised of
contents. KRL

Duncan

PAGE TWO

C L E A R

DUNCAN, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED IN THE ST. LOUIS DIVISION;

ROBERT EDWARD PETERS, FORMER SA RETIRED.

THE COMMITTEE HAS INDICATED THAT THIS REQUEST IS RELATED TO THEIR RECENT RECEIPT OF INFORMATION FROM A FORMER LOUISVILLE POLICE OFFICER WHO ALLEGED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM UNNAMED FBI AND POLICE PERSONNEL TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING.

FBIHQ HAS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OBTAIN FROM HSCA ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THIS ALLEGATION, BUT TO DATE THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT ACCDED TO THIS REQUEST.

ADDITIONALLY, HSCA HAS REQUESTED THE IDENTITIES OF ALL SACS WHO SERVED IN THE BIRMINGHAM DIVISION BETWEEN DECEMBER, 1962, AND DECEMBER, 1969. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE: RAYMOND L. FAISST, FORMER SAC RETIRED; EVERETT J. INGRAM, FORMER SAC - DECEASED; JAMES L. MCGOVERN, FORMER SAC RETIRED; GEORGE W. HALL, FORMER SAC RETIRED; JOSEPH H. GAMBLE, FORMER SAC RETIRED; RALPH J. MILES, FORMER SAC RETIRED. EACH OF THESE SURVIVING FORMER EMPLOYEES IS TO BE CONTACTED IMMEDIATELY BY SAC OR ASAC WHERE FEASIBLE, AND ALERTED THAT HE MAY BE APPROACHED BY HSCA

PAGE THREE

C L E A R

REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERVIEW. EACH SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT IN THE EVENT HE IS CONTACTED HE MAY DESIRE TO CONTACT THE BUREAU'S LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION BY COLLECT CALL FOR FULL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO HIS OBLIGATIONS AS TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION ACQUIRED AS AN FBI EMPLOYEE.

SA DUNCAN, ST. LOUIS DIVISION, SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO IMMEDIATELY ADVISE SAC, ST. LOUIS, AND FBIHQ, ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, IN THE EVENT HE IS CMNTACTED BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY HSCA IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT.

IN THE EVENT A FORMER EMPLOYEE NO LONGER RESIDES IN YOUR TERRITORY, SET OUT LEADS TO OTHER OFFICES WITH A COPY TO FBIHQ.

ATLANTA: JAMES L. MCGOVERN, 2689 CANNA RIDGE CIRCLE,
ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

BIRMINGHAM: RALPH J. MILES, 1126 MOUNTAIN OAKS DRIVE,
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

PAGE FOUR

C E A R

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CENTER, NEW YORK.

ST. LOUIS: SA WILLIAM ROBERT DUNCAN.

TAMPA: GEORGE W. HALL, 5598 TRELLIS LANE, FORT MYERS,
FLORIDA.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

"Let The Congress Act; Let The Truth Be Known"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the greatest civil rights protagonist in modern American history, was murdered on April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray was arrested, charged and pleaded guilty to the crime.

In the nine years since the brutal assassination, new and profoundly disturbing evidence has come to light - evidence that poses frightening questions about the murder, and subsequent investigation.

In "CODE NAME ZOR - The Murder of Mar- The findings raise

tin Luther King, Jr., the greatest civil rights protagonist in modern American history, was murdered on April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray was arrested, charged and pleaded guilty to the crime. In the nine years since the brutal assassination, new and profoundly disturbing evidence has come to light - evidence that poses frightening questions about the murder, and subsequent investigation. In "CODE NAME ZOR - The Murder of Mar- The findings raise

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American, St. Louis,
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FBI-ST. LOUIS

many unanswered questions: What unusual circumstances led Dr. King to Memphis and the Lorraine Motel? Why was the ten-man security force assigned to Dr. King by the Memphis Police Department suddenly stripped to two? Why was Ed Redditt, one of the remaining two Memphis Police Officers, mysteriously removed from the murder scene shortly before the fatal shot? Why were two potential eyewitnesses, black firemen Newsum and Wallace, detailed to other fire stations on the day of the murder? And, why was Grace Stephens, one of the few eyewitness in the case, illegally taken from her home by Memphis authorities and placed in a mental institution?

The official investigation into the murder of Dr. King was far from satisfactory. Why has no one pursued the mysterious Raoul, perhaps the key to many of the unanswered questions surrounding the assassination? And why did the Justice Department assign the same FBI squad to investigate the murder of Dr. King (whom they code named "Zorro") that J. Edgar Hoover had previously selected to "destroy" Dr. King? Veteran FBI agent Arthur Murtaugh recalled that during a brief conversation he had had with an FBI agent in Atlanta the day King was shot, "We heard the announcement that King was shot. This agent jumped for joy, literally leaped in the air, yelling, 'They got Zorro! They got the son of a bitch. I hope he dies.'"

Did James Earl Ray really murder Martin Luther King Jr.? Was the assassination part of a far-reaching conspiracy? From an extraordinary assemblage of evidence, documents and exclusive taped interviews including hours of in-depth interviews with James Earl Ray, Lana and Gregory move inexorably towards a singular and grim conclusion.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassinations committee to check on Ray's activities

By EDWARD W. O'BRIEN
Globe-Democrat Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON — The House assassinations committee plans to investigate whether anyone helped James Earl Ray escape from Missouri State Penitentiary or elude recapture before he killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee also told the House it must ascertain the source of the money for Ray's spending from the time of his escape from the Jefferson City prison until his arrest in Europe 13 months later.

MYSTERY STILL engulfs several such key questions despite previous investigations by federal, state, and local agencies, the committee said in a 14-page report to the House.

The embattled committee, seeking a renewed House charter and a \$2.8 million appropriation, promised a "thorough, professional investigation" of the assassinations of Dr. King, the civil rights leader, in Memphis on April 4, 1968, and of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

In the report summarizing its findings so far, the committee claimed to have "new information" in both investigations. It said it has made contact with witnesses who were never interviewed or did not testify previously.

In the King case, the committee recalled that Ray in his escape from the Missouri prison on April 23, 1967, "allegedly concealed himself in a large bread box which was carried onto a truck from the prison bakery and driven out of the prison."

"THE COMMITTEE intends to investigate whether anyone aided Ray in his escape and whether this assistance was connected to the assassination of Dr. King," the report went on.

"It should be noted that a fellow Missouri inmate related that Ray allegedly said while in prison that he would kill Dr. King 'if the price was right' and that Ray intended to find a 'businessmen's association' which allegedly had offered \$100,000 for Dr. King's murder.

"Whether Ray ever made contact with such a group, either during or after his imprisonment in Missouri, is a question which has never been resolved.

"The committee intends to resolve it.

"The committee must investigate how Ray, who allegedly had made unsuccessful escape attempts in the past, was able to escape, remain at large more than a year, and travel throughout the United States and four foreign countries.

"The committee also will investigate what official actions were made to apprehend Ray from the time he

escaped until he was identified as Dr. King's assassin a year later, and whether any official agencies deviated from their normal practices for pursuing a fugitive."

A RECENT JUSTICE Department task force report, the House committee said, "relied heavily on statements by Ray's former prison cellmates (at Jefferson City) and acquaintances that he hated blacks generally, Dr. King in particular, and intended to collect a bounty for killing him."

"The department report, however, fails to note that almost every one of these statements points at the same time to the existence of a conspiracy," the committee said.

Another "significant" mystery, the committee said, is the source of the money — estimated at between \$5,500 and \$9,500 — which Ray spent as a fugitive from the Missouri prison.

The only known source of cash was the \$684 which Ray earned as a dishwasher in a Chicago suburb during the first eight weeks after his escape, the committee said.

The committee "has uncovered evidence that suggests that Ray, between April 1967 and June 1968 "received assistance from a person or persons presently unknown," the House was told.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT report said Ray was helped as a fugitive by "at least one family member."

Within 15 days of the King murder, the committee said, the FBI made up its mind that Ray was the killer. Thereafter, the committee said, the FBI failed to check out every allegation of conspiracy "to the ultimate degree."

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MAR 30 1977

FBI-ST. LOUIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Contends He Was Set Up To Take Blame For Dr. King's Assassination

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP)—James Earl Ray contended in an interview broadcast nationally last night that he had been sent to have a tire fixed when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, setting him up to take the blame.

Ray, convicted of killing the Rev. Dr. King, said "investigations by people representing me" were producing evidence that he thought would clear him in a new court proceeding.

But Ray shed no new light on who killed the Rev. Dr. King if he did not, or why. He said, as he has before, that his only contact with the murder was through a Latin named Raoul. He said he thought Raoul was conducting a gun-running operation.

Ray appeared on the CBS-TV program "Who's Who." It was his first television interview since the assassination April 4, 1968, in Memphis.

Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, said today that Ray would give preliminary depositions to the House Assassinations Committee next week. Kershaw said the session would be

conducted by the committee's deputy chief counsel and two court reporters at the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence there.

Last night, Dan Rather, a CBS reporter told Ray that many viewers obviously would think he was just making up a story to get himself out of prison, and Ray replied that he had always thought people would not believe

anything he said in an interview.

Giving new details about his story about Raoul and a conspiracy, Ray said he delivered a rifle to Raoul shortly before the assassination in what he thought was part of the gun-running operation. He said Raoul then sent him to have a tire fixed.

He said the attendants at a service station told him they were too busy to fix the tire because of the hour. The Rev. Dr. King was killed shortly before 6 p.m., the traffic rush period.

Ray said in the interview that he was certain he was not in the rooming house from which the rifle was fired at the Rev. Dr. King after 5:30 p.m.

Ray said Raoul had been directing him in gun-running activities for a year. He said there was nothing to distinguish Raoul except that he had auburn hair, not black hair like most Latin people he knew.

But Ray said he and Raoul had never discussed killing the Rev. Dr. King and so he did not know the reason for the assassination.

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FBI-ST. LOUIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rep. Gonzalez, Fiery Texan, Is Classic Capitol Hill Story

By LYNN ROSELLINI

1977, Washington Star

WASHINGTON

IT WAS 1963, and Representative Henry B. Gonzalez (Dem.), Texas, was shaking with rage as he walked onto his House floor and approached a colleague.

"I might pistol-whip you," he loudly told Representative Edgar F. Foreman (Rep.), Texas.

"Why don't you get about it?" Foreman replied calmly.

Gonzalez took a swing at Foreman's head, Foreman ducked and Gonzalez hit his shoulder. "Henry!" replied Foreman in amazement. "I think you have lost your mind. I can't imagine an intelligent adult pulling this kind of conduct in the halls of Congress."

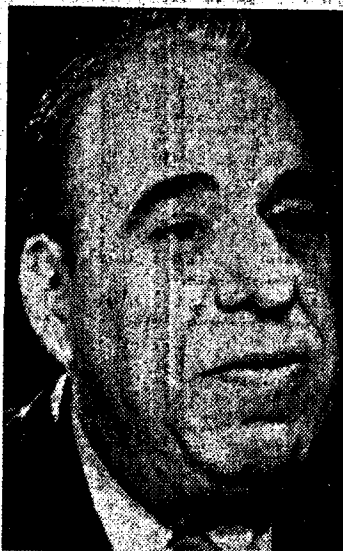
This week — 14 years later — a lot of people were saying the same thing about Henry B. Gonzalez.

As the Texas Democrat lay ill with the flu in his San Antonio home, his colleagues on the House Assassinations Committee muttered angrily over the chairman's decision to quit the beleaguered panel.

"It's been an embarrassment all of us," said one stunned committee member, who didn't mention his name used. Another committee member, who also requested anonymity, said: "It makes the entire committee look incompetent. It's made us an object of ridicule among other members."

But nobody who knows Gonzalez was surprised by his recent actions. In fact, they call it "vintage Gonzalez," starting with the feud with chief counsel Richard A. Sprague, the public name-calling, firing and finally Gonzalez's resignation.

AFTER 15 YEARS in Congress, Henry B. Gonzalez, 60 years old, is known as a quick-tempered, stubborn, combative man who loves



Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez

"focuses in on conspiracies."

vendettas. "This man can scream louder and get in more controversy than anyone you've ever seen," said Jim Dement, a San Antonio businessman knowledgeable about local politics.

Gonzalez has been unavailable for comment for more than a week. But the story of Henry B. Gonzalez, as pieced together by those who know him, is a classic tale of Capitol Hill.

Gonzalez was elected in 1961 as a fiery Mexican-American liberal, a crusader for human rights. But when he got to Washington, he never quite lived up to that potential.

He was the kind of Congressman who would periodically introduce legislation to bring back the penny postcard. He pushed for a world's fair for San Antonio in 1968 — aided by Lyndon B. Johnson, whose home was in Gonzalez's district.

GONZALEZ'S 1963 QUARREL with Foreman erupted when Gonzalez claimed that the conservative Texas Republican had called him a "pinko." Afterwards, he refused to shake hands with Foreman.

But on the House floor, Gonzalez

was best known for his long-winded crusades and "conspiracy" theories on San Antonio-related matters. He used the Congressional Record as a forum, once inserting 50 separate items on the failure of the Sharpstown Bank of Houston.

"He focuses in on conspiracies, the weird angles of things," said a source familiar with Gonzalez's career. "He can't see the public issues. Once he gets involved in something, he shakes it by the throat until it's dead."

But his biggest interest was assassinations.

GONZALEZ WANTED a congressional investigation. And he wanted to chair it.

"Some people had reservations, but they never spoke them," said a committee member. "There is a reluctance to violate a traditional courtesy." So the hot-tempered Texan took control of one of the most sensitive congressional investigations since impeachment.

As everyone knows by now, Gonzalez inherited a "nightmare," clashing immediately with Sprague, whose arrogant, take-charge manner had already alienated much of the House. "He treats me like dirt," Gonzalez used to confide to committee colleagues.

IN REACTION, Gonzalez dealt with Sprague just as he deals with San Antonio politicians that he dislikes. To the mortification of his committee colleagues, he publicly called his chief counsel a "rattlesnake" and a "scoundrel."

"It's sort of vintage Gonzalez," said Douglas Harlan, a political science professor from San Antonio. "The Assassinations Committee thing is made to order for him. It's combative and spectacular."

Friends say Gonzalez was stunned when the committee turned against him on the issue of Sprague's firing. "I think he took it as a personal matter," said a committee member. "Apparently he was deeply hurt and angered."

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FBI-ST. LOUIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mrs. King Challenges Groups To Further Probe Husband's Slaying

BY LILYANN J. MITCHELL

Apparently disillusioned and still firmly convinced that her late husband's brutal murder on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. was the plot of a well planned conspiracy, Mrs. Coretta Scott King said of the recent committee's report that James Earl Ray acted alone:

"I have no knowledge as to how comprehensive this report was. Therefore, I can draw no firm conclusion. I would still like for some agency, group or organization to research and disclose what the task force was doing and how it was conducting this investigation, so that others may judge for themselves how the Justice Department conducted their investigation - and in what manner they drew up their conclusions," Mrs. King stated from a prepared press statement to the ARGUS from her office in Atlanta.

Meanwhile the new Attorney General Griffin B. Bell has told the press he is curious about the "gaps" in the Martin Luther King Jr. slaying case, and said he would like to conduct a "personal" probe into the assassination of the late civil rights leader.

James Earl Ray is presently serving a 99-year state prison term in Tennessee for King's murder, but the convicted inmate claims he is taking the full rap in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King. His appeals for a hearing to re-open the case have been denied.

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MRS. CORETTA KING

A special report from the Department of Justice to the media this week reads in part:

The purpose of the study was to examine FBI activities involving Dr. King and to evaluate the effectiveness of the assassination investigation. "The report concluded that the FBI had conducted a painstaking and successful investigation of the 1968 assassination in Memphis, Tenn. The task force also found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder," the statement to the ARGUS said.

However, the report further stated, "The FBI's COINTELPRO - type harassment of Dr. King and efforts to drive him out of the civil rights movement were found to have been clearly improper. The task force recommended no disciplinary action because the chief FBI

officials responsible for the harassment are dead or retired, but proposed outright prohibition of COINTELPRO-type activities against domestic intelligence subject."

Dr. King's widow, his father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., other family members and civil rights leaders have called the latest report from the house committee "unacceptable" to them.

Shortly after this re-investigation into the King slaying officially opened, it was reported by the media that numerous documents pertinent to the King slaying case were missing from the government's file.

Last week human rights activist Dick Gregory, announced that he will resume his hunger fast until a "thorough and true" investigation into Dr. King's slaying is initiated - which should include the necessary FBI and other legal government and official documents on the King case.

In addition to this, the U.S. District Judge John Lewis has ordered the FBI to file with the National Archives all of its tapes and documents growing out of buggings and wiretaps of Dr. King. According to the judge's previous records, these materials could not be made available to the public for at least 50 years, except by court order.

A couple of months ago, Ed Redditt, an ex-police detective in Memphis told the National Inquirer Magazine in

an interview that he and another Black officer, W.E. Richmond, were the only detectives assigned to police detail on April 4, 1968. He stated that when police officials in Memphis learned of the many threats against Dr. King's life they "slashed security from 10 men to two men, instead of beefing it up.

"When Dr. King was murdered I was miles away - and another officer on duty with me that day (W.B. Richmond) was missing from the scene," Redditt said.

Redditt said despite his protests that he had a job to do, he was ordered home and Holloman (then the director of the Memphis Police and Fire Department) called in two burly police officers to escort him there and stand guard over him.

Redditt further stated that it appeared, "as if the guards were trying to keep me in the house, rather than protect me."

Attorney General Bell said at a recent news conference, although the report found no evidence of FBI involvement in the 1968 murder case of Dr. King, the case was not closed for the Justice Department.

He said a final decision will be made when the House Select Committee completes its investigation of the killings of both Dr. King and President John F. Kennedy.

Of a possible meeting with Ray, Bell stated: "I'd either go or send someone in whom I have absolute confidence."

(Mount Clipping)

King Family Dissatisfied With Report Findings

BY LILYANN J. MITCHELL

"Not satisfied," is a two-word summary of the statements made by those close to the late Black Prophet, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., relative to the recent concluding report from the House Select Committee on Assassinations that, "Ray apparently acted alone," - thus, ending their most recent inquiry into the King slaying case.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader, and his father, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., both stated in a news announcement this week that the investigation was not thorough enough and said they would "not accept this



DICK GREGORY

as the final answer." Mrs. King, Dr. King Sr., the Rev. Dr. David Abernathy, Hon. Andrew Young, Rev. Dr. Jessie L. Jackson, Dick Gregory, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and a long list of other notable Black and white citizens and organizations, have pushed over the past years for a complete re-investigation into Dr. King's brutal slaying.

"There is no doubt in my mind that a conspiracy existed," said Mrs. King. U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Andrew Young, said he would do all he could to have Dr. King's documents on the slaying case reviewed more thoroughly.

"If the true story was told it would blow the lid off of a powder keg .. and you had better be ready to face what the outcome of this re-investigation will bring," human rights leader, Gregory told members of the CBC and some 4,000 dinner guests during their last annual event in Washington, D.C. about six months ago.

Shortly after this re-investigation into the King slaying officially opened, it was reported that numerous documents pertinent to the King case were missing from the government's file.

This week, Gregory announced that he will resume his hunger fast until a "thorough and true" investigation into Dr. King's slaying is investigated - which should include the necessary FBI, and other legal government documents on the King slaying.

In other King developments, U.S. District Judge John Lewis has ordered the

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1 (Second Section)

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FBI to file with the National Archives all of its tapes and documents growing out of buggings and wiretaps of King.

According to the judge's previous orders, these materials cannot be made available to the public for at

least 50 years, except by court order. Until a new investigation is held - including all of the King records and documents from all sources holding the valuable records - Gregory said he will be fasting on fruit juice alone.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attorney general wants to see James Earl Ray

By GLENN ELSASSER
Globe-Democrat
Chicago Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Griffin B. Bell wants to talk personally with James Earl Ray to clear up doubts that Ray acted alone in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bell said Thursday.

Bell said he "read carefully" a special Justice Department task force report on the King assassination, issued last week, and "puzzled over the case."



Bell

THE REPORT found no evidence of FBI involvement in the 1968 murder of Dr. King, but Bell said the case was not closed for the Justice Department.

A final decision will be made, he said, once the House Select Committee on Assassinations has completed its investigation of the killings of Dr. King and President Kennedy.

"I had it way in the back of my mind to do a little more," Bell told a breakfast meeting of reporters.

Speaking of a possible meeting with Ray, Bell said: "I'd either go or someone I have absolute confidence in would."

The attorney general mentioned that he was troubled by the problem of when Ray got his money after the King slaying. The Justice Department report

said he probably stole it, but Bell said there is no evidence of this.

FURTHERMORE, Bell questioned whether Ray was knowledgeable enough to get the passports he used to travel abroad after the assassination.

Ray, who is serving a 99-year state prison term in Tennessee, has contended since the assassination that he was "a fall guy" in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King. The U.S. Supreme Court in December refused to review his guilty plea.

Asked whether he thought some government agency might have been involved in the assassination, Bell replied: "Oh, not at all."

When asked whether he as attorney general would give Ray any "special consideration" if he believed Ray's story, Bell said this would have to be worked out with Tennessee officials because Ray is a state prisoner.

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15 A

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ST. LOUIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New Policies Restrain FBI, Kelley Says

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 — Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Clarence M. Kelly Jr. said Friday that current policy and Department of Justice guidelines would prevent future FBI harassments such as those used against the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Kelley expressed great satisfaction that a Justice Department task force found the FBI had made a creditable and thorough investigation of the King assassination in 1968.

"There are portions of the report which described objectionable actions on the part of the FBI," Kelley said, referring to the task force's criticism of the FBI's attempt to "neutralize" the Rev. Dr. King's role as a civil rights leader.

A Justice Department task force investigating the death of the Rev. Dr. King says evidence that James Earl Ray was a lone assassin is convincing, although his motive remains elusive.

In the report made public Friday, the task force praised the FBI's original investigation of the Rev. Dr. King's death in 1968, but said the Justice Department failed to exercise proper supervision over the agency's work.

The report said also that former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover inspired an improper and at times illegal harassment campaign against the Rev. Dr. King in the last five years of his life. But it recommended against prosecutions in the campaign because Hoover and his top aids are dead or retired.

Ray was acting alone on April 4, 1968 when he gunned King down on a motel balcony in Memphis, the report concluded. It said that FBI agents checked out conspiracy theories but found them groundless.

"The task force is satisfied that the FBI did a credible and thorough job in attempting to identify any possible conspiracy. In all the years following the assassination, the investigation has failed to reveal any connection between any alleged conspirator and James Earl Ray..."

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But the report's authors list two loose ends, lack of a clear motive for the shooting and an inability to learn how Ray supported himself for a year before the Rev. Dr. King's death.

"Ray's apparent hatred for the civil rights movement, his possible yearning for recognition and a desire for a potential quick profit may have, as a whole, provided sufficient impetus for him to act and act alone," the report said.

Imprisoned in the Missouri State prison until his escape in 1967, Ray took part in inmate speculation about a bounty on the Rev. Dr. King's head. But the report found no evidence proving that a bounty payment was actually offered.

Meanwhile, an attorney for Ray accused the Justice Department of attempting to whitewash the investigation of the killing. Robert I. Livingston of Memphis, Tenn., also charged the Justice Department with trying to thwart a planned investigation of the assassination by a House committee.

Livingston said he knew of two persons willing to testify before the panel, but that they could not because the committee was having internal problems. Robert F. Kennedy, while serving as attorney general, failed badly by maintaining FBI surveillance on the Rev. Dr. King, the task force said.

The report found that during Ray's imprisonment in Missouri he told inmates he "hated Negroes." It said he vowed on several occasions to kill the Rev. Dr. "if the price was right."

Livingston said he never had placed any faith in the investigation.

"Since that investigation started, I felt they would approve everything the FBI has said and done in connection with the Dr. King murder. I knew they would find no fault whatever with (late FBI director) Mr. John Edgar Hoover, I knew they would find no fault with anyone remotely connected to it.

"The only thing I'm surprised at is that they haven't recommended Hoover for sainthood."

"The forces behind the assassinations are working full time to see that nobody anywhere investigates these assassinations," he said. "There are forces at work trying to destroy the select committee of Congress to investigate the assassinations.

"There are people in this world who don't want any of these investigations continued."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tip from Missouri inmate led to Ray's arrest

By EDWARD W. O'BRIEN
Globe-Democrat Washington Bureau
Chief

WASHINGTON — A tip from a former Missouri Penitentiary cellmate of James Earl Ray provided the crucial clue that led to Ray's arrest for the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Justice Department report has disclosed.

The cellmate remembered that Ray, as a prisoner at Jefferson City, had talked about "the ease with which a person living in Canada could obtain a false passport," the report said.

UNTIL THE interview with the unidentified prisoner, the FBI had been able to follow Ray's trail only as far as Atlanta, where he had driven immediately after the Memphis murder April 4, 1968.

As then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover admitted in a memorandum for then Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the trail was cold beyond Atlanta, despite a massive manhunt.

By then, the FBI had zeroed in on Ray as the probable killer and had obtained photographs of him. But their man had vanished.

The Missouri tip triggered a new search. At the FBI's request, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Ottawa began searching passport application files since Ray's escape from the prison April 23, 1967.

"THOUGH THE search went through a staggering number of applications and was based on comparison of Ray's photograph to those submitted with the application, it proved to be the necessary

break in picking up Ray's trail," the report said.

"At 9:30 p.m. on June 1, 1968, the FBI attache in Ottawa called Washington to advise that after reviewing some 175,000 applications, the mounted police located a passport issued April 24, 1968, under the name Ramon George Sneyd which contained a photograph very definitely similar to Ray.

The passport application was traced back to a Toronto travel agency. From there, Ray left a trail of ticket purchases to London, Lisbon, and back to London, where he was apprehended June 8 as he sought to take a plane to Brussels.

The disclosure about the Missouri tip, as well as many other inside details, came in a 149-page report by a Justice Department task force of five attorneys and two analysts on their study of the King case.

AFTER REVIEWING more than 200,000 documents from FBI headquarters and field offices in St. Louis, Springfield, Ill., and other cities, and interviewing 40 witnesses, the team concluded:

—Ray, who had served seven years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery when he escaped from the Missouri prison, acted alone in assassinating Dr. King, the civil rights leader.

—There is no evidence of a conspiracy between Ray and anybody else. "Indeed the overwhelming evidence indicates that Ray was almost totally alone during

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6B ST. LOUIS
GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

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Feb. 4 Bureau 2/24/77



J. Edgar Hoover
... the trail was cold

the years after his escape from (prison)."

—There was no complicity in the murder by the FBI or the Memphis Police Department.

—FBI INVESTIGATION of the killing "was thoroughly, honestly, and successfully conducted."

The task force also found that FBI harassment of Dr. King for several years



James Earl Ray
... false passport

before his death was "clearly improper."

The FBI had conducted what it called a "no-holds-barred" campaign to discredit Dr. King and drive him out of the civil rights movement. The FBI's reasons were its belief that Dr. King was being influenced by Communist advisers and that he had unfairly criticized the FBI.

The report said criminal prosecution of FBI officials for the campaign is barred

by the statute of limitations. Disciplinary action would be too late because the officials are dead or retired.

THE REPORT recommended tighter supervision of FBI domestic intelligence activities and outright prohibition of any future harassment of domestic intelligence targets.

Much of the report focused on Missouri, through Ray as a prisoner at Jefferson City, his movements in the state, and family associations.

Through interviews with cellmates and other prisoners, the FBI pieced together Ray's motive as hatred of blacks.

"It seems clear that Ray openly displayed a strong racist attitude toward blacks," the report said.

"While in prison Ray stated he would kill Dr. King if given the opportunity . . .

"RAY'S APPARENT hatred for the civil rights movement, his possible yearning for recognition, and a desire for a potential quick profit may have, as a whole, provided sufficient impetus for him to act — and to act alone."

There were widespread rumors at the Missouri prison that a group of businessmen had raised \$100,000 to \$1 million "as a bounty on King's head," the report said, and there were also rumors that "Ray was supposed to have killed three black prisoners at the penitentiary."

A major mystery remains to this day. Neither the FBI nor the Justice team was able to discover the source of the money for Ray's extensive travel after his prison escape; for purchases of cars, photo equipment, and dance lessons, and

for living expenses.

The FBI speculated that Ray committed several robberies or burglaries but that was never proved. Ray was checked as a possible participant in a 1967 bank robbery at Alton, Ill., and in other holdups around the country, but results were always negative.

HE DID EARN \$664 as a dishwasher in a Chicago suburb, and at least once sent money out of the Missouri prison by money order to a fictitious company. But nothing else could be established about how Ray obtained several thousand dollars, which he spent between his escape and his arrest.

One expenditure was \$209 on July 14, 1967, for purchase of a Plymouth automobile in East St. Louis.

The FBI was criticized for alleged failure to follow a lead which the report described as "suggesting that one or both of Ray's brothers were in contact with him after, and in aid of, his escape in 1967 from (prison)."

The lead was not unearthed until after Ray's arrest, and the FBI downgraded the information as, "made sterile by intervening events," the report said. The tip was that Jerry Ray may have seen his brother James "at a pre-arranged meeting place in St. Louis shortly after his escape," the reports said.

"By hindsight, the task force believes Jerry and John Ray could have been effectively interrogated further to learn their knowledge, if any, of James Earl Ray's plans, his finances, and whether they helped him after King's death," the report said.

FBI

5599

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☒ CLEAR

Date 2/8/77

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097) (P)
TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

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