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Statement of HENRIEL FINLEY, MS, Age, 40, Residence, 1408 N.Ya. Blvd., Phone, 273-0324, Occupation, Church of God in Christ, Business Office Freeman, United Central Police Headquarters, on Friday, April 9, 1960, at 9:10 a.m., to Det. R. R. Davis.

TYPED BY: WILLIE PEARL TILLER

QUESTIONED BY: DET. R. R. DAVIS

Relative to the SHOOTING of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ME, that occurred on Thursday, April 4, 1968, at approx. 6:15 p.m., at 406 Mulberry, the Lorraine Hotel-Motel.

Q. Mr. Finley, on the date of Thursday, April 4, 1968, at approx. 6:00 p.m., were you in Canipe's Amusement Shop, at 424 S. Main Street?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. How many people were in Canipe's at this time?

A. I saw only three, including myself.

Q. At approx. what time did you arrive at this amusement shop?

A. I would say between 5:30 and 5:35 p.m.

Q. How long were you inside this Amusement Shop?

A. Till about 6:20 to 6:30 p.m.

Q. During the time that you were in this Amusement Shop, did you notice anything out of the ordinary which took place on the sidewalk in front of this shop?

A. Yes, as we were talking, we heard something drop in front of the door. We looked up and saw a man walking away. We waited a minute or two, and went to the door and looked at the box.

Q. I will ask you to state in your own words exactly what you saw and heard prior to arriving at this Amusement Shop, until you left this location?

A. Well, we were getting off I asked the fellow that works with me, Julius did he punch me off, cause I was on the telephone, talking to my wife. She called me back and said the insurance man was there. Afterwards, I went out to leave and I checked my card and I hadn't been punched out, and it was after 5:15 p.m., then. I went in to the Assistant Manager's Office, and asked him to sign me out at 5:00. He and Julius Graham left and went down to Canipe's on Main, and we parked on Haling Street. We walked to the shop. It was only one man in when we walked in. We told him we wanted to get some records. He looked through the records. He played some that we asked him to play, until we heard this noise at the door. We turned and looked and saw a man walking away. Afterwards, we went up to the door, and looked at the box, waited and when no one returned, we peeped out. Later, we heard tires, looked up and saw a white Mustang. Mr. Canipe went out the door. I followed him. At this time, he said, "Get back, there is some trouble". At this time, we saw a Trooper, coming around with his pistol in his hand. We stayed inside until the police arrived. That's all I know.

Q. Was this a white man or a colored man that you saw walking away from the postage droppe in front of the Amusement Shop?

A. He was white.

Q. Can you describe this man?

A. He was medium height, I wouldn't say he was tall, and I wouldn't say he was short, I saw only his left side of his face, not enough to even know what he looked like, he was medium weight.

Q. What about the complexion of the man you saw?

A. It was about dusk dark, and I didn't see much of him, and it wasn't enough to tell what color he was.

Q. What direction was this man walking?

A. South on Main.

Q. Approximately how far away from this man were you at the time you saw this?

A. I would say as far as from here to that wall, (indicating about 15 feet).

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Q. Did you observe this man further, after he walked on south, after dropping the box that you stated he dropped?

A. No, sir.

Q. When you last observed this man walking south, after he had dropped the box, was he still walking down the sidewalk, going south or did he perhaps turn and walk across Main Street to the other side?

A. Last time I saw him, he was walking south.

Q. Was this male white that you described wearing a hat, or was he bareheaded?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Did you observe the color of his hair?

A. No, I didn't, I only saw a glimpse of him.

Q. Could you tell what he was wearing?

A. It seemed to be a dark suit, what color, I couldn't say.

Q. Are you positive this was a suit he was wearing?

A. I know it was a dress coat, dark in color, but I'm not sure if it was a complete suit.

Q. If you should ever see this man again, could you recognize him?

A. No.

Q. The white Mustang that you mentioned, do you know where it was parked?

A. No, sir, I don't, when I saw it, it was passing the door, going north on Main.

Q. Could you observe the driver or passengers in this Mustang?

A. No, sir, I only saw the top and back of the car.

Q. Do you know what model Mustang it was?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you perhaps get a look at the license plates?

A. No, sir.

Q. You stated that the reason you noticed this car was that you heard the tires squealing, did it appear to you that this car was taking off from a parked position, in a hurry that caused the tires to squeal?

A. To me, it sounded like it was taking off.

Q. Do you believe that this male white, of which we are talking, got into this Mustang?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did you and the other two men that were in this Amusement Shop examine the contents that this male white dropped?

A. No.

Q. Was this box or bundle dropped in front of the Amusement Shop on the sidewalk?

A. It was at the door.

Q. Describe this box or bundle?

A. It was a long box, I would say maybe about 10" wide and about 48" or longer, and it had a piece of cloth, and either a blue or green piece of luggage, it looked like luggage.

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Q. Just prior to your seeing this male white pass by this Amusement Shop, do you recall hearing a shot or what appeared to be a shot?

A. Well, I heard something that sounded like a shot.

Q. Did this shot sound real loud to you, or perhaps not so loud?

A. It wasn't so loud.

Q. Could you tell from what direction this shot came?

A. No, sir.

Q. Can you estimate how much time elapsed from the time you heard this shot until you saw this male white pass by the Amusement Shop, and drop the bundle or box?

A. I would say two or three minutes.

Q. After this male white had walked on by the Amusement Shop, can you estimate in minutes as to the time prior to the arrival of the police?

A. I would say the first one we say was about three or four minutes.

Q. Did you notice from what direction the police came?

A. He was running, he was a State Trooper, and he was going south on Main on the same side of the street.

Q. Did this State Trooper observe this box or bundle, or did you or the other two men call his attention to it?

A. Mr. Canipe called one of the policeman's attention to it after some more came. They were running in the same direction the first Trooper had run, on by it without seeing it.

Q. Is there any other thing that you could add to this statement that may not have been asked of you in regards to the description or activity of this male white?

A. No, there's nothing else.


