

Statement of CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, MW, Age, 44, Eastmore, 422½ S. Main, No Phone, Occupation, Unemployed Veteran, made at Central Police Headquarters, on Thursday, April 4, 1968, at 9:35 p.m., to Det. R. E. Davis and Lt. J. D. Hodge.

TYPED BY: WILLIE PEARL TILLER

QUESTIONED BY: DET. R. E. DAVIS

Relative to the SHOOTING of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MD, that occurred at approx. 6:15 p.m., on Thursday, April 4, 1968, at 406 Mulberry.

Q. Mr. Stephens, do you live at 422½ S. Main Street, upstairs?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you describe your room, relative to its location in this apartment building?

A. Well, that hall runs east and west, my room is right next to the bathroom, there is two rooms there, its on the south side of the hall.

Q. Do you live with your wife at this location?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is this bathroom located directly at the end of the hall, the east end?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you in your room all the afternoon of April 4, 1968?

A. I was in there most of the day, I went downstairs to the restaurant, and I walked up the street and got a can of lighter fluid for my lighter, I was gone about half an hour, this was about 3:00 p.m.

Q. With the exception of this approx. thirty minutes, were you in your room the rest of the afternoon?

A. Yes, sir, all day.

Q. Is there another room located on the south side of the hall, just west of your room?

A. Yes, sir, number five, B.

Q. Has this room been vacant recently?

A. Yes, sir, it has been vacant since the 13th of March.

Q. On this date, April 4, 1968, was this room again re-occupied?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what time the occupant rented this room?

A. Like I said before, it was between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Q. Did you observe the occupant at the time he first entered this room?

A. I didn't see him when he entered the room, she ~~showed~~ showed him this room and he had one side to me and that's all I could see.

Q. Will you describe this man that rented this room the best you can?

A. He was around my height, I am 6'1", and he was round my height, he had dark sandy colored hair, and he a slightly receding portion of hair, you see, his hair came out in the middle to a point, but on both sides of his head, it was getting bald. He had on a black suit, white shirt, and it was either a coal black tie, or it was a dark tie, but it was all one color, he was slender built, he wasn't heavy set, he was slender, weighed about 162 to 163, somewhere in there, and he was between 30 and 32.

Q. Did you notice any gray in his hair?

A. No, sir, I wasn't that close to him, I didn't notice any gray, if it did, it didn't show up very much.

Q. Would you describe this man as a sharp dresser?

A. He was neat, and as far as I could see, his suit was costly, no wrinkles.

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- Q. Approximately how many feet away from this man were you when you saw him?
- A. Well, it was just about from where I am sitting to the far corner of that desk there, (indicating approx. 9 or 10 feet).
- Q. Tell in your own words leading up to the time from the time you saw him and the landlady, was this the time that you were leaving to go to the store?
- A. Yes, it was, this was between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m., and I returned in less than half an hour. As I said, I went to get a can of lighter fluid, and I always keep my door closed. I filled my lighter up, and started to go to the bathroom. He had come went down the hall into the bathroom, and he was in there between twenty and thirty minutes. This other guy he comes down there and wanted to get in there and he couldn't get in there. He finally left out of there, and went back to the room a couple of three times, I didn't count on. I got a little battery radio, which hooks up on electricity, and I was trying to get it hooked up on electricity when I heard that shot. I got up and went to my door, and I could see a guy that fit his description, and he was moving, he had something wrapped up in what looked like newspaper. He was heading towards the front stairway, coming from the bathroom, he had already passed my door before I got out into the hall. He was running, and I walked on back in my room and closed the door. Willis Anshultz, who lives down the hall came down to use the bathroom after the man left out.
- Q. Do you know that this male white came out of the bathroom immediately after the shot was fired?
- A. Yes, sir, I know it, cause that back door was closed and locked, and he couldn't have got up the back steps.
- Q. Could you recognize this man should you ever see him again?
- A. I couldn't because I didn't get that good a look at him.
- Q. Did you notice anything outstanding about his features?
- A. Nothing, I didn't take that close a look and I wasn't close enough to him to notice any scars.
- Q. Did you notice him smoking at any time that you saw him?
- A. No, sir, when I saw him, he wasn't smoking then.
- Q. Did you hear any people in his room talking, or any conversation in there?
- A. No, sir, there wasn't any conversation that I heard going on in there, if it was it was very low.
- Q. Did this man when you saw him, as brief as it may have been, remind you of anyone, of any movie star or celebrity?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Could you see his eyes?
- A. No, sir, I couldn't, as I told you I just had a glimpse of one side of his face as he turned around and looked in the room as he and the landlady were talking, he wasn't turned around where I could see him.
- Q. Approximately how long was this instrument you described as being wrapped in newspaper, how long was this object?
- A. About this long, (indicating about 3 1/2 feet).

Charlie G. Stephens