

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU
of
INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

DO NOT DESTROY - PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

See also Nos. _____

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY; HISTORICAL
VALUE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

157-2627

Volume Number
Serials

650-1111

Pace 6/3/77
Stephens 6/3/77
Pace 7/1/74
Robinson 5/14/74

DO NOT REMOVE

RETAIN AS TOP SERIAL IN FILE

**DO NOT DESTROY - PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS**

King
MURKIN
Ray

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

APPLICABLE SUITS IN 197-3-SF1:

PAGE PLAINTIFF

1114	[REDACTED]
1487	Ray
2212	Ray
2344	McGinnis
2370	Cons Caucus
2778	Ray
3223	Ray
4007	Ray
4369	Ray
4573	Ray



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Dallas, Texas
March 19, 1969

ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO
IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to the memorandum, entitled as above, submitted by the Atlanta Office on March 11, 1969.

A check of the City Directory of Amarillo, Texas, failed to reveal an address of 1918 North Manhattan Street or the name of JOE GRIFFIN. The City Directory did reveal a J. E. Griffin, Painter, residing at 1913 North Manhattan Street.

Operator No. 20, Amarillo Credit Association, 912 Taylor Street, on March 17, 1969, advised that Johnnie E. Griffin, 1913 North Manhattan Street, had been known to their files since July of 1968, and was reportedly employed as a house painter. The name of his wife was shown as Judy but file also contained information that Griffin had filed for divorce from Judy on January 9, 1969.

On March 17, 1969, Mr. Johnnie Ernest Griffin, 1913 North Manhattan Street, Amarillo, Texas, was interviewed at his place of employment, the Astoria Park Apartments, Amarillo, Texas. Griffin advised that on

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157-2627-650

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 29 1969	
FBI - MOBILE	

Eastman
Flynn

**ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND
POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

January 6, 1968, his wife's sister, Mrs. Charlie (Wanda) Johnston, came to Amarillo, and lived with them until May of 1968. He advised that she has now returned to her husband and that they reside at 812 - Apartment B, Eloise Courts, Atlanta, Georgia, and that the husband, Charlie Johnston, is employed as a fireman for the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

He advised that the mother of Charlie Johnston is Mrs. R. H. Johnston, 594 Hill Street, Atlanta, Georgia. He stated that one time at Amarillo while Wanda Johnston was drunk, she stated that her husband, Charlie Johnston, had run over a Negro boy and killed him. She stated that her husband had killed a Negro for free but that her mother in law got \$10,000.00 for shooting Martin Luther King. He stated that he did not know whether this was true or not, but that Mrs. Johnston did about that time send Wanda Johnston about \$2,000.00 to pay for a car.

Griffin advised that all of his wife's family call him Joe Griffin. He stated that his wife, Judy Griffin, left him about October, 1968, and returned to Atlanta, Georgia, where she resides with a sister, Deborah Blackman, at 834-C Confederate Courts, Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that there is presently a court fight going on for the custody of their three children.

Griffin advised that he was in Atlanta just before Christmas of 1968, and that Deborah Blackman told him that Mrs. Johnston had received another "big pay off" in the Martin Luther King case, and that this "pay off" had been made by Raymond Polacco. He advised that he had never met this Raymond Polacco but that he was going with Deborah Blackman at the time that he was in Atlanta.

**ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND
POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Griffin advised that he returned to Amarillo, Texas, and that on January 26, 1969, he received a telegram which read as follows:

"Dear Sir: I would like to get in touch with you concerning your family. It is important. I would like for you to reply back to the Atlanta Main Office, sending your telephone number. Please answer one way or the other. BRUCE MARXS."

Griffin advised that he sent a telegram back furnishing his phone number and the next day received a telephone call from Raymond Polacco from Atlanta, Georgia. Polacco advised that he understood that Griffin was looking for evidence to indicate that his wife was morally unfit to have the children and stated that he would secure pictures of his wife in the nude or in bed with some man if Griffin would pay him \$500.00. He indicated to Griffin that he was an investigator and told Griffin that he could be reached at Atlanta telephone number 404-361-7297.

Griffin advised that he called Polacco back at this number and talked with a woman whose name he understood to be "Calloway". She advised that Polacco did not live at that address but that she babysat for the four year old daughter of Polacco. She said that Polacco lived "down the street" and advised that she lived at 4550 Ridgecrest Drive. She stated that Polacco was a Cuban, 27 years of age, was not employed, but had a wife who worked in a drug store. She said that Polacco was attending school somewhere in Atlanta.

Griffin was then asked if he wrote a letter to the Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, about this matter and emphatically denied writing such a

**ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING
PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND
POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

letter. He stated that all that he knew about the Martin Luther King assassination had come from members of his wife's family and that he knew nothing of his own knowledge about the matter.

On March 17, 1969, Mr. Dee Miller, Attorney at Law, Fisk Building, Eighth and Polk Streets, Amarillo, Texas, advised that he represented Johnnie E. Griffin in a divorce and child custody suit against his former wife, Judy Griffin, of Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that he did receive a call from a man named Raymond, last name not given, from Atlanta, Georgia, advising that he would secure compromising photographs of Judy Griffin for use in the child custody matter for \$500.00. Miller advised that this caller claimed to be an investigator but stated that it was immediately apparent to him that the caller was not an investigator since he did not even have a camera and wanted an advance so that he could buy a camera. Miller told this caller that they were not interested in such a proposition.

Mr. Miller advised that there was a hearing at Amarillo, Texas, on January 24, 1969, in the child custody matter and that Griffin had furnished him some letters from an "Aunt Ella" from Decatur, Georgia, which letters described the immoral behaviour of Judy Griffin while in Atlanta. He advised that he subpoenaed this person to the hearing and attempted to introduce the letters but "Aunt Ella" denied writing such letters and stated she convinced him that she did not write the letters. He stated that he accused Griffin of preparing the letters from "Aunt Ella" but he denied it. Mr. Miller advised that in view of this, he was seriously considering asking permission of the court to withdraw from the case.

3/19/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Dallas dated 3/14/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies of LHM captioned "ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.", dated 3/19/69, at Dallas, Texas.

Two copies each are also enclosed for the Atlanta and Memphis offices.

The interview of JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN also known as Joe Griffin, was conducted by SAs WILLIAM R. JENKINS and LARRY J. STEGING. The interview of Attorney DEE MILLER was by SA WILLIAM R. JENKINS.

LEADS

ATLANTA

AT FOREST PARK, GEORGIA. 1. Will interview Mrs. ALF CALALAY, 4550 Ridgecrest Street, since this is apparently the person that GRIFFIN talked with by phone and who said that she was a babysitter for RAYMOND POLACCO and kept his four year old daughter.

2. Will determine holder of Atlanta phone number 404-361-7297, and if not listed to ALF CALALAY will interview them for information concerning POLACCO.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
 - 2 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 2)
 - 1 - Dallas
- JRJ:may
(8)

157-2627-651

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 29 1969	
FBI - MOBILE	

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

5/27/69

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

Re Dallas airtel to Bureau, 3/19/69.

Enclosed herewith for Mobile is one copy of LHM dated 3/11/69, at Atlanta; one copy of LHM dated 3/19/69, at Dallas, both captioned "Anonymous Accusation Alleging Participation of Raymond Polacco in Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr."; and one copy of Dallas airtel to Bureau, 3/19/69.

Numerous efforts have been made to contact Mr. or Mrs. ALFRED CALALAY, 4550 Ridgecrest Drive, Forest Park, Georgia. Mrs. CALALAY was located at that address 5/14/69, and advised that Mr. and Mrs. RAYMOND POLACCO, formerly lived diagonally across the street from him. They moved about 2 months ago and left a forwarding address of 1004 21st Street, Phenix City, Ala. He said that is the residence of Mrs. POLACCO's parents, Mr. and Mrs. (FNU) JENKINS.

The current Atlanta telephone directory reflects telephone number 404-361-7297, is listed to ALFRED CALALAY, 4550 Ridgecrest Drive, Forest Park, Ga.

Mr. CALALAY advised POLACCO was a continuous nuisance to them and frequently used their telephone. He believed he recalled POLACCO one time called or talked with a Mr. GRIFFIN in Texas.

LEADS

MOBILE

AT PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA

Contact RAYMOND POLACCO, 1004 21st St., to determine if he has any knowledge of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and resolve the allegations made in the anonymous letter apparently written by JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN.

2-Bureau
2-Mobile (Enc. 2)
2-Atlanta
GRH:mah
(6)

P. Ray Jr.
cc sent Memphis 7/16/69

157-2627-652

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 29 1969	
FBI-MOBILE	

[Signature]

F B I

Date: 6/16/69

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

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis teletype to Bureau 3/28/69, and Mobile airtel to Bureau 4/8/69.

Continued contacts with racial informants and sources of Mobile Division failed to reflect JAMES BEVEL presently in Mobile Division. In the event BEVEL is located in Mobile Division, he will be interviewed in accordance with instructions set out in referenced Memphis teletype.

2 - Memphis
1 - Mobile
CG : mrc
(3)

mm

Staff of

157-2627-653

Searched _____
Serialized ✓
Indexed _____
Filed ✓

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MOBILE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 7/16/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 7/1-7/14/69
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA DONALD A. FLYNN	TYPED BY /tdr
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE: Dallas airtel to Bureau, 3/19/69;
Atlanta let to Bureau, 5/27/69.

- RUC -

ENCLOSURE:

Enclosed for the Memphis Division is one copy of Atlanta letter to Director, 5/27/69, enclosing LHM, 3/11/69, at Atlanta, and LHM, 3/19/69, at Dallas captioned "Anonymous Accusation Alleging Participation of Raymond Polacco in Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED <i>C</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (44-38861) 1 - USA, Montgomery 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Info.) 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Encl. 1) ① - Mobile (157-2627) <i>tdr</i>						157-2627-654	
						Searched _____ Serialized <i>✓</i> Indexed _____ Filed <i>✓</i> <i>Flynn</i> <i>pt</i>	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency						<i>File placed 8/18/69</i>	
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

A*
COVER PAGE

GPO : 1968 O - 299-885

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Montgomery

Report of: SA DONALD A. FLYNN
Date: July 16, 1969

Office: Mobile

Field Office File #: MO 157-2627

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: On 7/14/69, RAYMOND POLACCO advised he has no knowledge of the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. assassination other than that as received through news media. POLACCO believed that the allegation regarding his participation in this murder was instituted anonymously by JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN, brother-in-law of the sister of his (POLACCO's) former paramour. No evidence found which indicates POLACCO involved in assassination.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DONALD A. FLYNN in Phenix City, Alabama, on July 1, 1969:

Mrs. JENKINS T. SMITH, 1004 21st Street, advised that her son RAYMOND POLACCO was not at home and referred interviewing agent to his wife, Mrs. RAYMOND POLACCO. On the same date Mrs. RAYMOND POLACCO advised her husband is at home only on weekends. She advised her husband is a salesman and the only method of contacting him during the week would be to have her advise her husband and have him call the interviewing agent.

On the same date review of the arrest records in Phenix City, Alabama, Police Department and the Russell County Sheriff's Office reflected no files identifiable with RAYMOND POLACCO.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/16/69

1

RAYMOND POLACCO, 5038 Seneca Drive (home address), Columbus, Georgia, telephone number 561-0813, and 1004 21st Street, Phenix City, Alabama, telephone number 298-8347, was interviewed in Phenix City Plaza Shopping Center in the presence of Phenix City, Alabama, Detective H. "BRAD" NOLAN. POLACCO was immediately advised as to identity of interviewing agent and Detective NOLAN. He was informed that the purpose of the interview was to determine if he (POLACCO) had any knowledge of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and to resolve the allegations made in an anonymous letter relating to the same substance.

POLACCO was then advised of his rights by Special Agent DONALD A. FLYNN. POLACCO waived them as shown on an executed warning and waiver form. POLACCO was then specifically asked if he wished to have an attorney present to represent him. POLACCO replied in the negative.

POLACCO stated that he had no knowledge of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., except as he received through news media. He denied that he was, or is, in any way involved in any conspiracy or act connected with the assassination. POLACCO said he has no idea as to who killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He stated that he never met JAMES EARL RAY.

POLACCO then denied the anonymous allegation furnished by Mr. JIM RANKIN of the Atlanta Constitution on March 7, 1969, postmarked Amarillo, Texas, which alleged that POLACCO was a "key pay-off" man in the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. assassination conspiracy.

POLACCO advised that it was his feeling this letter had probably been written by JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN, brother-in-law of the sister of his (POLACCO's) former intimate girl friend, DEBBIE BLACKMAN. POLACCO stated that GRIFFIN and he had a strong mutual dislike for each other which evolved from GRIFFIN's attempt to divorce his wife. GRIFFIN wanted him to take photographs of his wife in the nude with another man in order to facilitate a divorce

On 7/12/69 at Phenix City, Alabama File # MO 157-2627

by SA DONALD A. FLYNN /tdr Date dictated 7/14/69

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- 2 -

MO 157-2627

2

proceeding favorable to GRIFFIN. POLACCO said that he sent GRIFFIN a telegram on or about January 28, 1969, which he signed, "BRUCE MARKS". POLACCO also admitted a conversation regarding the divorce with Mr. DEE MILLER, an attorney in Amarillo, Texas. POLACCO told MILLER he would provide compromising photographs of GRIFFIN's wife if MILLER would send him money for a camera and a \$500.00 fee.

POLACCO stated that the whole matter had come to the attention of GRIFFIN's wife and acrimonious feelings developed among all parties involved.

POLACCO reiterated his denial of any knowledge of the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. assassination. He concluded that GRIFFIN probably wrote the anonymous letter in order to get revenge for POLACCO's participation in the circumstances surrounding the divorce between GRIFFIN and his wife.

The following description of POLACCO was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	RAYMOND POLACCO, also known as Raymond Polacco, Jr., and Raymon Andino Polacio (as shown on current 1969 Georgia driver's license)
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	New York City, New York
Social Security No.	
Former Military Service No.	-RA56333971
Driver's license No.	-O-487288
Address (on license)	5038 Seneca Drive, Columbus, Georgia
Height	5'9"
Weight	168 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Current Employment	Salesman for Pennsylvania Life Insurance Company, 1214 First Avenue, Suite 422, Columbus, Georgia, 31901 Supervisor, Mr. HUBERT DAVIS, telephone No. 404-322-4844

MO 157-2627

3

Former Employment

POLACCO advised that he was formerly a police officer in California with the following departments:

Los Angeles County, Security Department from November 1964 to April 1966;

Bell Police Department, Bell California, Badge No. 14, from April 1966 until July 1966;

POLACCO then produced a Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County card dated 1966, No. 488980.

POLACCO was observed in the following vehicle:

Make	Chevrolet
Year	1964
Color	White
Model	Impala, 2-door
License Tag No.	1969 Georgia, 4-18178
Characteristics	Left front fender damaged

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/16/69

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On 7/12/69 at Phenix City, Alabama File # MO 157-2627-655
by SA DONALD A. FLYNN /tdr Date dictated 7/14/69

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MO 157-2627

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Name	RAYMOND POLACCO, also known as Raymond Polacco, Jr., and Raymon Andino Polacio (as shown on current 1969 Georgia driver's license)
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	New York City, New York
Social Security No.	
Former Military	
Service No.	-RA56333971
Driver's license No.	-O-487288
Address (on license)	5038 Seneca Drive, Columbus, Georgia
Height	5'9"
Weight	168 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Current Employment	Salesman for Pennsylvania Life Insurance Company, 1214 First Avenue, Suite 422, Columbus, Georgia, 31901 Supervisor, Mr. HUBERT DAVIS, telephone No. 404-322-4844

MO 157-2627

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POLACCO was observed in the following vehicle:

Make	Chevrolet
Year	1964
Color	White
Model	Impala, 2-door
License Tag No.	1969 Georgia, 4-18178
Characteristics	Left front fender damaged

C. M. MURPHY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
DERMON BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

February 26, 1970

RECEIVED
TELEPHONE
527-0476
FEB 26 1970

LICENSE TAG DIV.
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Department of Safety
State of Alabama
License Registry Division
Montgomery, Alabama

Re: Obtaining a Certificate
showing License Registration
or Ownership of Automobile

Dear Sir:

My client has purchased in Tennessee a certain automobile from the owner, whose last purchase of record of that automobile occurred in Alabama. In order to properly register this vehicle for my client, the Tennessee authorities require me to procure a copy of the automobile registration, or the registration of the license of said vehicle.

The name of the person from whom we bought the vehicle, though not his real name, is Eric Starvo Galt, who used the address of 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Galt bought the vehicle from William D. Paisley on October 2, 1967, in Jefferson County, Alabama. The license tag then on the car was, and I believe still is, Alabama 1-38993.

If your department does not keep the records, a copy of which we need, please let me know with whom I must correspond, and if you will, let me know the amount of money necessary you require to send me a certified copy.

Very truly yours,

C. M. Murphy
C. M. Murphy

CMM/plc

157-2627-656



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
LICENSE TAX DIVISION
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36102

C15967

HARVEY L. RADREN
Commissioner
RALPH P. EAGERTON, JR.
Secretary

March 13, 1970

TRAVIS WILLIAMS, JR.
Assistant Commissioner
HENRY P. DRAUGHON
Division Chief

Re: Our File No. 3-1370
Your: 1968 Ala. Lic #1-38993

C. M. Murphy
Attorney at Law
Dermon Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

C O P Y		PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES		C O P Y			
1- A 88354		01		1- 38993			
1967 TAG NO.		TAX AREA CODE		1968 TAG NO.			
MAKE	YR.	MODEL	BODY TYPE	CLASS	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	PT. YR.	ASSESSED VALUE
FORD	'66	MS8	2-dr	06	6T07C190647	Full	700
12.60		12.60		14.00		TOTAL → 39.20	
St. & Co. Tax		Man. Tax		Lic. & Ins. Fee		Citation Penalty	
THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED THEREON (WAS NOT IN ALABAMA) (WAS NOT OPERATED ON THE HIGHWAYS OF ALABAMA) BETWEEN _____ and _____							
GALT, ERIC S. 2608 HIGHLAND AVENUE BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA							
THIS VEHICLE IS DESIGNED AND USED PRIMARILY FOR PRIVATE PASSENGER PURPOSES.							
ACQUIRED FROM:				Date Acquired or Entered State		Purchase Price	
NEW USED						Gross Weight	
I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the information hereon is true and correct.							
Sworn to and subscribed before me this <u>2</u> day of <u>October</u> 196 <u>7</u>							
S/Eric S. Galt				DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, JEFFERSON COUNTY BRADLEY BROWN, DIRECTOR			
LICENSEE OR APPLICANT				BY S/J.D. CLERK			

I, Henry P. Draughon, hereby certify that I have been duly appointed and assigned as Chief of the Motor Vehicle and License Division of the State Department of Revenue in and for the State of Alabama. As such Chief, I have in my custody and control central records pertaining to the issuance of automobile license plates, the identification or motor number for each vehicle for which a license plate was issued, as maintained by the State of Alabama.

I further certify the above facsimile is a true and correct copy of the registration receipt as shown by the records of the Motor Vehicle and License Division of the State Department of Revenue, in my custody and control.

Witness my hand, and the official seal of the State Department of Revenue, this the 13th day of March, 1970.

Henry P. Draughon, Chief
Motor Vehicle and License Division
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

ATTEST:
Secretary
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



157-2627-656
Searched _____
Serialized ✓
Indexed ✓
Filed ✓

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN ✓

DATE: 3/23/70

Enclosed and for the information of the Memphis Division is a photo copy of a letter dated 2/26/70, from C. M. MURPHY, Attorney At Law, Memphis, Tenn., wherein he requested a certified copy (photo copy of which is also enclosed for Memphis) of registration of an automobile that had been registered to ERIC STARVO GALT. This information was made available by Mrs. CONNIE REDDOCH on 3/16/70.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)

① - Mobile

CAR/alg

(3) *alg*



5010-108-01

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

157-2627-657

Searched	_____
Serialized	_____ <i>J</i>
Indexed	_____
Filed	_____ <i>J</i>

The Baller
Spencer Stop
mt. Vernon, Ala.

B O F I
Subscription Bureau
Shelby County Jail
Memphis, Tenn.



157-2627-658

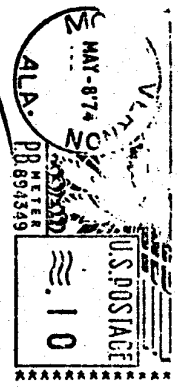
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1974	
FBI - MOBILE	

Robinson

*Mr. Gallo
Security Corp.
Mt. Vernon, Ala.*

BOFI

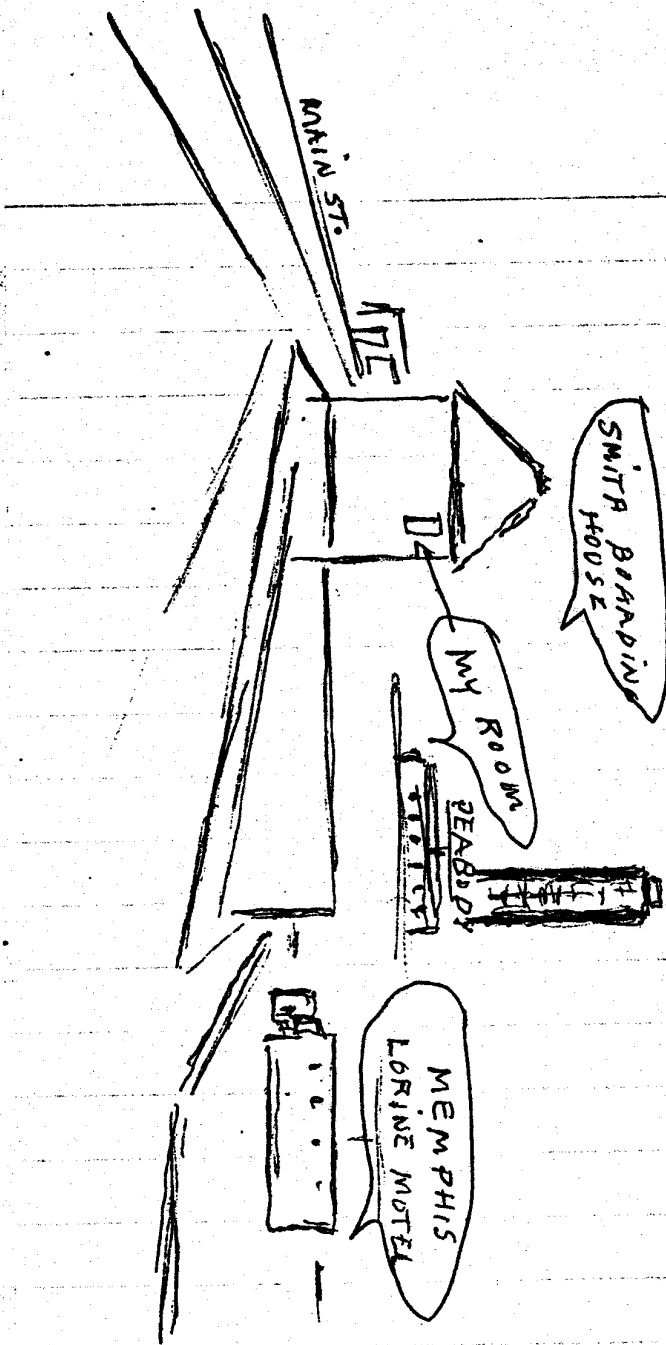
*Exposition Bureau
Shelby County Jail
Memphis, Tenn.*



157-2627-658

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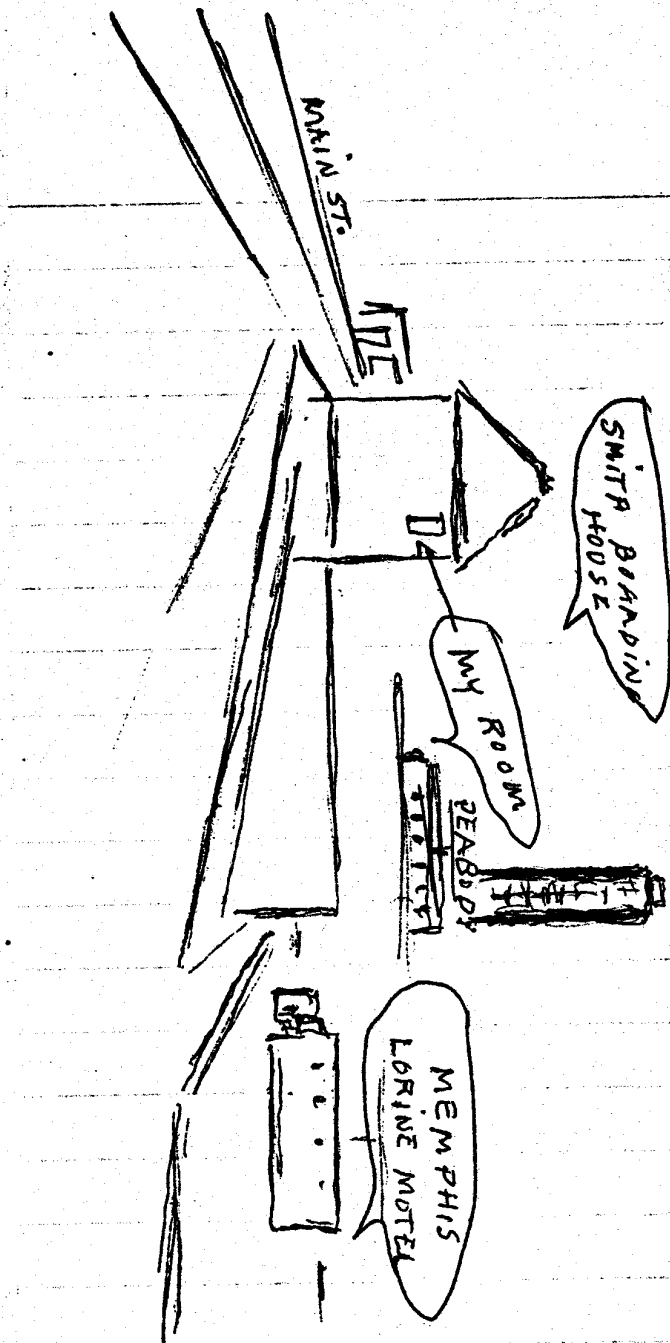
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157-2627-688

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MAY 24 1974	
FBI - MOBILE	

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157-2627-659

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1974	
FBI - MOBILE	

Robinson



5 7 74

Dear Sir

I was arrested by
memphis Deputy for auto
thief 1948

Also I wish to confession
the killing of martin Luther
King.

Sincerely,

Ken Bullew

157-2627-660

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1974	
FBI - MOBILE	



5 7 74

Dear Sir

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memphis Deputy for auto
theif 1948

Also I wish to confession
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Sincerely,

Alan Bullew

157-2627-660

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1974	
FBI - MOBILE	

Robinson

F B I

Date: **5/20/74**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** _____

(Priority)

TO: SAC, MOBILE**FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)****SUBJECT: MURKIN** *157-2627***OO: MEMPHIS**

Enclosed for Mobile are two copies each of a letter dated 5/4/74 from GLEN BALLEW; a diagram enclosed in the letter; and the envelope bearing BALLEW's return address.

You will note that in the enclosed letter BALLEW confesses to the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

LEAD:**MOBILE OFFICE****AT MT. VERNON, ALA.**

Identify GLEN BALLEW and determine his mental stability, it being noted his return address is a hospital, the name of which is illegible.

②-Mobile (Encs.6)
2-Memphis
JCH:bc
(4)

157-2627-661

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1974	
FBI MOBILE	

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574

5/20/74

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MOBILE

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for Mobile are two copies each of a letter dated 5/4/74 from GLEN BALLEW; a diagram enclosed in the letter; and the envelope bearing BALLEW's return address.

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Identify GLEN BALLEW and determine his mental stability, it being noted his return address is a hospital, the name of which is illegible.

②-Mobile (Encs. 4)
②-Memphis
JCH:bc
(4)

157-2627-661

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1974	
FBI - MOBILE	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Sees No 'Conspiracy' In King Death

MEMPHIS (AP) — The FBI agent who directed the investigation into the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said Sunday the facts of the case don't lend themselves to "grandiose theories" of a conspiracy. "It was a relatively simple thing," said Robert G. Jensen, now head of security for an international motel firm. "A man was killed. A man was caught. In many ways, it was like any other case, but the stature of King gave it a lot more publicity than the usual case."

Robert I. Livingston, attorney for James Earl Ray, said Friday that he has been in periodic contact since March with a representative of the "men who actually carried out the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

Describing a "conspiracy" behind the April 4 1968 shooting of King in Memphis, Livingston said the intermediary is seeking immunity from prosecution for the slaying conspirators, who want to testify "in revenge" against "four Southern gentlemen" who hired them, not Ray, to kill King.

According to Livingston, eight men were involved in King's death, with Ray as the "patsy." He said Ray was "...just a gullible-type sort of fellow, easily influenced and led around. He had never been a high-powered criminal all his life, just penny ante stuff..."

"If he (Livingston) has something, more power to him," said Jensen, adding that he had not read Livingston's claims because there was "no particular reason for me to read them."

PUBLIC

"The facts that were developed were made public," Jensen said. "Many people don't want to accept what the facts are because in many instances, they don't lend themselves to grandiose theories. But we had to go with what facts we had. Theories and suppositions don't hold up in court."

Jensen described the investigation as a "good case, well worked, well handled. I'm satisfied with the results."

It is "probably true," Jensen said, that King's slaying was one of the most thoroughly investigated murders in criminal history.

"There is little doubt that it was an extensive and in-depth investigation," he said. "It was worldwide, involving the cooperation of Canadian authorities, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Scotland yard and many, many others. We explored every angle and the only thing is that when the case developed, we could find no evidence of such a thing (a conspiracy)."

When the FBI had compiled the facts, he said, "a representative of the attorney general's office followed through and rechecked the material."

"The case was analyzed and it will continue to be analyzed," he said. "I don't think history buffs have ever put to rest the story of Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth."

"Fifteen years from now people will ask the same questions, but my personal opinion now lies with the public record. I have no personal theories whatsoever that differ with the record of the case."

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

P14 Dothan Eagle
Dothan, Ala.

Date: 5/28/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: MARTIN LUTHER KING

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MO

☐ Being Investigated

157-2627-662

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 5 1974	
FBI - MOBILE	

RAC 7/1/74

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

6/18/74

SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (RVC)

MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Memphis airtel to Mobile, 5/20/74.

On 6/14/74, LEWIS BYRD, Administrative Assistant, Searcy Hospital, Mount Vernon, Alabama, advised that GLEN BALLEW has been a mental patient at this hospital on at least seven occasions. He was last admitted 10/16/73 after he was acquitted on an appeal of a life sentence he received for first degree murder. The appeal was obtained as it was determined that BALLEW was insane. BYRD advised that BALLEW suffers from paranoid schizophrenia and a recent evaluation by doctors indicated he was in bad mental health and is a prolific letter-writer, writing letters to the President of the U. S., the local PD, FBI and DICK TRACY. In view of BALLEW's mental condition, he was not interviewed. It is not felt that it is logical that any further investigation should be conducted in this matter.

2 - Memphis
① - Mobile
RGR:mb
(3)

ms

157-2627-685
Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

RVC

Rabonson

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI official testifies on King letter

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON
Associated press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top FBI official testified Wednesday there was no legal justification for the 25 separate attempts by the bureau in the 1960s to discredit the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a civil rights leader.

James B. Adams, associate deputy FBI director, told the Senate Intelligence Committee there is "no statutory basis or justification" for the attempts which included sending King and his wife an anonymous letter which King took as a suggestion he commit suicide.

Adams said, however, he believes the FBI was justified in investigating King because of the possibility that Communist influences were being brought to bear on him and on the civil rights movement.

He said he can find no basis for King's conclusion that the FBI-prepared letter and the tape recording that accompanied it suggested King kill himself. But he acknowledged under questioning that interpretation is "a possibility."

"I certainly would say it was improper and I can't justify its being prepared or sent," Adams said.

The letter read in part: "King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. . . . You are done. There is but one way out for you."

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

7-F
MOBILE REGISTER
MOBILE, ALABAMA

Date: 11/20/75
Edition: THURSDAY MORNING
Author:
Editor:
Title: MARTIN Luther King

Character:

or

Classification: 157-2627

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-2627-664

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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NOV 25 1975	
FBI - MOBILE	
# 3	1A

In addition to the letter, the committee on Tuesday made public evidence that the FBI installed a total of 16 electronic bugs and eight wiretaps on King and promoted a candidate — still unidentified — to succeed him as a "national Negro leader."

Adams said the wiretaps were authorized by then-Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Later, committee staff members said the FBI had justified the bugs under what it considered to be its general investigative authority.

Staff members said Kennedy and his brother, then-President John F. Kennedy, told King at one point that continued FBI interest in his activities arose out of a fear or a suspicion that he was being influenced by someone the bureau felt was subversive.

Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, said that when the New York field office issued a memo saying that the person was not thought to have Communist leanings, it was told emphatically by FBI headquarters in Washington that it was wrong.

A directive from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's office said the bureau did not agree with the finding that the investigation should be dropped. While there was no evidence that the person was not a Communist, "neither is there any evidence that he is anti-Communist," the directive said.

Adams testified that the bureau's controversial Cointelpro activities, which were halted in 1971, began with an effort to "neutralize the Communist party in the United States."

He said the FBI never asked any attorney general or any one else for authority for the programs, which were later expanded to include so-called New Left, white hate, black revolutionary and other groups, including the women's liberation movement.

NR0002 WA CODE SENT 3:55AM 7/30/76 MJW

PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION THOROUGH AND HONEST? (2) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION? (3) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION? (4) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY

*copy in
100-1472*

157-2627-605

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 30 1976	
FBI-MOBILE	

Poston

PAGE TWO

CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT AG J. STANLEY POTTINGER. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO OUR FILES PERTAINING TO KING'S ASSASSINATION, OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO DATE THE TASK FORCE HAS REVIEWED FBIHQ AND WFO FILES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING CAPTIONED "MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-33861. TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, KANSAS CITY, OMAHA, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AND REVIEWED MURKIN AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FILES OF THOSE OFFICES. FUTURE TRAVEL BY THE TASK FORCE IS PLANNED FOR ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS.

AFTER ABOVE TRAVEL IS COMPLETED AND KING RELATED SECURITY FILES AT FBIHQ ARE REVIEWED, THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAJORITY OF SERIALS IN OUR FILES RELATING TO THE KING INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS THE GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW KING RELATED FILES IN EVERY FIELD OFFICE, IT WILL BE

PAGE THREE

NECESSARY TO FORWARD XEROX COPIES OF FILES FROM THE REMAINING OFFICES TO FBIHQ FOR REVIEW.

THEREFORE, ALL RECIPIENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES NAMED ABOVE, FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN YOUR KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED "MURKIN." IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ PRIOR TO AUGUST 9, 1976. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.

IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

END

AA

NR2071 WA CODE

9:27PM NITEL 7-30-76 CMB

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976.

REBUTEL TO ALL SACS JULY 28, 1976.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING CHANGE REGARDING REPRODUCTION OF FIELD OFFICE SERIALS IN THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR MURKIN FILE IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE BOTH DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS. ANY DOCUMENTS IN YOUR MURKIN FILE, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE SERIAL NUMBER IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL.

END

ACK FOR FOUR TELS

FBI MO WGL CLR

157-2627-666

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 30 1976	
FBI-MOBILE	

Copy in 100-1472

8/3/76

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
(Attention: Deputy Assistant Director INGRAM,
Intelligence Division)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (100-1472)

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

Re Bureau teletypes to all SACs, 7/29 and 30/76.

Submitted under separate cover by registered mail,
Attention: Deputy Assistant Director INGRAM, Intelligence
Division, is xeroxed copy of each serial in Mobile file captioned
"MURKIN." (MoFile 157-2627; BuFile 44-38861)

The file submitted consists of complete Mobile file
as follows:

- 1) 1-A file
- 2) Sub-file 1 captioned "MURKIN - STOLEN CARS"
- 3) Sub-file 2 captioned "MURKIN - COST DATA"
- 4) Volume I containing Serials 1 through 205

4 - Bureau
(1 - Package - Registered Mail
Attention: Deputy Assistant Director INGRAM,
Intelligence Division)
2 - 100-106670
1 - 44-38861

2 - Mobile
1 - 100-1472
1 - 157-2627

JTB:mb 262-7
(6)

Boston 157-2627-667

Searched	_____
Serialized	_____ <i>8</i> _____
Indexed	_____
Filed	_____ <i>mb</i> _____

MO 100-1472

- 5) Volume II containing Serials 206 through 275
- 6) Volume III containing Serials 276 through 350
- 7) Volume IV containing Serials 351 through 400
- 8) Volume V containing Serials 401 through 496
- 9) Volume VI containing Serials 497 through 597
- 10) Volume VII containing Serials 598 through 649
- 11) Volume VIII containing Serials 650 through 664

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING**Wife Of Retired Police
Confirms Husband's Offer**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The wife of a retired Louisville police officer confirmed today that her husband told Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., that he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mary Baird, 44, said her husband, Clifton, who is out of town and unavailable for comment, told Snyder of an offer he said was made by members of the Louisville Police Department and several FBI agents.

She said her husband, 50,

retired from the Louisville Police Department several years ago after 27 years service.

"He told me about this when I first married him, seven years ago," Mrs. Baird said.

She said she believes one reason he came forward a second time with the allegation was because "he wants to know why someone asked him" to kill the civil rights leader, who was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

"It sure has been on his mind," Mrs. Baird said. "He said it just got to bothering him and that's why he contacted Mr. Snyder."

She said her husband, before contacting Snyder, told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot. She said her husband was "discourage" after he told the attorney.

Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying of King.

Snyder, who disclosed last week that he had heard from a man who claimed knowledge of a plot to kill King, refused to divulge the

man's name.

Mrs. Baird said her husband told her "he was offered \$500,000 to kill" King and that "he didn't appreciate it."

"I can't say any more, but he's just not that type of person," she said.

Asked why her husband thought he was asked, Mrs. Baird responded: "That's the \$64 question, he wants to know why someone asked him."

She refused to divulge the name of the private security agency for which her husband works but said he was out of town on business unrelated to his allegation of the plot.

"I cannot reveal the name (of the security agency)," she said. "That would reveal everything."

The Kentucky Post first named Baird as the man who reported the alleged plot to Snyder.

Mrs. Baird said she had no idea how her husband was identified as the man who made the allegation but that she was glad it is out in the open now.

"I'm not upset," she said.

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

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
MAR 29 1977	
FBI-MOBILE	

"It had to come out sooner or later. Somebody leaked it out."

She said her husband "has definitely told me he was the one" who made the statements about the alleged plot.

Snyder said earlier this week he had met the man "face to face" and was convinced he was a "rational" man. In fact, Snyder said he changed his mind about voting to extend financing for the House Select Committee on Assassinations solely because of his conversation with the man.

3/30/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
SUBJECT: MURKIN *157-2627*
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

ReBHairtel, 3/21/77.

On 3/30/77, Major EMMETT DIXON, Alabama Highway Patrol (AHP), Montgomery, Alabama, advised that an AHP trooper had an informant who had been in contact with a MORRIS DAVIS, Birmingham, Alabama. DAVIS related information to the informant concerning a conspiracy to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING which involved FRANK LIBERTO and DR. GUS PROSCH. DAVIS indicated to the trooper's informant that the information had been related to the FBI, but apparently no action was taken.

Major DIXON was advised that the Birmingham Office had been in contact with MORRIS DAVIS on several occasions, had taken all information in the possession of DAVIS, and had furnished this information to FBIHQ and interested offices. DIXON was advised that Birmingham is positive that the FBIHQ had furnished DAVIS' information to interested congressional committees, as DAVIS had stated that a representative of the House of Representatives Committee had been in contact with him.

The above is set forth for information of FBIHQ and Mobile. As Birmingham has had numerous contacts with DAVIS, he will not be contacted at this time; however, Birmingham will continue to disseminate any pertinent information volunteered by DAVIS.

2 - Bureau
① - Mobile (Info)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
1 - New Orleans (Info)
1 - Birmingham
ALB:hss
(6)

157-2627-669

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
APR 1 1977	
FBI-MOBILE	

Mobile, Alabama

June 3, 1977

**JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM**

Set forth hereinafter is an interview form reflecting information furnished by James P. Dalton at Montgomery, Alabama, concerning captioned matter.

157-2627-61

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.

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- ① - Mobile (157-2627) (C)

DOS, ddm
(7) ddm

Joe Stephens

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 3, 1977

1

JAMES P. DALTON, Field Investigator, Alabama Department of Pensions and Securities, telephone number 832-5953, voluntarily appeared at the Montgomery Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and advised as follows:

He had been employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WAAY-TV, Huntsville, Alabama, from June, 1970 to November, 1971. At that time his name was **JAMES DALTON CULPEPPER**, but he had his name legally changed during 1973 to the one currently being used. He was also employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WKAB-TV, Montgomery, Alabama, from July, 1974 until July, 1975.

During his employment with WAAY-TV, Huntsville, he developed information which later led him to believe was the possible motive behind the assassination of Dr. **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.** at Memphis, Tennessee during 1968. He had no personal knowledge concerning this matter, and it was strictly conjecture on his part, but he wanted to furnish it to the appropriate authorities for consideration and possible investigation if deemed necessary.

During 1971, the sanitation workers of the city of Huntsville became involved in a strike to obtain an hourly wage increase. Approximately two days after the strike started, **JOE DAVIS**, Mayor of Huntsville, negotiated contract with American Disposal, Inc., a local company headed by **GEORGE MC WHIRTER**, to handle the garbage pickup and disposal on a temporary basis in Huntsville during the period of the strike. **MC WHIRTER** was reported to have been formerly connected with McWhirter Materials Handling, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, and this company had merged with another company located in Dallas or Houston, Texas, which was also in the garbage disposal business.

The strike at Huntsville lasted about three months with numerous acts of violence committed during the period by

Interviewed on 5/31/77 at MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA File # MO 157-2627

by SA DAN O. STEPHENS, dds Date dictated 6/1/77

2

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

individuals sympathetic with or opposed to the strike. Information was developed by DALTON indicating the strike was prolonged at the instigation of MC WHIRTER with the knowledge of Mayor DAVIS, in order to maintain the lucrative contract with the city, and that some of the acts of violence and vandalism were actually encouraged by MC WHIRTER as a means of prolonging the strike. Information was also developed indicating that Mayor DAVIS had possibly received a pay-off from MC WHIRTER and his associates for the contract. Due to MC WHIRTER's out-of-State connections, it was believed by DALTON that he possibly had some involvement with organized crime.

DALTON was unable to expose his findings because his employer feared some type of repercussion might result and is reporting all this information was suppressed.

He was unable to develop any positive information concerning MC WHIRTER's possible connection with any known organized crime figures.

Since a similar situation existed in Memphis, Tennessee during 1968, which resulted in the appearance of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. there on behalf of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to promote non-violence and effect a peaceful settlement of the strike, thus winning increased support of the black sanitation workers, the possibility existed that he was killed for or by individuals supporting some private concern that was handling the city garbage disposal at the time, or attempting to obtain a private contract for this service, and would therefore benefit from a prolonged violence ridden strike.

DALTON had no information of a specific nature concerning this matter. He did not know if any private garbage removal firm was handling the garbage pickup in Memphis during the strike, nor did he know of any concern which was attempting to negotiate with the city of Memphis for this business. He had developed no information indicating that MC WHIRTER or any of his associates were operating in Memphis during this period, and he could furnish no other information which would support his theory in this regard.

He displayed an article, however, which he claimed appeared in the "National Inquirer", dated May 31, 1977, which reported that WILLIAM SOMMERSETT, Miami, Florida Union organizer, had claimed that he had overheard a conversation between unidentified members of the Sanitation Workers Union and the Longshoremens Union in Washington, D. C. on April 1, 1968, wherein a statement was made by one of the individuals when discussing the labor situation in Memphis during that time, that if Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING returned to Memphis "we don't have any alternative but to kill him" because his activities in Memphis at the time were harming labor's cause. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT had reported this information to the Miami Police Department authorities and that it had been referred by that agency to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT claimed he had overheard this conversation while in Washington attending a meeting of the National Labor Relations Board on April 1, 1968.

DALTON could furnish no additional information concerning this matter, nor could he furnish anymore information supporting his belief that Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING was possibly killed for individuals having an interest in prolonging the labor strike of the sanitation workers at Memphis, Tennessee during that period. He stated he had maintained a file on the information developed by him through his investigation concerning MC WHIRTER's involvement with Mayor JOE DAVIS during the strike of the sanitation workers in Huntsville, Alabama during 1971, and would make it available for further review if needed.

F B I

Date: **6/3/77**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

ATTENTION:

- ☒ GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
☐ CRIMINAL SECTION
☐ INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

From: SAC, ~~MOBILE~~ (157-2627) (C)Subject: **MURKIN**

- ☒ CR ☐ EL ☐ DIH ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF ☐ E
☐ DAMV ☐ DAMV-FR ☐ CAA
☐ AP ☐ IWFC ☐ CWAA ☐ FI
☐ EID ☐ Bomb Threats ☐ Extremist Matters
☐ White Hate ☐ Black

Summary of Complaint:

JAMES P. DALTON, white male, 30 to 35 years old, voluntarily reported 5/31/77 that information developed by him as an investigatory reporter in Huntsville, Alabama during 1971, suggested **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.** may have been killed because of his involvement in the labor dispute of the sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee during 1968. He could furnish no specific information concerning this matter, and stated it was based on his personal conjecture.

INDICES: ☒ Negative ☐ See Summary

ACTION: UACB:

- ☒ No further action being taken and
☒ LHM enclosed ☐ Copy to ☐ USA
☐ FD-376 (Enc. to LHM) ☐ Secret Service
☐ LHM being submitted ☐ ATF
☐ Report being submitted
☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
☐ Limited investigation instituted
☐ Investigation continuing
- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
2 - Memphis
(44-1987)
(Enc. 2)
① - Mobile
DOS, ddm
(5) ddm
- Reas*
Stephens
157-2627-671
Searched _____
Serialized *MM*
Indexed _____
Filed _____

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription June 3, 1977

JAMES P. DALTON, Field Investigator, Alabama Department of Pensions and Securities, telephone number 832-5953, voluntarily appeared at the Montgomery Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and advised as follows:

He had been employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WAAY-TV, Huntsville, Alabama, from June, 1970 to November, 1971. At that time his name was JAMES DALTON CULPEPPER, but he had his name legally changed during 1975 to the one currently being used. He was also employed as an investigatory reporter by Station WKAB-TV, Montgomery, Alabama, from July, 1974 until July, 1975.

During his employment with WAAY-TV, Huntsville, he developed informaton which later led him to believe was the possible motive behind the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. at Memphis, Tennessee during 1968. He had no personal knowledge concerning this matter, and it was strictly conjecture on his part, but he wanted to furnish it to the appropriate authorities for consideration and possible investigation if deemed necessary.

During 1971, the sanitation workers of the city of Huntsville became involved in a strike to obtain an hourly wage increase. Approximately two days after the strike started, JOE DAVIS, Mayor of Huntsville, negotiated contract with American Disposal, Inc., a local company headed by GEORGE MC WHIRTER, to handle the garbage pickup and disposal on a temporary basis in Huntsville during the period of the strike. MC WHIRTER was reported to have been formerly connected with McWhirter Materials Handling, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, and this company had merged with another company located in Dallas or Houston, Texas, which was also in the garbage disposal business.

The strike at Huntsville lasted about three months with numerous acts of violence committed during the period by

Interviewed on 5/31/77 at MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA File # MO 157-2627-672
by SA DAN O. STEPHENS *dk* , ddm Date dictated 6/1/77

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individuals sympathetic with or opposed to the strike. Information was developed by DALTON indicating the strike was prolonged at the instigation of MC WHIRTER with the knowledge of Mayor DAVIS, in order to maintain the lucrative contract with the city, and that some of the acts of violence and vandalism were actually encouraged by MC WHIRTER as a means of prolonging the strike. Information was also developed indicating that Mayor DAVIS had possibly received a pay-off from MC WHIRTER and his associates for the contract. Due to MC WHIRTER's out-of-State connections, it was believed by DALTON that he possibly had some involvement with organized crime.

DALTON was unable to expose his findings because his employer feared some type of repercussion might result and is reporting all this information was suppressed.

He was unable to develop any positive information concerning MC WHIRTER's possible connection with any known organized crime figures.

Since a similar situation existed in Memphis, Tennessee during 1968, which resulted in the appearance of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. there on behalf of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to promote non-violence and effect a peaceful settlement of the strike, thus winning increased support of the black sanitation workers, the possibility existed that he was killed for or by individuals supporting some private concern that was handling the city garbage disposal at the time, or attempting to obtain a private contract for this service, and would therefore benefit from a prolonged violence ridden strike.

DALTON had no information of a specific nature concerning this matter. He did not know if any private garbage removal firm was handling the garbage pickup in Memphis during the strike, nor did he know of any concern which was attempting to negotiate with the city of Memphis for this business. He had developed no information indicating that MC WHIRTER or any of his associates were operating in Memphis during this period, and he could furnish no other information which would support his theory in this regard.

He displayed an article, however, which he claimed appeared in the "National Inquirer", dated May 31, 1977, which reported that WILLIAM SOMMERSETT, Miami, Florida Union organizer, had claimed that he had overheard a conversation between unidentified members of the Sanitation Workers Union and the Longshoremens Union in Washington, D. C. on April 1, 1968, wherein a statement was made by one of the individuals when discussing the labor situation in Memphis during that time, that if Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING returned to Memphis "we don't have any alternative but to kill him" because his activities in Memphis at the time were harming labor's cause. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT had reported this information to the Miami Police Department authorities and that it had been referred by that agency to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Article further stated that SOMMERSETT claimed he had overheard this conversation while in Washington attending a meeting of the National Labor Relations Board on April 1, 1968.

DALTON could furnish no additional information concerning this matter, nor could he furnish anymore information supporting his belief that Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING was possibly killed for individuals having an interest in prolonging the labor strike of the sanitation workers at Memphis, Tennessee during that period. He stated he had maintained a file on the information developed by him through his investigation concerning MC WHIRTER's involvement with Mayor JOE DAVIS during the strike of the sanitation workers in Huntsville, Alabama during 1971, and would make it available for further review if needed.

DIRECTOR, FBI

10/10/78

SAC, MOBILE

MURKIN

The following information is set forth for the information of the Bureau as Mobile does not know to what extent it is pertinent to the assassination hearings presently taking place in Congress:

JAMES CUNNINGHAM, Executive Vice President, Alabama Hotel and Motel Association, 660 Adams Street, Montgomery, Alabama, telephone 263-3407, advised SSRA ROBERT L. FRYE of the Montgomery Resident Agency that he had received a letter from JAMES EARL RAY, the convicted assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, requesting information relative to records maintained by hotels and motels in Alabama. RAY was specifically interested in the dates of March 30 and 31, but he did not specify what year he was concerned with or specifically what he desired from the records. RAY was interested in determining information from records of motels in the Decatur, Alabama, area.

CUNNINGHAM stated the nature of this inquiry concerned whether or not motels were required to maintain records of registrations by name for a certain number of years in order to substantiate tax status. He stated this inquiry also was made to the National Hotel and Motel Association.

CUNNINGHAM pointed out that this inquiry would have to be replied to in the negative as he knows of no records a motel has to maintain for tax purposes in respect to individual registrations.

No further action being taken on the above, and information furnished to the Bureau only to advise of inquiry by JAMES EARL RAY.

2 - Bureau
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(3) *pal*

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