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page 997 **William B. Hamblin.** part-time security guard, drove a cab many years and was a barber about 10 years.

322 S. Camilla Apartment 302, Memphis

### **Direct examination by Dr. Pepper**

Presently a part-time security guard, drove a cab for many years, was a barber for ten years. Resident of Memphis since 1963. I drove both for Veterans and Yellow.

I knew a cab driver named James McCraw very well and I rented him an apartment once. I had an apartment house, and I lived in the same apartment building as McCraw a couple of times. I knew him over 25 years and met him after the date of the assassination of Dr. King. I drove a short time before the assassination but wasn't driving at the time the assassination happened.

We shared the same apartment building more than 3 times and he lived with me a couple of times when he was down on his luck. He would lay around on my couch some. We were close friends.

At various times, several times, Mr. McCraw discussed the King assassination when he was drinking. He would not talk about it when he had not been drinking. He did not want to hear about it then. He showed me a story that the National Enquirer or one of those tabloids did on him and they did a pretty good writeup. The story he told me was consistent all those years. He didn't vary it. Probably 50 times at least, over a period of 15 years or so he would tell this.

He would start to talk about Raoul having a drink with him, and he knew Mr. Jowers. They both worked for the Southland cab company. He said that Jowers gave him the murder weapon, the rifle, and he took it and threw it off the Harahan bridge. He told the same story over and over and didn't vary off of it. In the last he came up and I think they changed it to a bullet or whatever, but I don't remember if he changed his story or not. But he consistently told me that Jowers gave him the murder weapon and told him to get it out of here now. He said he grabbed his beer and snatched it out. He had the rifle rolled up an oilcloth and he leaped out the door and did away with it. I understand that this took place right after the assassination happened.

The reason they all change their stories was because they were afraid of being indicted. McCraw wanted to come out with this, but because of his involvement he couldn't really tell the truth. All of them, their consciences were hurting and they were in fear of being indicted.

One time when McCraw and I were living in the same premises the landlord came by to collect the rent. I had introduced him to McCraw and told him that McCraw had been involved in the assassination in some way. And he told us to move. He sent the police up there and harassed us. They locked up McCraw for having a knife, and we wound up being evicted in about a week. The landlord, Mr. Purdy, was an FBI agent. I didn't know that at the time that Mr. Purdy owned the

house. I rented from someone else, but Purdy was the owner and he collected the rent. Purdy was probably assigned to the Memphis office. He told us to move and about a week later we were kicked out.

In 1968 I was working as a barber at the Cherokee Barber Shop at 2792 Campbell. The owner was Mr. Vernon Jones, and I worked for Jones, probably about five years at two different places. On April 4, 1968 I was working as a barber in the barbershop when they broke the news around six o'clock. Within a week or 10 days after the assassination I heard Mr. Jones ask a long-standing customer, who did he think killed Dr. King? The customer said the CIA had it done. This man had been a customer of Mr. Jones in the Cherokee Barber Shop for least five years. People often develop close relationships with barbers and will tell a barber something they wouldn't even tell their psychiatrist. That's the kind of relationship Jones with this customer. I didn't hear the conversation myself. I asked Mr. Jones what he had said, and Mr. Jones told me about it.. The customer was Mr. Purdy, the FBI agent.

### **Cross-examination by Mr. Garrison**

Mr. McCraw was a heavy drinker and an alcoholic. At times I had some trouble believing him. I worked for Mr. Jowers, and I never really heard him say anything about any of this.

When I said they were changing their stories, I meant that they would accuse another dead policemen. They've named every policeman in the graveyard. Every time they get scared they'd name another policeman as being the murder man. I'm talking about both McCraw and Jowers. Mr. Jowers has made several statements. I talked to him on his cell phone about six months ago, me and Millner. He said he didn't do it but somebody by the name of maybe Earl Clark. That's recently that he said this, and Jowers said Jowers had nothing to do with it.

### **1015 Redirect examination by Dr. Pepper**

Mr. McCraw never changed the story he told me he. He stuck with the same basic fact--I took the gun and threw it off the Harahan bridge. As far as I'm concerned that's what happened. I believed him because he stuck to the same story. If I was going to go look for the gun today, I would look at the middle river bridge, because you can drive right to it. You could walk 20 feet and drop it and be back in your car in 5 seconds and be gone.

**Joseph Isabel**, 2344 Jackson Ave., Memphis,

Retired, working as independent courier. I pick up for Memphis Hardwood flooring five days a week and I pick up pagers and take them to get repaired and taken back to the customers.

### **Direct Examination by Dr. Pepper.**

In 1943 I was a sailor in the Navy. When I got out I went back to CBHS, got my high school diploma. I've driven trucks, driven charter buses, worked at Firestone for six months; worked for Vet cab, Mike at Yellow Cab, Airport Limousine. Hams might have owned Airport Limousine and maybe something else.

I met Jowers at Yellow Cab and Airport Limousine. I've done a lot of driving: taxicabs, limousine service, chartered buses. That's a lot of my life. I met Mr. Jowers at Yellow Cab, probably around 1977. I was working at Yellow Cab with Airport Limousine and Hams might've hired Lloyd to run

the whole operation or the biggest part of it. I'd see him five days out of seven, and sometimes over the weekends if we had a holiday or something. We would run the buses from the airport to Millington. So I'd see him then as well.

We became quite friendly and I went on chartered bus runs with him maybe four or five times on out-of-town runs and locally with a lot of school trips. One St. Patrick's Day, Lloyd and I took two busloads of bowlers to Cleveland, Ohio on chartered buses. I remember because we were drinking green beer. It had to be in 1978 or 79. Lake Erie was frozen over. In the course of that trip, Mr. Jowers and I shared a room in a local hotel and ate together and we drank together.

Except when he was driving one bus and I was driving the other one, we were together most of that trip. We would go to the same destination and then we usually meet and get something to eat after we took care of the people. One evening after we had gotten the bowlers we went out and ate at a restaurant down on the pier, and then we went back to the hotel. I took a shower and I came out and he was sitting on the bed and I sat with my back against the bathroom on the floor. And for some reason, I just said Loyd, did you drop the hammer on Martin Luther King? And he hesitated a moment or two and he said, you think you know I did. I know what I did, but I'll never admit it or tell it in a court of law. And I said oh, and I didn't mention it to him again after that.

Maybe I expected that reply, By "drop the hammer" I was asking if he fired the shot that killed Dr. King. His response was, you think you know who did it, but I know who did it and I'll never admit it or tell it in a court of law.

I never raised the subject with him again.

### **Cross-examination by Mr. Garrison**

Mr. Jowers and I took trips together and knew each other well. This was the only time this subject came up. At this time, both of us had been drinking. I can get high on 2 beers and I'd had about 6. Lloyd could drink 20 beers. He did not say he had anything to do with the killing. He only said he knew who did it.

**Jerry William Ray**, brother to James Earl Ray 107 Short St., Smart, Tennessee

### **Direct Examination by Dr. Pepper**

We came up real poor during the Depression, lived out on the farm most of the time, and my brothers had WPA, and we just barely got by during the Depression. And then my daddy got a job on the railroad and we were just average then. During the Depression, everybody had it bad. There were nine children in the family altogether. James was the oldest, and then Marjorie and John and I was fourth born. James was seven years older. I think he had about a year of high school. He moved to Alton, Illinois after high school.

We lived in a little town outside of Quincy, Illinois named Ewing, Missouri. Alton, Illinois was about 100 miles from Ewing. My uncle and my grandmother lived there and they got him a job working at the Tambery room when he was 15 or 16. He worked there every day until he went into the Army.

After the Army, came to Quincy a couple of times to visit my mother and my dad. I didn't see him much.

As I was growing up with James, I did not notice any obvious signs of racism or hatred of black people. Ewing, Missouri was just a little bitty town and I never did see even one black person in town. Quincy, Illinois where I grew up had 40,000 whites and 2000 blacks, and I never even went to school with one. And James didn't either, so you can't hate somebody unless they do something to you. He never had hostility toward any race--not blacks or Hispanics or anybody. He tried to just live and let live.

After he got out of the army he got into some trouble. Nobody understood it because before the army he was a hard worker, and then after he came out he just lived a life of crime. When he makes friends with somebody he's pretty easily led around. I know he robbed a post office outside of Quincy, Illinois back in the '50s, and Walter Rife was the ringleader. After Rife got him to rob this post office, James went on a cash spree. They stole all his money and he got arrested in Kansas City, Missouri and they sent him to Leavenworth.

James met Walter Rife in Quincy, Illinois. It was a corrupt town back in the '50s, wide open with gambling and prostitution and everything. I knew Walter and his brother Lonnie Rife. James hung out in bars on 5th St. in Quincy. The houses of prostitution were on 3rd. So at the tavern, most of the people you run into were pimps, ex-cons and the like.

He got out of Leavenworth in '58 or '59, I think he did a bit over two years. Then he met Owens, an ex-con. They robbed a Kroger store, and he got sent to Jefferson City for 20 years. I only visited him there a couple of times because I was working. But every week, we exchanged letters, and when I got down in that area I would visit him.

In April of 1967 James escaped from the Jefferson City penitentiary. I didn't know he was going to escape. My other brother John had visited him the day before, and James told him he was going to escape and for him to come down and pick them up, and John did. John brought him straight to Chicago and we rented a room at the Fairview. I didn't know all this. They rented the room and then they called me up. John called me up and I came in and we all stayed at the Fairview that night on S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago. After that John went back to St. Louis. We used to give James \$100 because he didn't have any money.

So John went back to St. Louis, and I went back to work the next day, and James found an ad in the paper and went to work at Klinglens (phonetic) restaurant in Winnetka, about 6 miles from where I was working at the Sportsman's Country Club in Northbrook, Illinois. We'd meet every week or two at a bar in Northbrook.

Once John left from the Fairview, he had no contact with James until James was brought back from England to Memphis.

The day after James escaped, John went back to St. Louis, and I went out to work, and John never had any contact with James again until after he was captured. I'm the only family member who had contact with James during his fugitivity. He called me once in a while. He stayed at his job in Winnetka close to 3 months and saved up a few dollars and bought an old car. I think it was a '57 Dodge. When John was there too, when James first got out, James was saying he had to get out of the country, because he had all this time to back up -- not just the 20 years, but also for escape. So, he told John and me that he was going to go to Canada and try to get out of the country. I met with him the night before he left for Canada, a little after my birthday on July 16, 1967. I had no contact with him when he was in Canada, and next heard from him about 6 or 7 weeks later, probably in late September.

Where I worked at the country club, you would get room and board and we had a pay phone in the hallway and James had the number. He called one day or one evening and told me to come to Chicago, because he knew my day off. He said don't bring your car in because I'm going to give you my car, so I took the train in – the Northwestern runs to the loop. We spent the night together, had breakfast together and he was happy and had plenty of money on him. He said I'm going to go to Birmingham to buy a late model car and you can have this.

Said I'm working now and he mentioned Raoul. I can't remember exactly how Raoul came in. I worked for a guy named Raul or something. James had a big box of stuff and he said take this to Union Station and mail this down to me at Birmingham to Eric S. Galt. He said from now on I'll be known as Eric S. Galt. That's what I did. Then he gave me the car. Then I took him to the station. Then later on, I mailed that stuff to him as Eric S. Galt.

He said he had a job working down there, working for someone he met in Canada named Raoul. He didn't say what the job was but I knew it was something illegal. I figured it was dope, car theft or something, he said he was working for this guy he called Raoul to get money so he could get out of Canada and the United States. I wasn't inquisitive about it. I don't even think half the time he knew what he was doing because they just had him drop car off in Mexico and drop one off in New Orleans.

Between the time we left Chicago and the time Dr. King was killed, James called me three times. Each call would be under three minutes, and it would just be I'm working or asking how's the family and this and that. That was all the contact we had during this period.

I have never known James in all the years to engage in violence. The most violent thing he ever did was to rob a Kroger store. But there was no violence used in that. He was a burglar, breaking in and stealing money. But then he got with that guy Owens, and went in on the robbery.

After he returned to the USA from Canada, he never mentioned the name of Dr. King to me. The last thing James was thinking about was Jackson or King or Kennedy or any of them because he was trying to stay out of prison. He never mentioned any activity he was asked to do relating to Dr. King.

After he was extradited from England and imprisoned in the USA I was coming down here to Memphis. About every week I'd drive down and we'd visit. Like Mark Lane said, he was treated worse than prisoners of war, the guys they tried at Nuremberg. He had a TV set on 24 hours a day and the lights, and they xeroxed all his mail, and they had him on TV all the time, hooked up. When we would visit he would write me notes and flash them because otherwise they would know everything that he knew.

He was determined to go to trial. The only thing he wanted was a trial. He said he'd have to go to trial, he said only way I can convince people that I'm not guilty and try to show people where I'm at was to take a trial. That was the first trouble he had his first attorney, Haynes, because William Bradford Huie told Haynes that James Earl Ray can't take the stand because if he does, I have no book. That's when he replaced him.

James's first lawyer, Arthur Haynes, had a contract with a book writer. Haynes went to England, and brought a contract for James to sign that he would represent him if he signed that contract where he'd get all the royalties off the books. And then William Bradford Huie was the one that paid him the money.

James fired Haynes on November 1, 1968. Before that, I flew down to Harpersville, Alabama and

talked to Huie. He paid my way down there because he wanted another contact besides the attorney, so he was showing me these contracts, and talking about changing them around where James would get the money. His idea was, he'd pay your money. He'll even brag that "everybody has got their – you know, paid. He said: you go back and tell James he's not going to take the witness stand because if he does, I don't have no book.

So I went back and told James he ought to fire Haynes because Huie is running the case.

Later, the writer told me in a phone conversation with Mark Lane that James should not take the witness stand when he went to trial.

James never did have a trial. Arthur Haynes told him he couldn't take that witness stand and James said that every time he gave lawyers like Haynes some information, a phone number or something, he'd give it to Huie. James said: how can I get a trial if they know everything I'm going to testify to.

So he got rid of Arthur Haynes and then he got Percy Foreman, who said "This is going to be the easiest case I ever had in my life. There's no evidence at all against him," and he did that up until about a month before the guilty plea. And then Foreman started crying, saying they're going to execute him, they're going to do this, they're going to do that. And so James asked him to resign from the case because he was determined to go to trial. Foreman wouldn't resign, and Judge Battle said that if he fired Foreman, James would have to go to trial with a public defender. So the result was that Percy Foreman pled him guilty.

(The witness refers to a letter dated March 9, 1969 to James Earl Ray from Percy Foreman.)

That was the day before the guilty plea hearing. I went down there when Foreman tried to get him to plead guilty. James was still fighting against it. He said: I'll have Percy Foreman give you \$500 before I plead guilty, and you can go and get another attorney to reopen the case. I flew down to New Orleans. This is in a book because the guy I went to see about an attorney, he didn't trust me. He didn't know what I was coming down there for, so he notified the police and the FBI, and we met in the park and the police were all out in the park.

This letter from Mr. Foreman on the eve of the trial offers him \$500 if he pleads guilty and doesn't embarrass Mr. Foreman in the court. So James went along with the guilty plea, understanding that the \$500 was to be taken to hire a new lawyer to try to set it aside.

As soon as James got to Nashville, he wrote to Judge Preston Battle to ask them to take the letter for motion for a new trial, and said Percy Foreman had been relieved.

When Judge Battle died 20 days or so after the guilty plea, he had 3 letters from James asking for a trial.

Page 1051 Exhibit 19 is marked.

1051 Dr Pepper remarks that James pled guilty and was sentenced to 99 years.

I think it was October of 1977 when James Earl Ray had escaped from Brushy Mountain prison that I had further contact with William Bradford Huie. I had known Mark Lane, an attorney, and James's attorney back then was Jack Kershaw, and Playboy came out with a dirty story about James so I recommended that he retain Mark Lane.



Just before James escaped, the trial was supposed to start. That was in October.

The day after the escape trial, I called William Bradford Huie. At that point, James had been in prison for about 8 years. I got it on tape. Bradford Huie offered offered \$220,000 if I could get him in to see James so James could tell him a story about how he killed King. He said that's the only way a book will sell is if you write a book that James killed King. He said he could get James out by getting a pardon from Gov. Ray Blanton and James and I could live well in another country. Mark Lane and I tape recorded this conversation. A transcript was made.

(Page 1053 the witness refers to the transcription: October 29, 1977, 9:45 AM Jerry Ray or William Ray, Bradford Hughley, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Rural Scottish Inn. This is the transcription made of that tape recording).

(age 1054, the document is marked is marked as Exhibit 20.)

Mark Lane turned a copy of this tape over to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. That was the same committee that decided there was no Raoul, and decided that James got his money not from Raoul but by robbing a particular bank in Alton, IL.

James did not rob that bank. I don't know who did. The case it still unsolved. I know they claimed that James and I robbed the Bank of Alton.

(Witness examines a page 1, column 1, story in the New York Times dated 17th November, 1978, byline Windell Walls, Junior)

The article claims that the Times investigation, the FBI investigation, and the congressional investigation all concluded that James and I robbed that bank.

James was in Washington testifying to the assassination committee and they said they were going to prove that we robbed the bank and used the money to finance the King killing. So during a recess, Mark Lane called a friendly reporter in St. Louis named James Alber, and Lane asked Alber to take me to Alton and waive the statute of limitations.

So we drove the 20 miles and went first to the bank and then I turned myself in to the police station and waived the statute so they could prosecute me. They asked if I wanted to confess and I said no, I didn't do it, but Congress has accused me so I'm here to stand trial. The police officials said I never was a suspect. They were mystified at the accusation, so I don't know if the FBI was making stuff up or where it's coming from. I couldn't have been a suspect because I was working at the Sportsman's Country Club in Northbrook 6 nights a week, never late, never missed a day from '65 to '68.

The police did not say they had been interviewed by the New York Times, by any House Select Committee investigator, or by the FBI.

In 1981 F. Lee Baily had a TV show called "Lie Detector" and we did two shows—was I involved in any bank robberies and was I involved in any assassinations. Both showed that I was innocent.

(Witness refers to an FBI air-tel dated July 19<sup>th</sup>, supplementing one of 7-26-68 and having to do with FBI review of fingerprints related to bank robberies.)

The document says the Bureau took fingerprints and it wasn't James's. "No Identification Effected." This was 8-2-68, about a year after the bank was robbed, and 9 years before the allegations resurfaced.

I testified before the Select Committee on Assassinations. They raised the bank robbery issue. I said: Are you pulling a joke? I went to the bank and went to the police and turned myself in. And he said: it's no joke, but then they basically got off that bank. And at first he started on the banks and the races and all this stuff. Every time they had a different reason that he killed King.

Even the Select Committee admits that James was not a racist. They went through our family backgrounds and found nothing.

I thought about the King family a lot over the years, and in a way I wanted to contact them, but James said not to bother them, they're likely to see you as the brother of the murderer. It wasn't until he was dying that a lady reporter from the New York Times called me up and asked if I would talk to the King family if I had a chance. I said I would, but that James and I felt that we would be out of order to try to talk to them. So the reporter got back to the family. That's how communication started.

I was surprised when they took a position supporting a trial for my brother because I knew it was going to hurt them bad because the government media were really going to come down on them like they come down on the Ray family. It surprised me because I knew for all these years they been getting good press, and now the press was going to turn against them.

#### Page 1063 **Cross Examination by Mr. Garrison.**

At the time my brother escaped from prison he had been in for 7 years and he had a 20 year sentence. Before that time he had tried to escape 2 or 3 times. He never stated to me that he had any contact or influence with a warden of that prison. I only visited him a couple times in the 7 years at that prison. My other brother, John, visited maybe 4 or 5 times. When I went down there, those 2 times it was just a friendly visit.

When he escaped, I met him the next day. John picked him up and brought him to the Fairview Hotel on S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago. We all 3 stayed together that night and the next day John drove back to St. Louis, and I went back to Northbrook, but before we did each of us gave him \$100, and his plan was to get a job and try to get to Canada.

I conferred with my brother after the assassination. I never completely asked him who he thought did the assassination. He knew some way that they know whodunit, and that it's being covered by the FBI, but he didn't know whodunit or why. Everybody got their own speculations and that's why even until the day he died he fought to get these files released that are locked up and won't be released for another 30 years. Clinton said they could be released, but they still won't release them. The files were sealed by the Assassination Committee and then I guess Congress. As to why they were sealed for 30 years, like James said before he died, they didn't seal them files to protect me.

I never saw James with this person called Raoul. I only heard him mention the name one time, and that's when he came back from Canada. He said he was working for Raoul. I don't know what kind of work. I knew it was something illegal, I assumed, or drugs or something because he's telling me about taking them cars to different cities and dropping them off. I figured it was

narcotics.

Before James entered a guilty plea, I did have a discussion with him. I came down to visit him. Since everything was taped, you have to watch what you say, and they got the lights and everything. I didn't want to see him plead guilty. I knew what a struggle he had, but he told me he still hadn't made up his mind. He was still fighting to go to court and he told me that Foreman told him if he didn't plead guilty they would put my dad in prison--my dad had jumped parole back in the 20s--and they was going to charge me as an accessory to murder.

I did not know that James was going to escape before he did. John did. I was working in Northbrook, 6 nights a week. One alias James used was Harvey Lomar. I had a friend Harvey Lomar in Quincy. The other aliases, Eric S. Galt and Ramone Sneyd, I don't know where he got those aliases.

I testified at congressional committee hearings. If I remember right, the committee claimed that James heard of a \$50,000 bounty when he was in the Missouri prison, that he went out and killed King, but he didn't pick up the bounty and took off. That was kind of a sad joke. Here you spend all this money traveling over the world and don't pick up the bounty. Yet there's supposed to have been two guys, Sutherland and Kauffmann, in St. Louis, supposed to have been racist guys that put up the \$50,000 bounty, but they was both dead. The only thing I ever heard about a bounty from someone in Missouri on Dr. King's life was from the Assassination Committee.

I don't remember James ever mentioning that he was in a place called Jim's Grill. All I remember is that he said that at that time that King got killed, he was at a service station trying to get a tire fixed.

He told me that in Birmingham he had bought a gun and Raoul said it was the wrong one and he had to take it back and get another one and they met at a motel in Desoto. Then Raoul picked up the gun that night and later on told him to rent a room in this place on Main Street.

I never asked him what he brought in there. I knew only that he went in there and later on that night had Raoul and another guy in there. And he said that Raoul used his Mustang a lot, so Raoul told him he wanted to use the car later and he wanted to talk to this guy by himself. So James told him, I'll go get the tire fixed. He had a flat tire coming in.

Before the assassination he lived in some apartment places in Atlanta. I've read that after the assassination a map was found that my brother owned that had a home, business, and another location where Dr. King stayed that was supposed to be part of his property. I have never seen the map. I read that something was circled, a church and his office.

I have never seen James's white Mustang because I never saw James after he left Chicago. When they took the Mustang I think they sold it to a car lot here in Memphis.

I think I heard from my brother about two months before the assassination and then the next time I talked to him was when they brought him back from England to Memphis. Within a week I drove down and visited him. During that time I did not know where he was. The FBI would keep me in their office all day long after they discovered they were looking for James Earl Ray. They would take me downtown.

I was working at night and in there all day, because they wanted me to let them know if he got in touch with me. I said you'll know before I know.

James never said anything to the effect that Raoul had mentioned a plan to assassinate Dr. King. He had never got involved in murder or anything like that. He was just trying to make enough to get out of the country and he said that guy's paying him good. He only mentioned Raoul's name once by name and right after that, he said he's paying him good, and I believe he was talking about the same person.

James sent me down to New Orleans twice, once right after the guilty plea. That's what the \$500 was for, to go to New Orleans, because James met Raoul in the Bunny Lounge on Canal Street. James told me exactly where it was, and I went in there and there were two barmaids and I mentioned Raoul like we were on friendly terms. Barmaid had not heard of Raoul and then I asked about Randy Rosenson, because one time after Raoul used the car, when James got it back it had a card stuck down in the side with Randi Rosenson's name and a phone number.

So, then James sent me down again in about '72 trying to run this guy down. So the barmaid said well, that's probably Randolph Rosenson and something about he lives in Miami. So James had me fly to Miami to check up on Randolph Rosenson. They subpoenaed him in front of the assassination committee, but I don't know what the outcome was. But anyway his card was found in James's Mustang after Raoul used it.

When my brother testified before the Assassination Committee, I was in St. Louis. I watched it on live TV.

I was surprised that he entered a guilty plea. He kicked himself after he got out of that place they had them in, and said that's the worst mistake I ever made in my life because it's hard to overturn. That was worse where he was at than than the Nazis they put on trial in World War II after Nuremberg because they had the lights on, the heat on, a policeman in there with him 24 hours a day and he'd breathe everything he'd done. He couldn't get no visitors. If he did he'd have to write notes to them, unless you wanted the state to know what he was talking about. Then on top of that, Foreman said they were going to put me in prison and put my dad in prison if he didn't plead guilty.

I never knew my brother to own a rifle of any type. He was not a good shot. I think they classify you in the Army, and he was a poor shot.

After he escaped from the Missouri prison, James spent some time in Los Angeles. I didn't know about it at the time, but I found out later he was in LA a lot.

Page 1078,

**Ms. Akins** says she has **two FBI 302 reports**; one was taken April 25, 1968.

A summary of the statements in the first one follows:

**Mr. Ray Alvis Hendrix**, Room 14, Fox Hotel, 106 Vine Street, Memphis, Tennessee

*He is employed by the Corps of Engineers, US government, on the Dredge Oakerson. He works about six months in nice weather and is off the other six months of the year.*

*The evening of April 4, 1968, he and Bill Reed, who resides in room 4 of this hotel, ate their dinner at Jim's Grill at 418 S. Main St. in Memphis, Tennessee. They left the Grill at approximately 5:30 PM, and slowly walked to the Fox Hotel, walking on the east side of S. Main. Hendrix forgot his jacket at Jim's Grill and had to go back. He learned later that while he was getting his jacket, Bill Reed looked at a white Mustang parked almost in front of Jim's Grill. Hendrix said he did not notice any of the cars parked in front of Jim's Grill.*

*When he and Bill Reed approached the intersection of Vance and South Main, Bill Reed pulled him back to the curb because the car was turning the corner. It was a white Mustang and after it turned the corner Bill Reed commented that this was the Mustang that was parked in front of Jim's Grill which he looked at while Hendrix was retrieving his jacket. Hendrix said he did not see who was in the car, believes there was only one person, and he could not describe or identify him. As they were returning to their rooms or just entering their rooms they heard sirens in the immediate area and going south on S. Main St. He later learned that the sirens were from police cars that were going to the scene of the murder of Martin Luther King. He said, as near as he can recall, he heard the siren about 6:00 pm or just a few minutes after 6:00 pm on April 4, 1968.*

*Mr. Hendrix stated that the Mustang had turned the corner and proceeded E. on Vance St., but did not turn very fast or squeal the tires. He said he did not watch which way the Mustang turned or how far it traveled on Vance. Mr. Hendrix also stated he could not furnish any information as to the cars parked or traveling in the immediate area of Jim's Grill at the time that he and Bill Reed left. He also stated he could not furnish any information concerning individuals in the immediate area of Jim's Grill at the time he left to return to his room.*

**Ms. Akins** refers to a second **FBI 302 report taken April 15, 1968** by Mr. William Reed. These are pages 66 to 67.

A summary of the statements recorded in the report follows:

**William Zinny Reed**, Room 6, Clark Hotel 106 Vance Street, Memphis

*He is employed as a salesman for a photography firm and is currently working in the Memphis area. On April 4, 1968 he and Ray Hendrix stopped at Jim's Grill, 418 S. Main St. for something to eat. He arrived about 4:30 PM and left between 5:15 and 5:30 PM, proceeding north on S. Main St. for 10 feet when Ray Hendrix remembered he had left his jacket behind. Mr. Reed waited in front of Jim's Grill while Hendrix went back. While waiting he saw a white Mustang parked near the entrance. Mr. Reed said he was considering buying a Mustang and therefore looked this car over. He believes the car was an off-white color, and was not dirty, but had not been recently washed. He believes the interior was a dark color.*

*He did not remember seeing anything in this car except five cartons in the back seat about the size of a 10-pack cigarette carton that were red and white in color. He does not remember any lettering on the cartons or whether the red or the white was dominant. He said when he saw these cartons he felt that the owner of this car was probably a traveling salesman. He does not know whether any stickers were in the window of this car and he did not look at the license. He does not recall whether the Mustang had white wall tires or wheel covers.*

*After Hendrix recovered his jacket, they walked up the east side of South Main, going north. At the intersection of Vance and South Main he was about ready to walk off the curb when he looked around and saw a white Mustang about ready to turn the corner and go east on Vance*

*from South Main. He does not know if this was the same car he saw at Jim's Grill, but it seemed to be. He did not see who was in the car believes it was a white male with a white shirt. He does not recall whether there there was a tie or hat. The impression was that this person was not young and not old. He could not estimate the person's age.*

*The Mustang proceeded east down Vance. He has no idea where it went after it turned the corner.*

*Mr. Reed went to his room and had been there possibly as long as 15 minutes when he heard numerous sirens in the immediate area going down toward Jim's Grill. He said he heard later that Martin Luther King had been shot and that the sirens he heard were from officers going to that place. He said he could not furnish additional information concerning any cars parked on the street or any people in that immediate area.*

(The two reports are marked as Collective Exhibit 21)

(The Court comments on the presence of Mr. Dick Gregory.)

**Lieutenant Willie B. Richmond** 1411 Favell Dr., Memphis

Retired after 32 years with the Memphis PD, having reached the rank of Captain.

### **Direct Examination by Dr. Pepper**

At the time of the sanitation workers' strike in February and March and April of 1968, I was assigned to the Internal Affairs Bureau. My job was to observe workers and see if any trouble was going to come up. At some point I was assigned to a surveillance post in a fire station at Butler and South Main. I was in the sleeping quarters next to Mulberry Street at the rear of the fire station looking at the parking lot area of the Lorraine Motel. That particular morning I went out to get a blood test because I was getting married on Sunday, but I returned about 2:30 or 3:00 and resumed my surveillance with my partner Detective Reddit.

After the blood test I went to the Internal Affairs office and was told to go to the station to relieve Reddit, because he was to be taken off duty because he had been threatened. I was to continue the surveillance by myself. Usually when carrying out surveillance I would call the office and talk to Capt. Gerald Ray, or sometimes Inspector Time. I can't now remember which one I talked to.

Referring to a document, the witness states that it looks like the statement he gave on April 9, 1968 to Lieut. JD Hamby retracing his activity on surveillance duty from April 3 through the assassination.

On page 2, I can see a reference to the Invaders occupying rooms 315 and 316. The Invaders were of no particular interest to me at that time.

When Dr. King arrived in the city for that last visit, I was at the airport. I did not have any conversation with anyone connected with his group or with local clergy about having security or protection for Dr. King on that visit. My partner did and I was there for that conversation when he spoke with Rev. Samuel Kyles. At the time we were told that Dr. King did not want any police protection. I'm not sure, but I think it was Rev. Kyles that said this. I did not know that he held no position in Dr. King's organization.

On page 3 the notes say *"At 2:05 PM Rev. Samuel Kyles arrived and went to room 307 and departed at 2:23 PM."* At that time I did not know who was in room 307.

Reading from page 4: *"Approximately 5:50 PM, John Smith, Milton Max, Charles Cabbage and one female colored and approximately 6 or 7 more of the Invaders opened the door of their rooms, and I could see them gathering their belongings. They then brought them down the stairs and placed them in the trunk of a light blue Mustang, license number BL 3750 and they left the motel. They was going west on Butler to Main."*

They left approximately 11 minutes before the shooting.

Continuing to read: *"Immediately after the Invaders left, the Rev. Samuel Kyles came out of room 312 and went to the room where Dr. Martin Luther King was living. He knocked on the door and Martin Luther King came to the door. They said a few words between each other and then Rev. Martin Luther King went back into his room, closing the door behind him, and Rev. Samuel Kyles remained on the porch."* The balcony, not "the porch".

*Another excerpt: "At this time Rev. Martin Luther King returned from his room to the gallery and walked up to the handrail. Rev. Kyles was standing off to his right. This was approximately 6 PM. At this time I heard a loud sound as if it was a shot and saw Dr. Martin Luther King fall back on the handrail and put his hand up to his head. At 6:01 PM April 4, 1968, I reported this to the inspection bureau. I returned to remain there and keep surveillance. Also here and at the time of the shot, the tact squad which consists of the sheriff deputy and the Memphis police department was in the fire house number four. I immediately hollered to them, I believe that King has been shot. At this time the men of the fact squad scramble out the firehouse immediately going in all different directions. Some went to the hotel. Some went down the street. Later the Fire Department ambulance arrived approximately 5 minutes later and departed to the hospital with Rev. King."*

Nowhere in these notes do I record the Rev. Kyles going into Rev. King's room 45 minutes or an hour before the shooting. I recorded pretty much everything that went on. I don't have my notebook, we carried little small notebooks, and I wrote everything down as I saw it. That was my duty.

Page 1099 Captain Richmond's report is marked as Exhibit 22

### **Cross-examination by Mr. Garrison:**

I did not see anything or anyone suspicious. I did not see anyone acting in any way to create concern to me. The shot sounded to me as if it came from the northwest side of the fire station toward the street side.

page 1101 **Douglas Valentine**, Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

I'm a twice-published writer specializing in writing and researching the intelligence operations of the United States government. My first book was called *The Hotel Tacloban*. It was about my father's experiences as a prisoner of war in World War II. The book was published in 1984, 85, and 86. My second book was *The Phoenix Program* published in 1990 and 1992.

**Direct examination by Dr. Pepper**

The Phoenix program was created by the CIA in 1967. And that is part of a recognition that the war could not be won militarily and a second war should be waged against the Viet Cong infrastructure, the shadow government of the Viet Cong. In my research for this book, I interviewed hundreds of people who had participated in the program including military intelligence personnel, officers and enlisted men. Some of these people upon return to the USA were assigned to military intelligence groups in the continental United States and began to conduct surveillance and Phoenix-type operations against antiwar demonstrators and people in the civil rights movement.

These military intelligence groups actually had list of prominent members of the antiwar movement and the Civil Rights movement and particularly focused on Vietnam Veterans Against the War but had an entire range of targeted individuals under surveillance, including people such as Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin. They also acted as agent provocateurs in demonstrations to incite riots so that the police could be called in to arrest individuals. Also great to break up demonstrations that the military intelligence personnel had started, problems they had started themselves.

There were seven military intelligence groups in the continental United States spread pretty much evenly across the country. The one connected to the south east region was the 111<sup>th</sup> military intelligence group. With respect to that group I included a passage in my book that one individual in another group other than 111<sup>th</sup> heard a rumor that the 111<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Group had been conducting 24 hours a day surveillance of Dr. King and had actually been in Memphis on April 4, 1968 and taken photos of the assassination. To the best of my knowledge none of these photos ever surfaced. I only spoke with one source about these photos.

I thought I knew almost everything about the various military intelligence groups, but I did not learn about the 902nd military intelligence group until 1996, while I was researching a book about federal drug law enforcement. I interviewed a former staff investigator for the Senate subcommittee on investigations as of 1975 named Mr. Phillip Manuel, who said he had been in the 902nd. He said it was a very secret organization and he had promised not to talk about it, and refused to discuss the subject. Subsequently I filed a Freedom of Information Act request in October of 1996 and received a unit history from the United States Army on the 902nd that was published in 1994 as a 50-year anniversary unit history. I believe that in 1968 the 902nd military intelligence group was based in Washington DC.

I know that Mr. Phillip Manuel was here in Memphis on April 4, 1968. What I have gathered about his role here, I got from reading the book Orders to Kill. I understand that he arrived in Memphis on April 3 and on April 4 between three and four he met with a lieutenant from the Memphis Police Department, Lieut. Arkin, and based on what Mr. Manuel told Arkin, Arkin proceeded to a fire station, where a Memphis PD officer Reddit was stationed observing the Lorraine Motel. Arkin asked Mr. Reddit to leave his post and return to the MPDF headquarters.

I have subsequently tried to locate Mr. Philip Manuel, without success. Not a trace.

**Page 1110 Cross-examination by Mr. Garrison**

I was told that the 111<sup>th</sup> was photographing the assassination. Nobody ever told me who the assassin was.



### **Redirect examination by Dr. Pepper**

I never ascertained the actual vantage point from which these photos were taken.

Page 1111

**Carthel Weeden** 6732 Tunger Ridge Drive, Olive Branch, Mississippi

I'm retired from my work from for the Memphis Fire Department from 1951 until July 7, 1982. I started as a Private and finished as a District Chief.

### **Direct examination by Dr. Pepper**

In 1968 I was stationed at Fire Station Number Two at Main and Butler. At that time I was the senior captain and administrative officer of the station. Early 1968 was very turbulent times and all kinds of police units and other individuals were in and out of the fire station. On April 4, 1968 I was on duty and was approached that morning by two individuals who indicated that they were Army officers. They wanted a lookout vantage point for the Lorraine Hotel, and I put them on the roof of the Number Two fire station. I did not see them leave. I went up on the roof with them and they were carrying briefcases or some items. They said they wanted a vantage point for photographic work and I came to believe that they had camera equipment in those briefcases. They were occupying a point at the northeast corner of the roof that gets a clear vantage point. There's a small parapet, nothing that would impede their view or their lens view of Lorraine or the brushy area.

I'm sure they showed me military identification. No law enforcement officer has ever asked me about what I did that day. No one from the House Select Committee on Assassinations, no researchers, no book writers.

### **1120 Cross examination by Mr. Garrison**

By April 4, 1968 I had been stationed at Fire Station Two for a couple of years. I had not been in Jim's Grill for any purpose other than an inspection. I never heard the name of Mr. Jowers mentioned before this occurred.

I was at Fire Station on the day of the assassination. When Dr. King was shot, I went across to help the ambulance back up to pick him up. I helped load him on the stretcher. When I first arrived on the balcony, I do not remember that anyone was trying to do anything for him. I did see the wound where he was shot. In my opinion, the wound went up in the area where he was shot. I stayed until he was taken away.

1123 **Rev. Walter. E. Fauntroy 4105 17th St., Washington DC.** 40 years as pastor of my home church in Washington DC. 10 years as director of the Washington bureau of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

### **Direct examination by Dr. Pepper**

I was responsible for relating to the agencies of the federal government that had relevance for our struggle in the '60s--the White House, Congress, Department of Justice and Interstate Commerce Commission.

In the 70s and 80s I was a member of the Congress of the United States. My background in work with Dr. King in organizing the Washington DC 1963 march, the Voting Rights Act March in 1965 and the Meredith Freedom March from Memphis to Mississippi to Jackson in '66 had prepared me for 20 years of working the Congress. My first goal was to achieve home rule for the District of Columbia, which we achieved in 1974, A second goal was to have Congress investigate the assassination of Martin Luther King Junior. That became a serious undertaking undertaking for me.

I had gone through the FBI's counterintelligence operation on Dr. King called COINTELPRO. I had never been satisfied with the explanation given for the assassination of Dr. King, that one man by himself was able to get out of jail and follow Dr. King along his routes, shoot him and leave Memphis, make his way to Canada to get passports of three persons who looked like him en route to Southern Rhodesia to join the militia.

One of my colleagues on the banking committee, Henry B. Gonzales of Texas, had the same view with respect to the assassination of President Kennedy -- that it didn't make sense. So we teamed up to introduce a resolution calling for the US House of Representatives to establish a select committee to investigate assassinations. As a congressman I became the chairman of a subcommittee that dealt with Dr. King's assassination, and I chaired that committee throughout the entirety of the investigation.

It didn't really get under way until six months after Congress authorized it. The staff director of our choice, a prosecutor named Richard Sprague, we had selected because of his excellent work in prosecuting and convicting the president of the Teamsters, Mr. Fitzsimmons, who was convicted of having his predecessor killed. Not long after we hired him, Mr. Sprague and the chairman of the full committee, Mr. González, had a serious had a disagreement that caused Mr. González to resign as chair and Mr. Sprague to be dismissed as Chief of Staff. The controversy had to do with his intent to make available to the committee all records, not only of the FBI, but the CIA and military intelligence. This became quite controversial for some people, though not for me. There seemed to be some personality problems. Mr. Gonzales resigned and Mr. Sprague was fired and Mr. Blakey was hired and we got to work in about August of that year, six months after it had been authorized.

I don't remember if there was a media campaign against Mr. Sprague at the time he was requesting these materials. I found him to be thorough and affable, and I had looked forward to having his staff direction. Congress works on two-year cycles and when we were forced to bring the investigation to an end we admittedly concluded our investigation without having thoroughly investigated all of the evidence. We could not get votes in the House to get an appropriation to continue the investigation. With an extra six months, we might've gotten to the bottom of everything.

We had not explored a number of leads. We have not been able to identify any credible witness who placed James Earl Ray at the scene. We had not been able to establish that the gun which was fired at Dr. King was fired from the window above, and we had credible evidence from three persons who thought the gunshot came from the bushes below. Nor had we been able to trace the bullet that entered Dr. King's body to the gun which had Mr. Ray's fingerprints on it. Of course was almost amusing when we examined Mr. Ray and I sat through hours of cross-examination of him, that Mr. Ray was really competent, able to carry out the operation of breaking out of jail and traveling around the country and getting ahold of \$10,000 to sustain himself during that period and get three passports all by himself without some help. I was disturbed also because while he could not hit a target 100 feet away with an M-1 rifle, the person who shot Dr. King obviously was

able to do that from about 200 feet away.

A fellow named John Paul Speaker had been suggested as a person who may have informed Mr. Ray of a \$50,000 offer that had been made to his brother-in-law, Russell Byers, by two men, John Kauffmann and John Sutherland. We never had a chance to trace that thoroughly, although the committee concluded that there may have been a low-level conspiracy since we have not been able to determine that. We were never able to get Mr. Speaker to speak. We turned all that information over to the FBI with a request to the Justice Department that they follow up on those and other deeds that had many of us maintaining reservations about closing the investigation.

For several reasons I was uncomfortable with the conclusion that it appeared that James Earl Ray acted alone, had killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior. One was that I was never satisfied with the conclusion on whether there was a Raoul or not. It appeared, as I recall, that of the \$10,000, and that's about 40,000 now, in 1998 terms – of the \$10,000 about \$7000 or more other was untraceable. And Mr. Ray's testimony had been that Mr. Raoul had given him the money in return for his gun running as part of an underworld operation, and I was troubled with Mr. Speaker, who had been convicted of having killed a person with malice aforethought and for pay and had spent only about two or three years in jail.

With respect to the allegation that Mr. Ray may have got the money from a robbery of a bank in Alton, Illinois, the staff gave us three possible scenarios. One was that Ray had received it from Raoul, but the only evidence of the existence of Raoul was Ray's testimony, and we had no credible evidence at that time that such a person existed.

The second was that he might've robbed banks during the course of that period, and we were satisfied that that was not an option because the FBI itself had thoroughly research that and concluded that there were no known robberies that Ray could have been associated with.

The third option was that a bank which he and his brothers robbed in Alton, Illinois, had been the source of about \$27,000, about \$9,000 of which would've gone to James Earl Ray -- but again, we had only hearsay. There was no conviction and no judgment that they had in fact robbed the bank and had been punished. I had heard that the police chief of Alton, Illinois, and the president of the bank, said that the Ray brothers were never suspects, but I have not had the opportunity to investigate and corroborate a number of statements.

Since the conclusion of the House Select Committee's investigation I have not developed further information on my own, but I have been impressed with the number of people that I consider to be providing scientific and reliable and objective and verifiable data that would be worthy of investigation. I was appalled in reading a book by Mr. Garrow on the FBI and Martin Luther King Junior, which detailed, in far more graphic terms than we had come to know in the committee, the extent of J. Edgar Hoover's hatred for Dr. King and the determined effort that he and the FBI made to "remove him from the scene."

As I recall, our staff director Mr. Blakey shared with me the conclusion that he felt we could develop a case for negligent homicide against the FBI in terms of a climate created by the FBI that made it almost inevitable that someone would attempt to take Dr. King's life.

A book by Curt Gentry written around 1981 upset me, J. Edgar Hoover - the Man and His Secrets. It dealt with the connection that he established between J. Edgar Hoover, Carlos Marcello of the Mafia, and two Texas business people, Clint Merchaser and E.L. Hunt, which brought to mind particularly the testimony of a gentleman by the name of McFerrin, who said he overheard a gentleman by the name of Liberto shouting over the phone that afternoon to kill him

on the balcony. And I was really upset about that during the investigation and had been assured that really it was just Mr. Liberto's word against Mr. McFerrin's word. The committee's staff assured me as chairman of the subcommittee that there was nothing to corroborate the statement of either side. It troubled me that in so many aspects of the case, we had difficulty finding corroborating evidence of what seemed on the surface to be the fact. Anyone who talked with James Earl Ray knew he wasn't a rocket scientist, and that this level of sophistication could not have been made available, unless he had the kind of sophistication that the Mafia has and our intelligence agencies have from time to time.

So since the committee concluded its work and issued its report in 1979, I've maintained an interest in the case and have continued to read and digest research related to the case against the background of having gone through it with him. I was with him many times when it was apparent that we were dealing with very sophisticated forces.

In the years since the committee issued its report in 1979, I maintained an interest in the case, continued to read on my own. In the course of going through it with him, many times it was apparent that we were dealing with sophisticated forces. When I assembled my staff and learned about bugging and surveillance as practiced by the FBI, I took an interest in my own church and my home phone and asked them if they would not find somebody who could check my phone out.

In the 60s one of my members who worked as a maid offered me a television set. It stayed in my office throughout the 60s and even while I was in Congress. And when the people went to my office they found a bug on it that enabled persons to drive around the block of the church and pick up anything that was going on in the church. That was sort of amusing, but it signaled me what we joked about a lot in the 60s—J. Edgar Hoover (Uncle Bubba), is listening. I learned also that there was a bug in my phone at home that wore out about three years. A fellow told me it talks about 500 hours, and I recall that every time the phone would get a little funny, I would call and the same fellow would show up to repair. So these kind of laughable things formed a pattern in my mind.

Two things have perked my interest since the investigation. One was an article in the Memphis Commercial Appeal by Stephen Tompkins which raised issues worthy of investigation. Had we known about these things at the time we would have followed those leads. I had never heard of this 902 military intelligence group before reading that article. I had sensed that military intelligence may have had some surveillance role on African-American leaders over the years, but what Mr. Tompkins laid out showed perception by some people that blacks were ripe for subversion by the Kaiser, by the Communists, and that leadership had been under surveillance. That part perked my interest anew about whether or not we knew all that happened before and on April 4. To my recollection the committee never received any information or evidence with respect to the involvement of military intelligence. No information or documents with respect to involvement of the CIA were received. We received many files from the FBI but I saw no indications that the government was paying special attention to Dr. King or our movement or to my church study.

I've never talked to Mr. Sprague since that time but I know that one thing that got him in trouble was that he wanted to open up the area of intelligence operations. I can't remember why that area was not opened up. After reading the Tompkins article I wanted to kick myself.

I never heard of any evidence that photographers at the Lorraine Motel area, military officers, were conducting photographic surveillance at the time of the killing.

**1143 Cross Examination by Mr. Garrison**

These specific issues that led the Committee to conclude that James Earl Ray was a lone assassin were the contradictions in Mr. Ray's description of what happened that day and before with Raoul and what he did. Some persons testified that they did not see Mr. Ray at the gas station when the word was that others had seen him. Witnesses turned out not to be credible or denied that they were there and had what appeared to be credible stories as to where they were at the time, so Mr. Ray's contradictions lent doubt about his story about Raoul and Ray's source of funds.

After Dr. King's speech on April 4, 1967 there were editorials and there were cartoons suggesting that Dr. King was a danger to the American way, an ally of the communists, and something needed to be done. Those kinds of articles were crafted in the FBI offices and then fed out to a network of stations and newspapers that made discussion of a December 23, 1963 memo circulated among FBI personnel calling a meeting to discuss actions to remove Martin Luther King from the national scene. It was that information that led Mr. Blakey to opine that a case of negligent homicide could be developed on the basis of the evidence we had on what the FBI did to create a climate and persuade the public that Martin Luther King was a danger to the American way.

J. Edgar Hoover said that Dr. King was the most notorious liar in the country. That prompted Dr. King, Andrew Young, myself, and Ralph Abernathy to meet with Mr. Hoover in Washington at his office. He never answered why he said it. He spent most of his time explaining how efficient the FBI was and how thorough they were and how many black people they had hired. He never answered the question and we went away amused. We thought maybe he thought we might really go off on him in that room there.

The FBI was responsible to investigate the assassination. I never knew from the FBI investigation about James Russell Byers. One of my staffers came down to Memphis and found in the records that this man said he had been offered \$50,000 and had been in the habit of taking stolen goods over to a hotel and that two gentlemen, John Kauffman and John Sutherland, had something called fix-a- cold cough medicine that turned out to be drugs they were making. We didn't know about Mr. John Paul Speaker, who was allegedly a cellmate of James Earl Ray and was believed to have suggested to him that there was \$50,000 out there for anybody who would assassinate Martin Luther king.

The Committee was never able to establish the existence of a Raoul or corroborate from anybody that he existed. James Earl Ray's brothers, Jerry and John, suggested that they knew their brother was in touch with somebody that he called Raoul but it was all hearsay coming from the brother. It reminds me of the Jowers case, but a hotel manager in California recalled James Earl Ray getting a call on the 27th or 30th of March telling him to go to Birmingham and they had seen this man before with him but we never tied that down.

**Redirect Examination by Mr. Pepper**

My staff never showed me a photograph of a man identified by James Earl Ray as Raoul in November 1978 but I have since that time seen a photo. I don't know why my staff would not have shown me that photo. It may be that our staff was not aware of what Mr. Tompkins stated some years later. Our staff knew nothing about the Loyd Jowers connection.

(Dr. Pepper asks how it was that a Committee with a budget of millions of dollars could not locate a figure who had been identified by James Earl Ray and who 21 years later had been identified by four other people independently as Raoul. Rev. Fauntroy says that after seeing the work of

many scholars working on these areas, "I wish I had known about these things and I wonder what our staff knew.")

After Dr. King's April 4, 1967 speech opposing the Vietnam War, cartoons appeared all around the country. Because I was with the national office in Washington I saw a regular versions of the same editorial--the man is dangerous--and I saw regular caricatures of a man I considered the most important man with a most important message for this, the most violent century in history. After this the organization found many supporters ceasing to contribute.

One evening Dr. King called, very discouraged, about what had happened when he followed his conscience. I was finishing up a sermon for the next day and quoted to him an English Methodist preacher who said on some issues, cowards asked the question is it safe to take a position, and expediency asks the question is it politics, and vanity asks the question is it popular, but conscience always asks the question is it right. I told Martin that some things you have to do not because they're popular or political but because they are right, and I think that helped him through that.

For a decade we had lived with threats to Dr. King's life and in New York City he had been stabbed by a demented woman, but it became routine to dismiss such threats. We were planning not a one-day march on Washington, but a demonstration that would last until the Vietnam War was ended and the nation got serious about the War on Poverty. There was talk about risks, but that was less a question for us than whether there might be provocateurs who would start things deliberately.

The reason we came back to Memphis was because we feared that if we did not settle it here and make it clear that we would not brook any violence as part of our Washington demonstration, we might not be able to carry it out. Dr. King was determined that we would not have a demonstration that degenerated into violence.

In 1977, not long after we had gotten into the investigation, we became aware of a threat on James Earl Ray's life and heard that Mr. Ray had broken out of the Brushy Mountain penitentiary in Tennessee. I was afraid that perhaps persons who feared he was telling the truth might want to take his life. We were so concerned about it that a former colleague of mine in my first year of Congress, Ray Blanton, had left Congress and become governor of this state, and I suggested to our Chairman, Mr. Stokes, that we call him and ask him to make sure that every effort was made by the state to capture Mr. Ray before the FBI did

(Mr. Pepper asks if there were 30 FBI SWAT team snipers coming to Tennessee when Ray escaped. Rev. Fauntroy says he doesn't know, but that's what we heard.)

We called Mr. Blanton and my information is that the FBI was asked to leave and Mr. Ray was recaptured and we all breathed a sigh of relief.

**1154 April R. Ferguson**

Memphis, Tennessee  
Attorney for 21 years

**Direct Examination by Dr. Pepper**

I live in Memphis, and have been an attorney for about 21 years. In 1978 I had just been admitted to the bar and I was working with Mark Lane and Charles Galbreath, who was a retired judge in Nashville, and we were working on a post-conviction attempt to gain a new trial for James Earl Ray.

(Referring to an affidavit:) In 1978 in this effort the office received a call directed to Mr. Lane, January 30, 1979. Mr. Lane was traveling and this party called several times and asked that someone from the office visit him. So I went to see him downtown in the jail in Memphis on January 31, 1979. His name was William Kirk. A secretary went with me, Barbara Rabbito. Mr. Kirk said he had been in the Shelby County Jail on robbery and extortion charges from 1972 until the time we interviewed him. In August 1976 he was on furlough from the Missouri penitentiary for armed robbery. He was arrested in Memphis on another charge and unable to bond out and he started serving his sentence in the Shelby County Jail.

Between October 1976 and February 1977 in Shelby County Jail he met a Mr. Arthur Baldwin who was at that time well known to Memphians as the owner of several clubs featuring girl dancers. Baldwin was serving a sentence for a nonviolent crime such as income tax evasion and had already talked to Mr. Kirk's codefendants. These were also well known names--the terrible Tiller brothers, Albert Tiller and George Tiller. Apparently Mr. Baldwin had offered them \$2500 to stop somebody from attending a board meeting. The job was offered to Mr. Kirk, who didn't say whether he took the job or not. He did say he and Mr. Baldwin were friends, that he had saved him from some unpleasantness in the jail, and that in June 1977 he was released, but that arrested two weeks later for a robbery in Germantown. Got out again and stayed out until November 1977 when he was arrested in Jackson, Tennessee and brought back to Memphis, then released again in December.

He started visiting Mr. Baldwin at his place of business and said he was offered a murder contract by Baldwin for \$5000 and was told that three more pieces of business in Memphis for larger sums were available. Kirk said he didn't take the murder contract and was back in jail when it was carried out against a person named David MacNamee in Memphis. He said Baldwin was from the state of Washington and had been in the Memphis area since '75 or '76.

Then Kirk had to go back to Missouri on a warrant. He came back to Tennessee in March, 1978 and in September he was sentenced to 65 years on the various cases he was facing in Tennessee but in June or July 1978 he had a telephone conversation with Mr. Baldwin during which time Baldwin mentioned another murder contract for \$5000 with James Earl Ray as the target. My recollection is that Mr. Ray was at Brushy Mountain, though I'm not sure. Kirk said he didn't know if he was being offered the contract so much as just being told that the word needed to get out the contract was available on James Earl Ray's life. It's not entirely clear whether Baldwin was letting out the contract or somebody else. Baldwin communicated it.

Kirk was not in Brushy Mountain at that time. I think he said later that he didn't want to take the contract up. He heard from those who had been at Brushy Mountain that James Earl Ray was "good people" and there was no need to kill him. Kirk therefore decided to tell Ray's attorney –

either Mr. Lane or Mr. Galbreath. Mr. Kirk got the impression that Mr. Baldwin was working as an agent or informer for the feds. He didn't say how he got that impression except that it later turned out that Mr. Baldwin was responsible somewhat for the exposure of Gov. Ray Blanton's pay for pardon scandal.

So while he was out of jail, Kirk visited Baldwin frequently and was surprised that though Baldwin had a comfortable Memphis home, they frequently went to the Executive Plaza near the airport for meetings. Kirk's impression was that Baldwin was helping the federal government in their investigation and that he was being protected by the feds from state prosecutions. Kirk was afraid that this assassination plan for Mr. Ray had originated with the feds but he didn't tell us any sources for that.

Kirk indicated in an affidavit that Baldwin operated occasionally from rooms at the Executive Plaza near the airport. This last offer was communicated by phone in June or July of 1978..

When we talked to him, Kirk was in a jail cell with no papers or memoranda, so his memory may have been inaccurate. We weren't able to follow up on this. I don't think he wanted to speak to us anymore.

1165 Affidavit dated 16 February 1979 is marked as Exhibit 23

Later when Mr. Kirk made a spectacular escape from one of the town Tennessee facilities I remembered who he was, but I can't remember what follow-up, if any, was done. Ms. Rabbito moved to Northern California. I heard she was planning a marriage.

1167

**James E Adams**, 168 Shamrock, Arkansas

### **Direct Examination by Dr. Pepper**

I have been driving a taxi cab in Memphis consistently since 1966. I know of Mr. Loyd Jowers. I knew he was in the business for a long time. I drive now for Yellow Cab. In the not too distant past I drove three people connected with the Fox network or the ABC network, some kind of TV crew, and I think they were talking about giving a lie detector test to Loyd Jowers. The guy giving the test was supposed to be an FBI agent. Then they said he was ex-FBI or something.

I picked them up at the Hotel Peabody and was instructed to drive to the airport. The one who gave the test was sitting in the front seat with me, a woman was behind him and a short man was behind me. The man in the front asked the man in the back what did he think about this Jowers fellow. I couldn't hear exactly what he said, but when I heard "Jowers" I rolled the window up a little bit.

The man in front said "I couldn't get the man to waver at all." He said "I actually tried to get him to tell a lie where I could get a feel for him-- normally I can get a feel for people like him."

The man in the back seat said "Well, maybe he was on some kind of drugs." And he said, "but what are you going to do, give him a urine test right there in front of everybody?"

And then the woman said it was hard to believe that he could remember all these little details over 30 years ago. And the man in back said "Yeah, unless he had something to do with it."

I said "You are all talking about Loyd Jowers. I know him."



He said "You think he's capable of doing something like this?"

I said yeah.

He said, "He probably done it himself didn't he?"

And I said, "Probably."

I told another driver that was kind of involved in this case, James Millner, that they gave Loyd Jowers a lie detector test. I said whatever he said, he passed the test. That's the way they talked in the cab. When the story was on TV, I watched the last part where he was telling about the gun--the man had it in the gun and all that. Then the man went in the room and came back out and asked Mr. Jowers if he wanted to know the results of his test. And he said yeah, and he said, well, you lied about everything. And he said are you in this for some kind of money deal or something like that? Jowers said no, not a dime. And someone in the background said this interview is over, and they walked out. A national television program focused on the lie detector test announce to the world that Mr. Jowers had lied but in the cab it sounded like he had told the truth.

### **Cross examination by Mr. Garrison**

I knew Mr. Jowers quite a few years, saw him here and there and have talked to him occasionally. Most of the time we have worked at different companies, but I did work at Veterans Company at the same time he did. He has never talked to me about any of his involvement in the assassination of Dr. King. They really didn't tell me what questions they asked him and none of the people in the cab company told me what questions they asked him. On TV the lie detector examiner said that Mr. Jowers had failed the test. The examiner was the same guy that was in my cab.

**Yolanda King**, daughter of Martin Luther King Junior, Los Angeles.

### **Direct Examination by Dr. Pepper**

I currently work as an actress and producer. The purpose of this legal action was to address information and facts beyond those that have been reported and what has been concluded. While I personally emotionally could not pursue it myself, I thought it important that the full truth and the actual truth be known. So for me it has been a sense of peace that more of what actually happened will be revealed.

The factor of money or money judgment against the defendant was never a consideration. For me and the family it was always a question of allowing the truth to go forth. The family has not requested a large amount of damages from the defendant. I think I was one of the first to understand the importance of what is happening here, and I think we all came to that understanding at different points in our lives, but we all came to a unity of understanding.

I was 12 years old, the eldest child, when my father was taken from me. I remember that very much. It took me a long time to mourn. I pretended that he was just away-- which was easy to do because he was away a lot. I was an adult when I really mourned, and I guess you never really get over it. I think this process is helping the healing. For myself I can look at it differently than before and find the sense of peace about what happened and why. And though we don't know all the facts, more and more has come to light and I think it's important not just for me but for the country as well.

Should Mr. Jowers be found liable and culpable I would not, and do not, feel any negative feelings toward him. We grew up with the very strong and very honest faith and belief that has taught us and we've seen in action the power of forgiveness and its importance. I think Mr. Jowers was part of an unfortunate result of the climate that was created and encouraged during that time.

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