

KC 44-760

3

A check on April 26, 1968, of the address at 3819 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri, reveals that this address is now a parking lot.

The 1967 Polks Directory lists MARY M. PORTER at telephone number LO 1-6749, and one JOHN F. COATES, JE 1-3719. A telephone call was made to each of the numbers and it was determined the numbers are no longer listed to this individual.

A check was made on April 26, 1968, of the address 608 East 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, and it was determined that the Emery Hotel has been demolished and a new building housing the Langley Optical Company is at that address.

KC 44-760

RH:per

1

The following individuals were contacted by SA RAY HOMESLEY, on May 1, 1968, in an attempt to identify (FNU) SLATTERY who took Delta Flight #55 from Birmingham to Memphis and Kansas City, on April 7, 1968:

GEORGE B. SLATTERY, 8441 Flora, Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. HELEN SLATTERY, 1004 East 29th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. MARGARET H. SLATTERY, 5628 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. PANSY MOSER (SLATTERY), 632 Hardesty, Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. MARGARET L. SLATTERY, 600 West 96th Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. SUSAN BROWN, Reservations Clerk, Delta Airlines, Kansas City, Missouri, advised she has no way of identifying passenger SLATTERY on Delta Flight #55 from Birmingham to Memphis and Kansas City, on April 7, 1968. She advised Delta Airlines records are maintained at Atlanta, Georgia, including credit records of passengers.

KC 44-760

RH:ss

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA RAY HOMESLEY at Kansas City, Missouri:

Mr. LYLE ROBINSON, 1017 Orchard Street, Liberty, Missouri, advised the Kansas City FBI Office by telephone on April 22, 1968, that his wife, ROSE ROBINSON, is a fifth grade teacher at the Forest Hill Elementary School, North Kansas City, Missouri, and taught a boy that made statements to the effect that MARTIN LUTHER KING should be shot. ROBINSON said also the boy's father, GERALD B. GERLT, residing in a trailer at 1910 Armour Road, North Kansas City, Missouri, made trips to Tennessee March 4-5, 1968, and March 14-15, 1968. Also the boy reported that the family was moving to California, but when school authorities contacted the mother, she denied they were moving. However, the family did move to El Cajon, California, on March 29, 1968. GERLT was reported to have a Citizens Band radio in his truck.

Mr. BILL CURNUTT, 1012 East 24th Street, North Kansas City, Missouri, also telephoned the Kansas City FBI Office and advised that his wife AUDRA CURNUTT teaches at the Forest Hill Elementary School and related substantially the same information as did Mr. LYLE ROBINSON. He stated he did not want he or his wife's name used as the person furnishing the information. He also related that the boy making the statements about MARTIN LUTHER KING is apparently emotionally disturbed. CURNUTT stated that the GERLT family operated a cafe on Armour Road in North Kansas City, Missouri, and lived in a trailer behind the cafe.

On April 22, 1968, Miss HELEN DONLEY, Clerk, Credit Bureau of Greater Kansas City, 1110 Grand, Kansas City, Missouri, furnished a report dated September 12, 1967, regarding GERALD B. GERLT, wife LOIS HELEN GERLT. This report shows the GERLTS have been on file at the credit bureau since April, 1955. He is shown as age 38 in 1967. Records show the following residence:

KC 44-760

2

-

1910 Armour Road, North Kansas City, Missouri  
North View Trailer Court, Falls City, Nebraska  
6020 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas  
1800 South 55, Falls City, Nebraska  
2521 South 49, Falls City, Nebraska  
Box 733, Alpine, California  
1601 Armstrong, Kansas City, Kansas

Former Employment:

Claycomo Restaurant, North Kansas City, Missouri  
Northview Skelly Station, Falls City, Nebraska,  
January, 1967  
Jerry's Nursery, 6540 State, Kansas City, Kansas,  
February, 1967, to September, 1967

Loans:

11/30/67	Rosedale State Bank, Kansas City, Kansas, \$4177.60, secured by 1964 Great Lakes Home
7/28/67	Rosedale State Bank, Kansas City, Kansas, \$2357.79, unsecured note
10/26/67	Metropolitan National Bank, Kansas City, Missouri, \$5687.00, secured by a 1967 Cadillac DeVille, \$250.00 guaranteed by B and G Motors, Kansas City

On April 22, 1968, LEE CHAPMAN, Clerk, Kansas  
City, Missouri, Police Department, advised that no record  
for GERALD B. GERLT, 1910 Armour, North Kansas City,  
Missouri, could be located.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/17/68

Reverend BILLY MAX WUELLNER, Bethel Community Church, 21st and Military Avenue, Baxter Springs, Kansas, voluntarily appeared at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and furnished the following information:

On Wednesday, April 3, 1968, at approximately 2:30 PM, he attended a church board meeting at the Blue Castle Restaurant in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Around 1:45 PM, he was sitting in his church office, and LYNN RAY CLEVELAND walked into his office, unannounced, stating he wanted to rest and play the piano. He also requested a prayer session and during their brief conversation, CLEVELAND indicated he had been in a mental institution. He stated he was en route to Springfield, Missouri to contact a friend. CLEVELAND was observed to be hitchhiking and was not accompanied by anyone.

He indicated he had been on the road for approximately five days, and Reverend WUELLNER observed CLEVELAND did not have any luggage, however, was carrying a dark color tweed top-coat. He left the church office shortly before 2:30 PM, indicating he was hitchhiking to Springfield, Missouri. Reverend WUELLNER advised he could furnish no further information except to state this was the only time he had observed CLEVELAND, and further noted CLEVELAND could play the piano quite well.

Reverend WUELLNER personally confronted CLEVELAND at the City Jail in Joplin, Missouri on the night of April 9, 1968, and positively identified CLEVELAND as being the individual referred to above. He conversed with CLEVELAND, and stated there was absolutely no doubt in his mind whatever as to CLEVELAND being the individual referred to above; nor was there any doubt in his mind as to the fact he left the church shortly before 2:30 PM on April 3, 1968, as he, Reverend WUELLNER went directly from the church to his board meeting at the Blue Castle Restaurant.

Reverend WUELLNER added he could furnish no additional information and knew of no background data regarding CLEVELAND.

On 4/9/68 at Joplin, Missouri File # KC 44-760  
 by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

On April 10, 1968, fingerprints and palm prints were obtained from LYNN RAY CLEVELAND at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and retained as possible evidence.

While being printed, it was observed that CLEVELAND was very near sighted, having to squint and move his eyes close to a sheet of paper to read any normal printing or handwriting.

---

On 4/10/68 at Joplin, Missouri File# KC 44-760  
by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

A review of the personal property in the possession of LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, when arrested by the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, revealed he had the following items on his person.

1. One five-cent piece.
2. One black billfold, containing the following items:
  - a. Receipt #2925 from One-Hour Martinizing, 1838 N. Glenstone, Springfield, Missouri, with notation "Promised Friday, 9:00 AM".
  - b. Small religious pamphlet, entitled "Is There Any Hope?"; bearing stamp "Southern Avenue Baptist Church, 3084 Southern Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee" "Dial-A-Devotion 323-2653". This pamphlet published by Faith, Prayer and Tract League, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
  - d. Library card #72 18575 in the name of LYNN R. CLEVELAND, 1870 N. Broadway, for the Public Libraries of Springfield and Greene County, Missouri.
  - e. Card bearing the printed notation Kirkwood Hotel, Kirkwood 22, Missouri, and the hand printed telephone number TH1-9791.
  - f. Identification card, First Assembly of God, 528 E. Main, Norman, Oklahoma, Reverend B. R. BRUMMETT, Pastor.
  - g. Identification card, Central Presbyterian Church, 20th and Arch Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

On 4/9/68 at Joplin, Missouri File # KC 44-760  
 by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- h. Identification card, GEORGE BRITTAIN, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Grants, New Mexico.
- i. Slip of paper containing the names LARRY HAYNES, RICHARD OLIVER, Missionary Pastor, 49 E. 15th Street.
- j. Slip of paper containing the name JERRY C. MURPHY, 806 N.W. 45th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.
- k. Identification card, American National Red Cross, St. Louis, bi-State Chapter, 212 E. Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri. This card contains the name ROSEMARY GAEBLER, Service To Military Families, printed in the lower left corner of the face of the card. The reverse side of this card contains the handwriting, Travelers Aid, Greyhound Bus Depot, 809 N. Broadway.
- l. Identification card, Haley Motor Company, Inc., 3rd and Marquette, N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico. The hand-printed name GLEN SKIPWORTH appears on face of card.
- m. Social Security Application card in the name LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, Social Security Number [redacted] The card issued on January 2, 1968 for twenty-one days. Under the address of Social Security Office is address 907 Walnut (no city), telephone #FR4-2263.
- n. One key, bearing numbers 806 and 074233.
- o. Slip of paper containing the hand printed name BILL WILLIAMS, LA 1-5341, Dallas; and the name Rev. CLYDE BOX, Brookhollow Bapt., DeSoto, Texas.



- p. Slip of paper containing printed name and handwritten name ROBERT BECKS - Baptist.
- q. Slip of paper containing the hand printed name Reverend PAB MYERS, Box 253, Courtland, Alabama.
- r. Identification card, Mills Hotel, 442 N. Union Avenue, Ozark, Alabama, showing Mr. and Mrs. E. E. TIDWELL as managers.
- s. Weekly Gold Pass #11656, for the week of January 22 through 28, 1968, transit Bi-State System, good for free transportation service in Missouri-Illinois central fare area.
- t. Identification card, Calvary Temple Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, S. H. ROBINSON, Pastor.
- u. Guest card on Good Shepherd Refuge, 601 2nd Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico. This card is stamped December 18, 1967, and notes one LYNN R. CLEVELAND, St. Louis, Missouri, occupied bed #1-4 on December 4, 1967. The name Brother "EDWARDS" appears on the face of this card.
- v. Identification card Northvale Baptist Church, Durand Avenue, Harrison, Arkansas, J. A. KUHN, Pastor.
- w. Identification card, Dr. WILLIAM C. REED, Podiatrist, Suite 1405-A, The Stevens Building, 17 N. State, Chicago 2, Illinois.
- x. Guest card, Good Shepherd Refuge, 601 2nd Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico, showing LYNN R. CLEVELAND occupied bed #13, on November 21, 1967. The name Brother "GREGORY" appears on the face of this card.

KC 44-760

4

A Thermofax record was made of the front and reverse sides of all above items, copies of which have been retained.

3. Three pamphlets on the Shepherd of the Hills Farm, Branson, Missouri (no dates or notations thereon).
4. One Standard Service Station map of the United States and Eastern United States (no notations, addresses or dates thereon).
5. CLEVELAND, when arrested, was wearing blue pants, short sleeved white shirt, brown loafers, black socks, one blue suit coat (did not match pants), one blue tie, one dark color tweed coat, and a belt. All clothing was old and well worn.
6. One gold color safety razor, found in pocket of coat.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

4/17/68

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, furnished the following information:

One LYNN RAY CLEVELAND was arrested by officers of the Joplin Police Department on April 9, 1968, and booked in the City Jail on charge of "Hold for Investigation - Homicide Other Cities". He advised the basis for the arrest was the fact some woman had observed CLEVELAND hitchhiking and felt he resembled the artist's conception of the slayer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., which recently appeared in the local newspaper.

Captain FLENNER advised there was no other information and no evidence linking CLEVELAND with the slaying of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On 4/9/68 at Joplin, Missouri File # KC 44-760  
 by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, furnished the following information:

On April 10, 1968, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND appeared in Municipal Court, Joplin, and pled guilty to a charge of Vagrancy. On April 10, 1968, CLEVELAND was sentenced to three days in the City Jail.

On April 10, 1968, one Reverend KEN RAGSDALE, Bolivar, Missouri, telephonically contacted Captain FLENNER and stated he recalled serving dinner to CLEVELAND on April 5, 1968 at approximately 3:30 PM at Bolivar, Missouri. Reverend RAGSDALE telephonically contacted the Police Department due to news accounts pertaining to the arrest of CLEVELAND. Captain FLENNER advised he did not secure any additional information from Reverend RAGSDALE, however, it was his opinion CLEVELAND had appeared in Bolivar, Missouri without funds, and sought assistance through the local ministers at Bolivar, Missouri.

On 4/10/68 at Joplin, Missouri File# KC 44-760  
 by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

LYNN RAY CLEVELAND was contacted at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and prior to being interviewed, was advised of his rights as indicated on a duly executed warning and waiver form. He stated he had no objection to orally answering questions, and he was told he was being questioned due to the fact an individual had reported him as resembling an artist's conception of the assassin of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., the artist's conception having recently appeared in a local newspaper.

CLEVELAND was questioned in the presence of Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and furnished the following information:

CLEVELAND stated he did not shoot the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., nor had he been in Memphis, Tennessee or Birmingham, Alabama at any time during the past two weeks. He stated he was not aware that Reverend KING had been murdered until two or three days after the incident, when he recalled someone talking about it. He advised he could furnish no information whatsoever as to the murder.

As to his exact whereabouts on April 4, 1968, he advised he was a traveling Baptist minister and evangelistic singer, and did not maintain any permanent residence. He advised he was unemployed and knew of no way to verify his whereabouts at any time unless some minister recalled being in contact with him on a certain date. He noted that for the past two to three weeks he had been intermittently at Springfield, Missouri, and when arrested by the Joplin, Police Department, on April 9, 1968, was hitchhiking from Springfield, Missouri to Tulsa, Oklahoma. He recalled he spent the night of April 8, 1968, sleeping in a truck at the Queen City Truck Stop in Springfield, Missouri. Efforts were made to trace his whereabouts, and when he could not furnish any definite information as to times, dates and places, he admitted having formerly been an inmate at the Terrill State Hospital, Terrill, Texas, on three different occasions in 1965 and 1966. He stated he entered the hospital because of "nerves".

On 4/9/68 at Joplin, Missouri File# KC 44-760

by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

KC 44-760

2

While he could not, in any way be exact, he vaguely recalled having left Springfield, Missouri during the latter part of March, 1968, and hitchhiked West. He noted, since he did not have any money, he normally contacted ministers at any town he was in, volunteering his services as a Baptist minister, and further noted he was an evangelistic singer and could play the piano at revival meetings. He stated this is the way he secured his food and enough money to live on.

On or about March 28, 1968, he recalled being in Kingman, Arizona, and in contact with individuals at the Assembly of God church. He believes he left Kingman, Arizona on or about March 28, 1968, hitchhiking back to Springfield, Missouri, and estimates arrival in Springfield, Missouri on or about April 4, 1968. After arriving in Springfield, he stated, to the best of his recollection, he spent the night at Hoff's Hotel on Olive Street in Springfield, Missouri. He stated the night before was spent at the Church Rectory somewhere in Oklahoma, exact location unrecalled.

When questioned as to the pamphlet in his possession, entitled "Is There Any Hope?" which bears the stamped address of The Southern Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, he advised he recalled having been in Memphis, Tennessee about one month ago and believed he stayed over-night at the bus station. He stated he was only passing through the area hitchhiking as he does continually, but believed he was in contact with a Catholic priest who bought him some breakfast at Memphis, Tennessee. He could not recall the name of the priest and knew of no one in Memphis who could verify this information. He noted he may have hitchhiked through Birmingham, Alabama a month or so ago, but did not stay overnight there and could furnish no information concerning anyone he might have contacted, or any place he might have stayed in Birmingham, Alabama.

CLEVELAND noted he had been in Springfield, Missouri more than any place else during the past several weeks, and while in Springfield, normally stayed at the YMCA, a small hotel across from the YMCA, the Midway Hotel, Calvary Mission, Hoff's Hotel, and the State Hotel. He could think of no other

KC 44-760

3

locations other than the Queen City Truck Stop, where he might have stayed in Springfield, Missouri. As to individuals with whom he was acquainted in Springfield, who might be able to furnish information pertaining to him, he furnished the following:

Reverend BARCLAY,  
Northwest Baptist Church,  
Springfield, Missouri;

Reverend TOM GEARS,  
Pythian Street Baptist Church,  
Springfield, Missouri;

RICHARD RUBLE,  
1871 N. Broadway,  
Springfield, Missouri.

CLEVELAND stated he presently had no room rented in Springfield, Missouri, and reiterated since he traveled continually, he had no way to positively establish his whereabouts on any given day.

As to prior arrests, he admitted having been arrested at Springfield, Missouri two or three weeks ago on a charge of investigation, and at Creve Coeur, Missouri, approximately one year ago; this also being on an investigation charge. He stated both arrests were because he had no personal identification on his person, or in his possession. As pertains to his having no identification, he stated his identification was stolen from him several months ago. He observed he also lost his glasses several months ago, and noted he is extremely near sighted.

CLEVELAND advised he left his home in Palmer, Texas in 1956 or 1957, and had not returned to Palmer, Texas at any time during the past year. He advised during the past year he had continually been on the road and the only place he had lived more than a few days at a time was at St. Louis Missouri where he resided at 2337 Whitmore Place, and was acquainted with one JIM FISHBACK who resided at that address. He stated he had not been in St. Louis, Missouri during the past month, and therefore no one in that area could furnish any information as to his whereabouts on a given date during the past two weeks.

KC 44-760

4

CLEVELAND advised he recalled leaving a suitcase at the Greyhound Bus Station in Springfield, Missouri about one month ago, and doubted if the suitcase was still there. He noted this contained personal clothing and he knew of no other clothing he had stored at any location.

The following description of CLEVELAND was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LYNN RAY CLEVELAND
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Palmer, Texas
Height	5'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight	155 pounds
Build	Slender
Hair	Brown (receding and thin)(long sideburns)
Eyes	Blue
Scars and marks	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch horizontal scar, right upper arm; 3 inch scar inside left forearm.
(permanent)	
Home Address	701 Main Street, Palmer, Texas
Parents	Mr. and Mrs. GARLAND FRANCIS CLEVELAND, 701 Main Street, Palmer, Texas.
Education	Claims lacked three months receiving BA Degree at Baylor University, Waco, Texas
Occupation	Baptist minister and evangelistic singer
Marital status	Single
Military Service	None
Miscellaneous	Claims formerly confined at Terrill State Hospital, Terrill, Texas during 1965 and 1966.



After furnishing the above information, and being unable to furnish any definite information as to his whereabouts on any given date during the past two weeks, CLEVELAND was contacted by Reverend BILLY MAX WUELLNER, Baxter, Springs, Kansas, who identified CLEVELAND as having been at his church at 2:30 PM on April 3, 1968. When Reverend WUELLNER related the incidents to CLEVELAND, he was able to recall same, and recalled that he left Baxter Springs, Kansas, hitchhiking to Springfield, Missouri. His memory refreshed, he recalled he arrived in Springfield on the night of April 3, 1968, where he obtained \$20 at the Western Union Office, this money having been there approximately four or five days. The money was sent to him at his request from his father in Palmer, Texas. He noted he apparently left Springfield, Missouri prior to the money arriving there, and further recalled after he received the \$20, he stayed the night of April 3, 1968 at the State Hotel. To the best of his recollection, he stayed in Springfield, Missouri the next day and more than likely would have been in contact with RICHARD RUBLE, 1871 N. Broadway.

To the best of his recollection, he stayed the night of April 4, 1968 at the Hoff's Hotel. As to his whereabouts on March 29, 1968 and March 30, 1968, he could only state he was probably hitchhiking from Kingman, Arizona to Springfield, Missouri.

CLEVELAND's attention was called to the One-Hour Martinizing receipt in his possession which bore the notation "Promised Friday, 9:00 AM", and he was able to recall that he had some clothing at that establishment and he felt certain he would have placed the clothing there the day before, on a Thursday, April 4, 1968.

CLEVELAND was questioned as to the key in his possession when arrested and he stated, to the best of his knowledge, this possibly was a key to a locker at the Greyhound Bus Station, Springfield, Missouri, where he placed his clothing over a month ago. He noted he attempted to obtain the clothing from the locker, but the key no longer would fit the locker. He felt this was because the locker had been sealed due to the fact he had kept the key longer than the time allowed.

KC 44-760

6

Based upon above information, CLEVELAND stated he feels certain he would have been in Springfield, Missouri on April 4, 1968. He advised he would definitely state he was not in Memphis, Tennessee on that date, and that he had not been in Memphis, Tennessee or Birmingham, Alabama for at least one month. He observed that after his memory had been refreshed as to where he was, at a given time, that he was able to recall his actions immediately after leaving Baxter Springs, Kansas.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

Mr. and Mrs. GARLAND CLEVELAND, 701 Main Street, Palmer, Texas, arrived at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department to assume custody of their son, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND.

Mr. CLEVELAND, who stated he had been manager of the Barron Brick Company, Palmer, Texas, for the past 32 years, furnished the following information:

His son, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, was born on [redacted] at Palmer, Texas. His son is an ordained Baptist minister, having been ordained at Palmer, Texas. Approximately seven or eight years ago LYNN RAY CLEVELAND suffered a nervous breakdown and lacked only three months graduating from Baylor University. After suffering the nervous break-down, his son lost his church, and began a rather unstable existence with no permanent employment. He was placed in the Terrill State Hospital, Terrill, Texas, on three different occasions, during 1965 and 1966 due to his break-down and general mental condition. During the first part of 1967, his son walked away from the hospital and for the past year had been away from home, and apparently traveling over the country with no permanent residence or employment. He noted his son had not been in Palmer, Texas for the past year, and they in no way could verify his whereabouts on any given day during the past two weeks. He stated his son had never been known to carry a gun, and was considered completely harmless.

Mr. CLEVELAND noted the last word they had from their son was on or about March 26, 1968, when they received a Western Union Telegram from him requesting \$20 be sent to him at 1871 N. Broadway, Springfield, Missouri in care of RICHARD RUBLE. They sent this \$20 on March 29, 1968, from Ennis, Texas and had not seen or heard from LYNN RAY CLEVELAND since receiving the telegram. They advised this was not unusual as this was the only time they had contact with their son, that being when he needed money, and would either send them a telegram or telephone them, requesting same.

Mr. CLEVELAND stated their son had never been married, nor had he ever been in the Military Service.

On 4/10/68 at Joplin, Missouri File# KC 44-760

by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

KC 44-760

2

Mr. CLEVELAND advised he was extremely upset, due to the publicity the arrest of his son had received. He stated he had already contacted an attorney and planned on suing the responsible persons for the news releases which had indicated that his son had been arrested as a suspect in the slaying of the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CLEVELAND was advised that his son was not in Federal custody, had not been arrested by the FBI, nor had any comment been made by the FBI at Joplin, Missouri, to any news media whatever.

Mr. CLEVELAND was interviewed in the presence of ADRIAN MEACHAM, Chief of Police, Joplin, Missouri.

On the evening of April 10, 1968, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND was released in custody of his father, GARLAND CLEVELAND for travel back to Palmer, Texas.

Mr. CLEVELAND advised that if it was necessary to contact his son in the future, contact could be made through him at Palmer, Texas.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

4/17/68

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Officer D. A. MC AFEE, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, furnished the following information:

At 4:24 PM, on April 9, 1968, he was instructed by the Police Dispatcher to contact one VIRGINIA UHLER, Corral Motel, 3040 E. 7th Street, for information concerning a hitchhiker. He requested the description of the hitchhiker, and en route to the Corral Motel, observed a hitchhiker at 18th and Range Line. He checked this individual for information as to his identity and ascertained he was one LYNN R. CLEVELAND. He left the individual on the highway and proceeded to the Corral Motel, and contacted VIRGINIA UHLER, Manager of the motel.

Mrs. UHLER stated LYNN R. CLEVELAND had walked into the motel office and inquired as to directions to Tulsa, Oklahoma. While he was in the motel office, she had the television on, at which time a broadcast was being made of the MARTIN LUTHER KING funeral procession. CLEVELAND inquired as to whether or not it was the MARTIN LUTHER KING funeral, and according to UHLER, CLEVELAND appeared to be very interested in the television broadcast. After CLEVELAND departed, she telephonically contacted the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, as she felt CLEVELAND resembled an artist's conception of the individual who was being sought for the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She observed this artist's conception was recently published in the Joplin Globe Newspaper.

Due to the fact MC AFEE had not observed the artist's conception in the newspaper, he requested assistance to further check out the hitchhiker, and was assisted by officer B. W. FORNEY.

Officers FORNEY and MC AFEE arrested LYNN RAY CLEVELAND while he was hitchhiking at 31st and Range Line, and at the time of arrest, all that CLEVELAND had in his possession for identification was a library card on a Springfield, Missouri library. He also had a torn Social Security application card which was barely legible, showing Social Security Number  CLEVELAND stated he was en route to Tulsa,

On 4/9/68 at Joplin, Missouri File# KC 44-760

by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

KC 44-760

2

Oklahoma from Springfield, Missouri, and had been traveling around in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. Found in his possession was one piece of religious material with the address, Memphis, Tennessee stamped on the back, which he stated he obtained from a bus station. At the time of arrest, CLEVELAND was carrying a top-coat, sports coat, and had a tie in his pocket.

It was observed CLEVELAND fit the description of the artist's conception which had appeared in the Joplin Globe, and he was therefore taken to the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and booked on a charge of "Hold for Investigation - Homicide other cities".

At time of arrest, CLEVELAND had only five cents in his possession, and a billfold containing numerous cards from various churches.

When booked at the City Jail, CLEVELAND furnished the following information:

Name	LYNN RAY CLEVELAND
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	33 years
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Palmer, Texas
Height	5'11½"
Weight	157 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Build	Slender
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	Musician
Father,	G. T. CLEVELAND Box 9263, Palmer, Texas
Marital status	Single
Address	2387 Witmore Place, St. Louis, Missouri

KC 44-760

3

CLEVELAND was booked in at the City Jail at 4:50 PM, to be questioned further by Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER.

Officer MC AFEE noted that neither he nor Officer FORNEY had any information whatever linking CLEVELAND with the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., other than the fact CLEVELAND resembled the artist's conception of KING's assassin as set forth above.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/18/681

Mrs. VIRGINIA E. UHLER, Owner and Manager, Corral Motel, 3040 East 7th Street, furnished the following information:

On the evening of April 9, 1968, an unknown individual, later identified as LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, walked in to her motel office and requested directions to the Tulsa, Oklahoma Turnpike. She furnished him the directions, and he then asked a question pertaining to the program that was on the television set in the motel office. She recalled at the time there was a program concerning the funeral procession of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and CLEVELAND inquired if the program was about KING's funeral. She then recalled CLEVELAND making some sort of comment that not only KING, but BILLY GRAHAM, should devote more of their time toward other things than their own religious purposes. She stated she could not directly quote him, but felt he meant that no one should become wrapped up in their own thoughts to the exclusion of all other matters.

She stated CLEVELAND was alone, did not ask for any handouts, and she did not observe him carrying any luggage.

Mrs. UHLER advised he stayed in the motel office less than ten minutes and when he left the motel, she telephonically contacted the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, as she felt CLEVELAND resembled the artist's conception of KING's slayer which recently appeared in the local newspaper. She advised she had absolutely no reason at all to suspect CLEVELAND other than the fact he resembled the artist's conception, and he made no comment whatever indicating he had been in Memphis, Tennessee, or any comment even remotely indicating he was connected with the murder of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mrs. UHLER advised she did recall CLEVELAND mentioning he was hitchhiking. This was the only time she had ever observed this person who was later identified as LYNN RAY CLEVELAND.

On 4/16/68 at Joplin, Missouri File# KC 44-760

by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM - lw Date dictated 4/17/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



KC 44-760

On April 23, 1968, FRANCIS MURPHY, Sheriff, Laclede County, Lebanon, Missouri, advised his records reflect DAVID L. WILSON was booked into the jail on August 5, 1967, by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and released August 12, 1967. WILSON is described in the record as a white male, age 35 years, height 6'3", brown hair, blue eyes, medium complexion, residence - Dade City, Florida.

On April 23, 1968, records of the Magistrate Court, Laclede County, Lebanon, Missouri, revealed WILSON appeared there on August 7, 1967, and pled guilty to charge of driving intoxicated. He was fined \$100.00 and \$14.20 costs. His residence was listed as 1001 Lock St., Dade City, Florida. and he had Florida driver's license G172074 and was driving a Willis Shaw truck from Springdale, Arkansas.

On April 23, 1968, Sheriff FRANCIS MURPHY, Deputies VIRGIL DAVIS and RALPH WATKINS, along with Missouri State Highway Patrol Officers Sergeant CLAUDE ARNOLD, JIM MORELAND, GLENN WILSON, and S.I. DAVID were exhibited a photo of subject, but none could give any information concerning him or make any identification.

Sheriff MURPHY advised there are only two taverns in Lebanon, Missouri--City Tavern and Mary's Tavern.

On April 23, 1968, LOUISE MUSSELMAN, City Tavern, 120 $\frac{1}{2}$  W. Commercial, and MARY SPARKS, Mary's Tavern, 107 North Madison, both Lebanon, Missouri, observed photos of subject and stated they were unable to recall him as ever being a patron in their respective taverns. Both said he is not a regular or occasional customer and they were unable to give any additional information.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Jackson (137-79)

DATE: 5/17/68

FROM : SA FRANCIS G. HONAN

CI  SI  R (Prob)

PCI  PSI  R

SUBJECT: JN 50-C

Dates of Contact		
5/17/68		
Titles and File #s on which contacted		
MURKIN; JN 157-9586		
Purpose and results of contact		
<input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE <input type="checkbox"/> STATISTIC	Informant was contacted concerning CARL MURPHY, JR., Lee County, Tupelo, Miss. and stated that MURPHY is and always was a "bootlegger" and petty thief in Miss.	
Informant stated that MURPHY has been tried in Lee County, Miss. for murder which has resulted in a hung jury. Informant stated that MURPHY is not capable of participating or planning in captioned case.		
Informant further stated that he has never known MURPHY to be involved with any Klan organizations or racial incidents and doubts very much if MURPHY would ever get involved in the Klan.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	Rating Same	Coverage Same

1 - 137-79  
① - 157-9586  
FGH/fgh

157-9586-529

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED 67 FILED 8  
 MAY 18 1968  
 FBI - JACKSON  
*Puddister*

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI KAN CITY  
5-22-68 LMI

TO JACKSON  
FROM KANSAS CITY (44-780) 1P

MURKIN.

ATTORNEY PHILLIP BAKER, INDEPENDENCE, MO., ADVISED HE REPRESENTED SUBJECT IN HIS APPLICATION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN SIXTY-THREE. HEARING WAS UNSUCCESSFUL AND PAY PAID HIM FIFTY DOLLARS ATTORNEY'S FEES. HE ALSO ADVISED HE RECEIVED LETTER JULY, SIXTY-THREE, FROM JERRY RAY, ST. LOUIS, STATING JAMES RAY WAS GOING TO SEND HIM MONEY AND EITHER OR SEND MORE WHICH BAKER WAS TO SEND TO JERRY RAY. NSF RECORDS FAILED TO REFLECT ANY PAYMENT FROM SUBJECT TO BAKER AND IN FACT, RECORDS REVEALED JUNE ELEVEN, SIXTY-THREE, BAKER SENT FIFTY DOLLARS TO RAY. BAKER, FOR REINTERVIEW, ADVISED IN LETTER FROM RAY DATED MAY, SIXTY-THREE, HE INDICATED JERRY RAY WOULD BE SENT TO HIM AND HE COULD TAKE FIFTY DOLLARS OF IT. ANOTHER LETTER FROM RAY POSTDATED JUNE ELEVEN, SIXTY-THREE, INDICATED RELATIVE WAS SENDING MONEY ORDER TO BAKER.

*Hurley adv on 5/23/68  
 - what mother of John W. Myers  
 resides at 1401 30th Ave.  
 CCO she has current Chicago  
 marked for indexing address for son but  
 could not locate it. Hurley  
 to re-contact on 5/24 for  
 this info.*

*Ingram  
 Pridister } advised 5-22-68 per.  
 Hurley*

157-9586-530

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 27 1968	MAY 27 1968
FBI - JACKSON	

PAGE TWO

FOR ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. LETTER POSTMARKED JUNE TWELVE, SIXTY-THREE, UNSIGNED, ADVISED ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR CHECK WAS ENCLOSED FOR LEGAL FEES. THIS LETTER BORE RETURN ADDRESS NATHAN J. MURPHY, INMATE NO. ZERO FOUR SEVEN TWO FIVE, MSP. BAKER, ON JUNE SEVENTEEN, SIXTY-THREE, SAID HE SEND RAY CHECK FOR FIFTY DOLLARS WHICH WAS IN EXCESS OF HIS FEE. BAKER CONTINUING TO CHECK HIS RECORDS FOR ANY INFO WHICH MAY BE OF HELP. HE ADVISED RAY RECOMMENDED HIM TO PRISONER BY NAME JOHN WILLIAM MYERS, MSP, WHO CONTACTED HIM IN JULY SIXTY-THREE. BAKER REFUSED TO HANDLE CASE.

RECORDS, MSP, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., REFLECT FORMER INMATE JOHN WILLIAM MEYER, AKA. JOHN WILLIAM MYERS, MSP NO. ZERO THREE EIGHT FOUR EIGHT, WAS DISCHARGED FROM MSP APRIL FIVE, SIXTY-EIGHT, PROBABLE RESIDENCE NOT GIVEN, BUT WHEREABOUTS CAN PROBABLY BE DETERMINED THROUGH EITHER MOTHER, LILLIAN MEYER, ONE FOUR ZERO, ONE HUNDRED THIRTY AVE., GULFPORT, MISS., OR FRIEND, MRS. JUNE COLLINS, FIVE FOUR FOUR SEVEN W. CHICAGO AVE., CHICAGO. FORMER INMATE, NATHAN J. MURPHY, MSP NO. ZERO FOUR SEVEN TWO FIVE, WAS PAROLED JULY TWO EIGHT, SIXTY-FOUR FROM MSP, TO RESIDE WITH HIS WIFE, NAME NOT LISTED, TWO EIGHT THREE SIX EADS AVE., ST. LOUIS, AND WAS DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE JAN. FOUR, SIXTY-SEVEN, AT WHICH TIME COULD BE REACHED THROUGH JOHN A. ZITZEZANICH, THREE ONE SEVEN A CREGON ST., ST. LOUIS.

JACKSON INTERVIEW MOTHER OF MEYER TO LOCATE HIM FOR INTERVIEW RE SUBJECT. SEPARATE TEL TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

CORR PAGE 1 LINE NINE WXXX LAST WORD SHLD B "MAY" PAGE 2 LINE 15 WD 3 SHLD B CHICAGO AVE.

END

REM

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI KAN CITY  
631PM URGENT 5-22-68 ENT

TO JACKSON  
FROM KANSAS CITY (44-760) 2P

MURKIN.

ATTORNEY PHILLIP BAKER, INDEPENDENCE, MO., ADVISED HE REPRESENTED SUBJECT IN HIS APPLICATION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN SIXTY-THREE. HEARING WAS UNSUCCESSFUL AND RAY PAID HIM FIFTY DOLLARS ATTORNEY'S FEES. HE ALSO ADVISED HE RECEIVED LETTER JULY, SIXTY-THREE, FROM JERRY RAY, ST. LOUIS, STATING JAMES RAY WAS GOING TO SEND HIM MONEY AND LATER ON SEND MORE WHICH BAKER WAS TO SEND TO JERRY RAY. MSP RECORDS FAILED TO REFLECT ANY PAYMENT FROM SUBJECT TO BAKER AND IN FACT, RECORDS REVEALED JUNE NINETEEN, SIXTY-THREE, BAKER SENT FIFTY DOLLARS TO RAY. BAKER, UPON REINTERVIEW, ADVISED IN LETTER FROM RAY DATED MAY, SIXTY-THREE, HE INDICATED MONEY ORDER WOULD BE SENT TO HIM AND HE SHOULD TAKE FIFTY DOLLARS OF IT. ANOTHER LETTER FROM RAY POSTMARKED JUNE ELEVEN, SIXTY-THREE, INDICATED RELATIVE WAS SENDING MONEY ORDER  
END PAGE ONE

(57-9586-530)

S. JAMES	...
...	...
...	...
FBI - JACKSON	...

*[Handwritten signature]*

PAGE TWO

FOR ON HUNDRED DOLLARS. LETTER POSTMARKED JUNE TWELVE, SIXTY-THREE, UNSIGNED, ADVISED ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR CHECK WAS ENCLOSED FOR LEGAL FEES. THIS LETTER BORE RETURN ADDRESS NATHAN J. MURPHY, INMATE NO. ZERO FOUR SEVEN TWO FIVE, MSP. BAKER, ON JUNE SEVENTEEN, SIXTY-THREE, SAID HE SEND RAY CHECK FOR FIFTY DOLLARS WHICH WAS IN EXCESS OF HIS FEE. BAKER CONTINUING TO CHECK HIS RECORDS FOR ANY INFO WHICH MAY BE OF HELP. HE ADVISED RAY RECOMMENDED HIM TO PRISONER BY NAME JOHN WILLIAM MYERS, MSP, WHO CONTACTED HIM IN JULY SIXTY-THREE. BAKER REFUSED TO HANDLE CASE.

RECORDS, MSP, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., REFLECT FORMER INMATE JOHN WILLIAM MEYER, AKA. JOHN WILLIAM MYERS, MSP NO. ZERO THREE EIGHT FOUR EIGHT, WAS DISCHARGED FROM MSP APRIL FIVE, SIXTY-EIGHT, PROBABLE RESIDENCE NOT GIVEN, BUT WHEREABOUTS CAN PROBABLY BE DETERMINED THROUGH EITHER MOTHER, LILLIAN MEYER, ONE FOUR ZERO, ONE HUNDRED THIRTY AVE., GULFPORT, MISS., OR FRIEND, MRS. JUNE COLLINS, FIVE FOUR FOUR SEVEN W. CHICAGO AVE., CHICAGO. FORMER INMATE, NATHAN J. MURPHY, MSP NO. ZERO FOUR SEVEN TWO FIVE, WAS PAROLED JULY TWO EIGHT, SIXTY-FOUR FROM MSP, TO RESIDE WITH HIS WIFE, NAME NOT LISTED, TWO EIGHT THREE SIX KADS AVE., ST. LOUIS, AND WAS DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE JAN. FOUR, SIXTY-SEVEN, AT WHICH TIME COULD BE REACHED THROUGH JOHN A. ZITZEZANICH, THREE ONE SEVEN A OREGON ST., ST. LOUIS.

JACKSON INTERVIEW MOTHER OF MEYER TO LOCATE HIM FOR INTERVIEW RE SUBJECT. SEPARATE TEL TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

CORR PAGE 1 LINE NINE WDX LAST WORD SHLD B "MAY" PAGE 2 LINE 15 WD 3 SHLD B CHICAGO AVE.

END

REM

FBI JKSN MISS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 5/21/68

FROM : SA LEON ROSS GRABEN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/20/68, Mr. D. F. LIONBERGER, Manager, Avis Rent-A-Car, Biloxi-Gulfport Airport, Gulfport, Mississippi, advised that his office was presently under audit and during the course of the examination of Rental Agreements executed during the year 1967, two Rental Agreements were located in the name of "JAMES E. RAY". He said he desired to bring this to the attention of the FBI as it was possible that this RAY could be identical with the JAMES EARL RAY who killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said he had no reason to believe this RAY to be identical with the RAY who killed Dr. KING other than by name.

Mr. LIONBERGER made available copies of the two Rental Agreements, numbered 7161294 and 7161295, both of which reflects that the car rentals were made on 3/31/67. (It should be noted that JAMES EARL RAY reportedly was in prison at this date.) He said RAY rented one car and after having trouble with the first car, he rented a second car which was returned on 4/2/67. He said both cars were rented at the Broadwater Beach Motel in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Mr. LIONBERGER and his employees, JOAN CROSBY and ORA CARVER, were exhibited the IO of JAMES EARL RAY. All stated they could not recall the RAY who rented the cars in question and further stated they could not recall having ever seen JAMES EARL RAY.

The two Rental Agreements are being filed in the 1A of this file. This memo is being submitted for the information of the case agent and any action deemed appropriate.

LRG:lrg  
(1)

*air tel sent to  
memphis & Knoxville  
5/23/68*

*CCO [unclear]  
[unclear]*

157-9586-531

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 23 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	



5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date: 5/20/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via A I R T E L \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)  
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Jackson airtel to the Bureau dated 5/14/68.

Enclosed herewith for Jackson are four (4) photographs of ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS taken by FBI, Chicago. Enclosed for Memphis are two (2) photographs of PHILLIPS.

ARMED&DANGEROUS.

- ② - Jackson (Enc. 4)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- 1 - Chicago

RWS:jap  
(4)

*manuscript copy*

157-9586-532

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

*Castles*

*with attached photos  
(for your info)*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_



5/20/68

A I R T E L

TO: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)  
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Jackson airtel to the Bureau dated 5/14/68.

Enclosed herewith for Jackson are four (4)  
photographs of ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS taken by FBI, Chicago.  
Enclosed for Memphis are two (2) photographs of PHILLIPS.

ARMED&DANGEROUS.

② - Jackson (Enc. 4)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
1 - Chicago

RWS:jap  
(4)

157-9586-532

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

# DECODED COPY

Radio

U R G E N T

Teletype

TO: ALL FIELD DIVISIONS

FM: DIRECTOR F.B.I. 5-22-68

MURKIN

INASMUCH AS RAY IS KNOWN TO STAY AT "FLOPHOUSES" AND LOWER CLASS ROOMINGHOUSES, ALL OFFICES WILL FURNISH COPY OF IDENTIFICATION ORDER REGARDING RAY TO SALVATION ARMY AND OTHER CHARITABLE TYPE MISSIONS.

ALL OFFICES COVERING STATE CAPITALS, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, WILL AT DRIVERS LICENSE BUREAUS CHECK ALL DRIVERS LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY, <sup>68</sup> CONCERNING ALL MALE CAUCASIANS OVER THIRTY YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER FIFTYFIVE YEARS, IN VIEW OF FACT IT IS POSSIBLE SUBJECT SECURED DRIVERS LICENSE USING ANOTHER NAME OTHER THAN ALIASES KNOWN. AS RESULT OF REVIEWING THESE APPLICATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY SUCH INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

TOR: 1:17 P. M.

*Memo to all  
SAs*

*Blackletter  
check with Blackie  
for results -  
set out any leads  
rec.*

*157-9586-533*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

XXXX

U R G E N T

TO: ALL FIELD DIVISIONS

FM: DIRECTOR F.B.I. 5-22-68

MERKIN

INASMUCH AS RAY IS KNOWN TO STAY AT "FLOPHOUSES" AND LOWER CLASS ROOMINGHOUSES, ALL OFFICES WILL FURNISH COPY OF IDENTIFICATION ORDER REGARDING RAY TO SALVATION ARMY AND OTHER CHARITABLE TYPE MISSIONS.

ALL OFFICES COVERING STATE CAPITALS, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, WILL AT DRIVERS LICENSE BUREAUS CHECK ALL DRIVERS LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY, <sup>68</sup> CONCERNING ALL MALE CAUCASIANS OVER THIRTY YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER FIFTYFIVE YEARS, IN VIEW OF FACT IT IS POSSIBLE SUBJECT SECURED DRIVERS LICENSE USING ANOTHER NAME OTHER THAN ALIASES KNOWN. AS RESULT OF REVIEWING THESE APPLICATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY SUCH INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

TOR: 1:17 P. M.

157-9586-533

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>60</i>	FILED <i>107</i>
MAY 22 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>HOUSTON</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>5/17/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>4/5 - 5/14/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE, I.O. # 4182, W.F. # 442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA JAMES S. WEIR</b>	TYPED BY <b>SJM</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

REFERENCE: Buairtel, 5/7/68.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Since the inception of this investigation, all investigative leads developed by Houston have been set forth upon receipt. The leads are not being restated in this report.

LEAD:

HOUSTON

AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

Will continue investigation and set forth leads upon receipt.

Accomplishments Claimed: None

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		157-9586-534	
2 - Bureau (44-38861)		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  MAY 23 1968 </div>	
2 - Houston (44-1509)			
SEE COVER PAGE B			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <i>J. Jackson</i> </div>		Notations	
Agency			
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.			
How Fwd.			
By			

HO 44-1509

COPIES

- 2 - Bureau (44-38861)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Atlanta (Info) (44-2386)
- 1 - Birmingham (Info)(44-1740)
- 1 - Chicago (Info) (44-1114)
- ① - Jackson (Info)
- 1 - Kansas City (Info) (44-760)
- 1 - Los Angeles (Info) (44-1574)
- 1 - New Orleans (Info)(157-10673)
- 1 - St. Louis (Info)
- 1 - Springfield (Info)
- 2 - Houston (44-1509)

B\*  
COVER PAGE

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Copy to:**

**Report of:** SA JAMES S. WEIR  
**Date:** May 17, 1968

**Office:** Houston, Texas**Field Office File #:** 44-1509**Bureau File #:** 44-38861

**Title:** JAMES EARL RAY,  
TOP TEN FUGITIVE;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
(DECEASED) - VICTIM

**Character:** CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION -  
ROBBERY

**Synopsis:**

Two white males using names W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW departed Memphis 1:47 AM, 4/5/68 via Delta Flight 157 non-stop to Houston. Prior to flight departure two white males taken to Memphis Municipal Airport by taxi from William Len Hotel, Memphis and subsequently identified from hotel records as VINCENT WALKER, San Francisco and LAWRENCE RAND (or REND), Kansas City, Kansas. Delta Airlines hostesses, limousine driver and logical hotel inquiries unable to identify DAVIS or CHIDLAW. Elimination of look-alikes set forth. Name of JOHN WILLARD located in records for Itaska Dance Studio, League City, Texas. Manager recalls WILLARD at studio in April, 1967 taking four weekly lessons. Telephone company records reflect 969 telephone calls from pay phones along I.S. 10, Houston Division, 12/15-17/67. NEAL AEBY, former inmate Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) with subject stated subject worked in Bread Room, MSP, as slicer; subject because of stomach trouble quit smoking and partial to egg diet. Houston Bartending School, labor unions, ship departures, credit, criminal, street and telephone directories negative for subject. SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

DETAILS:

HO 44-1509

This investigation is predicated on the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, April 4, 1968 at Memphis, Tennessee.

On April 5, 1968 at approximately 12:05 AM, J.W. FARRIS, a Yellow Cab Company driver, Memphis, Tennessee, advised the FBI that he made a pickup of a white male at the William Len Hotel. FARRIS was directed to go in the first instance to West Memphis, Arkansas. Shortly thereafter he was re-directed by his passenger to drive to the Memphis Municipal Airport. Upon arriving at the airport, FARRIS was told by his passenger to wait while the passenger checked flight departure schedules. According to FARRIS, this passenger also made an inspection of the inside and immediate area outside the airport terminal. FARRIS then was directed by his passenger to return to the William Len Hotel and there to wait for the passenger. Shortly thereafter the passenger returned accompanied by another white male and FARRIS was directed to take them to the Memphis Municipal Airport.

Investigation by the FBI determined the following:

Records of the William Len Hotel revealed that a VINCENT WALKER, 449 Steiner Street, San Francisco and a LAWRENCE RAND, or REND, 2532 Polk, Kansas City, Kansas, checked into that hotel at 2:38 PM, April 4, 1968 and checked out at approximately 12:10 AM, April 5, 1968.

Investigation by the FBI has determined that WALKER and RAND, or REND, were identical to the individuals that Yellow Cab Driver J.W. FARRIS transported to the Memphis Municipal Airport.

Inquiry at Delta Airlines, Memphis, determined that two individuals utilizing the names W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW departed Memphis at 1:47 AM, April 5, 1968 via Delta Airlines enroute, Houston, Texas. These individuals had no reservations for that flight.

Mr. GLEN PARNELL, Reservations Manager, Delta Airlines, Houston, Texas on April 5, 1968 advised that the names of W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW had been computered into Delta Airlines records at 1:55 PM, April 4, 1968 which indicates their tickets were purchased shortly before that time and they were booked as a party of two. They traveled on Flight 157 non-stop, Memphis to Houston.

HO 44-1509

They departed Memphis at 1:30 AM, April 5, 1968 and arrived at 2:50 AM, April 5, 1968. Their names were added to the manifest and no addresses were listed.

On April 5, 1968 Miss SUSAN KRAUSE, one of two stewardesses aboard Delta Flight No. 157, Memphis to Houston, referred to above, advised as follows. She stated that her flight was late in arriving at Memphis. She had gone to the operations division to pick up forms and upon her return to the plane she went about her normal business. Miss KRAUSE advised that the names of passengers aboard the plane are not taken and the only thing she looks for is the envelope of the passenger that contains the ticket showing the passenger's class of travel. Because of the late hour of the departure of the flight from Memphis, the lights inside the cabin were turned down for the convenience of the majority of the passengers and she was not able to get a close look at anyone and was unable to recall the passengers W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW.

On April 5, 1968, VICKIE MC LUCAS, Delta stewardess for Delta Flight 157, Memphis to Houston, Texas, referred to above, advised as follows: While Flight 157 was at the Memphis Airport several passengers came aboard and the lights were turned down low for the convenience of other passengers; consequently, she did not pay any specific attention to any of the passengers coming aboard. Miss LUCAS advised that she was unable to recall passengers named W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW as members of the passenger list, Flight 157, Memphis to Houston, April 5, 1968.

On April 8, 1968 JIM HAYDEN, Limousine Service, which service handles the Houston Municipal Airport, advised that his records disclose LUPY DELAO who is currently working for Delta Airlines at the Houston Municipal Airport was on duty at the airport when the Delta Flight arrived at 2:50 AM and his records disclosed that DELAO had six persons whom he transported in his limousine to downtown Houston, which persons presumably were from the Delta flight mentioned above.

LUPY DELAO, 1815 Louis, telephone CA 8-6119 advised that he did in fact transport passengers from the Delta flight which arrived at 2:50 AM and he recalled that there were six adult white males who requested transportation in his limousine. He stated he dropped three of the men at the Sheraton Lincoln Hotel in downtown Houston, two of the men were dropped at



the Rice Hotel in downtown Houston and one man was dropped at the Downtowner Motel in Houston, Texas. DELAO advised that the two men he dropped at the Rice Hotel indicated at first that they intended to be dropped at the Downtowner Motel however when getting in the vicinity of the Rice Hotel changed their minds and asked to be dropped off at the Rice Hotel. DELAO stated that these two men had very little luggage and each one carried only a small handbag. DELAO stated he could not furnish any descriptive data regarding the two men he dropped off at the Rice Hotel and did not in fact know if they actually stayed at the Rice Hotel or one of the other hotels in the area. DELAO stated that he would have arrived at the Rice Hotel at approximately 3:30 AM as this is the amount of time it normally takes to drive to the Rice Hotel from the airport via the route he took.

On April 8, 1968, Mr. JOHNNY RAGLEY, Credit Manager, Rice Hotel, personally checked all available logical records in an effort to identify two individuals who may have checked in the Rice Hotel approximately 3:30 AM on April 5, 1968. Further all available records were checked for the following names:

JOHN WILLIARD  
VINCENT WALKER  
LAWRENCE RAND or REND  
W. DAVIS  
B. CHIDLAW

No records were located which could possibly be identified with the two individuals possibly identical with the suspects who reportedly flew from Memphis to Houston, Texas on the morning of April 5, 1968.

Similar record checks were made at the Milby Hotel which is located across the street from the Rice Hotel and at the Downtowner Motel also in the vicinity of the Rice Hotel and the results of the checks were negative.

Records of the Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Credit Bureau and Houston street and telephone directories checked for any information for the above listed individuals were negative.

I. INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY LAUNDRY TAG MARK O2B-6

HO 44-1509

On April 10, 1968 HORACE F. KUHLEMAN, owner, Kuhleman Machinery Company, 2210 Taft, advised that the following laundry and cleaning concerns utilized the thermo seal marking machine which is manufactured by the Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York. KUHLEMAN has the exclusive franchise for the thermo seal marking machine for the territory of southeast and south Texas. It has been determined through KUHLEMAN that his distributorship area is inclusive of the Houston Division. Companies are:

Pilgrim Cleaning and Laundry, Galveston, Texas  
Hi-hat Cleaners, Houston, Texas  
Pilgrim Cleaners, Homestead Road, Houston  
Pilgrim Cleaners, Baytown, Texas  
Fame Cleaners, Pasadena, Texas  
Wilkins Laundry, Conroe, Texas  
Monarch Laundry, Houston

Mr. KUHLEMAN telephoned each of the above concerns and determined from the owner the type of laundry tag used.

KUHLEMAN's inquiry resolved the pertinent fact that none of the above cleaning or laundry establishments utilized the "dash" preceding the last digit six.

## II. PERSONS CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE SUSPECTS BUT ELIMINATED THROUGH INVESTIGATION

### 1. WILLIAM LEO BEIER Beaumont, Texas Police Department No. 23655

Inspector SNELL, Beaumont Police Department, on April 9, 1968 advised that BEIER was arrested on April 8, 1968 for investigation. BEIER had no identification and claimed he was an ex-convict from the State of Washington.

The Identification Division, FBI, advised that fingerprints of WILLIAM LEO BEIER, FBI No. 271131D are not identical with latent fingerprints developed in this investigation.

### 2. JAMES HERMAN SILVER

Information was received by the FBI, Houston, Texas that SILVER had been imprisoned at Leavenworth Penitentiary and that he has a strong dislike for Negroes and had visited Memphis in the past several times. He was described as an expert shot. On April 10, 1968 his whereabouts were unknown.

On April 10, 1968 a comparison of SILVER's fingerprints by the Identification Division, FBI, determined that his prints were not identical with those developed in this investigation and was eliminated as a suspect.

3. DONNIE LEON HARDEN

Information furnished by the Dallas Division, FBI, made DONNIE LEON HARDEN a possible suspect in this investigation.

Investigation by the FBI at Jackson, Mississippi determined that DONNIE LEON HARDEN, an employee of the Ingalls Ship Yard, Pascagoula, Mississippi, was at work on his job at that ship yard on April 4, 1968. He worked an hourly shift from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

4. CLAUDE CHESTER MC CLAREN, JR.

Mexican Police, Mexico City, Mexico, furnished the following information: CLAUDE CHESTER MC CLAREN, JR., US Passport Z155489 arrived in Mexico City from Tegucigalpa, Honduras April 8, 1968. He was enroute Houston, Texas. Airport police noticed a close resemblance of MC CLAREN to sketches of the suspect killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On April 19, 1968 CLAUDE C. MC CLAREN, JR. was interviewed at Commodore Cove, Shreveport, Texas, where he was employed as a heavy equipment operator. He furnished the following information:

He is working with his brother, CARL MC CLAREN on a construction job at Commodore Cove, Freeport building beach type homes. Their employer is the Drexel Industry located at 1500 Bank of the Southwest Building, Houston, Texas, and JAKE CLEGG is associated with this company. He presently resides at 119 Jolley Boat Lane, Commodore Cove, Freeport, Texas and his permanent address is 5405 Wichita Street, Ft. Worth, Texas which is the home of his sister, JUSTINE PRESTON. For the past two years, he has worked in Honduras returning to the U.S. in December, 1967 and lived in Ft. Worth for awhile. He began his employment at Freeport sometime around March 27, 1968. He went to Honduras on March 30, 1968 leaving Houston, Texas via National Airlines and from New Orleans, Louisiana flew to Honduras via Sahsa

HO 44-1509

Airlines. He remained at the Hotel Bolivar, San Pedro Sula, Honduras from March 30, 1968 to April 7, 1968 at which time he flew from Honduras to Mexico City, Mexico via Tan Airlines and from Mexico City to Houston, Texas via Pan American arriving in Houston April 7, 1968 thus was in Honduras from March 30, 1968 to April 7, 1968.

The following description of CLAUDE CHESTINE MC CLAREN, JR. was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Ft. Worth, Texas
Height	5'9"
Weight	145 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Marital status	Single
Complexion	Tanned
Military service	U.S. Navy, August, 1954 - September, 1958
Serial No.	451-57-24

It was noted from observation that MC CLAREN does not resemble the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT.

#### 5. JOHN A. GAULT

On April 12, 1968 the Miami Office of the FBI after reviewing records of Eastern Airlines determined that a JOHN A. GAULT employed by Associated Pipeline Contractors, Houston, Texas, had departed Greensboro, North Carolina on Eastern Flight 621 on April 9, 1968 destined for Atlanta, Georgia. He departed Atlanta, Georgia on Flight 341 on April 9, 1968 and traveled to Houston, Texas. GAULT was interviewed at Houston, Texas and it was determined that he is 24 years old and is in fact employed by Associated Pipeline Contractors and he in no way resembles JAMES EARL RAY, also known as.

#### 6. DON TURNER

Information furnished by the Conroe Police Department, Conroe, Texas was the basis for investigation of DON TURNER. Mr. KEN ANDREWS, Springville, New York, advised the Conroe Police Department that on April 13, 1968 while driving from Conroe to California, he picked up a person furnishing the name DON TANNER at Benson, Arizona. TANNER was dressed in an Army uniform. Because of TANNER's statements ANDREWS became suspicious of him. - 7 -

Information furnished by the Los Angeles Office determined that TANNER was eliminated on the basis of information furnished by SHIRLEY KAHN who stated that DONALD TANNER was a friend and associate of her son and that TANNER was not identical with JAMES EARL RAY, also known as.

7. HENRY RICHARD GILES

Information furnished to the FBI determined that GILES had been under observation at Vera Cruz, Mexico in mid-April, 1968. He had been seeking information concerning travel to Cuba and had come to Mexico by the coast having entered Mexico at Tampico. He represented himself as being an employee of Braselton Construction Company, Corpus Christi, Texas.

On April 20, 1968, BILLY BRASELTON, Braselton Construction Company, Corpus Christi, Texas confirmed that HENRY ROBERT GILES is an employee of that company. He was not aware of GILES' visit to Mexico or Cuba. GILES upon interview April 20, 1968 advised he left Corpus Christi on April 16, 1968 by Trans-Texas Airways and traveled to Vera Cruz, Mexico. He departed Vera Cruz on April 17, 1968 by bus traveling to Mexico City. He returned to Corpus Christi, April 18, 1968 via Braniff Airlines. He denied making any inquiries while in Mexico regarding travel to Cuba. He was born [redacted] at Corpus Christi.

8. G.L. GALLAGHER  
5505 Briar Drive, Houston, Texas

Information received by the FBI at Miami, Florida alleged that G.L. GALLAGHER, a visitor at the C Ranch Hotel, Miami, April 23, 1968 resembled a photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as.

On April 23, 1968 SHIRLEY MAYON, Domestic, residence of G.L. GALLAGHER, 5505 Briar Drive, Houston, advised that Mr. and Mrs. GALLAGHER are presently in Florida on a vacation. GALLAGHER is an executive with an oil company at Houston, Texas.

9. Driver of Auto Bearing Louisiana License  
25E930

An anonymous call received by the Dallas Division claimed that the driver of the above described automobile bore a strong resemblance to ERIC STARVO GALT. A check of Louisiana license records, Baton Rouge, Louisiana reflected that the above mentioned Louisiana license checked out to a car leased to Texas Services, Inc., Alexandria, Louisiana. Inquiry at Alexandria, Louisiana, determined that Texas -8 -

Services is a licensee of Hertz Rent-A-Car, Alexandria, Louisiana. Inquiry at Hertz Rent-A-Car determined that the aforementioned automobile had been turned back to the Hertz Main Office at Brian, Texas, approximately three months ago.

Inquiry at Hertz Rent-A-Car, Brian, Texas on April 24, 1968 revealed that the aforementioned automobile bearing 1968 Louisiana license 25E930 is maintained by Capps Car Rental, 3717 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas.

10. TOM ROSELL

Information furnished by the FBI, San Francisco Office, made TOM ROSELL a possible suspect. A Miss TRUDIE WALMARK, San Francisco, California stated she had attended a study group at the First Baptist Church, Market and Octavia Streets on April 22, 1968. While at that meeting she met a man named TOM ROSELL who stated he came from Beaumont, Texas. It was her opinion that ROSELL closely resembled photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 24, 1968 inquiry made at 405 Threadneedle Street, Beaumont, Texas determined that TOM ROSELL is a resident at that address. ROSELL's mother stated that her son was enroute to San Francisco and was probably in that city by now. She stated that her son is employed as a barber at Beaumont, Texas. Beaumont street and telephone directories confirm that ROSELL is a barber with residence at 405 Threadneedle Street, Beaumont.

11. GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH

Information furnished the San Francisco Office of the FBI was as follows:

Deputy Sheriff ANGEL STICKE GAULT regarding passengers who left Nuevo Laredo on April 6, 1968 enroute to Monterrey, Mexico made SMITH a possible suspect. SMITH was described as age 22, a British subject studying at Rice University, Houston, Texas.

On April 29, 1968 Mrs. ATKINSON, Secretary, Office of the Dean of Men, Rice University, advised GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH is an Abraham scholar and a British exchange student studying economics at Rice University. Rice University

HO 44-1509

records reflected that SMITH was at Rice University until on April 4, 1968 departing Houston April 5, 1968 over Easter vacation for the purpose of making a mountain climbing trip to Mexico.

On May 4, 1968 photographs of GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH were sent to San Antonio for the purpose of eliminating SMITH as a suspect.

12. EARL RAY,  
RAY EARL  
WARREN RAY  
RAY WARREN

On April 29, 1968, A.E. BROWN, Hampshire, Texas, advised that his ex-wife presently resides at 170707 Jamiaca Boulevard, Spring Valley, California adding she had received a letter in 1960 from a person who was then incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. BROWN was not sure of the name of the person who had written to his then wife but he seemed to recall it as EARL RAY or any of the following: RAY EARL, WARREN RAY or RAY WARREN. In the letter received by his wife was a photograph which BROWN claimed closely resembled that of the 1960 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, suspect in this investigation. BROWN's former wife, DORIS DEAN JONES was interviewed at San Diego on April 29, 1968. She stated that she formerly knew a RAY EUGENE WARREN who during 1954 or 1955 had been incarcerated at St. Louis City Jail for a period of one year prior to being sentenced to a 30 years sentence at State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. She stated that in her opinion RAY EUGENE WARREN was not identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

13. CHARLES RAY JOHNSON

Information received by the FBI at Tampa, Florida made CHARLES RAY JOHNSON a possible suspect. JOHNSON had been described in information furnished to the Tampa Office as being employed by Heart of America Shows, a traveling carnival.

On May 1, 1968 the following investigation was conducted at Houston:

V.E. BROWN, Business Manager, Ted Corey, Owner and P.L. PATTERSON, Concessions Owner, all with Heart of America Shows advised that they could find no record for a CHARLES

HO 44-1509

RAY JOHNSON as an employee with that show. They advised that Heart of America has no other branch shows on the road. They further advised that they had been operating in the State of Texas for the past month. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY displayed to them were not identified as being similar with any show personnel.

#### 14. JAMES W. HAMMONS

Information received by the FBI, Pittsburgh, is as follows. A Mr. KELVIN PLYER, Gulf Service Station, operator, Bartow, West Virginia, stated that on April 22, 1968 two white males driving a 1961 or 1962 white Chevrolet Impala, Louisiana license unknown, purchased gas and tires at PLYER's service station using Gulf Credit Card No. 1312681552. The purchaser signed the purchase slip in the name JAMES HAMMONS. On May 2, 1968 PLYER concluded after reading in the newspaper descriptive data concerning JAMES EARL RAY that HAMMONS might possibly have been RAY.

On May 8, 1968 JIM ABSHTER, Agent in Charge, Security Division, Gulf Oil Corporation, Houston, Texas advised as follows: Gulf Credit Card No. 1312681552 is issued to a JAMES W. HAMMONS, Route 1, Antler, Oklahoma. On April 22, 1968 HAMMONS made a purchase at Bartow, West Virginia for an automobile, Louisiana license 9H067.

### III. MISCELLANEOUS

#### 1. JAMES STEDMAN

On April 11, 1968, NORVIL WILSON, construction superintendent, Houston, advised that the previous day he had overheard JAMES STEDMAN stated that he, STEDMAN, had an idea who killed MARTIN LUTHER KING but he hoped he was wrong.

STEDMAN is employed by the T.R.Waldrop Company, air conditioning contractors who are sub-contracting on an apartment project, Houston. Waldrop records reflect STEDMAN was born [redacted] and was employed by Waldrop since February 27, 1968. He came to Houston from Memphis, driving a 1962 Chevrolet station wagon, Tennessee license KN 3666, Shelby County with wife listed as BETTY. STEDMAN is a diabetic.

On April 12, 1968 STEDMAN was interviewed on his job. when tactfully approached for any information or observation about the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING he replied he,



his family and friends in Memphis were capable of committing the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING but he had no idea or information regarding the murder. When confronted with the alleged statements he made he stated he may have been shooting off his mouth but still contended he had no information. When pressed for identities of possible suspects he became antagonistic and stated he wanted to talk to an attorney if agents persisted in questioning him.

At the outset when agents identified themselves STEDMAN thought the inquiry regarding him was due to arrears on car payments to a finance company. With this in mind, STEDMAN was advised of the reward for information identifying the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING. STEDMAN quickly advised he was not a stoolie.

STEDMAN denied Klan affiliation.

As a result of interview. STEDMAN became extremely upset and belligerent and indicated that he now had reason to get a permit to buy a gun in order to kill anyone who might give him trouble.

2. Investigation at Dancing Schools,  
Houston Division

On April 18, 1968 Mrs. ITASKA WEINSTEIN, 5503 Yacht Club Drive, Dickinson, Texas, operator of the Itaska Dance Studio, Highway 3, League City, Texas, furnished the following information. Mrs. ITASKA WEINSTEIN had been contacted on April 16, 1967 regarding any information she might have in her records indicating that ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as, might have been a student at her dance studio.

On April 18, 1968 Mrs. WEINSTEIN stated that she had researched her records and located a 3 x 5 card bearing the name of JOHN WILLARD, no address or description. She stated that the card had been completed by herself and merely shows that a man named JOHN WILLARD appeared for four dancing lessons, three lessons being on a Wednesday and one on a Friday, month and date not indicated. Mrs. WEINSTEIN does recall that these lessons for JOHN WILLARD were given before her annual recital which is held in May, and to the best of her recollection this person took the dancing lessons during April, 1967. She stated she has no other record pertaining to a JOHN WILLARD and was unable to locate any record which could contain his signature or handwriting.

Her overall impression of JOHN WILLARD as best

she can recall was that he was not neat, lacking in personality and was an extremely poor dancer. She recalls him as being quiet and difficult to teach because he had poor balance. No one else at her studio at the present time would know him. She stated that it was possible that SHIRLEY CARROLL formerly a bookkeeper for Mrs. WEINSTEIN at the studio might have had contacts with JOHN WILLARD when he came for lessons and may have conversed with him. She stated that SHIRLEY CARROLL resides at an address in care of J.L. HOECK, Patton Road, Box 81A, Forest Hill, Maryland. Mrs. WEINSTEIN was shown photographs of ERIC GALT, also known as James Earl Ray, and she commented that the photograph of GALT with his eyes closed most closely resembled the JOHN WILLARD that she vaguely recalls. She stated the eyes drawn into the photograph do not resemble those of the man who took lessons from her. In addition the hair of the JOHN WILLARD that she knew was not as dark as that in the photograph and his complexion was olive, not fair.

During their very limited conversations WILLARD stated he worked "at NASA" and did not get off from work until 5:30 PM. He also stated that he was called back to work on overtime on occasion. She stated that he did not appear to be a highly educated man, definitely not the "engineering type". WILLARD had remarked to Mrs. WEINSTEIN that he went from work to his apartment or room, took a shower, changed clothes and then came for his dancing lesson. She recalled that he usually wore a white shirt and dark pants but on one or two occasions wore a suit. At no time did Mrs. WEINSTEIN observe a badge or identification tag with WILLARD's photograph on it as do all employees working at NASA possess. WILLARD had stated to Mrs. WEINSTEIN that he owned a record player and he once borrowed one of her records. He had mentioned that he had bought a record of Fred Astaire Dance Instructions which he said he purchased at the NASA Bay Shopping Center, Webster, Texas. Mrs. WEINSTEIN recalled that she told JOHN WILLARD that she would not dance with him while teaching him ballroom dancing as it was against her policy. On at least two occasions JOHN WILLARD brought with him a woman who acted as his partner while he took lessons. This woman was described as name "LOU", age in her 40s and definitely older than JOHN WILLARD, height 5'4", average build, dressed in ordinary cotton dresses, not slacks, with hair being dark with a reddish cast and had a poor personality. To the recollection of Mrs. WEINSTEIN, WILLARD's dancing partner supposedly worked as a waitress, cafe or establishment unknown.