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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.

Item 1

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.

Item 2

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

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

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

- Item 3*
- (1) Pvt. Charles E. Stone, 584 Orchard.
  - (2) Pvt. William B. King, residence address unknown.
  - (3) Lt. George W. Loenneke, 1390 Smythe.

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

- (1) That two Negro police detectives were assigned to the station that day, their names being Detective <sup>Richmond</sup>~~Richardson~~ and Detective Reddick.

*Item 4*

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

It is believed that Detective Reddick received

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

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

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

*W.B. Richardson; 1210 <sup>946-4326755</sup> Dunwoody Apt. 10*  
*Item 6*  
946-6755  
That Detective Richardson was at the post and was watching the door and Dr. King at the precise moment of the shooting and observed the reaction of Dr. King at the impact of the bullet. We need details from Richardson. Also, his full name, residence address and telephone number. It is highly likely that Richardson will not talk with you. Advise him that you are making this investigation for the Defendant. Ask if he would talk with the District Attorney and if he has done so. In other words, lay a predicate for bias, animus and interest.

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

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

*can't*  
*Stone 6*

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

*Stone 7*

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

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

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

It maybe that King and Loenneke are also familiar

with these drinking habits, of Stevens.

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

*Item 8.*

*To Here*

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

*city*

*Item 9*

His name is believed to be:

Harold ("Cornbread") Carter.

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

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