

SUPPLEMENT # 7719
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC-39
Homicide # 3307
April 4, 1968

Re: 422 1/2 S. Main Street and
Vicinity Canvassed

REPORTED BY: Det. C. A. Gregory
FBI Agent H. Glyfee

At 8:00am April 5, 1968, Captain R A Cochran instructed Lt J D Hamby and Det. C A Gregory to go down on S. Main in the vicinity of 422 1/2 and canvass the neighbor for information regarding the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr.

After arriving down on S. Main, Lt Hamby and Gregory went to the Cafe at 418 S. Main (Jim's Grill). We talked to Rosie Lee Dabney FC-29 of 911 Florida phone 947-7182. Rosie stated that she was on duty in the cafe all day of April 4, 1968, and she hadn't noticed anything of anyone unusual that day until the shooting occurred at 6:00pm. Rosie did state that a MW in his 30's came in around 4pm 4-4-68, wearing a dark blue suit. Rosie said that she thought it somewhat unusual that this MW should drink a lemonade and order eggs and sausage at that time of the afternoon, but other than that she didn't pay him any attention and stated she would not know him again if she saw him. No one else was on duty in the cafe as they had left earlier.

After leaving the cafe at 418 S. Main, Lt Hamby and Gregory were met out front by 2 FBI Agent who identified themselves as Frank Johnson and H. Glyfee. Agents Johnson and Glyfee stated they had just come from the Homicide office and were down on S. Main to canvass the neighbor for information. They suggested that we split up and 1 man from the City Police and 1 Agent from the FBI go together so each office will have the same information, regarding the canvass of the neighbor of 422 1/2 S. Main.

At 8:30am 4-5-68, FBI Agent Glyfee and Det. C A Gregory went to the U S Fixtures Co. at 416 S. Main phone 527-9388, and talked with H F Beal MW of 358 Perkins Ext. phone 683-1940. Mr. Beal stated that the day of the shooting he left for home about 5:20pm, and he hadn't seen anything unusual to him. Mr. Beal did state that on March 28, 1968 the day of the riot he saw a MW on top of the building across the street from his place of business and believed the building to be 417 S. Main that the MW was on with a pair of field glasses looking in the direction of the riot area. But Mr. Beal stated that several police cars went to the building and got the MW down and he don't know what happened after that.

Also at US Fixtures was another employee, Talmadge W. Martin of 1727 Roskdale phone 396-7973. Talmadge Martin stated that he was the only employee still in the building when the shooting occurred at 6pm, Mr. Martin stated he heard the shot but wasn't sure it was a shot or a loud noise like a firecracker. After the shot Martin stated he turned around in his chair and looked out the front window of the store as he had been sitting with his back to the front of the store, as he did this he observed what he described as a figure run in front of the store and this figure was running from North to the South on Main St. in front of 417, and he observed him for about 30' across the front of the store from about 50 feet back inside the store where he was sitting. Mr. Martin described this figure as that of a MW bareheaded and was wearing a brown sport jacket or brown coat, no further clothing description as Mr. Martin could only observe the MW from the waist up, but he could see that he wasn't carrying anything. Mr. Martin stated that the MW ran in front of the store about 30 seconds or no more than 2 minutes after he heard the shot. After about 2 or 3 more minutes Martin stated he got up from his desk and went to the front of the building at which time he observed several Policemen in the area and realized something was going on but didn't know what so he went back to his desk and continued his work. Mr Martin stated that prior to the shot he hadn't noticed anything unusual on the street nor had he paid any attention to anyone in the area.

After obtaining this information Lt Hamby and Agent Johnson stated they would canvass the West Side of Main Street starting at 417 and Det. Gregory and Agent Glyfee were to start at the Firestation at Main and Butler and work South on the East side of Main to Calhoun then North on the West Side of Main until all parties met up again. And Lt Hamby and Agent Johnson were to talk with a witness at 424 S. Main.

492 South Main - Fuller Products - No one was in the Building at 10:45am

496 S. Main - Memphis Salvage Co., Charles Laffel MW phone 523-1795, stated he left his place of business around 5pm and ~~was~~ in the area at the time of the shooting at 6pm, and he had not seen anything the day 4-4-68 that might help us.

498 S. Main - John Surplus Sales Co. John Lowither MW 526-4618, stated he left the store shortly after 5:00pm and left the area and went home. He stated that he had not seen anything unusual that might help us.

500 S. Main - Bernatsky Co., William Bernatsky, Ben Bernatsky, Sidney Hoffman, and Sam Doty, all employed at Bernatsky Co. stated that they had no information that might be of help to us. All stated that they left work early, and the last one to leave was Ben Bernatsky and he stated that he left at 5:10pm and none stated they saw anything unusual on the street the afternoon of April 4, 1968.

500 to 506 S. Main Street - The buildings at this location are vacant and locked.

506 S. Main - Cattas Wholesale Co. Joe Cattas MW Phone JA7-0124, stated he was the last one to leave his place of business and he left about 5:10pm, and went home and didn't know anything about the shooting until he saw the news on the TV.

508 S. Main Downstairs - Vacant and locked.

508 S. Main Up-stairs - 508 Hotel - Room # 1 Ruth Caldwell FW Mgr. phone JA6-2577. Ruth stated that she hadn't seen anything unusual the day of April 4, 1968, and she had been gone from the Hotel from 5:40pm to 7:00pm.

Room # 10 - Wade Young MW, stated that he left the hotel around noon 4-4-68, and he hadn't seen anything that might be of help to us.

Room # 11 - Mr. Fry, stated he hadn't been out of his room and hadn't seen anyone or anything unusual.

Room # 14 - Bertha Thomas, wasn't at home.

Room # 17 - Dorsey Craft MW, stated he had been in his room and hadn't seen anything until he looked out the back door of the hotel and saw a large crowd over at the Motel, but still didn't know what had happened. Unable to locate anyone else who was in the Hotel, April 4, 1968.

510 S. Main - Salvage and Service Co, Closed and locked.

514 S. Main - Mize Refrig. Works, phone 948-0725, Jessie M. Mize MW and an employee Jimmy Hampton KC of 116 E. Person stated that they left shortly after 5:00pm and locked the business and went home, and didn't see anything that might be of help to us.

516 S, Main - Vacant and locked.

518 S. Main - Allen Smith Interprizes, phone 527-4095, Allen C. Smith MW stated he left and locked the business about 5:50pm, and went to the Holiday Inn on Riverside Dr. and didn't see anything unusual.

520 S. Main - Pullman Hotel, Mrs C. P. Howell phone 525-2841 stated that she hadn't seen anything that might be of help to us. Mrs. Howell further stated that most of roomers were railroad men and didn't in unusual between 4pm and 6pm, therefore the best time to talk to them would be just before 6pm in the afternoon.

522 S. Main - Polly's Grill, This Grill was closed but was probably open on April 4, 1968, but we were unable to contact anyone connected with the Grill.

522 1/2 S. Main - Vacant and locked.

528 S. Main - Barber Shop, Owner Charles Dewberry owner no phone in the shop, lives at 738 Breddlove phone 526-1753, stated he left his shop at 5:40pm and hadn't seen anything unusual on the street.

531 S. Main - Earnestine and Hazel Sundry, phone 526-5860, Earnestine Mitchell FC of 199 Honduras phone Ex8-3017, stated she was on duty all day 4-4-68 and hadn't seen anything unusual and had had only colored tradethe afternoon of April 4, 1968.

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431 S. Main - W. B. Mallory and Sons Company, a Storage Warehouse, was closed and locked.

421 S. Main - Seabrook, Phone, 525-5076. A Mrs. Georgia Haynes, of 1077 Wallsville, Phone, 655-3776, informed the writers of this report that two FBI Agents had already been to their company, but she did not have any additional information, and related the following. That a male colored truck driver employed for Grover Thompson, who is a Contractor, 912-0023, had come to their company, to pick up some paint, and had parked out front, this being across the street from 421 1/2 S. Main, and she thought the time that he picked the paint up to be shortly after 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968. Grover Thompson was contacted by phone, on April 6, 1968, and he stated that one of his drivers, a Rufus Jones, address unknown, phone, 946-1915, had picked up some paint from Seabrook for him, and he believed it to be around 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968. Several attempts have been made to contact Rufus Jones, and talk with him, to see if he had any information, or might have seen anything unusual on the street around 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, but all calls to his residence have been met with negative results. No one has answered the phone. At the time of this writing, 5:30 p.m., 4/6/68, Rufus Jones has not been contacted or talked with.

Due to the fact that several agents of the FBI and also from the police had canvassed the area of Main Street north from 421 S. Main, Det. Gregory and Agent Gylfe terminated our canvassing of the area at that location, and returned to headquarters.

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527 S. Main - Antique Storage Whse, closed and locked.

525 to 523 S. Main - Vacant and locked.

517 S. Main - Vacant and locked.

515 S. Main - Fixtures Co., Sam Kermelstein, owner phone 526-3597, stated he left his business about 4:30pm and he hadn't seen anything on the streets that he thought to be unusual.

511 S. Main - Eugene Wilson Co, J. Morgan phone 526-5966 stated he closed the building and went home about 5:00pm and didn't notice anything that might help up.

505 S. Main - Ashworth Chemical Co., Mildred Daniels stated that all employees left the building about 4pm except Henry Talber MC. Henry stated he was working in the rear part of the building and the front was locked up and he didn't know anything had happened until he left work at 7pm.

493 S. Main - B Z Storage and Van Co., Phone JA7-2957, Frank Gattuso of 3923 Ridgedale stated he left the business and locked up at about 4 or 4:30pm and went home and didn't see anything on the streets unusual that he remembered, Mr. Gattuso did state that on Wednesday 4-3-68, 2 MW's stopped in front of his place of business and one of them had a suitcase and on the suitcase in large lettering was printed MEMPHIS, Gattuso stated they were in their 20's and don't believe they were wearing suits, but don't remember much else about them, as they stopped only for a short time they continued South on Main Street and he hasn't seen them anymore.

491 S. Main - Red Line Storage Co. Closed and locked.

489 S. Main - Mid South Fixture Co., Margie Fiveash, mgr. phone 525-8718 of Eads, Tennessee, Box 34, Phone, 867-7721, stated she left at approx. 4:25 p.m., and drove immediately away from the area, and did not see anything unusual or remember seeing any suspicious person or persons on the street.

487 S. Main - The building was vacant and locked.

481 S. Main - Quality Interiors Company, a Mr. George Wallace, MW, stated they left the building and he locked it at 3:30 p.m. and left the area, and during the daytime of April 4, 1968, did not see anyone that he thought was suspicious or any cars in the area of 481 S. Main.

477 S. Main - Lewis Supply Company, Eugene Johnson, Manager, stated they closed at approx. 5:00 p.m., April 4, 1968, and the last person to leave, and secure the building, was Norma Stovall, MW. Mr. Stovall was contacted and he stated that the building was secured at 5:10 p.m. Mr. Johnson further stated that they employ fifty-three people, at Lewis Supply Company, and their building is approx. seven stories high, and they have people working on most all the floors, and have windows which look out onto Main Street, north and south. Most of the employees were not in the building at the present time, as quite a few of them are salesmen, and are out making calls. Mr. Johnson stated that it is quite possible, that one of his employees could have seen something from one of the upper floors but that he would be unable to get them all together, until Monday morning, April 8, 1968, at 8:00 a.m., and suggested that we return to his company at that time, to see if we could secure any information regarding the shooting. Mr. Gylfe, of the FBI, and Det. C. A. Gregory, informed Mr. Johnson that we would be more than happy to meet with him at 8:00 a.m., Monday morning, April 8, 1968, to see if we could get any information regarding the shooting, and thanked him for his cooperation.

465 S. Main - Machinery Sales Company, Phone, 527-8671, A Mr. Ed Kolen of 3837 Fatta Ann, 398-1325, stated they left the company at 5:00 p.m., and hadn't seen anything unusual or any suspicious persons during the day of April 4, 1968.