

SUPPLEMENT # 10  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., No. 39  
domicide # 3357  
April 4, 1968

Re: Convass of 422 1/2 S. Main St.  
and vicinity

Reported by: Lt. J. D. Masby  
FBI Agent Frank Johnson

at 8:00 a.m., April 5, 1968, Captain W. A. Cochran instructed Lt. J. D. Masby and Det. C. A. Gregory to go down on S. Main in the vicinity of 422 1/2 and canvass the neighborhood for information regarding the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr.

After arriving down on S. Main, Lt. Masby and Gregory went to Jim's Grill at 418 S. Main where we talked to a waitress, Rosie Lee Dabney, PC 29, residence, 511 Florida, ph. 27-7182; she stated that she had been on duty in the cafe all day on Apr. 4, 1968 and that she had not noticed anything unusual that day until the shooting occurred around 6:00 p.m. She recalled a male white wearing a dark blue suit, in his thirties, came into the cafe at approx. 3:00 p.m., April 4, 1968 and ordered lemonade, two eggs and sausage. She stated that she would not have remembered him had he not ordered the lemonade with his breakfast. The male white who ordered the lemonade with his breakfast was later arrested on April 5, 1968 at approx. 3:45 a.m., and found him to be Gene Pearson Crawford, MW 40, of 32-B Westwood Gardens, Jackson, Tenn., ph. 24-3415, and held for the Homicide Bureau.

After leaving the cafe at 418 S. Main, we were met by Frank Johnson and H. Glycie who stated they were agents with the FBI, and that they had left Inspector Zachary's office and were told to get with us. Det. Gregory and Agent Glycie teamed up and Lt. Masby and Frank Johnson resumed up, where we did split up to begin canvassing Main St. from Calhoun to Linden St.

We went into Jim's Grill at 418 S. Main as we learned that since Det. Gregory and I had been in there, the manager had since returned and might have some information pertinent to our case. Prior to our interview with the manager, Capt. J. F. Molnar of the Emergency Squad, came into Jim's Grill and told us that he and his men had just arrested a male white (Gene Crawford) and that he was the one who had come into Jim's Grill at 4:00 p.m. on Apr. 4, 1968 and ordered lemonade along with sausage and eggs. Lt. Molnar stated that he questioned Crawford and that in his opinion he should be checked out because of his suspicious manner.

Agent Johnson and I went out onto the street where we saw Crawford sitting in the rear of Captain Molnar's car, accompanied by a uniformed officer. It was learned also that this subject had a valise that contained personal items and papers.

Agent Johnson thought it best to interview Crawford away from all of the other officers and civilian personnel such as newspaper reporters and photographers, so we pulled up onto the parking lot of Gattis company. In the presence of Agent Johnson, Capt. Molnar and myself, Crawford stated in answer to questions directed to him by Agent Johnson that he had been married four times, and that three children were born of these four marriages. He stated that he had a wife and two children in Jackson, Tenn., and that he had left there headed to Memphis to attempt to drive a vehicle to the west coast for car dealers that had advertised in the paper for drivers. He stated that he left the apartment that he had rented, called Men Motel, at 390 1/2 S. Main St., around 2:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, for the purpose of using a telephone to contact other people in regard to driving a car to California. He stated that he went to the Ambassador hotel where he was permitted to use the telephone. He stated he made three phoenexxxxxxx calls, using the ads in the Commercial Appeal, and talked to one of the people that had placed an advertisement in the paper about taking a truck to California. He was supposed to call back at 6:00 p.m., Apr. 4, 1968, to verify this. After leaving the Ambassador Hotel, he went to Jim's Grill, 418 S. Main, where he ordered eggs, and sausage and since he doesn't drink coffee, or alcoholic beverages, he ordered lemonade to drink with his breakfast. After eating, he returned to his room at 390 1/2 S. Main and told the landlady to call at ten minutes till 5:00 p.m., as he had to make a phone call. He stated that he made the phone call, and the trip did not pan out, and he went to bed and did not get up until around 8:00 a.m., Friday, April 5, 1968. He said that he heard some men talking in the hallway at 390 1/2 S. Main and he got up, opened the door and asked them to repeat what they had said, and he then learned at that time that Dr. Martin Luther King had been killed.

After a lengthy interrogation of Crawford, in learning that he had spent some time in Birmingham, Ala, Atlanta, Ga., Little Rock, Ark., he was arrested and held for the Homicide Bureau where he was later released after he was again interrogated.

We then proceeded to 424 S. Main where we interviewed Guy Warren Canipe, Sr., MW 58, of 1078 Brewer Rd., ph. 324-0344, business ph. 525-0439. He stated that he was the owner of Canipe Amusement Co. and that his main business is vending machines. He stated that on Thursday, Apr. 4, 1968 that he didn't get to his office until approx. 5:00 p.m. Shortly after he came in, two male colorado who were later learned to be Julius Leroy Graham, MC 22, and W/ Bernell Finley, MC 40, and was going through the records that he had taken off of his music machines and he was playing some of them on a juke box that he had in for repair, when he heard a thud at his front door and on looking up, he saw a male white that he described as being 6 ft. tall, 180 lbs., dark hair, neatly dressed, walking away from his front door in a normal manner, south on Main St. on the sidewalk. He said that it wasn't unusual for things like that to occur, and he recalled one specific incident where a drunk male white had placed a television at about the same location as the other bundle was, and later on the drunk came back and asked for his TV, that he had taken and put inside the store. He said that it probably took him a minute or less to go to the front door and look out, and he saw a barrel of a rifle pointed towards him lying in a Browning gun box. He also saw a green piece of cloth that was wrapped around what was later learned to be a small suitcase. He said he told the two male colorado who had followed him out, to stay in the place as there was going to be trouble, because he had just looked to his right and saw a deputy sheriff with his revolver drawn, coming towards him from north on Main St.

Afterwards, he had learned that Dr. Martin Luther King had been shot a few minutes earlier, before the bundle was dropped at his front door.

In further questioning him, he stated that there are three parking places from in front of his store southward to a driveway leading to a parking area just south of his building. He said that he always attempts to get into one of these three parking places, but when he arrived at 5:00 p.m., he saw that there were three cars already in this parking area, and he parked in the first spot south of the beforementioned driveway. He said one of these cars, and he believed it to be the one in front of his place of business, was a white small compact car, and that parked behind it was another white small car. After he had stepped out onto the sidewalk, he looked to the south and then to the north and saw the deputy sheriff coming. He thinks it was at this time when the car parked directly behind the car that was parked in front of his place of business pulled away from the curb and left northbound on Main St. He did not think that this car was being handled in a reckless manner or driven fast, and therefore paid no attention to it afterwards.

It was his opinion that he could not identify this male white who dropped the bundle.

He told us that he had been to police headquarters where he had given a written statement stating the same facts as above.

After leaving Canipe's at 424 S. Main St., we went to 422 1/2 S. Main St., which is the scene of where the assailant had rented a room and had fired the fatal shot. It was found that even though the manager called the scene as being 422 1/2 S. Main St., it is actually over 418 S. Main St., Jim's Grill. On going up the stairs and to the north side of 422 1/2 S. Main St. we located the scene which is a bathroom, consisting of a bathtub, commode and sink, with a window in the east end of this hall that overlooks Mulberry and the Lorraine Hotel. In searching the scene we found that the window sill had a mark or indentation that was located approximately halfway across the sill and approximately in the middle of it, and on examining it closely, it was our opinion that this came from some portion of the assailant's rifle when it was fired, and that later on it would be important to the case. We borrowed a hand saw, hammer and screwdriver from Mr. Canipe and this window sill was removed and later brought to headquarters to be sent off to the FBI Office in Washington, D. C. to be processed and the marks identified.

While in this bathroom it was noticed a square kitchen match, partially burned, but at the time it was not confiscated. It was later learned that there was a chilleaser in the bathroom and the occupants were required to use a match to light the gas. The occupants of 422 1/2 S. Main St. were interviewed and the only thing we learned differently than had already been known, that the subject could have sandy hair. We also learned that the occupants of 422 1/2 S. Main St. had been questioned and statements given prior

to our arrival. However, each one was again questioned and could add nothing further than had previously been stated in both oral and written statements. This was verified by reading their written statements in the Homicide Office.

After leaving 422 1/2 S. Main St., we went to 390 1/2 S. Main to check the room of Crawford, and on checking this room we found that he had taken all of his personal belongings with him, that he had at the time he was arrested, but we noticed in the ashtray on a dresser two wooden kitchen matches, the same type that was found burned in the bathroom at the scene of where the assailant stood to fire the weapon. We went back to this bathroom where three burned matches were found and compared with the ones in Crawford's room and found that two of them were of the same size. These matches were confiscated and brought to the Homicide Office.

We then returned to FBI headquarters in the Federal Building where we were brought up on the developments on the investigation. After leaving the FBI office where we had found out that a white Mustang had definitely played a part in this shooting, we went directly to the Church of God in Christ located on Mason St. where Julius Leroy Graham and Bernell Finley were employed, in an attempt to interview them. However, we found upon our arrival that they were off duty, and we proceeded to the residence of Finley, as his was closest to us. Upon arriving at Bernell Finley's residence at 1468 Kyle, we were admitted to his home by him, where he was interviewed. He stated that he was an Offset Pressman for the Church of God in Christ on Mason St., and that after getting off duty Apr. 5, 1968, he, along with Julius Graham went to 424 S. Main St. in his white Nash Rambler. Upon arriving at 424 S. Main St., he was unable to find a place to park in front, so he pulled around onto Huling St., and parked just east of Main St. on the south side and walked back to 424 S. Main St. They were looking at records when he heard a thud at the front door of the building and saw Mr. Canipe, the owner of the Amusement Company, go to the front door, look outside, and see a bundle that had been dropped there a few seconds before. He said that he and Graham started out the front door with Mr. Canipe, but he was shoved back inside by Mr. Canipe, who told them that "there is going to be trouble." He further stated that as he looked up after hearing the thud, he saw a white male walking away from the door and continuing south on Main St. on the east side, and shortly after that he saw a white car that he thought was a Mustang, accelerate from in front of the store with one occupant at what he thought was a normal rate of speed.

He further stated that he did not think that he could identify the male white if he saw him again, but described him as being tall, maybe six feet tall, about 180 lbs., with dark hair and a dark suit on. He said that the man was very neat in appearance. He further stated that he had been to Police Headquarters where he had given a written statement in detail, this date. A check was made with the Homicide Bureau and it was found that he had given a written statement.

/s/

We then went to the home of Julius Leroy Graham, MC 22, 804 N. Fifth St., Apt. 5, ph. 527-3817, employed for the Church of Christ in God on Mason as a general assistant; he stated that he and Bernell Finley went to 424 S. Main St., after getting off from work at 5:00 p.m., arriving around 5:15 p.m. They went into 424 S. Main where he had been on one other occasion, to buy some secondhand records for Mr. Canipe. He stated that they were listening to some records on the juke box and a male white running south on S. Main St., in front of 424 S. Main, came into running across the front of the building. He further stated that the footsteps were heard by him is what first attracted his attention. He then saw the same male white drop a bundle in the doorway at 424 S. Main St., and continue to walk south on Main. He said that he started out the door and was stopped by Mr. Canipe, who told him that there was going to be trouble.

He further stated that when he and Finley arrived at 424 S. Main St., that he saw parked in front of 424 S. Main St., a white Mustang. He was emphatic that he saw it, both parked and moving, the latter being when it pulled away from the curb where it had been previously parked, with a lone male white occupant. He could not positively say that the party responsible for placing the bundle in front of 424 S. Main St. was one and the same under the wheel of the Mustang. He further stated that he was positive that this was a Mustang that was parked out in front of 424 S. Main, and that he was positive that the white Mustang he saw going north on S. Main had to be one and the same, because immediately after the Mustang left, he saw that the car that had been previously parked was now gone. He further stated that there was a good possibility that he could identify the suspect and would cooperate in every manner.

He stated that he gave a written and oral statement in the Homicide Bureau on Fri., April 5, 1968, which will become a part of this file.

Respectfully submitted,

*J. D. Mosby*  
J. D. Mosby, Lieutenant 1245

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