

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/7/01 BY SPICER/CB

DO NOT DESTROY  
PENDING LITIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

of

DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

Volume Number  
Serials

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY  
PENDING LITIGATION

1864-1437

16

## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF ERROR

Date  
May 23, 1968

To SAC, Kansas City (44-760) From Director, FBI (44-38861)

Subject: James Earl Ray, aka - Fugitive, I.O. #4182, W.F. #442-A,  
Top Ten Fugitive; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Deceased) - Victim  
CR - Conspiracy; UFAC - Robbery

Reference: ☐ Cover pages of SA ☒ Report of SA Raymond B. Howe ☐ Letterhead memo  
dated 5/15/68 at Kansas City

☐ Letter ☐ Teletype ☐ Airtel ☐ Radiogram ☐ Cablegram  
dated \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Your mail dispatch of \_\_\_\_\_, registry number \_\_\_\_\_

☒ **Nonsubstantive Error** - notify appropriate personnel; make notation in error folder; and consider in next performance ratings. Consider employees' work records as to any needed action.

☐ **Substantive Error** - return original of form to Bureau promptly with explanations and recommendations.

Take appropriate action in connection with error in subject matter checked below

- ☐ 1. **Administrative Data**
- ☐ a. Failed to submit letterhead memo re subject who is Government employee
  - ☐ b. Omission of "Property of FBI" statement on letterhead memo
  - ☐ c. Reason for protecting source not given
  - ☐ d. Pretext not described
  - ☐ e. Documentation re FISUR Agents omitted
  - ☐ f. Failure to meet 5-day reporting rule after arrest
- ☐ 2. **Delayed**
- ☐ a. Investigation ☐ c. Transcription
  - ☐ b. Dictation ☐ d. Reporting
- ☐ 3. O.O. incorrect (O.O. is \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ 4. Reporting office
- ☐ 5. Date of communication
- ☐ 6. Investigative period
- ☐ 7. **Title**
- ☐ a. Incomplete ☐ d. Incorrectly ☐ e. Fugitive
  - ☐ b. Misspelled ☐ 1. Changed ☐ 1. Omitted
  - ☐ c. Omitted ☐ 2. Carried ☐ 2. Incorrectly carried
  - ☐ 1. I.O. No.
  - ☐ 2. Wanted Flyer No.
  - ☐ 3. Check Circular No.
- ☐ 8. **Character**
- ☐ a. Incomplete ☐ b. Incorrect ☐ c. Omitted
- ☐ 9. **Synopsis**
- ☐ a. Incomplete or inadequate
  - ☐ b. Facts not in detail or vice versa
  - ☐ c. Fails to show
    - ☐ 1. Owner notified
    - ☐ 2. Employed key facility
    - ☐ 3. Has access classified data at key facility
  - ☐ d. Recovery value not set out
  - ☐ e. "Caution" statement
    - ☐ 1. Omitted
    - ☐ 2. Failure to delete
- ☐ 10. **Status**
- ☐ a. Incorrect ☐ b. Omitted
- ☐ 11. Not approved by SAC (original returned for approval and forwarding)
- ☐ 12. **Copies**
- ☐ a. Not legible
  - ☐ b. Not furnished
    - ☐ 1. Auxiliary office
    - ☐ 2. U. S. Attorney
    - ☐ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ c. Incorrect no. of copies to
    - ☐ 1. Bureau
    - ☐ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ d. Reason for information copy
- ☐ 13. Bufile Number should be \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a. Incorrectly reported
  - ☐ b. Files consolidated at Bureau
- ☐ 14. **Details**
- ☐ a. No description
  - ☐ b. Stops not removed
  - ☐ c. Subject in custody, complaint and warrant issued but immediate hearing before USC not reported
  - ☐ d. Delay in receiving information from P.D. indicates lack of police liaison
  - ☐ e. Incomplete reporting
  - ☐ f. Administrative data in details
  - ☐ g. Incorrect code section cited
  - ☐ h. Failed to
    - ☐ 1. Take sworn statement
    - ☐ 2. Show employed key facility
    - ☐ 3. Show date information received
    - ☐ 4. Show name of Agent conducting interview
    - ☐ 5. Show has access classified data at key facility
  - ☐ i. Characterization omitted
  - ☐ j. "Place" omitted in jurat of sworn statement
  - ☐ k. Form
    - ☐ 1. Incomplete
    - ☐ 2. Incorrect
  - ☐ l. No indication U. S. Marshal notified
- ☐ 15. **Enclosures**
- ☐ a. Not received ☐ c. Not submitted
  - ☐ b. Not described ☐ 1. Disposition Sheet
  - ☐ 2. Probation Flash
- ☐ 16. **Security Classification**
- ☐ a. Incorrect ☐ c. Classification omitted ☐ d. Reason
  - ☐ b. Declassify ☐ Protective ☐ Group not shown
- ☐ 17. **Leads**
- ☐ a. Not set out ☐ b. Too vague
- ☐ 18. **Informants**
- ☐ a. FBI No. not given ☐ e. Date of FBI Identification Division record check not listed
  - ☐ b. 45-day contact missed ☐ f. Failed to submit evaluation memo
  - ☐ c. Incorrect T symbol
  - ☐ d. Not identified
- ☐ 19. **Reference**
- ☐ a. Incorrect ☐ b. Omitted
- ☐ 20. **Abstract**
- ☐ 21. Form FD-122
- ☐ 22. Misspelling, page \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 23. Typographical error
- ☐ 24. Incorrect use of
  - ☐ a. Airtel
  - ☐ b. Teletype
- ☐ 25. Resubmit promptly in form suitable for dissemination
- ☐ 26. Parole Report
  - ☐ a. Not submitted
  - ☐ b. Violation block incorrect
- ☐ 27. Incorrect date(s)
- ☐ 28. Miscellaneous
- ☐ 29. Bureau mailing instructions, Manual of Rules and Regulations, Part II, Section 3, B, 2, Item e. \_\_\_\_\_ not followed.
- ☐ 30. Submit appropriate amended pages.

Remarks:

page 45 of report, first paragraph should be July 18, 1967, instead of 1968, corrected.

1 - Birmingham

44-1740-1864

SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒  
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒  
MAY 24 1968  
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

*Shaw*

FBI

Date: 5/21/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL URGENT  
(Priority)

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

Re Butel 4/25/68, to El Paso, et al, advising that each office should determine from the telephone company the long distance calls placed at each public telephone on U. S. Highway 90 and Interstate Highway 10 over which subject and CHARLES STEIN allegedly traveled 12/15-17/67. Subject reportedly made eight long distance telephone calls while in Texas.

Set forth by Field Division are some of the telephone calls made from the San Antonio Division, 12/15-17/67, which were obtained from available Southwestern Bell Telephone Company records. The various Field Divisions will determine from the subscriber or person receiving the call the identity of the caller. If the caller was JAMES EARL RAY, aka, obtain all available information. Further, determine if the subscriber or the person receiving the call has any knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY.

Unless information is developed during the course of the investigation requested above which pertains to the San Antonio Division, it is not necessary to advise the San Antonio Division of the results.

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 3 - Bureau      | 2 - Memphis (44-1987) |
| ③ - Birmingham  | 3 - Mobile            |
| 7 - Dallas      | 2 - Richmond          |
| 3 - El Paso     | 2 - Sacramento        |
| 2 - Kansas City | 2 - Tampa             |
| 2 - Knoxville   | 6 - San Antonio       |
| JMK/sms (37)    |                       |

44-1740-1865

|                                        |                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| SEARCHED <u>  </u>                     | INDEXED <u>  </u> |
| SERIALIZED <u>  </u>                   | FILED <u>  </u>   |
| <b>MAY 24 1968</b><br>FBI - BIRMINGHAM |                   |

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

SA 44-1242

| <u>DATE</u>        | <u>CALLING NUMBER</u> | <u>NUMBER CALLED</u> | <u>PLACE AND/OR PERSON CALLED</u>        |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <u>BIRMINGHAM</u>  |                       |                      |                                          |
| 12/15/67           | 223-0232              | 205-324-8051         | Birmingham, Alabama                      |
| 12/17/67           | 661-9063              | 205-734-7304         | Cullman, Alabama                         |
| 12/16/67           | 674-9761              | 205-881-2057         | Huntsville, Ala.                         |
| <u>DALLAS</u>      |                       |                      |                                          |
| 12/15/67           | 432-9020              | 817-283-1546         | Euleess-Hurst, Texas                     |
| 12/15/67           | 875-9029              | 817-294-5422         | Burleson, Texas                          |
| 12/15/67           | 432-9224              | 817-626-5763         | Fort Worth, Texas                        |
| 12/17/67           | 223-7735              | 817-834-4482         | Fort Worth, Texas                        |
| 12/17/67           | 278-9013              | 915-396-4655         | Menard, Texas                            |
| 12/15/67           | 223-7892              | 915-399-0113         | Luther, Texas                            |
| 12/15/67           | 223-8000              | 915-653-9748         | San Angelo, Texas                        |
| 12/16/67           | 875-9030              | 915-692-0695         | Abilene, Texas                           |
| <u>EL PASO</u>     |                       |                      |                                          |
| 12/16/67           | 278-9093              | 915-598-2010         | El Paso, Texas                           |
| 12/17/67           | 674-9761              | 915-828-1819         | Guadalupe Peak, Tex.                     |
| 12/17/67           | 278-9041              | 915-837-4486         | Alpine, Texas                            |
| <u>KANSAS CITY</u> |                       |                      |                                          |
| 12/17/67           | 674-9104              | 816-231-2992         | Kansas City, Missouri<br>From SAM DANIEL |

SA 44-1242

| <u>DATE</u>        | <u>CALLING NUMBER</u> | <u>NUMBER CALLED</u> | <u>PLACE AND/OR PERSON CALLED</u>    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>KNOXVILLE</u>   |                       |                      |                                      |
| 12/17/67           | 674-9914              | 615-588-2564         | Knoxville, Tenn.                     |
| <u>MEMPHIS</u>     |                       |                      |                                      |
| 12/16/67           | 379-9953              | 615-896-2776         | Murfreesboro, Tenn. to BETTY STANLEY |
| <u>MOBILE</u>      |                       |                      |                                      |
| 12/16/67           | 674-9693              | 205-368-2394         | Atmore, Alabama                      |
| 12/17/67           | 674-9603              | 205-471-3762         | Mobile, Alabama                      |
| 12/16/67           | 661-9063              | 205-943-5784         | Foley, Alabama                       |
| <u>RICHMOND</u>    |                       |                      |                                      |
| 12/17/67           | 674-9724              | 703-356-4286         | McLean, Virginia                     |
| 12/17/67           | 674-9724              | 703-356-4286         | McLean, Virginia                     |
| <u>SACRAMENTO</u>  |                       |                      |                                      |
| 12/17/67           | 538-9598              | 209-251-1137         | Fresno, California                   |
| 12/17/67           | 563-9747              | 209-834-3541         | Fowler, California                   |
| <u>TAMPA</u>       |                       |                      |                                      |
| 12/17/67           | 674-9761              | 813-294-5795         | Winter Haven, Fla.                   |
| <u>SAN ANTONIO</u> |                       |                      |                                      |
| 12/16/67           | 278-9086              | 817-546-3241         | Chilton, Texas                       |
| 12/15/67           | 674-9915              | 817-753-3090         | Waco, Texas                          |

SA 44-1242

| <u>DATE</u>        | <u>CALLING NUMBER</u> | <u>NUMBER CALLED</u> | <u>PLACE AND/OR<br/>PERSON CALLED</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>SAN ANTONIO</u> |                       |                      |                                       |
| 12/15/67           | 278-9088              | 817-754-8205         | Waco, Texas                           |
| 12/17/67           | 432-9277              | 817-634-5911         | Killeen, Texas                        |
| 12/16/67           | 432-9665              | 915-452-5885         | Richland Springs,<br>Texas            |
| 12/17/67           | 432-9665              | 915-452-5885         | Richland Springs,<br>Texas,           |

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/24/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

For information of the Bureau and the Memphis Division, the following is set forth:

On 5/23/68, the Birmingham Division personally contacted all television stations in Birmingham, as well as local daily newspapers, these being "The Birmingham Post-Herald" and "The Birmingham News." The purpose of these contacts was to solicit their continuous cooperation in affording the MURKIN investigation all possible news coverage in an effort to develop any information concerning the possible whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

A photograph of RAY, which was made in California last January (1968), which witnesses say resembles him more nearly than any other they have seen, was furnished to the television stations and newspapers for their assistance in affording this matter appropriate news coverage.

The aforementioned television stations and newspapers were most receptive and pledged their continuous cooperation in assisting the Bureau in bringing about RAY's apprehension. As a result of these contacts, the photograph of RAY, as well as a story concerning the KING assassination received front-page publicity in all editions of the Birmingham newspapers. This

3 - Bureau (AM)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)  
2 - Birmingham  
WAS:hss  
(6)

44-1740-1866  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

BH 44-1740

same photograph of RAY is presently being shown on all local television news reports, requesting that the public contact the local Birmingham Office of the FBI should they be in possession of any information concerning RAY.

Birmingham will continue to afford this matter continuous investigative attention and maintain contact with local news media in order that this case may receive statewide publicity.

SUBJECT CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



626  
Restrictions

ROGER

DAVID

BROUSSARD

First

Middle or Maiden

Last

2911516

Street 2123 - North 12th. Avenue

Void 30 days after.

City Birmingham State Ala.

4-10-68  
Date passed

Date of birth

Race

Sex

Weight

Height

Eyes

Hair

County of Residence

W

M

170

6'0"

Br

Br

Jeff

### NOTICE TO APPLICANT

Upon the successful completion of the examination this card must be taken to the Commissioner of Licenses or Judge of Probate in County of examination where you will be issued a temporary receipt after paying the required fee. This must be done within 30 days after completion.

Applicant's signature

First

Middle or Maiden

Last

sales

Occupation of applicant

Bell & Howell

Applicant's employer

Date

4-10-68

Signature of clerk

Inside Examiner

Document used to verify birth

Receipt number

35187

No Yes

1. ☒ Have you ever taken any part of an examination for an Alabama driver's license or learner's permit? What year? NO  
Which county? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you licensed? \_\_\_\_\_ What type license was issued? Operator's ☐ Learner's permit ☐  
Motor Driven Cycle ☐ If under a different name, what name? 1960 1964
2. ☐ Are you now or have you ever been licensed to drive in any other state? Which state? N.Y. (VIRGINIA) Is your other state  
license expired? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, what year did it expire? 1964
3. ☐ Have you ever been convicted of a violation of the motor vehicle laws? If yes, when? SPEEDING PENN - 1952  
Where? ILLEGAL TURN N.Y. 1953 What offense? PARKING TICKETS N.Y. 1950 - 1955
4. ☒ Is your driver license or driving privilege now under suspension or revocation in any state? If yes, which state? \_\_\_\_\_
5. ☒ Have you ever had your driver license or privilege revoked ☐ suspended ☐ cancelled ☐ or denied ☐? What year? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which state? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been authorized to be relicensed? Yes ☐ No ☐
6. ☒ For distant vision do you wear glasses ☐ contact lenses ☐
7. ☒ Have you ever suffered from epilepsy ☐ fainting spells ☐ dizzy spells ☐ blackout spells ☐? Are you now cured? Yes ☐ No ☐
8. ☒ Do you have any physical ☐ mental ☐ defects that would make it difficult for you to operate a motor vehicle safely?  
Explain \_\_\_\_\_
9. ☒ Have you ever been a patient in an institution for the insane or feeble minded? Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
When discharged? \_\_\_\_\_
10. ☒ Have you ever been addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors ☐ narcotic drugs ☐? Are you now cured? Yes ☐ No ☐

I do solemnly swear or affirm that all statements on this application are true and correct. I understand that any false information herein will result in my license being cancelled.

Signed

First

Middle or Maiden

Last

Form DL-2 (Rev. Dec. 1965)

44-1740-1867

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED         | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED       | FILED   |
| MAY 24 1968      |         |
| FBI - BIRMINGHAM |         |



F B I

Date: 5/23/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
(OO: ME)

Re Birmingham telephone call to Montgomery  
RA, 5/21/68, and Birmingham teletype to Mobile, 5/21/68.

On 5/21/68, Mrs. GERTRUDE KING, Drivers  
License Division, Alabama Department of Public Safety,  
Montgomery, Alabama, telephonically advised SA DAN O.  
STEPHENS as follows:

License #2911516 was issued to ROGER DAVID  
BROUSSARD, 2123 North 12th Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama,  
on 4/10/68. He is described as being a white male, born  
[redacted], 6', 170 lbs., brown eyes, and brown hair. His  
application indicates that he was then employed as a sales-  
man by Bell and Howell, and that he formerly held licenses  
in Virginia and New York.

FRANK WILLIAM PRUETT, 2123 North 12th Avenue,  
Birmingham, Alabama, holds a current license and has held  
one in Birmingham since 1954. He is described as being a  
white male, born [redacted], 5'9", 149 lbs., blue eyes, and  
brown hair.

Above information was telephonically furnished to  
SA SNOW, Birmingham Office, by SA STEPHENS on 5/21/68.

On 5/21/68, Mrs. KING, Drivers License Division,  
made available to SA DANIEL W. McALLEN, III, a xerox copy

② - Birmingham (Enc. 1) *Rec'd*  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) *you*  
2 - Mobile *W/M*  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent *handled by*

DOS - *Special Agent in Charge*  
Sms  
(6)

44-1740-1865

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED             | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED           | FILED   |
| MAY 24 1968          |         |
| Per FBI - BIRMINGHAM |         |

*Has*

MO 157-2627

of the application and license of BROUSSARD, which is enclosed herewith.

No insert being submitted by Mobile.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/23/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM NEWARK (44-854) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU TEL TO BIRMINGHAM, FIVE TWENTY-TWO LAST.

CONTACT WITH LOCKSMITHING INSTITUTE (PROTECT) REVEALED THAT RECORDS CONTAIN NO INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT'S METHOD OF INITIAL CONTACT. ALTHOUGH THE RECORDS CONTAINED THE ENVELOPE IN WHICH APPLICATION WAS FIRST SUBMITTED, THERE WAS NO FURTHER NOTATION AS TO WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED THEIR AD.

NEWARK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, APRIL FIFTEEN LAST LISTS THE VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS USED TO ADVERTISE.

MAIL COPIES TO BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY AND LOS ANGELES, AND MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1-Memphis (Mail)  
1-Birmingham (mail)  
1-Chicago (Mail)  
1-Kansas City (Mail)  
1-Los Angeles (Mail)  
HHR/maj  
(6)

44-1740-1869

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED         | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED       | FILED   |
| MAY 23 1968      |         |
| FBI - BIRMINGHAM |         |

*Snow*  
*(Elife)*  
*PHB*

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI LOS ANG.

640 PM DEFERRED 5/25/68 VLB

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM AND MIAMI  
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574) 1P

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TEL MAY TWO FOUR LAST.

LA RECORDS INDICATE JAMES PAUL THORNTON HAS BEEN RUNNING  
NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN BIRMINGHAM.

CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF MOTOR VEHICLES SHOW CALIF. LICENSE N Y J  
SEVEN TWO EIGHT ISSUED TO JAMES P. THORNTON OF ONE TWO SEVEN THREE  
FIVE CARDINAL, GARDEN GROVE, CALIF.

SUGGEST ATLANTA INTERVIEW THORNTON TO OBTAIN FROM HIM INFO  
WHICH CAN BE VERIFIED TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS TIME SINCE SUBJECT RAY  
ESCAPED PRISON.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

44-1740-1870

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| SEARCHED       | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED     | FILED   |
| MAY 25 1968    |         |
| FBI—BIRMINGHAM |         |

F B I

Date: 5/23/68

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

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

ReBuAirtel to Atlanta, Birmingham, Los Angeles,  
 Memphis and New Orleans, 5/21/68.

Rebulet advises that appropriate inquiry should be made at banks to determine identity of individuals making a withdrawal of \$10,000 and over in cash, and confining this inquiry for period of April, 1968. The Bureau advises that the possibility exists that subject was hired assassin and a pay-off could have taken place shortly before or after the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

For information of the Bureau and offices receiving this communication the following is being furnished.

For many years the Intelligence Units of the U.S. Treasury Department have been receiving from the Federal Reserve Banks a form known as the TCR-1 "Report of Currency Transactions; Person or Organization Concerned in Transaction Reported". These forms are used by the Intelligence Units of IRS for purposes of discovering large currency transactions resorted to by racketeers, dealers in narcotics, foreign agents, and others engaged in illegal activities as an attempted method of concealing income.

- 3- Director (Encl.1) (AM)
- 2- Atlanta (44-2386) (Encl.1) (AM)
- ②- Birmingham (44-1740) (Encl.1) (AM) REC'D
- 2- Memphis (44-1987) (Encl.1) (AM) CEN
- 2- New Orleans (157-10673) (Encl.1) (AM)
- 3- Los Angeles 2-(44-1574) (Encl.1)
- 1-(92-3006) (INFO)

ACG  
 (4)

44-1740-1871

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED         | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED       | FILED   |
| MAY 25 1968      |         |
| FBI - BIRMINGHAM |         |

*Marlin* *ngm*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

LA 44-1574

The TCR-1 is actually completed or filled in by banks, savings and loan associations and other financial type institutions when a transaction involves a deposit, withdrawal, or other payment or transfer effected by, through, or to such financial institution, which involves U.S. Currency as follows:

1. Transactions involving \$2,500 or more of U.S. Currency in denominations of \$100 or higher.
2. Transactions involving \$10,000 or more of U.S. Currency in any denomination.
3. Transactions involving any amount in any denomination, which in the judgment of the financial institution exceed those commensurate with the customary conduct of the person or organization concerned.

After the TCR-1 Forms are executed they are then sent to the Federal Reserve Banks and their branches, who in turn retain them for about one month and at which time they are then sent on to IRS Intelligence Units in the particular area.

In a recent major case (YOUNGNAP) within the Los Angeles Division, the above information became known, and as a result a Confidential Source was developed who furnishes us copies of these forms on a weekly basis. In reviewing the data on such forms it was believed that the information would be of value in investigations relating to Anti-Racketeering, Federal Reserve Act, Bankruptcy, Ascertaining Financial Ability, Fraud Against the Government, Bank Robbery and larceny cases as well as Security type matters.

For the above reason the Los Angeles Division opened a dead file captioned:

"CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS,  
REPORTS OR PERSONS OR  
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED  
AR"

Los Angeles file 92-3006

And copies of all the TCR-1 Forms received since March 3, 1968 have been filed alphabetically in a special indices after they have been indexed to the general office index. These forms are then reviewed periodically for individuals whose name continually reappear for possibly anti-racketeering matters.



LA 44-1574

Enclosed for the Bureau and each office receiving this communication is one unexecuted copy of the TCR-1 Form.

For information of the Bureau, the Los Angeles Division is currently reviewing the TCR-1 Forms for individuals who may have made a \$10,000 withdrawal of funds and appropriate investigation will be conducted as to each such individual.

The Bureau may wish to have each office contact the IRS Intelligence Units within their division and review copies of these forms for the month of April, 1968. It is believed that this would expedite coverage of the requested lead and cover a larger geographical area.

Armed and Dangerous.

# REPORT OF CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS

See Reverse for Instructions

## Part A. PERSON OR ORGANIZATION CONCERNED IN TRANSACTIONS REPORTED

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business, profession, or occupation \_\_\_\_\_

## Part B. DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTIONS

| Date | U. S. Currency Involved |                                               | Nature of Transactions<br>(State whether deposit, withdrawal, exchange<br>of currency, cashing or purchase of check, etc.) |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | Total<br>amount         | Amount in denominations<br>of \$100 or higher |                                                                                                                            |
|      |                         |                                               |                                                                                                                            |
|      |                         |                                               |                                                                                                                            |
|      |                         |                                               |                                                                                                                            |

Additional information \_\_\_\_\_

## Part C. FINANCIAL INSTITUTION REPORTING

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Street) (City) (State)

F B I

Date: 5/17/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

To: SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Bureau is disseminating report of SA Joe C. Hester at Memphis dated 4/30/68, report of SA John L. Puddister at Jackson dated 5/2/68, report of SA Stephen M. Callender at New Orleans dated 4/29/68, and report of SA Howard H. Rice at Newark dated 5/13/68; therefore, Bureau authority is granted to Birmingham to disseminate a copy of these reports to USA, Birmingham. Copies of these reports should not be disseminated to USA, Memphis or any other USA.

Advise USA, Birmingham in writing that reports or contents thereof are for their own use and not to be disclosed to outside persons.

Armed and dangerous.

- 1 - Jackson
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Newark (44-854)
- 1 - New Orleans (157-10673)

*Done*  
*ham*

44-1740-1872

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

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|------------------|---------------|
| SEARCHED _____   | INDEXED _____ |
| SERIALIZED _____ | FILED _____   |
| MAY 18 1968      |               |
| FBI - BIRMINGHAM |               |

① SAC *[Signature]*  
② Snow *[Signature]*

*5/18 SAC collected  
Telephoned  
J.L.*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740) (P)

FROM : SA MARION B. HUMMEL

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR  
OO:ME

DATE: May 24, 1968

On May 17, 1968, at approximately 1:00 p.m., the writer received a telephone call from JACK NELSON, who identified himself as a Reporter for "The Los Angeles Times," and working out of Atlanta, Georgia. NELSON stated that he was at that time in the office of Chief of Police W. FLOYD DYAR, Huntsville, Alabama, and that he had some information concerning captioned matter, which he desired to make available to the FBI. The writer proceeded to the office of COP DYAR where he met NELSON and Chief DYAR. NELSON thereafter proceeded to read a teletype which he stated came from his City Editor in Los Angeles, California. COP DYAR had his private secretary transcribe verbatim the contents of this teletype, a copy of which is attached hereto. Concerning the source of this information, NELSON advised that they were receiving the information from an anonymous but live source who would not identify himself to them. NELSON stated that this same information was at that time also being furnished to the FBI in Los Angeles, Memphis, Kansas City, and Miami,

This information was furnished to the SAC, who advised that investigation should be conducted to definitely establish the falsity of this information.

The following investigation was conducted at Huntsville, Alabama:

At the time the information was received from NELSON, Chief DYAR caused the name of EDDIE WILBURN to be searched through the records of the Police Department and advised that they could locate one card indicating

Enclosure

3-44-1740  
MBH:rte  
(3)



5010-108

44-1740-1873

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| SEARCHED _____   | INDEXED _____ |
| SERIALIZED _____ | FILED _____   |
| MAY 23 1968      |               |
| FBI — BIRMINGHAM |               |

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

BH 44-1740

that an EDDIE WILBURN, an insurance salesman, age 50, on November 18, 1966, had reported a burglary at his home address, Route 3, Box 215, Oakwood Road, Huntsville, Alabama. No additional information was available at that time.

The current city directory and telephone directory for Huntsville, Alabama, were reviewed for the name of EDDIE WILBURN and no listing could be located. The City Directory reflected one EDWARD WILBURN, residing at 3337 Delia, wife VIVA, and employed as an Assistant Manager for SHOCKLEY's Restaurant, Huntsville. SA ALLEN J. GILSON attempted to locate this EDWARD WILBURN and determined that he was no longer employed by SHOCKLEY's Restaurant and his current whereabouts was unknown. The records of the Huntsville Credit Bureau were checked under the names of EDDIE and EDWARD WILBURN. No record could be located for EDDIE WILBURN; however, the records did reflect a report for EDWARD WILBURN, who had been on file since December of 1965, at which time he resided at 3003 Ford Place, Huntsville. His wife was named VIVA and he was employed as Assistant Manager, SHOCKLEY's Restaurant, Huntsville, Alabama. His wife was employed as a supervisor for the Southern Bell Telephone Company, Huntsville. He had last been checked in December of 1965.

Mr. R. L. JAMES, Security Officer, Southern Bell Telephone Company, was contacted and furnished information from the employment records of Southern Bell Telephone Company, indicating that VIVA WILBURN was married to EDWARD WILBURN. She had been employed by the Southern Bell Telephone Company for a number of years. It was determined that EDWARD and VIVA WILBURN currently resided at 445 East Madison Street, Pulaski, Tennessee, and that EDWARD WILBURN operates the bus station cafe at Pulaski, Tennessee, telephone number 363-1416.

BH 44-1740

SA ADOLPH R. MARX, JR. checked the membership records of the VFW Club, Huntsville, and was advised that there was no EDDIE or EDWARD WILBURN who was a member of the VFW Club. He ascertained that one ESMOND WILBURN, who is also known as Eddie Wilburn, and was an insurance salesman, had frequented the VFW Club on occasion but was not a member. The Motor Vehicle License Records of Madison County were reviewed and it was determined that ESMOND WILBURN, of Route 3, Box 215, Huntsville, had registered a 1967 Dodge Dart and had been issued 1968 Alabama license 47-15645. There was no record under the name of any license having been issued under the name of EDDIE WILBURN.

SA DAN STEPHENS, Montgomery, Alabama, telephonically advised that he had caused a check to be made of the registrations for the entire State of Alabama and no license had been issued under the name of EDDIE WILBURN, WILBORN, or WILBOURN.

A review of the City Directory under the name of ESMOND WILBURN reflected that ESMOND WILBURN, of Route 3, Box 215, Huntsville, in 1966, was employed by the Associated Doctors Health & Life Insurance, Times Building, Huntsville, Alabama. There was no listing subsequent to this time. Efforts to contact Associated Doctors Health & Life Insurance Company, Times Building, Huntsville, were negative inasmuch as this firm was closed for the night. SAS LEON N. FRANKENFIELD and ADOLPH R. MARX, JR. made efforts to locate ESMOND WILBURN, Route 3, Huntsville, with negative results.

Arrest records of the Huntsville Police Department under the name of ESMOND WILBURN, reflected under Huntsville Police Department No.006526, that WILBURN received a traffic ticket on July 6, 1966, at which time he was driving a four-door brown Cadillac, bearing 1966 Alabama license 47-45597. He was also arrested on August 31, 1934, on a charge of petty larceny which was dismissed. He was arrested on June 12, 1939, on a charge

BH 44-1740

of petty larceny and fined \$25.00. This file reflects that he was described as a white male; born [redacted]; at Paint Rock, Alabama; height 5' 9"; weight 165 pounds; eye blue; residence Route 3, Box 215 Oakwood Road, Huntsville, Alabama.

On the morning of May 18, 1968, ESMOND GRANVILLE WILBURN was located at his place of employment, Associated Doctors Health & Life Insurance Company, Times Building, Huntsville. He was interviewed by the writer and SAs LEON N. FRANKENFIELD. WILBURN advised that he had not been out of the Huntsville area since December of 1967, at which time he and his wife had visited relatives in Ohio. He reviewed his daily report sheets and determined that on April 4, 1968, he sold a policy to an individual by the name of THOMAS E. GRIFFITH, of Route 3, Guntersville, Alabama. This sale was recorded on the records on April 5, 1968, indicating that he was personally in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 5, 1968. The record reflected that on April 3, 1968, he sold an insurance policy to VASTHI S. GROSSO, 411 Kyle Street, Scottsboro, Alabama, which policy was reported on April 4, 1968, indicating that he was personally present in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 4, 1968. The following descriptive data was obtained from WILBURN:

|                 |                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:           | ESMOND GRANVILLE WILBURN                                                                                                     |
| Race:           | White                                                                                                                        |
| Sex:            | Male                                                                                                                         |
| Age:            | 49                                                                                                                           |
| Date of birth:  | [redacted]                                                                                                                   |
| Place of birth: | Madison County, Alabama                                                                                                      |
| Height:         | 5' 9"                                                                                                                        |
| Weight:         | 160 - 165 pounds                                                                                                             |
| Hair:           | Gray (crew-cut, and balding)                                                                                                 |
| Eyes:           | Blue<br>(wears dark-rimmed glasses)                                                                                          |
| Marital Status: | Married - wife: JOYCE<br>(third wife)                                                                                        |
| Children:       | Three - Son:<br>ESMOND, JR., Huntsville,<br>Alabama, employed as a<br>Patrolman, Huntsville, Ala-<br>bama Police Department; |

BH 44-1740

Son: TINKER,  
Huntsville, Ala-  
bama, employed  
on the Huntsville  
Security Patrol,  
Huntsville, Alabama

Daughter: CONNIE LASTER,  
resides Hollendale,  
Florida with her  
mother, GLADYS PACK

JAMES MALONE, Manager, Associated Doctors Health & Life Insurance Company, was interviewed, and from his daily production records, and also his personal recollection, accounted for WILBURN's presence in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 4, 5, and 6, 1968.

SA STEPHEN L. CRABBE, Decatur Resident Agency, contacted all motels in the Athens, Alabama, area with negative results.



*Real name*  
*Picked up*  
The day before shooting of King, Ray was in Athens Alabama and was taken to Memphis. There registered in a rooming-house with Samuel Lewis, back-up man who was supposed to shoot King in alley if Ray missed.

*Fellow*  
Ray walked off two or three blocks with a girl and a boy accompanied with a man, with a new Buick, Alabama plates supposedly beginning with 14. The car is owned and driven by Eddie Wilburn of Huntsville. And, is equipped with a police radio.

Lewis is supposed to have stayed overnight in the rooming-house in Memphis where shots were fired. Then took a bus to Knoxville and then took a bus to Los Angeles.

Ray, two girls and a child were driven out of Memphis by Wilburn in the blue Buick and went to Kansas City, trip took 6½ hours. Girls and the child and Wilburn are all from Huntsville and are believed to have left Kansas City and gone back to Huntsville. In Kansas City Ray stayed overnight in a private home. It is a gray shingled one-bedroom house, three miles from downtown Kansas City.

At dusk next day, April 5, after murder, Ray was flown to Belle Glade, Florida in a private plane and from a private field which is used for training field for the military. He arrived April 6. Plane in which Ray flew is owned by William Pierce, wealthy man, owns and operates airport there and a contracting company. *owner of plane* It is not known whether Pierce flew the plane. He owns a motel and cottages at Lake Okechobee and is a KKK member.

On April 11, Ray got on a yacht, *capt* chartered fishing boat probably at Key West, owned by Ben Thompson.

Wilburn is middle aged, medium height, graying at the temples and swings with the dames. Supposed to be a member of the V.F.W. in Huntsville. Pierce and Wilburn are supposed to be related in some way.

a Rifle was supposed to be left in a furnace in rooming house. *don't know sig*

White Mustang was not in Memphis the day of the murder and supposedly did not leave Georgia.

Page 2

Pierce knows Jim Garrison, New Orleans.

Payoffs, Wilburn in Reno. Killing in Keno, Cal Neva lodge, rigged to pass money, done with Charlie Cate. He is from Alabama or Tennessee and goes back regularly on vacation.

Ben or Jack Spurgis of St. Louis. *is also supposedly in*  
*on pay off*

*\$25,000*  
*attached*

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI LOS ANG.

7:45 PM URGENT 5-27-68 DPK  
TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, AND BIRMINGHAM  
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE MAY TWENTY FOUR LAST AND LOS ANGELES  
TELETYPE MAY TWENTY FIVE LAST.

RE JAMES P. THORNTON:

RECORDS SECURITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK, WEST ANAHEIM  
BRANCH, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, AS REVIEWED THIS DATE INDICATE  
JAMES P. THORNTON, ONE TWO SEVEN THREE FIVE CARDINAL AVENUE,  
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, OPENED A CHECKING ACCOUNT OCTOBER  
THIRTY, SIXTY SEVEN, WHICH ACCOUNT STILL OPEN WITH SMALL  
BALANCE. THORNTON INDICATED EMPLOYED AS A COLLECTOR BY  
TRANSAMERICA CREDIT CORPORATION, ANAHEIM, AND ONLY CHECK  
BEING CLEARED IS TO FRANCHISE TAX BOARD, STATE OF CALIFORNIA.  
ALSO DETERMINED THIS DATE THAT TOM AND MARGE RELEY HAVE  
RESIDED AT ONE TWO SEVEN THREE FIVE CARDINAL AVENUE, GARDEN  
GROVE, FOR FOUR YEARS. FURTHER THAT MARGE RELEY'S SON BY  
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1874

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED         | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED       | FILED   |
| 1968             |         |
| FBI — BIRMINGHAM |         |

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

FORMER MARRIAGE USING NAME JIM THORNTON LIVED AT ABOVE ADDRESS FROM FALL OF SIXTY SEVEN WHEN DISCHARGED FROM MILITARY SERVICE TO APRIL, SIXTY EIGHT, WHEN MOVED TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA, BECAUSE TRANSFERRED BY FINANCE COMPANY FOR WHICH HE WAS EMPLOYED.

FOR INFORMATION OF ATLANTA, THORNTON ENTERED U.S. ARMY ON JUNE FIFTEEN NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE AT LOS ANGELES AND PROCEEDED TO FORT POLK, LOUISIANA. HE WAS ASSIGNED ASN FIVE SIX THREE EIGHT SIX FIVE FIVE THREE. IN MARCH, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN, HE WAS STATIONED AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS. PHOTOS ARE BEING SHOWN IN GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, AREA. ATLANTA REQUESTED TO ADVISE LOS ANGELES OF INTERVIEW OF THORNTON.

AM COPY MEMPHIS.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU@

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

DATE: 5/27/68

FROM : SA JEREMIAH J. SMITH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/26/68 DAVID PETTUS, Clerk, Southern Airlines, Anniston Municipal Airport, advised an individual at the terminal who was waiting for the 1:30PM flight looked like JAMES EARL RAY.

SAs LARRY K. SYLVESTER and JEREMIAH J. SMITH proceeded to the airport and this individual identified himself as Dr. DWIGHT OLIVER CHAMBERS, residing Box 307, Blackburg, Virginia, and employed at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He advised he had been visiting Dr. LONG, President of Talladega College, which is approximately 20 miles south of the airport. It was noted that CHAMBERS was age 33, 5'9" tall, 160 pounds, short brown hair. CHAMBERS exhibited Virginia driver's license number 480365 and his flight ticket indicated he was flying to Roanoke, Virginia via Piedmont Airlines ticket number 873352.

Although there were some similarities in the general physical description as to approximate height, weight, and hair there was no facial characteristics to suggest that CHAMBERS was identical with the subject.

CHAMBERS was advised that he was questioned as to his identity as he resembled the general description of a fugitive but he was not advised of fugitive's name as it was quite apparent that he did not resemble subject's facial features. Above submitted for information.

JJS  
(2)

44-1740-1875

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| SEARCHED         | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED       | FILED   |
| MAY 28 1968      |         |
| FBI - BIRMINGHAM |         |

*[Signature]*



5010-108

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

SAC, MOBILE

5/28/68

*[Signature]* SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN  
CR  
OO: ME

ReDNlet to Birmingham, 5/14/68.

Enclosed for Mobile is one Xerox copy of relet.

Mr. WALTER WHITTEN, Rural Route, Hackleburg, Alabama, who resides near the Antioch Church on Highway 237, advised as follows on 5/21/68:

HOWARD SIDE has never resided at WHITTEN's home; however, he said HOWARD's brother, LLOYD SIDE, a nephew, came to WHITTEN's home on 4/14/68, stating he had come there from Foley, Alabama, where he had been living on a part-time basis with his brother, HOWARD SIDE, who receives his mail at Box 166, Foley, Alabama.

WHITTEN stated that this was the first time SIDE has been to his home or in this area since SIDE's mother and WHITTEN's sister died many years ago. SIDE's father is PURVIE SIDE, age about 80 years, who is said to reside at an unidentified hotel or rooming house somewhere in Jasper, Alabama. WHITTEN advised that LLOYD SIDE stated he had a daughter, BONNIE WHITE, who was employed in an unknown capacity by the Birmingham Police Department. WHITTEN reported that his nephew, LLOYD SIDE, departed from WHITTEN's home on 5/11/68, and did not state where he intended to go. He pointed out that LLOYD had been married; however, he was presently not living with his family and WHITTEN did not know where other members of LLOYD SIDE's family might be located. WHITTEN stated LLOYD SIDE may have been arrested in the past for offenses such as public drunkenness; however, he said he knew of no major difficulty in which SIDE had ever been connected and had no reason to believe that SIDE had ever spent time in a penitentiary.

2 - Mobile (Enc. 1)

② - Birmingham

HHW:epg

(4) *[Signature]*

44-1740-1876  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *[Signature]* FILED *[Signature]*

BH 44-1740

LEADS:

MOBILE:

AT FOLEY, ALABAMA:

After review of enclosed letter, consider interview of HOWARD SIDE.

BIRMINGHAM:

AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA:

Consider contact with LLOYD SIDE's reported daughter, BONNIE WHITE, in the event interview is considered appropriate.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: 5/17/68

Re: MURKIN

TO: SAC, Birmingham  
(44-1740)

Invoice of Contents

3 rifles  
Remington Model 700 .243 caliber rifle  
Rifle box  
9 boxes of ammunition  
Set of rings and bases for Redfield scope

FBI File No. 44-38861

All items listed above are contained in this package. A detailed description of items will be found in Bureau communication dated 5/17/68

LC # 91075

RAILWAY EXPRESS

44-1740-1877

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED         | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED       | FILED   |
| MAY 20 1968      |         |
| FBI — BIRMINGHAM |         |

*[Signature]*



5/29/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

Ex-convict JAMES W. BROWN reinterviewed at his present residence, Talladega, Ala., and following is synopsis of additional information obtained:

BROWN was shown all available photos of JAMES EARL RAY and picked out photo taken at bartending school as one most resembling RAY. Concerning other photo taken of RAY in California in January or February, 1968, BROWN said this did not resemble RAY, but did strongly resemble a person who came to a gas station where BROWN worked in June, 1967, in Reform, Ala. This person was driving a late-model red Mustang, and was accompanied by two white males, one being an ex-convict from the Missouri State Pen, FNU ALLEN, other unknown to BROWN. BROWN had no conversation with driver of Mustang, but ALLEN, whom BROWN had known in the pen, told BROWN that he and his two friends were going to Tuscaloosa, Ala., from Columbus, Ga. ALLEN had been released from pen few months before BROWN (June, 1965.) BROWN claimed he had seen ALLEN and RAY in conversations in the pen on several occasions and that BROWN was positive that ALLEN and BROWN knew each other.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Kansas City (44-760)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - St. Louis (44-775)
- 2 - Birmingham

RMB:mfl

(11)

44-1740-1878

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| SERIALIZED | FILED   |

BH 44-1740

BROWN claimed that ALLEN was considered to be a "stool pigeon" inside the pen. ALLEN came from Kennett, Mo., and had been convicted of robbery. BROWN claimed that RAY was living in F Hall when BROWN met him through JOHNNY VELANTI, and that ALLEN also lived in F Hall. (Review of Kansas City report dated 5/15/68 fails to indicate that RAY ever lived in F Hall; however, it is noted that in St. Louis report of 5/10/68, VELANTI claimed that RAY did live in F Hall.)

BROWN claimed the information he was furnishing concerned JAMES EARL RAY and he did not have him confused with any prisoners with similar names such as JAMES RAYE (as claimed by VELANTI) or JAMES WRAY.

BROWN claimed that VELANTI once said he, VELANTI, could get along in Mexico if he ever got there, and that he, VELANTI, would go to some small town past Mexico City to hide out, if he ever escaped. VELANTI named the town, but BROWN can not recall name. This claim was made in presence of RAY. VALENTI also claimed he had run off from an orphans' home at the age of 14, and was later "taken in" and raised by a Sheriff. VELANTI then became involved in allowing the escape of several prisoners being held by this Sheriff in Louisiana. Because of their close association in the pen, BROWN said it was most likely that RAY and VELANTI would get together outside.

BROWN continued to claim he had no knowledge of any convict organization in the pen, but it appeared to interviewing agents that he was possibly withholding information when pressed on this point. He said there were several poker games operated by certain convicts and that some others took bets on sporting events. One of these was JOHNNIE JOHNSON, who operated a game with his "half-brother" BOBBY ASHE. BROWN claimed he had seen JOHNSON and RAY in several conversations together and that RAY usually always played in the game operated by JOHNSON and ASHE.

BROWN identified one "SLICK" STEDHAM (ph) as a poker game operator who also was used to collect gambling debts inside the pen.

BROWN identified his closest friends in the pen as DONALD COX from St. Louis, who left in 1963 after serving

BH 44-1740

five years on robbery conviction; CHESTER EELEY (ph) from St. Louis, who is still confined; CHARLIE LAWSON, from St. Louis, who was released in 1965 after serving assault sentence, and WALTER STRAKEY, who is now believed to be in the Texas State Pen.

LEADS

ST. LOUIS:

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.:

Reinterview JOHNNIE VELANTI, as to his association with RAY, as claimed by BROWN, and as to all background of VELANTI as furnished by BROWN. Obtain further identification of JAMES RAYE and/or JAMES WRAY, from VELANTI. From VELANTI ascertain what hall RAY resided in during VELANTI's association with him. Ascertain if he knew RAY to work as a "walk boy" in any hall; if he knew RAY to participate in poker games, and, if so, who operated the game, and if RAY ever bet on any sporting events, and, if so, with whom. Ascertain if VELANTI's wife was injured in the same accident in which VELANTI's oldest child was killed, as claimed by BROWN. Identify place in Mexico where VELANTI claimed he could go to and hide and get along with the people.

Upon identification of FNU ALLEN from Kennett, Mo., will locate and interview ALLEN as to his knowledge of RAY and the identities of the two persons with him in the red Mustang in June, 1967, in Columbus, Ga.

KANSAS CITY:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.:

Will identify the persons identified by BROWN as his closest friends in the pen and set out leads to have them interviewed as to the veracity of BROWN, their knowledge of his association with VELANTI and/or RAY, their knowledge of any convict organization in the pen.

Will ascertain identity of "SLICK" STEDHAM and JOHNNIE JOHNSON and have them located and interviewed as to

BH 44-1740

their knowledge of RAY, his gambling habits, and their association with him, if any. Will determine if JOHNSON and BOBBY ASHE are related.

Will identify FNU ALLEN from Kennett, Mo., and set out lead to have located and interviewed per information furnished by BROWN.

Will review records of BROWN for any information as to his stability, reliability and veracity. Will furnish photos of all persons identified by BROWN, as set out above, to be used in reinterview of BROWN, if deemed appropriate by Birmingham.

F B I

Date: 5/27/68

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

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

RE FLOYD EVANS HILL, aka  
Jimmy Lee Hill  
Former Missouri State  
Penitentiary Inmate  
with Subject.

Re San Francisco teletype to Los Angeles dated  
5/22/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
LEO C. BAILEY at Los Padres, California.

Records, State of California, Department of  
Corrections, California Men's Colony, East Facility, that  
were made available on 5/24/68 by Records Officer ROBERT  
TAKAHASHI, contained the following information on FLOYD  
EVANS HILL, California State Prison No. B11112:

HILL, charged as JIMMY LEE HILL, was received  
by the California Department of Corrections on 10/3/67  
from Los Angeles County to serve a six months to ten years  
sentence for Grand Theft of a Firearm, which sentence was  
ordered to run consecutively to Missouri sentence to which  
HILL is subject. HILL was arrested on this charge on 6/17/67,  
at which time he had a revolver in the unlocked glove com-  
partment of his vehicle.

3 - Bureau  
1 - Kansas City  
① - Birmingham  
1 - Memphis  
2 - Los Angeles  
LCB/gja  
(8)

44-1740-1879

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| MAY 29 1968      |               |
| FBI - BIRMINGHAM |               |

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

LA 44-1574

These records revealed that HILL was convicted of Grand Theft in the Circuit Court, State of Missouri, County of Barton on 10/10/66, and was sentenced to State Prison. HILL was paroled to California from Missouri on 5/16/67.

A social evaluation of HILL reveals he has average intelligence, but has a noticeable difficulty accurately expressing himself. His lack of education tends to be magnified by his hillbilly accent, and backwoods logic.

HILL was on parole from Missouri and had been out of that institution only a very short period of time prior to his involvement leading to his arrest and continual confinement since 6/17/67.

On 5/24/68, FLOYD EVANS HILL, California State Prison No. B11112 was interviewed at the above institution and furnished the following information:

He was arrested 6/17/67 by Los Angeles Sheriff's Office near Compton, California, has been in continual confinement since, and is serving a sentence of six months to ten years for Grand Theft of Pistol.

He was arrested for Grand Theft of Copper Wire in Barton County, Missouri in October, 1966, convicted, and sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary for a two years period. By about 11/21/66, he arrived at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, to start serving his sentence, and where he was confined for about 1½ months thereafter being transferred to the Men's Institution Training Center, Moberly, Missouri, where he remained for about six months. From there, he was transferred to a Missouri State Penitentiary honor farm called Rinse Farm (phonetic) which is just across the bridge from the State Prison at Jefferson City, where he was confined for only a couple of weeks prior

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to release on parole on 5/16/67. When released on parole, he flew to California by airlines and was on the street about one month prior to his arrest confinement on 6/17/67.

At the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, he was confined in a two-man cell, but was moved around quite a bit and had quite a few different cellmates. At Moberly, Missouri, they had individual cells, and Rinse Farm housed them in barrack-type buildings.

HILL said he knew a lot of the inmates in the Missouri State Penitentiary at the above locations, but he does not know their names. He initially stated that he cannot place JAMES EARL RAY by name, photograph, or description as having been a cellmate at any of the above institutions. Upon further reflection and consideration, EVANS thought the center photograph on the FBI Wanted Flyer No. 442-A looked a little familiar to him, but he still definitely does not recognize RAY as having been one of his cellmates. He said that if RAY is identical to the person who he recalls resembled the center photograph on the above Wanted Flyer, that person was only a casual acquaintance of his. The man who resembled the center photograph on the Wanted Flyer walked back and forth to work with him at Moberly, Missouri Institution. The person who resembled the photograph on the Wanted Flyer worked in the woodshop at Moberly and HILL went to school there for a while and worked in the plumbing shop. HILL stated he did not get too well acquainted with this individual and can recall nothing of value about the person that he thinks resembles RAY except that person claimed to know quite a bit about safes, was to get out soon and wanted some help in writing up scores which HILL ignored since he wanted no part of it. As he recalls, the person he knew who resembled the center photograph on the Wanted Flyer of RAY wanted to score on safes in California and "go to Mexico and cool it." EVANS stated that since he was not interested in the matter, no specific place in California or Mexico was mentioned.

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EVANS repeatedly denied that he knows RAY or anything about RAY other than stated that above and was emphatic in pointing out that he had no contact with RAY or the person who resembled RAY when he, HALL, was in California on the street in May and April, 1967.



*CODE*  
~~PLAIN~~

5/27/68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
LITTLE ROCK  
FROM: LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (P)

MURKIN

RE LITTLE ROCK TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND LOS ANGELES  
DATED MAY TWENTY FOUR LAST; LOS ANGELES AIRTEL DATED  
MAY TWENTY FOUR LAST CAPTIONED "ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, NOVEMBER TWENTY TWO  
SIXTY THREE, DALLAS, TEXAS, MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING, BUFILE SIX TWO DASH ONE ZERO NINE ZERO SIX ZERO."

RE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM REX BASINGER, DENVER,  
COLORADO:

REFERENCED LOS ANGELES AIRTEL RECORDS INTERVIEW  
WITH GEORGE J. JENSEN, ATTORNEY REPRESENTING EDGAR EUGENE  
BRADLEY ON AN EXTRADITION MATTER INITIATED BY JAMES GARRISON,  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY. JENSEN IS A FORMER FBI AGENT  
AND GAVE IMPRESSION DURING INTERVIEW OF BEING A BRAGGART.

1 - Denver (AM)  
1 - Memphis (AM)  
① - Birmingham (AM)

TJA:jmk  
(4)

44-1740-1880

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| FBI - BIRMINGHAM |         |

PAGE TWO  
LA 44-1574

HE FEELS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTICULARLY FBI SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN FIGHTING THE EXTRADITION OF BRADLEY TO NEW ORLEANS. JENSEN HAS STATED HE INTENDS TO USE EXCERPTS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S TESTIMONY AT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, FEELING THE DIRECTOR'S REPUTATION ALONE WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUS BEARING ON WHETHER THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WOULD PERMIT THE EXTRADITION.

DURING INTERVIEW ON MAY TWENTY THREE LAST JENSEN INDICATED BRADLEY WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR FBI INTERVIEW IF DESIRED.

JENSEN WAS ADVISED IF BRADLEY HAD ANYTHING OF INTEREST TO FURNISH THE FBI CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THE FBI WAS READY TO ACCEPT IT. IF BRADLEY IS INTERVIEWED REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION, HE WILL ALSO BE INTERVIEWED REGARDING MURKIN.

BECAUSE OF JENSEN'S ATTITUDE REGARDING USE OF FBI AS MEANS OF INFLUENCING THE EXTRADITION DECISION OF HIS CLIENT, BRADLEY; BASINGER BEING DESCRIBED BY RELATIVES AS A MENTAL CASE; AND BRADLEY'S UNCLE HAVING SPOKEN TELEPHONICALLY WITH BRADLEY AT HIS NORTH HOLLYWOOD RESIDENCE ON MAY TWENTY THREE

PAGE THREE  
LA 44-1574

LAST, IT IS NOT DEEMED ADVISABLE TO INTERVIEW BRADLEY AT  
THIS TIME.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO DENVER, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM.

7/27/68

PLAIN TEXT

RADIO

IMMEDIATE

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC MINNEAPOLIS (157-450)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL MINNEAPOLIS, MAY TWENTY,  
SIXTY EIGHT.

ON MAY TWENTY SEVEN, SIXTY EIGHT, MR. JAMES E.  
BARROWMAN, AUDITOR, MONEY ORDER AUDIT BUREAU, WESTERN  
UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, (PROTECT  
IDENTITY) ADVISED THAT HE CAUSED HIS RECORDS TO BE SEARCHED  
FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY FOURTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT THROUGH  
MARCH TWENTY, SIXTYEIGHT IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE ANY RECORD  
OF WESTERN UNION MONEY ORDER EMANATING FROM ATLANTA,  
BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES AND MEMPHIS, PAYABLE TO JAMES EARL  
RAY UNDER HIS TRUE NAME OR KNOWN ALIASES.

MR. BARROWMAN ADVISED THAT THIS SEARCH WAS MADE WITH  
NEGATIVE RESULTS.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES  
AND MEMPHIS.

- 1 - Atlanta (AM)
  - ① - Birmingham (AM)
  - 1 - Los Angeles (AM)
  - 1 - Memphis (AM)
  - 1 - Minneapolis
- JLR:sr (5)

44-1740-1881

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| MAY 29 1968                                    |                                             |
| FBI - BIRMINGHAM                               |                                             |

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

FROM : Director, FBI (44-30861)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5-27-68

Reurairtel 5-21-68.

Approval granted for Birmingham to secure publicity on James Earl Ray in the periodical issued by the Southern Medical Association. Authority for such publicity was set forth in Bulet of 4-29-68 to all offices and permits the utilization of all cooperative and reputable publications.

Pursuant to existing instructions the Office of Origin may set forth specific leads regarding such publicity and the existing Bureau press release in this case may be utilized along with copies of Ray's photograph available in all offices.

1 - Memphis (44-1987)

*See*  
*Pls handle promptly*  
*JS*

44-1740-1882

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| FBI — BIRMINGHAM |         |



5010-108

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

@  
FBI BIRMGHAM

9 5L PM URGENT 5/24/68 ELS

TO DIRECTOR, MIAMI, LOS ANGELES, AND BIRMINGHAM  
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION AT ATLANTA MAY TWENTYFOUR  
INSTANT.

R. A. WILLOUGHBY, SANDERSVILLE, GA., FATHER OF  
JAMES R. WILLOUGHBY, WHO FORMERLY RESIDED AT ROOMING  
HOUSE ON FOURTEENTH ST., ATLANTA, AT TIME SUBJ. RESIDED  
THERE, INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED JAMES WILLOUGHBY HAS  
MENTAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE REQUIRED HIS CONFINEMENT  
IN TWO MENTAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PAST. STATED HIS  
SON IS GENERALLY RELIABLE EXCEPT WHEN DRINKING AND  
ON SOME OCCASIONS, HAS A TENDENCY TO EXAGGERATE  
AND FABRICATE. R. A. WILLOUGHBY STATED JAMES VISITED  
HIM AND JAMES' MOTHER WEEKEND OF MAY SEVENTEEN THRU  
NINETEEN, LAST, AND RELATED TO THEM SUBSEQUENTLY THE  
SAME STORY AS PREVIOUSLY RELATED TO THE INTERVIEWING  
AGENTS CONCERNING SEEING AN INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED BY  
HIM TO BE SUBJ. AT THE ROOMING HOUSE ON FOURTEENTH ST.  
END PAGE ONE

*copy p 2 -*

44-1740-1883

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| FBI-BIRMINGHAM       |                   |

*SNOW*

PAGE TWO

CARL LOOSIER, ONE ZERO THREE FOUR LANIER BLVD., NE, ATLANTA, WHO LIVES BENEATH JERRY Q. DUTTON AND HIS WIFE, ADVISED THAT ONE JAMES THORNTON IS CURRENTLY RESIDING WITH THE DUTTONS AT ABOVE ADDRESS. HE IS DRIVING A WHITE RAMBLER STATION WAGON, BEARING CURRENT CALIF. LICENSE NYJ SEVEN TWO EIGHT. HE HAS BEEN RESIDING WITH THE DUTTONS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. LOOSIER'S DESCRIPTION OF THORNTON, 157-631 INDICATES HE IS IDENTICAL WITH JAMES PAUL THORNTON, LOS ANGELES FILE ONE ZERO FIVE DASH FIVE SEVEN TWO FOUR. THORNTON WAS FORMERLY CALIF. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY AND RESIDED IN LOS ANGELES AREA. THORNTON ALSO FORMERLY RESIDED IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA, IN CONNECTION WITH NSRP ACTIVITIES.

JAMES P. THORNTON, ONE ZERO THREE FOUR LANIER BLVD., NE, ATLANTA, HAS SPECIAL CHECKING ACCOUNT AT FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTH AVE., BRANCH, ATLANTA, WHICH WAS OPENED MAY FOURTEEN LAST WITH ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR DEPOSIT IN TRAVELERS CHECKS. CURRENT BALANCE IS FIFTEEN DOLLARS SEVENTYFOUR CENTS. THORNTON LISTED EMPLOYMENT WITH

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

PACIFIC FINANCE CO., SIX FOUR NINE WEST PEACHTREE ST.,  
NE, ATLANTA, AND STATED FORMERLY HAD BANK ACCOUNT AT  
SECURITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK, ANAHEIM, CALIF., NOT  
VERIFIED BY BANK.

NO SAVINGS ACCOUNT LOCATED FOR THORNTON AT  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

NO CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT LOCATED YET FOR  
JERRY DUTTON; HOWEVER, CITIZEN AND SOUTHERN NATIONAL  
BANK, ATLANTA, RECEIVED APPLICATION FROM DUTTON, NOV.,  
SIXTYSEVEN, FOR CHARGE CARD. APPLICATION WAS DENIED  
BY THE BANK. IN APPLICATION, DUTTON FURNISHED AGE  
AS TWENTYSIX IN SIXTYSEVEN, WIFE ESTORIA V. DUTTON,  
EMPLOYMENT SOUTHERN INK AND LACQUER CO., STONE  
MOUNTAIN, GA., RESIDENCE FIVE TWO SEVEN FIVE WEST  
MOUNTAIN STREET, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA., PREVIOUS  
EMPLOYMENT STEELE CITY STAR, BOX EIGHT TWO NINE NINE,  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. STATED HE HAD OPENED LOAN AT GAC  
FINANCE CO., BIRMINGHAM, ALA. HE LISTED NO BANK  
REFERENCES.

END PAGE THREE



PAGE FOTR

THUMB PRINTS MAINTAINED STATION CAPTAINS OFFICE,  
ATLANTA PD, BEING COMPARED WITH SUBJECT'S THUMB  
PRINTS IN EVENT SUBJ., HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND  
RELEASED OR SENT TO CITY FARM ON DRUNK OR OTHER  
CHARGE.

LOS ANGELES DETERMINE TO WHOM CALIF., LICENSE  
NYJ SEVEN TWO EIGHT ISSUED. ASCERTAIN  
JAMES PAUL THORNTON'S RESIDENCE DURING TIME SUBJ.  
HAS BEEN OUT OF PRISON AND EXHIBIT PHOTO TO  
NEIGHBORS AND ASSOCIATES OF THORNTON WHERE FEASIBLE.  
CONTACT SECURITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK, ANAHEIM, CALIF.,  
FOR RECORD OF BANKING ACTIVITIES.

BIRMINGHAM ATTEMPT TO LOCATE RECORD OF THORNTON'S  
RESIDENCE THERE AND CONDUCT SIMILAR INVESTIGATION IN  
EFFORT TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SUBJ.  
AND THORNTON.

SIMILAR INVESTIGATION NOT BEING REQUESTED CON-  
CERNING DUTTON IN BIRMINGHAM INASMUCH AS DUTTON HAS  
RESIDED IN ATLANTA SINCE FEB., SIXTYSEVEN.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING TO LOCATE BANK ACCOUNT OF  
DUTTON AND POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HIM AND SUBJ.  
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

1

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/68

Mrs. CATHERINE REEDY, Manager, Safe Deposit Box Section, main office, Birmingham Trust National Bank (BTNB), Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following information concerning safe deposit box number 5517.

She advised that a review of the contract for this box reflects that ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, South, rented this box on August 28, 1967, for a period of one year at an annual rental of \$7. She said that the rental ledger card reflected that GALT surrendered the keys to this box on December 13, 1967, (prior to expiration of his contract) and a notation on the ledger card states he had moved out of town.

Mrs. REEDY advised that she recalls the keys were received from GALT through the mail and that GALT had enclosed a letter saying he was returning the keys as he had moved out of town and that if anything was remaining in the box that the bank was to destroy the items. Mrs. REEDY added that the envelope the letter was received in has been destroyed and she does not recall what postmark the envelope bore.

Mrs. REEDY stated that on December 13, 1967, the box was opened in the presence of bank officials BRUCE BEYER, C. E. KIRKPATRICK, BILLIE BENDER and herself, and the box was found to be empty. She advised that a notation to this effect was made on the record of access to the safe deposit box.

Mrs. REEDY, on examining the contract on this box executed by GALT on August 28, 1967, stated that she is certain she accepted the contract from GALT and, to the best of her recollection, she is certain GALT rented the box on the morning of August 28, 1967, and at that time GALT did not have anything to put into the box, but advised her he would return later in the day to place something in the box. She added that, although normal banking hours are from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., customers do have access to their

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740-1884  
by SAs ROBERT J. YARNALL and HENRY A. SNOW: R/Y/jml Date dictated 4/16/68

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