

SUPPLEMENT # THREE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39  
Homicide No. 3367  
Thursday, April 4, 1968, 6:00 P.M.

RE: Interviews at Lorraine Hotel and Motel  
406 Mulberry

REPORTED BY: LT. T. H. SMITH  
DET. R. R. DAVIS

At the time of the arrival of the investigating officers named above, at 6:13 p.m., Thursday, April 4, 1968, on the scene, at the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry, the first person encountered was Deputy Sheriff W. A. Dufour, who was assigned to Tact Unit #10. Deputy Dufour advised us that he was with the Tact Unit at the Fire Station, when they heard a shot. He immediately came down Mulberry and saw Dr. King in front of Room 306, on the second floor balcony on the floor, with his head towards the south, lying on his back, with the left side of the face towards the floor, and that he had observed a large portion of the right side of the face of Dr. King having been blown away. He advised that the shot that he heard seemed to come from across Mulberry, in the vicinity of a hill, that he pointed to, and later determined to be the hill at the top of the retaining wall, on the west side of Mulberry, adjoining the rear yard of 422½ S. Main. Deputy Dufour stated that he had looked in that direction, and did not see any activity in the rear yard of the building. Due to the emergency situation that existed at this point, Deputy Dufour was not requested to make a written statement.

It was noted by the investigating officers that several people were congregated on the lot or courtyard in front of the Lorraine Motel, and upon attempting to interview these people, we first attempted to talk to a male colored, who gave his name as Ben Branch. After giving us his name, he turned and walked away from us, muttering something about he didn't want to talk, and seemed to be in a very angry mood, and was very hostile towards the investigating officers. Upon attempting to interview this male colored the second time, he gave us his age as 39, and stated that he lived at 9637 Prairie, in Chicago, Illinois, at which time, he again, walked away from us, and upon catching up with him the third time and explaining to him that it might help to apprehend this assailant, who was responsible for this shooting, if he would cooperate, providing he had anything of interest to tell us. He then stated that he was standing on the court lot, directly under Dr. King, who was standing on the upper balcony in front of Room 306, and had noted that he was talking to someone below, when a shot rang out from an unknown direction, which felled Dr. King. He stated that he saw no one that appeared to be trying to flee the immediate area, but did state that he saw several police across Mulberry Street, behind the bushes, and it looked kind of funny to him how they could have gotten up there so fast.

We next talked to Rev. Samuel B. Kyles, MC, 28, of 2215 S. Parkway, 323-0565, and he related to us that he had just come out of Room 306, along with Dr. King, and was standing in front of this door, talking, and that Dr. King was talking to someone on the court lot immediately below. During this conversation, he, (Kyles), had turned and walked north down the balcony towards the stairway, when he heard a shot, which sounded very loud, and he immediately turned and looked towards Dr. King, and noticed that he had fallen and was laying in front of his room. At this time, he went back to where he was laying, and noticed that the right side of his face was shot away. He stated that the shot sounded very close, as if it was possibly as close as the street, (indicating Mulberry Street). He further stated that a group of them were preparing to go to a meeting on this date. Stated he saw no one and does not know from what direction the shot came.

We next interviewed a Rev. Jessie Jackson, MC, 26, 6137 S. Ridgeline, Chicago, Illinois, 643-7193. He related to us that he was standing on the court lot immediately below Dr. King, who was standing on the upper balcony in front of Room 306, leaning over the rail, and talking to him, (Jackson), when he heard what sounded like a loud rifle shot, and noticed that Dr. King fell. He further stated that all he observed when he looked west a few seconds later, was a lot of police upon the hill across Mulberry Street, and that he could not understand how they got there so fast.

The investigating officer then attempted the second time to interview a male colored who gave his name as James Bevel, 30, 8407 S. Kimbar, Chicago, Illinois, and noted that this male colored was in a very angry mood, and was very uncooperative, but did state that he was on the parking lot in front of Room 306, where Dr. King was standing, when a shot was fired, which sounded like a rifle shot, and that it must have come from across the street. At which time, he pointed west indicating Mulberry Street.

We next interviewed a male colored by the name of Harold Varner, 26, who stated that he is connected with the Lutheran School of Theology, in Chicago, Illinois, and also lives on the school premises. He stated that he was upstairs ~~at the Lorraine Motel~~ over the office of the Lorraine Hotel, which is located at the northeast corner of the drive entrance to the Lorraine Motel. When he heard a shot, he looked out the window and saw Dr. King fall.

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From where he was standing, in front of his room on the upper balcony, he noticed that he was laying in front of his room entrance. He stated that he had been talking to Rev. Jackson, and Ben Branch, when the shot was fired. He further stated that he did not know from which direction this shot came, but that it sounded like a rifle, but that he had seen no one around this area, that could have fired the shot.

The investigating officers attempted to talk to several other people that were congregated on the court lot, and who admitted that they were there when the shot was fired, but refused to make a statement, other than give their name and address. They are listed as follows:

- #1. Clara Ester, FC, 20, 496 Laclede
- #2. Mary Hart, FC, 18, 694 Baltimore, 324-1353
- #3. Earrell McCollough, MC, 23, 270 Gaston, Unemployed

Some of these people walked away from us before giving us the full amount of information that we were seeking. We attempted to interview others, but they either had no comment, or indicated that they were angry or grief stricken and did not feel up to talking.

The investigating officers interviewed the belowlisted Police Officers, that were protecting the scene of the shooting, and they stated that they had witnessed Dr. King laying on the upper balcony, in front of Room 306, with a beige colored bedspread covering him, just prior to the arrival of the ambulance. Their names are as follows:

- #1. Ptlm. T. Lacastro
- #2. M. V. Simms, (Ptlm.)
- #3. D. T. Jones

wpt