

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

pg 2212

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

44-38861

~~DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION~~ RLF 1487

See Sep. 1A vol.

dismissed
4/2/80

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY - PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

CLASSIFICATION

157-3231

Volume Number

3

Serials

281 thru 435

SMITH WALKER 18-45367

Labadie 4-15-68

See Next Volume

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC: TAMPA 157-3231

DATE: 4-18-68

FROM : MC ROBERT J. O'BRIEN

SUBJECT: MURKIN : OO:Memphis

At 9:55PM William Connell, Manager of an apartment house corner of 4th and Highway 90A, Apt 10, Delbourne, Beach Fla, 305-727-1370, telephonically this office and furnished the following information. One of his tenants, Mrs. Rose Fletcher, apt 8, an elderly woman 70 yrs old, called him tonight and said she had seen an individual three times Tuesday and once today that she believes is Eric Starvo Galt. He was visiting Mr George Mc Cammon, apt 2 same address, works for IRS, was referred to the apartment house by a local real estate agency, and took the apartment 4-1-68. Mrs. Fletcher did not notice Galt driving an automobile nor did she have any additional information. Connell thought he should bring this information to the FBI.

#4 advised 10:00 PM PRB

SA Tully 10:05 PM PRB

(2)

*Covered
negative
he is running*

#2

*William
Galt*

157-3231-281

*8 on
Tully*



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4-23-68

FROM : SA EDWARD J. TULLY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4-18-68, William Connell, Agr., Regency Apts., Melbourne Beach, Florida telephonically advised Tampa of the fact that a resident of the apartments thought she observed an individual identical to Eric Galt.

On 4-19-68, Connell was contacted and Mrs. Rose Fleeter, Apt. 5, interviewed for further information. She advised that she observed the unknown individual in the company of George McCammon, Apt. 2. McCammon was identified as being a salesman for IBM, Cocoa Beach, Florida. McCammon interviewed on 4-19-68 and identified individual in question as fellow worker, Don Smallman. McCammon positively identified Smallman as not being identical with Eric S. Galt, et al.

1-157-3231



5010-108

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

157-3231-281A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AM

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, ALBANY

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

At about 6 p.m. on 4/4/68, while standing on the second floor balcony outside Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was struck in the right side of the face by a single bullet fired from a 30-06 rifle. The bullet severed KING's spinal cord and death was almost instantaneous.

This investigation, predicated upon a specific request from the Attorney General of the United States, disclosed that the fatal shot had been fired from the bathroom of a cheap rooming house located at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, which bathroom was located at the rear of the rooming house, and had a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel.

At about 3 p.m. on 4/4/68, an individual using the name JOHN WILLARD had rented Room 5-B in the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street and had paid one week's rent. After hearing the rifle shot at about 6 p.m. on that same day, other tenants in the rooming house observed a man presumably identical with WILLARD, fleeing from the rooming house carrying a large package which was subsequently abandoned by him on the sidewalk in front of the Canipe Amusement Co., 424 South Main Street, Memphis. A neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of 424 South Main Street disclosed that the subject had fled from the scene in a white Mustang.

Found abandoned in front of 424 South Main Street was a 30-06 Remington model 760 rifle which was determined to have been

2 ALBANY

2 ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(111)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

157-3231-282

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

#4

ME 44-1987

sold to one HARVEY LOWMEYER on 3/30/68 by Aeromarine Supply Co., Birmingham, Alabama.

Investigation at Memphis disclosed that an individual had purchased a set of binoculars at the York Arms Company in Memphis on 4/4/68. These binoculars were among the material abandoned with the rifle and recovered in Memphis. Also recovered was a brown and green herringbone bedspread. The items abandoned in Memphis were all wrapped in this bedspread. The blue bag which was inside the bedspread contained numerous items, among which were the binoculars and a set of underwear consisting of a T-shirt and shorts. The T-shirt and shorts are those on which appears the laundry mark which has been a matter of interest in this case.

A search of motel records in the Memphis area disclosed that an individual using the name ERIC S. GALT had spent the night of 4/3/68 at the Rebel Motel, Memphis, Tennessee, and was driving a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama License 1-38993. Investigation at Birmingham disclosed that this automobile had been purchased by ERIC S. GALT on August 30, 1968, from a private person in response to a newspaper ad. He paid a total of \$1995 cash. While in Birmingham he furnished the address of 2608 South Highland Avenue, Birmingham. This is also the address which appeared on a driver's license issued to him by the State of Alabama. The driver's license identifying data listed his birth date as [REDACTED], his height as 5'11", his weight as 170 and his eyes blue and hair brown.

The automobile in question, the white Mustang bearing the Alabama tags mentioned above, was recovered in Atlanta on 4/11/68 and determined to have been abandoned there prior to 9 a.m. on 4/5/68.

In connection with the evidence submitted by Atlanta, Birmingham, and Memphis, identifiable latent prints were recovered. It was on the basis of these latents that identification was made of JAMES EARL RAY. In handling future leads, all offices should be particularly interested in securing an identifying number, military, police, or FBI, in connection with suspects so that the necessary check can be made through the Identification Division.

On 4/17/68, AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, authorized the filing of a complaint charging ERIC STARVO GALT with a conspiracy to violate Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code, and

ME 44-1987

recommended bond in the amount \$50,000. On that same date, SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE filed a complaint before USC MILDRED F. SPRAGUE, Birmingham, and warrant was issued that same date.

For further information re JAMES EARL RAY, all offices are directed to press release furnished them by the Bureau on 4/19/68.

ARMED & DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 4/19/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, ALBANY

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA

*April 1968 figures -
Serial 984*

ReButel to ME 4/17/68.

For information of all offices, the Bureau by retel requested of the Memphis Division as follows:

"Please furnish following information on above matter compiled or estimated through 4/30/68, and thereafter submit cumulative totals through the end of each month until further notice:

- 1) Number of man hours spent on case broken down as to regular hours, overtime hours, and total man hours by following employees (separate figures for each class of employees shown):
 - A. Special Agents
 - B. Clerical Employees
- 2) Total mileage (estimated or actual) traveled by Bucars used on case. Include mileage for cars traveling to and from other field offices on special assignment and any personally-owned cars.
- 3) Any unusual or out-of-ordinary costs, such as cost of chartering airplane, rental of special office space, leased telephone lines, etc. These should be itemized and cost of each item shown.

① - Each Office
2 - Memphis
HEG:LF
(59)

TP

157-3231-283

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Labadie 1584

Approved: *R. G. Jensen*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *hond* Per _____

ME 44-1987

- 4) Peak number of Special Agents working on case during month for which report is submitted.

You should promptly request all Bureau offices involved in this case to furnish information requested herein to you and it should be included in your report."

Each office is requested to expeditiously furnish the Memphis Division with the above designated data within two work days after the close of each month. Secondly, each office is also requested to advise the Memphis Division even in the event each category is zero or no work is performed on this case during the month.

F B I

Date: 4/22/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: MEMPHIS)

For the information of receiving offices, Subject JAMES EARL RAY, Aka. was last known to be in the Atlanta, Georgia, area on 4/5/68. Intensive investigation by the Atlanta Office to date has not established mode of transportation utilized by RAY after 4/5/68 through checks with transportation companies, car rental agencies, etc.

3 - Bureau	2 - Miami
2 - Baltimore	2 - Mobile
2 - Birmingham	2 - Newark
2 - Charlotte	2 - New Orleans
2 - Chicago	2 - New York City
2 - Cincinnati	2 - Norfolk
2 - Cleveland	2 - Philadelphia
2 - Columbia	2 - Pittsburgh
2 - Houston	2 - Richmond
2 - El Paso	2 - St. Louis
2 - Indianapolis	2 - San Antonio
2 - Jackson	2 - Savannah
2 - Jacksonville	2 - Springfield
2 - Kansas City	② - Tampa
2 - Little Rock	2 - WFO
2 - Louisville	2 - Atlanta
2 - Memphis	
2 - Miami	

JJL:rjb
(69)

157-3231-284

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

AT 44-2386

All receiving offices are requested to check car recoveries within their respective divisions of cars stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 4/4/68, and consider same to have been possible mode of transportation for Subject RAY. The same consideration should be given to any cars recovered in the near future that were stolen from the State of Georgia after 4/4/68. In those instances where cars were stolen from Georgia and where the transporter of same cannot otherwise be accounted for, investigation should be conducted to determine if RAY was person who may have stolen and transported same.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 2 -

2876

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC 157-3231

DATE: 4/24/68

FROM : SA Dennis Joyce

SUBJECT: MURKIN

CR

OO: MEMPHIS

re Atlanta airtel to Director 4/22/68

Referenced communication directed various offices to check car recoveries since 4/4/68 to see if a possible UNSUB; car from Georgia could possibly be linked with Ray's means of transportation from the Atlanta area.

This late note #2 was searched by the writer and all files examined to determine if a car opened since 4/4/68 could possibly be linked with Subject.

TP 26-4475 - TP 26-8928 were reviewed with negative results and an airtel was sent to Atlanta reporting the negative investigation.



5010-108

1 file
OFS

W/
file

157-3231-284-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 24 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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

F B I

Date: 4/22/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

To: SAC's, Tampa (157-3231)
Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Tampa teletype 4/19/68.

The fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G, are not identical with the fingerprints of James Willard Wray, FBI #699529B.

The remaining unidentified latent fingerprints and the latent impressions in this case are not identical with the fingerprints of Wray. No palm prints are available in our Identification Division files for Wray.

- 1 - Minneapolis (157-450)
- 1 - Phoenix
- 1 - Los Angeles

157-3231-285

SEARCHED	CF	87
SERIALIZED		
APR 22 1968		

[Signature]

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

FBI TAMPA

FBI MIAMI

4:24PM URGENT 4-23-68 PJL

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS, OKLAHOMA CITY, TAMPA.

FROM MIAMI (44-1854) 1P

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL SACS, APRIL ELEVEN LAST.

INVESTIGATION MIAMI DIVISION HAS REFLECTED THAT FLIGHTS
OUT OF THE U.S. ARE MADE BY COASTAL AVIATION, A NON-SCHEDULED
AIRLINE AND BY AMERICAN FLYERS, ALSO NON-SCHEDULED.

COASTAL AVIATION IS BASED IN ORLANDO, FLA. AND AMERICAN
FLYERS IS BASED IN ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA.

TAMPA AT ORLANDO, FLA. AND OKLAHOMA CITY AT ARDMORE,
OKLAHOMA, WILL REVIEW PASSENGER MANIFESTS OF THESE TWO
CARRIERS FOR PERIOD APR. FOUR THROUGH APR. TEN LAST, AS PER
INSTRUCTIONS IN RE BUREAU TEL.

END

BLW

FBI TAMPA.

*5:58 PM 4/23/68
Smaller acct
+ will handle.
B*

H

*Orlando
B*

*airtel req results
4/25/68 mvs*

157-3231-286

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 23 1968	
FBI TAMPA	

Indle

4/24/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) - 286

MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

ReMtel to Bureau, 4/23/68.

A check of the passenger manifests for departures of Coastal Aviation, Orlando, Fla., on 4/24/68, reflected no pertinent information pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY and known aliases.

Coastal Aviation makes almost daily flights from Orlando to Melbourne and Jacksonville, Fla., terminating at West End and Freeport, Grand Bahamas. Passenger manifests checked from April 4 - 23, 1968, covered departures from all points.

Mr. CHARLES BAIRD, President; Captain JOHN ANDERSON, pilot and LEON HARDY, Operations Manager and Pilot could not identify photographs.

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Miami (Info)
- ① - Tampa

GWT:cj

(7)

file W 157-3231-286A

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED by
FILED on

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-3231)

DATE: 4/23/68

FROM : SA GORDON W. TINDLE

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re MM airtel to Bureau 4/23/68.

AT: COASTAL AVIATION
HERNDON AIRPORT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

On 4/24/68, Mr. Charles Baird, President, viewed photographs of WF # 442A but said he had not seen the subject. He made arrangements to contact the following and furnished passenger manifests for almost daily flights outside the US to West End and Freeport Grand Bahama.

Captain John Anderson could not identify subject of WF #442A nor could Leon Hardy, Operations Manager and pilot.

Hardy said flights almost daily go from Orlando to Melbourne to Jacksonville, Fla to West End and Freeport Grand Bahama. He produced all passenger manifests for all flights from all above points from 4/14/68 to 4/23/68 a search of which revealed no listing for the following:

W. C. Herron
James McBride
James O'Connor
James Earl Ray

James Walton
James Walyon
John Willard
"Jim"

HARVEY LOWMEYER
HARVEY LOWMYER

157-3231-28 *B*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>17</i>	FILED <i>9</i>
MAY 1 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

file w/



5010-108

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

FBI TAMPA

FBI BIRMGHAM

2:54PM URGENT 4-23-68 FAS

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS, NEW ORLEANS
SPRINGFIELD AND TAMPA
FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICES APRIL
TWENTYTWO LAST AND TAMPA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR APRIL FIFTEEN LAST.

FOR INFORMATION OFFICES NOT IN RECEIPT ATLANTA TEL, RAYMOND
LOUIS CURTIS APPARENTLY SERVING LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER, WHITFIELD
COUNTY, GEORGIA, STATES PREVIOUSLY SERVED TIME WITH JAMES EARL RAY
ON THREE OCCASIONS. CURTIS ADVISED ACQUAINTED INITIALLY WITH RAY
IN MARCH, NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE, JACKSON COUNTY JAIL, KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI, WHERE RAY INCARCERATED ON POST OFFICE BURGLARY CHARGE
JUST SUBSEQUENT TO RELEASE FROM PRISON IN MENARD, ILLINOIS. DURING
THIS INCARCERATION CURTIS AND RAY CELLMATES. RAY HAD FRIEND (NAME
UNRECALLED) WHO VISITED HIM IN JACKSON PRISON AND THIS FRIEND HAD
BEEN CELLMATE OF RAY AT MENARD, ILL. THIS FRIEND KEPT RAY IN
SPENDING MONEY WHILE RAY IN PRISON AND WOULD HARBOR RAY. RAY HAD
END PAGE ONE

157-3231-287

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

*4:20 pm
Hopper
He will
ask is
Puchit*

*Handled
by
Kings
at
USPO JP*

JP lead

Storper

PAGE TWO

ANOTHER CLOSE FRIEND (NAME URECALLED) OF ITALIAN DESCENT APPARENTLY "BIG MAN" IN SYNDICATE. THIS ITALIAN HAD APPARENTLY OPERATED WITH RAY IN PAST AND ENGAGED WITH RAY IN HANDLING STOLEN POST OFFICE MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELERS CHECKS.

WILLIAM KENNETH KNIGHT, KNOWN BURGLAR INCARCERATED WITHIN TAMPA DIVISION, HAS BEEN FURNISHING VOLUME OF INFORMATION RE POST OFFICE BURGLARIES FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS, INCLUDING IDENTITY OF MAJOR FENCES FOR STAMPS AND POSTAL MONEY ORDERS. THESE INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY SPECIAL AGENT OF FBI AND WAYNE R. RICHIE, POSTAL INSPECTOR, ORLANDO, FLA. *Harper*

REFERENCED TAMPA TEL STATES THAT KNIGHT INTERVIEWED APRIL FIFTEEN LAST AND UNABLE TO FURNISH INFORMATION RE KNOWLEDGE OF RAY, HOWEVER, HE WAS APPARENTLY ONLY SHOWN COMPOSITE PICTURE.

TAMPA REQUESTED TO REINTERVIEW KNIGHT AND EXHIBIT REAL PHOTOS OF RAY TO DETERMINE WHETHER KNIGHT MIGHT KNOW HIM OR BE ABLE TO DIRECT INVESTIGATION TOWARD ESTABLISHING IDENTITY OF FENCES REFERRED TO BY CURTIS IN YESTERDAY'S INTERVIEW. TAMPA ALSO REQUESTED TO CONTACT POSTAL INSPECTOR WAYNE RICHIE TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN IDENTIFYING THESE FENCES.

END

BLW

FBI TAMPA

X

F B I

Date:

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

TO: SAC mobile

FROM: SAC, Tampa (157-3231)

murkin

Re mobile teletype to Jacksonville 4/22 last and Jacksonville teletype to Tampa 4/23 last.

Jacksonville advised 1968 Fla license 3W-62330 registered to Robert D. Weir, 5105 1/2 Suwannee, Tampa on a 1968 Chevrolet.

Robert D. Weir identical to Robert Donald Weir, TPO # 134112, FBI # 791 862 F. Weir described w/m DOB 7/21/29 Newnan Ga. 5'6" 154 lbs, brown eyes, black hair. Photo of Weir reflects some similarities to Ray, but not identical.

Neighbor advised Weir not identical to photo James Earl Ray.

Weir's wife advised Weir driving 1968 tan Chevrolet convertible and visiting niece name unknown, near Montgomery, Ala. Weir resident of Tampa since 10/65 and wears brace left leg from accident 11/65. Wife will be in contact with Weir evening 4/23 and will request he contact Montgomery R.A. 4/24.

mobile advising Tampa if Weir not in

1. Send
2. File

Approved: Auc by phone

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 9:48 MPer tz

157-3231-288

contacted in order that weir may be interviewed
upon return to Tampa to verify occupant of
vehicle in Montgomery 4/22 last.

~~mobile on~~ Jacksonville and Memphis advised
Airmail.

Armed and dangerous.

FBI MOBILE

FBI TAMPA

911 PM URGENT 4/23/68 ALS

TO MOBILE

FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN; CR. 00:ME.

RE MOBILE TELETYPE TO JACKSONVILLE FOUR TWENTY TWO LAST AND
JACKSONVILLE TELETYPE TO TAMPA FOUR TWENTY THREE LAST.

JACKSONVILLE ADVISED NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT FLA. LICENSE THREE
W - SIX TWO THREE THREE ZERO REGISTERED TO ROBERT D. WEIR, FIVE
ONE ZERO FIVE AND ONE-HALF SUWANEE, TAMPA ON A NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT
CHEVROLET.

ROBERT D. WEIR IDENTICAL TO ROBERT DONALD WEIR, TPD NUMBER
ONE THREE FOUR ONE ONE TWO, FBI NUMBER SEVEN NINE ONE EIGHT SIX TWO
F. WEIR DESCRIBED W/M, DOB , NEWNAN,
GA., FIVE FT. SIX IN., ONE FIVE FOUR LBS., BROWN EYES, BLACK HAIR.
PHOTO OF WEIR REFLECTS SOME SIMILARITIES TO RAY, BUT NOT IDENTICAL.

NEIGHBOR ADVISED WEIR NOT IDENTICAL TO PHOTO JAMES EARL RAY.

WEIR'S WIFE ADVISED WEIR DRIVING NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT TAN
CHRVROLET CONVERTIBLE AND VISITING NEICE, NAME UNKNOWN, NEAR
MONTGOMERY, ALA. WEIR RESIDENT OF TAMPA SINCE TEN SIXTY-FIVE AND
END PAGE ONE

157-3231-288

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

BRACE LEFT LEG FROM ACCIDENT ELEVEN SIXTY-FIVE. WIFE WILL BE IN
CONTACT WITH WEIR EVENING FOUR TWENTY-THREE AND WILL REQUEST HE
CONTACT MONTGOMERY RA FOUR TWENTY-FOUR.

MOBILE ADVISE TAMPA IF WEIR NOT IN CONTACT IN ORDER THAT WEIR
MAY BE INTERVIEWED UPON RETURN TO TAMPA TO VERIFY OCCUPANT OF
VEHICLE MONTGOMERY FOUR TWENTY-TWO LAST.

JACKSONVILLE AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

AAH

FBI MOBILE

FBI TAMPA

FBI MOBILE

4-16 PM URGENT 4/25/68 TEB

TO: TAMPA 157-3231

FROM: MOBILE 157-2627 1P

MURKIN. CR. OO: ME.

RE TAMPA TELETYPE APR. TWENTY-THREE INSTANT. *- 157-288*

RE SIXTY-EIGHT FLA. LICENSE THREE W SIX TWO THREE THREE
ZERO.

ROBERT D. WEIR HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO CONTACT MONIGOMERY,
ALA. RA.

TAMPA INTERVIEW WEIR UPON HIS RETURN.

AM COPY MEMPHIS. NO INSERT SUBMITTED MOBILE.

END

MJR

FBI TAMPA

X

*5:45 pm
Dechman
adv.*

*#4
sub. is got
filed
file w/ Sp lead*

157-3231-288 A
SEARCHED
INDEXED
APR 25 1968
FBI - TAMPA
Dechman
airtel sent

FBI TAMPA

FBI JACKSVLE

150 PM URGENT 4/23/68 MHM

TO TAMPA /157-3231/

FROM JACKSONVILLE /44-769/ 1P

MURKIN.

RE MOBILE TELETYPE TO JACKSONVILLE APRIL TWENTYTWO LAST.

RE TELETYPE ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

DAVID JONES, ONE FOUR THREE CROMWELL ST., MONTGOMERY, ALA.,
ADVISED THREE FORTYFIVE PM TODAY, OBSERVED MAN RESEMBLING JAMES EARL
RAY DRIVING IN DOWNTOWN MONTGOMERY APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES PREVIOUS.
REPORTED INDIVIDUAL, WM, EARLY FORTIES, WAS DRIVING SIXTYEIGHT CHEV-
ROLET, TAN CONVERTIBLE, BEARING SIXTYEIGHT FLA. LICENSE THREE W SIX
2 3 3 0
TWO THREE THREE ZERO AND WAS DRESSED IN DARK SUIT, NO HAT, AND GAVE
IMPRESSION UNDER INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANT.

MVB, TALLHASSEE, FLA., ADVISED ABOVE VEHICLE REGISTERED TO ROBERT
D. WEIR, FIVE ONE ZERO FIVE AND ONE HALF SUWANNEE, TAMPA, FLA., FOR USE
ON A NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT CHEVROLET.

TAMPA DETERMINE IF INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY.

MOBILE AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

BLW

FBI TAMPA

make-in-law

margaret Henry (Charles), 6515 Orient Rd, Tampa

wife - maureen Henry

157-3231-289

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Richard

neighbor - James Haller
5103 Suwannee

Date: 4-19-68

Transmit the following in _____

PLAIN

(Type in plaintext or code)

TELETYPE

URGENT

(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), LOS ANGELES, AND ATLANTA
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN; CR. OO:ME.

RE ATLANTA TEL INSTANT DATE.

JAMES WRAY MENTIONED IN RETEL UNDOUBTEDLY IDENTICAL TO JAMES
WILLARD WRAY OF WHOM DIRECTOR, MINNEAPOLIS, PHOENIX, LOS ANGELES,
MEMPHIS ADVISED BY TMPA TEL DATED APRIL NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. RETEL
REFLECTED INVESTIGATION TAMPA DIVISION AT PINELLAS PARK, FLA.
DETERMINED JAMES WILLARD WRAY TO BE DRIVER FOR INSURED DRIVE -
A - WAY SYSTEMS, PINELLAS PARK, FLA. AND NOT DEEMED TO BE
IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

LEB/AS

SEARCHED _____

INDEXED _____

SERIALIZED cy

FILED cy

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

956 PM URGENT 4/23/68 ALS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), LOS ANGELES, AND ATLANTA
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN; CR. OO:ME.

RE ATLANTA TEL INSTANT DATE.

JAMES WRAY MENTIONED IN RETEL UNDOUBTEDLY IDENTICAL TO JAMES
WILLARD WRAY OF WHOM DIRECTOR, MINNEAPOLIS, PHOENIX, LOS ANGELES, AND
MEMPHIS ADVISED BY TMLA TEL DATED APRIL NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. RETPTL
REFLECTED INVESTIGATION TAMPA DIVISION AT PINELLAS PARK, FLA.
DETERMINED JAMES WILLARD WRAY TO BE DRIVER FOR INSURED DRIVE -
A - WAY SYSTEMS, PINELLAS PARK, FLA. AND NOT DEEMED TO BE
IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAB

FBI WASH DC

DRK, FBI - Los Angeles
JWE, FBI - Atlanta
Machine cc Dist
4/23/68
/R

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *cy*
FILED *cy*

157- 3231-290

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) & SAC, KANSAS CITY

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN

RE BH TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, APRIL TWO THREE, LAST.

ON APRIL TWO THREE, LAST, WILLIAM KENNETH KNIGHT WAS INTERVIEWED AT THE TAMPA CITY JAIL WHERE HE IS INCARCERATED. FOR THE INFO OF K.C. AND OTHER OFFICES RECEIVING, KNIGHT HAS FURNISHED VOLUME OF INFO RE POST OFFICE BURGLARIES DURING THE PAST YEAR. REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED INTERVIEW CONCERNING ANY ASSOCIATION KNIGHT MAY HAVE WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

KNIGHT ADVISED, AFTER VIEWING PHOTOS OF RAY, ~~AND ERIC STARVO GALT~~ ^{RAY NOT} THAT ~~NEITHER ERIC~~ WAS FAMILIAR TO HIM. HE ADVISED THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS NOR HAD HE BEEN IN THE K.C. AREA OR ASSOCIATED WITH POSTAL STAMP FENCES DURING FIFTY-FIVE. KNIGHT ADVISED ONLY CONTACT WITH K.C. FENCE WAS IN SIXTY-SIX AND SIXTY-SEVEN

73
① - Tampa
1 - Birmingham (AM) (44-1740)
1 - Memphis (AM) (44-1987)
RKH:bap
(3) *BAP*

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

157-3231-291

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)(157-3231)
PAGE TWO

TO FENCE LOOT FROM ATLANTA, GA., FLORENCE, ALA. POST OFFICE BURGLARIES. THOSE STAMPS WERE FENCED THROUGH BILLY MILES SKILLMAN WITH WHOM K.C. IS FAMILIAR. KNIGHT ADVISED NOT AWARE OF ANY ITALIAN FENCES IN K.C. HE ADVISED THAT SOMETIME DURING HIS PERIODS IN PRISONS HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED WITH RAY BUT CANNOT RECALL WHERE OR WHEN.

ON APRIL TWO THREE, LAST, POSTAL INSPECTOR WAYNE R. RICHIE, ORLANDO, FLA. ^{advised} ~~ADVISED SA RICHARD K. HARPER~~ ~~THAT~~ HE WAS NOT CONDUCTING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE POSTAL INSPECTIONS SERVICE IN FIFTY-FIVE NOR WAS HE IN THE K.C. AREA AT THAT TIME AND HE HAD NO INFO CONCERNING POSTAL FENCES DURING THAT PERIOD ^{There} ~~AT THAT PLACE~~. HE ADVISED, ~~HOWEVER~~, THAT WILLIAM R. RUDELL, POSTAL INSPECTOR, K.C., MO., IS FAMILIAR WITH MOST BURGLARS AND FENCES OPERATING IN THAT AREA AND HAS BEEN IN K.C. SINCE FIFTY-FIVE. RITCHIE SUGGESTED RUDELL BE CONTACTED IN K.C. RE INFO DESIRED.

K.C., LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RUDELL PER RE TEL.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)(157-3231)
PAGE THREE

AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED BH AND MEMPHIS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

1120AM URGENT 4-24-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND KANSAS CITY
FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 2P

MURKIN

REBHTEL TO DIRECTOR, APRIL TWO THREE, LAST.

ON APRIL TWO THREE, LAST, WILLIAM KENNETH KNIGHT WAS
INTERVIEWED AT THE TAMPA CITY JAIL WHERE HE IS INCARCERATED.
FOR THE INFO OF KANSAS CITY AND OTHER OFFICES RECEIVING, KNIGHT
HAS FURNISHED VOLUME OF INFO RE POST OFFICE BURGLARIES
DURING THE PAST YEAR. REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED
INTERVIEW CONCERNING ANY ASSOCIATION KNIGHT MAY HAVE WITH
JAMES EARL RAY.

KNIGHT ADVISED, AFTER VIEWING PHOTOS OF RAY, THAT
RAY WAS NOT FAMILIAR TO HIM. HE ADVISED THAT HE WAS
NOT FAMILIAR WITH RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS NOR HAD HE BEEN
IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA OR ASSOCIATED WITH POSTAL STAMP
FENCES DURING FIFTY-FIVE. KNIGHT ADVISED ONLY CONTACT
WITH KANSAS CITY FENCE WAS IN SIXTY-SIX AND SIXTY-SEVEN

END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED CS
FILED CS

*cc FB 2 Kan City (P/M)
dest inh*

157-3231-291

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

TO FENCE LOOT FROM ATLANTA, GA., FLORENCE, ALA. POST
OFFICE BURGLARIES. THOSE STAMPS WERE FENCED THROUGH
BILLY MILES SKILLMAN WITH WHOM KANSAS CITY IS FAMILIAR.
KNIGHT ADVISED NOT AWARE OF ANY ITALIAN FENCES IN KANSAS CITY.
HE ADVISED THAT SOMETIME DURING HIS PERIODS IN PRISONS HE
MIGHT HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED WITH RAY BUT CANNOT RECALL
WHERE OR WHEN.

ON APRIL TWO THREE, LAST, POSTAL INSPECTOR WAYNE
R. RICHIE, ORLANDO, FLA. ADVISED HE WAS NOT CONDUCTING
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE POSTAL INSPECTIONS
SERVICE IN FIFTY-FIVE NOR WAS HE IN THE KANSAS CITY
AREA AT THAT TIME AND HE HAD NO INFO CONCERNING POSTAL
FENCES DURING THAT PERIOD THERE. HE ADVISED THAT
WILLIAM R. RUDDELL, POSTAL INSPECTOR, KANSAS CITY, MO.,
IS FAMILIAR WITH MOST BURGLARS AND FENCES OPERATING IN
THAT AREA AND HAS BEEN IN KANSAS CITY SINCE FIFTY-FIVE.
RICHIE SUGGESTED RUDDELL BE CONTACTED IN KANSAS CITY RE
INFO DESIRE.

KANSAS CITY, LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RUDDELL PER RE TEL.

AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS.

END

WPK

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI ATLANTA

5:55 PM EST URGENT 4/22/68 VSC

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, AND NEW ORLEANS, KANSAS CITY,
SPRINGFIELD

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386 6 P

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO ABOVE OFFICES, APR. TWENTYONE
SIXTYEIGHT.

ON APR. TWENTYONE, LAST, SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN, (NA),
DALTON, GEORGIA, ADVISED, RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS CURRENTLY SERVING
LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER, ADVISED EARLIER HE SERVED TIME ON
THREE OCCASIONS WITH JAMES RAY. MAULDIN STATED CURTIS' INFO
PROBABLY RELIABLE. CURTIS INTERVIEWED WHITFIELD COUNTY JAIL,
APR. TWENTYONE, LAST, ADVISED FIRST ACQUAINTED RAY IN MARCH
FIFTYFIVE, JACKSON COUNTY JAIL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WHERE
RAY INCARCERATED ON POST OFFICE BURGLARY CHARGE JUST SUBSEQUENT
TO RELEASE FROM PRISON IN MENARD, ILLINOIS. CURTIS, AT TIME
UNDER ARREST FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND BANK ROBBERY. DURING THIS
PERIOD, CURTIS AND RAY CELL MATES FOR SIX TO SEVEN MONTHS. RAY
HAD FRIEND (NAME UNRECALLED), WHO VISITED HIM IN JACKSON
PRISON. FRIEND HAD BEEN CELL MATE OF RAY WHEN RAY AT MENARD,
END PAGE ONE

*Check your Gaffney #11
Mafia sources*

157-3231-292

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Laffey
Amber gal
Brett *AB*

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

ILLINOIS. THIS MAN KEPT RAY IN SPENDING MONEY WHILE RAY IN PRISON AND WOULD HARBOR RAY. RAY HAD ANOTHER CLOSE FRIEND (NAME UNRECALLED) OF ITALIAN DESCENT, APPARENTLY "A BIG MAN" IN SYNDICATE. THIS ITALIAN HAD APPARENTLY OPERATED WITH RAY IN PAST AND ENGAGED WITH RAY IN HANDLING STOLEN POST OFFICE MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELERS CHECKS. AFTER SIX TO SEVEN MONTHS AS CELL MATES, JACKSON COUNTY JAIL, RAY SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS ON POST OFFICE BURGLARY CHARGES, TRANSFERRED TO LEAVENWORTH FEDERAL PENITENTIARY. TWO WEEKS LATER, CURTIS RECEIVED SIXTEEN YEARS SENTENCE FOR BANK ROBBERY AND SENT TO LEAVENWORTH. WHILE CONFINED LEAVENWORTH DURING THIS PERIOD, RAY SPOKE OF NO GIRL FRIEND AND CORRESPONDED WITH NONE. RAY MENTIONED HE "OPERATED" FREQUENTLY OUT OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS, WHICH MEANT "ENGAGED IN BURGLARY AND PAYROLL JOBS." WHILE HE AND RAY WERE INCARCERATED, THEY ENGAGED IN CROOKED POKER GAMES AND TOOK FELLOW PRISONERS FOR MONEY. RAY GOOD POKER PLAYER AND EXCELLENT CARD HANDLER. RAY MENTIONED UNDER WORLD AND HOODLUM CONNECTIONS (NAMES UNRECALLED) IN CHICAGO, DETROIT, TAMPA, AND TIJUANA, MEXICO AREAS. SERVING SEVEN TO EIGHT MONTHS WITH RAY AT LEAVENWORTH, CURTIS TRANSFERRED U.S. PENITENTIARY, ATLANTA, GA. CURTIS SERVED U.S. PENITENTIARY, ATLANTA, AND IN JUNE, SIXTYTWO, SENT BACK MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, TO SERVE

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

AT 44-2386

ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGES. WHILE IN STATE PENITENTIARY JEFFERSON, MISSOURI, AGAIN INCARCERATED WITH RAY. ON OCCASIONS IN SAME CELL TOGETHER IN "B" HALL AND "C" HALL. SERVED TOGETHER FROM SIXTYTWO TO SIXTYSIX. WHILE IN "B" AND "C" HALLS, THEY WERE TOGETHER IN THREE-MAN CELL, WITH THIRD INDIVIDUAL (WHOM CURTIS STATED COULD VERIFY FOLLOWING FACTS, BUT WHOM CURTIS REFUSED TO IDENTIFY).

DURING THIS INCARCERATION PERIOD, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATED AND WORD CAME FROM OUTSIDE THIS PROBABLY CONSPIRACY, AND KENNEDY HAD "BOUNTY" ON HIS HEAD. CURTIS, UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS ON "BOUNTY". HE STATED IN SIXTYTHREE TO SIXTYFOUR, DR. KING'S MOVEMENTS BECAME TOPIC OF CONVERSATIONS AT STATE PENITENTIARY AND WORD GOT AROUND TO PRISONERS THAT "KK OF THE SOUTH" WHO APPARENTLY WENT TO BUSINESSMEN HAD RAISED ABOUT MILLION DOLLARS FOR "BOUNTY" ON KING'S HEAD. CURTIS, UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER IDENTIFICATION OR INFORMATION OF KK OF SOUTH. FROM 'SIXTYTWO TO 'SIXTYSIX BEFORE CURTIS RELEASE, RAY MENTIONED A DOZEN TIMES "HAD HE KNOWN ABOUT A BOUNTY ON JOHN F. KENNEDY'S HEAD AND HAD HE BEEN OUT, HE WOULD HAVE COLLECTED IT". RAY STATED A DOZEN TIMES THAT "IF HE GOT OUT IN TIME AND IF KING WAS STILL ALIVE, HE WOULD LIKE TO GET THE BOUNTY ON KING". RAY NEVER MENTIONED WHOM HE WOULD CONTACT TO GET BOUNTY BUT ADVISED

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

AT 44-2386

CRIMINAL ELEMENTS KNEW HOW TO CONTACT SUCH PEOPLE. ABOVE STATEMENTS BY RAY OVERHEARD BY THIRD CELL MATE MENTIONED ABOVE. RAY HAD FRIEND IN NEW ORLEANS (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN), COIN (PHONETIC) SPELLED LIKE "QUARTER OR DIME", WHO APPARENTLY A FENCE, WELL CONNECTED WITH HOODLUM ELEMENTS AND WHO IN 'FIFTYFIVE WAS FIFTYFIVE OR SIXTYFIVE YEARS OLD, WHOM WOULD HARBOR RAY. CURTIS KNEW NO CLOSE FRIENDS OF ASSOCIATES OF RAY. RAY ALLEGEDLY THRU PRISON GRAPE VINE HAD WIFE, BUT NEVER MENTIONED BY RAY; HOWEVER, FEW PRISONERS MENTION FAMILY CONNECTIONS. RAY ALSO MENTIONED GAMBLING IN LOS ANGELES. RAY WAS "HIGH LIVER" WHEN OUTSIDE AND WOULD ASSOCIATE WITH PROSTITUTES, TAKING ONE FROM TOWN TO TOWN. RAY WITH REGARD TO KING'S KILLING INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE ALL RULES AND WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY DEMAND BOUNTY MONEY BE PUT IN BANK. RAY MENTIONED THREE FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH HE HAD READ ABOUT, WHICH CURTIS ASSUMED RAY WOULD GO TO IF OUT OF UNITED STATES. THESE ARE NEW ZEALAND, BRAZIL, AND SWITZERLAND. CURTIS OF OPINION, NOT OVER THREE PEOPLE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ACTUAL ASSASSINATION. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL PLANNED WITH DIVERSIONARY MEASURES AND SECOND INDIVIDUAL, NOT RAY, WOULD HAVE DRIVEN GETAWAY CAR TO ATLANTA AS DIVERSIONARY MEASURE. CURTIS WILL NOT TESTIFY , AS HE FEARS FOR HIS LIFE, IF INFO GETS OUT. HE DEMANDED IDENTITY BE PROTECTED. IN SPITE OF ABOVE, SHERIFF MAULDIN ADVISED CURTIS HAS ALSO GIVE ABOVE INFO PRIOR TO INTERVIEW BY FBI TO LLOYD GULLEDGE, REPORTER, DALTON NEWS

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

AT 44-2386

CITIZEN NEWSPAPER, DALTON, GEORGIA. MAULDIN NOT PRESENT DURING THIS INTERVIEW AND DOES NOT KNOW WHAT INFO CURTIS GAVE GULLEDGE. MAULDIN STATED CURTIS THREE TO FOUR DAYS AGO RECEIVED LETTER WITH RETURN ADDRESS, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY. CURTIS KNOWS NO SPECIFIC RACIAL HATREDS BY RAY, WHO IS MEAN IF CROSSED, BUT NOT AGGRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL. HE SAID IF RAY RETURNED TO ATLANTA AFTER ASSASSINATION, IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN TO COLLECT BOUNTY.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI. (1) DETERMINE THIRD CELL MATE WITH RAY AND CURTIS IN "B" AND "C" HALLS, BETWEEN 'SIXTYTWO TO 'SIXTYSIX (INDIVIDUAL ALLEGED TO BE AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY), VERIFY CURTIS' STORY. (2) THRU POLICE AND INFORMANT CONTACTS IDENTIFY ITALIAN WHO WAS "A BIG MAN" IN SYNDICATE BETWEEN KANSAS CITY AND CHICAGO, AND WHO STOLE POST OFFICE MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELERS CHECKS FOR SUBJECT RAY. (3) DEVELOP INFO FROM INMATES AND OTHER SOURCES RE RAY'S ALLEGED WIFE. (4) DEVELOP INFO RE PRISON GOSSIP RE "MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY ON KING'S HEAD".

NEW ORLEANS AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.,) DEVELOP INFO RE COIN (PHONETIC).

SPRINGFIELD AT MENARD PRISON, MENARD, ILL. IDENTIFY RAY'S FORMER CELL MATE IN MENARD STATE PRISON.

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

AT 44-2386

SPRINGFIELD AT QUINCY, ILL. CONTACT INFORMANTS AND SOURCES TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFO RE SUBJECT.

DETROIT, LOS ANGELES, SAN DIEGO, AND TAMPA CONTACT LOGICAL INFORMANTS TO DETERMINE IF SUBJECT KNOWN TO HOODLUM ELEMENTS.

SAN DIEGO NOTE SUBJECT ALLEGEDLY VISITED TIJUANA IN PAST.

AM COPIES SENT TO CHICAGO, DETROIT, LOS ANGELES, SAN DIEGO AND TAMPA.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

END

AEF

FBI SPRNGFLD

TU

% 5:42 PM EST - PHM, FBI KAN CITY

5:25 PM EST - FGC, FBI NEW ORLS

5:12 PM EST - AMB, FBI BIRMGHAM

4:57 PM EST - DGB, FBI MEMPHIS

4:38 PM EST - GFH, FBI WASH DC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ~~ALL~~ AGENTS

DATE: 4/22/68

FROM : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The Bureau has reiterated instructions that all leads in this case will be covered within 24 hours and all leads must be set forth by telephone or teletype. In addition, all border offices covering entry into Mexico or Canada and exit therefrom, are to insure that appropriate stops are maintained re subject and all names known to be used by him at respective offices of U. S. Immigration and Border Patrol.

The Bureau has also directed that sufficient quantities of wanted flyers and IO's to narcotic investigative agencies be made so that informants may be contacted. In addition, all criminal informants and appropriate racial and security informants should be contacted.

Copies of wanted flyer issued in the name of JAMES EARL RAY and his known aliases have been distributed to Agents. It is desired all Agents immediately contact all informants assigned to them to uncover any possible information leading to the whereabouts and apprehension of JAMES EARL RAY, aka.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1 - Each Agent
1 - 157-3231
1 - 66-43
OFFICE MEMO #68-72
LEB:cj
(85)

157-3231-293

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>8</i>	FILED <i>8</i>
FBI - TAMPA	

15

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Unanswered Questions

"HE CAN run, but he can't hide."

This quote, attributed to former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, may very well apply to Eric Starvo Galt or James Earl Ray—the two are said to be identical—sought in connection with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Starting from the slimmest of facts, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has compiled an impressive dossier on King's alleged assassin. In addition to raising hopes that he will soon be



RAY

... behind the mystery

apprehended, this provides a dramatic demonstration of the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and may have the effect of discouraging similar crimes of violence.

Galt, whose real name is said to be Ray, has been described as a high school dropout with a lengthy criminal record. He is a prison escapee who has used numerous aliases and has been in trouble with the law since early youth.

His capture is extremely important as a means of understanding the depth of the conspiracy which led to the murder of Dr. King and the wave of rioting which swept the country following his death.

WAS RAY a paid killer, or did he conspire, as the FBI puts it, with "an individual said to be his

brother," out of sheer prejudice to slay the civil rights leader?

Everything points to the fact that the murder was carefully planned. Ray had to know King's whereabouts, something of his schedule and the best means of establishing his ambush. In addition, all signs suggest that his escape was equally well planned, perhaps with the assistance of others. There is even speculation at the moment that Ray may no longer be in the country.

Obviously, this was no spur of the moment murder. It had been thought through completely and was executed with professional finesse. Ray did leave behind a highly visible trail. But this, too, could have been a decoy, pinning the guilt on one Eric Starvo Galt who, in fact, did not exist.

Ray was identified, according to the FBI, following a "systematic and exhaustive" search through its fingerprint files. And when Ray and Galt were determined to be one, certain of Galt's prior activities had to be rejected because Ray was in prison at the time they had been pinpointed.

The discrepancy was attributed, to "investigative error."

THERE IS a temptation to draw a parallel in the murder of Dr. King and the assassination of President Kennedy. Both Lee Harvey Oswald and Ray were dropouts from society. Both had been failures in almost everything they had undertaken, except in the final and fanatic act of violence.

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

PAGE 18-A
TAMPA TIMES
TAMPA, FLORIDA

Date: 4/22/68
Edition: LOCAL
Author:
Editor: C. W. JOHNSON
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 44
Submitting Office: TAMPA
☐ Being Investigated

157-2327

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

157-3231-294

A dead Oswald leaves behind a mountain of unanswered questions. A live Ray may be able to shed some light on the killing of Dr. King, if Ray can be captured and persuaded to talk — and, of course, assuming his guilt.

We need to know more about the inner — and outer — compulsions which go into the composition of a killer. What were the compelling influences which caused Ray to make what on the surface appears to be a social protest against Dr. King's activities? Why, indeed, should a social outcast such as Ray even want to become involved in such a protest?

These are questions in search of an answer.

Complaint Form
FD-71 (Rev. 4-19-63)

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☐ See below

Subject's name and aliases <i>James Earl Ray</i>		Address of subject		Character of case <i>157 - Murkin</i>	
Complainant <i>Anonymous</i>		Complainant's address and telephone number		Complaint received ☐ Personal ☒ Telephonic Date <i>4/24/68</i> Time <i>4:45 AM</i>	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female	Height	Hair	Build
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion
	Scars, marks or other data				
Facts of complaint <i>Comp. advised he observed a w/m who resembled that of James Earl Ray, drinking a beer in the Lake & Nebraska Bar located on corner of Lake & Nebraska, Tampa, Fla.</i> <i>Comp. advised this man was dressed in blue denim trousers, white trousers, rolled up approx. 1 1/2 inch from his ankles, wearing a white shirt with thin black stripes running up & down the shirt. Comp. stated this man continuously rubbed his nose with his thumb.</i> <i>Comp. described this w/m as 6'0", dark brown hair (combed straight back) 160-65 lbs, brown eyes, Rudely complexion, medium build & approx. 37-39 years of age.</i> <i>Comp. stated this w/m was still in the bar at the time the comp. left.</i> <i>157-3231-295</i>					
Action Recommended		SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED <i>8/</i> FILED <i>15/</i> APR 24 1968 FBI - TAMPA <i>Ron Bennett</i> (Agent) <i>elch</i> <i>ABOVE DESCRIBED INDIVIDUAL OBSERVED IN LAKE & NEBRASKA BAR AND PACKAGE STORE BT SAs JOHN R.M. WHELAN & STEPHEN J LABADIE AT 5:20 PM 4/24/68. HE IN NO WAY RESEMBLED SUSPECT OF WAAZDFLYER #42-A ON JAMES EARL RAY.</i>			

4/22/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: PHOENIX (44-371) (TWO PAGES)

MURKIN. CR.

RE MP TEL TO DIRECTOR, LA, PX, AND TAMPA, APRIL
NINETEEN, LAST.

DOUGLAS SMITH, INSURED DRIVEAWAY SYSTEMS, THREE SIX TWO
FIVE, NORTH SIXTEENTH STREET, PHOENIX, ARIZONA, CONTACTED
APRIL NINETEEN AND TWENTYTWO, INSTANT BY SA KENNETH H. DE HOFF.

JAMES WRAY, FIVE TWO SEVEN ZERO AXTRY PLACE, LAKEWOOD,
CALIFORNIA, TELEPHONE T ZERO SEVEN DASH ZERO EIGHT TWO ONE
WAS LISTED AS A SALESMAN AND DRIVER FOR LUCY BERRON, FOUR
ZERO EIGHT SIX PARK BOULEVARD, PINEALLAS PARK, CALIFORNIA,
TRANSPORTED A CAR THROUGH PHOENIX ON SEPTEMBER TWENTYSEVEN,
SIXTYSEVEN. NO DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE BUT HE HAD BEEN DRIVING
FOR INSURED DRIVEAWAY SYSTEMS PROBABLY OUT OF LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA FOR THE PAST ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS.

SMITH OF OPINION THIS INDIVIDUAL NOT IDENTICAL AND NO
OTHER INFORMATION FOUND IN HIS FILES.

1 - Los Angeles (AM)
1 - Memphis (AM) (Enc 1)
1 - Tampa (AM)
1 - Phoenix

KHDH/rfd
(4)

157-3231-296

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 24 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

PAGE TWO
PX 44-371
KNDH/rfd

AIR MAIL COPIES FURNISHED LOS ANGELES, MEMPHIS,
AND TAMPA.

Enclosed to Memphis one Xerox copy of re tel.

Eric Galt: One Man Or Many

Wide-spread descriptions given by witnesses to newsmen, and to the FBI has prompted speculation that Eric Starvo Galt was a "cover" name used by several men in a conspiracy to assassinate The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After the FBI said yesterday that Galt really was James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old escaped convict, it was noted that his description did not match that given by earlier witnesses in the case.

PRIOR TO yesterday's bulletin on Ray, the description from witnesses who had known Galt in the past months had included:

- ✓ A long-nosed man in late 20's who was seen in Memphis at a rooming house from which the shot was fired that killed Dr. King.

- ✓ A 30-year-old, dark-spoken man who talked about the weather at a Birmingham rooming house last fall.

- ✓ A 36-year-old "avid dancer" who bought a rifle in Birmingham and who took dancing lessons in New Orleans at the time when James Earl Ray, the fourth Galt, was imprisoned in Missouri.

- ✓ James Earl Ray, a five-foot, 11-inch man, was seen on the night of the assassination.

WITNESSES SAY

Galt at a Memphis rooming house the day Dr. King was slain said that he was 5 feet 11 inches or 6 feet tall, slender, weighing 165 pounds, with sandy hair. The oldest estimate of his age was 32 years, the youngest 26. He was said to have a long pointed nose and a southern accent.

At a Birmingham rooming house where Galt lived for two weeks last fall, he was described as being 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing 175 pounds, with brown hair and a slightly southern accent. He was described as being about 30 years old.

The first FBI description of Galt, which came principally from a gun dealer in Birmingham where Galt bought a rifle and a gun dealer in Memphis where he bought a pair of binoculars, was not precise.

THE FBI description that was released Wednesday might said that Galt was between 5 feet 8 inches and 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighed about 160 to 175 pounds, was of medium build, and had brown hair and blue eyes.

This description said that his birth date was [redacted]

a date that the FBI apparently got from an application that Galt made for an Alabama driver's license. The FBI said that Galt's voice had a "natural" tone, and that James Earl Ray was described as being 40 years old.

But in a later report, the FBI said Galt had a scar in the center of his forehead and on the palm of his right hand.

ON MARCH 1, 1968, after Galt telephoned the Alabama Highway Patrol to ask for a duplicate copy of the driver's license that he had gotten in November 1967.

The FBI had said that Galt was in California during this time.

In its bulletin on Wednesday describing Galt as an assassin, the FBI said that he had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1967 and had been in prison in Missouri from 1966 until he escaped in April 1967.

James Earl Ray, had been in prison in Missouri from 1966 until he escaped in April 1967.

Yesterday's bulletin did not mention Galt's alleged involvement in the assassination of Dr. King, which the FBI said Galt was involved in from 1966 to 1967.



AP Wirephoto

Ray In 1959 Lineup

The St. Louis Police Department released this picture of James Earl Ray. It was made in 1959 at the time of his arrest in St. Louis on an armed robbery charge. He was convicted and sentenced to 99 years in prison in April 1967 from the Missouri Penitentiary.

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

PAGE 6-A
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Date: 4/20/68
Edition: LOCAL
Author:
Editor: NELSON POYNTER
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 157-3231
Submitting Office: TAMPA

☐ Being Investigated

157-3231-297

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 24 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Kubodil *est*

FBI TAMPA

FBI ATLANTA

8250 PM URGENT 4-23-68 JWE

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, LOS ANGELES, TAMPA ,
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

ON APRIL TWENTYTHREE INSTANT, M. B. HOLLIS, MANAGER,
INSURED DRIVEAWAYS AND AUTO TRANSPORT COMPANY, ATLANTA, GEORGIA,
ADVISED ONE JAMES WRAY, EIGHT TWO SIX EIGHT FORTIETH STREET,
NORTH, PINELLAS PARK, FLORIDA, DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, AGE
THIRTYTHREE, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], ATTEMPTED TO CONTRACT TO DRIVE AUTO
FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA, TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, EARLY JANUARY,
SIXTYEIGHT.

HOLLIS STATES WRAY WAS LISTED ON "DRIVER BLACK LIST" PUBLISHED
BY AUTO DELIVERY DIVISION OF DEALERS TRANSIT, INC., WHICH REFLECTED
WRAY PREVIOUSLY DROVE VEHICLE FOR AUTO DELIVERY IN LOS ANGELES
AND CLASSED AS UNRELIABLE DUE TO EXCESSIVE ACCIDENTS.

HOLLIS STATED SIXTY PROFILE PHOTOGRAPH OF JAMES EAR L RAY
BEARS RESEMBLANCE TO JAMES WRAY.

END PAGE ONE

*this amended
by serial 290*

157-3231-298

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
APR 23 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

*Belanger advised
9:15 x 23 68 K*

PAGE TWO

TAMPA AT PINELLAS PARK, WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO INTERVIEW AND/OR ELIMINATE WRAY.

LOS ANGELES, WILL REVIEW BLACK LIST PUBLISHED BY AUTO DELIVERY DIVISION OF DEALERS TRANSIT, INC. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

ALS

FBI TAMPA

TU

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/24/68

FROM : IC ALVA E. LOMINACK

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/24/68 the writer was telephonically contacted by Mr. OLAN G. PRICE, 332 Pauls Dr., Brandon, Fla.. Mr PRICE advised that he did not have a home phone. 7535

PRICE advised that he was sure that he had seen JAMES EARL RAY this past Sunday; however he would like to see a photo of him to be sure. PRICE advised that he would be at home between three and five p.m. this date or could be contacted at his employment, the AMERICAN DAIRY, 336 Pauls Dr., Brandon, Fla.

2 - Tampa
AEL:ael
(2)



5010-108

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

157-3231-299

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APR 25 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

[Handwritten initials and signatures are present over the stamp]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

FROM : SA ~~Alvin~~ R. Hickman

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/26/68

~~COPIES~~
CR
(60:ME)

Re 157-3231-299

On 4/24/68 Clara E. Price 332 Paula Drive, Brandon, Fla. was contacted and advised that a nervous and suspicious person attended services at Roundtree Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla. on 4/21/68. Price advised that he subsequently found out from the preacher that this individual was from Tampa and had been out drinking the night of 4/20/68 with several individuals. These individuals drove him onto the country where they robbed him of \$50.00 and hit him over the head. He woke up the next morning and walked to the church where he was looking for a ride back to town.

Price described this person as w/m, 36 yrs. old, 5'8"-5'9" 160-165 lbs., brown hair and blue eyes, a scar on face.

Price viewed a picture of James Earl Ray and advised that this individual was not identical to this person at the church on 4/21/68.

ORD
(1)

A & D

file 157-3231-299 A

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APR 27 1968	
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5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (157-3231)

DATE: 4/24/68

FROM : SAC, TAMPA

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

774 9462

At 4:15 PM today SAC WES WHALEY of the Houston Office telephonically advised as follows:

An individual called the Houston Office yesterday and said he had been staying at a rooming house at 336 Hyde Park Ave., and two days after KING was assassinated, a male individual whose name he does not know, rented a room at the rooming house. He did not see the individual's face but saw the back of him and he had unusual ears. He believes that the man may have been having an affair with some woman at the rooming house and stated that a Mrs. SCHUSTER, owner of the rooming house, would undoubtedly be able to identify this individual.

*Dickson advised
7:10 PM 4/24/68*

JFS:cj
(2)

only 1 copy

TP lead

157-3231-300

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FBI - TAMPA	

Dickson 12462



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/25/68

FROM : SA ALBERT R. ALBANI

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

Re 157-3231-300

On 4/24/68 Mrs. Hazel Schuster, 336 N. 4th St., Tampa, Fla., advised that she has had only one new woman in the last year and that was a Mrs. Stafford. She stated a woman from 2/25/68 to 4/21/68 and left with no hard feelings and is presently residing in Texas. She stated that Mrs. Stafford is not identical to James Earl Ray nor does anyone in the rooming house look similar to Ray or have "unusual ears".

All of Mrs. Schuster's roomers are elderly individuals who have been there for several years except for one w/f who has roomed there for over a year.

(1)

A & D

DRP

157-3231-300A

file
W

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FBI - TAMPA	



5010-108

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