v. 3258 to B3298

FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION
OF THE SCENE

HOMICIDE BUREAU
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Copied 11-23-76 T.W.G.

OCTOBER 23, 1968

Mr. R. A. Cochran, Captain
Homicide Bureau
Memphis Police Department
Building

SUBJECT: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel for possible witnesses to the killing of Martin Luther King.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to instructions, Thursday, October 17, 1968, Lt. T. H. Smith and Ptlm. J. A. Dungan began a canvass of the area covering the east side of Main St. from Vance to Calhoun, Mulberry St., from Vance to Calhoun, Second St. (West side), from Vance to Calhoun, St. Martin from Talbot to Butler, Butler from Main to Second, Talbot from Main to Second and Huling from Main to Second. It was our instructions to canvass this area and talk to all people that we could find to determine if they were in the area at the time of the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, which occurred April 4, 1968, at 6:00 p.m. If witnesses were found that were in this area at the time, we were to attempt to obtain statements from them, either in a positive or negative nature.

The investigating officers did make this canvass, with assistance from Lt. B. H. Hinson, on Friday, October 18, 1968, During this canvass, only three people were found, willing to give statements in this matter, which were taken and will become a part of this file.

Below is listed the approximate time, address, and names of people interviewed during this canvass, and oral statements of what we were told:

Thursday, October 17, 1968

12:45 p.m., 366 S. Main, U.R.S.C.O., 525-3788, talked to Hubert Terry, MW, 40, 4378 Neely Road, and he advised that his place of business was closed at the time of the killing, and that there was no one on the premises at the time. Mr. Terry declined to make a written statement in this matter.

12:50 p.m., 364 S. Main, EZ Products—Closed—Out of Business

12:55 p.m., 362½ S. Main, S&S Grocery, 525-1255, talked to James McNeal, MC, 55, 105 Huling Street, who stated that he left the store shortly before 6:00 p.m., and walked to his home, and did not know anything of the killing until he heard the newscast. He did notice the police action in the area, however, he did not leave his apartment after getting home. Bertha Mattison, FC, 977-B Lenow Mall, Clerk at the Grocery, advised that she was not on duty the day of the killing of Martin Luther King, and was at her home. Both McNeal and Mattison declined to make a written statement in this matter.

1:10 p.m., 362 S. Main, Tri-State Hotel, Wyatt Mattox, MW, 55, Manager of the apartment stated that he was at home at the time of the killing, but did not know what had happened, until he heard it on the radio. He stated that he was afraid to leave his apartment and stayed inside the rest of the night. Mr. Mattox advised the only two people that he knew of, that now lived at the hotel and lived there at the time of the King killing, was a John Sarris, and John Georgelous. Neither of these men were in their apartments at the time of this interview. According to Wyatt Mattox, the hotel was operated by Mrs. Walker Short, and that her records would reveal the names of the people who were registered in the hotel at the time of the King killing. Since Mrs. Short did not keep the records at the hotel, she was contacted by phone at 7:45 a.m., October 22, 1968, and was advised to make these records available for scrutiny. Mrs. Short did bring her receipt book to 362 S. Main, and at 9:45 a.m., these records were read by us, and found that the following people had been registered into the hotel on Thursday night, April 4, 1968.

Page 2: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

Room #3, Wayne Heath, now living at 508 S. Main
Room #6, Albert Samples, drifter, present address, unknown
Room #9, R. T. Chanoine, drifter, present address unknown
Room #10, John Watson, 362 S. Main
Room #11, A. L. Dismukes, 362½ S. Main
Room #14, D. C. McDonald, drifter, present address unknown
Room #15, John Georgelos, 362 S. Main
Room #17, Delbert White, 422½ S. Main
Room #18, George Long, drifter, present address unknown
Room #19, John Sarris, 362 S. Main
Room #20, Guy Golden, 422½ S. Main

The other rooms numbered 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, showed on the records, that they were not occupied on the night of April 4, 1968.

At 9:35 a.m., 10/22/68, we talked with John Sarris, MW, 71, Retired, presently living in Room #19, advised that he was on N. Main at the time of the killing, andhad no knowledge of what had occurred in the area, until he returned to the hotel after dark, and heard the people in the area, talking, saying that Rev. King had been assassinated. Mr. Sarris is elderly, and declined to make a written statement in this matter.

At 9:40 a.m., 10/22/68, we interviewed John Georgelos, MW, 81, Room #15, 362 S. Main, who advised that he was in the Ambassador Hotel, eating supper, when he heard numerous police sirens outside, and thinking that something bad must have happened, walked outside the door of the Ambassador Hotel and asked a truckdriver that he did not know, what had happened, and the truckdriver told him that King had been shot. He did not stay outside but just a few moments, then went back into the htel and finished eating his supper. After eating, he sat around in the lobby of the hotel, talking to other people, until after dark, then went back to his room. He advised that he had no knowledge of the killing, and the crime and declined to give a written statement in this matter.

At 3:25 p.m., 10/21/68, we talked to John T. Watson, MW, 62, Room #10, 362 S. Main, unemployed, handicapped, having one leg, and he stated that at the time of the killing, he was in Room #9, with Red Chanoine, watching TV, and that they heard all of the sirens, and soon heard the news on TV. He states that neither of them left the hotel at any time. He stated he does not know anything about the shooting, that he is seriously handicapped, and does not want to make a written statement. He stated that Red Chanoine moved from the hotel, since the shooting, and he does not know where he went.

At 10:30 a.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Dalbert White, MW, 47, 422½ S. Main, Room #2, 527-0167, who stated that he lived at 362 S. Main, Room #17, on the night of the shooting, and that he was inside the Tri-State Hotel, 362 S. Main, and did not leave the hotel, and learned of the shooting after other occupants heard the news on TV, and informed him. He does not wish to give a written statement.

At 10:40 a.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Guy Golden, MW, 66, 422½ S. Main, Room #4, 5270167, who is retired, and he stated that on the night of the shooting, he lived at 362 S. Main, Room #20, and that he was inside his room at the time of the shooting, and does not know anything about it. He stated that he was informed of the shooting after other occupants learned of it, through a newscast. He stated he would not give a written statement.

a

At 11:25 a.m., 10/22/68, we located Abner Dismukes, MW, 47, at 115 Vance, the Memphis Lounge. Dismukes stated that he occupies Room #11, at 362 S. Main, and did occupy that room on the night of the shooting, however, he stated that he was at work, driving a Veteran Cab, and that he was driving his cab in the vicinity of Front and Beale, at which time, he heard on the cab radio, that Dr. King had been shot. He continued to operate his cab until approx. 4:00 a.m., 4 / 5 / 68, at which time he checked in the Adler Hotel and stayed for the next four days. He does not know anything of the shooting and declines a written statement.

3259

Page 3: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

Dismukes stated that he checked into the Adler Hotel, 73 Linden, because when he returned to 362 S. Main, he found the door locked, and did not have a key. He stated he stayed at the Adler until some of the confusion was over.

All of the residents of the Tri-State Hotel that could be found, and that were living at the hotel on April 4, 1968, have been interrogated.

1:25 p.m., 10/17/68, 360 S. Main, Lowther Sales, Out of Business Moved to a new location in the 500 block of S. Main, interviewed later in this report.

1:30 p.m., 10/17/68, 356 S. Main, Hill Chemical Company, No Phone, owned and operated by Joe R. Hill, MW, 66, who has an apartment in the rear. He stated that the business was closed at the time of the killing,and that he was in another area of the town and could not say exactly where, at the time of the killing, and he had no knowledge of the incidents that occurred in the area, until hearing of the assassination on the radio. He declined to make a written statement to this effect.

1:35 p.m., 10/17/68, 354 S. Main, House of Shaw Fine Cosmetics, Mr. R. H. Shaw, MW, 67, 2991 Gulf, advised that he, along with Mr. E. Lee Panel, who lives on Cottonwood, and Mr. N. I. Salmon, who is now deceased, were in the rear of theplace of business playing cards at the time of the killing, and the first he knew of the assassination was when he heard the sirens and commotion going onoutside, and after going out on the street, he learned, from the people milling around in the area, that King had been shot. He said that he had no knowledge other than what he had stated about this killing, and he declined to give a written statement.

We did contact Mr. E. Lee Panel, MW, who lives at 4643 Cottonwood Road, 363-7791, employed by the National Life and Accident Company, 615 S. Cooper, 275-3133. On 10/23/68, at 9:00 a.m., he stated that he was in the back room with Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Salmon, playing cards, at which time they heard sirens, and went outside to see what washappening. They learned from people on the street that Dr. King had been shot. Shortly after this, he went to the Foote Homes neighborhood, to attempt to collect on his debit, but due to all of the commotion that was going on, he left theneighborhood and went to his residente. He stated that he knows nothing about the shooting, and does not want to give a written statement about this shooting.

2:05 p.m., 10/17/68, 350 S. Main, Jones Furniture Company, 526-1681, we interviewed Ernest M. Jones, MW, 51, 1201 Minor, 323-7011, and his father, Milton B. Jones, MW, 80, 3184 Spottswood, 452-7878, and they stated they had closed the store at 5:00 p.m., that no one was on the premises at this address,and that they first heard of the killing on a newscast. They refused to give a written statement.

2:15 p.m., 10/17/68, 346 S. Main, Marks Jobbing Center Building, Closed, Out of Business.

2:20 p.m., 10/17/68, 344 S. Main, Lucas and Moss Uniform Building, Closed, Out of Business.

2:25 p.m., 10/17/68, 342 S. Main, Lit Refrigeration Warehouse, Closed at time of killing, and no one on the premises.

2:30 p.m., 10/17/68, 340½ S. Main, Unnamed hotel, Closed, Out of Business.

2:35 p.m., 10/17/68, 340 S. Main, Clayton Econo Wear, operated by Annie Mae Clayton, FW, 60 plus, who did not know her home address, stating that she had just moved recently, 332-6209, and she stated that she had closed the business at 5:00 p.m., on that date,and that no one was on the premises.

Page 4: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

2:40 p.m., 372 S. Main, Cattas Warehouse #2, Locked—No one on premises at time of killing.

2:50 p.m., 376 S. Main, Smith Fixtures, 523-1354, Owned and operated by Mr. H. L. Smith, MW, 63, 1101 S. Perkins Road, MU 2-1289, who advised that he knew nothing of the killing, having closed the store at 6:00 p.m., and that he had left the store before the commotion had started, and heard of the killing on the radio. He left no one on thepremises at the time he closed. He declined to make a written statement.

2:55 p.m., 378 S. Main, Building used for storage by unknown company, Locked--No one on the premises.

2:50 p.m., 338 S. Main, H. G. Stotts & Sons Co., Wholesale Salvage, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Stotts. We talked to Mrs. H. G. Stotts, FW, 32, 4847 Neely Road, 332-6209, who stated that she and her husband had closed the store at 5:00 p.m., and knew nothing of thekilling until it was heard by them on the newscast.

2:55 p.m., 10/17/68, Unnamed Rooming House, operated by Mrs. Jim Bradbury, We first talked to Grant McElhattan, MW, 54, #1, No phone, employed, Army Defense Depot, Who advised that he and his wife, Juanita, were living in the apartment on April 4, 1968, and that they were in the room at the time of the killing. The first they knew of anything happening was hearing the newscast on television, and they did look out of the apartment that faces Main and saw the police commotion, but did not go downstairs. He declined to make a written statement, in this matter. He did advise that the hotel was operated by Mrs. Bradbury, who had a room in the rear of the apartment, and who operated Jim's Club at 299 S. Main, but she wasn't at home at this time, because she was over in Arkansas, supervising the building of her new home.

At 3:40 p.m., 10/21/68, we talked to Mrs. Juanita McElhattan, FW, 47, in her room at 378½ S. Main,and she stated that she was in her room with her husband at the time of the shooting, and heard the commotion outside, the police cars, locked outside, but never left the apartment. She stated that she knew nothing about the shooting, and did not want to give a written statement.

At 10:55 a.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Mrs. James Bradbury, FW, 50, 378½ S. Main, 527-7120, at her cafe, Jim's Club, 299 S. Main, 525-9451, and she stated that on the night of the shooting, that she was in her place of business at 299 S. Main, when she learned of a shooting from an unidentified male white, who came into the cafe. She stated that shortly after this, she was told by the police to close, and picked up her mother, Mrs. Doris Nichols, who was at 378 S. Main, and her two small children, 18 months old, and at this time, they all went to Marion, Ark. Mrs. Nichols, at the time of this interview, was in Olive Branch, Miss., and will not return to Memphis until sometime after 11/1/68. Mrs. Bradbury stated that on the day of the shooting, Melvin Boren, James Wilkerson, and W. T. McAdams, had rooms at the hotel. She stated that W. T. McAdams is in Arkansas, and will be there for several weeks. James Wilkinson is a Cook on a riverboat,and is on the river for a monty at a time, and just left on a boat, a few days ago. She was informed that on the return of her mother and Wilkinson and W. T. McAdams, to notify the Homicide Office, so that an interview can be made.

We did talk to Melvin Boren, MW, 57, 378½ S. Main, No Phone, who was at Jim's Club, and who is known to be a drunk with cases of DTs on occasions, and he stated that on the night of the shooting, he was in his bbed at 378½ S. Main, and did not know about the shooting until the next day. He, nor Mrs. Bradbury would come to headquarters to make a written statement in this matter.

Page 5: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

3:10 p.m., 10/17/68, 380 S. Main, H. G. Stotts & Sons, Wholesale Salvage, owned and operated by Mr. H. G. Stotts, MW, 4847 Neely, 332-6209, and we talked to Mr. Stotts, who stated that he and his wife closed their place of business at 5:00 p.m., and heard the news of the King killing on their car radio, en route home.

3:15 p.m., 10/17/68, 382 and 384 S. Main, Refrigeration Service Co., 527-0944, owned and operated by Alton Street, MW, 42, Route 1, Olive Branch, Miss., 895-2680, who stated that he had closed his place of business at 5:15 p.m., and was on his way to a business transactionin West Memphis, Ark, when he heard the news of the King killing on his radio.

3:15 p.m., 10/17/68, 382½ S. Main, Unnamed Hotel—Closed—Out of Business.

3:20 p.m., 10/17/68, 386 S. Main, Nick's Corner—Closed,Out of Business.

3:25 p.m., 10/17/68, 386 S. Main, adjoining Nick's Corner, also known as Nick's Corner, owned and operated by Nicholas, L. Koleas, who stated that he had closed his place of business at 4:45 p.m., leaving no one on the premises, and that he was completely out of the area at the timeof the killing.

3:30 p.m., 10/17/68, 386½ S. Main, Unnamed Rooming House, owned and operated by Nell Gibson, FW, 62, 526-3471, semi-invalid, who admitted being in her home at the time, but knew nothing of the killing until hearing it on a newscast. The only other occupants of the apartment on 4/4/68, were Hazel Welch, who was in her room at the time, this being #15,and an Eddie Pelletier, who works at the Leader Grocery, 365 Vance, whom she thought was at work at the time, one other room had been occupied by E. J. O'Neal, who has since expired, but was not at home at the time of the killing, having been in the hospital.

At 11:10 a.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Hazel Welch, FW, 64, at 386½ S. Main, #15. She stated that on the night of the shooting, she was at the Merchant Cafe, at 326 S. Main, and that shortly after 6:00 p.m., the cafe closed, and she returned to her room. She stated that as she was returning, she noticed all of the police, but did not know that Dr. King had been shot, until she arrived at the rooming house and found out from Mrs. Gibson. She states she knows nothing about the shooting, and does not want to give a written statement. At 11:20 a.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Eddie Pelletier, MW, 63, 386½ S. Main, #10, at the Leader Grocery, 362½ Vance, 526-2325, where he is employed as a clerk. He stated that on the night of the shooting, he was working at the grocery store, and did not know anything about the shooting until someone came in the store,and informed him thatthey had heard it on the newscast. Shortly after 6:00 p.m., the grocery closed, and he went to his room at 386½ S. Main. He stated that he did not know anything about the shooting, and that he did not want to make a written statement.

3:40 p.m., 10/17/68, 388 S. Main, Unnamed Warehouse—Closed—Out of Business.

3:40 p.m., 10/17/68, 390½ S. Main, Unnamed Rooming House, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wynne. We talked with both Mr. and Mrs. Wynne, Mr. Wynne being 70 years old, and his wife, Helen, 69, 526-3031, and they both stated they were in their apartment at the timeof the killing, however, due to the condition of Mr. Wynne, and Mrs. Wynne, having to wait on him, they had no knowledge of the killing, until they heard the news on the TV. They did not go downstairs to see if they could find out anything, and they had their records for the people registered in the hotel, on the night of 4/4/68, and it was found that at that time, Mr. Albert Covington occupied Room #7; Roland Trout, occupied Room 10; R. J. Sharkle, #12; Eddie Winsfield, #11; and Charlie Drake, #9. According to Mrs. Wynne, all of these men, with the exception of Roland Trout, were out of town, and she did not know their present whereabouts. Mr. Trout was still staying with her but was not home at this time.

Page 6: Canvass offhe area around the Lorraine Motel.

At 4:15 p.m., 10/21/68, we talked to Roland Trout, in Room 10, 390½ S. Main, and he stated that he was in the Princess Theatre, on Main Street, at the time of the shooting. He came out of the theater at approx. 7:00 p.m., and learned, from a passerby on the street, that Dr. King had been shot, and at this time, he returned to his room and stayed there the rest of the night. Mr. Trout works, hopping trucks, and helping unload them, at various locations and does not have a regular job. He stated that he did not know anything about the shooting, and does not want to make a written statement.

3:45 p.m., 10/17/68, 394 S. Main, Southern Specialty Co.—Closed—Out of Business.

3:45 p.m., 10/17/68, 396, 398, and 400 S. Main, Fred Gattas Saddlery, 525-3392, where we talked to Gene Berke, MW, 40, 832 Hale, EX 7-0133, who stated that since the killing occureed on Thursday, they had closed at 5:15 p.m., and that he had secured all three buildings, leaving no one on the premises. He then caught a #44 MTA Bus, and went home. He did not know of the killing until reaching home and hearing a newscast.

3:55 p.m., 10/17/68, 492 S. Main, Nite Nite Club, owned and operated by Walter Bilbo Bailey, and it was found that the building was formerly occupied by Fuller Cosmetics Co., who has gone out of business. Bailey has been operating this club for about three months.

4:05 p.m., 10/17/68, 496 S. Main, Arnette Salvage Company, 523-1795, owned and operated by Charlie Loeffel, MW, 50, 2692 Steele, EL 7-4895, who advised that he closed at 3:30 p.m., and that no one was on the premises.

4:10 p.m., 10/17/68, 498 S. Main, Lowther Sales Company, 526-4618, owned and operated by Mr. John Lowther, MW, 46, 1815 Langston, JA 7-8792, who advised that he closed his business at 5:30 p.m., and did not have any knowledge of anything occurring, until hearing a newscast. He did have a complaint, that during the rioting that followed, his place of business was broken into, that a finger print had been left on the window, and that he had not received satisfaction from the Burglary investigation.

4:15 p.m., 10/17/68, 500 S. Main, Bernatsky Brothers, No one available to talk with at the time, however, on 10/22/68, at 12:00 Noon, a recall was made to this address, and we did interrogate Ben Bernatsky, MW, 61, 1003 University, 276-8833, and Mr. Sidney Hoffman, 5434 Shirlington, 362-0961, and both these men stated that they had closed their business at 5:10 p.m. on the day of the killing, and that no one was on the premises at the time. The day after the killing, an FBI agent, whom they did not know, came by and talked with them, and they had not had any information for him. They declined to make a written statement in the matter.

4:15 p.m., 10/17/68, 502 S. Main, Closed—Out of Business.

4:15 p.m., 10/17/68, 506 S. Main, Gattas Wholesale Company, No one available to talk with at the time, however, at 11:55 a.m., 10/22/68, we interviewed Mr. Joe Gattas, Jr., MW, 51, 40 N. Goodlett, MU 5-7245, who stated that his place of business was closed at the time of the shooting, He heard the news of the killing on his car radio, en route home. He did not leave anyone on the premises, after closing the business, and that he had talked to an FBI agent the following day, and told him that he knew nothing about it. Mr. Gattas declined to make a written statement in this matter.

4:15 p.m., 10/17/68, 508 S. Main, Closed—Vacant.

4:20 p.m., 10/17/68, 508½ S. Main, Roominghouse owned by Mrs. Walker Short, who lives on Willow Road, and not present at the time of the interview, but we did talk to Wayne Heath, MW, 60, who advised that he had only been living at this address, for a few days. He had no knowledge of who had been in the roominghouse at the time of the killing. It was learned from Mr. Heath, that/at the time of the killing, he was living at 362 S. Main, Tri-State Hotel, in

Room 3, and he stated that on that date, he was in his room, a— sleep, and did not wake up during the shooting, and did not learn of the shooting until the next day,when he was informed by the busdriver. Since Mr. Heath did not have the records on this hotel, we contacted Mrs. Walker Short, at 4:50 p.m., 10/22/68, and inquired about the records for this place of business. She advised that she would have to check with her bookkeeper to obtain these records, and would furnish it as soon as possible. She also advised us at this time that she had previously talked to the police, the FBI, the Mayor, and many other responsible people, about this matter, and that she did not have time to talk with us at her office. She also advised that she had refrained from talking to Newsmen and Life Magazine, and felt that this incident had hurt her business enough. She did not like the idea of being bothered with this incident, continuously. In another recall to 508½ S. Main, in an attempt to check the records on 10/23/68, it was found that she had not left the records as promised. She was again contacted by phone, and advised that during the time of the killing, a male white by the name of Bill Baker, had been the Resident Manager, at the hotel, and kept the books. During March of 1968, Bill Baker had been arrested for Auto Theft, and after he had been arraigned and got out on bond, he left the city of Memphis, taking with him the money that he had collected, and the records from the hotel. She did not know his whereabouts at this time.

4:20 p.m., 10/17/68, 510 S. Main, an old Roominghouse, Closed—Out of Business.

4:25 p.m., 10/17/68, 510½ S. Main, Unnamed Roominghouse. We talked with Ruth Caldwell, FW, #1, No Phone, who advised this house of business had been closed at the time of the killing, with most of the occupants having lived at 520 S. Main which was now out of business. We also talked with Freddie Caldwell, MW, 61, at the time of this interview and they both stated that they had lived at 508 S. Main in April of 1968, but at the time of the killing, he and his wife had accompanied Ann Moody, who also lived in the apartment at the time, to the Southgate Shopping Center, to shop for groceries. After finishing their shopping, they returned to Main and Calhoun, but were stopped by the police, and had learned about the shooting. They were allowed to go to their home, where they remained the rest of the time. They advised that they had talked with the FBI, and had told them that they knew nothing of this killing. They declined to make a statement in this matter. We also talked to Clara Pulley, FW, 64, 510½ S. Main, #2, employed, The Commercial Appeal, Lunchroom, Waitress, 495 Union. She advised that she was living at 508 S. Main at the time of the killing, but she was at work at the time of the killing, and did not leave the Commercial Appeal until 1:45, 4/5/68. She did recall, at the time of the killing there were several of the people working for the Commercial Appeal in the cafeteria, and that someone came in and said in a loud voice that Dr. King had been killed, and the place emptied out in a hurry. She declined to make a written statement in this matter. These were the only people that we could contact that were known to have lived at 508 S. Main at the time of the killing.

4:25 p.m., 514 S. Main, Mise Refrigeration Works—Closed—Out of Business.

4:25 p.m., 10/17/68, 516 S. Main, American Vending Company—Closed—Out of Business.

4:25 p.m., 10/17/68, 516½ S. Main, Roominghouse, Closed—Out of Business.

4:25 p.m., 10/17/68, 518 S. Main, Allen C. Smith Enterprises. We talked to Mr. Allen C. Smith who advised that the place of business was closed at 5:00 p.m., he hadn't had any knowledge of the killing, he did not want to become involved, and he declined to make a written statement.

4:30 p.m., 10/17/68, 520 S. Main, Pullman Hotel, owned and operated by Mrs. C. P. Howell, 530 S. Main, #3, 525-2841, who was not present at the time of the interview, but we talked to George Blaine, MW, 21, 307 N. Wells, Kosiusko, Mississippi, Agent Operator for the IC Railroad, who stated that he was not in the building at the time of the killing, and had no knowledge ofwho might have been there.

Page 8: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

On a recall to this location on 10/22/68, at 11:35 a.m., we talked with Mrs. C. P. Howell, FW, 66, 525-2841, owner and operator of the Pullman Hotel, and she advised that she was in her room when she heard someone in the hallway say that King had been shot. She then watched the TV, but did not leave the hotel. She did produce her records, which revealed that at the time of the killing, Room #1 was occupied by Richard Fritts, Room 6, by Mack Welch, Room 7, Robert Cliff, Room 8, Guy Smart, Room 10, Walter Houston, Room 14, Kibert Sanderson, Room 15, J. C. Kiler, Room 16, Mr. Gartrell, Room 18, Homer Merrill, Room 19, Vance Campbell, and Room 31, E. H. Ellis. The rooms not listed above were unoccupied. Since the time of the killing, Robert Cliff, Walter Houston, J. C. Kiler, Mr. Gartrell, Homer Merrill, and E. H. Ellis, have since moved and their present whereabouts are unknown. In an additional recall to this location at 6:05 p.m.., 10/22/68, we interviewed Richard Fritts, MW, 31, employed as a Shop Foreman for Eugene Wilson, who advised that he was at Robilio's, Vance and East, eating supper when the killing occurred. He was on his way home when he heard the news on the radio. At 6:10 p.m., Guy Smart, MW, 41, Rt. 2, Grenada, Mississippi, 226-4797, employed for the IC Railroad, who stated he was in bed at the time of the killing but was awakened by the landlady, who told him King had been killed. He did not know anything about the killing, other than what was told him by the landlady. At 6:05 p.m., we talked to Mack Welch, MW, 65, who advised that he was on the job at the IC Station from 3:00 until 11:00 p.m.and did not have any knowledge of the killing. At 6:10 p.m., Vance Campbell, MW, 62, employed as a Mail Handler for the Post Office, who works from 9:30 p.m., until 6:00 a.m., and stated that he was asleep and did not awakenuntil 8:00 p.m. when he learned about the killing. Kibert Sanderson, MW, 69, Retired from the Frisco Railroad, advised that he was in the TV Room at the hotel, watching television, when he heard the news of the King killing on TV. Since he was almost deaf, he did not leave the hotel. All of the people mentioned in this interrogation, refused to make a written statement in this matter.

4:30 p.m., 10/17/68, 522 S. Main, Cafe—Closed—Out of Business.

4:35 p.m., 10/17/68, 524 S. Main, Street, Farris, Belgo Dental Laboratories, 525-5971, where we talked to James Farris, MW, 45, Red Banks, Miss., who advised that the business at 4:15 p.m., and that there was no one on the premises at the time of the killing.

4:40 p.m., 10/17/68, 530 S. Main—Closed at time, but on recall, 10/21/68, at 4:35 p.m., we found 530 S. Main to be Hill's Trading Post, where we talked to Otis Hill, MW, 56, 2049 Walker, 275-4663. Mr. Hill stated that he had closed his place of business at 5:00 p.m., 4/4/68, and was in Raleigh, opening a new place of business. He knew nothing of the killing, and declined to make a statement, written statement.

It should be noted that the number on S. Main of 410, 416, 418, 422, 422½, and 424, which are the buildings between Huling and Butler, and that all of the occupants in this block were interviewed earlier, by the Memphis Police Dept., and the FBI. They were not re-visited at this time.

4:45 p.m., 10/17/68, 138 E. Butler, Lucky Electric Supply Company, 525-0264, owned and operated by Mr. R. E. Haggerty and Mr. L. B. Stevenson. Both of these subjects advised they were on the premises at the time of the shooting, and agreed to make a written statement to the knowledge they had, relative to the killing. Written statements were taken from both of them on Friday, 10/18/68, and will become a part of this file.

4:55 p.m., 10/17/68, 128 E. Butler, Butler St. Grill, 526-9698, where we talked to Mary Ann Smith, owner, 1541 Britton, 276-8906, who invited us into the cafe, seated us at a table and began talking with us by saying that she has had many people come into the cafe and inquire about the killing, although none of them have been police or Federal agents. She believed this to be due to the fact that her cafe faces Butler, but adjoins the Lorraine Motel parking lot. Mary advised us that she has not talked to any of these people because she did not want to be involved in any way in this matter, but she did start talking to us, as if she might have some information that could

possibly be of value to us in the investigation. Mary stated to us that she was operating the cafe on the afternoon of Martin Luther King's killing, and that she had been relatively busy as some of the SCLC members had been in the cafe, seated in the southwest corner of the grill, and she could recall them specifically, but not by name, as one of the customers had tendered her a twenty dollar bill in payment for services and she could not cash it. He had left the cafe to get change for the bill, and had left the others seated in the booth that he had been with. She could not recall exactly when this subject returned with the change, but she believed it to be at about the same time that she had heard a shot somewhere inthe area. Shortly after hearing this shot, someone came to the door of the cafe and informed the people in the cafe that King had been shot, and she knew that this subject who came to the cafe had left a bloody footprint on the step into the cafe from the sidewalk. Mary Ann Smith began being reluctant to talk further of this matter, and when asked if she had any personal knowledge of the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, she began by saying, "I——" then stated, "I do not want to become involved in any way." We attempted to talk with her further on this matter, but the only thing that we could get out of her was that she was not going to become involved. It is believed that some member of the Attorney General's Office of the FBI might obtain some information if Mary Ann Smith were to be talked with by them.

9:00 a.m., 10/18/68,147 E. Butler, Good Foods, Inc., (Mrs. Drake's Sandwiches), 525-0301, owned by G. E. McHand, MW, 54, of 3692 Mealy Road, EX 7-9630, who stated to us that due to a special order in starting this catering service, he, along with 15 or 20 employees, had been inside of the building at the time of the killing, however, he was sure that none of his employees knew anything of the killing, as the building is enclosed, and he did not know anything of the kiling until after his son, G. E. McHand, Jr., had come into the building and told him of the killing and of the impending curfew, and that shortly afterwards, he had closed his business so his employees could get home before the curfew went into effect. We also talked with G. E. McHand, Jr., MW, 30, of 4477 Mealy Road, EX 7-0167, also Reserve Deputy Sheriff, who advised that he was returning to the business and was on Beale at Hernando when he was caught by the traffice lights turning red, so that the cars in the downtown area could make the scene of the shooting, and that he had learned of the shooting of Martin Luther King on his car radio, while waiting for the light to change. He had then proceeded to Mrs. Drake's Sandwiches, and told his father what had occurred. Mr. McHand, Sr. advised that if it was necessary for the police or the FBI to interrogate the employees, that were on the premises at the time of the shooting, he could obtain the names by going over his records for the payroll for that period. However, this would involve extensive time, andhe would do this only if it was necessary. He did feel that he could vouch for his employees, and firmly believes that n o one had any information relative to the killing.

9:00 a.m., 10/18/68, 146 E. Butler, Ace Fixtures Inc., 527-4404, talked to Doris Kennon, Secretary, 2178 Pamela, who advised that the place of business had closed at 4:30 p.m., that no one was on the premises.

12:35 p.m., 10/18/68, 352 Mulberry, we talked to Katie Mae Allen, FC, 60, 527-6164, who stated that on the night of the killing, she was cooking supper, at which time her husband, Walter Allen, ran into the house and stated to her that he had been returning from the grocery store at Third and Butler, and that when he reached Third and Talbot, he had heard a shot, and ran home. She advised that both of them ran out into the street, after hearing the sirens, and learned that Dr. Martin Luther King had been shot. She had no other knowledge of this killing, and advised that her husband usually returned home from work at about 4:45 p.m. On recall to this address at 6:00 p.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Walter Allen, City Sanitation Dept., and he advised that he had been returning from the store at Third and Butler, and that when he got to Third and Talbot, he did hear a shot, but could not determine the direction it came from. He immediately returned home, and told his wife of this shot, then after hearing the sirens, he and his wife went outside and learned that Dr. King had been shot. They were not allowed to go into the area of the Lorraine Motel. He had no other knowledge of the killing and refused to make a written statement.

Page 10: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

12:35 p.m., 10/18/68, 350 Mulberry, Run-down and vacant house.

12:35 p.m., 10/18/68, 131 Talbot, #5, Apartment of Esther and Cleotrea Norman, No Phone. We talked with Esther Norman, FC, 25, Unemployed, who stated that she had been in her apartment with her husband, watching television on the night of Dr. King's killing, and that a girl named Martha, last name unknown, who has since moved to Chicago, came into the apartment, and tol d them that King had been shot. She, her husband, and Martha, left the apartment and started towards the Lorraine Motel, but were stopped at the corner of Mulberry and Huling by the Police Dept. She did not hear the shot that was fired and had no knowledge of the killing. Her husband was not at home at the time of this interview, but on a recall, on 10/22/68, at 9:20 a.m., Cleotrea Norman was interviewed, and he stated the same as his wife, and also that he did nothear the shot that had been fired. Both Esther and Cleotrea refused to make a written statement.

12:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 131 Talbot, No one home. Recalls were made at this apartment on 10/18/68, 10/21/68, and 10/22/68, with times varying from 8:30 a.m., until 8:30 p.m., and no one could be located at the apartment. We did talk with Esther Norman, living next door, and she advised that there was one male colored living in the apartment, but he was seldom at home, and he did not live in the apartment at the time of the King killing.

12:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 131 Talbot, #3, Apartment of Clem Colley, MC, 96, Retired, who advised that he was a t home, but he had no memory of what had occurred on April 4, 1968. This subject is senile.

12:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 356 Mulberry, Eureka Hotel, 526-9331, owned and operated by James McKinney, MC, 60, 673 E. Madison, Kirkwood, Missouri, YO 6-2167, who advised that he was in Memphis and was inside the hotel on April 4, 1968, but that the first he knew of the killing was when the man who lives next door, Walter Allen, ran into the hotel, and made the statement that Dr. King had been shot. He advised that the records for the motel, showing the occupants on 4/4/68, had been taken to his home in Kirkwood, Missouri, and did advise that he would contact his wife in Missouri, and obtain the names requested. While at this location, we did talk to Everlene Singleton, who is employed at the Checkoff Inn, at 153 Calhoun, and she advised that she was athome at the time of the killing, but knew nothing of it until she heard aobut it later on the radio. We also talked to Phillip Tate, MC, 65, Resident Manger of thehotel, living in #5, who advised that he was in the kitchen, but knew nothing of the incident until he heard the sirens and went outside. We interrogated Henry Chapman, MC, 45, who is a permanent resident and lives in Room 12, and employed by the City Sanitation Dept., and he said that he was in his room at the time of the shooting, and knew nothing of the incident. Also interviewed was A. C. Taylor, MC, 45, Room 11, who advised that he was driving a Yellow Cab, on the night of the killing, andheard of the killing on the cab radio. He immediately reported to the Yellow Cab Office and stayed there until late in the night, because he was afraid to stop in this area, because of the curfew and all of the officers on the street. He knew nothing of the killing. All of the people interviewed at this time were asked to make a written statement, however, all of them declined, saying that they had no knowledge that would be of benefit in the case. A recall was made to this hotel, 10/21/68, and it was found that the only other permanent guest at the hotel who had not been there at the time of our previous interview was Henry Chaters, who worked for the City Sanitation Dept., and would usually arrive home between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m., and at 5:00 p.m., 10/21/68, we did talk with Henry Chaters, MC,

who stated that in order to keep out of trouble with all of the rogues running around the street, whenever he gets off from work, he comes striaght to the hotel and stays in his room. On the night of 4/4/68, he got off at about 2:30 and got home about 4:00 p.m., went to his room, fixed him something to eat and went to bed. He was in bed at the time of the killing, and did not get up until the next morning, and heard about Dr. King being shot. He declined to make a written statement in this matter.

12:50 p.m., 10/18/68, 138 Huling, Universal Film Exchange. We interviewed Evelyn Russian, FW, Secretary, who stated that the company had closed at 4:30 p.m., and that no one was on the premises.

12:55 p.m., 10/18/68, 103 Huling, No one at home. On recall on 10/22/68, at 4:55 p.m., we talked to Henry Robinson, MC, 36, 526-7887, employed by M. E. Carter, 416 S. Front, and Delois Robinson, FC, 26,,Unemployed, and Delois stated that she was at home, but knew nothing of the killing, and the first she knew of it was when she heard it over the news , and since her husband was not at home, she did not attempt to leavethe apartment. On a recall to this location at 4:25 p.m., on 10/22/68, we talked to Henry Robinson, of M. E. Carter, from 3:00 p.m., to 10:00 p.m., and heard the news of the killing on his job. As soon as he was relieved from duty, he went to his apartment as fast as possible, and did not leave. Both Henry and Delois declined to make a statemdnt.

12:55 p.m., 10/18/68, 105 Huling, It was found that this was the home of James Mc'Neal, who was previously interrogated at his place of Business, the S&S Grocery, 362½ S. Main.

12:55 p.m., 10/18/68, 107 Huling, #2. We talked to Ivy Jean Mallry, FC, 40, who advised that she was fishing on the afternoon of the killing, and that after leaving the lake, she and her friends went to a cafe on Calhoun, where they began drinking beer, and knew nothing of the killing until around 10:00 p.m., after she had returned home and turned on the TV and watched the 10:00 newscast. She had not been previously interrogated by the MPD or the FBI, but several, apparently out-of-state tourists, had come up the steps to her apartment, and had asked her questions about the killing which she could not answer. It is her belief that they mistook her apartment for the apartment at 422½ S. Main, but she did not know why.

12:55 p.m., 10/18/68, 364 Mulberry, Storage Shed used by no one, but belonged to Radio Station WLOK.

1:00 p.m., 10/18/68, 372 Mulberry, House in rundown condition and vacant.

1:00 p.m., 10/18/68, 375 Mulberry, Lower apartment, talked to Oliver Catling, MC, 63, 585-5944, employed by ~~[illegible]~~ Trans Con Trucklines, 66 E. Farrow, 942-4601, and his wife, Olivia Catling, FC, 35, employed for Cameron Cleaners on Poplar, and it was found that Olivia had been cooking supper, when Freddie Mae Ellis who lives upstairs, called on the telephone, and informed them that she had heard a newscast about the shooting of Martin Luther King. They had not other knowledge of the killing. Both refusedto make a written statement.

1:03 p.m., 10/18/68, 376 Mulberry, No one at home, but on recall on 10/22/68, at 6:20 p.m., we talked to Henry Collins, MC, 75, No phone, works at Nathan's Pawn Shop, 142 Beale, who stated that he got off work at 6:15 p.m., 4/4/68, walked straight down Mulberry to his house, and that a subject who was unknown to him by name, and who was on the street, told him about the shooting, but he had no personal knowledge. He refused to give a written statement.

Page 12: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

1:05 p.m., 378 Mulberry, 10/18/68, Home of Rozia Young, FC, 51, stated that she was not at home at the time of the shooting and knew nothing about it. She did not return home until late at night, and did not talk with any of the neighbors about the killing. She refused to make a written statement.

1:10 p.m., 10/18/68, 375 Mulberry, upper apartment of Freddie Mae Ellis, FC, 48, 525-7101, who lives with her mother, Callis Metcalf, FC, 85, and her handicapped husband, Willie Ellis, MC, 56, Unemployed. Freddi e Mae Ellis was previously mentioned in the interview with Oliver Catling and his wife, and at the time of this interview, she advised that she was cooking supper at approx. 6:00 p.m., did not hear the shot, but did recall hearing the sirens in the area, and shortly afterwards, heard a newscast on TV about the shooting. Callis Metcalf advised that she was in bed at the time of the shooting, and Willie Ellis was not at home at the time of this interview. However, on recall 10/21/68, at 4:30 p.m., we talked to Willie Ellis, who could add nothing to the interrogation of his wife, except that he wasat home and knew nothing of the killing. Willie Ellis being handicapped and Callis Metcalf being senile, with Freddie Ellis taking cafe of both of them, they refused to come to headquarters to make a written statement.

1:10 p.m., 10/18/68, 115 Huling, Warehouse for Food Services Equipment, Closed, No one on the premises, however, in checking further, it was found that it was a warehouse for Smith Fixtures, 376 S. Main, and a re-interrogation of Mr. H. L. Smith revealed that no one was on the premises at the time of the shooting.

1:15 p.m., 133 Huling, 10/18/68, No one home, however, on recall, on 10/22/68, at 4:40 p.m., we interrogated Bernedia Reed, FC, 38, 525-7029, employed for the Memphis Housecleaning Company, 1425 McLemore, 275-2173, and she stated that she was at work at the time of the killing, arriving home after 9:00 p.m., and knew nothing of the killing, other than what she heard on the TV.

1:15 p.m., 10/18/68, 135 Huling, No one home, however, on recall, 10/22/68, 4:45 p.m., we talked with Mary Sallis, FC, 55, 525-9946, who was employed by the Greyhound Bus Lines, inthe Posthouse as a Cook, 203 Union, 527-7322, and she advised that she was in her house, but did not know that anything was going on until she heard the sirens, then looked out the door and saw police everywhere. While standing on the porch, an unidentified male white newspaper reporter, asked to use her phone, and he told her that Dr. King had been shot. She refused to make a written statement.

1:15 p.m., 10/18/68, 380 Mulberry, talked to Olia Johnson, FC, 68, 526-8595, unemployed, who stated that she was inside of her home at the time of the shooting, along with her brother, Luther Briggs, and that they knew nothing of the shooting. Luther Briggs was not at home at the time of this interview, however, at the time of the recall, 10/22/68, at 9:03 p.m., we interviewed Luther Briggs, who stated that he had been sick for the past year, and was inside the house with his sister at the time of the killing, and that he heard and saw nothing, and was unable to make a written statement.

1:20 p.m., 10/18/68, 137 Huling, Rundown and vacant house.

1:20 p.m., 10/18/68, 139 Huling, Warehouse for Pepperite Engraving Co., 321 S. Main, No one on the premises, however, on recall and checking 321 S. Main, 10/22/68, at 1:50 p.m., we talked to Walter Pepper, Jr.., 3548 Acacia Drive, 398-6327, who advised that we should talk to one of his foremen in the shop. Mr. Pepper carried us to Warner Green, MC, 49, 1423 Kentucky, 942-3063, who advised us that a couple of his workers, by the name of [redacted] Buchanan, and Eugene Strong, had toldhim that they were in the Butler Grill at the time of the shooting. He made arrangements for us to talk to L. M. Buchanan, which resulted in a statement being taken from him which will become a part of this file. We attempted to talk with Eugene Strong,

Page 13: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

934 N. Third, 526-4607, and it was found that he was suffering from a lung ailment, that necessitated him being under a doctor's care. It would be weeks before he was able to make a statement, in this matter, but did admit over the phone, that he was in the Butler St. Grill with Buchanan, and related to us, over the phone, the same information obtained from Buchanan in his written statement.

1:20 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #1, Ida Hampilton, FC, 67, 527-3106, Unemployed, stated that she did not know anything about the shooting until several hours after it had occurred, and at that time, one of the neighbors came to her apartment and told her about it. She is a diabetic and bedridden most of the time, and refused to make a written statement.

1:25 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, Eva Mall Newson, FC, 67, No Phone, stated that she was sitting on her front porch at approx. 6:00 p.m., 4/4/68, and heard a shot, but could not tell where it came from. She advised that she is a semi-invalid, and did not leave the porch, and knew nothing of the killing. She refused to make a written statement.

1:25 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #2, Robert J. Allen, MC, 79, No Phone, Unemployed, stated that he was in his apartment at the time of the shooting, but knew nothing about it, other than what he heard on the news report, later on his radio. He is old, and unable to leave his apartment. He will not make a written statement.

1:25 p.m., 10/18/68, 417 St. Martin, Delta Sales, 525-8243, owned andoperated by Robert A. Pritchard, MW, 3759 Cape Henry, #6, who stated that he had closed his place of business at 5:00 p.m., and that no one was on the premises at the time of the shooting.

1:27 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #3, Polly Ann Bell, FC, 51, 526-2527, Unemployed, stated that she was in her apartment at the time of the shooting, but she does not know anything about it. She was sick in bedwith the flu, at the time of this interview, and refused to make a written statement.

1:30 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #4, No one at home. However, on recall, 10/22/68, at 5:05 p.m., we talked to Andrew Brown, MC, 49, No phone, employed by Hunter Fan, on Frisco, who stated that he worked until 6:00 p.m., and that the first he knew of the killing was at 6:45 p..m. on arriving home, and seeing all the police action.

1:30 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #5, Willie Smith, MC, 68, Mary Helen Smith, FC, 50, No Phone, both unemployed, stated they were in their apartment, watching TV and learned of the killing on the newscast. Willie is blind, and his wife takes care of him, they did not leave their apartment and refused to give a written statement.

1:30 p.m., 10/18/68, 380 Mulberry, #3, Marion P. Wilson, MC, 68, no phone, stated that he was at home at the time of the shooting, that he did not know anything of the killing until the following morning, and refused to make a written statement.

1:35 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #6, Frank Jones, MC, 59, no phone, Unemployed, stated that he was home, sick in bed, at the time of the shooting, and knows nothing about it, he refused to make a written statement.

1:35 p.m., 10/18/68, 383 S. Second, Active Bolt & Screw Co., 523-1557. Interviewed Lorene Gordon, FW, Secretary, who stated that the business closed each day at 5:00 p.m., and that there was no one on the premises 4/4/68, at the time of the shooting.

1:40 p.m., 10/18/68, 395 S. Second, Former home of Memphis Dental Manufacturing Co., Unused, No one on premises.

Page 14: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

1:40 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #7, Nathan Newsom, MC, 71, Unemployed, No Phone, said he was sitting in his living room at the time of the shooting, he did not hear the shots, saw nothing out of the ordinary and knows nothing about it. He refused to make a written statement.

1:43 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #8, talked to Columbus Patty, MC, 57, and his common law wife, Ella Jones, FC, 68, and he advised that he was employed at the Northwestern Bottling Co., 1050 Texas, and that after he got off from work, he came home and was sitting in the apartment with his wife, at the time of the killing, and that he heard and saw nothing. He declined to make a written statement.

1:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 397 S. Second, A. C. McClurg Co., Toys and Games, No one present on the premises at the time of the original canvass, but at the time of recall, it was found that this building is unoccupied.

1:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 399 S. Second, Howco Distributing Co., we talked to Henry Hammond, the Manager, 526-8328, who advised that they closed the place of business at 4:30 p.m., that date, and that no one was on the premises.

1:47 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #9, talked to Artis McKissack, FC, 38, No Phone, Unemployed, who stated that she was not at home or in her neighborhood, at the time of the shooting, and knows nothing about it. She declined to make a statement.

1:50 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #10, No one home, but on recall, 10/22/68, at 5:30 p.m., talked to L. C. Howard, MC, 42, No Phone, Porter for the Ambassador Hotel, Main and Vance, 525-1421, and he advised that he had worked at theAmbassador Hotel until 5:00 p.m., came home, and was in his apartment at the time of the shooting and knew nothing about what went on outside, other than what he heard on the newscast on TV. He declined to make a written statement.

1:50 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #11, No one home, but on recall, 10/22/68, at 5:30 p.m., we talked to Joseph White, MC, 48, employed Rotary Business Forms, 590 Lane, No Phone, and he advised that he was not living at the address at the time of the killing, having moved in September 15, 1968. He refused to make a written statement.

1:50 p.m., 10/18/68, 384 Mulberry, #12, No one at home, but on recall, 10/22/68, at 5:30 p.m., we talked to Morris Kenitchar, MC, 527-7848, employed Mid-South Transports, 1 027 Arkansas, 9482736, who advised that he worked the night shift, and did not awaken until 10:00 p.m., 4/4/68, and that he heard and saw nothing relating to the killing, and declined to make a written statement.

1:55 p.m., 10/18/68, 388 through 400 Mulberry, LuckyHart Laboratory Inc., 526-7658, we talked to Mr. D. H. Vaughn, MW, 61, 2891 Walker, 452-1942, Sales Promotion Manager, who stated his business closed at 5:30 p.m., and that no one was on the premises, and also stated thatno one from the MPD or the FBI had previously talked with him.

1:55 p.m., 10/18/68, 503 S. Second, Branyan Machinery Co., interviewed C. R. Branyan, 527-7443, who advised they closed at 4:30 p.m., and that no one was on the premises.

2:00 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #7, talked to Ruby Roy, FC, 72, No Phone, who stated that she does not know anything about the shooting, that her neighbors told her about it after they heard a newscast, and that she does not want to make a written statement.

2:00 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #2, Ples Wilson, MC, 69, Unemployed, stated that he was in his apartment at the time of the shooting, that he heard and knew nothing about it, except what he had heard on TV.

Page 15: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

2:10 p.m.,10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #10, talked to Mary C. Faulkner, FC, 59, who was a maid at the Ambassador Hotel at Main and Vance, 525-1421, and she stated that on the day of the shooting, shelived at 3064 Sax Road, and knows nothing about the shooting.

2:15 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #12, talked to Classie Coleman, FC, 80, No phone, Unemployed, and she stated that she did not even remember the incident, and did not want to talk about it. She stated that she did not even know who Dr. Martin Luther King was. This female colored is senile.

2:10 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #3, No one at home, but on recall, we found that it was a vacant apartment, on 10/22/68.

2:10 p.m., 19/18/68, 129 Talbot, #4, No one answered door,but on recall, at 1:10 p.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Corey Sanders, MC, 68, 526-6917, who stated that at the time of the shooting, he was sitting on his front porch, facing St. Martin Street, did not hear the shot, but remembered two women coming out of an aprtment on St. Martin, and saying that Martin Luther King was shot. He stayed on his front porch and did not see anything, but the police activity. He does not wish to give a written statement.

2:10 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #9, No one at home, but on recall, 10/22/68, at 5:30 p.m., talked to Hannah Wrightsell, FC, 49, 52503009, Unemployed, whostated that at the time of the shooting, she was in her apartent, and learned of it on TV. She states that she did not leave the apartment and knows nothing about it, and does not wish to make a written statement.

2:15 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #5, talked to Mattie Wiseman, FC, 49, No Phone, and she stated that she lived at 110 Vance at the time of the shooting, and knows nothing about it. She does not want to give a written statement.

2:20 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #6, talked to Willie Mae Beard, FC, 48, who is a cook at the Ambassador Hotel, and she stated that on the night of 4/4/68, she was employed as a maid in a private residence at 4742 Linda Lane, and was at that location at the time of the shooting and knows noghing about it. She does not wish to give a written statment.

2:25 p.m., 10/18/68, 129 Talbot, #8, talked to David Kirkwood, MC, 68, No Phone, Unemployed, and he stated that on the date of shooting, he was in the hospital, and knew nothing about it. He does not want to make a written statement.

2:25 p.m., 10/18/68, 361 and 363 S. SEcond, Radio Station WLOK, talked to B. T. Latham, MW, Assistant Manager of WLOK, 527-9565, who cooperative with the interviewing officer, and called into his office Joan Golden, Al Perkins, and Joe B. Young, who were on duty at the time of the shooting, along with Tom Watson, who is now in the U. S. Army, and it was learned that Joe B. Young was on the air at the time of the shooting, with Al Perkins just coming into the broadcasting booth to take over. Joan Golden was at the Reception Desk, and the first that anyone knew of the shooting of Dr. King was when Tom Watson o f the News Staff came running into the station, after hearing the sirens, and told them that Dr. King had been shot, and began preparing a news release to put on the air. Joan Golden told him to make sure of his facts, and that it would be better to contact the Manager before placing anything of this nature on the radio. Watson told her he was sure of his facts. However, a call was placed to Mr. Latham, who gave permission to put it on the air, and at about the time that they put out the first bulletin from this station, they learned that it had already been placed on the networks, and for the next two days they received so many phone calls from radio stations, newspapers, etc., that they could not carry on their work in a normal manner. According to Mr. Latham and the others interrogated, the only thing they knew of the killing was what had been released through the press.

8

Page 16: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

2:30 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #1, Vacant apartment, used for storage area.

2:30 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #15, Talked to Earnest Huff, MC, 79, and he stated that he was in the apartment andheard a shot, at approx. 6:00 p.m., on the date of the shooting, but he does not know where it came from, and he does not know anything about the shooting. He suffered from old age, and is unable to leave his apartment and states that he will notgive a written statement.

2:30 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #20, No one at home, but on recall, 10/22/68, at 5:20 p.m., talked to Amos Darris, MC, 47, No phone, employed at Humphries Mills, 34 E. Illinois, and he stated that he lived at 600 N. Fifth, on the day of the shooting, and was at work at the timeof the shooting.c He stated that he knows nothigg about the shooting, and does not want to give a written statement.

2:35 p.m., 10/18/68, at 367 St. Martin, #8, talked to Pauline Murphy, FC, 49, and she stated that she did not live in the neighborhood on the date of the shooting, and knows nothing about it, and does not want to ~~xx~~ make a written statement about it.

2:35 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #14, talked with Velma Jean Rayford, FC, 27, who is a maid at the Ambassador Hotel at Main and Vance, and she stated that she was in her apartment withher husband, Henry Rayford, MC, 45, employed at Bunny's Clearners on Walnut Grove Road, at the time of the shooting. She stated they were watching TV, and first knew of the shooting when they heard of it on a newscast. Henry Rayford was at work at the time of this interview, however, on a recall, at 5:20 p.m., 10/22/68, Henry Rayford stated that he was at home at the time of the shooting, and did not hear a shot, and does not know anything about it, and the first he knew of it, was when he heard it on TV. He stated that he was afraid to go outside, because of the police activity in the neighborhood at the time. Henry Rayford and his wife, both stated that they did not want to make a written statement.

2:40 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #9, No one answered door. At 5:15 p.m., 10/22/68, a recall was made, and we talked to Willie Collins, MC, 40, No Phone, who is employed as a truckdriver for the Commercial Appeal, and he states that he lived at 746 Pontoc at the timeof theshooting, and was at home when he heard the news on TV. Does not want to give a written statement.

2:40 p.m., 10/18//68, 367 St. Martin, #13, talked to Florene Benton, FC, 31, Unemployed, No phone, and she stated that she was in her apartment with her husband, Veblee Benton, MC, 34, employed at the City Sanitation Dept. at the time of the shooting, and that they were watching TV, and knew nothing about the shooting until they heard a newscast. She stated that she did not want to give a written statement. Her husband, Veblee Benton, was not at home at the time of this interview. At 5:25 p.m., 10/22/68, a recall was made to this address and Veblee Benton stated that he did not know anything about the shooting, as he was in his apartment with his wife. He does not want to give a written statement.

2:40 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #10, talked to Laura Cleveland, FC, 47, Unemployed, and she stated that she was not at home or in the neighborhood on the date of the shooting, that she knows nothing about it, and does not want to give a written statement.

2:40 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #12, talked to Doris Hightower, FC, 31, No Phone, Unemployed, and she stated that she was in Chicago on the date of the shooting, knows nothing about it, and does not want to give a written statement.

2:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #17, talked to Rosie Lee Frye, FC, 43, No Phone, who is employed as a maid at the Ambassador Hotel at Main and Vance, and she stated that on the date and time of the shooting, she was at work, and was inside of the Ambassador Hotel, and knows nothing about the shooting. She does not want to give a written statement.

Page 17: Canvass of the area around the Lorraine Motel.

2:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #19, talked to Garfield Smith, MC, 66, No Phone, Unemployed, and he stated that he was in bed at the timeof the shooting and did not know of it until sometime the next day, at which time some of the neighbors told himabout it. This male colored is senile, and stated that he did not want to give a statement, in this matter.

2:45 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #16 & 18, No one answered door. On a recall, to 367 St. Martin, at 4:35 p.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Clay Crutcher, MC, 20, who lives in #18, and he stated that at the time of the shooting, he lived in a roominghouse at 900 Greenwood, and learned of the shooting through a newscast on the radio. He knows nothing about the shooting, and stated that he does not want to give a written statement.

At 5:25 p.m., 10/22/68, we talked to Squire Thomas, MC, 67, Unemployed, who lives in #16, 527-8940, and he stated he was in his apartment at the time of the shooting, andheard the news on TV, and knows nothing about the shooting. He does not want to give a written statement.

2:50 p.m., 10/18/68, 367 St. Martin, #7, talked to Willis Mae Johnson, FC, 23, Unemployed, No Phone, who stated that she does not know anything about the shooting, and does not want to make a written statement.

A complete canvass was made of the area bounded by Main Street on the west, Second Street on the east, Vance Avenue on the north, and Calhoun on the south. There were several places of business in this area that were closed, and out of business. All other persons were interviewed, by making recalls until they were caught at home. This resulted in the taking of six statements, which will be attached to this report.

Respectfully submitted,
HOMICIDE BUREAU

T. H. Smith

T. H. Smith, Lieutenant, 7772

B. G. Hinson

B. G. Hinson, Lieutenant, 3270

J. A. Dungan

J. A. Dungan, Detective, 2109

THS/JAD/wpt

527-8266

Statement of L. M. Buchanan, MC 31, Residence, 899 Turley, phone, ~~xxx-xxxx~~, Occupation, Pepper Printing, 321 So. Main, made at Central Police Headquarters on Wednesday, October 23, 1968 at 9:20 AM, to Lt. T. H. Smith, and Det. J. A. Dungan.

TYPED BY: M. Jackson

QUESTIONED BY: Lt. T. H. Smith.

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of MARING LUTHER KING, MC 39, that occurred on April 4, 1968 at approximately 6:00 PM, at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry.

Q. L. M. On April 4, 1968 the date of the assassination of Martin Luther King, at about 6:00 PM, do you recall where you were?

A. I was at Butler Street Grill.

Q. Who was with you at that time?

A. Lawrence Foster, Eugene Strong, We went there together, but other people were in the cafe.

Q. While in this cafe, at that time, did you hear a shot?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Could you tell where the shot came from?

A. I couldn't say which way it came from.

Q. At the time you heard this shot, was the rear door to the cafe open?

A. I think so, they said it was. I'm not positive, but I believe it was.

Q. While sitting in the cafe, is it possible to look through the back door, and see a part of the Lorraine Motel?

A. Yes sir.

Q. As best as you can recall, I will ask you to state in your own words, what occurred at the time you heard the shot?

A. The three of us , we were ~~xxxx~~ sitting there at the table, ordered a quart of beer, while the waitress was serving the beer, that's when the shot was made. I spoke out and said that sounded like a shot. One of the gentle men, sittingover from me, spoke and said that sure did. Well, I asked the waitress, looke out that back door, and see what's going on. She didn't say anything, so I told Eugene, Im gonna see what it is myself. So I got up and walked to the front door, that's when this precher, pastor, I don't know his name, run in and said somebody give me a dime, somebody done shot Dr. King. I went out to the corner of the place and looked. I went up the street and down the street from one corner to the other, from the corner of the cafe, to along about where that wall, brick, with the sign is. I could see Dr. King laying on the balconey. There were two men leaning over him,I couldn't tell what they were doing. Then I walked back to the cafe, stood right at the corner of the cafe, until the ambulance came down there and picked him up. After the ambulance left with Dr. King, that's when the police came in and asked the lady to close up the place, and the rest of us to go home. I left right away with Lawrence and Eugene.

Q. Prior to the shooting, or hearing the shot, did you notice anything out of the ordinary around the motel?

A. No. Not that I can think of.

Q. Approximately how long was it from the time you heard the shot, until you went outside to see what was going on?

A. Could have been between one and two minutes.

Q. After getting outside the cafe, did you notice any of the people on the parking lot of the motel, pointing?

A. Yes, when I first went out, there was a lady ~~xxxxx~~ standing on the parking lot, right under where King was shot, she was hollering and pointing across the street, towards main Street, and up.

Q. Did you look in the direction that she was pointing?

A. Yes sir, I did.

Q. What did you see when you looked in that direction?

A. Nothing but some bushes.

Q. What kind of automobile were you driving?

A. 65 white Ford, 4-door.

Q. Where was your car parked at that time?

A. In front of the Butler Street Grill across the street, heading east.

Q. After leaving the area, where did you go?

A. Drove to 3rd street, ~~then~~ turned left on 3rd, and stopped at Exchanged and 3rd, and let out Lawrence Foster, and kept on Third, to Chelsea and turned left on Chelsea the second street, turned right on 2nd, and ~~let Strong out in front of his house~~, Turned right on Guthrie, to Third, turned back left on Third, then I let Strong out in front of his house, and then I went straight home.

Q. Do you have any personal knowledge of any of the indidents that occurred prior to the shooting of Dr. King?

A. no sir.

L M Buchanan

Statement of ROBERT EMMETT HAGERTY, JR., MW 37, residence, 5484 Jordan Drive, home ph. 396-1094, occupation, electrical surplus business, 133 E. Butler, Lucky Electric Supply, ph. 525-4264, made at Central Police Headquarters on Friday, October 18, 1968 at 10:00 a.m. to Lt. T. H. Smith and Ptlm. J. A. Duncan.

Questioned by: Lt. T. H. Smith. Typed by: J. Molenaar

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of MARTIN LUTHER KING, MC 39, that occurred on April 4, 1968 approximately 6:00 p.m. at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry.

Q. Mr. Hagerty, on April 4, 1968, were you employed at the Lucky Electric Supply?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Were you at the Lucky Electric Supply at the time of the shooting of Martin Luther King?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Where is your place of business located in relation to the Lorraine Motel where the shooting occurred?

A. Next door. The Lorraine Motel property adjoins our building just to the west of us.

Q. On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, did you hear the shot that was fired?

A. No.

Q. I will ask you to state in detail what you know of this killing.

A. I was setting at my desk which is to the lefthand side of the front door. I heard an elderly colored woman crying, and I backed my chair up, looked out the front door, and she was trying to get into a blue Oldsmobile, I would say a 1957 model. In front of it was a white Oldsmobile, I'm only guessing at the model of it, I would say a 1960. She could not get into the blue Oldsmobile, and I saw her walk up to the white Oldsmobile. At that time I pushed my chair back to my desk and I couldn't see anything else, and about five minutes later there were policemen all over the place. And when the ambulance left the Lorraine Motel with Dr. King, I was standing in the door of my office, and the door was open and L. B. Stephenson was standing on the sidewalk in front of me, I'd say three feet from me. I didn't even know Dr. King had been shot, I didn't even know who the man was they were bringing out of there. The ambulance had already gone, and we turned the radio on and learned that Dr. King had been shot. There was one other man there at the time but he had left just after we had heard the colored woman crying, and I was told by James R. Tipler that he had been stopped by the police after he left ~~was~~ our business.

Q. Do you know what time you heard this colored woman crying?

A. I'd say two or three minutes before 6:00 p.m., anyway, it was right at 6:00 ~~did~~ o'clock.

Q. Prior to hearing this woman crying, did you hear or observe anything suspicious in the area?

A. No, nothing other than they had a plain unmarked police car parked across the street in the Tri-State Equipment Co. lot, it would be at Mulberry and Butler. There were two men in it, they had radios, the walkie talkie kind.

Q. Were these two men in a position to observe the Lorraine Motel?

A. Where they were, they could look past the swimming toward the office of the Lorraine Motel, but in my opinion, they wouldn't be able to see Dr. King at the time he was shot.

Q. Were these white or colored officers?

A. White.

Q. When the first police activity began around your place of business, were you already on the street to see what had occurred?

A. The only reason we came out was because we saw the policemen all over the place, and while we were standing, that's when the ambulance came out.

Q. Do you have any personal knowledge of the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King?

3277

A. No.

R. E. Hagerty Jr

Statement of LEWIS BOYD STEPHENSON, MW 52, Residence, 1556 Old Hickory, phone, EX 7-27/35, Occupation, Lucky Electric Co., made at Central Police Headquarters on Friday, October 18, 1968 at 11:40 AM, to Lt. T. H. Smith and Ptlm. J. A. Dungan.

TYPED BY: M. Jackson

QUESTIONED BY: Lt. T. H. Smith

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of MARTIN LUTHER KING, MC 39, that occurred on April 4, 1968 at approximately 6:00 PM, at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry.

Q. Mr. Stephenson, on April 4, 1968 were you employed at the Lucky Electric Supply?

A. Right, Yes.

Q. Were you at the Lucky Electric Supply, 138 E. Butler at the time of the shooting of Martin Luther King?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you hear the shot that was fired?

A. No sir.

Q. When did you first learn of the shooting of Martin Luther King?

A. The first I knew that anything was wrong was when I heard the ambulance leaving the area, then after all the police started gathering around, we turned on the radio, and found out that Martin Luther King had been shot.

Q. I will ask you to state in detail what you recall of this shooting?

A. We, Robert Haggerty and James R. Tipler, were sitting in the office discussing the electric panel, and we heard a nigger women screaming and Bob went to the door to look, and he said she was trying to get in a automobile out there, I didn't even get up to look myself, I figgered somebody was fighting in that joint next door. That's about all I know. Just as Mr. Tipler, left, right after he heard the woman screaming, as he was leaving the amublance almost ran over him.

Q. Can you recall approximately what time you observed this woman crying?

A. Approx. 6:00 PM.

Q. Prior to hearing this woman crying, did you hear, or ~~observe~~ observe any suspicious in the area?

A. No sir.

A. No sir.

Q. During the afternoon of April 4, 1968 did you observe an unmarked police cruiser in the area?

A. We saw police cruisers and car inthat area but most of them were the day before the shooting occurred, I believe there may have been some cruising around the area all that day also.

Q. When was the first time that you went out on the street to see what was going on?

A. When I heard the ambulance.

Q. Have you been questioned by the police dept., or the FBI prior to October 18, 1968?

A. The police questioned me briefly on the night it happened, and that 's the only contact I 've had with the police until yesterday.

Q. Have you been questioned by Newspaper reports, or attorney's since the shooting?

A. No sir.

Q. Do you have any personal knowledge of the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King.

A. No sir.

L. B. Stephenson

Statement of MARY LOUISE HUNT, FC, Age, 18, Residence, 694 Baltimore, Phone, 324-1353, Occupation,Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church, on Park and Marechalneil, Secretary, made at Central Police Headquarters on Saturday, November 2, 1968, at 9:20 a.m., to Lt. T. H. Smith.

TYPED BY: WILLIE PEARL TILLER

QUESTIONED BY: LT. T. H. SMITH

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of MARTIN LUTHER KING, MC, 39, which occurred on April 4, 1968, at app roximately 6:00 p.m., at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry.

Q. On April 4, 1968, at the time of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King were you at the Lorraine Motel?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall the time that Dr. King was assassinated?

A. No, but it was close to 6:00 o'clock.

Q. Where were you at the time the shot was fired?

A. I was standing down in the parking lot, under the balcony, to the left of Dr. King and near the flight of steps that go up to the balcony.

Q. Do you recall the names of the other people that were standing around you at the time?

A. Clara Ester, Rev. James Bevel, and a fellow I know by the last name of Murrell, but I don't know his first name.

Q. Do you recall the names of the people that were near Dr. King at the time that he was shot who were on the balcony with him?

A. There was Jesse Jackson, and Hosea Williams, and I don't know the other fellow, there was another man, but I don't know him.

Q. I will ask you to relate in detail these events that you recall, relating to the assassination of Dr. King?

A. Well, uh, there was me, Clara Ester, Rev. James Bevel, and James Orange, and we had just left the meeting at the Clayborne Temple, and we were going to the Lorraine for lunch in the lunchroom,and Clara was driving and we had just pulled into the driveway and were about to park. She hadn't completely parked and James Bevel and James Orange, they had gottenout, and so she stopped the car and we got out, and uh, when we looked up, we saw Dr. King falling. Then uh, we ran up the stairs, and then we started calling James Bevel. He was still in the parking lot, and after we got his attention, and he came up the stairs, he and Murrell, Murrell got a towel and put it under Dr. King's face. By that time, some policemen had made it there, and they started asking us where the shot had come from, and Clara Ester and myself and Murrell, were pointing across the street, and after that, we came out the balcony and the ambulance wasarriving, and took Dr. King away. We just stood in the parking lot and in the lobby of the Lorraine.

Q. At the time you heard the fatal shot fired, were you still inside of your car?

A. Yes, I was still in the car.

Q. Could you tell from which direction the shot came?

A. Yes, it was behind me.

Q. Did you then, immediately look towards the spot from where the shot was fired?

A. No, I looked up at Dr. King because we saw him standing up there when he pulled into the drive, and we looked that way.

Q. How much time had elapsed between hearing the shot and the time you looked in the direction from whence the shot came?

A. After I heard the shot, it was about 2 to 4 minutes, because when the shot was fired, we had just pulled into the parking lot, we looked up at Dr. King, and then we immediately got out of the car and went up the stairs to where he was, and then looked across the street.

Q. At the timeyou looked in the direction of the shot, what did you see?

A. The only thing I saw was, there is a Fire Station across the street, and they were running out, asking us what had happened, and what was going on, there were some houses, apartment houses, and a lot of trees, that's all.

Q. When you first observed the area from where the shot came, did you see anyone in the area, other than the firemen and the policemen?

A. No.

Q. Do you know Solomon Jones?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he the chauffeur for Dr. King at the time of the killing?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you near enough to Solomon Jones, to hear any statement that he made?

A. No.

Q. At the time you went to the spot where Dr. King had fallen, was he still alive?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he make any audible statement?

A. No.

Q. Who was thenearest person to Dr. King at the time he was shot?

A. At the time I looked up at Dr. King, Rev. Abernathy, I believe, had his hand on the doorknob, going back into the room. Jesse Jackson and Rev. Kyles were standing off to the left, and there was a short heavy set fellow standing about 1' and ½ to the right of Dr. King.

Q. Are you familiar with the sounds that a pistol, shotgun, or rifle, would make?

A. No.

Q. At the time you drove onto the lot of the Lorraine Motel, did you observe the area around the motel?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you notice anything out of the ordinary or unusual at that time?

A. No.

Mary L Hunt

Statement of CLARA JEAN ESTER, FC 20, Residence, 496 LaClede, phone, 946-5633, Occupation, Part-time student at Bethlehem Center, made at Central PoliceHeadquarters on Thursday, October 31, 1968 at 11:55 AM, to Lt. T. H. Smith, and Det. J. A. Dungan.

TYPED BY: M. Jackson

QUESTIONED BY: Lt. T. H. Smith

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of MARTIN LUTHER KINGS, MC 39, which occurred on April 4, 1968 at approximately 6:00 PM, at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry.

Q. On April 4, 1968 at the time of the asssasiation of Dr. Martin Luther King, were you at the Lorraine Motel?

A. I was.

Q. Do you recall the time that Dr. King was asssasinated?

A. It was around 6 o'clock.

Q. Where were you at the time the shot was fired?

A. I was right below him, in the parking lot.

Q. Do you recall the names of the others that was standing around you at the time?

A. Mary Hunt, James Bevel, James Owens, Maurell, I can't recall his last name. The ones that were upstairs with Dr. King, were Ralph Abernathy, Rev. Kyles, Jessie Jackson, that's about all I can recall.

Q. I will ask you to relate in detail, the events that you recall relating to the assassination of Dr. King?

A. I had come to the Lorraine Motel with James Bevel, James Owens, and Mary Hunt, and Murrel, to eat lunch, as we approached, pulled into the parking lot, and attempting to get out of the car, Dr. King came out of the door, upstairs, and he leaned over the tailing, and was talking to a crowd of people that were downstairs, the chauffeur, and the band leader I believe his name was Bread Basket, he's the leader of the Bread Basket Band. Then I heard something that sounded like a truck roaring off, or a firecracker, and I was looking at Dr. King, and I saw blood on his face, and he jumped back. I guess the force of the bullet forced him back, and he fell, and somebody, three or four of them, hollered, "Duck, get down". And then Mary Hunt, and Murrel, and I started up the steps to Dr. King, when we got there his eyes were open, and he was laying in the blood. He was still breathing at that time, then we started pointing to across the street, to where we figured the shot had came from, and finally the ambulance was there, and we had to go back downstairs, to get out of the way. By that time I think every police in the city of Memphis was there, questioning everyone, telling us not to leave the area. That' s just about all that happened.

Q. At the time you heard the fatal shot fired, did you look in the direction from where it came.

A. I looked directly across the street, and I wasn't sure whether it came from one of the windows of the apartments, or the bushes in that area. After I got upstairs, I saw that he would have had a perfect shot from the window, rather than from the bushes, because it was elevated.

Q. At the time you looked in the direction of the shot, did you see anyone in the bushes, or the window?

A. No, I didn't, other than the fire department, who were in the area immediately after the shot was fired.

Q. You refer to the chauffeur of Dr. King, standing on the same level that you were, do you know his name?

A. Solomon Jones.

Q. Did you hear any statment that Solomon Jones made in reference to the area from where the shot came?

A. No, I had the radio on in the car, and we were talking, and I had only been there a couple of minutes before the shot was fired, and did not hear any of the conversation.

Q. Were you in your car at the time the shot was fired, or were you outside?

A. I was in the car.

Q. Did Dr. King make any statement, after you got up on the balconey with him?

A. No, I heard a grunt from him I believe, as I was on the way up there, but when I reached him he was unconscious.

Q. Was Dr. King standing alone at the time the shot was fired?

A. No, Bessie Jackson was there, and Rev. Kyles was upstairs, but he was headed toward one end of the stairs. It happened so suddenly, Ralph Abernathy was going back in the room at the time he was shot.

Q. Who was the nearest person to Dr. King at the time he was shot, and approx. how far away were they?

A. Rev. Kyles would have been the ~~fffffff