

STATEMENT OF: Pilma, Barney G. Wright, 3130, Male White, 39, residence: 4264 Dunn, telephone: 327-6477, Occupation: Patrolman, Emergency Squad, taken at Central Police Headquarters, 11:35AM April 10, 1968.

Questioned by: Lt. N. L. Harvey

Typed: Kenneth L. Beaudoin.

Relative to the Fatal Shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King, MC 39, that occurred Thursday, April 4, 1968 at 6PM at the Lorraine Motel, 400 Mulberry.

Q. Pilma, Wright what is your regular assignment?

A. Emergency Squad, Car 208, under Inspector Sam Evans.

Q. Were you assigned to Tact Unit 10, with several other officers on Thursday, April 4, 1968?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the exact Unit of Tact Unit 10 at the time Dr. King was shot?

A. We were at the fire station at Main and Butler.

Q. Where were you at the time of the shooting?

A. I was in the Lounge sitting in a chair alongside the South wall, inside the Fire Station.

Q. Did you hear the shot?

A. I am sure that I did, but it didn't sound like a shot. It rattled the plate glass window I was sitting by, which was behind me.

Q. I will ask you to relate in detail to the best of your memory what occurred after you had learned of the shooting of Dr. King, and what you did after you learned of the shooting.

A. At approx. 5:45PM after patrolling routine we pulled into the Firestation at Main and Butler to take a break. We parked all three cars on the North side of the Fire Station lot, near the sidewalk, facing in a westerly direction. I got out of car along with several other fellows and went into the Station. I proceeded to the Lounge, picked up the newspaper and was reading the newspaper while sitting in a chair on the South side of the Lounge. I heard a noise that rattled the plate glass window behind me and several seconds later everyone in the Station was running to the side door of the Station located on the North side of the Fire Station building. At this time I got up and ran with them. After going out this door the group ran East to the rear of the station, also some of this group went down the embankment, and across the street to the Lorraine Motel.

I ran as far as the rear of the lot, and turned around and ran back to where our wagon was parked and jumped in the right front seat. At this time also Pilma, Douglass got behind the steering wheel and also put out a broadcast that we had information that Dr. King had been shot. We then drove South on Main to Butler and East on Butler to Mulberry then back north and stopped in front of the Lorraine Motel. At this time everyone at the Motel was pointing to the building located to the West of the Motel and these people stated that the shot had come from the direction they were pointing. At that time one or two other officers jumped into the back of the wagon and we immediately drove back to the front of the buildings on Main Street, which are located just north of the Firestation.

After arriving back to the front of these buildings everyone got out of the wagon and took up positions to cover this row of buildings. On getting out I grabbed the shot gun and went to the West side of Main Street and took up a position to cover the buildings from this point. By this time the whole area was surrounded by Police cars.

Q. After you learned of the shooting did you see or hear any automobile in the area drive in a reckless manner or make a lot of noise?

A. No.

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Q. When Tact Unit 10 pulled into the Fire Station or after you left the fire station did you observe a white Mustang automobile parked anywhere in the area?

A. No.

Q. Did you observe Dr. King lying on the landing after you left the fire station?

A. No. There was a group of people up there, but I didn't go up there.

Q. Did you see anyone in the area after you learned of the shooting other than a law enforcement officer armed with any type of weapon?

A. No.

Q. Did you observe a weapon or any type package on the sidewalk in this area?

A. Yes, I observed what appeared to be a green blanket, a piece of luggage, and also a long narrow card board container which appeared to be a gun case with the word Browning written on the end of it. And also what appeared to be the gun stock sticking out the end of this box. This was located in front of the first doorway North of the Firehouse on Main Street, on the sidewalk.

Q. What was the disposition of these articles which you saw laying on the sidewalk?

A. I think it was Winkley from Homicide who picked them up.

Q. Did you see anyone walking on the streets other than a law enforcement officer after you had learned of the shooting?

A. No.

  
Ptlm. Barney G. Wright.