

JAMES EARL RAY, Also known
as Eric Starvo Galt

ASSASSINATION OF REV. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., MEMPHIS,
TENNESSEE, April 4, 1968

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Alleged Plot
In New York City, New York, to
Harm or Kill a Prominent
Negro Woman

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN
FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS,
November 22, 1963

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

"Now he writes that 'something much worse' is going to happen soon. He doesn't know what it is, because he is being included less and less in conferences, and is very frightened. He had asked me to write you last October about the planned assassination, and I did not, and he now wonders 'if I can trust you.'"

"He writes that a woman will be the focus-point of the 'much worse,' and almost immediately, but does not know who the woman is. She is a Negro, however. He also writes that the man you are looking for is working either in New Jersey or just outside of New York, and is or was in the Army and received a 'discharge without prejudice,' whatever that means, though not an honorable discharge. I thought they were the same. At any rate, he is often in New York at conferences. Then it was decided to send him to Washington with the 'Poor People,' and is probably there now. (By the way, he had accomplices in Memphis.)"

"He never liked Martin Luther King, my friend wrote last September, but reproaches me that if I had written you in October you might have prevented him from being murdered."

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"This new information is also vague, but it may serve some purpose, though I don't see how. But remembering that letter of last October I thought it only right to let you know now. My friend also says that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Humphrey 'had better not' show themselves too openly in Washington, or be too available, in the very near future, but what threatens them he does not know. He just overheard 'hints.'"

"He fears, now, that he is suspected, so if you do any investigation on this information, don't try to find him or question him. He has a family. I know I will do all I can to protect him.

"Sincerely,

"(Miss) /s/ Taylor Caldwell

"P.S. My poor husband now lies at the point of death in the hospital - where he has been since March, 1967 - after he was attacked in our house by two of Earl Warren's pampered thugs. He is completely shattered in body and mind. He was a most brilliant man, and he has now become a confused, wandering, disoriented old shadow, and is unable even to feed himself or even to sit up, and is attended constantly

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by private nurses. I brought a specialist from New York to see him recently, a Dr. Donald Louria; he told me frankly that my husband's destruction of mind and body had led to his present dying condition. If I knew who the thugs were I'd kill them, myself, so that some 'rule' of Earl Warren's would not set them free again to murder over and over.

"N.B. By the way, the Internal Revenue Service Center at Andover, Mass., has been opening letters addressed to me from all over the country, and then stamping the envelope: 'Opened by mistake.' I thought they were genuine 'mistakes,' and threw away all letters but one - and you may see it if you wish. For instance, how could a letter addressed to me by a fan from Syracuse, N.Y., find its way to Andover, Mass.? That was the one I kept. I can't imagine what the rascals are up to, but I have long had reason to suspect them, as files in your office will show."

On June 4, 1968, a telephone call was made to Miss CALDWELL by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, requesting an interview with her for any additional details she might be able to furnish in connection with the contents of the above letter.

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Miss CALDWELL stated she is extremely busy and upset, that her husband is at the brink of death in the hospital, that she is in the midst of preparing two speeches for delivery in California later this month, and that she would have no time for a personal interview for at least two weeks or perhaps longer. She stated all the facts known to her are set forth in her letter. She pointed out that under no circumstances would she disclose the identity of the friend who had supplied her with the information set forth in the letter. She said she no longer has any of his letters because in keeping with a promise made to him, she burns them immediately after reading them.

When asked for the name of the New York lawyer she mentions in the second paragraph of her letter, Miss CALDWELL replied that this lawyer's name is WILLIAM KUNSTLER, adding she had previously advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation that KUNSTLER in her opinion is a Communist,

Miss CALDWELL was then asked if she could furnish any data on the source of her information which would aid in evaluating the reliability of this source. She then replied she has never met this source, but that he is a person who started writing to her about five years ago after reading one of her books. He has

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described himself in his letters as a Negro businessman who owns a business in Harlem. He has written to Miss CALDWELL from four or five different addresses, which she states indicates to her that he has had to move around for fear of his life. She has written back to him on several occasions, and two or three of her letters were returned to her marked "Unknown at this address," but most of her letters were delivered. On several occasions when she knew she was going to be in New York City, she wrote to her friend requesting that he come to see her at her hotel, but he never came. She recalled that one address he had given her was somewhere on West 114th Street.

Miss CALDWELL added she believes her friend is a member of the John Birch Society, because he has made reference frequently to articles she has written for the publication of this society entitled "American Opinion." She added that when this man first started writing to her, the letters were merely friendly and pleasant, expressing admiration of her writing and dealing with general political observations of World War I and World War II. However, commencing in the Fall of 1967, he began writing about his knowledge of the assassination plot of a prominent Negro leader, ultimately designated as Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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She said her first reaction was that his statements along this line sounded "kooky" so she ignored them, except for the fact that in a newspaper article she wrote in October, 1967, which was not published until February, 1968, and in which she made a predication of major events to occur in 1968, she did predict the assassination of a prominent Negro leader, being influenced in this predication by what her friend had written to her.

Miss CALDWELL was then asked whether she would suggest to her friend that he contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York City. She replied she knows he would not do so, because he had written to her in the past that about four years ago he had contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation to furnish information that "an FBI under-cover agent in an organization" was under suspicion. However, according to the friend, the Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted more and more information, so he broke off contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The friend also claimed that shortly after contacting the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he had begun to receive anonymous threatening letters, making him realize that his contacts with the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been observed. Miss CALDWELL stated that based on the letters received from her friend, she believes him to be a very intelligent man, but who is now completely terrified by the plot of which he is aware and also apparently by the fear that

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he himself is under suspicion, as indicated by a comment in one of his letters that he was not even invited to "Resurrection City" and cannot understand why, unless it is because he is no longer trusted.

Miss CALDWELL stated at one point in the conversation that she had just received another letter from her friend "yesterday," but when questioned about the contents, completely ignored the questions and then reverted to a statement that the last letter from her friend arrived a few days before her own letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Miss CALDWELL then proceeded to state that because of her husband's confinement, everything at her residence is in a state of chaos and that she is "simply going out of my mind." She said that previously her husband had taken care of all her business affairs, that she is killing herself going back and forth to the hospital, that she has had to give up her whole career to take care of her husband, and that "all this is too much for me." She said she herself is under constant medical care and does not know why she has "to put up with all of this mess."

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Miss CALDWELL continued by stating her husband's critical condition and the resultant "messing up" of her own life is all the fault of "Warren of the Supreme Court who let all those criminals loose," and made it possible for them to viciously attack her husband and rob their house.

In this connection, it is noted that according to articles which appeared in the local press, two armed men had broken into Miss CALDWELL's residence on March 20, 1967 when she, her husband, and their housekeeper were all present, had demanded jewelry, and beaten and attempted to smother Miss CALDWELL, but then had fled empty-handed.

On March 27, 1967, Miss CALDWELL had written a letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in which she related the circumstances of the above break-in, and in which she stated that the man who had seized her husband at the time of the break-in had forced him down on the stairs with a gun at his back, but "made no effort to otherwise hurt my husband." Miss CALDWELL in the letter said she believed the objective of the break-in had not been robbery, but an attempt to kill her because of her anti-Communist activity.

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