

*Monthe, Let*  
*for ... nph*  
*# 1172*

U. S. Department of Justice

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

**DO NOT DESTROY****FEDERAL BUREAU**

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
 FOR HISTORICAL  
 DECLASSIFICATION

DO NOT DESTROY -  
 PENDING LITIGATION

*of*

*DO NOT STRIP*  
**INVESTIGATION**

Bureau File Number

*44-38861*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE *8/24/02* BY *SP18K/DC*

DO NOT DESTROY  
 PRESERVE FOR SELECT  
 COMMITTEE ON ASSINATION

See also Nos. *1A - Exhibits*

*Sub A - Orig 302s*  
*Sub B - Newspaper Clippings*  
*Sub C - Informant Memos*

*Home 4/5/68*

44-760

Vol. 12

1140 thru

1249



SAC, ATLANTA (26-43489)

6/28/68

SAC, ST. LOUIS (26-32047) (P)

MURKIN ✓ 44-760  
(OO: Memphis)

UNSUB;  
1968 DODGE  
VIN LH41D8B323249 neg  
1968 GEORGIA LICENSE 1D48263 neg  
ITSMV  
(OO: St. Louis)

Re Jacksonville airtel to Memphis, 6/8/68; and  
Kansas City airtel to Bureau, 5/23/68.

In reviewing this file, it is noted that at the  
time captioned vehicle was recovered at the St. Louis Municipal  
Airport on 5/16/68, Trooper ROBERT SCHURE, Missouri State  
Highway Patrol, advised that this vehicle had been rented  
at Atlanta, Ga., 4/2/68, from National Car Rental utilizing  
stolen credit cards in the name of SAMUEL SCHNEIDERMAN, Q  
6535 Noad Rd., Richmond, Ill., and that these credit cards  
were alleging stolen from SCHNEIDERMAN in an armed robbery  
in Kansas City, Mo.

Investigation to date has determined that no record  
could be located with the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department  
regarding a robbery of SAMUEL SCHNEIDERMAN, and investigation  
at Richmond, Ill., has indicated there is no such address  
as 6535 Noad Rd., and no record of a SAMUEL SCHNEIDERMAN.

Based on this information on 6/18/68, Trooper SCHURE  
was recontacted to determine where he had obtained the infor-  
mation regarding SCHNEIDERMAN having been robbed at Kansas  
City, Mo. Trooper SCHURE stated that he was not positive  
since he had obtained this information from the radio dispatcher  
of Troop C Headquarters, Missouri State Highway Patrol, at  
Kirkwood, Mo., although Trooper SCHURE was of the opinion

2 - Atlanta  
1 - Chicago (Info)  
1 - Indianapolis (44-563) (Info)  
1 - Kansas City (Info)  
1 - Memphis (Info)  
2 - Jacksonville  
2 - St. Louis (1 - 26-32047)  
HED/ral (1 - 44-775)  
(10)

44-760-1140 O

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 3 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Harwe RBA



SL 26-32047

that this information had originally been obtained from the Georgia State Police out of Atlanta.

In view of the above, Atlanta might consider contacting the Georgia State Police to determine if they have information regarding the manner in which credit cards were obtained by UNSUB so that investigation regarding MURKIN in this matter might be resolved.



June 10 1968

44-760-1141 FBI DC

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1968	
FBI - WASH DC	

Dear Mr Kennedy

I am writing you something  
I have never told before in fear  
of having my name in the paper's  
or on T.V. As I am now married and  
have 2 children, I also have  
heart condition, I can't spell too good  
But hope you can make this out. I am  
not a nut and I am not after  
anything, And just so you won't think  
I'm lying, I will not give you  
my name. But if my story checks  
out I would be glad to talk to you  
As I am a Sp. Con. And I know you  
get all kinds of letters, I am a  
little happier about it all now. But  
It may surprise you to know I  
tried to make a deal in 1960 while  
I was still on rec. cell in the Mo  
State Pen at Jeff City Mo. with a  
F.B.I man, And I told him I had  
been contacted in K-City about  
a Assassin plot. But that I had  
torn the deal down. This F.B.I man  
was either out of Jeff City or St-Louis,  
I think his name was Gray



As he was writing everything I  
said down on a big pad, I think  
It was Sept of 1960, It should be  
on the visitor's records at the Pen  
What F-B-I man seen, who, Otherwise  
It would be my word again his.  
That is why I want It checked out  
before I talk to anyone. For if he didn't  
tell them at his office, everyone would  
say I was lying, And if It was  
ever known I was going to talk or had  
already talked to you or the F-B-I my  
life or my family wouldn't be worth  
2¢. As I have gone straight since  
I've been out, And I'm happy with my  
home life. But maybe you will check  
my story out, and I will contact you  
again as soon as I think you may  
want to talk to me.

I Remain

P.S. I know the F-B-I can find me,  
But at least I'll know they checked  
and found I wasn't lying. And I have  
nothing to hide.



June 10 1968

44-760-1147 James Bouc

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

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and found I wasn't lying. And I have  
nothing to hide,



F B I

Date: **July 2, 1968**Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

✓ TO: SAC, Kansas City

✓ FROM: Director, FBI

**MURKIN**

Enclosed are two copies of an anonymous letter forwarded to the Bureau by the office of Senator Edward Kennedy.

Since James Earl Ray was incarcerated in Missouri State Penitentiary in 1960, you should make appropriate efforts to identify the FBI Agent "Gray" and/or the prisoner and endeavor to resolve this matter and advise the Bureau of details with appropriate recommendations if warranted.

Handle promptly.

Enclosures (2)

1 - SAC, Memphis (for info) (Enclosure - copy of incoming)

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_

44-760-1142

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 3 - 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

handle promptly  
MKJ Per [signature]

July 2, 1968

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**FROM: Director, FBI**

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44-760-1142

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 3 - 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

ms



June 30, 19

County Recorder  
Court House  
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

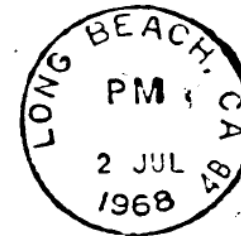
I want to let you know about the <sup>(three)</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>new</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>live</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>house</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>506</sup> <sup>Krell</sup> <sup>Ave.</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>Little</sup> <sup>Rock,</sup> <sup>Mo.</sup> <sup>They</sup> <sup>moved</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>621</sup> <sup>Appleton</sup> <sup>Drive</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>Joplin,</sup> <sup>Mo.</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>expect</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>stay</sup> <sup>there</sup> <sup>awhile</sup>

They moved from Little Rock, because they have been changing their address about every two months, because they don't <sup>want</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>stay</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>one</sup> <sup>place</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>long.</sup>

Yours sincerely,  
One who wants to  
help convict Ray.

44-1143

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	



U. S. ARMY RE  
60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVE  
1908--19

County Recorder  
Court House  
Memphis, Tenn.

44-760-1144

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*[Signature]*



F B I

Date: 7/8/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

OO MEMPHIS

Enclosed herewith for Kansas City and Little Rock is one copy each of an anonymous letter directed to the County Recorder, Court House, Memphis, Tenn., postmarked Long Beach, California, 7/2/68.

According to the Memphis Division records, there are no missing key witnesses to be called by the State of Tennessee in the future murder trial of subject RAY.

LEADS

KANSAS CITY

AT JOPLIN, MISSOURI

Will identify occupants of 621 Appleton Drive and ascertain if they possibly have any connection with captioned case.

LITTLE ROCK

Airtel ② - Kansas City (Enc. 1)  
2 - Little Rock (Enc. 1)  
2 - Memphis  
Teletype RFB/ngm  
(6)

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_

A.M.S.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Spec. Del. \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: Ryerson  
Registered \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

44-760-1145

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Per \_\_\_\_\_

7/12/68 - B.K. Jones - Dispatcher  
no such address Joplin Mo

7/12/68 - Clifford Rae, ASST sup t  
Mail - No such address  
in Joplin

ME 44-1987

AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Will identify occupants of 506 Knell Avenue and ascertain if these individuals possibly have any connection with captioned matter.

It is noted that the words that are underlined in red appearing in enclosed letter were placed there by the Memphis Division and are the last words appearing in the lines in the original letter.



7/8/68

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**LITTLE ROCK**

- ② - Kansas City (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Little Rock (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Memphis
- RFB/ngm  
(6)

44-760-114

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

ME 44-1987

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JUN 13 1968

Mr. Clifford Edmundson  
Via Hospital  
Tapeka, Mo. 66622

June 8, 1968

Senator Stuart Symington  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

When I was a prisoner at  
the U.S. Medical Center,  
Springfield, Missouri, in 1966  
another prisoner, a white  
guy name Kenneth (Kenny)  
Long, told me that a guard  
at the prison told him that  
he was a member of a  
group who would pay to  
have Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
killed. Mr. Long is now at  
Leavenworth and would

44-760-1246

SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

not reveal the guard's  
name. I myself have no  
reason to doubt this as  
the guards showed special  
preferential treatment to  
the general who led the  
fight at Ole Miss during  
the riot.

Yours Truly

Clifford Edmundson

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

44-760-1146

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Tapeka, Mo. 66622



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the riot.

Yours truly

Clifford Edmundson

F B I

Date: July 9, 1968

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

To: SAC, Kansas City

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN ✓

Enclosed are two copies of a letter from Clifford Edmondson, VA Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, forwarded to the Bureau from the Department as received by them from United States Senator Stuart Symington.

You should interview Edmondson for details and thereafter conduct sufficient investigation to resolve matter. Keep Bureau advised of pertinent developments.'

Based upon available data, no information identifiable with Clifford Edmondson and Kenneth Long located in Bureau files.

Handle promptly.

Enclosures (2) *EW*

1 - Memphis (Enclosure)

44-760-1147

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*Lead to [unclear] [unclear]*  
*Km expedite*

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

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44-760-1147

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 10 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	



DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

7/11/68

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel 7/2/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ROWEN B. AYERS and IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

At Jefferson City, Missouri:

On 7/8/68, MARY MOODY, Secretary to Warden HAROLD SWENSON, said a bound book reflecting visits by attorneys, law enforcement officers and others on official business for September, 1960 had been located. She noted that no regular visit record is maintained, except in individual prisoner's files and these are for persons authorized by the prison to visit inmates and these records do not apply to persons on official business.

On 7/9/68, the Control Center, Official Visitors' Book was examined. There was no person by the name of GRAY making a visit to a prisoner during the months of August, September, or October, 1960.

Although there was no record of a visit by an FBI Agent to a prisoner in September of 1960, entries are not always made where officer is known to prison official.

An examination was made, in the Classification Office, of prisoners received. They are given a book number in consecutive order as they are received. A total of 231 inmates were received into the penitentiary during the months of August and September of 1960.

2 - Bureau  
2 - Memphis (44-1982)  
2 - Kansas City

RBA:nks  
(6)

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

44-760-1148

KC 44-760

Mr. DONALD BUNKER, Classification Director, said the average inmate stays in "receiving" or "classification section" from four to six weeks as a general rule, but he said some conditions might arise which would result in turning a prisoner into the population before four weeks and also some reason might exist for not completing their classification in six weeks.

Senior Resident Agent SA ROWEN B. AYERS and SA THOMAS H. WEAVER, assigned to Jefferson City Resident Agency during pertinent period have no recollection of such an interview and no SA GRAY has been assigned to the Kansas City Division. It is more likely that the writer was interviewed by an agency other than the FBI.

In view of the admitted hazy recollection and above facts, it does not appear that an indices search of all inmates received during the three month period would be warranted.

UACB no further action being taken by the Kansas City Division regarding this letter.

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

7/11/68

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

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2 - Bureau  
2 - Memphis (44-1982)  
2 - Kansas City  
RBA:nks  
(6)

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten mark]*

44-760-1148

*[Handwritten signature]*



KC 44-780

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7/12/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)  
SUBJECT:

Rebuairtel to Kansas City, dated 7/9/68.

For information St. Louis, referenced airtel contained two copies of a letter from one CLIFFORD EDMONDSON, Veterans Hospital, Topeka, Kansas. This letter had been forwarded to the Bureau from the Department who had received the letter from United States Senator STUART SYMINGTON. The letter which was dated 6/8/68 and signed by CLIFFORD EDMONDSON stated in essence that he had served time in the United States Medical Center at Springfield, Missouri, and another prisoner named KENNETH LONG had at that time told him that a guard at the prison told him that he was a member of a group who would pay to have Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING killed. EDMONDSON indicated in his letter that LONG is now at Leavenworth.

Efforts were made to contact EDMONDSON at the Veterans Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, on 7/12/68. However, GLENN BLANDERSON, the Assistant Registrar, Veterans Hospital, advised SA RALPH P. HUSTON that EDMONDSON had eloped from the hospital 6/13/68. He was discharged from the hospital on 6/14/68 against medical advice as a result of his elopement. His home of record was listed as 2800 East 46th, Kansas City, Missouri, and his mother was listed as Mrs. I. E. ADAMS, residence 1315 North Lynn, Independence, Missouri.

3 - Bureau  
2 - St. Louis  
3 - Kansas City  
RPH:R  
(3)

*Shobe*  
*SL*  
*1M*  
*REBWA*

44-760-1149

KC 44-760

Mr. HENDERSON advised that EDMONDSON had been incarcerated at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners to serve a sentence received in a court-martial for the murder of a member of the United States Air Force. EDMONDSON's conviction however was subsequently reversed due to his mental capabilities at the time of the murder. EDMONDSON had Air Force Serial No. [REDACTED] and is described as a Negro male, date of birth [REDACTED]

LEADS

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

At St. Louis, Missouri

Will review the Air Force records pertaining to EDMONDSON, Air Force Serial No. [REDACTED] and report results to Kansas City. Bureau has instructed prompt handling.

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

At Springfield, Missouri

Will review records United States Medical Center re EDMONDSON.

At Kansas City, Missouri

Effort to locate and interview EDMONDSON will be held in abeyance pending results of record checks set forth above in view of possible mental abnormality on the part of EDMONDSON.



7/12/68

AIRTEL

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3 - Bureau  
2 - St. Louis  
3 - Kansas City  
RPH:B  
(8)

157  
Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed

Lead Springfield  
to Mitchell JAm

44-760-1149

KC 44-760

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ReBuairtel to Kansas City, dated 7/9/68.

For information St. Louis, referenced airtel contained two copies of a letter from one CLIFFORD EDMONDSON, Veterans Hospital, Topeka, Kansas. This letter had been forwarded to the Bureau from the Department who had received the letter from United States Senator STUART SYMINGTON. The letter which was dated 6/8/68 and signed by CLIFFORD EDMONDSON stated in essence that he had served time in the United States Medical Center at Springfield, Missouri, and another prisoner named KENNETH LONG had at that time told him that a guard at the prison told him that he was a member of a group who would pay to have Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING killed. EDMONDSON indicated in his letter that LONG is now at Leavenworth.

Efforts were made to contact EDMONDSON at the Veterans Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, on 7/12/68, however, GLENN HENDERSON, the Assistant Registrar, Veterans Hospital, advised SA RALPH P. HUSTON that EDMONDSON had eloped from the hospital 6/13/68. He was discharged from the hospital on 6/14/68 against medical advice as a result of his elopement. His home of record was listed as 2800 East 40th, Kansas City, Missouri, and his mother was listed as Mrs. I. E. ADAMS, residence 1315 North Lynn, Independence, Missouri.

3 - Bureau  
2 - St. Louis  
3 - Kansas City  
RPH:B  
(8)

14  
44-760-1149

KC 44-760

Mr. HENDERSON advised that EDMONDSON had been incarcerated at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners to serve a sentence received in a court-martial for the murder of a member of the United States Air Force. EDMONDSON's conviction however was subsequently reversed due to his mental capabilities at the time of the murder. EDMONDSON had Air Force Serial No. [REDACTED] and is described as a Negro male, date of birth [REDACTED]

LEADS

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

At St. Louis, Missouri

Will review the Air Force records pertaining to EDMONDSON, Air Force Serial No. [REDACTED] and report results to Kansas City. Bureau has instructed prompt handling.

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

At Springfield, Missouri

Will review records United States Medical Center re EDMONDSON.

At Kansas City, Missouri

Effort to locate and interview EDMONDSON will be held in abeyance pending results of record checks set forth above in view of possible mental abnormality on the part of EDMONDSON.



7/12/68

**Airtel**

**To: SACs Kansas City (44-760)  
St. Louis (44-775)**

**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

**Re: Airtel 7/12/68.**

**Unless other circumstances would preclude locating and interviewing Clifford Himmelsen, you should do so immediately.**

**In light of his previous court martial for murder and his mental status, he should be approached with suitable caution.**

44-760-1150

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 16 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

F B I

Date: 7/15/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: SACs Kansas City (44-760)  
St. Louis (44-775)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

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In light of his previous court martial for murder and his mental status, he should be approached with suitable caution.

44-760-1150

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 16 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*Handwritten signature: Howel*

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760) -P-

DATE: 7/16/68

FROM : SA JOSEPH W. JACKSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

REFERENCE: Memphis Airtel to KC, 7/8/68.

AT JOPLIN, MISSOURI:

In Re: 621 Appleton Drive  
Joplin, Missouri

On 7/12/68, a review of "Polk's City Directory, Joplin, Missouri, 1967 Edition" revealed there is no Appleton Drive set out in the street guide of that directory for Joplin, Missouri, nor is there any street or drive with a similar name.

On 7/12/68, BEVERLY K. JONES, Dispatcher, PD, advised the map of the City Of Joplin maintained by her office does not indicate an Appleton Drive or any street or drive with a similar name.

On 7/12/68, CLIFFORD ROE, Assistant Superintendent of Mails, Main Post Office, advised there is no Appleton Drive or any street or drive with a similar name at Joplin, Missouri.

From above inquiries it is obvious the address, 621 Appleton Drive, Joplin, Missouri, is non-existent, therefore no additional inquiry in that regard is warranted.

JWJ/jwj

44-760-115

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5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 7/5/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype 7/3/68.

RE RAYMOND CURTIS  
INTERVIEW IN COUNTY  
JAIL AT DALTON, GA.

Enclosed herewith for Little Rock and Memphis  
is one copy of referenced teletype.

PAUL J. DENNIS, Vice-President, Vicksburg Mid  
River Service, Inc. advised on 7/5/68, that (FNU) WILLETT  
owned a houseboat known as the "Nell Willie", a diesel-  
powered ship capable of travel on the Mississippi. (FNU)  
WILLETT was described as an elderly man who was crippled  
and used a cane. He and his wife, whose name is believed  
to be NELL, took vacation trips on his houseboat approximately  
twice a year, securing the services of a Mississippi River  
pilot to operate the boat for them. (FNU) WILLETT is believed  
to have died approximately two years ago. He is believed  
to have been a resident of the State of Arkansas and  
to have docked his houseboat at the Greenville, Miss. Yacht  
Club.

WILLIE SMITH, a Negro male employee of the Greenville,  
Miss. Yacht Club, advised on 7/5/68, that the correct name  
of the houseboat is the "Nell Willis" and that it was owned  
by a (FNU) WILLIS, who died about two or three years ago.  
NELL WILLIS, wife of (FNU) WILLIS, is still living and

3-Bureau (RM) 2-Little Rock (Enc. 1)  
2-Memphis (Enc. 1)

(2-Jackson  
JGW/jrs

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec

44-760-1152

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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*Angus* *Werry*



residing in or around Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Following the death of Mr. WILLIS, the houseboat was sold to SONNY (LNU), a member of the Memphis, Tenn. Yacht Club, who is believed to be a Mississippi River pilot.

WILLIE SMITH advised that Mr. WILLIS was always considerate of Negroes and gave no indication of anti-Negro sentiments.

UACB the following leads will be covered:

LEADS:

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT PINE BLUFF, ARK.

Will locate and interview NELL WILLIS in order to substantiate information set out in enclosed teletype.

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will attempt to locate and interview SONNY (LNU) in order to either prove or disprove the information contained in enclosed teletype.

F B I

Date: 7/5/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

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(Priority)

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3-Bureau (RM) 2-Little Rock (Enc. 1)  
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July 5, 1968

AIRTEL

TO: SAC's, Jackson, Atlanta

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

ReAttel 7/3/68.

Jackson should make reasonable efforts to identify and interview (FNU) Willett, and run out any pertinent information developed and surep or LHM.

Since Curtis refuses to furnish "his story" for appropriate copying, it will not be necessary for an Agent to have him dictate on a dictating machine in the Agent's presence. Curtis is not to set the terms on which he will furnish information to the FBI, particularly since to date he has not furnished anything of substantive value. Atlanta Su LHM.

For information of Memphis, "Ebony" Magazine forwarded letters from Raymond Curtis, inmate of Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, in which he alleged among other things that he and Ray planned the King killing and businessmen put up money for the King murder. Curtis was previously interviewed and furnished nebulous information along the same lines which was run out and nothing of substantive value was developed (See report of Alan G. Monticelli dated 5/17/68, at Atlanta, copies to Memphis). On re-interview on 7/3/68, Curtis originally recanted substantially the whole story he had set out in his letters to "Ebony" but then recontacted the Agents and claimed that the "story" was true. Among his allegations, he indicated that an individual named (FNU) Willett who was also known

1 - SAC, Memphis (for info)

44-760-1153

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*[Handwritten signature]*



AIRTEL, SAC'S Jackson, Atlanta  
RE: MURKIN

as "Mississippi" was supposed to be contacted by Ray at Vicksburg, Mississippi, after the murder and Willett was to take Ray to either New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River in Willett's houseboat.

As indicated above, the Jackson Office is being instructed to run out the Willett allegation.

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FBI JKSN MISS

932 PM 8P URGENT 7/3/68 ELS

TO DIRECTOR AND JACKSON

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ATLANTA JULY TWO LAST.

RAYMOND CURTIS WAS INTERVIEWED AT WHITFIELD CO. JAIL, ALTON, ILL., JULY THREE INSTANT BY SAs THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND ALBERT D. HILLARD. CURTIS IS CURRENTLY CONFINED WHITFIELD CO. JAIL AWAITING APPEAL ON LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER. CURTIS WAS ADVISED OF THE IDENTITY OF THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS THROUGH DISPLAY OF CREDENTIALS. HE WAS FURNISHED A RIGHTS AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE READ, INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD, AND REFUSED TO SIGN. HE ADVISED HE KNEW HE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED CONCERNING STATEMENTS HE MADE IN A LETTER HE HAD MAILED TO MR. SANDERS OF EBONY MAGAZINE. CURTIS STATED HE WAS MERELY TRYING TO SELL A STORY TO EBONY FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HELP HIS MOTHER PAY OFF A MORTGAGE ON HER HOME, WHICH SHE MORTGAGED TO OBTAIN ATTORNEY FEES FOR HIS DEFENSE. AT FIRST HE STATED, WITH REFERENCE TO THESE STATEMENTS, THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR, WHICH WAS A BURGLARY IN JOLIET, ILL., IN OCT, OR NOV., FIFTYFOUR. AT THIS POINT IT WAS POINTED OUT TO CURTIS THAT CRIMINAL

END PAGE ONE

44-760-1154

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*



PAGE TWO

STATEMENTS MADE BY HIM IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY COULD POSSIBLY INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSPIRACY WITH RAY CONCERNING THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH WERE IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY MAGAZINE:

1. THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR.
2. THAT RAY WANTED THE JOB OF KILLING KING.
3. THAT HE AND RAY TALKED ABOUT KILLING KING FOR THREE YEARS.
4. THAT THEY TALKED TO THE MAN FROM MISSISSIPPI THAT KNEW ALL ABOUT THE KK BUSINESSMANS ASSOCIATION THAT WAS TO PUT UP THE MONEY TO KILL KING.
5. THAT HE KNEW THE MAN FROM MISSISSIPPI.
6. FOR THREE YEARS, THAT HE AND RAY MADE MAPS JUST TO FIND THE RIGHT PLACE TO KILL KING AND THAT HE HAD MADE THE MAPS OVER HIMSELF.
7. HE AND RAY KNEW JUST WHERE THEY WOULD GO AFTER THE KILLING OF KING.
8. THAT HE WAS TO BE IN ON THE KILLING OF KING.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

9. THAT THERE ARE MEN IN FIVE STATES THAT ARE BEHIND THE KING KILLING AND THAT DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS DREW CRUDE MAPS SETTING OUT HOW HE THOUGHT RAY WOULD STALK KING. THIS MAP SHOWED THE FOLLOWING TOWNS WHERE HE SAID KING MADE MOST OF HIS SPEECHES: ATLANTA, LITTLE ROCK, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, SELMA, JACKSON, VICKSBURG, MISS., AND MARKS, MISS. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THERE WAS A MAN LIVING ON A HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER (WHOSE FIRST NAME HE KNEW BUT WOULD NOT DIVULGE). THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE RAY DOWN THE RIVER ON HIS BOAT TO NEW ORLEANS AFTER THE KILLING. HE STATED IN THE PAST HE (CURTIS) HAD PULLED SEVERAL BURGLARY AND ARMED ROBBERIES (HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON PARTICULARS) IN TOWNS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND WHILE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR HIM ON THE HIGHWAY HE WOULD BE ON A BOAT DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI. HE FURTHER STATED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY CONCERNING THE KING KILLING WHICH WAS CURRENTLY OUT BEING TYPED AND IT WAS THE STORY HE MENTIONED IN THE LETTER TO LECNY AND INTENDED TO SELL TO LECNY.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN, NA, WHO IS SHERIFF OF WHITFIELD CO., GA., AND OPERATES THE COUNTY JAIL, ADVISED CURTIS HAD SENT NO LETTERS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JAIL WHICH WENT OVER THE JAILERS DESK. HE SAID CURTIS WOULD PROBABLY SEND ALL MAIL OUT WITH VISITORS AND JAIL TRUSTEES AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BY MEN OF HIS DEPT. IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT CURTIS' ATTORNEY, ERWIN MITCHELL, FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF GA., IS OF THE OPINION THAT MOST OF CURTIS' COMMENTS CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S ASSASSINATION OF KING ARE PURE FABRICATIONS ON THE PART OF CURTIS OR AS A RESULT OF SOMETHING CURTIS HAS READ IN LOCAL PAPERS.

APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, HE SENT A NOTE TO SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN REQUESTING TO AGAIN SEE AN FBI AGENT, THAT HE NOW WANTED TO TELL THE ENTIRE TRUTH. CURTIS WAS AGAIN INTERVIEWED BY SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND AGAIN FURNISHED A RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE REFUSED TO SIGN. HE THEN STATED THAT APPARENTLY IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY HE USED THE WORD "JE" INDICATING THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY HAD PLANNED THE KING MURDER WHICH WOULD INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSPIRACY AND FOR

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

THAT REASON HE DENIED THE STATEMENTS IN LETTER TO EBONY. HE THEN ADVISED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY WHICH HE INTENDED TO SELL TO SOME MAGAZINE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING MONEY FOR HIS MOTHER WHICH STORY WAS STILL IN HIS POSSESSION AND WHICH HE HAD NOT YET SENT OUT TO BE TYPED. HE ALLOWED SA HENRY TO READ THIS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PAGE STORY, HANDWRITTEN, ONE PAGE AT A TIME. HE DECLARED THIS STORY WAS TRUE. THE FIRST FIVE OR SIX PAGES OF THIS STORY MERELY SET OUT HIS EARLY LIFE IN CRIME AND THE PRISON SENTENCES HE HAD SERVED AS A RESULT OF THESE CRIMES FROM THE AGE OF FIFTEEN. THE REMAINDER OF THE STORY IS THE SAME AS WAS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS IN APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ASSOCIATION WITH RAY. THIS STORY DOES REFLECT THAT HE FIRST BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN FIFTYFOUR WHEN THEY PULLED A PAYROLL HEIST IN QUINCY, ILL., WITH A THIRD INDIVIDUAL. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE LOST CONTACT WITH RAY WHEN HE AND THIS THIRD INDIVIDUAL WERE CAUGHT IN A FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLAR BANK ROBBERY AT SOUTHWEST CITY, MO. AFTER THAT HE AGAIN BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH RAY IN PRISON AND WHILE IN PRISON THEY BOTH LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. RAY THEN STATED IT SOUNDED LIKE A BIG JOB AND HE WAS ALWAYS ON THE INSIDE OF A PRISON WHEN BIG JOBS AND BIG MONEY WERE TO BE HAD.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BECAME PROMINENT AND RAY STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO KILL KING. THE STORY WENT ON TO REFLECT THAT DURING THIS PERIOD AN INDIVIDUAL CAME INTO THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., AND WHO, UPON LEARNING OF JAMES EARL RAY'S FEELINGS TOWARD KILLING KING, ADVISED HIM OF THE KK BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH AND OF THE FACT THAT PEOPLE IN FIVE STATES WERE PUTTING UP MONEY FOR KING'S ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT RAY INFORMED HIM THAT HE INTENDED TO HAVE EVERYTHING SET WHEN HE KILLED KING AND THAT RAY, THROUGH MAPS, LEARNED OF KING'S MOVEMENTS SO HE COULD LATER STALK HIM TO THE POINT OF ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT RAY ADVISED HE WOULD LEAVE A FALSE GUN AND FALSE TRAIL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MURDER. RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO

END PAGE SIX



PAGE SEVEN

GO TO VICKSBURG FOLLOWING THE MURDER, CONTACT THE MAN FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., WHO HAD THE HOUSEBOAT, AND THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE HIM EITHER TO NEW ORLEANS OR CANADA VIA THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS STATED HE COULD NOT TESTIFY TO ANY OF THE ABOVE. HE DID ADVISE IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL ON THE HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG, MISS., WAS ~~(FNU) WILETT~~, ALSO KNOWN AS MISSISSIPPI WHO SERVED TIME IN THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY.

THE STORY ALSO MENTIONED A MAN FROM NEW ORLEANS WHO COULD OBTAIN ANY KIND OF IDENTIFICATION AND CURTIS LATER IDENTIFIED THIS MAN AS JOE COIN, WHICH INFORMATION HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN SET OUT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS. THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, AND WHILE READING CURTIS' STORY, HE CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT HE WOULD NOT TESTIFY AGAINST RAY AS HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. HE INDICATED THAT ANY STATE PRISON HE WAS SENT TO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD KILL HIM AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS INFORMATION HE FURNISHED THE PRESS AND TV MEDIA AND IT IS FELT HE WAS USING THIS AS AN EXCUSE AS TO WHY HE

END PAGE SEVEN