

BH 44-1740

"In connection with identification JAMES EARL RAY as subject instant matter. the source of his funds becomes of paramount interest. Past background of RAY is well known to offices receiving this teletype. Each office should review its UNSUB bank robbery and bank burglary matters and where latents were recovered should identify the case in question and request Bureau search these latents against the latents recovered in Murkin case.

"Possibility also exists that RAY may have been involved in burglary or robbery not within FBI jurisdiction and may be matter of interest to local police departments. Receiving offices should contact major law enforcement agencies within their divisions and determine whether or not any armed robberies or burglaries perpetrated in which latents recovered or in which UNSUB may fit general description of subject RAY."

Of possible help in connection with such contacts, pages 9 and 10 of Birmingham report submitted on 4/17/68 are quoted below showing the dates that the person now identified as RAY, previously known as GALT, was in Birmingham.

DATES AND LOCATIONS GALT KNOWN WHILE AT BIRMINGHAM

August 26, 1967:	Rented room at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, in boarding house operated by PETER CHERPES.
August 28, 1967:	Rented safe deposit bon #5517 at Main Office of Birmingham Trust National Bank in downtown Birmingham.
August 29, 1967:	Replied to newspaper classified ad for purchase of 1966 white Mustang from local resident, WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, at his residence and sale consummated in downtown Birmingham the following day, 8/30/67.

BH 44-1740

September 8-22, 1967:

Period during which S & H Green Stamps, which were found in GALT's abandoned Mustang in Atlanta, were distributed to customers at Standard Oil Service Station, 2188 Highland Avenue, Birmingham.

September 12, 1967:

GALT enrolled for 5 weekly classes in dance instruction at Continental Dance Club Studios, aka Friendship Club, Birmingham, giving residence address as 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham.

October 3, 1967:

Dry-cleaning ticket, which had been recovered from GALT's effects at Atlanta, identified as having been issued on this date for the pressing of a coat at Mayfield Cleaners, 2222 Highland Avenue, under name GAULT.

October 3, 1967:

Records of Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, reflected shipment of photographic equipment and camera to GALT at the Highland Avenue rooming house address.

October 4, 1967:

PETER CHERPES, operator of rooming house, 2608 Highland Avenue, signed for package addressed to GALT.

October 5, 1967:

GALT wrote typewritten letter from his rooming house at Birmingham to the Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, returning one camera which had been delivered along with other photographic equipment.

October 7, 1967:

Approximate date of GALT's departure from his Birmingham rooming house and no further correspondence received from him by PETER CHERPES.

BH 44-1740

- October 18, 1967: Letter from Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, returned from the rooming house address at Birmingham.
- October 22, 1967: Records of Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, reflect typewritten letter from GALT requesting a refund on the returned camera be sent to him at Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, Hotel Rio.
- November 20, 1967: Records of the film company at Chicago reflect letter from GALT advising he had not received his refund and requesting same be sent then to 1535 North Serrano, Los Angeles, California.
- December 13, 1967: GALT's safe deposit box, Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, cancelled and found empty upon receipt of letter enclosing keys, believed mailed in Louisiana.
- March 29, 1968: GALT purchased one rifle from AEROMARINE Supply Company, Birmingham, and had scope mounted.
- March 30, 1968: GALT returned above gun to AEROMARINE and traded same for the murder weapon.

In connection with the second quoted teletype, SA ARNETT should review bank robbery files and SA SAUCIER should handle contacts with the Sheriff's Office and Police Department.

EACH SRA SHOULD HANDLE SIMILAR CONTACTS IN THEIR HEADQUARTERS CITY WITH LOCAL OFFICERS.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE: 4-21-68

FROM : SPC GLENN ROTENBERRY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Morning of 4-21-68 O. Johnson a negro male that works at the Holiday Inn at Bessemer called and advised that a man checked in room 428 that looks a lots like Galt. Stated that a woman and young baby was with him.

44-1740-1194

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>15</i>	FILED
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	
<i>Montgomery</i> <i>hould</i>	

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

Indices: Negative See below

Subject's name and aliases <i>MURKIN</i>		Address of subject		Character of case		
Complainant <i>Jim Cooley</i>		Complainant's address and telephone number <i>Lives in House Trailer next to WATKIN Bros. Store BESSEMER Super Hwy 425-4753</i>		Complaint received <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date <i>4-21-68</i> Time <i>11:40 Am</i>		
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build	Birth date and Birthplace
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion	
	Scars, marks or other data					

Facts of complaint

Mr. Cooley advised a man came to his Mother's trailer Court (Ann's Trailer Park - 215 4th ave, Bessemer) about a week ago and rented a trailer. This trailer is on left side and the second one from the end. This man according to Mr. Cooley looks very much like photo appearing in the papers of the man that killed King. A woman + small child is also living with the man. Mr. Cooley doesn't think she is his wife. This man goes by name Hudson and someone has heard woman call him by Ray. This man tells everyone at trailer court he works odd jobs at night. He has bought late model Thunderbird yellow + blue since renting the trailer. He also has a 1960 Chev. which is "all beat up".

*Spec advised x
Martin + Schevin covered x*

44-1740-1195

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>13</i>	FILED
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	
<i>Martin</i>	<i>ngm</i>

Action Recommended

Glenn D. McConnell
(Agent)

Wanted name

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

HOLD FOR WXX TWO

5 52 PM 4-22-68 URGENT GDM

O DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND MIAMI
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN; CR; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MIAMI TEL APRIL TWENTYTWO, INSTANT.

TALMADGE NORRIS, ROUTE FOUR, GADSDEN, ALABAMA, ADVISED
PURCHASED ONE NINE SIX EIGHT ALABAMA LICENSE THREE ONE - TWO NINE
ONE EIGHT EIGHT FOR WIFE'S BROTHER, JAMES BRASELTON, IN NOVEMBER,
SIXTYSEVEN, AT WHICH TIME BRASELTON RESIDED WITH NORRIS. LICENSE
PLATE FOR A ONE NINE FIVE NINE BLUE RAMBLER. BRASELTON LEFT
GADSDEN DURING DECEMBER, SIXTYSEVEN, STATING HE WAS GOING TO TEXAS
BUT PLACE IN TEXAS UNKNOWN TO NORRIS, AND HAS NOT HEARD FROM
BRASELTON SINCE HE LEFT. BRASELTON HAS NO REGULAR TRADE BUT TAKES
ODD JOBS AROUND FILLING STATIONS AND LABORER'S WORK. NORRIS STATES
BRASELTON HAS TWO BROTHERS NAMED MURPHY AND PETER BRASELTON WHO
RESIDE ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, BUT ADDRESSES AND TYPE OF WORK THEY
FOLLOW UNKNOWN TO HIM. MABLE BRASELTON, WIFE OF MURPHY BRASELTON,
WORKS IN HOSPITAL IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, NAME UNKNOWN TO NORRIS.
NORRIS DESCRIBES JAMES BRASELTON AS WHITE MALE, AGE THIRTYFIVE,
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1196

PAGE TWO

FIVE FEET NINE INCHES, ONE SEVEN ZERO LBS., LIGHT BROWN HAIR AND
BROWN EYES. NORRIS ADVISED IF HE HEARS FROM BRASELTON HE WILL
ADVISE.

END AND HOLD

FBI WASH DC

Also Sent

DGB

FBI Memphis

RQT

FBI MIAMI

F B I

Date: 4/22/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND MIAMI
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN; CR; OO MEMPHIS.

Re Miami tel. 4/22 instant

TALMADGE NORRIS, ROUTE FOUR, GADSDEN, ALABAMA, ADVISED
PURCHASED ONE NINE SIX EIGHT ALABAMA LICENSE THREE ONE - TWO NINE
ONE EIGHT EIGHT FOR WIFE'S BROTHER, JAMES BRASELTON, IN NOVEMBER,
SIXTYSEVEN, AT WHICH TIME BRASELTON RESIDED WITH NORRIS. LICENSE
PLATE FOR A ONE NINE FIVE NINE BLUE RAMBLER. BRASELTON LEFT
GADSDEN DURING DECEMBER, SIXTYSEVEN, STATING HE WAS GOING TO TEXAS
BUT PLACE IN TEXAS UNKNOWN TO NORRIS, AND HAS NOT HEARD FROM
BRASELTON SINCE HE LEFT. BRASELTON HAS NO REGULAR TRADE BUT TAKES
ODD JOBS AROUND FILLING STATIONS AND LABORER'S WORK. NORRIS STATES
BRASELTON HAS TWO BROTHERS NAMED MURPHY AND PETER BRASELTON WHO
RESIDE ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, BUT ADDRESSES AND TYPE OF WORK THEY
FOLLOW UNKNOWN TO HIM. MABLE BRASELTON, WIFE OF MURPHY BRASELTON,
WORKS IN HOSPITAL IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, NAME UNKNOWN TO NORRIS.
NORRIS DESCRIBES JAMES BRASELTON AS WHITE MALE, AGE THIRTYFIVE,

CWP:gas
(1)

44-1740-1196

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 5:52 PM to WA
6:00 PM to ME
6:08 PM to MEM Per _____

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

**FIVE FEET NINE INCHES, ONE SEVER ZERO LBS., LIGHT BROWN HAIR AND
BROWN EYES. NORRIS ADVISED IF HE HEARS FROM BRASELTON HE WILL
ADVISE.**

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

F B I

Date: 4/22/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA, MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND KNOXVILLE
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN; CR; OO MEMPHIS.

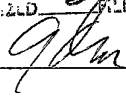
CONTACT TODAY WITH POSTAL INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, BIRMINGHAM,
RESULTED IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT BY THAT OFFICE WITH T. P. DALY,
POSTAL INSPECTOR IN CHARGE, AND K. G. CAWOOD, DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT,
BOTH CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, WHO IN TURN CAUSED CHECK OF ALL CASES
INVOLVING THE CASHING OF STOLEN POSTAL MONEY ORDERS IN ALABAMA, SINCE
APRIL, ONE NINE SIX SEVEN, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. CHECK WAS MADE
BY USING TRUE NAME AND KNOWN ALIASES OF SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY.

KNOXVILLE REQUESTED TO CONTACT INSPECTOR IN CHARGE DALY AND
SUPERINTENDENT CAWOOD, AND ASCERTAIN IDENTITIES OF ALL POSTAL
INSPECTOR REGIONAL OFFICES AND STATES COVERED BY THESE RESPECTIVE
OFFICES. ALSO ASCERTAIN FEASIBILITY OF HAVING SIGNATURES ON ALL
STOLEN POSTAL MONEY ORDERS STOLEN AND CASHED SINCE RAY'S ESCAPE
FROM CONFINEMENT (APRIL TWO THREE, SIXTYSEVEN), COMPARED BY POSTAL
INSPECTORS WITH KNOWN HANDWRITING OF RAY. RAY'S HANDWRITING IN

RMB:gas
(1)

44-1740-1197

Approved: 
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 6:03 PM to ME
6:12 PM to ATM
6:18 PM to KR
Per 

F B I

Date:

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

POSSESSION OF POSTAL INSPECTORS FOLLOWING HIS CONVICTION FOR FORGING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS FOR WHICH HE SERVED PRISON SENTENCE AT LEAVENWORTH FEDERAL PRISON. THIS IS BEING REQUESTED SO THAT BUREAU CAN GIVE CONSIDERATION TO HAVING ALL REGIONAL POSTAL INSPECTORS IN CHARGE CONTACTED TO DETERMINE IF RAY IS IDENTICAL WITH ANY UNKNOWN SUBJECT CASES WHEREIN STOLEN MONEY ORDERS HAVE BEEN CASHED DURING PERTINENT PERIOD, AND WITH VIEW TOWARDS IDENTIFYING RAY'S SOURCE OF INCOME AND WHEREABOUTS SINCE HIS ESCAPE.

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

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI LOS ANG.

6:13PM URGENT 4-22-68 SMS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA (44-2386), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740),
CHICAGO (44-1114) AND MEMPHIS (44-2987)
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN.

JAMES EARL RAY IS KNOWN TO HAVE FREQUENTED LAUNDRY AND
DRY CLEANERS OFFERING LAUNDRY SERVICE WHILE IN LOS ANGELES.
HE MAY STILL HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION SHEETS, PILLOW CASE,
UNDERWEAR AND SHIRTS BEARING FOLLOWING LAUNDRY MARKINGS FOR
FLATWEAR LAUNDRY - ZERO TWO B DASH SIX ON RED THERMO SEAL TAPE.
TWO ZERO L DASH EIGHT ON WHITE OR PURPLE THERMO SEAL TAPE.
TWO ZERO R DASH THREE ON WHITE THERMO SEAL TAPE. SHIRT LAUNDRY
MARKS ISSUED TO RAY WERE GAL AND GALT PRINTED IN INK AND TWO
ZERO F DASH SEVEN ON RED THERMO SEAL TAPE.

LOU RUFFOLO, LOS ANGELES REPRESENTATIVE, AMERICAN TRADE
MAGAZINES, ENCINO, CALIFORNIA, ADVISED AMERICAN LAUNDRY DIGEST
AND AMERICAN DRY CLEANER DIGEST DESTRIIBUTED TO ALMOST EVERY
LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANER IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA. ATM
HEADQUARTERS AT FIVE ZERO ZERO NORTH DEARBORN STREET, CHICAGO.
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1198

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

PAGE TWO

RUFFOLO SUGGESTED CONTACT WITH DON MARTIN, ATM, CONCERNING PUBLICATION IN ATM PUBLICATIONS OF INFORMATION RE JAMES EARL RAY AND LAUNDRY MARKS CONNECTED WITH HIM.

IT IS SUGGESTED BUREAU MAY DESIRE TO HAVE CHICAGO CONTACT ATM AND HAVE CIRCULARIZATION MADE THROUGH ITS MAGAZINE OR UTILIZE ITS MAILING LISTS. IT IS FELT RAY WILL STILL HAVE THE SIX SHIRTS HE HAD LAUNDERED AND MARKED WHILE IN LOS ANGELES. MEMPHIS AND OTHER OFFICES MAY DESIRE TO OFFER COMMENT RE THIS SUGGESTION.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU@

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI CHICAGO

652PM URGENT 4-22-68 RMF

TO DIRECTOR /44-38861/ MEMPHIS /44-1987/ SPRINGFIELD /44-561/
ATLANTA /44-2386/ BIRMINGHAM /44-1740/
FROM CHICAGO /44-1114/

MURKIN

SUMMARY

G. E. POTTS, MC CORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, ADVISED INSTANT NO RECORD OF JAMES EARL RAY BEING CONNECTED WITH THE SEMINARY IN ANY CAPACITY. BUILDING AT EIGHT FIVE THREE WEST FULLERTON, OWNED BY SEMINARY, LISTED TO MRS. BEATRICE FOULKS FROM MARCH, FIFTY ONE TO MARCH, FIFTY THREE. NO RECORD AS TO HER PRESENT WHEREABOUTS. INQUIRY OF VARIOUS PUBLIC SOURCES, CHICAGO, DID NOT DEVELOP ANY CURRENT ADDRESS FOR MRS. FOULKS. INTERVIEW WITH SUBJECTS RELATIVES CHICAGO DID NOT DEVELOP ANY INFO RE HER NAME.

SUSAN DONIAN REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE, AGAIN EXPRESSED COOPERATION, ADVISED ORPHANAGE IN ALTON, ILLINOIS, WAS THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S HOME, ONE FOUR ZERO ZERO STATE STREET. SHE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT [REDACTED] WAS EVER ADOPTED BUT THAT HAZEL HAMILTON, CATHOLIC CHARITIES, QUINCY, ILLINOIS, WOULD BE PERSON WITH RECORDS. JERRY RAYNES
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1199

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED..... 16
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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

JRS

PAGE TWO

UNKNOWN TO HER BUT DID REMEMBER THAT BROTHER KILLED IN ACCIDENT USED NAME RAYNES. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR JERRY RAYNES TO BE FATHER OF SUBJECT. SHE MADE AVAILABLE THREE POST CARDS FROM JOHN RAY WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE FBI LAB FOR APPROPRIATE EXAMINATION. LAST KNEW OF UNCLE, WILLIAM MAHER, AS BEING IN PAINTING BUSINESS, ALTON, ILLINOIS.

PERSONNEL MANAGER, SHELLER, GLOBE CORPORATION, CHICAGO, ADVISED THAT PERSONNEL RECORDS OF DRYDEN RUBBER COMPANY WHERE SUBJECT ALLEGEDLY EMPLOYED NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT, HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

RE JERRY WILLIAM RAY

JERRY WILLIAM RAY REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE. ADVISED HE ALSO USES NAME JERRY WILLIAM RYAN AND ALL HIS LEGAL PAPERS ARE IN THE RYAN NAME.

JERRY ADVISED IF BROTHER JAMES RAY CONTACTED ANYBODY IN FAMILY, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNCLE, WILLIAM MAHER, ONE ONE EIGHT EAST SEVENTH STREET, ALTON, ILLINOIS. MAHER'S OCCUPATION, PAINTING CONTRACTOR. SUBJECT AND JERRY RAY HAVE RESIDED WITH THIS UNCLE IN PAST BUT SUBJECT IS NOT PARTICULARLY FOND OF THIS UNCLE AND SUBJECT WOULD MORE LIKELY CONTACT UNCLE THAN EXPOSE ANY OTHER RELATIVE.

JERRY RAY STATED AN AUNT MABEL FULLER, QUINCY, ILLINOIS, WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE NAMES OF ALL RELATIVES OF HIS FATHER'S SIDE OF FAMILY.
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

JERRY RAY UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION RE WHEREABOUTS OF HIS BROTHER, DID STATE HIS BROTHER AT ONE TIME TALKED OF THE GOOD LIVING IN TIJUANA, MEXICO.

CHICAGO STILL RECEIVING NUMEROUS LEADS ARISING FROM MAXIMUM COVERAGE OF INSTANT CASE IN VARIOUS NEWS MEDIA. THESE LEADS BEING HANDLED ON A CONTINUING EXPEDITE BASIS.

LEAD: SPRINGFIELD DIVISION AT QUINCY, ILLINOIS, CONTACT HAZEL HAMILTON FOR INFORMATION TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

@

F B I

Date: 4/18/68

PLAIN TEXT

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
(OO: MEMPHIS)

ReBirmingham teletype to the Director dated 4/17/68 with copies for Atlanta, Houston, Jackson, Memphis, Mobile, New York and which pertains to THOMAS JOSEPH COX.

Enclosed for Newark are two copies of referenced teletype.

On 4/18/68, Mr. RUDY J. MAYER, Accountant, American Bulk Carriers, 711 Third Avenue, New York, New York, stated to SA FRANCIS L. CASHIN that THOMAS JOSEPH COX sailed on the SS "Kent" which left Houston, Texas, on 4/28/67, went to Bombay, India and was there from 6/7/67 to 6/22/67, and returned to Destrehan, Louisiana on 8/1/67. He has no record of COX since then.

- 3- Bureau
- 2- Memphis (44-1987)
- 2- Newark (Encls. 2)
- 1- Atlanta (INFO)
- 2- Houston
- 1- Jackson (INFO)
- 1- Mobile (INFO)
- 1- Birmingham (44-1740) (INFO)
- 1- New York (44-1609)

FLC:jmn
(15)

Raynton

Johnson & I have BA Samey about latest employment send to

44-1740-1200

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
APR 22 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

JH

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

NY 44-1609

On 4/27/67, COX gave his address as Hotel De George, Houston, Texas.

COX was described as follows in MAYER's records:

Name: THOMAS JOSEPH COX
Book or Cert: #Z-976491-d3
Rating: Able Seaman
Date Began: April 27, 1967
Place Began: Houston, Texas
Social Security #:
Citizenship: USA
Birthplace: New Jersey

Birthdate:
Age: 41
Height 6'2"
Weight 205 pounds
Hair Brown
Eyes Blue
Complexion Fair
Next of Kin: Mother - Mrs. ANNA COX
206 Mill Road, Somnerdale,
New Jersey

- 2 -

NY 44-1609

LEADS:

HOUSTON

AT HOUSTON, TEXAS: Check at Hotel De George for COX as set out in referenced teletype.

NEWARK

AT SOMMERDALE, NEW JERSEY: Interview COX's mother for information requested in referenced teletype.

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

700 PM URGENT 4-22-68 GDM

TO DIRECTOR AND BALTIMORE

FROM BIRMINGHAM 844-1740 (P)

MURKIN; CR; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE NEW YORK AIRTEL TO BUREAU, APRIL ONE EIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT.

THOMAS JOSEPH COX, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

BORN NEW JERSEY,

WAS REPORTED BY BIRMINGHAM INFORMANTS TO BE IN CONTACT WITH RAY SEPTEMBER ONE FIVE, SIXTYSEVEN. AMERICAN BULK CARRIERS, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, ADVISED COX EMPLOYED BY THAT COMPANY AS ABLE SEAMAN, RETURNED TO DESTREHAN, LOUISIANA, AUGUST ONE, SIXTYSEVEN. NO RECORD SINCE THAT DATE. BALTIMORE THROUGH SOURCE FOUR WILL OBTAIN MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT OF COX AND ADVISE UACB.

AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND HOUSTON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAB

FBI WASH DC

Also Sent

TLN

FBI Balto

44-1740-1201

F B I

Date: 4/22/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

DIRECTOR and

TO BALTIMORE
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN; CR; OO MEMPHIS.

RE NEW YORK AIRTEL TO BUREAU, APRIL ONE EIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT.

THOMAS JOSEPH COX, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BORN NEW JERSEY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS REPORTED BY BIRMINGHAM INFORMANTS TO BE IN CONTACT WITH RAY SEPTEMBER ONE FIVE, SIXTYSEVEN. AMERICAN BULK CARRIERS, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, ADVISED COX EMPLOYED BY THAT COMPANY AS ABLE SEAMAN, RETURNED TO DESTREHAN, LOUISIANA, AUGUST ONE, SIXTYSEVEN. NO RECORD SINCE THAT DATE. BALTIMORE THROUGH SOURCE FOUR WILL OBTAIN MOST RECENT EMPLOYMENT OF COX AND ADVISE. *UAC-B.*

AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND HOUSTON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 1 - Houston (AM)
- 1 - Memphis (AM) (44-1987)
- ① - Birmingham

RJ:gas
(3) *gas*

44-1740-1201
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *B* FILED *R*

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 7:00 P to WA
7:03 P to BA M

Per *[Signature]*

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI MEMPHIS.

7 18 PM URGENT 4-22-68 DND
TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN.

MR. EARL SMITH, APPLANCE DEPT., WESTERN AUTO STORE,
NASHVILLE, TENN., TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED NASHVILLE RA ON
APRIL ELEVEN, SIXTYEIGHT, AND REQUESTED HE BE INTERVIEWED RE
INFORMATION HE HAD CONCERNING MURDER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SMITH INTERVIEWED ON SAME DATE AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING
INFORMATION: SMITH CLAIMED HE WAS FORMERLY AIRMAN FIRST CLASS,
AFSN TWO FOUR FIVE SEVEN THREE SIX FOUR ZERO. STATED WAS IN
AIR FORCE SIX YEARS AND HAD DUTY AT SEYMORE JOHNSON SAC AIR FORCE
BASE AND HIS JOB WAS EXPLOSIVES ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIAN.
SAID IN AUGUST, SIXTYSIX, HE WAS EMPLOYED AT WESTERN AUTO STORE
ON SUMMER AVENUE IN MEMPHIS, TENN. AT THAT TIME HE LIVED IN
ROOMING HOUSE AT ONE TWO FIVE SEVEN PEABODY. SMITH SAID HE
FREQUENTED TAVERN ON BELLEVUE ST., DOES NOT RECALL LOCATION OR
NAME OF TAVERN. REPORTEDLY OWNER OF THIS TAVERN IS WHITE FEMALE,
FIRST NAME POSSIBLY ANN. SMITH CLAIMS WHILE IN THIS TAVERN HE
ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER PATRON AND TOLD THIS PATRON
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1202

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED <i>10</i>
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FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

PAGE TWO

HE HAD BEEN IN AIR FORCE AND WHAT HIS MILITARY SPECIALTY HAD BEEN. THIS OTHER PATRON SAID HE HAD A NEPHEW WHO HAD BEEN IN THE AIR FORCE AND HAD THE SAME ASSIGNMENT. SUPPOSEDLY THIS NEPHEW HAD BEEN AT SAME BASE WITH SMITH IN NINETEEN SIXTYTWO.

SMITH CLAIMED HE RECOGNIZED THIS SO CALLED NEPHEW BY NAME. TWO DAYS AFTER INITIAL CONVERSATION AND IN SAME TAVERN AGAIN, SMITH RECONTACTED BY SAME INDIVIDUAL HE MET IN TAVERN BEFORE. SMITH CLAIMS CUSTOMER TOLD HIM THAT SINCE SMITH FORMERLY IN AIR FORCE SMITH WOULD HAVE CONTACTS GIVING HIM ACCESS TO MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES. HE THEN REQUESTED SMITH GET FOR HIM FIFTY HAND GRENADES AND PULLED OUT FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH WHICH HE LAID ON TABLE AND SAID, "THIS IS YOURS IF YOU GET ME THE GRENADES." THIS UNIDENTIFIED PATRON THEN EXPLAINED TO SMITH THAT HE AND FOUR OTHER MEN IN MEMPHIS HAD VOWED THAT ONE OF THEM WOULD KILL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER AND THIS WAS REASON FOR WANTING THE HAND GRENADES. SMITH CLAIMED HE ASKEDN THIS PERSON IF HE WERE MEMBER OF THE KKK AND THE INDIVIDUAL TOLD HE WAS NOT. SMITH CLAIMED HE DECLINED TO ACCEPT OFFER AND WAS THEN TOLD, "IF YOU CAN'T GET THEM FOR ME YOU HAD BETTER FORGET IT." SMITH SAID
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

HE CONSIDERED THIS TO BE A THREAT AND THIS WAS LAST CONTACT HE EVER HAD WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL AND DOES NOT NOW REMEMBER HIS NAME OR THE NAME OF HIS NEPHEW, THE AIRMAN WHO SUPPOSEDLY WAS STATIONED WITH HIM AT SEYMORE JOHNSON AFB. SMITH SAID THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE BAR WAS WM, FORTYFIVE YEARS OF AGE, FIVE SEVEN, GRAY HAIR, HEAVY BUILD, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY LBS., AND DROVE A NEW CORVETTE. SMITH SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO HAVING HIS IDENTITY REVEALED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INVESTIGATION.

FOLLOWING ABOVE INTERVIEW, SMITH AGAIN RECONTACTED NASHVILLE RA AND SAID HE HAD BEEN FIRED FROM HIS JOB. AFTER RECEIPT THIS INFORMATION, C.E. WEAVER, GENERAL MANAGER, WESTERN AUTO STORE, WAS CONTACTED. WEAVER SAID HE HAD NOT FIRED EARL SMITH BUT HAD TOLD SMITH TO GO HOME AS SMITH WAS DRINKING ON THE JOB. WEAVER FURTHER STATED SMITH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AT MEETING OF EMPLOYEES AT SIX THIRTY A.M., APRIL ELEVEN, SIXTYEIGHT, BUT FAILED TO ARRIVE. WEAVER SENT MAN TO LOCATE SMITH AT SMITH'S RESIDENCE. THIS MAN REPORTED TO WEAVER THAT SMITH WAS DRUNK PREVIOUS EVENING AND OVERSLEPT, MISSING MEETING. WEAVER SAID HE CONSIDERS SMITH DECEITFUL, UNRELIABLE, AND PROBABLY A HEAVY DRINKER, AND HAD BEEN CONSIDERING TERMINATING SMITH'S EMPLOYMENT.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

AS RESULT OF RUMORS AND STATEMENTS OF THIS TYPE, WHICH PRESS SEEMS TO HAVE PARTICULAR AFFINITY FOR FINDING, INQUIRY WAS MADE OF NASHVILLE OFFICE FOR DATA RE EARL SMITH. ALL PRESS INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN ANSWERED WITH GENERAL STATEMENT THAT FBI HAD NO COMMENT TO MAKE RE INVESTIGATION INSTANT CASE. REPRESENTATIVE OF NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, WAYNE WHITT (PHONETIC), REPORTEDLY A LIFE CORRESPONDENT OR STRINGER IN NASHVILLE, TENN., ADVISED HE HAD TALKED TO MAN IN A BAR WHO TOLD HIM STORY ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR FIFTY HAND GRENADES AND A SO CALLED PLOT TO KILL DR. KING. THE REPORTED REPORTEDLY TOLD THE MAN IN THE BAR THAT THE FBI HAD REFUSED TO MAKE COMMENT REGARDING ANY SO CALLED INTERVIEW OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM, WHEREUPON THE MAN IN BAR TOLD REPORTED, "THAT SHOWS HOW IMPORTANT MY INFORMATION IS. I'M HOLDING OUT FOR MORE MONEY." IN VIEW OF APPAISAL OF MR. SMITH BY HIS EMPLOYER, ALLEGING HIS DRINKING, DECEITFULNESS, AND UNRELIABILITY, IT IS APPARENT SMITH HAS SOLD BILL OF GOODS TO A NEWSPAPER REPORTER WHILE IN A TAVERN.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

VARIOUS LOOK-ALIKES REPORTED AND ELIMINATED THIS DATE
MEMPHIS DIVISION. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

NO OTHER PERTINENT DATA DEVELOPED MEMPHIS DIVISION THIS
DATE.

A & D. P.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

TKS CLR

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI LOS ANG

9:30PM URGENT 4-22-68 DPK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, WASHINGTON FIELD,
NEW YORK, ATLANTA, AND KANSAS CITY
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE WILSHIRE BOOK COMPANY.

MELVIN POWERS, OWNER-MANAGER, WILSHIRE BOOK COMPANY,
EIGHT SEVEN TWO ONE, SUNSET BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES: HIS OFFICE
SECRETARY, FRIEDA FREEDMAN, AND FIVE OTHER EMPLOYEES (ENTIRE
STAFF) WERE INTERVIEWED AND PHOTOS OF RAY WERE EXHIBITED TO THEM.
NONE HAS ANY RECOLLECTION OF RAY AS EVER HAVING BEEN PATRON OF WILSHIRE
BOOK COMPANY. POWERS SAID BECAUSE MANY OF BOOK TITLES THEY
PUBLISH DEAL WITH SELF-HYPNOTISM, WILSHIRE BOOK COMPANY RECEIVES
TELEPHONE INQUIRIES SEEKING HELP IN THAT FIELD. THESE CALLERS ARE
REFERRED TO DR. MARK O. FREEMAN, WHICH POWERS FEELS WAS PROBABLY
PROCEDURE FOLLOWED WITH REGARD TO JAMES E. RAY.

RECHECK OF ALL AVAILABLE BOOK ORDERS COVERING PERIOD OF
DECEMBER SIXTY SEVEN TO PRESENT FAILED TO REFLECT ANY ORDERS UNDER
NAMES OF RAY OR GALT.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1203

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED B
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

POWERS SAID HIS PREVIOUS LISTS, COVERING ALL MAIL ORDER PURCHASES, PRIOR TO DECEMBER LAST, ARE CURRENTLY MAINTAINED BY KEN OLSEN, OF WILLA MADDERN, INC., TWO ONE FIVE PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK CITY, TELEPHONE SPRING SEVEN SEVEN FOUR SIX ZERO. HE SAID NY OFFICE SHOULD BE SURE AND MENTION IN CONTACTING OLSEN THEY WISH TO CHECK MAILING LISTS BOTH FOR MELVIN POWERS AND WILSHIRE BOOK COMPANY, AS HE IS NOT SURE WHETHER OLSEN MAINTAINS ONE OR TWO SEPARATE LISTS.

NEW YORK REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN IF SUBJECT AS RAY OR GALT IS ON MAIL ORDER LIST.

RE MONEY ORDER PHASE, BANK OF AMERICA, LOS ANGELES

HELOISA KELLER, INDIVIDUAL WHO SOLD SUBJECT MONEY ORDERS AT BANK OF AMERICA, HOLLYWOOD AND WESTERN BRANCH, ON FEBRUARY TWO SIX LAST, WAS SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY. SHE STATED SHE COULD NOT RECALL THE TRANSACTION OR WAS THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE PHOTOGRAPH FAMILIAR TO HER.

RE RABBITS FOOT CLUB PHASE

BO DELMONTE AND JAMES E. MORRISON, BARTENDERS, RABBITS FOOT CLUB, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA ADVISED INDIVIDUAL RESEMBLING SUBJECT FREQUENT CUSTOMER AT BAR. THEY STATED THIS INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED TO HAVE USED NAME QUOTE DOUG COLLINS END QUOTE WHEN PURCHASING KEY TO
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

LA 44-1574

KEY CLUB OPERATION AT BAR. NO KNOWLEDGE AS TO ASSOCIATES OR PRESENT LOCATION.

RE LARSON BOOK STORE PHASE

LOUISE LARSON, LARSON BOOK STORE, HOLLYWOOD, ADVISED AFTER VIEWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECT THAT HE WAS FORMER CUSTOMER AT STORE. SHE COULD NOT RECALL ANY SPECIFIC TRANSACTIONS REGARDING SUBJECT NOR ANY DESCRIPTIVE DATA OTHER THAN THAT ALREADY KNOWN.

ST. FRANCIS HOTEL PHASE

MANAGER, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, ADVISED THAT NO INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIABLE WITH SUBJECT HAS BEEN IN HOTEL SINCE HIS DEPARTURE ON OR ABOUT MARCH SEVENTEEN LAST. ANONYMOUS COMPLAINANT HAD ADVISED THAT SUBJECT WAS AT ROOM FIVE ZERO SEVEN. MANAGER STATES TENANT AT ROOM FIVE ZERO SEVEN IS FEMALE NURSE HAS BEEN TENANT FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN YEARS.

U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER PHASE

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC S. GALT, UTILIZED U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER NUMBER ONE NINE ONE SIX TWO ONE ONE ZERO SEVEN EIGHT OF THE AMOUNT FIFTEEN DOLLARS IN PAYMENT TO THE LOCKSMITHING INSTITUTE, BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY. THIS MONEY ORDER DATED MARCH EIGHT LAST. THIS MONEY ORDER WAS ONE OF SERIES SOLD AT U.S. POST OFFICE,
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

LA 44-1574

SANTA MONICA - WESTERN STATION. DURING PERIOD FEBRUARY ONE LAST THROUGH APRIL FOUR LAST U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER SERIES ONE NINE ZERO EIGHT ONE EIGHT THREE EIGHT FIVE SIX THROUGH ONE NINE ZERO EIGHT ONE EIGHT THREE NINE NINE NINE WERE SOLD AS WELL AS U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER SERIES ONE NINE ONE SIX TWO ONE ZERO ZERO ZERO ZERO THROUGH ONE NINE ONE SIX TWO ONE ONE NINE NINE NINE. FURTHER INVESTIGATION DETERMINED THAT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PURCHASER OF U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER AND TO WHOM THE FUNDS WERE TO BE RECEIVED AS WRITTEN ON THE MONEY ORDER, COULD BE OBTAINED ONLY BY REVIEW OF THE CANCELLED MONEY ORDERS AT MONEY ORDER DIVISION, U.S. POST OFFICE, G.A.O. BUILDING, FOUR FOUR ONE G STREET, WASHINGTON, D.C.

WFO REQUEST TO REVIEW BOTH SERIES OF MONEY ORDERS FOR ANY THAT MAY HAVE BEEN UTILIZED BY SUBJECT.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU@

FBI. BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

9:53 PM URGENT 4-22-68 JWE

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS CITY,
SPRINGFIELD, SAVANNAH, WFO
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION, APRIL TWENTYTWO, SIXTYEIGHT:
USED AND NEW CAR DEALERS IN ATLANTA AND SUBURBAN AREAS
BEING CANVASSED, SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECT RAY, NEGATIVE TO
DATE.

REPORTS OF CARS STOLEN IN ATLANTA, MARCH TWENTYFOUR DASH
APRIL EIGHT LAST OBTAINED AND BEING CHECKED OUT. COMMUNICATION
SUBMITTED THIS DATE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICES TO CONSIDER ANY
STOLEN CAR FROM GEORGIA SUBSEQUENT TO APRIL FOUR LAST AS SUSPECT
THIS CASE.

CHARTERED FLIGHTS OF AIRPLANES AT THREE LOCATIONS
COVERING ATLANTA AREA BEING CHECKED. NOTHING PERTINENT OBTAINED.
POLICE DEPARTMENTS, CREDIT BUREAUS, NEW AND USED CAR DEALERS,
AIRLINES, BUSES, TAXICABS, AND CAB RENTALS IN ALL RESIDENT
AGENCIES OF ATLANTA DIVISION BEING CHECKED AND SUBJECT'S
PHOTOGRAPH DISPLAYED.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1204

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

PAGE TWO

SUBJECT RAY'S NAME AND ALIASES CHECKED FOR AUTO REGISTRATION AND DRIVERS LICENSE FOR STATE OF GEORGIA WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED NEIGHBORHOOD WEST OF FOURTEENTH STREET AND PEACHTREE, INCLUDING COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS. NOTHING OF PERTINENCE OBTAINED.

DOCTORS OF PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY IN BROAD AREA SURROUNDING FOURTEENTH AND PEACHTREE STREET INTERVIEWED BUT NO INDICATION SUBJECT RAY WAS PATIENT.

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, OWNER ROOMINGHOUSE WHERE RAY LIVED IN ATLANTA, REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE, WAS INTOXICATED. SHOWN ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY WHICH HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY. DID STATE PICTURE ERIC STARVO GALT AS FURNISHED BY LOS ANGELES FROM BARTENDER'S SCHOOL WAS PERSON WHO STAYED AT HIS ROOMINGHOUSE.

CHECK AT POST OFFICE COVERING ROOMINGHOUSE AT ONE ONE THREE FOURTEENTH STREET, N.E., DID NOT REVEAL ANY MAIL FOR GALT.
END PAGE TWO

SECRET

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442611) FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] (C)
RE: [REDACTED] (C)
[REDACTED]

END

100-100000-1000

100

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

DATE: 4/22/68

FROM : SA ERVIN B. BRUNINGA

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

On 4/22/68 the divorce records and the marriage records of Lauderdale County, Florence, Ala. were checked since April 1967 in the name of JAMES EARL RAY and all his known aliases and no pertinent results were obtained.

EBB
(1)

44-1740-1205

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
APR 23 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

FROM : SA JOSEPH T. LANDERS

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/22/68

Re phone call of ASAC RALPH J. RAMPTON, 4/22/68.

On 4/22/68 the records as to divorce and marriage for a period of April, 1967 to present were checked at Calhoun County, Alabama. These records reflected no divorce or marriage for subject under the following names.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka, Earl James Ray, W.C. Herron, Earl James, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton or James Walyon. Variation of these names were also checked with negative results.

In addition, SA LARRY K. SYLVESTER searched the marriage and divorce records from April, 1967 to date of St. Clair County, Alabama and Talladega County, Alabama for any reference to subject, known aliases and variations thereof with negative results.

3- SAC
JTL



5010-108

44-1740-1206

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED <u>B</u>
APR 23 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

[Handwritten signature]

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

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Form T-2

APR 21 1968

J. E. Hoover
 Director.

The following is the record of FBI number 768642

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Special Agent, Chicago and Alton RR., Kansas City, Mo	William Edward Maher, # ---	10-15-33	robb., 1st. deg. auto theft- aslt. to kill	
SP, Jefferson City, Mo., # ---	William Maher, #721, St. Intermediate Ref., Algoa, Mo.	11-22-33	robb., 1st. deg.	10 yrs.
ONI, Wash., D. C. MID, Wash., D. C.	William Edward Maher, #1203	applicant for position, Laclede Steel Co., Alton, Ill., 4-2-41		
Naval Government (Guam PD) San Fran Calif PD Alton Ill	William Edward Maher #3791	6-19-49	susp of drunken driving & dist the peace	\$125 fine \$10 costs 6-20-49
PD St Louis Mo	William Edard Maher #7473	6-2-51	intox	fined & rel
PD St Louis Mo	William Edward Maher #--	2-6-54	invest	
PD Quincy Ill	William Edward Maher #--	3-15-57	OMVWI	pd \$230.30

44-1740-1207

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
APR 23 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

JHB

* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints in FBI files.

NOTICE: THIS RECORD IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20537

APR 21 1968

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

2

The following FBI record, NUMBER 768 642, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

DESCRIPTION AND RELATED DATA:

Race: white

Sex: male

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 210

Hair: brown & gray

Eyes: blue

Date and Place of Birth: Bridgeton, New Jersey

Scars & Marks: 2" ct scar on right cheek, cut scars on bridge of nose. Impediment of speech. Both ears stand out well from head. 4" cut scar left forearm outer near wrist.

Address: 3-15-57 listed as 1118 East 7th St. Alton, Illinois

Occupation: sign board advertising and painter, laborer

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.
Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

TO: SAC, BIRMINGHAM

Date 4-21-68

Your inquiry
Tel- SAC, SI
4-20-68

MURKIN

- Attached furnished in reply to your inquiry.
- Attached furnished in compliance with request from SAC, Springfield
- Only record available attached.
- This matter is receiving attention and you will be advised at an early date.
- Supplementing FBI Laboratory report dated
- Records FBI #
are furnished since there is a possibility that one may pertain to the subject in whom you are interested.
- Fingerprint files fail to disclose
- Confirming FBI wire of
- A wanted notice has not been placed as subject appears to be in custody.
- When you no longer desire your notice maintained, please advise.
- If you determine subject to be in custody, please advise so that your notice may be canceled.
- Subject of your inquiry searched in name indices only. Enclosed record(s) possibly identical. If identical, resubmit request and wanted (or flash) notice will be placed.
- If it is determined that the subject of this record is not the individual in whom you are interested, please advise.
- Your communication is returned.
-

Enc. 1
 Copy to: SAC'S AT, CG, ME, KC, SF, SL, SI.

44-1740-1208

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED <i>15</i>
APR 23 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

DATE: 4/23/68

FROM : SA CLAUDE TIMOTHY ADAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The Birmingham Office was contacted on 4/18/68 and advised that an individual resembling the photograph of the subject was seen by the caller in the lobby of the Redmont Hotel dressed in a blue plaid shirt, green pants, brown loafers and white socks.

On 4/18/68 the following persons were interviewed and shown a photograph of the subject with negative results.

Mrs. B. B. KAY, clerk
CHARLES BUTLER, bell boy
HELEN WHITE, waitress

Following these interviews, an individual dressed in the above manner entered the lobby of the Hotel. He resembled the subject only slightly and was interviewed, at which time it was learned that his name is RAY SPINSON and he is employed as a dispatcher for Continental Trailways. SPINSON was well known to the Hotel employees.

1-(44-1740)
CTA

44-1740-1209

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 2 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	



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

4/22/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed herewith are three post cards postmarked 1968, 7/27/62, and 7/29/62, which were written by JAMES EARL RAY's brother, JOHN, aka JACK RAY, to his sister. These were made available by Mrs. MURAN JANE RYAN DONIAN, Chicago, Illinois.

The Handwriting Unit, FBI Laboratory, is requested to compare the handwriting on the enclosed cards with all questioned handwriting in captioned case. It is requested that these cards be returned to the Chicago Division upon completion of examination since Mrs. DONIAN requested their return.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
- 1 - Memphis (Info) (44-1987)
- ① - Birmingham (Info) (44-1740)
- 1 - Atlanta (Info) (44-2386)
- 1 - Springfield (Info) (44-561)
- 2 - Chicago

RJR:mas
(9)

44-1740-1210

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED <u>13</u>
APR 23 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

Post Cards

F B I

Date: 4/22/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Birmingham teletype to Bureau, et al, dated 4/11/68.

On 4/11/68, investigation at Atlanta by SAs JOHN F. LEUCK and KENNETH R. HEINEMAN reflected that there are three persons in Atlanta and surrounding vicinity who may possibly be identical with the DANIEL or DAVID LEE SMITH who may have resided at Economy Room Housing at Birmingham during October of 1967. It is to be further noted there is no such address as 708 South 80th Street in Atlanta which is the address listed by SMITH at which time he resided at Economy Room Housing in Birmingham.

The following persons were contacted by SAs LEUCK and HEINEMAN:

On 4/11/68, Mrs. DANIEL SMITH, Route #2, Box 969, White City Road, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that her husband, who is a Negro male, has not been out of Atlanta for the past two years.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
 - 2 - Birmingham (44-1740) (RM)
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
 - 2 - Atlanta
- JFL/rjb
(9)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M
Special Agent in Charge

Smith did not arrive at Birmingham until 10-5-67 and therefore would not be in Memphis
See me

44-1740-1211

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
APR 23 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	
Per _____	

AT 44-2386

On 4/11/68, Mr. DANIEL J. SMITH, 2328 Campbellton Road, Apartment D-3, S. W., Atlanta, advised that he has been teaching music in an Atlanta High School since 1964 and was not in Birmingham, Alabama, during October of 1967. He further advised he has never heard of Economy Room Housing in Birmingham and has never resided there.

On the same date, Mr. DANIEL B. SMITH, JR. was contacted at the phone number of 284-5565 as he has moved from the address of 2324 Glenrock Drive, Decatur, Georgia, where he formerly resided. He advised that he apparently is not the correct SMITH as he has never resided at Economy Room Housing in Birmingham, Alabama.

FBI

Date: 4/20/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-
SUBJECT: MURKIN

JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
UFAC - ROBBERY
(OO: KANSAS CITY)

Re San Francisco teletype to Bureau, 4/19/68.

Enclosed for each, Memphis, Atlanta, Chicago, Birmingham, and San Francisco, are 2 photographs of WALTER TERRY RIFE, FBI #455 8786.

Photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, dated 7/8/55, forwarded early this date AMSD to San Francisco by Routing Slip.

The attached photographs of WALTER TERRY RIFE should be used to further eliminate RIFE as suspect in MURKIN. Numerous individuals verify RIFE as working long hours at his restaurant during each date of pertinent period.

RIFE continues to reside at 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, and has stated he will be immediately available for future interviews. He has shown a very cooperative attitude.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Atlanta (Enc. 2) 2 - Chicago (Enc. 2)
- ② - Birmingham (Enc. 2) *Rec'd [Signature]*
- 2 - San Francisco (173-65) (Enc. 2)
- 4 - Springfield (2: 44-561) (2: 88-5361)

EHD/eab
(17)

44-1740-1212

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <u>18</u>	FILED _____
APR 23 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	
Per _____	<i>[Signature]</i>

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M
Special Agent in Charge *[Signature]*

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

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

MURKIN.

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

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

44-1740-1213

NPS:mfl
(1)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

Approved: 
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 2:11 - *Alin* P.M. Per *TP*
2:18 - AT 2:37 - ME
2:25 - CG 2:43 - NO
2:31 - KC 2:47 - SP

F B I

Date:

BH 44-1740

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

PAGE TWO

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

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

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

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

END

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

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

3:57 PM EST T 4/23/68 VSC

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS (44-1987), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) AND
LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM ATLANTA (44-2386) 1 P

MURKIN

NINETEEN SIXTYSIX MUSTANG ABANDONED BY SUBJECT, RAY,
HAS SEARS ALL-STATE HIGH VOLTAGE (TWELVE VOLT, FIFTYFOUR
PLATE) BATTERY. UNDER THE NEGATIVE TERMINAL WAS A BRIGHT
YELLOW PLATE IMPRINTED "C EIGHT". ON THE ENGINE SIDE OF
THE BATTERY THERE WAS A WHITE TAPE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A NICKEL
STUCK ON THE BATTERY, ALSO SHOWING THE NOTATION "C EIGHT".
SEARS AND ROEBUCK, ATLANTA, ADVISES "C EIGHT" ON THIS BATTERY
INDICATES IT WAS SOLD IN MARCH NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. SINCE
INVESTIGATION HAS INDICATED THAT SUBJECT RAY WAS IN LOS ANGELES,
BIRMINGHAM, MEMPHIS AND ATLANTA DURING MARCH, SIXTYEIGHT,
ALL OFFICES SHOULD CONTACT SEARS AND ROEBUCK AUTO SERVICE
CENTERS IN RESPECTIVE AREAS, DISPLAY PHOTO OF RAY AND OBTAIN
PERTINENT INFORMATION.

END

FAS

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU@

*See neg. memo
attached
Haw*

44-1740-1214

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FBI ATLANTA

5:12 PM EST URGENT 4/22/68 VSC

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, AND NEW ORLEANS, KANSAS CITY,
SPRINGFIELD
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

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

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

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[Signature]

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

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

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

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ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGES. WHILE IN STATE PENITENTIARY JEFFERSON, MISSOURI, AGAIN INCARCERATED WITH RAY. ON OCCASIONS IN SAME CELL TOGETHER IN "B" HALL AND "C" HALL. SERVED TOGETHER FROM SIXTYTWO TO SIXTYSIX. WHILE IN "B" AND "C" HALLS, THEY WERE TOGETHER IN THREE-MAN CELL, WITH THIRD INDIVIDUAL (WHOM CURTIS STATED COULD VERIFY FOLLOWING FACTS, BUT WHOM CURTIS REFUSED TO IDENTIFY). DURING THIS INCARCERATION PERIOD, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATED AND WORD CAME FROM OUTSIDE THIS PROBABLY CONSPIRACY, AND KENNEDY HAD "BOUNTY" ON HIS HEAD. CURTIS, UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS ON "BOUNTY". HE STATED IN SIXTYTHREE TO SIXTYFOUR, DR. KING'S MOVEMENTS BECAME TOPIC OF CONVERSATIONS AT STATE PENITENTIARY AND WORD GOT AROUND TO PRISONERS THAT "KK OF THE SOUTH" WHO APPARENTLY WENT TO BUSINESSMEN HAD RAISED ABOUT MILLION DOLLARS FOR "BOUNTY" ON KING'S HEAD. CURTIS, UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER IDENTIFICATION OR INFORMATION OF KK OF SOUTH. FROM 'SIXTYTWO TO 'SIXTYSIX BEFORE CURTIS RELEASE, RAY MENTIONED A DOZEN TIMES "HAD HE KNOWN ABOUT A BOUNTY ON JOHN F. KENNEDY'S HEAD AND HAD HE BEEN OUT, HE WOULD HAVE COLLECTED IT". RAY STATED A DOZEN TIMES THAT "IF HE GOT OUT IN TIME AND IF KING WAS STILL ALIVE, HE WOULD LIKE TO GET THE BOUNTY ON KING". RAY NEVER MENTIONED WHOM HE WOULD CONTACT TO GET BOUNTY BUT ADVISED

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

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