

FBI MOBILE

FBI CHARLT

201 ~~PM~~ PM URGENT 4-17-68 BSH

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) BIRMINGHAM(44-1740)

MOBILE, AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM CHARLOTTE (44-1365) 2P

MURKIN

ON APRIL SIXTEEN LAST, WILLIAM DAWSON BROOKS, COP,
GASTON RURAL POLICE, GASTONIA, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT
JOSEPH SAMUEL MEADOWS, WHO OPERATES A USED CAR LOT IN BESSEMER
CITY, NC, HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE KING ASSASSINATION.

ON APRIL SIXTEEN LAST, MEADOWS ADVISED ON LATE AFTERNOON
OF APRIL FIFTEEN LAST, HE WAS DRIVING NORTH ON INTERSTATE
EIGHTYFIVE IN SC WITH HIS WIFE WHEN A WHITE MUSTANG PASSED
HIM DOING ABOUT NINETYFIVE MILES PER HOUR. HE OBSERVED A
RED AND WHITE LICENSE PLATE ON THE CAR AND HAVING READ IN THE
NEWSPAPER THAT FBI WAS LOOKING FOR WHITE MUSTANG WITH ALABAMA
LICENSE, HE GAVE CHASE. THE MUSTANG TURNED OFF INTERSTATE
EIGHTYFIVE ON WHITE HORSE ROAD NEAR GREENVILLE, S.C., AT WHICH
TIME MEADOWS OBTAINED THE LICENSE NUMBER, WHICH WAS ALABAMA
END PAGE ONE

Morgan - Bham
BH advised to handle

157-2627-185

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Boston

CE 44-1365

PAGE TWO

LICENSE FIVE TWO DASH TWO FIVE EIGHT SEVEN ONE, THE DRIVER, WHO WAS ALONE, WAS OBSERVED TO BE THIRTYFIVE TO FORTY YEARS, ONE SIXTY TO ONE SEVENTY POUNDS, SANDY BROWN HAIR, TAN OR BEIGE SPORT SHIRT, NO HAT, NO GLASSES, HEAVY EYEBROWS.

LATER ON APRIL FIFTEEN, LAST HIS WIFE OBSERVED A DRAWING OF ASSASSIN AND COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS MAN THEY HAD SEEN IN MUSTANG.

MOBILE, AT DMV, DETERMINE TO WHOM LICENSE ISSUED AND DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF REGISTERED OWNER ON PERTINENT DATES IN THIS CASE.

P.

END.

TEB

FBI MOBILE

F B I

Date: 4/17/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

FROM: MOBILE (157-2627)

MURKIN

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE TO BUREAU, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE AND
MEMPHIS TWO ZERO ONE P.M., FOUR SEVENTEEN SIXTYEIGHT.

THE LICENSE NUMBER REFERRED TO IN RE TEL, ALABAMA LICENSE
FIVE TWO - TWO FIVE EIGHT SEVEN ONE IS FOR MORGAN COUNTY COVERED
BY BIRMINGHAM DIVISION. LEAD SET FORTH FOR MOBILE AT DMV SHOULD
BE HANDLED BY BIRMINGHAM IN MORGAN COUNTY. *a*

AM copy Memphis. B.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)

(2) JTB:mb *MB*

157-2627-186

Searched _____
Serialized u _____
Indexed _____
Filed u _____

Approved: WMA
Special Agent in ChargeSent 7:18 PM M Per TP

F B I

Date: 4/17/68

Transmit the following in _____

PLAIN Text
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____

TeletypeURGENT
(Priority)

TO BOSTON & MEMPHIS
FROM MOBILE (157-2627)

MURKIN, CR.

REURTEL APRIL THIRTEEN, LAST.

SIXTY EIGHT ALABAMA LICENSE FORTY THREE DASH FOUR
ZERO SIX REGISTERED TO LYNN STALNAKER, NOW RESIDING TWO A
ISLINGTON STREET, ALTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND A STUDENT AT
BOSTON UNIVERSITY, WORKING ON HIS PHD DEGREE. STALNAKER
IS TWENTY SIX YEARS OF AGE. BOSTON HANDLE. P.

armed & dangerous

DAM: iwd
(1) *iwd*

157-2627-187

Searched _____
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Filed 4

Approved: _____

WMA
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per *B*

4-15-68

Airtel

Airmail

To: SAC, Los Angeles (44-1574)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Los Angeles teletype 4-13-68.

Latent prints this case not identical fingerprints of William Madison Leonard, white male, born [redacted] in Birmingham, Ala., FBI #913 000 B, who may or may not be suspect named. No palm prints here for Leonard.

1- SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

✓ 1- SAC, Mobile

*Insert already
in dictating for Roba
put in cover letter*

157-2627-188

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4/17/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-7987)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/16/68, JAMES POWELL, 3533 S. Georgetown, Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA GERALD O. GRAYBILL that the following items were found AM, 4/16/68, on the side of the Bell Road, Montgomery, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the intersection of Highway 80 East:

1. A map of the City of Memphis, Tennessee, which indicates that the map was distributed by the National Bank of Commerce, Memphis.
2. Holiday Inn Passport, 2/1/67 - 5/31/67, which is a directory of Holiday Inns throughout the U. S.
3. Eastern Travel Guide, a booklet listing Eastern and Western motels throughout the U. S.

He picked up these items and wanted to turn them over to the FBI as they might have some connection with captioned case.

Item #1 has a penciled circle, approximately 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, around a residential section, approximate center of which would be intersection of Scenic and Highland Roads, which appears to be about seven miles from center of city. Several numbers with alphabetical prefixes, possibly telephone numbers are written on back of map.

2-Memphis (Enc. 3) (RM)
2-Mobile

DOS-adp

(4) *adp*

✓ 157-2627-189

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NO 157-2627

Item #3 has another number, possibly telephone written on it.

These items bear no evidence of rain damage, although the Montgomery area had a heavy rainfall throughout 4/14/68.

These items are enclosed herewith for the Memphis Division in order that a determination can be made as to whether they are pertinent to captioned case. If of no use, they can be destroyed.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627)

DATE: 4/15/68

FROM : SA HOWARD R. LINSOTT

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CO:MEMPHIS

On 4/15/67, BOBBY R. HARDEN, TROOPER, AST #38, Dothan, Ala., advised he arrested one HERSCHEL C. GANT, 1879 Portland, Memphis, Tenn., on 4/10/68 for driving 85MPH in a 60MPH zone. He stated that GANT resembled the drawing of the subject that appeared in a Birmingham newspaper. Harden was shown a photograph of a likeness drawing that was prepared by the FBI; he stated that the photo did not look like GANT. GANT was described as a white male, DOB 175 lbs., 5'10", and sandy hair. Harden said that GANT appeared before David West, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, on 4/13/68.

On 4/15/68, Mrs. DAVID WEST, DOTHAN ALA., advised that the photograph of the likeness of the subject did not look like HERSCHEL C. GANT, who appeared at the WEST residence on 4/13/68 and paid a fine of \$22.75. Mrs. WEST stated that her husband DAVID WEST was not at home when GANT paid the fine.

1- 157-2627

HRL/



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627)

DATE: 4/16/68

FROM : SA HOWARD R. LINSOTT

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CC: MEMPHIS

ON 4/16/68, RUTH WIGGINS, CLERK, SUMMERFORD TRUCK LINES, ASHFORD, ALA., advised that telephone number 899-3061 is listed to GOLD KIST PEANUT GROWERS CO., a peanut co-operative that is only open during the months of August thru November. The company is under the control of THE COTTON PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, ATLANTA, GA.

THIS LEAD HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED AND RESOLVED BY NEW ORLEANS

1- 157-2627

HRL/

*Discontinued based
on N.O. tel. 840m 4/16/68*
JZ

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5010-108-01

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

FBI MOBILE

FBI BIRMGHAM

619PM URGENT 4-17-68 HEP

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, HOUSTON, JACKSON, MEMPHIS, MOBILE, NEW YORK
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) 3P

MURKIN

ON APRIL SEVENTEEN INSTANT, A BIRMINGHAM INFORMANT IDENTIFIED PHOTOGRAPH AND ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF SUBJECT AS INDIVIDUAL SHE MET APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER FIFTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, AT THE TRAVEL LODGE MOTEL, NORTH TWENTYSIXTH STREET, BIRMINGHAM, ALA. AT THAT TIME SHE WAS STAYING WITH HER BOYFRIEND, THOMAS JOSEPH COX, DESCRIBED AS WMA, FORTYTWO, BORN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, RETIRED FROM U. S. NAVY. COX WORKS AS FIRST MATE THROUGH SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, HOUSTON, TEXAS ON SHIPS OWNED BY AMERICAN BULK CARRIERS, NEW YORK, N.Y. HE HAS CRIPPLED RIGHT LEG.

ON SEPTEMBER FIFTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN, COX BROUGHT AN INDIVIDUAL TO THE MOTEL ROOM SHE SHARED WITH HIM, INTRODUCING THE MAN AS SHAW GALT (PHONETIC). PCI DESCRIBES GALT AS WMA, THIRTY, FIVE FT. ELEVEN INCHES, MEDIUM BUILD, DARK BROWN HAIR, SOFT SPOKEN, WEARING CHECKED SPORT COAT, DARK TROUSERS AND SPORT SHIRT. HE WAS IN MOTEL
END PAGE ONE

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WMA

PAGE TWO.

ABOUT FORTYFIVE MINUTES DRINKING BOURBON WITH INFORMANT AND COX. HE MENTIONED HE WAS MERCHANT SEAMAN AND WANTED TO KNOW BEST PLACE TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT, STATING HE HAD BEEN IN MOBILE, ALABAMA; PASCAGOULA, MISS., AND NEW YORK, N.Y. HE SAID HE COULD NOT EARN A LIVING IN NEW YORK. HE FURTHER MENTIONED HE HAD A GIRL FRIEND, BUT DID NOT MENTION HER NAME, ADDRESS, OR ANY DESCRIPTIVE DATA. HE DID STATE HE WAS NOT MARRIED. GALT'S SPEECH WAS NOT LOCAL, BUT WAS NOT SIMILAR TO NEW JERSEY ACCENT OF COX. WHEN LEAVING MOTEL, GALT STATED HE HAD TO GO HOME, BUT MENTIONED NO LOCATION. HE LEFT BY HIMSELF, COX REMAINING WITH INFORMANT. NO CAR WAS SEEN, HOWEVER, INFORMANT ASSUMES HE HAD ONE INASMUCH AS COX PROBABLY PICKED GALT UP IN A BAR AND NO OTHER BARS ARE LOCATED IN PROXIMITY OF THE MOTEL.

INFORMANT STATED SHE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH COX IN HOUSTON, TEXAS EARLY NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN AND BROKE OFF RELATIONS WITH HIM LATE SEPTEMBER LAST.

HOUSTON, AT HOUSTON, TEXAS, WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW THOMAS JOSEPH COX THROUGH SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

JACKSON, AT PASCAGOULA, MISS., WILL CONDUCT LOGICAL INVESTIGATION CONCERNING SHAW GALT.

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE

MOBILE AT MOBILE, ALA., WILL CONDUCT LOGICAL INVESTIGATION CONCERNING SHAW GALT.

NEW YORK AT NEW YORK, N.Y., WILL CONTACT AMERICAN BULK CARRIERS, NEW YORK, FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THOMAS JOSEPH COX IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE HIM. CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE SHAW GALT.

BIRMINGHAM, AT BIRMINGHAM, ALA., WILL CONDUCT NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION VICINITY OF TRAVEL LODGE MOTEL CONCERNING SHAW GALT.

END

AAH

FBI MOBILE

@

POSSIBLE SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY
MILTON (NO MIDDLE NAME) LAMOUREAUX,
135½ E. SPEEDWAY, TUSCON, ARIZONA

On April 6, 1968, MILTON (NO MIDDLE NAME) LAMOUREAUX, 135½ E. Speedway, Tuscon, Arizona, advised the Phoenix Office of the FBI that on or about January 29, 1964 he was staying at Smitty's Motel, Hartford, Alabama, when he was beaten and robbed and left unconscious on top of a heater in his room. He said that prior to the beating he was with the owner of the motel, SMITTY (LAST NAME UNKNOWN), when he observed a white male, age 31 to 33, 5'10" to 6' tall, dark blond hair, medium build, 165 pounds, regular style haircut, neatly combed, very clean and dressed neatly, to wit, a white uniform, possibly a laundry truck driver. He said that this individual presented an excellent likeness to an artist's sketch of the assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., which he had observed on April 6, 1968.

The following investigation was conducted by SA RAYMOND J. MAXWELL:

AT HARTFORD, ALABAMA:

On April 8, 1968, HOUSTON A. SMITH, owner and Operator, Smitty's Hotel, advised that he remembers MILTON LAOUREAUX of Tuscon, Arizona, staying at his hotel for two days around January, 1964. He stated that when LAMOUREAUX checked into the hotel on a Saturday night he was very dirty and told him he had been beaten by three men at Leon's Restaurant, Dothan, Alabama. He advised that after this person checked in on Saturday night he did not see him over the weekend. He went to LAMOUREAUX's room on Monday morning and found him passed out on the floor with the heater in the room turned up all the way with no windows open for ventilation. LAMOUREAUX had been drinking and taking some sort of pills. He was taken to a hospital and subsequently released to his mother who came from Arizona.

SMITH stated LAMOUREAUX subsequently tried to bring suit against him, charging he had been beaten and robbed at his, SMITH's hotel, but investigation showed he was not beaten in Hartford, but was involved in a fight at Dothan, Alabama. Dr. SAM WINDHAM of Dothan had treated him.

SMITH stated he recalls no one coming to the hotel wearing a white uniform. He stated that on occasions he obtains linen supplies from the Pensacola, Florida, Linen Supply

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MO 157-2627

JTB:agf

2

Company, but the drivers for this firm do not wear white uniforms. He stated they wear regular clothing. He advised he has no idea who LAMOUREAUX might be referring to as a person resembling the artist's conception of the killer of KING. He stated he, SMITH, saw this sketch in the Montgomery Advertiser, and it did not look familiar to him.

4/16/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627)(P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: ME)

Re Phoenix teletype to the Bureau, Mobile and
Memphis, 4:25 PM, 4/6/68.

Re: Possible Suspect Suggested by
MILTON (NIN) LANGOURHAUX,
1351 E. Speedway, Tucson, Arizona

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are 25 copies of
an insert reflecting investigation conducted at Hartford,
Ala., based on referenced Phoenix teletype. Two copies
of this insert are designated for Phoenix inasmuch as
the interview conducted by Mobile could give no infor-
mation to substantiate the information furnished by
LANGOURHAUX and gave information which suggests a question
of LANGOURHAUX's reliability.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

2 - Memphis (Enc. 25)
2 - Phoenix (Enc. 2)
2 - Mobile

JTB:agf
(6)

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Filed DR

Mobile, Alabama
April 16, 1968

MEMO ALL AGENTS

RE: MURKIN
CR
(OO: ME)

Memphis has requested that All Offices submit communications using a caption which will aid in handling the communication. This is needed because of the large volume of material being submitted to Memphis in this case. Memphis noted that for example, should an Office have investigation to report in connection with a specific suspect, it would be of assistance if before entering into the body of the text that we utilize a sub-heading after the reference such as, "Suspect, JOHN ALLEN DOE" or another appropriate caption might be, "Laundry Checks".

Accordingly the dictation of letters, teletypes, airtels or inserts should bear an appropriate sub-heading in order to assist the Memphis Office

W. M. Alexander

W. M. Alexander, SAC

50 - 1 Ea. Agent

1 - SAC

1 - ASAC

1 - Supv. CONNORS

① - 157-2627

1 - 66-22

MEMO ALL AGENTS # 187

JTB:lpw

(55)

Tom

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Filed *h* _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (157-2627)

DATE: 4/16/68

FROM : SAC ALEXANDER *WMA*

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: ERIC STARVO GALT

This is to record that at approximately 2:15 PM, 4/16/68, HARRY McDONNELL, Reporter for the Mobile Press Register, advised me that he had been advised by PETER F. SHEA, Harbor-master, City of Mobile, that he, SHEA, on 4/15/68, had received a telephone call from a reporter in New York. SHEA thought the caller was with the New York Times but was not sure. In any event, the caller wanted to know if the ship named "Red Star" had ever been in Mobile and SHEA advised the caller that he did not recall such a ship but would look it up in Lloyds Registry. He advised the caller that a check of Lloyds Registry did not indicate a ship by the name of "Red Star", but did indicate a Red Star Barge Line based in New York City.

The caller then requested to know whether or not approximately a year ago there had been some trouble aboard a German ship anchored at Mobile, and Mr. SHEA advised the caller that he could not recall any such trouble.

McDONNELL stated that he, McDONNELL, recalled, and refreshed SHEA's recollection, that on 1/18 and 19/68, the German cargo vessel, SS RHINE ORE, had been in the Port of Mobile and there was a suspected case of TB aboard the vessel and the entire crew had to have chest examinations at the X-Ray Mobile operated by the Tuberculosis and Health Unit of Mobile County.

McDONNELL produced a picture from the Mobile Press of Friday, 1/19/68, of the crew of said vessel lined up awaiting X-rays. In the forefront is one WERNER DREWS of Hamburg, a crewman aboard the German cargo vessel, who entertained his shipmates at the Port of Mobile while they were waiting for chest X-rays.

McDONNELL also produced artist's conception of ERIC STARVO GALT made by the artist at Mexican Police Hdqtrs. and it

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WMA: Amd

5010-108-01

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Handwritten signature/initials over the stamp.

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

MO 157-2627

was McDONNELL's opinion, as well as others at the press, that there might be some similarity between the picture of DREWS and the artist's conception of GALT.

McDONNELL indicated that he was sure the call from the newspaperman in New York was prompted by a UPI story which indicated that the German translation of ERIC GALT meant "Red Star."

Appropriate action should be taken to determine, if possible, whether or not DREWS is still aboard the ship and whether or not he might be identical with suspect GALT.



'HAM' FROM HAMBURG—Werner Drews of Hamburg, crewman aboard the German cargo vessel S.S. Rhine Ore, entertained his shipmates at the Port of Mobile today while they waited for chest examinations at the X-Raymobile operated by the Tuberculosis

Mobile Press Register Staff Photo by Tony Manuppelli and Health Unit of Mobile County through the sale of Christmas seals. Drews' pantomime for the benefit of a Press Register cameraman kept the visiting seamen in stitches. A suspected case of TB aboard the vessel led to the X-ray examinations.

ers Find No Tracks Seaman Eric Galt



HOW ARTISTS VIEW KING MURDER SUSPECT—At left is Mexican Police Headquarters artist Sergio Jaubert's re-creation of physical features of the man suspected of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn. last week. Drawing was based on the description supplied by FBI authorities. At right is the conception of the man made by Memphis Commercial Appeal artist Bill Herrington based on a description given by a man who lives in the building in Memphis from where the shot was fired. (Mobile Press Register AP Wirephoto)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627)

DATE: 4/15/68

FROM : SA DEXTER A. MADDOX

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re my memo 4/15/68.

On April 15, 1968, FLOYD MANN, Shawmut, Ala., advised that he had just received some more information regarding FLOYD BUDDY AYRES, and that JONES the attorney had called and said that in reconstructing everything that was said at their meeting he recalled that AYRES stated he had a high powered rifle behind the dresser in his hotel room. However, BUBBA JONES did not see the rifle. But he did see a revolver, cal. unknown in the belt of AYRES.

MANN stated that he just wanted to pass this along with the other information as he feels that Ayres may be a good suspect.

DAM/
(1)

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627)

DATE: 4/15/68

FROM : SA DEXTER A. MADDOX

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/14/68, FLOYD MANN, Shawmut, Ala., telephonically contacted the writer at home and advised that he had observed an article in the Montgomery Advertiser, regarding "Uninvited Usher at Kings Funeral". It went on to state that BUBBA JONES was with him and stated that FLOYD BUDDY AYRES, who was identified in the article as the uninvited usher who is an encyclopaedia salesman, was arrested about two months ago in Lanett, Ala.

On 4/14/68 BUBBA JONES, stated he was a lowyer in Lanett, Ala. and had defended AYRES who had been arrested for DWI and viol. of prob. laws in Lanett, Ala. Jones stated that he had occasion to talk to Ayres and that Ayres appeared to him to be mentally unbalanced. During the talk Ayres talked of killing any SOB in the country with a high powered rifle and a scope. He also talked of how easy it was to kill some prominate person. He also seemed to be insenced with the racial problems. In his opinion JONES stated that AYRES was dangerous, an itinerant and a floater. He stated that the outcome was that he called Atty. Vennable in Atlanta who said to tell Ayres to get in his car and get back to Atlanta. Jones described Ayres as 37-38, 5'11" - 6'; 190 - 195 lbs, Hair light brown. Jones stated that Ayres should be considered a suspect in the King killing.

Above was furnished to Supr. Connors on 4/14/68 at which time a check of the indicies revealed that Atlanta was already aware of Ayres and that the Atlanta office would be aware of the univited guest//at the funeral and the Background of Ayres.

Action: None (file)

DAM/
(2)

*4/17
Handling Sup. of Atlanta
advises that he has
checked*

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FBI WASH DC

8 537 PM GJM URGENT 4/17/68 SAA

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861

MURKIN

THE PHOTOGRAPHS FURNISHED YOUR OFFICES OF ERIC STARVO
GALT BY ROUTING SLIP FOUR SIXTEEN LAST CONTAIN THE
COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT AS FURNISHED BY VARIOUS
WITNESSES. THE PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE EYES CLOSED IS THE
ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH AS TAKEN IN MARCH SIXTY-EIGHT. THE
PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE EYES OPEN IS THE SAME PHOTOGRAPH IN
WHICH THE EYES HAVE BEEN DRAWN IN BY AN ARTIST.

END

FMB

FBI BIRMGHAM

CDC

FBI NEW ORLS

FLK

FBI MOBILE

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

TU CLR

*Photos sent
Memo + Radio + TV
+ all RAs*

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Boston

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

White Usher At King's Rites Just Limelighter

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — Despite the security precautions surrounding Vice President Hubert Humphrey, the white man who did much of the ushering at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not present by design of the arrangements committee.

The King family thought he was a Secret Service man, the minister in charge of arrangements thought he was an aide of some governor, and presumably the Secret Service figured he had clearance.

But it was learned Friday that the prominent usher was an encyclopedia salesman named Floyd (Buddy) Ayers of Stone Mountain, Ga.

'SECURITY HERE'

It was Ayers who seated former Vice President Richard M. Nixon and who led Sen. Robert Kennedy, D-NY, to a pew with the words: "Come right this way, Robert, we have security here."

The words were overheard by an Associated Press reporter who first met Ayers when the salesman attended a murder trial with the defense counsel, James Venable, who heads the

National Knights of Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

Ayers busily seated many of the dignitaries before sitting down himself. He gave up his seat to basketball player Wilt Chamberlain later and stood near the casket of King.

Federal sources confirmed the identification of the reporter, and it was learned that the FBI had studied Ayers and had concluded that he was merely seeking the limelight in his actions at the funeral.

King's brother, asked about the incident, said he thought the man probably was a Secret Service agent.

THOUGHT AIDE

The Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, minister at the Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem, who had charge of arrangements, said the white man who ushered was, he thought, an aide to governor.

He said the man came in with the party of one of the governors and "other dignitaries knew him." He thought he might even have been with the wife of Arkansas Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller, who indeed was accompanied by a bodyguard-aide but not Ayers.

The FBI declined comment but a spokesman pointed out that the FBI had nothing to do with security arrangements at the funeral service.

The Secret Service chief here, A. B. Wentz, declined comment. Ayers himself couldn't be reached for comment.

His wife, telephoned by a newsman who asked about her husband's actions at the funeral, said: "You'd better talk to him about that. I don't think he would want it in the newspaper."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4B, "THE MOBILE REGISTER", Mobile, Alabama.

Date: 4/13/68

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor:

Title: "WHITE USHER AT KING'S RITES JUST LIMELIGHTER".

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-2627

Submitting Office: MOBILE

☐ Being Investigated

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MO 157-2627

JTB:mb

1

RE: WILLIAM MADISON LEONARD
Former Inmate, Draper
Prison, Elmore, Alabama

ALTON LEWIS ABSTON, a prisoner in Los Angeles County Jail, Los Angeles, California, on April 13, 1968, advised that in 1957 or 1958, he was a cellmate in Draper Prison, Elmore, Alabama, with one WILLIAM LENNARD or WILLIAM LENNORD. He said that the profile photograph of the suspected killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING which appeared in the Los Angeles Times newspaper fits LENNARD "to a 'T'." He said that LENNARD had been in prison on a murder charge in Alabama for shooting a Negro. He described LENNARD as a white male, 35 - 36, 5'11" to 6', 175 to 180 pounds, brownish-red hair, home address, Birmingham, Alabama.

The following investigation was conducted on April 15, 1968, by Special Agent SPENCER H. ROBB:

On April 15, 1968, M. S. DEAN, Identification Officer, Alabama Board of Corrections, Montgomery, Alabama, made available his file on WILLIAM MADISON LEONARD, JR., Number 78492, which he stated was only former convict of this name or similar name he could locate in his files. He also made available a photograph of LEONARD made in 1965.

A review of this file reflected the following background data:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Jefferson County, Alabama
Height	5'11" (1965)
Weight	180 pounds (1965)
Build	Heavy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown, balding (1965)
Complexion	Ruddy
Marks	Mole, left side of chin

157-2627-200

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

MO 157-2627

JTB:mb

2

Father	WILLIAM MADISON LEONARD, SR., 2901 Briarcliff Road, Hueytown, Alabama (1965)
Wife	CAROL MOORE LEONARD, 404 Government Street, Wetumpka, Alabama (1965)
Mother-in-law	GIADYS PILGRIM, 404 Government Street, Wetumpka, Alabama (1965)
Occupation	Steelworker, gunsmith
Service, Military	U. S. Army, January 1951 to December 1952, honorable discharge, Serial Number [REDACTED]
FBI Number	923 009B

The file reflects LEONARD was convicted of first degree murder in Jefferson County, Alabama, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. The offense report reflects LEONARD and two other men were reportedly forced off road in their car by three Negroes in another car. LEONARD then drove alongside the Negroes' car and fired a .32 automatic into the driver's side; this car then stopped, and LEONARD shot and killed one of the Negroes who he allegedly thought was reaching for a gun.

The file reflects LEONARD was paroled on July 13, 1959, revoked March 11, 1960, paroled February 10, 1964, revoked March 16, 1965, and was discharged November 10, 1965. He had a record of escape and several disciplinary actions while in prison.

He served at Draper Prison during the early part of his confinement in 1956 and 1957.

4/17/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-198)
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: Memphis)

Re Los Angeles teletype 4/13/68.

Enclosed for Memphis are 25 copies of insert reflecting background data on WILLIAM MADISON LEONARD, JR., a former convict in Alabama, and one photograph of LEONARD. Two copies of the insert and one photograph are enclosed for Birmingham.

For information of Birmingham, the Bureau advised by airtel dated 4/15/68 to Los Angeles, Memphis and Mobile, that latent prints, this case, are not identical with the fingerprints of WILLIAM MADISON LEONARD, white male, born [REDACTED] Birmingham, Ala., FBI Number 923 009B, who may or may not be suspect named.

- 2 - Memphis (Encl. 26)
- 2 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Encl. 3)
- 2 - Mobile

JTB:mb

(6)

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

157-2627-201
Searched _____
Serialized ✓
Indexed _____
Filed ✓

MO 157-2627

JTB:jh

1

RE: 1965 Mustang, two door, white,
VIN 5F09C291191, reported
stolen January 24, 1968, at
Montgomery, Alabama

The following investigation was conducted telephonically by Special Agent DAN O. STEPHENS at Montgomery, Alabama, on April 15, 1968:

KEN HALLFORD, Communications Center, Alabama Department of Public Safety, advised that a 1965 Ford, Mustang, two door, white, VIN 5F09C291191, bearing 1968 Alabama license 51-5454, according to his files, was reported stolen January 24, 1968, and is unrecovered. Car was reportedly owned by JOE GAULDIN, Route 1, Tyler, Alabama. He stated that his files contain no additional information concerning this theft.

Detective WALTER CRAFT, Auto Theft Detail, Montgomery Police Department, advised as follows:

His files reflect that above described car was reported stolen January 24, 1968, at Montgomery, Alabama. Subsequent investigation by Detectives J. D. RUSSELL and J. O. DARDEN, resulted in the location of the car in a body repair shop located on Malvern Street, Montgomery, Alabama, which is operated by CARL WAYNE DOWNS and STEVE DOWNS. It was determined that the owner, GAULDIN, had requested proprietors of this shop to pick up his car and make some repairs on it. File further indicates that car had been picked up without owners knowledge and he had assumed that it was stolen.

As a result, theft report on this car was cancelled, but through inadvertance, no discontinue was given to Alabama State Troopers and NCIC.

In view of the foregoing, no further investigation was conducted.

157-2627-202

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 16 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

4/17/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reference is made to Bureau airtel to Memphis, Mobile and Knoxville, 4/10/68, concerning two white Mustangs stolen between 1/1/68 and 4/4/68 in Alabama.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are 25 copies of an insert reflecting investigation concerning a 1965 Mustang reportedly stolen at Montgomery, Ala., 1/24/68, which investigation reflected that the car had not actually been stolen, but had been picked up in error for repair.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

2 - Memphis (Enc. 25)

② - Mobile

JTB:jh

(4)

J.A.

✓
157-2627-203
Searched _____
Serialized ✓
Indexed _____
Filed ✓

MO 157-2627

JTB:jh

1

RE: Alabama Drivers license
0386612 held by PETER N. CHERPES,
Birmingham, Alabama

The following investigation was conducted telephonically by Special Agent DAN O. STEPHENS at Montgomery, Alabama, on April 10, 1968:

Mrs. GERTRUDE KING, Drivers License Division, Alabama Department of Public Safety, advised as follows:

License number [REDACTED] is held by PETER N. CHERPES, 933 19th Street, South, Birmingham, Alabama. It is a current license, issued April 28, 1966, and will expire April 28, 1968. The renewal has been mailed to CHERPES at same address. CHERPES has held a license in Birmingham since 1929, and at that time was described as a white male, born [REDACTED] 5'10", 185 pounds, blue eyes and brown hair. He has resided at the same address since 1962. His file indicates that he resided at Chicago, Illinois prior to Birmingham.

157-2627-204

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1968	
FBI-MONTGOMERY	

4/17/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Mobile airtel to the Bureau, 4/14/68,
sending to the Bureau and Memphis
FD-302s concerning the issuance of
1968 Alabama automobile license 1-38993,
and issuance of Alabama drivers license
to ERIC STARVO GALT.

Enclosed herewith for the Memphis Division are
25 copies of an insert reflecting identification of
Alabama drivers license [redacted] held by PETER W. CHERPES,
Birmingham, Alabama. Two copies of this insert are being
furnished to the Birmingham Division for their information.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 25)
- 2 - Birmingham (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Mobile

JTB:jh
(6)

J.H.

✓

157-2627-205
Searched _____
Serialized *✓* _____
Indexed *✓* _____
Filed *✓* _____