FD-3	6 (Rev. 5-22-64)		Mr. Tolson. Mr. DeLoac Mr. Mohr. Mr. Bishep
NA	1/2/4	V	Mr. Casper Mr. Callaban
6/13	7/41	FBI	Mr. Conrad Mr. Felt
	M	Date: 6-11-69	Mr. Gale
Trans	V smit the follow	ving in	Mr. Sulliva
	AIRTEL	(Type in plaintext or code) AM	Mr. Trotter Tele. Room
Via _	LAINIA	(Priority)	Miss Holmes
	on 6-10 an earl RAY of conduct he migh and fur reporte because restate it does	DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)(P) Attached are two Xerox copies of newspaper ppeared in "The Commercial Appeal," a Memphis news -69. It is noted that the Reverend JAMES L. BEVEN ier claim that he possessed information which count the assassination. Authorization has previously been granted an interview of Reverend BEVEL for such information to be able to furnish. He has been previously commished no information of significance. He has also dly spent some time in a hospital in the New York of a "breakdown." In view of the above, and desiment of his earlier claim that he has possessed in not appear that an interview would necessarily be abled to Contract By Bureau WACB, no effort being made by Memphis to ind JAMES L. BEVEL.	spaper, L restated ld clear to ion as tacted so area pite nformation e productive.
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31JUN 231969

June 13, 1939

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

An article appeared in the "New York Times" on 3/18/69 quoting Bevel that a conspiracy to murder King existed a couple of days before King arrived in Memphis on 4/3/68 (King murdered 4/4/68) Bevel has not been available for interview, as it has been reported that he was confined to a hospital in New York as a mental patient.

We previously interviewed him is to similiar type statements, he refused to furnish any information of value.

The attached advises that Bevel is currently in Memphis and again is making statements of a conspiracy.

In view of Bevel's reported mental condition, and in view of fact that he previously did not furnish any pertinent information, we will not interview him as any interview could dignify his position and remarks.

REL: rl

O. THIM

20-55/6/_ 5773

FNCLOSURE

SCLC Leader Restates Claim He Could Clear King's Killer

The Rev. James L. Bevel, a director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who once offered to defend James Earl Ray, told The Commercial Appeal his "evidence" in the case "will never be heard."

The Rev. Mr. Bevel said the case of Ray, who pleaded guilty to killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is closed as far as he is concerned.

However, he restated his earlier claim that he possessed information which could clear

Ray of the assasination.

Memphis to conduct a five-day city services July 1 if its wage revival at Tree of Life Baptist demands are not met. Church at 407 East McLemore. He made his comments in an interview.

He also outlined the position of SCLC in regard to joining efforts to organize public employes, such as last year's sanitation workers' drive and the corganizational push of hospital workers in Charleston, S.C.

"We (SCLC) help these unions organize because we feel they fill a need of the poor people. The big, established unions can't be counted on to help. Besides, unions like the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes are faced with the need to organize the whole community, rather than just workers in a factory.

"This community organization process is where SCLC has been trying to help the new unions."

But he declined to discuss the tactics of Local 1733 of the

AFSOME in Memphis which The Rev. Mr. Bevel is in has threatened to strike all

On the "spread the misery" campaign which sends workers to shopping centers to clog trade, he said he was unfamil-iar with "the way it's being used here."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) PAGE COMMERCIAL APPEAL MEMPHIS, TEXM. JUNE 10. 1969 Edition: GORDON HANNA Author: Editor: Title: MURKIN Character: Classification: **JE MPHIS** Submitting Office: Being Investigated

44-38961-5775

	FBI		
	Dα	te: 6-16-69	
ansmit the following in	(Type in plai	intext or code)	
A IRTEL	AM	(0)	
		(Priority) 	· _T
TO: DIRECTOR,	FBI (44-38861)		
FROM: SAC, MEMPE	IS (44-1987) P		
(GMURKIN)			
are two Xerox copi before Judge ARTHU FAQUIN denied the RYAN both appeared advised Attorneys	R C. FAQUIN, JR. "Prayer for Appea before Judge FAQ STONER and RYAN t	at Memphis, 6-16 1." J. B. STONE UIN this date. J	-69. Judge R and RICHARD J. Judge FAQUIN
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TO: DIRECTOR, FEI (44-38661)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Submitted herewith for the completion of the Bureau's file are two Xerox copies of a "Prayer for Appeal" which was heard before Judge ARTHUR C. FAQUIN, JR. at Memphis, 6-16-69. Judge FAQUIN denied the "Prayer for Appeal." J. B. STONER and RICHARD J. RYAN both appeared before Judge FAQUIN this date. Judge FAQUIN advised Attorneys STONER and RYAN that they had 60 additional days in which to file a "Wayside Bill of Exceptions," in order to protect the record and give them other avenues of legal appeal.

This matter will be followed and the Bureau will be kept advised.

2 BUREAU (Enc. 2) (AM) 1 MEMPHIS RGJ:BN (3)

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54, UN 24 1969

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IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESS

STATE OF TENNESSEE VS JAMES EARL RAY,

Defendant

NO. 16645

J. A. PLACKWELL

J-D. C.

PRAYER FOR APPEAL

Comes now the defendant, James Earl Ray, by and through his attorney of record, Richard J. Ryan, having heretofore respectfully excepted to Your Honor's ruling upon his Motion for a New Trial, now moves this Honoral e Court for permission and leave to file his Appeal from this Court to the Court of Criminal Appeals for the Western District of Tennessee.

RICHARD J RYAN,
ATTORNEY FOR DEFEN

4, 38861-5116

ENCLOSURE

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE 1058 FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

June 11, 1969

Mr. Harland F. Lesthers, Chief General Litigation Section Civil Division Department of Justice Washington, D. C. 20530

> Re: State of Tennessee v. Ray, et al, Nos. 11645, 16819, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Tennessee. DJ 51-72-47

Dear Mr. Leathers:

Enclosed for your files is a copy of my letter of today to Mr. J. A. Blackwell, Criminal Court Clerk, in Memphis, together with copy of "Order Dismissing Petitions For Citation For Contempt" therein referred to.

Yours very truly,

THOMAS F. TURLEY, JR.
United States Attorney

TFTJr:es Enclosures

44-38 861-57/

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memoranuum

: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : William D. Ruckelshaus

Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: State of Tennessee v. Ray, et al., Nos. 11645

and 16819 (Criminal Court, Shelby County,

Tennessee)

Attached is a copy of a letter dated June 11, 1969, from the United States Attorney in Memphis, Tennessee, together with its enclosures relating to the dismissal of the petition for citation for contempt filed against your Fingerprint Examiner, George J. Bonebrake.

We are closing our file.

DATE: JUN 1 7 1969

WDR:WPArnold:sf 51-72-47

> Mr. Tolson Mr. DeLoach

Casper_ Mr. Callahan

Mr. Conrad. Mr. Felt.

fir. Gale. Mr. Rosen

Mr. Sullivan Mr. Tavel

Mr. Trott

Tele. Room. Miss Holmes.

Miss Gandy.

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United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE 1058 FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

June 11, 1969

Mr. J. A. Blackwell Criminal Court Clerk Shelby County Office Building 157 Poplar Avenue Memphis, Tennessee

Re: State of Tennessee v. James Earl Ray, et al, Nos. 11645, 16819, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Thank you for the photocopy of the "Order Dismissing Petitions For Citation For Contempt" in this case.

I am confident that Mr. George Bonebrake is glad to have this behind him, as I am and am sure that you, Judge Faquin, the amici curiae, et al, are also.

I appreciate your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

THOMAS F. TURLEY, JR. United States Attorney

TFTJr:es

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5777

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

DIVISION THREE

STATE OF TENNESSEE

vs.

NOS. 16645 and 16819

JAMES EARL RAY, Alias ERIC STARVO GALT, Alias JOHN WILLARD, Alias HARVEY LOHMEYER

ORDER DISMISSING PETITIONS FOR CITATION FOR CONTEMPT

In this cause it appearing to the court that Charles Edmundson, Roy Hamilton, Arthur J. Hanes, Sr., and Renfro T. Hays, were heretofore by this court, the Honorable W. Preston Battle then sitting as Judge, adjudged to be in contempt of court for violating the court's orders regarding pretrial. publicity concerning this case; and it appearing that since the date of said adjudication the accused, James Earl Ray, has entered a plea of guilty and has been sentenced and is now serving such sentence in the State Penitentiary at Nashville; and it further appearing that the Honorable W. Preston Battle is now deceased, and the duties of the said Judge Battle, so far as this case is concerned, have devolved upon Judge Arthur C. Faquin, Jr., sitting by interchange; and it further appearing that the amici curiae heretofore appointed by Judge Battle for the purpose of assisting the court in presenting the petitions for citation for contempt in this case have been reappointed by the present court, Judge Arthur C. Faquin, Jr., sitting by interchange, and they have now filed in the cause a report reflecting their opinion that this court is without legal authority to pronounce sentence on said adjudication of contempt, it being their opinion that the said four respondents . would have to be granted a new trial, and a new hearing held, and a new adjudication of contempt entered by the present court before sentence could be passed upon them; and it further

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Ad-38601-2111

appearing that the amici curiae are doubtful whether, under the changed circumstances, the tension-charged atmosphere of the first hearing could be recaptured if a new hearing should now be held, and in view of this fact and the further fact that the objectives sought to be accomplished by the petitions have now been rendered nugatory by the conviction of James Earl Ray on his plea of guilty, the amici curiae have recommended that all petitions for citation for contempt heretofore filed in this cause now be dismissed; and it further appearing that similar petitions for citation for contempt were filed against George Bonebrake and James T. Bevel but no process was served upon them, they being non-residents and not found within the court's jurisdiction, and two similar petitions for contempt were filed against William B. Huie and process served upon him but no hearing was had or adjudication made by Judge Battle prior to his death; and this court, having duly considered the recommendation of the amici curiae, and having independently researched the legal questions presented, is of opinion that all of said petitions should be dismissed.

Accordingly, it is ordered, adjudged and decreed that Charles Edmundson, Roy Hamilton, Arthur J. Hanes, Sr., and Renfro T. Hays be and they are hereby, of the court's own motion, granted a new trial; that the judgment of contempt heretofore entered against them by this court, Honorable W. Preston Battle then sitting, be and it is hereby set aside, vacated and for naught held; and that the petitions for citation for contempt filed against said four respondents, as well as the petitions for citation for contempt filed against George Bonebrake, James T. Bevel and William B. Huie, be and they are hereby dismissed without costs to any of the respondents.

OK Considered & Clays for Elmindson, Hamilton & Hair OK. Royer Course Compatible Life John Course Compatible Life John John Course Compatible JUDGE, Division II)
Sitting by interchange

FD-36 (F	Mr. Tolson
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.	FBI Mr. Comm.
T/h	Date: 6/12/69 Mr. Co. Mr. Rose
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	(Type in plaintext or code) Mr. Time Tree, Room
Via	A IRTEL Miss Homes Miss Gandy Miss Gandy Miss Candy Mis
	TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ľ	FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
	SUBJECT: CMURKIN
	This is to advise the Bureau that the model of the area and buildings where MARTIN LUTHER KING was slain, which model was built by the Exhibits Section, was turned over to American Air Lines 6/12/69 to be shipped under Air Bill No. 001MEM7809723. The shipment consisted of three crates weighing a total of 1,118 pounds. The shipment will depart Memphis via American Air Lines at 4:55 P.M., 6/13/69, and will arrive Philadelphia, Pa., 10:10 P.M., 6/13/69. American Air Lines was unable to state whether or not deliveries are made from Philadelphia on Saturday. If deliveries are made on Saturday, the shipment will be delivered on Saturday, 6/14/69, to the FBI at 5th and H Street NW, Washington, D. C. If deliveries are not made on Saturday, it will be delivered the following Monday, 12/16/69. The Bureau should bear in mind that this exhibit may ultimately be needed for trial purposes as it is entirely possible that the subject JAMES EARL RAY will eventually be granted a new trial. RAY's appeal for a new trial made in the Court in which he was sentenced has been denied. While he has not yet filed an appeal with a higher Court, it is definitely anticipated that he will do so, and in all probability this case will eventually be heard in the U. S.
	Court of Appeals if not in the U. S. Supreme Court. Htgis therefore suggested that the Bureau not dispose of this
	exhibit until such time as the subject has exhausted all 18t
Airte	his appeals.
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TO: DIRECTION, FET (40-3888))

PROM: SAT, NOMERTS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MUNICILN

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EXHIBILS SECTION

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Agent in Charge

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		(Priority)	
Form 5.94 C. J. I. C. L. JUN 25 1959	FROM: SAC SUBJECT: following	MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P) MURKIN Enclosed for the Bureau are 2 copies each of three documents: 1. Prayer for Appeal filed by the subject's attorney, RICHARD J. RYAN, in the Shelby County, Tenn., Criminal Court, asking the Court's permission to file an appeal in the Court of Criminal Appeals for the Western District of Tennessee. 2. Petition of JAMES EARL RAY for Writ of Certiorari (first application). 3. Memorandum Finding of Facts and Conclusic of Law, prepared by Judge ARTHUR C. FACQUE 6/6/69, explaining his denial of the subgray's motion for a new trial.	ons UIN, JR.,
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Special Agent in Charge

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FBI

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	SUBJECT: MURK	IN			
	CR 00:	Memphis			
	Division to lo Idaho, area fo from him to re Hospital, Tope It w the ROBERTS HO was contacted desired to hav at Topeka Stat like to think contacted the 6/19/69, he wa mation he had basis and indi	as recently learned as recently learned and it was pointed to the matter over this matter over following day. As concerned as to furnished had been cated he was still	carver in getting we records ed McCARV ho. On 6 dout to sent to c tated at and state t the time whether in handled 1 of the	the Idaho Falls ritten permission at Topeka State ER is residing a /19/69, McCARVER him the Bureau heck his record the time he would de could be e of contact on or not the infor on a confident opinion if his	on It Id
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BT #173-2

McCARVER for his written permission to check his record at the Topeka State Hospital; however, McCARVER did not show for this contact.

The Butte Division will continue to endeavor to get written consent from McCARVER to check the Topeka State Hospital records, Topeka, Kansas. If obtained, this written consent will be immediately sent to the Kansas City Division.

SAC. Butte (173-2)

7-2-69

1 - Mr. McDonough

Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReBTairtels 5-2-69 and 6-24-69.

Sulhw setting forth pertinent information in both airtels appropriately covering identity of McCarber and make no further efforts to obtain his permission to review his hospital records other than insuring that he is on notice that your office will await his decision if he desires to contact your office at a later date.

Butte close your case.

1 - Memphis (Info) (44-1987)

MAILED 8 JUL - 2\1969 COMM-FBI

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Casper. Callahan _ Contad _ Gale.

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19 JUL 2 1969

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Rosen . Sullivan .

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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TO:

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

FROM: Director, FBI

44-78861)

PERSONAL ATTENTION:

MURKIN

It is noted that on 3-10-69, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to charges of murder in state court, Memphis, Tennessee, and received a sentence of 99 years. Attorneys for Ray then filed a motion for a new trial and on 5-26-69, the state court judge denied this motion.

Recent news accounts state that Chief Judge Mark A. Walker of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, Covington, Tennessee, granted a petition submitted to him on 6-25-69, by Ray's attorneys to have the court review the trial record of Ray's conviction and the appeals Court will rule on 7-15-69, in Knoxville, whether it should consider an appeal by Ray for a new trial.

MAILED 9 JUL 9 1969 COMM-FB1

You are requested to immediately ascertain through your appropriate state sources the current status of state prosecutive action on this matter. This should include information as to what the nature of proceedings will be if appeal granted or if denied what further legal recourse Ray will have and any other details of pertinence. You should ascertain from the prosecuting attorney what his evaluation or observations are relative to current or subsequent legal actions on the part of Ray and for his attorneys.

Handle and submit reply promptly.

EJM:pjlpt0
(4)

REC-40-

NOTE: This is for the purpose of determining the status of

current and subsequent legal proceedings in this matter

18 JUL 9 1969

Trotter _____
Tele. Room _

Casper

Callahan Conrad Felt Gale -

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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GNA FPMR (AI CFR) 101-11.6
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

то

Director, FBI

DATE: 7-10-69

FROM :

SAC, Memphis (44-1987) P

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re WFO letter to Director 3-25-69, reporting a conversation between Mrs. MARJORIE ULEN, an employee of UPO, Washington, D. C., and LEONARD E. DOYLE, R (PROB), who, in addition to being an informant, is also a paid staff member of the Washington SCLC Office. Mrs. ULEN felt there was some connection between one J. R. WILLARD of Memphis, Tennessee, who was a frequent correspondent of former U. S. Representative GEORGE GRIDER, 9th Congressional District of Tennessee, and the fact that the subject RAY used the name WILLARD when he registered in a rooming house at Memphis, Tennessee, on the day he murdered KING.

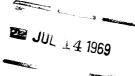
Investigation has not disclosed any reason for the subject's using the name WILLARD, nor is he known to have used it except in this one instance.

There is no reason to believe that Mrs. ULEN's information is of any consequence or that it deserves any further action. Accordingly, it is suggested that WFO take no further action concerning this information.

2 Bureau 1 WFO 1 Memphis

JCH:BN (4)

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. Deloac

A. Rosen

SUBJECT: 4 MURKIN DATE: July 14, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. McDonough

1 - Mr. Bishop

Tele, Room Holmes .

Gandy .

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Memphis Office was requested to furnish the current status of legal proceedings and the views of Tennessee state authorities as to the avenues of appeal that James Earl Ray may still pursue.

It is noted that on 3-10-69, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to a charge of murder in state court, Memphis. Tennessee and received a sentence of 99 years. Attorneys for Ray then filed a motion for a new trial and on 5-26-69, the state court judge denied this motion.

Recent news accounts have stated that Chief Judge Mark A. Walker of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, Covington, Tennessee, granted a petition submitted to him on 6-25-69, by Ray's attorneys to have the court review the trial record of Ray's conviction and the Appeals Court will ru on 7-15-69, in Knoxville, whether it should consider an appeal by Ray for a new trial.

On 7-10-69, Executive Assistant District Attorney General Lloyd A. Rhodes, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that the matter presently pending before the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals is a Writ of Certiorari. If the ruling on this Writ is favorable to the subject, Ray, it means that the Court of Criminal Appeals will look into this case, following which they may or may not grant him a trial. If they do not rule favorably to Ray, it is expected that Ray will file a Writ of Habeas Corpus seeking consideration under the Post-Conviction Act. It would then be possible under this Act for Ray to receive a trial in the Shelby County Criminal Court.

EJM: jmv / (7)
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BEC-D BISHOL TO HUST S SI THI Memo Rosen to DeLoach

RE: MURKIN

If Ray is denied relief under the Post-Conviction Act, it is anticipated that he will then file a Writ of Habeas Corpus in the U. S. District Court, presumably for the Western District of Tennessee, in which he would possibly allege he had been denied due process. It is within the power of the U. S. District Court to order that Ray be granted a trial in Shelby County Criminal Court. If the U. S. District Court does not so order, Ray would then have the right of appeal to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and thereafter to the U. S. Supreme Court. Mr. Rhodes stated he does not see an end to the possible appeals of James Earl Ray within the next several years.

ACTION:

For information. This will continue to be closely followed and you will be kept advised of pertinent developments.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FBI

JUL 1 5 1969
TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI KNOXVLE

4:46PM 7-15-69 URGENT BPW
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM KNOXVILLE (44-696)

MURKIN

A PETITION FOR CERTIORARI IN CASE OF STATE OF TENN.

VS. JAMES EARL RAY FILED IN COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS AT

KNOXVILLE, TENN., JULY NINE LAST. PETITION HEARD BEFORE

COURT AT KNOXVILLE TODAY AND PETITION FOR CERTIORARI DENIED

AS NOT WELL TAKEN. COPIES OF PETITIONS AND ORDER BEING

FORWARDED.

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 3/10/69 James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to charge of murder in state court, Memphis, Tenn., and received sentence of 99 years. Attorneys for Ray then filed motion for new trial which was denied.

Ray's attorneys then filed petition for Writ of Certierari to have Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals review trial record of Ray's conviction. Attached teletype sets forth that this petition was denied.

State prosecuting attorney has previously advised that Ray can still continue his appeals by filing petitions for Writs of Habeas Corpus in state courts and later in Federal Courts.

We will continue to follow any subsequent court action.

Department being advised of information in attached teletype.

EJM:fjh Jyn-

1 - Mr. McDonough

AIRTEL

To:

SAC, Memphis

From:

Director, FBI

MURKIN

Reurlet 6-19-69, sending check to Bureau covering the three twenty dollar bills retained as evidence which bills were to be deposited in Memphis Confidential fund since according to your letter they are no longer of evidentiary value.

You should furnish specific basis for such determination and take no action regarding these bills unless specifically instructed to do so by the Bureau.

MAILED 20 JUL 17 1969 COMM-FBI

EJM: jmv

Tolson DeLoach _ Mohr -Bishop Casper. Callahan Conrad -Felt _ Sullivan Tavel

TELETYPE UNIT

F B I

	Date: 7/10/69	1
Transmit the following in		
	(Type in plaintext or code)	
Vig AIRTEL	Draf Hill	
	(Priority)	

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-#8861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau Airtel to Memphis, 7/9/69.

On 7/10/69, Executive Assistant District Attorney General LLOYD A. RHODES, Memphis, Tenn., advised that the matter presently pending before the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals is a Writ of Certiorari. If the ruling on this Writ is favorable to the subject, RAY, it means simply that the Court of Criminal Appeals will look into this case, following which they may or may not grant him a trial. If they do not rule favorably to RAY, it is expected that RAY will file a Writ of Habeas Corpus seeking consideration under the Post-Conviction Act. It would then be possible under this Act for RAY to receive a trial in the Shelby County Criminal Court.

If RAY is denied relief under the Post-Conviction Act, it is anticipated that he will then file a Writ of Habeas Corpus in the U. S. District Court, presumably for the Western District of Tennessee, in which he would undoubtedly allege he had been denied due process. It is within the power of the U. S. District Court to order that RAY be granted a trial in Shelby County Criminal Court. If the District Court does not so order, RAY would then have the right of appeal to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and thereafter to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Arra Mr. RHODES stated he does not appeals of JAMES EARL RAY within the ne	ot see an end to the possible ext several years.
A. M. S. D. Bureau A. M. S. D. Memphis Spec. Del.CH.: ME Rec. Mall	20 JUL 12 1969
53 JUL 28 1969 Approved: Special Agent in Charge	er

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-78861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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JA. RHODES stated he does not see an end to the possible appeals of JAMES EARL MAY within the heatts several rears.

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AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

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

MURK IN CR

Submitted herewith for the information of the Bureau and completion of its file are 2 copies of a petition filed on behalf of JAMES EARL RAY in the District Court of the United States, Western District of Tennessee. This petition was filed in District Court on Friday, July 18, 1969. The petition is a civil action and charges that PERCY FOREMAN, ARTHUR J. HANES, and WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE conspired to make money on this case.

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2 - Bureau (Enc-2) 2 - Memphis

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5010-106

UNITED STATES ('ERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General DATE: July 23, 1969 CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI

of Tennessee.

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to memorandum dated
(your file).
There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agentdated
at
A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.
B The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.
C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.
D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.
E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.
F This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.
G. The is Think ted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.
H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.
Enc. Enclosed is a petition filed on behalf of James Earl Ray in the District Court of the United States, Western District

FEDER. L BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD		
MOBILE	MEMPHIS	7/16/69	7/1-7/14/69		
JAMES EARL	RAY, aka;	SA DONALD A. FLYNN /tdr			
	LUTHER KING, JR	CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY			
. <u> </u>		UFAC - RO			
			7-25-6	Î	

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."

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

IITED STATES DEPARTMENT Or JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

1 - USA, Montgomery

Report of:

Field Office File #:

SA DONALD A. FLYNN

Office:

Mobile

Date:

July 16, 1969

MO 157-2627

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY;

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY:

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: On 7/14/69, RAYWOND DOLACCO 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 week ends. 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.

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.

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 amonymous letter relating to the same substance.

POLACCO was them advised of his rights by Special Agent DONALD A. FLYMM. 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 LWTMER 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 JANES EARL RAY.

POLACCO then denied the anonymous allegation furnished by Mr. JIM RAMKIN of the Atlanta Constitution on March 7, 1969, postmarked Amerillo, 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 JOHNMIR ERREST CONTYIN, 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	ot Phenix	City, Alabama	File# M0 157	-2627
SA DONALD	A. FLYNN	/tdr	Date dictated	7/14/69

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.

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

Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Social Security No.
Former Military
Service No.
Driver's license No.
Address (on license)

Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Current Employment

RAYMOND POLAGEO, also known as Raymond Folacco, Jr., and Raymon Andino Folacio (as shown on current 1969 Georgia driver's license)

-A11/-

New York City, New York

-RA56333971
-0-487288
5038 Seneca Drive,
Columbus, Georgia
5'9"
168 pounds
Black
Brown
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 Year Color Model License Tag No. Characteristics Chevrolet 1964 White Impala, 2-door 1969 Georgia, 4-18178 Left front fender damaged SAC, New Orleans

7-18-69

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. McDonough





You should refer to a copy of a letter of acknowledgement to Mr. Robert E. Lee, Batesville, Mississippi, dated 7-14-69, enclosing a copy of "The Councilor."

The copy of "The Councilor" was dated 6-14-69, Volume 6, Number 14 and is printed in Shreveport, Louisiana. It makes reference to the fact that in the next issue of "The Councilor" it will repeat a prior story written indicating one of Martin Luther King's lieutenants was involved in the assassination.

You should obtain copies of that issue of "The Councilor" and furnish copies to the Bureau and Memphis. If warranted on the basis of the information therein; the Memphis Office should furnish appropriate evaluations and comments.

MAILED 4
JUL 181969
COMM-FBI

Tolson ______

DeLoach ______

Bishop ______

Casper _____

Callahan _____

Conrad ______
Felt _____
Gale _____
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Sullivan __
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51JUL 31969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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REC. 544 - 88861-579

EX-103

3 JUL **24** 1969

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ರ ಕರ್ಮ ಈ ಗಳಿಯ ನಾಟಕಿ ಅವರ ಬೆಂದು ಬೆಂದು ಮಾಡುವುದೇ ಬೆಂದು ಅವರ ಬಳು - ಭಾರತ ಬರುಕುಂಡುಗಳು ಭಾರತ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಬರುಕೆ ಇಕಾರಿಗಳು ಭಾರತ ಅವರ ಗುರುಕಾಡಿ ಭಾರತಿ, ಪ್ರವಾರಕ - ಇವೆಗಳು ಅವರ ಕೃತ್ಯವಾಗಿಗಳು ಕರ್ಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಭಾರತ ಕರ್ಮಿಯ ಮಾಡುವುದೇ ಭಾರತ ತಿಂದು ಬಿಂದು ಮಾಡು - ಚಿತ್ರ ಸಭಿವಾಧಕರು

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STANT STIBLES

July 14, 1969

Mr. Robert E. Lee Post Office Box 327 Batesville, Mississippi 38606

Dear Mr. Lee:

murkin

I would like to thank you for sending the

newspaper clipping to me which I received on July 10th.

Your thoughtfulness is certainly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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MAILED 9. JUL 14 1969 1 - New Orleans - Enclosure

NOTE: Mr. Lee is not identifiable in Bufiles. "The Councilor" is the official journal of the Citizens Council of Louisiana, Inc. It is a hate-type weekly newspaper edited by Ned O. Touchstone who is a former member of the Ku Klux Klan. He is well known to the Bureau as an avid segregationist and has been critical of the FBI. We have not investigated this publication.

Tolson DeLoach Mohr Bishop

Casper —
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

FEVERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

7/10/69

The attached was sent to the Director by Robert E. Lee, Post Office Box 327, Batesville, Mississippi.

Section (All Control of Control o

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MR. DEL ACK
MR. MOHR
MR. BIS
MR. CABPER
MR. CALLAHAN
MR. CONRAD
MR. FELT
MR. GALE
MR. ROSER
MR. SULLIUM
MR. TAVEL
MR. TROTTER
MR. JONES
TELE. ROOM
MISS HOLMES
MRS. METCALF
MISS GANDY

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