Ray File

AUG 22 [illegible] 68

BY [illegible]

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

August 23, 1968

Captain Cox
Intelligence

Dear Sir:

At approximately 10:25 PM, 8-23-68 the undersigned received a long distance call from the operator who stated she had a party on the line wanting to talk to the Sheriff.

I told the operator the Sheriff was not in, could I help the party calling. The party stated they needed to talk to the Sheriff, that he had some important information for the Sheriff. The operator asked was there anyway to reach the Sheriff, I told her he was possibly at home.

At approximately 10:30 PM received another call, long distance operator stating she had a party who wanted to talk to the Sheriff's Office.

The party on the line attempted to quiz me about the Ray Case, at which time the undersigned explained to the party he was not at liberty to reveal any information regarding this case. The party then stated that Ray did not kill King that he was in Memphis the day King was killed and saw the man that shot King.

The undersigned told the subject that if he had any information to come to this department and speak with the Sheriff, regarding this information. He then stated that he had been afraid to say anything as he was afraid for his life, and that he saw the man who had killed King. Stated it was not Ray, he was blonde headed and had long side burns and that he killed King with a 30.06 rifle with a scope on it. He then stated that he was in the room when it happened. The undersigned asked him what his name was and he stated his name was, Alexander Ballou stated he lived at 315 Wilburn Street, Nashville, Tennessee, phone CA-71380. The undersigned told him that if he had information that this was his name and address, I would pass this information on to the Sheriff and one of his investigators would get in touch with him.

(FRENCH) This subject sounded to the undersigned like a possibly colored person, but sounded more of a foreign accent. He didn't appear to be intoxicated. He did ask if he could see Ray and also that he had talked to Ray's lawyer, Mr. Haynes on July 13, 1968 and that he didn't think Ray had a very good lawyer.

While the subject was on the phone we did attempt to tape this call, but were unable to do so. After the subject hung up the undersigned checked with the long distance operator, to see if there was any way to trace a long distance call that this department received. The long distance operator stated there was no way.

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The undersigned contacted Chief Nixon, Public Service, and passed this information on to him and was advised to write this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Mendenhall

ORIG: CAPTAIN COX
CC: SHERIFF W. N. MORRIS, JR.
CHIEF NIXON

CEM/dsp