

The Attorney General asked me to come to his office at approximately 2:20 p. m. In his office were his wife, Assistant Attorney General Vinson, Assistant Attorney General Pollack, his Executive Assistant Sol Lindenbaum and the Deputy Attorney General, Warren Christopher.

The Attorney General first congratulated the FBI and stated that this was the greatest news he had ever heard. He next went into a long song and dance on the absolute necessity of security and the avoidance of evasion of civil rights of the subject, James Earl Ray. The Attorney General asked me questions concerning the quality of our Agent personnel in London and I told him we had absolute faith and confidence in these men, otherwise we would not have assigned them there. He stated he thought we should send additional men to London to assist in this case. I told him I thought this was both foolish and unnecessary. He asked me about Legal Attache Minnich's background and I provided this information for him. He asked me if the FBI had a representative in the same cell block with the subject. I told him we did not and that furthermore, inasmuch as this man was under British custody, we could not even talk to the prisoner unless he, the prisoner, agreed to interrogation. The Attorney General asked if we had a man next to the cell block. I told him we did not and that he must realize that this man was under British custody and, therefore, not the responsibility of American authorities. The Attorney General stated he would feel better if he knew the exact provisions under which security the prisoner was being maintained. I made no comment.

The Attorney General asked me if I thought it was necessary to send a Departmental representative to London. I told him I thought this was completely unnecessary if the representative would be going for the purpose of attempting to look into FBI activities. The Attorney General stated this representative would be going for the purpose of expediting legal activities in connection with the extradition of the subject. He added that the Departmental representative would also check with the British authorities to make certain there was ample security. Furthermore, to make certain that the prisoner's civil rights were being protected.

The Attorney General asked me whom I thought should be responsible for bringing the prisoner back to the United States. I told him I previously discussed this with the Director and that the Director was agreeable to the FBI escorting the prisoner back to the United States. He asked how many men would do this. I told him we would utilize three very capable men. He stated he thought we needed more. I told him I disagreed and that three men

would be sufficient, particularly if handcuffs and leg irons were used. The Attorney General asked me if I thought military transportation or commercial transportation should be utilized. I told him that military transportation would probably be better and furthermore that the plane should land at a military base, possibly near Memphis, Tennessee, so that maximum security could be afforded. The Attorney General agreed. He then called Governor Buford Ellington in Tennessee and specifically asked him to expedite extradition proceedings by immediately making a request to the President of the United States so that the White House in turn could forward this request to the British Home Secretary. The Attorney General also told Governor Ellington that he would personally feel better if Federal officers (meaning the FBI) would escort the prisoner back to the United States. Governor Ellington agreed to all terms and stated that he would comply with the wishes of the Federal Government in this matter.

The Attorney General next turned to the Deputy Attorney General and asked him if he thought a Departmental representative should be sent to England. The Deputy Attorney General replied, "Without question." The Attorney General next asked the entire group whom they thought should be sent. He ventured the personal opinion that it should either be Vinson or Pollack. There was no comment. The Attorney General then stated that Vinson should go and should leave tonight, June 8, 1968. He asked that Vinson be placed in touch with our Legal Attache. I told the Attorney General that sending Vinson was his own business, however, I would like to make absolutely certain that Vinson did nothing to upset the very excellent relationship between the FBI and Scotland Yard. I stated that Vinson under no circumstances should attempt to push Scotland Yard around by insisting on different types of security. The Attorney General repeated that Vinson would be there primarily for the purpose of expediting legal activities. The Attorney General then told Lindenbaum to have several Bureau of Prisons officials go to Memphis early Monday, June 10, 1968, for the purpose of taking a look at the county jail in Memphis so that proper security could be afforded the prisoner once he was turned over to the state authorities. (This, of course, is none of the Attorney General's business inasmuch as once the prisoner is turned over to the state he is strictly the state's responsibility.)

Upon leaving, the Attorney General told me that he would like to sit down with me within the next several days and completely go over this case. I told him that we had already provided him with reports in the matter and that these reports, plus the press release of today, covered all necessary details. He made no comment other than to commend the FBI once again and to say that hard work paid off.

ACTION:

In the event extradition proceedings are successful and the FBI is called upon to bring the subject back to the United States, it is suggested that Legal Attache Minnich, Special Agent Supervisor Wilbur L. Martindale and Special Agent Supervisor Kenneth L. Bounds be assigned this responsibility. Bounds is approximately 6 feet 4 inches tall, is in excellent physical shape, is a former firearms instructor and is currently assigned to the General Investigative Division here at FBI Headquarters. He has an excellent background. In the event the Director approves this recommendation, we will have Bounds obtain a passport and the necessary medical shots so that he can proceed to London, England, upon instructions.

I am advising Legal Attache Minnich this afternoon, June 8, 1968, that while he should confer with Assistant Attorney General Vinson he should not be "bossed around" by Vinson or allow Vinson to upset any delicate relations that we have with law enforcement authorities in England.

Done, 6/8/68-

D

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: June 8, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Long 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 1 - Mr. Trotter

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Based upon stops placed by New Scotland Yard as a result of information furnished by the FBI, James Earl Ray was arrested at the London International Airport, London, England, today, 6/8/68, at 11:15 a. m. London time (7:15 a. m. Washington, D. C., time).

Ray was traveling under a Canadian passport issued in the name of Ramon George Sneyd. At the time of his arrest he had two Canadian passports under this name. One had been issued at Ottawa on 4/24/68 and the other had been issued by the Canadian Embassy at Lisbon, Portugal, on 5/16/68. Ray obtained a second passport by claiming that his original passport had been destroyed.

Ray at the time of the arrest was carrying in his hip pocket a fully loaded revolver. He is being detained by English authorities for carrying a concealed weapon and for entering the country with illegal documentation (the passport). Ray is to be arraigned in court in London on Monday, 6/10/68, at 10:30 a. m. London time. Ray cannot be interviewed by FBI personnel before his arraignment. Subsequent to the arraignment he can be interviewed only if he consents to submitting to such an interview.

The Legal Attache in London has advised that Ray's identity has been confirmed through fingerprints.

The White House, the Department of State, Secret Service and officials of the Department of Justice were appropriately advised of the apprehension of Ray. Also, Public Safety Director, Frank Holloman, of Memphis, Tennessee, was personally informed that Ray had been

Enclosures

CLM:vea (12)

CONTINUED - OVER

CONTINUED - OVER

CONTIN

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

apprehended and was in custody in London, England. The Canadian Embassy in Washington, D. C., and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Liaison Officer Pantry were advised. It was pointed out to the Department of State and officials of the Department that extradition proceedings would have to be initiated. It is our understanding that the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement charge as well as the Civil Rights - Conspiracy charge are not extraditable offenses. The murder charge which is outstanding against Ray based on the indictment in Tennessee is an avenue for extradition.

The Crime Records Division issued a national press release on this case at 11:35 a. m., after it had been cleared with both the Deputy Attorney General and with Cliff Sessions, the Department of Justice Information Officer. Prior to that the release had been read to and approved by the Legat in London and the SACs at Atlanta, Memphis and Birmingham. The latter SACs were advised it could be released to the local press at 11:55 a. m. Extremely wide press coverage has been given to the press release, both on radio, television and in newspapers. Attached is a copy of the press release as well as the story as it appeared in the 6/8/68 issue of the Washington "Evening Star."

ACTION:

You will be kept advised of pertinent developments in this matter.

Tolson _____
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 Mohr _____
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 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

King Killing Suspect Is Caught in London

Ray Is Arrested By the 'Yard' on Flight to Belgium

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
 Star Staff Writer

James Earl Ray, accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was arrested today in London, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced this morning.

The 40-year-old fugitive was seized by New Scotland Yard operatives at 11:15 a.m. (7:15 EDT) as he disembarked from an airliner en route from Lisbon, Portugal, to Brussels, Belgium.

The FBI, which has sought Ray had a snub-nosed, fully-loaded revolver in his hip pocket when British police made the arrest. Ray was arrested on the basis of information furnished Scotland Yard by the FBI.

Ray was wearing a light raincoat, sports jacket and gray trousers.

He was traveling with a Canadian passport listing him as Ramon George Sneyd. The FBI said he obtained the Canadian passport April 24 in Ottawa,



JAMES EARL RAY

Canada, where he apparently fled after King's assassination.

The arrest was announced as King's widow was attending funeral services for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in New York.

Hoover said Ray had been traced by the FBI to Canada and that he had flown to London on May 7 with a round-trip ticket. In London, Ray had cashed in

the unused part of the ticket in exchange for a ticket to Lisbon and a voucher for the difference of \$14.60.

Last night, Ray boarded an airliner in the Portuguese capital, checked his luggage through to Brussels and stopped in London only as part of a refueling stop.

The FBI, already aware of the false identity he had assumed, had alerted Scotland Yard to watch for anyone using the name Ramon George Sneyd.

The arrest came when Scotland Yard detectives checked the passenger list of the Lisbon to Brussels airplane at London International Airport.

The FBI said Ray's extradition to the United States will be sought on the basis of the murder charge filed against him by the State of Tennessee rather than the federal fugitive and civil rights warrants outstanding against him.

According to information reaching here, Ray refused to admit his identity but he was identified quickly by British police from fingerprints taken after his arrest. Ray is being held

See RAY, Page A-3

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) Pg 1
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Worker _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____

Date June 8, 1968

RAY

Continued From Page A-1

in London's Cannon Row police station under maximum guard.

Washington officials said they understood he would be arraigned on British charges against him on Monday and that extradition proceedings would be started as soon as possible.

Hoover said the arrest was the result of close cooperation between the FBI, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Scotland Yard. The FBI had lost Ray's trail in the first several weeks after the murder of Dr. King, but picked up his scent again after routine checks of all passports issued in the United States and Canada.

Ray had applied for and obtained the Canadian passport under the name of Sneyd, using the name of one Paul Bridgeman of Toronto as a reference.

Hoover said no Paul Bridgeman had been located in Toronto, but that was the name of one of Ray's fellow prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo. Ray himself apparently used the name Paul Bridgeman during his stay in Toronto before flying to London on May 7.

He had continued his old habits of living in cheap boarding houses and frequenting bars during his stay in Canada, FBI agents learned. The pursuit of Ray intensified in mid-May when the FBI learned that he had gone to the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon to apply for a second passport under the name of Sneyd, saying that the first one had been spoiled.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 8, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark today announced that James Earl Ray, an escaped convict being sought in connection with the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, has been located in London, England.

FBI Director John Edgar Hoover said that Ray, who has used the name of Eric Starvo Galt and other alias, was detained by officers of New Scotland Yard at 11:15 a.m., London time, this morning. Ray was traveling under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and had two Canadian passports in that name in his possession. One passport had been issued at Ottawa on April 24, 1968, and the other had been issued May 16, 1968, at Lisbon, Portugal, by the Canadian embassy in that city. Mr. Hoover advised that Ray was located based on information furnished by the FBI to New Scotland Yard. At the time of his detention, Ray was passing through British immigration offices and was planning to take a flight to Brussels, Belgium.

Mr. Hoover said that Ray is now being held at London's Cannon Row Police Station under maximum security conditions. Mr. Hoover further advised that Ray was armed with a fully loaded pistol which was found in his hip pocket. He was wearing glasses and was dressed in a light colored raincoat, a sports jacket and gray trousers.

Director Hoover advised that Ray's arrest was the direct result of intensive investigation by the FBI pursued in all fifty states-- as well as in Canada, Mexico, Portugal, England and other countries. In particular, Mr. Hoover signaled out the outstanding cooperation received from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and from England's New Scotland Yard.

FBI Director Hoover pointed out that Ray was detained in England based on his use of fraudulent documentation--a passport--and also on the fact he was carrying a concealed weapon. A 1st degree murder indictment was returned by the Shelby County Grand Jury in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 7, 1968, charging Ray and necessary extradition proceedings will be initiated shortly.

According to Mr. Hoover, Ray was added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" on April 20, 1968.

Mr. Hoover stated that the 40-year-old Ray is an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. He was received at the institution on March 17, 1960, to serve a 20-year sentence following conviction in St. Louis for armed robbery and for operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In April, 1967, he was reported missing from the State Penitentiary; and on July 20, 1967, based on information indicating Ray had fled from Missouri, an FBI complaint was filed at Jefferson City charging him with unlawful flight to avoid confinement for armed robbery.

On April 17, 1968, the FBI filed a complaint at Birmingham, Alabama, charging him, under the name of Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

This FBI complaint charges that:

"On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ...Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., ...in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or

laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama..."

Immediately after the fatal shooting, a 30.06 rifle with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis which overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying. Mr. Hoover said FBI Agents determined that the rifle had been purchased on March 30, 1968, from a gun dealer in Birmingham and that the telescopic sight was also purchased from this dealer.

On April 19, 1968, Mr. Hoover announced that a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against the fingerprints of the over 53,000 persons for whom "Wanted Notices" had been posted in the files of the FBI's Identification Division led to the determination that Galt and Ray were identical.

FBI Agents also identified him as the owner of an abandoned 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was

located in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. As Eric Galt, he had purchased the Mustang from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. From that date until it was abandoned in early April, 1968, the car was driven more than 19,000 miles.

Mr. Hoover said that the fugitive's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham, Memphis and Atlanta, as well as to Mexico. He visited Mexico in October and November, 1967. He made a trip to Canada earlier in 1967 before purchasing the Mustang.

According to the FBI Director, while in Montreal, Canada, in the Summer of 1967, Ray enrolled as Eric Galt for a correspondence course in locksmithing offered by a school in New Jersey. He also took a course in bartending in Los Angeles early this year, graduating on March 2, 1968. In addition, he also took dance lessons in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Mr. Hoover said that a summary of the FBI's investigation in this case, together with the findings of the FBI Laboratory and the results of fingerprint examinations by the Identification Division, will be made available to Tennessee authorities.

Mr. Rosen

June 8, 1968

C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
① - Mr. Long

MURKIN

Colonel Eiggins, Pentagon, telephonically advised that one Robert Trotter telephonically advised that he was "the killer of Martin Luther King and come and get him." He stated that he lived in the rural area near Clarksville and Cunningham, Tennessee, and that Sheriff Joel Plummer of Montgomery County, Tennessee, knew him well and knew precisely where he lived. He also stated that he knew the girl in the polka-dot dress who ran out of the Ambassador Hotel where the late Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated.

According to Eiggins, Trotter stated he was calling from the telephone number 343-6700, Clarksville, Tennessee.

ACTION: Security Patrol Clerk Donald Bell, Memphis Office, was advised of the above and instructed to relay the information to the SAC to have Trotter interviewed and Bureau advised.

RJP:erg
(5)

APPREHENSION

- ☒ XEROX *Murder Memo Vol. II*
9/6/23
- ☒ REVIEWED *dnf 7/6/77*
- ☒ EXCISED & XEROXED *dnf 7/6/77*
- ☐ OTHER _____
- ☐ COMPLETED

16C

MURKIN MEMOS VOL. IV

6-25-68

7-29-68

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Name Check

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

July 29, 1968

Director, FBI

JAMES EARL RAY

Reference is made to your letter dated July 25, 1968, in which you requested that an indices check be made concerning Dr. McCarthy DeMere, Dr. George Barker and Dr. Gerald I. Plitman.

Based on information available, a check of the files of this Bureau reveals that we have not investigated any of these individuals and our files contain no information identifiable with Dr. George Barker or Dr. Gerald I. Plitman.

With reference to Dr. McCarthy DeMere, our files reveal that on June 24, 1944, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that one Dr. M. DeMere, not further identified, was a member of the General Committee of the Science Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. (100-190625-1817)

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Our files contain no additional data identifiable with Dr. DeMere.

WB:clo
(7)

NOTE: The Directory of Medical Specialists, 1965-1966, lists the above individuals and gives some background data concerning them. Dr. DeMere was born in 1918 in Memphis, Tennessee. He received his education at the University of Tennessee, graduating in 1942. He interned and was an assistant resident surgeon at the Barnes Hospital, St. Louis. Thereafter he was resident surgeon in New York City, 1946-47; was a fellow in plastic surgery, Washington, 1947-49; was resident surgeon in a Veterans Administration Hospital, Oklahoma City, 1949 and 1950; and has been a consultant on plastic surgery with a U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, place not stated. His office address is 1460 Madison Avenue, Memphis.

Tolson _____
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Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____

NOTE CONTINUED, PAGE TWO

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.

NOTE, CONTINUED:

Dr. Barker was born in 1931 in Indianola, Mississippi, and was graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1956. He is listed in the Directory as a radiologist. He interned in Knoxville, Tennessee, was an instructor at the University of Tennessee and has been in private practice since 1961. His office address is listed as 1734 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Plitman was born 1925, Clarksdale, Mississippi. He attended Vanderbilt University, interned at the Reese Hospital, Chicago, in 1948-1949 and was an assistant resident pathologist at Vanderbilt University Hospital, 1949-1950. Thereafter he was resident and chief general medical director and hematologist, 1953-1959, at the Kennedy Veterans Administration Hospital, Memphis. His office address is 1734 Madison Avenue, Memphis.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: JUL 2 5 1

✓ FROM : Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

The following medical doctors will be available during the above subject's incarceration in the Shelby County Jail, Tennessee.

Dr. McCarthy DeMere
Dr. George Barker
Dr. Gerald I. Plitman

Will you please run an indices check and let me know the results as soon as possible.

6 p.m. B
JUL 2 5 1
RECEIVED

Let to Vinson
-AB:cho
-68

Memo
action Bank Robbery
Mr. DeLoach

July 29, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mechanical Section

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Attached is a proposed circular letter to be distributed to all laundry and dry cleaning establishments in the states of Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana.

We have been endeavoring to ascertain the source of subject's funds since he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary on 4/23/67. The Bank of Alton, Illinois, was robbed on 7/13/67, by two unknown subjects wearing stocking masks and approximately \$27,000 was obtained. One of the unknown subjects meets the general description of subject Ray. Subject Ray and one John Gawron cased this bank in 1959, and Gawron has been giving us information which gives possible indication of subject being involved in this bank robbery. Springfield recovered articles of clothing as evidence from bank robbery in which laundry marks appear on two items of clothing. Although it is not positively known that these articles of clothing are those of the two unknown subjects, they were recovered about a week after the robbery and approximate description of articles of clothing worn by the robbers.

Springfield has requested that a circular letter be prepared and distributed throughout several states to laundry and dry cleaning establishments in an effort to identify the perpetrators of this unsolved bank robbery through laundry marks appearing on the articles of clothing. Springfield has made arrangements for the franked circular letter to be addressed in their areas by the stenographic pool of each respective office to appropriate dry cleaning and laundry establishments. There are 4,300 establishments involved. The cost of postage would be \$258, the cost of printing would be \$30, the cost of stenographic time would

Enclosure

REL:klb
(7)

(CONTINUED OVER)

Memorandum for Mr. Rosen

be \$57, bringing the total cost to \$345. Postage and printing costs were obtained from the Administrative Division, and costs for stenographic time of respective divisions obtained from Springfield.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That this proposed circular letter be approved.

(2) That the Mechanical Section prepare 4,400 copies of the attached circular letter; which should be folded, franked, and sealed. When completed, 1,800 copies should be forwarded to the Chicago Office, 1,800 copies forwarded to the Indianapolis Office, and 700 copies be forwarded to the St. Louis Office. Fifty copies should be forwarded to the Springfield Division, the office of origin in the bank robbery case, and 50 copies forwarded to Memphis, the office of origin in the Murkin case. It is requested that the attached photograph be utilized on the circular letter.

(3) Attached for approval is an appropriate airtel to Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Springfield, and Memphis advising that a circular letter is being approved.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

① - Mr. Long

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

July 29, 1968

TO ALL LAUNDRIES AND DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS:

On July 13, 1967, two unknown males, wearing stocking masks, robbed The Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois, at gunpoint and obtained over \$27,000. Investigation of this crime led to the recovery of a white Van Heusen Vanguard shirt and a pair of tan trousers among other items.

The shirt bears laundry marks and the trousers dry cleaning symbols, facsimiles of which appear below. The Laundry marks appear on the shirt collar, the dry cleaning symbols appear on the front and rear pockets on the right side of the trousers.

If, after review of the above facsimiles, you feel you have information which would be of assistance to the FBI, please call the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which is in the front page of your telephone directory.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

REL:klb
(4)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 29, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
① - Mr. Long

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, is the prime prosecutor in the state's case against subject James Earl Ray and Robert K. Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the District Attorney General and James C. Beasley, Assistant District Attorney General will assist Mr. Canale in this case.

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.:

Memphis and Bureau records indicate that Canale was the subject of several Civil Rights cases in connection with his position as Attorney General in Shelby County. In these complaints one victim accused Canale of affixing his name falsely to indictments returned by the State Grand Jury and one victim wanted the FBI to force Canale to return his driver's license. In each instance the complaint was forwarded to the Civil Rights Division of the Department and no further investigation was conducted.

ROBERT K. DWYER:

Memphis and Bureau files reflect Dwyer is a National Academy graduate of the Fifty-first Session and no data is contained in these files of a derogatory nature regarding him.

JAMES C. BEASLEY:

There is no record identifiable in Memphis or Bureau files concerning James C. Beasley.

REL:erg
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

SAC, Memphis points out that there has been no information brought to his attention that could be in any way considered a reflection on Canale, Dwyer or Beasley. The Memphis Office has enjoyed a good working relationship with the State Attorney General's Office in Memphis.

ACTION:

For your information.

7/23/68

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

For the assistance of the Bureau, the following three individuals will be the State Prosecutors in the case involving JAMES EARL RAY:

PHIL M. CANALE, JR., District Attorney General;
ROBERT K. DWYER, Executive Assistant to the District Attorney General;
JAMES C. BEASLEY, Assistant District Attorney General

CANALE is senior prosecutor, with DWYER next in rank in his office.

Memphis indices were searched regarding the above-mentioned three individuals.

No record identifiable with JAMES C. BEASLEY located in Memphis indices.

ROBERT K. DWYER is National Academy Graduate of the 51st Session and results of applicant investigation previously made available to Bureau. No data in Memphis files concerning DWYER of derogatory nature.

In connection with CANALE, his name appears in various Civil Rights inquiries conducted by the Memphis Division. Bureau's attention directed to Memphis Airtel dated 12/6/65, captioned, "PHIL M. CANALE, JR., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial

3 - Bureau
1 - Memphis
RGJ:ME
(4)

ME# 44-1987

Circuit of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee; HAROLD WARD YATES - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS"; Memphis report dated 11/4/63 of SA CYRIL F. BUSCH captioned "PHIL M. CANALE, District Attorney General, Memphis, Tennessee; CARL OSCAR BURRIS - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS"; Memphis Airtel dated 11/10/58 captioned "PHIL M. CANALE, Attorney General, Memphis, Tennessee; DELMAR IHLE - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS."

In the above three captioned matters, no derogatory information was reported.

In addition, the Bureau's attention is directed to Memphis Airtel dated 1/23/62, captioned "UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee; Alleged Corruption - Miscellaneous Information." In this matter, both DWYER and CANALE requested assistance of the FBI in conducting investigation of the Memphis Police Department.

Since my arrival in the Memphis Division approximately a year ago, there has been no information brought to my attention that could in any way be considered a reflection on CANALE, DWYER or BEASLEY. This office has enjoyed a good working relationship with the State Attorney General's Office here in Memphis.

726

Memo

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Director, FBI

July 26, 1968

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The British authorities have provided us the following original documents in regards to the extradition proceedings of James Earl Ray:

1. Fingerprint comparison charts used in the testimony by our Latent Fingerprint Examiner George J. Bonebrake;
2. Fingerprints of Ray as taken on June 8, 1968, by British authorities;
3. Two separate orders issued by the Bow Street Magistrates' Court dated June 13, 1968, pursuant to "The Extradition Act, 1870," relative to this matter (One order relates to the murder charge in Tennessee and the other to the escape charge in Missouri.);
4. Medical Officer's Certificate dated July 18, 1968, issued by the authorities of Wandsworth Prison;
5. An order dated July 18, 1968, commanding Ray to be delivered to officials of the United States Government; and
6. Court testimony of several individuals.

In view of the prosecution of James Earl Ray by Tennessee authorities, you are requested to advise if you desire the original documents be furnished to Mr. Phil M. Canale, State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee. Enclosed you will find one copy each of these documents.

Enclosures (7)

REL:vea
(5)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

NOTE:

The original documents as listed in this memorandum were given to us by the British authorities. Copies of these documents are enclosed to the Department to this memorandum. In view of the fact that Tennessee authorities are prosecuting Ray, the Department is being requested to advise if they desire the original documents to be furnished to Mr. Phil M. Canale, State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee. We are retaining the original documents until the Department advises us.

Mr. DeLoach

July 26, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

MURKIN

① - Mr. Long 1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

SAC Joseph H. Gamble, Birmingham, has advised that Attorney Arthur J. Hanes, defense counsel for James Earl Ray in the local Tennessee prosecution of Ray for King's murder, has advised that in the near future he intends to talk to the Director. Hanes stated that this case is of "grave national concern." He also stated "the thrust came from the Left." Hanes indicated he owes a duty to his client, however, he considers himself an American first and believes that the Bureau should not let up in its efforts. He did not elaborate nor expand on these statements and in response to questions indicated that he would at some future date furnish additional information to the Director.

ACTION:

In the event Hanes attempts to establish contact with the Director, he will not be afforded this opportunity. Hanes will be advised that he should furnish any information that he has to the SAC at Birmingham.

BHC:hw
(7)

*See Teletype
From BH
7/24/68
Director advised
7/26/68
SAC Gamble
advised 7/29*

Memo

SAC, Atlanta

8-23-68

[Signature]

Director, FBI

REQUEST FOR HUMAN INTEREST
ITEMS ON ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)
BUDED: 9-20-68

In order to have available a backlog of human interest data, all offices receiving this communication are requested to furnish the Bureau items of unusual interest regarding our investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The information particularly sought is that which has not been previously incorporated in official reports and may deal with any aspect of our investigation, including personal recollections by investigative personnel. Submit the results using above caption to reach the Bureau not later than 9-20-68.

REC'D
AUG 28

- 1 - Birmingham
- 1 - Chicago
- 1 - Kansas City
- 1 - Los Angeles
- 1 - Memphis
- 1 - New Orleans
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- ① - Mr. Rosen

- 1 - St. Louis
- 1 - London
- 1 - Mexico
- 1 - Ottawa
- 1 - Paris
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Felt
- 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit

NOTE: Suggestion Number 44-69, dated 7-23-68, has been adopted authorizing that a communication be sent to appropriate offices requesting human interest items on our investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., be forwarded the Bureau. The offices listed handled the major portions of our investigation.

RECEIVED
DIVISION 2170
AUG 28 1968
FBI
REC'D - CIA WASH

JRP:cmj/roc
(23)



Put out T2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MURKIN

Tampa, Florida
August 13, 1968

PERNELL EZZELL

Reference is made to prior communications in the captioned matter, the most recent one being dated June 19, 1968.

Mr. Emory A. Dowling, Jr., son of the owner of Perdue Radio, Television and Appliances, Inc., 2425 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida, furnished the following information on August 12, 1968:

Pernell Ezzell recently had his Florida driver's license revoked because he had been involved in an accident some months ago in North Carolina. Ezzell had to terminate his employment with the company as a color TV technician because he was unable to drive a car and his services were not needed on a full time basis in the shop. Because he was unable to do his job in Florida, he went to California to seek employment. At that time, he was not drinking and he was perfectly normal. He had just returned from a trip to North Carolina, where he had gotten his 1965 Buick automobile back from an automobile repair garage.

On Saturday, August 10, 1968, Mr. Dowling had received a long distance telephone call from a manager of a motel in Long Beach, California. He could not recall the manager's name or the identity of the establishment which he represented. The manager inquired as to whether he should cash a check for Pernell Ezzell in the amount of about \$200.00 and he refused to recommend cashing the check. He could not recall the name of the bank on which the check was drawn and he said he did not speak with Ezzell at the time, but he believed he was standing nearby during the telephone call.

PERNELL EZZELL

Mr. Dowling said that he had no further information concerning Ezzell at this time.

On August 12, 1968, Mrs. Fay Ezzell, wife of Pernell Ezzell, 636 22nd Street, Orlando, Florida, furnished the following information:

Pernell Ezzell had his driver's license revoked for five years by the State of Florida because he had hit a bridge with his 1965 Buick in or near Fayetteville, North Carolina, or Clinton, North Carolina, during his last escapade. He had been charged with driving while intoxicated. Ezzell said that he had paid for the damages to the bridge, but his license was still revoked last week. Mrs. Ezzell said that her husband tried to obtain bench work as a TV technician in the Orlando, Florida, area, but he was unsuccessful, since he had no driver's license and he could not travel throughout the city to do his work. She advised that he left Orlando on Monday, August 5, 1968, for California, in order to seek employment.

On Thursday, August 9, 1968, he called in the middle of the night, saying that he was in Los Angeles, California, working for an aircraft plant and making good money. He did not mention the name of his employer or the location of the aircraft plant. He told his wife that he wanted her and the family to fly out in the near future when he would send money.

On Saturday, August 11, 1968, Ezzell called about 8:00 P.M., saying he was in Los Angeles, California. He remarked to the effect that he had been out of the country and he had just gotten back, therefore, he had not gotten a permanent address. He did not state where he could be reached or the name of his employer. He did not say where he had gone while he was out of the country. Mrs. Ezzell said she is bitter because her husband had run up about a \$1,000.00 debt on his American Express Credit Card during his last escapade and he still has this card. She said that she wanted him to show good faith by supporting her and their child before she would decide whether or not to go to California. Mrs. Ezzell said that she was not certain whether or not Ezzell had been drinking, but she was unable to detect that he was under the influence of alcohol from the sound of his voice on the two occasions on which he made calls. She said that if he does

PERNELL EZZELL

not help support their child, she will change her telephone number to an unlisted telephone number in the near future to avoid getting telephone calls from her husband in the middle of the night. She explained that she has to go to work very early each day. She said that she did not believe Ezzell's story about being out of the country and that he had possibly utilized the story to cover up for a period during which he had been drunk. She said that she could not believe but very little of any statements that Ezzell made to her and she, therefore, does not question him when he calls her. She said that she has no information as to her husband's exact whereabouts, the identity of his employer, or any of the details or location of the foreign trip that he allegedly made. She said that she did not believe him because he did not previously have a passport and he had not had time to obtain a passport before allegedly going out of the country. She said that she is waiting to see if he shows good faith by sending money for her and their child's support or whether he will go on another escapade and go deeper into financial trouble.

On August 12, 1968, Mrs. Mary Smith, Orange County Drivers License Office, Orlando, Florida, furnished the following information:

Pernell (no middle name) Ezzell, 636 22nd Street, Orlando, Florida, was issued chauffeur's license number H94422 on April 8, 1968. It was ordered revoked for five years by the Department of Public Safety, State of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida, for driving while intoxicated on the third offense within a ten-year period. It became effective May 27, 1968, but the order was not received and executed in Orlando, Florida, until August 6, 1968. The revocation resulted from Ezzell being convicted of driving while under the influence of intoxicants in the State of North Carolina. One of his other suspensions of his driver's license was from August 18, 1967, until February 29, 1968, because he forfeited bond in the State of South Carolina, on a charge of driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

Mrs. Smith said that she did not have a record of the third offense pertaining to Ezzell.

PERNELL EZZELL

On August 12, 1968, Mrs. LILA HOEQUIST, Orange County Auto Tag Office, Orlando, Florida, furnished the following information:

Pernell Ezzell or Fay Ezzell, 636 22nd Street, Orlando, Florida, obtained Florida automobile license registration number 7W-10531, on May 1, 1968, for a 1965 Buick, two-door sedan, and Florida license 7-1518 on the same date, for a 1966 Chevrolet, two-door sedan. The file contained no additional descriptive information pertaining to these automobiles.

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.

4*

7-25

*Memo
1cc made for Outgoing
Comm.*

Mr. DeLoach

July 25, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
① - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The city editor of the "Greensboro Record", a daily Greensboro, North Carolina, newspaper, has advised that his newspaper operates a "hot line" column which appears in every edition. The voices of persons calling on the "hot line" are recorded on a tape and sometime in the morning of July 23, 1968, a male called and furnished the following information: "I'd rather not give my name under the circumstances because I know James Earl Ray is innocent because at the time he was in Greensboro with me but I knew he was a fugitive. I cannot get involved. If the hot line would like to carry on further, put it in the paper and I will call you back again and if you will keep my name confidential from the police, so I cannot get involved, I can prove Earl Ray did not kill or assassinate you know who."

The city editor advised he did not plan to publish this item unless it would be of value to law enforcement. It is noted that it has been established the subject James Earl Ray registered at the Rebel Motel in Memphis on April 3, 1968, was identified as purchasing a pair of binoculars in Memphis on the afternoon on April 4, 1968, and a witness places him at a rooming house in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

REL:klb

(8)

ROSEN TO DELOACH MEMO
RE: MURKIN

We have been advised by a confidential racial source that on 7/14/68, Robert M. Shelton, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, Inc., had a meeting at Birmingham, Alabama, with Arthur Hanes, Attorney for James Earl Ray. This source advised that the meeting lasted approximately one half hour, and he is not aware of the subject matter discussed.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the tape be obtained in order that a voice comparison may be made by the FBI Laboratory at some later date in the event this would become necessary, and that no investigation be conducted to identify the anonymous caller.

*Air Tel to
Memphis*

7/26/68

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Conrad

To: SAC, Charlotte

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReCETel dated 7/24/68 and METel dated 7/24/68.

Charlotte, if possible, should make effort to obtain the tape containing the recording of the anonymous caller to the "Greensboro Record" and submit to the FBI Laboratory. The FBI Laboratory may be able to use this tape in a voice comparison matter at a later date.

This tape recording should be obtained with no commitments whatsoever with the "Greensboro Record."

No active investigation should be conducted in this matter.

1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (for info)

REL:cs
(6)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to DeLoach dated 7/25/68, same caption, REL:klb.

7-24

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

July 24, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. McGowan

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Special Agent in Charge of our Memphis Office has advised that Mr. Phil M. Canale, State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, recently contacted him in this matter. Mr. Canale advised that you had indicated to Mr. Canale that he may be desirous of obtaining additional reports in this matter from the FBI.

You were previously advised that Mr. Canale and the United States Attorney in Birmingham, Alabama, were being furnished copies of the prosecutive summary report in this matter, which was also furnished to the Department. In addition, the Department and the United States Attorney in Birmingham, who had authorized the Federal process in this case, were furnished copies of other reports of information developed in this case.

In view of the comments of Mr. Canale to our Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Office, you are requested to advise if you desire that the additional reports be furnished to Mr. Canale.

EJM:cs
(5)

NOTE: See Memo A. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach dated 7/16/68, captioned MURKIN, EJM:cs.

Mr. DeLoach

July 16, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough

MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

SAC Jensen of the Memphis Office has advised that Phil M. Canale, State Attorney General, Shelby County, (Memphis), Tennessee, contacted him relative to this case. Canale advised that in discussing this case with Assistant Attorney General Fred M. Vinson, Jr. of the Criminal Division, Vinson had indicated that in addition to the information in the prosecutive summary report furnished Canale, the Department had been in receipt of additional information that Canale might be desirous of obtaining from the Bureau.

Reports containing information suitable for dissemination, as well as the prosecutive summary report mentioned by Canale, have been furnished to the Civil Rights Division, as well as the U. S. Attorney at Birmingham in view of the fact that the U. S. Attorney in Birmingham authorized the Federal prosecution in this case. The Department has been kept advised of pertinent information as it developed and we will continue to keep the Department so advised.

ACTION:

Upon approval, this will be discussed with Mr. Vinson and if he requests, additional reports previously furnished the Department containing information suitable for dissemination will be furnished to Mr. Canale.

EJH:cs
(6)

OK
H

44-38861-4921

7-25

Memo

Reurte

The Attorney General

July 23, 1968

Director, FBI

JAMES EARL RAY

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Martindale

It is noted that a complaint was filed before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charging the subject, as Eric Starvo Galt, with a violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code.

It is our understanding that prosecution of the above charge is no longer possible in view of the fact that this offense was not cited in the order of extradition. It is requested that we be advised as to whether this is correct and if this is so, it is suggested that the Department arrange for the immediate dismissal of the Federal complaint.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

WLM:vea:ige
(11)

S T A T E M E N T of: Doris Catherine WESTWOOD,
(Mrs.)

Age of Witness: Over 21

Occupation of Witness: Hotel Proprietress

Address: 25 Fitzroy Square, W.1.
(Eus. 8301. Eus. 3500)

I am the proprietress of the Heathfield House Hotel, 181-183 Cromwell Road, S.W.5. I have been shown a photograph by Detective Sergeant Elliott of a man whom I recognize as Ramon George Sneyd, who stayed at the hotel. I produce the visitors book and under the 17th May 1968 is the signature Ramon George Sneyd of 962 Dindas-W-Toronto, Canada. He remained here from 17th May 1968 until 28th May 1968. I remember that on 27th May he asked for his bill to be made out. It was made out and it came to £18. 11. 6d. which included a ten per cent surcharge. I gave it to him and he said, "Would it be possible for me to stay another night?" I told him it would be all right and he stayed the night of 27th/28th May. On the latter date he paid his bill in full, which now amounted to £20. 12. 8d. As far as I can remember it was paid in sterling.

Owing to his bad writing I thought his name was Snezel. I now realise this should have been Sneyd. His bill, a copy of which I produce, shows the first night to be 18th May 1968. This should be 17th May as shown in the visitors book and it is likely that I have undercharged him one night.

During his stay here he kept himself to himself and made very little conversation, except to ask for directions to the bus stop or tube. He did not receive any mail, phone calls or visitors. The telephone extension is outside his room and also serves another room. His bill shows a 6d. call which was either an error or could possibly have been for a hire car or taxi, in which case the call would have been made direct from the switchboard and therefore not recorded against his extension, which in fact it is not. He went out between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. every morning after breakfast and returned at about 1 a.m. I do not think he stayed out all night on any occasion but cannot be sure. It will be seen that receipt No. 05100 is headed 'College Place Hotel, 1-4 University Street, W.C.1'. These receipts are also used for Heathfield House, which is all part of the same firm.

This statement, consisting of 2 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 9th day of July 1968.

Signed: Doris Westwood

Signature witnessed by: P. A. Elliott
Detective Sergeant

COLLEGE PLACE HOTEL

1-4 UNIVERSITY STREET, W.C.1

TELEPHONE: EUSTON 3500

05100

M. & *Sneyel* ROOM No. *3B*

<i>May</i> 196 <i>8</i>				<i>18 - 27</i>				TOTAL
BROUGHT FORWARD								
WEEKLY TERMS								
BED AND BREAKFAST				<i>9 nights @</i>	<i>37/6</i>			<i>16 17 6</i>
TEAS								
TELEPHONE								<i>6</i>
LAUNDRY								
PAPERS								
MILK								
PAID OUT								
								<i>16 18 0</i>
					<i>+ 10%</i>			<i>1 13 6</i>
					<i>£</i>			<i>18 11 6</i>
				<i>1 Day @ 37/6 x 10%</i>				<i>2 1 2</i>
								<i>20 12 8</i>
CARRIED FORWARD								
<i>£</i>								

ONE WEEK'S NOTICE FROM BILL DAY MUST BE GIVEN OF INTENDED DEPARTURE.
VISITORS' ACCOUNTS MUST BE SETTLED WEEKLY. CHEQUES ACCEPTED BY ARRANGEMENT.
THE MANAGEMENT ARE NOT TO BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR FOR DAMAGE TO GUESTS' PROPERTY AND EFFECTS HOWSOEVER CAUSED. BILLS ARE MADE OUT WEEKLY IN ADVANCE.

PARAFORM
SARON PARSON

PLEASE LEAVE KEY AT THE OFFICE

Mr. DeLoach

July 22, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The trial for subject James Earl Ray has been scheduled for 11/12/68 at Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, and the judge to hear this case is W. Preston Battle. Our Memphis Office advised that Judge Battle is described as one of the most experienced trial judges in Memphis; he is sixty years of age and attended Washington and Lee University as well as Memphis University Law School. He received his license to practice law in 1933; has served as Assistant to the District Attorney General for Shelby County, Tennessee, for eleven years and entered private practice of law in Memphis in 1945. Most of his work has been devoted to the practice of criminal law. In 1959, he was appointed judge for Division 3 of the Criminal Court of Shelby County. Judge Battle is a member of the Shelby County Bar Association and has served on the Board of Directors, as well as the Executive Committee of the Association.

Judge Battle has been described by individuals as a judge who runs a no-nonsense courtroom and he has had some of his decisions reversed, according to newspaper articles, but the newspaper articles state this is a mark of a judge who hears a lot of cases and is not afraid to blaze trails. He is further described as a stickler for legal aspects of a case and will often recess court to check a point of law. Individuals also describe Judge Battle as a person who will give sharp words to lawyers who employ grandstand tactics in a courtroom and he is a person who displays patience

REL:sch
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER