

SL 44-775

With respect to associates of GAWRON, MC CORMICK advised that GAWRON drinks frequently at Peanut's Bar, 1601 Park, St. Louis, Missouri. GAWRON associates with the owner of this bar, known only as PEANUTS to MC CORMICK. GAWRON also associates with one ORVILLE "WHITEY" KILLION, who resides at 1617a Park. KILLION often runs poker games at his residence, and GAWRON frequents the poker games held there. According to MC CORMICK, KILLION is presently at Koch Hospital suffering from tuberculosis. KILLION reports to the hospital at given intervals for treatment.

Last Monday, two ex-convicts came to GAWRON's home. One of these men was a JIMMY (last name unknown) who MC CORMICK described as a white male, 65, 5'8", wearing a felt hat. The other man, name unknown, MC CORMICK described as a white male, 40s, 5'7", 160 pounds, short and thin with black hair. This man is from Louisiana. JIMMY at one time robbed a bar at Grand and Chouteau.

Last night, May 14, 1968, the same two men returned to GAWRON's residence. GAWRON gave the man from Louisiana a "silver plated" .38 caliber, snubnose revolver. The man had requested this revolver from GAWRON on the preceding Monday night. Although GAWRON did not specifically state so, MC CORMICK believes this gun was obtained by GAWRON in Madison, Illinois. GAWRON has spoken to him of connections that he has at a bar in Madison, Illinois. Something was wrong with this gun because when held up the bullet would fall out of it. GAWRON and the man from Louisiana taped the bullets in the gun. According to MC CORMICK this man wanted the gun to hold up a couple of places.

The man from Louisiana offered him, MC CORMICK, \$250 to kill a man. The man from Louisiana did not mention the prospective victim's name or why he wanted the man killed. MC CORMICK advised that he declined this offer and would not kill a man for \$1,000 much less \$250.

MC CORMICK said he is convinced that GAWRON saw subject, RAY, in St. Louis. He pointed out that GAWRON has not left the St. Louis area to his knowledge, and that he visits GAWRON daily.

Approximately one week ago, GAWRON told him that RAY is presently in Algiers. MC CORMICK understood him to mean

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that RAY was out of the continental United States. GAWRON did not say, and MC CORMICK has no idea of the source of this information.

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Date May 22, 1968

JOSEPH H. MC CORMICK, 2115a Park, Apartment #5, was re-interviewed at the St. Louis Federal Bureau of Investigation office and furnished the following information:

He has known JACK GAWRON for approximately 15 years. He met JACK GAWRON when the two of them were working out of Manpower, Incorporated, St. Louis, Missouri. He has associated with JACK since that time, but has been very close to JACK for only the past five years. When he first met JACK, JACK was residing in the vicinity of Mississippi and Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri. JACK's home was near Homer Townsley's Neighborhood Bar. He and JACK often drank at this bar. MC CORMICK pointed out that TOWNSLEY is no longer in business and he is presently a bondsman at the St. Louis area.

MC CORMICK again viewed photographs of RAY as depicted on Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted flyer number 442-A. He advised that he does not recall ever having seen this man. Although he associated with JACK GAWRON in 1958 and 1959, he does not recall subject RAY having lived or associated with GAWRON.

MC CORMICK was shown a standup photograph of subject, RAY, taken by the St. Louis Police Department, at the time of RAY's arrest in 1959. MC CORMICK advised that he knows this man and recalls having drank with him at TOWNSLEY's at Mississippi and Hickory. MC CORMICK was then quite sure he knew the man and insisted that he had seen him before, however, he advised that he has not seen RAY since GAWRON moved from the vicinity of Mississippi and Hickory.

MC CORMICK pointed out that he visits GAWRON at GAWRON's residence practically every evening after work. He has never seen the subject, RAY, at GAWRON's place.

Regarding a conversation between he and GAWRON concerning the subject, MC CORMICK advised that approximately six weeks ago, the first part of April, 1968, GAWRON started talking about RAY. MC CORMICK does not recall GAWRON mentioning RAY prior to this time. MC CORMICK recalls that this was approximately the time that subject, RAY's, photograph

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On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA GEORGE M. PEET
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD WHW/lah Date dictated 5/17/68

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was published in the newspaper. He advised that just he and GAWRON were drinking at GAWRON's house when GAWRON mentioned RAY.

GAWRON refers to subject, RAY, as JIMMY, and told MC CORMICK that RAY was his "foster son." GAWRON stated that he and RAY "took a couple of joints together." MC CORMICK understood him to mean that they had pulled armed robberies together. GAWRON did not state when and where these holdups occurred. GAWRON also stated that RAY had escaped from the penitentiary.

MC CORMICK at first advised that GAWRON stated he had seen RAY approximately six weeks before RAY's picture was published in the paper. Later in the interview, MC CORMICK advised GAWRON had stated he saw RAY six weeks ago. This would have been around the first of April according to MC CORMICK. The discrepancy in the dates on which GAWRON supposedly saw RAY were brought to MC CORMICK's attention. He stated he was confused as to exactly when this meet was supposed to have occurred and does not recall if it was six weeks prior to RAY's photograph appearing in the paper, or simply six weeks ago. He did state that the meet supposedly occurred near the intersection of 18th and Lafayette, St. Louis, Missouri. MC CORMICK pointed out that there is a drug store and a couple of bars at this location, and assumes that the meet took place in a bar. At this point, MC CORMICK advised that it was at this time that GAWRON and RAY supposedly pulled the armed robberies together. MC CORMICK advised that this was the impression that he got from JACK. However, he advised that it was equally possible that JACK was referring to armed robberies pulled by him, GAWRON, and RAY in 1959 or earlier.

GAWRON has advised him that he, GAWRON, has been talking to the FBI about RAY. GAWRON did not state whether or not he was telling the truth to the FBI. GAWRON stated he was scared and that he did not like to be bothered by the FBI.

MC CORMICK advised that he was arrested last September for the theft of a television set. He is now on nine months probation for this offense. He was in the city jail, cell number 22 with a JIMMY (last name unknown). JIMMY has within the past week, began coming to GAWRON's home. At the time that he and JIMMY were in jail, GAWRON and JAMES RAMSEY were also in jail. MC CORMICK was in jail approximately

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two months. GAWRON was released before him, and JIMMY was released only recently. While in jail, he overheard no conversation between JIMMY and GAWRON regarding RAY. He advised at that time GAWRON and RAMSEY were in jail for the burglary of Art's Tavern, Soulard and South 11th Streets.

He recalls that sometime ago, the exact date unknown to him, RAMSEY, GAWRON and someone else went to Arkansas to rob a variety store. They had previously cased this store. MC CORMICK recalled that they did not rob this store as they had planned for some reason unknown to him.

Regarding the financial status of GAWRON, MC CORMICK advised that GAWRON generally has a couple of hundred dollars with him all the time. He stated that GAWRON receives a Government check and plays cards frequently. He advised that GAWRON also has an account at Manufacturer's Bank on South Broadway.

MC CORMICK advised that GAWRON has no telephone, but frequently goes out to make telephone calls at a pay phone located in front of a Catholic church at 12th and Lafayette, St. Louis.

It is his opinion that GAWRON would not tell the FBI where RAY is, even if he knew. He stated that GAWRON is "a little nuts." He stated he believes this because of the fact that GAWRON keeps approximately fifteen cats in his home and one dog. GAWRON kisses the cats and refers to them as "baby." He stated that GAWRON sleeps with all the cats and his dog.

MC CORMICK advised that he lived next door to JACK at 1805 South 11th Street downstairs with JIM RAMSEY for approximately two months. He recalls that he lived there at the time JACK was arrested in June, 1967. He did not see the subject, RAY, in the vicinity of JACK's home at that time.

MC CORMICK described RAMSEY as a "loud mouth, who would come in on anybody." He stated that he is sure that RAMSEY would tell the FBI if he had any knowledge of RAY. MC CORMICK pointed out that he would certainly tell the FBI if he knew where RAY was at present. He pointed out that he will immediately contact the FBI should any information concerning RAY become known to him.

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Regarding any trips that GAWRON may have taken recently, MC CORMICK advised that he knows of no trips with the exception of the preceding Monday and Tuesday nights when JACK did not come home until two or three a.m. He knows that JACK came home this late, only because JACK told him so. He advised that this is not like JACK and he assumes that JACK may have gone to Madison, Illinois, on these nights to pick up a pistol for JIMMY (last name unknown) and a man from Louisiana, who have recently been frequenting JACK's residence.

MC CORMICK advised that JACK has never mentioned to him anyone ever having given him \$250 or any bank loot.

MC CORMICK advised that it was not possible for RAY to have stayed with JACK when he, MC CORMICK, resided at 1805 South 11th Street. He pointed out that at that time he and JACK were so closely associated that he would have surely seen RAY had he been in the area.

The following description of MC CORMICK was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	JOSEPH M. MC CORMICK
Address	2115a Park, Apartment 5
Telephone	None
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Sioux City, Iowa
Height	5'9"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Black-gray
Eyes	Hazel, wears glasses, left eye noticeably crossed
Employed	Bee Line Trucking Company, Incorporated, 718 South 7th Street, as mechanic's helper.
Health	Suffered nervous breakdown, 1955, spent one month in Malcolm Bliss Hospital, St. Louis
Characteristics	Throughout the interview it was noticed that MC CORMICK is very nervous, easily be- comes confused, and often contradicts himself.

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Criminal Record

**Admits no felonies,
has served time in work-
house, now on probation
to THOMAS MANGOGNA, St.
Louis Municipal Courts
Building.**

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RE: JOSEPH H. MC CORMICK

The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD on May 16, 1968:

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Miss SHERIDA MC QUEEN, Probation Officer, City of St. Louis, Missouri, advised that THOMAS MANGOGNA is no longer employed as a probation officer. MANGOGNA left approximately one month ago and is presently employed at Magdella House, which is a halfway house for girls located near Missouri and Whitmore in St. Louis, Missouri. Miss MC QUEEN advised that JOSEPH H. MC CORMICK is a probationer currently assigned to her. She pointed out that since she has had MC CORMICK for only one month, she has never spoken with him. She made available the probation file of MC CORMICK which reflects the following information:

MC CORMICK was convicted October 24, 1967, of stealing from a dwelling. He was sentenced to nine months in the Missouri Medium Security Institution but was granted one year probation. The file indicates that MC CORMICK and one JOHN VINCE BOROWSKI entered the home of MARY CHROMOGO, 1809a Allen, St. Louis, Missouri, and stole a television valued at \$25 on August 17, 1967. MC CORMICK admitted his implication in this theft but stated that it was actually BOROWSKI who carried the television from the house and subsequently sold it.

The file reflects that on October 26, 1967, MC CORMICK was residing at 1805 South 11th Street, with one JIM RAMSEY. On December 6, 1967, MC CORMICK was residing at 2109a Menard with his mother, THERESA MC CORMICK.

On March 15, 1968, through April 29, 1968, MC CORMICK's address was again listed as 1805 South 11th Street. MC CORMICK has a grade school education, having terminated his schooling at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1934. MC CORMICK is syphilitic and has experienced deterioration of his condition in recent years. He is very nervous, drinks, and has a problem holding jobs. The file notes that MC CORMICK probably will not get into any more trouble, but that he will not function adequately either.

According to MC CORMICK he drinks heavily and because of this drinking he and his wife, ROSE T. WALDRON, 2845a

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Lafayette or 3214a South Grand are separated.

In 1955 MC CORMICK was admitted to Malcolm Bliss Hospital where he stayed for one month suffering from a nervous breakdown. A check of the hospital records by the probation officer indicates that MC CORMICK has syphilis which has affected his brain. His condition is chronic brain syndrome due to Meningocephalitic Lues, chronic inflammation of the brain and brain membrane due to syphilis. This condition produces excessive nervousness and motor activity.

MC CORMICK has an IQ of 72 which is in the mentally defective range. MC CORMICK has three prior misdemeanors, one in 1941 for vagrancy and two in 1962 and 1963 for stealing over \$50. The file indicates MC CORMICK had a brother, VICTOR V. MC CORMICK, who was shot approximately three years ago. The file indicates that VICTOR apparently associated with an unsavory element.

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RE: NEIGHBORHOOD - VICINITY
1800 South 11th Street
St. Louis, Missouri

SL 44-775
WHW/leh

On May 15, 1968, a neighborhood investigation was conducted in the vicinity of 1807 South 11th Street, by SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD and SA F. JACK WILLIAMS. The following persons were contacted and interviewed and viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on wanted flyer 442-A dated April 19, 1968, and their comments are as indicated:

ROSALIE SMITH, 1813a South 11th Street, advised she has resided in this address since 1962. She has never seen subject, RAY. She advised that she is acquainted with a JACK (last name unknown), who resides 1807 South 11th Street. She stated JACK lives at this address alone most of the time. She has never seen subject, RAY, at JACK's house.

MARY (last name unknown) who resides at 1805 South 11th Street, rear, (this is a house separate and apart from the house at 1805-1807 South 11th Street), often stays with JACK (last name unknown). It was noted that an elderly male and female were at that time seated on the rear porch at 1807a South 11th Street. She pointed to these two individuals as the persons known to her as JACK and MARY. SMITH occupies both apartments upstairs at 1813 South 11th. It should be noted that the two apartments located downstairs in this same building bear the address 1815 and 1815a South 11th.

According to LINDA SMITH, 1813a South 11th Street, daughter to ROSALIE SMITH, one FRED POWERS resides at 1815a South 11th.

FRED also maintains a residence somewhere in the "country" and comes to St. Louis only the first part of each month to pick up his check.

LINDA SMITH advised that a MARY (last name unknown) resides at 1815 South 11th. The mailbox for this address indicates the resident is one MURIEL JORDAN.

LINDA SMITH pointed out that the residence at 1809 South 11th is presently vacant. She advised that this residence was previously occupied by a Mexican lady, who now resides at an unknown address with her son. LINDA SMITH pointed out that a second Mexican woman formerly resided at 1805 South 11th. This lady died recently.

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LINDA SMITH stated that residents of the neighborhood frequent Art's Bar which is open only on Sunday's at the corner of 11th and Souldard and Eddie Sang's Bar on the corner of 12th and Souldard. LINDA SMITH advised that she will immediately notify the FBI should she receive any information concerning RAY. It was noted that the apartment house at 1809 South 11th and the apartment house at 1809 rear South 11th were both vacant.

EDDIE SANG, 1800 South 12th Street, owner of Eddie Sang's Tavern at the same address advised that the photograph of RAY looks familiar and he believes he has seen this man before. SANG pointed out that he first noted the familiarity of RAY's face when he saw RAY's photograph in the newspaper. He stated that he associated the face with a customer at his tavern but cannot associate the name with the face. He advised that several ex-convicts of the neighboring area used to frequent his tavern. He recalled one as a JACK (last name unknown) white, male, 45 believed to be from Arkansas. He advised that this JACK was suspected of a shooting in the neighborhood approximately six to eight months ago and that he was also involved in the burglary of Art's Tavern, 11th and Souldard. He barred JACK (last name unknown) from his place of business and does not know where he could be located at present.

MILDRED LAKAS, 1118 Souldard, could furnish no information regarding the subject.

ALBERT JOBE, 1116 Souldard has resided at this address since July, 1967. Prior to that time he resided at 1821a South 11th. He does not recall ever having seen the subject in the neighborhood and pointed out that he frequently visits nearby taverns.

Mr. and Mrs. RICHARD GRAYBILL, 1107a Souldard, could furnish no information concerning the subject. They have resided at this address for approximately four years.

CHRISTINE GREENWAY, 1107 Souldard, has resided at this address approximately two years. She could furnish no information concerning the subject.

SHIRLEY HURST, 1107 Souldard, advised that the center photograph of the subject looks familiar, but she cannot associate the face with a name or place. Mrs. HURST pointed

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out she operated a grocery at 1110 Soulard for a few months during 1965.

Mrs. EDWIN BLASE, 1817 South 11th Street, could furnish no information concerning subject.

Mrs. WILLIAM M. DUDA, 1819 South 11th Street, could furnish no information concerning the subject but pointed out that she is new in the neighborhood.

IDA BIELLER, 1821 South 11th Street, stated that she has resided in this neighborhood 21 years but could furnish no information, concerning the subject.

MELZO COURTWAY, 1114 Soulard, could furnish no information concerning the subject.

DALLAS FRILLMAN was interviewed at Sang's Tavern, 1800 South 12th Street, and could furnish no information concerning subject.

EMERY HARRISON, 1112 Soulard and MARGARET YZBROCK, 1114 Soulard could furnish no information concerning subject.

WILLIE MANNING was interviewed at V.P. Drug Store 1731 South 11th Street. He advised that he has been interviewed by agents in the past and knows nothing.

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CBB:mjb

The following investigation was conducted by SA CLYDE
B. BIDEWELL on May 29, 1968:

ARTHUR FORLOW, Missouri State Probation and Parole Officer,
1500 South Big Bend, advised that RUSSELL P. BRANNEN, FBI 279 653 6,
Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP)#65816J, is presently on parole
under supervision by that office. He advised that on April 1, 1952,
BRANNEN received a 25 year sentence under the Habitual Criminal Act
and that his parole supervision is scheduled to terminate on September
10, 1968. According to FORLOW, BRANNEN presently resides at 1633
Dolan, St. Louis, and is employed at the Modern Jacket Company.

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Date 6/5/68

RUSSELL PERRY BRANNEN was interviewed at his place of residence 1633 Dolman. He is employed at the Modern Jacket Company, 1000 Washington Avenue. BRANNEN was released from the Missouri State Penitentiary September 10, 1964. He had been sentenced to this institution on April 1, 1952, from Bethany, Missouri, in connection with an auto theft at which time he received a 25 year sentence under the Habitual Criminal Act.

BRANNEN stated during his last several years at the Missouri State Penitentiary, he worked under the immediate supervision of Major POIRY (phonetic), Deputy Warden, and was in charge of transfers, cell changes and classification of prisoners. In this capacity he felt that he undoubtedly came in contact with subject JAMES EARL RAY but he had no specific recollection of subject's contact. After viewing subject's photograph, he stated that the face looked familiar but he still had no specific recollection of subject RAY. He denied having any contact with subject RAY subsequent to RAY's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary. He mentioned he recalled discussing subject RAY with one JOHNNY VELANTI after VELANTI brought up the subject and asked him if he, BRANNEN, had any recollection of subject RAY in the Missouri State Penitentiary and if he, BRANNEN, recalled any contact between VELANTI and RAY while in the Penitentiary.

BRANNEN advised when questioned concerning one JIMMY CARPENTER, that he knew CARPENTER and had seen him occasionally in the recent past. He did not recall having discussed subject RAY on any occasion with CARPENTER and stated CARPENTER was entering the St. Louis City Hospital in the near future for an eye operation. It was his understanding that arrangements had been made for CARPENTER to enter the hospital by a southside St. Louis politician known only to him as "LEISURE" (phonetic).

BRANNEN advised that he was born [redacted] at Gallatin, Missouri, and that he is presently on parole from the Missouri State Penitentiary and that his parole is up in September of 1968. He promised to be alert for anyone with whom he came in contact for any information which might be of value in trying to ascertain the present whereabouts of subject RAY or any known associates of RAY who might be in a position to furnish such information.

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On 5/31/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL:hcv Date dictated 6/3/68

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BRANNEN advised upon questioning that he had not heard any discussion concerning the method of subject RAY's escape as to whether or not he left in a bread truck or walked out of the prison with a group of visitors.

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HRD:wma

NEIGHBORHOOD - MISSISSIPPI AVENUE

The following was conducted by SAs PATRICK W. BRADLEY and ROBERT A. HESS on June 3, 1968:

JOHN PAUL VELANTI indicated an un-named convict allegedly told him he had observed subject in the 1800 block of Mississippi Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, approximately two weeks following subject's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary, April 23, 1967.

Observation disclosed there is no 1800 block of Mississippi Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri. At the point where Mississippi is intersected by Geyer Avenue, the numbers jump from 1779 to 1915.

Photographs of subject were displayed to the following individuals on Mississippi and Geyer Avenues, with the result that none of them were able to recall having observed anyone of subject's appearance in the area or ever having been acquainted with anyone of subject's name or aliases.

MISSISSIPPI AVENUE (SA BRADLEY)

1720 HERMAN BLACKWELL	1721 CARRIE B. DEWEY
1722 JOHN J. O'BRIEN	1725 TILLIE B. FULTON
1726 JAMES LACEY	1729 BEULAH PIERCE
1730 OMA BANKS	1752 OPAL CONNOR
1779 WIBBS AUTO REPAIR (JAMES WIBBS - OWNER) Geyer Avenue Intersects	1915 BILLS BARBER SHOP - JOSEPH BURNS - Barber
1918a SHERMAN TOLLIVER Allen Avenue Intersects	1918 LOLA M. COFFMAN

GEYER AVENUE (SA HESS)

1916 EVERETT BOYER	1918 ANNA NAGY
1919 HENRY WILLARD	1920 GUY KIRK

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HRD:wma

1924 MAY'S CONFECTIONERY EVERETT W. KOLB	1925 CARROLL E. BATTEN
1926 J AND S USED FURNITURE EDNA DAVIS	1927 HAZEL FISH
1928 EISELL'S BAR - JOSEPH EISELL (Mississippi Avenue Intersects)	
2000 Geyer Food Shop - WILLIAM KOENER	2005 JESSE RHYNE
2006 MAX AND GENE'S TAVERN MAX LABIAN	2007 ALLAN D. EARL
2009 ELIZABETH MERSEAL	2010 MARY WILSON
2013 VIRGIL SIMMONS	2014 LUKE FIELDS
2015 GRACE PAYNE	2016 JOSEPH OPERSCHALL
2017 FRANKLIN ANDERSON	2018 WILLIAM F. POLITTE
2020 ELIA SALEMIE.	

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Date May 22, 1968

OPAL HIGHLY, 1630 South 18th Street, was interviewed at her residence and furnished the following information:

She formerly was the operator of Opal's Bar, 1805 Lafayette. She advised that she ran Opal's Bar at this location from 1947 until 1961. From September, 1939, until 1945 she operated a bar, also known as Opal's Bar, at a different location near 18th and Lafayette, St. Louis, Missouri.

She viewed photographs of subject, JAMES EARL RAY, as depicted on Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted flyer number 442-A dated April 19, 1968. She advised that the two photographs appearing on the left side of the wanted flyer appear to be familiar but that she cannot associate the face with a name or place. She advised that she has read accounts of the MARTIN LUTHER KING slaying in the newspaper and advised that this picture may appear familiar to her inasmuch as she has previously seen it in the newspaper.

HIGHLY pointed out that she does not recall the names of patrons frequently visiting her bar. She did know some of her patrons by their first names. The name JAMES RAY means nothing to her.

She is acquainted with a JACK (last name unknown) who limps, and has been in and out of the penitentiary all of his life. She advised that JACK (last name unknown) would now be approximately 70 years old. He used to live around Kennett Place, or another nearby street. She advised that she did not recall this man until recently when the man spoke with an associate of her, TED RICHARDSON, who also works for her. This man advised that his name was JACK and told RICHARDSON to ask HIGHLY if she remembered him. HIGHLY pointed out that she did not remember him at that time. Later, JACK (last name unknown) again contacted RICHARDSON and told RICHARDSON to tell HIGHLY that he was the man who used to come in her place with a big woman and a boy who liked to dance. Upon receipt of this information, HIGHLY recalled JACK as a frequent patron at Opal's Bar. He always came in with a big woman who drank beer. This was approximately fifteen years ago. The woman who accompanied JACK had a boy

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On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA F. JACK WILLIAMS
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD WHW/leh Date dictated 5/17/68

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about fifteen years old. The boy liked to dance and often danced at the bar.

HIGHLY does not believe that the dancing boy was subject, JAMES EARL RAY. She noted that the dancer would only be about 30 years of age at this time.

HIGHLY advised that she was always at the bar during its hours of operation and was well acquainted with the customers. She advised that a LESTER GUIBOR, presently employed at National Fixture, 7000 South Broadway, used to tend bar for her. She advised that MARIE MC MURTY, 1634 South 18th Street, was employed by her in Opal's Bar as a waitress.

HIGHLY advised that should she gain any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY, she would immediately contact the FBI.

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1Date May 22, 1968

MARIE MC MURTY, 1634 South 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was interviewed at her residence and furnished the following information:

She was employed as a waitress at Opal's Bar, 1805 Lafayette, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1958, or 1959.

She viewed photographs of subject, JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted flyer number 442-A dated April 19, 1968. She advised that she does not recall ever having seen RAY at Opal's Bar and that the name, JAMES EARL RAY, had no significance to her prior to the recent publicity concerning him.

MC MURTY advised she would immediately advise the FBI should she gain any information concerning RAY.

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On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA F. JACK WILLIAMS
SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD WHW/leh Date dictated 5/17/68

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III. MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

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SL 44-775
GMP:paw

The following investigation was conducted by
SA GEORGE M. PEET.

On May 15, 1968, RICHARD MISSAVAGE, Computer Section, St. Louis Police Department, advised that Field Interrogation Reports (FIR's - forms filled out regarding suspicious persons stopped and questioned but not arrested or booked) had been searched for a record of subject RAY under his name and known aliases with negative results. These reports cover the period November, 1967, to date for the entire city and were all that are available.

On May 17, 1968, all original FIR's for 1967, which were available at Third District, St. Louis Police Department, which covers the area where subject RAY is known to have frequented, were also searched with negative results.

In addition, the FIR's were searched through computer for a record of JAMES LOMA OWENS, FBI number 139 770 7, on May 15, 1968, in an effort to ascertain his whereabouts for interview.

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HRD:wma

UNIDENTIFIED DEATHS

Sergeant BUFORD MC GAHAN, Fingerprint Section, St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department, and MRS. HELEN TAYLOR, City Coroner, St. Louis, Missouri, advised SA JAMES T. DEARBORN on May 10, 1968, the Fingerprint Section of the St. Louis Police Department checks all unidentified cadavers in the City of St. Louis, Missouri, and obtains their fingerprints if the condition of the body will allow. These prints are then forwarded to the FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION. No unidentified white male cadavers have been found in the City of St. Louis, Missouri, since April 4, 1968.

On the same date Detective JOHN LARRISON, St. Louis County, Missouri, Police Department advised SA DEARBORN the same procedure is followed by his Department in St. Louis County, Missouri, and that no unidentified white male cadavers had been found since April 4, 1968.

Sergeant PAUL NAUMANN, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop C, Kirkwood, Missouri, advised SA DEARBORN, on the same date, that the Patrol performs a similar service for coroners and Police Departments in the rural areas of Missouri.

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HRD:wma

**SALVATION ARMY AND OTHER CHARITABLE
TYPE MISSION PROJECT**

In view of subject's habit of staying in flophouses and lower class rooming houses, the following charitable type missions were personally contacted, on the dates indicated, and furnished the Identification Order concerning subject. Subject was unknown to persons contacted; however, they indicated they would immediately contact this office in the event they observed him or received any information concerning him:

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGENT</u>
SALVATION ARMY MEN's SOCIAL CENTER, 3949 Forest Park, JOHN MC ALLISTER - Personnel Director	5-24-68	JOSEPH A. DUBYAK
DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 2827 Clark MILDRED MAYBERRY - Director	"	" "
TOWER GROVE CITADEL, 1324 Tower Grove Captain E. C. ROLLIN - Director	"	" "
TEMPLE, 3110 Iowa Captain LEE SMITH - Director	"	" "
EUCLID AVENUE, 2618 North Euclid FRIEDA HARPER - Secretary	"	" "
HARBOR LIGHT, 915 Market HAROLD RICHARDS - Personnel Director	5-27-68	ALAN E. MCELWAIN
CORPS AND YOUTH CENTER, 416 S. Main (St. Charles, Missouri), Captain ROBERT BUTTREY - Director	"	" "
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, 915 Market HAROLD RICHARDS - Personnel Director	"	" "

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HRD:wma

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGENT</u>
LAFAYETTE PARK, 1710 Carroll Captain JACK VAUGHN - Director	5-27-68	ALLEN E. MCELWAIN
7701 Rawnels (Maplewood, Missouri) Captain DONALD LOVEJOY - Director	"	" "
NORTHSIDE, 1323 Sullivan Captain DANIEL UPTGROVE - Director	"	" "
SOUTHSIDE, 801 Allen THOMAS ONKLE - Office Employee	5-24-68	JOHN O. TRETHWAY
WELLSTON, 6203 Cote Brilliance Captain J. A. MILLER	"	" "
BEREA MISSION, INC., 3536 Russell CHARLES RUSSELL - Business Manager	"	" "
LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION, 1323 Herbert DOROTHY HARTON - Secretary	"	" "
OPEN DOOR MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP, 4045 Ashland H. H. PETERS, Secretary	"	" "
DISMAS HOUSE, 903 Cole VIRGINIA BRADSHAW - Secretary	5-27-68	LAWRENCE B. CURTIN
FATHER DEMPSEY CHARITIES, 3427 Washington ELMER WILLIAM - Manager	"	" "
ST. LOUIS RESCUE MISSION, 4023 Olive JAMES CARTER - Sexton	"	" "
SUNSHINE MISSION, 614 Franklin WILLIAM L. BUSCHART - Superintendent	"	" "
SHINING LIGHT TABERNACLE, 1428 Monroe Reverend JESSE GREEN - Pastor.	"	" "

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SL: 44-775

HRD:wma

NAME

DATE

AGENT

HUMAN SERVICE CENTER, 905 North 5th,
Poplar Bluff, Missouri
WILLIAM BRIGDEN - Manager

5-28-68 WILLIAM R. BURTON

No other charitable type missions which furnish lodging
to indigents were found within the territory covered by the
St. Louis Division.

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SL: 44-775

IV. FELLOW PRISONERS

93

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Date 6-12-68

DONALD GARFIELD COX, residing at the northeast corner of Case and Thelma, Berkeley, Missouri, was interviewed at his place of employment, Derby Service Station, 8970 Natural Bridge, Berkeley, Missouri, and furnished the following information:

He was confined to the Missouri State Penitentiary from September, 1960, to September, 1963, after his conviction for armed robbery in the city of St. Louis, Missouri.

He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on FBI Wanted Flyer #442-A dated April 19, 1968. He advised that he recognized the center photograph on this wanted flyer as a JAMES RAY with whom he was acquainted in the penitentiary. He advised that he knew RAY only slightly and described RAY as a loner who seldom associated with the other inmates. He stated that RAY was not well liked in the penitentiary and that he came to the penitentiary with the attitude that he was a "big shot" and was going to run things. He advised that RAY was not a gambler to his knowledge nor did RAY collect gambling debts for anyone else.

While in the penitentiary he, COX, associated with BOB BURNS, BOB DOUGLAS, CLYDE CASEY, and GLEN CHERNICK. He advised that he is acquainted with a JAMES BROWN from the city of St. Louis. He advised he is unaware of BROWN's present residence but that BROWN would be approximately 33 years of age at the present. He is unaware of whether or not BROWN was close to JAMES RAY. He advised that BROWN had "so many stories" that he tried to stay away from BROWN. He advised that BROWN was a "liar" and always had some stories to tell.

He is not acquainted with a (first name unknown) ALLEN who was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He advised that he may recognize a photograph of ALLEN but that he knew many of the inmates only by their faces rather than their names.

He advised that he is acquainted with a "SLICK" STEDHAM doing life at the Missouri State Penitentiary from Kansas City. COX also described STEDHAM as a liar.

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On 6-5-68 at Berkeley, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD
SA MARVIN R. DORAN WHW:amb Date dictated 6-7-68

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SL 44-775

He was aware of no organization at the Missouri State Penitentiary that acted as enforcers or who in anyway "ran" the penitentiary. He advised that if there was any single organization or man who runs the Missouri State Penitentiary that man would be BOB BURNS whom he described as a small man presently doing 75 years from St. Louis for armed robbery. BURNS' brother is supposedly a detective lieutenant in the St. Louis Police Department.

With respect to known gamblers at the Missouri State Penitentiary he advised that JOHNNIE JOHNSON from Kansas City and JACK KALENKA (phonetic) also from Kansas City were known gamblers who have now both been released from the penitentiary. He advised that CLYDE CASEY, GLEN CHERNICK, and "SLICK" STEDHAM were also gamblers. He advised he is unacquainted with a JOHNNIE VELANTI.

He advised that JAMES EARL RAY resided in B Hall when he was residing in C Hall at the penitentiary.

COX pointed out that he could furnish no information concerning RAY or the associates of RAY, however, he advised that should any information concerning RAY become known to him he will immediately contact the FBI. COX pointed out that he has "gone straight" since leaving the penitentiary, has a good job, and wants to stay on the right side of the law.

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SL 44-775
WCJ/leh

**RE: PRISON ASSOCIATE
CARL BENTON DRAKE**

On June 5, 1968, CARL BENTON DRAKE was re-interviewed by SA WALTER C. JOHNSON and said he had heard nothing regarding JAMES EARL RAY. He again expressed a willingness to cooperate in the event he learned anything of value. DRAKE said he had been extremely busy doing tuckpointing work this spring and did not come in contact with any of his former prison associates.

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SL: 44-775
WRB:mjb

RE: JAMES COOPER GREEN, JR.

- FELLOW PRISONERS

On May 16, 1968, JAMES COOPER GREEN, JR., 942 Grand, Caruthersville, Missouri, was contacted at the Town and Country Supply Company, Highway 84 west, by SA WILLIAM R. BURTON.

GREEN advised that he was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, and arrived there on November 29, 1965. He stayed approximately four weeks and was transferred to Algoa until May 3, 1966, at which time he went back to Jefferson City for a period of two weeks. He was then transferred to the Moberly, Missouri, Farm. During his stay at Moberly he went back to Jefferson City to the hospital twice, once for a one month period in August of 1966 and then for a week in July of 1967. He was released from Moberly on August 29, 1967, and returned to Caruthersville. As he recalled there were two individuals named RAY at Moberly at the time he was there, one who was tall and thin who escaped but was recaptured the same night, the other he heard had escaped and had not been recaptured. He did not know either of these RAYS on a personal basis and is not positive that either of them is identical with the Identification Order photograph of JAMES EARL RAY. He further advised that sometime in 1966 while he was at Moberly he and several other prisoners were caught gambling, and as a result of this he attempted to make a deal with prison authorities that he would turn over to them a shipment of amphetamine powder that was supposed to be coming into the prisoners. Instead of giving them the real amphetamine powder, he gave them a greenish colored food seasoning. They discovered the switch and as a result he was taken into prison court, given ten days in the hole and a 20 days loss of merit time. To the best of his recollection and knowledge, he never came into contact with JAMES EARL RAY in regard to this amphetamine.

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WRB:paw

FELLOW PRISONER: DAVID DON MC FARLIN

Mrs. JUDITH MC FARLIN of St. Louis indicated that DAVID DON MC FARLIN was last known to be residing with his mother, Mrs. O. L. DAVIS, General Delivery, Advance, Missouri.

On May 23, 1968, Mrs. O. L. DAVIS, Advance, advised that her son, DAVID DON MC FARLIN, had recently moved to Malden, Missouri, and was going to school at the Office of Economic Opportunity, Manpower Development Training School at Sikeston, Missouri.

Efforts on that same date to contact MC FARLIN at Malden, Missouri, were negative, and he was thereafter interviewed at Sikeston, Missouri.

MC FARLIN, who gave his residence address as 703 South Beckwith, Malden, advised that he was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary in May, 1966, spent three weeks in Jefferson City, and was then sent to the Number Two Farm for approximately seven months, at which time he was transferred to the Church Farm and was subsequently paroled in April, 1967. He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, stated the photograph did not look familiar to him, cannot recall ever having met the individual while he was in the penitentiary, and could furnish no other information of value.

The foregoing was conducted by SA WILLIAM R. BURTON.

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SL: 44-775
PWB:mjb

RAY - FELLOW INMATES

Mrs. HAZEL MENARD, 2636 St. Vincent, was contacted at her residence. After Special Agents ROBERT A. HESS and PATRICK W. BRADLEY identified themselves, she stated "What do you want now? I'm in a hurry because I'm preparing to go to work." It was pointed out to Mrs. MENARD that we desired to get in contact with two sons who were former inmates at Missouri State Penitentiary. She stated that she has three sons and one of them is currently in the Federal penitentiary. She pointed out that the other two sons reside somewhere in St. Louis, exact whereabouts unknown and employment unknown, but she is of the opinion that she will see these sons on Saturday, May 18, 1968. She was furnished the names of the contacting agents and the telephone number of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in St. Louis with the request that she have her sons contact these agents. She hesitatingly agreed to do this.

The foregoing contact was made on May 16, 1968.

A check of the St. Louis - St. Louis County Directories, telephone book, and files of the St. Louis Police Department, on the same date failed to disclose current resident addresses for LOUIS GENE MENARD, FBI # 517 988 A, or RAYMOND OWEN MENARD, FBI # 471 822 7. Police Department records indicated RICHARD LAWRENCE MENARD, FBI # 4 496 848, is currently at Leavenworth Penitentiary.

MRS. MENARD advised May 21, 1968, she had advised RAYMOND and LOUIS MENARD of the FBI interest, but neither had indicated any intention of contacting this office. She continued to profess ignorance as to their places of residence and employment, and claimed inability to contact them.

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SL 44-775
CSD:amb

RE: NATHAN J. MURPHY - FORMER INMATE

The following investigation was conducted by SA CHARLES S. DUKE at St. Louis, Missouri:

Teletype from Kansas City to the Bureau, May 22, 1968, indicated that former inmate was paroled July 28, 1964, from the Missouri State Prison and was discharged from parole on January 4, 1967, and could be reached through JOHN A. ZITZENANICH at 3177a Oregon Street, St. Louis.

On May 24, 1968, JOHN A. ZITZ, 3177a Oregon Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was contacted at his residence whereupon he advised that his name was ZITZ and not ZITZENANICH and that he did not know a man by the name of NATHAN J. MURPHY. He said that he had a couple of former prisoners staying at his place for a short period of time somewhere around three to four years ago but he could not remember their names. He advised that since his wife left him and ran off with an ex-convict he wanted to forget the past. ZITZ could offer no additional information.

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Date May 24, 1968

WALTER E. NOLAN, 5206 Washington Avenue, apartment 2, was interviewed at the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1520 Market Street, St. Louis, at which time he supplied the following information:

NOLAN emphatically denied since last being interviewed by Bureau agents that he has had any contact with or knowledge of the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY. He reiterated what he had previously mentioned that he also has had no contact with RAY since RAY escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). He pointed out that at the present time RAY would have no way of knowing that NOLAN was released from the MSP and, therefore, would not even be aware that NOLAN is in St. Louis, Missouri.

Regarding NOLAN's association with RAY in the MSP, NOLAN commented that it was possible that RAY may have used amphetamines on occasion, however NOLAN never knew of RAY to sell or to deal in that or any other narcotic.

NOLAN did say that he knew JAMES EARL RAY to have a four for three loan business at MSP as on several occasions RAY had asked NOLAN if he ever needed any money, RAY had sufficient to loan him. RAY once told NOLAN that he had paid off a debt of an unnamed inmate and asked NOLAN how he could receive the re-payment from the inmate since the inmate had arranged for someone outside the prison to pay off the debt to RAY. RAY desired to know how the money could get into the prison past the warden as the warden had questioned RAY on several occasions regarding money being held for him by prison authorities. NOLAN indicated that it was the warden's belief that this money was in payment for narcotics.

NOLAN was unable to recall whether he had suggested it to RAY or it was a mutual agreement between he and RAY that this outside person send the payment to RAY in the name of one of RAY's brothers. NOLAN was of the opinion this was how the re-payment was handled, however had no concrete knowledge of which brother's name was used or the amount of the payment. NOLAN estimated that RAY possibly had \$300 to \$400 at the most when he escaped from MSP but seriously doubts that RAY had any more than that.

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On 5/20/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY
SA ROBERT A. HESS RAH/leh Date dictated 5/21/68

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NOLAN stated that while incarcerated in MSP, RAY worked in the bakery as a bread cutter. In addition to RAY in the bakery, there were approximately 150 additional inmates. NOLAN commented that he doubted that over six of these fellow inmates had ever held conversations with RAY totaling more than 30 minutes. He stated that RAY was a good worker, a clever and thoughtful person, a conservative thinker, very closed mouthed and an individual who does not generally do things on the spur of the moment. NOLAN added that at no time did RAY exhibit any foreign language ability nor was there any talk of travel outside of the continental United States by RAY. However, on one occasion RAY did mention to NOLAN that he had been to the West Coast. Although NOLAN stated that RAY did not have any close family ties, the place most often spoken of by RAY was Illinois where NOLAN understands RAY's family are residents.

NOLAN commented that approximately 95 percent of the content of conversations between he and JAMES EARL RAY while incarcerated in MSP was about how to get out of the penitentiary either legally or illegally. NOLAN emphatically denied that he had been engaged in any illegal activity inside the MSP and further stated that he was not the individual who was caught by prison authorities with numerous bullets in his pocket. He also stated that there was no truth to the statement that JAMES EARL RAY ever had an inmate beaten while in the penitentiary for non-payment of debt. NOLAN recalled that on either a Friday or Saturday evening, RAY had sent word to him by messenger that he wanted to meet with him for dinner. NOLAN did join RAY for supper and RAY commented that he had been granted permission to accompany his attorney to a Missouri Supreme Court hearing on the following Wednesday. RAY was desirous of learning the exact procedures in regard to security of him as a prisoner and if there was any relaxation of the security, whereby he may be afforded a chance to escape. NOLAN reportedly assured RAY that there was no opportunity for escape under those circumstances. According to NOLAN, RAY replied, "That's okay, I've got something else."

The following Sunday while walking in the yard of MSP, NOLAN stated that he overheard an inmate, name unknown, complain that someone had stolen a set of hidden civilian clothing, however at the time did not pay too much attention to the remarks

SL 44-775

made. Several hours later, it was rumored that someone had on that afternoon walked out the front gate of the MSP. Eventually word came to NOLAN after a head count had been taken that evening, that the escapee was JAMES EARL RAY. NOLAN conjectures that it was RAY who stole the civilian clothes and who probably changed in the confines of the bakery and then mingled with the weekend visitors and if a guard on the double gate was new, which NOLAN says was true, RAY probably just walked out in this manner.

NOLAN feels positively that RAY would never have come to St. Louis, Missouri, after his escape unless he was merely passing through. He indicated that it is common knowledge that the St. Louis Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in St. Louis are notorious for developing a network of informants among ex-cons released from MSP. For this reason, RAY, who NOLAN reiterated never trusted an inmate while in prison, would certainly not come to St. Louis and contact anyone here after his escape. NOLAN again commented that JAMES EARL RAY has a natural ability to make himself inconspicuous and an individual who usually stays at arm's length from everyone.

NOLAN is of the belief that RAY is not guilty of the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., as the crime is completely foreign to RAY's personality. He does not believe that RAY would kill except to avoid returning to prison.

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Date May 22, 1968

FRANCIS POWELL was interviewed at his residence and advised that he is the father of ROBERT (BOB) POWELL. He stated that POWELL is not living at his residence at this time since Mr. POWELL did not want him to be closely associated with his young daughters. He stated that POWELL visits his residence on infrequent occasions and comes to borrow money.

Mr. POWELL stated that he had heard a rumor that his son, BOB, had helped JAMES EARL RAY escape from prison in Jefferson City, Missouri. He stated that his son had never mentioned RAY to him and that he was certain that he would be uncooperative in any interview.

Mr. POWELL stated that his wife, who is BOB POWELL's stepmother, told him that BOB had made the remark that the man who turns in RAY is a dead man. Mr. POWELL stated that he did not believe his son had any information concerning RAY's whereabouts.

Mr. POWELL stated that while BOB was in prison some of his girlfriends would write him and use the Doe Run address on the envelopes so that they would pass through the prison censors. He stated he had seen envelopes with the name FRANKIE BARBARA. He stated that to the best of his knowledge this is a fictitious person. He stated that he did not know who this person was. Mr. POWELL stated that if his son contacted him he would notify the FBI. Mr. POWELL stated that he had no idea as to how BOB could be contacted but had heard that he worked part time in Farmington, Missouri.

On 5/18/68 at Doe Run, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA HOWARD G. SLACK/leh Date dictated 5/20/68

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SL 44-775
DSD:paw

RE: FELLOW PRISONER RICHARD RENO

On May 8, 1968, RICHARD RENO, 411 East Swan Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri, advised SA DONALD S. DE FONCE that while confined to the Missouri State Penitentiary he had occasion on several different times to have a short conversation with JAMES EARL RAY. He stated, however, that although he knew him by sight, he did not consider himself to be an acquaintance or even to be on a friendly basis with RAY.

RENO advised that although he was not aware of it at the time, he apparently drove the bakery truck in which RAY escaped from the penitentiary.

RENO advised that he has had no contact with RAY and does not think that RAY would ever contact him; however, promised to advise in the event that he does.

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Date June 13, 1968

WILLIAM E. RUSSELL, 9703 Holiday Gardens, residence phone 423-0460, was interviewed at that location at which time he provided the following information:

RUSSELL after being apprised of the identity of the interviewing agent stated that he was released from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) on April 5, 1968, after serving a total of 39 months for armed robbery. RUSSELL stated that he had received three six-year sentences and one five-year sentence, however, would not elaborate regarding his criminal activities leading to his conviction. RUSSELL commented that since he has been released from prison he has acquired a good job, has married and is making every effort to "go straight." He added that he has discontinued any association with his previous friends and did not desire in any way to furnish any information to any law enforcement agency for fear of reprisals and possibly getting him involved in illegal activity. RUSSELL after being advised of the explicit purpose of the interview stated that he had no objection talking about JAMES EARL RAY because he felt he had very little knowledge of RAY; however, it should not be expected that he would provide the names of any individuals who were connected with RAY or himself at the MSP.

RUSSELL indicated that he first met JAMES EARL RAY when he, RUSSELL, was working as an inmate barber and thus on several occasions had the occasion to cut RAY's hair. He stated he probably knew RAY approximately two to three years and described him as a very closed mouth individual who kept primarily to himself. RUSSELL added that by keeping to himself was part of the reason RAY tried so many escapes from the MSP and nearly pulled them off. He stated that no one really knew his plans, therefore, was ahead percentage wise on chances of being successful.

RUSSELL commented that he was not aware of anyone who was close to JAMES EARL RAY in the MSP; however, he added "anyone who says they knew JIM RAY real well are liars."

RUSSELL related that at the time of RAY's escape in April, 1967, RUSSELL was working on the farm and he has no knowledge of any of the details regarding RAY's escape. In regard to RAY's activities after the escape, RUSSELL stated that he does not know if RAY would have come to St. Louis, Missouri, and he stated he was not aware of where RAY's home is and attributed this fact to RAY's being extremely quiet in nature and it was not a subject that was ever discussed. RUSSELL

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On 6/7/68 at Overland, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
 by SA ROBERT A. HESS/mjb Date dictated 6/11/68

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described RAY as being a man whom you would not know how smart or dumb he is simply by his being so quiet.

RUSSELL denied having any extended conversations with RAY and those occasions when they did talk most of the discussion concerned prison life, conditions therein, etc. RUSSELL acknowledged that RAY did use amphetamines; however, had no knowledge of RAY dealing in same. There was no discussion regarding travel inside or outside the United States and there was no indication by RAY of any knowledge of a foreign language.

RUSSELL stated that RAY is not a "muscle man"; however, he does not know if he is capable of killing anyone. He stated he has had no contact with RAY since RAY's escape, since he has no idea of RUSSELL's current whereabouts. RUSSELL is of the opinion that he would not help RAY if RAY should contact him; however, he does not feel that he would advise the FBI if he had been contacted by RAY.

RUSSELL was apprised of the provisions of the Harboring Statute and stated he was completely familiar with them; however, again reiterated that he would not help JAMES EARL RAY or anyone else.

All the known photos of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to RUSSELL and he stated the one taken in 1966 at the MSP is the one most familiar to him and resembles RAY as RUSSELL knew him.

1Date 5-24-68

CHESTER SPRATT, 3809 Russell, advised that he had entered Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, during February, 1962, after being convicted of rape in Eminence, Missouri. SPRATT indicated that he received ten years for this sentence and was subsequently released from the Missouri State Prison on June 6, 1967.

SPRATT related that while incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary he worked in the license tag section as a welder during his entire time there.

SPRATT was exhibited photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that he had recently seen these photographs in the newspaper and on television in St. Louis, however, he was not familiar at all with RAY. He stated that he read the accounts in the St. Louis newspapers regarding RAY's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary and readily acknowledged that he was an inmate when RAY escaped in the bakery truck, however, SPRATT once again emphatically denied ever having any acquaintance with RAY.

SPRATT indicated that he was unaware of knowing anyone who may be familiar with RAY, however, mentioned the possibility that CHARLES WALTERS, also known as "FIFTY", was possibly an individual who may remember him since WALTERS had a wide acquaintanceship inside the penitentiary.

SPRATT was advised of the provisions of the Harboring Statute at which time he acknowledged that he was familiar with the law in that regard and he promised complete cooperation with the FBI, however, felt he would be of little help since he was not acquainted with RAY.

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On 5-15-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA ROBERT A. HESS
SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY RAH: amb Date dictated 5-20-68

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SL 44-775
KAW/pjh

FELLOW PRISONERS

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On May 20, 1968, IVAN DALE UNDERWOOD, Apartment D, 5105 Minnesota Avenue, St. Louis, advised he served two sentences at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. The first sentence was from 1962 to 1964. The second sentence was from August 1966, to September 1967. Both sentences were for fraud or confidence schemes. He advised he served all of the second sentence on the penitentiary's honor farm. He stated that he did not know JAMES EARL RAY while he was incarcerated. He advised that on the basis of the subject's name and after viewing his photograph, he believed RAY is possibly identical to an individual who worked with RALPH RENFRO for a short period in the late 1950's at Joplin, Missouri. The association between RAY and RENFRO consisted of RENFRO having a furnace or heating business and RENFRO would finger residences and business establishments in the Joplin area and on the pretext of conducting a free inspection of the furnace and heating equipment would gain entrance to "case" the establishment for possible burglary or robbery; or if the victims were gullible, an attempt would be made to sell a new heating outfit.

UNDERWOOD did not know where RAY resided in the Joplin area and knew nothing else concerning his background, and stated he only knew RAY through RALPH RENFRO. UNDERWOOD states that as of eighteen months ago RENFRO was working at an independent service station on 20th Street in Joplin and was hanging around at ELMER'S BAR on Main Street.

He described RALPH RENFRO as a white male, 42 years of age, short with medium build, and graying hair.

UNDERWOOD was interviewed by SA KENNETH A. WILLIAMS.

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SL: 44-775
WRD:klr

PRISON INMATES AT THE MISSOURI
STATE PENITENTIARY WITH RAY

On May 14, 1968, Special Agent WILLIAM R. DUNCAN interviewed MILTON ZAVOLCOFSKI, Missouri Training School for Men, Number 01658, at Moberly, Missouri. He advised that he was born at Brockton, Massachusetts, on [redacted]. He was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, on November 9, 1960, from Lebanon, Missouri, on charges of armed robbery. He was transferred to the Missouri Training School for Men at Moberly, Missouri, on April 8, 1968. He knew JAMES EARL RAY as an inmate at Jefferson City, had no personal relationship with him. He recalled that RAY hid out in the prison sometime prior to escaping in 1967. Someone in the training center at Moberly saw RAY's picture on television and brought it to his attention. He could furnish no additional information.

MELVIN OLIVER GRIDLEY, Missouri Training School for Men, Number 02503, on May 14, 1968, advised that he was sentenced on April 23, 1960, for burglary and stealing, from Jasper County, Missouri. He served all of this time until July of 1967, at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, until he transferred to the Missouri Training School for Men at Moberly, Missouri, in July of 1967. He worked in the recreation department at Jefferson City and was Hall Tender in J Hall when JAMES EARL RAY hid out in the penitentiary about a week in 1964 or 1965. He knew RAY pretty well, as RAY worked for him. He said that RAY was close-mouthed, had no friends. He said that he lost contact with RAY after RAY went into solitary confinement after he hid out in the penitentiary over a year prior to the time he escaped in 1967. Since he hid out, he (GRIDLEY) had not talked with RAY. He never discussed his business with GRIDLEY, as a matter of fact, he did not know that RAY had any close friends in the penitentiary. GRIDLEY could furnish no additional information concerning RAY.

SL: 44-775

V. JAMES DAVID DAILEY

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SL: 44-775
HRD:wma

RE: J. D. DAILEY

On June 4, 1968, Detective EDWARD SCHAFF and Officer RONALD BOCKENKAMP, St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department advised SA ROBERT L. BENDER that they were unable to suggest the identities of any persons whom they believed might be aware of any acquaintance or association between subject and J. D. DAILEY.

On June 6, 1968, They advised SA BENDER contacts with their informants and sources had failed to disclose any additional information in this regard.

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Date June 13, 1968

JAMES DAVID DAILEY was interviewed at Portageville, Missouri, from 12:25 p.m. to 1:17 p.m., June 7, 1968. Interviewing Special Agents identified themselves to him by exhibition of their credentials at the outset. He was then warned of his rights by Special Agent DOBSON. DAILEY stated he was well aware of his rights and, that while he was quite willing to furnish any information in his possession concerning this case, he did not desire to execute a waiver of his rights or any other document.

He stated photographs of subject had been exhibited to him during previous interviews, and that he had viewed several photographs of subject on television and in various newspapers during recent weeks. He was positive in his own mind that he had never knowingly seen subject. He expressed the opinion that anyone who said he knew the subject would undoubtedly be motivated by personal animosity or by a desire to divert official attention from their own activities.

DAILEY likewise was unable to recall ever having seen any of the subject's relatives. He stated if he could see the relatives face-to-face, he might be able to remember some of them as persons he may have seen while he was living in St. Louis, Missouri, as he understood from newspapers some of them resided in areas where his restaurant and home were located, but in any event, he was certain he had no association with any of them, as their names were in no way familiar to him.

To the best of his knowledge, he worked at his restaurant in St. Louis, Missouri, each day during the period from April 23, to July 18, 1967. He had no records which would substantiate this belief but noted that a small restaurant of the type he operated in St. Louis usually requires the daily presence and effort of the owner to "break even."

He specifically denied making any trips to, or in the vicinities of, the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, or the Renz Prison Farm, nearby, during this period. All such trips made by him were subsequent to the escape, apprehension and return of his boyhood friend, THOMAS B. CREWS, from the Missouri State Penitentiary during, he believed, September of 1967.

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On 6/7/68 at Portageville, Missouri File # SL: 44-775

by SA HAROLD R. DOBSON and SA EDWARD W. MORELAND HRD/klr Date dictated 6/11/68

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He recalled that during the fall of 1967, CREWS had appeared at his restaurant one evening and had confided to him that he had escaped. CREWS made no mention of the manner in which he had escaped but it appeared to DAILEY that he had probably stolen some civilian attire from a clothesline, as he was not in prison garb. CREWS indicated he had walked a considerable distance following his escape and had finally managed to obtain transportation on a bus bound for St. Louis.

DAILEY and CREWS "sat up all night talking." During their conversation, DAILEY attempted, to the best of his ability, to convince CREWS to give himself up, but was unsuccessful. CREWS was "scared to death" and appeared to be an extremely desperate individual. It was evident to DAILEY that, unless CREWS was successful in legitimately obtaining sufficient funds to continue his flight, he would undoubtedly "pull some job in which somebody might get hurt." Therefore, DAILEY gave him \$100. Two or three days thereafter, CREWS was apprehended and returned to the prison.

DAILEY stated he was well aware that his action in this regard constituted a violation of state harboring statutes, but he preferred to consider it as "insurance" against some innocent person getting hurt. He freely admitted what he had done to members of the St. Louis Police Department.

Following CREWS' return to the prison, it became apparent he was suffering from terminal cancer. Due to this fact, DAILEY has since visited him on several occasions and has attempted to secure his release through Jefferson City attorney DAVID BRANDON.

DAILEY stated specifically he had never visited or corresponded with CREWS at the prison prior to CREWS' escape and return.

DAILEY stated positively he had never known or aided the subject in any way, and had never been in a position to have assisted him in any manner. Neither he nor any member of his family have owned, controlled, or enjoyed the use of any rural or farm property anywhere, which might be used as a hiding place for an escapee, at any time subsequent to subject's escape.

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He expressed the opinion that the subject is undoubtedly dead or out of the country as he would otherwise have been found by this time. He mentioned that the reward for subject's apprehension, which he understood had been offered by Memphis businessmen, was of sufficient size to cause anyone the subject might have contacted to turn him over to the authorities.

DAILEY further expressed the belief that it would be impossible for any prisoner to "simply walk out" with a crowd of visitors at the Missouri State Prison without the gross negligence or the connivance of prison guards.

DAILEY stated he would immediately contact the FBI in the event any information concerning subject or his whereabouts comes to his attention.

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VI. RELATIVES

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