

GALT'S APPLICATION—listed his address as Hollywood and his birth date as July 30, 1931, and stated he was single. The FBI in Washington said the wanted man was 36.

As a student of bartending and dancing, not only Lau and Arvidson but two dance instructors agreed Galt was withdrawn and a loner.

"He just didn't show anything but a crooked smile and a fidgety manner," said an instructor, Kathy Nolan, 21.

Another instructor, Andreas Jorgensen, 46, also talked with newsmen.

ARVIDSON SAID a man who signed enrollment records as Eric S. Galt took "50 or 60" lessons in social dancing over a 2½-month period ending in mid-February which cost him about \$500.

Galt told Arvidson he had operated a restaurant-bar in Mexico, the manager said. But Arvidson, who is taking Spanish lessons, said Galt failed to respond when he put questions in Spanish to him.

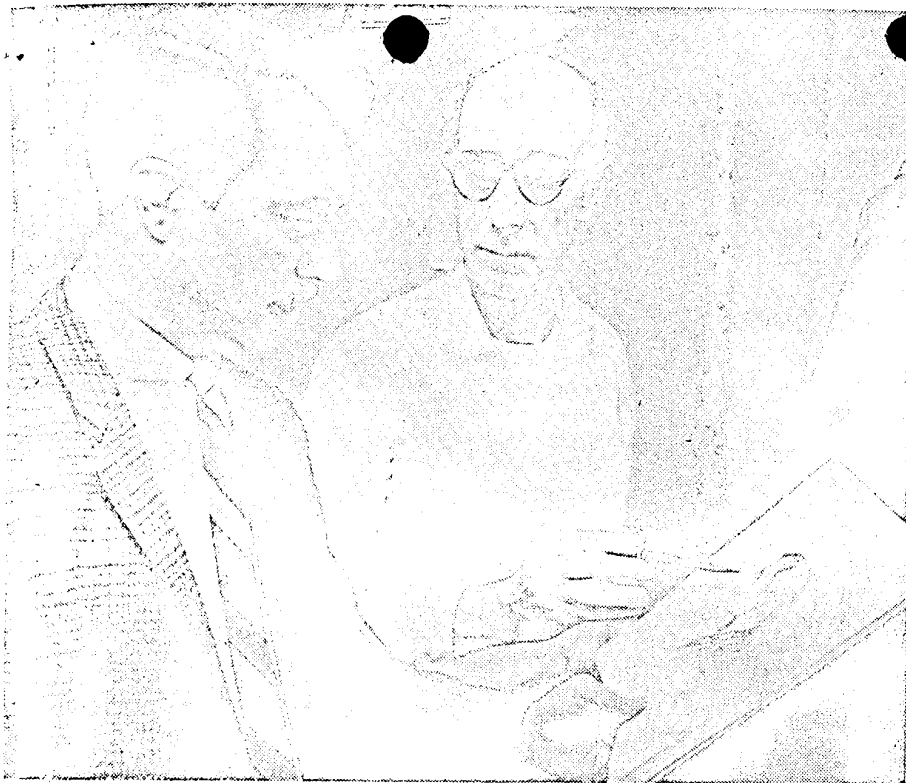
Lau, a Mexican-American, said he felt Galt was intelligent. But Arvidson, agreeing with an FBI

description, said Galt's grammar "was less than ideal, mixing tenses, double negatives and so on" with a slight Southern accent.

AT THE BARTENDING SCHOOL, a three-room building in an older business district, Lau said Galt, perhaps the best of seven students in his class, turned down a job offer after graduating because he said he wanted to visit his brother, presumably in the East.

But Lau said Galt promised to return and take a job.

In his application to the school, Galt listed three references. A person answering to one of the names on the application form answered a newsman's telephone call but refused to say if he knew Galt. The others could not be reached.



NOT THE MAN I SAW, SAYS CHARLES Q. STEVENS, RIGHT
 ... Talks to Bill Harrington, Memphis newspaper artist who drew original composite



RECOGNIZED BY DANCE INSTRUCTORS
 ... Kathy Norton and Red Arvidson of Long Beach, Calif.



SAYS GALT WAS BEST STUDENT IN BARTENDING CLASS
... Director Tomas Reyes Eau described him as "very intelligent"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Galt mentioned brother while here

BY GEORGE METZ
News staff writer

Eric Starvo Galt purchased two rifles from a Birmingham sporting goods store.

The first, a .243 Remington, he returned the following day, March 30, and — deliberately or through a slip of the lip — set the stage for the federal conspiracy warrant filed against him Wednesday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Galt reportedly wanted to exchange the .243 Remington for a 30-06, remarking to the store clerk that he and "his brother" had decided that the heavier .243 Remington cartridge load was not what they wanted — for the hunting they had in mind.

The sporting goods store management refused to confirm or deny the reported rifle exchange or, for that matter, comment on any aspect of the alleged sale.

HOWEVER, THIS Birmingham News reporter was told two days before the FBI's federal conspiracy warrant was filed here Wednesday that Galt first purchased a .243 Remington, then exchanged it the following day after he and "his brother" decided the 30-06 better suited their hunting purposes.

And, in issuing its warrant, the FBI charged at least two persons conspired in the King assassination, Galt and "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother . . ." No description or other informa-

tion was given regarding the "brother" nor was anything revealed regarding the alleged conspiracy beyond this reference.

Galt also requested. The News was told that the 30-06 Remington, later found abandoned outside the Memphis rooming house from which Dr. King was believed shot, be mounted with a Redfield telescopic sight and "zeroed in." It was not said whether this was done by the Birmingham firm.

HOWEVER, MENTION of a "brother" in the FBI's later announcement gave credence to the information concerning the alleged rifle exchange, Galt's purported remark and other information supplied by The News' source.

This included information that a beer can found in the \$8.50-a-week room rented by "John Willard," one of two aliases listed by the FBI for Galt, bore a Mississippi tax stamp; a shaving article had been traced to a chain store outlet in Columbia, Mo.; and a pair of pliers to California.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's announcement Wednesday said Galt's travels in a 1966 white Mustang, purchased by Galt here and found abandoned in an Atlanta public housing parking lot following King's slaying, included visits to Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif. No mention was made of Missouri or Mississippi, however.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM
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or

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The FBI also has not discounted the possibility, it was stated, that a foreign power, possibly Cuba, might have been involved in the King assassination. The abandoned Mustang bore Mexican visa stickers and Galt's travel itinerary given by Hoover also mentioned a visit to Mexico.

WHATEVER THE basis of the alleged conspiracy to slay King, police and law enforcement officers generally agree "Eric Starvo Galt" was a cover, established by the mysterious murder suspect for a purpose. And beyond this cover, Galt's true identity apparently has not been established.

But his mention of a "brother" being involved in the reported rifle exchange decision, established grounds for "conspiracy" needed for the federal warrant and brought the Galt identity into the open.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Recognizes FBI sketch, driver says

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)

An Atlanta taxi driver says an FBI sketch matches a rude patron who rode with him two blocks in Northeast Atlanta's "hippie" section a night after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was slain.

He said the man he identified to an FBI agent in a sketch Tuesday was in a hurry and rushed from his taxi, flinging the fare onto the seat.

The driver, who asked that his name not be used, said FBI agents have been checking taxi trip sheets since a white Mustang, matching the description of a car seen leaving the assassination scene in Memphis, was found abandoned in Atlanta last week.

The FBI continued its "no comment" policy. Atlanta police said they had received no information on the report.

In Birmingham Monday, the landlord of a boarding house said he was sure the description of Eric Starvo Galt fit that of a man sought by the FBI. "That's him, I'm sure," said Peter Cherpes, 72, referring to the drawings.

The Atlanta taxi driver said the name Galt was not mentioned to him by the FBI agent. He said the agent questioned him first about a fare he had carried from a nightclub near Peachtree and 14th Streets, but the driver said he knew the patron "and he was not the same man."

However, the agent then disclosed the sketch which appeared to be a type of composite photograph, and the driver recognized him as a fare he had picked up between 10 p.m. and midnight Friday, April 5, about four blocks away at Peachtree and 14th Streets in front of a "hippie" coffee house. He said the man appeared to be in a hurry.

"He told me to make a righthand turn, and he'd let me know when to stop," the

driver said. "I went about two blocks, and he told me he wanted to get out. When I stopped, he opened the door, and I turned around to make sure I got my fare. I got a good look at him. I put my hand out, but he threw the money on the seat, and it fell on the floor," the driver said. "That made me mad. That's the main reason I remember him so well."

He said the man left the taxi and started away. "I don't know where he went," the driver said. "I drove off."

The driver described the man as about 5 feet 11 and 28 to 30 years old with dark brown hair. "He was very neatly dressed," he said, adding that the man wore a sport coat with a light-colored shirt without a tie. "He looked as if he had had acne. It looked like little scars on his face from pimples."

The driver said he had seen several sketches. "News re-

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porters haven't shown me any sketches of anyone I've seen," he said. "The FBI has."

However, he then looked at a sketch drawn by an artist in Mexican police headquarters after authorities in that country were drawn into the probe and said it contained some features of the FBI picture—mainly around the eyes."

"The picture they have," he said of the FBI, "that's the man who ~~was in my cab.~~"



TAXI DRIVER BELIEVES HE HAULED MAN IN SKETCH
... in Aurora's hippie district after Martin Luther King slain

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U. S. Is Not Likely To Press Its Case Against Galt

BY JANEAN MANN

Eric Stavro Galt, even if he is arrested, may never go to trial on the charges outlined in a federal warrant issued in Birmingham Wednesday.

If past civil rights murders are any indication, the U. S. will not press its case, charging Galt with violating the Rev. Martin Luther King's civil rights, unless problems

arise concerning the state murder charge filed in Memphis.

The federal warrant on which Galt is being sought charges him "and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother" with conspiring to injure King "in the free exercise and enjoyment . . ." of his rights as secured by the U. S. Constitution. It does not charge murder.

Conviction of this crime carries a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and/or a fine of not more than \$5000. There is no federal law against murder.

Conviction of first degree murder, with which Galt is charged in Tennessee, can carry a death sentence.

In two previous rights violation cases, the persons were

not charged with the federal offense until they had been acquitted on state murder charges or because no state charges were pressed.

Alabama juries acquitted two Alabama men of murder in the 1965 night-rider slaying death of civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. They were later convicted on the same

federal charge on which Galt is being sought.

In Mississippi, no state murder charges were ever brought against a dozen men believed responsible for the 1964 deaths of three young civil rights workers. Again, they were tried under the federal rights violation law. Seven were convicted.

If Galt is apprehended, he will probably be transferred to Memphis, although no federal warrant charging flight to avoid prosecution for murder has been issued.

Birmingham FBI Special-Agent-in-Charge Joseph Gamble said such a warrant had not been issued because there is no need for one.

"We have a warrant of our own," he said of the rights

violation warrant issued in Birmingham Wednesday.

Galt cannot be charged with violating the stronger civil rights law passed this year because it did not go into effect until after the death of King.

Conviction under this law could bring a life sentence in the event of the death of a person involved in civil rights activity.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Has 'No Comment'

Eric Galt Probe Is Stalled

The search for the whereabouts and true identity of Eric Starvo Galt apparently made little progress Thursday as the FBI went back to "no comment" concerning details of the case.

Birmingham city detectives said they have entered the case, are checking out several leads, and will turn over to the FBI whatever information they find.

But little more was known publicly about the accused assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tenn., and nothing has been turned up on anyone who may have conspired with Galt.

The official complaint filed against Galt by FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Joseph Gamble of Birmingham charges that Galt "and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother" entered into the conspiracy against King "on or about March 29 at Birmingham . . ."

It was on March 29 that a person identified as Galt purchased a rifle from Aeromarine Supply Co. near Municipal Airport here.

The manager of Aeromarine, Robert E. Wood, Tharsley said he had been asked by the FBI to discuss the case with no one. It has been ascertained, however, that the rifle was sold by Wood's son, Robert E. Wood Jr.

One new development in the case came in Memphis where it was learned that Galt had

registered in the Rebel Motel the night of April 3, the night before King was killed.

The night desk clerk at the motel said he saw a white Mustang with Mexican tourist stickers and an Alabama license plate parked near the room where Galt was registered. He said he did not see Galt, but the lights stayed on in the room all night.

The Mustang was apparently the same one purchased by Galt from the manager of a Birmingham lumber company in August, and driven some 79,000 miles between August and the time it was found abandoned in Atlanta nearly two weeks ago.

A Mustang bearing that description was seen leaving the scene shortly after the King killing.

A report by United Press International indicated the FBI had been in communication with an alleged conspirator in the assassination.

The FBI in Birmingham would not comment on the report, and a spokesman in Washington said, "The FBI has no one in custody in connection with Dr. King's slaying."

UPI quoted FBI sources as indicating information from an alleged conspirator had led agents to Galt.

Galt, who lived in Birmingham

briefly last year, was formally charged with first degree murder in Memphis, Tenn., Wednesday night, shortly after a federal warrant charging him with conspiracy to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" King was issued in Birmingham.

The federal warrant charged Galt, who has used the names John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer, conspired with a person alleged to be his brother.

The brother apparently entered the picture when the rifle was purchased March 29.

There had been no official mention of a conspirator or brother prior to issuance of the federal warrant, and nothing has been learned of him since.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Prisoner Says Ray Vowed He'd Collect Bounty On King

BY RICHARD LEGGITT

DALTON, Ga. (UPI) — A prison buddy of James Earl Ray said Tuesday that when Ray heard there was a "million-dollar bounty" on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he smiled and said "I'll collect it."

Ray, a 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri State Prison, is accused of conspiracy in the assassination of King in Memphis on April 4.

In Atlanta, it was learned Tuesday that the FBI had investigated reports that Ray, masquerading as Eric Starvo Galt, met two women in a hotel the weekend after the slaying.

The FBI impounded three water glasses from the Briarcliff Hotel the week King was buried and showed a desk clerk pictures of Galt. The clerk said he recognized the picture as the man who rented the room the Sunday after the slaying.

The next day an attractive young brunet arrived at the room and the following day another young woman, wearing steel-rimmed glasses and dressed like a hippie, joined the other two, the clerk said.

2 Cab Drivers

The FBI has interviewed two Atlanta cab drivers who said they drove a man resembling Galt around the hip-

pie district about the same time.

In the Dalton jail, Raymond Curtis, 40, awaiting appeal on a murder sentence, said he has known Ray in the Kansas City jail, in federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., and in the state prison at Jefferson City, Mo.

He described Ray as likeable, addicted to "dope," a "loner" and a man concerned only with money.

On the day President Kennedy was assassinated—Nov. 23, 1963—Curtis said he, Ray, and about 150 other prisoners were in an exercise yard when they heard the news.

He said Ray remarked "Well, somebody made a pretty penny on that."

About a week later, Curtis said, he and Ray were in the yard when "a new man just in off the street" told them "the businessmen's association has a million dollar bounty out for Martin Luther King."

Ray smiled, Curtis recalled, and said "if there's a million dollars out for King, I believe if I ever get out I'll collect it."

Curtis said he never figured out what the "new man" meant by the "businessmen's association." He said he couldn't remember who the man was.

"I didn't think much about it at the time. In prison, you hear all sorts of hellacious ideas," said Curtis, a tall, rawboned man.

Authorities in Jefferson City confirmed that Curtis and Ray were in prison at the same time. Authorities in Dalton said the FBI had interviewed Curtis on Sunday and again Monday night. It refused comment on the matter.

Curtis said Ray told him "he always carried a gun. He was always interested in money," Curtis said, but never mentioned racial matters.

"He never made no statements of any kind in a



KNEW RAY—Raymond Curtis. (UPI Telephoto).

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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group," Curtis said. "He was a loner."

Ray couldn't "make a long conversation unless he was planning something," said Curtis. "If he was planning something, you could bet they'd be thorough plans." Ray, he said, masterminded things "that would be small things outside, but were pretty big jobs in prison"—such as the theft of eggs and drugs and cigarettes.

He said Ray told him that if he ever wanted to kill someone, he would buy a gun under a false name, and have everything ready for an escape. "He used to talk a lot about escaping to New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina," Curtis said.

"I wouldn't consider him dangerous," Curtis said. "He didn't look for trouble."

"Of course, I'm not saying he wouldn't shoot you if you ran up on him now."

First Met Him

Curtis said he first met Ray in 1955, when he was serving time for bank robbery, and Ray for forging postal money orders, in the Kansas City jail. He said they were transferred to Leavenworth, where Ray "played a lot of miniature golf."

They met again when Curtis was sent to Jefferson City on a 10-year armed robbery conviction.

"He was there with a 20-year bid when I got there. I wouldn't say he was a friend," Curtis said. "A friend in a penitentiary is different than a friend on the street. But I was about as close to him as anybody in Jeff City."

Curtis said he was hospitalized for six weeks with hepatitis and he came to see me

just about every day."

Asked about Ray's habits, Curtis said "he talked about beer — he liked beer, I knew that." He said he never heard him talk about dancing, but that he "did a lot of weight-lifting" at Jefferson City.

In A Poker Game

"I never heard him do much cussing. I just saw him get mad once and that was in a poker game. He liked to play poker. His favorite game was lowball."

"He talked about having lots of women. None special. He'd pick 'em up and leave 'em," Curtis said.

You could pick him out of a crowd of 2000 men in the prison yard. He would be off to himself walking and his mind would be somewhere else."

Curtis, convicted of shotgunning a man in the holdup of a poker game here last year, said when he heard of King's death he did not connect it with Ray because he didn't know Ray had escaped prison.

If others were in the plot with Ray, Curtis said, Ray "would go to his grave with the secret."

"From what he said, I would consider he was an expert with a gun. I never heard him talk about a brother," Curtis said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Fellow Prisoners Don't Recognize Photos

BY DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND
(c) 1968 New York Times
News Service

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Prison officials and inmates at the state penitentiary here are still stunned that James Earl Ray, an escapee, has been accused of conspiring in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Last Wednesday the Federal Bureau of Investigation

charged that Eric Starvo Galt, described as a 36-year-old loner, a neat dresser and avid dancer, had conspired in the slaying of Dr. King.

Newspapers with pictures of Galt circulated behind the gray walls of the old penitentiary on the bank of the Missouri River, but no indication of recognition passed along the prison grapevine.

On Friday, the FBI said Galt was James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old habitual criminal who escaped from the penitentiary here April 23, 1967, after having served seven years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Warden Harold R. Swenson said in an interview Sunday night that the FBI had not notified officials here before the announcement. Nor, he added, has any representative of the agency come to Jefferson City to look at Ray's record or interview prisoners who knew him.

"I was floored," the warden said. "This guy's penny-ante. It doesn't shape up, does it?"

Noting that the pictures of Galt had meant nothing to the staff and that there had been no reaction from the inmates, the warden added:

"If there's anyone who'd

talk, it's the prisoners. Once a guy's gone they'll talk."

An aide entered the warden's office and interrupted.

"We've got 2000 prisoners in here," he said, "and none of them recognized him."

Swenson said that he had received permission for four persons to visit Ray: two brothers, Jerry and John, his mother, Mrs. Lucille Ryan, and his grandmother, Mrs.

Mary Maher. All were listed at the same address, 1913 Hickory-st, St. Louis. But the warden said the file did not show whether any of them had actually visited Ray.

Ray was not a trouble maker in prison, the warden said. Aside from two escape attempts, one in 1961 and one in 1966, his file showed only two minor disciplinary reports, one for trying to smuggle

contraband, cigarets and other items, to a friend in the hospital, and one for refusing to work. A highly unusual record, Swenson explained.

Although it is against his policy, Swenson agreed because of national interest in the case, to allow an interview with the prisoner who had been closest to Ray. A condition of the interview was

that the inmate would not be identified.

The prisoner, the work shirt of his faded green uniform opened over a stained white T-shirt, entered the warden's office hesitantly. The other prisoners were wondering, he explained nervously, why he was being questioned.

Shown a picture of Galt and asked if that was his friend, Ray, he shook his head vigorously.

"No, sir, not this," he insisted. "I guess I knew him about as well as anybody. He was here when I came here, in 1960. I knew him from about 1962, well I associated with him right up to 1966 when he tried to escape."

He struggled for words as he tried to describe Ray's personality.

"I just don't know how to explain it," he said. "He was just the type of guy who took a long time, well, if you didn't know anybody he knew, well . . ."

The picture with the bow tie on (the FBI photo of Galt) nobody thinks it's him. They think it's a different guy altogether. We think it's two different people altogether.

"Now they (the prisoners) say they're just trying to pin it on him because he escaped from here. They think they've got to lay it on somebody, so they're trying to lay it on him."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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"I just couldn't believe it myself. If the man did kill that man, it had to be for money. That would be the oddest thing. He didn't seem like the kind of guy who would kill anybody. He was the type of guy, you didn't fool with him, but he didn't fool with anybody . . .

"He talked about money all the time. Trying to figure a way to make a dollar. Just little things. Maybe he'd buy something for a little bit and sell it for a little bit more. If a guy owed him anything, he'd bug him all the time. He didn't get into fights with them, but he'd hound them."

As for politics, the prisoner said:

"He just didn't seem to be interested in it."

Negroes?

"He didn't dislike them. He didn't associate with them one way or the other. Although I think he did talk with them."

Physically, Ray could fit some descriptions given of the man sought in the slaying of King. Records show him to be about 5 feet 11 inches tall,

weighing between 160 and 170 pounds.

Some questions have been raised about his age, since the suspect described by some persons in Memphis was said to be younger than 40.

"I don't believe he'd look 40," his prisoner friend said. "I don't believe he'd go for the 20's either. I'd say somewhere right around 30."

Swenson agreed.

But taking issue with another description of the man called Galt, the prisoner added:

"He wasn't what you'd call a neat dresser in here."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Galt Mystery Seems More Muddled

BY BILL JOHNSON

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — FBI agents have been given a new identification for the man they seek in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but the new identification seems to have muddled even more the mystery of who fired the single shot that killed King here the night of April 4.

The FBI had issued a conspiracy warrant last Wednesday for Eric Starvo Galt. Two days later the agency said a comparison of fingerprints found in the King investigation revealed that Galt in reality was James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from a Missouri prison.

A murder warrant issued here in Galt's name subsequently was amended to carry the name of Ray.

The second identity was only the latest in a series of puzzles which have surrounded the few known facts of the investigation. Witnesses who said they saw the alleged assassin the the flophouse from which the fatal bullet was fired said he appeared to be between 26 and 32 years of age. The FBI's Wednesday announcement said Galt had given his birth date as [redacted] which would make him 36. Friday the FBI said Ray was 40.

The FBI also said Galt was said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965, in Birmingham during September and October 1967 and in Long Beach, Calif., from December 1967 to February 1968.

But during the time Galt allegedly took dancing lessons in New Orleans, Ray was serving part of a 20-year term for armed robbery in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

At the time Galt was attending a bartending school in California, a duplicate Alabama driver's license was mailed to him at a rooming house in Birmingham.

The woman who runs the flophouse here said the man to whom she rented a room just three hours before King

was slain had a Southern drawl. The FBI said Galt liked country and Western music and drank beer and vodka.

In Jefferson City, an inmate of the Missouri prison, who said he "ran around" with Ray, said Ray—listed as a native of Illinois—did not have a Southern accent. "Jim didn't drink, except a little prison home brew," said the convict, who asked not to be identified. "He never talked about himself very much and to 1949, when he was convicted for burglary in Los Angeles. He also was convicted in 1952 for armed robbery in Chicago and in 1955 for forging U. S. postal money orders in Missouri.

He had served terms in a Los Angeles County jail, state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Ill., and a federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

The FBI said Ray has used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner.

Ray claims to have been born [redacted] in Illinois—but the FBI did not say where. He is about 5-foot-10, weighs 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair and two scars: A small one on the center of his forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

HE HAS WORKED as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

The FBI said Ray has been a federal fugitive since July 20, 1967, when an FBI complaint was filed at Jefferson City charging him with unlawfully fleeing from Missouri to avoid confinement.

The federal agency denied a report that it had taken into custody the man it said Galt described as his brother and that the brother was aiding in the search. The federal warrant, issued Wednesday, claimed that Galt and the brother entered into a conspiracy March 29 to violate King's civil rights.

The FBI covered many specific details about Galt's life over the past several years in its release including the fact that he is an avid dancer, has "rural speech," apparently lacks education and has a "nervous habit of pulling at an ear lobe with his left hand."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

From Missouri prison Galt identified as escapee

*Real
name
is Ray*

WASHINGTON (AP)

The FBI Friday identified Eric Starvo Galt, wanted for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as James Earl Ray, 40, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The FBI said he was identified through "a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints" uncovered in the King case against the fingerprints of the more than 53,000 persons for whom wanted notices are on file in the bureau's identification division.

Ray was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City April 23, 1967. He was serving a 20-year sentence for an armed robbery in St. Louis and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's permission.

RAY, WHO HAD been at the prison since March 17, 1960, spent some time in September 1966 in the maximum security ward at the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

The man known as Galt was charged Wednesday with the first-degree murder of King April 4 in Memphis, Tenn. He also is charged in a federal warrant with conspiracy and murder in the King assassination.

He has been a drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill., when he was given a general discharge for ineptness and lack of adaptability, the FBI said. During his Army career he received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and "breaking" arrest.

THE FBI SAID Ray has an arrest record dating at least

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Author:

Editor: AP

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-581-33

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

never expressed any liking for music, dancing and he was too tight to gamble."

Galt seemingly was a free spender. Aside from the dancing lessons, which cost him about \$500 in California alone, he paid \$2,000 cash for a white Mustang that is now impounded in Atlanta, and attended the bartending school.

"He was tight as a tick," the Missouri convict said of Ray. "Boy, if you owed him money, even a few cents, he'd bug you to death."

The penitentiary inmate said he did not think Ray was the kind of man who would kill for profit. And the warden, Harold Swenson, who remembers Ray, added, "It's odd, but I won't believe he did it (killed King) until it is proven."

"None of the inmates gave us any feedback after the first pictures of Ray were published. They usually talk about an inmate after he's done something. They really blab about it. But while he's doing something, you don't hear a word."

Ray was examined at State Hospital No. 1 at Fulton, Mo., from Sept. 8, 1966 to Oct. 17, 1966. Dr. Donald B. Peterson, hospital superintendent, said they had been asked only to determine whether Ray was mentally capable of standing trial.

"He showed no more nervousness than the average person awaiting trial," Dr. Peterson said. "He was rather reserved, but we just didn't find anything unusual."

"There was nothing in his mental makeup or background to indicate anything but a recidivistic (habitual) criminal whose crimes were all associated with money. We didn't find anything to indicate he was a killer or had tendencies to kill." The official report from the hospital said Ray had "no hallucinations or illusions, was oriented as to time, place and person." His "mood effect" was described as "somewhat tense and anxious and at times showed mild depressions, but not of psychotic proportions."

Ray's IQ was listed as 105, considered normal.

In a separate psychological report, Dec. 20, 1966, for the Missouri State Board of Probation and Parole, Ray was reported to have a number of complaints, such as pain in the "solar plexus (pit of the stomach), tachycardia (rapid heart action), and intracranial (inside the skull) tension."

"When we commented that these were rather large words, he said he had been reading up in the medical

literature," the report said. It added that at certain times, Ray thought he had cancer or heart trouble.

Ray was never married, but lived for brief periods with women, the report said. It added: "This man's basic problem revolves around what appears to be an increasingly severe obsessive, compulsive trend."

"He states that at the age of 10 he awoke one night and thought he had lost his eyesight. He became quite fearful. These various fears confront him from time to time and in a typical obsessive way. He feels he must do certain things in order to undo what he feels is going to occur and might result in harm to him."

The report recommended that Ray not be granted parole.

Ray tried unsuccessfully to escape from the penitentiary on Nov. 19, 1961, eight months after he was admitted, and on April 11, 1966. He succeeded between 2 and 3 p.m. on April 23, 1967, apparently by hiding in a three-by-five foot wooden bread box. He was working in the penitentiary bakery at the time.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Man Of Mystery A Test For FBI

Mystery has been injected into the hunt for the assassin of Martin Luther King because of the apparent difficulty in obtaining background information on a suspect.

An automobile bought in Birmingham may have been the one used by the assassin in escaping from Memphis. And it is likely that the rifle used to fire the one shot which killed Dr. King came from a gun dealer in Birmingham.

The automobile was found in Atlanta. There is no doubt about it being one that had been sold to a man who gave the name of Galt. While he has been traced to a rooming house in Birmingham, information he gave on having been a seaman has not checked out.

One theory is that the man lived in Birmingham several months to establish a faked identity. For example, he obtained a driver's license there. Was he doing everything required to build up a fictitious person to stand behind an assumed name so that at some future moment he could squeeze the trigger while he had the telescope of his rifle zeroed in on Dr. King's head?

Why would a man who had planned so long, thought of so many details, have abandoned the death rifle on the street? Why would not it have been much safer in facilitating immediate flight to have left the gun in his room? Certainly, he was smart not to have been carrying such a gun around on the street, even to get to his car. But why part of the way?

We've seen at least one report that the Memphis room occupied by the man had fingerprints all over the place. He knew a search for them would be made. Does he happen to be one of the few adult people, particularly males, whose fingerprints never have been made? Of course, it is possible for fragmentary prints to be found and for technicians not to be able to locate a complete set in the FBI file. But in such a case the fragmentary ones can produce positive identification after a suspect's name has been established, and after a set of prints going with that name has been found.

If officers engaged in the hunt are after a shrewd individual who used months of his life to plan every detail of the King assassination he also will have known just what he planned to do after the shot was fired.

The FBI is taking the lead in the investigation upon orders of the Attorney General. It could be that the G-men have a fugitive who will test their determination and ability to the fullest. But we are putting our money on the FBI.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 THE TUSCALOOSA NEWS
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Date: 4-17-68
Edition: Daily
Author: Editorial
Editor: NORMAN BASSETT
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1740

Submitting Office: BH

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-51

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 20 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Prison pal says— Ray once talked of slaying King

DALTON, Ga. (AP)

James Earl Ray was quoted by a former fellow inmate Tuesday as saying he would be willing to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for a \$1 million bounty.

RAY, 40, is now sought in connection with the April 4 assassination of King in Memphis.

Raymond Curtis, 40, now in Whitfield County Jail here, discussed Ray while awaiting action on appeal of a murder conviction.

Curtis said the talk about a bounty on King's life came up while both he and Ray were prisoners at Missouri State Penitentiary at the time of John F. Kennedy's assassination Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

"ANOTHER boy said, 'Well, there's a million-dollar bounty to get King.' King was running his south pretty good then. Ray said, 'If there is a million-dollar bounty on King, I believe I can collect it,'" Curtis said.

No new developments were reported Tuesday in the nationwide search for the fugitive.

Gebhardt, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Jacksonville, said a report that the FBI was looking for Eric Starvo Galt in Florida was based on old information.

GEBHARDT said the report apparently was based on distribution of information on Galt, whom the FBI says is an alias of Ray, received by the Florida Highway Patrol.

Curtis said he first met Ray in 1955 when they shared a cell for seven months in the Jackson County Jail at Kansas City, Mo. Curtis said he served with Ray again at Leavenworth Federal Prison and at Missouri State Penitentiary.

At Leavenworth, he said, he and Ray lived in the same cell building and for a time were in adjoining cells.

AFTER ABOUT six months, he said he was transferred to the federal prison in Atlanta and did not see Ray again until late 1961 or early 1962 when they met at the Missouri institution.

Curtis said he was sent to the penitentiary to serve a 10-year armed robbery sentence and Ray was there on a 20-year armed robbery term. Prison records confirm the two were inmates at the same time. Curtis said he saw Ray "almost daily."

After the Kennedy assassination, Curtis said, a new prisoner told that a \$1 million bounty had been put on King by a "K K Businessman's association."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWSBIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 4-24-68
Edition: Metro
Author: John W. Bloomer
Editor: " " "
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

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Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-174-SFI-35

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

RAY MENTIONED a King bounty several times in the ensuing weeks, Curtis said.

And at one point, he added, Ray referred to the Kennedy assassination by saying, "Boy, probably somebody made a nice little penny off of that. I sure wish it was me."

Curtis said Ray's statements about King were made to him personally and not in a group.

FBI AGENTS questioned Curtis Sunday and Monday. Talking to newsmen, he described Ray as a loner who did not associate freely with other inmates and had only one visitor, to his knowledge, during their prison time together.

Curtis added, however, that "If you talk to him 15 minutes you'd like him. He was a likeable sort of person. But if this was a plot to assassinate King, Ray would go to his grave with the secret."

Curtis, who was born in this North Georgia city, was convicted in January, 1967, of a robbery slaying.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

EXCLUSIVE

FBI suspects Galt part of murder conspiracy

BY VICTOR RIESEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The FBI's central Martin Luther King desk, under the personal direction of J. Edgar Hoover, is operating on the hard theory that the Negro leader was the victim of a conspiracy of "several or more persons."

There are those high in the Justice Department, therefore, who believe that Eric Starvo Galt-James Earl Ray was a hired killer, heavily paid and amply supplied with cash. Most of this was in \$20 bills.

Evidence is piling up inside the bureau to justify investigation of a conspiracy beyond Galt and a man he said was his brother. This evidence moves the case swiftly beyond the conjectures of amateur detectives and dilettante criminologists.

Part of the evidence is the provable free flow of cash (some \$7,000) Galt-Ray was able to pour out whenever he wished. In addition to the white Mustang, the dance lessons and the bartenders school fee, the accused assassin crisscrossed this country in a manner no poor man could. The car had 19,000 miles added to its speedometer.

WHETHER OR not he drove, he is known to have lived well in cities so distant from each other that Galt-Ray would have had to travel more than 15,000 miles in the past nine or 10 months.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-
1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-28-68
Edition: Metro
Author: VICTOR RIESEL
Editor:
Title:

MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

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APR 28 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

Whoever planned his itinerary, his make-up, his aliases, had a novelist's imagination. Ray, for example, is (or was) a James Bond fan. "Eric Starvo" is one of Bond's suave characters. The name "Galt" was contrived by novelist Ayn Rand, who fashioned the "John Galt" in "Atlas Shrugged" after the late John Gall, one of the most prestigious of capital attorneys and once a power in the iron and steel industry.

So the pseudonym, apparently not the creation of an illiterate, reflects a smooth fellow, suave and dynamic and a leader of men.

No one in the FBI or the Justice Department, despite weeks of questioning, would conjecture over the nature of the conspiratorial cell. It could be Klan-like. But it could be northern as well as southern.

The conspirators could be in Southern Mississippi, Chicago — or even out of the country.

ONE THING is certain. There's been a fantastic search. For example, every "John Willard" (Galt's Memphis boarding-house alias) in the U. S. has been checked out.

Investigators don't put much stock in the interpretation that because Galt-Ray frequented Atlanta and Birmingham, the conspiracy was centered in the deep South. The probers believe that the white car and the Remington rifle were purchased and planted in such a manner that the leads would point southward.

Galt-Ray had Chicago connections of some kind, it's believed. There is obvious evidence, and there are leads which the authorities grimly refuse to discuss. The obvious leads are the letters which Eric Starvo Galt received from Chicago while living in the Birmingham rooming house.

The bureau and the Justice Department, as well as Attorney General Ramsey Clark, are silent because they think too much has been said already.

But there is no doubt that at least 3,000 of the FBI's 6,000 men and virtually all its 600 resident agents (placed so that the FBI can get to any part of the nation in an hour) are working on the murder of Martin Luther King.

This is the second biggest manhunt in history — second only to the probe of the John Kennedy assassination, when each of the bureau's 6,000 agents was involved in some fashion.

WHERE IS Galt-Ray? Of course he can be on any continent. But the prevailing Justice Department theory now is that the killer is in some tiny hamlet or village—so small that big town dailies just aren't followed closely by all the residents.

So the federals now are preparing to get the sniper's photo into these isolated clusters of rural communities. It worked once in a bloody murder case years ago, and the technique may produce results again.

What thought is there of the nature of the conspirators?

There's only conjecture. There literally are thousands of cells made up of men and women capable of planning this murder. They are not all Klan operations either.

Many units have tiny "armies," storm troopers, armband identifications, private uniforms. They drill in secret in lonely woods and curtained basements. They are in the heart of many big cities.

They are of all extremes. They would have the kind of money Galt-Ray spent and still not be wealthy. Or they could be provocateurs.

One thing is certain: The Justice Department believes it has evidence leading to a conspiracy.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FUTILE, THOUGH

Intense search made
for missing woman

BY TOM LANKFORD

News staff writer

Investigators meeting in the homicide office at Birmingham City Hall late Saturday were all of one opinion — that a missing delicatessen cashier had been robbed, kidnaped and now may be dead.

"It's only conjecture, based on the evidence," Detective Albert Wallace said, "but chances are great that she's been murdered."

"If she was alive, the bandits would have released her by now."

Mrs. Susan Buchanan, 47, 1530 45th St., Ensley, was discovered missing from the Qwik Mart delicatessen in Powderly early Thursday morning.

THE STORE had been left open, \$180 was missing from the cash register, and the woman's purse and car were left behind.

"She definitely left against her will," said Detective Capt.

Maurice House. "And we suspect foul play."

Working on the possibility the woman was left injured or dead in the Powderly-Wenonah area, a citizens' posse Saturday joined law officers for a third day of searching.

The posse — made up of Jones Valley High School students, the Sheriff's Mounted Posse, the Jefferson County Rescue Squad, and private citizens — searched part of the day in the rain.

Private investigators for Qwik Mart also joined in.

BEFORE LEAVING from the Qwik Mart, Capt. House, Detective Wallace and Sheriff's Maj. David Orange outlined search plans and instructions.

"If you find a body, stay away as far as possible," Capt. House said. "Don't mess up any clues. Seal off the area and call for us."

"Look also for any particles of clothing, a woman's

glasses, a Qwik Mart pin."

Capt. House also asked sheriff detectives to check all motels and abandoned houses in the area on the chance Mrs. Buchanan was being held hostage.

"It's not likely she would be held this long, but it's a possibility," he said.

THE VICTIM'S husband, Sgt. Walter T. Buchanan, a 26-year Army career man, arrived home Saturday after a 48-hour trip from Korea.

"I would have finished by tour on May 26," he said, "and had my next assignment at Ft. McClellan."

"I was to retire in July."

Airman David Buchanan, the missing woman's 21-year-old son, flew in from a Texas Air Force base Friday.

The Buchanans have two other children, Jackie 12, and Billy, 14, both students in Birmingham schools.

SATURDAY'S SEARCH centered in about 700 acres back of the Qwik Mart and near the Midfield race track, around woods and the abandoned Son-Go ore mines.

A friend of Mrs. Buchanan's, talking with Capt. House Saturday, described the missing woman as a "devout Christian, a fine woman who loved her children."

"She was really looking forward to her husband coming home next month," she said.

Store Manager M. E. Giles said almost all tasks to close the store Wednesday night had been completed when Mrs. Buchanan was apparently faced by bandits.

She had already stacked the drink boxes, mopped the floor and performed other duties, he said.

"SHE COULD HAVE finished closing the store — turning off the Icee machine, the lights and locking up — in two minutes," he said.

The woman also left behind 70 cents worth of items she had just purchased to take home — groceries to fix lunches for her two school-aged children.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

D-
22 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
—Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 4-28-68

Edition: Metro

Author: TOM LANKFORD

Editor:

Title: UNSUB;

MRS. SUSAN C. BUCHANAN-
VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

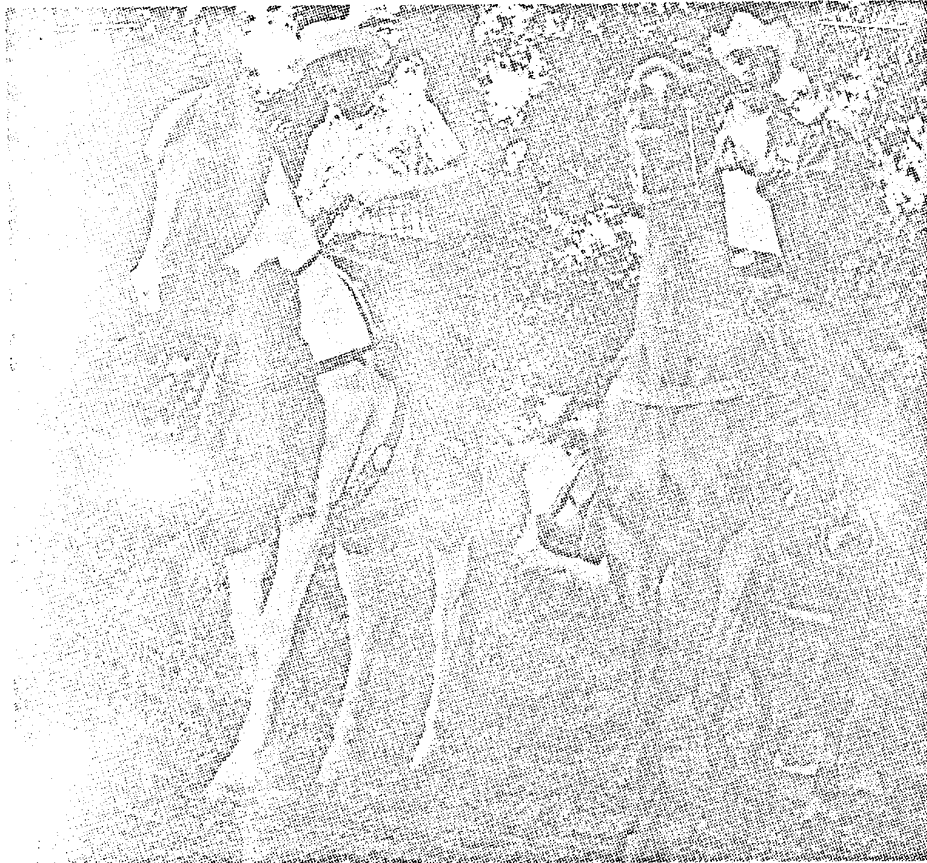
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44-1740-SFI-37

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APR 28 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	



MOUNTED POSSE COVERED MILES OF TERRITORY IN FUTILE SEARCH
... Going got tougher in rugged terrain near abandoned ore mines

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A News Item Raises Eyebrows...

A United Press International Dispatch out of Washington this week raised a lot of eyebrows around the State.

The United Press International dispatch, dealing with the FBI search for Eric Starvo Galt, wanted for conspiracy in connection with the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis April 4, said in part:

"A final clue to Galt came last March 1, 1968 when the Alabama Highway Dept. at Montgomery received a phone call from a man identifying himself as Eric S. Gault. He said he lost his driver's license and wanted a duplicate mailed to him at the Birmingham rooming house.

"The duplicate license was mailed the same day. With it went the standard Alabama bill of 25 cents to cover the costs of issuing the duplicate license.

"On March 6, the Highway Dept. said its bill with a 25-cent piece was received in the mail from Galt. (Peter Cherpes (on Sept. 6, 1967, Galt and Cherpes, the boarding house manager went together to get Galt an Alabama driver's license. Galt told authorities then that he had a Louisiana driver's

license but lost it . . .) and roomers at the boarding house say they never saw the duplicate license in Galt's mail and never saw Galt pick it up."

Of course, we cannot vouch for the accuracy of the UPI news report or for the accuracy of the information the FBI reportedly released in this matter, but a lot of Shoals area residents are wondering out loud about this matter if these reports are true.

For if you are so unfortunate as to lose your driver's license you would have to go to the office of the probate judge in your county and apply in writing for a duplicate. This application, along with a payment of 25 cents in the form of a money order (or cash at your own risk) would have to be mailed to Montgomery.

If the press and FBI reports are accurate as to what happened in the Galt case the question immediately arises:

Why was Galt accorded preferential treatment?

There are a lot of people here in the Shoals' area who would like to know more about what the facts are in this case!

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 THE FLORENCE TIMES
FLORENCE, ALABAMA

Date: 4/20/68

Edition: Daily

Author:

Editor: LOWIS A. ECKL

Title:

Character: 44-1740-581-38

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44-1740-581-38

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's brother doubts killer acted alone

BY ART PETACQUE

CHICAGO (CST)

The person closest to James Earl Ray — his brother Jerry — issued an appeal for him to surrender during a Chicago Sun-Times interview Thursday.

But at the same time, the brother voiced doubts that the country's most-wanted fugitive is still alive. And Jerry Ray, 32, said other members of his family also fear that the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. may be dead.

The brother was located by a Sun-Times reporter in the tiny room he occupies on the grounds of a suburban Chicago country club. He works as a maintenance man at the club.

Jerry Ray, wearing jockey shorts, sipped from a can of beer while sitting on his cot as he described his brother as "the hottest man in the country . . . the most wanted man there ever was."

"IF HE IS still alive," Jerry Ray continued, "I urge him to surrender himself to the FBI or to contact someone in the family and ask them to make surrender arrangements."

Jerry Ray described himself as "the closest person to my



URGES SURRENDER

. . . Ray's brother, Jerry

brother," but said he hadn't seen his brother since visiting him in prison last year. That visit was shortly before James Earl Ray escaped from the prison at Jefferson City, Mo., the brother added.

Jerry Ray, who also has a long criminal record, said he and James had visited each other several times in jails, and "I only saw him a few times on the outside" in recent years.

Because of his own prison record, Jerry Ray asked the reporter to withhold the name of the country club where he lives and works. Ray said he is now going straight and fears he would be fired if the club received undesirable publicity.

Another Chicago newspaper, the Tribune, said Jerry Ray has quit his job at the country club and disappeared. His disappearance was reported a few hours after the interview with the Chicago Sun-Times.

In discussing the killing of Dr. King, Jerry Ray said he found it difficult to believe his brother pulled the trigger because he "never was a man of violence."

"Check his record of all the trouble he's ever been in, and you'll find he never fired a gun or pistol-whipped anyone or slapped anyone around," said the brother. "That wasn't his style."

BUT JERRY RAY conceded his brother could have been "used," as he put it, by persons conspiring to kill Dr. King.

The brother obviously had received a large payoff at some point, Jerry Ray said.

"Look at all the money he came into all of a sudden," he continued. "Buying Mustangs, taking dancing lessons, taking trips to Mexico. Look at the mileage he put on his car. You don't get that kind of money from sticking up grocery stores, and my brother wasn't the kind to stick up currency exchanges."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama

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Editor:
Title: MURKIN

Character: CR
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM
☐ Being Investigated

See file

44-1740-SF1-39

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Clark Believes Ray Still Alive

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark was not the agent of conspiracy expressed the belief Sunday ~~Sunday~~ Aprs. that escaped convict James Earl Ray, accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King, remains alive. He said he was "very optimistic" that Ray would be captured.

Clark said he found no evidence to support theories that Ray had been hired by conspirators to kill King and then himself was killed. "We have no evidence to believe that he is not still alive," he said. "I believe we will find him," Clark said.

Interviewed on television, Clark also said the investigation was still operating on the assumption that King's killer

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

1 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 5-13-68

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Duard Le Guard

Title: Murkin

Character: 44-1740

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44-1740-SF1-40

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MAY 2 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Galt' Thumbprint Launched Manhunt

BY THOMAS TALLBURT
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — On a carefully marked city map found in a hippie-inhabited boarding house in Atlanta, FBI agents found a thumbprint that enabled them positively to identify the suspected slayer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

They found the map April 14 — 10 days after Dr. King was murdered in Memphis. Since then the trail of the suspect, James Earl Ray, has dead-ended.

Although thousands of tips have been tracked down by agents in the FBI's 6600-man force with no success since the map was found, federal officials do not subscribe to the theory Ray may be dead — the victim of someone who hired him to kill King.

4 Locations Circled

On the city map of Atlanta which bore Ray's thumbprint, four key locations had been circled in pencil — Dr. King's Atlanta residence, the office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which he headed, the boarding house where the map was found, and the parking lot where Ray abandoned a white Mustang the morning after Dr. King was killed.

The FBI believes Ray drove the Mustang to Atlanta during the night after the murder, abandoned the car about dawn the next day, took two taxi rides to locations near Peachtree-st — and then vanished.

Agents found the abandoned car April 1. It bore license tags issued to Eric Starvo Galt — a name the FBI said Ray used to mask his true identity.

Two days later agents combing Atlanta for the mysterious "Galt" got a tip that he had previously rented a room at a boarding house known to be a popular hang-out for hippies.

House Staked Out

They immediately staked out the rooming house and early the next day went to the room where they had been told "Galt" might be found.

There they found a TV set they later learned "Galt" had obtained in a trade with a girl friend in Los Angeles and the map bearing the thumbprint. Whether "Galt" had used the room after Dr. King's death is not known.

The map with the thumbprint was flown to FBI laboratories here. After a painstaking, round-the-clock search of the fingerprints of 53,000 wanted criminals on file here, lab technicians hit pay dirt on April 19.

By matching the thumbprint on the map to one in their files they determined that Eric Starvo Galt was really James Earl Ray, an habitual criminal who had escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967. Galt was only one of several aliases he had used.

Ray, who was said to be penniless when he escaped from the Missouri penitentiary, is known to have spent more than \$4000 during the 11 months between the time of his escape and Dr. King's murder. He paid \$1195 cash for the Mustang in Birmingham, \$700 for bartending and dance lessons in Hollywood, Cal., and traveled more than 19,000 miles — including trips to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and Montreal, Canada.

The FBI has found no evidence Galt held a job during this period, nor has it found that Galt was hired by anyone to kill King, though the possibility of such a conspiracy has not been ruled out.

The suspicion is that Galt, a convicted thief and armed robber, plied his trade as a second-rate criminal to get the cash he spent.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

3 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 5-23-68
Edition: Final
Author: Thomas Talburt
Editor: Duard Le Guard
Title: MURKIN

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☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF-41

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SERIALIZED FILED

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Newest 'Galt' picture

Here is a previously unpublished picture of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, which acquaintances say resembles him more nearly than any other they have seen. The photograph was made in California last in January. Hundreds of FBI agents still are trailing the accused murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King, but without uncovering any announced clues.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 5-23-68

Edition: METRO

Author:

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1987-SF1-42

CMB

[Handwritten signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Could Pennsy body be that of Ray?

POTTSVILLE, Pa. (AP)

State police and local officials reported Thursday night they were investigating the remote possibility the body of a man found in a shallow grave near here was that of the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Richard Russell, Schuylkill County district attorney, said State Police have asked the FBI for dental records of 40-year-old James Earl Ray for positive identification.

Other methods of identifying the body have proved fruitless, he said, because of the advanced state of decomposition.

THE BODY, containing four bullet wounds — with three bullets recovered — was found May 7 by two State Forestry workers near Brandywine, approximately 20 miles north of this northeast Pennsylvania community.

A special report showed the decomposition was caused by lime which was placed on the body, Russell said.

The report, prepared by Dr. Wilton M. Krogman, a noted University of Pennsylvania anthropologist, indicated that if lime was used on the body "interment (was) not less than two weeks nor more than four."

State Police Detective George Durilla of Reading pointed out that the estimated time of burial meant that the body could conceivably be that of Ray since King was slain in Memphis, Tenn., April 4 and Ray has since disap-

eared.

"THE BODY could be anybody's but we're checking all the possibilities," Durilla said.

Krogman said the victim was between 39 and 44 years old, white, about six feet tall and of "muscular and rugged build."

He also indicated the victim had "a certain amount of dental work of poor to medium workmanship" — the type that might be done in "a second-floor dental parlor or perhaps in prison."

Russell said that he favors his first impression that the killing "was a gangland slaying" and added that this theory is also being checked out by the FBI.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
—Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 5-24-68
Edition: Metro
Author:
Editor:
Title: MURKIN

Character:
or

Classification:
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-43

660

9/15

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray-Galt Search Appears Stalled

The search for James Earl Ray, prime suspect in the April 4 killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, apparently has reached a standstill — while a \$100,000 reward for King's killer has been assured in Memphis.

As far as is known, leads for Ray — or any number of aliases — have run out in Atlanta where a car purchased in Birmingham by Eric Starvo Galt, one of the aliases, was found abandoned.

The FBI has made no mention of being able to trace the suspect past Atlanta — and newsmen who were hot on the trail have run into dead ends there too.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal, following the assassination of King, put up \$25,000 for capture of the killer.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers, which includes The Commercial Appeal and The Post-Herald, matched the sum with another \$25,000.

The remainder has been raised by other private business in Memphis and elsewhere. That sum now stands at about \$25,000.

The Memphis City Council has assured the \$100,000 figure by underwriting the difference between that amount and what is donated.

Galt, as he was known in Birmingham, paid \$1995 for a white Mustang, during the time he lived here in a Southside rooming house.

During the 11 months between his escape from Missouri State Penitentiary and the death of King on April 4, Ray is known to have spent more than \$4000 and traveled 19,000 miles.

Ray's car was found by FBI agents in Atlanta where it was abandoned the day after King's death. It bore Alabama (Jefferson County) license plates issued to Eric Galt.

The rifle, found in the Memphis flophouse room from which the assassin is thought to have shot King, was sold by Aeromarine Supply Co., a Birmingham firm, reportedly to Galt.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said a systematic search of fingerprints uncovered in the case matched against fingerprints of over 52,000 persons for whom the FBI "wanted notices" led to the determination that Galt and Ray are identical.

On April 17, a federal warrant was issued at Birmingham charging Ray as Galt with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional right of a citizen.

The thumbprint which enabled the FBI to positively identify Ray was on a map found in a boarding house in Atlanta.

Two days after finding the car, FBI agents got a tip that Galt had rented a room in a popular hippie hangout.

In addition to the map, agents found a television reportedly obtained in a "trade" with a Los Angeles girlfriend.

The FBI placed Galt on the Ten Most Wanted list and is still seeking information concerning him.

The bureau cautions that he is to be considered armed and extremely dangerous.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

3 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 5-28-68

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor: DUARD LE GRAND

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

44-1740-SF1-44

SEARCHED <u>44</u>	INDEXED <u>44</u>
SERIALIZED <u>44</u>	FILED <u>44</u>
JUN 4 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Muscle Shoals Memos



By LOUIS A. ECKL
Executive Editor

How would you like to pick up a cool \$100,000 without really trying?

If you can supply the information that will lead to the capture of James Earl Ray, the prime suspect in the April 4, 1968, slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tenn., that will be your reward!

While Ray may be anywhere in the world, he could be hidden out here somewhere in the greater Muscle Shoals District, for all anyone knows.

It seems that investigation into the slaying has reached a standstill and, so far as is known, for the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are the most tight-lipped people in law enforcement work, all leads as to Ray's whereabouts have apparently come to a dead end. Ray, who during the course of a crime career operated under a series of aliases, seems to have vanished into thin air. Yet, a car purchased in Birmingham by Eric Starvo Galt, one of his many aliases, was found abandoned in Atlanta.

Trail Vanished In Atlanta

However, the FBI has never made any mention of having been able to trace the suspect past Atlanta, and the hundreds of newsmen who have been investigating every tip on their own, and were at times believed to have been hot on his trail, have run into nothing but dead ends also in more recent times.

But the \$100,000 is available for the taking; the Memphis Commercial Appeal put up \$25,000 of the reward money for capture of the killer; right away; the Scripps-Howard Newspaper chain, which also includes the Memphis Press Scimitar and Birmingham Post-Herald, as well as the Knoxville News Sentinel, added another \$25,000; businesses in Memphis and elsewhere chipped in another \$25,000, and the City of Memphis added the remaining \$25,000.



Memphis Guarantees Money

The Memphis City Council has given its assurance that the \$100,000 will be forthcoming when anyone meets the requirements for gaining the reward.

Quite a lot is known about Galt, the name under which Ray operated at Birmingham, where he paid \$1,995 for a white Mustang while living there in a Southside rooming house; it is known, for example, that during the 11 months between his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary and the April 4 assassination of King, that he spent more than \$4,000 and traveled 19,000 miles.

Other salient facts are:

Ray's car was found by FBI agents in Atlanta where it was abandoned the day after King's death; it bore Alabama (Jefferson County) license plates issued to Eric Galt; the rifle, found in the Memphis flophouse room from which the assassin is thought to have shot King, was sold by the Aeromarine Supply Co., a Birmingham firm, reportedly to Galt.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 THE FLORENCE TIMES
FLORENCE, ALABAMA

Date: 6/4/68

Edition: Daily

Author: LOUIS A. ECKL

Editor: LOUIS A. ECKL

Title: MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BH

☒ Being Investigated

44-1770-SF1-45

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Fingerprints Provide Proof

No less an authority than FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, whose men probably have come closer to getting every man they ever sought than even the famed Canadian Royal Mounted Police, revealed that a systematic search of fingerprints uncovered in the King case matched against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons for whom the FBI "wanted notices" led to the unquestionable determination that Galt and Ray are identical.

On April 17, a federal warrant was issued at Birmingham charging Ray, as Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional right of a citizen. The thumbprint which enabled the FBI to positively identify Ray was on a map found in a boarding house in Atlanta, where, two days after finding the car, FBI agents got a tip that Galt had rented a room in a popular hippie hangout. In addition to the map, agents found a television reportedly obtained in a "trade" with a Los Angeles girl friend.

The FBI warns that Ray is considered to be armed and extremely dangerous. Other pertinent facts:

ALIASES: Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Waylon, John Willard, "Jim."

DESCRIPTION: AGE: 40, born March 10, 1928, Alton, Illinois; HEIGHT: 5'10"; WEIGHT: 163 to 174 pounds; BUILD: medium; HAIR: brown, possibly cut short; OCCUPATIONS: baker, color matcher, laborer; SCARS AND MARKS: small scar on palm of right hand; EYES: blue; COMPLEXION: medium; RACE: white; NATIONALITY: American; REMARKS: noticeably protruding left ear; reportedly is a lone wolf; allegedly attended dance instruction

school; has reportedly completed course in bartending.

CRIMINAL RECORD: Ray has been convicted of burglary, robbery, forging U.S. Postal Money Orders, armed robbery, and operating motor vehicle without owner's consent.

CAUTION: RAY IS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH A MURDER WHEREIN THE VICTIM WAS SHOT. CONSIDER ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. A Federal warrant was issued on April 17, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, charging Ray as Eric Starvo Galt with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen (Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 241). A Federal warrant was also issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging Ray with Interstate Flight to Avoid Confinement for the crime of Robbery (Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1073).

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Still Hunted

This photo of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, sought in connection with the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis last month, was taken in January of this year. The photo was released by the FBI. Rewards totaling nearly \$100,000 have been posted in connection with the slaying. Anyone having any information is asked to contact the FBI office here.



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 THE TUSCALOOSA NEWS
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Date: 5/30/68
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: NORMAN BASSETT
Title: MURKIN

Character: 44-1740

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44-1740-SF-46

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JUN 1 - 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray arrested in London

WASHINGTON (AP)

James Earl Ray, the escaped convict wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was arrested in London Saturday as he was about to fly to Belgium, the FBI announced. Scotland Yard detectives took Ray into custody, ending an intensive two-month search that spread through the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

The Justice Department announcement of Ray's arrest came as Mrs. Coretta King, widow of the civil rights leader, was attending the New York funeral of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, another victim of an assassin's bullet. She was told of the arrest as she left St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

FBI DIRECTOR J. Edgar Hoover said Ray, carrying a fully loaded pistol, was arrested as he was passing through British immigration offices on his way to Brussels. British authorities charged him with using a false passport and carrying a concealed weapon. And he was placed under maximum security arrest.

The announcement said Ray was arrested at 11:15 a.m., London time, or 6:15 a.m., EDT.

Hoover said extradition proceedings would begin shortly, but it was not immediately clear whether Ray would be returned under the federal complaint charging him with conspiracy in King's death or under a first-degree murder indictment returned against him by a grand jury in Memphis, Tenn.

It was in Memphis on April 4 that King was killed as he stood on the balcony of a motel talking to friends.

THE SEARCH for his killer first turned up a suspect identified as Eric Starvo Galt, but the FBI later said Galt really is Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from Missouri State Penitentiary.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-9-68

Edition: Metro

Author:

Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: MURKIN

Character: 44-1740

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Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 11 1968

FBI - BIRMINGHAM

44-1740-SF1-47

James Earl Ray held in London

Ray was using the name Ramon George Sneyd when he was arrested Saturday, and was carrying two Canadian passports issued in that name. He had obtained one in Ottawa April 24, and the other from the Canadian embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, May 16.

Chief Inspector Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad told newsmen in London:

"Although the man claims to be Sneyd, his physical description is in fact identical to that of James Earl Ray."

Although Butler went no further than that in saying the man arrested is Ray, the Justice Department statement said unconditionally that he is Ray — without providing details on how the identification was verified.

British authorities said the man arrived in London by jet airliner Saturday morning from Lisbon, en route to Brussels.

WHILE HIS passport was being examined and he was being interviewed at London Airport, he was searched and the loaded pistol was found in a hip pocket, the immigration men said.

Scotland Yard then was called and the arrest followed.

A spokesman at the U. S. Embassy in London said the arrest was made at the request of the embassy's legal section in connection with the King slaying.

A SCOTLAND Yard statement said the passports describe the bearer as a 29-year-old native of Toronto, Canada, unemployed and with no fixed current address.

The announcement of his arrest was made in a statement issued at the Justice Department in the name of Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and Hoover, neither of whom was present. No questions were permitted at that time.

Among the questions raised by Ray's extensive travels

since the shooting is where he got the money.

He had escaped from prison at Jefferson City about a year before King's murder. An extensive check of his activities during that year showed he rarely worked and had no apparent income, but appeared to be well supplied with money.

THE ROYAL Canadian Mounted Police, who worked closely with the FBI in the hunt for Ray, supplied the tip that focused the search on London. An RCMP spokesman said a check of Canadian passport files, begun soon after the FBI started looking for Ray, finally turned up one with a picture that looked like Ray. It had been issued to Sneyd and was found to be fraudulent.

There have been complaints from police authorities in the past that fugitives have been able to obtain Canadian passports too easily.

Hoover praised the cooperation of the Canadian police and Scotland Yard, but said Ray's arrest was the direct result of an intensive investigation by the FBI that covered all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Portugal, England and other countries.

As the trail appeared to grow dim, there were complaints from civil rights leaders, particularly followers of King, that the G-men were not pursuing the investigation vigorously enough. Among law enforcement people there was some fear also that Ray had been killed by others involved in a conspiracy to murder King.

The FBI produced a massive file on Ray's activities up to the time of King's death and gathered such personal information as that he was an avid dancer, liked beer and was a loner.

The detailed description furnished by the FBI led to mystery and confusion in the manhunt as many who claimed to have been the gunman after the shooting of King

provided contradictory information. For example, some said the gunman was in his late 20s, in contrast to Ray's age of 40.

A chief source of speculation about the shooting has been that Ray was part of a group that plotted King's death with care, but no other persons are known to be involved at this point.

Ray had served seven years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery when he escaped from prison. A fellow inmate at the time said Ray told him he would be willing to kill King for \$1 million.

Ray, the son of a laborer, had a long list of arrests for burglary, vagrancy, driving a car without an operator's license and forgery. He was a man of many aliases, including Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James Walton, James O'Conner. And now, Ramon George Sneyd.

Hoover said Ray is being held under maximum security conditions in a London police station. It is expected he will be brought into court by London authorities Monday on the charges of false documentation and carrying a concealed weapon.

At the State Department, officials said they expect a formal request will be made for his return to the United States under a U.S.-British extradition treaty, which lists murder as one of the crimes for which extradition will be authorized.



RAY

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SURPRISED AT CAPTURE

'Hope he lives to stand trial,' Ray's brother says

ST. LOUIS (AP)

A brother of James Earl Ray, who is charged with murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Saturday he was "surprised" that Ray was captured in London and added he hopes Ray "lives to stand trial."

"If my brother did kill King, he did it for a lot of money. He didn't do anything if it wasn't for money. And those who paid him won't want him sitting in a courtroom telling everything he knows," said John Larry Ray, 34, operator of a St. Louis tavern.

"If he does live to stand trial," John Ray said, "I would like to see him get the same sentence as the guy who killed Rockwell." He referred to the 20-year sentence handed John Patler for the slaying of American Nazi party leader Lincoln Rockwell.

"A FRIEND of mine in Canada called me around noon to tell me they had caught my brother in London," John Ray told an interviewer.

The brother made his comments in an interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

London authorities said James Ray was carrying two Canadian passports when he was captured while going through customs.

"I wasn't surprised that he was in London, but I was surprised that he got caught," John Ray said, and added, "I knew he wasn't dead."

The St. Louis Ray insisted that his 40-year-old brother, who escaped from the Missouri penitentiary last year while serving a 20-year term for armed robbery, is not a member of any racist group.

JOHN RAY was the last family member to see James Earl Ray before the elder brother escaped from the Missouri prison in April, 1967. He said he and another brother, 32-year-old Jerry, formerly of Chicago, were closer to James than any others of the 10 sisters and brothers.

"James would do anything for us and we for him, but he wasn't very sociable with strangers," the tavern operator said.

He described James Earl as "hot-tempered toward anyone that got on him."

Ray said that before his fugitive brother entered the Army he did not drink or smoke and was a hard worker.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-9-68

Edition: Metro

Author:

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: MURKIN

Character: 44-1740

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Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

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JUN 11 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

"After he came back, he drank and didn't believe in working; the Army changed his whole outlook on life," Ray said.

JAMES EARL received a general discharge in 1948 for ineptness and lack of adapta-

bility. He served a three-month term at hard labor while in the Army for being drunk and breaking arrest.

Subsequent to his discharge, James Earl began amassing a police record and served terms in Los Angeles for burglary; Illinois prisons at Joliet and Pontiac for armed robbery in Chicago; the feder-

al penitentiary at Leavenworth for postal money order forgery in Kansas City, and the Missouri prison for a \$120 St. Louis supermarket robbery in 1959.

Ray said he did not know whether James Earl did or did not shoot King, and he could have been a fugitive for a simple reason.

"He still has 13 years waiting for him at Jefferson City, Mo., on that 20-year sentence for robbery. That's enough reason," John Ray said.

FEDERAL PRISON records describe Ray as a model prisoner, but he made two unsuccessful escape attempts before finally slipping away

from the Missouri prison March 23, 1967, presumably by hiding in a bread truck.

Ray was sent to the Missouri State Hospital at Fulton after he attempted to escape in 1966 by hiding in a ventilator shaft. After five weeks of observation, the hospital said doctors found no indication of mental disease.

Hospital records at Fulton show Ray's parents as deceased, but the Missouri Prison listed Ray's mother as Mrs. Lucille Ryan of St. Louis.

An uncle in Alton said the mother died in St. Louis in 1961.

John Larry Ray, said his father is still alive and living

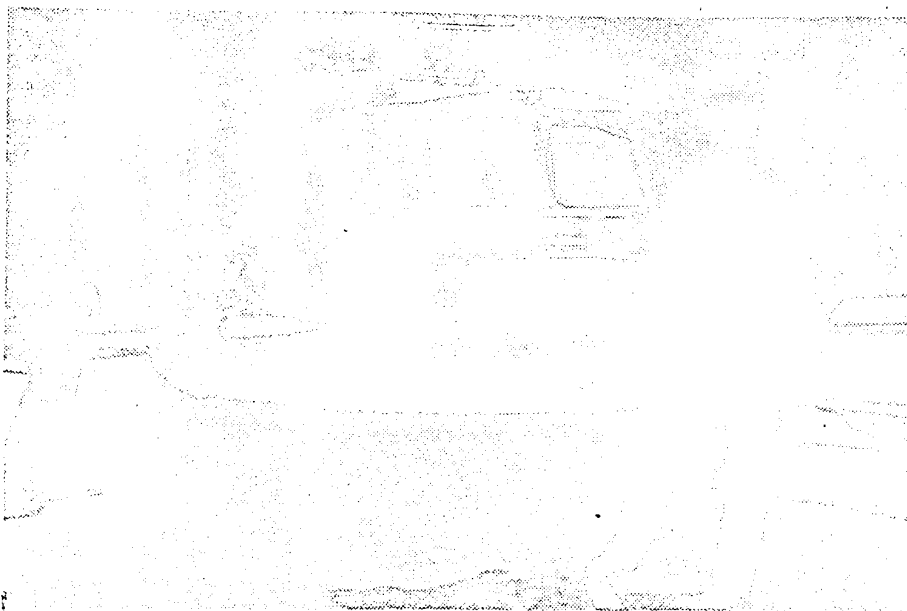
in the Hannibal, Mo., area, but the elder Ray could not be found.

A sister, Mrs. Carolyn Pepper, lives in Brentwood, a suburb of St. Louis.

Another brother, Jerry, lived in Chicago but recently moved, and another sister, Melba Ryan, moved from Quincy, Ill.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Held without bail Ray - may fight extradition



POLICE VAN LEAVES BOW STREET COURT IN LONDON
... After hearing for Ray on possessing forged passport, loaded gun charges

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-10-68
Edition: Metro
Author: Fred Coleman
Editor: John W. Bloomer
Title: MURKIN

Character: 44-1740

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44-1740-SF1-49

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>CB</i>
JUN 11 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Asks court for attorney

BY FRED COLEMAN

LONDON (AP)

James Earl Ray made a two-minute appearance in Bow Street Court today and indicated he would fight the U. S. government's attempt to seek his extradition in connection with the charge that he killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

London's chief magistrate ordered Ray held without bail for another court appearance on June 18.

There was no mention during the brief preliminary hearing of extradition. But Ray asked the court to appoint an attorney for him, and this was taken as an indication that he would fight being returned to America.

American legal officials said they were going ahead with the extradition process and hoped to return Ray to the United States "very soon."

THE 40-YEAR-OLD escaped convict, who had been on the run since the Negro civil rights leader was killed April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., was arraigned under the alias of Ramon George Sneyd and was charged with carrying a false passport and a loaded revolver without a license.

A heavy police escort brought Ray secretly to the court three hours before the

preliminary hearing was to begin. A crowd of about 300 laid siege to the courtroom later, and everyone entering it was searched for weapons.

Ray had been under heavy guard since his arrest Saturday.

Wearing a dark blue suit with dark brown checks and a blue shirt, Ray stood quietly with his hands clasped behind him as Chief Magistrate Frank Milton told him that under British criminal procedure press coverage of the details of the hearing would be limited unless he asked that the restriction be lifted.

Asked if he wanted the restriction lifted, he replied: "No sir."

RAY'S DARK hair was flecked with gray at the temples, and his face was tanned.

A government prosecutor asked that Ray be held in custody, and the judge granted Ray's request that the court appoint a lawyer for him.

Then he was taken away by a large force of plainclothesmen and uniformed police.

It was believed that he was taken to Brixton Prison, considered one of London's most secure jails.

Michael Dresden was named by the court as Ray's solicitor. Dresden will prepare the defense and choose a lawyer to argue this case in court.

DRESDEN'S office declined to answer questions about the case, including what stand it might take on an extradition request.

A solicitor prepares the case for the accused and chooses the barrister who does the pleading in court.

The solicitor acts as a key link between the accused, the barrister and the court.

Ray came into the court through a side door, flanked by two policemen. He looked calm and spoke in a firm voice.

The atmosphere in the courtroom was tense.

TWO BENCHES were occupied by about 35 reporters. Another 20 were outside the courtroom, and about 50 persons jammed the enclosure set aside for the public.

Plainclothesmen and uniformed police lined the courtroom, and five of them stood at the back of the deck, facing the press and public.

Ray had been in Canada, Portugal and Britain before the two-month hunt ended with his arrest at London airport. Informed sources gave credence to reports that he had been hiding out in London since mid-May.

"He's been like a caged man sensing the trap was closing in on him and looking desperately for an escape," one informant said. One report was that when picked up he was bound for Brussels, hoping to contact recruiters for mercenary forces in Africa.

Police informants in Brussels said authorities had been notified about Ray's two aliases and were alerted that he might be heading there.

FEW LEADS on people who might have had contact with Ray or helped him were turning up, but the police in Toronto, where he spent a month, were checking a lead from the owner of a boarding house where he stayed.

Mrs. Sun Lee said she saw a "fat man" pass a small envelope to Ray about four days before he flew to London May 6. She said she could not give a detailed description of the man and did not know what was in the envelope. Ray got the envelope on the day his rent was due and the day he paid \$64 for an excursion flight ticket to London.

Ray arrived in Portugal May 8 where he stayed in the Hotel Portugal until May 17, paying just over \$2 a day for his room on the first floor. Staff at the hotel recall that he was generally out of his room 15 or 16 hours a day.

RAY IS WANTED on a Tennessee charge of murder, a federal charge of conspiring to deny King his civil rights, and a Missouri charge that he escaped from prison there on April 23, 1967.

U. S. Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr. flew to London and saw Ray in his cell Sunday, but in Washington Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said Ray had made no statement to Vinson.

PHOTO TRIPS RAY
Made in Canada; led to
England

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Is Said To Hold Swiss Bank Account

Number Of Trips To Europe To Get Money Is Reported

BY SCOTT B. BURNS

LONDON (UPI) — A judge Monday ordered James Earl Ray held without bail on charges of illegally entering Britain and gave the go ahead for American authorities to begin extradition proceedings for his trial as the accused killer of Martin Luther King.

Meanwhile, British police sources said Ray, when arrested in London, was making the latest of an undisclosed number of trips to Europe to pick up money said to have been deposited for him in a Swiss bank.

The police informants said Ray arrived in Britain May 8, went to Lisbon to pick up money sent there for him from his Swiss bank account and returned to London May 17. The sources said Scotland Yard received an alert to be on the lookout for Ray on May 17 but missed him.

Details Shadowy

Details of Ray's movements between May 17 and the day he was arrested were shadowy, but the police sources said he ran out of money again and was reported to have flown back to Lisbon. Perhaps because of his inability to receive another cash transfer he then decided to fly to Brussels and was caught as he passed through London.

The legal machinery moving Ray to Memphis, Tenn., where King was killed by a sniper's bullet April 4 was set in motion when a phalanx of guards swept the neatly dressed ex-convict into packed Bow Street Magistrate's Court. He was sullen and scowling.

The hearing on the British charges that Ray entered the country with a loaded .38 caliber pistol and forged passport lasted one minute and 22 seconds.

The magistrate ordered Ray held for another hearing on June 18 and informed sources said he granted U. S. authorities a "provisional warrant" for extradition.

The provisional document gave the U. S. Justice Dept. request for counsel for Ray. Hilton accepted the request.

Fred M. Vinson Jr., the Justice Dept. officer sent from Washington to London to speed the extradition, sat silently to one side during the hearing. He is an assistant attorney general and the chief of the Justice Dept.'s criminal division.

At no time during the hearing Monday was the assassination of King mentioned, and the question of extradition did not come up. The hearing was part of the British legal system which requires that every person arrested must appear before a magistrate within 48 hours of his arrest.

Requests Prepared

U. S. legal sources said American lawyers were preparing requests for Ray's

extradition to Tennessee and Missouri. These sources said it was uncertain if either or both of these requests would ever be filed. Ray could waive opposition to extradition or the British Home Office could simply deport him to the United States.

The owner of one London hotel said Monday Ray was in Britain for three days immediately preceding his capture. This contradicted reports from police sources that he had just arrived when he was taken into custody.

Mrs. Anna Thomas, owner of the Pax Hotel in the Pimlico district, said a man who refused to sign the hotel register checked into her place last Wednesday and stayed three days. Mrs. Thomas said the man told her his name was Sneyd, the name authorities said was on the forged passport Ray was allegedly carrying.

'Looked Tired'

Mrs. Thomas said the man appeared older than pictures of Ray and had darker hair and a thinner face.

"He kept the door locked at all times while he stayed here and when I brought his breakfast up he told me to leave it outside," Mrs. Thomas said. "He looked so tired and spoke with an American or Canadian accent."

Mrs. Thomas said the man checked out suddenly Saturday morning and paid her four pounds 10 shillings (\$10.80) for the room. She said the man received several telephone calls that morning including one about an airline flight to Europe.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM
NEWS1 BIRMINGHAM POST-
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-11-68

Edition:

Author: Scott B. Burns

Editor: Duard Le Grand

Title: MURKIN

Character: 44-1740

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44-1740-SF1-50

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JUN 11 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

Ray, 40, wore a blue checked sport coat, an open neck dark blue sport shirt and dark slacks as he was led into the famous old courtroom. He scowled and jerked his head to one side as a team of Scotland Yardmen half dragged him at one point to the dock. He shuffled into the prisoner's box.

With head partially lowered, Ray spoke only twice and both times his voice was barely audible. He had one word to say each time — "no." The judge asked if Ray objected to restrictions on news coverage of the hearing and if he had a statement of his own to make.

Requests Counsel

Thomas Butler, the Scotland Yard detective who arrested Ray at Hethron Airport last Saturday morning, handed Magistrate Frank Milton a request for counsel for Ray. Hilton accepted the request.

Fred M. Vinson Jr., the Justice Dept. officer sent from Washington to London to speed the extradition, sat silently to one side during the hearing. He is an assistant attorney general and the chief of the Justice Dept.'s criminal division.

At no time during the hearing Monday was the assassination of King mentioned, and the question of extradition did not come up. The hearing was

the green light to prepare a full, formal application for extradition. Authoritative sources said this would be done at a hearing in Bow Street Court Thursday. Ray would be present, these sources said.

Immediately after the brief hearing Monday, guards hustled Ray off to Brixton Prison and transferred him later in the day to the maximum security wing of Wandsworth Prison. Informed prison sources said two guards were posted inside his cell to maintain an around-the-clock watch.

Half Dragged To Dock

In addition to the murder charges in Tennessee, Ray faces possible trial in Missouri as an escapee from the state penitentiary there.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI's Top Job: Find Source Of Ray's Money

BY THOMAS TALBURT

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The FBI's top assignment Sunday was to find out whether the suspected slayer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was part of a conspiracy — and where the suspect got the estimated \$12,000 he spent in the last nine months.

Speculation that King was killed by a hired gunman has risen since the accused assassin, James Earl Ray, was

arrested Saturday in London — after flying there from Lisbon enroute to Brussels.

Federal officials said they could not rule out the possibility of a conspiracy "until we find the source of his funds and establish who his associates, if any, were."

Conservative estimates are that Ray spent at least \$12,000 between Aug. 30, 1967 — when he paid \$1195 cash in Birmingham for a white Mustang auto — and his arrest Saturday.

The FBI said he traveled

19,000 miles in the Mustang, spent \$700 for bartending and dancing lessons in California earlier this year, took trips to Mexico and Canada, where he attended a locksmith school, and later paid more than \$150 cash in Birmingham for the rifle and telescopic sight officials say were used in the King slaying.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, appearing Sunday on the American Broadcasting Company's TV program "Issues and Answers," reas-

sured that thus far there is no evidence of a conspiracy.

"We continue to investigate every shred of evidence, every lead, and if there was a conspiracy it will be discovered," Clark said.

Clark added that Ray was a man who "lived a life of crime, who obtained funds through crime, and I think we can reason that there is a very plausible possibility as to the source of his funds."

Other investigators said the money Ray spent so freely for

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travel and to frequent run-down nightclubs and bars might have come from a bank robbery in his hometown of Alton, Ill.

Ray escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967. Eleven weeks later, on July 13, two men robbed an Alton bank of \$27,000. They have never been found, and officials said that a witness to the robbery believes Ray may resemble one of the robbers.

If a positive identification is

made by the witness when Ray is extradited to the U. S. Memphis authorities in the King slaying, the source of Ray's funds may be explained.

Meantime, the FBI is checking points in England, Portugal, Belgium and Canada in an attempt to find whether he had money stashed away in these countries.

There still are mysterious gaps in the trail Ray followed to elude capture after King was slain.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Photo check leads to arrest of Ray

OTTAWA (AP)

A photograph unearthed in a check of 200,000 to 400,000 Canadian passport applications led to the arrest in London Saturday of James Earl Ray, wanted in the slaying of Martin Luther King Jr., a Foreign Affairs spokesman said.

Police found the picture in a month-long search of Foreign Affairs Department files and quickly discovered that the application to which it was attached — in the name of Ramon George Sneyd — was fraudulent.

Police said Ray used names the same as those of two Toronto area residents during a one-month stay in Toronto. Ramon George Sneyd is the name of a constable who police said knew nothing of Ray.

The other alias, Paul Bridgman, is the name of a teacher who lives in a Toronto suburb. It resembles closely that of Paul Bridgeman, an inmate at the Missouri state penitentiary, from which Ray is listed as a fugitive.

There have been complaints in the past that foreigners are too easily able to obtain Canadian passports. Foreign Secretary Mitchell Sharp said Saturday, "In the light of this case, I have asked for a full study and report on whether stricter requirements for identification of persons applying for Canadian passports are necessary or desirable."

Sharp said the man arrested in London was carrying a Canadian birth certificate in addition to two Canadian passports under a false name. Birth certificates in Canada are issued by provincial governments; there was no indication whether the one mentioned by Sharp was forged.

A Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman said the RCMP had traced Ray's journeys in Canada, learned he was headed for Britain and tipped off Scotland Yard and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He said RCMP investigations in the case are closed and added, "From now on it is up to Scotland Yard and the FBI."

To get a Canadian passport, an applicant must either have a sponsor who testifies he has known the applicant two years, or he must swear before a notary public that statements on his application — name, address, birth date and place, physical description — are true.

Ray got his passport without a sponsor. The application

was reported submitted by mail "from a point in Canada" and issued in Ottawa on April 25.

A Foreign Affairs Department spokesman said the government has tried to tighten passport requirements but at present, "When the application is properly notarized, there is not much the Passport Office can do."

The spokesman said Ray took up quarters in a Toronto rooming house April 8—four days after King was killed in Memphis, Tenn.—and lived there and at another rooming house until he boarded a British Overseas Airways plane for London May 6.

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The Pursuit And Capture Of Ray

The arrest of James Earl Ray, accused killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on the run for more than two months, hopefully will bring answers to questions about the assassination of the civil rights leader and put an end to quiet mutterings in some places that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had not been pressing its quest vigorously.

In addition to the general relief which comes with the apprehension of the prime suspect in the murder of Dr. King, it is doubly satisfying to know that police organizations on two continents—especially those in Canada and Great Britain—have worked with such cooperative efficiency with the FBI.

Seldom has a criminal act caused more speculation, rumors, founded

and unfounded, and mass emotion as it led through a maze of rabbit trails.

The dogged investigation by the FBI leading to Ray's arrest is another meritorious chapter in that law enforcement body's history. It offers another contradiction to those who argue that the bureau has outlived its proven usefulness.

Now, it can be hoped, Ray will be extradited to this country, duly arraigned, indicted and brought to trial in an atmosphere free of any display which might prejudice the outcome.

Barring the unexpected, Ray will have his day in court. If found guilty his fate will be determined by our established courts, and no person should ever attempt to turn the course of justice from that path.

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~~Extradition sought—~~

Ray moved to new top security jail

BY COLIN FROST

LONDON (AP)

James Earl Ray, the escaped convict accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was transferred under police guard today to Wandsworth Prison where security has been tightened since one of Britain's Great Train Robbers went over the walls four years ago.

Wandsworth is considered a safer place for Ray than Brixton Prison where Ray has been held since his arrest Saturday.

U. S. legal experts worked on plans to take Ray quickly and safely back to the United States for trial and police on both sides of the Atlantic tried to learn if Ray had help in his four-nation flight.

American authorities took the first formal step toward extradition Monday night by obtaining a provisional British warrant charging Ray with the murder of King on April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

IN NASHVILLE, Tenn.,

Gov. Buford Ellington signed "all necessary papers" required for Tennessee's request that Ray be returned to stand trial for murder. The extradition papers were forwarded to the U. S. State Department, a spokesman for the governor said.

Some legal experts suggested Britain might speed the process by deporting Ray as an undesirable alien. But other lawyers said there is a strong tradition against using that procedure as a substitute for extradition.

The 40-year-old Ray made a two-minute appearance Monday in Bow Street Court on charges of carrying a forged passport and a loaded gun, the charges on which he was arrested at London Airport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd.

Police equipped with walkie-talkies cordoned Brixton Prison and blocked all roads leading to it, keeping unauthorized persons at least 150 yards away. Similar maximum security measures were

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Bring back Ray could take months

taken for Ray's transfer to Wandsworth, a jail in a western suburb of London.

New security measures were instituted at Wandsworth since Ronald Arthur Briggs, one of the train robbers disappeared over the wall. Ray escaped from Missouri State Prison in 1967 by hiding in a bread truck.

Wandsworth is used for Britain's long-term prisoners and Ray will have two British police officers in his cell around the clock. American authorities have not yet interrogated Ray and legal experts say he can veto any attempt to do so as long as he is in British custody.

Ray at his first court appearance Monday was assigned a British lawyer at his own request and ordered held without bail for another hearing June 18 on the passport and gun charges.

If extradition proceedings are brought, the court will require evidence of a case against Ray and he will then have 15 days to appeal to the high court. If Ray's lawyers raised points of law there, a further appeal might be made to the House of Lords and the process could take months.

Some experts saw a precedent for the deportation of Ray in the case of Robert Soblen, who fled from the United States to Israel in 1962 after being sentenced to life imprisonment on charges that he was a Soviet spy. En route back to America, he stabbed himself and was taken off a plane at London for treatment.

The British government ordered Soblen out of the country as an undesirable alien and an appeals court ruled the move legal. But Soblen took poison while being sent to the airport and died.

IN THE two months American authorities searched for Ray following King's assassination April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., he went from the United States to Canada on April 8, to London May 6 and to Lisbon May 8. He left his Lisbon hotel on May 17 and surfaced again in London on May 28.

Police in those countries sought anyone who might

have known or helped Ray, and authorities in Canada also tried to learn how Ray obtained information on three Toronto men whose names he used as aliases.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Extradition Of Ray Asked

LONDON (UPI) — The United States Wednesday formally requested the extradition of James Earl Ray to the United States to stand trial for the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. British police searched for a possible accomplice.

Jack A. Herfurt, consular officer at the U. S. embassy, handed the Foreign Office the formal request after final documents on Ray were rushed to London from Washington by air.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton was expected to hold a full formal extradition hearing with Ray present in approximately a week or 10 days.

The American request sought to prove that Ray was the actual name of the man arrested last Saturday bearing a forged Canadian passport with the name of Ramon Sneyd.

The extradition demand outlined the state of Tennessee's case against Ray for the murder of King. It also stated Missouri's case against Ray for an earlier bank robbery for which the escaped convict had served only 7 years of a 20 year sentence.

At the same time, it was learned London police were attempting to establish the description and identity of a man or men reported to have been with Ray when he walked into two small hotels during his last 10 days in Britain.

The police were said to be combing the hotels for witnesses to the pair's appearances in the lobbies.

Ray was alone when he checked into the Pax Hotel, which has an unlisted telephone number and no name other than the word "hotel" on a sign hanging over the front door.

Mrs. Anna Thomas, proprietor of the Pax Hotel, said Ray acted "neurotic." She said he stayed in his room most of the time and made his own bed. When he left the maid found piles of torn up newspapers, two spy thrillers and a disposable plastic hypodermic syringe in the room, Mrs. Thomas said.

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Reports Conflict On Ray's European Activities

BY SCOTT B. BRUNS

LONDON (UPI)—The mysterious activities in Europe of James Earl Ray, wanted for the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., were clouded in a fog of conflicting reports Tuesday.

While U. S. officials swiftly gathered documents to present a formal request Wednesday or Thursday for Ray's extradition to the United States, both American and British officials declared a news blackout on the enigma of the much-traveled fugitive. Indications were Ray had no contacts in London. Hotels reported the seldom ventured from his rooms and received

no phone calls, mail or visitors before his arrest at the London Airport last Saturday.

The two versions of Ray's movements circulated here were:

—Ray arrived in London from Canada around May 5, flew to Lisbon May 7 and returned June 8 to London to make a connecting flight to Brussels. He was arrested after he walked into the airport transit lounge and questioned for three hours. This version was furnished by police sources and continued to be supplied by the FBI in Washington after local evidence to the contrary appeared here.

—Ray returned from Lisbon to London May 17 and stayed in at least two small hotels until he was arrested at the airport en route to Brussels. But passengers leaving England would not go through the transit lounge, although officials insisted that was where he was apprehended.

Reports circulated Ray had gone to Lisbon and planned to travel to Brussels to pick up money transferred to him from a Swiss bank. Lisbon banks were said to have been asked by Scotland Yard to check all new accounts and transfers. Unanswered was who had opened any accounts,

when and why.

The London Daily Telegraph insisted Ray telephoned its offices to ask the address in Brussels of a now-outlawed recruiting office for white mercenaries fighting in Africa.

Meanwhile, American officials ordered documents from Missouri, Tennessee and other points to try to establish airtight proof that the sullen man called Ramon Sneyd really was James Earl Ray.

Informed legal sources said that the American request for Ray's extradition would have to establish his identity as Ray beyond the shadow of

a doubt "in the eyes of British law." The United States also must lay out a good legal case for murder charges in Tennessee, the legal sources said.

The sources said the American file would include FBI copies of Ray's fingerprints and an account of his mysterious movements from King's assassination last April until his arrest last Saturday. The American case also will include depositions from persons who saw the alleged assassin shortly before King was shot in Memphis.

As a safety measure, U. S. officials also plan to file a formal request for Ray's ex-

tradition on a Missouri bank robbery charge. Ray had served seven years of a 20-year sentence for the theft when he escaped from prison last year.

The metropolitan chief magistrate, Frank Milton, will examine the U. S. documents at the hearing. If he is convinced of Sneyd's identity as Ray and satisfied the murder charges are based solidly, he will recommend extradition to the British home secretary.

If Ray fights extradition and tries all appeals under British law, it could take from one to three months to return him to America.

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