

STATE OF TENNESSEE vs JAMES EARL RAY

Memorandum to Investigators for interviews of prospective witnesses in the State of Tennessee versus James Earl Ray.

Present in a fire station at Main and Butler were several firemen and a few policemen. We would like to know the names of all such who were present, where they were and their opportunity for observation.

Also, certain Negro firemen, customarily stationed at that point, were removed upon the arrival of Dr. Martin Luther King at the Lorraine Motel. A news article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal on the morning of January 29th, 1969, suggests that these Negro firemen were removed so as not to alert the Negro community of the precautions being taken by the Police and F.B.I agents to protect Rev. Martin Luther King, during his stay in Memphis on April 3rd and 4th.

It is believed the firechief has authorized his fire personnel to talk to anyone who inquires about the facts of this case.

This memo is believed to have been sent on September 10th, 1968, from Fire Department Headquarters to the aforesaid Fire Station No.2. On this same date three

*Item 1*

*Item 2*

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1 of the firemen from this station were transported to  
2 the offices of Attorney General Phil Canale and spent  
3 the afternoon talking with Assistants Attorney General  
4 Dwyer and Beasley and with Mr. Canale himself.

5 The names of these firemen, then of Station No.2,  
6 are:

7 (1) Pvt. Charles E. Stone, 584 Orchard.

8 (2) Pvt. William B. King, residence address  
9 unknown.

10 (3) Lt. George W. Loenneke, 1390 Smythe.

11 I believe you will be able to establish from either  
12 one or all of the above three names, the following facts:

13 (1) That two Negro police detectives were  
14 assigned to the station that day, their  
15 names being Detective Richardson and  
16 Detective Reddick.

17 That Negro fireman Floyd Newsome was transferred  
18 that day to another station, to-wit, the fire station  
19 in Frayser. It is my understanding that Floyd Newsome  
20 may have moved to Nashville and may now be employed  
21 by the Minnie Pearl Fried Chicken franchise. Please  
22 establish this, if true, and ascertain his address in  
23 Nashville.

24 It is believed that Detective Reddick received

*Item 3*

*Item 4*

1 several threatening 'phone calls over the pay 'phone  
2 in this station. The suspicion is that Fireman Floyd  
3 Newsome furnished the information that Detective  
4 Reddick was there at Station No.2.

5 In the window in the back of the Firestation was  
6 covered with newspaper in which two holes were cut,  
7 through which the detectives kept watch on the door and  
8 balcony leading to the room of Dr. Martin Luther King.

9 That Detective Reddick left this post at some time  
10 before 6 p.m. (Question) When did he leave? Who  
11 relieved him?

12 That Detective Richardson was at the post and was  
13 watching the door and Dr. King at the precise moment  
14 of the shooting and observed the reaction of Dr. King  
15 at the impact of the bullet. We need details from  
16 Richardson. Also, his full name, residence address  
17 and telephone number. It is highly likely that  
18 Richardson will not talk with you. Advise him that  
19 you are making this investigation for the Defendant.  
20 Ask if he would talk with the District Attorney and  
21 if he has done so. In other words, lay a predicate  
22 for bias, animus and interest.

23 Pvt. Charles E. Stone, above, heard Richardson say,  
24 "There comes King" upon hearing which, Stone jumped up

1 on the locker, looked out the window, and saw - and  
2 likewise saw Dr. Martin Luther King shot.

*Stone 6*  
3 Mr. Stone has heretofore said of the shot: "It  
4 sounded like the shot came from the parking lot".  
5 If he does not presently recall that it did sound as  
6 though it came from the parking lot, ask him if he has  
7 heretofore told anyone that it did sound as though it  
8 came from the parking lot.

*Stone 7*  
9 There was a Police Tactical Force (a car) parked  
10 in front of the station, Firestone No.2. at that time,  
11 gassing up. There may be additional such cars. In  
12 fact, it is believed that there were three such cars  
13 and twelve or fifteen officers at the Firestation.  
14 If possible, get the names of all who were present.

15 You may need be patient with Stone. He has a  
16 tendency to get confused. Let him read everything you  
17 have written down, correct any mistakes in his own  
18 handwriting that may appear in the written statement.

19 Stone knows the alcoholic derelict, Charles Stevens,  
20 He knows that Stevens came by the station every night  
21 in an intoxicated condition. I think that you can  
22 establish that he customarily came by about 6 o'clock  
23 p.m. At any rate, ask him about this.

24 It maybe that King and Loenneke are also familiar

1 with these drinking habits, of Stevens.

2 Find out who else was on duty at Firestation No.  
3 2 at the time of the shooting besides Stone, King,  
4 Loenneke and if possible get their home addresses,  
5 names and telephone numbers.

6 - - - - -

7 An elderly gentleman, between seventy and eighty  
8 years, who lived at 422.1/2 South Main Street, in  
9 the third or fourth room from Charles Stevens, could  
10 be an important witness.

11 His name is believed to be:

12 Harold ("Cornbread") Carter.

13 There is a back stair leading to the ground at  
14 422.1/2 Main Street. Carter and others living at  
15 422.1/2 Main, had a habit of going down this back stair  
16 and lounging on the side of the steps leading from the  
17 ground level of South Main Street, approximately thirty  
18 or forty feet towards the parking lot level of the  
19 Lorraine Motel. There were trees and bushes in this  
20 area.

21 Mr. Carter is believed to have been alone at 6 p.m.  
22 at this point on April 4th when a man came up fired  
23 the shot and then ran so fast he kicked gravel on  
24 Carter. Naturally, Harold Carter, can be a very

Item 8.

Item 9



1 material witness.

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3 Another name, (1) Guy Warren Canipes, <sup>Sr</sup> Junior,  
4 Canipes Music Company, 424 South Main. Residence 1078  
5 Brower Road, Memphis, Tennessee.

*Item 10*

6 It was in the offset doorway of Mr. Canipes place  
7 of business, just under 422.1/2 South Main, that  
8 various personal items including a bag with clothes  
9 in it; a rifle wrapped in a green bedspread; a binocular  
10 case (without straps) and perhaps other items were left.

11 Mr. Canipes has heretofore estimated the age of  
12 this man as between twenty and thirty years. (James  
13 Earl Ray is forty.) Get as detailed description as  
14 possible, including weight, type clothing worn, height,  
15 and any other personal description as Mr. Canipes  
16 remembers this man to have been.

17 Also, if Mr. Canipes examined the property left  
18 in his doorway, get a detailed inventory of what he  
19 remembers it to have been. What was in the satchel,  
20 bag or suitcase? What direction did the person who  
21 left the property in his doorway take after leaving the  
22 property.

23 Was the property laid down gently or was it thrown.  
24 Get us as full a word picture as possible of everything

1 he observed.

2 Also, ask Mr. Canipes what he knows of the drinking  
3 habits of one Charles Stevens. Is he an habitual  
4 drunkard? Does he drink all day or is his drinking  
5 confined to afternoon and evening. What are his  
6 habits with reference to being intoxicated around 6  
7 p.m. daily.

8 Get the names and address, if he knows, of two  
9 Negro boys who are supposed to have been in Canipes  
10 place of business, buying used records at the time  
11 the personal property was left outside the front of the  
12 Canipe store. These names are believed to be: (1)  
13 Bernell Finlay aged forty, and (2) Julius Graham aged  
14 twenty four, both of whom live at 804 North Fifth.

15 They were supposed to have been looking at some  
16 record racks with their backs to Main Street and should  
17 not have had any opportunity to see anyone drop the rifle  
18 etc., and proceed in either direction on Main towards  
19 the Mustang.

20 Ascertain whether this be true.

21

22 Mr. Lloyd Jowers, 418 South Main. Mr. Jowers  
23 operates an integrated beer saloon bar known as Jim's  
24 Grill at 418 South Main, Memphis.

Item 11

Item 12

with  
Finlay?

Item 13

See  
Item 13(6)

page 11

1 He has information as to how cars were parked in  
2 front of his place of business. Perhaps the color.  
3 The car alleged to have been driven by James Earl Ray  
4 was a white Mustang. There is some suggestion from  
5 other witnesses present that there were two white  
6 Mustangs. What is Mr. Jowers recollection on this car.

7 Did he hear a shot?

8 Did he see anyone drive off in a white Mustang  
9 after the shot.

10 What does he know about the drinking habits of  
11 Charles Stevens? Is he habitually intoxicated around  
12 6 o'clock in the evening?

13 Has anyone connected with either the Memphis Police  
14 Department; the F.B.I; the Attorney General Office, or  
15 any other branch of law enforcement paid any bills of  
16 Charles Stevens at Jim's Grill since April 4th, 1968?

17 Who else was present in Jim's Grill, if he remembers  
18 on the evening of April the 4th.

\*\* See 19 (Take Hugh Stanton, Jr., with you when you  
Page 11 20 go to talk to Jowers.)

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22 Bertie Reeves. This man is seventy four years old  
23 and lives at 422.1/2 South Main and has lived for eight  
24 years and he was at home at 6 p.m. on the 4th of April

Stanton  
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Stanton  
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1 and in his room.

2 This man made a statement on September the 12th  
3 including these words, "There was a shot fired in the  
4 neighborhood at that time. The best I can tell, that  
5 shot was not fired from the building. I mean that it  
6 did not sound like it came from the bathroom on the  
7 other side of the hall. It could have come from the  
8 parking lot out there.

9 I was in the lobby about three o'clock that day  
10 when some man rented a room but, I could not identify  
11 him now, I just didn't pay any attention to him."

12 If the above is still his recollection, it should  
13 be included in the statement.

14 - - - - -

15 Mr. and Mrs. Short, whose names appear in the  
16 Memphis Telephone Director, but whose first names are  
17 presently unknown, are the owners and operators, (but  
18 not resident managers) of the hotel and rooming house  
19 at 422.1/2 South Main Street.

20 They should know the present whereabouts of Bessie  
21 Brewer whose husband is Frank Brewer and whose name  
22 and address appears on the witness list as 422.1/2  
23 South Main, Memphis, Tennessee but they are not at  
24 this address. Bessie Brewer is an important witness

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1 and we should locate her if possible.

2 Please find out from Mrs. Short if it be true,  
3 that Charlie Stevens stole a piece of furniture when  
4 he moved out of 422.1/2 Main. Ascertain what date  
5 and hour he moved and whether or not the Police helped  
6 him carry out a piece of furniture. It is called a  
7 wardrobe, "chifforobe"? He is alleged to have sold  
8 this stolen piece of furniture for ten dollars.

9 Also ask Mrs. Short if she had requested permis-  
10 sion of the Fire Department to be permitted to lock  
11 her back entrance because of transients coming in.  
12 Check this with the Fire Department. It is alleged  
13 that they would not let her lock it but after the shooting  
14 did let her lock it.

15 -----  
16 There is a cab driver whose nickname is "Dewneck"  
17 who hangs around the Green Beetle, 325 South Main.  
18 This man has not been interviewed but is alleged to  
19 have information.

20 -----  
21 Also, there is an individual named:

22 ✓ Paul Gargus,  
23 Tayloe Paper Company,  
24 2521 Thompson,  
West Memphis.

Item 15

Item 16

Item 17

1 who is familiar with the way cars were parked between  
2 5 and 6 p.m. on the evening of April the 4th, 1968.  
3 He left about fifteen or twenty minutes before the  
4 shooting. It is barely possible that he may have seen  
5 two white Mustangs as reported by Soloman Jones.

*Item 17*

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7 Mr. Vic DuPratt is manager of the Rebel Motel  
8 where James Earl Ray registered some time on April  
9 3rd, 1968, and from whence he checked out some time  
10 on April the 4th. It is reported that Mr. DuPratt  
11 is unwilling to talk with any person connected with  
12 the defense because of an understanding he has from  
13 having been told by the representatives of the Attorney  
14 Generals Office that the order of Judge Battle about  
15 discussing the case will make him (DuPratt) liable to  
16 Contempt of Court and jail. Explore this avenue and  
17 find out who gave him this idea.

*Item 18*

18 Also carry a copy of the order with you showing  
19 that it does not apply to witnesses talking to the  
20 defense attorneys or their investigators.

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22 Jowers: Also ask Mr. Jowers if Lt. Glen King of  
23 the Homicide Department of the Memphis Police Department  
24 told him to let Charlie Stevens have anything he wanted

*Item #13 (6)*

1 and the Police Department would stand good for it.

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Miss Huggins Room 1000

Patsy Weber & Associates

COURT REPORTERS

LINCOLN AMERICAN TOWER

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

526-1232

- Harold "Lombard" Carter

= Bessie Brewer

= Walter Bailey

= Bertie Reeves

= Bernell Finley

= Vic Dupre

= <sup>"see"</sup> Harry H. Locke

x Ceola (Blind) Miller

x Delores Lee

"Downer" - cab driver -