

Statement of EMMETT E. DOUGLASS, MW 31, residence, 1136 Luman Cove, phone 334-3026, occupation, Petrolman with Memphis Police Department, #2182, made at Central Police Headquarters on Tuesday, April 16, 1968 at 9:30 AM, to Lt. J. L. Harrison

TYPED BY: M. Jackson

QUESTIONED BY: Lt. J. L. Harrison

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

- Q. Ptm. Douglass, on Wednesday, April 10, 1968, did you give a statement to Lt. Schultz in reference to your activity on April 4, 1968 as to what part you done in reference to the investigation of the shooting of Dr. King?
- A. Yes
- Q. On April 16, 1968, did you and Lt. Chernley, Ptm. Cross, Ptm. Wright and Supt. Dollahite discuss this matter further while in the Homicide Office?
- A. Yes
- Q. After discussing this matter between the five of you was it then established that Lt. Chernley of the Sheriff's office, did not get in the station wagon with you and you did not take the exact route mentioned in your previous statement?
- A. Yes
- Q. State now, these corrections to the best of your knowledge?
- A. At approximately 6:00 PM, April 4, 1968, I was sitting in Emergency Squad Station Wagon #81, parked on the north side of the front lot of Fire House #2, heading west. At this time, I heard a noise which sounded like a shot, I got out of the wagon, stood up and looked around, and at this time, the other officers, who had been inside the fire house, taking a break, ran out the front side door on the north side of Fire Station #2, and stated King has been shot. At this time, all the officers began running east toward the rear of the fire house, and I began running with them. I got approximately half way of the fire house, and returned to the car to notify the dispatcher. And I told him, on the air, that TACT #19, had received information that King had been shot. At this time, other officers jumped in the wagon with me and through discussing today, April 16, 1968, with other officers it was established that Ptm. Barney Wright, was the officer who got in the front seat on the passenger's side with me, instead of Lt. Chernley. At this time, we proceeded South on Main, East on Butler, North on Mulberry, and came to a stop in front of the Lorraine Motel, just for a few seconds. At this time, someone advised us that the shot came from an old brick building, directly west of the Lorraine Motel. We got back into the wagon, went north on Mulberry, and through further discussion it was determined that we went west on Haling, because as we approached Main Street, the dispatcher advised on the air, that it has not been verified that King had been shot. I asked the man in the front seat with me, if he was definitely sure that King had been shot? And he stated Yes, he has been shot. I in turn advised the dispatcher on the air that King had been shot. We then went south on So. Main, turning east into the parking lot, directly south of 424 So. Main, got out of the wagon, searched the lot, hurriedly, got back into the wagon, left the lot, went north on Main in the wagon, stopping almost in front of Jim's Place in the 400 block of So. Main. At this time, I observed a box, which appeared to be a gun box, lying on top of a blue suitcase, with a green cloth partially covering the box. I also observed Lt. Chernley talking with Mr. Camps and someone advised to secure the scene and not let anyone touch the articles in front of 424 So. Main. A few minutes later, someone advised me to leave this location and secure the building. At this time I went in Jim's Grill and obtained the names and addresses, plus other information, from each person inside of Jim's Grill. This information was turned over to Capt. Cochran when he arrived on the scene. I also checked across the street at a paint company, that I believe is Seabrook's, and asked the people inside if they saw anything and they replied No. While we were still in front of 424 So. Main, a colored officer, whose name I do not know, approached the front of 424 So. Main, with a shotgun or rifle, in his hand and stood by the articles to protect them. We stayed at the scene until the Homicide Division picked up the articles on the ground, placed them in a automobile, and when the area at 424 So. Main was cleared, we returned to service and began cruising.
- Q. When you arrived at 424 So. Main, were there any officers already on the scene, besides Lt. Chernley
- A. No

P.2 STATEMENT OF ERIC T. DOUGLASS,

Q. Did you see Deputy Bellchite, or Ptm. Gross, when you parked in front of Jim's Grill?

A. No

Q. Do you recall seeing Lt. Chernley get a walkie-talkie out of the station wagon?

A. I remember seeing Lt. Chernley with the walkie-talkie, in front of 434 So. Main, putting something on the air, but I did not see him get it out of the station wagon.

Q.

E. E. Douglas