

Statement of EDWARD E. REDDIET, MC 37, residence, 1593 So. Wellington, phone 946-4306, occupation, Detective with Memphis Police Department, 7129, made at Central Police Headquarters on Wednesday, April 10, 1968 at 8:20 AM to Lt. W. S. Schultz.

TYPED BY: M. Jackson

QUESTIONED BY: Lt. W. S. Schultz

Relative to the FATAL SHOOTING of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., that occurred Thursday, April 4, 1968, at 6:00 PM, at the Lorraine Motel, 405 Military Street.

Q. Det. Reddiet, what is your regular assignment?

A. Police community relations, Bureau

Q. On February 12, 1968, were you re-assigned to another bureau?

A. I was Special Assignment to the Internal Security Bureau.

Q. After your re-assignment, what was your duties then?

A. Surveillance of the sanitation workers that are now on strike.

Q. On April 3, 1968, did you receive another assignment?

A. Yes, I was assigned to keep Dr. Martin Luther King under surveillance and observation while he was in the city. On this assignment with me was Ptlm. W. B. Richmond

Q. Did you meet Dr. King at the airport?

A. Yes, observation only, I didn't have any personal contact with him.

Q. How long did you keep Dr. King under Surveillance on April 3, 1968?

A. I met him at his arrival at the airport at 10:33 AM, until 6:35 PM.

Q. Was a detailed report of your observations submitted to Insp. Tines?

A. Yes, a complete oral report of activities, time of his arrival until 6:35 PM. This report covered the activities covered the airport, the checking in to the Lorraine Motel and the meeting at the Centenary Methodist Church and his return to the motel. This report also included the activities of the black militants that were registered at the Lorraine motel, and their local name is Invaders. Also license numbers of cars were possible to obtain then and description of automobiles that came and left from the Lorraine Motel while Dr. King was there.

Q. Did you have an observation post set up close to the Lorraine Motel?

A. Yes, it was in Fire House #4, were using the rear door, which has a large window, which we could observe the activities without binoculars.

Q. Did anyone relieve you and Ptlm. Richmond at 6:35 PM, April 3, 1968?

A. Yes, Lt. Arkins and Lt. Pappia of the Internal Security Bureau

Q. Have they submitted a report similar to yours of the activities around the Lorraine Motel

A. I imagine they have, it is standard procedure.

Q. Were you also on duty April 4, 1968, at this observation post?

A. Yes, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

Q. What was your reason for leaving this assignment at 4:00 PM?

A. I was relieved from my assignment by Lt. Arkins, due to the fact that I had received a threaten phone call earlier at the Fire House on the #1 pay phone, this call was at approx. 12:50 PM, and the voice was that of a female who stated that I was doing the black people wrong, and that they were going to do me wrong. prior to this phone call on April 3, 1968, at Memphis Met. Airport, while awaiting Dr. King's arrival, a female colored by the name of Mrs. Thomas Matthews pointed her finger at me, stated that she was going to get re, even if she had to shoot me herself. With these circumstances, and with the report from the Justice Dept. that my life was in danger, Insp. Tines relieved me of my duties at the Fire House at that time.

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answer continued

A. I then returned to Headquarters. Police Lt. [redacted] by Lt. Arkins and Lt. Marby.

Q. During the hours of your duties at your observation post opposite the Lorraine Motel, did you notice any suspicious acting automobiles, particularly a white Mustang, cruise this area, as if he was ~~observing~~ observing the Lorraine Motel?

A. No

Q. Did you notice any suspicious males hanging around the Lorraine Motel that did not have any business around there, particularly male whites?

A. No

Q. Were you in the area that the tire Dr. King was shot?

A. No

Q.

*Edward E. Redditt*  
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E. E. Redditt