

February 14, 1969

3 PM

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Interview with Mrs. Bessie Brewer F/W - 49 Cooper St. (South)
works at Burkles Bakery Madison & Cooper

2125 Madison

276-9135

The undersigned investigators talked to Mrs. Brewer, who stated that she and her husband moved into 422½ So. Main about March 12, 1968 and about March 16, 1968 she was placed in charge by the owner Mrs. Short. Mrs. Brewer further stated that on April 4, 1968 at about 3 PM a white man, neatly dressed, rented a room, he was placed in room #5. This man paid her a \$20.00 bill, for which she gave change. The room was rented for one night. She can give no further description of this man and she stated to us that this is all she had told anyone.

Mrs. Brewer further stated that she knows nothing of any negro fireman inspecting the rooming house at 422½ So. Main, she also knows nothing of any negroes ever inspecting this rooming house. She says she was there most of the time and that if any negroes had inspected the rooming house she would have been told about the fact. She said that both back doors would normally have been open at all times. (That is to say that they - the doors - were not locked) The North front door had no door on it at the time, but was simply an open stair case off So. Main St. The South door off So. Main is also open at all times but it did have a door on it at this time, when you walk up this flight of stairs there is a door which is kept locked, this door opens into the lobby of the rooming house. Mrs. Brewer is a drifter and will not know her whereabouts from one day to the next.

Mrs. Brewer said she heard what sounded like a shot late that afternoon but she could not tell where it came from, she got to the lobby about the same time Mr. Bertie Reeves did and went to the back door and shortly was told by Officers to close the door.

George R. King
John Getz