

24

MEMORANDUM OF INVESTIGATION OF  
STATE OF TENNESSEE

VS

JAMES EARL RAY

SUBMITTED  
BY

W. OTIS HIGGS

FEBRUARY 13, 1969

STATEMENT OF FLOYD NEWSOME

Floyd Newsome, former Negro fireman with the city of Memphis Fire Department, presently employed by the Mahalia Jackson's Chicken Systems, Inc., was interviewed at 7:00 p.m. on the night of February 12, 1969, at Mahalia Jackson's Chicken Systems, Inc., on South Parkway. Mr. Newsome stated that his last day to work at Fire Station #2 located at Main and Butler was on the morning of April 2, 1968. He states that his regular day off was on April 2, 1968, and that he did not go to work that particular day. He further states that on the night of April 3, 1968, he attended a meeting and returned home to prepare to go to work on the night of April 3, 1968, but was informed by his wife that he had received a telephone call from his Fire Station asking him to report to the Frayser Fire Station instead. He reported to the Frayser Fire Station.

Moreover, Mr. Newsome states that he has never at any time been in the Main and Butler Fire Station at the same time that Detective Redditt was there. He further states that he has never had any conversation with Detective Redditt on any subject. He denies to any name calling of Detective Redditt, etc.

Mr. Newsome further states that the only time that he had seen Detective Reddit during the period preceding and following the death of Dr. King was at a mass meeting several days before the death of Dr. King.

Mr. Newsome admits visiting 422 1/2 South Main on two (2) or three (3) occasions prior to the death of Dr. King. However, he states that these visits were regular ambulance calls to that address, and he was always accompanied by two (2) other white firemen.

STATEMENT OF FLOYD NEWSOME  
CONT'd  
PAGE 2

He does not know why he was moved from the Fire Station at Main and Butler and subsequently inquired of his superiors, but was never furnished a satisfactory answer. He did not know that Detective Redditt was assigned to the Fire Station.

Mr. Newsome refused to make a written statement indicating that it was not necessary.