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### STATEMENT OF RENFRO HAYES

This statement was taken at the office of C. M. Murphy, on January 31, 1969. Hayes lives at 31 North Evergreen, Apartment 8, and has no telephone. He may generally be reached by contacting Attorney Walter Buford.

James Earl Ray purchased a .22 caliber or .223 caliber Hornet rifle at the Aqua Marine in Birmingham, Alabama on March 31 or April 1, 1968. He exchanged this rifle in the company of another man for a Remington Sportsmaster 30 06. He bought a box of military or copper jacketed cartridges.

Ray spent the night of April 3, 1969, at the Rebel Motel, having spent the previous night in a motel in Mississippi, just over the state line, which flew a rebel flag so it may have been the Mineral Wells Motel on Lamar Avenue. Ray was never seen again in the Rebel Motel after he registered. He paid in advance and apparently never checked out.

Charles Stevens is the only person who can put James Earl Ray in Memphis after registering at the Rebel Motel.

Mrs. Short, Atlas Employment Agency, owns the apartments at 422 1/2 Main. Her husband works as a Dock Foreman (checker) at Gordon's Transports. Charles Stevens stole some furniture from her.

Mrs. Bessie Brewer, age 40-50, told Mrs. Short and Judy Guin that she would not identify the rentor of the room at 422 1/2 Main at about 3:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968. She told the newspaper people that she could not identify the tenant who rented apartment number five. She described the tenant as being between 25-30 years of age and stated that she would never forget his smile, but that she could not identify him. Her husband is Frank Brewer and is an alcoholic and trouble maker. Bobby Guin is a son of Judy Guin and is presently on bond. M & M Bonding Company may have been the bondsman who would have a current address on Bobby Guin. Mrs. Guin is a cafe manager and formerly worked at the White House Cafe. Bessie Brewer

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had a bank account in the name of Bessie Yarbrough and it may be in Jackson, Tennessee, under that name.

Bertie Reeves, age seventy (70) lives at 422 1/2 Main.

He was in the lobby at 3:00 P.M. when Mrs. Brewer rented apartment number five to someone. He was shown pictures of James Earl Ray by police and would testify that James Earl Ray was not the man who rented the apartment number five. The new tenant was much younger. The lobby is next door to apartment five. Bertie Reeves was in his room at the rear of the other apartment building and heard the shot. His room overlooks the backyard. He says that the shot came from the bushes above the wall. He is alert despite his age.

Hayes spent some time with Reeves before he would talk to him.

Harvey (Ace) Locke is a shoe repairman and has worked for the Lee Shoe Shop behind the Jefferson Cafe at Jefferson and Third. He is an alcoholic. Charles Stevens was permitting Ace Locke to stay in apartment number 5 without anybody's permission. Stevens lived in apartment number 6 which is immediately east of five. Ace Locke receives a V.A. pension which is mailed to a sister somewhere in Kentucky. He saw three men in apartment 5 between 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. on April 4, 1969, when he came home. He can identify James Sanders as one of the three and a blond as the other. Ace is 46 years of age, five feet two inches or five feet three inches, bald with a grayish, reddish fringe of hair and generally wears a hat.

Willie Auschultz, approximately sixty years of age, big stature, was living at 422 1/2 and still lives at 422 1/2 Main, in the apartment west of number five, which would be four. He works for Duvall Freight Line and

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is mentally defective. He has a slight speech impediment and a slight german accent. He left at about 5:00 P.M. on April 4, 1969 on foot. He arrived at 422 1/2 Main, "towards 6:00 P.M." He saw nothing unusual, and went to the bathroom, but found the door to be locked. He asked Grace Hays Walden who was in the bathroom and she told him the new man. He went back to the room and left the door cracked 4 to 8 inches. He heard a shot, which he thought came from the bushes, not from down the hall in the bathroom. He saw a dark form go by the crack in his door. He could not tell if the person who went by the door was white or colored, man or woman, thought it to be dressed in dark clothes. He shut his door and forgot it. He did not say anything to anybody, but simply shut his door. A deaf and dumb woman lives in the apartment at the end of the hall west of Auschutz. Auschutz sleeps with her. Harvey (Ace) Locke may have moved in with the deaf and dumb woman.

On April 4, 1968, at 6:00 P.M. the "B" shift was on duty at Fire Station # 2. Fourteen men were on the shift. Four men were at the rear of the Station, which faces the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel including Lt. George W. Leonneke and Private Charles E. Stone. Lt. Loenneke is presently with the Fire Station at South Parkway and Kansas, Stone is still at fire station number 2. Floyd Newsom was a negro militant. He is a militant type trouble maker, but was on "B" shift. Two negro city policemen named Richmond and Reddick were at the Station at the time King was killed. They put a newspaper over the back door glass, cut two holes in the newspaper so that they could see. Next to the door is a high window over lockers, out of which one could see by standing on the lockers. Newsom was transferred to Frayser on the morning of April 4, 1968, after having make remarks such as police stooge and Uncle Tom to Reddick. Reddick got threatening telephone

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calls on the pay phone at the station. Reddick left to protect his family after receiving such calls and was not there at 6:00 P.M. Policeman Richmond and four firemen , including Stone and Loenneke, were at the rear of the Station at 6:00 P.M. standing near the rear door. Richmond says "He's coming out" and the four firemen jumped up on Lockers and saw King bend over and get shot. He was bending way over the rail. Immediately after King was shot Richmond put a dime in the wall phone and made a phone call. At the time King was shot police were in front of the fire station. Richmond pulled his pistol and ran to the wall. The major portion of the above testimony came from private Stone, but was also verified by Loenneke and one of the other two firemen who was at the rear.

Lt. Loeneke may have been the person who talked to the little Negro boy who is supposed to have seen a man jump from the wall and have run to the fire station. Police took the boy away in a squad car.

422 1/2 Main was inspected by a Negro fireman about four to fifteen days before King was killed. Two well dressed Negro men who arrived in a Cadillac also inspected the rooming house. One of them may have been Solomon Jones.

Charles Stevens, is presently living at 336 Washington and has protection custody from two city policemen. He lives at the back apartment upstairs. Stevens is a World War II veteran and receives \$105.00 V.A. disability check on about the first of each month. He has previously been convicted on two occasions for Assault to Murder in Shelby County. Judge Beverly Boushe remembers him as a regular drunk in the City Court. Charles Stevens has a brother named Jim Stevens who works for the Salvation Army. Charles lived with Grace Hays Waldon for a year or two prior to

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April 4. Charles had beaten Grace Hays Walden up some time before. Grace had gone to John Gaston Hospital , was released and on April 4, was in apartment # 4 at 422 1/2 Main in bed with an infection from her recent skin graft. She and Stevens had been drinking dark port wine with "Commodore" and the number five tenant, Ace, for sometime prior.

At 3:00 P.M. on April 4, 1969, Charles Stevens saw someone in or near apartment 5 who he will identify as James Earl Ray. At 6:00 P.M. he told newspaper men he was fixing a radio and told attorney, Harvey Gipson, he was fixing a hot water heater. A cab was called which arrived shortly before 6:00 P.M. on April 4. This was a Yellow Cab and was driven by James McCraw, who was formerly with Veterans Cab and who is now with Southland Cab Company. Lloyd Jowers will know his whereabouts. McCraw will testify that Stevens was too drunk to be hauled by him.

James McCraw left and went to his cab and received a call to Frankie and Johnny's Boat Store at the foot of Union Avenue, where he picked up two fares and heard on the radio that King had been killed.

The police did not investigate the rooming house until 10:00 or 11:00 P.M. on April 4, except perhaps one policeman who went up the back stairs prior to that time.

Lawrence Sneider, a driver for Yellow Cab Company , states that F.B.I. agents pulled some time sheets from the files of the Yellow Cab Company for which receipts were not given by Ham Smythe, the president.

Grace and Charles Stevens were both taken to the police station. Charles Stevens was not questioned that night. However, Grace did give a statement to police on the night of April 4. She signed a two or three page statement.

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Wiley-Smith, photographer, whose studio is located at Madison and Cooper, took pictures of the palm print in the bathroom and of Charles Stevens on April 5, 1968. The palm print picture is supposedly good enough to be used for comparison. He wants \$50.00 for his pictures.

Ernest Withers, negro photographer, with the studio on Beale Street, Ernestine Cofield, St. Louis Sentinel, 3700 Eastern Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, and Marvin Scott, Mutual Broadcasting Company, New York, New York, went into Stevens room on April 5, early in the morning. They questioned Stevens who did not even know that anyone had been shot, according to Ernest Withers.

A reporter from the London Times paid Charles Stevens two or three days later \$200.00 (?) and got a story from him about a man dressed in a black suit with a black tie, which is essentially the description that had been given by Bessie Brewer. It was after this story that Stevens became a vital witness and was again questioned by police.

Vester Moore, 3977 Hemingway, on April 4, was a park policeman. He was on duty during the period following April 4, at Handy Park. He made an arrest and was fired because he violated orders by transporting a prisoner. During the one to three weeks following April 4, he was on duty at Court Square. He saw Charles Stevens in Court Square and Stevens told Vester Moore that "they don't want me", I was too drunk ". Moore called Homicide who said we don't want him, let him go. Moore had heard a call over the radio for Charles Stevens and it was for that reason that he had stopped him.

John Hughes, a Memphis Airport Policeman, was also told by Stevens that he (Stevens) did not know anything. Stevens was taken in protective custody after Ray's arrest.

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Harvey Gibson represented Stevens before Judge Bill O'Hearn on a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. Hayes had gotten his brother, Jim Stevens, to hire Gibson. Gibson made a contract with Charles Stevens to receive one-half of the \$100,000 reward money. Gibson told Hayes that he would give him \$25,000.00 to ease up. Hayes has never talked to Stevens. Gibson says Hayes pulled a pistol on him after the \$25,000.00 offer.

Mildred Slaughter, who lives on Tutwiler, and spends her time in such places as are frequented by Stevens was cut on the arm by Stevens after he was released. This was done in the presence of two policemen. He was never charged.

Virginia \_\_\_\_\_, lived with Charles Stevens at 336 Washington (red brick building). They went to Leon's Cafe frequently. The police officers paid his rent. Hayes met her at Young's Cafe on Poplar near Lauderdale and took her to his house in October or November of 1968. After talking to her he took her home and let her out around the corner from 336 Washington. She and Charles Stevens had a fight in front of Young's Cafe. Three or four hours later she was dead. Stevens hit her with a tire iron, causing a blood clot. Her mother is chief of police in Paris or some town in that area. He is still under guard of two policemen who witnessed the fight and separated them. Charles Stevens was never charged in that incident. Virginia \_\_\_\_\_ was about 40 to 45. Virginia walked away from the fight, but died later.

Lloyd Jowers, owns and operates Jim's Grill, age approximately 50. He was formerly with Yellow Cab before he purchased Jim's Grill. Around April 4, he came in at 4:00 P.M. daily. On April 4, 1968, at about 4:00 P.M. Jowers had parked his white Cadillac as close to a white Mustang which was parked in front of his place of business, as was possible in order to be away from the fire plug which is in front of 422 1/2 Main. Both vehicles

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were parked on the East side of Main headed North. Jowers front bumper on his Cadillac was close enough to the rear bumper of the Mustang as to obscure from view the license plate, unless one was standing directly over it. Jowers says the Mustang license plate was an Arkansas one. After Jowers arrived at work, a man whom he had never seen before introduced himself and seemed to make a point of making himself known. This man was Jim Sanders. Grace Hays Walden identified pictures of Sanders as the man seen in the apartments at 6:00 P.M. Jowers and cab driver, Harold Parker, were seated together in a booth when Jowers heard the shot fired. He first thought it was something falling in the kitchen and went in the kitchen to investigate. He came out and went to the front door. The Deputy Sheriff immediately came in the front door. He saw another sheriff run down Main Street toward Canipes.

Guy Canipe, Sr. says the man who dropped the gun dropped it fifteen (15) minutes before the sheriff came into his place of business. Canipe did not hear the shot fired. Canipe went to tell the person who had dropped the rifle, but saw that it was in a Browning Shot Gun box and said he was going to leave it there ten or fifteen minutes and if the man who dropped it did not return that he would pick it up and use it himself. He is sure that the rifle is there ten to fifteen minutes before it was picked up by the sheriff.

The police radio tapes will show that the rifle was found at about 6:05 P.M. Jowers told police that immediately after the shot was fired Sanders ordered a beer. He told police no one left after the shot was fired. Sanders was seated on a stool at the bar close to the door. Jowers now says that Sanders may have left. He doesn't know. Sanders was there after the police arrived and locked the door, and may have left the place after the first sheriff entered. Sanders remained in the back drinking his beer after all the rest of the customers ran to the front to look out the window after the place had been locked.



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Benny N. Thornton, 5130 Aureen Drive, Telephone, 392-1276, was with the Fire Department at Third and either Vance or Linden. He was and attendant on the ambulance that took Dr. King's body to St. Joseph Hospital. He said that King had a large hole on the right side on his jaw under his ear. This hole was large enough to put your fist in. He saw five, six or seven small holes in King's neck, indicating that the bullet had fragmented. Blood was coming out of his neck. He wiped the blood off with a towel and saw the five to seven holes. There may have been blood on the sheet further down showing either an entrance or exit hole in King's back. Joe Lau or Laou took pictures for Life Magazine of King with a towel over his head. He may have taken pictures without the towel.

On the afternoon of April 4, Jim's Place sold only one order of sausage and eggs. James Earl Ray had told Art Haynes that he had eaten sausage and eggs in there that afternoon. Jowers' colored girl, named Rose \_\_\_\_\_, sold the sole order to a blond man, age twenty-five to thirty years. This was not Ray.

On April 5, 1968, Jowers went to work in the morning when a blond, 25-30 year old male caucasian came in, Rose told Jowers that this was the same person that had eaten sausage and eggs the afternoon before. There were only two strangers in Jim's Grill on April 4, 1968. The blond and Sanders. The blond was picked up by police on the morning of April 5. The blond spent the night of the fourth and perhaps the third at either the Pontotoc or Ambassador Hotels under one of James Earl Ray's aliases, e.g. Willard or Sneyd. Hayes says that he did not verify this last statement.