

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE SPRINGFIELD	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/17/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/14-15/68
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA QUENTIN P. STINSON	TYPED BY smr
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR	

REFERENCES:

New Orleans airtel to Memphis dated 5/7/68.

- P -

LEADS:

SPRINGFIELD DIVISION

AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Will report results of continuing investigation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED <i>tc</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (44-38861) 2 - Chicago (44-1114) (INFO) 2 - Memphis (44-1987) ② - New Orleans (157-10673) 2 - Springfield (44-561)						<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____ MAY 20 1968 F. B. I. NEW ORLEANS <i>Callahan</i> </div>		
						<i>Amey</i> <i>157-10673-981</i>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency						<i>157-10673-981</i> <i>3</i> <i>5</i>		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

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COVER PAGE

SI 44-561

CHICAGO DIVISION

Information copies of this report have been designated for the Chicago Office at the request of the Office of Origin.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA QUENTIN P. STINSON Office: Springfield
Date: May 17, 1968

Field Office File #: SI 44-561

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

Magistrate ROBERT A. CONEY, Peoria, Illinois, vacationed with wife and twelve year old daughter in New Orleans, Louisiana, December, 1967. They could furnish no information relating to JAMES EARL RAY, FBI No. 405 942G. Mrs. CONEY recalls observing a white late model sports car parked in archway of Provincial Motel, New Orleans, Louisiana, during visit, but she could not accurately describe or identify occupants.

- P -

SI 44-561

DETAILS:

This inquiry was predicated on information received from the New Orleans Office of the FBI reflecting ROBERT A. CONEY, Judge, 311 Fayette Street, Peoria, Illinois, was a registered guest of the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, on December 17, 1967.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

Magistrate ~~ROBERT A. CONEY~~, Room 402, County Building, Peoria, Illinois, a former United States Commissioner of the Southern District of Illinois, advised he, his wife, and daughter, ROBIN, age twelve, vacationed in New Orleans, Louisiana, during December, 1967, and were registered guests of the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, for an eight-day period between December 17 and December 24, 1967. He stated they ate breakfast at the motel dining room but otherwise spent the remainder of the days sight-seeing in New Orleans, Louisiana. He selected the motel, which he described as a very sedate and quiet place, at the suggestion of the Chicago Motor Club, Peoria, Illinois.

Magistrate CONEY observed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942G, then stated he could recall nothing relating to this individual.

On 5/14/68 at Peoria, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON/smr Date dictated 5/15/68

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

Date May 16, 1968

Miss ROBIN CONEY, age twelve, 533 West Forrest Hill Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942G. She advised that she could not identify the photographs of RAY as any person she had observed while vacationing in New Orleans, Louisiana, during December, 1967.

Miss CONEY advised she vacationed at New Orleans, Louisiana, between December 17-24, 1967, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT A. CONEY, Peoria, Illinois. The family was registered guests at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, Louisiana, during that period of time. At times during the above visit, she recalled seeing a white sports model automobile that was parked in the archway area of the above motel in the loading and unloading area. She recalled the automobile was parked in the archway area of the motel on three or maybe four occasions and that she had walked around the automobile to cross the archway area to the restaurant portion of the motel. She could not accurately describe the make or model of the automobile and could not accurately describe the adults associated with the automobile. She stated she did recall there were two small children accompanying the adults. She was of the opinion that the children were girls under ten years of age. She advised she did not observe these individuals in any other portion of the motel area.

On 5/15/68 at Peoria, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON/smr Date dictated 5/15/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

~~Mrs. ROBERT A. CONEY~~, 533 West Forrest Hill Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942G, and she was questioned regarding her observation while a guest at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, New Orleans, Louisiana.

She could not identify the above photographs of RAY as any person she had observed while in the New Orleans, Louisiana, area during December, 1967.

She related her observations while a guest at the above motel between December 17-24, 1967. She recalled seeing a white sports automobile parked at the archway area of the motel which she stated was used for loading and unloading purposes only. She first observed this automobile about the time of her arrival at the motel between 3:00 and 5:00 P.M., Sunday, December 17, 1967.

Mrs. CONEY related this white automobile could have been a Mustang model car. She stated the automobile was definitely an American-made car. She recalled the auto because it was parked in the motel archway area on three or maybe four occasions, and she had to walk around the automobile to cross the archway area to the restaurant. She noted this car was a late model car that appeared to be waxed and extremely clean in appearance.

Mrs. CONEY stated her impressions of the activity in the area are vague; however, she associated three males and two females and two small children with the above automobile. She observed the occupants were neatly dressed in sports clothing and the adults appeared to be between thirty and forty years of age.

The two children appeared to be under ten years of age and she believed both to be girls. The women wore light colored slacks. The men and women both were neat in appearance and attractive. She paid particular attention

On 5/15/68 at Peoria, Illinois File # SI 44-561
 by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON/smr Date dictated 5/15/68

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SI 44-561

to one woman who had her hair wrapped in a peculiar white scarf which came under her chin and tied in the back of her neck.

Mrs. CONEY advised that she had not observed the above individuals in any other area of the motel and that she could not furnish further descriptive information concerning them.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-10673) (P) DATE: 5/20/68

FROM : SA LESTER G. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The Bureau has advised that one JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, when interviewed in St. Louis, Mo., stated that he taught JAMES EARL RAY to be a burglar. He contended that on or about 6/23-24/67, he read in the Chicago "Tribune" of a \$50,000 bank burglary in a southern state and recalled that he and RAY had cased this bank in 1958 or 1959, but did not rob it because he, GAWRON, injured his leg. A few days after reading the article, GAWRON claimed he was visited by a man whom he refused to identify. This man told GAWRON that he and others had robbed the bank and displayed a valise full of money. He further claims that about six weeks ago this man again visited him and indicated RAY and one or more other persons had been involved with him in the bank robbery.

The bank was allegedly in the Deep South, in a State like Mississippi, but not Mississippi. It was allegedly in a city that is not small and is near a river. The robbers were out of the state in five minutes after the robbery and the loot totaled \$50,000, on a plus or minus \$2,000.

The Bureau further advised that the Chicago "Tribune" and the Bureau's bank robbery files have been reviewed without finding any reference to a robbery such as GAWRON described. GAWRON has been reinterviewed and denied contact with RAY since RAY's escape. GAWRON says that the robbery referred to could have occurred in July, 1967, instead of June, and was in a city on the east bank of the Mississippi River.

8 - 1 Each SRA (LANCASTER, LITCHFIELD, GIST,
BECKER, SMALLWOOD, WARD, DENT, KELLEY)
3 - 1 Each RT Agent (BOMBARDIER, PRICE, SHEARER)
② 157-10673

LGD:epk
(13)

Lester G. Davis
5/20/68

157-10673-982

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <u> Z </u>	FILED _____
MAY 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

NO 157-10673

LEADS:

EACH SRA AND ROAD TRIP AGENT should consider above to determine if there has been a robbery of any kind coming within the jurisdiction of the Bureau that might be connected with the above.

Each Agent should make inquiry at appropriate police departments to determine if a robbery of this magnitude occurred within his territory that might be connected with above.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 5/17/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)
FROM SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)

MURKIN.

RE CARLOS LEE BILLINGS.

~~NORRIS CARMERDELLE ADVISED THAT BILLINGS RESIDED IN
APARTMENT SIX, THREE ONE FIVE LAUROSSINI STREET, WHICH WAS
RENTED BY ENIS HEAD, WHO IS FROM TENNESSEE, EXACT LOCATION
NOT KNOWN.~~

BILLINGS IN THIS APARTMENT FROM MAY TO DECEMBER, SIXTYFIVE.
CARMERDELLE HAS NO BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE HEAD.

KANSAS CITY WILL REINTERVIEW BILLINGS RE ENIS HEAD.

MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

① - New Orleans
1 - Memphis (44-1987)
TED:epk
(2) *epk*

Callender *Q*
157-10673-983

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Serialized _____
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Filed _____

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *10 04* M Per *CRC*

F

FBI NEW ORLS

FBI KAN CITY

552PM URGENT 5-19-68 ENT
TO NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)
FROM KANSAS CITY (44-760) 2P

MURKIN.

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL MAY THIRTEEN LAST.

BILLINGS REINTERVIEWED MAY SEVENTEEN, SIXTY-EIGHT, MEDICAL CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, MO. STATED KNEW OWNER CANAL BANK INN AS NORRIS (LNU). HE STAYED THERE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, THE FIRST TIME IN SIXTY-FIVE HE STAYED THREE MONTHS WITH BEN BLACKWELL OF COLUMBIA, S. C. BLACKWELL GOT JOB WITH MAC'S WELL SERVICE, HARVEY, LA., AND BILLINGS WORKED FOR NOBLE DRILLING CO., NEW ORLEANS. HE DID GIVE NORRIS BAD CHECK FOR POKER DEBT DURING THIS STAY.

LATER IN SIXTY-FIVE, EXACT PERIOD UNRECALLED, HE AGAIN STAYED OVER WEEKEND AT THE CANAL BANK INN. IT WAS ON THIS TRIP WHEN BARBER ACCOMPANIED HIM. BARBER WAS TO MEET MAN (FNU) FURIES OR FERRIES (PH) AT GUY'S INTERNATIONAL BAR, NEW ORLEANS. THIS MAN
END PAGE ONE

89-651
515
1991
Dante James

cell caller in advised 9:10 PM 5/19/68

157-10673-984

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 19 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	
<i>Alan Rodway</i>	

PAGE TWO

WAS SUPPOSEDLY THE CONTACT FOR THE MACHINE GUN. HE TOOK BARBER TO THIS BAR ON FRIDAY, THE DAY THEY ARRIVED, AND RETURNED TO THE CANAL BANK INN TO WAIT FOR HIM. WHEN HE DID NOT RETURN BY MONDAY HE DEPARTED THINKING BARBER NEVER HAD ACCESS TO ANY SUCH WEAPON.

NEW ORLEANS MAY WISH TO VERIFY EMPLOYMENT BILLINGS AT NOBLE DRILLING CO. IN SIXTY-FIVE. OWNER CANAL BANK INN MAY KNOW WHETHER BILLINGS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ANYONE ON HIS SECOND VISIT TO INN.

ALL OFFICES SHOULD KEEP IN MIND BILLINGS HAS PAST HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS.

AIR MAIL COPIES DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

OLP

FBI NEW ORLS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-10673) (P)

FROM : SA STEPHEN M. CALLENDER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/20/68

This is to record that on 5/16 and 17/68, Identification Orders on JAMES EARL RAY were sent to all persons listed as operators of barber shops in Louisiana. This list had previously been obtained from the State Department at Baton Rouge, La., which oversees the licensing and inspection of barber shops in Louisiana and this list can be located in the 1-A section of this file.

SMC:epk
(2) *epk*

157-10673-985

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MAY 20 1968	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Callender



5010-108-01

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

5/20/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Kansas City teletype to New Orleans, 5/18/68.

RE: CARLOS LEE BILLINGS

NORRIS CARMERDELLE, Owner and Manager of the Canal Bank Inn has previously advised that BILLINGS resided in Apartment 6, 315 Laurensini St., Westwego, La., from May, to December, 1965, and this apartment was rented by EMIS HRAD. CARMERDELLE made no mention of the name BEN BLACKWELL, who is the individual with whom BILLINGS states he resided.

BILLINGS advised he was to take BARBER to Guy's International Bar to meet a man named (FNU) FURIES, or FERRIES (phonetic). It is felt that (FNU) FURIES or FERRIES is possibly identical with DAVID FERRIE, now deceased, who was a principal in DA JAMES GARRISON's probe of the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

In view of this information and BILLINGS past history of mental illness, New Orleans is conducting no further investigation concerning CARLOS LEE BILLINGS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3-Bureau (RM)
1-Kansas City (44-760) (INFO) (RM)
1-Memphis (44-1987) (INFO) (RM)
2-New Orleans

FEB:sja

5

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157-10673-986

NO 157-10673

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI,
DOROTHY ZELLNER
ROBERT ZELLNER

New Orleans files contain the following pertinent information concerning the above individuals:

JACK CORNELIUS PEEBLES is subject of a pending SM-M case, Bufile 100-17300. PEEBLES is a practicing attorney in New Orleans and is known to give legal advice to members of the Spartacists League and the New Orleans Movement for A Democratic Society (NOMDS).

ROSALYN LAVANTHAL is subject of a closed SM-M case, Bufile 105-171667, NO file 100-17425.

ROBERT THOMAS ANALEVAGE is subject of a pending SM-M case, New Orleans file 100-17525. He is known to have attempted suicide on four different occasions while in the military, is described as a violent and destructive person and has an arrest history from 1955 through 1967, including burglary and drunkenness.

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI is subject of a closed SM-C case, Bufile 100-122519, NO 100-13722. DOMBROWSKI is a retired executive director of SCEP and is presently on Section A of the Reserve Index.

JOHN ROBERT ZELLNER is subject of a pending SM-S case, Bufile 105-442400, NO 100-17552.

DOROTHY RACHELLE ZELLNER aka Mrs. JOHN ROBERT ZELLNER is subject of pending SM-C case, Bufile 100-427403, NO 100-17551. She is currently on the Security Index, New Orleans Division.

Since New Orleans does not contemplate conducting interviews of the above persons in connection with instant matter in view of the past or present security type investigation conducted on these individuals.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/20/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : Director, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, New Orleans (157-10673)(P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: Memphis)

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau 5/14/68.

Letter Written by Mrs.
ALMENA LOMAX to Attorney
General RAMSAY CLARK
dated 4/13/68

Referenced airtel set forth suggested lead that New Orleans interview appropriate officials of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) for any information those officials might have concerning assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The April, 1968, edition of "Southern Patriot," official publication of SCEF, lists the officials of SCEF. Set forth below are the names of those individuals listed who currently reside in New Orleans.

Executive Committee

JACK FREEMAN
ROSALYN LAVANTHAL - Assistant Secretary

Field Staff

ROBERT ANALAVAGE - Assistant Editor

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - Louisville (RM) (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)(Info)(RM)
- ② - New Orleans

KJC:epk

(7) *epk*

157-10673-987
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