

5/4/68

PLAIN

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987),
SACRAMENTO, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO

FROM: LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TEL MAY THREE LAST AND BUTEL TO LOS ANGELES
AND MEMPHIS, MAY FOUR INSTANT.

RE: LOCAL SWINGER CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

INFORMATION IN REFERENCED BUTEL CONCERNING LAB REPORT ON
LETTER TO LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWSPAPER WAS FURNISHED TO
DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT HOUGHTON, LAPD, IN MAY FOUR INSTANT.

FIVE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES MAINTAINED BY
ABOVE CLUB WERE CONTACTED THIS DATE AND NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED
CONCERNING SUBJECT RAY. ATTEMPTS CONTINUING TO CONTACT ALL
SUCH PERSONS. REMAINING PERSONS HAVE OLD, MOVED WITH NO
FORWARDING, OR FICTITIOUS ADDRESSES.

BIRMINGHAM AND ATLANTA ADVISED AIR MAIL.

① - Birmingham (AM)
1 - Atlanta (AM)
44-1574
RJS/11g
(3)

44-1740-1611

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

5/4/68

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 1P

MURKIN.

ALTHOUGH NO EVIDENCE ESTABLISHED TO DATE TO INDICATE JAMES EARL RAY MAY BE DEAD, MEMPHIS SUGGESTS BUREAU MAKE CONTACT WITH CENSUS BUREAU. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THE CENSUS BUREAU IN ITS RECORDS MAY HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING UNCLAIMED DECEASED. IT IS RECOGNIZED BUREAU WILL HAVE ALREADY PLACED STOPS IN IDENTIFICATION FILES FOR UNKNOWN DEAD WHICH VARIOUS PD'S WILL MAKE INQUIRY REGARDING. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF CENSUS BUREAU MAINTAINS ANY SUCH RECORDS BUT POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SUCH RECORDS MIGHT COME IN FROM RURAL AREAS DIRECTLY FROM CORONERS WHERE THERE MAY NOT BE ADEQUATE PD'S.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING, MEMPHIS DIVISION. ALL MATERIAL BEING REVIEWED FOR PERTINENT LEADS.

AIR MAIL COPIES, BIRMINGHAM AND ATLANTA. P.

END

RGJ:ME
(3)

1 - ATLANTA (AM)
1 - BIRMINGHAM (AM)

Airtel.....
Teletype.....
A. M.....
A. M. S. D.....
Spec. Del.....
Reg. Mail.....
Registered.....

Ray

44-1740-1612

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

5/3/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re calls by subject, Highway 10, Texas

ReDLtel, 5/1/68.

Subscriber to telephone number 938-2774, Nordheim, Texas, is L.W. KARNEI, Route 1, Box 102, Nordheim. AMELIA KARNEI advised she was called by her daughter, GLADYS MUELLER HAMILTON, 202 N. 11th St., Alpine, Texas on or about 12/17/67. Mrs. KARNEI was shown the picture of JAMES EARL RAY and stated other than seeing this photo on television she was not familiar with him.

Subscriber to telephone 578-2986, Victoria, Texas, is Mrs. AUGUSTA MAE JONES, 103 Griffin Drive, Victoria. Mrs. JONES stated the only person from whom she could have received a long distance phone call in December was a man named GEORGE MITCHELL, who is a truck driver and frequently calls her from cities throughout the state. Mrs. JONES was shown the picture of RAY and stated she did not know him.

GARY E. SMITH, currently residing at the Christopher Motel, Victoria, was shown the photo of JAMES EARL RAY. SMITH stated that he takes the Birmingham to Atlanta flight every other week and he cannot at this time say that he has ever seen JAMES EARL RAY on that flight.

Telephone number 747-9803 was called from Alpine, Texas on 12/17/67.

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
1 - Birmingham (Info)
1 - Houston
JSW/sjm
(7)

44-1740-1613

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

HO 44-1509

DELORES SANTOS, 5500 South Park, Houston, Texas, advised that the above phone call is as reference to a phone call that she received from JULIO CESAR ESPARZA, student, Sulross State College, Alpine, Texas. She was displayed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, aka and advised that the person is unknown to her.

Telephone number 643-5261 was called from Alpine, Texas on 12/15/67.

GEORGE BANKS, Negro, advised that while in Alpine, Texas in December, 1967 he called Mr. ARTHUR BANKS, 5915 Glenhirsch, Houston, Texas. GEORGE BANKS at that time was en route from Seattle, Washington to Houston, Texas. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, aka were displayed to BANKS, however this person is unknown to him.

Mr. ARTHUR L. FUNK, 5610 Dumphries, Houston, subscriber to telephone number 723-8867, advised that in December, 1967 he received a telephone call from his sister from Sanderson, Texas at which time she was enroute from El Cajon, California to Houston. He advised that the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, aka is unknown to him.

JAMES E. CLARK, 10521 Friendly Street, advised that in December, 1967, Mr. BILL EVANS, neighbor of CLARK, telephoned his, EVANS' wife at the CLARK residence. EVANS is a truck driver. When EVANS is on the road he calls his wife at the CLARK residence. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to CLARK and he advised these photographs were unknown to him.

F B I

Date: 5/3/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re Bureau radiogram to all offices, 4/23/68.

RE: CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT RAY IN UNSOLVED
BANK ROBBERIES, BURGLARIES, OR ARMED ROBBERIES

A review has been made of cases in the above categories, and there is no information available to indicate that subject RAY could have been involved in any such crimes in the El Paso Division subsequent to 4/23/67.

RAY, as a possible suspect, will be kept in mind in connection with any future cases in the above categories.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

3-Bureau
②-Birmingham (44-1740)
2-Memphis (44-1987)
1-El Paso

DJR:sl
(8)

44-1740-1614

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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

F B I

Date: 5/3/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re Butel to EP, HO, and SA, 4/25/68;
DL tel to the Bureau and EP, 5/1/68.

RE: TELEPHONE CALLS BY SUBJECT RAY ENROUTE
FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS

SA JACK KEMMY, San Antonio Office, was advised by FTS telephone call on 5/3/68, that referenced Dallas teletype contained a lead on page 6 for the San Antonio Office, which is as follows:

A telephone call was made from a coin telephone in Alpine, Texas, on 12/17/67, at 10:16 a.m., to telephone number 849-4461, Roma, Texas.

SA KEMMY advised that the lead would be handled by the San Antonio Office.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

3--Bureau
①-Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
1-Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
2-San Antonio (44-1242)
1-El Paso

DJR:s1
(8)

44-1740-1615

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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

5/2/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

MURKIN

Re Jacksonville airtel to Bureau 4/30/68;
Jacksonville telephone call to Tampa 5/1/68; Tampa
telephone call to Bureau 5/1/68.

Re BAILEY SANDLIN, Orlando, Fla. - Complainant

For the information of the Bureau and interested offices, the following investigation was conducted at Orlando, Florida, by SAs THOMAS J. WILKES and GORDON W. TINDLE. BAILEY SANDLIN, Insurance Adjuster, 1906 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida, telephonically advised SA WILKES on 4/25/68 that at approximately 8:55 a.m., 4/25/68, he drove up in front of his office and noticed a man sitting in a 1967 or 1968 dark blue, 4-door Chevrolet. He stated the only numbers of the Florida tag he could recall were 7W-15 with rest of numbers unknown and he could not recall how many digits were in the tag number. He advised the Chevrolet was parked in the carport at his office. He said the man who resembled JAMES EARL RAY, pointed a snubnosed revolver at him, and said, "You ain't seen me" and drove east on Colonial Drive to the next street (Vern Drive) where he turned right. SANDLIN stated he got into his car and tried to follow the individual but never saw the Chevrolet again.

3-Bureau

①-Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)

1-Memphis (44-1987) (Info)

1-Jacksonville (44-769) (Info)

2-Tampa (157-3231)

SJL:sas

(8)

44-1740-1616

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

TP 157-3231

It was noted by SA WILKES during the telephone call from SANDLIN that his voice had been unusually hesitant between words and sentences, however, at the time it was believed to be due to excitement.

J. R. SMITH, Detective Bureau, Orlando, Florida Police Department, was immediately informed of the above by SA JAMES B. HAFLEY.

Upon arriving at 1906 West Colonial Drive, BAILEY SANDLIN was interviewed in person by SAs TINDLE and WILKES. As the interview progressed, it became evident through SANDLIN'S behavior and by his own admission that he was under the influence of liquor. He stated that he was an alcoholic and that during the morning of April 24, 1968, his girlfriend, CHARLOTTE McDANIEL had tried to commit suicide in his apartment at 77 East Amelia, Orlando, Florida. SANDLIN asserted he became upset at this and had been drinking beer and Vodka from the morning of April 24, 1968 through the time the agents contacted him in person.

Every effort was made to ascertain if there was any truth in SANDLIN'S statements, however, he continually changed his description of the suspect and varied the sequence of events as well as the times they were alleged to have occurred.

On April 25, 1968, Mrs. ANN WAGNER, 1904 West Colonial Drive, and Mrs. ALFRED PENKACIK, 1210 West Colonial, who are located immediately adjacent to SANDLIN'S office advised that from at least 8:00 a.m. until they were contacted by the agents there had been no other car in SANDLIN'S carport except his Dodge. Both women were positive no Chevrolet, described above, had been in or near SANDLIN'S office that day since at least 8:00 a.m.

TP 157-3231

On April 25, 1968, Mrs. MARGARET TAYLOR, widow of Deputy Sheriff PHILIP TAYLOR, 1113 Santa Anita, advised agents she is the secretary to SANDLIN and that she had received a call from him that morning. She stated he sounded very unusual and she wondered if he had been drinking. She asserted that SANDLIN had previously told her he was an alcoholic and was active in alcoholics anonymous. He has also told her that when he drinks, he has hallucinations thinking he has achieved great success. Mrs. TAYLOR further stated that SANDLIN told her during his phone call that morning that when he arrived at his office he had been accosted by a man in a car in the carport of his office who stuck a gun in his face. According to SANDLIN, this had caused him to be upset.

Mrs. TAYLOR also declared that she talked with the landlord and occupants of the other half of the building, in which SANDLIN'S office is located and Mrs. WILLIAM MURRELL, 1904 West Colonial Drive had advised her that she had arrived at the office at the same time as SANDLIN and there was no car in the carport at that time. During the afternoon of April 25, 1968, RONALD E. ZEIGLER, Ziegler and Associates, Insurance Adjusters, Deland, Florida, telephonically advised SA WILKES he was SANDLIN'S employer. He stated he had gone to SANDLIN'S office a short time previous that same day, in answer to a phone call from Mrs. TAYLOR where he found SANDLIN passed out due to drunkenness. He stated he closed the office, took SANDLIN home and put him to bed.

JAMES FULLER, Detective Sergeant, Orlando PD was apprised of the above.

About mid-morning, April 25, 1968, BAILEY SANDLIN, 1906 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida, telephonically advised SA ROBERT C. BALL at the Orlando Resident Agency that he had previously telephoned the Orlando Residence Agency on the same morning and he had been contacted by two agents whose names he could not recall. He related he was recontacting the resident agency since the individual whom he had talked with the previous time had telephoned him and threatened him.

TP 157-3231

SA BALL contacted the Orlando PD and was met at 1906 West Colonial Drive by Sergeant STRAUB of the Orlando PD and during a short conversation with SANDLIN he stated he was fearful of his life since the previous described individual had threatened to return to his office and to kill him.

During the conversation with SANDLIN it was obvious to SA BALL that SANDLIN had been drinking and such opinion was confirmed by Sergeant STRAUB. SANDLIN was shown the identification order for JAMES EARL RAY and stated that the individual depicted thereon resembled the individual who had threatened him earlier that same day. Due to the obvious intoxicated condition of SANDLIN, no further attempt was made to interview him.

Due to the above set forth facts, no further action has been taken.

5/3/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED R.R.R.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) (ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles telephone call to Bureau today.

Enclosed herewith in a cellophane envelope is a type-written letter captioned "Dear Editor" and ending "JAMES RAY; an envelope attached addressed to the "Editor in Chief, the Los Angeles Times Newspaper, Los Angeles, California"; and a Los Angeles Police Department original record card in the name of JAMES E. RAY, which card bears his description, prints and samples taken on 10/11/49 of his handwriting.

The letter was received from Deputy Chief of Police ROBERT HOUGHTON, Los Angeles Police Department, by SAC WESLEY G. GRAPP and Supervisor WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN on 5/3/68. HOUGHTON advised that he had received the letter from JERRY COHEN, a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, who had brought the letter to Deputy Chief HOUGHTON in the hopes of being able to determine if it had any authenticity. Deputy Chief HOUGHTON advised that he desired to make this available to the FBI for examination, and also that COHEN had requested of him that COHEN be advised if the letter is authentic or the work of some prankster. Deputy Chief HOUGHTON has advised COHEN that he has turned the letter over to the FBI.

The Bureau is requested to compare the signature on the enclosed letter with all known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY

- 4 - Bureau (Encs. - 3)(AM-RM)(RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED)
 - 1 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)
 - ① - Birmingham (44-1740)(AM)
 - 1 - Atlanta (44-2386)(AM)
 - 2 - Los Angeles
 - (9)
- WJN:CM

44-1740-1617

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 10 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

LA 44-1574

in an effort to determine whether or not this is an authentic letter. Also, the Bureau is requested to conduct a latent fingerprint examination for fingerprints of RAY. In addition, a typewriter examination should be conducted, as well as a comparison of the contents, spelling, spacing, typing ability, etc., to determine if RAY is the author. The Bureau is also requested to examine and advise of any data pertaining to the paper and the envelope and to conduct all other possible examinations to develop the fullest amount of information.

The letter has been touched by Deputy Chief HOUGHTON, whose prints should be on record; JERRY COHEN, staff writer, Los Angeles Times; JACK GOULDING, Assistant City Editor, and one MIKE STRAZER (or STRAUZER), also of the Los Angeles Times; and their female secretary. Of the male individuals involved, it is believed that they have all served in the military.

The original police card is to be returned to Los Angeles for return to the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Bureau is requested to advise Los Angeles of results.

5/3/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)(P)
RE: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles teletype to the Bureau, San Antonio, Memphis, and Birmingham dated 5/1/68.

Mrs. SAM INGRAM, 121 Coaba (rear), San Antonio, Texas, interviewed by SA THOMAS E. CRAWFORD 5/2/68, and advised that to her knowledge ROBERT P. ANDERSON is not acquainted with RAY in this case.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Los Angeles (44-1574)
1 - Birmingham
1 - SA
TWC:tes
(9)

44-1740-1618

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED B
MAY 3 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

5/4/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
(ATT: LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Relet from ERIC S. GALT, dated 9/26/67, to Modern Photo Bookstore.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau, attention Latent Fingerprint Section, are the following:

1. Letter dated 4/29/67 to ERIC S. GALT from Modern Photo Bookstore.
2. Coupon, undated, from ERIC S. GALT, to Modern Photo Bookstore.
3. Letter dated 9/26/67 from ERIC S. GALT.

For information of receiving offices, the Knoxville Office advised NY by teletype, 5/3/68, as follows:

- 4 - Bureau (Encs. 3) RM
- (1- Latent Fingerprint Section)
- ① - Birmingham
- 1 - Memphis
- 1 - Knoxville
- 1 - New York

JFS/kpp
(9)

44-1740-1619

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>15</i>
MAY 6 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

RAY

NY 44-1609

"Mr. ROBERT SIMS, Assistant Postal Inspector in Charge, Chattanooga, Tenn. this date advised SA M. JAY HAWTHINS that he has been informed by a postal inspector in Birmingham, Alabama that a letter is in possession of the postal inspectors there addressed to ERIC S. GAULT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, bearing a return address of Modern Photo Book Store, 166 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010. It bears a metered postmark of 4/30/68. Mr. SIMS telephonically contacted Mr. ROBERT HICKEY, Postal Inspector in Charge, New York, and informed him that he was instructing the postal inspector in Birmingham to forward this letter registered airmail to the attention of Mr. HICKEY and that Mr. HICKEY would hold the letter in the event agents wish to examine it before it was returned to the sender. Mr. SIMS advised that since the letter was first class it could not be opened. Mr. SIMS advised that the above information was being furnished on a highly confidential basis inasmuch as he has no authority to disclose this type of information to the FBI, and that any investigation which may be made as a result of this information must be conducted in such a manner that it cannot be attributed to its source. This information is being furnished for any investigation deemed advisable by New York."

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN F. SHANLEY on 5/4/68 at New York:

The address 166 5th Avenue, NYC, is a mail operation for Modern Photo Bookstore, which company is actually located at 915 Broadway, NYC. Mr. SEYMOUR USLAN, President, advised that American Photo Bookstore is a division of American Photographic Book Publishing Company, Inc. (Amphoto), which is also located at the same address. The company specializes in supplying photography books.

NY 44-1609

Mrs. RUTH KOENIG, Manager, Order Department, Amphoto, searched her files and located a coupon clipped from Modern Photography Magazine, which coupon requested that book number 633 be sent to ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. The coupon indicates that a money order in the amount of \$8.95 was enclosed. Mrs. KOENIG stated that this coupon was presumably clipped from the September, 1967 issue of Modern Photography.

Book number 633 distributed by Modern Photo Bookstore, is titled, "Focal Encyclopedia of Photography". The book jacket for this book describes it as a one-volume photographic library. It consists of 2,000 entries written by 197 experts from 23 countries and covers every aspect of photography: photographic science, industrial photography, cinematography, portraiture, equipment, history, and current activities of workers in foreign countries.

Mrs. KOENIG located a letter, which is set forth in full as follows:

"9-26-67

"Dear Sir:

"I recently order a Book from your store titled FOCAL ENCYCLOPEDIA-No. 633 for \$8.95.

"If you have not allready mailed the book (PLEASE DO NOT MAIL IT) I am moving and will shortly send you my correct address Thanks

"Eric S. Galt
"2608 Highland Ave
"Birmingham Alabama"

NY 44-1609

Mrs. KOENIG stated that during a routine review of the company's files, it came upon the coupon and accompanying letter of ERIC S. GALT. The company did not believe that it had shipped the requested book to GALT prior to receiving his letter. As a follow-up the company wrote to GALT by letter dated 4/29/68, asking him what action he wished the company to take regarding the \$8.95. The letter is set forth in full as follows:

"April 29, 1968

"Mr. Eric S. Galt
"2608 Highland Avenue
"Birmingham, Alabama

"Dear Mr. Galt:

"In going through our records we note a request of yours stating your intention to move from the above address, and to please withhold sending the book you ordered (Focal Encyclopedia \$8.95) until further notice.

"Please advise us when you receive this letter as to what course of action you wish us to take so that we may clear our records. (Or have you already received the book?)

"Sincerely,

"MODERN PHOTO BOOKSTORE

"Ruth Koenig
"Order Department"

NY 44-1609

The American Photo Bookstore has received no further communications from ERIC S. GALT since his letter of 9/26/67.

The Latent Fingerprint Section is requested to examine enclosures #2 and #3 above, to determine if fingerprints of subject, JAMES EARL RAY aka Eric Starvo Galt appear thereon.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 5/3/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re San Francisco teletype to the Director, 5/2/68.

SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS, aka Hal Nichols.

For information of offices not previously having information concerning NICHOLS, he is considered possible suspect and co-conspirator because of an alleged offer to an informant to furnish airline tickets and untraceable weapon if the informant would travel to unspecified place to kill certain designated Negro leaders including MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The reliability and credibility of the informant is unknown but is considered subject to doubt because of discrepancies of his stories, and because of information received from other sources.

NICHOLS has been extremely active in affairs of the American Independent Party in California, promoting GEORGE WALLACE for president.

AGENTS IN INTERVIEWS SHOULD EXERCISE DISCRETION AND CAUTION TO PREVENT ANY FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE FBI IS CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF THE AIP.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- ① - Birmingham (Info.) (AM)(RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (AM)(RM)
- 2 - Knoxville (AM)(RM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)(RM)
- 2 - Mobile (AM)(RM)
- 2 - Sacramento (AM)(RM)
- 4 - San Francisco

WHL: cmg

(18)

44-1740-1620

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

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

HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS, commonly known as HAL NICHOLS, was interviewed at his apartment, #33 Los Palmas Apartments, 15375 Tropic Court, San Leandro, California. After proper identification, he was advised that investigation was being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning a violation of Federal Law in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Further, that an allegation had been received that Mr. NICHOLS might have information pertinent to this matter on the basis of remarks NICHOLS is reported to have made concerning such matters in the presence of others.

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he has no information concerning the murder, and except for his personal opinion as to who might be responsible, has no specific information concerning the murder. He said he had absolutely no objection to discussion of the matter.

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he is extremely active in the political field at the present time and in the recent past. He is a member of an eight man board in charge of promoting candidates for the American Independent Party (AIP) in California, and particularly in behalf of the candidacy of former Governor GEORGE WALLACE of Alabama for President. He stated that most persons not familiar with the AIP program and objectives, seem to assume that those favoring AIP are what is sometimes termed "negro-baiters." He denied that this is true, and said that from the view point of promoting the AIP, the murder of Dr. KING under such circumstances was a set back to the AIP who might have favored their principles.

He said that no one knowledgeable in affairs of the AIP would have caused or participated in a situation or action such as this in that it would be certain to make a "Martyr" of Dr. KING, which would hurt the AIP.

However, since persons generally seem to associate AIP members with "negro-baiters," he is frequently "kidded" along such lines by certain persons with whom he regularly comes into contact.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

He said that in recent months he has regularly frequented the Blue Dolphin, a San Leandro restaurant, and in fact assisted in arranging a couple of luncheons there in honor of WALLACE. Therefore, he has become acquainted with the owner of the Blue Dolphin, BILL PELUSO, and with many of the employees, including the bartenders.

When he goes to the cafe, he frequently goes to the bar and the bartenders frequently "kid" him concerning some current event involving Negroes or the AIP. This has been going on for several months, and everything said has been in jest.

However, he speculated that some person hearing such conversation might misinterpret the conversation, and draw a conclusion which would not be warranted.

In connection with Dr. KING's murder, he recalls such a conversation in the bar of the Blue Dolphin either the same night Dr. KING was killed, or possibly the evening after that.

As he recalled he had been driving on the Nimitz Freeway in Oakland, about 5:00 pm the night of the murder, April 4, 1968, when he first heard the announcement on the car radio.

When next visiting the Blue Dolphin, he recalled one of the employees greeting him with the comment "Well, I see you got him," or some similar comment. He believed he replied that "It wasn't me."

The next comment dealt with "How did you get back from Memphis so soon?"

As he recalled, he made some facetious remark such as "There's planes leaving every hour."

He again stated that the above conversation was strictly in the nature of "kidding," and except for the actual specific subject matter, was very similar to other comments made at the same place on numerous occasions.

He believed that these comments could have been misconstrued by someone who heard them, if the listener did not understand the circumstances or attached some literal interpretation to the remarks.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS said that he had no objection to furnishing his whereabouts on March 29,30, 1968 and April 4, 1968, and to furnishing independent substantiation if he could.

Relative to the date April 4, 1968, Mr. NICHOLS said that he could definitely establish his whereabouts on that date. He stated that he left the Bay Area in his own car sometime between 7:00 and 9:00 am, drove to Berkeley, California, where he picked up a real estate dealer named CYRIL STEVENSON, Jr., telephone 524-2392. They then proceeded to Oroville, California, to look at some real estate which they were considering for investment purposes.

He recalled that they visited a savings and loan association in Oroville, but does not recall the name of it, although Mr. STEVENSON would probably know. To the best of his recollection, they returned to the Bay Area about 5:00 pm. He dropped Mr. STEVENSON off at his car in Berkeley, and proceeded out the Nimitz Freeway toward San Leandro. It was at this time that he first heard of the killing of Dr. KING on his car radio.

In further support of his whereabouts, Mr. NICHOLS said that when in San Leandro he frequently charges his gasoline at a Douglas Service Station on Marina Blvd. When traveling, he pays cash. He does not use a credit card. Whether charged to his account, or when paying cash, he usually obtains a purchase ticket. He throws these tickets in the glove compartment of his Cadillac where they are available if needed for his business records.

He located in his glove compartment the following charge tickets which he said recorded purchases at Douglas Service Station, Marina Blvd., San Leandro, both dated April 4, 1968:

Ticket #B 036026 dated 4/4/68 recording purchase of \$5.00 of gasoline.

Ticket #B 36186 recording purchase of \$4.55 of gasoline.

Mr. NICHOLS said that undoubtedly he had put gas in the car in the morning when leaving for Oroville, and had put in gas upon his return that evening.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

A search of the available tickets failed to record any purchase of gasoline in the Oroville area, although Mr. NICHOLS believed they must have purchased gasoline. He does not recall, but thought that perhaps Mr. STEVENSON had paid for some gasoline in the area.

Relative to his whereabouts on March 29,30, 1968, Mr. NICHOLD said that he does not recall specifically where he was. He stated that he tries to go to his home in Southern California every other weekend to visit his wife and 2 1/2 year old son. By consulting a calendar, he determined that this would have been the weekend when he normally visited his wife.

When he makes this trip, he normally leaves on Saturday morning, which in this instance would have been March 30, 1968. He sometimes drives and sometimes flies via Air California from Oakland, California Airport to Orange County Airport.

He searched his available gasoline tickets and could locate no record of purchases on March 29 or 30, 1968. This indicated to him that if he had visited his home in Southern California that weekend he had probably gone by air.

Mr. NICHOLS was asked if he could establish his whereabouts on March 29 & 30, 1968 through other records. He said that his business records probably would not show such information, with the exception of his appointment book, which might give him a clue as to where he had been. He contacted his secretary and ascertained there were no notations in his appointment book for those dates.

He said that he has discontinued the use of a checking account due to several civil suits having been filed against him, so he could not establish his whereabouts by cancelled checks.

He does not use credit cards, whether for gasoline or airline travel. He examined numerous airline ticket folders which he found in his apartment. He said he makes no particular effort to save these. He found some undated and none for the pertinent dates. There were no copies of tickets.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he makes numerous long distance telephone calls, business, personal and political in nature. He makes them from his business phone, 483-3151, and from the phone in his apartment, 483-1270.

He said his telephone bill for the period contains record of numerous long distance telephone calls which could definitely establish that he was in San Leandro on March 29, 1968 and probably on March 30, 1968. He furnished the following concerning these records:

March 29, 1968

- 10:13 am Telephone call to 714 774 2969, Anaheim, California where he talked to an ex-business associate RUSSELL TOWNSEND.
- 4:34 pm Telephone call to 714 871 2950, Fullerton, California, where he talked to JIM TOWNSEND, brother of above RUSSELL TOWNSEND.
- 3:49 pm Telephone call to 805 831 5379, where he talked to Mr. MAYALL, State Chairman of the Committee directing AIP campaign in California. He believes this telephone number is no longer in use, but Mr. MAYALL can be reached through 871 6283 in Bakersfield, which Mr. NICHOLS believes is the home telephone of Mr. MAYALL.

Collect telephone call, person to person, received by him from AL STANLEY, who was calling from telephone 553 4530 in Oroville, California. Mr. STANLEY does not have a telephone, so location of above phone is unknown to him. STANLEY can be located through the M&K Hancock Service Station in Oroville.

March 30, 1968

His telephone records reflect that at 12:11 pm, a call was placed from his office to 916 725 2908, Roseville, California. He noted that this is the telephone number of his employee, CHUCK SULLIVAN, who works in San Leandro but returns to his home in Roseville on Friday evening for the weekend.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS does not specifically recall making this call, and in reality it could have been made by any company employee. However, he sometimes handles Saturday business at the office so SULLIVAN can go home on Friday, and it is most likely that he is the one who made the call.

Since this is the last recorded call on Saturday, March 30, 1968, and since he is quite certain he visited his wife in Southern California on that weekend, he feels that shortly after this call he went to the Oakland Airport and got a flight to Orange County Airport.

He said he would have flown Air California Air Lines and since they make their reservations by name, this line should have a record of his having made such a trip.

He also volunteered information on a trip he had made back East. He said his mother-in-law, JEANNETTE CRITTENDEN, 502 Lee Circle, Johnson City, Tennessee, died about two to three weeks prior to March 1, 1968. His wife had naturally gone back for the funeral. His wife remained there for two or three weeks after the funeral to clear up details of the death and the estate.

Mr. NICHOLS said that he desired to visit his wife's relatives and to bring his wife back to California. He decided to drive his car back to Johnson City, and because of his interest in activities of the AIP, he decided to stop and confer with leaders of that party in Montgomery, Alabama.

He said that en route to Johnson City, he stopped in Montgomery on the night of February 27, 1968, at which time he stayed at the Holiday Inn, Midtown. Next day he drove to Johnson City, where he stayed a few days at 502 Lee Circle.

On March 3, 1968, accompanied by his wife and small son, he was again in Montgomery en route to California. At this time, he stayed at the Town House Motel.

He next has record of a cash receipt from Cotton's Truck Stop, Las Cruces, New Mexico on March 5, 1968, which he said was for the purchase of gasoline on his return trip to California.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he was born [redacted] Aberdeen, Washington. He has been in California most of the time since 1945. He attended high school at Golden Gate Academy, which was at that time in Berkeley, California, but which moved to some hill area near Oakland. He is not sure it is still in operation. He graduated in 1947.

During the school year 1950-51 he attended La Sierra College in Riverside, California.

From 1951 to 1953 he was in the U.S. Marine Corps under MSN 1206458. Since 1953, he has worked as a salesman, principally in California, but actually traveling in numerous states.

He is married and his wife lives in Southern California. He said he is reluctant to furnish her specific address because he feels that reprisals against his wife and child are very possible because of his political activities in behalf of AIP should her address become generally known.

He said that he established a business in Sacramento, California in July, 1967, known as Certified Wire Service. This business is still in operation but he intends to dissolve it as it is losing money.

He came to San Leandro in December, 1967, and established his present business known as Diamond Fence Co., 14494 Wickes Blvd., San Leandro.

He is active in experimenting with gold dredging combined with skin diving, and spends some weekends in the Sierra stream areas searching for gold, or conducting experiments along those lines.

He also had interest in speculative investment in businesses in the Oroville area, which are in a depressed state due to departure of the workmen engaged in building the now completed Oroville Dam. He believed such property could be purchased cheaply and held until business picks up, insuring an excellent profit. He has abandoned this idea, at least temporarily.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

He said that he has no photo of himself at the present time due to theft of his billfold, with the exception of the photo on his driver's license, California #B 295 330.

He said he has been arrested, but not since he was in the US Marine Corps.

He is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Aberdeen, Washington
Height	5' 8"
Weight	220
Hair	reddish blond
Eyes	Grey-green
Build	Obese
Complexion	Light
Teeth	even & smoke stained

Mr. NICHOLS volunteered that should further information or clarification be desired, he would be pleased to attempt to furnish such information.

SF 173-65
WH: cmj

LEADS:

KNOXVILLE

AT JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE: Verify death of JEANNETTE CRITTENDEN about February, 1968, and conduct investigation to establish presence of NICHOLS in that city from about February 28, 1968 to March 3, 1968.

LOS ANGELES

AT ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA: Locate RUSSELL TOWNSEND through telephone number 714 774 2969, a business associate of NICHOLS to verify telephone call he received from NICHOLS 3/29/68.

AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA: Locate JIM TOWNSEND, brother of RUSSELL TOWNSEND, to verify telephone call he received from NICHOLS 3/29/68.

MOBILE

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA: 1) Will check registration of Holiday Motel, Midtown, to verify presence of NICHOLS in that city 2/27/68. (He drives 1967 Cadillac convertible, white canvas over light blue, California license UPD 482).

2) Will verify that NICHOLS and his wife stayed at Town House Motel night of 3/3/68.

SACRAMENTO

AT OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Will locate AL STANLEY through M&K Hancock Service Station to verify that STANLEY placed collect person to person call to NICHOLS in San Leandro on 3/29/68, and talked to him.

SAN FRANCISCO

AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: Will interview realtor CYRIL STEVENSON, Jr., telephone number 524-2392, to verify he took a trip with NICHOLS to Oroville on 3/29/68.

SF 173-65

WH: cmg

AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: At Oakland Airport, ascertain if NICHOLS made trip to Orange County Airport on 3/30/68.

AT SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA: Verify gas charges of NICHOLS at Douglas Station, Marina Boulevard, on 4/4/68, and any record of charges on 3/29,30/68.

AIR TEL

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

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

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN.

RE NEWARK TEL TO TAMPA AND SAVANNAH APRIL TWENTYSEVEN LAST,
AND NEWARK TEL TO TAMPA APRIL TWENTY NINE LAST.

RE: NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN OR NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT BROWN PLYMOUTH
BEARING FLORIDA LICENSE THREE E FIVE SIX FOUR THREE SEEN
BY MAN IN SAVANNAH, GA., APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST BEING DRIVEN
BY MAN DESCRIBED AS RESEMBLING JAMES EARL RAY.

AFTER EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY TAMPA OFFICE TO TRACE VEHICLE
ON MAY TWO INSTANT, MISS. ANN LIBERTY, SECRETARY AT JIMMY SPEARS
CENTRAL FLORIDA AUTO AUCTION, AKA. ORLANDO AUTO AUCTION, ORLANDO,
FLA., ADVISED NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH, VIN P TWO FIVE TWO
TWO SIX SEVEN SIX NAUGHT EIGHT WAS SOLD JANUARY SIXTEEN, SIXTY
EIGHT TO WADE PHILLIPS, PHILLIPS BROTHERS, PALATKA, FLA. AUCTION
AT ORLANDO HAD NO RECORD OF ANY FLORIDA LICENSE TAG ON VEHICLE.

JACKSONVILLE AT PALATKA DETERMINE FROM PHILLIPS BROTHERS TO
WHOM SOLD CAR AND CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE
OWNER AND IF THIS MAN IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO (BH), NK, ME AND SV.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Ser

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

DATE: 5/4/68

FROM : SA ARTHUR JON COOK

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO:ME

Re: Memo of SA Harry T. Posey, dated 4/23/68.

1964 Rambler, VIN G502051, 1968 Georgia license 1 D 59124, was recovered by the Gadsden, Alabama, Police Department on 4/5/68. On 4/6/68 L.P. Payne, Chief of Detectives, Gadsden, Alabama, Police Department, advised his men had processed the vehicle when it was recovered for latent fingerprints with negative results. Subsequent investigation at Gadsden, Alabama, and Hapesville, Georgia, where vehicle was stolen, has failed to develop any suspects. It is noted the vehicle was stolen on 4/4/68 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

1-BH 26-25227
1-BH 44-1740

*Copy
Did you do neighborhood*

44-1740-1622

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-0)

DATE: 5-6-68

FROM : Buist W. Swaim, OSS-C

SUBJECT: FILE REVIEWS - 157 CLASSIFICATION
Possible Suspects - Martin Luther King Murder

The following files in the 157 classification were reviewed by the following individuals as possible suspects in MURKIN. In connection with the reviews, it was determined whether the subject of each file was a member of a klan or similar type organization; whether the Bureau had been advised to index; pertinent descriptive data where available was noted; and in particular pertinent information for Identification Division record checks, including FBI numbers, police numbers, etc. Individual 3x5 cards were made on each file and will be temporarily retained pending possible completion of the review, it being noted the review was discontinued upon identification of JAMES EARL RAY as the subject in the MURKIN matter. In the event the review is resumed, the following files indicated by (*) should be reviewed:

157-	1	thru	127	Prince
	128	"	221	Swaim
	222	"	339	Roberts
	340	"	483	Swaim
	484	"	696	Roberts
	697	"	789	Prince
	790	"	992	Swaim
	993	"	1285	Prince
	1286	"	1416	*
	1417	"	1779	Swaim
	1780	"	1814	*
	1815	"	1861	Roberts
	1862	"	End	*

①-BH 44-1740
BWS
(1)

1 cc - 157-0



5010-108

44-1740-1623

CB

Now - [signature]

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

PLS HOLD FOR TWO

848 PM URGENT 5-6-68 GDM

TO DIRECTOR AND TAMPA (157-3231)

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN. CR. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE TAMPA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM INSTANT DATE.

JAMES L. SPARKS AND WIFE, LINDA, REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE.

BOTH REITERATED INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED BIRMINGHAM.

JAMES SPARKS TURNED OVER TO BUAGENTS ROYAL AMERICAN

IDENTIFICATION CARD AND RECEIPTS HE CLAIMS ARE DRAW RECEIPTS

ON HIS SALARY ISSUED HIM BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS. SPARKS

CLAIMED ID CARD ISSUED HIM DURING NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN FAIR

SEASON AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

SPARKS STATED HE KNOWS J. C. SILOMEYER (PHONETIC)

WHO HE CALIMS OWNS ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS. SPARKS CLAIMED

WORKED ON RIDE CALLED BATCAVE WITH EMPLOYEE KNOWN TO HIM AS

MOOSE. STATED LAST EMPLOYED BY ROYAL AMERICAN DURING TAMPA

FAIR, MARCH AND APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT, WHEN HE AND WIFE WORKED

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1624

PAGE TWO

COOK SHACK FOR TED AND JOE WILLIAMS. WIFE CLAIMS JOE WILL
REMEMBER HER BECAUSE THEY HAD AN ARGUMENT AFTER SHE, LINDA,
BURNED HAND ON COFFEE URN.

TAMPA WILL ASCERTAIN IF ID CARD AND PAY RECEIPTS
ARE THOSE ISSUED BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS (AMSD).
SPARKS STATES HE IS LEAVING BIRMINGHAM MAY SEVEN NEXT
BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL THAT DATE IF
NECESSARY.

AM FURNISHED MEMPHIS

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAB

FBI WASH DC

Also sent

ALS

FBI Tampa

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-66)

Date 5/6/68

To:

☐ Director

FILE BH 44-1740

Att.:

☒ SAC TAMPA

Title MURKIN

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ IC

☐ CC

RE: BH tel to TAMPA, 5/6/68

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

☐ Rotor #:

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign _____ Reassign _____

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline _____

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☒ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials _____

to 44-1740-1625

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by _____

☐ Type

Re JAMES L. SPARKS, Robinwood, Alabama, enclosed are eight (8) payroll receipt and wages statements allegedly issued by Royal American Show to SPARKS, and one (1) personal identification card of SPARKS. These items to be transmitted to BH upon Tampa's completion of investigation regarding them.

SAC

See reverse side

Office

F B I

Date: **5/6/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **TELETYPE** **URGENT**
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR AND TAMPA (157-3231)
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN. CR. OO: MEMPHIS.

**RE TAMPA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM INSTANT
 DATE.**

**JAMES L. SPARKS AND WIFE, LINDA, REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE.
 BOTH REITERATED INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED BIRMINGHAM.
 JAMES SPARKS TURNED OVER TO BUAGENTS ROYAL AMERICAN
 IDENTIFICATION CARD AND RECEIPTS HE CLAIMS ARE DRAW RECEIPTS
 ON HIS SALARY ISSUED HIM BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS. SPARKS
 CLAIMED ID CARD ISSUED HIM DURING NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN FAIR
 SEASON AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.**

**SPARKS STATED HE KNOWS J. C. SILOMEYER (PHONETIC)
 WHO HE CLAIMS OWNS ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS. SPARKS CLAIMED
 WORKED ON RIDE CALLED BATCAVE WITH EMPLOYEE KNOWN TO HIM AS
 MOOSE. STATED LAST EMPLOYED BY ROYAL AMERICAN DURING TAMPA
 FAIR, MARCH AND APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT, WHEN HE AND WIFE WORKED**

END PAGE ONE.

1 - Memphis (AM)

1 - Birmingham

RDS:jam

(2)

Approved: *[Signature]*
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent

*8:48 PM to WA
 8:54 PM to JA*

Per

[Signature]

44-1740-1624
 SEARCHED INDEXED
 SERIALIZED FILED

F B I

Date:

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

COOK SHACK FOR TED AND JOE WILLIAMS. WIFE CLAIMS JOE WILL REMEMBER HER BECAUSE THEY HAD AN ARGUMENT AFTER SHE, LINDA, BURNED HAND ON COFFEE URN. ~~FROM INFORMATION FURNISHED IT IS APPARENT IF SPARKS WAS NOT EMPLOYED BY ROYAL AMERICAN HE HAS A KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE WHO WERE EMPLOYED AND HAD ACCESS TO THE SHOW LOT.~~

TAMPA WILL ASCERTAIN IF ID CARD AND PAY RECEIPTS ARE THOSE ISSUED BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS (AMSD). SPARKS STATES HE IS LEAVING BIRMINGHAM MAY SEVEN NEXT BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL THAT DATE IF NECESSARY.

AM FURNISHED MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END AND ACK.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : EACH DESK

DATE: 4/18/68

FROM : ASAC RALPH J. RAMPTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN SQUAD

Effective 4/18/68 the following Special Agents have been exclusively assigned to the MURKIN case and should not be given any other assignments during the period their services are required in this investigation:

HENRY A. SNOW - Case Agent
WILLIAM A. SAUCIER
ROBERT M. BARRETT
NEIL P. SHANAHAN
ROBERT J. YARNALL
RICHARD D. SCHWEIN
NEIL G. MARTIN

It is anticipated these Agents should be able to handle all Headquarters City leads; however, if investigative requirements demand additional help other Agents will receive assignments on a need basis. Resident Agents will be assigned according to need also.

- 1 SAC 44-1740
- 1 ASAC
- 1 #3 Supervisor
- 1 Miss Buchanan
- 1 Miss Lovvorn
- 1 Switchboard
- 1 Sat. Supv. Manual

RJR:fc
(7)

44-1740-1626

APR 18 1968

Sac

[Signature]



5010-108

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

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI TAMPA

3 43PM URGENT 5-6-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR, AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 3P

MURKIN, CR, OO MEMPHIS

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPES MAY ONE AND THREE, LAST
TO BUREAU, TAMPA AND MEMPHIS, AND BUREAU TELETYPE
TO BIRMINGHAM, TAMPA AND MEMPHIS, MAY TWO, LAST.

L. B. DEMAY, O. J. WEISS, CONCESSIONS SECRETARY,
HYMIE JACOBSON, CONCESSIONS SECRETARY, HARRY STEPHENS,
INDEPENDENT OPERATOR OF CONCESSIONS, DDN PIERSON,
INDIVIDUAL MANNING CONCESSIONS, RICHARD FERLICH, INDIVIDUAL
OPERATOR, LEAD GALLERIES, GUY GARDNER, SECRETARY - TREASURER
AND BUSINESS MANAGER, AND JACK FLYNN, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
OF CONCESSIONS, ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, INC., TAMPA,
FLA., ADVISED THEY WERE NOT ACQUAINTED WITH JAMES
"CHEROKEE" AND LINDA SPARKS. GUY GARDNER, SECRETARY-
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1627

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Schwen
Handle promptly

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

TREASURER AND BUSINESS MANAGER, UNABLE TO LOCATE EMPLOYMENT RECORD DURING PAST TWO YEARS FOR JAMES OR LINDA SPARKS OR CHARLES RAY JOHNSON. TED AND JOE PATTERSON UNKNOWN BY ABOVE EMPLOYEES. TED AND JOE WILLIAAS WHO OPERATE COOK HOUSE, ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, DEPARTED TAMPA TWO WEEKS AGO AND WILL REJOIN SHOW AT DAVENPORT, IOWA, JUNE ONE, NEXT.

DEMAY STATED NO ONE FITTING SPARKS'S DESCRIPTION AT ANY TIME PREPARED HIS MEALS SINCE HE TAKES MEALS AT COOK HOUSE WITH OTHER EMPLOYEES. ALSO STATED NO EMPLOYEE SLEEPS IN RAILROAD CARS WHILE IN WINTER QUARTERS, TAMPA, FLA.

DEMAY ADVISED MANIFEST CARDS ISSUED ANNUALLY AND EXPIRE SAME YEAR. ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS MANIFEST NUMBER FIFTEEN, ISSUED FOR NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, ISSUED TO ROOSEVELT GUNNARSON. DEMAY, GUY GARDNER, JOE BROWN, TIMEKEEPER AND FOREMAN, ANGELO HAMILTON, LABORER AND JAMES
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

TP 157-3231

ALLEN JOHNSON, LABORER, ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, UNABLE
TO IDENTIFY PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPARKS OR HIS WIFE AS
ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH SHOWS AT ANY TIME.

ALL OF THE ABOVE EMPLOYEES, ROYAL AMERICAN
SHOWS, OBSERVED SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPH AND COULD RECALL
NO ONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHOW AT ANY TIME RESEMBLING
SUBJECT.

BIRMINGHAM WILL RE-INTERVIEW JAMES SPARKS CONCERNING
ALLEGED MANIFEST CARD, EXPIRING NINETEEN SEVENTY,
TO CLARIFY INFORMATION.

AM FURNISHED MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

J GA

FBI BIRMINGHAM

F B I

Date: 5/7/68

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

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)(P)

MURKIN.

THOMAS BRITTON, HALEYVILLE, ALA., ADVISED HE KNEW JAMES EARL RAY WHILE CONFINED TO MISSOURI STATE PRISON. BRITTON STATED RAY WAS "WALK BOY", THAT IS BROUGHT HOT WATER FOR SHAVING, CANDY, ETC. TO PRISONERS IN J BLOCK WHERE BRITTON WAS CONFINED. BRITTON ADVISED FIRST BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH RAY, WHEN RAY NOTICED HE WAS RECEIVING A BIRMINGHAM NEWSPAPER, AND MENTIONED TO HIM THAT HE USED TO LIVE IN BIRMINGHAM AND WOULD ENJOY READING THE PAPER. BRITTON SAVED PAPER FOR RAY THERE AFTER, THUS BECOMING FRIENDS.

BRITTON STATED THAT "COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION" WAS A PROTECTION AND ENFORCER ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATED IN THE PRISON. MEMBERSHIP WAS GAINED BY PAYING TEN DOLLARS MEMBERSHIP FEE. MEMBERS RECEIVED HELP AGAINST OTHER PRISONERS WHEN NEEDED, AND FOR AN ADDITIONAL FEE COULD OBTAIN "SPECIAL FAVORS" IF A PRISONER ^{became} GOT

JHK:jbt

(1) *jbt*44-1740-1628
SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

*Ma 11:14 AM
KC 11:21 AM
ME 11:32 M*Per *[Signature]*

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)BH 44-1740
PAGE TWO

involved IN TROUBLE WITH PRISON AUTHORITIES. FEES WERE PAID TO THE ORGANIZATION TO OBTAIN ANYTHING FROM SIMPLE CONTRABAND, TO HAVING A PRISONER MURDERED. BRITTON STATED HE NEVER HEARD THAT "COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION" EVER OFFERED A REWARD FOR KING'S ASSASSINATION. BRITTON DID NOT KNOW WHO HEADED THE ORGANIZATION OR IF THERE ACTUALLY WAS A MAN NAMED COOLEY WHO RAN IT. HE BELIEVED IT MIGHT HAVE CONSISTED OF FIVE, SIX OR SEVEN MEN.

BRITTON ADVISED RAY TOLD HIM ONCE ABOUT AN ORGANIZATION OUTSIDE THE PRISON CALLED THE "BUSINESS MENS ASSOCIATION" WHICH OFFERED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS "FOR PEOPLE LIKE KING TO BE KILLED." BRITTON STATED THAT RAY ADDED, REFERRING TO KING, "HE'S FIVE YEARS PAST DUE."

BRITTON STATED RAY WAS "MONEY CRAZY" AND ON ONE OCCASION TOLD HIM "ONE OF THESE DAYS IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF A BUNCH OF MONEY." WHEN BRITTON ASKED HIM HOW HE INTENDED TO DO THIS, HE REPLIED, "THERE ARE MORE WAYS OF MAKING MONEY THAN ROBBING BANKS."

BRITTON DESCRIBED RAY AS A CALM PERSON, A "DAYDREAMER," AND A LONER. HE SAID RAY DID NOT TAKE DOPE BUT WAS A HEAVY DRINKER. HE BELIEVED RAY HAD A NORMAL SEX LIFE. BRITTON STATED

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

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)BH 44-1740
PAGE THREE

RAY WAS DEFINITELY "SLOUGH-FOOTED" AND HIS TOES POINTED OUT NOTICEABLY WHEN HE WALKED CAUSING HIS HEELS TO WEAR DOWN ON OUTSIDE EDGES. BRITTON STATED RAY DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH ANY NEGRO PRISONERS AND WOULD GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID THEM. HE NEVER HEARD HIM MAKE ANY VIOLENT REMARKS REGARDING THEM.

BRITTON ADVISED THAT THE ONLY OTHER PERSON RAY MIGHT HAVE BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH IN PRISON WAS A FULL BLOODED INDIAN BARBER IN J BLOCK, WHOSE NAME HE DID NOT RECALL.

PRIOR TO RAY'S ESCAPE, BRITTON STATED HE GAVE RAY HIS ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER IN JASPER, ALA.; HOWEVER, HE DENIES HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY RAY SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON IN MAY, SIXTY SEVEN.

BIRMINGHAM INDICES SHOW BRITTON SUBJECT OF BH EIGHT EIGHT - FOUR TWO SIX SIX AND KC EIGHT EIGHT - SIX THREE SIX SIX, CAPTIONED "THOMAS EDWARD BRITTON, AKA. UFAP - UTTERING A FORGED CHECK."

KANSAS CITY, AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO., ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE INDIAN BARBER WHO WAS IN J BLOCK WHEN RAY INCARCERATED THERE AND INTERVIEW CONCERNING INFORMATION SET OUT ABOVE, HIS ASSOCIATION WITH RAY, AND ANY INFORMATION HE MIGHT HAVE REGARDING

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

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)BH 44-1740
PAGE FOUR

HIM. ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION RE EXISTENCE AND OPERATION OF
"COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION" OPERATING IN THE PRISON AS ALLEGED BY
BRITTON. PROTECT IDENTITY OF BRITTON IN THESE INTERVIEWS AND
IN ANY LEADS SET FORTH.

obtain BRITTON'S long distance phone calls and
BIRMINGHAM WILL REINTERVIEW BRITTON TODAY FOR SPECIFIC
DETAILS AS HE APPEARED TO BE RELUCTANT TO FULLY COOPERATE AT
TIME OF ORIGINAL INTERVIEW.

BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

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

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI TAMPA

~~BOBDMFORGENT 5EKEEFPBSE~~

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

FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 3P

MURKIN

ON MAY SIX INSTANT, CAROL YVONNE CROWLEY, NEE RANKIN, ADVISED SHE AND HER HUSBAND, ALTON RAY CROWLEY, HAD A DIS-AGREEMENT AND HE HAD ABANDONED HER IN PINELLAS PARK, FLA., ON MAY FIVE LAST. SHE ADVISED SHE AND HER HUSBAND STAYED AT BUENA VISTA HOTEL, FOUR ZERO NINE NORTH DIXIE, WEST PALM BEACH, FLA., FROM APPROXIMATELY APRIL ONE EIGHT TO APRIL TWENTY-FIVE LAST. SHE DESCRIBED THIS HOTEL AS A RUN DOWN ROOMING HOUSE WITH APARTMENTS IN THE REAR. ON THE DAY SHE AND HER HUSBAND DEPARTED WEST PALM BEACH, SEVERAL OCCUPANTS OF THE ROOMING HOUSE HAD A DISCUSSION IN THE HALL OF THE ROOMING HOUSE AT WHICH TIME SHE PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS INASMUCH AS HE WAS DRESSED IN A NICE BUSINESS SUIT, BOW TIE AND SOME TYPE OF BOOTS, IT BEING

44-1740-1629

END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

UNUSUAL FOR ANYONE IN THIS ROOMING HOUSE TO BE WEARING A SUIT. DURING CONVERSATION, THIS INDIVIDUAL SAID HIS NAME WAS JESS (LNU) AND THAT HE WAS FROM TENNESSEE. DURING THIS CONVERSATION TWO BOYS, AGES TWELVE AND SEVENTEEN WHO LIVE WITH MOTHER ON THIRD FLOOR OF HOTEL, WERE ALSO PRESENT. CROWLEY WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL ONLY HAD A ROOM AT THE HOTEL. SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS A WHITE MALE, TWENTY-EIGHT, FIVE FEET NINE INCHES TO FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE LBS. WITH DARK BROWN HAIR.

SHE AND HUSBAND TRAVELED TO COCOA, FLA., APPROXIMATELY APRIL TWENTY-FIVE LAST AND SAW PICTURE OF JAMES EARL RAY ON TV AND BOTH SHE AND HUSBAND FELT CERTAIN RAY AND PREVIOUSLY-DESCRIBED INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL. STATED NEITHER SHE NOR HUSBAND KNEW TO WHOM THEY SHOULD REPORT THIS MATTER. WHILE IN PINELLAS PARK POLICE STATION, TOLD LOCAL PD AND CROWLEY INTERVIEWED THIS DATE, BY BUAGENT AND WAS DISPLAYED IO AND WANTED FLYER OF SUBJECT. CROWLEY SAID SHE FELT

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

TF 157-3231

ALMOST CERTAIN THAT SUBJECT IDENTICAL TO INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED ABOVE. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO CROWLEY THE DISCREPANCY IN AGES, HOWEVER, SHE MAINTAINED HER OPINION THAT SUBJECT AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL. IT IS NOTED CAROL CROWLEY APPEARED TO BE AN EMOTIONALLY STABLE AND HONEST INDIVIDUAL.

MIAMI, AT WEST PALM BEACH, WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AT BUENA VISTA HOTEL TO LOCATE JESSE ABOVE AND DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

JCA

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

724PM URGENT 5-6-68 LCS

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS CITY,

AND MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA 44-1987

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION MAY SIX INSTANT.

EXPANDED AIRLINE CHECK CONTINUING, INCLUDING AIRPORT LIMOUSINE DRIVERS. NO PERTINENT INFORMATION RECEIVED TO DATE.

JIMMY GARNER REINTERVIEWED AND SHOW PHOTO OF SUBJECT RECEIVED FROM U.S. POSTAL INSPECTOR, LOS ANGELES. GARNER STATES THIS PHOTO BEST LIKENESS OF SUBJECT HE HAS SEEN TO DATE.

EXPANDED SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX CHECK CONTINUING.

HIPPIE ROOMING HOUSES AND SOURCES IN NARCOTIC FIELD CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

2

44-17413-123

[Handwritten signature]

FBI BIRMINGHAM

FBI LOS ANG.

7:32PM URGENT 5-6-68 DPK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS, AND BIRMINGHAM
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE DYRELL DENNIS

EDGAR JOHN PENDLETON INTERVIEWED MAY SIX INSTANT.

STATED HE RESIDED IN ST. FRANCIS HOTEL FROM MARCH EIGHT LAST TO
APRIL SIXTEEN LAST WHEN HE ENTERED ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL, LOS
ANGELES FOR SURGERY. PENDLETON IN RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM
DYRELL DENNIS, RETURN ADDRESS FOUR THREE FIVE WEST MICHIGAN
ST., APT. TWO ZERO EIGHT, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, POSTMARKED MILWAUKEE
APRIL NINETEEN LAST, LETTER IN PART STATES "HAVE YOU SEEN RAY?
I HOPE HE IS OKAY."

PENDLETON ADVISED LOUIS LOMAX HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
HIM ON TWO OCCASIONS, THE SECOND TIME AFTER ABOVE LETTER RECEIVED.
HE GAVE LOMAX DENNIS' ADDRESS AND TOLD LOMAX DENNIS WELL ACQUAINTED
WITH INDIVIDUAL KNOWN TO PENDLETON AS RAY SELMA (PH). PENDLETON
STATED LOMAX TOLD HIM MARIE (LNU), (REFERS TO MARIE MARTIN),
COCKTAIL WAITRESS AT SULTAN ROOM, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, HAD ADVISED
LOMAX THAT HE, PENDLETON, KNEW DYRELL DENNIS AND RAY SELMA.
PENDLETON ADVISED RAY SELMA IS MEXICAN-AMERICAN, THIRTY SEVEN TO
END PAGE ONE

JK
44-1740-1631