

Statement of FRANK BREWER, No. 30, residence, 422½ S. Main, Apt. 2, ph. 527-0167, occupation, steamfitter, HSY Construction Co., Jackson & Warford, made at Central Police Headquarters on Tuesday, April 16, 1968 at 8:10 a.m. to Lt. W. S. Schultz and Lt. J. B. Williams.

Questioned by: Lt. W. S. Schultz.

Typed by: O. Holman

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC 39, that occurred Thursday, April 4, 1968 at 6:00 p.m., at the Lorraine Hotel at 406 Mulberry.

Q. Frank, on Thursday, April 4, 1968, were you at your apartment at 422½ S. Main?

A. I went to work at 8:00 a.m. and got home at between 15 and 5:30 p.m.

Q. What are you basing your time on at the time you arrived home?

A. Because I had just sit down and Lawdide come on, and it comes on at 5:30.

Q. Are you the husband of Bessie Ruth Brewer?

A. Yes.

Q. When you arrived at home, Thursday/ afternoon, April 4, 1968, did your wife tell you that she had rented a room to a male white?

A. Yes, sir, she told me she had rented a room, and she first showed him Apt. 8 on our side, and he didn't like that. She said he said he didn't want a refrigerator and a stove, all he wanted was a sleeping room. So she took him over to the other side and she showed him 5-3, and he didn't hardly look in it, and he told her that's what he wanted. He paid her with a twenty dollar bill. The room was \$8.50 a week, when she rented to him by the week.

Q. Did you ever see this male white?

A. No, sir, I didn't.

Q. Later, after you arrived at home, did you hear what you thought was a shot from a rifle or gun?

A. Yes, sir, I first thought it was somebody out back shootin firecrackers. My wife and I both ran out of the office door, and Mr. Reeves came out of his room, and we heard somebody say, sound like, "O, my God, help them!" and we went to the back of the apartments to a little porch area which is on the top floor, on our level, and we saw a policeman, he was comin up through the back yard from towards Mulberry St. and he was wavin his hand, had his gun in the other hand, and told us to get back in and lock the door. We just come on back into hall where the table is and was sittin around the table. Mr. Willis Anshutz came runnin in from his side of the apartment and said that our new renter was runnin down the steps and he had somethin wrapped up that looked like a gun, and I told him, they ain't no use o' me comin over there cause the police are already here.

Q. How many apartments are located in the building where you live?

A. Six over on the north side and ten over on the side where I live.

Q. Do you know the people's names who were living in these apartments on Thursday, April 4, 1968?

A. Well, I will start with the south side. No. 1 was empty, me and my wife live in No. 2. Mr. Reeves (I don't know his first name) lives in No. 3. Howard Vance in No. 4. Mr. Messer in 5 (I don't know his first name). And the others was empty except 7. Frank Marley lives in 7. Charlie Eaton is in 10. Mr. Carter is in 9. Over on the north side. Charlie Stephens and his wife live in 6-3, and in 5-3 - John Willard was supposed to have it. And 4, Willis Anshutz. And then Mrs. Ledbetter, she's in 1-3. No. 2 and 3 on the north side were empty.

Q. Did your wife say anything about this male white she rented the room to having a car?

A. Nothin about no car. She did tell me that he didn't have no luggage, and she wondered about that, a man havin a room for a week.

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Q. Do you know how long it had been since Rm. 5-B had been rented?

A. No, sir, I don't. The man that was in there when we moved there March 12, 1960 died at the Methodist Hospital and I think it had been about a week since he had left out of the room.

Q. Do you know the man's name that had the room, that died?

A. Commodore Stewart.

Q. Do you know whether this room has ever been rented since Stewart's death?

A. I don't believe so.

Q. Prior to your wife renting this room to the male white who gave her the name of John Willard, had anybody else been up there inquiring about renting Rm. 5-B or any other room on that side?

A. No.

Q. When you and your wife ran to the back part of the building you live, after you heard the shot, did you notice any activity outside, other than that policeman waving his hands and telling you to get back in?

A. I only saw one policeman on the lot behind our apartment, all the way back to the man retaining wall, but I saw some firemen and a lot of people over at the motel.

Frank Bruner Jr.