

U. S. Department of Justice

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

FIELD OFFICE FILE  
FOIPA PROCESSED

FEDERAL BUREAU

Do not Destroy -  
Pending Litigation

Serial 420

2390 (12/83)

2778 3/85 - cancel <sup>2</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

of

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

"DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES"

See also Nos.

SEE VOL 1  
FOR LITIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/31/01 BY SP-1 CLK/tjt

See Part Section

BHAW-WALKER 18-40560

CLASSIFICATION NO.

44-1987-Sub-M

Serials

Volume Number

5  
417-544

See ~~WASP~~ Section

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

2/27/69

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -

MURKIN

RE Springfield airtel and LHM 1/10/69.

On 2/24/69 HENRY STUMM, Alton, Illinois, was recontacted as a matter of course re any possible press inquiries in recent weeks, and he advised there have been none. He reiterated his former position on this matter and stated that he will refer all such inquiries to his attorney.

M

2 - Bureau (44-38861)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987)  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
WR/smr  
(5)

44-1987-Sub-M-417

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FEB 28 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

2/27/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

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

Mr. HARRY LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, advised IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD on 2/25/69, that he furnished the original fingerprint card of JAMES EARL RAY, MSP No. 00416, to FRED WILKERSON, Director of Penal Systems in the State of Missouri, shortly after RAY was identified as the possible assailant of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Mr. LAUF stated that it was his understanding FRED WILKERSON sent them to the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., to be used in the extradition hearing of RAY in London. Mr. LAUF stated the fingerprint card has not been returned to him as yet and requested any assistance the Bureau could give in locating and returning the card to him.

The Bureau and Memphis are requested to attempt to ascertain the location of the original fingerprint card so Mr. LAUF can be advised. //

Mr. LAUF also stated that the attorney for RAY has contacted MSP officials and indicated that he will travel to Jefferson City, Missouri, in the near future to confer with officials at the penitentiary and review files concerning RAY.

3-Bureau  
2-Memphis (44-1987)  
2-Kansas City  
RBH/rl  
(7)

*Dwyer had card  
sent to KC by  
Airtel to Bu & KC  
3/4/69. [Signature]*

44-1987-Sub-M-418

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
MAR 3 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Signature]*



2/28/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

Re Bureau airtel to Kansas City, 1/29/69.

On 2/4/69, WILBUR O. MORTON while confined at the Sedgwick County Jail, Wichita, Kansas, was interviewed by SA ELMER P. FLETCHER. MORTON was reminded of the conversation with him on a previous occasion and it was impressed upon him that he understand the FBI cannot be a bargaining agent between him and any tribunal nor can the FBI act as an intermediary between MORTON and any other individual in such a matter as this. He was informed no consideration would be given to a previous proposal.

At this point MORTON stated he had been before the local state court and had been given an additional 10 to 20 years for his part in a local armed robbery, therefore, he had no need of assistance at this point.

MORTON was queried again as to the identity of any person who might have pertinent information in this case. He declined to identify the person supposedly having information about comments by RAY while in the Missouri State Penitentiary. MORTON then suggested some inquiry might be made at the Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas, concerning HAROLD HEMINGER and if his background appeared "interesting" consideration be given to interview him as to his knowledge of RAY while the latter was an inmate at Missouri State Penitentiary.

3 - Bureau  
1 - Memphis (44-1987)  
3 - Kansas City  
RBH:WSA  
(7)

44-1987-Sub-M-419

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>lee</i>
SERIALIZED <i>lee</i>	FILED <i>lee</i>
MAR 3 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hutch* *alt*

KC 44-760

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY

AT LANSING, KANSAS

Will at the state penitentiary attempt to identify and interview inmate HAROLD HEMINGER regarding any information he may have of JAMES EARL RAY.

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Will review records at Missouri State Penitentiary to determine if an inmate was confined there by the name of HAROLD HEMINGER at the same time as JAMES EARL RAY.

File - Serial Charge Out  
FD-5 (Rev. 6-17-70)

File 44-1987 Sub M Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Class. Case No. Last Serial  
☐ Pending ☐ Closed  
Serial No. Description of Serial Date Charged

420 KC airtel to HQ, 2/28/60  
"Fred Alexander Michaelson, aka  
Fredrick Alexander Meckelson  
Assassination of John F. Kennedy,  
Dr. Martin Luther King, + Senator  
Robert F. Kennedy  
Information Concerning

Sgt. William E. Shackelford, Room 4336, HQ  
(see 62C-HQ-109060)  
Employee

RECHARGE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Initials of Clerk { \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ } Date { \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ }

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date charged

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Location

★ U.S. GPO:1989-241-706/08023

841 Federal Office Building  
167 North Main Street  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
March 5, 1969

Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr.  
District Attorney General  
15th Judicial Circuit of Tennessee  
Shelby County Office Building  
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear General Canale:

Dr. Ferdinand F. Schwartz, <sup>M-410</sup> 5305 11th Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama, who has an office in that city at 916 South 20th Street, has admitted to our Agents that he has a file on a patient named Galt; however, he has declined to make any information available except upon the issuance of a subpoena.

On March 4, 1969, Special Agent Joe C. Hester advised Mr. Robert Dwyer of your office of the situation regarding Dr. Schwartz, and Mr. Dwyer stated he does not at present desire to issue a subpoena but may desire to do so in the future.

Very truly yours,

  
ROBERT G. JENSEN  
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (P)  
JCH:mnr  
(2) *mnr*

*44-1987-Sub-M-421*

*M*

*llh*

*llh*

*llh*



3/5/69

**AIRTEL**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**  
**FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)**  
**SUBJECT: MURKIN**

Re Birmingham airtel to the Bureau dated 2/25/69 regarding Dr. FERDINAND F. SCHWARTZ of Birmingham, Ala., who has declined to make available his file concerning **ERIC GALT** except upon the issuance of a subpoena. *Sub M-410*

*3-4-69*  
On *4/3/69*, Executive Assistant Attorney General **ROBERT DWYER**, Memphis, Tenn., was advised of this fact by **SA JOE C. HESTER**. Mr. DWYER stated he does not desire to issue a subpoena at this time but may do so later.

It is recommended that Birmingham take no further action as Mr. DWYER is aware of the existence of this record and can initiate efforts to secure same.

3 - Bureau  
2 - Birmingham (44-1740)  
① - Memphis  
JCH:mnr  
(6)  
*mnr*

Airtel.....  
Teletype.....  
A. M.....  
A. M. S. D.....  
Spec. Del.....  
Reg. Mail.....  
Registered.....

*N*

*44-1987-Sub-M-423*

*llh*  
*llh*  
*llh*

3/5/69

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, NEW ORLEANS  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

*M-376P2*

In connection with the interview of Louisiana State Trooper RAUL V. ESQUIVEL, the following dates are noted wherein the subject RAY and his unknown friend, "RAOUL," are alleged to have been together:

7/18/67-8/24/67 According to "Look" magazine articles, subject met "RAOUL" in Canada on about eight occasions during this period.

8/21/67 Subject RAY and "RAOUL" were in Windsor, Canada.

8/28-30/67 RAY met "RAOUL" during this period in Birmingham, Ala.

10/7-10/67 RAY arrived San Francisco Hotel, Acapulco, Mexico, on 10/10/67. One or two days prior to that time he met "RAOUL" in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

12/17-19/67 RAY met "RAOUL" at New Orleans, La., and received \$2500 from him.

4/4/68 "RAOUL" allegedly was in Memphis, Tenn., and fired the shot at 6:00 p.m. that killed MARTIN LUTHER KING.

2 - New Orleans  
2 - Memphis  
JCH:nmr  
(4)

*RV*

*44-1987-Sub-M-423*

*llh*  
*llh*  
*llh*

3/5/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

(OO Memphis)

*M-418*  
Re Kansas City airtel to the Bureau dated 2/27/69 concerning subject RAY's fingerprint card which was sent by HARRY LAUF, MSP, Jefferson City, Mo., to FRED WILKERSON, Missouri Director of Penal Systems.

Enclosed for Kansas City is the fingerprint card of the subject RAY which had been forwarded to District Attorney General PHIL M. CANALE by persons in the U. S. Department of State. Mr. CANALE stated he has no use for this card and desires that it be returned to the MSP.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Kansas City (44-760) (Enc. 1) (RM)
- ① - Memphis

JCH:mnr

Airtel..... (6)

Teletype.....

A. M.....

A. M. S. D.....

Spec. Del.....

Reg. Mail.....

Registered.....

*R M*

*44-1987-Sub-M-4246*

*llh*

*llh*

*llh*

3/6/69

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO MEMPHIS

Re Los Angeles teletypes to the Director and New Haven 2/28/69 and 3/3/69, copies of which have been furnished Memphis by the Bureau.

Los Angeles is requested to submit a letterhead memorandum reflecting the investigation conducted concerning GREG BIRMINGHAM and LEO MC NAMARA. Copies of your LHM should be furnished the Bureau for dissemination to the Department.

Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
Telotype 2 - Los Angeles  
1 - Memphis  
JCH/ngm  
A.M. (3)  
A.M.S.D. ngm  
Spec. Del. \_\_\_\_\_  
Reg. Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Registered \_\_\_\_\_

SEARCHED

llh

llh

llh

44-1987-Sub-M-425



FBI WASH DC

FBI LOS ANG.

1014PM DEFERRED 2/28/69 BCD

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND NEW HAVEN

FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574) 1P

MURKIN.

RE WH TEL CALL TO LA FEBRUARY TWENTY EIGHT INSTANT.

LEO MC NAMARA ADVISED NEW HAVEN OFFICE FEBRUARY TWENTY EIGHT INSTANT THAT HE AND GREG BIRMINGHAM FLEW TO LOS ANGELES ON MARCH FOURTEEN LAST, BIRMINGHAM REGISTERED AT SHANGRI LODGE, NINE FIVE ONE ZERO VAN NUYS BOULEVARD, PANORAMA CITY, AS EIRC S. GALT.

INVESTIGATION SHANGRI LODGE REVEALED RECORDS AVAILABLE. ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO REVIEW RECORDS FOR MARCH LAST ON MARCH THREE NEXT. THEY ARE NOW IN STORAGE AT BEKINS RECORD STORAGE, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA. BUREAU AND NEW HAVEN WILL BE ADVISED.

END

JCR

FBI WASH DC

P

*m*

44-1987-Sub-M-426

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>lll</i>	FILED <i>lll</i>
MAR 6 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*CPA*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAR 8 1969

*ulka*

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI LOS ANG.

342PM URGENT 3-3-69 LJP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND NEW HAVEN

FROM (LOS ANGELES) (44-1574) 1P

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TELETYPE, FEBRUARY TWENTY EIGHT LAST.

RECORDS FOR SHANGRI LODGE, PANORAMA CITY, CALIFORNIA  
REVIEWED MARCH THIRD INSTANT AT BEKINS RECORDS CENTER,  
BEVERLY HILLS. NO RECORD LOCATED FOR REGISTRATION OF ERIC S.  
GALT, GREG BIRMINGHAM OR LEO MC NAMARA FOR MARCH FOURTEEN  
LAST. NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN AT LOS ANGELES.

END

CKG

FBI WASH DC

*Rec'd by R/S Bureau 3/4/69*

*M*

*LA asked to submit  
LHM to Bureau & Memphis  
Jelt 3/6/69-*

44-1987-Sub-M-427

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 6 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*glt*

F B I

Date: 3/5/69

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

(Priority)

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReKCairtel 2/27/69.

The Department has advised that the original fingerprint card of James Earl Ray received from Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) in connection with the extradition of Ray from England to the United States was forwarded to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, on 8/30/68, by United States Department of State.

Memphis should bring request of MSP officials to the attention of Mr. Canale. Keep the Bureau and Kansas City advised of this matter.

Kansas City should bring the above to the attention of MSP officials.

1 - SAC, Kansas City (44-760) (for info)

M

*for Believing  
this was  
handled -  
if we didn't  
cut in Bureau  
do so 7/*

44-1987-Sub-M-428

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 6 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *gpt*

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

Memphis, Tennessee  
March 6, 1969

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Attached to this memorandum is one copy each of two photographs given to District Attorney General Phil M. Canale, Memphis, Tennessee, by William Bradford Huie, a nationally known author who has signed an exclusive contract with James Earl Ray and who has written articles for "Look" magazine concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Huie has stated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has shown these photographs throughout the country, and according to Mr. Huie, the Federal Bureau of Investigation believes one of the individuals in these photographs to be identical with the person named "Raoul" whom Mr. Huie has described in his "Look" magazine articles as being an associate of James Earl Ray just prior to the murder of Dr. King. Mr. Huie has stated that these photographs were made by a news photographer at Dallas, Texas, on the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Huie has told Mr. Canale that he is convinced the Federal Bureau of Investigation knows the identity of the man in the photograph.

The Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised that the person appearing in these photographs has been identified as one of many persons rounded up by the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy. It has been determined that this person was not booked and that no record of his identity was maintained by either the police or by the Sheriff's Office. The officers who picked up this man recalled that he had been found with two other men in a boxcar about a mile from the assassination scene, but there was no reason to place him under arrest or detain him for any length of time. Also, photographs of this man have not been displayed by FBI Agents during the investigation of the murder of Dr. King.

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.

3 - Bureau  
① - Memphis  
JCH/ngm  
(4) *ngm*

*llb*

*llb*

*44-1987-Sub-M-424*



3/6/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of a letterhead memorandum with photographs attached. This memorandum is self explanatory and in the opinion of the Memphis Office the subject matter does not warrant further investigation.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 3)  
Airtel ① - Memphis  
JCH/ngm  
Teletype (4)  
ngm  
A.M. \_\_\_\_\_  
A.M.S.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Del. \_\_\_\_\_  
Reg. Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Registered \_\_\_\_\_

SEARCHED

44-1987-Sub M-430



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Los Angeles, California

March 4, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY

Charles Joseph Stein was interviewed in Los Angeles on February 13, 1969 and furnished the following information:

During April, 1968, he was contacted by a reporter from the "Los Angeles Times", a daily metropolitan Los Angeles newspaper. This reporter was named Larsen. During the conversation with Larsen, they discussed a memorandum slip, the type used in hotels to give messages regarding incoming telephone calls during ones absence, which Stein had received from James Earl Ray. This slip had the address of Stein's sister, Marie Lee, where Stein stayed while in New Orleans, Louisiana during December, 1967 when he and Ray travelled from Los Angeles to New Orleans and return. This slip also bore a phone number which Stein cannot recall. Stein said that he did not now have the slip of paper in his possession since he has moved several times during the interim.

Stein felt that the phone number might be of great financial value since he felt the phone number might be the location where James Earl Ray could be located. According to Stein, Larsen offered him \$15 or \$20 for the slip which he felt was not enough money.

Following the conversation with Larsen, Stein said he spent his last dollar to call the phone number on the slip, which was a New Orleans phone number. He said that the person answering the phone identified the number as being that of the Greyhound Bus Station in New Orleans. Stein continued that Ray was eager to leave New Orleans for the return trip to Los Angeles but that he wanted to stay a day or two longer. Stein suggested to Ray that they check weather conditions prior to departing New Orleans for Los Angeles since on the trip to New Orleans, they had encountered a snow storm. Stein continued that Ray called the fire station, who suggested he call the Greyhound Bus Depot for weather

44-1987-Sub M-431  
lee  
lee

Hester  
GMS

JAMES EARL RAY

information. According to Stein, Ray did call the Greyhound Bus Station and made a notation on the memorandum slip.

Stein stated during interview that he is eager to go to Memphis, Tennessee, to be a witness in the Ray trial. He said he intends to take with him a camera or a photographer to record his actions as a witness and that he intends to write a book about his experiences in this case. Stein said that he will embellish on his story to make the book a good seller and to profit financially from it.

Stein was asked if he had ever heard Ray mention anyone named Raul, to which he answered negatively. He said he knows of no connection between the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stein continued that James Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney, had contacted his sister, Marie Lee in New Orleans asking to have Stein contact him. Stein said he made two attempts to call Garrison collect but the calls were not completed.

Stein advised that he had called the District Attorney's Office in Memphis to obtain permission to telegraph Ray in prison for information concerning the December, 1967 trip to New Orleans. Stein said that the District Attorney "took the fifth amendment" and while permission was not granted, Stein did telegraph Ray in prison. As of the date of interview, Stein stated he had not received any information from Ray.

During the interview with Stein, on several occasions, he digressed into the realm of metaphysical thought concerning the continuous creations of many new Christs. Stein stated that he had no permanent address in Los Angeles, but that he is living on a day-to-day basis with friends.

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.

F B I

Date: 3/4/69

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to Los Angeles 2/28/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies and to  
 Memphis and New Orleans two copies each of Letterhead  
 Memorandum (LHM) recording interview with CHARLES JOSEPH  
 STEIN.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)  
 2 - Memphis (44-1487) (Enc. 2) (RM)  
 2 - New Orleans (157-653) (Enc. 2) (RM)  
 2 - Los Angeles

TJA/gja  
 (9)

44-1987-Sub-M-432

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 9 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester gja

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge



ROBERT K. DWYER  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

LLOYD A. RHODES  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN L. CARLISLE  
H. J. BEACH  
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.  
CLYDE R. VENSON  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK  
NON-SUPPORT DIVISION

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE  
COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
157 POPLAR AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

ASSISTANTS

WILLIAM D. HAYNES  
JAMES C. BEASLEY  
EWELL C. RICHARDSON  
JEWETT H. MILLER  
J. CLYDE MASON  
SAM J. CATANZARO  
LEONARD T. LAFFERTY  
ARTHUR T. BENNETT  
DON D. STROTHER  
DON A. DINO  
JOSEPH L. PATTERSON  
BILLY F. GRAY  
EUGENE C. GAERIG  
HARVEY HERRIN  
F. GLEN SISSON  
JOHN W. PIEROTTI

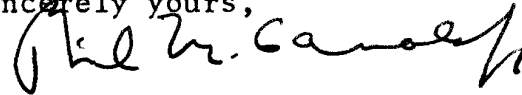
March 6, 1969

Mr. Robert Jensen  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Building  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Jensen:

Enclosed herewith for your information and  
any appropriate action you deem necessary is a memo-  
randum of a phone call I received this date from  
Mr. Lehman L. Love of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely yours,



PHIL M. CANALE, JR.  
District Attorney General

PMCJr:MEF  
Enclosure

M

44-1987-Sub-M-433

Hester

MEMORANDUM

March 6, 1969

Mr. Lehman L. Love of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, called me long distance regarding Ray case. Employed in New Orleans about a year before King killed, worked at Mardis Gras Bowling Alley at Ponchatrain Lake. His helper named Francis \_\_\_\_\_ told him King would be killed and "if you don't keep your mouth shut, you will also be killed." This said in March of 1967.

Manager of bowling alley's name is Jim (now) and manager in March of 1967 was Mr. Locus.

Love left employment in May or first of June, 1967. Has not heard anything about this since then. Left <sup>New</sup> ~~United~~ <sup>Orleans</sup> ~~States~~ by plane and was held by police in Atlanta for four hours and then released. He does not know why, except they asked him where his whiskey was, and took him to police station.

(Love's address in Philadelphia is 156 North 61st St.)

He did have a bottle of whiskey in his coat. They gave it back and fined him \$40.00--not in court.

Is going Friday to wedding at 64 Chestnut, Wyoming, Ohio.

Francis \_\_\_\_\_ was married to a Mexican girl and had about eight children and was on dope.

He called this information to FBI in Philadelphia, and says they advised him to contact me. He wanted to tell this now because he has been living with this information on his mind and felt he should now come forward with it.

  
PHIL M. CANALE, JR.

MEF

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

DATE: 3/7/69

FROM : ~~KAC~~ SAC, Kansas City (44-760) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Kansas City letter to Memphis, 10/4/68, captioned as above, and Kansas City report of SA WEETER S. POND, 2/10/69, captioned "FRED ALEXANDER MICHAELSON, aka; ITSP."

For information of Memphis, MICHAELSON was transported 2/27/69 to the U. S. Penitentiary, Terre Haute, Indiana.

For information of Indianapolis, MICHAELSON as FRED ALEXANDER MICHELSON appeared in U. S. District Court, Kansas City, Ks., on 1/31/69 and was sentenced to serve six years custody of the Attorney General on each of three counts of an indictment charging violations Section 2314, Title 18, U. S. Code. The sentences are concurrent.

He was confined in the Clay County Jail, Liberty, Missouri, since 7/27/67, on local charges inasmuch as his trial had been continued on several occasions because of his insistence in changing lawyers. He was removed by writ for the Federal charges, and subsequently the local charges were dismissed in view of the Federal sentence.

MICHAELSON was interviewed in jail at Liberty, Mo., on 10/2/68, upon his request, and stated he had written several letters to the Case Agent, but they had been returned because of improper addresses. He claimed to have vital information concerning the assassinations of JOHN F. KENNEDY on 11/22/63; MARTIN LUTHER KING on 4/3/68, and ROBERT KENNEDY. His information would go "to the scale of great national importance." He realized the information had been held much too long, but he refused

②-Memphis  
2-Indianapolis (44-563)  
2-Kansas City  
WSP:lib  
(6)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-434

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 10 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester



5010-108-01

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

KC 44-760

to discuss it in jail. He denied using this as an attempt to get out of the jail, and added that he would definitely make a full disclosure if and when he is incarcerated in a penitentiary or hospital where he could obtain treatment for his nervous stomach.

Information had been previously furnished by the jailer that several prisoners had commented that MICHAELSON had claimed to be psychic in making predictions of such things as aircraft disasters. It had been claimed that such predictions could not be made unless he had the use of a ballpoint pen, and such pens were not available to him while in jail.

It is noted MICHAELSON was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary from about 6/25/65 to about 8/26/66 and both MICHAELSON and JAMES EARL RAY were there at the same time.

In view of the above information and the fact MICHAELSON desired to enter guilty pleas to Federal charges, the AUSA, District of Kansas, issued a writ and had MICHAELSON removed to Federal custody for sentencing as stated above. Prior to sentencing, MICHAELSON was found by the court to be mentally competent.

LEAD

INDIANAPOLIS

AT TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA:

At the U. S. Penitentiary, will interview MICHAELSON, FBI #2 914 E, white male, born [ ] for all possible information concerning MURKIN and other possible matters.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1067)

DATE: 3/5/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: INVADERS  
RM

On 1/24/69, ME 338-R advised that JAMES BEVEL, official of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), then living in Philadelphia, was in Memphis, along with CEDRIC MOORE, former Memphian now allegedly working with SCLC in Philadelphia; and a Rev. RUTHERFORD, General Manager, SCLC, whose headquarters is Atlanta, Georgia; along with one (FNU) NIXON, male Negro, wearing Russian-type fur cap, who was some sort of a campaign manager for the renowned Negro, DICK GREGORY, during the 1968 Presidential candidacy of DICK GREGORY. Indications are that BEVEL and MOORE were staying with some of MOORE's relatives at 1889 South Parkway East, Memphis.

- 1 - 157-1067 (Invaders)
- 1 - 157-1423 (BUF)
- 1 - 170-70-SUB (ME 338-R)
- 1 - 157-166 (SCLC)
- 1 - 157-Dead (JAMES L. BEVEL)
- 1 - 157-1133 (CEDRIC MOORE)
- ① - 44- 1987 (MURKIN)
- 1 - 157-1548 (FRANK W. MITCHELL)
- 1 - 157-1351 (MAURICE LEWIS)
- 1 - 100-4949 (NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES)
- 1 - 170-98 (JAMES MORRIS LAWSON, JR.)
- 1 - 100-4567 (DARRELL DOUGHTY)
- 1 - 170-83 (MAXINE SMITH)
- 1 - 100-4481 (REV. RICHARD M. MOON)
- 1 - 157-1114 (H. RALPH JACKSON)
- 1 - 100-4394 (COBY VERNON SMITH)
- 1 - 170-1102 (B. JULIAN SMITH)
- 1 - 157- (RITA BRADSHAW)
- 1 - 157- (ROSETTA WEBB)
- 1 - 157- (BRENDA MAJOR)
- 1 - 170-49 (VASCO SMITH)
- 1 - 157-1258 (LANCE WATSON)
- 1 - 157-1111 (MALCOM D. BLACKBURN)
- 1 - 157-1563 (CACHEATUH SMITH)
- 1 - 66-1687-SUB (Dissemination)

WHL:cjs  
(25)

44-1987-Sub-D-435

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 10 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

1

ME 157-1067

BEVEL indicated that he would have a few days in Memphis for conferences with PERCY FORMAN, currently the attorney for JAMES EARL RAY, the indicted individual charged with the 4/4/68 slaying of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BEVEL wants to talk with various black power groups. He is primarily interested in getting publicity based on his so-called, self-admitted "prophetic" qualities. He stated he sold his idea that he had information that JAMES EARL RAY is innocent to the SCLC Staff at the recent SCLC retreat at Frogmore, South Carolina.

At the same time, Rev. C. T. VIVIAN and WYATT T. WALTER, both formerly affiliated with SCLC, were in Memphis for a Progressive Baptist Convention.

Generally, BEVEL, at his 1/23/69 press conference held at Clayborn Temple AME Church during which he had approximately 40 National Council of Churches representatives present, the Council then having its mid-Winter convention in Memphis, stated that JAMES EARL RAY was not guilty and he, BEVEL, could prove this in 30 minutes. He would not elaborate. He said after talking with RAY he was even more convinced of RAY's innocence. PERCY FORMAN did not come to the church. FORMAN was staying on the 8th floor of the Sheraton-Peabody Hotel. Informant stated that many present thought BEVEL to be crazy that he is apparently motivated by attempting to create doubt in the minds of the public concerning the guilt of RAY, as was done by many left-wingers concerning the alleged guilt of LEE HARVEY OSWALD in connection with the assassination of the late JOHN F. KENNEDY.

Informant conjectured that this could be a "left-wing plot", although he has no proof, on the part of BEVEL who has made many pro-communist type statements in the past, to get a hung jury following which the left-wing elements in this country could capitalize on this, claiming it was typical Southern justice, thus inciting Negroes in the U. S. to be more militant in antipathy toward the white race.

BEVEL stated on the night of 1/23/69, in his press conference, that the killers of KING were not people of color but people who loved their people because of their color. This was a most ambiguous statement and BEVEL did not elaborate as to what he meant. BEVEL chided the National Council of Churches

ME 157-1067

because they had, earlier that day, marched for a dead man, namely KING, and not for a live man, namely JAMES EARL RAY.

He stated that to the out its "you'll let them lynch RAY".

Informant pointed that Rev. RALPH D. ABERNATHY, President, SCLC, is echoing the statements of BEVEL.

Many of the Invaders were present at the press conference and one FRANK W. MITCHELL argued with BEVEL. Also, a minister of the Church of God, a white man, argued with BEVEL although he did state one had to believe RAY was innocent until proven guilty but he had an open mind.

BEVEL accused the recent U.S. Attorney RAMSEY CLARK of publicly declaring RAY guilty and stated CLARK was guilty of indicting RAY in the minds of the American public.

With regard to the Invaders, MAURICE LEWIS, member of the Executive Board of the Invaders, told informant he had been in touch with BEVEL earlier on 1/23/69 on the 8th floor of the Sheraton-Peabody where BEVEL had been in conference with PERCY FORMAN, that BEVEL had gone to the Shelby County Jail to visit with JAMES EARL RAY.

The Invaders appeared at the National Council of Churches meeting in Memphis at the Sheraton-Peabody en masse on the afternoon and evening of 1/23/69.

Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON spoke at the National Council of Churches (NCC) meeting and in some ways defended the PD, saying there is some limited dialog, although he told what informant described as 3 fairy tales or lies, one being that on the day of KING's birthday, 1/15/69, Memphis Police went to the home of CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE, frightened his mother, and generally intimidated his mother by searching the house without a search warrant. He further stated that the previous Tuesday he had preached a funeral at his church for a Negro and before the funeral he received a call from a woman defying him to have the body buried in a white cemetery. This was the funeral of ROY MAYS. LAWSON also called for the police to throw away their guns, billy clubs, and mace. He stated



ME 157-1067

this was the only way the Negro public would have confidence in them.

Some people generally argued and Rev. RICHARD M. MOON of the Westminster House, Presbyterian Student Center, Memphis State University, and DARRELL DOUGHTY, Bible Professor, Southwestern College, put out leaflets against the NCC, claiming it had closed its Memphis Office during the sanitation strike and would not support the sanitation strikers and other Negro problems in the Memphis area.

A delegate from Patterson, N.J., described the Patterson, N.J., race riots and defended the investigations thereof, claiming the Federal Government had gotten 8 police officers indicted. He stated these officers were suspended but the Mayor of Patterson overruled and lifted the suspension.

A Negro bishop from Patterson, N.J. took issue, stating he had been on the Governor's Commission and the Governor and no one else had influenced them adversely in their findings.

A fellow in charge of the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Act Program, believed to be named FLANAGAN, talked to the convention, stating "If the black community thought they could control police in their own areas they were in error, that this could possibly be done on a small scale but not on a large scale."

Rev. H. RALPH JACKSON of the Minimum Salary Office, AME Church, challenged the white churches in Memphis for not hosting the NCC during its convention.

One individual who informant stated will bear definite watching as he is most militant is a male Negro, EVERETT WILSON, who recently came to Memphis to work with the Allied Mortgage and Investment Company, a subsidiary of Holiday Inns of America. He claimed he was a Lutheran but the vicious Lutherans would not permit him to attend that church. He stated he is moving his family to Memphis but unfortunately cannot attend the white church. He stated the only reason Allied hired him was because he was black. He spoke in defense of the Invaders and emphasized that the NCC should give the Invaders all the money they needed. Informant feels WILSON will attempt to use the Invaders in a demagogic manner.



ME 157-1067

A woman with NCC, a Mrs. DALBEY (phonetic) from Cincinnati, Ohio, made a private and public pitch for the Invaders, stating she was very much impressed with them, that they were victims of white oppression in Memphis, and that if the NCC did not give them money she personally would raise money to help them.

COBY VERNON SMITH made a big pitch to the council for support of the Invaders, stating that in effect if the Invaders were not supported by NCC he could not be responsible for the actions of the young blacks in possible retaliation in the city of Memphis. COBY worked very heavily on a Mrs. FAIRFAX, a national official of NAACP, who was present and also on a Rev. PARKER of the NCC.

The woman from Cincinnati stated that a state-wide Christian movement would hold a meeting in Memphis the following week and she would make a pitch to this group for the Invaders at that time.

COBY SMITH made a formal talk to the general body of NCC at 3:00 p.m., 1/23/69, stating the Invaders are turning out 10 new leaders every 3 weeks, that the Invaders have been oppressed by the white community, they are under a total of \$5,000 in bonds on trumped-up charges, and the white churches in Memphis will not help them. He stated, "You, as Christians, aren't helping - we don't want money", but yet he asked for a total of \$52,000.

Informant stated that men such as B. JULIAN SMITH, Bishop of the Tennessee-Arkansas District of the CME Church, did not fall for COBY SMITH's talk and SMITH personally is opposed to giving money to the Invaders. Also, a Rev. HOLMES, male Negro, first name unknown, a Baptist Minister, in Memphis was also opposed to the Invaders.

A group of Invaders marched earlier on 1/23/69 in a memorial march for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., from the Sheraton-Peabody to the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, which was sponsored by NCC.

Informant was able to come across a considerable number of pictures taken during this march and photos of several new individuals in the Invaders were obtained, including one RITA BRADSHAW, ROSETTA WEBB, BRENDA MAJORS or MAJOR, and CECILIA RIVERS.

ME 157-1067

Another person present at the NCC meeting was a white male named DAN KENNER, white male, claiming to be a student from Little Rock, Arkansas. He wanted to see RICHARD M. MOON. He showed up at the Wednesday night, 1/22/69, meeting at Clayborn. He was slender with stringy long black hair, but not definitely too beatnik in his appearance.

There were at least 2 Russians at the NCC meeting, one from the Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novagard Nikoclim, a member of the Holy Synod, Chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of Moscow, Patriarch, the other an Archbishop described as Holiness Patriarch of Moscow. Another person at the meeting was a deacon ANDREI MARZOUR, and another was NITOCLEACON VLADIMIR DYMOCHUCK.

Another interesting person at the convention was one BOB GORE, male Negro, 40 years of age, bearded, claiming to be from New York. He had considerable influence with the Invaders and claimed contacts throughout the country with black power group NCC. He is one who believes in allowing the Militants an opportunity to air their grievances.

Rev. JAMES LAWSON was overheard to tell Rev. RICHARD MOON that around the 13th or 14th of February, 1969, 2 men would be in Memphis to counsel students as how to legally avoid the draft, and they would set up a draft counsel committee.

COBY SMITH and LEWIS LOCK WELCH of the Invaders were the main spokesmen, seeking Invader support from the NCC.

MALCOLM BLACKBURN, Pastor, Clayborn Temple, AME Church, in his benediction at one of the NCC meetings, stated that he had worked closely with the Invaders and had counseled with them.

CACHEATUH SMITH, female Negro, secretary of the Invaders, has ordered 1,000 copies of 8x10 glossy prints of LANCE "SWEET WILLIE WINE" WATSON, Chairman of the Invaders, for a total cost of approximately \$125. She paid \$50 down and the Invaders, after receiving these photographs, will sell them in an effort to raise money for their treasury.

ME 157-1067

Informant was able to get a copy of the speech made by LEWIS WELCH at the 1/23/69 meeting of NCC, which she said was written for WELCH by COBY VERNON SMITH. It states "That is little question in our minds about the commitment of those who gathered here. We recognize the deep spiritual and moral nature of your pilgrimage. We, further, recognize that esteem in which you as Christians and persons of good will have poached upon a fallen black leader. We acknowledge these gestures and in like manner we acknowledge the resolutions that you have made concerning racism and police brutality and other areas of vital concern to black people. At the same time, sobered by pragmatism, we who are to continue the struggle in this hell pit after your pilgrimage has ended must have more to stand on than fine words and conscience-stirring resolutions.

"We must strive for the creation of a unified black community, free from harrassment and repression, free from the moral decay of anomie and alienation. Police brutality, inadequate housing, the lack of job opportunities, etc., are not the principal business of the black community. Are task is to make the poor walk with dignity, the homeless stand proud, the hopeless committed to struggle, and every boy must be a man.

"We must work relentlessly in our community to make every man, woman, and child aware of the struggle he must wage and prepare him fr the task.

"Today, all over the City, there are black people who have committed themselves to the work of making human rights a reality.

"No mention has been made to you, here, of the hardships that our people have suffered. No one has said that since the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, more than 60 young black men and women have been jailed, more than a half million dollars in bonds have accessed; and almost every man labelled by the local news media as a 'black militant, has been thrown into jail, 12 remain there.

"The question on our minds today is what you, the National Council of Churches, intend to do, along with this city's black masses. You have come to our embittered city and either gained spiritually from the shame that shackles us here. Once you have examined your own consciences and motives, will we be left with positive gain and renewed

ME 157-1067

community effort, through support from those of you who are committed to human dignity, or will we be the dismantled props from a spectacular performance? This, to us, is no condemnation of your efforts but rather a challenge to your commitment. We conclude in good faith and anticipate your cooperation."

Informant also furnished a copy of a proposal prepared and distributed at the NCC meeting by the Invaders captioned "Proposal", sub-captioned "Memphis Leadership Conference for Black and Poor People". It shows that the Board of Directors consist of Chairman of the Board A. W. WILLIS and members: A. W. WILLIS; Attorney RUSSELL B. SUGARMON; Dr. V. A. SMITH, Dentist; BOBBIE DOCTOR, Civil Rights Commissioner; JESSE TURNER, Banker; CLYDE NEAL, War on Poverty; JAMES LAWSON, Director, War on Poverty, Most Reverend; GEORGE W. COX, Principal; Mrs. MAXINE SMITH, Secretary, NAACP; IRVIN SALKY, Attorney; OTIS HIGGS, Attorney; MARVIN RATNER, Attorney; J. O. PATTERSON, JR., State Senator and Attorney; FRED DAVIS, City Councilman; COBY SMITH, student; Dr. DARRELL DOUGHTY, Professor; I. H. MURPHY, State Representative; WALTER L. BAILEY, JR., Attorney. It lists the officers (subject to appointment) as President - WALTER L. BAILEY, JR.; Vice - President - Dr. V. A. SMITH; Secretary - Mrs. MAXINE SMITH; Assitant Secretary - Mrs. MARY DOUGHTY; Treasurer - OTIS HIGGS; Assistant Treasurer - IRVIN SALKY; and General Coordinator - COBY SMITH.

A xerox of this proposal is attached hereto for Memphis copies 157-1067, 157-1423, and 100-4949 (NCC). It is noted that it provides for workshops on community organizing, voter registration, use of the vote, political power, forms of agitation, and propaganda in communications. It will form cadres of young people in various service facilities, block clubs, youth caucus groups, the political power and use of vote workshops to prepare participants to analyze and anticipate political processes and decisions, making that the propadanda and communications workshops will provide skills in various forms of group and individual communication. A weekly newsletter will be provided. The forms of agitation workshop will acquaint the participants with the history of black people, the struggle for human rights, analyse in depth each development of the civil rights struggle, and present forms of action and alternatives to the participant. Further, a black library would be created to be used by all, including books, articles, films, tapes and miscellaneous forms to relate more meaningfully to the Memphis Leadership Conference, to the recorded development of the black community.



ME 157-1067

It would provide for cell group sessions of indigenous community people, workshops on community organizing, forms of agitation, propadanda in communication, and would have a budget of \$51,240. The budget would be broken down as to a 6-month period: compensation for staff of 13 persons- \$32,240; a stipend for one of 20 participants for 12 weeks - \$7,200; books and other teaching supplies - \$3,500; films and other audio visual aids - \$300; field trips - \$500, totaling \$43,740, plus rent of \$2,000, utilities \$300, travel expenses \$2,000, slush fund \$500, automobile rental \$700, radio, TV, and newspaper programs \$2,000, for a grand total of \$51,240. The Project Director, COBY SMITH, would get \$150 per week to supervise and implement the programs and would be the chief executive responsible directly to the Board of Directors and would be responsible for all hiring and firing and physical policy. A newsletter editor was draw \$100 per month and would be responsible to the project director and through him to the Board of Directors responsible for the newsletter staff and weekly publication. The librarian would draw \$100 per month and be responsible for research, development, and operation of the library, e.g. books, articles, films, etc., and responsible to the director. A research director would draw \$100 per week and would be responsible to the project director for collection of all research statistics and data. Responsible for researches, all rights reserved. The assistant project director would draw \$100 per week and would assist project director in organizing and implementing programs, responsible to project director for cadres. There would be 3 secretaries with titles clerk-typists, would draw \$85 a weeks; and 5 research persons at \$85 per week.

The original furnished by ME 337 of the above program is being retained in the 1-A section of 157-1067. In this connection, it is noted that on 2/5/69, Dr. VASCO A. SMITH, Executive Vice President, NAACP, and wife, MAXINE SMITH Executive Secretary of NAACP, Memphis, advised the proposal sub-titled "Memphis Leadership Conference for Black and Poor People" does not have their approval and they have not permitted their names to be used. Further, JESSE TURNER, former president of the NAACP, currently Vice President and Executive Cashier of Tri-State Bank, Memphis, had not permitted his name to be used. This proposal was drawn up by WALTER L. BAILEY, JR., who currently is president of the Ninth Shelby County Democratic Club, primarily consisting of NAACP members and supporters, a political democratic organization, in the hopes he could get money from NCC to help finance the Ninth Democratic Club and a limited amount of

ME 157-1067

the money would go to such people as COBY SMITH and some of the Invaders, but the bulk of the money would be controlled by the law firm consisting of WALTER BAILEY, A. W. WILLIS, RUSSELL B. SUGARMON, IRVIN SALKY, OTIS HIGGS, MARVIN RATNER, and WALTER L. BAILEY, JR.

He pointed out that they had contacted BAILEY and asked that their names be removed from this list. They do not personally feel the money will be obtained.

They pointed out that they do not trust COBY VERNON SMITH and under no circumstances can work with him.

Later, on 2/2/69, Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis PD, furnished a copy of a letter which had been prepared by CACHEATUH SMITH, dictated by COBY VERNON SMITH, using the name COBY O. SMITH, dated 1/27/69, addressed to Mrs. JAMES M. DOLBEY, 5 Twin Hills Ridge Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45228, bearing the return address of Mr. COBY O. SMITH, P.O. Box 6214, McKellar Station, Memphis, Tennessee 38106. (This is the P.O. Box currently being used by the Invaders.) This letter reads:

"Mrs. JAMES M. DOLBEY  
5 Twin Hills Ridge Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45228

Dear Mrs. DOLBEY:

"Following your discussion, relative to sending money to us through Jim Lawson, he and I had a violent disagreement over our assertion for physical independence from his group.

"Enclosed is an article from the Commercial Appeal, which might demonstrate the dimensions of our conflict down here.

"We would as a result appreciate it if you would send all funds toward our program to our P.O. box number rather than through Pastor Lawson. The address is P.O. Box 6214, McKellar Station, Memphis, Tennessee, 38106. Thank you for your kindness.

"/s/COBY O. SMITH"

ME 157-1067

This letter was shown to be typed by CUS, CACHEATUH SMITH, and dictated by COBY O. SMITH.

A xerox copy of this letter is being retained in the 1-A section of 157-1067.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

March 11, 1969

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

---

On March 7, 1969, Mr. Jim Rankin, City Desk, "The Atlanta Constitution" newspaper, Atlanta, Georgia, furnished a letter, contained in an envelope, postmarked Amarillo, Texas, March 2, 1969. The letter, which was typewritten and unsigned, states as follows:

"March 1, 1969

"The Constitution  
Atlanta Newspapers, Inc.  
10 Forsythe St., N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30030

"To Whom it may concern:

"I am sure this is some information that you would appreciate. I have been keeping up with what you publish about the Martin Luther King Jr. case. That whole thing was plotted in Atlanta, Ga. One of the key pay-off men is a Cuban, 27 years of age, his name is Raymond Polacco and uses telephones, concerning his pay-off at 4550 Ridgecrest and 834 C Confederate Courts S. E. He is also shacking with a little red headed girl at the Confederate Courts address. This little red-headed girl is Debbie Blackman. They make a lot of trips together to New Orleans, La.

----- 44-1987-Sub-M-436 -----  
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 11 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *Q*



ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION

"I live in New Orleans and know this girl real well. She does not know that this Cuban is the pay-off man. She is a teen-ager and should not be involved in this crime."

The current Atlanta City Directory reflects there is no address such as 4550 Ridgecrest Drive in Atlanta. The current suburban directory for the Atlanta, Georgia, area reflects 4550 Ridgecrest Drive, Forest Park, is occupied by Mr. Alf Calalay.

On March 10, 1969, Miss Deborah Diane Blackman, 834 Confederate Court, Apartment C, age 19, advised she met Raymond or Raymon Polacco about four months ago at The Scene, a nightclub in Atlanta, Georgia. She advised she dated Polacco several times after that and he came to her apartment on numerous occasions where she lives with her sister, Judy Griffin. She advised she has not seen Polacco for about one month, although she dated him quite steadily during the period that she knew him. Miss Blackman advised that according to Polacco he was married and separated from his wife and he worked at the First National Bank in Atlanta, Georgia, and attends Georgia State College in Atlanta. She said that according to Polacco he is half Italian and half Spanish. Miss Blackman advised that Polacco is from California. She believes he is from the Los Angeles area but is not sure. She advised he called his home in California on two or three occasions during the period of time she knew him from her and her sister's apartment. She advised she heard that Polacco has been reconciled with his wife and is living with her again.

Miss Blackman advised that she and a girl friend have made two trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, the first one being made in December, 1968, and the second in February, 1969. The girl who accompanied her was Charlotte Majure. She stated these

#### ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION

were short weekend trips, the latter being to attend the Mardi Gras. She denied that Polacco ever went with her to New Orleans or to any place outside of Atlanta. Miss Blackman advised during the time she knew Polacco, he never mentioned James Earl Ray nor does she recall that he ever mentioned the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Miss Blackman advised that Polacco is a white male, about 25 years old, about 5' 9" tall, medium build, black hair, black eyes, olive complexion, and wears expensive clothing.

Miss Blackman advised that her sister, Judy, is married to, separated from, and in the process of getting a divorce from Joe Griffin, who resides at 1918 North Manhattan Street, Amarillo, Texas. She advised he is a house painter by trade and is about 50 years old. Miss Blackman stated that Judy and Joe Griffin have three children, who are living with Judy, and that Joe Griffin is attempting to obtain custody of the children. During his attempts to obtain custody of the children, he has attempted to prove that Judy is an unfit mother. In making these allegations, he has accused Judy of having illicit affairs with Raymond Polacco. She advised that on at least one occasion, Joe Griffin called a neighbor of Polacco's and told the neighbor that Polacco was running around with Judy and told Judy that from that conversation with the neighbor, he determined that Polacco is actually a Cuban. She advised that Joe Griffin and Raymond Polacco have never actually met to her knowledge but that Griffin seems intent upon proving an illicit relationship between Polacco and Judy Griffin.

On March 10, 1969, Mrs. Judy Griffin, 834 Confederate Court, Apartment C, S. E., Atlanta, Georgia, confirmed the above information furnished by Deborah Blackman, her sister, and stated that Joe Griffin, her husband, appears to be attempting through

#### ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION

telephone calls, to prove that she and Raymond Polacco have been too intimate. She advised that Polacco has been to her and her sister's apartment on numerous occasions but that actually her sister, Deborah Blackman, has been dating Polacco.

Judy Griffin advised that the telephone call allegedly made by Griffin to a neighbor of Polacco's was made to a family by the name of Calalay. She does not know where the Calalay family lives and neither Judy Griffin nor Deborah Blackman admitted knowing the residence of Raymond Polacco.

Deborah Blackman advised that during the time Polacco was allegedly separated from his wife he claimed to have an apartment in Atlanta, but she does not know where it was located.

3/11/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LHM, captioned "ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

Two copies of the LHM are being enclosed for Memphis and one copy for Dallas.

Atlanta indices negative concerning RAYMOND POLACCO and Bobbie or Deborah Blackman.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department contain no record of RAYMOND POLACCO.

The enclosed LHM is self-explanatory.

The anonymous letter, which was apparently written by JOE GRIFFIN, 1918 N. Manhattan St., Amarillo, Tex., would appear to be a violation of blackmail statutes within the investigative jurisdiction of the Post Office Department. In view of the subject matter, however, the letter is not being furnished to the local Postal Inspector without specific instruction to do so by the Bureau.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
1 - Dallas (Enc. 1) (Info)  
2 - Atlanta  
CWH:vnc  
(8)

44-1987-Sub-M-437

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
MAR 12 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *qjt*

**AT 44-2386**

**Dallas Office is being furnished one copy since  
the writer of the letter apparently lives within that division.**

**2\***

3/11/69

**AIRTEL**

**AIRMAIL**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**

**FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)**

**MURKIN**

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LHM, captioned "ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

Two copies of the LHM are being enclosed for Memphis and one copy for Dallas.

Atlanta indices negative concerning RAYMOND POLACCO and Bebbie or Deborah Blackman.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department contain no record of RAYMOND POLACCO.

The enclosed LHM is self-explanatory.

The anonymous letter, which was apparently written by JOE GRIFFIN, 1918 N. Manhattan St., Amarillo, Tex., would appear to be a violation of blackmail statutes within the investigative jurisdiction of the Post Office Department. In view of the subject matter, however, the letter is not being furnished to the local Postal Inspector without specific instruction to do so by the Bureau.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *W. G.*  
1 - Dallas (Enc. 1) (Info)  
2 - Atlanta  
ORH:vsc  
(8)

*44-1987-Sub-M-437*

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
MAR 12 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Signature]*

**AT 44-2386**

**Dallas Office is being furnished one copy since  
the writer of the letter apparently lives within that division.**

**2\***

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

1151AM URGENT 3-12-69 PGH

TO MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN

FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION DESIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO ANY INFORMATION BEARING ON POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER. DEPARTMENT DESIRES THAT INTERVIEW BE CONDUCTED WITH JAMES EARL RAY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IN AN EFFORT TO ELICIT ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING SUCH CONSPIRACY.

YOU SHOULD CONTACT DISTRICT ATTORNEY PHIL CALALE TO DETERMINE WHETHER CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD PERMIT INTERVIEW WITH JAMES EARL RAY AT THIS TIME. ALSO CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH PERCY FOREMAN, THE ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTED RAY, TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO RAY'S BEING CONTACTED BY FBI TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT RAY WILL FURNISH ANY POSSIBLE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED

END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub-M-4

M7

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
MAR 12 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Heater*



PAGE TWO  
CONSPIRACY.

HANDLE AND SUTEL BUT DO NOT MAKE ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS  
TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW WITHOUT SPECIFIC BUREAU AUTHORITY.  
THIS WILL CONFIRM BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL ON MARCH ELEVEN.  
END

SAB

FBI MEMPHIS

P

F B I

Date: 3/12/69

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN.

REBUTEL THIS DATE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL CANALE ADVISED HE KNEW OF NO REASON THAT INTERVIEW OF RAY COULD NOT BE CONDUCTED BY FBI. HE ALSO STATED HE WOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTIONS SHOULD FBI DESIRE TO INTERVIEW RAY AT THIS TIME.

HOUSTON OFFICE ADVISED THAT PERCY FOREMAN, ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTED RAY, ADVISED HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO FBI INTERVIEWING RAY. FOREMAN DID INFORM HOUSTON OFFICE THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH RAY MORE THAN FIFTY HOURS AND DID NOT DISCUSS FACTS OF CASE WITH RAY. FOREMAN SAID PURPOSE OF HIS INTERVIEWS PRIMARILY TO GET TO KNOW RAY. FOREMAN VOLUNTEERED THAT HE CONSIDERED RAY A RACIST AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE RAY WOULD COOPERATE WITH FBI.

HARRY AVERY, COMMISSIONER, TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, ADVISED THIS DATE HE WOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTION TO PRISONER JAMES EARL RAY BEING INTERVIEWED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FBI. NO ~~ARRANGEMENTS~~ ARRANGEMENTS MADE ~~TO~~ TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW. MEMPHIS AWAITING BUREAU AUTHORITY. P. END

RGJ:BN (1)

Approved: *Referson*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

5:55 P.m.

3-12-69

M

Per

*eds**llc**44-1987-Sub-M-439*

F B I

Date: 3/13/69

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATTN: MR. AL ROSEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISIONFROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) P  
MURKIN.*Ray Interview indy*

AT APPROXIMATELY TWO FORTYFIVE PM, INTERVIEW WAS  
BEGUN WITH JAMES EARL RAY BY SAC, MEMPHIS AT TENNESSEE STATE  
PRISON. INTERVIEW CONCLUDED AT APPROXIMATELY THREE THIRTYFIVE PM.  
RAY ON ENTERING ROOM SAID, "YOU'RE THE GUY WHO TESTIFIED. I DON'T  
WANT TO TALK TO YOU OR ANYBODY FROM THE FBI." RAY WAS ASKED TO  
SIT DOWN AND WAS TOLD IT WAS POSSIBLE WE HAD THINGS WE COULD TALK  
ABOUT. RAY SAID, "I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT CASE AS I'VE BEEN  
MISQUOTED ENOUGH!" HE WAS UNABLE TO POINT OUT ANY SPECIFICS  
WHERE FBI HAD EVER MISQUOTED HIM. HE WAS ALSO TOLD FBI HAD NOT  
INTERVIEWED HIM SO IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO MISQUOTE HIM.  
RAY INDICATED HE BETTER GO BACK TO CELL AS SAC WAS ONLY TRYING  
TO TRICK HIM INTO TALKING ABOUT CASE. HE WAS THEN REMINDED OF HIS  
GUILTY PLEA IN OPEN COURT AND WAS ASKED IF HE INTENDED TO CHANGE  
THIS. HE SAID NO.

RAY THEN CRITICIZED HIS ATTORNEY ART HANES, SR.  
HE SAID HANES WAS NOT GOOD ATTORNEY AS HE REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE  
CASE. SAC INTERJECTED THAT HIS ATTORNEY HAD HIRED INVESTIGATOR,

RGJ:BN

(1) *[Signature]*  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *DR* 7:05 PM Per *And*  
*lll*

*lll 44-1987-Sub-M-440*

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

TO WHICH RAY REPLIED, "HE'S NO GOOD EITHER, AND HE ONLY BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE TRIAL." RAY STATED HANES REALLY WASN'T HIS ATTORNEY AS WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE HAD HIRED HANES TO GO TO LONDON TO ACT AS ATTORNEY FOR RAY, IN RETURN FOR STORY CONTRACTS. RAY WOULD NOT AMPLIFY ON CONTRACTS BUT DID STATE HE HAD TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS OUT. RAY SAID HE HADN'T RECEIVED ANY MONEY ON ANY OF THESE CONTRACTS YET. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD CONTRACTED WITH PERCY FOREMAN REGARDING POSSIBLE STORY. ALSO SAID PART OF HIS CONTRACT WITH FOREMAN WAS THAT RAY WOULD NOT EMBARRASS FOREMAN IN COURT. WHEN ASKED IF THAT IS WHY HE SAID NO MORE IN COURT WHEN HE ROSE TO MAKE COMMENT, RAY SAID HE WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE.

HE THEN BECAME CRITICAL OF FOREMAN, SAYING HE WOULDN'T INVESTIGATE HIS CASE EITHER. SAID THAT FOREMAN CAME TO HIM WITH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, SAYING "YOUR BEST DEFENSE IS TO PLEAD GUILTY OR YOU'LL GET THE DEATH SENTENCE." RAY INDICATED DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS PAST ATTORNEYS. HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA NOW. HE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THIS ATTORNEY. (SAC HAD PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH WARDEN LAKE RUSSELL

-2-

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)**PAGE THREE**

AT PRISON AND WARDEN HAD ADVISED RAY HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO GET J. B. STONER, AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA, TO REPRESENT HIM. J. B. STONER WELL KNOWN FIGURE IN VARIOUS WHITE HATE GROUPS IN GEORGIA.

RAY ALSO SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ANY MORE ABOUT ANYTHING, AS HE FELT HIS ATTORNEY WOULD BE ABLE TO REOPEN HIS CASE. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD LETTER PREPARED TO SEND TO SENATOR EASTLAND AND THEN IN ABOUT TWO OR THREE MONTHS HIS CASE WOULD BE CLEARED UP. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT THEN BE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE CASE FULLY.

ADDITIONAL SMALL TALK OCCURRED AND RAY BROUGHT UP FBI TV SERIES. HE WONDERED WHY FBI ALWAYS HAD TO LET THE CRIMINALS DRAW FIRST BEFORE THEY WERE SHOT. HE WAS TOLD THIS IS ONLY CONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS, AS OUR WEAPONS ARE USED ONLY IN SELF DEFENSE. HE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM. HE THEN ASKED IF FBI THOUGHT HE WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIS FINGERPRINTS IN THE AREA WHERE A PUBLIC FIGURE WAS KILLED. HE WAS ASKED IF HE WAS TRYING TO TELL SAC THAT SOMEONE PLANTED HIS PRINTS, AND IF SO HIS STORY WAS GETTING THIN AND SAC WOULD LEAVE. HE THEN

-3-

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE FOUR

RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT NOT EVER HAVING BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A LINEUP AND WAS NOT SURE THAT ANYONE COULD IDENTIFY HIM. HE THEN INDICATED HE HAD READ IN A CANADIAN PAPER THAT ONE CHARLIE STEPHENS COULD PROBABLY IDENTIFY HIM. HE EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT CHARLIE STEPHENS PROBABLY COULD IDENTIFY HIM AS HE THOUGHT CHARLIE STEPHENS HAD A GOOD LOOK AT HIM IN ROOMING HOUSE. HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

HE THEN FURTHER CLAIMED THAT NO ONE HAD IDENTIFIED HIM WITH A PHOTOGRAPH UNTIL HE MADE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ON THE WEST COAST. THE ABSURDITY OF THIS STATEMENT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM AS HE KNEW THE STATE HAD SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO COULD IDENTIFY HIM.

HE WAS ASKED IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, SUCH AS HIS TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS. HE SAID NO, THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE GETTING MIXED UP WITH STEIN. HE SAID STEIN WAS ONLY A "HIPPIE." HE WOULD NOT TALK FURTHER ABOUT STEIN.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COVERED WITH RAY INDICATED HE SAID HE NEVER RECEIVED A PROPERTY RECEIPT FROM

-4-

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge