

SS140.mp3

Bill Thomas- This is tape 3 tape 3 with Mayor Ingram who wants to get something in the record.

W. B. Ingram- I think we were talking about the present administration Bill and the growth of the city under the previous administration and the potential of the city of Memphis if they ever settle down and get a stable situation. But Memphis all of its recent industrial expansion developing in the 4 years of my administration. Prior to that you had a sporadic maybe a small development of grace that came in during he ear. Montana (muffled) before that international (muffled) and Firestone. But we brought in the RCA plant which would eventually employ about 7 or 8 thousand people. It is the largest manufacturing plant under one roof it the state of Tennessee. We also made it possible for, since we couldn't get....we had hoped to be able to develop a canal north of the city and a industrial and a recreational lake up there on Loosehatchie river but that is very, that is a long time project and a special one and it is going to take a lot of pushing to get that done. And you have the reluctant type of dragons at city hall that you have there now. You are talking about they can't spend this and you can't spend that, you will never get it done. We were able to get the law changed so that DuPont could run its pipeline over to the river and enlarge its operation by setting up a riverfront dock there. That they could bring their materials into the plant directly from the riverfront by pipeline. And then the president's island development developed more than it ever had before I think. So the fact is the price of land went up about 3 times what it had originally been sold at. That made it possible for the development of this industrial park, the Frank Pigeon industrial park along with what has been done before. The, but the attitude of the city as I said the reluctant dragons at city hall that are there now is that they don't want to (muffled) you forward with anything. (muffled) cooperation is very much like any other big business in the sense that you are going to have to continue making investments to develop your potential to develop your volumes and to develop your resources. And once you get the administration that is going to sit down and not do anything and try to retrench and pay off al its debts in one administration it will never happen. Because you, I think a good illustration of that is one that most highly regarded financial institutions in the country. I don't know whether it was AT Bill Thomas- T or one of the Bell systems. But there debt as related to their assets is about 350%. What is considered to be by the bond buyers as a stable situation where it is corporate debt is less than 15% of its assessed values of properties excluding any (muffled) utilities. But the state law has been adopted to even remove that limitation. But as a practical matter the people who buy bonds, the people who market them rely on bonds where the municipalities (muffled) does not exceed 15% of its assessed value. And the city of Memphis has never even come close to that, and the closest we ever came was about 11%. And but that brings me back to the actual thought I think we were on when you had to change your tape. Some of the things that I predicted would occur in this change of the system of government would be that the black (muffled) of the council to disregard the limitation imposed by the post charter of \$2.45 per 100 on the tax

rate. And the first crack out of the box this new city council and the mayor came out and they started talking about raising the property taxes. Oh they had run on a program and platforms that they were going to cut down on the cost of government and that they were going to operate on the present tax structure. But they presidium behind the scenes which has been trying to put the pressure, bring pressures to bear on the commission is to do just that, to increase the taxes. You have got two of these boys, and the lady up there the knitter (muffled). Anyway the first thing they did was to attempt to raise the tax rate up to two dollars and seventy cents. And that is exactly what I predicted would happen they wouldn't consider themselves bound tot eh two dollars and forty five cent tax rate that they would find a loop hole and either raise it up to \$2.45 and then increase the assessment rate. And thereby, the amount of taxes you have to pay is determined first by the assessment rate, the assessed value and then by the tax rate on the assessed value. They can raise it two ways, one by raising the assessed value and the other by raising the tax rate you see.

Bill Thomas- Property is supposedly assessed at 50% of value.

W. B. Ingram- Yes.

Bill Thomas- Well ok to get back..

W. B. Ingram- Another was on this annexation thing that the provisions of the proposed charter was were assessed that it required a re-districting of all of these 7 council districts, every time they elect in large are of population like White Haven because they had to or are required to as a part of the annexing ordinance to re-district each of these districts so as to balance the population in the district, so as to conform to the one man one vote rule. Well if you do that then the law is that when these districts are changed that abolishes the office of the councilmen that had been previously elected in that district and it creates a vacancy and thereby vacates, if they change 7 districts they change 7 councilmen's office. And so consequently you are going to have your annexations stifled on that account you see. And there are several other things I think it was published about October the 7th 1967.

Tom Beckner- That letter?

Bill Thomas- It was a political advertisement?

W. B. Ingram- That is the one they charged great political rates for they tried to. They did, I think they charged \$11 and some odd cents for calling (muffled) whereas the regular, I did get them to publish the charter verbatim as it had been proposed at the \$7.50 per (muffled).

Bill Thomas- We don't want to take too much of your time and I need to play devil's advocate for a minute and I am not trying to put you in a defensive position necessarily but and I don't know if I could think who all had mentioned this I guess I would go ahead and tell you maybe I wouldn't. But a number of obviously people in the administration now. This comes from in talking to a few that when you went out of office that you are still an influential figure and so they blame part of the trouble

on some background work by you. Nobody can really explain how or why, but had you heard this, you hadn't?

W. B. Ingram- No more than just a vague suggestion of it and I don't think any of those characters would have the courage or the temerity or the financial responsibility to make such a public statement and be able to back it up and prove it. Because it would be libelous and they would find themselves immediately involved in an expensive law suit if they did. It is not true and I think if they were looking to find a scape goat and they have been trying to make me the scape goat ever since I left office to try to vent their finding an excuse for their own shortcomings and everytime they come up with a problem they can't immediately solve they exclaim it was caused by the previous administration and primarily by the mayor. Which is me. Now as I say I could have told them that some of these things were going to happen if I had the opportunity but I had nobody that would listen to me or with whom I could communicate because and there wasn't any way that I could stop anything that happened. Because immediately after this the election was over. Things began to happen and I realized that if I didn't, that I did everything that I could to try to ameliorate the situation. I tried on the night of the election to work with Mr. Lobe to do anything that I could with him and the council to help them I the transformation of the system to bring about a harmonious transition to the extent that I could and this is the point I tried to make a minute ago when we talked about the transition. And that is that after the people adopt the amendment to the ordinance and were going to change the system from the city of commission system to the council system. I sent a telegram to Downing Pryor and the members of the POP group and invited them to the mayor's office to sit down for a conference to establish procedures so that we could work out transitional problems, I recognized that there would be problems that would occur in the change from the commission system to the council system.

Bill Thomas- And this telegram was sent to all the elected?

W. B. Ingram- It was sent to all of the, no to was sent to all the POP committee.

Bill Thomas- Oh I see.

W. B. Ingram- The directors of this POP outfit that promoted and put over the change in the government..

Bill Thomas- And what was there response?

W. B. Ingram- And I also invited the city commissioners to come in for a conference with them. Pryor came and two or three others came. But they brushed it aside as if they didn't feel...(tape break) Now see I am going to have to go back and repeat some of that. (Tape break) I don't know whether this came up at the time or if the tape cut off at the time that you said some thing about that it had been suggested by some of the people apparently in the present administration that I was responsible for some of the things the problems that they had. After the change. I told you that I don't believe that they would have the temerity or the courage or that they have the

financial resources to support that statement publicly because they would be sued in a liable suit if they did. Slander action, because it is not true. That immediately after the election was over I offered publicly on television to work with the new administration. I extended them my congratulations and best wishes and that is a matter of record. I attempted to ameliorate the feelings of many of the people in the negro community who were completely in sense that he thought that Lobe would be the mayor and I think I did to the extent that I was able to persuade them to forego any violent reaction at all and they did. There was no reaction to it. And as I say I offered my assistance to the mayor and the council. We invited the council to sit in. We invited the mayor to come in, I extended him as I say to the extent that I could gracefully do so, I wasn't going to just step aside and let him take over. This is one thing that perhaps is an unpleasant thing but it should go down as a matter of record because I think it reflects the character of the individual. The day after the election I was in my office at the city hall and a messenger from Mr. Lobe presented him self to the secretary and said that he had a gift for me. So he was received it was a beautifully wrapped gift and he stated that it was from Mr. Lobe with best wishes. I told him I appreciated it and to tell Mr. Lobe I appreciate his thoughts and I accepted it in good faith as being a token of response perhaps to the statement I had made on television the night before offering my complete cooperation and assistance and willingness to help in any way I could to help in the transition. I open the gift box and much to my surprise it contained horse manure.

Bill Thomas- Is that right?

W. B. Ingram- That is the truth. Very neatly packaged in a plastic container and I still have it. I shall never forget that as long as I live.

Bill Thomas- I am sure, you believe this indeed this did come from Mr. Lobe?

W. B. Ingram- I have no reason to believe t hat it didn't.

Tom Beckner- No card or anything?

W. B. Ingram- There was no card with it and I told him to please send my best wishes to Henry and I certainly appreciated his thoughtfulness. And....

Tom Beckner- Then you opened it?

W. B. Ingram- What?

Tom Beckner- Then you opened it up?

W. B. Ingram- Then I opened it, he left this fellow of course he indicated he was in a hurry, it was raining and so he left and the secretary and I opened it up.

Bill Thomas- Would it be fir to ask...

W. B. Ingram- I don't know who sent it he sent it or his brother did or who. Some seem to think his brother may have done it. Lobe called me on the telephone later

and he, I don't what his purpose in calling me was I did not establish that. I assume maybe he had gotten the reaction that had gotten back to him that that is what had happened and the newspaper reporters told me later that they had gotten word that his brother had done it and they came around to verify whether it had been done or not and I showed it to them. But I told them I didn't have any desire to make any comment or even have it published I just thought it was something that ought (muffled). As a matter of historical concern I think it will probably reflect the attitude of the man Henry Lobe.

Bill Thomas- This from your....

W. B. Ingram- And he never called on me in response to my invitation.

Tom Beckner- He never came by or anything?

W. B. Ingram- No. And his attitude after taking office was one of complete belligerence and hostility and one in which he was going to apparently attempt that he was going to just run me out of town, apparently that is what he thought. And Frank Auburn apparently thought so also and they began to try to undo everything that the previous administration had done. Clear the Fox Meadows transaction and the bonds that were authorized to be sold and the housing authority and anything else that they could get their hands on that would show that they had complete authority and that complete control and apparently indicating that they were very much concerned about whatever political influence I might carry over and survive with. So and with this sort of thing coming along I can't see what else they could have expected to result from people who supported me. It was a, it was projected as an anti negro thing because they characterized me as the champion of the negroes and a candidate of the negroes, the newspapers came out on the day of the election with a fraudulent report. Headlines across the Precimeter reporting that the negroes were turning out in droves and this was picked up by the radios and the wires services and the television newscasters and I was in the eastern part of the city later on the evening and people were just running to the polls like they were going to...

Bill Thomas- Be overthrown or something?

W. B. Ingram- Yes like there was an invasion of some kind that was taking place and that you might say like the store is running out of groceries or something they want to be sure to get there before their meat ration ticket expired or something. It was fantastic.

Bill Thomas- So you think that the racial thing was interjected.

W. B. Ingram- The newspapers interjected the racial thing to win the election and from their on out they continued to interject it indirectly by their efforts to try to completely destroy me as a person, as a political figure, anyway they could. And I think that probably a lot of the negro people resented that. It felt like it was an attack on them. Because I had attempted to and I did manage to keep things pretty stable during the 4 years I was in office. Although, we had a situation develop there

in the summer of 67 which Armor am satisfied deliberately provoked it in the spring the early spring of 67 when they had the riot scare you know.

Bill Thomas- Oh the rumor that...yeah..

W. B. Ingram- For election and some of the black power chatters were trying to excite emotions and stir a racial prejudices in favor of Willis. And the newspapers conned him into believing that he could win the election in a run off and he didn't have any more chances of winning the election than he did of wading across the Mississippi river. But the, there was a, they generated the racial animosities of both the white and the negro communities as by the method they employed in enticing Willis to get into the race and then when he lost by turning on me and substituting me in his place and attempting to bring in Lobe as the great white savior of the community.

Bill Thomas- A great white savior to the white community.

Tom Beckner- Did the newspapers try the same thing in 59?

W. B. Ingram- To try to follow up and fulfill this role he renounced his religion and joined the Episcopal church which would entitle him it their (muffled) and belong to his wife's country club and also the ku klux klan.

Bill Thomas- The same thing..

W. B. Ingram- Under the guise of mayor (muffled).

Tom Beckner- Did the same thing essentially happen in 1959 as far as the polarity is concerned when Russell Sugarmon was attempting to run for public works commissioner?

W. B. Ingram- Yes OI think so. And I think that Lobe led the negro community into believing he was voting Sugarmon when in fact he wasn't and jumped in and supported Farris to beat Sugarmon you see and thereby got himself tagged as a segregationist. But these things, I don't know if you all are really endeavored to or really had an opportunity to find out how the new administration managed the affairs of the garbage department. There was a the garbage strike ultimately participated the situation which brought Dr. Martin Luther King in and which culminated in this death. Well getting back to this the members of the department themselves come to me at different times and came to me during this dreaded period of distress about some of the things that were happening.

Bill Thomas- Now remember it was the sanitation department?

W. B. Ingram- Yes, in the way of management. As I say Lobe had campaigned on a platform that he was going to eliminate as many people as he could from city employment and I think that if the truth were really known that he intended to eliminate the garbage the sanitation employees and turn it over to a private contractor.

Bill Thomas- Oh really?

W. B. Ingram- I think that was probably his real motive. And so they went about and set up a system of gradually whenever one employee left or was fired or died or resigned...

Bill Thomas- He wasn't replaced.

W. B. Ingram- He wasn't replaced. Now this reduced the work crews in some instances from 5 to 4 men on a truck and from 6 to 5 men or from 4 to 3 men and it correspondingly increased the work load of these people you see by in the case of a 5 men crew being reduced to 4 it would increase their work by 20%. In addition to that because of the growth of the city and because of cutting back on the employee they had more work to do. In addition to that they changed the system of routes and their system of working hours and this sort of thing.

Bill Thomas- The new administration did all this?

W. B. Ingram- The new administration did all this, it precipitated all of these changes you see. They began to discriminate in favor of some of the white employees and against the negro employees and that they were allowing the white employees to receive overtime pay when they were not allowing the negro employees to receive over time pay. They cut out all of over time at the extent they could. This materially diminished the amount of pay that the workman was getting. It was the same as a wage cut you see what I mean?

Bill Thomas- Right.

W. B. Ingram- Now they knew that. Now they changed the policies and they put out the word that if anybody got a ticket for having a wreck or anything that they were going to be suspended, the drivers of the trucks. Well suspended for how long, this was the same thing as losing their job. Or being penalized maybe because they were trying to do their job, they felt like they shouldn't be held to the responsibility of insuring the safety of their equipment that anybody is likely to have an accident or do damage to the equipment in the ordinary course of things and they employees should not be held to the responsibility of insuring or guaranteeing the safety of their equipment and I think that is perfectly reasonable, nobody else does it.

Bill Thomas- So what you are saying,...

W. B. Ingram- (muffled) working conditions.

Bill Thomas- And the policy.

W. B. Ingram- That's right, now we had some icy days there and the practice that these men would haul out cinders and place them on the streets and usually they would call them out at night and they worked until 2, 3, 4 clock in the morning and they would have a day off as a result of it. But the new administration didn't allow that they made them go on back to work the next day without hardly any hours of

rest you see. They also required that if they got sick on the job they would have to get home the best way they could. They could get fired on the job.

Bill Thomas- How had this been handled before though?

W. B. Ingram- It had been handled differently, they would have sent someone to get them you see.

Bill Thomas- I see.

W. B. Ingram- And they had to get home the best they could. If they got sick on the job let say in east Memphis. They would have to get home the best way they could. Well the busses don't run regularly during the middle of the day, they may be a ways away from a bus line. There they would be caught...

Bill Thomas- 10 or 15 miles from home.

W. B. Ingram- Yeah with no transportation, they might not make the money you see, they make, sometimes they formed a carpool the road together back and forth and brought their lunches and didn't have any money. Wouldn't have any money until pay day. They would get caught out there if they were sick they were in the same shape or if they got fired they were in the same shape. Unless they could borrow some money to go catch a bus and then they would have to find out where to go get the bus because they wouldn't let them ride to the nearest bus stop. Just lots of things like that. They had, we had a system where the sanitation workers worked two ten hour days and were off a day and then two more you see. They worked 4 days a week but actually they got paid for 44 hours a week instead of 40.

Bill Thomas- Oh I see.

W. B. Ingram- And if they worked to get their work all done they wouldn't have to work any on Wednesday. But if they didn't get their work done they would have to work Wednesday where they didn't finish. But if they got their work done they get paid for their 4 hours even though they didn't work. This was a little incentive to go ahead and do the job right. Well they changed all that when they cut out the overtime and they put them on 8 hours. If the man's truck broke down with him on the way back to work or something like that he would have to stay with the truck until they could get it off the street and he would get no time regardless of how long he had to stay. Well he was still working he was a custodian of that truck which is a piece of public property and they couldn't afford really to leave it unattended, that wasn't fair. The equipment they let it run down, they let it break down, they really weren't that interested in keeping it up.

Bill Thomas- So there really were quite a lot of new policies.

W. B. Ingram- Oh yes this all happened between the first of the year and February 12th. And in the meantime they were trying to get the administration to listen to their efforts to list, to want to belong to a union to have some representation to

work out some of these grievances, at the same time the administration was imposing more conditions which created more grievances you see, which created more problems and at the same time was trying to treat them like a bunch of (muffled) hands, which they resented very much. So in my opinion the administration created their own problem and intensified it when it finally materialized in the form of this walk out or walk off the job is what they did. And the ultimately had to do what the y should have done in the first place. It would have been no problem at all of course as I say I think Lobe's real intention if the truth be known was to run them all off to eliminate, Lobe is a vindictive and a vicious man personally. He has got that reputation and apparently he has demonstrated it towards me in every way he has felt he has been able to get away from it,. Eventually it will be his downfall because this is one thing he undertook to bend his wrath on the negro community by this particular administration's administrative policies and being opposed on the garbage strike he will run them all off, I think that is exactly what he intended to do.

Bill Thomas- And turn it all over to the private citizen.

W. B. Ingram- And then go see and enhance his position with the, his republican friends who have an ocean and a private enterprise that is supposed to do everything. There are some things that they can't do as well as government and if there were t hen we wouldn't have government. But the, I think this is really what he intended to do. Patterson is done very well. Patterson..

Bill Thomas- J.O.?

W. B. Ingram- No I am talking about the Patterson that used to be Patterson transport. They have done pretty well with their garbage pick up service. They made a pretty good profit out of it and before lobe resigned last time they were trying to work out some kind of a system for getting a big city contract for garbage pick up collection. So I think that is probably what he had in mind really. He was going to eliminate all the sanitation employees. And he would have eliminated about 4 or 5 million dollars in employee costs but I think they began to realize that and this is what generated their reaction that it did and began to solidified those people together. Then of course Lobe's public demonstration of his attitudes towards these people, disregard for their particular personal concern as people. Then they, it unified them all together and a united effort like that perhaps before. And may never be unified again.

Bill Thomas- It really did that.

W. B. Ingram- Because if they translate it as a personal attack on them. They felt all along that Lobe really and the newspapers of course backing him up you see and all of these things that he did there was not a thing he could do that was wrong and they still get the idea. Of course that is unusual for newspapers because they at least try to lead people to believe that they try to be objective and critical for the purpose of being objective about things you see and here they condone everything that the

mayor has done and of course they have issued a few directives to him too, about this garbage pick up he didn't want to do that. They finally made him do that, pick up the garbage twice a week. In spite of all that, the notwithstanding all that it would seem to me that somebody would have had some degree of judgment in which they would have said listen they have got to slow down on this thing. But they didn't and Lobe kept coming back with this law and order business and these people believe that justice is the first element of law and order and it is the only purpose of it and I do too. There is no, the only, if you have got law and order for any other purpose than you have got nothing but a tyranny and that is what Hitler had, and Mussolini and Stalin and all the rest of them. But the this thing now you were talking about the events that led up to Martin Luther King's death. I think analyzing a lot of the whole progressive development of attitudes and Mores of the people of the city of Memphis including negroes and whites, of course they had in addition to the my defeat as mayor which they felt was a personal (muffled) on them which followed the defeat of George Crather with whom they related themselves considerably. They felt like that this was intensified anti-negro administration, that were really and it was, I tell you it was very distressing I don't know whether you all noticed it or not but for awhile around here boy I will tell people had their feelings on their sleeves both negroes and whites.

Bill Thomas- Oh yeah.

W. B. Ingram- It has changed a lot here in the past 2 or 3 months but for a long time it was a touch and go situation. But it was this same type of attitude that Holloman has that you got to knock them on their you know what's, whites and negroes that is going to result in a police state being developed. Or in a more chaotic condition being produced in which the police are going to feel more frustrated and the people are going to get to be more afraid of anarchy which is ultimately going to come about if they don't find some way to try to bring about respectable authority. Now when we say that I don't mean respect for the police officer just because...

Bill Thomas- He is a big burly billy swinging police officer...

W. B. Ingram- Yes, but what does that man represent it is just like the flag of the united states, what does the flag represent. It is just a piece of cloth. That has different colors in it and has been put together in a particular design but what does it mean? Now an officer's uniform means the constitution of the united states really and it should mean the same things as the flag means as far as it's a symbol of justice and a symbol of authority and that authority where does it come from? It comes from the people and where the people come from? They only have as much authority as the people are willing to give it don't they. So there you are and if you don't abide by the constituted authority which has been yielded from the people and which has been reduced to writing for the constitution for the united states and constitution of the state and the laws of the state and the united states and the city government and require the law enforcement agencies themselves to abide by those laws the same as those people they say should abide by them. You may as well not have a constitution and you only have a temporary moment of peace under threat of

immediate reprisal. And eventually you are going to have a rebellion against it as soon as they....it is just like a bunch of air being pumped into a tube as soon as it finds a weak spot it is going to pop. Or as soon as some other pressure weakens the thing that contains it, punctures it is going to bust out.

Bill Thomas- Well ok.

W. B. Ingram- I don't want to keep you long, get around to your other point. And the thing that I think they failed to take into consideration was this attitude that existed on the part of the white people and the negro people and this hostility of the, that is manifested up there by Lobe and the council, towards these people apparently because they were negroes and apparently because they were exercising what they thought was there right to join a union. Administration says they didn't have the right to do but were wrong about. And they were trying to suppress that you see and which of course created a very environment that was needed by someone who would come here to further rally the people together to prevent that and they invited Dr. King and he came. Now the distressing part about the thing is that in my opinion, it is distressing to realize that these people up there who should of known, and who provide day and night protection for Lobe himself and have since he took office around the clock, I think they ought to have said you have seen squad cars sitting out in front of his house. I know he has officers up there in his office. I went up there for a (muffled) one day and they had an officer up there guarding the members of the pinching board meeting because the mayor was in there and ultimately after the meeting started I was there representing a city employee who was trying to get his pensions right now. They locked the door and everybody was locked in. Now this was a distressing thing to think that this happens in Memphis, the man who is the mayor of Memphis is a virtual prisoner. He can't go anywhere. He has got I think 3 or 4 body guards up there with him all the time and when they are not with him he has some private body guards. And these private body guards it might be interesting to note one of them I have seen him with was a former policemen who was convicted when Lobe was mayor before in a police scandal that developed. This fellow was convicted of being involved in a safe burglary.

Bill Thomas- Oh really, while he was a policemen?

W. B. Ingram- Yeah and was imprisoned and eventually paroled and I think his parole, his time that he served on parole expired just a few days before Lobe got elected. But he was escorting Lobe around as a body guard.

Bill Thomas- Who is this fellow?

W. B. Ingram- Hah?

Bill Thomas- Who is this?

W. B. Ingram- It is an officer named Beckett.

Bill Thomas- Beckett?

W. B. Ingram- I don't....the man certainly has a right to rehabilitate himself, Beckett. It seems a little bit out of character for the mayor of the city who was mayor at the time this man was convicted in this police scandal to have this man here to come along and serve as his bodyguard in a very intimate sort of situation, a campaigning situation. There is another fellow that I understand was serving as his bodyguard who was a convicted murderer who had been pardoned through the political efforts of one of Lobe's supporters. But Lobe had body guards even with him during the campaign.

Bill Thomas- Oh he did.

W. B. Ingram- Yeah. This Beckett I saw him up there on the night that he was on this TV debate out at Memphis state he was up there with him. But there again the, the ultimate conclusion is as far as Dr. King is concerned in my opinion, they filed a lawsuit and enjoined King from marching as you remember on...

Bill Thomas- April 3rd.

W. B. Ingram- April the 3rd. And King was hailed into court and the form petitioned sworn to by Love and Holloman and McDonald and Lux and the gist of it was that they could not protect him. Because they had so many threats on his life that they could not protect him if he marched. And then...

Bill Thomas- We have that pleading.

W. B. Ingram- You ought to get that record up there and the affidavits that Holloman gave and McDonald and Lux.

Bill Thomas- (muffled) the Chancery court hearing the next day but that is right, one of the basis they said for asking that was to protect King's life and made reference to the threats. So...

W. B. Ingram- It is interesting in the hearing before the court up there in the transcript of Holloman's testimony and he...Lucius Birch put him in a position saying that as long as they were going to march he would rather have Dr. King lead the march than somebody else. It is also interesting to note that Holloman's basic qualifications was fundamental of which he seemed to be most proud was that he was an office boy for J. Edgar Hoover up there for 8 years. He opened the mail and ran errands. But the thing that is striking to me about that is that if they had all this information about the impending threat on King's life they knew where he was staying and they had officers stationed around that place and yet this assassination came off with such precision and such ease and by a person who was alleged to have done it who was such a clumsy individual that the keystone cops could have caught him. This thing just didn't happen I don't believe that it did the way they are trying to lead people to believe it did. Here is a Memphis police department is supposed to be one of the finest in the world and best equipped. They got all the men, they got all the intelligence, immediate communications with the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover and everybody else. They have got this place, if they were providing him the type of

protection that they should have, it would have happened. And it certainly strongly suggestive of the fact that somebody knew it was going to happen and somebody in the police department, and I am not making any broad across the board indictment against anybody but these things are certainly suspicious as to how anybody including a professional killer could have gotten through, shoot Dr. King especially with these people up there being forewarned about the possibility of it and admittedly, that was the basis of the law suit in the federal court. And the basis of the request for the injunction against the march. Is that they couldn't protect him and that they had many many anonymous calls threatening his life. If they weren't all that convinced that they could protect him down there on the street march they certainly ought to be able to protect him out there in the hotel where he was.

Bill Thomas- Yeah it seems like a lot of strange things.

W. B. Ingram- Well it maybe just coincidental that there were a lot of other unsolved murders that some how or another don't get solved when they involve a particular situation or individuals.

Bill Thomas- Well ok.

W. B. Ingram- I worn you out.

Bill Thomas- I think we are in good shape and thank you muchly tape 3. (Tape End)