

# INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

---

---

## HEARINGS BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

NOVEMBER 9, AND 10, 1978

### VOLUME IV

Printed for the use of the Select Committee on Assassinations



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

36-411 O

WASHINGTON : 1979

---

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

LOUIS STOKES, Ohio, *Chairman*

RICHARDSON PREYER, North Carolina  
WALTER E. FAUNTROY,  
District of Columbia  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE,  
California  
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, Connecticut  
HAROLD E. FORD, Tennessee  
FLOYD J. FITHIAN, Indiana  
ROBERT W. EDGAR, Pennsylvania

*Subcommittee on the  
Assassination of  
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

WALTER E. FAUNTROY, *Chairman*  
HAROLD E. FORD  
FLOYD J. FITHIAN  
ROBERT W. EDGAR  
STEWART B. MCKINNEY  
LOUIS STOKES, *ex officio*  
SAMUEL L. DEVINE, *ex officio*

SAMUEL L. DEVINE, Ohio  
STEWART B. MCKINNEY, Connecticut  
CHARLES THONE, Nebraska  
HAROLD S. SAWYER, Michigan

*Subcommittee on the  
Assassination of  
John F. Kennedy*

RICHARDSON PREYER, *Chairman*  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD  
CHARLES THONE  
HAROLD S. SAWYER  
LOUIS STOKES, *ex officio*  
SAMUEL L. DEVINE, *ex officio*

# CONTENTS

---

November 9, 1978:	
Opening statements:	Page
Chairman Louis Stokes .....	1
Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy .....	3
Narration by G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel and staff director .....	7
Testimony of Alexander Eist, retired, Metropolitan Police Force, London, England .....	10
AFTERNOON SESSION	
Narration by G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel and staff director .....	77
Testimony of firearms panel:	
Andrew M. Newquist, Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation; George S. Bates, Jr., New York State Police Laboratory; Russell M. Wilhelm, chief, Maryland State Police Ballistic Unit; Donald E. Champagne, Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement, and Monty C. Lutz, Wisconsin Regional Crime Laboratory .....	81
November 10, 1978:	
Narration by G. Robert Blakey, on possible criminal motives of James Earl Ray and playing of tape .....	111
Testimony of Mr. Edward Redditt, formerly of the Memphis Police Department .....	202
AFTERNOON SESSION	
Narration by G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel and staff director .....	235
Testimony of Mr. Frank C. Holloman, former director of fire and safety, Memphis, Tenn .....	236
Prepared statement of Mr. Frank C. Holloman .....	334



# INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1978

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The select committee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 9:10 a.m., in room 345, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Louis Stokes (chairman of the select committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Stokes, Devine, Preyer, McKinney, Fauntroy, Sawyer, Dodd, and Edgar.

Also present: G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel and staff director; Alan Hausman, staff counsel; William Webb, staff counsel; and Elizabeth L. Berning, chief clerk.

Chairman STOKES. As the Select Committee on Assassinations continues its hearings into the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is appropriate once again to comment on certain aspects of the public presentation of the results of our investigation.

As I have said before, the select committee has divided its mandate, which derives from House Resolution 222, into four questions:

First, who assassinated Dr. King?

Second, did the assassin or assassins have help? That is, was there a conspiracy?

Third, what was the quality of the performance of the agencies, chiefly the FBI, that investigated the assassination?

And fourth, what recommendations should the committee make for the future?

Although public interest may focus primarily on the conspiracy question, the committee considers each of them to be of equal importance.

Last August, as those of you who have followed our hearings will recall, the evidence that was presented dealt with the facts and circumstances of Dr. King's death and their connection, if any, with the activities of the convicted assassin, James Earl Ray. We will continue today with that aspect of the investigation. Then, starting tomorrow and for the rest of the month, we will turn to unanswered questions that have a bearing on the conspiracy issue. In addition, we will examine the performance of the FBI in its surveillance of Dr. King prior to his death and in its investigation of his murder.

As I have noted, the committee has strived throughout its investigation to develop the recommendations—both legal and administrative—that it will consider for the future. These recommendations will be the specific topic for discussion in 2 days of public

hearings next month. As unpleasant as it is, there is a real prospect that this Nation will face political assassinations in the future. Eight American Presidents—nearly one in four—have been the target of assassins' bullets, and four died as a result. As the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence observed in 1969:

Violence has been a recurring theme in American life, rising to a crescendo whenever social movements—agrarian reform, abolition, reconstruction, organized labor—have challenged the established order \* \* \* such periods have often produced assassinations of \* \* \* prominent persons. Consistently, they have subjected potential leaders to vilification and threats to their safety.

It is crucial, therefore, that we prepare for them, and there is no better time to do so than when the Nation is in a period of relative calm.

As I have also noted in the past, the primary purpose of these hearings is to give the committee staff an opportunity to present in public key evidence on essential issues in the investigation. The hearings also serve as a forum for the committee to undertake to evaluate the evidence. Nevertheless, I should caution you that neither the committee nor its staff is trying to prove or disprove any particular theory. Instead, the committee intends to consider the best available evidence on a given point, evidence that may prove or disprove this or that theory, or be insufficient to lead to a judgment either way. We are exploring what the truth may be; as a committee, we have no preconceived notions.

Speaking about the quality of evidence available to the committee, it would be instructive to look back to our hearings on the assassination of President Kennedy. In the Kennedy case, the committee had access to an abundance of high-quality evidence, often the hard stuff of science, to establish what happened in Dallas. In the King case, unfortunately, less scientific evidence is available—there were for example no photographs taken at the instant of the murder, no tapes made of the sound of rifle fire as there were in Dallas. Consequently, it will be necessary here to rely more on documents and human memories.

There are, of course, sharp differences in the quality of various types of evidence. Those differences need to be explicitly noted here. Human testimony is qualified by perception and memory, to say nothing of bias or motive to lie. It is, therefore, less reliable than documents prepared, not for litigation, but to establish an accurate record of events. In turn, documents are less dependable than scientific analysis.

Finally, on the subject of evidence, let me say that while we may not always know what we might wish to know with the degree and certitude that we might like, the committee is still obligated to make public what it has learned. The obligation stems from the nature of legislative proceedings, which these hearings are, as opposed to a judicial trial.

This leads then to my next point. These are legislative hearings, not a trial, criminal or otherwise. Consequently, there is no indictment; there is no defendant. The normal rules of evidence that control judicial proceedings do not, therefore, apply. It follows, therefore, that a special duty of restraint is imposed on this com-

mittee, one that should also be assumed by those who follow our hearings.

It is this: The evidence being presented should not be stretched beyond what is fairly established—and it should not be sensationalized.

This note of caution is especially applicable to the conspiracy issue, all the more so when indications of association are being considered. Evidence should be taken for what it shows—no more, no less.

As I have said before, while conspiracy is founded on association, more than association is required to establish it. To reason that guilt goes hand-in-hand with association—the principle of guilt by association—is abhorrent in a free society. We must examine evidence carefully, reserving judgment until all available facts are known, reaching conclusions only to the extent that the evidence fully justifies them.

I must also caution again that even with the completion of these public hearings, our job will not be over. Obviously, it will not be possible here for us to consider every question of concern, or even to consider all evidence on those questions heard. Much ground has been covered in our executive hearings, our depositions, field interviews, and file reviews, and we will publish in our final report the information obtained and an analysis of it. What we intend to present in these hearings is a distillation of more than a year of effort by the committee and its staff. I recognize that there will be loose ends. Most of them we hope to tie down in the final report, but frankly life itself contains loose ends. As I have said before, not every question asked can be answered to the satisfaction of everyone.

I would now like to call on my colleague, Mr. Walter Fauntroy, the distinguished Representative of the District of Columbia and chairman of the King assassination subcommittee, in order for him to bring us up to date with a review of our public hearings on the King assassination that were held this past August. Mr. Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As Chairman Stokes observed, the committee began its public hearings into the death of Dr. Martin Luther King last August. Almost 3 months have passed since then, so it may be helpful to those who have followed our hearings to review the evidence that the committee has heard.

Over 5 days of hearings in August, the committee examined the life of Dr. King and what happened in Memphis on April 4, 1968. We listened to a review of Dr. King's life that showed how the 20th century civil rights movement arguably paralleled the career of Dr. King. As Professor Blakey said, "His life and its steady movement toward freedom, justice, equality, and peace pose difficult, terribly difficult questions, going into the reasons for his death."

The ultimate question seemingly came down to this:

Was Dr. King's death unrelated to his life, was it a senseless act; or did it, like his life, have meaning?

Our leadoff witness on August 14 was Dr. Ralph Abernathy, Dr. King's close friend and trusted associate, and his chosen successor as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Dr. Abernathy described the three stages of the civil rights movement

that virtually paralleled Dr. King's own personal career—first, the drive to end segregation; second, the fight to integrate American society; and third, the campaign for economic justice and world peace. He related how Dr. King's last trip to Memphis, in support of the sanitation workers' strike, was in keeping with his personal participation in efforts to achieve social justice for the poor of our Nation.

Dr. Abernathy also vividly recounted for the committee Dr. King's last days and his last moments, and how his friend, quite literally, died in his arms. He admonished the committee to get to the root of the assassination. "Dr. King had a heart of love," said Dr. Abernathy. "He was a drum major for justice and equality, and whomsoever slew the dreamer and sought to destroy his dreams should be known to the American people."

Having listened to the facts and circumstances surrounding Dr. King's life and death, the committee then turned to medical science in an effort to learn what it might say about his death. Dr. Michael Baden, the chief medical examiner from New York City, was the spokesman for the committee's panel of forensic pathologists. He testified that Dr. King died as a result of a single gunshot wound that entered the right side of his face approximately an inch to the right and a half-inch below the mouth. The bullet fractured Dr. King's jaw, exited the lower part of the face and re-entered the body in the neck area. It then severed numerous vital arteries and fractured the spine in several places, causing severe damage to the spinal column, and coming to rest on the left side of the back, below the scapula.

The medical panel reviewed the emergency room treatment of Dr. King and the autopsy procedures by the Memphis medical examiner. Its conclusions, as outlined by Dr. Baden, were the following:

One, every effort was made to save Dr. King, but he was essentially dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital in Memphis.

Two, the autopsy findings of the medical examiner were accurate.

Three, there were no traces of gunpowder in the clothing or in Dr. King's wounds (meaning the shot was fired from at least 30 inches away).

Four, there were particles left by a lead bullet on Dr. King's clothing.

Five, the wounds were caused by the bullet recovered from Dr. King's body.

The panel also shed what light it could on the point of origin of the shot, using data supplied by the committee's engineering consultant as well as eyewitness testimony of Dr. King's location and posture at the moment he was struck. It suggested that the shot was probably fired from the direction of the roominghouse at 422½ South Main Street, but the panel could not, from the medical evidence alone, determine that it was from the bathroom window on the second floor or from the shrubbery below the window, as various people have argued.

Next, Mr. Chairman, the committee sought to determine for itself what, if any, role James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin, played in the death of Dr. King. Ray was brought from Brushy



Mountain State Penitentiary in Petros, Tenn., to present to the committee his version of his activities from his escape from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967, to his arrest for the murder of Dr. King in London on June 8, 1968.

Ray's version, given in the form of a prepared statement, took approximately 1 hour to read. In essence, he denied any participation in the death of Dr. King; offered an alibi for his whereabouts at the time of the assassination; and suggested that the assassination must have been the work of a man named Raoul.

The examination of Mr. Ray by the committee was based on the evidence from which it might be inferred that Ray, in fact, first, stalked Dr. King; participated in the assassination itself; was not in the gas station as he said at the time of the assassination; and the suggestion that the mysterious individual named Raoul, who, according to Ray, masterminded the assassination plot, probably did not exist.

Now the question of stalking. That Dr. King was probably being stalked by Ray, for example, was a theme developed by the evidence. Martin Luther King, Jr., was in Los Angeles the week of March 16, 1968, recruiting for the poor people's campaign. It was announced March 16 he would be returning East to recruit for the poor people's campaign; that announcement appeared in the written press on the 17th, the committee addressed Mr. Ray's contention that he did not plan to go to Atlanta when he left Los Angeles on March 17, 1968. Nor did he even know, Mr. Ray claimed, that Atlanta was Dr. King's home and the SCLC headquarters. Mr. Ray was somewhat taken aback, however, when Chairman Stokes produced a postal change-of-address card submitted by Ray under the Galt alias, prior to his departure from California, with General Delivery, Atlanta, listed as the point to which mail should be forwarded from Los Angeles. Mr. Ray's contention is that he left Los Angeles en route to New Orleans, arriving there on March 21. Thereafter, he received instructions from the mysterious Raoul to go to Birmingham. He took a rather circuitous route to Birmingham, which brought him to Selma, Ala., March 22, the time Dr. King is known to have been in that area for the purpose of recruiting. His statement is that subsequently he went to Atlanta, arriving on March 24, and leaving on March 29. He has insisted that he did not return to Atlanta until April 5, again having left Atlanta on March 29 for Birmingham.

His account was that he completed his rifle purchase in Birmingham on March 30, then proceeded on a slow drive to Memphis, although he was a bit vague as to where he stopped over on the trip. He was adamant, however, in his denial of doubling back to Atlanta on the weekend when Dr. King returned home from Washington the weekend of March 30-31. "I know I didn't return to Atlanta," Mr. Ray testified. "If I did, I will just take responsibility for the King case here on TV."

Mr. Ray was visibly shaken when Chairman Stokes then produced a ticket indicating he had dropped off his laundry at the Piedmont Cleaners in Atlanta on April 1. Ray indicated that the date on the ticket should have been March 25. Ray, therefore, challenged the committee exhibit as either a mistake by the clerk at the laundry or a forged document. In testimony the following

day by Annie Estelle Peters, an employee of Piedmont Cleaners, now retired, the authenticity of the document, however, was confirmed; Mrs. Peters produced the original counter book, and it corroborated the April 1 date on the ticket. It was not, as Mr. Ray had claimed, either a mistake or a forgery.

Similarly, Mr. Chairman, it was brought out that Mr. Ray had been inconsistent in his descriptions of the mysterious Raoul, portraying him variously as a blond-haired Latin, a red-haired French Canadian and a sandy-haired Latin. Indeed, Mr. Ray was unable to produce one witness to vouch for Raoul's existence, despite a supposed 9-month association during which they met, according to Mr. Ray, in six motels, two roominghouses and five bars and restaurants in six different cities. One witness who might have seen them together, James Garner, the proprietor of an Atlanta roominghouse, was described by Mr. Ray as nodding off to sleep at the time, but the committee produced a statement by Mr. Garner in which he says he recalls seeing Mr. Ray but no one answering the description of Raoul.

With Mr. Ray still at the witness table, it was announced that the committee had received evidence of substantial and damaging statements Mr. Ray is alleged to have made to a prison guard while he was in custody in London. In an effort to be fair, the committee presented the statement of the prison guard to Mr. Ray for comment, in order that he might have an opportunity to respond to it before the credibility of the testimony itself was tested during the appearance of the witness.

The committee also directed its attention to Mr. Ray's claim that at the time of the shooting of Dr. King he was in a service station several blocks away from the murder scene. In support of the alibi, Mark Lane, Mr. Ray's attorney, had produced two witnesses to Mr. Ray's presence at the station, Thomas I. Wilson, since deceased, and Coy Dean Cowden. The committee heard testimony from the following witnesses: Mr. Cowden himself admitted the story he gave to Mr. Lane was total fabrication, one he concocted at the request of a friend who had been retained as a private investigator for the Ray defense. Mr. Cowden said that on the day of the King assassination, he was not even in Memphis; rather, he was at his home in Texas. He said that Mr. Lane went for his story "Hook, line and sinker."

Staff investigator Ernestine Johnson then testified that she interviewed a friend of the late Mr. Wilson, one who said he was with Mr. Wilson at the time of the shooting and who claimed they were not at the service station in question.

The owner of the service station and his son each testified that they were at their service station on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, and that they do not recall seeing either Mr. Ray or the white Mustang he was driving.

That brings us, Mr. Chairman, to where we are now.

Today, the committee will take testimony on various admissions Mr. Ray has allegedly made. The committee will also consider further the scientific evidence in the King assassination.

Tomorrow, the committee will examine possible motives in the assassination. It will then be appropriate to begin taking up unanswered questions in the conspiracy area.

Next week, and for the balance of the public hearings, we will directly delve into the themes you mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, conspiracy and the performance of the agencies, in particular the FBI.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
The Chair now recognizes Professor Blakey.

**NARRATION BY G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND  
STAFF DIRECTOR**

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In any investigation, evidence may be gathered from a variety of sources: The physical world, documents, and, of course, human testimony, including that of the accused himself. Much of the evidence in this committee's investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as you mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, is, in fact, based on human testimony. In turn, much of that testimony has also come from the convicted assassin himself, James Earl Ray. Mr. Ray has hardly stood on the right of every accused person to remain silent. Since his arrest, Mr. Ray has been the source of voluminous information, which has been presented in various books, articles and on national television.

Mr. Ray has also been an important source of evidence for this committee. In interviews over 40 hours in total length, he has recounted his story in considerable detail. But while he has been a ready informant, Mr. Ray's statements have often been troublesome because of their contradictions, both with statements from other sources and even, in many instances, with themselves. Consequently, in its effort to reach the truth, the committee will have to evaluate carefully the various statements made by Mr. Ray on each of the occasions for which a record has been made or for which there may be a trustworthy witness. The second category includes attorneys for Ray, prison officials and guards, fellow inmates and writers.

In a number of cases, Mr. Ray's alleged statements amount to an admission against interest, some of which can even be construed as confessions. For this reason, the committee will have to be careful in evaluating the statements to consider its surrounding facts and circumstances, including what is known about Mr. Ray's state of mind at the time of his statement, the credibility of the person reporting the statement, as well as any possible ulterior motive he or she might have, and, in the case of a writer, any financial arrangements made with Mr. Ray. Each statement must, therefore, be considered on its own, although the cumulative effect of all must be weighed by the committee.

Mr. Chairman, with this background in mind, it is now appropriate to review for the record a number of statements attributed to Mr. Ray. The most comprehensive confession made by Mr. Ray was, of course, the one he gave in open court in Memphis on March 10, 1969, when he entered a plea of guilty in the King assassination, and for which he received a 99-year sentence for murder in the first degree. The 56-paragraph stipulation of material facts, initialed by Mr. Ray and his attorney, Percy Foreman, delineated in detail Mr. Ray's responsibility for the assassination. The judicial proceedings, reviewed in some detail before this committee last

August when Ray was here, also shows clearly that Ray was aware of his rights as well as the significance of his admission and its consequences.

Granted, Mr. Ray later sought to withdraw his plea, arguing that it was not voluntary, and that he was not afforded the assistance of effective counsel. But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled on May 10, 1976, that Mr. Ray had voluntarily and knowingly pled guilty and that the evidence sustained the findings. In addition, the court found that Mr. Ray had failed to show he had been denied effective assistance of counsel. In December 1976, the Supreme Court of the United States refused to review the decision of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Absent dramatic new evidence on these issues, it is difficult to see how this committee would be justified in rejecting the ultimate conclusions of these proceedings.

Several other, perhaps less dramatic, statements by Mr. Ray after his arrest also tend to substantiate his participation in the assassination of Dr. King. His attorney, Mr. Foreman, has told the committee that not once in their 4-month association did Mr. Ray deny it, although he did advance theories tending to support his innocence to test Mr. Foreman's view of their acceptability by a jury. Mr. Foreman also says Mr. Ray told him his brother, Jerry, was with him on the day he purchased the first of two rifles in Birmingham, suggesting a family-based conspiracy. Finally, Mr. Foreman recalls, Mr. Ray even punctured his own alibi by admitting the mysterious Raoul was a concocted figure. These admissions must, of course, be placed in the context of Mr. Ray's break with Mr. Foreman after the guilty plea and sentence. The committee will have an opportunity, too, to hear from Mr. Foreman himself, since he will be a witness before this committee at a later date. Nevertheless, they are, if believed, damaging statements.

Dr. McCarthy DeMere, the physician who attended Mr. Ray while he awaited trial in the Shelby County jail in Memphis, testified in 1976 evidentiary hearings on Mr. Ray's habeas corpus petition for a new trial. Dr. DeMere said he examined Mr. Ray regularly, and they were on a very friendly basis. He also testified that in a final physical in March 1969, just before Mr. Ray's transfer to the State penitentiary in Nashville, that he asked Mr. Ray if he really had been involved in the murder of Dr. King. Mr. Ray's reply, according to Dr. DeMere, was in the affirmative, although he added, "I wasn't by myself."

Here, too, context is important in evaluating these admissions. The committee must recall that Dr. DeMere is related to one of the prosecutors of Mr. Ray in the Tennessee trial. Dr. DeMere will also be a witness in a later hearing.

Mr. Chairman, several law enforcement officers have also told of admissions against interest by Mr. Ray. One of their stories follows: Robert Jensen, special agent-in-charge of the Memphis FBI field office, interviewed Mr. Ray at the State penitentiary on March 13, 1969, and reported by teletype to Washington headquarters that Mr. Ray indicated that a witness named Charlie Stephens could probably identify him since Mr. Stephens had "a good look at him" in the roominghouse from which the shot that killed Dr. King was apparently fired. Agent Jensen repeated before the committee in

executive session the statement by Mr. Ray, a particularly damaging one, since Mr. Stephens is the witness who, immediately after the assassination, provided a tentative identification of the assassin. Mr. Stephens' testimony, which has been challenged, would be buttressed substantially if, indeed, Mr. Ray conceded that he might have been identified by such a witness. Mr. Jensen will also appear before the committee on a later date.

In 1977, Ray submitted to two polygraph tests, one for an article in Playboy magazine, another for a television report by Jack Anderson. In each, Mr. Ray denied personal participation in the murder of Dr. King, and in each, the examiner concluded Mr. Ray was lying. The committee commissioned a panel of polygraph experts to review the two tests, with some interesting results.

In the first test, the one for Playboy, Mr. Ray responded in the negative to the following questions:

- On April 4, 1968, did you shoot Martin Luther King, Jr.?
- Did you kill Martin Luther King, Jr.?
- Did you fire the shot that killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?
- Do you know for sure who killed Martin Luther King, Jr.?

The committee panel unanimously agreed with the original examiners that Mr. Ray was lying to each of the questions.

Ray was also tested, during the Playboy examination, on the issue of conspiracy. The conclusion of the original Playboy examiner was that he was truthful in denying the existence of a conspiracy. When the Playboy charts were received by the committee's panel, however, the experts found the charts inconclusive on the conspiracy issue.

In the second test, Mr. Ray was again asked several questions bearing on his personal participation in the murder, but for a number of reasons the committee panel was unable to make conclusive determinations about them. One of those reasons—a major one that the panel came to unanimously—was that Mr. Ray had created artificial physiological reactions—physiological reactions—in order to beat the test. The panel elaborated:

Mr. Ray (had) apparently studied polygraph technique and was attempting to create lie-type reactions to the control questions in order to cause the polygraphist to believe he was more concerned with the control questions rather than the relevant issues—indicating that he was truthful when he answered the relevant questions.

There is one final allegation of an admission by Mr. Ray warranting note here—it is new and dramatic—the one, Mr. Chairman, that was read into the record in the committee's hearing last August by Congressman Devine at the specific request of Mr. Ray and his counsel. It was made by Alexander Anthony Eist, a former chief inspector with the London Metropolitan Police, who was assigned to guard Mr. Ray after his arrest on June 8, 1968.

In a statement to the committee, Inspector Eist told of his conversations with Mr. Ray while they sat together in a jail cell. In them, Inspector Eist testified, Mr. Ray explained how he escaped from Missouri State Prison and supported himself by holdups while a fugitive. Further, Mr. Ray expressed a hatred for Blacks and an interest in going to Africa to fight in a Foreign Legion.

More incriminating, Mr. Ray is alleged to have told Inspector Eist that while fleeing the scene of the assassination he threw

away his rifle when he spotted a policeman. Mr. Ray said he knew his fingerprints were on the rifle, though he felt that only a conspiracy could be proved against him, since no one had seen him fire the shot.

The committee will recall that Inspector Eist's credibility was assailed by Mr. Lane in the hearing, when he charged that Eist had been "dismissed from the Metropolitan Police Force in disgrace under charges of theft and perjury." Mr. Lane cited a British lawyer as saying Inspector Eist was "a corrupt police official, a disgrace to the English police force."

In light of the significance of Inspector Eist's story, if true, and the charges made against him by Mr. Ray's attorney, it is important that the committee and the American people have an opportunity to evaluate Inspector Eist's testimony.

Inspector Eist was born on March 26, 1929. He joined the Metropolitan Police Force on June 14, 1948, and he was honorably retired after 28½ years with the rank of detective chief inspector.

In June 1968, Inspector Eist was a detective sergeant with an elite unit, known as the flying squad, stationed at Scotland Yard. On June 8, he was summoned to the Cannon Row Police Station and instructed to sit in a cell and guard a prisoner later identified to him as James Earl Ray.

Inspector Eist is currently the proprietor of the Greenman Public House in Cambridge, England.

It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to call Inspector Eist.

Chairman STOKES. The committee calls Mr. Eist.

**TESTIMONY OF ALEXANDER EIST, RETIRED DETECTIVE CHIEF INSPECTOR, METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE, LONDON, ENGLAND**

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Eist, please stand to be sworn. Raise your right hand, please, sir.

Do you solemnly swear the testimony you will give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. EIST. I do, sir.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair recognizes staff counsel Alan Hausman.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First I would like to thank Mr. Eist for taking the time to come to Washington to testify today. We hope that his testimony can clarify some of the questions raised when Mr. Eist's statement taken on August 4, 1978 by committee investigators, was read into the committee's record as MLK exhibit F-92 during the committee's August 18 public hearing.

Mr. Eist, what is your current address?

Mr. EIST. The Greenman Publick House, Six Miles Bottom, Cambridge, England.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What is your date of birth?

Mr. EIST. March 26, 1929.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What is your current occupation?

Mr. EIST. I am a licensee—publican.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Of the Greenman Pub?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Will you please explain to the committee what a licensee is?

Mr. EIST. Well, I am licensed by police authorities to supply liquor in a public house.

Mr. HAUSMAN. In order for you to be licensed by the police must you pass high character standards and have a clean record?

Mr. EIST. Very much so, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Prior to becoming a licensee of a pub in England, what was your occupation?

Mr. EIST. I served 28 years with the Metropolitan Police in England.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And what rank did you reach while you served with the Metropolitan Police?

Mr. EIST. Chief inspector.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What were your duties as chief inspector?

Mr. EIST. Well, I was with various squads. I was with what is known as the flying squad, the robbery squad. I was in charge of the regional crime squad.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What was your last operational assignment before retiring, sir?

Mr. EIST. I was in charge of three police stations. That is, from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) point of view.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And were you in charge of a large number of men at that time?

Mr. EIST. Yes, I was, yes.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Approximately how many, do you recall?

Mr. EIST. At any one time it could have been up to 100.

Mr. HAUSMAN. When did you join the Metropolitan Police?

Mr. EIST. Sorry, sir?

Mr. HAUSMAN. When did you join the Metropolitan Police Force?

Mr. EIST. June 14, 1948.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And how long did you serve with them?

Mr. EIST. Twenty-eight years, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. When did you leave the Police Force?

Mr. EIST. 1976.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would ask that a copy of Mr. Eist's certificate of retirement which has been pre-marked MLK exhibit F-137 be entered into the record.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]

# METROPOLITAN POLICE

A  
4060

This is to certify that Alexander Antony EAST, B.E.H.

Commissioner's Office.....Division

joined the Metropolitan Police, as Constable, on the 14th

day of June, 1948, and on the 26th day of

February, 1976, as Chief Inspector, retired having been

penalised on being found medically unfit for police duties.

.....



*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Assistant Commissioner

Given under my Hand and Seal

for Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Metropolitan Police Office,  
New Scotland Yard, Broadway, LONDON, SW1H 0BG

1st day of March, 1976.

*This certificate is issued without erasure.*



**N.B.—Should this certificate be lost or mislaid no duplicate can be obtained unless on explanation approved by Commissioner, and in each of such case payment of ~~Five~~ pence will be required.**

50  
Fifty

**DESCRIPTION**

Age..... 46 years

Height..... 5 feet 11 1/2 inches

Build..... Medium

Complexion..... Fresh

Hair..... Dark Brown

Eyes..... Brown

Shape of nose..... Straight

Shape of face..... Round

Distinguishing marks..... Nil

Mr. HAUSMAN. MLK exhibit F-137 is a certificate signed by the Commissioner of Police that states:

This is to certify that Alexander Antony Eist, B.E.M., joined the Metropolitan Police as Constable on the 14th day of June 1948, and on the 26th day of February, 1976, as Chief Inspector, retired, having been pensioned on being found medically unfit for police duties.

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Is that a document you gave to the committee?

Mr. EIST. That is, sir, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Thank you, sir.

Exactly under what circumstances did you leave the Metropolitan Police?

Mr. EIST. Well, I developed a thyroid complaint and that was the reason for my retirement.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And you were honorably retired on a medical with full pension?

Mr. EIST. I was, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would ask that a copy of Mr. Eist's certificate of identity of award of Metropolitan Police pension be entered into the record. It has been premarked as MLK exhibit F-138.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it will be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-138

Form A.

## METROPOLITAN POLICE PENSION

## CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY

This form is the property of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District and the pensioner should take care of it.

THE CERTIFICATE IS NO SECURITY WHATEVER FOR DEBT. THIS PENSION CANNOT BE ASSIGNED OR CHARGED (See Sec. 7(1), Police Pensions Act, 1948).

All communications must be addressed to the Pension Clerk, Metropolitan Police Finance Branch, Eastbury House, 30-34 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UD and the Pension Number must be quoted. Postage must be prepaid.

Pension No. 79-357330

## THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

MR ALEXANDER ANTONY EIST (B.E.M.)

has been awarded a Metropolitan Police Pension.



B. G. DAVID  
Director of Finance.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO PENSIONERS

The following requirements have been laid down by the Secretary of State as Police Authority for the Metropolitan Police District in regard to the payment of pensions. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the pension not being paid.

- 1 Pensions of retired Metropolitan Police officers are paid in advance on the 6th of the month. The initial payment, however, will cover the period from the date of commencement of the pension to the 5th of the following month. Thereafter, if the pension is over £600 a year, payment will be made by bank cheque. Pensions of under £600 a year may be paid by bank cheque or Giro cheque as the pensioner chooses. Pensions may be paid by credit transfer to a bank nominated by the pensioner.
- 2 Giro cheques must be cashed at a specified Post Office in Great Britain or Eire and cannot be cashed at any other Post Office. When cashing a Giro cheque this Certificate may be produced as proof of identity. The pensioner must notify the Pension Clerk of the address of the Post Office at which he wishes his Giro cheques to be made payable. He must also give the earliest possible intimation of any change in his address or in the address of the Post Office at which he desires payment indicating whether the change is likely to be permanent.
- 3 Pension instalments paid by bank cheque or Giro cheque will be sent to the pensioner personally. Those paid by credit transfer will be credited to the pensioner's bank account and details of the amount credited will be sent to the pensioner personally.
- 4 If a pensioner loses his Certificate of Identity he will be required to submit a Statutory Declaration under Section 18 of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1835, and a form will be supplied to him by the Pension Clerk for the purpose. This declaration must be made before a Justice or other person authorised by law to administer an oath and must be forwarded to the Pension Clerk with a written application for the issue of a fresh Certificate of Identity.
- 5 A pensioner will be called upon at least once each year to produce evidence of his life in the form of a Life Certificate. The Life Certificate must be properly completed and returned within seven days and no further payment will be made until it has been received. This Certificate of Identity must be produced to the person signing the Life Certificate.
- 6 Where a pensioner takes service in any Police Force as a regular policeman he should inform the Pension Clerk immediately. His pension may be suspended in whole or in part so long as he remains in such service.
- 7 A pensioner who is in receipt of a pension granted under the provisions of the Police Constables (Naval and Military Service) Acts, 1914 and 1917, or the Police and Fireman (War Service) Acts, 1939 and 1944, must give immediate notice to the Pension Clerk of any variation in the amount of the pension or allowance payable to him by the Department of Health and Social Security or Paymaster General.
- 8 A pensioner who receives any injury benefit or disablement pension under the provisions of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1965, on account of an injury received during his police service must give immediate notice to the Pension Clerk of the amount and of any variation in the amount payable to him by the Department of Health and Social Security.
- 9 A Giro cheque, bank cheque or notification of credit transfer will be forwarded to the pensioner's last known address each month without application being made by him but payment may be withheld (a) if the pensioner has failed to comply with these instructions, until he has so complied, or (b) if he refuses to make any payment due to the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, until he has made such payment. Payment may also be withheld pending enquiry if it appears (c) that the pensioner is insane or otherwise incapacitated to act, or (d) that the pensioner has brought himself within the provisions of Regulation 69 of the Police Pensions Regulations, 1973.
- 10 On the death of the pensioner, this Certificate is to be returned forthwith by his representatives, or by any other person who comes into possession of it, to the Pension Clerk, Metropolitan Police, Finance Branch, Eastbury House, 30-34 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UD, or it may be handed at the time the death is registered to the Registrar of Deaths.

The attention of Pensioners is called to the following Statutory Provisions of the Police Pensions Act 1948 and the Police Pensions Regulations 1973.

### POLICE PENSIONS REGULATIONS 1973

**REGULATION 68.** (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a police authority by whom a pension is payable may in their discretion, withdraw the whole or any part of the pension for any period during which the pensioner is employed as a regular policeman in any police force.

(2) This Regulation shall not apply to a widow's pension or pension under Regulation 25.

**REGULATION 69.** (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a police authority by whom an award is payable may determine that the award be forfeited, in whole or in part and permanently or temporarily as they may specify, in any of the following cases, that is to say, that the grantee—

- (a) is convicted of any offence and is sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding twelve months; or
- (b) enters into or continues to carry on any business occupation or employment which is illegal, or in which he has made use of the fact of former employment in a police force in a manner which is discreditable or improper; or
- (c) supplies to any person or publishes in a manner which is discreditable or improper any information which he had obtained in the course of employment in a police force; or
- (d) solicits or without the consent of the police authority, accepts directly or indirectly any testimonial or gift having any pecuniary value on retirement from the force or otherwise in connection with his service in a police force; or
- (e) enters into or continues in any business, occupation or employment as a private detective, after the police authority have given him notice in writing requiring him on any reasonable grounds not to do so;

Provided that a pension shall not be forfeited under sub-paragraph (b) unless reasonable warning has previously been given in writing by the police authority.

(2) In the case of a pension granted to a regular policeman, other than an injury pension, the police authority, in determining whether a forfeiture shall be permanent or temporary and affect the pension in whole or in part, may make different determinations in respect of the secured and unsecured portions of the pension; but the secured portion of such a pension shall not be forfeited permanently and may only be forfeited temporarily for a period expiring before he attains insured pensionable age or for which he is imprisoned or otherwise detained in legal custody.

**NOTE:** In the above regulations any reference to the secured portion of a pension is a reference to the portion of the pension which equals the graduated retirement benefit which would be payable to the pensioner, on the assumption that he retired from regular employment on attaining insured pensionable age, in return for a payment in lieu of contributions in respect of the whole or any period of non-participating employment by virtue of which he is entitled to reckon pensionable service for the purposes of the pension, being a period of non-participating employment at the end of which no payment in lieu of contributions in fact fell to be made; and any reference to the unsecured portion of a pension shall be construed accordingly. For the purpose of this paragraph a period of non-participating employment shall be treated as continuing during periods of holiday, temporary incapacity for work and similar temporary interruptions.

**REGULATION 81.** (1) Where any sum is due on account of a pension, and any debt is due to the police authority or, when the police authority is the metropolitan police district, to the Receiver for that district, from the pensioner, so much of the said sum as does not exceed the debt may be applied by the authority or as the case may be, the Receiver in or towards the satisfaction of the debt:

Provided that where the pension is an ordinary ill-health or short service pension and the sum due on account thereof is in respect of a period beyond insured pensionable age, only so much of the sum as is due on account of the unsecured portion of the pension may be applied as mentioned in this paragraph.

(2) If it appears to the police authority that a pensioner is by reason of mental disorder or otherwise incapable of managing his affairs, the authority may in their discretion pay the pension or any part thereof to any person having the care of the pensioner, and, in so far as they do not dispose of the pension in that manner, may apply it in such manner as they think fit for the benefit of the pensioner or his dependants.

(4) Where any sum is payable to a minor on account of a pension, the authority may, if they think fit, in lieu of paying the said sum to the minor, pay it to such other person as they may determine.

A person who receives any sum paid under this paragraph shall, subject to and in accordance with any directions of the police authority, apply the said sum for the benefit of the minor.

(6) A police authority shall obtain a good discharge by applying or paying any sum in the manner provided by this Regulation.

### POLICE PENSIONS ACT 1948

**SECTION 7.** (1) Every assignment of or charge on a pension granted under the regulations made under section one of this Act, and every agreement to assign or charge such a pension, shall except so far as it is made for the benefit of the family of the pensioner, be void, and on the bankruptcy of the pensioner such a pension shall not pass to any trustee or other person acting on behalf of the creditors.

(2) If any person obtains or attempts to obtain for himself or any other person any pension under any such regulations as aforesaid by maiming or injuring himself, or causing himself to be maimed or injured, or otherwise producing disease or infirmity, he shall be liable on conviction or indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Chairman, may I simply ask that the other mike be moved a little closer to the witness?

Chairman STOKES. Certainly.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Let me just note that exhibit F-138 is a Metropolitan Police Pension Certificate of Identity showing that Mr. Alexander Antony Eist, B.E.M., has been awarded a Metropolitan Police pension.

Mr. EIST, while serving for over 28 years with the Metropolitan Police, did you ever receive any particular honors, awards, commendations, medals, anything of that nature?

Mr. EIST. I did, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Can you please tell us what some of them were?

Mr. EIST. Yes; I received 28 commendations for outstanding work. I was awarded the Queen's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. I was also awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Thank you. In June 1968, what was your rank and assignment?

Mr. EIST. In 1968 I was a sergeant on the flying squad.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And the flying squad was stationed at Scotland Yard?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What were your duties at that time as sergeant on the flying squad?

Mr. EIST. General duties in connection with the arrest of serious criminals.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And can you please tell us what the flying squad actually was?

Mr. EIST. Well, the flying squad is a unit of men, about 100 officers. It is formed so that you can detect serious crime without the hindrance of boundaries. You can go all over England.

Mr. HAUSMAN. In other words, the flying squad was not restricted to the immediate London area?

Mr. EIST. No.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Was the flying squad considered an elite unit at that time?

Mr. EIST. It still is, yes, sir, very much so.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Who was your commanding officer in 1968 while you were on the flying squad?

Mr. EIST. Mr. Thomas Butler.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Do you recall his rank at that time?

Mr. EIST. Detective Chief Superintendent.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Is he still alive?

Mr. EIST. No. Unfortunately he is dead, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. On June 8, 1968, did you receive an early morning phone call from your supervisor, Detective Chief Superintendent Butler?

Mr. EIST. I did, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Will you please tell us the circumstances of this call?

Mr. EIST. I received the call in the early hours of the morning and was ordered to Cannon Row Police Station, which is a station very close to Scotland Yard. I was told to go there and I would receive instructions.

When I arrived at the station, I was told that I was going to be placed in a cell with a man. I was to take extreme care with him, to make sure that no unauthorized person had contact with him, and that he could not in anyway do himself any injuries.

Mr. HAUSMAN. At that time did you know the identity of the man who was in the cell to which you were sent?

Mr. EIST. No; I did not, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What did you know about him at that time?

Mr. EIST. It's my recollection that I was told that he was wanted in connection with a bank robbery and that he had been stopped at the airport with a gun. That's about all I knew at that time.

Mr. HAUSMAN. He was stopped at Heathrow Airport?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did you later learn the prisoner's true identity?

Mr. EIST. Yes, I did; yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Whom did you learn he was?

Mr. EIST. I learned that he was a man called James Earl Ray.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And did you learn why he had been arrested and was being held at Cannon Row Station?

Mr. EIST. I did, sir, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Excuse me?

Mr. EIST. I did, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And do you recall for what he was being held?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Would you please tell us?

Mr. EIST. Yes. I heard that he was being held in connection with the death of Dr. Luther King.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And he was then awaiting extradition?

Mr. EIST. Exactly. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. During that first morning when you arrived at Cannon Row Station, after the phone call from Superintendent Butler, how long did you stay with the prisoner?

Mr. EIST. I stayed with him from about 6 a.m., in the morning until about 3 in the afternoon.

Mr. HAUSMAN. At which time you were relieved by another officer?

Mr. EIST. I was, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Were you in the cell with him during the entire period of time?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Had you been told anything in particular by Mr. Butler as to what your responsibilities were concerning the prisoner's safety?

Mr. EIST. Not at that time, sir, but during that day I was. I was told that for security reasons I would be the officer detailed to accompany him at all times when he was in transit between the court hearings and the prison.

Mr. HAUSMAN. In other words, it became a one-man-one-job assignment?

Mr. EIST. Very much so, yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And he was going to be your particular responsibility?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Sometime thereafter was the prisoner, Mr. Ray, remanded to Wandsworth Prison?

Mr. EIST. He was; yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Do you recall when that took place?

Mr. EIST. Sorry.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Do you recall when he was transferred to Wandsworth Prison?

Mr. EIST. Yes. It is my recollection that this event was a week-end.

Mr. HAUSMAN. You say this event. When you received your initial phone call?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir. And it is also my recollection it was on the Tuesday that he went to Bow Street Court, at which time he was remanded in custody to Wandsworth Prison.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What type of institution is the Wandsworth Prison?

Mr. EIST. Wandsworth Prison is a very strict security prison, dealing with what we term category A prisoners. It is not normally a remand prison. Special authority had to be sought for this man to be incarcerated in that particular establishment.

Mr. HAUSMAN. So extreme precautions were being taken with Mr. Ray at this time?

Mr. EIST. Very extreme precautions, yes.

Mr. HAUSMAN. After Mr. Ray was remanded to Wandsworth Prison, did you have an occasion to see him again?

Mr. EIST. Yes. The system in the United Kingdom is that a person cannot be remanded in custody for a longer period than 7 days, which means that in order to continue remanded in custody, he would have to travel from the prison to the court once a week to continue the remand.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did you, in fact, accompany him on several of these transfers?

Mr. EIST. On all of them, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Do you recall offhand how many transfers there may have been?

Mr. EIST. Six or seven, I should say.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Those would have been about every 7 or 8 days?

Mr. EIST. That is right; yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. During the course of those transfers, would you be handcuffed to Mr. Ray?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. When you arrived at the courthouse with him, would you still be handcuffed to him?

Mr. EIST. I would be handcuffed to him until we were both placed in a detention cell at the court. That was the only time the handcuffs were taken off.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Would you then sit with him in the detention cell?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. How long would you be sitting with him in the cell prior to the hearing?

Mr. EIST. It varied considerably. Sometimes it was a matter of an hour, sometimes 2 hours. Then I would accompany him to the dock, and I was handcuffed to him as he sat in the dock.

Mr. HAUSMAN. So you sat next to him while he was in the dock at the court hearing, also?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. In the course of all this time you were spending with Mr. Ray, did you establish some form of rapport with him?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Would you tell us how that began?

Mr. EIST. Well, initially he didn't want to say anything to anybody. But I suppose my constant contact with him, he began to look on me as somebody he could talk to.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Do you recall any particular incidents the first morning that broke the ice?

Mr. EIST. Yes, the very first day he did nothing except stare at me, and quite an uncomfortable situation, until he was offered his breakfast, and, at that time, he wasn't allowed any utensils for reasons to do with he might have committed an injury to himself. I tried very hard to get utensils for him because I couldn't see how he could eat a breakfast of the nature he was having without them. He seemed to find this very good; he was pleased that I tried to do this for him.

Mr. HAUSMAN. At that time, did he make any comment to you?

Mr. EIST. He said something to me about it was a good try, anyway. Something like that.

Mr. HAUSMAN. That was because the attempt was not successful and he was not allowed to have the utensils?

Mr. EIST. Not at all; that is right.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did you subsequently begin to have some general conversation with him after he made this initial comment?

Mr. EIST. Yes; the first day or the first two or three meetings, general conversations; he asked me to get him some magazines, and I recall he particularly asked for some magazines on yachting.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Were you able to obtain these magazines for him?

Mr. EIST. I sought authority from Mr. Butler, and this was granted, and I did, in actual fact, get him some magazines.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did you have any further conversations with him about being a criminal in America, as opposed to British criminals?

Mr. EIST. Yes; you know the sort of thing in general conversations, we discussed the difference between American criminals and English criminals, various things like that.

Mr. HAUSMAN. In the course of these conversations did he ever speak to you about his escape from Missouri State Prison?

Mr. EIST. He did; yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. What did he tell you with regard to that?

Mr. EIST. He told me that he had on several times tried to get out of prison and that by a great stroke of luck, he had been at a place within the prison at a certain time when a vehicle, a lorry of some sort that was on its way out, and he had taken advantage of this and had managed to escape.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did he say that he had any assistance in that escape?

Mr. EIST. No.

Mr. HAUSMAN. He did it all by himself?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.



Mr. HAUSMAN. Did he say anything in the course of these conversations about the way he managed to support himself while he was living as a fugitive?

Mr. EIST. Yes. He was telling me he committed small robberies in order to exist, you know. I particularly remember that he was laughing on one occasion, saying he hadn't been particularly successful in some of these ventures. On one occasion, he had fallen from the car as he was getting away; he had fallen out of the side of the car.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did he say that he was with anybody while he was committing these robberies? Did you get the impression he was with anybody?

Mr. EIST. In actual fact, the only person that he ever mentioned to me at any time was a brother. He didn't mention any name of a brother; he referred to a brother.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And did he say that he had been in contact with his brother during the course of his fugitive period?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. During the many hours you spent handcuffed to him and in cells with him, did Mr. Ray ever discuss Blacks or racial matters with you?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did he make any particular comments about Blacks—that you recall?

Mr. EIST. I don't recall any particular comments. It was very obvious to me that he was completely anti-Black.

Mr. HAUSMAN. You say he didn't make any particular comments. What led you to that conclusion?

Mr. EIST. The derogatory terms that he used.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Such as?

Mr. EIST. The word "nigger" was often used by him.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did he say anything about what his future plans were in relation to Blacks?

Mr. EIST. Yes. He told me that he tried to get into Africa at some stage—he said to kill some more of them. This was at a much later stage, of course, when we began discussing the—when he began discussing the death of Dr. King.

Mr. HAUSMAN. In talking about going to Africa, did he mention any plans about trying to join a mercenary force or anything of that nature?

Mr. EIST. Yes; he didn't go into a great deal of conversation about that because apparently he had been unsuccessful in whatever he tried to do. He did, in fact, mention the Foreign Legion. He seemed to have some sort of wild fantasy that he was going to do something of this nature.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Did it seem to you that he took any pride in his hatred of Blacks or think he might be a hero of sorts for what he had done?

Mr. EIST. Yes; very much so, sir. He was continually asking me how he would hit the headlines in the newspapers, and he kept wanting news of publicity.

Mr. HAUSMAN. In his conversations, did he say to you that he thought that shooting a Black man of note might make him a hero in certain parts of the United States?

Mr. EIST. Yes, there was a conversation where that type of thing was coming out.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And he was particularly concerned about publicity, you say?

Mr. EIST. Yes; very much so, yes. In fact, he said to me when I told him it hadn't really made too much of an impact in the British press, that is as far as he was concerned, he was telling me, you haven't seen anything yet. I will be in the headlines one of these days. He was quite proud of the fact that he was going to make the headlines.

Mr. HAUSMAN. At some time, did he begin speaking about the killing of Dr. King?

Mr. EIST. Yes. In actual fact, if I can explain that, it was a very difficult situation talking to this man, because if ever I asked him a question, he would suddenly stop. He would refuse to say any more, and then sit there and stare at me.

However, there were occasions when you had a job to stop him talking. On one of these occasions, he was telling me that he was going to earn a lot of money out of the situation. I recall—

Mr. HAUSMAN. Which situation do you mean?

Mr. EIST. About the murder, because at this time we had got to the murder; this was coming into the conversation, and he told me that it was his plan to get a lawyer or a lawyer's representative to go on television, and he reckoned he would make an awful lot of money through this medium.

I seem to recall saying, how are you going to spend this money, something approaching that, and it was at that time he said to me, well, they'll only be able to charge me with a conspiracy, and he said something about I will only get 1 to 10, or 1 to 12 years for that.

It was at that time that he said there was no way that they would actually be able to pin the murder on him except that he had thrown the gun away; that was the mistake that he had made. I recall he said to me he had seen a policeman or police vehicle and panicked and thrown the gun away, and his fingerprints would obviously be found on this weapon.

Mr. HAUSMAN. So he was aware that his fingerprints were on the weapon?

Mr. EIST. This is what he told me, yes.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Where was he when he had panicked and thrown the weapon away? Was that near the scene of the crime?

Mr. EIST. Yes. This was as he was running away. He didn't actually name a location. But in his rambling, he was telling me that was the only mistake he had made.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Was the reason he threw the weapon away that he had seen either a policeman or police vehicle?

Mr. EIST. That is right; yes.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Even though there was a weapon with his fingerprints on it, that he had thrown away, he was not particularly concerned because he thought he could only be tried for conspiracy?

Mr. EIST. No; he seemed quite elated in actual fact. He had never ever showed any regret or seemed worried at all about the situation.

Mr. HAUSMAN. And did he think he could benefit financially from this?

Mr. EIST. Very much so, sir. That was well in his thoughts.

Mr. HAUSMAN. Mr. Chairman, I believe at this time Mr. Devine has some more questions of the witness.

Chairman STOKES. At this time, the Chair will recognize Mr. Devine, the gentleman from Ohio, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. DEVINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Inspector Eist, you testified a few moments ago that you were honorably discharged from Scotland Yard for medical reasons?

Mr. EIST. I did; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. And I believe the medical reasons had to do with a thyroid involvement that has caused some eye protrusion; is that accurate?

Mr. EIST. Absolutely; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. But you were honorably discharged?

Mr. EIST. Very much so; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Further, a moment ago, in answering counsel's question, you said that Mr. Ray talked to you about going to Africa, and I think the quote was "to kill some more Blacks." Is that accurate?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Kill some more Blacks?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. In another area, Inspector, when did you first become aware that an American congressional committee had an interest in James Earl Ray?

Mr. EIST. In the news media in Great Britain, it had been published that James Earl Ray, or his associate, was alleging that the FBI were crooked and that they framed him. This was the first I knew of it.

Mr. DEVINE. That was after this committee was created?

Mr. EIST. I assumed so, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. In January of 1977?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. That was about the time you became aware of our interest; is that correct?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. And I would ask you whether you know Major and Mrs. David and Connie Meaunier.

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. How do you spell that?

Mr. EIST. M-e-a-u-n-i-e-r [spelling].

Mr. DEVINE. Who are they?

Mr. EIST. The Major is an Air Force Major, sir. He was stationed in Great Britain.

Mr. DEVINE. Where did you run into them?

Mr. EIST. They came into my public house. I first met them when I took this place over about 2 years ago.

Mr. DEVINE. When they told you of the new American investigation, what was your reaction?

Mr. EIST. Well, sir, that was the first I knew of it, when I saw it in the news media about the framing by the FBI, and, of course,

naturally I had some interest because of the name Earl Ray, and I had dealings with him, and I was telling these two friends of mine, and they continually coerced me into telling the FBI what I knew, because they were impressing on me how important it was to their country.

Mr. DEVINE. They suggested that you notify the FBI and the American authorities?

Mr. EIST. They did.

Mr. DEVINE. What was your response to that?

Mr. EIST. I gave it some thought, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. I beg your pardon?

Mr. EIST. I gave it some thought.

Mr. DEVINE. Yes.

Mr. EIST. And I decided, not immediately at that time, but after a while I decided that was the proper thing to do, to assist the authorities if I could, against the allegations of framing.

Mr. DEVINE. Did you suggest to them that the American authorities already knew of your relationship with Ray?

Mr. EIST. Yes; I think I did, sir. I was under the impression that they already knew the situation as I am explaining it this morning.

Mr. DEVINE. What made you think that the American authorities were aware?

Mr. EIST. Because when this was all taking place in 1968, there were, I think, three, at least two, but I think three members of the FBI who were liaison with Mr. Butler in the security of Earl Ray, and, at that time, I was telling them of the conversations that I was having in the cell.

Mr. DEVINE. Had you informed your superiors of the comments made to you?

Mr. EIST. I did; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. You had done so at that time?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir. I was continually informing them of the conversations I was having.

Mr. DEVINE. To whom did you make the reports?

Mr. EIST. To Mr. Butler, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. That is your chief inspector?

Mr. EIST. That was the chief superintendent; yes.

Mr. DEVINE. Anyone else?

Mr. EIST. And to the FBI.

Mr. DEVINE. Do you know who specifically in the FBI?

Mr. EIST. There was a man called Alder McCrae.

Mr. DEVINE. McCrae?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. M-c-C-r-a-y [spelling]?

Mr. EIST. I believe it was a-e [spelling], sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Were these reports written or orally given?

Mr. EIST. Both, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Do you know whether your superiors had passed this information over to the American authorities?

Mr. EIST. It is my belief that Mr. Butler did in actual fact, sir, because we had a conversation on one occasion where both the FBI and Mr. Butler told me that any conversations I was having with Earl Ray was not valid as far as evidential value was concerned in the United States.

Mr. DEVINE. Why did you wait until June of this year to contact the American authorities?

Mr. EIST. You mean after I first knew about the FBI, the allegations they'd been framed—

Mr. DEVINE. What happened as a result of your contact?

Mr. EIST. With the FBI, sir? Two gentlemen came to see me.

Mr. DEVINE. Two FBI men?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Could you identify them?

Mr. EIST. I am afraid I can't, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. To refresh your recollection, would it be Agent Dennis Dixon and Robert Keens?

Mr. EIST. That is right; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Those were the FBI agents involved?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. The interview was conducted in June 1978?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. What was the substance, Inspector Eist, of your conversation with these gentlemen at that meeting?

Mr. EIST. Exactly the same as I am giving you this morning, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Would you recite it again roughly what you told them?

Mr. EIST. Yes. I told them, first of all, I said that my interest in the situation was that as far as the FBI framing Earl Ray was concerned, this was totally untrue because of the very great security arrangements they made to get Mr. Ray back to this country safely. And I told them of the conversations I had had in the cell with him, and, as I say, what I mentioned to the committee this morning.

Mr. DEVINE. You told them about him describing his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. And on many occasions he admitted that he had shot Dr. King?

Mr. EIST. No. You see, he never really—Ray never really told me that he pulled the trigger or anything like that, but I told them he had, in fact, stated to me that he had thrown the gun away.

Mr. DEVINE. Inspector, have you ever read any books or articles about James Earl Ray or Dr. King's assassination?

Mr. EIST. Never, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Subsequent to that interview, were you contacted by members of the staff of this committee?

Mr. EIST. I was, indeed; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. And as a result of that contact on August 4, 1978, did you meet with staff members of the committee and allow them to tape an interview with you?

Mr. EIST. I did; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Were the statements made by you in the course of that interview truthful and accurate?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Tell me about your appearance here this morning; is this in response to a subpoena, or are you here voluntarily?

Mr. EIST. I am here voluntarily, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. After giving your statement to the committee investigators, Mr. Evans specifically, did you learn that it had been read in its entirety into the committee's record in August of this year?

Mr. EIST. I did; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Did you know that there was a strong possibility this statement would be made public in the United States?

Mr. EIST. Yes, I did, sir; yes.

Mr. DEVINE. Did you have any concern that your statement would be made public and might be challenged?

Mr. EIST. I didn't have any concern over it, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. You weren't concerned about that?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. All right. Did you later learn that James Earl Ray's attorney made serious charges concerning your honesty and integrity after your statement was read into the record?

Mr. EIST. Very much so, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Did you know that that attorney publicly charged that you were dismissed from the Metropolitan Police Force in London in disgrace under charges of theft and perjury?

Mr. EIST. I did learn that; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Were you so dismissed?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Were you dismissed from the Metropolitan Police Force for any reason whatsoever?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Did you, in fact, retire from the Metropolitan Police Force under honorable conditions for medical reasons?

Mr. EIST. I did; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Were you, as Mr. Lane claimed, investigated by A-10 of the internal police branch of the corruption department of Scotland Yard?

Mr. EIST. A-10, sir, is the department that deals with complaints of all types and kinds. I was an active police officer, and, as such, you do get complaints, and, of course, these complaints would have been investigated by the A-10 department.

Mr. DEVINE. Was this investigation prior to or after your retirement?

Mr. EIST. Prior to.

Mr. DEVINE. Prior to. Were you aware that Lane charged you were placed on trial for accepting bribes and involvement in jewel robberies throughout London?

Mr. EIST. I am aware of that; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Were you, in fact, placed on trial for those charges?

Mr. EIST. I was placed on trial for being concerned in a case concerning a false alibi, nothing to do with jewel robberies.

Mr. DEVINE. You were, however, named as a defendant in a criminal indictment, were you not?

Mr. EIST. Yes, I was; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. That was in July 1976?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. What were the charges made against you at that time?

Mr. EIST. Well, the position was, sir, that about 10 years ago, two men were arrested for receiving large quantities of foreign stamps.

At that time, I had nothing to do with the arrest of these two people. However, I did, as a spare officer on that day, assist in the charging, there were younger men involved and I was second in command on a squad. As such, I assisted in the actual charging of the prisoners although I had no hand in the arrest.

As a result of this, at that time, the junior officers placed my name on the report as the officer in charge of that particular case, and that was erroneous. I was not.

Mr. DEVINE. You say the duty officer erroneously placed your name on the report?

Mr. EIST. Yes, as the officer in charge of the case.

Mr. DEVINE. As the officer in charge, and that was not true. Is that correct?

Mr. EIST. That is it, sir. And then the following day—we have a system of a short report that has to go into what we term solicitors' department to reserve a place in the queue for counsel at an ultimate hearing. This actual form has typed on the bottom, officer in charge.

As a second in command on that squad, it was my duty to see that this form arrived at its destination within 48 hours. So I signed that form.

Ten years later, when an allegation was made by informants, not against me, but against other police officers, and in particular a lawyer, the investigating officers found that I was the officer in charge of the case. As such, I must have been aware that a false alibi was being concocted. As a result of this, I wasn't questioned about it, but placed on a charge with other people.

It became very apparent at the trial that I had nothing to do with this job, that I was not the officer in charge, and the judge stopped the case and awarded me costs.

Mr. DEVINE. That was the resolution of the indictment, the judge dropped the charge as far as you were concerned and awarded you costs?

Just what does that mean, inspector?

Mr. EIST. All the costs that I had involved in the case were paid to me from public funds.

Mr. DEVINE. I would ask the clerk to make available MLK exhibit F-136, described as a letter of acquittal.

Inspector, have you on a previous occasion seen this particular document identified as MLK exhibit F-136?

Mr. EIST. No; I haven't seen this, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Would you read it for the record, please?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir. It's from The Crown Court, Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster, Re: Alexander Antony Eist.

In reply to your inquiry regarding the above named. I would advise you that Alexander Antony Eist was tried before His Honour Judge Martin, Q.C. at this Court, and on the 12th of June 1978, was found not guilty upon the direction of the Judge of the offences put to him namely: (1) Conspiracy to commit corruption; (2) conspiracy to pervert the course of justice; (3) conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

That, sir, was in connection with this false alibi.

And it was ordered by His Honour Judge Martin, Q.C. that Alexander Antony Eist be discharged and further ordered that his costs both before this court and the examining justices be paid as taxed out of Central Funds.

Signed by Mr. R. J. Welch, for the chief clerk.  
Mr. DEVINE. Mr. Chairman, I would ask that MLK exhibit F-136 be made a part of the record.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]



**THE CROWN COURT**  
Middlesex Guildhall Westminster SW1P 3BB

Telephone 01-930 4400 ext : 279

Irwin Shaw Esq.,  
Solicitor,  
2, Garden Court,  
Temple,  
London E.C.4.

Please reply to The Courts Administrator  
Your reference

Our reference AT/77/0590/TAB

Date 3rd November 1978

Dear Sir,


Re: ALEXANDER ANTHONY EIST

In reply to your enquiry regarding the above named. I would advise you that Alexander Anthony Eist was tried before His Honour Judge Martin, Q.C. at this Court, and on the 12th June 1978 was found not guilty upon the direction of the Judge of the offences put to him namely:-

- (1) Conspiracy to commit corruption
- (2) Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice
- (3) Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice

and it was ordered by His Honour Judge Martin, Q.C. that Alexander Anthony Eist be discharged and further ordered that his costs both before this court and the examining justices be paid as taxed out of Central Funds.

Yours faithfully,

  
R. J. WELCH  
for Chief Clerk.

MLK EXHIBIT F-136

Mr. DEVINE. Inspector, under what circumstances does a defendant receive costs from the State?

Mr. EIST. Well, these are typical—this, rather, is a typical example where it was found that I had absolutely nothing to do with this case at all, and as such, an injustice had occurred, and therefore I should be put to no expense at all.

Mr. DEVINE. So when there is a full acquittal of a charge, they pay costs to the person that had been accused, is that correct?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir, under these circumstances. If there was any sort of even the slightest doubt, you wouldn't get the costs.



Mr. DEVINE. Have any other criminal charges of any kind ever been levied against you?

Mr. EIST. Never, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Are you currently on honorable pension from the London Metropolitan Police?

Mr. EIST. I am; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Isn't it a fact, Inspector, that you would not have been granted a license to operate a pub if you did have any blemish on your records?

Mr. EIST. That is so; yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired. The committee will now operate under the 5-minute rule.

Mr. Eist, let me clarify something with reference to your acquittal by the court. If I understand you correctly, at the completion of the presentation of the evidence and prior to the jury deliberating in this case, that the court acquitted you and a jury never deliberated upon your case; is that correct?

Mr. EIST. That is absolutely correct.

Chairman STOKES. Fine. I have no further questions.

The gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Preyer.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you, Mr. Eist, for your testimony.

One of the matters we have been concerned with and will be concerned with will be the question of the motive that Mr. Ray might have had if he assassinated Dr. King. One area of that would be whether any other people were involved in it. I gather he never said anything to you about involvement with any other person other than his brother?

Mr. EIST. That is so, yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. On the question of racism as a motive, you testified, as I understand it, that he hated Blacks—

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. But you infer that from general statements he made? He made no specific statement to you to the effect that all Blacks should be killed or I killed King because I hated Blacks, nothing like that?

Mr. EIST. It is a very difficult question to answer, sir, but that was the distinct impression that I drew from the many and varied conversations I had with him.

Mr. PREYER. You mentioned that he did not ever tell you directly that he shot Dr. King—

Mr. EIST. That is right, sir; yes.

Mr. PREYER. But that you could infer he shot Dr. King from statements he made, such as I threw the rifle away.

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. Are you inferring that he shot Dr. King because he was a racist, from remarks he made?

Mr. EIST. It would be my impression; yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. There was nothing specific connected with racial statements and the shooting, itself?

Mr. EIST. Nothing specific; no, sir.

Mr. PREYER. He did make some statements dealing with other possible motives, I gather, that he talked in terms that he would make a lot of money out of it?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. That was in terms of making money from publicity, not anyone giving him money to do it; is that right?

Mr. EIST. That is right; yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. Just one other rather frivolous question, I guess: You say the magazines he wanted were yachting magazines?

Mr. EIST. That was on the first day; yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. What sort of yachting magazines did he—

Mr. EIST. It bewildered me in actual fact, sir. He just wanted magazines on yachts. He was a strange character altogether, sir.

Mr. PREYER. What sort of yachting magazines did you get him?

Mr. EIST. I think I got him magazines with pictures of yachts on it, sir. I don't know too much about yachting magazines, myself.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. EIST, you mention that Mr. Ray seemed to feel he was going to make a great deal of money?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. How many times did he mention making money to you?

Mr. EIST. I would think at least two or three conversations this came into it, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Did he actually in these statements come out and say that the only thing that he would possibly ever be convicted of was conspiracy? How did he put that?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir, I distinctly remember that. You see he used to ramble on; when he did start talking, he rambled on quite a lot, you know. And he suddenly came out with this out of the blue one day when he said they will only be able to nail me for a conspiracy, and that is how this situation with the gun arrived. Because he said I will only get 1 to 10 or 1 to 12. This is the way he was talking. He suddenly appeared to me to become some sort of legal expert. This was halfway through his extradition period.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I am sure in England you have your jailhouse lawyers too, don't you?

Mr. EIST. We call them barracks room lawyers.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Did he at any time when he was talking about the conspiracy ever mention any other individuals?

Mr. EIST. No, he didn't, sir, and this is what I would like to impress on you, sir; that he did ramble so much that I am convinced that had there been anybody else involved, it would have come through the conversations.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Did he ever in his conversations about conspiracy or his conversations about going and joining the French Foreign Legion or his conversations about the Black race, mention any groups or Black hate groups, or American political groups?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Did he ever mention any association or interest in the Presidential candidacy of George Wallace?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from the District of Columbia, Mr. Fauntroy.  
Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. EIST, is it your testimony that while you shared your conversations with Mr. Ray with both your superiors and with representatives of the FBI at the time, that you know of no record made of your statements?

Mr. EIST. Sir, it is my recollection that I made a record in what we call a pocketbook, which is an official book which can be produced at any time. These books, however, are only kept for a period of about 5 years and then are destroyed.

I feel that had the evidence been of any value in an American court at the time, I would have been called upon to have made a statement which would have been attached to the file. But we have a situation where the extradition hearing was not contested. We also have a situation where Ray eventually pleaded guilty and therefore apart from the sadness of the situation, we would have had no further interest in the matter. It was a matter then before the American jurisdiction.

Mr. FAUNTROY. So that the procedure which you followed did not require that you make note of such report to a superior, is that—

Mr. EIST. Well, yes, I would have made a note in my official pocketbook which could have been produced at that time, at any time.

Mr. FAUNTROY. But the pocketbook is not now available to us?

Mr. EIST. No; they are destroyed after a certain length of time, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And the explanation which you accepted and understood for not making record of this by the FBI was that it would be of no use in court proceedings in the United States?

Mr. EIST. Exactly that, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Second, you do recall references by Mr. Ray to money?

Mr. EIST. Yes; I do, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And according to your testimony, those references were limited to only two kinds of conversations, one dealing with his access to money through small robberies—

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. During the period of his fugitivity?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And, second, with respect to moneys which might come forward as a result of his exploitation of his notoriety?

Mr. EIST. Yes.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Those were the only instances in which he mentioned to you money in connection with the assassination of Dr. King?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir, the only instances.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Finally, Mr. Chairman, you made reference to the Foreign Legion?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Do you recall these were the words used by Mr. Ray?

Mr. EIST. Foreign Legion; yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. What images does the term foreign legion summon in your mind? What does foreign legion mean to you, or did it mean to you in 1968?

Mr. EIST. It is a sort of a free-lance mercenary army, as far as I am aware, you know. They act in Africa; I don't quite know where they function. I assumed Mr. Ray knew more about it than I did, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. But you simply accepted that term from him as what he was talking about?

Mr. EIST. Yes.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And you assume that meant mercenaries?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. In Africa. In any part of Africa?

Mr. EIST. The Foreign Legion is more around the desert area as far as I know. But I am only aware of this from the sort of films and things you see. I don't know anything about the Foreign Legion.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Dodd.

Mr. DODD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Eist, how long did you spend as a police officer? How many years was that?

Mr. EIST. Twenty-eight, sir.

Mr. DODD. Twenty-eight years. How long was it, the time you spent with James Earl Ray? Just to refresh my memory, what period of time was that?

Mr. EIST. I think it was about 2 months altogether, sir.

Mr. DODD. Then you got to know him pretty well?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. You were certainly aware at the time that he was apprehended and during those 2 months that this was a case of international interest, worldwide attention and interest; is that correct?

Mr. EIST. Very much so, sir; yes.

Mr. DODD. In fact, it was of historical significance?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. And you were aware of that as well?

Mr. EIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. Are you also aware of the fact, Mr. Eist, that since 1968 there have been hundreds, if not thousands, of articles written about the assassination of Martin Luther King and various allegations and stories involving different people? Are you aware of that as well?

Mr. EIST. Strange as it may seem, sir, no; I was not aware of that.

Mr. DODD. You were not aware of stories in various publications?

Mr. EIST. No, I wasn't.

Mr. DODD. You never saw any stories?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DODD. From 1968 until fairly recently you never read any articles?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DODD. My point is this, Mr. Eist: I am a little intrigued by the fact that it took almost 10 years for someone with 28 years' experience as a police officer to come forward with the story that you have told us.

Back shortly after James Earl Ray pled guilty in 1968, stories began to appear in which he alleged that, in fact, he was not guilty. Any number of different articles have appeared in various worldwide publications, and then we have this committee being formed. And I gather by your testimony you were aware of the fact that this committee was formed?

You then had a conversation with some people as late as, I guess, the spring of this year, 1978, and it was only after that that you finally decided to come forward with this information.

Can you explain to me and this committee why someone with 28 years of experience as a police officer, knowing of the allegations that had been made, knowing of the historical significance and international concern over this case, that someone with your experience, wouldn't come forward earlier with the story that you have told us today?

Mr. EIST. Well, as far as the United Kingdom is concerned, I didn't see any reports in connection with any facts that he was not guilty or anything like this. The first time that Earl Ray came to my attention again following 1968 was when I saw in the news media at home that the allegation was that the FBI had framed Earl Ray. That was the first time that I had really given it any thought at all, apart from, you know, general sort of discussions one would have of interesting cases that you have been involved with.

It certainly didn't appear, to my knowledge, in the English press, about any suggestion that he was not guilty.

Mr. DODD. Did you keep any notes at all during the 2-month period of the conversations with James Earl Ray, personal notes you might have kept?

Mr. EIST. No; not personal notes; no.

Mr. DODD. Did you shortly after his deportation to the United States, did you write down your recollections of what had transpired over the previous 2 months?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DODD. Did you relate to other people what James Earl Ray—other than your superiors, what he told you during that period?

Mr. EIST. Yes, I did; yes, sir, because on the flying squad you have your little groups; you are always talking about the work you are engaged in, various twists of each job. I have no doubt I discussed it on those terms, but, you see, when you finished with one particular assignment, you are engaged in a lot more than just the one. That is, apart from the very great public interest, I had no interest in the subsequent developments of the case, because as far as I knew, Earl Ray had pleaded guilty to it, and that was a matter before your honorable judges.

Mr. DODD. Certainly as someone who has had a record of 28 years of working in police matters, you are more than aware of the importance of having people come forward who can provide pertinent information with regard to allegations of guilt or innocence; is that true?

Mr. EIST. Yes; that would be true, but, as I say, sir, I was not aware that there was any controversy afterward.

Mr. DODD. You knew we formed a committee in 1977 to investigate the assassination of Dr. King; is that correct?

Mr. EIST. The only time I knew, sir, was when I saw in the news media the headlines that Earl Ray, or a connection of Earl Ray was alleging that the FBI had framed him. This was the first and only time that I read anything about the—

Mr. DODD. Didn't you testify that you discovered in 1977 that this committee had been formed to investigate the assassination of Dr. King?

Mr. EIST. That is when I found it, through that media.

Mr. DODD. I would presume that you would understand that this committee was not just being formed to rehash or reconfirm what James Earl Ray had pled to in 1968; correct?

Mr. EIST. Correct; yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. So at that particular juncture it became important for any evidence that could be pertinent to this committee's work to come forward, any witnesses, any evidence to be made available.

Mr. EIST. Which is what I did; yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. It didn't occur until a year later.

Mr. EIST. Well, yes, I would say that the answer to that really basically was I wanted my domestic problems out of the way before I engaged on anything else. As you appreciate, that matter that we were talking about was hanging over my head at that time.

Mr. DODD. That is the reason you didn't come forward?

Mr. EIST. Immediately; yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. So you waited a year and a half—

Mr. EIST. I waited until that matter was away, was cleared, you know; then I immediately came forward then.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Sawyer.

Mr. SAWYER. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Does counsel have any additional questions?

Mr. HAUSMAN. No, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Do any members seeking further additional recognition?

Mr. DODD. Mr. Chairman, let me just come back, if I may.

I am really perplexed by that, Mr. Eist. You waited a year and a half to come forward with information because you wanted to take care of your own particular problem?

Mr. EIST. Yes.

Mr. DODD. Someone with—

Mr. EIST. You know—

Mr. DODD. Do you appreciate my position? Having talked with someone who has had as much experience as you have, I am impressed by 28 years of police work, and it just intrigues me when you consider, by your own admission, international ramifications, that this was a world renown case, and here you spent 2 months with a man who pled guilty to this case, who was then alleging that he was not the guilty party, and you wait a year and a half to come forward with information that is tremendously significant in this whole matter.

I am really disturbed by that information. Can you help me feel better?

Mr. EIST. No, I can't, really, sir. I think possibly I should have come forward earlier, but, you know, the matter that you have referred to, there wasn't exactly a happy one as far as I was concerned. I had an awful lot of problems of my own at that time, and I thought I would wait until that is over and at the earliest opportunity I will tell the appropriate authorities.

Mr. DODD. And you used no notes whatsoever to refresh your recollection?

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DODD. You made no recordings of any kind?

Mr. EIST. Recordings?

Mr. DODD. Well, spoke into a tape recorder, maybe, after the 2 months that you spent with Ray or sometime later with regard to your feelings, what James Earl Ray told you. You had no body of evidence to which you could return to refresh your recollection in these last 10 years.

Mr. EIST. No, sir.

Mr. DODD. So what you are telling us today is based on total recollection of what transpired 10 years ago?

Mr. EIST. Yes, that is right; yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. Eist, at the conclusion of a witness' testimony before this committee, that witness is entitled under our rules to a period of 5 minutes. During that period of time, he can in any way explain his testimony, amplify it in any way, correct any portion of it.

I would extend to you at this time 5 minutes for that purpose, if you so desire. Is there anything further you would like to say to the committee?

Mr. EIST. I honestly can't think of anything further, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Well, we certainly appreciate your coming before the committee and the testimony that you have given us here today, and at this time, then, you are excused. Thank you.

Mr. EIST. Thank you very much.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Blakey.

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Inspector Eist does not stand alone in his claims of post arrest admissions by James Earl Ray. Two additional witnesses corroborate him, at least to a degree. First, Thomas Smith, like Inspector Eist, a detective sergeant in 1968, now a detective superintendent, was assigned to guard Mr. Ray in his cell at the Cannon Row Police Station in relief of Inspector Eist. Superintendent Smith has told the committee that Mr. Ray expressed concern to him that his fingerprint might be found in his Mustang, and he was worried over whether he would be returned to the United States to face county or Federal charges. Superintendent Smith has told the committee:

Although on occasion (Mr. Ray) did say that he did not shoot Martin Luther King, he did not appear to say it with a lot of conviction.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the Smith statement be inserted in the record at this point as Martin Luther King exhibit No. F-130.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]



## UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Interview with

Mr THOMAS SMITH

on

Friday, August 11, 1978

at

New Scotland Yard, London, England

-----  
On behalf of Select Committee:

Mr ROBIN D. LINDLEY - Staff Attorney  
Mr CHARLES H. ROGOVIN - Special Counsel

## Present:

Detective Chief Superintendent Frank Cater  
Mr Richard W. Davies - Commissioner's  
Solicitors Department  
Mr Richard H. Balment - Court reporter.

MR ROGOVIN: Mr Smith, would you state your name and official address?

A Yes. My full name is Thomas Smith. I am a Detective Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, attached to Central Office, New Scotland Yard. I have been in the service for 27 years.

(Mr Cater left at this point)

Q Mr Smith, I would like to take you back to approximately June 8th, 1968. At that time were you a serving officer in the Metropolitan Police Department?

A I was, yes.

Q Could you tell me, sir, your rank and assignment at that time?

A Yes. I was a First Class Detective Sergeant, serving with the Flying Squad, attached to New Scotland Yard.

Q On the 8th June, 1968, did you have occasion to receive an assignment from a superior officer with regard to a person known or described to you then or thereafter as one James Earl Ray?

A I did, sir, yes. I had been assigned by my chief (who was then Detective Chief Superintendent Butler) to take up duty at Cannon Row Police Station, which is in Central London, and ordered to sit in the cell with Ray. It was on a Sunday. My period of detention with him was from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Q What instructions or advice did you receive from your superior with regard to the nature of your assignment at that time?

- A My instructions were quite clear, that I was there solely to see that he remained in safe custody. I was also instructed that I was not to discuss the case with him. That would be pretty obvious at the time, because I knew none of the details, anyway, other than the fact that this man was alleged to have shot Martin Luther King in the United States. It was also brought home to me the fact that if any evidence that I considered was material and should be brought to the notice of the American authorities, I would, of course, note it in the usual way and report it in the usual way.
- Q When you arrived at Cannon Row Police Station, did you relieve another officer who was carrying out, as far as you knew, the same duty to which you were assigned?
- A I did, yes. That officer was then a serving officer, Sergeant East.
- Q By the way, Mr Smith, at this time in 1968 your rank was what?
- A Detective Sergeant First Class.
- Q And you relieved another Sergeant upon your arrival?
- A First Class, yes.
- Q I assume you went into a cell with the prisoner at that point?
- A I did, yes. I had another junior officer with me. He has since left the Force. For about the first hour Ray was very quiet. I think I had said "Good afternoon" to him. I don't think he replied. I understood his demeanor, bearing in mind that he had only just previously been

arrested, and I considered then that he was in a rather vulnerable position. There was a newspaper in the cell. It was a Sunday newspaper, the News of the World. I knew that Ray was trying to hide his true identity. I picked up the newspaper and on the front page was a rather large photograph of James Earl Ray. The photograph clearly showed that the man I was sitting with and the man in that photograph was one and the same person. In the photograph he was wearing what appeared to be a multi-colored (although the photograph was in black and white) shirt. I clearly remember saying to Ray "This photograph is of you", and he then agreed that it was. Therefore, I had then established in my own mind that he was Ray. I asked him where the photograph had been taken and he said it was some years previous when, I think he said, he had been doing some lumberjacking in Canada. He also said - I cannot remember whether it was to a question from me or what I had read in the newspaper or whether he had volunteered the information - that he was a prisoner unlawfully at large from a penitentiary in the States, having been sentenced to 8 to 20 years imprisonment for an offence of robbery. I asked him how he escaped from prison. He just replied that that was another story. This angle was not pursued. He denied that he had shot Martin Luther King. He also mentioned a white Mustang car. It may well have been that these details were already in this newspaper. My recollection with regard to the vehicle was a suggestion on his part that fingerprints could easily be planted anywhere.

- Q I assume, Mr Smith, that there was some conversation about fingerprints on portions of that white Mustang car?
- A My recollection leads me to believe that there was some possible conversation regarding fingerprints on that car. I would emphasise the point: I am sure that came from him and was not as a result of a question regarding fingerprints.
- Q Precisely. Did the conversation at any time turn to the matter of extradition which had been requested by the United States authorities of the British authorities?
- A Yes, it did indeed. The main theme of his thinking by this time was that he wanted to beat extradition; in other words, he wanted to stay in this country as long as possible. He mentioned to me that it was within his knowledge that there were two warrants out for his arrest in the United States. One was held by the FBI and the other by a County Marshall or Sheriff. He clearly indicated that if he was extradited, his wish would be that it would be on the County warrant and not the Federal warrant, as one was clearly for conspiracy to murder and the other one was for the substantive offence of murder.
- Q Did you derive an understanding, Mr Smith, of what Mr Ray's reasoning was with regard to his expressed desire to be returned on the County warrant; in other words, why he felt it was in his interest to be returned on the County warrant?
- A Yes. He expressed this in terms of the question of a jury. He felt that if he was arrested on the County warrant, then the jury could not possibly be impartial - there would be

the question of color - and that there is no way in which the authorities could give him a fair and unbiased trial. This seemed to be the tack that he was going on with regard to these warrants. I recall now that the question of the conspiracy, as opposed to the substantive offence of murder, was one that he had obviously considered in the light of legal procedures; but I had no wish to get into any legal discussions with him, not being familiar with the laws of the United States.

Q Were you, as a consequence of these conversations with Ray, able to form any opinion or do you have any present recollection of your impression of the level of his intelligence?

A I did not regard him as an intelligent person. I certainly did not regard him as highly intelligent, because, to my way of thinking, the consequences that were likely to ensue now, or then, were that he knew he was going to be taken back to the United States. Although on occasions he did say that he did not shoot Martin Luther King, he did not appear to say it with a lot of conviction.

Q Did anything occur at any time in the course of this assignment for you, this eight hour tour of duty, which led you to believe that he had been in England before the day he was apprehended at London Airport, which would have been, we believe, June 8th, the day before your assignment began?

A Yes. There was one incident during that tour of duty where for some reason - and I cannot remember the reason - I took

out of my pocket some British currency coins. We had not long gone over to decimalisation - I cannot remember the year we had gone over, but it had not been long - and I produced a 10 pence piece, and he happened to say that that was the new 10 pence piece. I said to him, "How do you know that? As far as I understand, you have never been in this country before", and he said, "Mr Smith, I should be more careful before I make such observations in the future". I thought it was a little unfair of me to make the point, so I dropped it, and, there again, this matter was not pursued. But he did say in fact that he had been in the country before. To my recollection, he mentioned Earls Court.

Q Earls Court being an area of London?

A Yes.

Q Throughout the balance of the time you spent with him, were there any other comments or observations that might be interesting that Mr Ray may have made?

A I cannot recall now any other observations he may have made.

Q Did at any time the conversation turn to what the criminal community in the States would refer to as "the Chair", meaning the electric chair?

A Yes. At some stage he did mention - again, this was in relation to the possibility of conviction with juries and what-have-you - that, of course, he could finish up in the electric chair.

Q Were you aware, Mr Smith, either from comments made to you

by police colleagues, police superiors, before you commenced the duty assignment or from the newspaper article or from anything in conversation with Ray, whether at the time he was apprehended at the London Airport he had been armed?

A He did mention to me about his arrest; he did say he had the opportunity at some stage to have shot the Special Branch officer - I remember he referred to him as "the Special Branch officer" - when he took him through a door at the airport into a room. I am sure he said that the officer walked in front of him and that he could have had ample opportunity to have shot him.

Q Did he indicate why he did not for any reason?

A No. He was just, I think, trying to impart to me the fact that he was not a cold-blooded killer. That is the impression I got.

Q Can you think, Mr Smith, of anything else that might be of interest to us with regard to this duty assignment?

A No, I can't recall any other observations that were made. As I say, as far as I am concerned, there was nothing in any of the conversations that I had with him that I felt I was duty-bound to report. I tried to stick as near as I possibly could to my terms.

Q I take it then, Mr Smith, that nothing prior to the assignment - when I say "nothing", I mean nothing of which you learned prior to the assignment - nothing which took place during the assignment and nothing you may have heard



or learned subsequent to the assignment impacted you in any way which would have, in the course of your police conduct, suggested to you the filing of any formal report of any kind?

A No, that is true. At no time did I feel that there was any material evidence that would have assisted anyone.

Q Because - I want to be certain I have covered this - you were not assigned to conduct an interrogation of Ray?

A Certainly not, no.

Q This was not what we would call in the States an investigation by you?

A Certainly not. We had very clear instructions that we were there as jailers and jailers only.

Q Effectively a special security detail pure and simple?

A Indeed.

Q Thank you.

Mr Davies, any other questions?

MR DAVIES: I have no questions.

MR ROGOVIN: Thank you very much, Mr Smith.

(Interview commenced at 10.10 a.m. and  
concluded at 10.31 a.m.)

  
Thomas Smith

Mr. BLAKEY. Second, Mr. Owen Summers, now the chief crime reporter of the London Daily Mail, has given the committee a sworn affidavit in which he says Inspector Eist told him of Mr. Ray's admissions in 1968, thereby indicating that the story is perhaps not a recent concoction by Inspector Eist for whatever reason.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the Summers' affidavit be inserted in the record at this point as Martin Luther King exhibit No. F-131.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-131

Great Britain and Northern Ireland )  
 London, England ) 88:  
 Embassy of the United States of America )

2nd November 1978

11.17 a.m. U.S. Embassy,  
 London, England.

I am Owen Summers, chief crime reporter of the Daily Express, 121, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.. Date of birth: 29.7.27. I hereby make the following statement voluntarily to members of the US House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (Chief Investigator Ed Evans and Staff Investigator Louis Parisi):

I have been a newspaper reporter for 34 years, covering stories both in the United Kingdom and abroad. I have worked for four national newspapers: the Daily Sketch, the Sunday Dispatch (both now defunct), the Daily Mail and the Daily Express. In doing my job I rely to an extent on news which is given officially by Scotland Yard's Press Bureau. However, much of my information is gained from personal contact. I have many friends who are police officers who have been of assistance from time to time.

Alec Eist has been personally known to me for about 18 years during which time we met frequently on my assignments rounds. I had occasion to run into him when Ray was appearing at Bow Street in 1968. I recall Alec Eist remarking that Ray had "coughed" (confessed) to him that he had killed Dr King.

I didn't think of this as a news item. I was more interested in the English court proceedings, the intense security involved in guarding Ray, date of deportation and so on. At that time, I remember, Ray's guilt seemed assured from everything I had read that the confession wasn't

too important to me. Also an English newspaper cannot print that a man has confessed before he is brought to trial - we call it sub judice rules.

(Answering Mr Evans' question). I have never been knowingly misled by Alec Eist and always found his information totally reliable.

About the middle of August I heard in a telephone call to my office one night about Alec Eist's testimony and immediately recalled the 1968 conversation. A week or two after that I ran into Alec Eist in a pub in north London, The Knights of St John, and reminded him of what he had said about Ray confessing. He was surprised because he couldn't remember the conversation. Then he asked if I had any objection to passing my name onto the investigation. I had none. This is a true statement, typed by me.

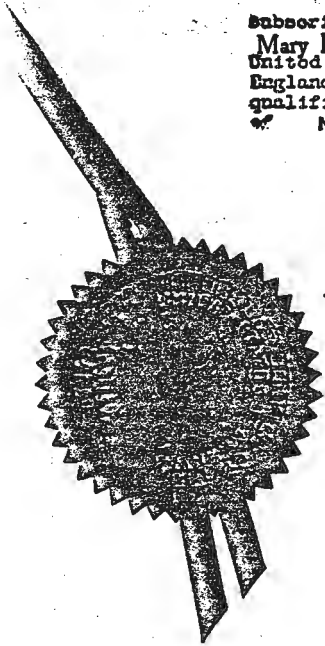
REC P.2.

In 1968, at the time this conversation with Alec Eist occurred, I was chief crime reporter of the Daily Mail, covering all major crime stories.

WIT.  
*Edward [unclear]*  
*Miss [unclear]*

*John [unclear]*

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
Mary I. Gerber Consul of the  
United States of America at London,  
England, duly commissioned and  
qualified, this second day  
of November 1978.



*Mary I. Gerber*

Mary I. Gerber  
Vice Consul of the  
United States of America

London, England

Mr. BLAKEY. Third, two Americans stationed in England who had met Inspector Eist in 1977, Air Force Major David Meunier, and his wife, Connie, recall the inspector's account of his dealings with Ray while Ray was detained in London. According to their statements, it was Major and Mrs. Meunier who called Inspector Eist's attention to the formation of this committee and suggested that he tell his story to the U.S. authorities.

The significance of the statements of Major and Mrs. Meunier is that they tend to support the authenticity of Inspector Eist's story. Well before Inspector Eist told it to the committee, he had given an identical account to others, namely, the Meuniers. Moreover, the Meuniers say Inspector Eist had to be urged to testify to the U.S. authorities, since Inspector Eist believed his information was extraneous. This appears to explain perhaps why the inspector took so long to come forward.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the affidavits of the Major and his wife be inserted into the record as Martin Luther King exhibits F-132 and F-133, respectively.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may be entered in the record at this point.

[The information follows:]

11/2/78  
1900  
Six Mile Bottom,  
Suffolk, UK

My name is David A. Munier,  
age 37, born 13 Dec 1940, Marinette,  
Wis. I am presently residing  
at Coventry Farm, Six Mile Bottom,  
Suffolk, United Kingdom. I am  
residing here while stationed at  
RAF Mildenhall. I am a Major in  
the USAF and am currently  
assigned as the Director of Security,  
USCINCPAC AIRBORNE COMMAND PAS  
located at RAF Mildenhall. I  
am making this statement voluntarily  
in the presence of Chief Investigator  
Edward Evans and Staff Investigator  
Louis Parris and Jerome Cullinger of the  
United State House of Representatives  
Select Committee on Assassinations  
regarding information I have relative  
to Alex Eust's testimony concerning the  
murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I have been residing at this address  
since June 1976 and first met Alex  
Eust in January of 1977. During a  
casual conversation with Alex Eust he  
mentioned his involvement in the  
apprehension of James Earl Ray and his  
subsequent activities during James Earl  
Ray's detention in the United Kingdom.  
I noticed at this time that Alex Eust  
was convinced of James E. Ray's singular  
involvement in the murder of Dr. King  
whereafter the subject was dropped until  
I noticed in the newspaper that an

*David A. Munier*

WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AT RAF  
MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND, SUBSCRIBED AND  
SWORN to before me this 3 day of Nov 1978



*William C. Walling*  
WILLIAM C. WALLING  
258-70-6733  
Kinross, Michigan

investigation into the matter was being convened by the U.S. Congress. At this time I mentioned to Mr. East that this investigation was being held and perhaps his testimony could be of interest to the authorities and perhaps he ought to see if they would be interested. At this time I was convinced that Mr. East's information was more important than he himself considered it.

At this time I did not know that he had taken any action at all until the stories broke in the English news media.

I was contacted by Mr. East and he informed me that he had not given my name or my wife's in testimony to protect us from publicity. I informed him at that time that he could use my name to people in an official capacity if they considered it necessary.

During our January 1977 conversations Mr. East mentioned the fact that James Earl Ray had himself had discussed the murder of Dr. King quite extensively and I realized that Mr. East held strong suspicions that he knew the facts of case. Mr. East stated that he had been in constant contact with Ray during his detention and due to his conversations with him was convinced that Ray had been a lone actor.

Whether or not Mr. East's evidence

*Amick-Manning*

WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN THE  
HILDERHILL, SUFFOLK ENGLAND. SUBSCRIBED AND  
SHOWN TO BECOME HIS 5 466 of Mr 1977



*William C. Manning*  
WILLIAM C. MANNING  
258-78-6733  
Kinnross, Michigan

was in fact the truth; I was convinced that his testimony was of interest and importance. It was using this reasoning that suggested that Mr. East contact the U.S. authorities. I played no further role in his activities after this.

WIT:

Louisa Damm  
James G. Collins  
Edward J. Jones

David R. Meunier  
DAVID R. MEUNIER  
MAJOR, USAF

WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AT RAF  
WILDENHALL, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND, SUBSCRIBED AND  
SWORN to before me this 3 day of Nov, 1978

William C. Waller  
WILLIAM C. WALLER, Capt. In US  
258-78-6733  
Kalamazoo, Michigan



2 November 1978

6:15 p.m.

Coventry Farm House  
Six Mile Bottom  
Newmarket, Suffolk  
CB8, 00W, England

My name is Catherine B. Heiniger and I am 36 years old, born 16 December 1941 in Pomistown, New Jersey. I am presently living with my husband at Coventry Farm House, Six Mile Bottom, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8, 00W in England. I am making this statement voluntarily in the presence of Chief Investigator Edward Evans and Staff Investigator Louis Perini and Jerome Cullings of the United States House of Representatives' Select Committee on Assassinations regarding the information I have relative to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have lived at this address since June 1976.

I first heard of Alex East in the Fall of 1976 when my husband mentioned meeting him and hearing about his having lived in a cell with James Earl Ray after he was captured at Heathrow Airport.

A few weeks later my husband brought Alex to the home during which time we chatted and Alex told me he had guarded James

Catherine B. Heiniger  
William Walker



Earl Ray which he was held here in England and had gotten to know him quite well although I think Alex said that at first he (Ray) was very uncommunicative. Alex said he felt sorry for him because he wasn't allowed to use silverware and had to eat with his hands. Alex mentioned that he thought Ray had killed Dr King. Ray told him that he had planned to go to Africa where he could kill black people. Ray also told Alex that he wouldn't ever be convicted because he'd be tried in the South and the Southern Whites would be happy with what he had done and he would actually end up being rich and so would his lawyer because people would send money. He also said he would write a book and get rich on that.

During this visit to our home Alex also told of some of the other cases he had been involved in and other general conversation.

Later, probably in Jan or Feb 1977 my husband and I read in the paper, probably the Stars & Stripes that

Worth Clark

Carthage B. Linn

Congress was opening an investigation into the assassination of Dr. King because Ray claimed he didn't do it and we said in passing that Alex ought to let the investigators know what Ray had said to him and maybe save Congress the bother of a new investigation.

Probably a few days later we saw Alex and told him about the investigation and said he should get in touch with the proper authorities and tell what he knew. He didn't seem to think anyone would be interested and seemed to think what he knew wasn't much.

The next time I heard anything about Alex and James Earl Ray was on the evening news when Alex was being interviewed as a result of written testimony that had been read to the Congressional Committee.

Several days later Alex came to the house to tell me that a lot of press people were trying to find us but that he had given them our names. I told him that if he was asked by someone official who we were he should tell the

Captain B. Hoover

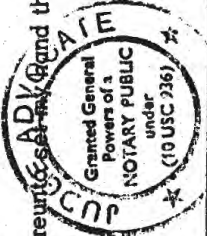
# Acknowledgment

WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE )  
AT RAF MILDENHALL, ENGLAND ) : SS

I, WILLIAM C. WALLER, do hereby certify that I am a commissioned officer of the United States Air Force now on active duty in Federal Service; ~~that I am a commissioned officer of the United States Air Force now on active duty in Federal Service; that I am a commissioned officer of the United States Air Force now on active duty in Federal Service; that I am a commissioned officer of the United States Air Force now on active duty in Federal Service;~~ I am designated a Judge Advocate; that as an officer serving in that capacity I have general powers of a notary public and of a consul of the United States, in the performance of notarial acts, under the provisions of section 936 (a) of title 10, United States Code; that by statute no seal is required on this certificate; that Mrs. Constance B. Meunier, Dependent of an active duty service member (Status)

known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day, and acknowledged that the execution of said instrument was her free act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and this 3rd day of November, 1978.



*William C. Waller*  
WILLIAM C. WALLER, Captain, USAF  
Judge Advocate

Mr. BLAKEY. One final point bears mention, Mr. Chairman. The question has arisen during the committee's investigation, why would Mr. Ray make statements that amount to substantial admissions against entrance, only to repudiate them later? While not attempting to know the final answer, it can be noted that to have done so in the King matter is not inconsistent with Mr. Ray's previous behavior. It would not have been the first time, in short, that Ray has repudiated a confession.

In 1959, Mr. Ray signed a voluntary confession of his participation in an armed robbery of a supermarket in Illinois—excuse me—in St. Louis, Mo. He did so in the presence of two police officers, a court clerk and a prosecuting attorney. When the case came up for a hearing, however, Mr. Ray repudiated the confession, claiming it had been coerced from him.

The court, however, accepted the confession, and he was tried and found guilty.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the confession signed by James Earl Ray in 1959 and his subsequent repudiation of it be inserted into the record at this point as Martin Luther King exhibits F-134 and F-135, respectively.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]

MLK Exhibit F-134

THOMAS F. AGLETON  
CIRCUIT ATTORNEY  
CITY OF ST. LOUIS

STATE OF MISSOURI

*East Bay, St. Louis*

MOTION PICTURE

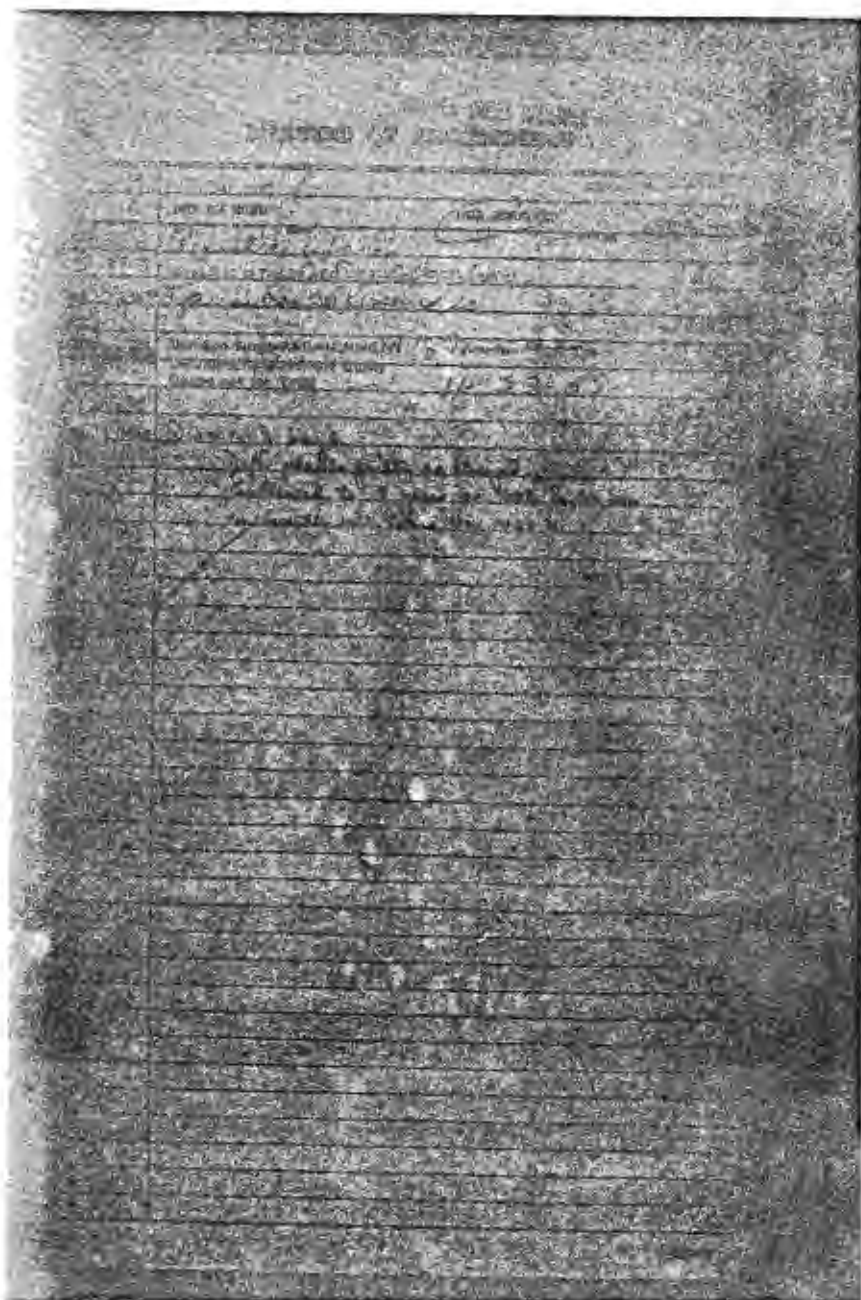
RECORDS AND COPIES

CIRCUIT ATTORNEY

*K-1570*

CIRCUIT ATTORNEY

CLOSED



October 11, 1959

Page 1

Statement taken at Third District Police Station at 1130 P.M.  
 on October 11, 1959, by Asst. District Attorney Robert J. Koster,  
 composed by Clark Willis J. Doe, 2223277.

Q. What is your name?

A. James E. Ray.

Q. How old are you?

A. 30.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 2223 Park.

Q. What apartment number?

A. 5.

Q. James, my name is Robert Koster. I'm from the Circuit Interrogation  
 Office, and I want to take a statement from you concerning the  
 holdup at the Kruger Store at 3427 Ohio, yesterday morning. Will  
 you give me such a statement?

A. Yes.

Q. Has anyone threatened you or promised you anything?

A. No.

Q. Do you give this statement of your own free will?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you plan this holdup with James Cooney?

A. I planned it with another man.

Q. Do you want to tell me who the other man is?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever go by the Kruger Store and look it over before the  
 holdup?

A. Yes, I was by there once.

Q. When was that?

A. The day before the holdup.

Q. The morning of the holdup where did you meet this other man?

A. At my place.

Q. Did you have two guns?

A. I did.

Q. Both of them belong to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you give him one of the guns?

A. Yes.

Q. Which one did you keep?

A. An automatic.

Q. Did you leave your apartment with the other man?

A. Yes.

Q. What was that?

A. The car.

Q. What color was it?

A. Red.

Q. What kind is that?

A. I am sure I think it is a green Plymouth, 1958.

*James E. Ray*

Page 2

- Q. Where'd you go in this car?  
 A. We went in the direction of the store. I am not familiar with the neighborhood.
- Q. Did you make any stops on the way?  
 A. I stopped and picked up the other car.
- Q. Where did you pick that up?  
 A. I don't know the name of the street.
- Q. Did you then go to the store?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. What kind of a car did you drive to the store?  
 A. It was about a 1993 Ford.
- Q. What color?  
 A. It was a dark color; blue or black.
- Q. Who drove that car?  
 A. I did.
- Q. Was the other man with you?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Where did you park?  
 A. It wasn't too far -- right in front of the store.
- Q. On Ohio Ave?  
 A. If that is where the store is, yes.
- Q. Did both of you go in the store?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. What did you do?  
 A. After I go into the store, I asked him for the money. He said he didn't have the combination. So I just took what was in the cash register.
- Q. Did you have a pistol?  
 A. I had an automatic.
- Q. Did you display it?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. You put it on the clerk and the woman in the store.  
 A. I put it on the clerk.
- Q. You held the gun on him when you asked him for the money?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. You got the money out of the register?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Who gave it to you?  
 A. Nobody. The register was open and I just took it.
- Q. What happened then?  
 A. We left.
- Q. Was the other man in the store with you?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. What was his job, to act as the lookout?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. How were you dressed at the time of the holdup?  
 A. I had a pair of gray pants and dark green jacket. A dark hat.



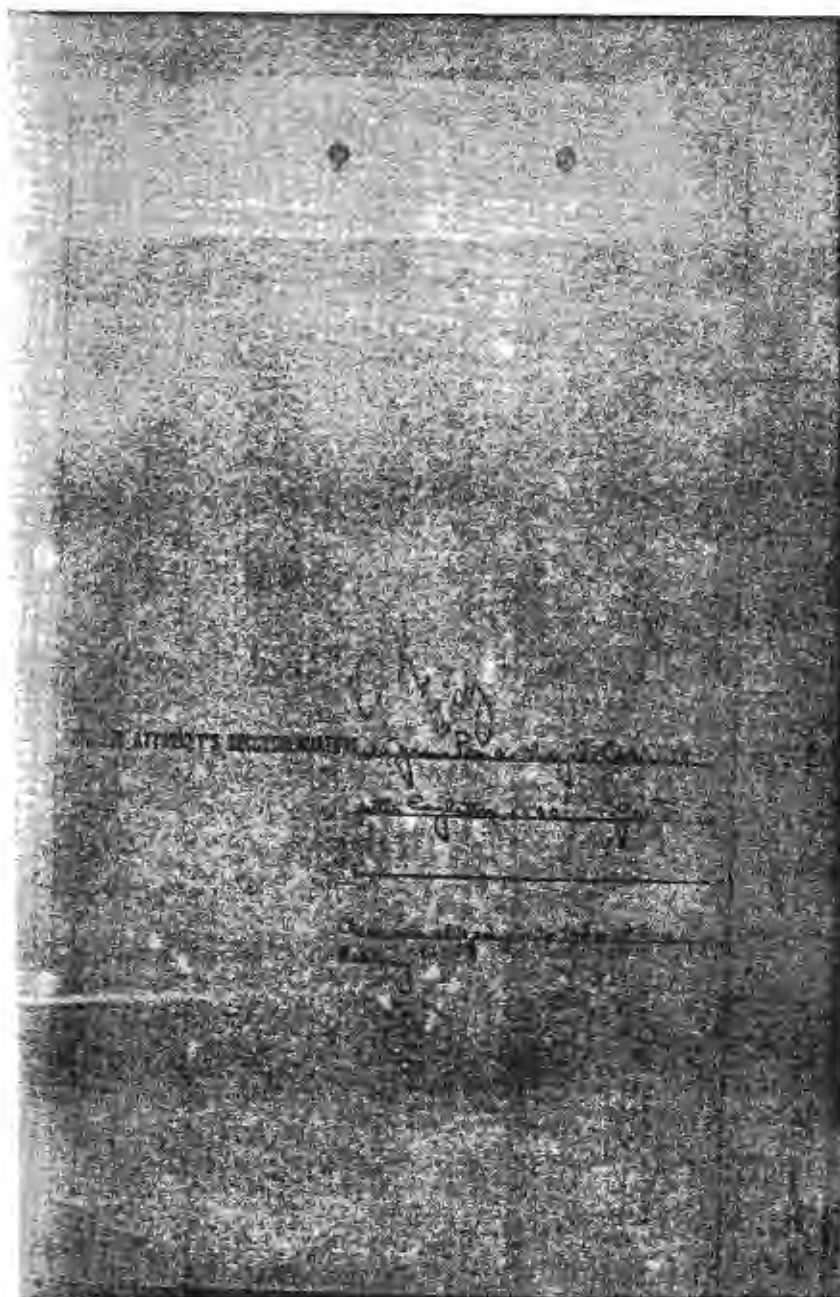
Page 3

1. Where did you go when you left the store?  
 A. Back to the car.
- Q. Who drove from the scene?  
 A. I did.
- Q. Where did you go?  
 A. About 5 blocks from there and switched cars and we came on back to Park.
- Q. You came back in the other man's car?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. To your apartment?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you both go upstairs?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. What did you do when you got upstairs?  
 A. He wasn't up there very long and then he left. Then I heard a noise downstairs. I was in the bathroom and when I came out, I saw the Police Officer. Then he took me down to the car and took us on down to the Station.
- Q. Did you divide the money upstairs?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Did you take both of the guns back?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. What did you do with your share of the money and the two guns?  
 A. I put the money in my pocket and hid the guns in the dresser.
- Q. The Police recovered the money and the guns - were those the same ones?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. After that you were arrested by the Police?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know how much money you got in this holdup?  
 A. I'm not sure.
- Q. About how much would you say?  
 A. About \$120.00
- Q. Your arrangement with the other man was to split the loot?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. The .32 cal. automatic the Police have here is the one you used in the holdup?  
 A. That is the same one.
- Q. Are clothing they recovered for the clothing you wore in the holdup?  
 A. Yes.

I have read the foregoing three pages of this statement and initialled any corrections, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

WITNESSED:

James Ray      James C. Ray  
 W. D. C. Ramirez 1906  
 J. H. C. Jones 399



**FILED**  
AUG 24 1961

STATE OF MISSOURI )  
                          )  
                          ) **SS**  
CITY OF ST. LOUIS )

**JAMES W. McATEER**  
Clerk Circuit Court for Criminal Courts

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

STATE OF MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,                    )  
  )  
                  Plaintiff                    )  
                  (State),                    )  
  )  
                  vs                            )  
  )  
JAMES EARL RAY,                        )  
  )  
  )  
                  Defendant.                )

250234

Cause No. 1427-H  
Division No. 12

St. Louis, Missouri  
December 15, 1959

**BEFORE:**

The Honorable John C. Casey, Judge

**APPEARANCES:**

Robert J. Koster  
Assistant Circuit Attorney for Plaintiff (State)

Richard Schrieber  
Attorney for Defendant

Bobby McCune  
Official Court Reporter

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	
	)	
Respondent,	)	
	)	
vs	)	SUPREME COURT NO. _____
	)	
JAMES EARL RAY,	)	
	)	
Appellant.	)	

RECORD OF TRANSCRIPT ON APPEAL  
FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
CITY OF ST. LOUIS, STATE OF  
MISSOURI, BEFORE THE HONORABLE  
JOHN C. CASEY, JUDGE, DIVISION  
NUMBER TWELVE.

**APPEARANCES:**

The Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton  
Attorney General of Missouri  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Attorney for Respondent

MR. KOSTER: Your Honor, Mr. Schriber has informed me he wants to object to the voluntariness of statement.

THE COURT: Lets take a short recess at this time.

oOo

WHEREUPON, AT THIS POINT IN THE PROCEEDINGS A TEMPORARY RECESS WAS DECLARED, THE ADMONITION WAS GIVEN TO THE JURY, AFTER WHICH TIME AND OUT OF THE HEARING OF THE JURY THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD.

oOo

Q (Mr. Koster continuing): Officer, you say the next time you saw Ray was on Sunday, October the eleventh, is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you see Ray that morning?

A Yes, I did.

Q Tell me the circumstances surrounding that next meeting?

A He sent word to us that he wanted to talk to us.

Q What did you do then? A Took him out of the hold-over, brought him back to the detectives' room and ask him what he wanted.

Q And who was with you at that time?

A Officer Rimmer.

Q And what did Ray say? A He said that if you get hold of the fellow named Koster or someone from the Circuit

Attorney's office that he wanted to give him a statement.

Q What did you do then? A Contacted you.

Q Did you question Ray further at that time?

A Very, very briefly.

Q Did you strike him at that time? A No, sir.

Q Did you strike him at any time after he had been placed in custody on the second floor of 2023 Park?

A Absolutely not.

Q Was he ever struck in your presence by anyone else?

A No, sir.

Q Was he ever threatened? A No, sir.

Q Were any promises made to him up until the time you <sup>ed</sup> call/ the Circuit Attorney office? A No, sir.

Q Did you put him back in the hold-over until the man' from the Circuit Attorney's office arrived?

A Yes, sir.

Q Then what did you do? A Sometime around afternoon, twelve thirty or so when you appeared at the office, then Ray was taken out of the hold-over and was questioned briefly by you and then when he agreed or stated that he wanted to make a signed statement he was taken to the clerk's room in the district station and then in the presence of Officer Rimmer, myself, you and the clerk, he was asked a number of questions by you concerning the hold up on the prior day.

Q Officer, from the time he was taken out of the hold

over the second time on Sunday morning until the time he was taken into the clerk's office and questioned by me, was he struck or threatened in any manner?                   A    No, sir.

Q    Were any promises made to him?

A    No, sir.

Q    Were you present when the statement was taken?

A    Yes, sir, I was.

Q    After the statement was reduced to writing what was done?

A    It was handed to him and he looked at it.

Q    And then what happened?            A    Then he signed it.

Q    Officer, do you recall this question being asked:

"Q    Has anyone threatened you or promised you anything?"

Officer, repeating my last question, do you recall this question being asked:

"Q    Do you give this statement of your own free will?"

A    Yes, sir.

Q    Do you recall the answer being, "Yes."?

A    Yes, sir.

Q    Do you recall this question and answer?

"Q    Has anyone threatened you or promised you anything?"

A    I do.

Q    Do you recall the answer being, "No."?

A    That's right. Those were some of the first questions that you asked him.

MR. KOSTER: I have no further questions, your Honor.

oOo

CROSS EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY MR. SCHRIEBER:

Q Officer, when you were up on the second floor of 2023 Park, after you had hit the defendant over the head, isn't it a fact that that you went downstairs yourself and brought this man Owens upstairs?

MR. KOSTER: I am going to object to that, it is irrelevant and immaterial, we are testing the voluntariness of this statement.

MR. SCHRIEBER: Well, I am trying to show that when - -

THE COURT: Is it your purpose to show continuing occurrence from then on?

MR. SCHRIEBER: Yes, I think it is.

THE COURT: All right, the objection will be overuled.

Q (Mr. Schrieber continuing): I just want to get the question on the record. Did you bring the other man, Owens upstairs to the room where the defendant Ray was?

A No, sir I did not.

Q And then didn't you start to punch Ray with your fist and then say to him, "You know him, don't you?" and Ray said, "No." at that time?

A That could not have been true sir, because Owens was not upstairs at any time.



in the case.

MR. SCHRIEBER: Well, lets get it in the record.

THE COURT: Do you want to adduce some evidence on that?

MR. SCHRIEBER: Yes I do, the testimony of the defendant.

oOo

JAMES EARL RAY.

Defendant herein, was sworn by the Court and testified in his own behalf as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

QUESTIONS BY MR. SCHRIEBER:

Q We will consider you on the stand now, all right.

What is your name?

A James Earl Ray.

Q Mr. Ray, did you, on the morning of Saturday, October tenth, or at any time subsequent to that, make any admissions whatsoever to any police officer regarding record of prior convictions you may have had?

A No, the only thing I admitted was what was more or less beat out of me.

Q You did not make any admissions to any police officer at any time regarding any prior convictions?

A No, I made no statement like that.

oOo

MR. SCHRIEBER: No, he is not in uniform.

THE COURT: Do you take the position that the jury has been advised that there is any police officer in the courtroom?

MR. SCHRIEBER: The jury has not been advised, but I take the position that <sup>if</sup> I can infer he was a police officer, the jury can also infer that he is a police officer.

THE COURT: I told you, didn't I?

MR. SCHRIEBER: No, you didn't.

THE COURT: We will make a record on that. The motion will be overruled and denied.

oOo

WHEREUPON, THE FOLLOWING WAS IN THE HEARING  
OF THE JURY.

MR. KOSTER: Gentlemen, at this time I am going to read to you State's Exhibit 4 and I will pass to you the remaining exhibits and also State's Exhibit 4.

"State's Exhibit 4, October 11, 1959 Page 1

Statement taken at Third District Police Station at 1:30 p.m., on October 11, 1959, by Assistant Circuit Attorney Robert J. Koster - -

MR. SCHRIEBER: Just a minute. Step up.

oOo

WHEREUPON, THE FOLLOWING WAS OUT OF THE  
HEARING OF THE JURY.

MR. SCHRIEBER: For the record I want to object to counsel

for the State reading this statement to the jury on the grounds it is prejudicial and tend to inflame their minds against my client before all the evidence is in.

MR. KOSTER: It is meant to.

THE COURT: Overruled.

MR. SCHRIEBER: Since it is overruled, I move for a discharge of the jury and request that a mistrial be declared.

THE COURT: Overruled.

oOo

WHEREUPON, THE FOLLOWING WAS IN THE HEARING  
OF THE JURY.

MR. KOSTER: Let me begin again. "Statement taken at Third District - -

MR. SCHRIEBER: I am going to object to counsel repeating the statement.

THE COURT: Your objection will be overruled. In view of your objections previously made, it will be overruled and he will be permitted to read it to the jury the one time.

MR. SCHRIEBER: I move for a discharge of the jury and request a mistrial be declared.

THE COURT: Overruled and denied.

MR. KOSTER (continuing): - - on October 11, 1951, by Assistant Circuit Attorney Robert J. Koster, recorded by Clerk Willis J. Boo, DSN 3277.

Q What is your name? A James E. Ray.

- Q How old are you? A Thirty.
- Q Where do you live? A 2023 Park.
- Q What apartment number? A Five.
- Q James, my name is Robert Koster - -

MR. SCHRIEBER: I am going to have to object to any further reading of the statement on the grounds that the State has not provided the defendant with a copy.

MR. KOSTER: Your Honor, this is evidence, this is not - -

THE COURT: You will be given an opportunity to make all your objections now. Have you read it?

MR. SCHRIEBER: I have read it.

THE COURT: Your objection will be overruled. I am going to ask you again Mr. Schrieber, do you want to read the statement to the jury?

MR. SCHRIEBER: No your Honor, let's proceed.

MR. KOSTER (continuing): "James, my name is Robert Koster. I'm from the Circuit Attorney's Office, and I want to take a statement from you concerning the holdup at the Kroger Store at 3417 Ohio, yesterday morning. Will you give me such a statement?"

A Yes.

Q Has anyone threatened you or promised you anything?

A No.

Q Do you give this statement of your own free will?

A Yes.

Q Did you plan this holdup with James Ownes?

A I planned it with another man.

Q Do you want to tell me who the other man is?

A No.

Q Did you ever go by the Kroger Store and look it over before the holdup? A Yes, I was by there once.

Q When was that? A The day before the holdup.

Q The morning of the holdup where did you meet this other man? A At my place.

Q Did you have two guns? A I did.

Q Both of them belong to you? A Yes.

Q Did you give him one of the guns? A Yes.

Q Which one did you keep? A Thirty-two automatic.

Q Did you leave your apartment with the other man?

A Yes.

Q About what time? A Eight o'clock.

Q In whose car? A His.

Q What kind is that? A A new car; I think it is a green Plymouth, 1958.

Q Where did you go in this car? A We went in the direction of the store. I am not familiar with the neighborhood.

Q Did you make any stops on the way?

A I stopped and picked up the other car.

Q Where did you pick that up?

A I don't know the name of the street.

Q Did you then go to the store? A Yes.

- Q What kind of a car did you drive to the store?  
A It was about a 1953 Ford.
- Q What color? A It was a dark color; blue or black.
- Q Who drove that car? A I did.
- Q Was the other man with you? A Yes.
- Q Where did you park? A It wasn't too far - - right in front of the store.
- Q On Ohio Avenue? A If that is where the store is, yes.
- Q Did both of you go in the store? A Yes.
- Q What did you do? A After I go into the store, I asked him for the money. He said he didn't have the combination. So I just took what was in the cash register.
- Q Did you have a pistol? A I had an automatic.
- Q Did you display it? A Yes.
- Q You put it on the clerk and the woman in the store?  
A I put it on the clerk.
- Q You held the gun on him when you asked him for the money?  
A Yes.
- Q You got the money out of the register?  
A Yes.
- Q Who gave it to you? A Nobody. The register was open and I just took it.
- Q What happened then? A We left.

Q Was the other man in the store with you?

A Yes.

Q What was his job, to act as the lookout?

A Yes.

Q How were you dressed at the time of the holdup?

A I had a pair of grey pants and dark green jacket. A

Dark hat.

Q Where did you go when you left the store?

A Back to the car.

Q Who drove from the scene? A I did.

Q Where did you go? A Went about five blocks

from there and switched cars and we came on back to Park.

Q You came back in the other man's car?

A Yes.

Q To your apartment? A Yes.

Q Did you both go upstairs? A Yes.

Q What did you do when you got upstairs?

A He wasn't up there very long and then he left. Then I heard a noise downstairs. I was in the bathroom and when I came out, I saw the police officer. Then he took me down to the car and took us on down to the station.

Q Did you divide the money upstairs?

A Yes.

Q Did you take both of the guns back?

A Yes.

Q What did you do with your share of the money and the two guns? A I put the money in my pocket and hid the guns in the dresser.

Q The police recovered the money and the guns - - were those the same ones? A Yes.

Q After that you were arrested by the police?

A Yes.

Q Do you know how much money you got in this holdup?

A I'm not sure.

Q About how much would you say? A About \$120.00.

Q Your arrangement with the other man was to split the loot? A Yes.

Q The thirty-two caliber automatic the police have here is the one you used in the holdup? A That is the same one.

Q The clothing they recovered is the clothing you wore in the holdup? A Yes.

I have read the foregoing three pages of this statement and initialed any corrections, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

After that appears the signature of James Earl Ray and under "Witnesses" appears the signature of Detective E. Rimmer and Detective H. Connors.

If it please the Court, may I pass these to the jury?

THE COURT: It may be done.

WHEREUPON, STATE'S EXHIBITS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,



Mr. BLAKEY. Mr. Chairman, that concludes this morning's presentation. The next area of concern for the committee will be the question of what science has to bear, if anything, on the assassination, and I would suggest that it might be appropriate to begin that presentation in this afternoon's meeting beginning at 2.

Chairman STOKES. The committee then, at this time, will recess the public hearings for the purpose of going into an executive session immediately upon recessing. The executive session will be held in room 340, and the committee will then reconvene at 2 p.m. this afternoon for its public hearings.

The committee stands in recess.

[Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m., the public hearing recessed, to reconvene at 2 p.m., this same day.]

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman STOKES. The committee will come to order. The Chair recognizes Professor Blakey.

#### NARRATION BY G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you have noted, the committee does not have available to it in its investigation of the assassination of Dr. King an abundance of scientific evidence. There are, for example, no motion pictures or sound tapes of the actual event as there were in the assassination of President Kennedy. This is not to say that the committee is totally bereft of scientific data from which useful conclusions could be drawn. As a case in point, there are the autopsy photographs and other records that were presented to the committee by its panel of forensic pathologist last August. In addition, the committee will receive an analysis of the ballistics evidence by a panel of firearms specialists later today.

For the record, nevertheless, that the committee attempted to draw information from a number of other scientific disciplines should be noted. Unfortunately, success did not always result, for the fulfillment of forensic science does not always equal its promise. The committee considered, for example, a neutron activation analysis, a process similar to the one used to match metal fragments in the Kennedy case to identify hair samples taken from James Earl Ray's automobile. When it was discovered that the analysis would be less than reliable in the area of hair as opposed to metal analysis—hair samples taken at one time apparently cannot be usefully matched against other samples taken years later—the project was dropped. In addition, the advantages of a psychological study of Mr. Ray were carefully examined, but after consulting with several specialists, it was concluded that a project of that character would be unlikely to produce sound results in the absence of the corroboration of Mr. Ray himself, a prospect that was not very likely.

There was, however, much to be learned from other scientific studies. Here is a brief rundown of some which will be described in greater detail in our final report:

An engineering firm was retained to survey the murder scene in Memphis, and an analysis of the angles and distances between such structures as the Lorraine Motel and the roominghouse at 422 South Main Street led to this conclusion:

\* \* \* the geometric data is consistent with the bathroom window at the rear of  
\* \* \* (the roominghouse) as a possible location of the assassin.

A fingerprint analysis verified that prints found on the critical evidence—the rifle and the bundle found in front of Canipe's Amusement Company in Memphis—were those of James Earl Ray. Attempts to link other prints with those of known Ray associates have either been unsuccessful or are still in process.

Also, a handwriting expert identified various samples of handwriting as having been written by Mr. Ray.

The committee employed experts to examine polygraph tests previously given to James Earl Ray, the results of which were summarized this morning.

Let me turn now, Mr. Chairman, to the committee's extensive analysis of the firearm evidence, though I would like to begin with some words of caution.

It is generally believed that firearm identification is an exact science, able to determine if a certain bullet, provided a substantial portion of it has been recovered, was fired by a certain weapon. For that reason, the FBI has been criticized for its failure to establish that the bullet recovered from Dr. King's body was fired by the rifle found at the murder scene. Mark Lane, Mr. Ray's counsel, has written in his Code Name "Zorro",

The failure of the state to prove that the "death slug" was fired from what was alleged to be Ray's rifle reflected very poorly upon the case against Ray.

The firearms evidence—the rifle, an expended cartridge case, the bullet recovered from Dr. King's body and nine unfired cartridges—was examined in the FBI laboratory in Washington, and a report issued on April 17, 1968. Its conclusions:

One, the expended cartridge case was fired in the rifle.

Two, the bullet could have been fired by the rifle, but distortion and the absence of indicative markings precluded a positive determination.

Three, it was not possible to establish a positive link between the bullet and cartridge case through markings on the bullet.

Four, the bullet was found to match the bullet components of five cartridges, commercial ammunition manufactured by Remington-Peters.

Five, the remaining four cartridges, also found in the Peters box, were military ammunition made by Remington Arms Co., and

Six, the Peters cartridge box, it was determined, would normally contain Remington-Peters ammunition of a type identical to the five commercial cartridges found. It was also determined that the spent cartridge case was a component of the type of ammunition normally contained in the Peters box. Nevertheless, it was not possible to conclude, due to the way the cartridges were boxed, that the five commercial cartridges and the cartridge of which the spent case was a component, had been packaged in that same box.

In its investigation of the King assassination, the select committee convened a panel of experts to conduct a comprehensive exami-

nation of all firearms and related evidence. A prerequisite to selection for the panel was no prior connection to the case; and to assure further that the panel would be objective, its members were not supplied with the results of the earlier investigation by the FBI.

Recommendations for the panel were solicited from the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners, the Forensic Science Foundation, and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, from which a list of 27 prospective members was obtained: Three of them were eliminated because of their affiliation with the FBI; one because he had written about the firearms evidence in the King assassination; one because he was physically unable to participate. Of those remaining, 18 responded to requests for résumés, although 10 of them declined to be considered due to other commitments or for personal reasons.

Before a final selection was made, Jack Kershaw, at that time James Earl Ray's attorney, was advised of the names of the candidates, but Mr. Kershaw declined to participate in the final selection. In that selection, five panel members were chosen. They are Monty C. Lutz, Donald E. Champagne, John S. Bates, Jr., Andrew M. Newquist, and Russell M. Wilhelm.

Mr. Lutz holds a B.S. degree in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska. The committee will recall that he has appeared before it in connection with the Kennedy case. He has been the chief firearms and tool mark examiner for the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gordon, Ga., and a criminal investigator for the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division. He presently is a firearms and tool mark analyst with the Wisconsin Regional Crime Laboratory, New Berlin, Wis. Mr. Lutz has lectured at colleges, universities and law enforcement schools across the country.

Mr. Champagne is presently a firearms and tool mark examiner with the Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement in Tallahassee. The committee will again recall that he has appeared before it in connection with the Kennedy case. He previously served for 15 years as a firearms and tool mark examiner in the crime detection laboratory in Ottawa, Ontario. He has lectured extensively at the Canadian Police College and at other law enforcement agencies in Canada and the United States.

Mr. Champagne presently serves as president of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners. He also is a member of the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists and the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.

Mr. Champagne has trained several firearms examiners for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and for the Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement. He serves on the editorial board of the Journal of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.

Mr. Bates is the senior firearms examiner in the New York State Police Laboratory at Albany. He, too, has appeared before the committee. He has been a lecturer at the State University of New York at Albany and Cobleskill, the New York Police Academy and the New York State Municipal Training Council.

Mr. Bates has studied firearms identification and examination procedures at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory,

the Regional Center for Criminal Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners, serving as its secretary since 1973. In 1973, he was the recipient of the AFTE Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Bates is a historian for the New York State Police, and he has written numerous articles on the subject of firearms identification for the Journal of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners.

Mr. Newquist is a special agent and firearm, tool mark and latent fingerprint examiner of the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation. He too has appeared before the committee in the King case. He has studied firearms identification at the Cook Institute of Applied Science and the FBI Academy.

Mr. Newquist is a member and a past president of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners, and he currently is on its executive committee. He is a member of the International Association of Identification.

Mr. Wilhelm is chief of the Maryland State Police Ballistics Unit. He served as chief of the Baltimore City Police Ballistics Section for 7 years, he has been a private firearms consultant.

The panel conducted its examination on August 24-28 and September 23-27, 1977, in facilities provided by the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C. The department's firearms section supervisor, George Wilson, served as panel coordinator.

The following evidence was examined by the panel:

One, the alleged assassination rifle;

Two, a .30-06 caliber Remington-Peters expended cartridge case, allegedly found in the rifle;

Three, a Peters cartridge case box containing component parts of five unfired .30-06 caliber Remington-Peters cartridges and four unfired .30-06 caliber Remington Arms cartridges, recovered with other evidence at the entrance to Canipe's Amusement Co., 424 South Main Street, Memphis, by the Memphis police shortly after the King assassination;

Four, the bullet removed from Dr. King's body;

Five, autopsy photographs;

Six, clothing worn by Dr. King at the time of the assassination; and

Seven, a windowsill board removed from the second floor bathroom of the rooming house at 422 South Main Street, Memphis.

At the conclusion of the FBI investigation in 1968, the firearms evidence was sent to the criminal court of Shelby County, Tenn. The select committee took custody of the evidence on March 11, 1977. On August 24, 1977, Charles Koster, deputy clerk of the criminal court of Shelby County, came to Washington to oversee the transfer of the evidence to the police laboratory.

The following issues were posed to the firearms panel:

One, was the death bullet fired by the alleged assassination rifle?

Two, was the designated cartridge case fired in that rifle?

Three, was the cartridge case loaded into the rifle through the magazine or directly into the chamber?

Four, is the cartridge case the same type and brand as the cartridge cases of the unfired cartridges?

Five, is the bullet the same type and brand as the bullet portions of the unfired cartridge cases?

Six, did the bullet and the cartridge case originate as one cartridge?

Seven, were any of the unfired cartridges ever loaded into the chamber or magazine of the rifle or any other firearm?

Eight, did the rifle indent the surface of the windowsill board from the bathroom?

Nine, is the damage to Dr. King's clothing consistent with the damage that would have been caused by the bullet fired by the rifle?

Mr. Chairman, it would be appropriate at this time to call the firearms panel.

Chairman STOKES. The committee calls the firearms panel at this time.

Gentlemen, will you stand, raise your right hand, to be sworn?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you will give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[Panelists answer affirmatively.]

Chairman STOKES. Thank you. You may be seated.

**TESTIMONY OF ANDREW M. NEWQUIST, IOWA BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION; GEORGE WILSON, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.; JOHN S. BATES, JR., NEW YORK STATE POLICE LABORATORY; RUSSELL M. WILHELM, CHIEF, MARYLAND STATE POLICE BALLISTIC UNIT; DONALD E. CHAMPAGNE, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT; AND MONTY C. LUTZ, WISCONSIN REGIONAL CRIME LABORATORY**

Chairman STOKES. The Chair recognizes staff counsel, Mr. William A. Webb.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to have the members of the panel identify themselves, beginning with Mr. Newquist on my right.

Mr. NEWQUIST. My name is Andrew M. Newquist.

Mr. WILSON. Mr. George R. Wilson.

Mr. BATES. John S. Bates, Jr.

Mr. WILHELM. Russell M. Wilhelm.

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Donald Champagne.

Mr. LUTZ. Monty C. Lutz.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, we will begin the questioning with Mr. Newquist.

Mr. Newquist, will you explain to the committee what the science of firearms identification is?

Mr. NEWQUIST. Firearms identification, sometimes referred to as ballistics, is the examination and comparison of firearms, ammunition and component parts of ammunition involved in crimes.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you.

What is meant by general class and individual identifying characteristics?

Mr. NEWQUIST. Class characteristics are those predetermined prior to the manufacture of a firearm; the caliber, the number of

lands and grooves, the direction of the twist, whether it is to be a rifle, pistol, et cetera.

Individual characteristics are put in the firearm at the time of manufacture. There are certain operations during the manufacturing of a firearm that create imperfections in the barrel, the extractor, the ejector, the firing pin and the breech face. These markings or imperfections in any one firearm are entirely different from those in another.

It is, therefore, possible to make a comparison of a questioned bullet and a test bullet, and determine if they have been fired from the same firearm, or compare a questioned cartridge case with a test cartridge case and determine if they have been fired in a specific firearm.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Newquist, Could you move the microphone a little closer to you, please?

Will you describe rifling and its significance in firearms identification?

Mr. NEWQUIST. Rifling is found in the barrel of the firearm. There are raised portions and lowered portions. The raised portions are known as lands, the lowered portions are known as grooves.

At the time rifling is put into a barrel, it is also given rotation to the right or left, depending on the manufacturing specifications.

When a bullet is fired down the barrel of a firearm, it takes on land and groove impressions and direction of twist. The imperfections found in the land and groove areas of the bullet are imparted to the bullet in an impression area of the land and impression area of the groove, in the form of scratches or striations. It also takes on a rotation due to the turning of the rifling which adds stability to the bullet in flight when it leaves the barrel.

It is these scratches or striations that are used to compare one bullet against another bullet, to determine if they have been fired from the same firearm.

Mr. WEBB. Will you describe the manner in which bullets are examined?

Mr. NEWQUIST. When a bullet is received, a worksheet is made out on it, noting the weight of the projectile, the type of projectile it is, whether it be lead, a jacketed bullet, or a copper-clad bullet. The caliber is noted. The number of lands and grooves are noted and the direction of twist.

Mr. WEBB. Will you also describe the manner in which cartridge cases are examined?

Mr. NEWQUIST. Here again, a worksheet is filled out noting the brand of ammunition on the headstamp, the caliber, if breech face markings are present, extractor markings are present, chamber markings, so they can be later compared with test material.

Mr. WEBB. Will you also describe the manner in which the firearm itself would be examined?

Mr. NEWQUIST. Here again, a worksheet would be filled out noting the type of firearm, the manufacturer, the serial number, the length of the barrel, the overall length of the firearm, the trigger pull weight, the number of lands and grooves contained within the barrel and the direction of twist.

If the are consistent with the—if the rifling—the lands and grooves, the number of them, the direction of twist is consistent

with the questioned material of the bullet, that was submitted, then the firearm will be test fired and test firings will be compared against the submitted bullets for comparison purposes.

Mr. WEBB. What type of equipment would be used in making these comparisons?

Mr. NEWQUIST. The basic equipment is a comparison microscope. The comparison microscope has two stages, one on the left and one on the right. The stages are adjustable up and down to bring the bullet or the object being viewed into focus; they can be moved forward or backward, or from side to side, and in the case of observing bullets, they can be rotated 360 degrees, so the entire circumference can be observed.

A test bullet is placed on one side and the questioned bullet on the other stage, brought into focus, and by a network of prisms and a lens barrel, the bullet on the right stage is brought into focus on the right side of the eyepiece, and the left stage into the left side of the eyepiece, so the similarity or dissimilarity of the two objects being viewed can be noted.

Mr. WEBB. The panel's testimony today will refer to certain tests performed on various items of physical evidence to determine the presence or absence of gunpowder residue.

Would you describe the manner in which those tests are performed?

Mr. NEWQUIST. If the muzzle of a firearm at the time of discharge is not too great a distance from a garment or object being shot at, it will leave a firearm discharge residue on it. The garment or the item will be examined first visually, then microscopically, in order to observe if any powder particles or partly burned powder particles are present. It will then be treated chemically; and if the nitrites, which is a byproduct of burnt gunpowder, is present, you will get a reaction in a pattern.

If you find this, then the weapon identified as being used in the crime will be test fired at various distances between the muzzle and the test pattern material. The test pattern material will be treated chemically to obtain a pattern, and the pattern from the test will be compared with the pattern that is found on the garment in question, and an approximate distance from muzzle to garment can be determined.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Newquist.

Mr. Chairman, the next series of questions will be posed to Mr. George Wilson.

Mr. Wilson, will you state your current employment, please?

Mr. WILSON. The Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C., as supervisor and chief firearms examiner of the firearms identification section.

Mr. WEBB. And it was at your facility that the panel conducted its tests?

Mr. WILSON. Yes, sir, the arrangements, through the cooperation of former Chief Culinane, obtaining the facilities of the Metropolitan Police Department firearms identification section.

Mr. WEBB. Sir, would you describe the procedures which were adopted by the panel in connection with their examinations?

Mr. WILSON. First off, we set up elaborate security measures within the laboratory so the Dr. King evidence could be housed.

Second, we drafted a standardized worksheet to be utilized for the examination such as a weapon worksheet, bullet worksheet, cartridge, cartridge case, clothing, and miscellaneous; there were six separate sheets.

A total overview of the firearms evidence was examined by the panel and the examination without specific knowledge of the results of prior examinations by the FBI in this case, to insure the objectivity of our analysis.

Some of the evidence was tested jointly and some independently.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Wilson, would you identify which items of evidence were tested jointly and which independently?

Mr. WILSON. Yes. The microscopic examination and comparisons of bullet Q-64, fired cartridge case, Q-3, the FBI test, the panel test from rifle Q-2, were conducted individually by each member and reported upon independently, and such findings noted in their individual reports.

Upon completion of these individual reports, the panel discussion resulted in a joint final report, a joint report was made.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Wilson, will you describe your role in connection with the work of the panel?

Mr. WILSON. As the technical assistant with the panel, the FBI firearms reports were made available to me prior to the examination conducted by this panel.

After each examiner finished his individual reports, prior to discussing them with one another, a check of each report in general with the examiners making sure that all procedures adopted were followed, and all questiones from the select committee answered. The individual reports were then signed, sealed, and placed into the safe in the laboratory.

Mr. WEBB. And after the individual reports were accepted by you and sealed and placed in the safe, did the panel convene jointly to consider the evidence they had examined?

Mr. WILSON. That's correct, with the deputy chief counsel, Bob Lehner.

Mr. WEBB. And upon completion of the panel's meetings, did they prepare a report of their findings?

Mr. WILSON. That's correct.

Mr. WEBB. Sir, would you briefly describe the type of equipment which was available to the panel at the facility?

Mr. WILSON. The Metropolitan Police firearms identification laboratory is equipped with the latest instrumentation in this discipline. The facility is only 9 years old.

Through comparison microscopes, low-power binocular scopes, horizontal water recovery system, and chemical capabilities.

It should be noted, that all the firearms evidence in the assassination of Dr. King were conducted within this laboratory.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Wilson.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Chairman, at this time we will begin a discussion of the evidence and the conclusions the panel reached.

I would like to begin with Mr. John Bates.

The first exhibit this afternoon is the alleged assassination rifle. It was designated Q-2 by the FBI laboratory when they tested it.



At this time I would like to have the rifle, which was premarked as MLK exhibit F-145, entered as an exhibit and shown to Mr. Bates.

Chairman STOKES. Be it ordered, at this point, that MLK F-145 be accepted into the record.

[MLK exhibit F-145 is in the possession of Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk J. A. Blackwell.]

And while it is occurring, Mr. Bates, have you checked the weapon previously today to determine that it is, in fact, unloaded?

Mr. BATES. Yes, I have.

Mr. WEBB. And will you identify that exhibit for the committee, please?

Mr. BATES. This exhibit is a .30-caliber, pump action, repeating rifle. It was manufactured by the Remington Arms Co. It is their model 760; it bears serial number 461476. It is chambered for the .30-06 Springfield caliber cartridge.

The rifle is equipped with a Redfield brand, two-to-seven power telescopic sight bearing serial number A17350. The sight is attached to the top of the receiver of the rifle with Weaver-brand scope mounts.

This rifle has rifling of six lands, six grooves, right twist. The overall length of the rifle is 42 inches. The barrel length is 22 inches. The rifle and scope weigh  $8\frac{1}{4}$  pounds.

The rifle has a detachable box magazine with a capacity of four cartridges.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Bates, is that the rifle which was tested by the panel?

Mr. BATES. Yes; this is the rifle that was examined and test fired by the panel.

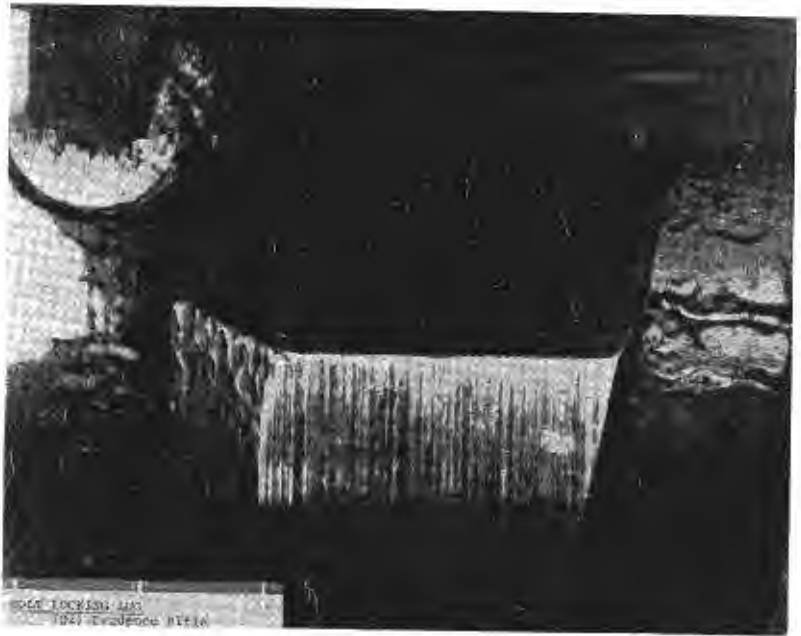
Mr. WEBB. And how are you able to identify it as such?

Mr. BATES. I can identify this rifle by the serial number and by the initials of each panel member which was placed underneath the buttplate on the stock of the weapon at the time of our examination.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Chairman, a series of photographic exhibits have been prepared to facilitate the panel's discussion. I would like to have the first such photograph, which has been premarked as MLK exhibit No. F-146, entered into the record as an exhibit.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]



MLK EXHIBIT F-146

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Bates, will you step around to the front of the table and demonstrate the operation of the rifle, identifying its working parts and its functions?

Mr. BATES. This rifle is operated by a forward-and-back movement of this wooden portion underneath the barrel called the fore-end. When the action release bar is depressed and the fore-end is pulled to the rear, the bolt, located through the port of the weapon, is unlocked from the rear of the barrel and released and moves toward the rear.

At the same time, the firing mechanism located within the receiver is cocked [indicating]. The box magazine is detachable from the rifle; it has a capacity of four cartridges.

To load the rifle, the cartridges are placed in the magazine; the magazine is inserted into the bottom of the receiver. By moving the fore-end forward, the bolt contacts the uppermost cartridge in the magazine, removing it from the magazine, pushing it forward and upward into the chamber of the rifle.

The final portion of the fore-end movement locks the bolt into the receiver and the weapon is now ready to be fired.

This particular weapon, with the safety off, a pressure of approximately  $4\frac{3}{4}$  pounds on the trigger will fire the weapon.

To remove the fired cartridge case from the weapon, it is merely necessary to pull the fore-end toward the rear, extracting the cartridge case from the chamber. The final portion of the fore-end movement causes the cartridge case to be ejected from the rifle.

The method of firing I have described, uses the magazine to hold cartridges. This weapon may also be fired as a single-shot firearm by loading an individual cartridge into the chamber through the port of the weapon, or through the magazine well.

In the loading and firing procedure there are several parts of this weapon that come in contact with the cartridge and impart on the cartridge identifying markings which are of value to us for comparison purposes.

The first portion of the cartridge that the weapon contacts is the bullet, which passes through the barrel of the weapon as it is fired. The bullet engages the rifling in the barrel.

The cartridge case comes in contact with the magazine, the breech face of the bolt, the extractor and ejector; it also expands to contact the chamber when it is fired in the weapon.

Also, on the bolt are locking lugs which secure it to the rear of the barrel. If there are cartridges in the magazine and the bolt is drawn either backward or forward across the upper cartridge in the magazine, the bolt locking lug will contact that particular cartridge.

Mr. WEBB. I would ask you to step to the easel, where we have two of the component parts of the rifle you have described, and explain their significance in firearms identification.

Mr. BATES. The lower portion of this exhibit depicts a photograph of the actual breech face or forward part of the bolt of this rifle. It has been magnified several times. In the center is a round hole through which the firing pin will protrude when the rifle is fired.

It shows the surface irregularities of the bolt of this weapon. There are a large number of concentric circles showing various surface defects within the surface.

When a cartridge is fired in the rifle, the surface defects that are found on this bolt face will be imparted on the soft brass of the cartridge.

Up above is an enlargement of the bolt locking lug area. As I stated before, if a cartridge is in the magazine and the bolt is drawn across the cartridge, the surface of the bolt locking lug will contact the cartridge, imparting markings on the side of the cartridge case.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Bates. Will you leave the microphone at the easel and resume your seat?

Will you describe the condition of the rifle when it was received by the panel?

Mr. BATES. At the time of the receipt of this rifle and our examination of the rifle, we found it to be in good operating condition.

Our examination of the bore of the barrel to determine the rifling indicated that there was residue present inside the barrel. It was the decision of the members of this panel that this residue should be removed prior to test firing of the rifle.

Thus we pushed a soft cotton patch through the barrel, removing the residue.

Mr. WEBB. And just for the record, Mr. Bates, would you describe the nature of residue that's commonly found on the bore of a rifle?

Mr. BATES. This residue consisted of dirt, soot, smoke, and fire-arms discharge particles.

Mr. WEBB. And the passage of the soft cloth through the bore of the rifle in no way alters its characteristics; is that correct?

Mr. BATES. No; it does not.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you.

When the panel examined the scope, can you tell us what the setting was on it?

Mr. BATES. At the time of our examination, the scope was set at three-power magnification.

Mr. WEBB. And do you know what the setting was when the rifle was tested by the FBI?

Mr. BATES. The FBI report indicates that it was set at 6½-power magnification.

Mr. WEBB. Did the panel attempt to check the accuracy of the rifle with the scope?

Mr. BATES. No; we did not.

Mr. WEBB. And will you explain to us why you did not?

Mr. BATES. We did not do this because of, No. 1, the lapse of time between the assassination and our examination of the rifle. Second, there were differences in the scope setting which I have noted; and, furthermore, there were accuracy tests conducted by the FBI at the time of their examination of this weapon.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Bates, the panel noted the presence of a red substance on the forward portion of the magazine well, in front of the magazine. Were you able to identify that substance?

Mr. BATES. Yes; we were. At the time of our examination it was not readily identifiable by the members of this panel. However, contact with the Remington Arms Co. indicated that they use a red-colored cement known as Loctite to hold the barrel bracket bolt to the barrel bracket.

Subsequently, since our examination of this weapon, I, along with other panel members, have observed this same type of red material in other Remington rifles that we have examined in our individual laboratories.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Bates.

Mr. Chairman, the next two areas of questions will be covered by Congressman Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the bullet designated by the FBI as Q-64 and premarked as MLK exhibit F-147 entered and shown to Mr. Wilhelm.

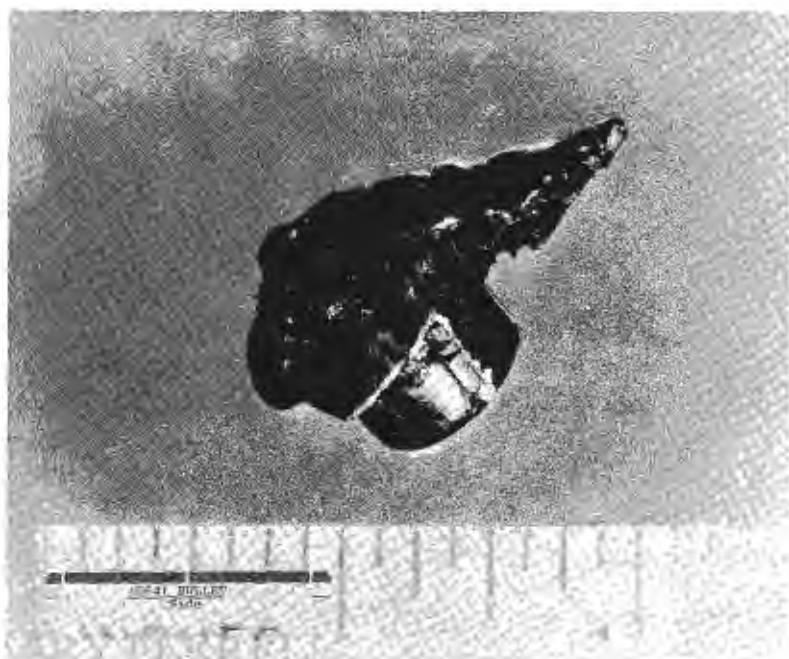
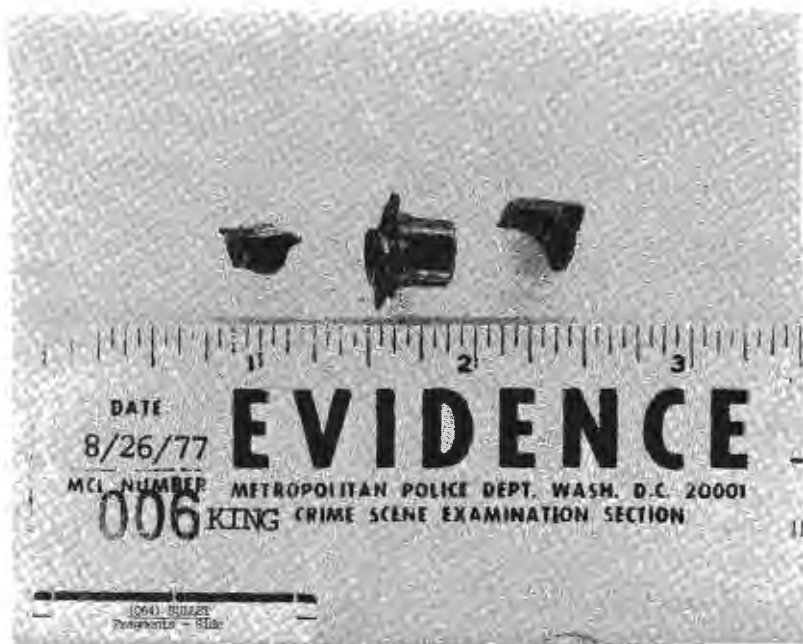
Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[MLK exhibit F-147 is in the possession of Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk J. A. Blackwell.]

Mr. FAUNTROY. At the same time, I would like to have the next photograph, which has been premarked as MLK F-148, entered into the record.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]



MLK Exhibit F-148

Mr. FAUNTROY. Now, Mr. Wilhelm, will you identify and describe these exhibits, beginning with the bullet?

Mr. WILHELM. Yes, sir.

As a result of our examination, it was determined that this was a .30-caliber, jacketed, soft-nosed bullet, made by the Remington-Peters Arms Company. There are three parts to it. We have the lead, which is the core, that had been in the jacket. There is a fragment of jacket that is separated now from the original jacket part; they are marked Q-64 and Q-52. These are the markings on these pieces of evidence when received by us.

Mr. FAUNTROY. So that the condition of the bullet is now in three parts?

Mr. WILHELM. That's correct, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Now, directing your attention to the lower photograph of Q-64, the bullet as depicted in F-148, will you indicate the areas where markings would have significance for firearms identification?

Mr. WILHELM. Should I go to the——

Mr. FAUNTROY. Yes, would you kindly go to the exhibit.

For the benefit of the Members, we have that duplicated in our booklet, so you can see at close range the markings which I have asked Mr. Wilhelm to identify.

Mr. WILHELM. This is the base of the bullet. These are the markings that are made by the lands, as formerly described, as to what causes the bullet in effect to become a small gyroscope as it travels through the air.

This creates the accuracy of the weapon.

Now this is the nose that had originally been lead. The base is solid. It is necessary in a soft-nosed or hollow-point bullet to have a solid base. This prevents the expansive force of the gases and the heat that's created at the time of discharge from melting the lead and pushing it out.

So this bullet has been furred back, parts of the jacket are now furred back over the area that we need for identification or examination, rather. So that here we have six land and six groove impressions, with the direction of twist right.

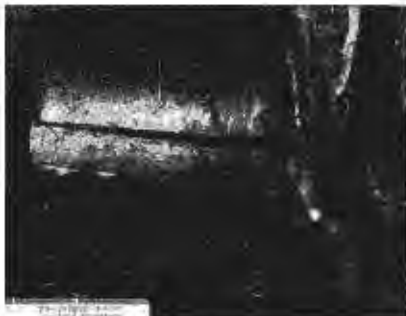
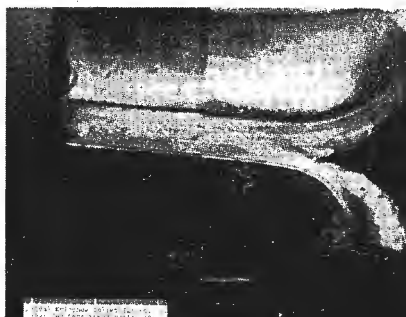
Shall I continue on with the top——

Mr. FAUNTROY. Well, yes.

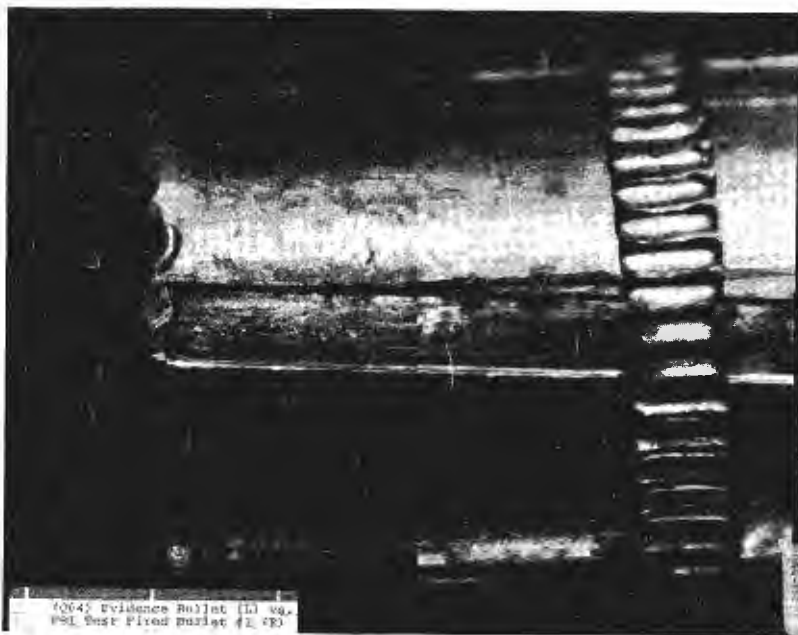
At this point, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the next two photographs, which have been premarked MLK F-149 and MLK F-150 entered into the record.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]



MLK EXHIBIT F-149



MLK EXHIBIT F-150



Mr. FAUNTROY. Now, Mr. Wilhelm, will you go to the photograph above, just to describe what is there?

Mr. WILHELM. This is the evidence as received by us and examined.

At this time the jacket has been furled back to reveal all of the bare surface that is possible to be revealed. On the left is the lead that was originally the core of this bullet. This is part of the jacket that has been removed. And I would mention that in our examinations we all find it frequently necessary to remove part of the furled-back jacket, which has been done here, which now is of no value for examination or of very little value, so that we can see all of the bearing surface which is possible. In my opinion, this had been done probably by the Bureau in their previous examination. They had removed this jacket, this flange of the jacket, so that they could see all of this area.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I see.

Now we have placed exhibits F-149 and F-150 before you. I wonder if you could describe to the committee what is depicted in these exhibits?

Mr. WILHELM. Is this the one we are referring to, sir?

Mr. FAUNTROY. Yes; this is 149.

Mr. WILHELM. OK. Here we have a photograph taken under the microscope. There is a division line in the center, as was described by Andy in the beginning of this—

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Wilhelm, just a moment, you are using now 150. Would you go over to 149, which I think—check that—

Mr. WILHELM. This one?

Mr. FAUNTROY. Yes; that is 149.

Mr. WILHELM. Here we have three photographs of the evidence bullet, Q-64. These are showing areas of land impression. We have three different areas that we found land impressions on.

Now here at the top we have Q-64, which is the evidence bullet, as opposed to a test bullet that we fired. Test No. 2, that was fired into water and recovered in the District of Columbia laboratory.

The division line through the center separates the left and right objects. So that we mount each bullet on a substance, beeswax used mostly, to retain the bullet on the spindle that we can remove, raise and lower, in an attempt to sharply focus it; and then with the test bullet on the other side, we first look for class characteristics. And this is what we find here.

The width of the land and the width of the groove are coincidental, which would indicate that the evidence bullet came from a rifle with six land and six groove impressions, with a direction of twist right.

So at this point the possibility exists that this bullet could have been fired from the rifle in evidence.

Our next procedure then is to begin to look for the fine, accidental striation that would be the signature of the particular weapon in which it was fired. So, this is the area in which we would look for those markings.

Mr. FAUNTROY. All right. What, therefore, did the panel conclude about Q-64?

Mr. WILHELM. As was mentioned, each of us did our own individual examination prior to collaborating or conversing with each

other; and we all agreed unanimously, that we were unable to find sufficient accidental stria between the evidence and test bullet upon which conclusion could be reached that this bullet came from Q-2 to the exclusion of all other weapons.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Will you describe what happens when a cartridge is fired in a rifle, paying particular attention to the factors which have significance for firearms identification in reaching that conclusion?

Mr. WILHELM. At the time of discharge, the firing pin indents the primer and the cartridge case. This creates a hot spark that in turn starts the powder burning.

Now, even though we believe that a gun is an instantaneous explosion, it is a progressive burning; and there is a gas formed throughout the bullet's entire travel from the beginning to the end of the barrel.

The base of the bullet swells, and I might liken it unto the piston ring of an automobile or an internal combustion engine. The ring creates a seal that allows gas not to escape but to exert its entire energy on the top of the piston.

The same thing happens in a firearm: The base is intended to expand and form a seal as it travels down the barrel of the weapon. So that generally, somewhere in this area, there will be fine striation created that we use for an identification. In this particular case, we found insufficient accidental stria to call an identification on Q-64 against the bullet.

There is a definition, if I might, sir, as to a firearm being an instrument or device capable of propelling a projectile by the expansive force of the gases generated by the combustion of an explosive substance.

So this relates to the fact that although it sounds instantaneous to it, there is a constant push throughout the entire bullet's travel, and this is what swells the base of the bullet.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Now this is a key question for me and I think, many of the American people. In MLK exhibit F-149, the upper right-hand picture, the bullet on the left-hand side is Q-64, which is what remains of the bullet taken from Dr. King's body?

Mr. WILHELM. That's correct, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. The bullet pictured on the right is a test bullet fired from this rifle?

Mr. WILHELM. That's correct.

Mr. FAUNTROY. My question is, why—if both were fired from the same rifle, with the same grooves—were you not able to conclude that they both came from the same rifle?

Mr. WILHELM. There are several factors that can contribute to this: One is a natural wiping of the bore area as a result of much firing.

There is often a variation in the hardness of jacketed bullets. Lead bullets are generally much easier to match because they swell and take on the fine stria that is necessary, or what we call the signature of the particular rifle. These are the two main things that can cause an inconclusion, and this is what we ran into.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Do I take it that this is the experience of every member of the panel? Have you had that kind of experience in the past in your work?

Mr. WILHELM. We all have, sir, although it is not a common occurrence; it is not an infrequent thing that does happen to us.

Mr. FAUNTROY. It happens once in a while?

Mr. WILHELM. Once in a while, yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I see.

Were you to fire two bullets, test bullets, and compare them as you compared that test bullet with the—what you call the evidence bullet—

Mr. WILHELM. The evidence bullet.

Mr. FAUNTROY [continuing]. Q-64, would you likely get the same indices?

Mr. WILHELM. We fired several test bullets from the weapon, and we found variations in the stria even between our own test bullets. So that on several of the test bullets we couldn't even match with each other.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Let me see if I understand your testimony, then. Even when a member of the panel test-fired two bullets, they were not able in either case to match those bullets with each other?

Mr. WILHELM. That's correct.

Mr. FAUNTROY. We do not have a picture of that, do we?

Mr. WILHELM. No. We do have here a photograph of the evidence bullet and one of the FBI test bullets that we also examined under the comparison microscope, with the Q-64 evidence on the left. That also was an inconclusion.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And that is—

Mr. WILHELM. That also was inconclusive.

Mr. FAUNTROY. That likewise is inconclusive, you say?

Mr. WILHELM. That's right, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. All right. Thank you, Mr. Wilhelm.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to have the Q-3 cartridge case, which has been premarked as MLK F-151, entered as an exhibit.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[MLK exhibit F-151 is in the possession of Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk J. A. Blackwell.]

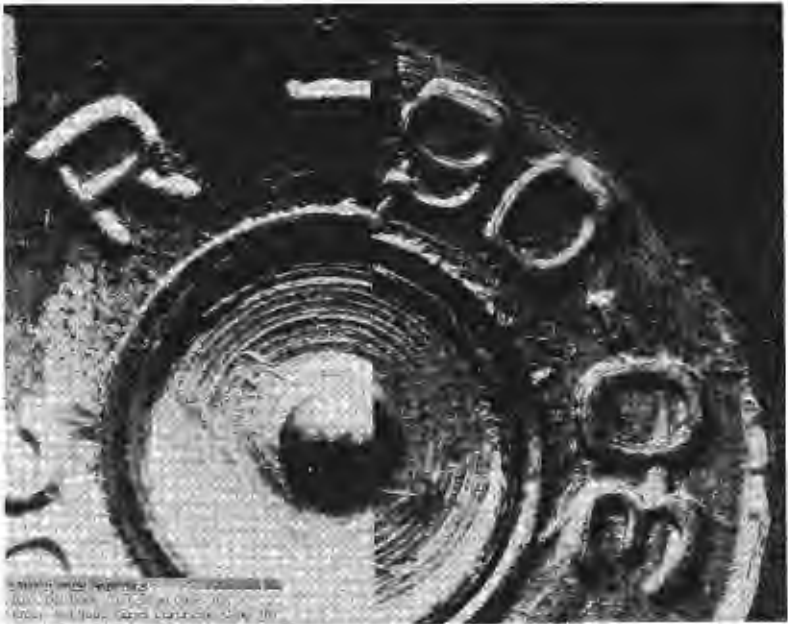
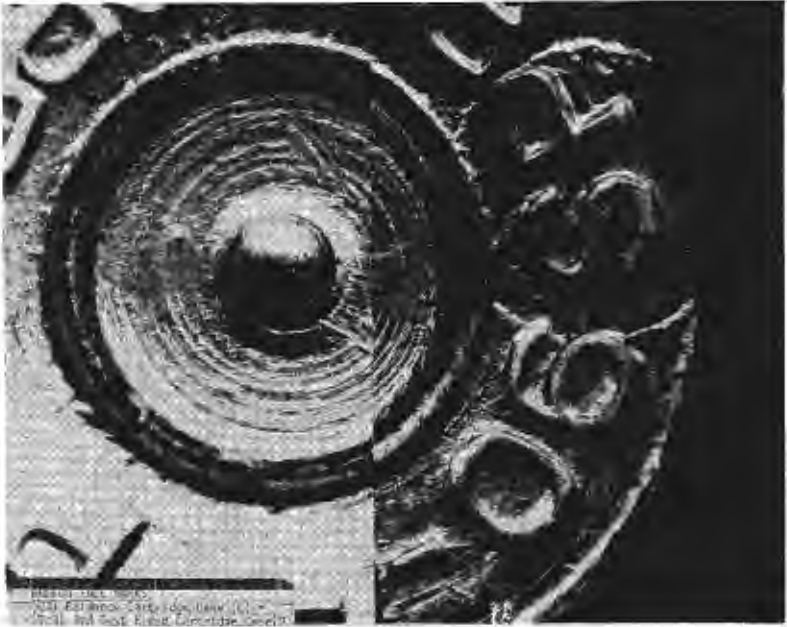
Mr. FAUNTROY. In addition, I would like the next five photographs, which have been premarked as MLK F-152 through MLK F-156, entered as exhibits. For the record, they are a photograph of the Q-3 cartridge case, two photographs showing chamber marks on the Q-3 case, a photograph of the head stamps on the Q-3 case, and a photograph showing the head stamps on four cartridges which were designated by the FBI as Q-9 through Q-12; and I would like to ask Mr. Champagne to respond to a number of questions with respect to this exhibit.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, all of the exhibits referred to may be entered into the record at this point, and you may proceed with Mr. Champagne.

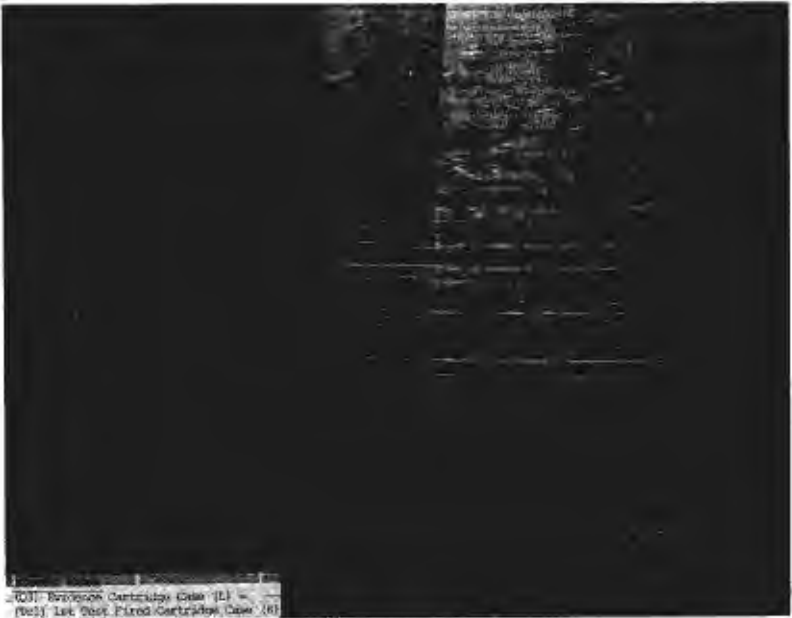
[The information follows:]



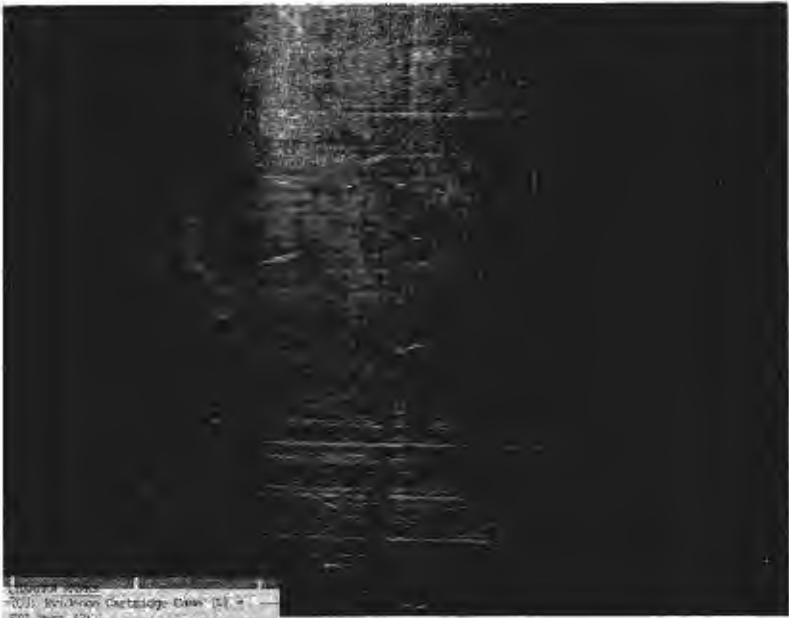
MLK EXHIBIT F-152



MLK ЕХНІВТ F-153



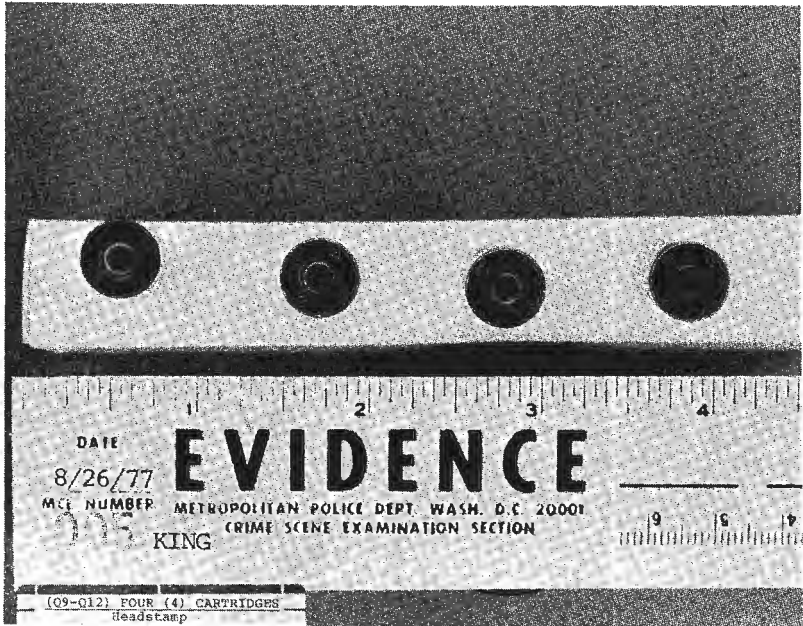
001: Rifle Barrel Cartridge Case (L)  
(R2) 1st Shot Fired Cartridge Case (R)



001: Rifle Barrel Cartridge Case (L)  
(R2) 1st Shot (R)



MLK EXHIBIT F-155



MLK EXHIBIT F-156

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Champagne, will you identify for us MLK F-151?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. This is a 30.06 Springfield caliber Remington-Peters expended cartridge case that I have in my hand. It is exemplified by the enlargement on the far left of the photographs.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I see. What is the source of that evidence, as you understand it? From whence did it come?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. We received it along with the other exhibits in this case.

Mr. FAUNTROY. What were you told about it?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. We received it in order to conduct an examination and tests to determine whether or not this cartridge case was fired in the exhibit Q-2 rifle.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Very good. Was it examined by the panel?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And what conclusions did you reach?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. As a result of the microscopical comparison with both FBI tests and panel tests, we were able to determine that exhibit Q-3 was fired in the rifle exhibit Q-2.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I see. And I wonder if you would care to explain to us how you reached that conclusion?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. The conclusion was based on a correspondence of distinctive, well defined, individual identifying characteristics found in the firing pin impression, breech face marks, extractor marks, chamber marks, and bolt-locking lug marks.

Mr. FAUNTROY. So that it is consistent with your findings that this cartridge which was found in the rifle was, in fact, fired in the rifle?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Yes, sir. If I may demonstrate from the photographs.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Yes, I would like to have you do that.

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. The first two photographs are enlargements of photomicrographs that were taken through the comparison microscope. They represent exhibit Q-3 on the left-hand side and a test on the right-hand side.

What we are looking at here are concentric rings impressed into the soft priming material of the cartridge case at the time of firing. There is a division line in the center of the photograph, and you can see that these concentric rings go from the exhibit through the dividing line onto the test, indicating that exhibit Q-3 was fired in the weapon that was used in firing the on test the right-hand side.

Along with the area we examined on the primer, we also examined areas on the sides of the case that were marked by the chamber of the weapon at the time of firing. In looking at these two photomicrographs, if you would envision the cartridge as being in this position with the base down, it would be down in this area (indicating). You can see the exhibit on the left and the test on the right with the concentric rings going around from the exhibit through to the test. These photomicrographs represent the same exhibit with the same test, but in two different locations on the case.

These are imparted to the cartridge case only at the time of firing. When you fire a cartridge there is tremendous pressure set up in all directions; the cartridge case is pushed to the rear, result-



ing in the marks that we find on the base of the case. Pressure is exerted on the sides of the case so it expands and fills the chamber of the weapon imprinting the machining marks that are in the chamber of the weapon on the sides of the case and can only happen during the time of firing.

Mr. FAUNTROY. All right, let me summarize from a layman's point of view again what you have said and see if it is not correct.

You can determine that Q-3 was, in fact, in the chamber of that rifle by virtue of the fact, one, that other bullets fired from that rifle leave the same impression on the rear or the bottom of that bullet casing as are found on the casing here?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Yes, sir. Every test we fired had essentially the same type of marks impressed into the primer metal of the case.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And the various bolts would not have the same characteristics. I mean—

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. That is right; those are all individual and peculiar to a particular weapon and no other.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Then on the side of the evidence cartridge you are telling us that when the bullet is fired from the cartridge gas presses the side of the casing against the wall of the barrel; is that right?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. That is correct. It is designed to do that. The brass of the case expands, fills the chamber of the weapon so the gas will not escape through the rear into the firer's face.

In other words, it is what we call obturation of the chamber, and after the weapon is fired, then the metal of the case will slightly contract so that you can extract the case without too much effort.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And again, no two rifles in the world would likely have the same impressions on a cartridge fired within them?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. That is correct; the machining processes are such that they do not carry over from one weapon to another. Each weapon is individual.

These are only two areas that I am demonstrating here on which we based our conclusion. There were marks in the firing pin impression as well, and the extractor also left individual identifying features in the area that it marked.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Now, as you know, there were a number of cartridges, bullets found in Memphis, and I want to know whether the panel compared Q-3, the evidence cartridge, with other cartridges, or cartridge components found in Memphis and designated by the FBI as Q-4 through Q-12?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Yes, sir, we did.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I wonder if you would care to tell us what your finds were?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. As a result of our comparison, we found exhibit Q-3 was the same as the unfired cartridges marked as exhibits Q-4 through Q-8, and was dissimilar to the cartridges marked as exhibits Q-9 through Q-12. Exhibits Q-9 through Q-12 have a different headstamp. They are military-type cartridges with a full metal-jacketed bullet and are not the same as exhibit Q-3, which is a Remington-Peters commercial-type cartridge with a soft-nose type bullet.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Is it true that both types of bullets could be fired from the rifle in question?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Yes, they are the same caliber, and both are suitable for use in exhibit Q-2.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Would you care to tell us what, if any, difference is there in the two types of bullets which were found in Memphis?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. The bullet that would be loaded to exhibit Q-3 is a metal-jacketed soft-point type bullet that has an exposed lead nose. The bullets that are loaded to exhibits Q-9 through Q-12 are full metal-jacketed bullets that do not have exposed lead in the nose.

Mr. FAUNTROY. What is the effective difference between those bullets when fired?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. The soft-nose commercial-type bullet, of course, is designed to expand on impact with the target and to cause more severe damage. The military-type bullets are made that way because of the Geneva Convention where countries are not allowed to use the soft-nose type bullets during time of war. The full metal-jacketed type of bullet will not normally cause as extensive damage as the soft-nose type bullet.

Mr. FAUNTROY. So the Q-3 shell, or casing, or cartridge, fired from that would have fired the most damaging kind of bullet of the two that would fit that chamber?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Yes; it is.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Champagne, and I yield back, Mr. Chairman, to counsel, Mr. Webb, to continue questioning.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The Chair recognizes staff counsel, Bill Webb.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The final area which the panel conducted examinations and tests were the clothing and windowsill, and this area is going to be presented by Monty Lutz.

Mr. Lutz, did the panel test various items of clothing which were worn by Dr. King at the time of his death?

Mr. LUTZ. Yes; we did.

Mr. WEBB. And at this time, as soon as the young ladies finish removing the other evidence, I would like you to step to the easel and, using Martin Luther King exhibits F-4, 5, and 7, describe the tests which the panel employed and the conclusions they reached.

Mr. Chairman, for the record these exhibits were previously introduced during the testimony of the autopsy panel in August.

[Mr. Lutz moved to the easel.]

Mr. Lutz, beginning with the exhibit on your far left, would you describe what is depicted in that exhibit, what tests were performed by the panel?

Mr. LUTZ. This is a photograph of the shirt that was worn by Dr. King. It is in a closed position as it would normally be worn with the collar being closed. The significant points of interest, the right collar area being extensively damaged and torn, the darkened area surrounding this area on the right side representing what appeared to be bloodstaining on that right shoulder and right collar area.

Mr. WEBB. With respect to the shirt, would you tell us how the panel went about examining it, what you looked for?

Mr. LUTZ. The examinations conducted by the panel first included an overall observation examining the destruction to the collar area, measuring this, finding the damage to be approximately 2 to

3 inches in diameter across. The physical examination also looking for the powder residue, any particulate matter or foreign substances that might be adhering to the garment itself, trying to determine if something is there that would tell us the distances involved.

When a firearm is fired, the muzzle blast expels the powder, throws it forward, and if an object or garment is in close proximity powder will be deposited on that garment and can be detected physically. Our first examination, and then going further in looking microscopically and attempting to locate any objects that may be in that area.

Both types of examinations were conducted by the panel. We looked at the garment first, physically. Then placing it under the microscope and examining the torn area for any foreign substance that may be there that would give us this information. Both of these tests failed to reveal any particulate matter that could be observed. There was no powder residue nor any other substance that we could attribute to a close contact or a short distance muzzle blast on this garment.

An additional set of chemical testing was performed on this shirt, first doing a Griess test, which is a test that is designed to detect powder residue. The nitrates that are in gunpowder when they are burned become nitrites and can be detected with a chemical testing that will show up with an orange-reddish appearance that will show up once that garment is treated with the Griess test.

This test on the garment failed to reveal any reaction involving that test, again indicating that a close proximity was not involved in the injury sustained to that collar.

Our final testing on the garment involved a sodium rhodizonate test designed to detect lead or lead powder. Lead can be deposited on a garment in one of two ways. Lead is present in the priming compound. As a result of being inside of the primer when the primer is detonated, it is expelled out the front, and if the garment is in close proximity, a very light gaseous cloud will deposit that lead material on the garment. Our test did reveal a particulate spattering of lead, not consistent with the powder residue, a result of the lead smoke powder from the primer, but more consistent with the small particles of lead that would be deposited there as a result of pieces of lead striking the garment from a fragmenting bullet, the portions of lead that are present in the core material as it would pass through an object and deposit itself on the garment.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Lutz, were the suit jacket and tie subjected to the same series of tests?

Mr. LUTZ. Yes, sir, they were.

Mr. WEBB. Would you state your conclusions with respect to each of those items, please?

Mr. LUTZ. The suit jacket was observed physically, microscopically and chemically treated in the same manner. The damage noted was in the same general right collar and lapel area of the garment, and it being consistent in size and in location with that same damage noted in the shirt.

Our testing again revealed no indication of a close proximity of firearm discharge. We did find the particles of lead particulate that was again consistent with the fragmentation from the core materi-

al of the bullet that had been fired and possibly passed through the body of Dr. King.

Mr. WEBB. Is that also true with respect to the tie, sir?

Mr. LUTZ. The tie; the examination showed that it had been severed along the right side as normally worn and the chemical testing revealed only a small reaction involving a light fabric on the cut edge of the garment like would be encountered where a projectile or a portion of a projectile having lead would sever that portion of tie and leave a lead deposit.

Mr. WEBB. Did the panel attempt to determine whether the damage to the clothing was consistent with the type of damage which would be expected from the Q-64 bullet?

Mr. LUTZ. Yes, sir, we did.

Mr. WEBB. And what conclusions did you arrive at?

Mr. LUTZ. Our conclusions were based upon viewing the autopsy photograph in conjunction with the damages noted and the corresponding areas of damage, both in the photographs of the autopsy and on the garments. Our conclusions were that the damage was consistent with a 30.06-type bullet that could have passed through the body, and the extensive tearing and damaging to the cloth was consistent with the fragmenting-type bullet and secondary missiles created by that fragmenting bullet.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would like the window-sill which was removed from the bathroom of the roominghouse at 422½ South Main Street in Memphis and premarked as Martin Luther King exhibit F-158 and a photograph of the windowsill, which has been premarked as Martin Luther King exhibit F-157, entered as exhibits.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may be entered into the record at this point.

[MLK exhibit F-158 is in the possession of Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk J. A. Blackwell.]



MLK Exhibit F-157

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Lutz, what I would ask you to do is to look at the windowsill, and any testimony you give, if you would illustrate it by referring to the photograph of that windowsill.

Was this item of evidence examined by the panel?

Mr. LUTZ. Yes, sir, it was.

Mr. WEBB. Can you tell us the purpose for which such examinations were performed?

Mr. LUTZ. The purpose of our examination was to determine whether there was any identifying material or information on that windowsill, the piece of wood, that would tell us whether the rifle had been in contact with the windowsill, whether the muzzle had touched it, indented it, or whether there was any indication of the muzzle of the firearm being in close proximity to that windowsill at the time of firing.

Mr. WEBB. Was your attention directed to a particular part of the windowsill, sir?

Mr. LUTZ. Yes, sir, they were.

Mr. WEBB. Would you indicate which part of the windowsill? Once again using the photograph.

Mr. LUTZ. The photograph depicts a lightened area in a rectangular outline and has a small wedge-shaped arrow placed into the area, the only area that we could detect as a possible area of consideration, a very slight indentation, approximately five-sixteenths of an inch in length and quite narrow.

Mr. WEBB. What did the panel find with respect to that area?

Mr. LUTZ. We examined this area and attempted to microscopically determine whether there was any identifying markings that may be there. A tool-mark identification, for striations, or scratches that may have been placed there by any instrument that may have been placed into contact with that indentation.

Due to the irregular surface of the wood, being quite heavily weathered and absence of a smooth painted surface, we were unable to detect any identifying striations or scratches that would give us an indication of the particular tool that may have made that indentation.

Mr. WEBB. Was the windowsill tested chemically to determine whether or not the rifle may have been in contact with it at some point in time?

Mr. LUTZ. Yes, sir, it was.

Mr. WEBB. What were the findings in that area?

Mr. LUTZ. Our findings revealed no presence of gunpowder residue as a result of our Griess testing. This is not an unusual situation, because of the surface of the material involved. If the muzzle would have been held several inches from it and the deposits of material just drifting down onto it, that residue could have easily been removed one way or another, just by picking it up. We found no indications of what we could attribute as gunshot residue. We attempted to treat the wood with the sodium rhodizonate test, treating first a surrounding area outside of the damaged area, looking for lead particulate or reaction to it. Our test involving the sodium rhodizonate, looking for the lead, revealed a reaction that we accounted for as being possibly the result of paint having a lead base in that area, therefore negating any further testing we could conduct on it.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you, Mr. Lutz. I ask you to return to your seat.

Mr. Chairman, I have one further question I would like to pose to the panel generally, and that would be, did the panel attempt to determine if the Q-64 evidence bullet and the Q-3 cartridge case ever comprise one cartridge, that is, if there was any way the panel could determine whether or not it was able to determine if the evidence bullet and the cartridge case were ever one unit?

Mr. NEWQUIST. It found the component parts, the cartridge case, and the bullet are consistent with Remington ammunition. However, there is no scientific method to determine if a bullet had come from a given cartridge case.

Mr. WEBB. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I have no further questions.

Chairman STOKES. The committee will now operate under the 5-minute rule.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Dodd.

Mr. DODD. Mr. Chairman, I would pass.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I pass.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from the District of Columbia, Mr. Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I, first of all, want to certainly commend the panel for the thoroughness with which they have handled the responsibility we have asked them to assume. I have simply one additional question of Mr. Bates, and it is really a point of information, Mr. Bates. You indicated that you did not check the accuracy of the scope on the rifle because of the lapse of time.

Mr. BATES. Yes, that is correct.

Mr. FAUNTROY. How does the lapse of time affect the reliability of an examination of a scope?

Mr. BATES. In this particular case, since the weapon has been secured; this panel does not know exactly what has happened to the weapon in that period of time, or whether it was dropped when it was abandoned at the time of the assassination; so, therefore, the intervening years we did not feel that it would be of any significance to attempt to check the accuracy of the scope during our examination.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Are there any further questions from any members?

Mr. DODD. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Dodd.

Mr. DODD. Proceeding on that same line of questioning, I wonder if I might go a step further, if I can.

You also pointed out that there was some differences in the magnification setting on the scope. What I am getting at here is, Mr. Bates, you testified that the FBI tested the rifle and the FBI did do the testing at 6.5 magnification, and the panel received the rifle with, I guess, a 3 on it. Is this the difference that you are referring to?

Mr. BATES. Yes, it is.

Mr. DODD. What was the setting on the rifle when it was found?

Mr. BATES. I do not know.

Mr. DODD. There was no report made of that at all?

Mr. BATES. I am not aware of any.

Mr. DODD. Do you know whether or not the FBI had any idea what the setting was?

Mr. BATES. I don't. The only information I have is the setting that the FBI noted in their examination of the weapon shortly after the assassination.

Mr. DODD. Did anyone check with the FBI to find out whether or not that was the setting at the time the gun was allegedly fired at the assassination?

Mr. BATES. I do not know that.

Mr. DODD. Can anyone testify to that on the panel? Do any of you have any knowledge of that at all?

Mr. NEWQUIST. No; we do not.

Mr. DODD. Counsel, do you want to clear that up for me?

Mr. WEBB. The magnification on the site is changed by rotating the site. The information that we have provided by the FBI is pending in the final report of the panel. At this time, I can't provide you with an answer to that question. However, it would have been normal procedure for a firearms examiner to examine the weapon as he received it, and if the setting was changed, it would have been noted in the FBI reports that we do have.

Mr. DODD. And it is your impression they would have noted the setting on the site at the time that they examined the weapon when it was picked up in Memphis?

Mr. WEBB. That is correct, sir.

Mr. DODD. I would like to, if I could—I have been listening to your testimony—try to summarize your conclusions, and I would ask you to disagree with me, if you would, but referring to the bullet that was retrieved from Dr. King's body, although the bullet is the kind of bullet, specifically the caliber and manufacturing, which could have been fired from the rifle found in the bundle, it is the conclusion of this panel that you cannot say definitively that the bullet came from that rifle?

Mr. WILHELM. That is correct, sir.

Mr. DODD. Nor can you tell us whether the rifle was the instrument which caused the indentation in the window? Is that correct?

Mr. WILHELM. Beg your pardon?

Mr. DODD. You cannot tell us definitively whether that rifle caused the indentation in the window of the bathroom?

Mr. WILHELM. No, sir; we cannot.

Mr. DODD. You cannot say that definitively as well?

Mr. WILHELM. That is correct.

Mr. DODD. May I suspend for a minute, Mr. Chairman?

And further, as to the bullet that was retrieved from Dr. King's body you cannot say definitively whether or not that was ever connected with the cartridge that you showed us?

Mr. WILHELM. No, we know of no way that it could be connected with the cartridge case.

Mr. DODD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired. Do any further members of the committee have any questions of the panel?



Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I have a similar question to the one I raised previously, and that is how often in your experience as firearms analysts have you not been able to trace the bullet to the gun?

Mr. WILHELM. I am reluctant to make any specific figures. As a ballpark figure, I would say probably 85 percent of the time we are able to make an identification.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I see.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Gentlemen, under the rules of our committee, at the conclusion of a witness' testimony, the witness or witnesses are entitled to a period of 5 minutes in which to expand upon or give further clarification of any portion of their testimony. I would extend to any of you on the panel at this time, time to make any statement you so desire.

Mr. WILHELM. It seems in the opinion of the panel that we have nothing further that we can add to the statements we have made. We would like to express our thanks to the Chairman and to this body for the privilege of being a part of this investigation.

We also would like to express our thanks to our various departments—I speak for my colleagues and myself—for their indulgence in allowing us time to conduct these examinations.

Chairman Stokes. Thank you very much.

On behalf of the committee, I certainly want to thank each of you gentlemen for both the report that you have given this committee, your testimony here today, and the time that you have expended on behalf of the work of this committee, and we are indeed gratified to have had your expert services.

Also, Mr. George Wilson, I would like to thank you, and Chief Cullinane, Chief Jefferson, and the Washington Metropolitan Police Department for having afforded us the facilities which enabled you and the panel members to be able to make this report to our committee, and we are indebted to you and the department for that.

Mr. WILSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you, gentlemen. If there is nothing further, you are excused.

The committee will, after adjournment today, meet in room 304 in executive session, and these public hearings are therefore adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, at 3:35 p.m., the public hearing adjourned, to reconvene at 9 a.m., Friday, November 10, 1978.]



# INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1978

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The select committee met, pursuant to adjournment, at 9:05 a.m., in room 345, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Louis Stokes (chairman of the select committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Stokes, Preyer, Fauntroy, Dodd, Edgar, Devine, McKinney, and Sawyer.

Also present: G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel and staff director; Edward M. Evans, chief investigator; Gene Johnson, deputy chief counsel; Mark Speiser, staff counsel; Elizabeth L. Berning, chief clerk; and Olive Wagner, deputy chief clerk.

Chairman STOKES. The committee will come to order.

Prior to commencing the presentation of evidence in the hearings this morning, the Chair wishes to make a statement. The committee heard 3 days of testimony from James Earl Ray in public session in August. At that time it afforded Mr. Ray the opportunity to make an opening statement for 1½ hours so that any evidence or issue he desired to raise could be presented to the committee. The committee has now carefully reviewed the public testimony given by Mr. Ray. While there are questions in some areas, including those of a possible conspiracy, that have not yet been posed to Mr. Ray, a review and analysis of the public testimony given by Mr. Ray to date has convinced the committee that no useful purpose would be served in continuing to question Mr. Ray on any area.

On the basis of this assessment of his prior testimony, the committee has decided not to call Mr. Ray for further testimony. Counsel for Mr. Ray and Mr. Ray have been sent a letter this morning informing them of the committee's decision. As detailed in the letter sent to Mr. Ray and his counsel, the committee has, pursuant to its rules, afforded them the opportunity to submit in writing for inclusion in the record any statement they desire to make.

The Chair at this time recognizes Professor Blakey.

## NARRATION BY PROFESSOR BLAKEY ON POSSIBLE CRIMINAL MOTIVES OF JAMES EARL RAY AND PLAYING OF TAPE

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In a murder trial, the prosecution is not required to establish motive to obtain a conviction, but evidence of motive is relevant,

and the prosecution will usually attempt to establish it. The reason is obvious: A jury inevitably wants to know why the act was committed. In the case of the assassination of a celebrated figure, the general public—in effect, a jury of public opinion—also inevitably seeks an answer to the question “Why”—for senseless acts are disturbing, and people naturally tend to resist so characterizing any death of a public figure whose life had meaning. In the search for the meaning of life itself, there is a need to know the meaning of death.

In the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., there are at least two established facts: Dr. King was one eminent leader of the civil rights movement in the 1960's, and James Earl Ray stands convicted as his murderer. There is, therefore, a seemingly inevitable tendency to draw the conclusion that Ray was racially motivated. That is how FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover read it, as did George McMillan, the author of “The Making of an Assassin,” a searching study of Ray and his actions. In addition, the Department of Justice task force that reviewed the FBI investigation commented in its report, issued in January 1977, that “\* \* \* it seems clear that Ray openly displayed a strong racial attitude toward blacks.”

A finding of racial or other motive, however, is not a simple exercise. When the issue touches on race, it is also a sensitive and delicate subject. A society whose deepest values abhor racism must not permit accusations of it to be lightly made or supported with less than clear and convincing evidence. It is not possible to look into a man's mind—the old common law maxim was that even the devil could not see into the heart of a man—so an understanding of what might have driven a man to commit a criminal act usually has to be derived from an examination of his conduct. Consequently, the committee decided to examine carefully Ray's other acts that had been alleged to manifest racial animosity in his character, to find if, in fact, that was the case. Committee investigators traced Ray's steps over a worldwide path. Interestingly, some of the most cogent incidents cited to prove his racist leanings occurred in foreign countries. A more complete analysis of these incidents and others must of course await the final report. But some of the results of that inquiry may be quickly summarized here for the public record.

An episode in Ray's early life has been interpreted by Mr. McMillan as well as Gerold Frank, the author of “An American Death,” as a sign of deeply rooted racism. It involves a friendship with an older man, his supervisor at the International Shoe Co. in East Hartford, Ill. The older man is portrayed by the authors as an admirer of Adolph Hitler, an attitude that supposedly left its impression on Ray, a teenager at the time. Yet the committee's investigation has not been able to establish a firm factual basis for this story.

It has been noted that while at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in 1957, Ray refused to accept assignment to an honor farm, allegedly because its dormitory was integrated. Ray himself denies this, saying he was nearing the end of his term and he did not wish to be put into a risky new situation, that he believed to be characterized by drug use, a situation integrated or otherwise. Here, too,

the committee will have to decide if on balance Ray's story is credible.

There are numerous racial incidents that purportedly occurred while Ray was at Missouri State Prison. Shortly after the prison was integrated in 1964, five Black inmates were stabbed, one fatally, and it was just one of a number of violent outbreaks. While it has been charged that Ray was active in the attacks, the weight of the evidence from the interviews available to the committee seems to argue that he was not. Again, the final decision must wait in the analysis of the evidence with the committee.

The investigation also could find no firm corroboration of claims that, while at Missouri State Prison, Ray made derogatory references to Dr. King. Indeed, a majority of the some 30 inmate associates of Ray interviewed by the committee indicated that he was, in fact, not a racist, although there were dissenting views expressed.

Ray's brothers, Jerry and John, have each been quoted by authors as alluding to racial inclinations of James. George McMillan and William Bradford Huie both attest to an account by Jerry of a phone call he got from James just before the assassination in which James is quoted as saying, "The big nigger has had it." Jerry himself has denied to the committee that there ever was such a conversation. Similarly, the committee has been unable to confirm various other virulent anti-Black statements attributed to James by John.

The evidence available to the committee, on the other hand, seemingly confirms two general interests of James Earl Ray in the period of the assassination that have arguably anti-Black implications: Ray's interest in the regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa and the presidential campaign of George Wallace.

Ray reportedly was vocal in his support of the government of Southern African countries, and during the time he was a fugitive—both before and after the assassination—he made several attempts to obtain information about emigrating to those countries. In Mexico in the fall of 1967, he inquired about going to Rhodesia, but received no reply to his letter. In California the following December, he wrote to the American-South African Council, and a February 1968 letter to the Orange County, Calif. Chapter of the Friends of Rhodesia, reiterated his interest.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask permission at this point to include in the record to illustrate that interest, the February 1968 letter as MLK exhibit F-165.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]

From  
HANES  
file



**Friends of Rhodesian Independence**

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 593  
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

President: Robert L. Wyckoff, M.D.  
Corresponding Secretary: Ronald G. Hewitson

Treasurer: Stuart G. Stahl

Arthur J. Hanes.  
Dear Sir.

Aug 68

I thought you may be interested in the enclosed photostat of a letter I received some time ago? The F.B.I. (Santa Ana) have the original letter!

In this letter "Golt" refers to a previous letter he sent me! I see I sent this letter to the American African Affairs Council in Washington D.C. (address enclosed) for them to supply him with details re emigrants to Rhodesia.

3/19/68  
J. G. Hanes  
1/10/68

Please keep this confidential? "



News ITEMS

## Friends of Rhodesia

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 613  
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

President: Robert L. Wyckoff, M.D.  
Corresponding Secretary: Ronald G. Hewitson

Treasurer: Paul

### NCC Report

At a recent meeting of the General Board of the National Council of Churches, a report was adopted that called for U.S. trade and cultural exchanges with Red China, recognition of Communist Cuba, acceptance of the Red regime in East Germany, removal of travel restrictions on Soviet citizens in the U.S., admission of Red China to the U.N., and reduction of U.S. forces in the Far East.

About a year ago, this same council voted to withdraw their sizable funds from banks that had any dealings with South Africa and, I believe, Rhodesia.

I would like very much to have a representative of a council member-church explain why the council favors a system that is responsible for around 80 million political murders over a system based on separation of the races. Explained why, to the council the Communist system is not as oppressive as apartheid.

M. Lova

14703 E. Glen

Whitlie

### Widening The Probe

Despite Ray's capture, the FBI investigation of King's assassination is far from being closed.

One agent involved in the inquiry says privately that "the arrest of Ray is only the beginning of this inquiry." He points out that "Ray is the key to determining the others involved in the assassination plot."

For instance, FBI and Canadian authorities are still investigating how Ray was able to exploit legal loopholes like a pro in obtaining his Canadian passport.

Several dozen agents are probing Ray's alleged contacts with U.S.-based American South African Council which he wrote on Dec. 30, 1967, to ask about emigrating to Rhodesia. Also, being carefully checked is Ray's contact with a person, whom the FBI photographed with King at a major U.S. airport.

One of the ironies of the successful FBI investigation is that just two months before the King assassination, the Bureau was obliged to cut in half the number of agents in Europe, including those in London as a result of President Johnson's order slashing overseas personnel of all government security and intelligence agencies.

2-4-68

DEAR MR. HEWITSON.

I RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOUR OFFICE IN REPLY TO A LETTER I HAD SENT TO YOU REQUESTING INFORMATION ON RHODESIA, THE LETTER CLARIFIED MOST OF MY QUESTIONS REGARDING IMMIGRATION. SUCH AS PASSPORT. IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO LEAVE BEFORE NOVEMBER BUT WANTED THE INFORMATION BEFORE HAND, ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU SEND I WOULD APPRECIATE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO RHODESIAN COMMENTARY.

SINCERELY,

ERIC S. GALT

1535-N-SERRANO

L.A. CALIF. 90027.

*Eric S. Galt*

Mr. BLAKEY. Even more significantly, Ray continued his quest for details on southern Africa during his European flight in May and June 1968. In Lisbon, he visited both the Rhodesian Diplomatic Mission and the South African Embassy, and in London he sought information from a newspaper reporter on mercenary groups fighting in Africa. When he was arrested in London on June 8, he had a South African Airways timetable on which the next flight to Salisbury, Rhodesia, was marked in pencil, and the phone number of the South African Embassy in Lisbon was written in ink.

In interviews with the committee following his conviction, Ray admitted that he went to Europe intending to reach English-speaking countries in Africa. This interest may be no more than one part of an effort by a fugitive to seek an English-speaking foreign haven; it may be a manifestation of something more.

Even though Ray has consistently denied any interest in politics, there is a great deal of evidence that he was active in the 1968 Wallace campaign, and while it would be unfair to Mr. Wallace, or to his many supporters generally, to characterize his campaign as racist, it is a sad fact that his candidacy attracted voters of an anti-Black persuasion. His candidacy and his party were also widely perceived as unsympathetic toward a number of issues associated with the civil rights movement.

There is evidence that Ray was responsible for the registration for example of at least three acquaintances in the American Independent Party, a contribution to an effort to get Wallace's name on the California ballot.



In addition, at least one phone call by Ray to Wallace Headquarters in California has been noted. Curiously, in the stipulation as to material facts, outlining his guilt in preparation for his plea in his 1969 trial in the King assassination, Ray voiced a particular objection to one item in the 56-paragraph document. It involved his acknowledgment of his participation in the Wallace campaign.

Turning next to another area, after firing his attorney, Percy Foreman, and attempting to repudiate his guilty plea, Ray also had as his counsel J. B. Stoner, an outspoken and self-acknowledged racist, as well as an avowed opponent of all that Dr. King stood for. While care must be used not to overstate the significance of a client's preference for legal counsel—clients ought not to be associated with lawyers, and lawyers ought not to be associated with clients—in the case of Ray's retaining Mr. Stoner, as well as his choice, at the time of his arrest in London, of Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, a lawyer noted for his defense of Ku Klux Klansmen, Ray's preferences—along with other facts—ought not be overlooked in an effort to fathom motive.

During Ray's fugitive period, there were also three reported incidents—in Canada, California, and Mexico—that had been repeatedly cited to prove that Ray was racially motivated in the killing of Dr. King. They may be regarded as useful test cases in an attempt to discern Ray's general motivation, and to assess the quality of evidence in the public domain from which public impressions of that motivation have been significantly formed.

William Bradford Huie wrote in *Did the FBI Kill Martin Luther King?* that Ray made anti-Black comments to a woman acquaintance in Canada in 1967. At dinner in Montreal, Huie quoted the woman as saying, Ray uttered the view, “\* \* \* you got to live near niggers to know them \* \* \* all people who know niggers hate them.” While the woman declined to be interviewed by the committee, she did give a statement to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on October 15, 1968, in which she said, “He”—meaning Ray—“never mentioned the name Martin Luther King and never indicated any hatred toward Negroes.”

Here, Mr. Chairman, I would ask permission that the October 1968 letter from the RCMP on this point be included in the record as MLK exhibit F-167.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-167

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO  
BE ADDRESSED TO  
THE COMMISSIONER  
CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
AREA 7, CANADA



TOUS LES COMMUNIQUÉS DOIVENT  
ÊTRE ADRESSÉS À  
LE COMMISSAIRE  
GÉNÉRAL DU MONTÉ POLICE  
OTTAWA 7, CANADA

HEADQUARTERS - DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

OTTAWA 7, CANADA

R. NO.

RE N°

NO.

RE N°

62HQ 791-1-60 (Vol. 5)

October 25, 1968.

Mr. Ross Lee Innes,  
c/o United States Embassy,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Re: Martin Luther KING  
Murder of

On October 8 last information was received from the Superintendent of Security, Department of Transport, Ottawa, to the effect that a female employee, who wishes to remain anonymous had confided to her superior that she had met with RAY on 3 occasions, once in the Laurentians, once in Ottawa and once in Montreal. These meetings are believed to have taken place prior to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther KING.

2. Recently this woman has received telephonic calls from William Bradford HuFF (phonetic) in Alabama, asking her about her association with RAY. This person is now concerned about the turn of events and consented to be interviewed by a member of this Force relative to her association with RAY.

3. On the 15 OCT 68 subject was interviewed and the following information was obtained from her.

"On the 4th of August 1967, my girlfriend and I went to St. Jovite, P.Q. to spend the long weekend. We arrived there at around 7:00 p.m. and registered at the "Petit Manoir" Inn. We had supper and then decided to go to the Grey Rock Resort for the evening. As we entered the lounge, we saw a man sitting alone at a table facing the Dance Floor. My girlfriend said 'That man is alone, let's see if we can sit with him.' She approached him and he invited us to sit at his table. He introduced himself as Eric GALT and said that he was on holidays from Chicago and was staying at the Grey Rock. He also mentioned that his brother and his sister-in-law had come up with him from Chicago and that they had left for Montreal. He said that he had been there

for about one week and that he would be leaving within the next few days for Montreal to meet his brother. At around midnight, my girlfriend said that she was not feeling well and she returned to the Petit Mansoir. Eric and I went to the Mansoir d'Arctique to see the entertainment. We returned to Grey Rock at around 4:00 a.m. and I spent the rest of the night with him in his room. I was intimate with him. I did not notice anything unusual about him. He was quiet, polite, neat and reserved. The next morning, I left him at around 11:00 a.m., at which time he told me that he was leaving for Montreal. He said that he did not know where he would be staying in Montreal, but that he would like to see me again and that he would call the Petit Mansoir and let me know where he was staying. He was driving an old red Plymouth around a 1956 model. I did not look at the license plates.

He called around supper time and since we were out, he left a message with the desk advising to call a number in Montreal. I called and talked to a desk clerk at a hotel in the east end of Montreal. She gave me the address and the number of the room where Eric was staying. He was not in at the time. On Monday, the 7th of August, my girlfriend and I drove down to Montreal and went to the hotel to see Eric. I don't remember the name of the hotel except that it is around the corner from the Acapulco Club. He met Eric in the hall and he appeared pleased and surprised to see us. He stayed his quarters during the two nights we spent in Montreal. He was not intimate with either of us in Montreal. He took us out to the Acapulco Club and to restaurants. He seemed to have money and appeared to pay for everything with Canadian 20.00 bills. In fact, he gave me a twenty before we left Montreal, in case I had car trouble. I gave him my address in Ottawa.

Some three weeks later, he called me and said that he was in Ottawa staying at the Town and Country Hotel for the week-end. He stayed in Ottawa for two days and I showed him around Ottawa. I did not stay with him at the Town and Country. He did not appear to know anyone in Ottawa. I don't recall him saying where he was coming from, but I assumed it was Montreal. He did not have a car and probably came by train. He mentioned that he was working for his brother in Ford estate and that he did not do much but was paid well. He also said that he had no problems with money and could always get some.

He never mentioned any friends or associates besides his brother and I never saw him with anyone. He never mentioned the name Martin Luther KING and never indicated any hatred toward any Negroes.

I did not hear any more from him until around March 1968 when I received a letter from him postmarked Hollywood, California. I don't remember the address and have since destroyed the letter and envelope. The letter was short and did not contain much of interest. He was enquiring as to when I was taking my holidays and said if I write, to do it soon because he would not be at that address after a couple of weeks. I received the letter some three weeks before the assassination of Martin Luther KING.

When I heard that Eric SAIT had been arrested and was implicated in the murder of Dr. KING, I panicked and destroyed the letter.

About one month ago, I received a phone call from one William Bradford HuY who said that he was writing a book about James Earl RAY and when he mentioned the names Grey Cook and Eric SAIT, I knew that he must have gotten my name and address from RAY. I agreed to see him and we met for lunch at the Holiday Inn. At that time he showed me his credentials, his picture in Time Magazine with RAY's lawyer and some of his books. He was very charming and appeared to know all about my association with RAY, including the fact that I had been intimate with him. He appeared to be mainly interested in what I thought of RAY and I told him that as far as I was concerned, he was a normal man. He said that I would be the Mystery woman in his book and assured me that my name would not be mentioned. He had a photographer with him and I agreed to let him take rocky pictures which they assured me would show only shadows. He gave me \$100.00 for the information and invited me to go to New York at his expense, any time I felt like it, and to call him collect if I could remember anything else.

I have no other information to offer and the above is all I can remember about my association with James Earl RAY alias Eric SAIT.

4. The above information was obtained during several hours of questioning and our investigator is satisfied that it contains all that this informant knows about HuY. She is very concerned about the possibility of her name and photograph appearing in HuY's book and in this regard she was advised to consult a lawyer.

5. The girlfriend mentioned has been contacted, however, she has no information of value to offer. She could not remember the name of the hotel where they stayed in Montreal and could not elaborate on any of the points covered by the informant.

W. F. G. Perry, Insp.,  
Assistant Officer in Charge,  
Criminal Investigation Branch.

Mr. BLAKEY. The committee did contact the Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer who conducted the interview, J.A.G. Synnett, who confirmed the woman's statement. In fact, Inspector Synnett said, the woman told him the subject of race never came up during her meetings with Ray. The woman, in Synnett's opinion, was honest and truthful throughout the interview.

FBI reports on a Ray incident at the Rabbit's Foot Club, a Los Angeles night spot visited by Ray in February 1968, indicate that an angry exchange occurred between Ray and a white female companion. It is charged that Ray dragged the woman toward the door telling her, "I'll drop you off in Watts and we'll see how you like it there."

Here, Mr. Chairman, I would ask permission that the two relevant FBI reports be included in the record as MLK exhibit F-168 and MLK exhibit F-169.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/30/68

BO DEL MONTE, Bartender, Rabbit's Foot Club, 5623 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, advised that his home address is 1229 North Bronson, Los Angeles, California. He advised after observing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, that RAY was identical to a customer who frequented the Rabbit's Foot Club, from approximately January until the middle of March 1968. He described RAY as wearing usually a dark suit, with a bow tie. He said that his appearance was that of a rural person from Alabama, who has just recently come to the "big city". He said that RAY wore his crew cut to long, or he was allowing his hair to grow.

DEL MONTE recalled the incident in which RAY became involved in a heated discussion with a Caucasian female and began dragging her towards the door of the bar saying, "I'll drop you off in Watts and we'll see how you like it there". DEL MONTE recalled that shortly after this incident a Negro patron of the Rabbit's Foot Club, and his date, were struck on the head by a rock or brick while in a nearby parking lot.

DEL MONTE acknowledge that RAY often spoke support for Governor WALLACE.

DEL MONTE said that RAY drank vodka straight or in screwdrivers. DEL MONTE said that RAY purchased a key for the key club, which is operated by the Rabbit's Foot Club. He stated that he believes RAY gave him the name "DOUG COLLINS", when he purchased his key. DEL MONTE said that the writing of this name was by himself, and RAY furnished no other information as to residence.

---

On 4/22/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 44-1574  
 SA E. RHEAD RICHARDS <sup>ifk</sup> and ✓  
 SA DENNIS C. LEMASTER/DCL/dp Date dictated 4/26/68

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.

MLK EXHIBIT F-168

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/30/68

JAMES E. MORRISON, Bartender, Rabbit's Foot Club, 5623 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, advised that he resides at 1911 Grace Avenue, Los Angeles, California. He was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, and he advised this individual is identical with a customer who frequented the Rabbit's Foot Bar. He said that he recalled this individual because of his frequency as a customer at the bar. MORRISON stated that he became engaged in a political discussion with RAY concerning ROBERT F. KENNEDY and GEORGE WALLACE. He said that RAY became rather incensed and vehemently supported WALLACE. On one other occasion, MORRISON said that RAY had a discussion with a frequent female customer of the bar whose name was PAT GOODSELL. This discussion concerned Negroes and civil rights movement. MORRISON said that RAY became very involved in the argument and began dragging her towards the door saying, "I'll drop you off in Watts and we'll see how you like it there". MORRISON said that another customer who knew the girl, separated them. MORRISON said that subsequent to this event GOODSELL died through an overdose of some type of medicine. He said that she formerly resided at the Carlton Towers, an apartment complex, in the neighborhood. He described her as:

Race	Caucasian
Sex	Female
Age	Approximately 27

MORRISON said that RAY habitually drank vodka or screwdrivers. He said that he was a very quiet customer and it was unusual for him to become involved in an argument. MORRISON said that he believes he used the name "DOUG" while at the bar.

On 4/22/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 44-1574

SA E. RHEAD RICHARDS and <sup>gcl</sup> SA DENNIS C. LEMASTER/DCL/dp Date dictated 4/26/68

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.

MLK EXHIBIT F-169

Mr. BLAKEY. The woman is deceased, and the committee was unable to locate one of the two bartenders. It did locate the other, a Mr. Bo Del Monte. In a signed statement, Mr. Del Monte denied the altercation occurred. He suggested that all that happened was that a quiet discussion in which Ray questioned the safety of a white walking through Watts. The FBI agent, however, whose original investigation established the story, sticks by his 1968 reports.

Here, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the two relevant interviews be included in the record as MLK F-170 and MLK F-171.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may both be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]



STATEMENT OF: LEONARD SCOTT DELMONTÉ

DATE February 10, 1978 FRIDAY 190395

TIME 8:00 P.M. Pacific Standard Time  
 TAKEN AT. ~~11002~~ 11002 HORTENSE STREET No. Hort  
 TAKEN BY. L. PARIS I Calif.

WITNESS: A. HACK

Q. Ms. Delmonte I am INV. Louis Parisi and this is Alfred Hack. We are staff investigators with the United States House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations. It is our duty to ask you certain questions regarding any information you may have concerning the death of Martin Luther King. More specifically your contact with James Earl Ray while you were employed at the Rabbits Foot Club, located on Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood California. ~~Do you voluntarily wish to make a statement regarding this matter fully realizing the importance of such a statement to the Select Committee on Assassinations and all concerned.~~  
 Will you discuss this matter with us?

A. ~~E~~ I will discuss it up to a point

Q. What is your full name Sir?

A. Leonard Scott Delmonte

Q. What is your date and place of birth?

A. 12-10-39, Bronx, New York.

Q. What is your social security number?

A. I don't want that down.

Q. Are you married or single?

A. Married

Q. What is your wife's first name?

A. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I don't think my wife's name is important

Q. What is your home address?

A. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I'd rather not have it in the statement.

Q. Are you presently employed?

A. Yes

Q. Where do you work?

A. I'd rather not put that down.

Q. What is your home telephone number?

A. Not listed.

Q. Do you recall speaking to the FBI after the assassination of Dr. King?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall where & when it was?

A Around April 1968 in Hollywood.

Q Do you recall the location of the interview?

A at the Rabbits foot Club. a young fellow, from what you showed me he messed up the report.

Q Did he tape record the interview or did you give a formal type written statement?

A No, not to my knowledge, no type written statement.

~~Q Did you tell the FBI of an argument~~

Q what period of time did you work at the Rabbits foot Club?

A I'm there off and on four years.

Q In what capacity were you employed?

A Bartender

Q Were you employed as a bar tender in the Rabbits foot Club ~~from~~ during the years 1967 and 1968.

A. Yes.

Q. During that time did you come in contact with an individual you later learned to be James Earl Ray?

A. Yes.

Q. What name did you know the individual by?

A. I don't recall a specific name.

Q. What about Doug Collins?

A. That had to do with the key club membership book.

Q. How long had he been coming into the club?

A. He came in over a period of two months.

Q. What did he drink?

A. I believe it was vodka and coke, which is an unusual drink and helped me remember him.

Q. How long have you been a bartender?

A. 21 years.

20

Q. Has anyone else ever ordered

a vodka and coke

A. Yeh one person, last couple of years

Q. who also worked as a bartender at the club during these two months?

A. Jim Morrison and there was a guy I don't know his name, he was only there for a short while and when he left he took part of the till with him.

Q. what do you mean by short while?

A. approximately 2 months.

Q. Do you know where Jim Morrison lives?

A. No, I don't.

Q. Can you describe the third bartender?

A. He was slimmer than 5-6, white, full head of hair, he was about 22.

Q. what was the owner's name of the club?

A. Herb Newman

Q. Do you know where he lives or how he can be reached?

A. No.

Q. when did you first learn that the customer who had been ordering the vodka & cake was James E. Ray?

A. I saw his picture on the Herald Examiner with Big Head Linn "Have you seen this man?" I stopped in the Sultan room to talk to the bartender there when I was suddenly interviewed by reporters.

Q. Did the L.A. police ever interview you?

A. No.

Q. During the two months or so that Ray was coming into the club who did he associate with?

A. Nobody, he kept to himself.

Q. Was he outgoing or talkative?

A. No, very introverted or appeared to be anyway.

Q. Did he ever create a disturbance in the club?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever get into a heated argument with a female customer over a racial question?

A. No.

Q. Did you tell the FBI that James E. Ray got into argument with a female customer during he attempted to drag her out of the bar?

A. No, no truth to that at all, there were a lot of people sitting at the bar taking part in a philosophical discussion concerning someone in the group saying blacks could come into a white area and be safe and whites could not go into a black area and be safe.

Q. Did James Earl Ray stand out during this discussion?

A. Only when he said "I betcha if you went to Watts and walked down the street you would not be safe. But this was not said loudly as it was directed at the female patron, Pat something."

Q. Did he drag her out of the bar?

A. No.

Q. Did they leave together?

A. They all left at 2:00 A.M. several

of them were going to a party. I went with them. Ray did not go to the party.

Q About how many customers did you have that night?

A About fifty people.

Q What percentage was black?

A 47% were black.

Q Was there always a large group of black customers in the bar?

A Yes. At that particular time there was

Q Did you ever discuss any subject with Ray?

A We had conversations but it always small talk. I thought he was using drugs because he would nod out at the bar. ~~I would tap him on the shoulder and wake him up.~~  
I tapped him lightly on the arm and made him aware of what he was doing.

Q Did Ray ever advocate in your presence his support for the independent Party or George Wallace?

A No

Q Did Ray ever ~~ever~~ attempt to



enters into political discussions with anyone in the club?

A. Not that I know of.

Q. Did he do or say anything to indicate he was a racist?

A. No.

Q. Anything unusual happen in which a patron was injured in the parking lot of the club?

A. A man was hit with a brick by another man.

Q. Do you know the name of the man that was hit?

A. No I don't.

Q. How did you learn that he had been hit?

A. Someone walked in the front door of the club and said "you will never believe ~~that~~ it but the little guy ~~just~~ what's his name hit me in the head with ~~the~~ a brick or rock."

Q. What little guy was he referring to.

A. He said the bartender. I said

the little guy that works here then?  
and he said yeh he just ran down  
the street.

Q. ~~was~~ was the injured customer white  
or black?

A. Black

Q. Was he alone<sup>or</sup> accompanied by some-  
one when he was struck.

A. There must have been forty people  
standing in the parking lot when  
it happened.

Q. Did the club parking lot.

A. No not really the customers used  
the church parking lot across the  
street.

Q. Was the church parking lot where  
the rock incident took place?

A. ~~Yes~~ No, I think it was in the  
A + P parking lot.

Q. How exactly was the victim hit  
with the rock or brick?

A. The short man came up to the  
black and hit him in the side  
of the head and ran.

Q Did you <sup>see the</sup> injure?

A yes, I think I gave him as  
 someone gave him a towel. I noticed  
 the man who was shot to have blood running down the side and  
 front of his head.

Q Was the incident reported to the police?

A I don't think so.

Q what is the key club?

A you bought a card and during certain hours you received drinks at half price.

Q Did you purchase a key card?

A Yes, he did not really want it, I was pushing the cards. "OK put me down" the card cost a dollar. I asked him to write his name and he said he didn't want to. I believe he said just keep the money. Then I explained to him it was no big thing. He said "No" you write it" and uh I said I understand and wrote down the name Doug Collins. I knew it was not his right name but I was just interested in selling the card that's all.

Q Did he ever use the card?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did you ever see him with large sums of money?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever see Ray with narcotics?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever see him meet with anyone at bar for a particular purpose.

A. No but he left with someone that ~~was not regular~~ I had not seen before.

Q. Did you ever suspect that Ray was using or selling narcotics?

A. Using ~~but~~ ~~me~~, I thought heroin.

Q. Why?

A. Because more than once he nodded out and hit the bar, with his eyes very slowly closing.

Q. Did you ever observe Ray with any ~~particular~~ female customers other than Pat.

A. No.

Q. Did you ever ~~see~~ observe Ray in the

company of any of the prostitutes  
~~that were working at the time?~~

A. No

Q. What do you know about any relationships  
 Ray had with any females?

A. During a conversation with ~~some~~ a  
 couple of people that I knew they  
 told me they were stopped some-  
 where in the midwest and questioned  
 extensively about James Earl Ray.  
 I asked "How did you fit in?" They  
 replied that a note containing phone  
 number was left in Ray's car but Ray  
 apparently didn't know the note was  
 there.

Q. What was the contents of the note?

A. Just call a number I don't really  
 know the contents of the note.

Q. What was the girl's name who left the  
 note?

A. Anita

Q. Do you know Anita's last name?

A. No.

Q. Can you describe Anita?

A Chubby little girl with glasses that's all I remember.

Q Did you know if Anita was a prostitute.

A. At that time I didn't but later on I learned that she was.

Q Did anyone tell you of about Ray & Anita

A There was a "thing" going with Anita and Ray.

Q Who told you this?

A I can't remember. I didn't even recall who Anita was at that time.

Q Were you ever shown any photographs by the FBI?

A. Yes

Q Were the photos they showed you the same individual who used the name Donny Collins?

A Yes, but he only used the name when he bought the key card.

Q Did you ever see him get in or out of a motor vehicle?

A No.

Q Do you know what kind of car he had?

A No, I never saw his car

Q Do you recall looking at a photo album that we showed you recently?

A Yes

Q Did you see the individual who drank vodka + coke in that album?

A Yes

Q What do you now know his name to be

A James Earl Ray

Q Do you know where Sue Harris is living?

A No.

Q Do you know where Anita is living?

A No.

Q Do you want to ask anything?

A No.

Q ~~What~~ Do you know a Charles Stein

A Not really.

Q Explain please, How?

A I met him during the investigation  
He was running around with

Louis Lomax and they came in the rabbits a couple of times asking questions about Ray.

Q Did Lomax ever offer to purchase information from you?

A. No.

Q Did anyone offer you money for information about Ray?

A. Yes some reporter did, I refused to talk to them ~~or~~ or take the money.

Q Is there anything you would like to add to this statement?

A. Not at this time.

Q Did Ray ever mention what his source of income might be or if he worked anywhere?

A. No.

Q How long a period of time would he spend in the club.

*See* A He was pretty regular for a while, coming in at 11:00 P.M. and he would stay an hour or two.



Q Did you know a Marie Martin?

A I knew a Marie - I don't know the last name.

Q Did she come in contact with Ray?

A I don't know.

Q Mrs. Delmonte after having an opportunity to read this statement and make any corrections or changes you wish, will you sign it acknowledging by your signature that it is voluntary, true, complete and accurate to the best of your knowledge.

A.

Q When did L.O.N. 1<sup>st</sup> come to Fort

(A) Before the Christmas holidays of 1967

Q When last seen

(A) I don't know - It seems that he was around for a while, then Ligonwood was come back around again.

(11)

John Damm  
Chief of Staff

James Delmonte

## MLK EXHIBIT F-171

DATE INTERVIEWED: March 10, 1978 TIME INTERVIEWED: 10:15 a.m.  
 PLACE INTERVIEWED: HSCA OFFICE  
 NAME: Dennis LeMaster  
 DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BUSINESS ADDRESS: U. S. House of Representatives, Agriculture Committee  
 HOME TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ASSOCIATES: \_\_\_\_\_

## MLK INVESTIGATION

CONNECTION: FBI Special Agent, Los Angeles. Involved in MURKIN  
Investigation - 1968. Began working with FBI in 1966 and retired  
in August 1968.

## INTERVIEW STATEMENT:

Dennis LeMaster began working with the Federal Bureau of  
Investigation in 1966. His second assignment was Los Angeles,  
California, where he began working in May or June 1967. He  
primarily dealt with bank robbery cases until January 1968 when  
he was put on internal security, and ordered to investigate  
groups which were considered to be black extremist organizations  
in the Los Angeles area, such as the Black Panther Party and  
Ron Coringa's US . . . Until April 4, 1968, when he was assigned to  
the MURKIN case full time, LeMaster concentrated on the Balck  
Commandos, a group which turned out to be a hoax funded by the  
FBI.

LeMaster was not involved in any King security work. He had  
no personal knowledge of FBI surveillance of Dr. King, though he  
had heard gossip about tapes which were embarrassing to King.

LeMaster added that he was not assigned to watch King during his visit to LA on March 16. and 17, 1968. (He did note that in 1968 US was hostile to the Black Panther Party, and these militant groups were both hostile to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.)

On April 4, 1968 LeMaster was assigned to the MURKIN investigation. At that time, Wesley Grapp was the Special Agent in Charge of the LA FBI office; Leroy Sheets was appointed the MURKIN case agent (succeeded about two weeks later by Theodore A'Hearn); and Jack Temple, brother of Shirley Temple, was the Chief of Security, although LeMaster added that William John Nolan was the "real brains" of the security detail.

Among other areas, LeMaster was involved in the investigation at the St. Francis Hotel, James Earl Ray's residence from January 21 to March 17, 1968. He interviewed Allan O. Thompson, manager of the St. Francis, who LeMaster described as generally uncooperative and, at times, appeared to be lying. (Ray stayed at this hotel under the assumed name Eric Starvo Galt.) LeMaster did not recall Thompson's story about a J.C. Hardin who attempted to telephone Ray from New Orleans and Atlanta, <sup>and</sup> ultimately visited the St. Francis. At points Thomsson "had to be pressured" to get him to talk with agents, according to LeMaster.

Date Transcribed: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEW SHEET CONTINUATION: PAGE 3

The area of the St. Francis Hotel was a racially integrated "den of iniquity", alive with prostitution and drug trafficking, LeMaster said. Informants were used from this section of the city but often they did not pan out. Although the area was integrated and the dingy Sultan Room bar at the St. Francis had a clientele which included blacks and chicanos, LeMaster thought that most of the residents of the St. Francis, if not all, were white. He surmised that Ray lived in this area not by choice, but in an effort to stay out of the mainstream in an area he could afford economically.

LeMaster found it difficult to understand any antipathy Ray may have had against Dr. King. He described Ray as street-wise criminal who, though not analytically intelligent, had an animal cunning. Ray did not appear to need social interaction and could live on almost nothing by instinct. No one seemed to really know Ray. For instance, Joe Peters, the day bartender at the Sultan Room, spoke with him on several occasions but learned little about Ray. Thus LeMaster concluded that it was conceivable that Ray acted alone in killing Dr. King.

In the course of the MURKIN investigation, LeMaster did look for evidence of racial motive and of a conspiracy. He recalled that Ray had an argument with someone at the Rabbit's Foot Lounge

Date Transcribed: \_\_\_\_\_

about race and made a comment about Watts. LeMaster admitted that he prepared the 302 reports of interviews with Rabbit's Foot bartenders Bo Del Monte and James Morrison. LeMaster read Del Monte's interview with HSCA staff which included Del Monte's denial that a racially inspired argument took place between Ray and another patron as reported by the FBI.

LeMaster responded that his 1968 report was accurate and that he had no reason to falsify or exaggerate the interview summary. The Doug Collins alias Ray used to join the Rabbit's Foot key club, LeMaster explained, was probably simply one of many assumed names he dreamed up.

While investigating Ray's association with the Los Angeles-area Friends of Rhodesia organization, LeMaster interviewed a "rich old white racist" who was originally from Canada. This witness admitted his connection with the pro-Rhodesian group, but denied any association with Ray. LeMaster did not recall this person's name.

LeMaster was not involved in the investigation of the American Independent Party or the George Wallace campaign.

He did look into numerous unsolved robberies and burglaries because Ray's expenditures indicated a "variable income". No unsolved crimes were linked to Ray, however.

Date Transcribed: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEW SHEET CONTINUATION: PAGE 5

LeMaster mentioned that he had talked with Marie Martin, though he was not the first agent to interview her. He characterized Martin as dark-skinned, though commented that Ray probably did not consider her black. It appeared to LeMaster that Martin probably had a sexual relationship with Ray.

In conclusion, LeMaster explained that he worked with the FBI for only about two years, and then returned to college, ultimately receiving a Ph.D. in Economics. He is now employed by the House Agriculture Committee.

Present at interview: Edward Evans, Mel Kreidman, Robin Lindley

Interviewer Signature: *Robin Lindley*

Typed Signature *Robin Lindley*

Date Transcribed: *30 August 1975*

Mr. BLAKEY. The committee also discovered that another bar frequented by Ray in Los Angeles, the Sultan Room, had a mixed clientele, about one-third Black. Associates of Ray in Los Angeles who were questioned by the committee say he showed no racial animosity while there. Indeed, there is some evidence that he may have had a liaison with a Black woman while he was in Los Angeles.

Here, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that excerpts of executive testimony of Marie Martin on April 5 and 6 be included in the record as MLK exhibit F-166.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-166

Mrs. Levy. Never. I never intended to travel alone or be alone with him at any time.

Mr. Fithian. Why?

Mrs. Levy. Because I would not be alone with him going across country. I would not be alone with any man I just met going across country.

Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Fauntroy. Mr. Edgar?

Mr. Edgar. I have no questions at this time.

Mr. Fauntroy. Mr. Ford?

Mr. Ford. I do not have any questions.

Mr. Fauntroy. Counsel, you may resume.

Mr. Kreidman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Levy, you told us yesterday you did not believe that Ray was prejudiced other than the fact he was from the south, is that correct?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. One of the examples you gave of the fact that he lacked prejudice was that he had sex with a black woman?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. He indicated to you that he enjoyed it, didn't he?

Mrs. Levy. I do not recall.

Mr. Kreidman. Did you listen to the tape yesterday?



Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. Any reference to that?

Mrs. Levy. I do not remember any.

Mr. Kreidman. Now, you also indicated yesterday that Sultan Room was an integrated bar. You gave a figure of 30 percent of the people in the bar were black. Do you remember that?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. Mr. Ray was there almost every night, is that correct?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. And also if you remember from the tape, you said in this room you were at, 201, Ray was one of the gang, is that correct?

Mrs. Levy. Yes, one of the gang.

Mr. Kreidman. Was that gang, the group of people who came there, an integrated group?

Mrs. Levy. Yes. There was one black guy who was there. His name was Herbie. He was there, you know, I do not know, whenever he was in the neighborhood or something.

Mr. Kreidman. Was Ray friendly with Herbie?

Mrs. Levy. He was very quiet. He would just sit there and take everything in.

Mr. Kreidman. What about Richard Dodd?

Mrs. Levy. Richard Dodd, right, he was there too.

Mr. Kreidman. Richard Dodd was black?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. Ray was part of this gang, this group?

Mrs. Levy. Now, Richard Dodd would talk with Ray. When I talk I speak loud. This is normal for me. Someone else could be carrying on a conversation in the same room and I would not hear, I would not pay any attention.

Mr. Kreidman. Would you have a distinct recollection of Richard Dodd engaging Ray in conversation?

Mrs. Levy. I have a distinct recollection that Richard Dodd was present at a few occasions when James Earl Ray was present in the same room.

Mr. Kreidman. Do you remember their talking together?

Mrs. Levy. Not necessarily, no.

Mr. Kreidman. Did they appear friendly to you?

Mrs. Levy. They did not appear friendly, they did not appear not friendly.

Mr. Kreidman. Other than this fellow, Herbie, or Richard Dodd, were any other people in that room part of that group that Ray was part of?

Mrs. Levy. No, I do not know Herbie's last name, but I know he worked at the City Hall in Los Angeles.

Mr. Kreidman. You know he did?

Mrs. Levy. Yes, I know he did only because I was in the City Hall one day, I do not know what I was doing there, but

to New Orleans to pick up the children?

Mrs. Levy. Well, later on Rita didn't want to go with him either so later on they said -- you know, we didn't want to go with a strange man so later on they came to the conclusion that Charles would go because he was a man and he would be able to protect himself. So then that is how Charles got involved in it.

Mr. Kreidman. Well, the suggestion to register for the American Independent Party and George Wallace, did that come before Mr. Galt was apprised of the fact that Charles Stein was going to go to New Orleans or after he was advised that Charles Stein was supposed to go to New Orleans?

Mrs. Levy. I don't remember. I don't remember.

Mr. Kreidman. Was Charles Stein in the bar that evening?

Mrs. Levy. I don't remember.

Mr. Kreidman. Could you describe that bar? First of all, could you describe the bar as far as clientele was concerned?

Mrs. Levy. Yes. It was mostly old, retired people that lived in the hotel. It was a quiet bar.

Mr. Kreidman. What about the bar racially? Was it an all white bar, an all blacks, all Hispanic bar or was it mixed?

Mrs. Levy. It was mixed.

Mr. Kreidman. What was the percentages, if you can ascertain?

Mrs. Levy. A few black people came in. It was I would say -- I don't know, maybe 70-30. You know, maybe 20-80. I don't know exactly.

Mr. Kreidman. ~~Otherwise,~~ Did you know someone by the name of Richard Dodd?

Mrs. Levy. Yes, I knew Benny Richard Dodd.

Mr. Kreidman. And Richard Dodd is black?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. And he was one of the people that was hanging around the Sultan Room?

Mrs. Levy. He was Ronald Deninno's roommate at that time.

Mr. Kreidman. Was he hanging around the Sultan Room at that time?

Mrs. Levy. He came in occasionally with Deninno.

Mr. Kreidman. And that was back in 1967, at or about this time, the date that we are talking about?

Mrs. Levy. Yes, 1966, 1967.

Mr. Kreidman. Now Mr. Dodd is also someone who is involved in drugs?

Mrs. Levy. I would say grass.

Mr. Kreidman. Now you said that this was mainly older, retired people. You would not characterize Mr. Dodd

as being an older, retired individual, would you?

Mrs. Levy. No, he was a friend of Ronnie which was a friend of mine.

Mr. Kreidman. And he frequented the Sultan Room?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. And Ronald Deninno frequented the Sultan Room?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. And Mr. Deninno would not be classified as an older, retired individual, would he?

Mrs. Levy. No, but neither would I.

Mr. Kreidman. Who else that you know frequented the Sultan Room at that time?

Mrs. Levy. Well, let me point this out. At that time I was not -- I mean I am going to be very frank and honest. I was in Los Angeles, I had just got to Los Angeles. I don't believe in going to bed with every Tom, Dick and Harry so I had designated Ronald Deninno to be my bed partner whenever I wanted and we would have our relations and he would leave. He was not my boyfriend, he just was my bed partner and we just kept it at that. I didn't want to go with Tom, Dick and Harry and I wanted to have one certain person that I had sex with and this is how he got involved in it.

Mr. Kreidman. Did you ever write any letters to Mr. Deninno?

a monetary relationship with her?

Mrs. Levy. What do you mean by monetary?

Mr. Kreidman. That he paid for her?

Mrs. Levy. No, no indication at all. I didn't ask him. I just took it for granted he was with this hooker. She is not going to give up anything free.

Mr. Kreidman. You have been interviewed, have you not, Miss Martin, on a television show?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. And you have been asked to comment about Mr. Ray's racial attitudes?

Mrs. Levy. Yes.

Mr. Kreidman. Could you tell the members of the committee what you observed about Mr. Ray and what perceptions and understanding you had about Mr. Ray's racial attitudes?

Mrs. Levy. Well, as far as I understood, and I could not understand it, he didn't seem like he was prejudiced to me because, like I say, he went with this black girl and he liked her and I didn't think that he was prejudiced at all, but being from Alabama maybe a little bit but, you know, I didn't think he was.

Mr. Fauntroy. Counsel, excuse me. Counsel, we have a quorum call.

Mr. Edgar. Mr. Chairman, I believe that is just that th

Mr. BLAKEY. The Mexico incident that allegedly occurred in the fall of 1967, a woman companion of Ray whose story was received after the assassination, told of an evening when she was drinking with Ray in the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta. This incident was given wide publicity by Gerold Frank in his book, "An American Death." According to this incident as portrayed in Frank's book, Ray became angry at several Black sailors at a nearby table, insulting them and stating he hated Negroes.

Ray reportedly then went to his car and returned with a pistol, vowing to kill the Blacks when they left. He later calmed down when advised by the woman that a police patrol was due in the area shortly.

Mr. Chairman, because of the widespread dissemination of Frank's story, the committee went to Mexico and obtained from the woman a statement of her version of the incident. At this point I would ask that the relevant report of the incident obtained by the committee be entered into the record as MLK exhibit F-172.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]

MLK EXHIBIT F-172



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 24, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

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.

Information set forth below covers the  
established activities of captioned individual who, as  
ERIC STARVO GALT, visited Mexico during October and  
November, 1967.

At Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico

On April 22, 1968, MANUELA AGUIRRE MEDRANO  
formerly employed  
at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, as a



JAMES EARL RAY, aka

prostitute. She identified a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as the individual known as ERIC GALT whom she had met one night at the Casa Susana. She said she could not be certain of the date, but thought it might have been about October 24, 1967. She recalled that during this first visit, GALT spent the evening with another prostitute called "La Chilindrina."

The next day, GALT came to the house looking for "La Chilindrina," who was out of town. He then began his friendship with MANUELA and, she stated, slept with her nearly every night for the next several days during his visits to the house.

She recalled that GALT was very methodical and had allowed himself 100 pesos (\$8 U.S.) for drinking money and another 100 pesos each day for a girl. She recalled that he drank beer during the daytime and gin at night. She said he invited her to go to Mismaloya, a nearby beach, and that, after postponing the trip for two or three days, they did go to Mismaloya with RODIMIR BIECARA, the bartender. She described GALT's automobile as a white automobile with Alabama license plates, and as having a red interior with reclining seats. She said this was a two-door automobile, but she could not remember the make. She said that after swimming, drinking beer and having a seafood lunch, they began the return trip to Puerto Vallarta at about 4 p.m. About half-way along the distance from Mismaloya to Puerto Vallarta, GALT stopped the car and took what appeared to be a new Polaroid camera from an ice chest in the back. He said that this was one of the first rolls of film in the camera and that there were only two pictures left. He mentioned that the camera had cost him a little less than \$80. He took a photograph of MANUELA seated at the steering wheel of the car with her skirts up. This photograph was bad and he destroyed it. A little farther on, they stopped at a place called Punta Negra, where GALT took another photograph which was also bad, and he tore it up. She recalled that this was a Saturday and that they arrived back at the Casa Susana about 5 p.m. and GALT departed saying that he would not return that night.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

On the next day, a Sunday, MANUELA stated that GALT arrived at the Casa Susana about 9 p.m. She believed that this might have been on October 29, 1967. GALT drank with MANUELA and noted that there were four Negroes and some white people seated at a nearby table. These were sailors from a yacht or private boat which had stopped at Puerto Vallarta.

She said that one Negro was very tall and another was short and fat, about five feet four inches tall. The latter was very drunk, and the whole group was rowdy and having a good time. GALT appeared angry at the Negroes and said insulting things concerning them. He said he hated Negroes. He left his table, said something insulting to the short Negro and returned to his table. All of the individuals at the other table appeared to be talking about GALT.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT then went to his car and came back to the table. He went again to the table where the Negroes were seated and insulted them and returned to his own table. He asked her to feel his pocket and she felt what appeared to be an automatic-type pistol. She believed it to be something similar to a Walther .380 automatic. GALT said he was going to kill them. The tall Negro came to GALT's table and said something in a peaceful manner, but GALT replied in an insulting manner. The tall Negro then returned to his table and took the shorter Negro in his arms and took him out of the house. GALT wanted to go after them, but MANUELA told him this would not be a good idea since it was about 10 p.m. and the police were scheduled to visit the house momentarily. GALT said he wanted nothing to do with the police.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT visited the house again on the following day and told her that he would not see her for several days. He said he wanted to rest and would only sleep and eat. He next returned on what MANUELA recalled as a Thursday of the same week and told her that he planned to move to the "Tropicana" Hotel. He spent more than 200 pesos (\$16 U.S.) for drinks and left about midnight.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

On the following day, according to MANUELA AGUIRRE, GALT arrived between 8 and 9 p.m. and she, MANUELA, was drunk and said that she did not want to go to bed with him. GALT remained to drink at one of the tables and there was a photographer present, causing MANUELA to request that a photograph be taken of GALT with her. GALT did not want his photograph taken, but she insisted. He told her that he planned to go to Yelapa on Saturday or Sunday, and that he did not like to go out in Puerto Vallarta on Saturday or Sunday because there was so much noise and so many people around.

She said that GALT arrived at the house between 8 and 9 p.m. on the following Monday. He invited MANUELA for one drink and was very serious and impolite. He was angry with her for her actions on the previous Friday. He asked her to marry him and she refused. She said that he had previously asked her to marry him. He said that if she would not marry him he was going to invite out some of the other girls. He spent the rest of that evening with ARCELIA and went to bed with ARCELIA.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that she saw GALT again about three days later, but did not talk with him. She said she did not believe that he saw ARCELIA or any of the other girls again, and that she herself did not see him again.

She recalled that GALT drank gin or whatever other drink the bartender at the Casa Susana served him. He did not smoke, and sometimes stated that he did not smoke anything except marijuana. She stated, however, that she never saw him smoke marijuana.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT spoke practically no Spanish and the bartender interpreted for him. She said that GALT had an old pair of sandals that he liked very much and which he said had been bought in Europe. She said she told him to throw the sandals away and buy new ones, but he did not want to get rid of them. She recalled that he definitely could not dance.

MANUELA AGUIRRE made available the photograph of GALT wearing sunglasses, which had been taken at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, on or about November 3, 1967. She said the photograph was taken by a traveling group known as "Foto Rapida."

**Mr. BLAKEY.** An interview with the woman whose alias was Irma Morales was taped, and a transcription is available at this time. I would ask that the transcript be included in the record as MLK exhibit F-173.

**Chairman STOKES.** Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-173

Select Committee on Assassinations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20518

INTERVIEW WITH MANUELA AGUIRRE-MEDRANO (aka IRMA MORALES) ON  
JUNE 5TH, 1978, 9:00 P.M. AT CALLE ALAMEDA 211, ATOTONILCO, JALISCO,  
MEXICO

PARISI: It's June 5th, 1978, 9 p.m. We are in the home of Manuela Aguirre-Medrano, aka, Irma Morales, which is located at Alameda 211 in Atotonilco, Mexico.

Present is myself, Louis Parisi, Staff Investigator, the United States House of Representatives, Select Committee on Assassinations.

PARISI: Tell señora...

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Su nombre?  
Your name?

MEDRANO: Name?

PARISI: No, no. Tell her, tell her what I said.

MARTÍNEZ: Ah, la señora, ah este, está un grupo de enviados del Senado de Estados Unidos, este tocante un investigación, este Sr. Louis Parisi...

PARISI: Also present are other members of the Select Committee, Staff Investigator Jerome Cullings...

MARTÍNEZ: Éste un miembro de los investigadores del staff, Jerome Cullings.

PARISI: And also...

MARTÍNEZ: ...y también...

PARISI: ...Alan Hausman, a lawyer with the Select Committee,

MARTÍNEZ: Alan Hausman, un abogado con el Comité,

PARISI: ...Gerald Hamilton, Chief Researcher,

MARTÍNEZ: ...y Sr. Gerald Hamilton, éste encargado del grupo del Comité,

- PARISI: ...and Sr. Martínez from the Federales, who's translating for us.
- MARTÍNEZ: ...y Sr. Cipriano Martínez-Novoa, agente de la Policía Judicial Federal de la Procuraduría General de la República.
- PARISI: Mrs. Medrano, we are here to ask you questions...
- MARTÍNEZ: Sra. Medrano, vienen ante usted para hacerle unas cuantas preguntas...
- PARISI: ...regarding some contact you might of had with an an American ten years ago in Puerto Vallarta.
- MARTÍNEZ: ...en relación con el contacto que haya tenido con un americano hace 10 años en Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco.
- PARISI: The American's name is James Earl Ray, he also is known as Eric Starvo Galt.
- MARTÍNEZ: El nombre el americano es James Earl Ray y usa, y usaba el nombre de...what? Eric Galt?
- PARISI: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: Eric Galt.
- PARISI: The United States Congress has been empowered to investigate the death of Martin Luther King.
- MARTÍNEZ: El Congreso de los Estados Unidos nos ha comisionado a investigar el asesinato del Dr. Martin Luther King.
- PARISI: That is why we are here to ask certain questions.
- MARTÍNEZ: Es por eso...
- PARISI: Does she mind answering our questions?
- MARTÍNEZ: Es por eso que han venido este con usted para hacerle unas preguntas si usted no tiene ningún inconveniente en hacerlas.
- MEDRANO: No.
- PARISI: She will have to speak up, because as she knows we are tape recording this conversation.
- MARTÍNEZ: Diga, para que usted, acá...
- MEDRANO: Answer. Nah, no hay inconveniente.

3.

MARTÍNEZ: No, there's no inconvenience.

PARISI: Does she have any objection to us tape recording?

MARTÍNEZ: Que, si no tiene ningún inconveniente en que se le grabe esta conversación?

MEDRANO: Pues, No, no tengo.

MARTÍNEZ: No tiene...  
No, she doesn't have any inconvenience.

PARISI: Okay, would you ask her for her full name, please.

MARTÍNEZ: Su nombre completo?

MEDRANO: Manuela Aguirre-Medrano

MARTÍNEZ: Manuela Aguirre-Medrano.

PARISI: Her date of birth?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Su fecha de nacimiento?

MEDRANO: Es el 15 de enero, 1944.

MARTÍNEZ: January 15, 1944.

PARISI: And where was she born?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Donde nacio?

MEDRANO: En San Isidro.

MARTÍNEZ: In San Isidro, Jalisco.

PARISI: And what is the address here?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuál es su dirección aquí?

MEDRANO: Alameda 211.

MARTÍNEZ: Alameda 211.

PARISI: Is she presently married?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Está casada actualmente?

MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.

4.

- MARTÍNEZ: Sí...yes.
- PARISI: And her husband's name?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Su, el nombre de su esposo?
- MEDRANO: Javier Andrade-García.
- MARTÍNEZ: Javier Andrade-García
- PARISI: How long has she lived in Atotonilco?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuánto tiempo ha vivido aquí en Atotonilco?
- MEDRANO: Toda mi vida  
All my life
- MARTÍNEZ: All her life. She was born in San Isidro, was baptised here, and ever since she live here.
- PARISI: Well, at what time in her life did she live in Puerto Vallarta?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuánto hace que vivió usted en Puerto Vallarta?
- MEDRANO: Pues, diez años.
- MARTÍNEZ: Ten years ago.
- PARISI: Okay, we have a photo album that we would like her to look at and see if she can recognize any Americans that she might have - or any one - that she might have been with 10 years ago in Puerto Vallarta?
- MARTÍNEZ: Translation. Le van a pasar un álbum, un album de fotografías de un grupo de americanos en diferentes fotos. Usted la va a ver y nos va a decir cuáles son las que reconoces por el número.
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes
- MEDRANO: Numero siete.
- MARTÍNEZ: Number 7
- PARISI: Does she know his name?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Sabe el nombre de él?
- MEDRANO: No.



5.

MARTÍNEZ: No.

MEDRANO: y catorce  
and fourteen

MARTÍNEZ: Number 14.

PARISI: What does she know about number 14?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Y qué sabe de catorce?

MEDRANO: Que andaba conmigo.

MARTÍNEZ: That ah, used to date her.

MEDRANO: y el último - no tiene número.

MARTÍNEZ: The last that one doesn't have a number.

PARISI: What does she know about that photograph?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué sabe de esta fotografía?

MEDRANO: Esta se tomó en Vallarta.

MARTÍNEZ: It was taken in Vallarta.

PARISI: Who was it taken by?

MEDRANO: Junto conmigo  
Together with me

MARTÍNEZ: Ah, together with her.

PARISI: She was, in that photograph?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Está usted en la fotografía?

MEDRANO: Sí, en la mochado  
Yes, in the cut-off (the cut off part)

PARISI: Does she know the name of the man...

MARTÍNEZ: She was in the , in the picture...

PARISI: Does she know the name of the man?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Sabe el nombre de la persona esa?

6.

- MEDRANO: No, porque un nombre americano no se me pega.  
No, because American names don't stick with me.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, she doesn't remember.
- PARISI: Number 7, 14 and the last one.
- MARTÍNEZ: And the last one.
- PARISI: Did she date those men or is that the same man...Do they look like the same man?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Es el mismo hombre con él que usted tuvo citas?
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: That's the same man.
- PARISI: Can she tell us when she first met that American?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Podría decirnos cuándo fue la primera vez que lo conoció?
- MEDRANO: No, no recuerdo la fecha, más o menos pero como en noviembre o diciembre.  
No, I don't remember the date but it was more or less November or December.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, she doesn't exactly the date but it was round November or December.
- PARISI: Of what year?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿De qué año?
- MEDRANO: ... me recuerdo unos diez años.  
some ten years ago.
- MARTÍNEZ: Ten years ago.
- PARISI: And where did she meet him ten years ago?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Dónde lo conoció?
- MEDRANO: En Vallarta.
- MARTÍNEZ: In Vallarta.
- PARISI: Where in Vallarta?

7.

- MARTÍNEZ: En qué lugar?
- MEDRANO: En casa de Susana.  
In casa Susana
- MARTÍNEZ: In Casa de Susana ... Susana's house.
- PARISI: Did she work at Casa Susana?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Trabajó usted allí?
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: Yes.
- PARISI: What kind of house was Casa Susana?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué clase de casa es?
- MEDRANO: Nada buena.  
Nothing good
- MARTÍNEZ: It wasn't - it was not a good house.
- PARISI: Was it a house of prostitution?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Era casa de prostitución?
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: Yes.
- PARISI: How long did she work there?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuántos años trabajó allí?
- MEDRANO: Como unos tres.  
About three years.
- MARTÍNEZ: Around three years.
- PARISI: How many times did she come in contact with the American that she has identified in the book at the Casa de Susana?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuántas veces tuvo usted contacto con él que lo vió así allí?
- MEDRANO: Como veintidos días.  
About 22 days.

8.

- MARTÍNEZ: Around 22 days.
- PARISI: Did she do business with the American?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Hizo alguna clase de negocios con él?
- MEDRANO: No,..no.
- MARTÍNEZ: No.
- MEDRANO: No más negocio...que trabajo.  
No more than my work.
- MARTÍNEZ: Just the kind of business, you know.
- PARISI: Prostitution business?
- MARTÍNEZ: Uh, hum.
- PARISI: How many...how many times did, was there a prostitution business conducted between her and the American?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Como cuántas veces que usted...
- MEDRANO: No se, no recuerdo se cuenta.  
I don't know, I don't remember the count (how many times)
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Pero más o menos?  
Well more or less
- MEDRANO: No pero no recuerdo.  
No but I don't remember.
- MARTÍNEZ: She doesn't remember.
- PARISI: About how many?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿About, well más o menos cuántas?
- MEDRANO: Todos? cuentole?  
All? Count them?
- MARTÍNEZ: Just to count - count- Ah, he met her for 22 days.
- PARISI: 22 days, once a day, twice a day, once every other day?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Una vez al día?
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: Yes, once a day.

9.

- PARISI: And how much did he pay?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuánto le pagó?
- MEDRANO: Cien pesos.
- MARTÍNEZ: A hundred pesos.
- PARISI: Did he pay in American money or Mexican money?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Pagó en dinero americano o mexicano?
- MEDRANO: Mexicano.
- MARTÍNEZ: Mexican money.
- PARISI: Did he seem to have a lot of Mexican money?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Traía mucho dinero?
- MEDRANO: No.
- PARISI: Does she know where he got his money from?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Sabe usted dónde traía el dinero ese?
- MEDRANO: En una bolsa.  
In a pocket.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, pero ¿de dónde lo obtenía?  
No, where did he obtain it (his money)
- MEDRANO: Ah, no.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, she doesn't know.
- PARISI: Did he have an automobile?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Traía un carro?
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: Yes.
- PARISI: Does she know what kind of car it was?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Sabe qué clase de carro era?
- MEDRANO: No.

10.

MARTÍNEZ: No.

PARISI: Does she remember what color it was?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué color era?

MEDRANO: Pues, como crema, si, blanquito  
...sort of cream, whitish

MARTÍNEZ: Kind of whitish.

PARISI: We'll show her a photograph of an automobile.

(INTERRUPTION - KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

PARISI: Okay, we are back on.

Ah, will you show her a photograph of an automobile we have and see if she recognizes it?

MARTÍNEZ: Esta es la fotografía del carro, lo reconoce?

MEDRANO: Sí, la foto me la reconozco, pues...  
Yes, I recognize me in the picture,...

MARTÍNEZ: Yes, she recognizes the picture, and it was a picture taken by him...of her.

PARISI: She knows how this picture's taken?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Sabía usted qué le tomaron la fotografía?

MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.

MARTÍNEZ: Yes.

MEDRANO: ...pero no salió bien.  
...but, it did not come out well

PARISI: Let me see that a minute...she's in this car?

MEDRANO: ...no salió bien en la foto.  
the picture didn't come out well

PARISI: Oh, is this the car that the American had?

11.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Es el carro del el americano?

PARISI: Does it look like his car?

MEDRANO: No, Más o menos, no me recuerdo, pero más o menos así  
more or less, I don't remember but more or less so

MARTÍNEZ: More or less. She doesn't remember very well, it looked like that one.

PARISI: Did the American ever ask her to buy marijuana for him?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Alguna vez le dijo el americano que le consiguiera marihuana?

MEDRANO: No.

MARTÍNEZ: No, never did

PARISI: Did the American ever get into any arguments at the Casa Susana?

MARTÍNEZ: Alguna vez él tuvo alguna discusión con alguien?

MEDRANO: ...el problema con el negro, nada más.  
the problem with the black nothing more.

MARTÍNEZ: Just the problem with the colored guy.

PARISI: When did, does she remember when that happened?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Usted recuerda cuándo pasó eso?

MEDRANO: No, no recuerdo...no, (I don't remember)...not when

MARTÍNEZ: Not exactly.

PARISI: What kind of a problem was it?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué clase de problema fue?

MEDRANO: Fues, no más porque me agarró...  
Well, just when he grabbed me...

MARTÍNEZ: Just because the colored guy grabbed her by the shoulder.

PARISI: What happened?

12.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿y, qué pasó?

MEDRANO: Pues, se fue, negro  
Well, he left, the black.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Quién? ah...  
Who?

MEDRANO: Eh, el señores se fue.  
Ah, the men left

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Quién el, el negrito?  
Who the black?

MEDRANO: Buena, a ese le sacaron y al...  
Well, that one, him they took our.

MARTÍNEZ: ¡Dime!  
Tell me!

MARTÍNEZ: The colored guy was taken out of the place by the other  
ah, friends, he had, sailors.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿y él?  
And him (the other)

MEDRANO: En seguida se fue.  
And then he left.

MARTÍNEZ: And ah, after a little while he took off.

PARISI: The colored guy was a sailor?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿El negrito era marinero?

MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.

MARTÍNEZ: Yes.

PARISI: How many colored, how many colored sailors were in there.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuántos ah este negritos andaban?  
How many blacks were there?

MEDRANO: Dos..el negro ese y otro negro....

MARTÍNEZ: Another one beside the one that had the problem with Ray.

PARISI: There were two colored sailors, and were there any white sailors?



13.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Había marineros blancos?

MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.

MARTÍNEZ: Yes, there were some.

PARISI: Were there more white sailors than black sailors?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Había más marineros blancos que negros?

MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.

PARISI: Does she know about how many sailors all together there were?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cómo cuántos eran en total?

MEDRANO: No, no recuerdo.  
No, I don't remember.

MARTÍNEZ: She doesn't remember.

PARISI: Did the Black sailor grab her or just touch her?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Este..., la agarró o la jaloneó?

MEDRANO: No, no más me apretó  
He just touched me (squeezed me)

MARTÍNEZ: Ah, he just touched her.

PARISI: And when he touched her what did the American say?

MEDRANO: Nada, tomaditó!!  
Nothing, he was a little drunk.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué le digo?  
What did he say?

MEDRANO: ...él, no dijo nada no más.  
he didn't say anything else.

MARTÍNEZ: He was kind of drunk.

MEDRANO: Yo le digo que...así nomás, a la pasada de esas veces que...  
ay cómo le daré a entender..?Como,...parado así tomado y  
se agarra y seguramente el pedía disculpas  
I tell you (it seemed like)...as if he was just trying to  
pass by...and at that time...Oh, my how can I make you  
understand...? Well, he was drunk and tried to catch him-  
self (his balance)... And then he apologized.

MARTÍNEZ: Well, actually she thinks that the colored guy was kind of  
falling down, you know, and touched her.

MEDRANO: Y lo llevaban otros dos...?  
and they carried him out...?

- 1.
- PARISI: And what did the American say, when he was falling down and touched her? His exact words if you can remember.
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Y que le dijo el americano cuándo la tocó?
- MEDRANO: Oh, le dijo muchas cosas..son-a-bitch..(laugh)..Chicken ay qué tantas otras cosas..  
Oh, he said many things to him.son-of-a-bitch..Chicken and such.other things...
- MARTÍNEZ: Digale! digame!  
Tell it! Tell me!
- PARISI: Exact words!
- MEDRANO: Son-a-bitch!!...y que se tantas otras cosas...  
Son-of-a-bitch... and many thing such things...
- MARTÍNEZ: Many things in English like son-of-a-bitch.
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿y qué más?  
what else?
- MEDRANO: y se paró en no más dijo, que allá con qué querer!  
and that he had, he didn't say, something there...
- MARTÍNEZ: And he stood up and..that he ah, he had ah,something ah, ah I imagine a weapon, to take care of him with.
- PARISI: Did she see the weapon?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Vió usted la pistola?
- MEDRANO: Sí era una chiquita  
Yes, it was a little one.
- MARTÍNEZ: Yeah, it was a small pistol.
- PARISI: Did the American get mad or angry because the sailor touched her or because the sailor was Black?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Se enojó porque la tocó a Ud? ¿o porqué era negro?
- MEDRANO: No, porqué me tocó  
Because he touched me...
- MARTÍNEZ: Just because he touched her....
- MEDRANO: ...yo digo que por eso, verdad, porqué..?  
I say that's what it was?
- MARTÍNEZ: Thats what she thinks.

15.

PARISI: Did she have a special relationship with the American, did they have plans to get married or anything like that?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Tenían planes, él y usted, de casarse?

MEDRANO: Pues, yo le decía que sí, pero, no, nunca pensé que que tan era...  
Well, he would tell me that but I never considered that...

MARTÍNEZ: He used to tell her yes but never thought of getting married.

PARISI: The American asked her to marry him.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Le propuso matrimonio ella usted?

MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.

MARTÍNEZ: Yes.

PARISI: How often during the day did she see the American, one hour, two hours, three hours?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Como cuánto tiempo lo veía a él durante el día?

MEDRANO: En la noche.  
At night.

MARTÍNEZ: At night time.

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Por cuánto tiempo?  
For how long?

MEDRANO: Un ah, una hora y media  
Ah, an hour and a half...

MEDRANO: ...y en el día veces que iba a llevarme a pasear.  
...and in the daytime he would take me for a ride.

MARTÍNEZ: ...and during the daytime he use to go and pick her up and take her to have a ride.

PARISI: Did the American ever explain to her where he obtained the pistol she saw?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le dijo el americano dónde compró la pistola o cómo la obtuvo?

MEDRANO: No nunca.  
No never.

16.

- PARISI: Did she ever see the American with a rifle?
- MARTÍNEZ: Nunca vió al americano con un rifle?
- MEDRANO: No nunca.  
No, never.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, never.
- PARISI: Did the American ever ask her or anyone else in the Casa Susana where he could buy marijuana?
- MARTÍNEZ: Nunca preguntó el a usted o a otra personas de donde conseguir marihuana?
- MEDRANO: No, nunca...  
No, never...
- MARTÍNEZ: No never did...
- MEDRANO: porque nunca platicaba con nadie...  
because he never conversed with anyone...
- MARTÍNEZ: Because he didn't talk to nobody...just to her.
- PARISI: Did she ever see him smoke marihuana?
- MARTÍNEZ: Lo vió usted fumar marihuana?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, never did.
- PARISI: Did the American ever ask her to buy any kind of narcotics, or where you could buy it?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le preguntó a usted de dónde conseguir otra clase de narcoticos?
- MEDRANO: Nunca.  
Never
- MARTÍNEZ: Nunca...never.
- PARISI: Does she know the names of any of the other girls at the Casa Susana?
- MARTÍNEZ: Recuerda usted el nombre de alunas de las otras muchachas que trabajaron allí?

17.

- MEDRANO: No, no recuerdo...nadie. Pues, si los viera, pues, ah, sí recordaba verlas las viera, nombres si recordara, peso vo ya me separé de eso y...  
 No, I don't remember ... anyone well, if I were to see them I could recall their names, but not without seeing them, because I retired some time ago.
- MARTÍNEZ: She might remember if she sees the girls again. Her names or her face,
- PARISI: ... she doesn't know them by name?
- MARTÍNEZ: ...but she is retired..ever since.
- PARISI: Was she ever questioned by any police officials about the Martin Luther King assassination?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Alguna vez ha sido interrogada por algún policía americano o mexicano?
- MEDRANO: No.., mexicano, sí! americano No!:  
 ...Mexicans yes! Americans no!
- MARTÍNEZ: Just by Mexican officers, not by Americans.
- PARISI: She was never questioned by any... she was only spoken to by Mexican officers?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Solamente policías mexicanos?
- MEDRANO: mexicanos.
- MARTÍNEZ: Mexicans.
- PARISI: How many Mexican officers?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuántos mexicanos?
- MEDRANO: Dos!  
 Two!
- MARTÍNEZ: Two
- PARISI: Does she remember what they looked like?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cómo el cómo? Qué tipo tenían? Cómo eran?
- MEDRANO: Pues, chaparro, no es chaparro ni alto, moreno...pelo chino  
 Well, chubby no too chubby nor tall, brown,...curly hair.

18.

MARTÍNEZ: One about regular size with curly hair...Gordo (fat)

MEDRANO: y el otro señor es un gordito él blanco  
and the other man was fat,...white

MARTÍNEZ: and the other one is a fat one.

MEDRANO: y ya., y ya ese no mas lo ví y ya no volví a ver.

well, along time ago, I saw him once and I haven't seen him again.

MARTÍNEZ: al gordo?  
the fat one?

PARISI: What happened?

MEDRANO: y el otro pasa y nos saluda y cuando va a alguna comision,  
alguna cosa pues pas  
the other passed through once when he was working and stopped by to say hello.

MARTÍNEZ: She haven't seen the fat one but around ah....

¿hace dos años, la última vez?  
about two years the last time (you saw him)?

MEDRANO: Sí...más o menos.  
Yes! more or less.

MARTÍNEZ: ...two years ago this ah, old man came by the town just tell them hello.

PARISI: Does she know their names?

MARTÍNEZ: No recuerda los nombres?

MEDRANO: No, no me acuerdo.  
No, I don't recall.

MARTÍNEZ: She doesn't remember.

PARISI: Did they identify themselves, did they show identification?

MARTÍNEZ: Se identificaron con usted con credenciales?

MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.

MARTÍNEZ: Yes.

PARISI: What kind does she remember?

19.

- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué clase de credenciales eran, como esta?  
What kind of credentials were they.. like this?
- MEDRANO: No, no la recuerdo, no la recuerdo...pá que  
No, I don't remember it, I don't remember if they were like that.
- MARTÍNEZ: She doesn't remember.
- PARISI: Did anyone from the movies or any authors come to talk to her about this?
- MARTÍNEZ: Algunas gentes que hicieran películas o que quieren hacer películas o que escriben libros vinieron a hablar con usted?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, never did.
- MEDRANO: No, porque no se enteran que me... llamaba Irma La Douce y me creí un fue un programa de cine  
No, because they would not know me because I called myself Irma La Douce, I believe was a movie program.
- PARISI: Were the police who questioned her from Mexico City?... does she remember if the police that questioned her were from Mexico City?
- MARTÍNEZ: Este, los policías que le interrogaron, eran de México... de la capital?
- MEDRANO: Sí, no sé si sean de Guadalajara sean de México.  
Yes... no, I don't know if they were from Guadalajara or from Mexico City.
- MARTÍNEZ: She doesn't know if they were from Guadalajara or Mexico City.
- PARISI: How many times, or what period of time if she can remember, was she with the American? From what month to what month, if she can remember?
- MARTÍNEZ: Se acuerda más o menos en las fechas que cuándo usted conoció a él y anduvo con él?
- MEDRANO: No, no nunca la recuerdo.  
No, no I never remember.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, she doesn't remember the dates exactly.
- PARISI: But it was about 22 days, is that what she said before?
- MARTÍNEZ: Este cuánto tiempo, unos 22 días, lo conoció?

20.

MEDRANO: Sí, más o menos.  
Yes, more or less.

MARTÍNEZ: 22 days.

PARISI: During that 22 days does she know about how much money the American gave her?

MARTÍNEZ: Este, como cuánto dinero le daría en los 22 días, más o menos?

MEDRANO: Um, pues, era da tercera día...  
Well, he would give every third day...

MARTÍNEZ: ...once every other day...

MARTÍNEZ: cuánto le da?  
How much did he give?

MEDRANO: Cien pesos.  
100 pesos

MARTÍNEZ: A hundred pesos.

MEDRANO: Y, un día sí, y otro día no ! y, es sí...era no  
one day yes, and the other no, and the other yes...would be no (he'd pay one day and not the next and then the next, that's how it was)

MARTÍNEZ: One day he used to go and then...

MEDRANO: no mucho no.  
not much.

MARTÍNEZ: not very much money, just a 100 pesos.

PARISI: Every other day?

MARTÍNEZ: Every other day.

PARISI: For that period of time?

MARTÍNEZ: Sí! Durante tres de tiempo iba cada tres día?  
For that period

MEDRANO: Sí, y, a veces día, no recuerdo, a iba veces diario, y veces  
otros días, sí, así, así, ...siempre se lo esperaba que no  
desocupara pá que coche...  
Yes, and day time, I don't remember (when) some days he would go (come by) just so so...he would always wait if I wasn't busy with the car.



.1.

- MARTÍNEZ: Yes, he use to wait for her most of the time.
- PARISI: Did she ever go to Mismaloya Beach with Ray, ah with the American?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Se fue con un americano a la playa de Mismaloya?
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: Yes.
- PARISI: Can she tell us what happened that day....?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué pasó ese día allí en Mismaloya?
- MEDRANO: Nada.  
Nothing
- MARTÍNEZ: ..pero tomaron?
- MEDRANO: No, no más le, no, le no gustaba tomar en así, fuera de allí, no le gustaba..  
NO, he didn't like to go for drinks, outside of there he didn't like...
- MARTÍNEZ: Fuera de dónde.  
Out of where
- MEDRANO: de..de..pues de dónde yo trabajaba.  
well from where I use to work.
- MARTÍNEZ: Outside of the Casa de Susana he usually didn't drink.
- MEDRANO: Tomamos coke a refresco.  
We drank coke o refreshments.
- PARISI: When they went to Mismaloya Beach did they go in the American's car?
- MARTÍNEZ: Cuando fueron a Mismaloya, fueron en carro el americano?
- MEDRANO: Sí, en un carro.
- MARTÍNEZ: Yes.
- ARISI: Was anyone else with her?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Quién más iba con ustedes?

2.

- MEDRANO: Bueno, la primera vez, iba un mesero, no más, no recuerdo... cómo se llama.  
Well, the first time a waiter went but I don't remember his name.
- MARTÍNEZ: A waiter, she doesn't remember his name.
- PARISI: Where was he from?
- MEDRANO: Y ya...  
And,...
- MARTÍNEZ: De dónde a él?
- MEDRANO: ...De allí, de Vallarta, de allí, de casa de Susana.  
From there, from Vallarta from there, the Casa Susana
- MARTÍNEZ: He use to work at Casa Susana.
- PARISI: Did they do anything that day, did anybody take any pictures, or did they have a picnic, what did they do at the beach?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Qué hicieron allí en la playa cuando fueron?
- MEDRANO: Nada..  
Nothing..
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿eh tomaron foto, fotografías?  
did you take pictures?
- MEDRANO: No, no más esta fue la única que me tomó pero cuando lo fuimos solos  
~~Just once (time) he took one but when we were alone.~~
- MARTÍNEZ: Just one picture and they were alone.
- PARISI: During the incident with the sailors, how does she know they were sailors...were they dressed in uniforms?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cómo se informó usted si eran marineros?
- MEDRANO: Porqué llegaron en barcos, no en barcos chiquitos.  
Because they arrived in boats, small boats.
- MARTÍNEZ: Because a boat had come to town.
- PARISI: Were they in uniform or...
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Eran andaban en uniforme?
- MEDRANO: No...

- MARTÍNEZ: No...They didn't have no uniform.
- MEDRANO: Civilians...
- MARTÍNEZ: ...like civilians.
- MEDRANO: No, más no a recuerdo los eh que barco era.  
No, I don't remember what boat.
- MARTÍNEZ: She does not remember the name of the boat.
- PARISI: Did she ever see Ray's pistol..ah, the American's pistol again?
- MARTÍNEZ: Este...volvió a ver usted otra vez a parte a ver la pistola?
- MEDRANO: Sí, un día que me la sacó a mí.  
Yes one day he put it (pull it) to me.
- MARTÍNEZ: The one (once) that ah he pulled it..to her.
- PARISI: When was this?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Cuándo fue eso?
- MEDRANO: Mira, cuando ya no quise andar con él,  
Well(look) when (one time) I didn't want to go with him.
- MARTÍNEZ: When she didn't want to go along with him.
- PARISI: To marry him?
- MEDRANO: Porque me asusté.....  
He scared me...
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Pero le propuso matrimonio?
- MEDRANO: Sí.  
Yes.
- MARTÍNEZ: She (he) proposed her marriage.
- PARISI: Can she describe the pistol?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Puede describir la pistola cómo era?
- MEDRANO: Una chiquita..chiquita...no,no...
- MARTÍNEZ: Kind of small..
- MARTÍNEZ: Brillosa...?  
Shinny...?

24.

- MEDRANO: No, no yo la veía ese oscuro.  
No...I saw it in the dark
- MARTÍNEZ: ...she saw it that time in the darkness.
- PARISI: Did Ray, did the American ever say anything to her about Blacks during...?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le dijo nada de los negritos?
- MEDRANO: No, nunca.  
No, never.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, never.
- PARISI: Did he ever discuss politics with her?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca discutió política con usted?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: No.
- PARISI: Did she ever see him smoke marijuana?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le vió fumar marihuana?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: Never.
- PARISI: Did he ever talk to her about his family?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le platicó de su familia?
- MEDRANO: No.
- PARISI: We have to change the tape...Okay, did he ever talk to you about where he worked?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le dijo dónde trabajaba?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: No
- RISI: Did he ever tell her about where he lived in the United States?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le dijo dónde vivía en los Estados Unidos?

5.

- MEDRANO: No.
- PARISI: Did he ever talk about religion?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca le habló a la religion?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: No.
- PARISI: What did he talk about?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿De qué le se hablaba a usted?
- MEDRANO: Todas las cosas así,...  
All sorts of things....
- MARTÍNEZ: Things with no importance...
- MEDRANO: ...y casi si no platicaba porque casi no le entendía.  
never really conversed because I didn't understand him.
- MARTÍNEZ: and she didn't understand English.
- PARISI: Did he ever tell her when he was leaving Puerto Vallarta?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca dijo cuándo se iba de Puerto Vallarta?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: Never.
- PARISI: Tell her where he was going?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Ni le dijo adónde iba?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: Nah.
- PARISI: Did he tell her that he would be back?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿El le dijo que iba a regresar?
- MEDRANO: Sí, dijo que iba a regresar, pero...  
Yes, he said he would return.....
- MARTÍNEZ: Yeah, he said that he was coming back
- MEDRANO: ...iba a ir a un asunto y ya regresa.
- MARTÍNEZ: he had to go to do some matter and then he'd return.  
He was going to do some kind of business and return.

26.

- MEDRANO: seguramente, yo me figuré, como...iba a trabajar.  
 ...well I figured that he was going back to work.
- MARTÍNEZ: ...actually not business and she imagined that he was going back to work.
- PARISI: Did he tell her what kind of business?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿No le dijo qué clase de negocio iba a traer, o qué asunto?  
 Did he tell you what kind of business he had to conduct or what matter?
- MEDRANO: No.
- MARTÍNEZ: No.
- PARISI: During what periods of time did she work at the Casa Susana, does she remember the years?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Se acuerda usted los años que estuvo en la Casa Susana?
- MEDRANO: Tres años.  
 Three years.
- MARTÍNEZ: Anterior a esta fecha?...que lo conoció a el?  
~~Before this date (time)?..when you knew him?~~
- MEDRANO: Bueno, um bueno no...dos um bueno, tres años porque no más por lo que duré allá, no más no a recuerdo si, bueno ya recuerdo que me salí de allí, regrese pero ya no volví allí, regrese no más una vez...  
 Well, two, no three years, no more there, but, yes I remember I left there and returned once then I left and never came (went) back.
- MARTÍNEZ: ...she went back to work for eight days and never did come back again.
- PARISI: Did he ever tell her where he lived?...
- MARTÍNEZ: How's that?
- PARISI: Did he ever tell her where he lived...when he was in Puerta Vallarta?
- MARTÍNEZ: Who? The American?
- PARISI: Yeah, The American.
- MARTÍNEZ: Nunca le dijo a usted al americano dónde vivía?  
 (Did you ever tell the American where you lived?)

27.

- MEDRANO: No, nunca.  
No, never.
- MARTÍNEZ: No, never.
- PARISI: Did she ever find out where he lived?
- MARTÍNEZ: Nunca supo él este su dirección aquí en Puerto Vallarta?  
(Question was understood by Manuela to mean did the American know where she stayed)
- MEDRANO: No. No más sabía que era de Atotonilco, pero no....  
No, but he knew I was from Atotonilco, but no....
- MARTÍNEZ: No. He knew that she was from this hometown.
- PARISI: Did he tell her where he was staying in Puerto Vallarta? Like what hotel..?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿A usted le dijo en qué hotel vivía en Puerto Vallarta?
- MEDRANO: Nunca supe,  
Never knew,
- MARTÍNEZ: Never did find out.
- MEDRANO: Este, nunca supe en cuál hotel se estaría.  
Never knew in which hotel he was staying in.
- PARISI: Do you ever remember seeing the American with a lot of money?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca se acuerda haber visto al americano con mucho dinero?
- MEDRANO: No. Llevaba no más dolares que llevaba y se gastaba y...  
No. He didn't carry a lot of money, what he carried he used to spend.
- MARTÍNEZ: Just that he was spending money.
- PARISI: Did he act like a...was it American money or Mexican money?
- MARTÍNEZ: ¿Dinero americano o mexicano?
- MEDRANO: Mexicano.
- MARTÍNEZ: Mexican money.
- PARISI: When she was in his company did he act like a big shot, out going, or was he quiet and introverted?
- MARTÍNEZ: Este, cuándo usted andaba con él, era un persona calmada, hombre?
- MEDRANO: Si, calmada hombre. (Yes, calm/quiet/man)
- MARTÍNEZ: Yes, he was a quiet man.
- MARTÍNEZ: Un poco tímido?  
A little shy?

28.

MEDRANO: Sí, un poco.  
Yes, a little.

MARTÍNEZ: Kind of shy.

PARISI: Anyone have any questions?

PARISI: Did he ever tell you if he was going to do business alone or with someone else?

MARTÍNEZ: ¿Nunca dijo si se iba a hacer negocios él solo o con otra persona?

MEDRANO: No.

MARTÍNEZ: No, never did.

PARISI: Okay, it's uh, 9:30 p.m., Mexican time, and the interview is terminated. Thank you, Senora.

MARTÍNEZ: Son las nueve y quince ha terminado la grabación.

(End of interview and tape).



## MLK EXHIBIT F-174

## "INTERVIEW FORM"

DATE INTERVIEWED: 5 June 1978 TIME INTERVIEWED: 2020 Hours  
 PLACE INTERVIEWED: Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico  
 NAME: Manuela Aguirre Medrano AKA: Irma Morales  
 DATE OF BIRTH: 15 January 1944 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 7/4  
 HOME ADDRESS: Manuela #211, Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico  
 BUSINESS ADDRESS: None  
 HOME TELEPHONE: None BUSINESS TELEPHONE: None  
 ASSOCIATES: \_\_\_\_\_

## MLK INVESTIGATION

CONNECTION: One of the prostitutes known to have associated with SER in Cuernavallarta, Mexico

## INTERVIEW STATEMENT:

Mrs. Medrano was interviewed by Staff Investigators Jerome Cullings and Louis Ruzic, Staff Counsel Alan Hausman, Deputy Chief Researcher Gerald Hamilton and Agent Cipriano Martinez Baroa, Mexico Federal Police.

Mrs. Medrano stated that she has lived in Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico, where she was born, for the last eight years. She further stated that she is married to Havian Andrade and although she has lived with him for the past 8 years, she had been married for 1 year.

She went on to state that she recalls an American, that she had been with, while she was employed at Casa Susana, however,

INTERVIEW SHEET CONTINUATION: PAGE 2

she does not recall his name. She recalls that he had a white car, but does not recall the make of the car.

She further stated that she recalls going to the Playa Miramar with JER on three occasions, however, she does not recall the name Rodimiro Vizcaino. She also stated that JER took two photographs of her but they did not turn out right and they were destroyed, photographs were taken <sup>with</sup> a Kodak. She stated that she worked at Casa Susana for three years and recalls La Chilindrina. She went on to say that she has not seen La Chilindrina in eight years.

She further stated that JER asked her to marry him on three or four occasions, but she declined on each occasion.

She added that the last time he asked her and she refused he pulled a pistol on her. This event she stated frightened her and she stopped ~~to~~ seeing him.

Mrs. Medina was asked about an alleged racial incident at Casa Susana between JER and a group of black sailors. She stated that she recalls one occasion when there was a group of sailors at Casa Susana,

two of whom were black. She stated that in total, there were about 6 white sailors with the two blacks. She continued that one of the black sailors was a little drunk and that he touched her on the shoulder, more or less to prevent himself from falling and that J&R got mad. When asked if J&R was mad because the sailor was black or because he touched her, she stated, she believed it was because he touched her. She added that J&R made several comments one of which was "son of a bitch". However, since she does not speak English and J&R did not speak Spanish, she does not know what else he said.

Mrs. Medrano, stated that she recalls being interviewed by two Mexican Secret Police, who <sup>arrested</sup> ~~interviewed~~ her at the bus station in Guadalajara. She stated that they <sup>interviewed</sup> ~~arrested~~ her for a while and that both were Mexican because they showed her their credentials. She described them as being fat and skinny, with the skinny one having grey hair or white hair.

Upon viewing photograph book XA1, she stated that she knew #7 and that #14 was

INTERVIEW SHEET CONTINUATION: PAGE 4

the person who pulled a pistol on her, because she did not want to marry him. She further stated that the photograph of JER with sunglasses was given to the Secret Police and that she was also in the original photograph.

Mrs. Medrano further stated that her relationship with JER was of a business nature, which lasted some twenty-two days beginning in November or December, about ten years ago. She stated that during that period, she saw JER about once a day for prostitution purposes, usually at night, at a rate of \$100 pesos for her services. She further stated that she saw JER during the daytime on some of the days, usually he would take her for a ride in his car. She also stated that JER used Mexican currency and that he never asked her to purchase marijuana for him.

For further information see transcript of taped interview

Jerome G. Cullings  
Louis Parisi  
6/13/78

Mr. BLAKEY. In addition, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that a photograph of Ms. Morales be inserted in the record at this point as MLK exhibit F-175 and be appropriately displayed at this time.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record and displayed.

[The information follows:]



MLK Exhibit F-175

Mr. BLAKEY. Ms. Morales was born on January 15, 1944. In the fall of 1967 she was employed at the Casa Susana, and during a 3-week period she was in the company of James Earl Ray almost every day. It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to hear the testimony of Ms. Morales via tape recording.

The committee made an effort to see if she could come to the United States. She preferred to be heard by tape.

Chairman STOKES. You may proceed.

[Tape recording played.]

Mr. BLAKEY. Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the tape itself be included in the record as MLK exhibit F-173A.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it may be so entered.

[The tape recording referred to above as MLK F-173a is maintained in committee files.]

Mr. BLAKEY. Since a careful analysis of the evidence tends to call into question the support for some of the incidents generally cited to establish a pattern of personal racial animosity by Ray, the committee probed other possibilities. It examined, for example, a theory that an answer could be found in the psychological makeup of James Earl Ray, himself. Authors and the Department of Justice task force have attached some credence to the idea that motive could be drawn from the personality of the convicted assassin, their point having been supported by a psychiatric examination of Ray in 1966. It concluded that he was a sociopathic personality with antisocial behavior patterns and was suffering from anxiety and depression.

The committee found evidence that Ray was, in fact, quite concerned about his image; a man with a need to improve himself and his interpersonal relationships. While in California in late 1967 and early 1968, Ray saw a psychologist six times, visited a hypnotist, and enrolled in dancing school, all apparent attempts to improve his image.

The theory has also been offered that Ray was ego-driven to become a big man in the criminal world, that he was obsessed with making the FBI's 10-most-wanted list, which ironically he did following the assassination of Dr. King.

Psychological theories must, however, remain in the realm of speculation, for no one is equipped to do more than cite the statements of earlier investigations until Ray himself submits to a comprehensive psychological examination, or so our panel of psychologists told us, an examination which would also probably have to include from Ray his explanation of why he killed Dr. King, an act that Ray himself currently denies. Indeed, as it was noted yesterday, consideration was given by the committee to submitting the available psychological evidence to a panel of experts for an evaluation, but the project was dropped when the committee was advised by those experts not to expect useful results.

Finally, it has also been speculated that the motive was perhaps financial. The committee received reports that rumors of a bounty on Dr. King's head were circulated at Missouri State Penitentiary when Ray was there, though the committee was unable to document them unequivocally. Four MSP inmates did tell the FBI of Ray's knowledge of an offer ranging from \$10,000 to \$1 million from an alleged business group. One of the inmates also told the

committee that Ray told him in 1964 of an offer "to knock King off," but he was unable or unwilling to testify as to the amount or the source. Another of the four inmates said he could not recall hearing any remarks by Ray about an offer, and the committee was unable to locate the other two inmates. But, it is worth noting that in executive session before the committee, Ray's brother Jerry did state that James always operated "on a money angle." Since a financial motive automatically suggests conspiracy, it will itself be the subject of further evidence at a later hearing.

Having considered motive, Mr. Chairman, it is now appropriate to focus the committee's attention on the question of conspiracy. That is to say, the possible involvement of others besides James Earl Ray, himself.

This indeed will be the subject of the remaining 12 days of the presentation to the committee by the staff of the evidence in the case.

While it is true that the investigation has placed equal emphasis on all issues that have been raised in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, as you have noted—an accurate accounting of what happened in Memphis, the identification of the assassin, the performance of the agencies, as well as conspiracy—it can also be persuasively argued that the suggestion of a plot against Dr. King, a noted civil rights leader, have done most to create an uneasy feeling among the American people. In fact, a number of widely publicized suspicions surrounding Dr. King's death have convinced many that the truth has yet to emerge. That fact, more than any other, probably led to the formation of this committee.

Consequently, the committee has made a major effort to explore the implications of the alleged mysterious incidents or circumstances, especially those that suggest an as-yet-unrevealed conspiracy. To some of them, there were, of course, readily available answers that immediately clarified in an innocent fashion the sinister implications that some had seen, but others could not be so easily explained away. They are the ones on which evidence will be introduced for the committee's evaluation in the days ahead.

It is not surprising that much of the speculation has revolved around Ray himself, since he almost certainly had to be a principal figure in any plot—assassin or patsy. It has been rightly noted, for example, that in other criminal undertakings, Ray was markedly inept, while in the assassination and flight that followed, he apparently showed both cunning and resourcefulness. In addition, his record hardly shows a tendency toward personal violence. Armed robbery, it is argued, is not contract murder. When you come down to it, so the argument goes, he just does not seem like the type of person who would plot and execute—on his own—the coldblooded murder of a nationally renowned leader. So when, if it is accepted, as the evidence apparently requires, that Ray pulled the trigger, so the argument goes, there is a natural tendency to speculate that Ray was supported and directed by some sort of more sophisticated group.

In this context, the committee has pursued numerous specific incidents or sets of circumstance, most of which has been cited by critics of the FBI investigation as suggestive of a possible conspiracy. They will be enumerated here today as a preface to the suc-

ceeding hearings, and where appropriate, considered in the hearings themselves.

#### 1. ESCAPE FROM MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY

The very circumstances of Ray's escape in April 1967 suggest he had help, but the question may be asked, was it related in any way to the assassination? In other words, was the escape the first step in a year-long series of sinister events designed from the outset to eliminate Dr. King? And, was there official complicity, either on the part of the Missouri State Prison authorities, or, as has been charged by Mark Lane, the author of Code Name "Zorro" and Ray's attorney, by the FBI itself?

#### 2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Following his escape and prior to the assassination, Ray traveled extensively through the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He bought several expensive items, including a \$2,000 car, over \$300 worth of photographic equipment, new clothes, and dancing lessons. After the assassination, he purchased airline tickets from Canada to Europe to Portugal and back to England. A conservative estimate of his expenses overall is \$9,600, although he is thought to have had little cash at the time of his escape from Missouri State Prison, and he only worked for 6 weeks legitimately over a 14-month period.

The FBI could find no answer to the funding question, despite an extensive field investigation, and the Justice Department task force wrote in 1977, " \* \* \* the source of Ray's funds remain a mystery today."

#### 3. RAY'S PLASTIC SURGERY

On March 5, 1968, just 3 weeks before the assassination, Ray paid \$200 for plastic surgery, specifically a nasal tip revision. By that date, he had apparently decided to move east from Los Angeles, since he turned down an offer of a bartending job later that month. A March 17 change-of-address notice indicates he knew he was headed for Atlanta, Dr. King's home.

It has been suggested that the price of the surgery—\$200—was less than the going rate for the operation, a possibility that led in turn to speculation that Ray's surgery was simply one more step in a sophisticated criminal conspiracy.

#### 4. VIOLENCE IN THE MARCH AND DR. KING'S MOTEL IN MEMPHIS

It has been charged that the FBI deliberately set up Dr. King for the assassination by maneuvering him back to Memphis by creating violence in his otherwise peaceful march on behalf of the sanitation workers and then tricked him from one hotel to another—from the relatively secure high-rise Rivermont Holiday Inn in Memphis, to the less-secure Lorraine. Dr. King was convinced by FBI trickery, the charge goes, that his position in the Black community would be compromised if he persisted in staying at luxurious, white-owned accommodations.

Moreover, it has been charged that Dr. King was purposefully placed in room 306, the only room to which a marksman in the



roominghouse bathroom would have had an unobstructed view. A white man disguised as a Black man and posing as an official of SCLC is alleged to have requested that Dr. King be assigned to 306.

#### 5. DR. KING'S SECURITY DETAIL

Questions have been raised by the actions of a seven-man security detail that was to have provided security for Dr. King in Memphis. Does its removal indicate official complicity on the part of the Memphis police?

On the afternoon of April 3, 1968, the day Mr. King returned to Memphis, the detail was disbanded. On April 4, hours before the assassination, tact units of police cars assigned to patrol the vicinity of the Lorraine were also pulled out, and shortly thereafter a Black policeman, allegedly assigned to a security post in the rear of the firestation overlooking Dr. King's room, was relieved and sent home.

In addition, on the evening before the assassination, two firemen, the only two Blacks assigned to the station adjacent to the Lorraine, were transferred to other stations.

These actions by the Memphis authorities, to be introduced for the committee's evaluation, subsequently, have fanned the flames of suspicion of official complicity in a conspiracy. Similar charges have been made in connection with the events that followed the assassination.

#### 6. RAY'S ESCAPE FROM MEMPHIS

At the moment Dr. King was felled by the sniper's bullet, there were from 53 to 66 law enforcement officers within a mile's radius of the Lorraine Motel. One tact unit, consisting of 12 men, was posted at the adjacent firestation, just 100 yards away. One officer at a surveillance post was only 200 feet from Dr. King, and an undercover officer, incredibly, was in the motel parking lot, just a few feet away.

Despite the proximity to Dr. King of this apparent mass of police personnel, and even though MPD tactical units were deployed to react swiftly in an emergency, the assassin was able to leave the roominghouse from where he fired the shot, drop a bundle containing the murder weapon in a doorway, escape by car from Memphis and drive through four States to Atlanta where he abandoned the car. His ability to avoid detection has added to the suspicion that the Memphis police officials themselves were involved in the murder, a suspicion that has even been voiced by members of the city's police department itself.

Why were there no roadblocks placed on major arteries out of the city? Why was no all points bulletin broadcast? These are the sorts of questions that have been asked, and perhaps legitimately so.

Contributing further to the mystery was a CB broadcast heard just 35 minutes after the assassination, in which an operator transmitted a series of alerts to the effect that he was in hot pursuit of a white Mustang (the type of car that Ray was driving) carrying the possible killer of Dr. King. It has been charged that the broadcast was an attempt to divert police to the northeastern part of Memphis, while the assassin escaped in another direction.

## 7. REMOVAL OF TREES AND UNDERBRUSH

There have been accusations that on April 5, 1968, the day after the assassination, trees and underbrush to the rear of the rooming house at 422½ Main Street, Memphis, were chopped down. The foliage, so this story goes, had obstructed the line of fire from the second-floor bathroom of the roominghouse from which, the official investigation concluded, Ray had fired the fatal shot. The thrust of the allegation is, of course, that Ray never fired the shot, and his innocence would have been established if the trees and the underbrush had been allowed to stand. The trees were, therefore, cut down to facilitate the conviction of the patsy, James Earl Ray.

## 8. ALIASES AND PASSPORTS

Within days of the assassination, James Earl Ray was in Canada, and by May 6, he had assumed two new aliases, George Ramon Sneyd and Paul Bridgman. By this time he had also obtained birth certificates for both Sneyd and Bridgman and secured a Canadian passport under Sneyd's name, purchased a round trip Toronto to London to Toronto airline ticket and departed North America.

Ray's activities in Canada raise these questions: Was it mere coincidence that four of his aliases—Sneyd and Bridgman, as well as Eric S. Galt and John Willard—were names of living persons who resided in metropolitan Toronto? How was it that the four Canadians shared noticeably physical similarities? Did the seeming ease with which Ray obtained a Canadian passport suggest any official connections? How had Ray, a man who had bungled simple street crimes, managed such a sophisticated escape maneuver with impressive efficiency? Had he, perhaps, utilized the services of an underworld alias ring, or did he have intelligence community connections?

## 9. RAY'S GUILTY PLEA

After Ray's arrest, there was hope that many of these unanswered questions would be resolved during his trial for the murder of Dr. King. Surely, it was suggested, as the adversary process pitted Shelby County District Attorney Philip Canale against veteran defense attorney Percy Foreman, the truth would emerge. But, in a surprise move, Ray pled guilty and got 99 years for first-degree murder. No light was shed on the case by the government's simple recitation of basic facts, and the only hint that there was more to the assassination came in a curious disclaimer by the defendant himself. Ray merely stated disagreement with Attorney General Ramsey Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover "on this conspiracy thing." He was not asked to elaborate, nor did he, at that time.

So another question was added to the lengthening list. Had Foreman—Ray's own attorney and a Texas friend of Attorney General Ramsey Clark—pled his client guilty as part of an official conspiracy to silence Ray?

## 10. EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY

Subsequent to Ray's plea, it was also charged that an eyewitness to the assassination itself—a woman who could supposedly identify the individual who fled the bathroom from which the fatal shot

was fired—was taken by the police and confined illegally in a mental hospital to silence her.

Here, too, the specter of official complicity—police, court, and hospital officials—was squarely raised.

Taken together, these unanswered questions weave a sinister story. Ray is broken out of prison, either as an assassin or a patsy, he is given financial support, plastic surgery, a car and a gun, while arrangements are made for a ticket out of the country and a false passport. Meanwhile, Dr. King is lured back to Memphis by the actions of agents provocateur, who turn a peaceful march into a violent confrontation, and Dr. King is set up for the assassination in an insecure motel, his security is withdrawn, and he is felled by one deadly shot. The escape of the assassin is facilitated by police inaction and a fake CB broadcast. Ray is caught, convicted or framed, but in any event, silenced. What is suggested here are the actions of a sophisticated group that must, almost of necessity, involve officials of the government. The implications of these suggestions, if only some of them are true, would be frightening indeed for a free and democratic society.

These, then, are questions, Mr. Chairman, that the committee will hear evidence on today and in later hearings. Some, but not many, can be dismissed quickly. The committee's investigators have found, for example, that a suggestion of official complicity is unlikely in the escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary. It has been suggested, for example, as key evidence of official complicity that a wanted poster issued by the prison after Ray's escape in 1967 bore incorrect fingerprints. Nevertheless, the committee learned that once the mistake was discovered, a new poster was immediately issued. The committee's investigation shows, it may be concluded—although the ultimate question obviously is up to the committee—the mistake was apparently innocent.

In addition, the committee addressed the question of Ray's plastic surgery in California shortly before the assassination. While it is likely that Ray was, in fact, attempting to alter his appearance, the investigation was unable to uncover any evidence—either in Ray's choice of a surgeon or the amount he paid for the operation—that the surgery itself was part of a wider assassination conspiracy that perhaps included the doctor himself. There is, of course, reason to believe that Ray desired to change his appearance shortly before leaving for Atlanta, Dr. King's home, but there is nothing to indicate that he did not accomplish locating the doctor on his own. As to charges that the surgeon was in on the conspiracy or that he charged less than the going rate for the operation, they can be said to be unfounded. The investigation has established that the doctor is a well-respected man in his profession, and the price he charged Ray was in line with the regular rates going for such surgery at the time it was performed.

It is appropriate, therefore, Mr. Chairman, to turn to more difficult questions.

The committee knew from the outset that if there proved to be substantial validity to any of the key allegations of official complicity in Memphis, then there was every likelihood of a conspiracy of the most sinister and troubling sort to murder Dr. King, a conspir-

acy that probably involved high officials of government—local, State or Federal.

If, indeed, Dr. King was intentionally maneuvered into a vulnerable position at the relatively insecure Lorraine Motel.

If, indeed, he was purposefully and systematically stripped of police protection.

If, indeed, the roominghouse at 422½ South Main Street was knowingly ignored by Memphis police after Dr. King was shot.

If, indeed, to assist the assassin in his flight, the pursuit of the assassin was deliberately less than aggressive—roadblocks were not erected and an all-points bulletin not broadcast.

If, indeed, the police radio network was penetrated to divert the chase.

If, indeed, to facilitate the conviction of a patsy, the trees and foliage that would have blocked the line of fire from the roominghouse to the Lorraine were cut down the day after the assassination.

The implication of this litany of allegations are disturbing. Nevertheless, the committee has had no choice but to consider them and their implications.

The committee first reviewed the charge leveled by Mark Lane and others that Dr. King was steered to the Lorraine by news accounts, inspired by FBI COINTELPRO propaganda criticizing him for patronizing the plush white-owned Holiday Inn on his March 28-29 visit to Memphis. To support his case, Mr. Lane, in Code Name "Zorro", quotes a reporter for the Memphis Press-Scimitar to the effect that Dr. King had never stayed at the black-owned Lorraine prior to his April 3-4 trip to Memphis.

In fact, the investigation revealed that the FBI did, as part of its propaganda campaign against Dr. King, prepare a press release on March 29, taking him to task for staying at the Holiday Inn. In turn, this criticism was echoed in newspapers around the country, although the investigation was unable to determine concretely if the news stories were the direct result of the FBI release, as opposed to other sources. The evidence was at least ambiguous. How this question must be ultimately resolved, of course, is up to the committee.

The committee also obtained its account of Dr. King's trip to Memphis with respect to his choice of accommodations, not from the press, but from his close associates at the time, including his confidante, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, as this committee will recall from Dr. Abernathy's testimony in August. This investigation found that Dr. King, in fact, normally stayed at the Lorraine when in Memphis, but for March 28, reservations were made for him at the Peabody Hotel by the national union of which the striking sanitation workers local was a part, since the union was using the Peabody as an unofficial headquarters.

On the other hand, Dr. King was diverted to the Holiday Inn by motorcycle policemen, a precaution, according to the Memphis police department, in view of the outbreak of violence during a labor march on the morning of March 28. Again, the committee will ultimately have to decide if it ought to be inferred from the evidence that Dr. King's decision to stay at the Lorraine on April

3-4 was a return to his normal routine, not, as has been alleged, an abrupt action in response to a conspiratorial ruse.

As to the allegations that Dr. King was not only lured to the Lorraine, but that he was placed in room 306 because it presented a good target to a sniper in the roominghouse, the committee was told by Dr. Abernathy, it will recall in its August hearings, that 306 was normally reserved for Dr. King when he stayed at the Lorraine. Here, too, the committee will have to decide if the sinister becomes innocent when closely examined.

Turning to the more serious question of police protection of Dr. King and security provided for him on April 3-4.

Here, the committee was especially concerned about charges that have been raised in connection with Edward E. Redditt, a Black police detective who was removed from his post at the firestation adjacent to the Lorraine shortly before the assassination.

Conspiratorial implications with regard to the removal of Detective Redditt have been proposed by Mark Lane in Code Name "Zorro", and I quote:

The Reverend Samuel Kyles asked the police to assign Ed Redditt, a black Memphis detective, to provide security for Dr. King. Redditt was assigned and set up the police command post at the fire station because of its proximity to the Lorraine and because it provided security from the Invaders and others who wanted no police, black or white, on the scene.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask at this time that MLK exhibit F-16, already inserted into the record, be appropriately displayed. It is a photograph of the assassination scene, and, on a blowup of it, the location of the fire station can be clearly seen. The fire station is in the lower right-hand side of the photograph; the Lorraine Motel is in the center of the photograph. It would also facilitate the committee's understanding of this issue if a drawing, already entered in the record as F-19 also be displayed at this time.

The committee has undertaken to ascertain the meaning of the transfers of two Black firemen, Floyd Newsum and Novell E. Wallace, from the fire station adjacent to the Lorraine, who, it has been suggested, were removed to facilitate the assassination.

Detective Redditt was a member of the Memphis Police Department from December 1960 to July 1971. He was promoted from patrolman to detective in September 1965.

In May 1967, Detective Redditt was appointed assistant director of the community relations bureau. In February 1968, he was temporarily assigned to the intelligence section of the inspection bureau, remaining on this special assignment until the sanitation workers' strike was settled on April 16, at which time he returned to his regular post.

When the community relations bureau was phased out of existence in 1971, Detective Redditt was assigned to the vice squad. He resigned from the police department shortly thereafter.

Following his resignation, Detective Redditt served on the staff of U.S. Representative Kuykendall, operating a community service center in Memphis. He is presently deputy director for priority area development in the Memphis office of community development.

It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to call Detective Redditt.

Chairman STOKES. The committee calls Detective Redditt.

Mr. Redditt, will you please stand, raise your right hand and be sworn.

Do you solemnly swear the testimony you will give before this committee is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you. You may be seated.

Will counsel for the witness identify himself for the committee, please?

Mr. SMOTHERS. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Curtis R. Smothers, Washington, D.C.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you. The Chair now recognizes staff counsel, Gene Johnson.

Mr. JOHNSON. Will you state your full name for the record.

**TESTIMONY OF EDWARD REDDITT, FORMERLY OF THE  
MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. REDDITT. Edward Estes Redditt.

Mr. JOHNSON. Would you give your date of birth?

Mr. REDDITT. January 10, 1931.

Mr. JOHNSON. And would you tell us how you are employed?

Mr. REDDITT. I am employed with the Memphis housing community development as special projects administrator.

Mr. JOHNSON. There was a time when you became a member of the Memphis Police Department; is that true?

Mr. REDDITT. That's true.

Mr. JOHNSON. Will you tell us exactly when that was?

Mr. REDDITT. I started school in November of 1960.

Mr. JOHNSON. Commencing with your starting as a member of the Memphis Police Department, will you give us a chronology of your assignments up to February 1968.

Mr. REDDITT. As a patrolman walking a beat in 1960 and 1961; later into the detention, the jail, in between special assignments, then into the squad car. From the squad car to the detective in juvenile bureau in between assignments; from there to police community relations; from there to other assignments.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, in February 1968, you were working at that time with the community relations department; is that true?

Mr. REDDITT. That's true.

Mr. JOHNSON. Then there came a time when you had a change of assignments?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, will you explain to the committee the change of assignments working from community relations—what was your new assignment?

Mr. REDDITT. The new assignment was working with the bureau of intelligence.

Mr. JOHNSON. Had you ever worked for the bureau of intelligence before?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. Can you tell the committee, if you know, what were the reasons for the change of your assignments from community relations to the intelligence section of the police department?

Mr. REDDITT. It is my opinion that it was to surveil the activities surrounding the strike itself.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did there ever come a time once the assignments changed that you had an opportunity to discuss this with police officials and ask at any point in time what the purpose of the change of assignment was?

Mr. REDDITT. I did not quite understand that.

Mr. JOHNSON. My question is having been assigned to the community relations department, then a change of assignments came when you were assigned to the intelligence section. My question is, was there ever a time after the change that you made any inquiries from any of the police officials why the assignment change was made?

Mr. REDDITT. No; it wasn't customary, as I said, in my orders I had been assigned previously to other assignments, to other details and very seldom they were questioned.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, exactly what were you assigned to do, bearing in mind having not worked with the intelligence section before. I gather at some point in time somebody had to tell you exactly what they wanted you to do in your new assignment.

Mr. REDDITT. To keep an eye on and report activities, unusual activities surrounding the sanitation workers, such as out-of-town license plates, some individual strange individuals, comments, meetings and things that may have occurred. I could not attend secret meetings but it was all hearsay.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did, in the process of that assignment, did you keep your superiors at the Memphis Police Department aware of what you were doing and exactly what was the result of it?

Mr. REDDITT. Through memos or reports or sometimes through telephone.

Mr. JOHNSON. As a member of the intelligence section did members of the Black community castigate you for the assignment you had suggesting that you had become an official informer on the sanitation strikers?

Mr. REDDITT. I would say you would always have that, irrespective.

Mr. JOHNSON. What you are suggesting is—and correct me if I am wrong about it—you are suggesting that due to your new assignment there were those in the Black community who viewed your new assignment as one who had betrayed them in that you were keeping an eye on or surveilling their activity and reporting it back to the Memphis Police Department. Am I correct in that?

Mr. REDDITT. That would be correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did you have a partner in this assignment?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Who was that partner?

Mr. REDDITT. Willie B. Richmond.

Mr. JOHNSON. There came a time from February to sometime in March, the early part of April, that the assignment was changed, and I am directing your attention specifically to April 3, the morning of April 3, 1968. On that morning, did you get a change of assignments?

Mr. REDDITT. In my opinion, it was a change of assignment.

Mr. JOHNSON. Will you explain to the committee exactly what that change was?

Mr. REDDITT. To go to the airport to meet Dr. King and his party and to see that they returned back to the Lorraine Motel.

Mr. JOHNSON. Do you remember who gave you that assignment?

Mr. REDDITT. No, I don't.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, there came a time when you went to the airport to receive Dr. King's party; is that true?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. And once you arrived at the airport, will you tell us the nature and circumstances of what basically happened?

Mr. REDDITT. Well, counsel, I can't remember every detail, the only one really vivid detail is receiving a pointed finger threat from a young woman there from inside the corridor. The second was as we were leaving, one of the cars tried to break in the middle, keep us from keeping in direct contact with the party.

Mr. JOHNSON. Do you remember, Detective Redditt, who was in charge of that detail?

Mr. REDDITT. I did not until I read some reports. In security it would be Don Smith anyway I wouldn't have to think about that one. He was in charge of security for the Memphis Police Department.

Mr. JOHNSON. Do you remember when you were at the airport any conversation between you and another individual about some bodily harm being done to you and some threat of your being killed?

Mr. REDDITT. That's what I mentioned earlier.

Mr. JOHNSON. Once you left the airport, would you tell us basically what happened then?

Mr. REDDITT. The only thing I remember is arriving at the Lorraine in the courtyard where Inspector Smith went to the party, about security. He came back and went in to use the phone and came back and said we had been ordered to move behind the outside of the courtyard, behind the wall; they don't want security.

Mr. JOHNSON. Was there ever any conversation from Inspector Don Smith to the group of officers who had been assigned to the security detail to the effect the security detail after the conversation he had on the phone—and incidentally, do you remember whether Inspector Smith said who he was having the conversation with on the phone?

Mr. REDDITT. No; I don't.

Mr. JOHNSON. Do you remember Inspector Smith even saying that the security detail was being withdrawn?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes; while we were behind the wall we were there for a little while and he said we might as well disperse; that's it in essence.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did you make any suggestions to Inspector Smith as to any course of action that you should take relative to the withdrawing of the security detail?

Mr. REDDITT. Again, it is vivid and I don't remember who made the recommendation, I may have, but the fire station—or setting up surveillance at the fire station.

Mr. JOHNSON. What did Inspector Smith reply to that?

Mr. REDDITT. I do not recall, really, what his reply was.



Mr. JOHNSON. Have you ever had an occasion to set up a surveillance detail in the firehouse before?

Mr. REDDITT. Not in the firehouse; no.

Mr. JOHNSON. So there came a time when Smith, Inspector Smith informed you that the security detail was being disbanded, am I right about that?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. Then you are not sure who suggested, either you or someone in the party, that some kind of surveillance be set up in the firehouse which is across the street from the Lorraine Motel; is that right?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. What happened then?

Mr. REDDITT. The next step would be I had to call my supervisor and indicate where I was and what I had to do and I undoubtedly was given an OK. Because at the time either we went back to headquarters or someone brought us binoculars. I don't remember what transpired.

Mr. JOHNSON. So now, once the security detail is withdrawn, you are physically in the fire station across the street from the Lorraine?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. Once you took your post in the fire station, were you in any physical proximity to Dr. King, where you would have been in a position to protect him from any physical harm?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did you maintain your surveillance in the firehouse the evening of the 3d and all day on April 4, until you were removed?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, just tell the committee, if you would, Detective Redditt, what did you do? You went to the back of the firehouse. Did you put anything up in the back of it like paper?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes; at one point firemen began to come back and peer out the window. So we put up a newspaper and cut it out so people couldn't see, peering from the window, because you could see even with the paper up there.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my questions.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair will now recognize the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Detective Redditt, you were there on the 3d and 4th until your removal on the 4th. Did you leave the firehouse and go to the Clayborn Temple on the 3d?

Mr. REDDITT. I don't remember, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. You don't remember going to the temple on the 3d, at some time at about 6:35, 8:35?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir. I recall that.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Did you have anyone go with you? Did Lieutenant Richmond go with you at that point?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. When you went to the temple, wasn't it a fact that Dr. King was still at the Lorraine?

Mr. REDDITT. I don't recall, sir; I am not really sure.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I would like to enter into the record as Martin Luther King exhibit F-182A, a surveillance memorandum and I would like to have it shown to the witness, please.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection it may be entered into the record at this point and shown to the witness.

Mr. MCKINNEY. We have a change in the exhibit number, to F-229.

Chairman STOKES. The record may be so corrected.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-229

MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
INSPECTORIAL BUREAU  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

April 4, 1968

RE: Surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr., and  
Related Activities.Mr. Graydon P. Thies, Inspector,  
Inspectorial Bureau,  
Building.

Dear Sir:

Pl. W. B. Richmond and I arrived at the Municipal Airport, approx. 9:30, and waited for the arrival of Martin Luther King and his party on Flight 381 East: Airlines from Atlanta, Ga., Gate #17, and he arrived at 10:33AM, though the plan was due at 10:15AM. In King's party were Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Rev. Andrew You and another unknown MC and Female Colored. They were met by Mrs. Thomas Matthews, Rev. James Lawson, Jesse Epps, Ralph Jackson. They departed from the airport in Mrs. Thomas Matthews car bearing License JP 9735. In the car was the unknown FC, & Dr. King in the front seat, and in the rear was, Rev. Abernathy Rev. Lawson and the unknown MC.

The car in front of them was driven by Jesse Epps, bearing BT 0039. The car belongs to Cornelia Crenshaw, and in the car with Jesse Epps were three unknown Male Whites. There was also a Cadillac bearing License # KO -0708. It should be noted that this car arrived at the Lorraine Motel, at 11:20AM and remained there until 7:30PM. It is believed that this car was used to transport Dr. King to Mason Temple.

The caravan arrived at the Lorraine Motel at approx. 11:20AM, using the East Entrance off of Hillberry. Room assignments for Dr. King were 306 and 307. Other rooms assigned were 300 and 301. At approx. 11:30AM we noticed Charles Cabbage, John B. Smith, and Rev. Orange coming out of the conference room upstairs at the Motel. We also noticed approx. 10 in the inside front office at the hotel. There were approx. 25 persons associated with Black Power in this area at this time.

Dr. King left the motel at approx. 12:05PM driven by Mrs. Thomas Matthews and proceeded to the Centenary Methodist Church on McLemore, where a closed meeting was held, with approx. 30 Negro Ministers, and the Rev. McClain Blackburn. They left the church at 2:15PM and arrived back at the Lorraine Motel at approx. 2:25PM. It should be noted, there was a 1963 Ford bearing Ohio 14-95AN driven by a FW who attended the meeting at Centenary Methodist, and also attended the meeting at Clayborn Temple just before the march.

Activities around the Lorraine Motel from 1:25PM till 6:35PM included Rooms 315 and 316 occupied by local Invaders, and those seen in and out of the rooms included John B. Smith, Charles Levern Cabbage, Milton Mack, Charles Ballard, Joe Calvin Banks.

Room 210 was occupied by the Rev. Orange along with another unknown MC. Room 309 was occupied by a African Student named Joseph Loure, this person was arrested during the Riot Aleyt, last summer, and there is a MW and an unknown MC occupying the same room. Room 311K occupied by unknown MW, driving Chev. bearing Lic. BW 1882.

There were 3 MCs who entered room 316, driving a Green Rambler, Lic. JAI 9136. At 2:57 PM Marshall Ellis and Deputy Marshall Durham arrived inside of the motel, and following behind them were three other Deputy Marshalls. It was later learned that they had screened papers on Dr. King and his aides.

At approx. 2:50PM Alty Lucius Burch, Alty, Caywood, and Alty Michael Gody of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Alty Walter Bailey, and two other MWs who appeared to be affiliates, followed by Rev. Lawson, and Jesse Epps, and B. Kyle went into Martin Luther King's Room 307, and departed at 3:00PM. Gerald Fenton arrived about that time and was talking to John B. Smith and the other MWs.

Page Two of Surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr., & Related Activities)

At approx. 3:17PM an Airport Limousine arrived with two MCS and one MW and they immediately went to Rm. 307. At 3:22PM Rev. Lawson, Jesse Epps, and Gerold Patton departed.

In between these meetings the Black Power group went into the conference Room on the second floor, and Dr. King went into Room 305. At approx. 4:30 the Black Power meeting broke up, and they went to various rooms in groups. Approx. 8 went into Joseph Lowe's room. At this time Orange and three others left in a 56 Chev. bearing License# BX 5933, and shortly afterwards a blue Mustang, Lic. BF 3750 left with another group.

At 4:42PM an Airport Limousine arrived with one Male Colored who immediately went to Room 305. Approx. 4:50PM about 9 Male Coloreds and one female colored entered Room 316. Following this there seemed to have been quite a bit of drinking from room to room. Most of them were getting ice and coca cola and bringing in brown bags.

At 6:35PM Rev. Larson brought Rev. Andrew Young back to the motel, and left immediately. We then departed from our Station and went to Mason Temple and arrived approx. 6:50PM. While standing out front the Rev. Blackburn called me aside and asked what I was trying to do to myself. And I asked him what he meant. And he said the word is out that you were over by the Fire Station near the Lorraine Motel using binoculars, spying. I told him that this was untrue,

The Rev. Blackburn then approached Plmn. Richmond, and shook my hand, and stated that, he wished I wasn't here, and this was the wrong place for him. He said the tension was already high enough and he did not want any trouble. The meeting got under way around 7:15PM with singing, and regular prayers and statements, and the first official speaker was Rev. Larson. At this time there were approx. 2000 people in the Temple made up of Sanitation workers and these young people. He said the unconcerned people again are trying to stop the issue by placing a ban or an injunction against the concerned to dis allow us to March. And I want you to know that no injunction has ever stopped a March, and I have a cigar box full to prove this. I have notified those persons who are planning to come here to March Monday to be prepared to go to Jail. Mace can not stop us. Gas cannot stop us. Police Brutality cannot stop us. And we are going to March. You know, I was just thinking that we have come here to relax these last meetings, to lessen the tension, and talk about and forget about some of the problems, but I think we are relaxing too much. He said Larry Payne, for instance, the young boy 16 years old, who walks out with his hands over his head and is shot to death with a shot gun. This is Cold Blooded Murder. And I want those to know who praise the Police Department for this and condone this. People started standing up and clapping, and yelling at this. And as the Rev. Larson continued the undersigned decided to leave. He made the statement "We have" and we felt he might say, "We have two police officers with us." We left at approx. 8:40PM.

At approx. 9:55AM at the Municipal Airport Mrs. Thomas Matthews threatened my life, stating pointing her finger, "I am going to get you." or "I am going to shoot you."

At approx. 3PM on Herndon Street down from Clayborn Temple I was approached by an unknown Male Colored, and he said, "you can take this or leave but it is good information. These people are not playing. They know what you and Redditt are doing, and they don't like it." He said, "I be out here among these people every day, and I have heard many rumors that xxxxxxxx they will kill both of you." He said xxxxxxxx down there knew we were policemen and that we were down there just to spy on the people. He did say that he had heard some of these threats come from the Muslims.

Respectfully submitted,

E. T. [Signature]  
E. T. [Signature], [Address]  
[Address]

Mr. MCKINNEY. I apologize to the witness for the size of the print. You need a magnifying glass to read it. But we are not going to go into great detail on it.

Isn't it true this is a memo dated April 4?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes; it appears to be the 4th.

Mr. MCKINNEY. And it is signed by you?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. And the title of the memo above, the words Mr. Tines, Inspector, is "Surveillance of Martin Luther King, and Related Activities"?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. MCKINNEY. So this is a surveillance report that you turned in to the chief inspector regarding the activities of Dr. King and those who might have been around him?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Why were you removed on the 4th, at 4 o'clock?

Mr. REDDITT. You mean on the 4th?

Mr. MCKINNEY. Yes; why were you told to leave the fire station and go down to the headquarters?

Mr. REDDITT. Well, I was—Lieutenant Arkin arrived at the firehouse and stated I was needed or wanted at the headquarters. I asked him what it was about and he said he did not know. So we arrived there and I was carried to the conference room. At that point I was told a contract had been let on me, that this man, whoever it was standing there was supposed to phone in and a contract was let and as a result they had security placed at the Holiday Inn for my family and myself and I was to go there.

Mr. MCKINNEY. So when you arrived, you were told there was a contract out on your life. You had also been threatened at the airport, were you not?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. MCKINNEY. By whom?

Mr. REDDITT. I do not remember the lady's name, I just remember she was a barber on Park Avenue in the area I used to work in in a patrol car.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I believe the name was Mrs. Matthews.

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Also, I notice in the bottom of this memo, the last paragraph, it states a quote from a man on the street:

These people are not playing. They know what you and Redditt are doing, and they don't like it. I be out here among those people every day, and I have heard many rumors that they will kill both of you.

Is that correct?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. MCKINNEY. So you were removed from the firehouse and taken down and told there was a threat on your life because of your surveillance of Dr. King. Would that be a proper interpretation or your surveillance of the garbage or sanitation strike?

Mr. REDDITT. I guess you could say yes and you could say no to that.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Detective Redditt, you appeared before this committee in executive session on March 22 of this year; is that correct?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to take extractions from Detective Redditt's testimony marked Martin Luther King F-183 and Martin Luther King F-184; and I would like the witness to have a chance to examine them, please.

Chairman STOKES. You want them entered into the record at this point?

Mr. MCKINNEY. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection they will be entered into the record at this point and shown to the witness at this time.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-183

1 have answered anything or if I have set the record straight,  
 2 but I do want the record to show that as far as any, if you  
 3 can erase or whatever, that mine is that I was on a surveillance  
 4 at the fire station and from that point on Mr. Holloman would  
 5 have to answer that question on why I was removed.

6 Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Mr. Fauntroy. Thank you, Mr. Redditt, and at this time  
 8 we are going to have wrap-up questioning by the counsel and  
 9 one or two questions which the Chairman may have of you.

10 Mr. Johnson. I would just like to make one or two obser-  
 11 vations before I proceed with any questions, is that in light  
 12 of Mr. Redditt's testimony, that the Committee either has  
 13 at its disposal through interviews or through sworn testimony  
 14 that Mr. Tines, Mr. Holloman, Captain Ray, Sergeant Richmond,  
 15 Inspector Smith, Chief McDonald and Chief Raugh, has indicated  
 16 to this Committee that Mr. Redditt on the 3rd and 4th of April  
 17 1968 was surveillance and surveillance only, and that at no  
 18 time was he ever security.

19 We also have in our possession information that is the  
 20 result of indepth interviews with George Davis of the Memphis  
 21 Police Department, with Mr. Shultz of the Memphis Police  
 22 Department, Donald Howe of the Memphis Police Department,  
 23 and John Smith of the Memphis Department, of Reverend Lawson  
 24 of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Mrs. Matthews,  
 25 and some other officials including Reverend Powers of Memphis,

300 7TH STREET, S.W. REYNOLDS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024 (202) 554-2345



1 that in fact that a security detail was at the airport on  
2 April 3rd, met them when Dr. King arrived for his visit to  
3 Memphis.

4 Now, Mr. Redditt, you have been on national TV, you have  
5 been quoted in the paper. At no time in any of the reviewing  
6 of the material that I have seen dealing with any quotes have  
7 you ever said what you have said before this Committee today,  
8 and that is that you were security and that at some time during  
9 the early time of April 3rd you ceased to be security and you  
10 reverted back to being surveillance. I have never seen that.  
11 That was not indicated in your television program that you had  
12 with Mr. Lane, you remember that, and from the newspaper  
13 quotes that resulted thereof.

14 [ Now, I would just like to ask you at this point in time,  
15 it is your testimony, then, that after you have been informed,  
16 let's assume that you were given some instructions to be  
17 security, after you were informed by Inspector Smith that  
18 security had been withdrawn, you then reverted back to  
19 surveillance? ] *no/yes*

20 Now, am I correct about that?

21 [ Mr. Redditt. Correct.

22 Mr. Johnson. I want to get that clear for the record.

23 [ Mr. Redditt. Correct.

24 Mr. Johnson. Correct.

25 [ Mr. Redditt. Right.

300 7TH STREET, S.W. REPORTERS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024 (202) 554-2345





1 Mr. Johnson. [All right, now, if it then should appear,  
2 either publicly or privately from any source whatever,  
3 any story to the contrary, it would be absolutely false, would  
4 it not?] *Notes*

5 [Mr. Redditt. True.

6 Mr. Johnson. There have been questions raised [in light  
7 of the public posture that you have in terms of your statements  
8 which have been quoted in the newspapers and on some television  
9 programs, that you always provided security for Dr. King. You  
10 have indicated to us very clearly today that on March 19th  
11 when Dr. King came to Memphis, on March 28th when Dr. King  
12 came to Memphis, you had nothing to do with Dr. King and his  
13 party, so if it should appear sometime in the future from  
14 whatever source that you always provided security for Dr.  
15 King, that would also be erroneous, would it not?] *Notes*

16 [Mr. Redditt. Right.

17 Mr. Johnson. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

18 Mr. Fauntroy. Counsel, Mr. Akers?

19 Mr. Akers. Mr. Redditt, I, for one, am glad that you  
20 have decided to be candid with this Committee. I believe that  
21 in the past that you have performed a disservice for yourself  
22 and the citizens of this country, for this Committee with  
23 respect to, if nothing else, allowing yourself to be perceived  
24 by certain persons as having provided security for Dr. King  
25 on April 4th and having been removed mysteriously from that



## MLK EXHIBIT F-184

300 7TH STREET, S.W. REPORTERS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20074 (202) 554-2345

1 effect that both Inspector Don Smith and Inspector Howe and  
 2 Davis were in fact at the airport as security and in fact  
 3 did offer themselves as security to Dr. King being responded  
 4 to by Mr. Lawson to the effect that they had not really  
 5 decided whether or not they wanted it, and that Mr. Richmond  
 6 has indicated that they were in fact at the airport and that it  
 7 has only been your failure to recall their presence that has  
 8 given me some pause, and I would want you to answer for me  
 9 whether or not your memory could have failed you at this  
 10 point, whether or not in fact they may well have been there as  
 11 they themselves testified they were, as Mr. Richmond testifies  
 12 they were, as security.

13 Mr. Redditt. Mr. Chairman, I must say that Mr. Richmond  
 14 has been briefed and I have not. Possibly I could have lost  
 15 my memory, forgot that part of it because I go over and over  
 16 and over in my mind, and I have set up here and tried to press  
 17 and I just --

18 Mr. Fauntroy. You just do not recall.

19 Mr. Redditt. I just do not recall anyone walking down  
 20 that corridor but Richmond and I. There's a possibility they  
 21 could have been in another exit or been up to the front or  
 22 somewhere else. but I do not recall. I just don't recall that  
 23 phase of it.

24 Mr. Fauntroy. All right.

25 I want to thank you for the candor and directness of your

1 response to our many questions here today, particularly the  
2 questions here as we have come to the conclusion of a long  
3 day's hearing.

4 Pursuant to our rules, as I indicated earlier, I am  
5 obliged to offer you five minutes to explain, amplify and  
6 summarize your testimony, and that is offered to you at this  
7 time.

8 Mr. Redditt. Mr. Chairman, I again would like to thank  
9 the Committee, the Counsel. I think they have done a splendid  
10 and terrific job.

11 Again, I want to apologize or whatever for again maybe  
12 my misinterpretation or my stating and causing people to  
13 have another connotation or whatever, how do you withdraw  
14 this or how do you rectify this. I can think of several ways  
15 to do it, whether there is permission granted or not, but  
16 most of all is that if I have -- and I have said it earlier --  
17 misled someone with the statement of security surveillance or  
18 surveillance security and persons interpreting it like they  
19 want to interpret it or putting it the way they want to put  
20 it, it is very difficult, even in an explanation of that  
21 nature, that is explaining 180 feet away, and as Mr.  
22 Fithian has put it, there is no way that you can offer that  
23 security. It can only still be observation and surveillance.

24 So those person who are much smarter than I, who can  
25 write books overnight can take most anything out and put it



300 7TH STREET, S.W. REPORTERS BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024 (202) 554-2745

1 like they want it, turn your words around or cause you to  
2 turn your words around how they want it, something I want to  
3 apologize. notes -

4 I do wish I had remained silent to anyone other than the  
5 Committee, period, at this point, so long as I said no comment  
6 period, and I feel guilty about that, but again, the only  
7 thing I can do is apologize to the Committee, to the Counsel,  
8 to the United States, for that matter, if it is thrust that  
9 far, that that terminology was misconstrued to mean other  
10 than that which I knew I was assigned to do, and which I felt  
11 I was assigned to do, and those things I did, whether by  
12 oral or written statement.

13 Mr. Fautroy. Thank you very much, Mr. Redditt. As you  
14 know you are under continuing subpoena of the Committee, and  
15 with that, we will adjourn the hearing.

16 (Whereupon, at 5:14 o'clock p.m., the Subcommittee  
17 recessed subject to the call of the Chair.)

18 - - -  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25



Mr. MCKINNEY. We will concentrate for the moment on 178 through 180, and then if counsel and the witness would prefer, we will give them time to read the second three pages.

Mr. SMOTHERS. Very well. We are ready.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Redditt, if you would, starting on the first line, see if this is your exact wording. You were under oath at the time; right?

Mr. REDDITT. Pardon?

Mr. MCKINNEY. You were under oath when you testified in executive session?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I assume all the testimony you gave us at that time was the truth; correct?

Mr. REDDITT. To the best of my ability—my knowledge.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I would like to read from the middle of the first line in the first paragraph. You said:

\* \* \* I have set the record straight, but I do want the record to show that as far as any, if you can erase or whatever, that mine is that I was on surveillance at the firestation and from that point on Mr. Holloman would have to answer the questions to why I was removed.

Is that a correct representation as to what you stated?

[No audible answer.]

I would like to refer you now to 179, at line 14.

Committee counsel asked the question:

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, I would just like to ask you, is it your testimony, then, that you have been informed, let's assume that you were given some instructions to be security, after you were informed by Inspector Smith that security had been withdrawn, you then reverted back to surveillance?

Is that correct?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. MCKINNEY. You answered that with the word "correct"; and Mr. Johnson said: "I want to get that clear for the record."

And you said, "Correct."

And then Mr. Johnson said, "Correct"; and you said, "Right."

[No audible response.]

Mr. MCKINNEY. Would you answer yes or no.

Mr. REDDITT. Yes; that's correct.

Mr. MCKINNEY. The stenographer cannot type in a nod.

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. MCKINNEY. At the top of page 180:

All right, now, if it should then appear, either publicly or privately from any source whatever, any story to the contrary, it would be absolutely false, would it not?

And you answered?

Mr. REDDITT. True.

Mr. MCKINNEY. In the next paragraph, Mr. Johnson states or asks you the question:

\* \* \* in the light of the public posture and in the terms of your statements which have been quoted in newspapers and on some television programs, that you have always provided security for Dr. King.

You have indicated to us very clearly today that on March 19th when Dr. King came to Memphis, on March 28th when Dr. King came to Memphis, you had nothing to do with Dr. King and his

party. So if it should appear in some future—from whatever the source—that you always provided security for Dr. King, that would also be erroneous, would it not?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Now, if the witness would like to review the second three pages on Martin Luther King F-184.

[Brief pause in proceedings as witness reviews said pages.]

Mr. SMOTHERS. Mr. Congressman, we are ready.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Redditt, I would like to draw your attention to lines 13 through 17 and 19 through 23 on the first page of the exhibit. In essence what you stated was that there could have been another security guard at the airport but that you might not have seen him, is that not paraphrasing your remarks pretty accurately? So you really only remember walking down the hallway with Richmond, but you state quite clearly that it is a possibility they could have been in another exit, been up front, been elsewhere else?

Mr. REDDITT. That's correct.

Mr. MCKINNEY. So that there may have been other security at the airport?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Redditt, I refer you to page 2, line 11, through 3, line 3, which was your closing statement. You may either read this into the record, or you may paraphrase it for me in any way, whichever you would like to do.

Mr. SMOTHERS. Is that a question or a request that the witness read from the previous statement?

Mr. MCKINNEY. It is a request that he either paraphrase his remarks or that he read those remarks.

Mr. SMOTHERS. Beginning at which line, please?

Mr. MCKINNEY. Line 11, through line 3 on page 3.

Mr. REDDITT. I'll read it:

Again, I want to apologize or whatever for again maybe my misinterpretations or my stating and causing people to have another connotation of whatever, how do you withdraw this or how do you rectify this. I can think of several ways to do it, whether there is permission granted or not, but most of all is that if I have—and I have said it earlier—misled someone with the statements of security surveillance or surveillance security and persons interpreting it like they want to interpret or putting it the way they want to put it, it is very difficult, even in an explanation of that nature, that is explaining 100 feet away, and as Mr. Fithian has put it, there is no way that you can offer that security. It can only still be observation and surveillance.

So those persons who are much smarter than I, who can write books overnight can take most anything out and put it like they want it, turn your words around or cause you to turn your words around how they want it, something I want to apologize.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Detective Redditt, you appeared on television with various authors; is that correct?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. You have also been interviewed in connection with their books; is that correct?

Mr. REDDITT. Not interviewed for their books; no, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Have you been interviewed by author Mark Lane?

Mr. REDDITT. It was in conversation and that he was in the room with me while I talked to Abby Mann who was to do the picture; and in that conversation, he asked permission, was it OK to start a

tape. And in conversation, which to me is not communication, in conversation made accusations, or questions and answers and so forth; of this nature.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Have you read Mr. Lane's book?

Mr. REDDITT. No, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Will the clerk please give the witness a copy of Code Name "Zorro", marked MLK exhibit F-185.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection it may be entered at this point.

[A copy of Mr. Lane's book, Code Name "Zorro", is retained in the committee's files.]

Mr. MCKINNEY. It might be interesting for you, Mr. Redditt, to know that in this book, your name is mentioned on so many pages, I won't even bother to put them into the record. The list is extensive, but I would ask that this be given a number, F-185A, and be put in the record, also.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, so ordered.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-185A

Synopsis of References to Det. Redditt in Mark Lane's Book  
"Code Name Zorro"

Page 100

Redditt describes a meeting, two years after King's death, between himself and a FBI agent provocateur who had been planted in the Invaders. The agent was in disguise and claimed at the time of the meeting to be working for the CIA.

Page 124

States that Rev. Kyles specifically requested Redditt be assigned to provide security for King when he returned to Memphis. Further, that Redditt was assigned to set up a police command post at the fire station.

Page 125

Redditt was seen at the fire station and at the Masonic Temple on April 3, 1968 by black fireman, Floyd Newsum.

Page 129-135

Redditt was seen at the fire station prior to April 4, 1968 by black fireman, N. E. Wallace. Book quotes Redditt as saying he was detailed to cover King's security because he always did and thus was familiar with all of the personalities who would have an interest in King. Security arrangements are outlined and so are the events which made this coverage abnormal. Security, usually consisting of 10 officers was reduced to two, Redditt and Richmond. An hour and a half before King's death Redditt was called to headquarters where he met with Director Holloman. Holloman was in a meeting consisting of the heads of all of the law enforcement agencies in the area. Redditt was told there was a contract on his life. Redditt was ordered to take his family to the Rivermont Holiday Inn. When he protested, he was allowed to go home, but a police guard was sent with him. Nothing ever became of the contract and Redditt was sent back to work on the Sunday following the Thursday King was killed.

Page 141-143

Lane interviewed Holloman re: events surrounding Redditt's removal from the fire station and the threat on his life. Lane raises questions about Holloman's answers.



Page 231

McMillan does not mention Redditt in his book.

Page 234

Lane writes that King's supporters asked for security, that they knew that Redditt was there, but were not notified when Redditt was removed.

Page 256

Lane writes that transfers of blacks (including Redditt) raised serious questions that the prosecution would have had a hard time responding to at a trial.

Page 257

Lane comments on Harold Weisberg's reference to Redditt as police spy.

Page 264

Lane makes reference to the start of his interviews with Redditt.

Page 266

Lane asks why Redditt was pulled off his assignment. Suggests that answer may have gone up in smoke with Memphis D.I.D. files.

Page 273-274

Lane speaks of his first awareness of the "strange circumstances" surrounding Redditt's removal before King's death. He says the question was not even considered by the Justice Department until July of '76.

Lane says Justice Department contemplated why Redditt was removed from post two hours before murder.

Page 275-279

Question is asked as to why only Redditt and Richmond were assigned to King on April 4, '68.

Lane questions conclusions of Justice Department Task Force that examined FBI investigation of King's death especially as those conclusions related to Redditt.

Page 283-

Lane met with four members of the Justice Department's Task Force and informed them of Redditt's description of the Secret Service agent who was at the 4/4/68 meeting in Holloman's office. Lane raises other possible investigative paths that could be used to check aspects of Redditt's story.

Mr. MCKINNEY. My main question to you at this point, concerning this book Mr. Redditt is that in Mr. Lane's book he implies that two Black firemen; Floyd Newsum and Norvell E. Wallace, were transferred because the fire department and the Memphis Police Department did not want two Blacks in that firehouse because their presence could, in some way, interfere with the assassination; that this was part of the plot.

Who initially raised the question of those two firemen being in that firehouse?

Mr. REDDITT. From the executive session there were records showing through a memo that Richmond and I had written that we had raised the issue.

Mr. MCKINNEY. In other words, you raised the issue of their being there themselves. For what reason?

Mr. REDDITT. Sometimes in surveillance, in that surveillance, and I would assume because I don't really know the total ramifications at this point, don't recall the total ramifications, that there could be some interference.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Wasn't it true that Newsum was very sympathetic to the sanitation strike and that you were greatly concerned about his going out into the community and reporting that there were Blacks spying on Dr. Martin Luther King?

Mr. REDDITT. I don't understand the question.

Mr. MCKINNEY. But you did initially question their being in the firehouse or the wisdom of it while you were there looking through the peephole in the back?

Mr. REDDITT. As I said, I did not recall the incident until a memo was showed me at the executive session.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Right, but the memo shows that you did question it.

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. On page 130 of Mr. Lane's book, he states that he asked you if you always provided security for Dr. King whenever he came to Memphis, and you replied "Right."

Did you tell Mr. Lane that?

Mr. SMOTHERS. Mr. Congressman, will you refer the witness to the passage?

Mr. MCKINNEY. Does counsel have the line numbers?

It starts on the second paragraph, and I will read it briefly for the record. I asked if he had always provided security when King came to town. "Right," he answered.

Mr. REDDITT. I think on this, Congressman, that "Right," the question is, had I ever provided security, and we were in conversation, and I had said yes before, in prior years. I wasn't talking about 1968.

Mr. MCKINNEY. In other words, it was not true then and it is not true now that you supplied security for Dr. Martin Luther King every time he came to Memphis.

Mr. REDDITT. True.

Mr. MCKINNEY. It is true that you did not?

Mr. REDDITT. Did not.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Detective Redditt, did you have a plan of action formed in your mind, if anything happened to Dr. King?

Mr. REDDITT. I guess sometimes it is very difficult to answer that in that I think any assignment that an officer is assigned to, whatever, he should have some plan for reporting incidents or activities that are occurring on how to deal with whatever may occur. I think this is always uppermost in a police officer's mind. That is part of his training.

Mr. MCKINNEY. When you were removed from your post in order to go downtown to headquarters, did you at any time give your partner, patrolman Richmond, who remained at the post until Dr. King was shot, any instructions about a contingency plan or how to execute it in case anything happened to Dr. King?

Mr. REDDITT. I didn't have time. When the lieutenant came and got me, I think it was all of a shock, we just got in the car and left.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Did you tell Mr. Lane that you had a plan?

Mr. REDDITT. I may have inferred that a plan could have been possible, and the plan would not—would have been to save Dr. King's life.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I wanted to have you refer to page 135, the last two paragraphs. I will read these two paragraphs into the record:

Since Richmond had a radio which could have provided immediate access to police mobile units in the area as well as to headquarters, it is difficult to understand why he does not use it. It became even more puzzling in light of the plan that Redditt had promulgated and shared with Richmond. That plan called for Redditt to cover South Main Street and for Richmond to use the radio to alert mobile units.

One must concede that Richmond could not have done both. The mystery lies in trying to determine why he attempted neither. If the elaborate charade which included the removal of Redditt and the detailing of Newsum and Wallace was designed to strip away the security just before Dr. King was killed in order to facilitate the escape of the sniper, it was an ultimately successful plan. The murderer fled unobserved and unimpeded.

Detective Redditt, based on the testimony you have given this committee under oath, of your own personal knowledge of this situation, are those two last paragraphs a true assessment of the situation?

Mr. REDDITT. I would say, no, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I am sorry?

Mr. REDDITT. I would say, no, sir, not incomplete, no, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. In other words, no, sir, they are not.

Have you been approached or spoken to Mr. Mark Lane before appearing here today?

Mr. REDDITT. Not other than when I was subpoenaed by him or his colleague to court.

Mr. MCKINNEY. That is the only contact that he has tried to make with you?

Mr. REDDITT. That is true.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I have no more questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Counsel for the committee, Mr. Johnson.

Mr. SMOTHERS. Mr. Chairman, I believe the witness has an additional matter to add in response to the Congressman's earlier question.

CHAIRMAN STOKES. Certainly, he can be heard.

Mr. REDDITT. The second answer to that, Congressman, is that I was contacted when this book was written to come to Washington, D.C. to plug it, which I totally refused.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Thank you very much.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair recognizes counsel for the committee, Gene Johnson.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Redditt, I want to make a couple of things clear, if you would, that, one, Dr. King had been in Memphis on the 18th of March and he had been there on the 28th of March?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. You testified in executive session testimony that during those two prior trips that you did not provide security for Dr. King?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. So if it has been suggested, as it was in the book with the conversation allegedly had between you and Mr. Lane, that you had always provided security for Dr. King, and your answer, or at least Mr. Lane records your answer as being "Right," that is totally erroneous; am I right about that?

Mr. REDDITT. That is right.

Mr. JOHNSON. Not only is it erroneous, but my next question is, did you ever tell Mr. Lane that when Dr. King always came to Memphis, you always provided security for him?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. So if it appears in Mr. Lane's book as it does, it is erroneous?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now you remember there was a conversation when you appeared in your executive session testimony about your leaving the firehouse approximately 6:30 that evening, going to Clayborn Temple.

Do you remember that conversation we had about your leaving, and that you had initially said in your testimony that one of the reasons that you left, you left because Dr. King's party had left and that you had followed them to Clayborn Temple?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. Do you remember the give and take—

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON [continuing]. With me about that?

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. Then there came a time when I asked you very clearly, I said, Mr. Redditt, would you explain for the committee, if you would, if you were in a security relationship with Dr. King,

and that you left, as your memo stated, and we discussed that at the executive session, at 6:30, and you were in a security role, then how could you explain that once you arrived at Clayborn Temple in a security relationship with Dr. King when he was, in fact, at the Lorraine Motel in the bed asleep.

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Do you remember the give and take we had about that?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. I ask you now, have I sufficiently refreshed your recollection where you remember that, so there was no way that you could have been in any security relationship with Dr. King on the evening of April 3, 1968? Am I correct about that?

Mr. REDDITT. That is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now there came a time, once you arrived at Clayborn Temple, and remember that was the evening of the mountain-top speech. Do you remember that once Dr. King arrived, did you get into any security relationship with him at that time?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. So for the night of April 3, 1968 I gather when the rally at Clayborn Temple had concluded, you went about your business, did you not?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. Your recollection then is that at no time after the rally was over you went anywhere with Dr. King.

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. JOHNSON. So the night of April 3 you were not in any security relationship with Dr. King because Dr. King was wherever he was, and you were wherever you were, but in fact you all were not together; is that true?

Mr. REDDITT. That is true.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now there came a time on the morning of April 4, 1968, Dr. King is at the Lorraine Motel. You then, I gather, came to your security post at the firehouse; is that true?

Mr. REDDITT. That is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. At any time did you ever go over to the Lorraine Motel to see or to talk with Dr. King or any members of his party?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. Can you recollect whether or not there was ever a time, once you stationed yourself in the firehouse on Main Street, which is firehouse No. 2, that you ever left the firehouse until the time that you were informed by Lieutenant Arkin that they wanted to see you downtown?

Mr. REDDITT. That is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. Which means then that you were in the firehouse all day on April 4, and Dr. King was at least 180 feet away, assuming arguendo that he stayed in his room all day, which he did not, that you could not at any time provide any physical security for Dr. King.

Mr. REDDITT. That is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. It has become abundantly clear—correct me if I am wrong about it—on your previous day, which was April 3, when Inspector Smith informed you that the security had been withdrawn, that only for a brief time in that morning when you went

to the airport to travel from the airport to the motel did you play any security relationship with Dr. King, whatever, and once that security detail was withdrawn, you reverted back to surveillance in a position which you had been accused on more than one occasion of being a spy for the Memphis Police Department; am I correct about that?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. I don't have any more questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The committee will now operate under the 5-minute rule.

Mr. Redditt, in light of your testimony here this morning with reference to April 4, wherein you stated that your position in the firehouse was for the purpose strictly of surveillance on Dr. King and had nothing to do with security or protection for him. Then your removal that afternoon, for whatever reason, would not have in any event changed the circumstances under which you were posted there, would it?

Mr. REDDITT. That is correct.

Chairman STOKES. And your partner, whom you left at the post, and who remained there, was also there for the same purpose that you were there, that is surveillance of Dr. King?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Chairman STOKES. I have no further questions.

The gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Preyer.

Mr. PREYER. I have only one area I wasn't clear on.

You indicated that the two Black firemen, Mr. Newsum and Mr. Wallace, were removed from the fire station at your request?

Mr. REDDITT. No, sir, I didn't say that.

Mr. PREYER. Who did direct that they leave the fire station?

Mr. REDDITT. I don't know, sir.

Mr. PREYER. Did I understand you to say something about they were interfering with the surveillance or were interfering in some way?

Mr. REDDITT. No, sir. In my statement I said I could not recall the actual—what took place that particular day on why it was in the report other than it could have been along that line. I could not remember the event really or why it was in the report.

Mr. PREYER. So you don't know why they were removed from the fire station.

Mr. REDDITT. No, sir.

Mr. PREYER. I have no further questions on that at this time.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Devine.

Mr. DEVINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Redditt, at the time you were an officer in the Memphis Police Department, did you have any knowledge or any reason to believe that there was any conspiracy by any law enforcement agency, the Memphis Police Department or the FBI, to set up Dr. King?

Mr. REDDITT. No, sir, during the time I was a police officer, I did not, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. And has any information come to your attention since that incident or since you have left the police department

that would lead you to believe that there was any type of a conspiracy by any law enforcement agency to set up Dr. King?

Mr. REDDITT. Other than hearsay, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. What type of hearsay, from what source?

Mr. REDDITT. Well, some newspapers have printed, there has been some conversation on it. There is a lot of implications, I mean a lot of statements made by the community that the Memphis Police Department was responsible, could have been responsible for what occurred. Everything pointed to the police department at the beginning of it.

Mr. DEVINE. But as you say, it was hearsay. It was speculation. None of it was supported by evidence.

Mr. REDDITT. No facts.

Mr. DEVINE. That is all, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from the District of Columbia, Mr. Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Redditt, I want to refresh my memory specifically on testimony given by both you and Inspector Tines on the question of why Mr. Newsum may have been felt to be sympathetic to the strike, and, therefore, not cooperative in the surveillance effort. But in response to a question from Congressman Preyer, you stated that you had no idea why Mr. Newsum was the considered—would have been considered a problem in terms of your surveillance posting.

Mr. REDDITT. Other than what I said in the memo, whether the memo had something to do with it, I still don't know who removed him.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I wonder if you would state for us what your recollection of the memo is.

Mr. REDDITT. Word for word, the only thing I can think of was the interference, in that he had sympathies toward sanitation strike, that it may be an interference with his presence being there. That is the only thing I can recollect.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Do you recall at any time having a conversation with Inspector Tines where this question was discussed?

Mr. REDDITT. I don't remember.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Do you recall that the memo itself made reference to a conversation with you?

Mr. REDDITT. The only thing I remember is the memo being shown to me at the executive session, and I don't really recall everything that was in that memo.

Mr. FAUNTROY. But it is your testimony to this committee at this time under oath that you do not recall yourself having the feeling that Mr. Newsum's presence at the surveillance post with you might be the source of interference with that function.

Mr. REDDITT. No, sir. I answered the question that I didn't know who removed him from the post.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Do you have any idea why he was removed?

Mr. REDDITT. It could have been from the memo or it could not have been. The memo was about him.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Can you think of any other logical reason, other than the reason stated in the memo?

Mr. REDDITT. I would be drawing a conclusion or opinion because there were two Black firemen. One was mentioned. Why both were removed, that is an opinion.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I wonder, Mr. Redditt, if you would just care to state in summary your response to the allegation that you, as a part of the assigned security for Dr. King, were stripped from that assignment and from the scene 2 hours prior to the assassination of Dr. King, and that in your role as a security person you had a plan to protect Dr. King in the event of any untoward event.

Mr. REDDITT. I don't understand that.

Mr. FAUNTROY. You don't understand?

Mr. REDDITT. I don't understand the question, no, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. During our executive session, of course we went over this point many, many times. Counsel for the committee, Mr. Johnson, has revealed in the statement which he provided you from that executive session, reminded you that you had been characterized on national TV and in a number of public contexts as having the suspicion that you were stripped from the scene for the reason that you were conducting security on Dr. King, and had a plan to protect Dr. King, should any untoward event occur. I ask directly and in summary fashion of you a statement with respect to that characterization of you and your role at that time.

Mr. REDDITT. The role of where again as I expressed in the summary, I can think of no plan, protection from that standpoint. The only thing again, this is either cosmetic or whatever at the time, again as I stated, that everybody, every police officer should have some plan of action for whatever activities, and the only role that it could have played again was getting communications out to the units in the area, on the phone to the police department, to alerting them very quickly. Possibly again I made the statement that though it has not been substantiated by my partner, he was to remain at the window and I would go to the front, which still does not protect Dr. King. My going to the front of the building where the cars supposedly tact squads are of seeing some running, that again is a plan that you don't know what you are going to carry out anyway. No one knows what they are going to do anyway until it happens, so that was again in conversation, and then not in communication of fact.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Chairman, may I reserve the balance of my 5 minutes until such time as I have had to check?

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman reserves his time.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Dodd.

Mr. DODD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Redditt, to whom did you report? Who was your principal superior on April 4 to whom you were accountable?

Mr. REDDITT. I was accountable on the intelligence to Inspector Tines.

Mr. DODD. Did you at any time have any direct communication with Mr. Holloman?

Mr. REDDITT. Only when I was summoned to the headquarters in the conference room.

Mr. DODD. What sort of information did you gather at the time you were conducting surveillance?



Mr. REDDITT. Basically again out-of-town license plates, persons that were familiar or unfamiliar, depending on their character. On one occasion we were told to look for No. 3 license plates, which is Hamilton County, Tenn.

Mr. DODD. I am sorry, I didn't hear you.

Mr. REDDITT. We were told at one point to look for license plates No. 3, which is Hamilton County, Tenn. The reason was that they may have expected that those persons with those license plates may be a part of probably blowing up the sanitation strikes, I mean the barns or whatever, so that was again part of the role of looking for that.

Mr. DODD. Did you have any information, photographs, descriptions of people that might have been provided to you by the FBI?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. DODD. Did you prepare written reports on your surveillance activities?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. DODD. And those were submitted to Mr. Tines, did you say?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes; Tines.

Mr. DODD. Tines, directly to him.

To your knowledge, was Mr. Holloman aware of your assignment in a surveillance capacity?

Mr. REDDITT. I have no way of knowing it, sir. I would think. Again this is an opinion, I don't know.

Mr. DODD. You would assume he would know.

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. DODD. That would be normal operating procedure—

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. DODD [continuing]. As director of safety and fire, he would be aware—

Mr. REDDITT. Right.

Mr. DODD [continuing]. Who was conducting surveillance.

At the time you were removed from your surveillance position at the firehouse, did you have a conversation with Mr. Holloman?

Mr. REDDITT. When I was removed, I was carried to his conference room, to his presence.

Mr. DODD. Can you describe that conversation?

Mr. REDDITT. Again only that he was stating that there had been a contract and that a person there had flown in to relate this message and that they had secured a place at the Holiday Inn for my family and myself.

Mr. DODD. Did he ask you, did Mr. Holloman ask you, about what sort of information you had collected in your surveillance capacity?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. DODD. Was there any discussion of the quality of your work?

Mr. REDDITT. No; none of that.

Mr. DODD. Were you aware at the time that Mr. Holloman was a former agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

Mr. REDDITT. No; I knew that he had been an FBI agent formerly, retired FBI agent.

Mr. DODD. You knew that in 1968?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. DODD. Did you know or do you know what the COINTEL program is?

Mr. REDDITT. Who?

Mr. DODD. COINTELPRO; counterintelligence program?

Mr. REDDITT. I was not familiar with that.

Mr. DODD. You were not familiar with it at all? You weren't familiar, for instance, with the fact that there was a story circulated on March 29 of 1968 from the COINTELPRO that Dr. King was staying in a plush, white-owned hotel? Are you familiar with that story at all?

Mr. REDDITT. I am familiar with it, but I didn't know what source it came from.

Mr. DODD. You don't have any knowledge whatsoever of what the counterintelligence program is or was.

I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I reserve my time for a moment, Mr. Chairman, and yield back to the delegate from Washington, Mr. Fauntroy.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman reserves the balance of his time and yields to the gentleman from the District of Columbia, Mr. Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Redditt, I want to read several portions of testimony in our executive session with you, and to ascertain whether or not this remains the truth today.

Counsel for the committee, Mr. Akers, said:

Mr. Redditt, I would like to get one other thing clarified. Do you recall that on April 3, 1970, two black firemen were transferred from fire station No. 2 at Southmain Building?

You replied:

Yes, I heard about it.

Mr. Akers said:

You heard about it? Did you ever state that you felt that in particular the removal of Fireman Newsum was connected to the conspiracy in that you felt that you and he were the two most likely persons around the fire station to be able to identify strange persons in the area and perhaps identify and apprehend an assailant or assassin?

Your reply:

Well, I related this from—well, this was hearsay. I probably related it to somebody else what I had heard.

Mr. AKERS. Well, do you recall stating that to me in our interview in December of 1976?

Mr. REDDITT. It is possible.

Mr. AKERS. Well, you did say that to me. Mr. Redditt, Inspector Tines has testified before this committee and he has testified under oath to the fact that you called him up on April 3 and indicated to him, or somehow communicated to him that you had a concern about one of two Black firemen in the firestation No. 2 because you knew they were involved in militant activities and sympathetic to strikers, to the strikers, and involved in the strike activities, and you felt that they would be a problem with respect to yours and Richmond's observation post. And pursuant to that communication, Inspector Tines then called someone in the Memphis Fire Department and stated the problem and thereafter, as we know, the firemen were transferred. Do you recall talking to Inspector Tines about this?

Mr. REDDITT. I remember writing it. Richmond and I discussed it, and on break Richmond said the guy was giving him a hard way to go, so we decided to write it up as such, that not Wise but Newsum had given us a hard way to go, and was going to give us a hard way to go and stay on his back.

Mr. AKERS. So then it is a fact that you communicated at least in written material about their presence?

Mr. REDDITT. That is right.

Mr. AKERS. Then wouldn't that be a fact, that that is the reason the black firemen were transferred in the first place?

Mr. REDDITT. It could be a possibility. Why both? I was talking about one. Well, it was an assumption.

Mr. Redditt, is that pretty much still accurate, the responses that you gave to us in executive session?

Mr. REDDITT. That was after reading the memo.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Say that again.

Mr. REDDITT. That was—I read the memo on that particular thing when the answer was given.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And your statements there are statements which you would make today?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve my time and yield back to anyone who may wish to be yielded to. If not—

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman reserves the balance of his time, which is 1 minute, and the Chair now recognizes counsel to the committee, Mr. Johnson.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, with the committee's permission, I would like to go over to the diagram and illustrate the situation.

Chairman STOKES. You may proceed.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Redditt, can you see this diagram that is illustrated here and would I be correct in suggesting that this adequately depicts the crime scene on Main, Butler, Huling, and Mulberry Streets showing the fire station, the roominghouse and the Lorraine Motel?

Mr. REDDITT. That is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. Would I be correct then in the back of Fire Station No. 2, which is the locker room located here, would be the window that one would be able to look out and get an eastward view of the Lorraine Motel? Would I be correct about that?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. Dr. King was located in room 306, here. To get to the Lorraine Motel, and I am not sure whether you were aware of it or not but let me ask, were you aware of the fact that at this particular time the back door, which would lead out onto Mulberry Street, which would assume easy accessibility to the Lorraine Motel, did you know that at the time that your surveillance post was set up there, that that door was locked?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. All right. You didn't have the key?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. All right, so if you were to leave the back of the fire station to get to the Lorraine Motel, assuming something had happened to Dr. King, your journey would then take you back into the center of the firehouse, take you north out of the side door which led to a parking area out here, take you east to this embankment which is approximately 9 feet high. You would then have to jump over the embankment, then run north on Mulberry street because there is an embankment here about 8 feet, enter the

courtyard, go up the circle of steps, go west—go east again and then to room 306. Would I be correct about that?

Mr. REDDITT. You would be correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. All right. Now I direct your attention to page 131 of Mark Lane's book, and I am directing your specific attention to the third paragraph.

Mr. REDDITT. Which book is that, counsel?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is Code Name "Zorro", The Murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., Mark Lane and Dick Gregory, which has been marked as exhibit F-185.

Now let me read to you, Mr. Redditt, from the third paragraph here. It says:

According to Redditt

I am quoting now, at least Mark Lane is quoting you, I gather \* \* \*

about half an hour, no more than 2 hours before Dr. King's assassination lieutenant Arkin, who was in intelligence, came down to the station. He said, Ed, they want to see you at headquarters. Redditt was reluctant to leave his post, to abandon the entire security operation to Richmond. Redditt had difficulty leaving, since his plan to cut off a potential escape from the scene, should there be an attempt on Dr. King's life, was predicated upon a functioning team of at least two men.

Now my question to you, Mr. Redditt, does Mr. Lane in his quote here adequately set out the situation of that afternoon?

Mr. REDDITT. No. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. Then, as this appeared in Mr. Lane's book, it is absolutely erroneous; am I correct about that?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. I have no further questions.

One additional question. You have been asked earlier about a plan. You seem to have suggested "being a policeman maybe I had some ideas in mind about doing something to protect Dr. King," but Mr. Redditt, did there ever come a time, on either the 4th or the 3d or any time before that you went to any of these buildings and checked them out to see whether or not there was anything that might give way to an assassin being in any of those buildings?

Mr. REDDITT. No.

Mr. JOHNSON. Did you ever, knowing the parking area here and the bushes on the embankment that leads directly over to Mulberry Street, did you ever go through the parking lot and maybe either on the afternoon of the 3d or the morning or afternoon of the 4th, just kind of walk through there and look around to see if anybody was sitting over there?

Mr. REDDITT. No; the only thing was by the fire station.

Mr. JOHNSON. So if there ever was a time that you had a plan, the formulation of which was merely in your mind, no more, no less?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. Because at no time, assuming that you had a plan, did you ever undertake any kind of surveillance or security or whatever to implement. Would I be right then in assuming that even if you had a plan, you weren't sure yourself what the plan would be, assuming that something would happen to Dr. King? Am I correct about that?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from the District of Columbia is recognized for 1 minute, the balance of his time.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr. Redditt, two quick questions.

One, in response to Mr. Preyer's question about a plan, did not Mr. Newsum in fact perform this service of surveillance, with respect to the actual event of Dr. King's assassination, that you would have performed had you been at that window at that time?

Mr. REDDITT. I missed that. Did you say Mr. Newsum?

Mr. FAUNTROY. Yes. I mean Mr. Richmond, I am very sorry, please forgive me. Mr. Richmond.

Mr. REDDITT. Would you repeat the question again, Congressman?

Mr. FAUNTROY. You indicated in response to a question here that you would have contacted security authorities around the city had you seen it from that window. Did Mr. Newsum do that—Mr. Richmond?

Mr. REDDITT. I am not aware of that, sir. I was not there.

Mr. FAUNTROY. You don't know that he did that.

Second, I have just this question which will require I think perhaps an extended answer by you. That is, you know the allegation of conspiracy that has come to be woven around your presence in Memphis and in the fire station during that week. That allegation is that you were stripped as security from the scene by a police chief who, prior to becoming police chief in Memphis, had been for 25 years employed by the FBI, some several years of that period very close to J. Edgar Hoover, and that the reason given for your stripping had to do with a threat on your life that the police chief felt merited his removing you from that post.

I wonder if you would just, in light of what you now know, state to the committee how you think we should evaluate that allegation of conspiracy.

Mr. REDDITT. Quite a task.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Yes, it is.

Mr. SMOTHERS. Congressman, I am not sure that the question is completely clear to the witness. Are you asking with respect to his own testimony or with respect to other matters that may have been considered by this committee of which he may be aware?

Mr. FAUNTROY. I am asking him to respond with respect to his own knowledge of his own role, and his understanding of the reasons for his removal.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired. The Chair will permit the witness to answer the question if he can.

Mr. REDDITT. I think, again on the more information that I have received or know of or have been made aware of, as far as my involvement within the total assassination, I feel that my part or my function in the police department at that time would add—did not add anything, was not a part, would not have been a part of a scheme or a plan or a conspiracy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that answers the question, and just to be clear, you are stating that if there were a conspiracy, you do not believe that your removal was a part of it?

Mr. REDDITT. Correct.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney, has reserved the balance of his time.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Redditt, I just want to get one last point clear just once more as firmly as I can.

In your questioning in our executive session, you and Mr. Akers, staff counsel, discussed an interview you had with the British Broadcasting Co. Counsel said, "Did you tell the representatives of the British Broadcasting Co. that you were assigned to security for Dr. King on April the 4th?"

Your reply was, "I really wouldn't recall."

Counsel then said, "If you did, are you now prepared to retract such a statement?"

You answered, "Yes."

Is that answer the same today?

Mr. REDDITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. No further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Do any other members seek recognition? Does counsel for the committee have any further questions, Mr. Johnson?

Mr. JOHNSON. I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Redditt, under the rules of our committee, at the conclusion of a witness' testimony, either the witness or his counsel may be recognized for 5 minutes for the purpose of in any way explaining or amplifying the witness' testimony. I would extend to either you or Mr. Smothers at this time 5 minutes for that purpose.

Mr. SMOTHERS. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me thank the committee for the cooperation that we have received here in the scheduling of this appearance at a time convenient for both Mr. Redditt and counsel.

Counsel's only observation for the committee would, I believe, center around the central question which has been raised by many members, and that is the nature of the activity to which Mr. Redditt was assigned on April 3 and 4.

It is apparent I believe from both the previous testimony and the record here today that Mr. Redditt began originally assigned to an intelligence unit, was at the time of the arrival of Dr. King at the airport assigned to the task of providing security, and that for reasons that are clear on the record that that security, at least in terms of a direct and close-in security, was withdrawn.

I think that beyond that point the question of the nature of this witness' activity, whether it was to be classified strictly as security or surveillance, is a matter which the committee clearly understands it must resolve. Our only concern would be that in the interpretation of this witness' testimony that we understand here that we may in fact be dealing with terms of art. The problem is of course who defines those terms of art.

We had, in attempting to develop for you today a clear dichotomy between the security and surveillance activities, discussed the situation of other persons who are assigned to guard a presidential parade route, for example. The difference between an officer who is 20 blocks away and watching the character and conduct of persons

in the area as distinguished from those who may be immediately around the person to be protected.

I think it is clear from this record that the information provided to Mr. Redditt did not in fact put him in a position to make a clear distinction. I think it would be fair to say from this evidence that after the direction to withdraw from the immediate area of Dr. King, that some kind of watching, some kind of surveillance, did in fact continue until such time as he was withdrawn.

We believe that the committee's efforts will clearly demonstrate many reasons not apparent to Mr. Redditt for those determinations, which were made by superiors in the department. If the testimony today has, and we hope it has, helped the committee in looking at this dichotomy between security and surveillance, then it appears that Mr. Redditt has been helpful as a witness. Beyond that, we have simply attempted to aid the committee in providing that factual information which will complete the committee's record.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you, Mr. Smothers.

Does the committee have anything further? If not, then thank you, Mr. Redditt, for appearing. Thank you, Mr. Smothers, for your appearance here.

The witness is excused.

Mr. SMOTHERS. Thank you.

Chairman STOKES. There being no further proceedings to come before the committee at this time in this morning's session, the committee will now recess until 2 p.m., this afternoon.

[Whereupon, at 11:50 a.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene at 2 p.m.]

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman STOKES. The committee will come to order.  
The Chair recognizes Professor Blakey.

#### NARRATION BY PROFESSOR BLAKEY

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Evidence heard by the committee in executive session indicates that the transfers of Firemen Newsum and Wallace may indeed have been recommended by Detective Redditt. His superior officer, Inspector Graydon P. Tines, testified before an executive session of the committee that Detective Redditt expressed concern over the presence of Mr. Newsum, a supporter of the striking sanitation workers. It was Detective Redditt's opinion, according to Inspector Tines, that Mr. Newsum might compromise the security of his surveillance post.

Inspector Tines further testified that he informed the fire department of Detective Redditt's concern, and the fire department responded by transferring both Mr. Newsum and Wallace, the only other Black firemen in the station.

The committee also learned that on the morning of April 3, Dr. King was met at the airport by a four-man police security detail commanded by Inspector Don Smith. On arrival at the Lorraine, the detail was increased to seven officers. Nevertheless, the detail was disbanded that same afternoon, leaving Dr. King virtually unprotected.

The committee has further learned that police tact units, consisting of three cars and 12 officers, were assigned to the vicinity of the Lorraine and were on patrol on April 3 and April 4. The tact units, however, were withdrawn shortly before the assassination.

To account for the removal of the security detail and the tact units and to comment on the other allegations of official complicity, the committee has called Mr. Frank Holloman. Mr. Holloman, as director of fire and safety in Memphis in April 1968, was the official with ultimate responsibility for the removal of Detective Redditt. In addition, he is the accountable official for all of the actions of the Memphis Police Department.

A retired FBI agent, Mr. Holloman once served in the office of Director J. Edgar Hoover. He has served as Special Agent in Charge of FBI Field Offices in Jackson, Miss., Atlanta, and Cincinnati. He left the FBI in 1946 to practice law in Laurel, Miss.

Mr. Holloman rejoined the FBI in 1948 and subsequently served in Louisville, Los Angeles, and at FBI Headquarters in Washington. In 1959 he was assigned to the Memphis field office, where he remained until his retirement from the FBI in 1964.

Mr. Holloman was director of the development for Memphis State University from 1964 to 1966, and executive director of the Mid-South Medical Center Council for Comprehensive Health Planning until January 1, 1968.

Mr. Holloman served as director of fire and safety in the city of Memphis from 1968 through 1970. He is presently executive director of Future Memphis, Inc.

It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to call Mr. Holloman.

Chairman STOKES. The committee calls Mr. Holloman.

Do you solemnly swear the testimony you will give before this committee is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. I do.

**TESTIMONY OF MR. FRANK C. HOLLOWAN, FORMER DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND SAFETY, MEMPHIS, TENN.**

Chairman STOKES. Thank you. You may be seated. The Chair recognizes counsel for the committee, Mr. Mark Speiser.

Mr. SPEISER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Holloman, I welcome you to Washington.

You have had the opportunity to hear our chief counsel, Mr. Blakey, briefly allude to your career with the FBI. I would like to ask you some more penetrating questions about your career with the Bureau and begin with that area of questioning on this point.

Would you state for the record what your professional occupation is. I am led to believe that you are a lawyer by training. Is that accurate?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. When did you first join the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. June of 1937.

Mr. SPEISER. While with the Bureau, did you succeed to positions of a supervisory nature?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes, sir.



Mr. SPEISER. Isn't it a fact that there came a time when you were appointed agent in charge of certain field offices of the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you recapitulate for the committee the dates that you were assigned to field offices and the offices themselves where you served as the SAC, that is, the special agent in charge?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. This is from memory and I will be inaccurate as far as specific dates are concerned. But I was agent in charge in Jackson, Miss., in 1943. I was there for a very short time, several months. Then I was transferred to Atlanta, Ga., and was there in 1943, 1944, and then I was transferred to Cincinnati probably in 1945, and I resigned from the FBI in 1946 while I was agent in charge at the Cincinnati office. After that, when I went back to the FBI, I was agent in charge of the Memphis office for a few months. I went there in August of 1959 and was agent in charge until March, or the spring of 1960.

Mr. SPEISER. What are the general functions of a SAC of an FBI field office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. He is the individual who is in charge of the office and has general overall administrative supervision of the office, its operations, and those who are assigned to it.

Mr. SPEISER. Who within the Bureau were you directly reportable to? Was it Mr. Hoover? At least while you were serving in the FBI.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say yes. Yes.

Mr. SPEISER. Did there come a time when you in fact became very close professionally with Mr. Hoover during your career with the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you elaborate on that, please?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I was inspector in charge of his office here in Washington going back now from 1959—I believe from about 1952 until August of 1959.

Mr. SPEISER. For a period of 7 years you were inspector in charge of Mr. Hoover's office. What are the duties and responsibilities incumbent with that position?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I supervised the clerical employees in the office. I was the only agent in the office and I was the general supervisor of the office itself, and I also reviewed the memoranda, documents that went into his office, except correspondence which went directly to his secretary, his executive secretary, and I generally was in charge of people seeing Mr. Hoover; making appointments, and advising him as to who he was to see or who wished to see him.

Mr. SPEISER. This lasted for a period of approximately 7 years?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Seven years, yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. How were you selected for that position?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. He selected me. It was just a selection on his part.

Mr. SPEISER. Prior to being selected to that position, you had served as agent in charge of several field offices?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Before that, I was in Washington in a supervisory position in what was then called the crime records section or division of the FBI.

Mr. SPEISER. Would you characterize your position as a fairly influential position within the Bureau, that is, as an inspector in charge?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not from the standpoint of policy. In other words, I had no policy responsibility, to speak of. I was more as an aide, you might say, to the Director as far as supervising his office was concerned. But those who made the policy and who were responsible for the policy were the associate director at that time and the assistant directors.

Mr. SPEISER. As you previously stated, you had the opportunity to review reports that were furnished to the Director for his recommendation or decision. I imagine then that on occasions Mr. Hoover solicited your opinions and sought your input on decisions that had to be made on the reports that you were bringing to his attention?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. That is inaccurate?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. You never made any contribution concerning policy matters to Mr. Hoover?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Very little. Very infrequently, if hardly at all. In other words, I was a transmission belt, and I had nothing to do really with policymaking in the FBI.

Mr. SPEISER. What function would be served by your merely reading material prior to being read by the Director if in fact your views or opinions were not solicited? Why would you be there to read the mail prior to its going to Mr. Hoover?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. My purpose was to see that his instructions were carried out and that memoranda or documents that were sent into him were properly prepared, knowing what his policy was as to what he desired in a memorandum, and then if there was some question there as to whether or not that was complete or not complete, then I would go back to the assistant director and have it corrected before I would send it into the Director.

Mr. SPEISER. In other words, to a substantial degree you played a fairly important role in the implementation of policy that was effectuated by Mr. Hoover?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Implementation, no, sir. I would say that we had a system at that time, what we called the—I forgot what we called the system, but there were certain memoranda that would come into him in which he would issue instructions in writing on those memoranda, and it was my responsibility to see that those instructions were answered by the individual to whom those instructions were issued.

Mr. SPEISER. You precisely responded in the fashion that I had hoped you would. That is, from what you have just said, I would characterize your function as one of an implementer of policy.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I wouldn't characterize my position as that important. I was more the transmission going in and out.

Mr. SPEISER. Didn't you just state that whatever decisions emanated from Mr. Hoover's office, it was your responsibility to see that they were answered?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Was your relationship with Mr. Hoover social in addition to professional?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. So you had no personal contact with Mr. Hoover outside of the office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Very little.

Mr. SPEISER. While you were with Mr. Hoover in his office as inspector in charge, did you have the opportunity to discuss with him Dr. Martin Luther King or the movement that he was leading?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It is my recollection that Mr. Hoover never mentioned Dr. Martin Luther King to me at any time or discussed him with me at any time while I was in Washington.

Mr. SPEISER. Is it your recollection, then, that at least during the period 1952 through 1959, a 7-year span, that Mr. Hoover was not focusing upon Dr. Martin Luther King either as a subject of possible concern to the Bureau or the movement that he was affiliated with?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my knowledge. Now, let me explain one thing. When you said did he discuss it with me, Mr. Hoover discussed very little if anything with me. If I went into his office, it was to deliver something to him, and he didn't call me in and ask my opinion on matters or discuss matters that were happening in the FBI at that time.

Mr. SPEISER. Let me approach my point from a different angle. I believe you previously testified one of your functions was to review much of the incoming correspondence that was directed toward Mr. Hoover.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes.

Mr. SPEISER. Do you recall during that period that you were inspector in charge reading any correspondence that was concerned with programs of the FBI directed toward Dr. Martin Luther King or the civil rights movement with which he was affiliated?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not that I can recall there was any interest as long as I was there up until August of 1959.

Mr. SPEISER. So if I may summarize your testimony, you have no recollection of ever discussing with Mr. Hoover the Bureau's attitude toward Dr. King, or reviewing any correspondence generated within the Bureau focusing upon Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. To the best of my knowledge, I would say that is correct.

Mr. SPEISER. Following the cessation of your tour of duty as an inspector in charge, you returned to the field; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I beg your pardon?

Mr. SPEISER. Following the termination of your position as inspector in charge did you return to a field office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes; I was agent in charge of the Memphis office.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you have any discussion with Mr. Hoover concerning Dr. King while you were the agent in charge of the Memphis office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my recollection, no, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. What type of activities did you specialize in while you were a member of the FBI? As I understand it, certain agents

are assigned to bank robbery squads, to espionage. What type of work were you primarily concerned with?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. General criminal work almost exclusively. At no time can I recall was I working on internal security matters, as we referred to them. I would investigate bank robberies and criminal cases almost exclusively while I was in the FBI.

Mr. SPEISER. You performed a fair amount of intelligence-type work then; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. You did no intelligence-type work while you were with the bureau?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir, not that I can recall. In other words, I was doing criminal investigations, like a bank robbery. I handled several of the bank robbery investigations that occurred in Memphis at that time, and that had no connection with intelligence.

Mr. SPEISER. So at no time while you were with the FBI were you involved in any surveillance-type activities or information-gathering activities for the Bureau indices; is that your testimony?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Not to my recollection, in the vein in which you ask me the question. I may have had a criminal informant during my tenure, but that was strictly a criminal investigation-type informant who would give me information regarding criminal activities. I probably did have, all of us I would say generally had, informants in the Bureau.

Mr. SPEISER. Let me ask you this question: If to the best of your recollection you were not personally involved in intelligence-type work, did you ever through your position as agent in charge of several field offices become knowledgeable about the activities of the FBI in the intelligence-gathering field?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Oh, yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Following your departure from the Bureau, as Mr. Blakey indicated in his narration, you held several positions until, I understand it, January 1 of 1968. At that time you were appointed director of Memphis police. At that time you succeeded to the position of director of police and fire safety of the city of Memphis; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes, I did. The title was director of fire and police.

Mr. SPEISER. Was that an appointed position or elected position?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. It was an appointed position.

Mr. SPEISER. How were you appointed, and by whom?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. The mayor at that time, the newly elected mayor appointed me to the position.

On January 1 of 1968, to give you some view of what was happening, a new form of government came into effect in Memphis. Before that they had a commissioner form of government. Then we had a council and mayor form of government. Mayor Henry Loeb was elected the first mayor. I did not know him personally or well. In other words, he was not someone that I was on a very close relationship with, and I was advised as to whether or not I would consider the appointment to this position of director of fire and police. My first answer was no. I was then approached the second and third time, and on the third occasion there were several prominent businessmen in Memphis who urged me to take the position

as they thought it was a public duty that I should accept. And I did accept it, on the condition that the mayor would not interfere with the operations of the police department or the fire department, and that relationship was agreed to and was complied with.

Mr. SPEISER. Apparently Mayor Loeb was fairly determined to have you fill that position of director if he made at least three efforts directly and indirectly to have you assume that position?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. That's my impression; yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Is Mayor Loeb still alive or is he deceased?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, he is alive, and he lives in Forrest City, Ark.

Mr. SPEISER. What were his attitudes toward Blacks?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. It's hard for me to tell you what his attitudes were toward the Blacks. Now, I will say this, that when I was appointed director I was either the second or third director that was appointed, and I began to meet with him before January 1 regarding what his plans were, and so forth, and at that time I learned from him that he did not plan to appoint a Black as a director. And I insisted that he definitely should do so. And as a result of that he did appoint a Black as one of his directors. Now for me to tell you what his attitude toward the Blacks was would be very difficult for me to say. He never indicated to me any, let's say, racist attitudes toward the Blacks. Obviously I will say this, that his reputation in the community was that he had somewhat racist attitudes. But I cannot tell you what his attitudes were because I really don't know, and he didn't give me any information on which I can base a true answer to your question.

Mr. SPEISER. I believe when we met yesterday for the first time, you indicated to me, that it was your opinion that Mr. Loeb was a racist. Did I misunderstand you? Were you conveying to me what you understood to be the community's understanding and perception of Mr. Loeb?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. The latter, the perception of the Black community in Memphis. He was not liked by the Black community in Memphis.

Mr. SPEISER. But you, yourself, having had 25 years of law enforcement with the FBI and being trained to be a person to evaluate people, were unable to draw a conclusion then, and even now, as to Mayor Loeb's attitudes toward Blacks?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. In my opinion I don't think he was a racist.

Mr. SPEISER. Yet his reputation was such within the community?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes.

Mr. SPEISER. What were your duties as director of police and fire safety?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. I had general supervision and responsibility for the fire department and the police department.

Mr. SPEISER. Who was the chief of police at that time?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Mr. J. C. Macdonald.

Mr. SPEISER. And of the fire department?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Mr. Eddie Hamilton.

Mr. SPEISER. Between the period of January 1, 1968, when you were appointed to that position by Mayor Loeb, and April 4, 1968, when Dr. King was assassinated, would you characterize yourself as a mere figurehead occupying the position of director of police and fire safety, or were you involved in the formulation and imple-

mentation of policy and the actual operational phase of the police department?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I was not involved directly in the everyday operational procedures of the department at that time, and I will explain it in this way: I took office on January 1. At that time we were faced with several, \$3 or \$4 million deficits, in the city government, and by law we could not on July 1 have a deficit. So, from January 1 until February 15, about when the sanitation strike—I was involved deeply in fiscal matters. In other words, we were trying to see how we were going to cut back in operating expenses, and so forth, in order to come up to a July 1 deadline with no deficit.

Then, of course, after the sanitation strike I was involved with the problems of a strike with two demonstrations a day. But I did not walk into the fire department and the police department as director and say from now on I am taking over. As a matter of fact, to illustrate as far as the police department is concerned—and I am not in this way trying to say I was not responsible; I was director of fire and police and I was responsible, but Hamilton was one of the finest fire chiefs this country has ever had and he ran the fire department.

I was also permitting Chief Macdonald to run the police department. When there would be meetings as to what was happening during the sanitation strike as far as demonstrations and what not were concerned, I would go from my office over to his office instead of them coming to my office to report to me; I would go to his office, where the field commanders were reporting to him, in order to observe and to hear what was going on in the field. So I am not trying to in any way dodge my responsibility. I accept that. But I will say that in all fairness, the day-to-day operations of both the fire department and the police department at that time were handled by the chiefs of those respective departments.

Mr. SPEISER. I imagine that Mr. Loeb hired you for one of two reasons, either because you shared the same political beliefs that he possessed or, alternatively, because of your past experience, which was quite substantial, 25 years with the FBI, the most reputable law enforcement agency in the eyes of many people; either one of those two reasons were the foundation for your selection as opposed to any fiscal know-how that you might possess?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would assume that; yes.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you delineate, then, focusing upon the police department, what your responsibilities were vis-a-vis Mr. Macdonald, the chief of police? Between January 1, 1968, and the date of the assassination.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right. I do delineate between the two because I think he was in charge of the everyday operational procedures in the department. I am not saying that I was not involved in any policy matters that might have come up at that time. And later on after that when the new chief of police came in, I will tell you that I was very active in the operations and the whole administration of the police department.

Mr. SPEISER. Were you involved in decisions concerning the transfer of personnel from one fire station to another or one police station to another?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. That did not fall within your province?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. That was within the discretion of someone below you?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. What was the nature of the relationship between the Memphis Police Department while you served as director and the Memphis office of the FBI?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Very cordial, cooperative relationship.

Mr. SPEISER. Would you say it was rather unique in the sense that here was an individual, namely yourself, who headed up both the FBI office and the police department? That in and of itself I would imagine would contribute to a harmonious relationship to the two?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It was unique but not for the reasons you gave. This relationship had existed for many years, and it did not change when I came there. In other words, it had been a very close, cooperative operation between the two departments. It continued after I came there, but it was not because it was me who was added. This situation existed. This was something that had existed for years and it was well known.

Mr. SPEISER. You say it was a well-known fact that the Memphis FBI and the Memphis Police Department worked well together?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Worked what?

Mr. SPEISER. Worked well together.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right.

Mr. SPEISER. Probably more so than in the other areas where you served as either an FBI special agent or as agent in charge of the office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say so; yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Was there a two-way street in terms of the flow of information?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes.

Mr. SPEISER. Intelligence information?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. As far as I can recall, there was.

Mr. SPEISER. Was it the normal practice of the Memphis Police Department to furnish the FBI office in Memphis with intelligence information that it felt fell within the province of the FBI, and likewise for the FBI office in Memphis to furnish the police department in Memphis with information that it felt fell within its jurisdiction?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Were there agents still working in the Memphis FBI office who were there while you were director of the Memphis Police Department, and before that SAC of the Memphis FBI office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. In other words, there were agents that worked under you while you were SAC who were still there while you were with the Memphis Police Department?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Were there a number of them?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. When you ask me a question, I was trying to in my own mind, trying to remember their names and how many it was. I would say it would have been somewhere between 5 and 10, but I couldn't be more specific.

Mr. SPEISER. Was Mr. Jensen there?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No; he was the agent in charge who came in—he was not an agent. Mr. Jensen was not an agent while I was agent in charge.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you work well with Mr. Jensen?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Oh, yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. When you succeeded to the position of director of the Memphis Police Department, did you pay particular attention and express more than casual interest in the intelligence area of the Memphis Police Department?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. At what time?

Mr. SPEISER. When you first came on.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. I believe when you first joined the Memphis Police Department they didn't even have an intelligence division, that it was really in an embryonic stage, and because of your past experience with the most well-known and largest source of intelligence-type information, that you took a special interest in trying to develop the intelligence division of the Memphis Police Department. Is that accurate or inaccurate?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say it is accurate as to a point. I cannot pinpoint as to when I first arrived there. I would say that yes, I was interested, and particularly during those times, I was interested in intelligence and later on I was very much involved in and did push for a good, efficient intelligence bureau.

Mr. SPEISER. Are you familiar with the counterintelligence program of the FBI that is commonly alluded to by the acronym COINTELPRO?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No; except that there is a faint recollection that I have of a program of that type. That name means absolutely nothing to me. If it was called that, I do not recall it being that name in the FBI, but as far as the Communist Party was concerned, I have a faint recollection that there were some types of tactics similar to these that were probably followed. I don't recall anything of this kind going outside of possibly the Communist Party sphere or area.

Mr. SPEISER. Up until the date April 4, 1968, is it your testimony that you, Frank Holloman, were unaware of any program initiated by the FBI targeting Dr. King, the main purpose of which was to discredit Dr. King among his peers?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. It is your testimony you are unfamiliar with that?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I am unfamiliar with that.

Mr. SPEISER. At any time prior to Dr. King's arrival in Memphis on April 3, 1968, did you partake in any way, shape, fashion, or form, in the selection of the hotel that Dr. King would stay in?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. There have been suggestions that perhaps you were cognizant of an effort by the FBI to direct Dr. King toward hotels which were white-owned and plush motels, the purpose of which



would be to discredit Dr. King in the eyes of his black followers, and that you, as director of the police and fire safety in Memphis, knowingly assisted the FBI in implementing their program—

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is untrue. As a matter of fact, when he was there on a previous occasion, when he stayed at the Peabody Hotel I didn't even recall him being at the Peabody Hotel until I read some of the reports at that time.

Mr. SPEISER. You made no effort to direct Dr. King toward the Rivermont Hotel in Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir; absolutely not.

Mr. SPEISER. During the period that you were director of police and fire safety in Memphis from January 1, 1968, until Dr. King's April 3d visit to your city, did the police department under your direction furnish anybody with any security protection?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not that I recall, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Dr. King was the first person while you served as director for whom your department offered and in fact implemented security precautions for?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. SPEISER. From your experience with the FBI, you were aware, then, that the FBI normally does not engage in the service of providing protection for individuals who may be the targets of threats; is that accurate?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. The FBI?

Mr. SPEISER. The FBI. They normally do not involve themselves in furnishing protection?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Correct. I never knew for them to do so.

Mr. SPEISER. So that is a primary mission of a local police department, if in fact such protection is to be afforded?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Prior to Dr. King's April 3, 1968 visit to Memphis, did you personally become aware that there were threats that were directed toward Dr. King that might materialize if he arrived in Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't recall them myself at this time nor since this investigation has been going on. I have read reports which have alluded to the fact that there were certain threats, and I probably did know about them at the time.

Mr. SPEISER. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would request that MLK exhibit F-186 be marked into evidence and a copy be provided the witness.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into evidence at this point.

[Whereupon, MLK exhibit F-186 was marked for evidence.]

[The exhibit follows:]

CIVIL DISORDERS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

*(February 12, through April 16, 1968)*

*A Report submitted to Mr. Frank Holloman, Director  
of Fire and Police,*

*by*

*Lt. E. H. Arain, of the Intelligence Section of the Inspectoral  
Bureau of the Memphis Police Department.*

March 20, 1968 (continued)

On 3/20/68 two instances of Strike oriented vandalism were reported, and threats were made to burn down both Longview, and Merrill School on Friday, March 22, 1968, the date of the proposed Massive March to be led by Martin Luther King Jr. And an obscene telephone call was received by the wife of white Councilman, Jerred Blanchard

On 3/20/68 Black Power Groups were ranging around the schools in South Memphis intimidating teachers and students, threatening them against holding classes on 3/22/68. The rumor was abrad as well, that militant negro Minister, Rev. Ezekiel Bell had made arrangements for Stokeley Carmichael to come to Memphis and speak at his church.

On 3/20/68 Local Black Power militant leader, John B. Smith along with other Black Power advocates went to the principal of Douglas High School, and demanded that he be allowed to speak to the students in the auditorium of the school. He was however told to leave.

Intelligence sources revealed that the organization of students for the planned march on March 22, 1968 was in the hands of the Rev. Harold Middlebrook, S. C. L. C., and C. O. M. E. member, and the organization of adult groups and participation in the march was in the hands of local militant Black Power leader, Rev. James Morris Lawson Jr., pastor of Centenary Methodist Church. And further that Gerald Fanton, another Negro leader was organizing a large rally to be held on the parking lot at Club Paradise on the night of 3/21/68, and which was to be broadcast over WLOK. Furthermore on 3/20/68, James Bevel, on the Staff of Martin Luther King, SCLC leader with leftist leanings, made an incendiary anti-war speech to the students at LeMoyné College referring to President Johnson as "another Hitler", and denouncing the Viet Nam war, stating colored soldiers should be fighting for their own rights here. Bevel had been brought to LeMoyné college by a Negro drama Department instructor named Lee, and was notably friendly with Charles Cabbage, local Black Power activist, and his group known as the Invaders who were observed in the audience.

Police assignments remained constant 3/20/68 and involved the escorting of garbage trucks throughout the City, and the patrolling of marches and demonstrations, as well as the regular neighborhood patrols.

March 21, 1968

On 3/21/68 City Council members voted against Negro Councilman J. O. Patterson's proposal allowing a dues checkoff for the AFSCME Union, and passed instead a resolution calling for mediation sessions with both sides sitting down with Frank B. Miles, a former Federal mediator.

On 3/21/68 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was in Greenwood, Mississippi, organizing his Poor People's Campaign, using a tenant farmer's shantytown as the symbol of the campaign. In Memphis however, Don Stevens of WBBQ Radio Station received a telephoned threat on the Life of Martin Luther King Jr. wherein a man with what was described as having an Italian accent advised Mr. Stevens

March 21, 1968 (continued)

that if Martin Luther King returned to Memphis he would be shot, 3/22/68. An attempt was made with Southern Bell, Telephone and Telegraph Co. to check out this call, but it was discovered that it was made from a pay telephone booth, and nothing further could be developed about the caller.

Tension was generally high in the city on 3/21/68 and Black Power activist groups were going around to the schools in the City, threatening the children, and teachers and threatening to strip their cars and damage the schools if anyone showed up for classes on 3/22/68. Such threats were reported from Wisconsin St. School, Gordon School, Humes and Northside High Schools.

A large number of placards were delivered to Clayborn Temple, Headquarters of the Labor Union-Ministerial Alliance coalition during the strike by the C.A. Davis printing Co. Some of them were for local merchants and read: "Closed Today--We are on March."

Memphis Housing Authority employees were receiving telephone threats allegedly from Cornelia Crenshaw, who had been active in the Strike, and a former Mayor Ingram supporter and Memphis Housing Authority employee.

There was as well a rumor of a threatened walkout by Negro employees at Baptist Hospital. And at a meeting sponsored by the Union and the Minister's Alliance at the Mt. Olive, C.M.E. Church there was talk of firebombs and burning. A private business was threatened in the downtown area, as well as Hamilton High school, and a bus service in North Memphis. At these meetings, mimeographed and Xeroxed copies of H. Rap Brown's letter ~~xxx~~ from prison in Louisiana was being circulated by the Negro Activists, and the Ministers were distributing the C. O. M. E. (Community on the Move for Equality) letter enlisting the support of Memphis School teachers in supporting the march to be led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., planned for 3/22/68. This date as well, a carbine is reported to have been purchased by a Negro, associated with the activists.

On the evening of 3/21/68 Martin Luther King Jr. returned to Memphis, and held a strategy meeting at the Lorraine Motel, with reference to the proposed March to be held 3/22/68. And rumors were abroad that H. Rap Brown would come to Memphis to participate in the march, though it was known that he was in jail in Louisiana at this time.

March 22, 1968.

On March 22, 1968 Memphis was visited with the heaviest snow fall since 1892, and the Press Scimitar of that date carries a story under the caption, "King March cancelled by Snow." and on its editorial page carried the editorial, "Give Mediation Full Chance."

Furthermore on the night of 3/22/68 suspicious Male Negroes in automobiles were observed in the vicinity of Mayor Loeb's home. Shots were fired into homes in two instances, resulting from strike agitated tension., and there were three reported instances of strike oriented vandalism.

March 31, 1968 (continued)

By the evening of Sunday March 31, 1968 there were only 1000 National Guardsmen remaining in the City.

And on the evening of 3/31/68 Rev. James Bevel, Rev. Hosea Williams, Rev. James Jacks, and Rev. James Orange all of Martin Luther King's staff arrived in Memphis ostensibly to plan for the massive march which Martin Luther King was to lead between April 3 and 5, 1968 in Memphis.

The Commercial Appeal of 3/31/68 carried the story of George Bryan, staff writer, under the caption: 119 RIOT CASES FILL TWO COURTS. He reported that on Saturday March 30, 1968 in City Courts there were 119 riot cases. He reported that 13 persons were held to the State; 66 cases were continued, 6 persons were released after paying City Fines; and 34 persons were dismissed.

Another story in the Commercial Appeal of 3/31/68 was carried under the caption: NEW MEDIATION EFFORT SUGGESTED BY 3 TOP CLERGYMEN. This story stated that new efforts toward mediation of the Sanitation Strike were being suggested by Roman Catholic Bishop of Tennessee, Joseph Durick; Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee, John Vander Horst; and Methodist Bishop of Tennessee, Ellis Finger.

April 1, 1968.

On April 1, 1968 Mayor Loeb ordered the curfew lifted at 12 Midnight, and a City spokesman stated the City was studying a series of steps to be taken in the face of a promised second march by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Several of King's aides were in town planning the March.

Strike oriented reports of vandalism, harassment etc continued to increase over those reported for the previous night.

At 2PM 4/1/68, Agent Johnson of the local FBI Officer reported that Helen Perkins, of the American Airlines office stated she had received a telephone call from a middle aged Male White (or someone who sounded like one) who stated: "Your airlines brought King to Memphis, and when he comes again a bomb will go off and he will be assassinated."

There were more threats reported against the life of Mayor Loeb from members of Negro Juvenile gangs.

Intelligence information was that Dr. Martin Luther King's Lieutenants were being called to Memphis from all over the country.

At 1:30PM there were 1200 National Guardsmen left in the City, and by nightfall, not more than 400 were expected to be left in the City.

The March which started at 3:40PM April 1, 1968 involved between 400 and 500 demonstrators.

April 1, 1968 (continued)

Threats against the Memphis Police came in from a number of sources between 3:30/68 and 4/1/68. And on one occasion, U.S. Civil Rights Commission worker, Rosetta Miller, who had been participating in the Demonstrations since the start of the Sanitation Strike, told Det. Redditt, that they were going to get him, and if she had a gun herself, she would shoot him herself. This remark was made no doubt because it was known that Det. E. E. Redditt was returning information from the meetings he attended to the Memphis Police Department.

On April 1, 1968 Larry Payne, a Male Negro teenager, who had been shot during the riots, after he had been found looting, and pulled a knife on a Police Officer, was laying in state in Clayborn Temple. The intimation being that his actions were sanctioned by C. O. M. E. and the negro ministers who divided on the issue of non-violence seemed to be wavering at this point in the direction of violence.

April 2, 1968

The Press Scimitar on 4/2/68 under a story captioned, MEMPHIS HAS QUIET NIGHT, quotes Asst. Chief Bill Price as reporting that activity during the night of 4/1/68 had been no greater than usual.

The Commercial Appeal carried a story under the caption: KUYKENDALL ACCUSES KING OF SPARKING MEMPHIS CLASH in which Tennessee Congressman Dan Kuykendall on the House floor accused Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. of agitating destruction and hatred in Memphis.

In another story in the Commercial Appeal under the caption: CITY STUDIES COUNTER STEPS TO THREAT OF MASS MARCH, it was reported that Mayor Henry Loeb was studying what legal steps could be taken to prevent another mass march, and among the remedies considered were: Court Injunctions against Leaders; Resumption of the Curfew; and the Placing of Leaders under Peace and Financial Responsibility Bonds.

In a story in the Press Scimitar of 4/2/68 under the caption: COUNCIL TAKES NEW STRIKE ROLE, it was reported that the City Council was calling for resumption of mediation talks with the Garbage Strikers.

C. O. M. E. held a strategy meeting at Clayborn Temple at 10AM on 4/2/68 in which the ministers associated explored the possibility of securing O. E. O. and W. O. P. C. money to pay for an office for them, and their operations. At another meeting of C. O. M. E. leaders at the Lorraine Motel 6PM 4/2/68, some of the Members asked for the removal of James Morris Lawson as leader of COME.

The body of Larry Payne who had been shot during the rioting 3/28/68 which had been laying in state at Clayborn Temple since 4/1/68 was viewed by thousands of strikers and Strike Sympathisers. The Funeral was held in the Temple in the afternoon with the Rev. B. T. Dumas officiating. Interment was in the New Park Cemetery on Horn Lake Road. No incidents were reported during the Funeral.

Bayard Rustin of the A. Phillip Randolph Inst., and Victor Gotbaum, Exec. director of the District Council #27 of the AFSCME Union announced that 6000 persons

April 2, 1968 (continued)

from all over the U.S. would converge on Memphis to march. Local rumors were that 30,000 people would be in Memphis for the Nationwide march to be led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Intelligence sources revealed that Charles Cabbage, Edwina Harrell, John B. Smith and other invader leaders were meeting in Room 315 of the Lorraine Motel with other Black activists and King aides, and that another meeting between them and Martin Luther King was being planned for 4/3/68. They held two meetings at 6 PM and 9 PM in re; the funding of the invaders by National organizations.

April 2, 1968 a Mr. Robert Campbell of 3546 Aurora Circle called stating that he had received a telephone call from Columbus, Ohio from a former business associated who was a reliable man, who stated that if King returned to Memphis Airport for his March, he would be killed by a Negro and that a white Memphis Policeman would be blamed for it. Mr. Campbell's friend would not reveal where he had received this information.

4/2/68 at a Press Conference at Clayborn Temple, Rev. Samuel Kyles, and Rev. Jesse Jackson, an S. C. L. C. member announced Mass meetings would be resumed 4/3/68. Rev. Kyles also announced that he was soliciting all alleged Police Brutality Complaints. Rev. Jesse Jackson called for boycotts citing four Memphis targets, Coca Cola Bottling Co.; Harts Bread Co.; Wonder Bread Co., and Seal Test Dairy Products. He accused white racism for the trouble in Memphis.

In an Interview with Inspector Tines on 4/2/68 the Rev. Dwight Alcorn, a local Negro Minister accused Rev. James Morris Lawson & Rev. H. Ralph Jackson for the riot on 3/28/68. He also accused Lawson of being a communist. He further indicated that he felt that Vasco and Maxine Smith, and Jesse Turner of NAACP could no longer maintain effective leadership of the Negro Community in Memphis.

Spokesmen for the Negro Ministers involved in the strike stated that they would ignore any injunction against holding a Massing March in Memphis. There were only 7 reported instances of strike oriented harassment and vandalism on 4/2/68.

April 3, 1968.

Under the caption of DAY OF DECISIONS, the Press Scimitar of 4/3/68 carried a picture of Mayor Henry Loeb, and Director of Fire and Police, Frank C. Holloman, entering the Federal Building seeking an injunction against the planned Nationwide March to be led in Memphis by Dr. Martin Luther King. The same story shows a picture of Dr. Martin Luther King arriving at the Airport with his aides.

The Commercial Appeal of 3/3/68 under the caption MARCH SPOKESMAN VOWS TO IGNORE ANY COURT BANS, carried a story quoting the Rev. Samuel B. Kyles stating, "such things as injunctions or peace bond would have no effect on the march."

The headlines of the Press Scimitar of 4/3/68 were JUDGE FORBIDS BIG MARCH PLANNED LED BY KING, UNION MEN., and the story accompanying it

April 4, 1968 (continued)

Wm. Richmond reported that there were approx. 10 Male Negroes in the Parking Lot of the Lorraine Motel at the time Dr. King was shot.

During the day of April 4, 1968 prior to the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Mr. Cato Ellis advised that Federal Marshalls were guarding the homes of Federal District Atty. Tom Robinson, Federal Judge MacRae, and Federal Judge Bailey Brown.

Intelligence sources further report that at the meetings between S. C. L. C. and the invaders at the Lorraine Motel, S. C. L. C. was endeavoring to secure the services of the invaders as parade marshalls for the massive march planned for April 8, 1968. Furthermore at one of these meetings the Rev. James Morris Lawson was overheard to have made the remark, " Thank God for the riot of last week, for without it we would never have gotten all this outside help. "

It is worthy of note that four tact units were working near the Lorraine Motel at the time Dr. Martin Luther King was shot, along with six additional cars manned with four men each, all of whom along with Homicide and Intelligence Officers were dispatched to the scene to guard it, and assist in the search for the Assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King. (The Tact Units consisted of from 12 to 16 men each)

April 4, 1968 a curfew was declared between 7PM and 5AM and Memphis City Schools were ordered closed for 4/5/68. Governor Buford Ellington ordered the National Guard to Memphis, and at 12 Midnight Lt. Arkin of Police Department Intelligence reported 800 Law Enforcement Officers on duty consisting of Memphis Police, Tennessee Highway Patrolmen, and Sheriff's Deputies, and by Midnight 3800 National Guardsmen had arrived in the City.

There were for April 4, 1968 16 reported incidents of strike oriented vandalism, and at 11:40PM the rumor was abroad, that Bernie Lansky a Beale Street merchant who had suffered in the riot of 3/28/68 had hired the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

April 5, 1968.

The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., received nationwide news coverage, for several days following his death, the Memorial March for him in Memphis on April 8, 1968, and his funeral.

In Memphis April 5, was a day of arson and looting., as reported on the editorial page of the Commercial Appeal of 4/5/68, which showed pictures of the burning of Ferrell Lumber Co., at 1001 North Second, above an editorial captioned: MEMPHIS NEEDS CALM., WHICH went onto say:

"The death of Dr. King does not solve any problems in Memphis or in the nation. Indeed, it aggravates the existing problems and makes more urgent the need for settlement of the Memphis dispute that precipitated the assassination. "

In the Press Scimitar of 4/5/68 in a story under the caption: DAYLIGHT VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT AFTER BUSY NIGHT FOR POLICE. 116 Arrests were re-



Mr. SPEISER. Mr. Holloman, for the purpose of the members of our audience, just to summarize what MLK F-186 is, it is a report prepared by Lieutenant Arkin of the Memphis Police Department, directed toward you, entitled, "Civil Disorders, Memphis, Tennessee," covering a period February 12, to April 16, 1968.

This is just a segment of that report, and on pages 30, 39, and 41 of that report there is information that has been apparently received by the Memphis Police Department concerning threats that might be implemented against Dr. King when he arrived in Memphis on his April 3 visit. One apparently came from a radio announcer, a second came from an FBI agent, and the third, the information came from an independent source.

Were you familiar with the information that was the substance of this report prior to Dr. King's coming to Memphis on April 3?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't recall specifically that I was, but in all probability I was aware of it. I do not deny that it was brought to my attention. I do not recall specifically these matters to which you have referred.

Mr. SPEISER. Had Dr. King or any members of his immediate advisers requested security protection in connection with their April 3 visit to Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir. They refused it.

Mr. SPEISER. No. I am asking you initially prior to their visit did they orally or in writing request the Memphis Police Department protection when they arrived in Memphis for Dr. King and during his stay?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. If you were not privy to any information concerning threats that had been directed against Dr. King prior to his arrival on April 3, and if Dr. King did not personally or through an aide solicit protection from the Memphis Police Department, then what prompted your department to take it upon themselves to offer Dr. King protection?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Because a week before that he was in Memphis for the march of the 28th, I believe it was, and at that time there was a riot. The march was not successful, it broke out and it resulted in a riot in Memphis, and Dr. King was there. And there was a question as to our concern for his welfare, that something similar to that might occur again. But I do not want my testimony to show that on one of the premises you stated, that I was not aware of any threats, because as I said, I do not now recall those threats, but I would also say that in all probability I was aware of those threats.

Mr. SPEISER. You are aware that Dr. King had made two prior visits within 2 weeks prior to the April 3 visit, that is on March 18 and March 28. Why was there no protection afforded him on those occasions? There was a sanitation strike that was in effect at that time, was there not?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right.

Mr. SPEISER. Why was there no protection afforded him at that time?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. He was just another person who was involved in the sanitation strike, and there was no reason apparently that we even thought of providing security for him.

Mr. SPEISER. If he was just another person involved, then why on April 3 did you merit protection?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Because of the riots of the 28th to a very large extent.

Mr. SPEISER. Were you personally involved in the planning and formulation of the security measures that would be instituted in protecting Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir, not directly. That would have been an operational matter as to what would be done and by whom it would be done.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you have any knowledge prior to Dr. King's arrival on April 3, 1968, there were going to be security measures instituted for his safety?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir. Yes, sir, and that a detail would be sent to the airport to meet him. I knew that, yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you know who headed up that detail?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Did I know at that time who was on the detail?

Mr. SPEISER. Who was in charge of the detail or the arrangements?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It would have had to have been the chief of detectives. Don Smith was the inspector in charge of it. I must have known that much.

Mr. SPEISER. But you don't recall at this time—put aside do you recall—I am asking you, did you involve yourself in the formulation of the actual details of the security measures that would be instituted?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir, I did not do that. I was probably aware of them. I was probably advised of them, but I was not involved in the actual formulation and the operation of them.

Mr. SPEISER. Was that not a critical time in the history of the city of Memphis, April 3, that is, the possibility of an impending strike? I believe, as a matter of fact, you were in court that day trying to get an injunction to prevent that strike?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. To prevent—

Mr. SPEISER. I am sorry, to prevent the demonstration.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. To the march Dr. King came there for.

Mr. SPEISER. So wasn't that a critical period in the city of Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes; it was, because only a week before we had a riot, and I think that our concern was we might have another riot because of Dr. King's presence.

Mr. SPEISER. Despite these circumstances you did not become personally involved in the details of planning Dr. King's protection?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. You did not feel that merited your attention?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It is not my recollection that I sat down with the chief or with the commanding officers and made the specific arrangements for a security detail of Dr. King. The idea was I knew that that would be done, but how it would be done and the implementation carried out, I would not have been involved in that.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you request that you be kept apprised on an hourly or periodic basis as to the progress?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I am sure that I asked to be kept advised of what was going on.

Mr. SPEISER. At what point did the security for Dr. King begin?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. When he arrived on the plane on April 3, about 10:30 in the morning.

Mr. SPEISER. To the best of your recollection, Inspector Don Smith was in charge of the street detail that was furnishing the security protection for Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes. He had a detail of four men and it was later complemented by two other men who did not go there. But the other four men, Don Smith and four men, went to the airport. The other two men joined them later, as I recall.

Mr. SPEISER. Who is Mr. Smith's supervisor? Who is he accountable to, the chief of detectives?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Well, I don't know whether that is the immediate next line but, yes, the chief of detectives. In a detail of this kind he would probably definitely be reporting to the chief of detectives.

Mr. SPEISER. What was his name?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Mr. Houston, Bill Houston.

Mr. SPEISER. Who would Mr. Houston be accountable to?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. He would be accountable to the chief of police.

Mr. SPEISER. Mr. Macdonald?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right.

Mr. SPEISER. And Mr. Macdonald in turn was accountable to you?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right.

Mr. SPEISER. How long did the security for Dr. King continue?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. From the records that I have read, that detail continued until approximately 5 o'clock on the third.

Mr. SPEISER. You have alluded to records that you have read. When were you first aware that security of Dr. King had been terminated?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't know, sir. I do not recall at that time having any knowledge regarding the cancellation of that detail.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you testify before this committee in executive session in March of this year?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you not testify in March of this year that it was not until approximately 30 days prior to your appearance before this committee that you first learned that security for Dr. King had been terminated at 5 o'clock on April 3?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I do not recall whether that was my testimony or not. If it was, I will say that testimony is correct.

Mr. SPEISER. If you did testify to that, would you say it is accurate?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say it is correct from my recollection at this point. I don't recall contemporary with the time that I knew at the time that Dr. King was assassinated that the security detail had been pulled off.

Mr. SPEISER. To the best of your recollection, it was approximately February of this year, some 10 years later, that you first learned that security had been pulled off Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. At least it was at that time my recollection was refreshed to know that it had been done. Now, whether or not that

was absolutely the first time I knew about it, I cannot say at this time because of my memory on it.

Mr. SPEISER. Do you know why security on Dr. King was terminated?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would choose to have entered into the record MLK exhibit F-187.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record at this point.

[Thereupon, MLK exhibit F-187 was entered.]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-187

MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

April 5, 1968.

RE: Detail with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,  
April 3, 1968.Mr. W. P. Huston, Chief,  
Criminal Investigation Division,  
Building.

Dear Sir:

April 3, 1968 8:30AM I was instructed by Chief W. P. Huston to go to the Metropolitan Airport along with a detail of men who will be listed below for security purposes for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was to arrive in this City aboard flight 381 Eastern Airlines, at 10:15AM.

with me on this detail were: Lt. Wm. Schultz of the Homicide Bureau, Lt. George Kelly Davis and Det. Ronald B. Howell, of the Vice and Narcotics Bureau. I arrived at the Metropolitan Airport at approx. 9:10AM April 3, 1968 and proceeded immediately to gate #17, where flight 381 from Eastern Airlines was to deplane.

On our arrival at gate 17 at the Metropolitan Airport there was no one at this gate and only two passengers crossed the hall way at gate 18, awaiting an outgoing flight. At approx. 9:15AM on April 3, 1968 a white female reporter, and white male camera man arrived at gate #17. A very few minutes later, Mrs. Thomas Matthews, Colored Female arrived at Gate #17, and during the conversation with Lt. George Kelly Davis she stated that she had come to the Airport to pick up Dr. King. Mrs. Matthews stated that they had not asked for Police to be assigned to Dr. King.

Between 9:15AM and 10:33AM which is the time flight 381 arrived (Eastern Airlines) arrived in Memphis, a crowd of approx. 60 to 70 people had congregated at gate #17 and in the hallway between gate #17 and gate #18. Some of the people who had congregated at this location were outbound passengers, on the Eastern Air Line flights and did not come to that location to greet Dr. King. The majority of the people congregated there were from the news media. There were approx. 15-20 Colored males and females who were not with the news media.

After Dr. King deplaned at 10:33 AM (his plane being late) he held a short press conference in the hall way near gate #17 at the Metropolitan Airport. Our dispatcher was kept advised of the approx. number of people who were congregated at Gate #17, and he was also advised the exact time Dr. King deplaned, and that the crowd assembled was orderly.

Shortly after Dr. King's press conference he started toward the Main lot of the Airport terminal, and while walking down the hall way the writer approached Rev. James Lawson and after identifying himself asked Rev. Lawson if he would tell me where they were going on leaving the Airport. Rev. Lawson stated, "We have not fully made up our minds."

Dr. King got into a grey with a black vinyl top Buick Electra bearing Tennessee License JP 9735, which was parked on the upper driveway at the Metropolitan Airport. This car was driven by Mrs. Thomas Matthews and Dr. King was in the front seat with her. There were three colored males in the rear seat of this automobile. There was also a yellow Lincoln Continental with a black vinyl top bearing Tennessee License BT-0039, which was occupied by several Male Coloreds, who left the Airport along with the Buick carrying Dr. Martin Luther King. The Dispatcher was advised of the description of the cars and the license numbers, and the above mentioned officers followed keeping the Dispatcher advised of our location and our final destination, which was the Lorraine Hotel located at 406 Mulberry, arriving there at approx. 11:20AM. After arriving at the Lorraine Hotel another cruiser occupied by Inspector J. S. Gagliano, Lts. Hamby and Tucker, arrived at this location at my request to assist in securing the area where Dr. King was staying.

At approx. 12:05PM April 3, 1968 Dr. King left the Lorraine Hotel in

*Page Two (Detail with Dr. Martin Luther King, April 3, 1968.)*

*the same black over gray Buick bearing Tenn. JP 9735, driven by Mrs. Thomas Matthews. And the above mentioned officers followed this car carrying Dr. King to 584 East McLemore, the Centenary Methodist Church, where the officers in Cruiser John -1, secured the front entrance to the Church off of McLemore and David I, secured the rear entrance off Edith.*

*Dr. King in the same automobile driven by the same person left 584 E. McLemore at approx. 2:15PM. , and was followed by a white Cadillac with a black vinyl top, bearing Tenn. License LJO -0708, driven by Solomon Jones and an unkn Colored Male sitting in the front seat with the driver. The above mentioned officer followed these two cars back to the Lorraine Hotel where the entrances were secured by the officers who remained on duty at that location until approx. 5:05PM. Dr. King arrived at the Lorraine Hotel on the last occasion at approx. 2:25PM.*

*During the time we were on duty at the entrances of this Hotel between 2:25PM and 5:05PM the Federal Marshall and some of his deputies arrived at this location and Dr. King along with some of his aides were served with an injunction. Approx. 30 minutes after this injunction was served on Dr. King and his aides a meeting was held in Room 307 of the Lorraine Hotel, between Dr. King his aides and several attorneys.*

*It is not known by the writer if there were Detectives assigned to this Detail after 5:05PM when we were pulled off, but it should be noted that at no time did Dr. King or anyone else ask for Police Protection while I was on this detail.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Don. H. Smith, Inspector, 7765,  
Juvenile Bureau.*

Mr. SPEISER. For your edification, I am not going to ask you any questions on this exhibit, but MLK F-187 is a report dated April 5, prepared by Inspector Smith to the chief of detectives, Mr. Huston, concerning his surveillance activities on Dr. King. And, in essence, it indicates they picked him up at the airport and followed him and watched him throughout that entire day until 5 o'clock on the evening of April 3, 1968.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would also choose to have entered into the record MLK exhibit F-188.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

[Whereupon, MLK exhibit F-188 was entered.]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-188

Mr. Akers. All right. At any point after Dr. King went into the church at McLemore Avenue did you disperse your men in any sort of particular way?

Mr. Smith. No, sir, we stayed in the cars I believe until they came out and we followed them back to the motel to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. Akers. Did anything of significance occur on the route back to the motel?

Mr. Smith. Yes, sir. This is the point where I thought they were trying to lose us.

Mr. Akers. Could you elaborate on that?

Mr. Smith. Yes. They would make turns. It was leaving the impression of course they knew we were there and they acted like they were trying to lose us.

Mr. Akers. Well, again what were they doing?

Mr. Smith. They would turn off of the most direct routes to side streets and we just followed along.

Mr. Akers. Did they make turns without making signals?

Mr. Smith. Yes.

Mr. Akers. Did they run any traffic signals?

Mr. Smith. I did not see them run any traffic lights, no, sir.

Mr. Akers. What did you do once you arrived back at the Lorraine Motel?

Mr. Smith. I went to the phone and called Chief Houston.

Mr. Akers. What was the nature of that call?

Mr. Smith. I told him that unless he gave me an order to the contrary that I was requesting permission to pull the security detail.

Mr. Akers. What did he do at that time?

Mr. Smith. He told me to hold on. He left the phone, left for a few minutes -- I don't remember how long. He came back and said, Secure the detail.] *NOTES*

Mr. Akers. Well, did you assume anything from his absence?

Mr. Smith. I assumed that he was talking to someone but I don't know this.

Mr. Akers. He never indicated to you that he talked to anyone?

Mr. Smith. No, sir.

Mr. Akers. Would you assume that he talked to the Police Chief?

Mr. Smith. I would assume if he was going to talk to anyone it would be the Director or the Chief.

Mr. Akers. Again you are referring to Director Holloman or Chief Macdonald?

Mr. Smith. Yes, sir.

Mr. Akers. So what did Chief Houston tell you?

Mr. Smith. He told me to secure the detail.

Mr. Akers. Is that what you did?

Mr. Smith. That is what I did.



Mr. Akers. What time was that?

Mr. Smith. I don't remember what time it was.

Mr. Akers. Would that have been late afternoon?

Mr. Smith. Yes, sir.

Mr. Akers. Well, your report says 5:05 p.m. Would that be correct?

Mr. Smith. The report would be correct. It was written at the time this happened so it would be correct, yes, sir.

Mr. Akers. Did anyone relieve your security detail?

Mr. Smith. No, sir.

Mr. Akers. To your knowledge was any security for Dr. King provided after your departure?

Mr. Smith. Not to my knowledge, no, sir.

Mr. Akers. Did you at any time attempt to communicate to Dr. King's party that you were leaving the area and securing the security detail?

Mr. Smith. No, sir.

Notes

Mr. SPEISER. MLK exhibit F-188 is a segment of the testimony of Inspector Don Smith before this committee in executive session under oath in March of this year.

I would like to read that portion into the record. It is directed toward the line of questioning with which we are concerning ourselves. The staff attorney that is questioning him is Mr. Akers.

Mr. AKERS. All right. At any point after Dr. King went into the church at McLemore Avenue, did you disperse your men in any sort of particular way?

Mr. SMITH. No, sir. We stayed in the cars, I believe, until they came out and we followed them back to the motel to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. AKERS. Did anything of significance occur on the route back to the motel?

Mr. SMITH. Yes, sir. This is the point where I thought they were trying to lose us.

Mr. AKERS. Could you elaborate on that?

Mr. SMITH. Yes. They would make turns. It was leaving the impression, of course, they knew we were there and they acted like they were trying to lose us.

Mr. AKERS. Well, again, what were they doing?

Mr. SMITH. They would turn off of the most direct routes to side streets and we just followed along.

Mr. AKERS. Did they make turns without making signals?

Mr. SMITH. Yes.

Mr. AKERS. Did they run any traffic signals?

Mr. SMITH. I did not see them run any traffic lights, no, sir.

Mr. AKERS. What did you do once you arrived back at the Lorraine Motel?

Mr. SMITH. I went to the phone and I called Chief Huston.

Mr. AKERS. What was the nature of that call?

Mr. SMITH. I told him that unless he gave me an order to the contrary that I was requesting permission to pull the security detail.

Mr. AKERS. What did he do at that time?

Mr. SMITH. He told me to hold on. He left the phone, left for a few minutes—I don't remember how long. He came back and said, Secure the detail.

Mr. SPEISER. Let me interrupt that questioning to explain from our interviews with Mr. Smith, secure the detail, meant to abandon the detail, terminate the security.

Mr. AKERS. Well, did you assume anything from his absence?

Mr. SMITH. I assumed he was talking to someone, but I don't know this.

Mr. AKERS. He never indicated to you that he talked to anyone?

Mr. SMITH. No, sir.

Mr. AKERS. Would you assume that he talked to the police chief?

Mr. SMITH. I would assume if he was going to talk to anyone it would be the director or the chief.

Mr. AKERS. Again you are referring to Director Holloman or Chief Macdonald?"

Mr. SMITH. Yes, sir.

Mr. AKERS. So what did Chief Huston tell you?

Mr. SMITH. He told me to secure the detail.

Mr. AKERS. Is that what you did?

Mr. SMITH. That is what I did.

Mr. AKERS. What time was that?

Mr. SMITH. I don't remember what time it was.

Mr. AKERS. Would that have been late afternoon?

Mr. SMITH. Yes, sir.

Mr. AKERS. Well, your report says 5:05 p.m. Would that be correct?

Mr. SMITH. The report would be correct. It was written at the time this happened, so it would be correct, yes, sir.

Mr. AKERS. Did anyone relieve your security detail?

Mr. SMITH. No, sir.

Mr. AKERS. To your knowledge was any security for Dr. King provided after your departure?

Mr. SMITH. Not to my knowledge, no, sir.

Mr. AKERS. Did you at any time attempt to communicate to Dr. King's party that you were leaving the area and securing the security detail?

Mr. SMITH. No, sir.

So, according to Mr. Smith at 5:05 the security was terminated. There was no further or additional security that was provided for

Dr. King and Dr. King, nor members of the entourage, were advised of the fact that security was no longer being furnished.

After having heard this testimony of Mr. Smith, does it refresh your recollection as to whether or not you were involved in the decisionmaking process which led to the conclusion that security should no longer be provided for Dr. King after 5:05 on April 3, 1968?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. I have no recollection that I was involved in any way.

Mr. SPEISER. Do you think that it was proper that security should have been terminated at that point, considering the circumstances in Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. In any event, if security had been terminated, you think it was improper not to advise Dr. King of the fact that he was no longer going to be covered?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. I think that is correct, but I think that you have to realize, sir, that they didn't want security. They didn't want the police around them.

Mr. SPEISER. Let me interrupt you and ask, when did you first learn that Dr. King did not want any security?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. It must have been after the refusal was made at the airport. Sometime on the 3rd. That is my best recollection. It must have been then.

Mr. SPEISER. You were advised on the 3rd then, you do recall being advised on the 3rd that Dr. King refused to have protection at the airport?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. I don't have a specific recollection of it, but I must have been advised of it then.

Mr. SPEISER. Who advised you of that?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. I don't know. It must have been the chief of police though.

Mr. SPEISER. What, if anything, did you say or do when you were advised that Dr. King refused protection at the airport?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. I don't recall doing anything at that time.

Mr. SPEISER. You don't recall instructing or directing that the security detail remain with Dr. King despite his feelings to the contrary?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. No, sir, I don't recall.

Mr. SPEISER. Do you now in retrospect feel if you had made such an instruction and made it known that despite Dr. King's feelings that he did not want security protection, that perhaps Inspector Smith at 5:05 would not have requested that his security be dropped because he was of the impression that Dr. King did not want to have any security?

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. As of right now, Monday morning quarterback?

Mr. SPEISER. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOLLOWMAN. A security detail much larger than was assigned would have been assigned and they would have stayed with him, in very close personal proximity to him all the time that he was in Memphis. That is looking back and seeing what did happen and what the circumstances were. Yes, I would have done it differently.

Mr. SPEISER. My question is essentially this: That is, if the subject of a security detail does not want security, normally would you

pull that security detail off or would you continue the security despite the wishes of the subject of the threat?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Normally I would say you would probably pull it off, or at least there would be a foundation or a basis for pulling it off, but, of course, you asked me the other question, which was the basis on what would I do now, knowing what did happen and so forth.

Mr. SPEISER. Were you aware of whether or not the FBI was furnishing any security for Dr. King at that point?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. And again, once you were advised that Dr. King did not want any protection and he made that fact known at the airport, you do not have any recollection of saying to your men that, "Stick on Dr. King. Stay on him no matter whether he wants protection or not?"

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir, I cannot recall that.

Mr. SPEISER. I would like to change subjects at this point and address yourself to the following line of questioning: Are you familiar with a Black detective with the Memphis Police Department by the name of Edward Redditt?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Are you also knowledgeable of his partner who at the time, specifically April of 1968, was an individual by the name of Mr. Richmond?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Can you briefly indicate what their assignments were on April 3 and April 4, 1968?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. They were on a surveillance of Dr. King's party. That was—

Mr. SPEISER. When did that surveillance begin?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. They were at the airport. They went to the Lorraine Hotel with him, which we only found out at the airport where he was going to stay. We didn't know he was going to stay at the Lorraine Hotel and that was one of the questions that was asked: Where was the party going to stay? And then it was after that, sometime during the day of the third that the observation post was established in the fire station, which was immediately adjacent to the Lorraine Hotel.

Mr. SPEISER. Were you involved in the formulation of the surveillance plans that were to be implemented on Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. I can't recall being an active part of it. I was probably advised of it. In other words, I don't recall saying, "Let's use the fire station" and let's do this and let's do that, but it was probably set up by the men in the inspectional bureau, and I was probably advised of it.

Mr. SPEISER. I sense you have more of a recollection of participating, if you did, in the surveillance stage of Dr. King rather than the security of Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, not from my recollection. I would say that I have read the reports and so forth and I know what was done, but—

Mr. SPEISER. Where did their surveillance activities begin, at the airport?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. The surveillance was at the airport and I think one of their—as I recall from the records—and I have no personal recollection of it—one of their assignments was to find out where Dr. King was going to stay.

Mr. SPEISER. So they were in an intelligence-gathering mission as opposed to security?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. And there is a distinction in your mind between the two?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Security is concerned primarily with protecting the life of the subject of a threat and surveillance on the other hand is concerned with gathering intelligence-type information?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Is that distinction accurate?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. If you were not involved necessarily in the implementation of the surveillance activities, were you involved in the supervision and the direction that those surveillance activities were taking on Dr. King on April 3 and April 4?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not directly, no, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Who was responsible for that?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That would have been the Inspectional Bureau, and Inspector Tines would probably have been the immediate person to whom they were reporting. Either he or Mr. Arkin, Lieutenant Arkin.

Mr. SPEISER. Why was there surveillance activity that was being performed on Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. We wanted to see what was happening in the area as to who was making contact, any suspicious activities that were going on in the area. I would say one of the large activities was the checking on the activities of the group that was called The Invaders, the Black militant group in Memphis at that time.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you consider Dr. King to be a threat to the community?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Oh, no, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. His mere presence?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I didn't. I didn't consider him a threat except for the fact that there might be a repeat of the March 28 march.

Mr. SPEISER. Were you kept current on the whereabouts of Mr. Redditt and his partner on April 3 and April 4? That is, were you being fed reports throughout the day on April 3 and 4 as to what they were viewing and what was happening at the Lorraine Motel in the areas where Dr. King was at? If not written reports, oral reports?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't recall it and I doubt that I was.

Mr. SPEISER. What were you doing on April 3 and April 4?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't know. I have tried to remember what I was doing on the third and I do not recall except that I do remember that—and with the court in session the next day, I spent a large part of 1 day, and it could have been the 3rd, in which I was in conference with attorneys for the sanitation strikers and the city attorney, which involved the court action of the next day, which

was the action that happened on the fourth as far as the march was concerned.

Mr. SPEISER. So, to the best of your recollection, you were involved primarily in the formulating of strategy for the court appearance on April 4 as opposed to being kept abreast on an hourly basis of the security and surveillance activities on Dr. —

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection at this time. In other words, I cannot recall in any way being at my desk all day and someone coming in constantly telling me what was going on or reading constantly memoranda as to what was going on.

I cannot recall that in my memory of my activities on April 3.

Mr. SPEISER. Well, that might be an acceptable situation in a normal daily routine within the city of Memphis, but here we are talking about the fact that there was a strike looming on the horizon and Dr. King's presence in a sense aggravated that situation and in fact there was surveillance and security going on of Dr. King with your knowledge and perhaps at your instruction.

You don't recall being kept abreast on a moment-by-moment basis of what was happening in the city?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. At this time, 10 years later, I do not have that recollection.

Mr. SPEISER. Wouldn't that be something that you feel you would have been doing?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Probably. If I was in the office and was not in this meeting that I think I was in—I am not positive I was in that meeting.

Mr. SPEISER. When you came back from the courthouse on April 4th to your office, were you apprised of a threat on Mr. Redditt's life?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Who gave you that information?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't recall. Do you mean in the department, who told me that a threat had been made?

Mr. SPEISER. Yes.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I do not recall who it was. It was probably the chief of police, but I do not recall.

Mr. SPEISER. Independent of reports you have been shown by this staff, what is your best recollection of the source of that threat on Mr. Redditt and the source of the information to you? That is, independent of your reports?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. My recollection is that it was a member of the Secret Service. I have said that from the very beginning. I cannot get that out of my mind, that that was the source of the information, although from your records and from the testimony—

Mr. SPEISER. I am just asking for your recollection.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. My recollection, it was a member of the Secret Service.

Mr. SPEISER. And what organization or individual was the source of the threat?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. My recollection is it was an organization, a Black militant organization that was referred to as RAM.

Mr. SPEISER. Approximately what time of the day on April 4th did you receive this information and Mr. Redditt arrived in your office?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Between 4 and 5 o'clock—I don't know. I cannot tell you when I arrived back in my office.

I am trying to back up from the time that the court probably adjourned and I would say it must have been between, probably between 4 and 5 o'clock that I got back to my office.

Mr. SPEISER. And when you got back to your office did you summon Mr. Redditt to come to your office to advise him of the threat?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't know. I do not recall whether he was already at the headquarters or whether I had him brought to headquarters. I do not recall.

My best recollection is that he was already there, but I am not clear on that.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you advise him of the threat?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you offer to relocate him to a hotel under an assumed name?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Did he accept that offer?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. What was his response?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. His response to any protection at all was that he was not afraid and that he was not concerned about it and that he didn't want any protection.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you send him home? Did he go to his house or did he go back to the fire station?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, he went back—he went to the house. He went to his home.

Mr. SPEISER. Under guard of the police?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I believe two officers went with him.

Mr. SPEISER. At your direction?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Probably, yes. I don't know whether I said, "Take him home" or not, because I had made the arrangements for the hotel or the motel accommodations under an assumed name and then he, of course, had refused it.

Now, who said "Take him home," I have absolutely no recollection of it whatsoever as to whether—

Mr. SPEISER. You didn't want him to go home by himself, did you, without any protection?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. And what time did he go home, approximately? Bearing in mind that Dr. King was shot within a few minutes after 6?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It was in the neighborhood of 5 or shortly after 5 o'clock, I would think.

Mr. SPEISER. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would choose to have introduced into evidence MLK exhibits F-189 and F-190 and have copies furnished to the witness.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]

## DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

ASD 94

TO: Mr. J. C. Macdonald,  
Chief of Police.

FROM: Inspector G. P. Tines,  
Inspectional Bureau.

DATE: April 4, 1968.

SUBJECT: Information concerning Assassin-  
ation Plot of Possibly Det. Redditt.

At 3PM this date, Mr. Philip R. Manuel, who is with the U. S. Senate Investigating Committee for Senator McClellan, had to return a call to his office in Washington, where he was advised that a reliable informer of theirs in Mississippi advised them of a plan of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, MFDP, to kill the Negro Lieut. here in Memphis. It is believed they are referring to Det. Redditt.

Mr. Manuel was advised that the plan had already been set in motion, and that his partner, Mr. Jack Dross, in Washington had obtained the names of those involved in the plot, but Mr. Dross had left the office without dictating a memo regarding this.

Mr. Manuel's plane leaves Memphis at 5:50PM this date and the first thing in the morning upon getting to the office, he will telephone this office giving the names and all of the particulars. This information possibly can be relayed to us later tonight.

CC: 3:45PM I talked with Agent, Howell Lowe of the FBI, and he has been advised of the above, and they are beginning to check into it. Any additional information received by this office will be forwarded to them. (notes)



# DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

ASD 94

TO: Inspector G. P. Tines,  
Inspectional Bureau

FROM: E. H. Arkin, Lt.,  
Inspectional Bureau.

DATE: April 4, 1968.

SUBJECT: Threat on Negro Lt. Memphis Police  
Department.

At 4:15PM April 4, 1968, I received a telephone call from Mr. Jensen, SAC, local FBI, in regards to the above subject. Mr. Jensen stated that the Jackson Office of the FBI had a live informant at the Sunday Night Meeting of the MFDP, which was held at the Mt. Beulah, Church in Edwards, Miss. This meeting lasted approx. 5 hours. William Conow, H. Rap Brown's Attorney was there and this group talked about the Washington Spring March, H. Rap Brown, and the Mississippi Program. There were also two brothers, Joseph and George Trotter Male Negroes, allegedly from Memphis who talked about Police Brutality.

Charles Ed. Snodgrass of the Miss. Highway Patrol, also had an informant at this meeting and this informant told Snodgrass that there was a discussion at the meeting about a Negro Sergeant who had arrested the blacks after they beat a cab driver to death. (an incident similar to this occurred recently in Knoxville.) This informant also stated that the contract was given to Stanley Weiss (Wise). This subject was not at the meeting. He was in Atlanta, Ga. Sunday night. Snodgrass of MHP, called Wm. Coleman of TBI giving this information to him, who in turn probably called the Knoxville authorities who in turn called Washington, and from there this information was relayed to Memphis, but in the passing from one department to another, the story had been changed from a Negro Sgt. in Knoxville to a Negro Lt. in Memphis. (NOTES)

CC:

Mr. SPEISER. I would like to read for the benefit of those with us MLK F-189, which is a departmental communication from Inspector Tines, to Chief of Police Mr. MacDonald, dated April 4th.

It says:

At 3 p.m. this date, Mr. Manuel, who was with the U.S. Senate Investigating Committee for Senator McClellan, had to return a call to his office in Washington where he was advised that a reliable informant of theirs in Mississippi advised him of a plan of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to kill the Negro lieutenant here in Memphis. It is believed they are referring to Detective Redditt.

Mr. Manuel was advised that the plan had already been set in motion and that his partner, Mr. Dross, in Washington, had obtained the names of those involved in the plot, but Mr. Dross had left the office without dictating a memo regarding this.

Mr. Manuel's plane leaves Memphis at 5:50 this evening and the first thing in the morning upon getting to the office he will telephone this office giving the names and all the particulars. This information possibly can be relayed to us later tonight.

3:45 p.m. I talked with Agent Howell Lowe of the FBI and he has been advised of the above and they are beginning to check into it. Any additional information received by this office will be forwarded to them.

Having had the opportunity to read this memo when you appeared here in executive session in March of this year, and having had it read to you again at this time, does this refresh your recollection as to the organization that was the source of the threat, as well as how this information came to your attention?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not—not—for the basis of the action I took, no, sir. I think there were two threats. That is my recollection, that there were two threats. That this was one threat and the other was what I now recall as having come through the Secret Service, and I took the action—my recollection is I took the action based on the Secret Service—

Mr. SPEISER. Well, at 4 o'clock, when you met Mr. Redditt, were you aware of this threat also?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I can't answer that. I don't remember. I don't recall.

Mr. SPEISER. Well, bearing in mind in the last paragraph of this letter, this memo I just read to you, that the FBI was asked to look into it, I have another memo here, F-190, also dated April 4, from Lieutenant Arkin, to Inspector Tines, and it says:

At 4:15, April 4th, 1968, I received a telephone call from Mr. Jensen, SAC, local FBI, in regard to the above subject. Mr. Jensen stated that the Jackson office of the FBI had a live informant at the Saturday night meeting of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party which was held at the Mount Beulah Church in Edwards, Miss. This meeting lasted approximately 5 hours. William Conow, H. Rap Brown's attorney, was there, and this group talked about the Washington spring march, H. Rap Brown and the Mississippi program.

There were also two brothers, Joseph and George Trotter, male Negroes, allegedly from Memphis, and they also talked about police brutality.

The last paragraph is important.

Ed Snodgrass of the Mississippi Highway Patrol also had an informant at this meeting and this informant told Snodgrass that there was a discussion at the meeting about a Negro sergeant who had arrested the Blacks after they beat a cab driver to death. An incident similar to this occurred recently in Knoxville. This informant also stated that the contract was given to Stanley Weiss. This subject was not at the meeting. He was in Atlanta, Ga., Sunday night. Snodgrass called William Coleman of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, giving this information to him, who in turn probably called the Knoxville authorities, who in turn called Washington, and from there this information was relayed to Memphis, but in passing from one department to another, the story had been changed from a Negro sergeant in Knoxville to a Negro lieutenant in Memphis.

This information is recorded as of 4:15 and to the best of your recollection Mr. Redditt left your office at 5 o'clock. Was he advised of the fact that the original information you had received apparently had been twisted and that he in fact was not the source of the threat, but rather a Black detective in Knoxville, Tenn.?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't recall, sir, as to whether or not he was advised as to the documents that you have just read.

Mr. SPEISER. Do you have any recollection of being advised of the information prior to sending Mr. Redditt home, that I just related to you?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir, and if this was the basis on which I had acted, I would not have acted. It would have been obvious to all of the officers in the department that there would be no need for any action as far as giving protection to Mr. Redditt.

Mr. SPEISER. I think it is appropriate at this time to mark into evidence MLK exhibit F-191 and I will read that. That is a segment of testimony of Mr. Tines, who was the individual to whom this memo was addressed, and this segment is of his executive session testimony under oath. The questioning is being handled again by staff attorney, Mr. Akers.

[The information follows:]

Mr. Tines, I ask you this. This departmental communication has a time of 4:15 which is supposedly from Lt. Arkin directed to yourself. You would in the course of events be given this departmental communication by Lt. Arkin, is that true, sir?

Mr. Tines. Yes.

Mr. Akers. Well, from the time on here I can tell you this, that we do have independent testimony which indicates that Detective Redditt was actually sent home from the Police Department headquarters at about five o'clock, 5 p.m. on the 4th. Now according to this memorandum you had information at 4:15 that the threat which had been communicated to you by Mr. Manual did not in fact relate to Detective Redditt but related to, as it says here, a Negro sargeant in Knoxville.

Mr. Tines. On these memorandums like this, Mr. Akers, a lot of times these are dictated not at the time they are received but this could have been dictated at a time later than this. I don't know.

Mr. Akers. Is it your testimony then that you were not aware of this information at the time that you met with Director Holloman and Chief Macdonald and at which time you concurred with their decision to send Detective Redditt?

Mr. Tines. No, we didn't have this at that time undoubtedly because Mr. Manuel is down there telling it to them about the information he had received. We had not received this at that time undoubtedly. I mean I don't recall it.

✓ Mr. Akers. If you had been aware of such information, would you have differed in your decision with respect as to what to do with Detective Redditt on the afternoon of April 4?

✓ Mr. Tines. I think if this information right here had been available at the time, I think the decision would have been different all the way around with everybody. 7

Mr. AKERS. Mr. Tines, I ask you this: This departmental communication has a time of 4:15 which is supposedly from Lieutenant Arkin, directed to yourself. You would, in the course of events, be given this departmental communication by Lieutenant Arkin, is that true, sir?

Mr. TINES. Yes.

Mr. AKERS. Well, from the time on here I can tell you this, that we do have independent testimony which indicates that Detective Redditt was actually sent home from the Police Department headquarters about 5 o'clock on the 4th.

Now, according to this memorandum you had information at 4:15 that the threat which had been communicated to you by Mr. Manuel did not in effect relate to Detective Redditt but related to, as it says here, "a Negro sergeant in Knoxville."

Mr. TINES. On these memorandums like this, Mr. Akers, a lot of times they are dictated not at the time they are received, but this could have been dictated at a time later than this; I don't know.

Mr. AKERS. Is it your testimony then that you were not aware of this information at the time that you met with Director Holloman and Chief MacDonald and it was time you concurred with their decision to send Detective Redditt?

Mr. TINES. No; we didn't have this at that time undoubtedly because Mr. Manuel is down there telling it to them about the information he had received. We had not received this at that time undoubtedly. I mean I don't recall it.

Mr. AKERS. If you had been aware of such information, would you have differed in your decision with respect as to what to do with Detective Redditt on the afternoon of April 4th?

Mr. TINES. I think if this information right here had been available at the time I think the decision would have been different all the way around with everybody.

You have no recollection of receiving this memo or being advised of it?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. At best, would you say the whole colloquy of events illustrates that there was poor communication within the Memphis Police Department?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It could have been, and I agree with Inspector Tines as to the typing of this memorandum. I just don't believe at this point in time that this memorandum was actually written and was in the office at the time that we were talking to Mr. Redditt.

Now, irregardless of that, Lieutenant Arkin had the responsibility of advising Inspector Tines of this information, but I don't have any recollection of it, of being advised of any of this.

Mr. SPEISER. Let me ask you this question before we change to another area, Mr. Holloman.

You indicated in your testimony that you expressed substantial concern about the safety of Mr. Redditt, who had been the subject of a threat and that you wanted him to go to the hotel despite his objections he didn't feel that such security precautions were necessary; is that accurate?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. And that you sent him home and that he went home under the protection of policemen. Is that right?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Why was your concern about him so much more, so greater than it was for Dr. King when you were advised that at the airport, when he arrived, he did not want any protection? Why did you not insist that your men stay with him at the airport?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I can't answer that because I have testified before that I cannot recall at this time of being advised of the detail being pulled off.

Now, as far as Detective Redditt was concerned, I was concerned about him because he had performed an outstanding job for the Memphis Police Department from the beginning of the sanitation strike in keeping us advised as to the activities of the demonstrators, as to the plans and so forth.

Mr. SPEISER. Are you familiar with two firemen by the name of Floyd Newsum and Norvell Wallace?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I recognize the names. I do not know them, no, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Just to set the scenario, Mr. Holloman, they were two Black firemen who were working at the station house No. 2, the same station from which Mr. Redditt was observing the activities—the same fire station from which he was observing the activities of Martin Luther King on April 4th.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, I understand that.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you partake in any decision that resulted in their transfer from Fire Station No. 2 to another station?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my recollection, no, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. You have no recollection of ever instructing that they be removed from the firehouse where Mr. Redditt was observing Dr. King's activities?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir, I have no recollection of it and I cannot understand why they would have been removed.

Mr. SPEISER. You are aware that they are two Black firemen?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, and they had nothing whatsoever—in other words, a fireman would have had nothing whatsoever to do with any type of police action and I couldn't, as far as the assassination is concerned, I cannot understand why the transfer of these two Black firemen would have any significance whatsoever.

Mr. SPEISER. It has been suggested that they were moved at the instruction of the police department because Mr. Redditt had requested they be transferred because of the possible fact that they

might curtail Mr. Redditt's activities. You did not partake in that decision?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. I would like to have marked into evidence MLK exhibit No. 192, which is a transcript of testimony of Inspector Tines again, when questioned by staff attorney Mr. Akers, and the substance of that testimony confirms that Inspector Tines was the policeman who, at Mr. Redditt's suggestion, directed that these two firemen be removed from Fire Station No. 2.

Mr. Tines indicates that he feels he made that decision on his own.

Chairman STOKES. Would you like to have that to be entered into the record?

Mr. SPEISER. I am sorry. That MLK Exhibit F-192 be entered into the record.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-192

- J. Akers: But you do have an independent recollection of some problem occurring at the Temple, which prompted Detective Redditt to come to you and indicated that he had a concern about the presence of certain individuals at that fire station. Is that correct, sir?
- Inspector Tines: I don't what it was - whether it was at the Temple or not that brought this concern to Redditt or whether or not it was - He had seen somebody at the fire station or had talked to somebody there. I don't know. I don't remember off hand.
- J. Akers: But there did come a time when Detective Redditt came to you and indicated a concern about certain individuals
- Inspector Tines: At the fire station?
- J. Akers: Uh huh.
- Inspector Tines: Yes.
- J. Akers: Could you tell me about that, please?
- Inspector Tines: Well, the best I recall - he was concerned about a fireman there - that must have been



associated with some of the groups that he had been observing and felt like that he and Richmond could not hold their observation point there without being harassed or something by the firemen there. As a result of that I called - I believe it was either - Chief Hamilton or Chief Larry Williams - one of the Memphis of Fire Department, advising them of what Redditt had told me and asked if there was some way that this particular man could be transferred to another location while they had their observation post set up there. Whether or not this was ever done, I don't know. I don't even remember the fireman's name.

J. Akers: You don't recall their response to

Inspector Tines: No, I don't.

J. Akers: Would you have communicated the fact that you made this request to any other person? For example, Chief McDonald or Director Holloman?

Inspector Tines: I could have. I would say that I did.

J. Akers: But, it wouldn't have been necessary?

Inspector Tines: No. Something just on a request like that.

I would have kept them informed as to everything that Redditt had told me.

Mr. SPEISER. There are two more areas of questioning, Mr. Holloman, before I turn you over to the Congressmen.

There were tact units that were being employed at the time of Mr. King's presence in Memphis, is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. What is a tact unit?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Tact, I guess, is the short, abbreviated form for a tactical unit. It is a group of usually three vehicles with four men assigned to each of the vehicles. Their responsibility is to respond to any disorder or to any emergency or to anything that might happen of that kind, immediately, and that was what they were doing.

Now, these tact units had been set up actually for the 28th and they were still in formation. In other words, we did not at that time have tactical units operating at all times. They were only formed in emergency situations and usually in riot situations.

In other words, a tactical unit is usually a unit that is set up for a riot situation.

Mr. SPEISER. Were there tactical units that were patrolling in the area of the Lorraine Motel?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Would you not agree that the mere presence of police cars, and, as you indicated, the tactical unit consists of a cluster of at least three police cars, that the mere presence of police cars serves as a deterrent against crime?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir, I would think so, yes, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Did you partake in the decision which resulted in the deployment of tact units to the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my recollection; no, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. You didn't participate in that decision either?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't recall it; no, sir.

Mr. SPEISER. Well, you were aware they were in that vicinity on April 3d?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir. As a matter of fact, an entire tactical unit was in the fire station at the time that Dr. King was assassinated.

Mr. SPEISER. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would request MLK exhibit F-193 be entered into evidence.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be entered into the record at this time.

[The information follows:]

## MLK EXHIBIT F-193

A F F I D A V I T

I, William O. Crumby, of Memphis, Tennessee, being duly sworn, make oath as follows:

That this statement is made freely, voluntarily, and without threats, promises, assurances, or remuneration from any source.

That on April 4, 1968, I was employed by the Memphis, Tennessee Police Department.

That on April 3rd & 4th, 1968, I was on special assignment as the commanding officer of the Memphis Police Department TACT Unit. My duty hours were 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

TACT units were a squad of men on call to move into any part of the city of Memphis within minutes to quell uprising, unruly gatherings and riots. It was my duty to coordinate the activities of the representatives of the Memphis Police Department, Shelby County Sheriff Department and the Tennessee Highway Patrol assigned to these TACT units. My personal responsibility was to ensure that the proper number of TACT units were in the area of the city of Memphis where needed. I was empowered with the authority to direct the dispatcher to move tact units around the city.

That although approximately three or four of these TACT units, each consisting of three to four vehicles and 9 - 16 men were patrolling the 5-6 block area immediately surrounding the Lorraine Motel 4/3/68, all of these units were ordered beginning on the morning 4/4/68, to remain in the general vicinity of the motel, but not within visual distant. This order was prompted by an instruction on the afternoon of 4/3/68 from an unidentified member of Dr. King's entourage to Inspector

Sam Evans, who was the street commander of the TACT unit. This request was relayed by Inspector Evans to myself and in turn by me to Police Chief J.C. MacDonald and Director of Police and Fire Safety Frank Holloman. As a result, the decision was made to honor the request beginning on the morning of April 4, 1968. ] notes

That following the shot which felled Dr. King on April 4, 1968, I instructed two of the TACT units to move into and seal off the area surrounding the Lorraine Motel while the remainder of the TACT units were ordered to continue cruising their assigned areas.

That following the broadcast by the police dispatcher that a white mustang was believed to be the getaway car for the assassination of Dr. King, no specific order came over the air that all police vehicles, including TACT units, were to search for the mustang because it was standard procedure within the Memphis Police Department that once such an alert was given all police vehicles were to be on the LOF the suspect's car. With the exception of the 2-3 TACT units, immediately assigned the responsibility of cordoning off the scene of Dr. King's assassination, all other TACT units were directed to return to normal patrol duties.

That I understand that this affidavit may be introduced and received into evidence at public hearings conducted by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives, and may lead them to make various findings of fact, and the statutes applicable to Congressional investigations, including but not limited to those concerning false statements, obstruction, of misleading, would subject me to criminal penalties for not

telling the whole and complete truth in this affidavit.

Further affiant saith not.

William O. Crumby  
WILLIAM O. CRUMBY

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 8  
day of November, 1978.

Jean Alessi  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Expires 9/12/79

Mr. SPEISER. Mr. Holloman, I won't go through the tedious process of reading this affidavit, but it is an affidavit of William O. Crumby who was in charge of all the tactical units in Memphis on April 3d. He subsequently became chief of police and he is now retired.

Mr. Crumby states in this affidavit that on April 3, 1968, he was advised by the street commander of the tact unit in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel, he was advised by him that a member of Dr. King's entourage had requested the tactical units be removed from the visible vicinity of the Lorraine Motel. That is, if they were going to continue patrolling the Lorraine Motel area, that they not be within visible sight of the motel itself. Apparently, according to the street commander, their presence at the site was causing some disturbance to the King entourage.

Mr. Evans, the street tactical commander, in turn communicated this information to Mr. Crumby and Mr. Crumby states in his affidavit that he advised Mr. MacDonald, chief of police and you, of this information that had been received by the street commander and that between all of you a decision was arrived at that led to the removal of the tactical units from the vicinity of five to six blocks away from the Lorraine Motel.

In essence, as a result of the request and the communication of that request to the police department, the decision was made the tactical units would be withdrawn five to six blocks. Do you recall partaking in that decision?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir, and I would like to ask you to read from his affidavit exactly what he said as to the notification—who he notified and who the decision—who made the decision as to what happened as far as that Tact unit was concerned.

I have no recollection whatsoever of this that you refer to.

Mr. SPEISER. I will briefly read that one paragraph.

That although approximately three or four of these Tact units, each consisting of three to four vehicles and 9 to sixteen men were patrolling the five to six-block area immediately surrounding the Lorraine Motel on April 3, 1968. All of these units were ordered, beginning on the morning of April 4th, to remain in the general vicinity of the motel, but not within visual distance. This order was promulgated by an instruction on the afternoon of April 3, 1968, from an unidentified member of Dr. King's entourage, to Insp. Sam Evans, who was the street commander of the tact unit.

This request was relayed by Inspector Evans to myself and in turn by me to Chief MacDonald and the Director of Police and Fire Safety Frank Holloman. As a result, the decision was made to honor the request beginning on the morning of April 4, 1968.

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Right. Now, that is—the pertinent part that I want to be sure is, who made the decision? A decision was made. He didn't say the decision was made by me. He said a decision was made. And I have absolutely no recollection whatsoever of what has been said there, and I would have doubted that he would have reported to me and to Chief MacDonald. He would have reported to Chief MacDonald, and whether Chief MacDonald told me about it and that a decision was made in some way, that is something that I cannot say, but I have absolutely no recollection of the tact units being altered in any way whatsoever.

Mr. SPEISER. Acknowledging, as you have, that the mere presence of tactical unit service has a deterrent effect in the potential for

violence that might erupt around the Lorraine Motel because of Dr. King's presence, you don't think that that was a decision—the decision to remove them would have been brought to your attention? That that was within the—

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Well, they were not removed. They were only removed from the immediate—from what you have said, from the immediate vicinity. As a matter of fact, when the shot was fired, an entire tact unit was in the fire station, so it was as close as you could get to the Lorraine Motel almost.

Mr. SPEISER. But they were not on the street, as I understand it?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Right.

Mr. SPEISER. It was between the fire station and the Lorraine Motel?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. They had parked their cars between the fire station and the boardinghouse where Mr. Ray was.

Mr. SPEISER. My last area of questioning, Mr. Holloman, concerns the post-assassination effort or lack thereof on the part of the Memphis Police Department to apprehend the assassin.

What, if anything, did you personally do when you were advised of the fact that Dr. King had been killed? What was your immediate reaction?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. I was not on the scene; I was not in communication with the men on the street. I was listening to a radio which was in my office. There were people on the scene. I was listening to the dispatches that were being given by our dispatcher on the radio.

I did not—I will back up a moment there. I would say that within 30 minutes of the assassination, I was talking to the Governor of the State of Tennessee asking for the Guard to be sent back into Memphis. But as far as I was personally, I knew that there were commanding officers on the scene. I knew that Chief MacDonald was on the way to the scene. I did not go to the scene and I did not issue any orders myself at that time.

Mr. SPEISER. Would you say that your attention was more directed toward curbing any demonstrations and rioting within the city of Memphis than apprehending the assassin?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir; I would not say that.

Mr. SPEISER. Would you say your attention was split equally between those two concerns?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes. I think that is a fair statement because I had the responsibility of some 600,000 people in Memphis and I was concerned, of course, with all of those individuals if a riot should occur again, which it did, and which I—the first thing I knew or thought after the assassination was that, "Here we are. We have got another riot."

Mr. SPEISER. But you were equally concerned in apprehending the assassin, Mr. Holloman. Why did you not specifically instruct that an all-points bulletin be sent out and that roadblocks be set up?

Now, for the edification of those people who are unfamiliar, an all-points bulletin alerts the neighboring jurisdictions of the fact that there might be a fugitive entering their jurisdiction and that they should be aware of his presence and they are alerted to this

fact by whatever identifying data that you have in your possession at that time. Why was no all-points bulletin sent out?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't know. I cannot answer why an all-points bulletin was not sent out or why the roadblocks were not set up. I was depending upon the commanding officers, the officials in the department, to take care of that and the policy at that time was that the dispatchers who were uniformed men—in other words, at that time we did not have nonuniformed men dispatching. We had actual police officers who were the dispatchers and we had a commanding officer of the dispatchers and that was his responsibility; it was to make the assignments at that time.

If you ask me why I didn't pick up a telephone and call the dispatcher's office and say, "Why didn't you put out an APB" or "Why didn't you set up, haven't you set up the tactical unit" I don't know why I didn't do it. Maybe that was a dereliction on my part, but I was talking to the Governor; I was also thinking about a riot situation that I could take care of and I knew, or I had enough confidence at that time in the officers of the department that they would take care of this murder that had occurred in Memphis.

Mr. SPEISER. One last question: Didn't you testify in executive session that the reason why an all-points bulletin was not sent out was that you felt there was just an insufficient amount of identifying data on the assassin? That is, at that point, immediately following the assassination, all you knew was that the assassin may have fled in a white Mustang; that he was white, young and well dressed?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. As I recall, my testimony was that that was my assumption as to why it had not been put out. I don't recall my testimony as saying that was the reason, but I think I was asked why and I said, well, I assumed that that was the reason, that it wouldn't have been put out because you had a large number of white Mustangs and if it was put out it would have had to have been connected with the assassination and that some innocent individual in a car in Mississippi or Alabama could have gotten killed or injured if an all-points bulletin connected with the assassination had been put out without a license number, without any other information except a white Mustang and a white man driving it.

Now, that, as I recall, was my testimony before the executive committee.

Mr. SPEISER. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman, at this time.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you, Mr. Speiser.

At this time the committee will take a 10-minute recess.

[Recess taken.]

Chairman STOKES. The committee will come to order.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Speiser for the purpose of introducing exhibits.

Mr. SPEISER. Mr. Chairman, I am going to introduce into evidence two affidavits which I would like to have marked at this time, MLK F-194 and F-195.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, they may be entered into the record at this point.

[The information follows:]



## MLK EXHIBIT F-194

A F F I D A V I T

I, Judson Ghormley, of Memphis, Tennessee, being duly sworn, make oath as follows:

This this statement is made freely, voluntarily, and without threats, promises, assurances, or remuneration from any source.

That on April 4, 1968, I was employed by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department.

That on April 4, 1968, I was the commanding officer of TACT Unit Number Ten.

That a few minutes prior to 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968, I directed the three vehicles and twelve men of TACT Unit Number Ten to pull into the parking area of Fire Station Number Two located at the corner of South Main Street and Butler Avenue for the purpose of taking a short rest break.

That the vehicles of TACT Unit Number Ten were parked on the northwestern side of Fire Station Number Two with the lead vehicle parked facing in a westerly direction so that it protruded to the edge of the sidewalk which paralleled South Main Street.

That the position of the lead TACT Unit vehicle was approximately thirty yards south of Canipe's amusement Company and clearly visible from that point.

That at the time of Dr. King's assassination I along with the other members of TACT Unit Number Ten ran toward the Lorraine Motel which was located east and to the rear of the fire station.

That after I observed that several members of the TACT Unit had already arrived in the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel, I turned back at the ten-foot retaining wall located at the northeastern

corner of the fire station, returned to South Main Street, and proceeded in a northerly direction to Canipe's Amusement Company where I observed a bundle lying in the doorway with the barrel of a rifle protruding.

That I would estimate the time lapse between the shot which killed Dr. King and my observation of the bundle in the doorway of Canipe's to be from two to three minutes.

That I understand that this affidavit may be introduced and received into evidence by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives, and may lead them to make various findings of fact, and the statutes applicable to Congressional investigations, including but not limited to those concerning false statements, obstruction, or misleading, would subject me to criminal penalties for not telling the whole and complete truth in this affidavit.

Further affiant saith not.

  
JUDSON GHORMLEY

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1978.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:  
4/12/81

## MLK EXHIBIT F-195

A F F I D A V I T

I, Frank Kallaher, of Memphis, Tennessee, being duly sworn make oath as follows:

That this statement is made freely, voluntarily, and without threats, promises, assurances, or remuneration from any source.

That on April 4, 1968, I was employed by the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department with the rank of Lieutenant.

That on April 4, 1968, at the time of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I was on duty at Police Headquarters as shift commander of communications.

That in my capacity as shift commander of communications, I was in charge of the radio room, and the personnel in the room including the two police dispatchers.

That in my capacity as shift commander of communications, it was my responsibility in the appropriate emergency situations to see that "Signal Q" was broadcast over the police radio; to see that "Signal Y" was broadcast over the police radio; and to see that an "All Points Bulletin" was communicated to adjacent jurisdictions.

That "Signal Q" was a radio code word indicating that all units were to remain quiet, standing by for transmissions from the dispatcher.

That "Signal Y" was a radio code word indicating that certain units were to proceed to pre-arranged locations to block all main exits from the city including Poplar Avenue and the city limits, Lamar Avenue and the city limits, Highway 51, Highway 61, Highway 64, and the Arkansas bridge.

That an "All Points Bulletin" (APB) was a procedure which in April, 1968, consisted of placing telephone calls to neighboring jurisdictions to request that they be placed on alert for a particular fugitive of a particular description.

That on April 4, 1968, the Memphis Police Department did not yet have a Law Enforcement Teletype System (LETTS).

That I have examined the attached transcript of April 4, 1968 Memphis Police radio broadcasts following the assassination of Dr. King and believe it to be a true and accurate written reproduction of those broadcasts.

That although the transcript reflects the stopping of only three white Mustangs by Memphis Police following the assassination of Dr. King, this record would not reflect the total number of such vehicles halted as under the procedures in effect in April, 1968, such incidents were not routinely reported to the dispatcher.

That although following the assassination of Dr. King, I did direct a broadcast of "Signal Q", have the downtown loop lights switched to red, and notify both the Shelby County Sheriff's Department and the Tennessee Highway Patrol of the assassination, I never directed a broadcast of "Signal Y", and I never communicated an "All Points Bulletin" (APB) to the neighboring jurisdictions of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, or to any other jurisdiction.

That my failure to direct a broadcast of "Signal Y" and to communicate an "All Points Bulletin" to neighboring jurisdictions is attributable to the massive confusion and huge volume of radio traffic which erupted immediately following the assassination of Dr. King and which caused me to overlook the function of these duties.

That, additionally, it was not my normal practice to communicate an "All Points Bulletin" to the State of Mississippi due to a past history of non-cooperation from that state.

That, additionally, it was my belief and understanding that in the case of a fugitive believed to have escaped over the Tennessee State Line, it was the Federal Bureau of Investigation's responsibility to disseminate fugitive data.

That I was never instructed by anyone not to direct a broadcast of "Signal Y" or not to communicate an "All Points Bulletin" to neighboring jurisdictions.

That I understand that this affidavit may be introduced and received into evidence by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives, and may lead them to make various findings of fact, and the statutes applicable to Congressional investigations, including but not limited to those concerning false statements, obstruction, or misleading, would subject me to criminal penalties for not telling the whole and complete truth in this affidavit.

Further affiant saith not.

Frank J. Kallaha  
FRANK KALLAHER

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 7th day of November, 1978.

William Carter Jr.  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Expires Dec. 22, 1979

SUPPLEMENT # 79  
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39  
 Homicide No. 3367  
 Thursday, April 4, 1968, 6:00 P.M.

ES: Transmissions taken from Memphis  
 Police Department Radio Tapes

REPORTED BY: LT. W. S. SCHULZ  
 LT. J. B. WILLIAMS

On April 17, 1968, on instructions of Capt. R. A. Cochran, we contacted Insp. Jimmy Wilkins, Communications Director, in regards to obtaining the tapes of the broadcast made over the Police Radio, at the time Dr. Martin Luther King was fatally shot at the Lorraine Hotel. Permission was obtained from Assistant Chief W. W. Wilkins, for the transcription of these tapes. Ptl. R. H. Freeman, of the Administrative Services Division, did obtain his tape recorder from his home, and loaned it to the investigating officers for the purpose of playing these tapes.

The following transmissions were taken from the dictaphone recordings of radio transmissions on April 4, 1968, and are transcribed to the best ability of the listeners to read the transmissions. The following transcript is of Frequency-2, with Frequency-1 to be transcribed later in this report.

38 The crossing is clear just south of Poplar.

37 In Service, returning.

Disp. 37 in service, (6:01)

35 In service.

Disp. 35 in service, (6:01)

38 In service.

Disp. 38 in service, (6:02)

Tact. 10 (Inaudible) Tact. 10

38 Mr. Moriah is blocked

Tact. 10 Tact. 10

Disp. Go ahead, Tact. 10.

Tact. 10 We have information that King has been shot at the Lorraine.

Disp. Repeat your information again, Tact. 10.

Tact. 10 We have information that King has been shot at the Lorraine, (6:03 P.M.).

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, show you on the call.

Disp. Tact. 9 and Tact. 8, pull into the Lorraine, report of a shooting.

Disp. Tact. 9

Tact. 9 Tact. 9

Disp. Tact. 8

Tact. 8 Tact. 8

Disp. Any cruisers on the air in the vicinity of the Lorraine, 406 Mulberry?

Tact. 10 On scene on Mulberry.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, (6:03 P.M.)

Tact. 12 We are close by, we are on that.

Page 2: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ME, 39.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 18, (6:04 P.M.), any other cars in the area?  
 232 (Inaudible)  
 228 On scene, (6:04 P.M.).

Disp. All cars on the Lorraine Hotel call, we have received another call on it. cars are to remain in the cars until it has been verified. All men are to remain in the cars until it has been verified. (6:04 P.M.)

Tact. 10 He has been shot.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10 advised that King has been shot, (6:04 P.M.)

Tact. II Do you want us to pull down?

Disp. Check, Tact. II, pull down.

Tact. II Okay, Tact. II.

Disp. Signal "Q", Signal "Q".

Disp. All Tact units on the call, you are to form a ring around Lorraine Hotel. You are to form a ring around the Lorraine Hotel. No one is to enter or let in traffic, no pedestrian traffic, is to enter or leave the area at the Lorraine Hotel. A ring is to be formed around the hotel as soon as possible. (6:05 P.M.)

245 In the area.

Disp. Check, 245. Any 200 cars in the loop to make the call?

247 In area.

Disp. Check, 247, (6:05 P.M.)

365 In area.

Disp. Check, 365, (6:05 P.M.)

232 On scene.

Disp. 232 is on the scene, (6:05 P.M.)

224 224.

Disp. Go ahead, 224.

224 We're in the loop, put us on that call.

Disp. Okay, 224, (6:05 P.M.)

Tact. 10 We have information that the shot came from a brick building directly east of (correction) directly west from Lorraine.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10. Tact. 10 has information that the shot was from a brick building directly across from the Lorraine. Be on the east side directly across from the Lorraine. On the east side from a brick building. (6:06)

Tact. 17 In the area.

Disp. Tact. 17 in the area, (6:06 P.M.)

Tact. 10 That building is west of the Lorraine.

Disp. OK, this will be the building west of the Lorraine. The circle is to include the building west of the Lorraine. The brick building from where the shot was fired. (6:06 P.M.)

Disp. All Amcor Station cars. All Amcor Station cars to switch to the P-1. Only the Detail cars to remain on P-2. All Amcor Station cars to switch to the P-1. (6:06)

Page 3: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Robt. 9 Robt. 9 in service.

Disp. Robt. 9 switch to F-1 (6:06)

Disp. All units, 150 advises all Tact Units to seal this area off completely. All units, 150 advises all Tact Units to seal this area off completely, (6:06 P.M.)

Tact. 10 Tact. 10

Disp. Go ahead, Tact. 10.

Tact. 10 I have the weapon in front of 424 and the subject ran south on Main Street.

Disp. South on Main, the subject responsible for the shooting is running south on Main Street. 424 has the weapon at 424 Main, and the subject ran south from that location. (6:07 P.M.)

Tact. 11 We're on Butler, east of Malberry, we will cover this area.

365 We are at St. Paul and Main.

Disp. Okay, 365 is at St. Paul and Main. The other car repeat.

Disp. Not to touch the weapon. The weapon is not to be touched, (6:07 P.M.). Repeating, the information, the subject ran south on Main from 424, any physical description on the subject?

Tact. 10 All we know is he is a young white male, well dressed, dark colored, (Grand

Disp. He's a young white male, a young white male, well dressed, a young white male well dressed, ran south from 424 S. Main, (6:08)

Car 16 Car 16 in service.

Disp. 16 in service, and switch to the F-1.

Tact. 12 In area cruising.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 12, (6:08 P.M.) Tact. 12, you are advised to take up a position and seal the area.

Tact. 12 Okay.

230 In area.

Disp. Is that 230?

230 Check, 230.

Disp. Okay, 230.

Henry 16 Responding to call at the Lorraine Hotel.

Disp. Okay, Henry 16, 201 is on the call, (6:08 P.M.)

236 In area.

Disp. Check, 236, (6:08 P.M.)

Tact. 6 In area.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 6, (6:08 P.M.)

Tact. 12 Main and Butler

Disp. Okay, Tact. 12, is in position at Main and Butler, (6:09 P.M.)

Disp. Any car needing the loop lights?

Tact. 6 We need them.



Page A: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. Okay, you have the loop lights. Okay, you have the loop lights, advise when clear, (6:09 P.M.)

Tact. 10 Tact. 10

Disp. Tact. 10, ambulance on the way.

315 Film Wolfe is in the Fire Department Ambulance with him.

Disp. Okay, the Fire Department Ambulance has cleared the scene, Film on way with ambulance, all Tact Units are to pull into the area, all Tact Units are to pull into the area.

Tact. 10 It's also believed that this subject left in a late model white Mustang, go north on Main.

Disp. Information that subject was in a late model white Mustang, a late model white Mustang, north on Main Street. A white Mustang. Information that we have on the subject, a young white male, well dressed, possibly in a late model white Mustang, went north on Main, (6:10 P.M.)

Tact. 6. Cleared Lights.

Disp. Tact. 6, repeat.

Tact. 6 Cleared the Lights.

Disp. Any other car needing lights?

Tact. 17 Kahr and Buller.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 17, (6:10)

370 In loop, checking.

Disp. Okay, 370, you are advised to seal the area off completely.

Tact. 9 On scene, Lorraine Hotel.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 9, (6:10 P.M.)

Tact. 8 At Lorraine.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 8, (6:10 P.M.)

150 Keep some of those Tact Units cruising.

Disp. Couple of Tact Units to remain cruising, (6:11 P.M.), respond with your number.

Tact. 6 We will be cruising.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 6, will be cruising, (6:11 P.M.)

Disp. Tact. 15, location.

Tact. 15 Sumner and Holmes, en route.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 15, take St. Joe and guard the subject, (6:11 P.M.)

Tact. 15 St. Joe?

Disp. Check, St. Joe Hospital, [unclear]

Tact. 15 Okay, 15

Disp. Only description this time, a young white male well dressed dropped weapon at 424 S. Main and seen running south from that location. Have information he may be in a late model white Mustang, north on Main, (6:12 P.M.)

Page 5: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., CH, 39-

Tact. 12 We have a couple of vehicles stopped at Main and Butler. We have their license numbers and they have identification. Do you want them to stand & leave the area?

Disp. 150?

Disp. 150. Have several cars stopped Main and Butler, have license numbers, identification information, okay for them to clear area?

150 Okay.

Disp. Check, Tact 12, (6:12 P.M.)

Tact. 12 Okay.

Tact. 17 The area is closed off and we are going to cruise.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 17, advises area is closed off and the other units to cruise the area. (6:12 P.M.)

Tact. 11 See if you can determine which hospital he went to.

Disp. Went to St. Joe, on scene now.

Tact. 11 Okay.

368 Do you want us to pull into the area?

Disp. Check, 368, (6:13 P.M.)

368 Okay, 368.

157 In service.

Tact. 14 Cruising.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 14, (6:14 P.M.)

Disp. 157, we have a signal "Q" in effect.

Tact. 12 I am sending two men down to Main and Calhoun to turn the traffic east and

Disp. Okay, Tact. 12. (6:14 P.M.)

(Inaudible) Cruising

Disp. Number cruising?

69 69 in service.

Disp. 69 in service, (6:14 P.M.)

Disp. Motors and radar units to move into Loop, (6:15 P.M.)

20 20 in.

Disp. Okay, 20 in service, (6:15)

Disp. First notices to arrive in Loop, cut the traffic at Mulberry and Second.

367 367, car 18 is on the scene and all Fire Department trucks are off the street okay to abandon it?

Disp. 367 in service, pull into loop for traffic routine.

367 367

Tact. 13 Cruising.

Disp. Tact. 13, cruising, (6:16 P.M.)

Page 6: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. Check 155.

Disp. Tact. 5 in service.

Disp. All news men to be withheld from the area, (6:15)

Disp. Repeating the information at this time, the weapon was dropped at 424 S. E. a well dressed young white male, last seen running south from that location, a well dressed young white male, last seen running south from that location, may be in a late model white Mustang, north on Main, (6:16)

Tact. 7 It loop, crawling.

Disp. Tact. 7, crawling, (6:17 P.M.)

150 You got a hospital report?

Disp. I have them on the phone, attempting to get that information.

150 Okay.

116-117 (unreadable)

201 On scene.

178 In service.

Disp. 178 (6:17)

Disp. Okay, 159, Tact. 10F

Disp. Any car on the scene advising the clothing description. Any car advising clothing on subject? Okay, 404, lights still being held, (6:18)

Disp. 201 on scene, (6:19 P.M.)

Tact. 10 Tact. 10F

Disp. Go ahead.

(Inaudible)

Disp. Cut off some of the radios at the Lorraine, we're getting too much feedback. Cut off some of the radios. Tact. 10, cut off some of the radios. We're getting too much feedback. Try it again.

Tact. 10 Subject had dark hair, possibly black, the suit was a very dark suit, also possibly black, and the subject was medium heavy build.

Disp. A young white male has dark hair, possibly black, dark colored suit, also possibly black, medium heavy build. A young white male has dark hair possible black, dark colored suit, also possibly black, medium heavy build, (6:20)

Disp. 150F

150 150.

Disp. 150, the hospital advised critical condition, (6:20 P.M.)

150 Okay.

Disp. Any cruiser available to meet a man at St. Joseph?

Disp. 14 transporting, (6:20)

John 5 John-5 in service.

Disp. John-5 at St. Joseph, meet the officer.

John-5 Okay, John-5.

Tact. 9 Do you want to let any reporters around the Lorraine Hotel at this time?

Page 7: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. Negative, reporters are to be withheld at this time, (6:21)

Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.

Disp. Cars attention, cars on the Lorraine Hotel, cars to switch to the F-2 frequency, all Tact Units on the F2 frequency, cars not on the call, switch to F-1, (6:22)

367 367 on the scene.

Disp. 367 on the scene, (6:22)

Disp. Repeating the information we have at this time on the shooting at 406 Mulberry, a young well dressed white male, dark hair, possibly black, a dark suit, it's also possibly black, medium heavy build. He was seen south from 424 S. Main, possibly connected a late model white Mustang, was seen north on Main, (6:23)

Tact. 7 Tact. 7

Disp. Go ahead Tact. 7.

Tact. 7 Do you have any description on a license number on this Mustang?

Disp. No Tact. 7, a late model Mustang is all we have at this time.

Tact. 7 Repeat.

Disp. A late model white Mustang is all the information we have.

George 9 George 9 special at St. Joseph.

Disp. Is that George 9 at the St. Joseph?

George 9 Check.

Disp. Okay, George 9, John 5, disregard the call, (6:23)

John 5 Okay, John 5.

Disp. The car that has the weapon on Main Street, come in with your number.

(Unintelligible) Do transmissions, some car saying something about homicide.

Disp. Your number?

Disp. Is that Tact 10?

Tact. 10 Check.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, (6:24)

Tact. 16 Tact. 16, we are at Danny Thomas and Adams, just been stopped by a male co who advised us some other subjects had followed that subject in question, north on Danny Thomas Blvd., going north on Thomas from this location.

Disp. Did they get a license number?

Tact. 16 They did not.

Disp. Information that the subject had been followed, subject responsible for the shooting had been followed north on Danny Thomas, and then north on Thomas. North on Danny Thomas and then north on Thomas. In a Mustang, Tact. 16?

Tact. 16 Stand by.

Disp. Okay, Sheriff's Department to copy. They went north on Thomas from the vic of Parkway, (6:25)

413 413 in service.

Page 8: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. A13 switch to F-1, A13 in service (6:25)

Tact. 16 They are unable to give any description, just advised that it was the subject's question.

Disp. Okay, advised the subject responsible for the shooting, went north on Thomas from the parkway, (6:25)

Disp. Tact. 16, how long ago was that?

Tact. 16 Just a few ago.

Disp. Okay, they did advise Thomas?

Tact. 16 Check, said they went north.

Disp. Okay, information they went north on Thomas.

Tact. 17 Area of Thomas and Chelsea, cruising.

Disp. Tact. 17?

Tact. 17 Check.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 17, (6:26)

Disp. 101F

Disp. 68 pull up to the city limits.

Disp. 17 Chelsea and Watkins.

Disp. 101F

100 100

Disp. 100

100 Go ahead to 101, he's answering you.

Disp. (Inaudible) Stand by.

Tact. 9 I have Rev. Middlebrook, and Rev. Jackson down here, have to leave, and want to go in.

Disp. Rev. Middlebrook and Rev. Jackson??

Tact. 9 Check, Tact. 9.

Disp. 150, Tact. 9 has Rev. Jackson and Middlebrook advising they have a right to up there, are they to be admitted?

150 Check, that's all right.

Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.

Disp. 100, 100, the Governor wants to know where you can be contacted public serv

(Inaudible) Transmission from 100.

Disp. Relay that to me.

(Inaudible)

Disp. 150, are you reading that?

150 Repeat 150

Dispatcher Repeat 100, we are not getting you, we wanted to be relayed.

(Inaudible) From 100

Page 9: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39-

Tact. 6 Did you read him?

Disp. No, Tact. 6, go ahead.

Tact. 6 523-2788, 523-2788.

Disp. 523-2788?

Tact. 6 Check.

Disp. Okay.

Tact. 11 Rev. Jackson and Penell want in.

Disp. Middlebrook and Jackson?

Tact. 11 Check.

Disp. Okay, ISG advises it is okay for them to go in.

Tact. 11 Tact. 11.

Disp. 6:30, KIX, 306.

Disp. Is there a Tact Unit available to go to Main and McCall for information?

Tact. 7 Tact. 7.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 7, see a Mr. Christy, (6:30)

Tact. 7 Tact. 7.

Tact. 12 We have a Gerald Lee Farnon, Director of Community Relations, and he wants  
ISG ISG, let him in.

Tact. 12 Okay, Tact. 12.

Tact. 7 Tact. 7 on the scene.

Disp. Tact. 7 on the scene, (6:31)

Disp. Car 24?

Car 24 Car 24.

Disp. 24, switch to the F-1.

Car 24 Car 24.

Disp. John-5, report to headquarters, (6:31)

Tact. 7 Do you have a better location?

Disp. Main and McCall for Mr. Christy, Tact. 7.

Tact. 7 We have him located now, Tact. 7.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 7.

John-5 John-5, did you want John-3 or John-5?

Disp. They advised John-3, are you the only cruiser on?

John-5 Check, John-5.

Disp. Okay, John-5, report to headquarters, (6:31)

John-5 John-5

Disp. 156, switch back to F-1, (6:32)

Page 10: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Tact. 12 Check with 150, and see if Ernest Withers, Photographer, can come into this area, or just have him stand by.

Disp. 150.

150 Just have him standby until we can get everybody in here.

Disp. Just have him standby, Tact. 12.

Disp. 316, are you on the scene?

99 Is 100 at the scene?

Disp. We have him on a number, 99.

150 Tell him I'm at the scene.

Disp. 150 is at the scene, 99.

99 Okay, I'm about three blocks from there.

Disp. Okay, 99, on the way, (6:34)

150 Okay.

Victor 7 In service.

Disp. Victor 7 in service, (6:34)

421 We're stopping a white Mustang, north on Thoms from Firestone, with a white male in it.

Disp. 421 is stopping a white Mustang, north on Thoms from where?

421 That'll be north on Thoms from Firestone, north on Thoms at Firestone.

Disp. Okay, 421 is north on Thoms at Firestone, they have a white Mustang, with a white male in it.

421 That's 2189, 421.

Disp. The license only, 421.

(Inaudible)....Check that automobile out, that was ED-2189....(Inaudible)

421 Roger.

(Inaudible)....Sheriff, we've stopped that car, and he checks out okay.

421 Okay.

Disp. KE-2189 checks okay, 421 in service, (6:36)

Tact. 7 In service.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 7, (6:36), Was he able to furnish any more information?

Tact. 7 No, Tact. 7.

Disp. Okay.

Robt. 4 Transporting to headquarters.

Disp. Robt. 4 transporting, (6:36)

25 Headquarters.

Disp. 25 on the scene, (6:37)

Disp. 366.

Page 11: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

366 366.

Disp. Are you clear?

366 Check, we're clear.

Disp. What's your location?

366 We're at the City Lot now.

Disp. Okay, (6:38)

Disp. Any cars in the east end?

Disp. Any cruisers or any other cars in the east end? (6:39)

366 Just checked AL-9136, on a light colored Mustang, north or there.

Disp. AL-9136 check okay, (6:39)

366 Correct that to AL-9135.

Disp. Okay, AL-9135. Okay, (6:40)

(Inaudible) ... HRC have down here at Second and Butler.

Disp. 150 has given orders to withhold all reporters until further notice.

(Inaudible) ... Okay.

150 150.

Disp. Go ahead, 150.

150 Long as they can be identified, let them come on.

Disp. Okay, 150 advises as long as the Hess Media can be identified, let them come on. (6:40)

421 Thomas and Crump, checking a male white.

Disp. 421 Special, (6:40)

150 Did you read?

Disp. Check, 150, advising that if the man can be identified, let them come on.

201 201, that's being compiled with.

Disp. Okay, 201 advised that it's being compiled with, (6:41)

615 Have a Ward Car check a broken window at (Transmission sounds like 615 as Treasure Hunt Store).

Tact. 17 Okay, Tact. 17.

Disp. Thomas and Firestone, Tact. 17.

Tact. 9 Tact. 9.

Disp. Tact. 9.

Tact. 9 We have information a male colored here says he observed two white males, changing clothes on Second Street, between Fontotco and Vance at a garage. They should be in a white Oldsmobile, parked on Second Street, headed north.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 9, have information several white males were seen changing clothes on Second Street, between Fontotco and Vance, in a white Oldsmobile parked southbound on Second. Tact. 9 has information several white males were seen changing clothes in a garage on Second Street between Fontotco.



Page 12: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

(Disp. Continued)

Disp. and Vance. They were in a white Oldsmobile parked southbound on Second St. Any Det Units in the vicinity to check out this information, respond with number.

368 Put us on that.

Disp. Okay, 368. (6:43)

(Inaudible)

Disp. Repeat.

(Inaudible)

Disp. Youmbar Unit, 2.

Tact. 14. Tact. 14.

Disp. Tact. 14 and Unit 2 on the call. (6:43)

367 367

Disp. Okay, 367.

99 99

Disp. Go ahead, 99.

99 Tell 100 I'm on the way to his office.

Disp. 100, 99 in on the way to the office. (6:43)

Tact. 11 St. Martin and Euler, we have a person that saw a white Oldsmobile pull away from the south side of the Lorraine Motel, prior to the police arriving here.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 11 has information they saw a white Oldsmobile, a white Oldsmobile pull away from the side of the Lorraine prior to the arrival of the police officers. A white Oldsmobile possibly leaving the scene. (6:44)

Tact. 11 We're holding that subject here for Tact. 8.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 11.

231 Can you determine what type of gun it was?

Disp. Tact. 10, what kind of gun was it?

201 201, the rifle that was dropped on Main Street was a Browning with a scope.

Disp. It is a Browning with a scope on it.

231 Can you give us the caliber?

Disp. Caliber, 201.

201 It was in a box, we did not touch it, it is at headquarters, and now in the possession of Insp. Zachary.

Disp. Okay, it has not been touched, it is in a box.

231 Have a commanding officer meet us at Talbot and Wagner, we have a suspect.

Disp. Number at Talbot and Wagner.

231 231

Disp. Okay, 231 has a suspect at Talbot and Wagner, can a commanding officer meet them there?

158 I'll meet them there.

Page 13: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. Okay, 158- (6:45)

Disp. 159 call 100 on Station 411 (6:45)

150 Repeat the Station number.

Disp. Station 411.

150 Okay, 150.

George 9 George 9

Disp. Go ahead, George 9.

George 9 We need some more men down here to guard the doors leading into St. Joe, getting too many people inside.

Disp. Okay, George 9, 387, St. Joe, (6:46)

159 Unit 2, 1A is going to transport these two subjects herein this vicinity & here.

Disp. Where is that from?

159 Wase and Pontotoc.

Disp. Okay. Were these the male whites that was changing clothes?

159 They are male whites, we're looking for their clothes now.

Disp. Okay, units transporting.

Tact. 1A Tact. 1A, unit 2 transporting.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 1A, Unit 2 transporting, (6:46)

Tact. 1A It'll be two male whites.

Disp. Okay.

404 I'm en route to St. Joseph.

Disp. Okay, 404, 366 location?

366 Main and Washington 366.

Disp. Okay, report to St. Joe, (6:47)

366 Okay, 366.

199 199

Disp. 199

199 Insp. Melden in the car.

Disp. Okay, 199, (6:47)

Tact. 9 (Inaudible)....These two male whites in....(Inaudible)....ECA

Disp. A Signal "QT". The car with information on ECA repeat, the other cars stand

Tact. 9 This male colored gave us information on two male whites. He saw them stand there by the ECA Radio Co., (Inaudible)....Street.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 9. The commanding officer on the scene checking Pontotoc Street case in with your number.

159 159

Disp. 159, did you read Tact. 9?

Page 14: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

159 Check. Tell them to hold on to that subject to make an identification.  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 9, hold on to that subject, so they can make identification (6:48)  
 Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.  
 Tact. 14 Have Unit Leader meet us at Headquarters.  
 Disp. Tact. 14 leader, meet Unit 2 at headquarters, (6:48)  
 Tact. 14 Leader Check, on the way.  
 Disp. Check, (6:48)  
 Tact. 5 Do you want us to return to the north end and cruise?  
 200 In service.  
 Disp. 200 in service, (6:48)  
 200 Ask 150 where he wants us to report to.  
 Disp. 150, where do you want 200?  
 Disp. Can't raise him, 200.  
 200 Okay, disregard.  
 150 Tell 200 to standby with his Tact units.  
 Disp. 200, standby with your Tact Units in the vicinity of the Lorraine, (6:49)  
 200 Check, 200.  
 Disp. Tact. 7 remain in the area, (6:50)  
 Tact. 7 Tact. 7.  
 Tact. 7 We have checked the Downtowner and the Holiday Inn on Third, and they have no register of a Mustang.  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 7, (6:50)  
 Tact. II Tact. II.  
 Disp. Go ahead, Tact. II.  
 Tact. II Hotel down here, says he has some people that have to go to work, and wants to know if it can be granted.  
 150 150, give them permission.  
 Tact. II Okay, Tact. II.  
 Disp. (6:50 P.M.)  
 AOA AOA.  
 Disp. Go ahead, AOA.  
 AOA Send us two more motorcycle men up here to the Emergency at St. Joe right away  
 Disp. Okay, need two motor men at the Emergency at St. Joe. Two motor men come in with your number.  
 AOA I need two men, see if you can get accident car, or anybody else up here, two men.  
 Disp. Okay, AOA.

Page 15: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

150 Have you got the lights still on?  
 Disp. Check, 150.  
 150 Go ahead and let them off.  
 Disp. Okay, the lights are being cleared, (6:51)  
 Tact. 14. Tact. 14, headquarters.  
 Disp. Tact. 14, on the scene at headquarters, (6:51)  
 159 The Unit that has the male colored that knows the exact location where they changing clothes, have him come in with his number.  
 Disp. That's Tact. 9.  
 159 What's his location?  
 Disp. Where do you have him, Tact. 9?  
 Disp. Tact. 9.  
 Tact. 9 Tact. 9.  
 Disp. Where do you have that subject?  
 Tact. 9 We have him at Second and Butler.  
 Disp. They have him at Second and Butler, 159.  
 159 Have them study.  
 Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.  
 Disp. (6:52)  
 Tact. 5 We have a suspect at Main and Talbot.  
 Disp. Tact. 5 has a suspect at Main and Talbot. Any officer available to meet the  
 Tact. 17 We'll meet them.  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 17, (6:52)  
 230 Did anybody check the white Mustang abandoned in an alley on the south side the Peabody Hotel?  
 Disp. Any car check the Mustang on the south side of the Peabody?  
 366 366 on the scene.  
 370 370, we checked that car.  
 Disp. Check, 370 checked it.  
 230 Okay, 230.  
 366 366, on the scene.  
 Disp. 366 on the scene, (6:53)  
 155 155 to 150  
 Disp. 155 to 150.  
 160 150  
 155 150, is it okay for Dr. King's brother to go to the hospital?  
 150 I couldn't get it.

Page 16: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ME, 39.

Disp. Is it okay for Dr. King's brother to go to the hospital?  
 150 Check.  
 Disp. Check, 153, (6:54)  
 155 Okay, 155.  
 Disp. 201, Tact One advised to check with the Tact Units around the Motel, and ones that can be released from their location, to do so.  
 201 Okay, 201.  
 Disp. That will be to cruise the area.  
 201 Okay, 201.  
 Tact. 14, Tact. 14, leader at headquarters.  
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 14, leader at headquarters, (6:55)  
 Tact. 8 Have 232 to pick up his partner at Butler and Malberry.  
 Disp. 232, pick your partner up at Third and Malberry.  
 232 That's Butler and Malberry.  
 Disp. Okay, that's Butler and Malberry, 232.  
 Disp. Tact 6, and Tact 7, meet 153 at St. Joseph.  
 Disp. Tact 6.  
 Tact. 6 Tact. 6.  
 Disp. Tact 7.  
 Tact. 7 Tact. 7.  
 Disp. (6:56)  
 201 201 to Tact One.  
 159 159  
 Disp. Go ahead 159.  
 159 Contact the owner of the Avaco-Indio-Visual Equipment Supply Company, located at 308 S. Second.  
 Disp. What do you want to tell him?  
 159 Come down here.  
 Disp. Okay.  
 Disp. Do you know the owner's name?  
 Tact. 11 Tact. 11  
 Disp. Go ahead, Tact. 11  
 Tact. 11 The owner at 308 S. Second is L. C. Malfee, A.L. Van Huss, picture show projection operator at the Strand Theatre, and is probably on duty tonight.  
 Disp. Okay, repeat the first name.  
 Tact. 11 L. C. Malfee, Alfred Van Huss, A. P. Van Huss, (Spells it Huss)  
 404 404

Page 17: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. Go ahead, A04.

A04 Have the two Tact Units that's coming over, report to the back of the Zone entrance.

Disp. Tact 6 and 7, report to the back of the Emergency Room entrance. (6:57)

Tact 6 Tact 6

Tact 7 Tact 7

159 159

Disp. 159

159 The phone number, 397-7733, ask him if some of his mechanics changed cloth out in front.

Disp. If some of his what?

159 Some of his mechanics changed clothes out in front.

Disp. Okay, 159, stand by.

Disp. Tact 1A, Tact 1B, is there still units in the vicinity out of Tact 1A?

Tact 1A Check Tact 1A, Unit 3.

Disp. Tact 1A, unit 3, report to St. Joe, (6:58)

Tact 1A Tact 1A, Unit 3

Tact 1I Tact 1I, to Unit 3, what's your location?

Disp. Tact 1I, Unit 3, what's your location?

Tact 1I Mulberry and Haling, Unit 3.

Disp. Mulberry and Haling, Tact 1I Leader.

Tact 1I Okay, Tact 1I.

201 Notify Tact 1, we will release these units as soon as Homicide has completed their investigation, it's necessary to hold them to seal this area at this time.

Disp. Okay, the last units are to still seal the area until Homicide completes their investigation. (6:59)

Tact 7 Tact 7 on the scene.

Disp. Tact 7 on the scene at St. Joe, (7:00 P.M. III 306)

Tact 1A Tact 1A, Unit 3 on the scene.

Disp. Tact 1A, Unit 3 on the scene at St. Joe, (7:00 P.M.)

Disp. 159

159 159

Disp. Would that be the mechanics from the place of business at 308 S. Second, are those the ones that you are asking that changed clothes.

159 Check, he states that the door was open at that time, they were changing cloth it's a good possibility that it was workers that he saw.

Disp. Okay, 159.

Disp. 159

159 159

Page 18: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

- Disp. Mrs. Van Hise on the phone, another husband and brother in law are the only ones that run that business at the Visual Aid, and there are no mechanics employed there, and they are en route from the business home, and left there about 30 minutes ago.
- 159 It's a possibility that they are the two he observed there. Have her to tell her husband to contact you as soon as they get home.
- Disp. Okay, Det
- Test II Test II, Unit 2, there is workers at 138 Butler, at this Lucky Electric Supply Company. Want them to leave and go home, leave work.
- Disp. 201
- 201 201
- Disp. Permission for workers at 138 Butler to leave the business from work and go home.
- 201 Okay, 201
- Disp. Okay, Test II, Unit 2, (7:05)
- Test II Test II, Okay
- 367 Would you please have 159 to meet us back in front of 308 N. Second?
- Disp. 159, did you read 367?
- 159 159
- Disp. Okay. (7:05)
- Test IV Subject at Main and Talbot checks okay.

This is the end of F-2 Transmission.

Page 19: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

The following pages are the transmissions from F-1 frequency, on April 4, 1968, from 6:01 p.m., to 6:51 p.m.

2 2

156 156 in service.

Disp. 156 in service, (6:01)

ALL Headquarters

Disp. ALL inservice (6:01)

68 68 on the scene.

Disp. 68 on the scene, (6:01)

17 17 on the scene.

Disp. 17 on the scene, (6:01)

2 2 on the scene.

Disp. 2 on the scene, (6:02)

Disp. 2 disregard that call.

2 Car 2.

416 416 in service.

Disp. I and 416 pull into 406 Mulberry, Lorraine Hotel.

Disp. I

I I

Disp. 416

416 416

Disp. Reported that a shooting had occurred at that place, okay, 17

I Okay, I.

Disp. 416

416 416

Disp. I and 416, you are to remain in the car until it is verified that Rev. King has been shot, okay, 17

I Okay, I.

Disp. 416

416 416

Disp. I and 416, 158, pull up on this, it has been confirmed that King has been shot.

I I

Disp. 416

416 416

Disp. 158

158 158



Age 20: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. 155, you are to form a ring around the hotel, form a ring around the hotel, Tact Units are responding, (6:04)

159 159, I'm moving down on that call.

Disp. Okay, 159, 156, pull down.

156 Okay, 156.

Disp. Advise no pedestrian traffic, no traffic is to leave the vicinity of the hotel

17 17 in service.

Disp. 17 in service, (6:05)

2 2 in service.

Disp. Have information this shot came from a brick building, it's a brick building directly east from the Lorraine Hotel. The shot came from the brick building directly east from the Lorraine Hotel. (6:06)

421 I will move in on that.

Disp. Okay.

150 150

Disp. 150

150 Be sure that the Tact Units seal that location off.

Disp. Okay, 150.

Disp. All units, that's all units, 150 advising all Tact Units are to seal this area off completely. All Tact Units are to seal this area off completely. (6:06)

2 2 in service.

Disp. 2 in service. (6:06)

Disp. 421 has the weapon at 424 S. Main, one of the cars has the weapon at 424 S. Main. The subject responsible ran south on Main, the subject responsible ran south from 406 Main.

Disp. Tact 4, pull up.

Tact 4 Tact 4.

150 Got any descriptions?

Disp. Check, standby, a young white male, well dressed, a young white male well dressed, ran south from 424 S. Main. (6:08)

16 16 headquarters.

Disp. Okay, 16.

155 155 on the scene.

Disp. Okay, 155, (6:08)

68 In service.

Disp. 68 in service. (6:08)

416 416 in the area.

Disp. Okay, 416, (6:08)

24 24 in the area.

Page 21: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39-

Disp. Okay, 24. (6:09)

A 4 in service.

Disp. 4 in service, at 290 N. Decatur, a disturbance. (6:10)

Disp. Have information subject may be in a late model white Mustang, a late model white Mustang, north on Main, a white Mustang, the information we have on the subject, he's a young white male, well dressed, possibly in a late model white Mustang, went north on Main Street. (6:10)

Tact 6 Tact 6

Disp. Tact 6, repeat.

Disp. Okay, Tact 6, any other car still needing the lights?

Disp. Okay, Tact 6E (6:10)

Disp. Okay, 370, you are advised to seal the area off completely around the Lorrain

Disp. Check Tact 9. (6:10)

Disp. Check Tact 8. (6:10)

Disp. A, repeat the number only.

Disp. Of the Lorrain?

(Inaudible)

Disp. Okay, couple of the Tact Units to remain cruising. (6:11) Respond with your number.

Disp. Okay, Tact 6 will be cruising. (6:11)

Disp. Tact 15, location.

Disp. Okay, 15, take St. Joe and guard the subject. (6:11)

Disp. St. Joe Hospital, check.

(Inaudible)

Disp. Description we have at this time, a young white male, well dressed, he dropped the weapon at 421 S. Main, and was seen running south from that location, and we have information, maybe in a late model white Mustang. (Inaudible)... Mustang was north on Main. (6:12)

T Have Lieutenant meet us here.

Disp. 150, they have several cars stopped at Main and Butler, have license numbers, and information on the identification, and the subjects do check okay. Is it okay for them to leave the area?

Disp. Check, Tact 12. (6:12)

Disp. Tact 17, the area is closed off, the other units to cruise the area. (6:12)

Disp. Car 2, St. Joe, on the scene now.

Disp. Check 368. (6:13)

157 157 in service.

Disp. 157 in service. (6:13)

Disp. 157, we have a Signal "Q" in effect.

Tact 14 Tact 14, cruising.

22  
Page 22: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39

Disp. Tact 14, cruising. (6:14)

Tact 12 Tact 12, cruising.

Disp. Tact 12, cruising. (6:14)

69 69 in service.

Disp. 69 in service. (6:14)

4 4 on the scene.

Disp. 4 on the scene. (6:14)

20 20 in service.

Disp. Is that 20 in service?

20 Check.

Disp. 20 in service. (6:15)

Disp. The motor and radar units to move into the Loop. (6:15)

155 155

Disp. 367, pull into the Loop.

Disp. Check, 155.

155 Need somebody at Mulberry and Second to cut that traffic.

Disp. The first motor in the Loop to cut the traffic at Mulberry and Second.

25 25 in service.

Disp. 25 in service. (6:15)

156 156 to 155

155 Go ahead, 156.

156 We have some newsmen at St. Martin and Huling, insisting on going up.

155 Hold them out until further notice.

156 Okay, 156.

Disp. All newsmen to be withheld from the area.

Disp. Tact 15, cruising.

Disp. Repeating the information we have at this time. The weapon was dropped at 424 S. Main. A well dressed young white male was seen running from that location. Information he may be in a white Mustang, north on Main. (6:16)

Disp. 150, we have them on the phone, attempting to get that information.

416 416, we're going to cut off traffic southbound on Main from Vance.

Disp. Okay, 416. (6:16)

Disp. Okay, Tact 7. (6:17)

Disp. Okay, 178. (6:17)

159 You got any type of clothing description from the scene?

Disp. Standby 159....Tact 10?

Disp. Any car on the scene advising clothing description, any car on the scene advising clothing description on this subject?

Page <sup>23</sup> SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

AC4 Hold the lights up just a minute, until I get there.

Disp. Okay, AC4, the lights are still being held. (6:18)

AC4 Okay.

Disp. 201 on the scene. (6:19)

Disp. Go ahead.

Disp. Cut off some of the radios at the Lorraine, we are getting too much feedback. Cut off some of the radios.

Disp. That 10, cut these radios off and try it again.

Disp. Young male whitelash dark hair, possibly black, dark colored suit, also poss black, medium heavy build. A young white male, dark hair, possibly black, dark suit, possibly black, medium heavy build. (6:20)

Disp. 150

Disp. 150, the hospital advises critical condition. (6:20)

Disp. Any cruiser available to meet a man at St. Joe?

AA Transporting to headquarters and B of L.

Disp. AA, transporting. (6:20)

Disp. John J, at the St. Joe, meet the officer. (6:21)

310 Change out location to St. Joe, have the Lieutenant to meet us there.

Disp. Negative, reporters are to be withheld from the hotel at this time. (6:21)

Disp. All cars attention, cars on the Lorraine Hotel call are to switch to the F-1 frequency, all Tact Units to remain on the F-2 frequency, all cars not on 1 call to switch to F-1. (6:22)

Disp. Car 3, was that John Gaston?

Car 3 No, 3, St. Joseph.

Disp. Okay, Car 3, (6:22)--- Lieutenant will meet you when we get one available for you.

Car 3 Okay, 3.

157 157 okay on the call.

Disp. Okay, 157.

AA AA

Disp. AA, go ahead.

AA Is the wrecker on the way out here?

Disp. Check, AA, City Lot is sending a wrecker.

Disp. IA.

Disp. 28, at 3457 Sumner, Woolworth's, holding a prisoner.

Disp. Car 15

15 15

Disp. 15, at 737 Hanley, a complainant. (6:33)

15 15

Page 24 SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., 59.

Disp. Correction, (6:23)

Disp. Okay, A14. (6:23)

Disp. 38, 1829 Downing, a complainant. (6:23)

28 28

A12 A12 in service.

Disp. A12 in service. (6:24)

Disp. 38, repeat your okay.

38 Okay, 38.

Disp. (6:24)

157 157 on the scene.

Disp. Okay, 157. (6:24)

Disp. 25 at 1278 Latham, at the Lounge, a complainant. (6:24)

25 25

Disp. Information that the subject has been followed, the subject responsible for shooting has been followed north on Lenny Thomas and then north on Thomas, north on Lenny Thomas and then north on Thomas. Were they in a Mustang, fr 16Z

Disp. They went north on Thomas from the vicinity of Parkway. (6:25)

Disp. A13, switch to F-1. (6:25)

A13 A13 in service.

Disp. A13 in service. (6:25)

Disp. Okay, advise that the subject responsible for the shooting is north on Thomas from Parkway.

Disp. Tact 16, how long ago was that?

Disp. Okay they did advise Thomas, okay, information he went north on Thomas.

Disp. Tact 17

Disp. Okay, Tact 17. (6:26)

Disp. 101, 68 pull up to the city limits.

Disp. 17, Chelsea and Watkins.

Disp. 101.

Disp. 100.

Disp. 100.

Disp. 38 at the scene.

Disp. 100 standby.

Disp. Rev. Jackson and Middlebrook?

Disp. 150, Tact 9 had Rev. Jackson and Middlebrook, advising they have a right to go up there, are they to be admitted?

Disp. 100.

Disp. 100, the Governor wants to know where you can be contacted public service.

Page 24: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MR, 39.

Disp. Relay that to me.

Disp. 150, are you reading that?

Disp. Repeat 100, we are not getting you, going to have to be relayed.

Disp. Tact 5, go ahead,

Disp. 523-2788, okay.

415 415 in service.

Dispatcher Is that Middlebrook and Jackson?

Disp. Okay, 150 advises that it would be okay for them to go in. (6:30 KIC 508)

Disp. 156

Disp. 24, report to headquarters. (6:30)

Disp. 24, report to headquarters.

Disp. 24, report to headquarters. (6:30)

24 24

15 15 on the scene.

Disp. Okay, 15, (6:32)

38 38 on the scene.

Disp. Okay, 38, (6:32)

25 25 on the scene.

Disp. 25 on the scene. (6:32)

Disp. 156

4 4 in service.

Disp. 4 in service, (6:33)

2 Disregard 156.

Disp. Okay 2.

Disp. 2. At 6:30.

417 417 in service.

24 24 on the scene.

Disp. 24 on the scene. (6:34)

Disp. 421, is north on <sup>H</sup> home from Firestone, behind a Mustang, with a white male. It.

Disp. Disregard 421, checking on that. It's been checked out. KN-2489. It's okay.

Disp. 37, at 3969 Willoughby, see a complainant. (6:36)

37 37

160 160

Disp. 160

160 We have one of these mobile units at Jackson & Hollywood. He states he is talking to some fellow following a Mustang, east on Sumner from Highland, the is supposed to have shot King.

Page 25: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

Disp. Does he have the license number?

160 No license number.

Disp. 160 has information from a complainant that a white male is east on Sumner from Highland, a white male east on Sumner from Highland in a white Mustang responsible for this shooting. 36, - A2 pull down, 28, subject is exceeding speed limit west on Sumner from Highland. 413 location.

413 Poplar & Hollywood, 413.

Disp. Pull up to White Station and Sumner.

413 Okay, 413.

Disp. 413

415 Have a car pull up to White Station & Sumner and it's supposed to be a (Inaudible)

156 156 St. Joseph

Disp. 415, you are being cut out, it's supposed to be a blue

160 East on Sumner from Waring.

Disp. All cars stand by, 160 repeat.

160 East on (Inaudible) '56 Pontiac.

Disp. 160, you're still being cut out. Repeat.

160 160, that's north on Mendenhall from Sumner, blue '56 Pontiac.

Disp. A blue '66 Pontiac, north on Mendenhall from Sumner, north on Mendenhall from Sumner - 36.

36 36

Disp. 22

22 22

Disp. Blue Pontiac north on Mendenhall from Sumner.

160 160, this car is speeding over 65 miles per hour.

Disp. 160, advising that this car speeding 75 miles per hour north on Mendenhall from Sumner.

160 Occupied by three male whites, 160.

Disp. There's three white males in the car, blue Pontiac, three white males occupy blue Pontiac. Exceeding 75 miles per hour, north on Mendenhall from Sumner, and your location now, 160?

160 Standby, 160.

415 415, put us on that Mustang call, we're at Perkins and Walnut

Disp. Okay, 415. Advise that it is a blue Pontiac occupied by three male whites last seen north on Mendenhall from Sumner at a high rate of speed.

415 Okay.

28 28 in service.

Disp. Okay, 28. (6:43)... 160, any further information?

Page 26: SUPPLEMENT # \_\_\_\_\_ on DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39.

160 Speeding north on Jackson now.

Disp. Blue Pontiac supposed to be north on Jackson. From where, 160?

160 On the way to Raleigh.

Disp. Subject on the way to Raleigh north on Jackson, north towards Raleigh on Jackson, a blue Pontiac occupied by three white males, these subjects are supposed to be wanted for the shooting, (6:41)

36 36, ask 160 if this could be a blue Pontiac convertible.

Disp. 160, is that a convertible?

160 It's unknown, 160, at this time.

Disp. It's unknown, 36, at this time.

36 Okay, 36.

Disp. (6:42)

36 East on Mason, a blue Pontiac convertible occupied by three male whites, Hester and Hester.

Disp. 36, advises that this Pontiac convertible with some white males in it got west on Mason from Hester.

25 25 in service.

Disp. 25 in service. (6:43)

160 160

Disp. Go ahead, 160.

160 That's a hardtop, he went through the light at Jackson and Stage Road, at miles per hour, continuing north on Austin Peay.

Disp. 160, advising that this is a blue Pontiac hardtop that was seen northbound at Jackson and Stage approximately 100 miles per hour. It's a white male blue Pontiac proceeding north at Jackson and Stage at a high rate of speed. (6:44)

Disp. 160. Do you have a complainant with you there?

160 I have a mobile unit talking to the mobile unit following this car.

Disp. Sheriff's Department advises that they have had that block up there and did see no Pontiac at all.

37 (Inaudible)

Disp. Okay, 37. (6:45 KII 306)

44 44 in service. (6:45)

Disp. 44 in service. (6:45)

160 160

Disp. 160

160 160, this white Mustang is shooting at the blue Pontiac following him. They should be going out Austin Peay.

Disp. 160, advising the blue Pontiac is shooting at the white Mustang following the white Mustang has a citizen's band... following this blue Pontiac going on an Austin Peay. The subject is firing at the white Mustang.

160 160, they are approaching the Millington Road, that road that goes on into the base on Austin Peay.



SUPPLEMENT # 45  
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC 39  
 HOMICIDE #3367  
 THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1968, at 6:00 p.m.

Re: Suspect in the reported chase  
 of a Mustang by a Pontiac, by  
 ham radio operator.

REPORTED BY: LT. L. A. MCKEE

On 4-13-68, 1:30 p.m., the reporting officer received a phone call from Lillian Haisch, FW, living at 2436 E. Holme, ph. 396-9332, and she stated she wished to give information regarding a party that may be possibly responsible for the ham radio broadcast in connection with Dr. Martin Luther King's death. She listed this suspect as being a male white known to her only as D. C., age 33, driving an old model blue car.

She stated this D. C. came to her house last night, 4-12-68, inquiring about buying land and at this time she noticed that he had a microphone in his dashboard, and she had remembered that in the past D. C. had asked her son if he would install a Citizen's Band radio in his car. She said her son has experience in ham radio sets, but refused to put one in D. C.'s car because he did not have a license.

She reported D. C. as being a musician and plays a guitar, and that for the past two years he has been in Nashville playing for the Grand Old Opry, and that it had been that long since she had seen him. She said that D. C. is married to an Indian, and further described his car as bearing Mississippi license, numbers unknown. She suggested that we could learn more about D.C.'s identity from an old man whose name she did not know, but he does live near her house and she could show where the house was. D. C. reportedly worked for the old man in the past.

Chairman STOKES. Anything further?

Mr. SPEISER. Nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Dodd, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. DODD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I will not require as much time as I had thought, primarily due to the rather thorough examination by counsel. However, I do have some questions and some comments I would like to solicit from you if I could, Mr. Holloman, regarding your testimony to our counsel.

At what point in your relationship with J. Edgar Hoover did you become aware of his strong negative feelings about Dr. Martin Luther King?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. I cannot give you the date. The only time, the first time that I had any inkling of that feeling that you refer to was when I read in the newspapers, in the public media, that there was a question as to Mr. Hoover calling Dr. King a liar.

Mr. DODD. At no time in the 7 years that you worked intimately with him in the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation here in Washington were you aware of Mr. Hoover's negative feelings and attitude about Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. That is correct, sir.

Mr. DODD. How were you hand-picked by Mr. Hoover?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No one can answer that question I think, sir. Mr. Hoover made a selection and you were notified, you were transferred and there was no explanation given you. You weren't called in and said, do you want this job or I want you to have this job.

Mr. DODD. He didn't interview you ahead of time?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir.

Mr. DODD. You had no personal interview ahead of time prior to your taking that position?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. No, sir, not that I can recall.

Mr. DODD. Had you worked with him previously on a personal basis on other matters?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir. The only personal relationship that I had with him was at one point in my career in Washington as an agent, I conducted tours of the Bureau, and on certain special occasions he would meet the individual, the single individual or maybe two or three individuals who wanted to meet him personally and he agreed to it. I on those occasions would escort them into his office and introduce them to him. I would say that would probably be the principal times that I came in personal contact with Mr. Hoover.

Mr. DODD. Turning your attention now if I could to your tenure as the director of fire and safety in Memphis, in your executive testimony you described, if I can paraphrase it, the performance by the Memphis Police Department during the time of the sanitation strike and the assassination of Dr. King, as being exemplary. Is that a correct—

Mr. HOLLOMAN. If I said that, I would say that today, and if I said that then I stand by the statement. I thought that we had a good, efficient police department.

Mr. DODD. And that during that period of time from March 28, 1968 through the early evening hours and afterwards of April 4, 1968, the performance of the Memphis Police Department was exemplary?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Well, I would say, looking back at it now as Monday morning quarterbacking, I think we made some mistakes, they made some mistakes.

Mr. DODD. So you would like to correct your characterization as regards the performance of the department?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right, if it was in that vein at this point in time, knowing what I know now, and having available to me certain documents which have been brought out, I would say that some mistakes were made, yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. I would like to go over that performance with you, and I appreciate your correcting the statement.

You served as the top man. You were the director. I understand that that situation has now since been changed in terms of the structural operation of the fire departments and the police departments, but in 1968, as director of fire and safety, you were the top individual, ultimately responsible for the actions of both of those departments in the city of Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. And that in fact, as director of that office, your word could change a decision all the way down the line, in any one of those departments?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes; I think so.

Mr. DODD. You had ultimate authority. Would it be fair to say that if there was an area of concern to you, any area, on any operation in the Memphis Police Department that you could find out what was being done? You had total access to information as well?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Oh, yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. Who was doing what, where it was being done and so forth?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I could have found out, yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. With that description in mind, I would like to address some questions to you.

Would you agree with me that Dr. King's visit to Memphis on April 3 and 4 was an event that required the most serious attention of the Memphis Police Department in that a major civil rights leader was coming into a southern city during a major strike, and that you had in front of you a most serious and volatile situation? Would that be a correct characterization?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir, I think so, sir.

Mr. DODD. And in recognition of the situation, you ordered that a security detail be assigned to protect Dr. King, from the time he arrived at the airport? Is that also correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. That you personally made this decision; is that correct as well?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. As to protection to be provided for him?

Mr. DODD. For Dr. King.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. That was your decision?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection, yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. But then you have testified that this security detail, the one that you ordered, was removed without your permission. In fact, you tell us that they were removed without your being aware of that removal in any way whatsoever.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection.

Mr. DODD. That no one came to you on April 4 and asked you if the detail could be removed?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection, sir.

Mr. DODD. No one came to you on April 4, prior to the assassination or even after the assassination, immediately thereafter, and informed you that in fact they had been removed?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection.

Mr. DODD. That it was not until this year that you were even aware that they had been removed just prior to the assassination?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. From my recollection, that is true. As I have testified, I believe earlier in the day, I probably was advised before that time, but my recollection is I did not.

Mr. DODD. Did it ever occur to you after the assassination, whether a matter of hours or even days afterwards, to inquire where the security people were at the time the assassination occurred?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I probably did but I don't recall it, sir.

Mr. DODD. Didn't you ever wonder about their performance and how they carried out their duties?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I wondered, have wondered for years, as to why this happened in Memphis, and why we could not or did not prevent the assassination; yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. Well, if you were so intrigued by that question, how is it that you did not know that there wasn't anyone there until this year?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. As I recall, I can't testify that it was not until this year that I actually knew, and my recollection is that when I read that, that was my first knowledge but obviously or I would

assume that I knew about it before, but that is the extent to which I can answer your question, sir.

Mr. DODD. You testified that you were responsible for relieving Detective Redditt from his assignment at the firehouse on April 4. Is that also correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. You testified that, prior to removing Detective Redditt from duty, you didn't even know that he was at duty at the firehouse actually, did you?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No; I didn't mean that my testimony would—I do not recall specifically the details of the assignment and so forth, but I must have known at the time that that detail was in the firehouse.

Mr. DODD. In other words, you were aware of the fact that Detective Redditt himself was in the firehouse or just that there was a unit in there?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No. Detective Redditt and his partner would have been on an intelligence surveillance of that kind.

Mr. DODD. So you were aware of the fact that he was in the firehouse?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes.

Mr. DODD. And you were responsible for removing him from the firehouse?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I accept that responsibility. I don't know whether he was removed before I got to my office or whether he was already at the office, but I assume the responsibility.

Mr. DODD. What I am trying to get at here is that, as I understand your testimony, the reason that you removed him was because of what you understood to be a threat against his life.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I did not—

Mr. DODD. Or was there some other reason?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I didn't intend to convey that that was the reason I removed him from the firehouse, because I do not recall specifically whether I removed him. I will say that because of the threat I wanted him given protection, which would naturally be that he would not continue his assignment.

Mr. DODD. Can you think of some other reason that you might have removed him from firehouse other than what I—

Mr. HOLLOMAN. There would have been no other reason.

Mr. DODD. So the reason was that you were concerned about his life?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right?

Mr. DODD. The threat made against him.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. But you were not informed, as I understand it, of an FBI report received earlier that afternoon which indicated that the threat was in fact not against Detective Redditt but against a police officer in another community, another State in fact, I think?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is true, assuming that that was the basis on which I took my action, which I cannot contradict.

Mr. DODD. In other words, you found out that Detective Redditt's life was in danger, and you personally took an interest in that and, based on that threat, removed him from that situation?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. You personally got involved in it. Did Detective Redditt resist in any way the procedures that you suggested by removing him from the firehouse?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. None except the fact that he did not want to go to the motel.

Mr. DODD. I wonder if he had resisted your actions whether or not you would have canceled the protection that you provided.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Well, I don't know. I mean under those—with that "if", I don't know. I would say that I would have been strongly inclined to have disregarded his desires in the matter and provided him protection.

Mr. DODD. My point is this: I am being a little facetious, but had Detective Redditt suggested to you that he did not want to be removed from duty because of the threat on his life, I presume in normal operating police procedures, because you did understand that a threat was being posed, that in fulfilling your official obligations, regardless of his objections, that you would have removed him from that potential threat.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes; I think that is correct.

Mr. DODD. As any police officer would do?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes.

Mr. DODD. With any citizen?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right.

Mr. DODD. Is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. I presume you might be anticipating what my next question is.

How is it you can give me the answer you just have, and yet with the major civil rights leader of the country in your city, with a major strike or demonstration pending, the possibility of riot, and that individual's life in danger, you decide to provide him with security, and at the request of someone in that organization, you then decide to remove those security measures and thereby jeopardize that individual's life? I don't understand.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I did not testify that I removed the security, and I do not—my recollection is that I had no part in the decision to remove that security detail, sir.

Mr. DODD. But it was removed.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It was removed, sir.

Mr. DODD. And you had requested that it be put in place?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DODD. Dr. King was shot at approximately what time, do you recall?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Six o'clock.

Mr. DODD. Six o'clock, and do you recall how many minutes thereafter it was that the police department in Memphis had some information on the alleged assassin? How shortly thereafter?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say it was within 10 minutes is my recollection of it.

Mr. DODD. So at approximately 6:10, 10 minutes after the assassination took place, the Memphis Police Department at least had some description of the alleged assassination?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I think that the radio logs would disclose specifically the minute when that occurred.

Mr. DODD. And you heard counsel describe that at that particular hour in time the description consisted of the following information: Individual white male \* \* \* young white male, fairly well-dressed, driving a late model white Mustang. In your 25 years of police experience, would you consider that description to be adequate enough to issue an all points bulletin and to set up whatever barricades or seal off major arteries of the city, in order to try and stop that individual from escaping?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes; I would say that would have been a proper procedure.

Mr. DODD. And as I understood it from your testimony, you really have no explanation as to why the police department did not issue an all points bulletin and did not seal off the city.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I do not know why the person in charge of the dispatcher's office did not take that action. That was his responsibility to do so.

Mr. DODD. I am a little confused at your responses to the series of questions regarding the post-assassination actions of the police department. Specifically, what you were doing. I understand you were talking to the Governor. You made mention of the fact that you called the Governor shortly after the assassination, as soon as you became aware of it, but I was a little confused as to what you perceived to be your sense of priority in the community at the time that you became aware of the assassination of Dr. King.

Could you characterize what you perceived in your official capacity to be the priorities at that particular juncture?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Well, up until the time that the riots actually occurred, I would say that the assassination of Dr. King was the number one priority. After we had the riot situation, then I would say that they were on equal priorities.

Mr. DODD. I am sorry, they were on equal footing?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes; after the riots had started I would say that they were on equal footing at that point, as far as my responsibilities to the city of Memphis were concerned.

Mr. DODD. Were any members of the Memphis Police Department ever reprimanded in any way whatsoever for failure of performance in their duties after the assassination?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my recollection, sir.

Mr. DODD. The dispatcher, for instance, who might normally be required to issue an APB, was not reprimanded?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my recollection.

Mr. DODD. The person or persons on the security units or the tact units were not reprimanded in any way?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my recollection, sir.

Mr. DODD. As director of the fire and safety department of that city, did you take any action whatsoever to determine the conduct of your department during the assassination?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not to my recollection.

Mr. DODD. Can you explain to this committee why you did not take that action?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I cannot explain it except I was probably in dereliction of my duty for not doing so but I cannot explain why except the fact from a few moments when the riot started I was completely involved in that. I was also involved for the next week,

the next several days, in the preparation for the memorial march on the following Monday, in which I was involved almost full time with representatives of Dr. King's group, and with others, to arrange for that memorial march under the court order. I do recall that. I spent considerable time over that weekend.

Mr. DODD. I understand that immediately thereafter you had your hands full, but what I am concerned about is after things had settled a little bit. It would appear to me that assessing the performance of your department, taking necessary steps to reprimand those who had failed in their duties, instituting corrective actions to insure that should another occurrence arise, that the mistakes made would not be made again, would be the logical steps for you to have taken.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That should have been made, and I cannot explain to you why I didn't do it at the time except that I had other matters, but I have no explanation for it and I will have to accept the responsibility for it.

Mr. DODD. I would just like to—and I don't want to appear unduly harsh, Mr. Holloman, in characterizing the performance of the Memphis Police Department. But would I be harsh if I characterized the performance of the department during that period of time as being at the very least, incompetent?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I don't think you would be correct. I think we made some mistakes, and I think under the circumstances that were occurring at the time, I think some honest mistakes were made; yes, I will admit that, but to characterize the department as incompetent, I do not think that would be a fair characterization of that department.

Mr. DODD. Here you have a situation where you have the major civil rights leader in the country in your city, you have a riot situation looking you in the face, security guards are removed, tactical forces are removed, surveillance is removed, there is a failure to issue an all points bulletin after a description is made available to the department in an effort to apprehend the assassin; it seems to me that those are not just minor mistakes. Those are major mistakes in the performance of a police department, particularly in light of what should have been obvious to the casual observer. At least for my own part, and I am not going to speak for this committee, but I have to feel that my characterization is an accurate one.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions at this time.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The committee will now operate under the 5-minute rule.

Mr. Holloman, under questioning by Mr. Speiser earlier this afternoon, you made the statement, I believe I am quoting you accurately, "I was concerned we might have another riot because of Dr. King's presence." Do you remember that statement?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Do you mean by that statement that Dr. King's presence was in some way the cause of the first riot?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. As a matter of fact, his presence was not contributive to the riot, was it?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. The riot was solely caused by other individuals and circumstances; is that not true?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is true, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Now you said a few moments ago you learned of Dr. King's assassination by listening to a radio in your office.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. A police radio or public radio?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. It was a police radio. It was a receiver that was in my office.

Chairman STOKES. And immediately upon learning that, what specifically did you do?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. What specifically did I do?

Chairman STOKES. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. As I testified before, I did not take any action. I knew that there were commanding officers on the scene. I could hear from the radio dispatches what was happening. The chief of police was on his way to the scene. Members of the homicide department were on the scene. I did not take any personal action as far as the operations of the police department at that time.

Chairman STOKES. But your further statement was that "Within 30 minutes I called the Governor regarding the possibility of riots." Is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I talked to the Governor. I don't recall whether I called him or he called me, but we were talking within approximately 30 minutes.

Chairman STOKES. Maybe I am in error, but I thought you had said "I called the Governor within 30 minutes to advise him of the possibility of riots."

Mr. HOLLOMAN. If I did state that, I would like to correct it to say that I talked to the Governor.

Chairman STOKES. It appears from the statements you made relative to the 600,000 people that you had responsibility for, and several other comments you have made regarding a riot situation, and the further statement here, "We have another riot," it would appear from your testimony that you were more preoccupied with the possibility of a riot than concerned over the assassination of Dr. King; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is not correct, sir. I had a very, very great concern for Dr. King's assassination, and I don't think that your characterization of what I might have been thinking is true. I was very much concerned about that, but I was at the headquarters, and these men, we had a large number of men with the commanding officers, with the chief of police and with the chief of detectives or the homicide men who were at the scene who were taking care, I thought, of the situation.

And someone else had to go in a different direction, which was the riot, possible riot situation that would have occurred, and I felt that that role would probably be better served by me being involved in that rather than getting myself involved in the other situation which I thought was being, at that time was being handled by the commanding officer.

Chairman STOKES. My time has expired.

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Devine.



Mr. DEVINE. Mr. Holloman, what years were you in the director's office?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. As I recall, it was from 1952 until August 1959.

Mr. DEVINE. And you were there more in an administrative capacity than having to do with substantive investigations? You ran the personnel in the office and you were also the appointment person, the persons who wanted to see the Director would go through you?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Right. It was more of an administrative than an executive position, as far as my being in the Director's office was concerned.

Mr. DEVINE. It was more supervisory, was it not, rather than involving yourself in cases pending before the Bureau?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. That is true. I was not involved in the cases or the policies and things of that kind. I was a transmission belt from the assistant directors or the associate Director into the Director.

Mr. DEVINE. You were the agent in charge of a number of field offices during your Bureau career?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes, sir; three or four.

Mr. DEVINE. You were more of a supervisor, or administrator in your Bureau functions than a street agent, so to speak; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Both. I also served quite a bit on the street.

Mr. DEVINE. Yes.

Then in your capacity in Memphis, I think they called you the safety director, is that how you were referred to generally?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Director of fire and police, director of fire and police.

Mr. DEVINE. That too was primarily an administrative job, wasn't it, to oversee the operation of the department, but that the decisions were made by the chief of police and by the chief of the department, fire department?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. That is true, and I might say that when I left the position, I made a recommendation which I thought should have been carried out, and I still think it should be, and that is that they shouldn't—that there should be a director of police, a director of fire, no chief of police. In other words, I think your command structure is improper when you have got a chief of police and a director of police. I think that one would have been sufficient. I made that recommendation. It has never been followed.

I also recommended that the two jobs, that there should be a director of fire and a director of police, and that one man should not handle both of them. I thought it was just too much to have one man handling two large departments of that kind.

Mr. DEVINE. The decision to pull off security on Dr. King was a decision made by someone other than you.

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Yes, sir, that is my recollection, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Relative to both Chairman Stokes' and Mr. Dodd's comment relative to your priorities, I think you said that you put equal priority on seeking the assassin as well as your concern with your 600,000 persons because of the riots; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. That is fair, yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. And I think that immediately following the unfortunate death of Dr. King, that riots broke out not only in Memphis but across America. In fact, America was on fire as a result.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. And it was your responsibility to do what you could to protect the citizenry of the Memphis area; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That was what I felt very strongly about.

Mr. DEVINE. I think you have admitted that, like all of us that are Monday morning quarterbacks, that if you had it to do over again there would have been some things you would have done differently; is that accurate also?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Preyer.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just following up a little on Chairman Stokes' questions about the rioting. The riot of the 28th appears to have been of concern to you. You gave that as one of the reasons for signing the security detail to Dr. King at the airport, and you mentioned your concern about rioting immediately after the assassination.

What was the nature of the riot on the 28th? Was that what we have sometimes referred to here as the violence during the march on that date?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. This was not a separate standing riot apart from the march?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Well, it was both, sir. The violence broke out at the rear. That is the reason I answered the question that Dr. King was at the front of the march, and the violence which was breaking of windows and looting began at the end of the march, and then thereafter it became a riot throughout the entire city of Memphis.

Mr. PREYER. So it did expand beyond the line of march.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Oh, yes, sir; it was all over the city.

Mr. PREYER. How soon after Dr. King's death did the rioting break out in Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. The best of my recollection was it was within 30 minutes or in that general time, maybe between 30 minutes or an hour. I can't be any more accurate than that in my recollection.

Mr. PREYER. You mentioned that the dispatcher had the responsibility for putting out an all-points bulletin and setting up road-blocks.

Wouldn't the dispatcher have to receive orders from somebody higher up to do that—

Mr. HOLLOMAN. No, sir.

Mr. PREYER [continuing]. Rather than do that on his own?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not under the policy that was in existence at that time. He had a great deal of authority as far as the movement of police under either ordinary or emergency situations, and he acted in that way. In other words, if any crime was committed or any calls come in, the dispatcher did not wait for somebody to tell him what to do. He was a commanding officer in the department, or was considered as such, and he had that authority and responsibility of doing just that, sir.

Mr. PREYER. So that you, under your procedure, the dispatcher there was the man with the responsibility and the authority to do, to set up, order the roadblocks set up and order an all-points bulletin, and neither he did it and no one else, as far as you know, suggested to him that he do it or asked why didn't you do it?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection, sir.

Mr. PREYER. There is, of course, a sinister explanation for why roadblocks weren't ordered and why the all-points bulletins weren't put out, namely, that someone deliberately did not do it. But the most benign explanation for the fact that no one in the police department ordered this, the only way to explain that failure, isn't it that you were really concerned, the entire police department was concerned, about keeping the town from burning down?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. I would say that played a large part into it, but I think that you should also consider the fact that with the commanding officers who were on duty and who were on radio at the time, any one of those officers could have called in and said issue an all-points bulletin, or issue—so that any one of these officers out there could have done that. But I think that your appraisal of it is fairly accurate. I think there was concern, because we had just got through, had gone through, a very serious riot situation.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you, Mr. Holloman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from the District of Columbia, Mr. Fauntroy.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you.

Mr. Holloman, you are well aware of the allegations of conspiracy that have been woven around your presence in Memphis, based and attributing sinister motives to a number of actions which were or were not taken, and you are aware that one of our responsibilities is to assess the validity of those sinister allegations.

What has remained unresolved for me is the many things of which you have testified you were not aware.

You said, for example, that while you were aware of security being assigned to Dr. King, as the chief executive officer you were not aware of that security being dropped at 5 p.m. on April 3. You have testified that you were not aware of any specific threats on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. with respect to his return to Memphis, and that your reason for approving the security was that you were concerned about the previous appearance of Dr. King in Memphis around which violence erupted.

Is that true; at least in those two instances you were not aware of withdrawal of security, you were not aware of specific threats on the life of Dr. King?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. If I did not so testify, I should have testified or I will testify that what you have said is my recollection.

Mr. FAUNTROY. All right.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. But as to a fact, I cannot say that I was not advised. I said my recollection is that I was not advised of that situation.

Mr. FAUNTROY. You have also testified that you cannot recall who communicated to you a threat on the life of Detective Redditt. Your recollection is that it was a Secret Service officer, and while you do not remember the specific reference to the Mississippi Free-

dom Democratic Party allegation, that you have the feeling that there were two allegations or two threats on Redditt.

Is that your testimony?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir, that is my recollection, and that was my testimony of my recollection.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And you really are not aware even though you know that your presence and the allegation around your presence has been the subject of public concern for several years.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes; I am very well aware of that.

Mr. FAUNTROY. But you can't remember under any circumstances who communicated to you or whether or not in fact there were two threats communicated to you.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. If I could recall that, then that would resolve in my mind, and I wish I could resolve it in my recollection.

Mr. FAUNTROY. You further testified that you were not aware of the COINTEL program during the period that you were responsible as the chief executive officer in Memphis.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is true.

Mr. FAUNTROY. What did you do between 1959 and 1968 when you took the job in Memphis?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Right, sir. I was agent in charge of the Memphis office from August until the spring, February, March or April of the following year, when I stepped down for health reasons and remained in Memphis as a special agent. I remained there until July of 1964, when I retired from the FBI, and then I was director of development at Memphis State University for about 2 years. I was then executive director of the Mid-South Medical Center Council for Comprehensive Health Planning about a year and a half, and then I was director of fire and police. That brings you up to 1968.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And during that period you had no knowledge whatever of any activities on the part of the FBI as communicated through memos or otherwise to FBI agents relating to civil rights leaders?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Not that I can recall, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Were you aware of undercover agents of the Memphis PD working with the Invaders, among the Invaders?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Were you aware that such undercover personnel were on the scene at the Lorraine?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FAUNTROY. I ask unanimous consent to provide me 2 additional minutes.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 2 additional minutes.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And finally you are aware, as other members have indicated, Mr. Dodd in the first instance, of how troubling it is to us as we evaluate this allegation of conspiracy that no all-points bulletin was issued, and your testimony is that you were unaware of whether or not such a bulletin had been issued?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. My recollection was that there was not such an APB issued at the time.

Mr. FAUNTROY. And your recollection is that it never occurred to you to do that?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. That is my recollection that it did not occur to me at that time to do it, myself. I was depending upon the commanding officer of the police department to do what was necessary under the circumstances.

Mr. FAUNTROY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Holloman, my colleague from Connecticut and my colleague from Washington have covered most of these points, but I want to clarify two basic things that bother me.

One of the reasons this committee sits here spending the taxpayers' money is because a great many people have written that there was either a conspiracy or complicity on the part of the Memphis Police Department and the FBI in the assassination of Martin Luther King.

I remember, though it was 10 years ago, the municipal strike in Memphis as a really rare occurrence. Municipal employees didn't make a daily habit of going out on strike 10 years ago. What even made it more incredible was that it was a Black against white, and it was basically the poor against the city establishment, and it was a daily subject of conversation in the eastern press, making the headlines.

You sat with J. Edgar Hoover, and I understand from your testimony that you interpreted his jottings on memorandum and so on to make sure they were carried out; is that correct?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I have had the experience on this committee of reading many of Mr. Hoover's jottings, and his jottings for not even making a telephone call were northern Siberia. Yet here you had a police department that totally failed to function when a national leader was killed. You stayed on until November of 1970, and nobody was demoted, fired, removed or anything else. Why?

Mr. HOLLOMAN. As I have already testified, I cannot explain that, sir. I would say that it was a dereliction on my part that I didn't.

I would like to say that in the first part of your comments regarding the activities of the committee, that Mark Lane has made the allegation or made the original allegation that the conspiracy evolved itself around the fact that I removed Detective Redditt from the security detail. I heard Detective Redditt's testimony over the radio this morning in which he stated that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the security.

Mr. MCKINNEY. All right, I worked very hard this morning eliciting from Detective Redditt that he was never really on a security detail except when he presumed he was on at the airport, that he was in fact a Black officer hired essentially to report, to the police department the activities of those surrounding Martin Luther King, those of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and those surrounding the sanitation strike. But what I am trying to say, Mr. Holloman, is that we have to somehow or other on this committee make a decision as to what happened.

We can understand your concern because you had a city that was the subject of every single major newspaper in this country at the time. You had a Black leader who was the subject of every single newspaper. You were in the midst of a civil rights movement. You had a walking time bomb in the city of Memphis. I can't understand how anyone would have had the temerity, having been ordered by you to check out the security of Martin Luther King, to remove that security without reporting to you. And I can't understand that you wouldn't have instantaneously after the riots, or even a year later, fired them, be it the chief of police, right on down, and I don't understand how we can answer these questions.

You testified that you ordered security on a man who was in great danger, and who the last time he had visited your city had not caused but around whom riots had happened, and yet someone removes that security and is not reprimanded when in essence removing that security put this whole country into flames. I was hoping you could elucidate on why in your behalf or the mayor's behalf something wasn't done to get to the bottom of what became a national tragedy.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The witness, however, may go ahead and answer the question.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. Sir, I would like to answer you by saying that from my experience, if that security detail of four men, operating as they were on an antagonistic situation, in which they were not welcome, they were not permitted to be in close proximity to Dr. King, under those circumstances I would from my experience say that they could not have prevented the assassination, and I think that has been proven in other assassinations in which even the greatest of the protective services of this country, the Secret Service, we still have had assassinations.

Mr. MCKINNEY. Could I ask unanimous consent for 1 extra minute, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I don't think you are getting to the point of my question. Perhaps my question isn't clear. I agree with you, we had several attorney generals testify in front of us that they would consider it impossible to stop a determined assassin with the whole Secret Service surrounding someone. But what I am talking about is the fact that here comes a man to Memphis, Tenn., upon whom you order security. The whole Nation is wondering why it was withdrawn. It was withdrawn by someone's arbitrary act. A tragedy happened that might have happened anyway, and nothing ever happened to the responsible party.

Mr. HOLLOMAN. And which I have testified, sir, I don't know, I have no recollection. You are saying you want me to answer as to why I did not take that action to find out why it was done and to take administrative action against the personnel involved. I have no explanation for it, sir.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I guess what I am saying is that if his arrival was a serious enough question so that security was ordered and that that security was removed, it is very difficult for us to possibly explain to the American people the dichotomy of that fact.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Sawyer.

Mr. SAWYER. Just one question that has been nagging me.

I have heard the terms security and surveillance used somewhat interchangeably.

Was the staff, or were any people assigned to Dr. King as security, or was he under surveillance by people? I assume there is a difference in those two terms.

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Right, sir. The detail that went to the airport under Inspector Smith was a security detail, in which we wanted to ask his cooperation, the cooperation of his people and provide him security, not surveillance. They were detectives in the detective bureau. They had nothing to do with intelligence.

Now the other two men who were there, they were intelligence, and there is a difference between surveillance, and intelligence. In other words, under those circumstances I am trying to differentiate between security as to what happened then and between those two groups of individuals.

Mr. SAWYER. But a surveillance group did remain, having them under surveillance; is that right?

Mr. HOLLOWAN. Surveillance could also be involved in a security operation, yes.

Mr. SAWYER. But, as a matter of fact, it was really for the purpose of intelligence or surveillance and would quite obviously not be with his consent or participation.

Mr. HOLLOWAN. That was the two men who went to the airport, and who were later in the fire department, and that was strictly a surveillance. In other words, as I recall from the documents that I have read since that time, that the instructions that were given to that group, those two men, one of the principal things was to find out where Dr. King was going to stay in Memphis, because we didn't even know where he was going to stay, in order to anticipate any security at that particular place if we had known in advance where he was going to stay.

Mr. SAWYER. I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. Holloman, at the conclusion of a witness' testimony before this committee, the witness is entitled to 5 minutes in order to explain or amplify the testimony he has given before this committee. On behalf of the committee, I at this time extend to you 5 minutes for that purpose, if you so desire.

Mr. HOLLOWAN. I have a written statement which I will make a part of the record, but I would like for this purpose to read that statement at this time, if I could, sir.

Chairman STOKES. You may proceed, sir.

Mr. HOLLOWAN. I have welcomed the opportunity of appearing before the Select Committee on Assassinations of the House of Representatives to assist, if possible, in establishing the truth and the true facts concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I have sufficient faith in providence to know that truth will prevail. I especially welcome this opportunity in view of the malicious and viciously slanderous portrayal of me through a despicable character in Abbie Mann's television film King and in the grossly libelous treatment of me in Mark Lane's book, all based on an unproven and ludicrous theory and unfounded allegation.

The erroneous inference has been left that I was an active participant in the conspiracy to murder Dr. King. I had not a scintilla or iota of a desire or motive to see any harm come to Dr. King and I categorically deny any implications in his death either directly or indirectly. One of the greatest disappointments in my life has been that Dr. King was assassinated and that he was assassinated in Memphis. My actions before and after this death give unequivocal evidence of that statement. In addition, no reasonable and prudent person could possibly believe any director of fire and police would want such an assassination to occur in his city knowing full well the riotous conditions which would follow immediately.

Our concern for Dr. King's safety is evidenced by the fact a detail of officers was dispatched to the airport when he arrived on April 3, 1968, for the purpose of offering police protection to him. This offer was declined. At that time our efforts to even learn his destination in Memphis were futile. We did not learn of his plans to stay at the Lorraine Motel until he arrived at that location. We then provided him the best security we could under the circumstances. Even with full cooperation it is practically impossible to prevent an assassination of this kind as has been proven in other assassinations of that period. If there were measures we should have taken to prevent this tragic occurrence and didn't, as viewed 10 years after the fact, it was not because we did not have extreme concern for Dr. King's safety and welfare. We thought at the time under the existing circumstances we were doing our best to provide security for Dr. King. No criticism whatsoever as to our handling of the matter came to my attention from any quarter.

As for the matter of removing Detective E. E. Redditt from the observation or surveillance post at the fire station, which has been a principal concern of this committee as well as the principal theory of a television feature film producer and an assassination buff author of a book, the fact remains, and it has not been disputed, that a threat was made against Detective Redditt's life. In view of the fact he and Patrolman Richmond, both Black officers, had been the department's principal source of information as to the activities and plans of the demonstrators during the sanitation strike, we felt especially sensitive regarding any threats against either of these officers. It was the rational and logical course of action under the circumstances to provide Detective Redditt and his family security. To do otherwise would have been a callous dereliction of duty and human decency.

My recollection after more than 10 years is that the threat against Detective Redditt was made by the Revolutionary African Movement (RAM) and that we were advised of it by a Federal officer who I recall as being a member of the U.S. Secret Service. It was and is my recollection there were two separate threats other than local ones. For over 2 years I have sifted through my memory as to the source of the threat. I have not been able to further clarify my recollection.

Regardless of my recollection, however, the stark fact remains, without dispute, that Detective Redditt's life was threatened as reported to us and was sufficient to dictate that action be taken to provide him security. This action was not taken solely by myself but was concurred in by other department officers at the time.



Detective Redditt did not at that time, nor has he since, questioned the legitimacy of the threat. His only reaction at the time was that he was not personally afraid. And his courage has never been questioned especially as evidenced by his service to the department during the sanitation strike. Detective Redditt has never since that time raised any question with me in any way concerning the action which was taken. I have seen him on numerous occasions during the past 10 years, including a meeting on the street in the spring of 1976 when he advised me of his then intentions to run for Congress as a Republican against the incumbent congressman, Harold Ford. He did not at that time or at any other time raise the question of any doubt as to my actions on April 4, 1968.

In view of the physical location of the fire station, it would have been impossible for Detective Redditt or a score or more officers at that location to have prevented the assassination. It would not have been physically possible from that location to have even seen from where the shot was fired. Patrolman Richmond, as dedicated a professional officer as any I've known, was at the fire station and observed Dr. King when he was shot and he was in no position to prevent the assassination and could not do so. Detective Redditt could not have either and I believe he has so testified in executive session before this committee. Memoranda prepared contemporaneously with the events by Redditt and Richmond, and especially by Patrolman Richmond, and contained in the homicide files of the department should dispel all doubts as to the nature of the assignment (it being one of surveillance and not of security) and the effectiveness of these men at the fire station. I believe the committee has interviewed Detective Redditt and Patrolman Richmond and that they will testify before this committee. I respectfully request that the statements of Redditt and Richmond as contained in the homicide files and which I have furnished this committee be made a part of the record of these hearings.

The records will reflect Detective Redditt was removed from his post at approximately 4 p.m. on April 4, 1968. Since I was in Federal court all day that day and considering the time when Dr. King was shot, I do not believe Detective Redditt was removed after I returned from court but that he was at the department and had already been removed.

There apparently has been a persistent effort to prove a theory or allegation that the FBI engaged in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King and that I, because of my past association with the FBI, was a party to that conspiracy. It is unbelievable to me that the FBI would even entertain such an idea. It is ludicrous and preposterous that I would be a party to such a thing either directly or indirectly. And now lately, as reported in the news media, the ridiculous charge has been made that former and off-duty FBI agents assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King. Anyone, for whatever evil or ulterior purposes, can dream up preposterous theories and charges. Proving those theories or charges with truth and facts is another matter and has not been accomplished.

I have been deeply disturbed that in view of my public service and reputation in the community, I have been viciously and deliberately maligned and slandered—apparently without recourse.

I, more than any other living person, wish the truth to be established. My faith in my God sustains me and assures the truth will prevail and that my good name and reputation will prevail.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you, Mr. Holloman.

Mr. SPEISER. I would move that Mr. Holloman's statement be entered into the record.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection, it may be made a part of the record.

[The prepared statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF FRANK C. HOLLAMAN

I have welcomed the opportunity of appearing before the Select Committee on Assassinations of the House of Representatives to assist, if possible, in establishing the truth and the true facts concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I have sufficient faith in providence to know that truth will prevail. I especially welcome this opportunity in view of the malicious and viciously slanderous portrayal of me through a despicable character in Abbie Mann's television film "King" and in the grossly libelous treatment of me in Mark Lane's book, all based on an unproven and ludicrous theory and unfounded allegation.

The erroneous inference has been left that I was an active participant in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King. I had not a scintilla or iota of a desire or motive to see any harm come to Dr. King and I categorically deny any implications in his death either directly or indirectly. One of the greatest disappointments in my life has been that Dr. King was assassinated and that he was assassinated in Memphis. My actions before and after his death give unequivocal evidence of that statement. In addition, no reasonable and prudent person could possibly believe any director of fire and police would want such an assassination to occur in his city knowing full well the riotous conditions which would follow immediately.

Our concern for Dr. King's safety is evidenced by the fact a detail of officers was dispatched to the airport when he arrived on April 3, 1968, for the purpose of offering police protection to him. This offer was declined. At that time our efforts to even learn his destination in Memphis were futile. We did not learn of his plans to stay at the Lorraine Motel until he arrived at that location. We then provided him the best security we could under the circumstances. Even with full cooperation it is practically impossible to prevent an assassination of this kind as has been proven in other assassinations of that period. If there were measures we should have taken to prevent this tragic occurrence and didn't, as viewed ten years after the fact, it was not because we did not have extreme concern for Dr. King's safety and welfare. We thought at the time under the existing circumstances we were doing our best to provide security for Dr. King. No criticism whatsoever as to our handling of the matter came to my attention from any quarter.

As for the matter of removing detective E. E. Redditt from the observation or surveillance post at the fire station, which has been a principal concern of this committee as well as the principal theory of a television feature film producer and an assassination buff author of a book, the fact remains, and it has not been disputed, that a threat was made against detective Redditt's life. In view of the fact he and patrolman Richmond, both black officers, had been the department's principal source of information as to the activities and plans of the demonstrators during the sanitation strike, we felt especially sensitive regarding any threats against either of these officers. It was the rational and logical course of action under the circumstances to provide detective Redditt and his family security. To do otherwise would have been a callous dereliction of duty and human decency.

My recollection after more than ten years is that the threat against detective Redditt was made by the Revolutionary African Movement (RAM) and that we were advised of it by a Federal officer who I recall as being a member of the U.S. secret service. It was and is my recollection there were two separate threats other than local ones. For over two years I have sifted through my memory as to the source of the threat. I have not been able to further clarify my recollection.

Regardless of my recollection, however, the stark fact remains, without dispute, that detective Redditt's life was threatened as reported to us and was sufficient to dictate that action be taken to provide him security. This action was not taken solely by myself but was concurred in by other department officers at the time. Detective Redditt did not at that time, nor has he since, questioned the legitimacy of the threat. His only reaction at the time was that he was not personally afraid. And his courage has never been questioned especially as evidenced by his service to the

department during the sanitation strike. Detective Redditt has never since that time raised any question with me in any way concerning the action which was taken. I have seen him on numerous occasions during the past ten years, including a meeting on the street in the spring of 1976 when he advised me of his then intentions to run for Congress as a Republican against the incumbent Congressman, Harold Ford. He did not at that time or at any other time raise the question of any doubt as to my actions on April 4, 1968.

In view of the physical location of the fire station, it would have been impossible for Detective Redditt or a score or more officers at that location to have prevented the assassination. It would not have been physically possible from that location to have even seen from where the shot was fired. Patrolman Richmond, as dedicated a professional officer as any I've known, was at the fire station and observed Dr. King when he was shot and he was in no position to prevent the assassination and could not do so. Detective Redditt could not have either and I believe he has so testified in executive session before this committee. Memoranda prepared contemporaneously with the events by Redditt and Richmond, and especially by Patrolman Richmond, and contained in the homicide files of the department should dispel all doubts as to the nature of the assignment (it being one of surveillance and not of security) and the effectiveness of these men at the fire station. I believe the committee has interviewed Detective Redditt and Patrolman Richmond and that they will testify before this committee. I respectfully request that the statements of Redditt and Richmond as contained in the homicide files and which I have furnished this committee be made a part of the record of these hearings.

The records will reflect Detective Redditt was removed from his post at approximately 4:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968. Since I was in Federal court all day that day and considering the time when Dr. King was shot, I do not believe Detective Redditt was removed after I returned from court but that he was at the department and had already been removed.

There apparently has been a persistent effort to prove a theory or allegation that the FBI engaged in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King and that I, because of my past association with the FBI, was a party to that conspiracy. It is unbelievable to me that the FBI would even entertain such an idea. It is ludicrous and preposterous that I would be a party to such a thing either directly or indirectly. And now lately, as reported in the news media, the ridiculous charge has been made that "former and off-duty FBI agents assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King." Anyone, for whatever evil or ulterior purposes, can dream up preposterous theories and charges. Proving those theories or charges with truth and facts is another matter and has not been accomplished.

I have been deeply disturbed that in view of my public service and reputation in the community, I have been viciously and deliberately maligned and slandered—apparently without recourse.

I, more than any other living person, wish the truth to be established. My faith in my God sustains me and assures the truth will prevail and that my good name and reputation will prevail.

Mr. SPEISER. As an exhibit.

Chairman STOKES. That should also include the two reports that Mr. Holloman made reference to.

Anything further?

Thank you very much. You are excused, sir.

There will be a meeting of the King subcommittee in room 304 immediately following this public hearing.

There being nothing further to come before the full committee at this time, the committee is adjourned until 9 a.m. Monday morning.

[Whereupon, at 5 p.m., Friday, November 10, 1978, the select committee adjourned, to reconvene at 9 a.m., Monday, November 13, 1978.]

