

3.
SL 44-775

year and is not acquainted with JERRY RAYNES or any former tenants at 1819 Park Avenue.

On May 21, 1968, DAVID and LEO BORNSTEIN, operators of South Side Auto Parts, 1820 Park Avenue, recalled an elderly man residing at 1819 Park Avenue by the first name of JERRY for a couple of years who moved from that address about a year ago. They recalled that he spoke of a son named JACK, however, they never observed any visitors at this residence.

They viewed the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that it was completely unfamiliar to them.

It is noted that the 1800 block of Park Avenue and adjacent streets are in the throes of a deteriorating process with a number of the buildings being vacant and a number of them being in various stages of destruction.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date May 14, 1968

Mrs. ALBERT B. (CAROL ANN) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, stated her new unpublished telephone number is 645-9152. She was interviewed on May 10, 1968, by SAs HOWARD C. KENNEDY and ALBERT J. RUSHING at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. PEPPER is the sister of subject, JAMES EARL RAY, but is 13 years younger than subject and in all of her life has had very little contact or association with the subject having seen him only approximately three or four times in her life. These three or four times when she has seen him all occurred in the City of St. Louis after Mrs. PEPPER came to St. Louis when she was 16 years old to reside with her father in St. Louis and all of the occasions when she saw the subject were brief encounters such as when she saw him on the street. She believes the last time she saw the subject was probably in 1959 or earlier when she encountered him on the street in South St. Louis at which time she was in the company of their brother, FRANK (BUZZY) RAY, who is now deceased. Her first recollection of seeing him was following his discharge from military service.

Mrs. PEPPER was born [redacted] at Ewing, Missouri. She went to school at Quincy, Illinois, where she resided with her mother, LUCILLE RYAN. Mrs. PEPPER's birth certificate showed her name as RAYNES which she understands is an incorrect spelling of the name of her father, whose name is RAYNS and who now resides near Center, Missouri, to which location he recently moved from St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. PEPPER prior to marriage, used the name CAROL RYAN, the same surname used by her mother, LUCILLE RYAN. Mrs. PEPPER is unable to account for the variations in the surnames and she is aware that various ones of her brothers and sister have used the surname RAY. So far as she knows they all had the same father although she expressed uncertainty in that regard and she assumes that the variations of the name are simply because her brothers and sisters decided to use the name RAY, a variation of the name RAYNS.

When Mrs. PEPPER was 16 years of age, she left her mother's residence in Quincy and came to St. Louis where she lived with her father at 1727 South 11th Street. She did

On 5/10/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR/leh Date dictated 5/10/68

131

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SL 44-775

not attend school after she moved to St. Louis but had various jobs including a period of employment at Kresge's, a dime store, located on Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri, no longer in existence. She is not now employed. Her last employment having been by the Catholic Archdiocese in St. Louis as a teacher in the Head Start Program which was conducted at St. Joseph's School on South 12th Street in St. Louis. The later employment was for a period of about one year during the latter part of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER at 712a Shenandoah, St. Louis, from which address they moved to their present address in the Maplewood in about October, 1967.

Sometime after Mrs. PEPPER came to St. Louis at the age of 16 years to reside with her father, her mother also came to St. Louis and resided with Mrs. PEPPER's maternal grandmother, MARY MAHER, at 1913 Hickory, St. Louis. Mrs. PEPPER however, did not at any time actually reside in St. Louis with her mother, although she occasionally spent brief periods of time with her mother at the mother's address. After the death of Mrs. PEPPER's mother in early 1961, Mrs. PEPPER did reside for a period of a few months with her grandmother, Mrs. MAHER, in St. Louis, until Mrs. PEPPER was married in St. Louis to ALBERT B. PEPPER in December, 1961.

Mrs. PEPPER and her husband have two children, [REDACTED], age 6, and [REDACTED], age 4.

After subject, JAMES EARL RAY, was arrested and convicted on the charge for which he was sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Mrs. PEPPER has not ever seen him again on any occasion. For a time after he went to the penitentiary she did write letters to him on behalf of her grandmother, Mrs. MAHER and used the latter's name in the letters and she continued this practice after the death of the grandmother in 1963, continuing to use the name of Mrs. MARY MAHER, who was an approved correspondent of subject's in the penitentiary. Mrs. PEPPER estimates that after the death of her grandmother she probably wrote no more than three or four letters to the subject at the penitentiary. She is unable to recall the last such letter she wrote to him but the last time may have been as late as the early part of 1967. She occasionally received a letter from subject while he was in the penitentiary and believes she received no more than two or three letters from him. Mrs. PEPPER did not ever visit subject at

SL 44-775

the penitentiary or attempt to do so and insofar as she knows her husband did not ever visit him at the penitentiary. She advised she has understood from her husband that the latter has never seen the subject in his life.

Mrs. PEPPER has not at any time had any contact either direct or indirect with the subject since his escape in 1967 from the Missouri State Penitentiary. She has no knowledge of any person who has had information regarding the subject's whereabouts and stated she could furnish no such information regarding his whereabouts. She, herself, first learned that he had escaped from the penitentiary when she heard it on the radio and she knew nothing about any plans for the escape. She stated she has had no indication that anyone in her family or otherwise has been in any way in contact with the subject or had information regarding his whereabouts since his escape.

Inquiry was made of Mrs. PEPPER regarding whether she recalled anything about the receipt of a money order in approximately January, 1967, which was reportedly in the amount of \$15.00 and was sent by an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary to the ALBERT PEPPER Stationery Company, 712a Shenandoah, St. Louis.

In response to direct questions concerning this matter, she advised that she may have received a money order on one occasion but to the best of her recollection, it was for \$2.00 or \$3.00 and it may have been in payment for magazines which her brother had requested she mail to him. It was her recollection that if she received a money order it was received earlier than January, 1967. She said she never at any time mailed magazines to him and does not recall what disposition she may have made of any money order after it was received. Later in the interview she said the money order may have been for as much as \$15.00 but she does not recall. She also acknowledged that she might have cashed such a money order but she cannot specifically remember having done so. In this connection, she said her memory is very vague.

In response to soliciting by interviewing agents, Mrs. PEPPER stated that she would be entirely willing to notify the St. Louis Office of the FBI if she should at any time in

SL 44-775

the future receive any information which might have bearing on locating the subject. She also stated that she would be entirely willing to be interviewed further in the event there should be any additional matters on which an interview with her would be desired.

Mrs. PEPPER said that her first knowledge of the subject's involvement in this matter was when she heard the news announcement on the radio and she said she has never had any information regarding the possible involvement other than that which has appeared in the news media. She said she had never known of anything in her brother's attitude or associations which would suggest any motive for his involvement in the killing of a Negro leader such as MARTIN LUTHER KING.

1Date 5-16-68

Mrs. ALBERT B. (CAROL) PEPPER was recontacted at her residence, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri. She again specifically denied that she has had any contact with her brother, JAMES RAY, since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967, or that she has had any knowledge whatever of his whereabouts since that time other than what she has derived from the news media. Although Mrs. PEPPER expressed her willingness and intention to notify the FBI if she should at any time be contacted by him or if she should receive any information regarding him she stated that she would certainly not expect that he would contact her and she noted in that regard that RAY would not be aware of her current address or her new un-published telephone number. She further pointed out that other than their brother, JERRY RAY, who is in the Chicago area, she believes all of the family have moved since RAY's escape from the penitentiary and that JERRY RAY would, therefore, be the only one whose address would be known to JAMES RAY.

With regard to the Grapevine Tavern, Mrs. PEPPER commented that the tavern has barely been making expenses since it was opened about the first of the current year and, therefore, it may not continue in operation very long.

On 5-14-68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING
SA HOWARD C. KENNEDY AJR:amb Date dictated 5-15-68

135

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 5-21-68

Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, was interviewed at her residence, at which time she furnished the following information:

Mrs. PEPPER has received no information regarding her brother, JAMES EARL RAY (whome she refers to as JIM), since the last previous interview with her by the FBI.

Within the past several days, police officers from the St. Louis Police Department came to see Mrs. PEPPER indicating to her that they had received some inquiry from a newspaper, possibly "The Los Angeles Times" according to Mrs. PEPPER's recollection of what they said; this inquiry having to do with the finances of the RAY family. The police officers apparently came to see Mrs. PEPPER just to find out some general information about her, and they suggested to her that if people wanted to talk to her about her finances, she might want to obtain a lawyer. A representative of "The St. Louis Post Dispatch" newspaper also came to see Mrs. PEPPER within the preceding few days, but she refused to talk to him. Mrs. PEPPER has heard from an acquaintance that there was an article a few days ago in "The St. Louis Post Dispatch" which seemed to be a rehash of the erroneous information which appeared in a "Life Magazine" article concerning the RAY family, but Mrs. PEPPER herself did not read this newspaper article.

Mrs. PEPPER and her family went to see her father at Center, Missouri, over the preceding weekend, May 18-19, 1968. She has been customarily going to see him there during weekends and usually takes him groceries. She is the one in the family who maintains contact with the father and looks after his needs. The farm which the father bought about six months ago is believed to consist of about forty acres of which a little is probably tillable, and she thinks her father will grow corn on this part of the farm, but the remainder is suitable only for livestock and grazing. She thinks that he paid some amount in the neighborhood of \$2,600 for this farm. Mrs. PEPPER is uncertain in her recollection, but believes it may be correct that she gave him a check drawn on her account in the amount of \$1,900 at the time he was purchasing this farm and which was applied to the purchase. If so, this money

On 5-20-68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA HARRY C. JUNG
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:ral Date dictated 5-20-68

136

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SL 44-775

would have been his money. Mrs. PEPPER sometimes keeps his money in her checking account or savings account, and she thinks this may have occurred in this instance. On the other hand, she may have given him such a check as a loan, but she is uncertain in her recollection. Sometime before her father purchased the farm, he sold the property in St. Louis which he formerly owned at 1819 Park, this property consisting of a two-story residential building. Mrs. PEPPER believes he received something like \$2,800 from the sale of this property. She believes that the \$1,900 which she may have returned to him in the form of her check represented part of the proceeds of the sale of that property which he gave her to keep for him in her account. In any event Mrs. PEPPER is certain that she did not herself pay for any part of the purchase of the farm by her father, and if she gave him the check for \$1,900, this was a return of his money or a loan.

While Mrs. PEPPER's father resided in St. Louis before the purchase of the farm at Center, Missouri, he had various jobs, such as, service station attendant, and he also at one time operated a second-hand store where he sold junk. This business was also located on Park Avenue, but was somewhere east of Twelfth Street, a considerable distance from 1819 Park. Her father did not own the property where he conducted this second-hand business.

Until Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER moved to their present residence in the fall of 1967, Mrs. PEPPER was always employed ever since their marriage in December of 1961. During that period of time, they have practiced thrift and economy and have always endeavored to save something from their income. They opened a savings account several years ago at the Bohemian Savings and Loan Association on South Eighteenth Street in St. Louis in the same area where they resided. A few years ago when the Bohemian Savings and Loan Association was moved to a remote section of the city, they transferred their savings account to the Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, where they have continued to have a joint savings account. ALBERT PEPPER has been employed for more than three years by the Ace Construction and Engineering Company, which is affiliated with the New Market Hardware Store. His earnings in this employment is \$3 per hour, and in some weeks he works overtime on Saturdays. Mrs. PEPPER's last employment was with

SL 44-775

the "Head Start" School Program, and she was employed there by the Catholic Archdiocese being paid at the rate of \$60 per week. She had this employment for about a year until Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER moved in the fall of 1967 to their present address. Her last employment before that was in cleaning work at an office building at 1015 Locust in St. Louis. Because she and her husband have always endeavored to be economical and saving in the handling of their family finances, they were able to accumulate funds in their savings account. When they contracted in the fall of 1967 to purchase the house where they now live for a purchase price of \$10,500, they withdrew the necessary money for the downpayment from their savings account.

Mrs. PEPPER has no idea and no knowledge as to whether her father may ever have given Mrs. PEPPER's brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, any funds to hold for her father.

Mrs. PEPPER has no information regarding a trip to California made by her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, in the summer of 1967 and never knew or heard that he made such a trip.

One of the places in St. Louis where Mrs. PEPPER lived with her father prior to her marriage was 1727 South Eleventh Street. She believes her brother BUZZY lived with them there part of the time, but she is certain that her brother JIM never lived with them there. Mrs. PEPPER never had any knowledge of her brother JIM having used the name O'CONNOR, and she never knew of any bank accounts he may have had at any bank at any time. In fact, Mrs. PEPPER had so little contact or knowledge of her brother JIM that she can now recall having seen him only on possibly a couple of occasions when she was small and shortly after he was discharged from military service, and she recalls seeing him on one occasion on the street in South St. Louis at some later time after she moved to St. Louis with her father. Although Mrs. PEPPER was known as CAROL RYAN as of 1959, she has no knowledge or recollection of having received any checks from her brother JIM or from any person under the name JAMES CARL O'CONNOR, either in 1959 or any other time. She can think of no reason why she might ever have received any such checks. Mrs. PEPPER is certain that she has never had any financial dealings of any type with her brother JIM in her life.

With regard to the matter of a money order directed from an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary to the Albert Pepper Stationery Company, 712 Shenandoah, St. Louis, Mrs. PEPPER has still been unable to remember anything further regarding such a matter since she was previously interviewed regarding this matter. She still does vaguely remember that someone told her one time while he was in the penitentiary that he wanted magazines sent to him, but she cannot remember having sent magazines to him and cannot recall that she was ever reimbursed for doing so. She is certain, however, that there was never any Albert Pepper Stationery Company at 712 Shenandoah.

Mrs. PEPPER has no recollection that she has ever known of a person named Y. P. WEBBE or V. P. WEBBE, and this name is not in any way familiar or significant to her.

1

Date May 28, 1968

Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, was recontacted. She said she had understood that within the preceding two or three days, an interview with her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, had been reported in the St. Louis Globe Democrat but she, herself, had not seen the article in the newspaper. She said she understood from her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, that a reporter from the Globe Democrat had showed JOHN an article which had been written for publication in the St. Louis Post Dispatch newspaper and which was filled with untruths about the family. It was for this reason and in order that the truth might be furnished the press, that JOHN consented to the interview by a representative of the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Mrs. PEPPER said that she had received no additional information whatever since she was last interviewed bearing on the possible whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY. She volunteered a statement to the effect that she feels certain that no member of the family has been contacted by JAMES EARL RAY or has been aware of his whereabouts since his escape except for what has appeared in the press. She said she felt sure that if any of the family had been contacted by RAY or had received some information regarding him she would certainly have known of it because the family would have told her.

On 5/24/68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR/leh Date dictated 5/28/68
140

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 5, 1968

1

Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, advised that she had received no additional information whatever bearing on the possible location of her brother, JAMES EARL RAY, since she was last interviewed.

Inquiry was made of Mrs. PEPPER as to whether, in the event she should receive some pertinent information regarding her brother, she would furnish such information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Mrs. PEPPER then stated that she would have no expectations whatever that her brother would communicate with her in any way, pointing out that he did not know her current address or her current unpublished telephone number. She added that she felt that he did not believe that he could expect any help from her and she said that, as a matter of fact, she would not be at all interested or willing to help him as she did not want herself and particularly her children to be in any way involved with him. She said that if she should hear from RAY and be convinced of his innocence she might find it difficult to furnish such information to the FBI. It was pointed out to Mrs. PEPPER that in the event RAY should be innocent or there should be any extenuating circumstances the entire matter would in any event be most readily resolved through locating RAY at the earliest possible time. Mrs. PEPPER expressed understanding and agreement with this idea.

Inquiry was made of Mrs. PEPPER as to her whereabouts and activities during the period between April and July, 1967. She said she was living at that period of time with her husband and two children at 712-a Shenandoah, St. Louis. She recalled that beginning in about the summer of 1966 and ending in about July or August, 1967, she was employed as a teacher's aide or assistant teacher in the "Head Start Program" at St. Joseph's School located at Twelfth and Russell Streets, St. Louis. In this employment she worked regularly during that period on Monday through Friday, each week, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 or 4:30 p.m. daily. This work involved the teaching of children three to five years of age. She was employed in this work by the Catholic Archdiocese on

On 6/5/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:jfb 6/5/68
SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY Date dictated 141

2

SL: 44-775

Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, under Sister ANN CLARICE, Supervisor of the "Head Start Program" for this Archdiocese. She was paid for her work by check from the Archdiocese, although she understood that at least some of the funds for the "Head Start Program" were furnished the Archdiocese by the Human Development Corporation. Mrs. PEPPER recalled that she missed only one day from work during the entire period of her employment and that day was due to the illness of her youngest child.

Mrs. PEPPER said her first knowledge of the escape of her brother, JAMES EARL RAY, from the Missouri State Penitentiary was when she heard or read news reports regarding the escape but she is unable to recall the approximate time she heard such reports. However, since reported identification of RAY as the alleged assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Mrs. PEPPER has heard or read reports to the effect that his escape from the penitentiary was not officially reported or given publicity for perhaps several weeks after the escape occurred. Mrs. PEPPER, therefore, assumed that she herself would not have learned of the escape from news reports until perhaps several weeks after the escape.

142

1

Date June 14, 1968

Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL ANN) PEPPER, residing 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, telephone 645-9152, who was contacted at her residence, disclosed the following information:

She has been truthful in previous contacts by FBI Agents with her that she does not recall having any contact at all except by personal correspondence with her oldest brother, JAMES EARL RAY, since about eight or nine years ago, prior to the time he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri. Her only contact with JAMES EARL RAY while he was incarcerated there was via mail. She admitted having written to him under the name of her grandmother who died after RAY was confined to the penitentiary.

She emphasized that she has never at anytime nor does she now know where her brother spent the time between about April 23, 1967, when he escaped from the MSP and July 1967, when his whereabouts have been established through investigation. She did not see or hear from him at all during that period of time, and insofar as is known to her, none of her brothers or sisters have seen him since he escaped from the MSP.

She was very much surprised when she learned that JAMES EARL RAY had been arrested in London, England. She first learned of these circumstances after being called by telephone by a woman friend, name not disclosed, on Saturday, June 8, 1968, the day of his arrest. This friend informed her of the news and she then heard the same news on television. Although she has saved most of the local papers for each day since that time, she has not read from more than one or two of them about her brother. The news is, of course, upsetting and she has formed an opinion that in many instances information is grossly exaggerated and misrepresented. She is somewhat bitter towards the local press, advising that CHRIS CONDON, a St. Louis news commentator, telephoned her, probably on Monday, June 10, 1968, requesting an interview with her. She declined and on the following day, Tuesday, June 11, 1968, in the late afternoon she observed CHRIS CONDON and several other men with him, both in front of the house and in a vestibule at her house. They appeared to be attempting to gain entrance but she declined to answer the door. She observed that they took pictures of the house and then on the 6:00 p.m. television news broadcast, Channel 5, she observed pictures of her house. The pictures disclosed the house number of 2025, and the news announcement indicated the house was located on Bellevue Street in Maplewood.

On 6/13/68 at Maplewood, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA (A) HOWARD C. KENNEDY : pjh Date dictated 6/14/68

143

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

On the previous evening, CHRIS CONDON reported photographs and news concerning the Grape Vine Tavern owned by her and operated by her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, at St. Louis. She believes this news coverage is very unfair to herself and to her brother, JOHN.

At one point she commented that it is rather discouraging to know that she and many other people are paying through taxes the expenses for a representative of the United States Government to travel to London, England, in behalf of the Government for prosecution of her brother when she personally does not have money enough to afford to go there also. She said it might be possible if she had money to "help in his defense" in referring to her brother, JAMES EARL RAY, but she did not comment further. She emphasized she has absolutely no information pertaining to his activities within the past several years.

She became sad and tearful in recalling incidents of her childhood, mentioning that a Catholic children's home, not otherwise identified, was wrong in taking from her mother her three youngest children, namely [REDACTED] SUSIE and BUZZY.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She has not seen her sister, SUSIE, who is married and who lives in the Chicago, Illinois, area, since BUZZY's funeral. Her mother, of course, was an alcoholic.

Her husband, ALBERT PEPPER, has indicated to her he believes they should obtain a gun of some kind "for protection" in view of recent publicity. She is afraid that Negroes may attempt to harm them. She personally directed JOHN RAY to close the tavern for a few days. JOHN RAY, she believes is at home. She talked to him by telephone when he called her from the tavern where he had stopped for a few minutes on June 12, 1968. She does not know when the tavern will reopen.

1

Date June 14, 1968

Mrs. ALBERT PEPPER (CAROL ANN), residing 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, telephone 645-9152, telephonically furnished the following information at 2:30 p.m.

On inquiry as to whether her brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, is in fact intending to travel to London, England, in behalf of JAMES EARL RAY, his brother, she commented that her brother JOHN is definitely not going to leave St. Louis to travel to England or anywhere else. She said he does not have funds with which to travel and although she personally "has a few dollars" she does not intend to give any of it to JOHN. She said she might consider doing so if either of them could be of any assistance to JAMES EARL RAY, but she is confident that "there is no help for him". She said that if they can in anyway help him, they will have to do so after he is returned to this country.

She said that JOHN RAY does not have a telephone where he may be reached except at the Grape Vine Tavern. He visited her home on the afternoon of June 13, 1968, and he usually telephones her once each day. He has not yet called her today and she expects to hear from him this afternoon. At the request of SA(A) HOWARD C. KENNEDY she said she will inform JOHN RAY to telephonically contact SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY at this office.

On 6/14/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA (A) HOWARD C. KENNEDY : pjh Date dictated 6/14/68

145

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1
SL: 44-775
HRD:wma

CAROL PEPPER -
EMPLOYMENT

Sister ANN CLARICE, Supervisor, "Head Start Program," for the Catholic Archdiocese, 4445 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, advised SA JOSEPH A. DUBYAK, June 7, 1968, her records disclosed CAROL PEPPER of 712A Shenandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, was employed as a teachers aide under that program and under her supervision at St. Joseph's School, 12th and Russell, St. Louis, Missouri, from 1966 until she voluntarily terminated such employment on August 18, 1967, due to the fact that she was moving to St. Louis County.

During this period she worked from 8:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. each week day, except for one five-hour absence on one day in February, 1967.

Her services were satisfactory.

1
SL 44-775
CSD/ral

Re: CAROL PEPPER - CREDIT REFERENCE

The following investigation was conducted by SA CHARLES S. DUKE on May 22, 1968, at St. Louis, Missouri:

Mr. DON HUELSING, Credit Manager, Beiderman's Furniture Store, 6759 Chippewa Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that an account, now closed, was established on June 4, 1966, for the amount of \$103 in the name of AL and CAROL PEPPER, residing at 712A Shenandoah, St. Louis, with an indicated previous address of 1324 Lami, St. Louis.

ALBERT's employment was listed as New Market Hardware on Laclede Avenue, St. Louis.

The record of Mr. and Mrs. PEPPER indicated a savings account at the Manufacturers Bank and a personal reference as JERRY RAYNS, 1819 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

HUELSING advised that the record contained no derogatory information.

1
SL 44-775
CSD/ral

Re: CAROL PEPPER - CHARACTER REFERENCE

The following investigation was conducted by SA CHARLES S. DUKE at St. Louis, Missouri, on May 22, 1968:

ALENA SUTTON, 7129 Leona Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was contacted at her residence, whereupon she advised that she knew CAROL PEPPER, also known as Mrs. ALBERT PEPPER, for just a couple of years and that their association was not a social relationship but rather a teacher-parent relationship. She said that she was an instructor at the St. Joseph Church on Twelfth and Russell Streets, St. Louis, and enrolled in the project "Headstart" government program, and the program required at least one parent of one of the children attending the program to be present. She said CAROL was the parent present at this program.

SUTTON advised that she did not know where CAROL was presently residing with her husband ALBERT and two sons, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ages 6 and 4 respectively.

SUTTON stated that she did not know any of CAROL'S brothers or sisters and did not know if she even had any.

She stated that she last saw CAROL sometime in August of last year, and the only thing she could remember about any type of conversation about her family was something to the effect that her father was going to buy or did buy a farm up around Hannibal, Missouri, and that he probably would let her children go to the farm. She said that it was probably in Hannibal, but she was not sure.

1
SL 44-775
HCK:amb

RE: CAROL PEPPER

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On May 17, 1968, Mr. HENRY A. GRIESEDIECK, Owner and Operator of a proprietorship known as F.L.R. Investments with offices at 3638 Olive Street, St. Louis, was contacted at his place of business by SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY. Mr. GRIESEDIECK furnished the following information:

On or about May 1, 1968, he received a \$320 check from CAROL PEPPER residing 2025 Bellevue, St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. PEPPER is the operator of a tavern known as "Jack's Place," 1982 Arsenal Street, St. Louis. He recalled that this check was drawn on an account at Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, St. Louis, Missouri, but he had no further description of the check received by him. The check was forwarded in response to a statement of F.L.R. Investments forwarded to Mrs. PEPPER under date of March 27, 1968, and it was in payment for a tavern bond costing \$20 and a Missouri State Liquor License costing \$300. F.L.R. Investments serves as an agent, obtaining liquor licenses and supplying bonds, for numerous taverns and cocktail lounges in the St. Louis area.

1

Date May 21, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed in a Bureau automobile on Illinois Avenue, south of Arsenal Street.

JOHN LARRY RAY stated that as pointed out previously he was released from Menard Penitentiary in Illinois in February, 1960, and visited his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, who was incarcerated at that time at the City Jail, St. Louis. This incarceration was in connection with a holdup of the Kroger Store in October or November, 1966, by his brother and a man named OWENS.

After JAMES EARL RAY's trial about April, 1960, he was moved to the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. From that time and until prior to his escape he visited his brother on occasion, exact number of occasions not recalled. He does recall that on at least one occasion on attempting to visit his brother, he determined that his brother was in some type of solitary confinement and could not have visitors. Therefore, although he had signed in to visit his brother, he actually did not see his brother. JOHN LARRY RAY pointed out that this may be the reason for the numerous visits shown to the Penitentiary by him, all of which he does not recall.

JOHN LARRY RAY stated that he has not seen nor heard of his brother or from his brother since his escape from the Penitentiary outside of what he has learned from newspaper articles and news commentaries.

He very emphatically denied having any knowledge, either direct or indirect, of his brother ever being in Omaha, Nebraska. He stated that his knowledge of his brother being in California is limited to what was reported in the newspaper.

When questioned regarding conversation between him and his brother on visits, JOHN LARRY RAY stated that he rarely visited his brother over a half hour because they had very little to say to one another. He indicated that his brother is "close mouthed" and the conversation consisted primarily of the welfare of JAMES EARL RAY.

On one or more occasions he does recall, however, that JAMES EARL RAY mentioned that as soon as he got out of the Penitentiary (not clarified as to whether he intended to escape or whether he meant after his sentence was served) he intended to leave the country.

On 5/9/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775

by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY/rjb Date dictated 5/15/68

150

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SL: 44-775

On at least one of these occasions when he was talking about leaving the country, he indicated that he thought very highly of the way former German Army officer, I. N. SMITH, was running the Rhodesian Government. JOHN RAY stated that this was merely a passing comment and he did not attach any significance to it but is mentioning it now because he is of the opinion that if JAMES EARL RAY is alive, he is out of the country.

Again, JOHN LARRY RAY reiterated that he has no direct or indirect knowledge of his brother, JAMES EARL RAY's present whereabouts nor has he had any knowledge regarding this since his escape from the Penitentiary.

He said again that his brother was not reported as an escapee but rather on the first news report that he recalls hearing was reported as missing. He denied that he ever spoke to anyone of knowing that JAMES EARL RAY was in Omaha or Los Angeles, California, other than the reported California visit in the newspaper.

JOHN LARRY RAY advised that his brother, JERRY RAY, left St. Louis today to return to Chicago. JOHN LARRY RAY stated that he is of the opinion from conversations with JERRY RAY that JERRY RAY has no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts. He noted that JERRY RAY arrived in St. Louis last Friday night from Chicago as previously advised and while in St. Louis since last Friday visited with him and with CAROL PEPPER, their sister.

JOHN RAY stated that they visited JERRY RAYNES at his farm in Center, Missouri, together using JERRY's automobile. They remained all night on the occasion of the visit to Center, Missouri. During conversations with "the old man" at Center, Missouri, he gained the impression that he has no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

1

Date May 23, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed in the vicinity of the Grapevine Tavern in a Bureau automobile.

JOHN RAY stated that, if his brother had been in St. Louis or had visited St. Louis following his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary, he would definitely have contacted him (JOHN RAY), particularly if he needed help in the way of money or place to stay. He emphatically denied that this took place. He stated he would still help his brother if his brother asked him to or contacted him in any way, however, he feels he would tell the interviewing Agent about it after it happened.

With regard to JOHN GAWRON, he stated that his brother is acquainted with JOHN GAWRON, however, is positive that he would never contact him if in St. Louis and a fugitive because he does not trust him. JOHN RAY described GAWRON as an old crazy man, who talks about "jobs" and "cases jobs" but never pulls any. He talks all the time about the past and jobs he pulled in the past, however, tells various versions of the jobs at various times, therefore, believed to be by JOHN RAY a complete liar and "idiot."

He stated that if his brother was dealing in amphetamines in prison that he would probably have had plenty of money on him at time of escape, because dealers of amphetamines in prison are usually the top money holders.

JOHN RAY stated that he is of the opinion that his brother immediately left the country after his escape and basis this opinion on the fact that during his visits with JIM, JIM indicated that he intended to leave the country when he got out, inasmuch as he was sick of the law enforcement harassment in this country.

With regard to JAMES L. OWENS, fall partner of JIM in 1959 hold-up of the Kroger Store, he stated that he does not believe that his brother would be in contact with OWENS because he is of the opinion he would kill OWENS if he saw him again. He stated he believes this because he feels OWENS was responsible

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY PWB:jfb 5/21/68
SA ROBERT A. HESS Date dictated 152

2

SL: 44-775

for the arrest and conviction of JIM, however, did not gain this impression from conversations with JIM, merely surmised it because OWENS pleaded guilty and got a lighter sentence than JIM.

On viewing the Identification Order photographs, JOHN RAY stated that the photograph with the crew cut looks more like his brother, JIM, to him, however, he noted this is possibly because he does not recall ever seeing JIM with long hair, noting that he always wore a crew cut.

When questioned regarding his smiling reaction to each question, he stated that his facial reaction is a nervous reaction, which in the past on questioning by the police has caused him trouble. He stated that it is merely a nervous reaction and he is not eluding to any knowledge that he might be withholding.

JOHN RAY stated that the name JAMES DAVID DAILEY is unknown to him but, when questioned regarding a man known as "J. D.," he does recall a man who owned a bar at Twelfth and Morrison Street a number of years ago who was known as "J. D." This individual later owned the Half-Way House Restaurant on Jefferson Avenue. He stated that he does not believe that "J. D." knows him by name. He stated the reason he recalls "J. D." was that on one occasion, while in the bar at Twelfth and Morrison, "J. D." "sicked" seven men on him and later he caught "J. D." alone and beat him up because of this. He stated insofar as he knows his brother, JIM, is unknown to "J. D.", however, he has no way of knowing whether or not they are acquainted.

With regard to the money sent to the penitentiary in 1963 in the amounts of \$35.00, \$65.00 and \$50.00, he does not recall sending those amounts and again reiterated that he transferred no money from anybody to or for JIM RAY while he was in the penitentiary. He stated that he never sent

3

SL: 44-775

JIM more than \$15.00 or \$20.00 at any given time, and he is of the opinion that he may have sent some money to JIM under JERRY's name, however, it would be amounts of \$15.00 or \$20.00 or less. He pointed out that he has never given anyone permission to send money to his brother under his name and no one has ever approached him in that regard.

He stated that about 1963 and possibly part of 1962, for about four to six months, he resided at his grandmother's rooming house on Hickory Street and the street which would be directly behind this was commonly called "Gallie," however, it is no longer in existence due to the routing of Interstate Highway 55.

He stated that in 1964 and 1965 he went to Florida, where he worked for a very short period of time at Flamingo City, which is about ninety miles from Miami, believed to be in the Everglades National Park. Thereafter, believed during the same period of time, he went to New York City, remained a short time and then went to work for a short period of time at the Concord Hotel in the Catskill Mountains, just outside of New York City. Thereafter, he returned to New York City for a short period of time and drew unemployment.

Sometime thereafter, he returned to the Chicago area where he worked in various country clubs and in about October, 1966, he came to St. Louis. For a short period of time he resided with his sister at 712 Shenandoah and then for a couple of months resided at JOHN GAWRON's residence on South Eleventh Street. Following this he resided for about three months at 1822 North Twenty-first Street. He then obtained a room at 2001 or 2100 Russell for a short period of time and in about October of 1967 rented an apartment at 1912 California Street. He kept that apartment for about three or four months.

He stated to the best of his recollection for a short period of time, about November or December, 1967, he resided at 2010 Shenandoah and he also recollects from about August, 1967, or September, 1967, he resided at 2012 Lafayette

154

4

SL: 44-775

and for a short period of time in the early part of 1967 he also resided at 1806 or 1808 Lafayette.

He stated that in between all of the above-mentioned residences he would stay sometimes a week or two at a time with either his sister on Shenandoah or with JOHN GAWRON on South Eleventh Street and occasionally stayed a few days at 1819 Park, where his father, JERRY RAYNES, lived at the time.

1Date May 22, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed at the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

He stated that with regard to his belief that his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, had plenty of money on him at the time of his escape from prison was based on the fact that he had been questioned regarding his knowledge of his brother's dealing in amphetamines while in prison. He stated that it was pure guess work on his part and he merely felt this way because he recalls that from his experience in prisons that usually the people who deal in narcotics in prisons are among the wealthier inmates. He stated he has no idea how JAMES EARL RAY would have spent any money he earned in prison, either while in prison or subsequent to leaving prison. He reiterated that he has not seen or heard from JAMES EARL RAY since his escape and has never heard anyone say that he was in Chicago, particularly in the summer of 1967. He recalls that in the summer of 1967 he was in Chicago himself at which time he traded cars with his brother JERRY.

On 5/17/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775

by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY/mjb Date dictated 5/20/68

156
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 5-24-68

JOHN LARRY RAY, 1902a Cherokee, was interviewed at that location at which time he supplied the following information:

RAY identified a photograph of JAMES DAVID DAILEY as a person known to him only as "J.D." who at one time operated a tavern on Morrison Street in St. Louis and with whom RAY got involved in a fist fight with sometime in 1960. RAY is of the opinion that although he knows "J.D." by sight he does not believe that DAILEY knows him. RAY was unable to provide any information whether his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, and DAILEY have ever known each other.

RAY was questioned regarding his stay at the MacArthur Hotel in St. Louis at which time he readily stated that approximately two or three months ago he spent a night at the MacArthur Hotel with the night barmaid of the Grapevine Inn, NAOMI REGAZZI (phonetic). According to RAY he registered as Mr. and Mrs. JOHN RAY and provided a fictitious address. He was questioned regarding the address 1886 Wyoming at which time he stated it is entirely possible that he used that address when registering, however, it does not have any particular significance to him.

RAY stated that in the early fall of 1967, his father, JERRY RAYNES, had sold a house on Park Avenue in St. Louis and gave to RAY \$1000 to hold for him. RAY indicated that he had saved approximately \$3000 from various employments and indicated that on many occasions carried this cash on his person and stated that even to this date it is not unusual for him to carry \$500 or \$600 on him. RAY denied any of the money saved by him had been obtained in an unlawful manner. RAY supported this statement by saying that in the operation of the Grapevine Tavern it is necessary to have an abundance of cash for various bills and he also pays the employees at the tavern in cash.

RAY stated that in early August of 1967, he had decided to drive to San Francisco, California, in an attempt to invest the money he had at that time in a bar or other profitable business. He indicated that he drove alone to California, and while in San Francisco, stayed several days

On 5-18-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
by SA ROBERT A. HESS
SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY RAH:amb Date dictated 5-20-68

157

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2
SL 44-775

at various cheap hotels in the downtown area, exact names unrecalled. He did say that he failed to find a suitable business opened and while on the return trip to St. Louis he decided to travel to Tijuana, Mexico. He related that he had heard of the numerous dishonest people and thieves in Mexico so while traveling through an unnamed town in Wyoming he purchased \$750 worth of travelers' checks. RAY stated that he then drove to Tijuana and after his arrival there stated it was extremely difficult for him to understand the language, that he did not like the place, and within two hours after his arrival departed en route to St. Louis, Missouri.

RAY stated the entire trip required approximately two weeks and he emphatically denied any knowledge of or contact with his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, during the trip or at any time following JAMES' escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary. He stated he never knew that JAMES RAY was in California, until the current publicity regarding him.

RAY added that upon his arrival in St. Louis during the last week of August, 1967, he opened bank accounts at the Manufacturers Bank and also the Jefferson-Gravois Bank. He indicated that both accounts were opened as the combined business hours of both banks were suitable to his own hours. RAY stated that deposits to open these accounts were made with the remaining cash he had on hand and the travelers' checks which he purchased in Wyoming.

RAY was questioned regarding the financial status of his brother, JAMES RAY, while he was in the Missouri State Penitentiary and RAY stated that he had no idea as to how much money JAMES had, however, he reiterated the previous recollection of statements made by JAMES during visits to the Missouri State Penitentiary that if he got out of the penitentiary he would leave the country. JOHN RAY stated that he assumed that his brother would have had sufficient money to do just that. He denied any knowledge of sources of income for his brother but he again assumed that if his brother was involved in the sale of amphetamine or in the loan business while in the penitentiary he would then presumably have made some money. RAY denied any knowledge or information that anyone outside the penitentiary owed money to his brother or was hiding money for him.

1

Date May 23, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed in the vicinity of Wisconsin and Illinois Avenue, after a prior telephone contact with him at the Grapevine Tavern.

RAY advised that the basis for the front page article in the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" this date was an interview with him by a newspaper reporter from the "Globe-Democrat". He stated that he has been regularly refusing to talk to reporters, however, this particular reporter showed him a story allegedly to be put on AP by the Los Angeles "Times" reporter, whom he had refused to talk to. According to RAY, this article indicated that he hated his brother, had no close family ties, and was hiding out, all of which he indicated was untruthful. After reading this article, the reporter indicated to him that, if he agreed to an interview, the reporter would put it in a more favorable light and the result would be a refuting of these lies.

He advised this newspaper reporter that his sister, CAROL, whose last name he did not furnish the newspaper, owned the tavern known as the Grapevine, which he was operating. He also indicated to the reporter that he did not hate his brother, as alleged in the supposed AP story and to impress reporter with the closeness of his family, he told him he could go to his father in Hannibal, Missouri, who is alive, or to his sister and borrow \$500.00 any time he wanted to. He stated that the purpose of this statement was to impress reporter with the closeness of his family and it had no other meaning.

With regard to the statement in the newspaper article about him running a trucking business, he pointed out this is not true. However, he noted that he had talked to CLARENCE HAYNES, who resides at 1822 North Twenty-first Street, about going into the trucking business together. He noted that HAYNES has one truck and they tentatively agreed that RAY would more or less obtain customers for this trucking business. He noted that HAYNES was supposed to have cards printed up reflecting both their names, however, to date he has not seen these cards, however, they may have been printed and the reporter may have gotten this information either from HAYNES or from the printing company. He pointed out that he is definitely not in the trucking business, yet, however, may enter this with HAYNES.

On 5/22/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY :jfb Date dictated 5/23/68
159

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2

SL: 44-775

He pointed out that since this paper has hit the street he has been dodging newspaper reporters and television coverage all day. He noted that he was contacted by JIM BRADY of Channel 2, St. Louis, and tentatively agreed to meet him at 1:00 p.m. this date for pictures of his place of business and of him for television purposes, however, said he set up this meeting date as only a way of getting rid of BRADY. Thereafter, he did not keep this appointment and thereafter left his place of business so he could not be located.

With regard to mailing postcards to his sister, SUSAN, in Chicago, he noted that he had sent her one from Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and related the following as incidental to this:

He stated that shortly after his release from prison, he was living and working in the Chicago area and decided to visit Detroit, Michigan, and New York, New York. He drove from Chicago to Detroit and, while in Detroit, drove across the bridge to Canada. En route across the bridge, he was stopped by what he believed to be a United States Immigration Officer who told him that he could not remain in Canada more than twenty-four hours. Thereafter, he proceeded to Windsor, Ontario, and remained that night, during which time he mailed this postcard to his sister, SUSAN. He returned the next morning to Detroit. Then, instead of going to New York City, he returned to the Chicago area.

With regard to the postcard of July 29, 1962, at Washington, D. C., he does not specifically recall mailing this card, however, has been in Washington, D. C., dates not specifically recalled, on more than one occasion. He indicated that he did travel extensively, noting that after he worked for a while and got a few dollars ahead he would take trips to various places in the United States without giving any particular thought as to where he was going. He noted he has visited Florida and all along the east coast up to and including New York City.

160

3

SL: 44-775

With regard to the money that he deposited in his bank accounts last August, he related the following that immediately preceded those deposits:

He stated that his father, JERRY, sold the place at 1819 Park Avenue and received some \$2,000.00 or more in cash from this sale. Thereafter, JERRY gave this money to CAROL to deposit in her bank account, however, a portion, believed to be \$1,000.00, was to be held by JOHN. He noted this was no specific agreement, merely that they were together and he intended to go to California and try to locate a small business purchase. He noted that JERRY could have the impression that CAROL got all the money to hold, however, recalls that JERRY was present when he got the \$1,000.00.

After the above, he proceeded to take a leisurely trip en route to San Francisco and, while in some town in Wyoming he decided that he would change a portion of this cash into Travelers Checks, which he did. He then proceeded to San Francisco, where he stayed approximately two weeks. While in San Francisco, he discovered that in order to get a liquor license you had to buy an existing license and these business licenses were from \$6,000.00 to \$30,000.00 each, which he could not afford.

Thereafter, he drove south to San Diego and remained approximately one week. On departure from San Diego, he visited Tijuana, Mexico, for approximately two hours and thereafter drove back to St. Louis.

He specifically stated that he does not know anyone in the area traveled above and he does not know whether or not his brother knows anyone in those areas. He again specifically denied that he made any direct or indirect contact with his brother or anybody acquainted with his brother during the above-mentioned trip. He denied remaining in Los Angeles, stating that he drove straight through Los Angeles, not remaining for any period of time. He denied contacting anyone in Los Angeles.

161

4

SL: 44-775

He stated he cannot furnish the specific dates that he was in San Francisco, San Diego or Tijuana, however, would place it as the month or five weeks that immediately preceded the date he opened two bank accounts with the \$1,300.00 and \$1,350.00 deposits. He stated he opened these accounts either the day or the day after he returned to St. Louis.

He noted that both he, his brother JERRY and his father have at various times given CAROL money to deposit in her account to hold for them. He stated that whenever he needed money he would go to CAROL and get it and has no idea who owes who what or whether the money is a loan or the return of money previously given to CAROL. He stated he assumes CAROL keeps some kind of accounting of this, however, cannot be positive of this because it is never mentioned.

It is noted that JOHN LARRY RAY, in order to avoid newspaper reporters, had left his personal car parked adjacent to the Grapevine Tavern and proceeded to the place of the above interview in a black 1965 or 1966 Mustang, bearing Missouri License CB1-627.

Missouri License CB1-627 is issued to MARGARET ECKER, 5660 Morganford, for a 1965 Ford Mustang.

162

1Date June 5, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was located and interviewed while he was tending bar at the Grapevine Tavern at the intersection of Arsenal and Illinois.

RAY stated that he has not had any contact with his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, since last interviewed nor has he received any information regarding the whereabouts of his brother since he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). JOHN RAY did make the comment that he did believe his brother was probably out of the country or either he was deceased as he feels he would have been apprehended by this time.

RAY denied any contact with his brother, JERRY RAY, since JERRY was in St. Louis, either telephonically or by mail.

JOHN RAY was questioned regarding the whereabouts of CLARENCE HAYNES, at which time RAY stated that HAYNES is employed with a local drayage firm and is extremely difficult to locate during the daylight hours. He stated that HAYNES does reside at 1822 North 21st Street, however, it is unlikely that he normally spends much time at that location. RAY explained this by saying that HAYNES' wife RUBY is currently in the hospital for treatment of a heart ailment.

RAY stated that NAOMI REGAZZI has returned to work at the Grapevine Tavern since she worked the previous Saturday and several nights during the past week. RAY could not explain if she would be employed on a permanent or temporary basis since he had not discussed work arrangements with her.

An extended interview with RAY was not possible due to the entrance of several patrons into the tavern and, therefore, the interview was terminated.

On 5/28/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA ROBERT A. HESS/mjb Date dictated 5/31/68
163

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date June 10, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed at his place of business, the Grape Vine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

He was questioned regarding his employment that could be verified or his whereabouts that could be verified during the month of April, 1967. After some thought, he stated that to the best of his recollection, he worked for a short time as a painter and maintenance man at a hotel believed to be 902 North Kingshighway, which is managed by a woman.

He stated that he felt this was after April, however he could not recall specifically but did recall that he sometime prior to that, put an ad in the paper believed to be the St. Louis Post Dispatch, indicating that he was attempting to get work as a painter. As a result of this ad he was contacted by an interior decorator or painting contractor, whose name he could not recall, but whose name he would attempt to locate through records who he went to work for on a day to day basis on a number of occasions. He stated this individual operated from his residence which at that time was believed to be in the 5700 block of Westminster about the middle of the block on the north side of the street where there was usually a painting truck parked. He stated this individual he recalls on one or two occasions, mentioned that he had just returned from the Colorado area and usually did small house painting jobs. After delivering JOHN RAY to a given job on a given day, he would then leave supposedly to make other estimates on other jobs, therefore, JOHN LARRY RAY had little personal contact with him. JOHN LARRY RAY stated that he would attempt to locate any records that would show his employment during the year of 1967.

After considerable thought he advised that he was of the opinion that during April or May, 1967, he was probably residing on the second floor at 1822 North 21st Street, which building is owned by CLARENCE HAYNES.

On 6/3/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA ROBERT A. HESS
SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY PWB/leh Date dictated 6/7/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6-11-68

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed at his place of business, the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. RAY was asked if he had obtained the name of the painter for whom he was an employee during part of 1967. RAY advised that he could not recall the painter's name but that he had furnished the painter's address to SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY, FBI, St. Louis.

On 6-4-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA F. JACK WILLIAMS:amb Date dictated 6-5-68

165

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1Date 6/25/68

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed outside the Grapevine Tavern, Illinois and Arsenal Avenue, at which time he stated he had been closed the entire previous week for the safety of the patrons of the tavern, since on one occasion earlier in the week three car loads of Negroes were reported to be observing the tavern. He indicated that he had also been hiding from reporters but would not reveal the location where he had taken refuge.

RAY indicated he had opened this bar this date for business as usual and NAOMI REGAZZI is currently working as barmaid for him. JOHN RAY stated there was no truth in regards to newspaper accounts of him having received a telephone call from Canada and stated that he does not know anyone in Canada. He indicated that he believed the telephone at the Grapevine Tavern is tapped and that the FBI and other law enforcement agencies would probably be aware of all of his phone calls. He did not specifically state that he believed the FBI was responsible for tapping his phone.

RAY also stated that he has had no contact from his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, and he further has no intentions of going to London, England, to see him. He commented that he doubted if he could get a passport for such a trip. He further denied that he has at this time retained any lawyer for his brother. RAY did state that he has written to his brother in London and told him to get in touch with his sister, CAROL PEPPER, if he needs anything as CAROL is the one who is most accessible. He provided his brother with CAROL's current address and telephone number.

RAY was again questioned regarding source of income for his brother at which time he stated that his brother never had any real needs for money as he was always able to pick it up by ways of burglaries or robberies during his travels. He indicated this was, of course, the reason why he was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary.

RAY indicated that he had recently sold his Thunderbird automobile and had purchased a 1963, four-door, white colored Chrysler for \$500 from a private individual.

RAY stated that his brother JERRY RAY had arrived in St. Louis on the previous day from Chicago, Illinois, and stayed last night with his sister, CAROL PEPPER. RAY stated that JERRY was at the time of interview inside the tavern and stated he wanted to talk to the interviewing agent.

On 6/17/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA ROBERT A. HESS:hcv Date dictated 6/21/68

166
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date May 16, 1968

Records of the Jefferson - Gravois Bank of St. Louis, 2604 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, telephone PROspect 1-8833, disclosed the following information with regard to a regular checking account (Account # [REDACTED]) maintained there in the name of JOHN RAY, whose address is shown as 1807 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63104:

This regular checking account was opened August 30, 1967, with a deposit of \$1,350. The deposit ticket shows that the deposit consisted of \$600 in cash and \$750 in "travelers checks". Records disclose that the account was opened for RAY at the bank by MELBA KOEHLER, a secretary. The signature card executed at the time the account was opened discloses that RAY was then unemployed and that he had previously maintained a checking account at Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, St. Louis, Missouri. The signature card shows he resided in St. Louis for fifteen years. References identified on the signature card were CAROL PEPPER, 712½ Shenandoah, St. Louis, and JOHN GOWRON, 1813 Lafayette, St. Louis.

In response to a request for a verification of JOHN RAY's signature and other information directed to Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company of St. Louis, 1731 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone MA 1-1230, by Jefferson - Gravois Bank, the Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, on August 30, 1967, directed a letter to Jefferson - Gravois Bank advising that the specimen signature of JOHN RAY compared favorably with the one on file with the Manufacturers Bank's Commercial Department where "he established an account yesterday". This letter of the Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company was signed by RAYMOND R. KROMNACKER, Vice-President.

Records show that following the initial deposit, the following additional deposits were made in that account in the period from August 30, 1967, through April 16, 1968:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Deposit</u>
October 31, 1967	\$ 16.82
January 22, 1968	250.65
February 9, 1968	48.55
March 19, 1968	203.46
April 1, 1968	449.03

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775

by SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY / pjh Date dictated 5/15/68

167
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2.

SL 44-775

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Deposit</u>
April 9, 1968	\$314.83
April 12, 1968	311.22

There were no withdrawals noted in this account in the period from August 30, 1967, through January 16, 1968, however, commencing January 17, 1968, there were frequent withdrawals, checks or other charges disclosed by the account; these withdrawals, checks or charges ranged between \$2.00 and \$325.00. These items of \$100.00 or more were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check or Withdrawal</u>
December 29, 1967	\$320.00
January 3, 1968	325.00
January 9, 1968	200.00
April 5, 1968	100.00
April 11, 1968	300.00

Examination of paid checks drawn on this account still on hand at Jefferson - Gravois Bank disclosed the following information concerning these check items:

3. SL 44-775

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ENDORSEMENTS</u>
April 18, 1968	Cash	\$100.00	Cashed at Bank, April 19, 1968
April 19, 1968	PETER HAUPTMANN COMPANY	\$ 92.92	Endorsed by payee and McKesson & Robbins, Inc., to Boatmen's National Bank, St. Louis
April 23, 1968	LOHR DISTRIBUTING COMPANY	49.49	Endorsed by payee to bank identified as Southern Commercial and Savings Bank, St. Louis
April 26, 1968	Cash	300.00	Cashed at Bank, April 26, 1968
April 24, 1968	MANHATTAN DISTRIBUTING COMPANY	36.09	Endorsed by payee to Mercantile Trust Company, St. Louis
April 28, 1968	Cash	100.00	Cashed at bank, April 29, 1968
April 25, 1968	PETER HAUPTMANN COMPANY	36.74	Endorsed by payee to Boatmen's National Bank, St. Louis
May 3, 1968	Cash	300.00	Cashed at bank, May 3, 1968
May 2, 1968	PETER HAUPTMANN COMPANY	121.27	Endorsed by payee to Boatmen's National Bank, St. Louis
May 3, 1968	MILLER and SCHEER REALTY & INSURANCE COMPANY	80.00	Endorsed by payee to Tower Grove Bank, St. Louis
May 6, 1968	FALSTAFF BREWING COMPANY	78.30	Endorsed by payee to Boatmen's National Bank, St. Louis. Check also bears handwritten notations.....

4.
SL 44-775

170

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ENDORSEMENTS</u>
May 6, 1968 continued.....			"1982 Arsenal" and "Randazzo 166"
May 10, 1968	Cash	\$300.00	Cashed at bank, May 10, 1968
April 30, 1968	CAROL PEPPER	320.00	Endorsed by payee and check also bears stamped endorsement "for deposit only - E. L. R. Investments, 3638 Olive St., St. Louis 8, Mo." The check also bears a bank stamp impression of the Mercantile Commerce Bank, St. Louis, Missouri.

5.

SL 44-775

These bank records may be produced on issuance of a subpoena duces tecum, which should be directed to Mr. A. G. ARB, Vice-President, Jefferson - Gravois Bank, St. Louis, Missouri.

1Date May 16, 1968

Mr. A. G. ARB, Vice-President, Jefferson - Gravois Bank, 2604 South Jefferson, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone PR 1-8833, who was contacted at the bank, furnished the following information:

After examining a deposit ticket of this bank pertaining to a \$1,350 deposit on August 30, 1967, to an account of JOHN RAY, 1807 South 11th Street, regular checking account number [REDACTED] he advised that with regard to a portion of the deposit amounting to \$750 consisting of travelers checks, no further record of these travelers checks can be located at Jefferson - Gravois Bank. None of these travelers checks would have been photographed by this bank but they would have been sent intact in a batch of work for further proof detailed work to the Bank of St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri. This particular deposit transaction is identified in the proof work of Jefferson - Gravois Bank as Transaction #HH 9291, of August 30, 1967.

Mr. ARB advised that Mr. WILLIAM GASSER at the Bank of St. Louis should be familiar with this transaction, insofar as proof work of the Bank of St. Louis is concerned. Mr. ARB further explained that following the completion of proof work by the Bank of St. Louis, the travelers checks should have been sent by that bank to First National Bank in St. Louis which would have in turn forwarded the checks on to New York City, New York, if in fact, the travelers checks involved were American Express Travelers Checks.

It was Mr. ARB's opinion that the travelers checks in question probably were American Express items.

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY : pjh Date dictated 5/15/68
172

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date May 16, 19681

Mrs. MELBA KOEHLER, Secretary, Jefferson - Gravois Bank, 2604 South Jefferson, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone PR 1-8833, who was contacted at the bank, furnished the following information:

After examining a deposit ticket supporting a \$1,350 deposit to the account of JOHN RAY, 1807 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, on August 30, 1967, she advised that she prepared this deposit ticket for the customer and the customer would not have had an opportunity to handle the deposit ticket.

She personally noted on the deposit ticket that it consisted of \$600 in cash and \$750 in travelers checks. It is her opinion that the travelers checks in question were American Express Travelers Checks although she does not specifically recall that they were American Express items. Further, she does not recall whether there was one or more persons, if any, accompanying the individual representing himself to her to be JOHN RAY at the time this deposit was made to a new regular checking account opened in the name of JOHN RAY at the same time.

She personally handled all of this detailed work and obtained the signature card from JOHN RAY.

On 5/15/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY : pjh Date dictated 5/15/68
173

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1

Date May 23, 1968

NAOMI REGAZZI, nee Haynes, was interviewed at her residence, 2231 Lynch Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

She stated that she was employed from January 1, 1968, to May 16, 1968, as night barmaid at the Grape Vine Tavern, 5:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., six days a week. She stated that her salary was \$60 a week which she took out of the cash register once a week leaving a memorandum to that effect.

She stated that she obtained this job through an advertisement in a St. Louis newspaper and first met JOHN RAY as result of answering the above ad. She stated that JOHN RAY was the person who hired her and was the manager of the Grape Vine Tavern. She stated that CAROL PEPPER, JOHN's sister, was the owner and occasionally was in and out of the tavern but never stayed for any great length of time.

She indicated that RUBY (last name unknown) is a day barmaid and either is married to or lives with CLARENCE HAYNES (no relation), owner of a moving business. She stated that RUBY has some type of health problem and is frequently hospitalized for periods of times for some type of care.

Subsequent to being employed there and prior to April 1, 1968, specific date not recalled, she had occasion to get into a personal conversation with JOHN RAY, at which time he indicated he had a brother named JIM and a brother named JERRY in Chicago, Illinois. He never mentioned the whereabouts of JIM and never at anytime indicated he knew the whereabouts of JIM. Additionally, she pointed out he never mentioned the fact that JIM was an escapee or prisoner and, therefore, she had no knowledge of JIM's escape status.

Subsequent to that conversation, she later met JERRY from Chicago, whom she described as a man of very low intellect and who, when he has four or five beers, desires to be in the limelight.

She stated that JOHN's brother, JIM RAY, has never visited JOHN to her knowledge, nor communicated with him in any way since she has become acquainted with JOHN. Further, she is of the opinion from conversations with JOHN, details

On 5/21/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY and
SA ROBERT A. HESS PWB/pjh Date dictated 5/21/68

174
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2.

SL: 44-775

not recalled, that JOHN has not had any contact with JIM for a number of years.

When the news was on television identifying the assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING as JAMES EARL RAY, she immediately telephonically contacted JOHN and asked JOHN if that was his brother, JIM, that he had previously spoken of. She described his answer as saying, "No, I don't know nothing about it" and hung up.

Later on in a personal confrontation, JOHN said that was his brother but he has not seen him in a long time. She asked him why he had previously stated it was not him. He indicated to her that his reason was that he wanted no knowledge of this connection around the Grape Vine Tavern for business reasons and further for personal reasons wanted no part of it inasmuch as he had not seen his brother in a very long time.

REGAZZI described JOHN RAY as a man of low intellect, however, slightly more intelligent than JERRY, who is close-mouthed and has no close ties with anyone, specifically not having any close family ties.

She stated it was her opinion that JOHN is not close with anyone because of his personality complexes caused by family problems when he was a child and his current speech impediment. She stated that she does not believe that JOHN lied to her about not having any knowledge of JIM because JOHN is completely aware of her background noting that she is the ex-wife of BOB REGAZZI, St. Louis burglar and stick-up man and also associated with notorious St. Louis stick-up men and burglars, IKE UNDERWOOD, JAMES STANLEY, MARVIN DALE BERRY, and others of similar ilk.

NAOMI REGAZZI advised that if she developed any knowledge regarding the subject or any information or indication that JOHN RAY had any knowledge of the subject, she would immediately notify the FBI.

REGAZZI stated that she terminated her employment for multiple reasons; one of them being health, however, the real prime reason being that she felt that if the news leaks out of JOHN's relationship to the subject and the fact that

3

SL: 44-775

he operates the Grape Vine Tavern, that the Negro element who reside in this integrated neighborhood might take reprisals by using violence around the tavern.

She stated that JOHN had also mentioned to her that the FBI had been around talking to him and he could not understand why because he had not seen his brother in a long time. He was not specific about the time element, however, led her to believe that it had been a number of years just by his method of saying it.

REGAZZI stated that there is no prostitution around the Grape Vine Tavern, however, a certain caliber of illiterate hoosier girls hang out there and on occasion are promiscuous with the customers at the tavern, however, not for pay.

176

1

SL: 44-775

PWB:jfb

RE: BROTHER - JOHN LARRY RAY

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent PATRICK W. BRADLEY:

On May 8, 1968, FRANK J. LESYNA, Miller-Scheer Realty and Insurance Company, 2846 California, St. Louis, Missouri, furnished by mail a Xerox copy of a check drawn on the Jefferson-Gravois Bank, St. Louis, Missouri, Account Number [REDACTED]. This check is imprinted with the name JOHN RAY and is dated May 3, 1968. This check is payable to Miller and Scheer Real Estate Company in the amount of \$80.00 and is signed JOHN RAY.

The above is being retained in file.

1Date May 23, 1968

CLEM RENGEL, Vice President, Rengel Realty Company, 3619 South Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that their records reflect that the property at 1912 California Avenue, St. Louis, was rented on October 9, 1967, to JOHN RAY on a monthly basis for a monthly rental of \$70. The telephone number is reflected as PROspect 1-2477 at that location. These records also reflect he additionally paid rent on November 20, 1967, December 11, 1967, and January 16, 1968; each occasion paying the amount of \$70. These records do not reflect whether payments were made in cash or by check. Notation on the back of the card reflects "Grape Vine 1982 Arsenal, 776-9417".

Mr. RENGEL stated the only other additional information they had in their office would be an application for rent.

He made available this application for rent which is dated October 9, 1967. This application for rent of 1912 California Avenue for a monthly rental of \$70 reflects the premises are to be used as living quarters. The applicant's name is reflected as JOHN RAY, giving an address of 2100 Russell Street, indicating he has lived there for two months. His telephone number is reflected as PROspect 1-2477, and also as CAROL PEPPER, Mission 5-2948. Additional notation indicates "1982 Arsenal, Grape Vine 776-9417".

Notation on this application reflects "We are leasing a tavern at 1982 Arsenal from Miller & Scheer, PR 6-4400."

References are reflected as (1) CLARENCE HAYNES, MA 1-3508, 1822 North 21st Street; (2) Miller & Scheer Real Estate.

Notation at bottom of this application reflects "phone no. MI 5-2948 Carol Pepper/sister 2025 Bel Voe, Maplewood, Mo."

On 5/21/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY and
SA ROBERT A. HESS PWB/pjh Date dictated 5/21/68

178

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1.
SL 44-775
PWB/pjh

RAY RELATIVE - JOHN RAY

The following investigation was conducted by SA's
PATRICK W. BRADLEY and ROBERT A. HESS on May 21, 1968:

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

Mrs. ELSIE JULIAN, 1910 California Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, advised that the residents of 1912 California Street are currently in the process of moving in, noting that it has been vacant since early part of February 1968. She stated that a white male, black hair, thinning on top, and whose additional description meets that of JOHN LARRY RAY, moved into 1912 California about September or October 1967, and resided there until February 1968. She stated that he was quiet, having no visitors, and working every day, to the best of her knowledge, because he always left the house regularly and returned regularly. She viewed the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that this is not the individual and that the photograph was unfamiliar to her.

She stated that this entire building complex including 1912 through 1906 is rented and possibly owned by RENGEL REALTY COMPANY in the 3500 or 3600 block of South Grand, St. Louis, Missouri.

LEONARD SMITH, 1906 California, and LILLY BENNETT, 1910 California, advised the former tenant at 1912 was unknown to them personally, however, they may have occasionally observed him around the area. They viewed the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated it was completely unfamiliar to them.