

# REPORT of the



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)  
Re: MURKIN  
CR

Date: September 4, 1968  
FBI File No. 44-38861  
Lab. No. D-680826086 JK  
D-680826161 JK

Specimens received 8/26/68, from FBI, Chicago

Eight payroll checks of Indian Trail Restaurant, Inc., payable to JOHN RAYNS or JOHN L. RAYNS, further described as follows:

| SPECIMEN | NUMBER | DATE    | AMOUNT  |
|----------|--------|---------|---------|
| Q398     | 4838   | 5/7/67  | \$84.89 |
| Q399     | 4913   | 5/14/67 | 84.89   |
| Q400     | 4987   | 5/21/67 | 84.89   |
| Q401     | 5058   | 5/28/67 | 84.89   |
| Q402     | 5130   | 6/4/67  | 89.63   |
| Q403     | 5209   | 6/11/67 | 89.63   |
| Q404     | 5283   | 6/18/67 | 95.19   |
| Q405     | 5357   | 6/25/67 | 77.53   |

Q406 Employee's Withholding Exemption Certificate dated May 10, 1967, bearing Social Security Number [redacted] and signed "John L. Rayns"

Specimens received 8/26/68, from FBI, Chicago

Q407 Sheet from rooming house ledger, page 13, bearing on line 24 the signature "John Larry Rayms"

Q408 Registration card, No. 8075, dated 6/18/67, bearing the signature "John L. Rayns"

### Result of examination:

It was concluded that JAMES EARL RAY, K171, K211 and K157 prepared the questioned Rayms signature on Q407; the questioned handwriting on Q408 and the questioned handwriting and hand printing on Q406. Although significant similarities were noted in the endorsements on Q398 through Q405, except the

endorsement on Q403, when compared with the known writings of RAY, the presence of unexplained variations, insufficient comparable material and distortion in some of the questioned endorsements precluded a definite determination as to whether RAY prepared the endorsements on Q398 through Q405.

The endorsement on Q403 is too distorted for comparison purposes. Although some similarities were noted in the date on line 24 on Q407 beside the Rayms signature when compared with the comparable writing of RAY, the limited and over-written nature of this date precluded a definite determination as to whether RAY prepared this date.

Q398 through Q408 have been photographed and will be returned to Chicago separately.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|                                                                                                                                                                              |                                    |                                                                          |                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>CHICAGO</b>                                                                                                                                           | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>MEMPHIS</b> | DATE<br><i>File</i><br><b>10/2/68</b>                                    | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>8/23 - 10/2/68</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><b>"CHANGED"</b><br><b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka</b><br><b>John L. Rayns,</b><br><b>John Larry Rayms</b><br><b>DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -</b><br><b>VICTIM</b> |                                    | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>SA RETTE J. DUMAINE</b>                             | TYPED BY<br><b>CMS</b>                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                                    | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>CR - CONSPIRACY</b><br><b>UPAC - ROBBERY</b> |                                               |

Title marked changed to include the aliases used by the subject while in Chicago.

REFERENCE: Chicago teletypes to the Bureau and Memphis dated 8/23 and 24/68.

-P-

ADMINISTRATIVE

This report only contains information surrounding the subject's employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant, Winnetka, Illinois.

**DO NOT DESTROY -- PENDING LITIGATION**  
-A\*\*  
(COVER PAGE)

|                                                                                     |       |      |       |         |            |                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|-------|---------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED                                                             |       |      |       |         |            | <b>None</b>             | ACQUIT-TALS                                                                             | CASE HAS BEEN:<br><br>PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO<br>PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| CONVIC.                                                                             | AUTO. | FUG. | FINES | SAVINGS | RECOVERIES |                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| APPROVED                                                                            |       |      |       |         |            | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| COPIES MADE:                                                                        |       |      |       |         |            |                         | <i>44-1114-18</i><br>SEARCHED _____<br>SERIALIZED _____<br>INDEXED _____<br>FILED _____ |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3 - Bureau (44-38861) (AM)<br>4 - Memphis (44-1987) (AMSD)<br>② - Chicago (44-1114) |       |      |       |         |            |                         | <i>File Attached</i><br><i>8/15/68</i><br><i>R.R.</i>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report                                             |       |      |       |         |            | Notations               |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Agency                                                                              |       |      |       |         |            |                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Request Recd.                                                                       |       |      |       |         |            |                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Date Fwd.                                                                           |       |      |       |         |            |                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| How Fwd.                                                                            |       |      |       |         |            |                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| By                                                                                  |       |      |       |         |            |                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of:  
Date:SA RENE J. DUMAINE  
10/2/68

Office: Chicago

Field Office File #:

44-1114

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

## Synopsis:

Subject employed at Indian Trail Restaurant, Winnetka, Illinois, from 5/3/67 - 6/24/67, as a dishwasher and cook's helper under the name of JOHN L. RAYNS, SSN [redacted]. RAY resided at 2731 North Sheffield and 1648 West Lunt, Chicago, Illinois, during that time. Owners, Indian Trail Restaurant, interviewed by WILLIAM BRANFORD HUIE, author, who has underwritten cost of RAY's defense for exclusive story rights. HUIE's version of KING's murder obtained from subject as told to restaurant owners set forth. Right thumb print of subject developed on paycheck from Indian Trail Restaurant.

- P -

CG 44-1114

DETAILS:

INTERVIEW WITH OWNERS OF INDIAN TRAIL RESTAURANT  
Minnetka, Illinois

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/30/68

Date

1

On August 23, 1968, Mr. HARVEY A. KLINGSMAN and Mrs. SARAH S. KLINGSMAN, owners, Indian Trail Restaurant, 507 Chestnut Street, Winnetka, Illinois, phone III 6-1703, residence 391 Linden, Winnetka, Illinois, phone III 6-2932, were interviewed jointly in the conference room at the Winnetka, Illinois, Police Department, after being introduced to the interviewing Agents by Chief DON DEKORING (NA), Winnetka, Illinois, Police Department.

They advised that on Tuesday, August 20, 1968, they were contacted by WILLIAM BRADLEY HUIE, Bartlesville, Okla., who is the author of "Three Lives for Mississippi". Mr. HUIE was accompanied by Mr. (First Name Unknown) HANCOCK, who is a photographer for "Look" magazine. Mr. HUIE exhibited letters which he claimed were from JAMES EARL RAY and were addressed to a Mississippi attorney. These letters were purportedly given to HUIE by the attorney. HUIE told them that he had obtained all commercial rights to RAY's story and for this he has agreed to underwrite the costs of RAY's defense in the forthcoming murder trial in Memphis, Tennessee. The aforementioned letters were written on half sheets of yellow legal foolscap and both of the KLINGSMANS stated that they recognized the handwriting on these papers as that of the subject RAY, whom they knew under the name of JUNE RAINES. At this point, the KLINGSMANS were exhibited several photographs of the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, along with other photographs and they both positively identified JAMES EARL RAY as a man employed by them from May 3, 1967, to June 24, 1967, as a dishwasher and cook's helper. The KLINGSMANS verified the foregoing statement by furnishing to the interviewing Agents their payroll ledger sheet. A review of the ledger sheet reveals the following information:

|                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name                   | JOHN L. RAINES                    |
| Address                | 2731 Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois |
| Occupation             | Cook's helper                     |
| Social Security Number |                                   |
| Rate                   | \$2.10 per hour                   |

On 8/23/68 at Winnetka, Illinois

File # 44-2112

SA RAYMOND W. STRATTON

SA DONALD J. DEKORING RWD/or

by

Date dictated

8/23/68

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Number of                    1  
Exemptions  
Marital Status            Single

In addition, the KLINGSMANs also made available the Employee's Withholding Exemption Certificate made out in the same name and address and Social Security Number as set forth above, dated May 10, 1968.

They also made available the following listed payroll checks all drawn on the Winnetka Trust and Savings Bank bearing the identification in the upper left-hand corner of Indian Trail Restaurant, Inc., 507 Chestnut Street, Winnetka, Illinois, 60093, made out to either JOHN L. RAYES or JOHN RAYES and signed by HARVEY A. KLINGSMAN. The checks are endorsed by JOHN L. RAYES or JOHN RAYES, two of which have the address 1648 Lunt, Chicago, underneath the signature. These checks are as follows:

| <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>DATE</u>   |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 4838          | \$57.69       | May 7, 1967   |
| 4912          | \$84.89       | May 14, 1967  |
| 4987          | \$84.89       | May 21, 1967  |
| 5058          | \$84.89       | May 28, 1967  |
| 5136          | \$88.63       | June 11, 1967 |
| 5283          | \$95.19       | June 18, 1967 |
| 5357          | \$77.53       | June 25, 1967 |

The foregoing checks total \$664.34.

Mr. KLINGSMAN advised that to the best of his recollection at this time, the last check, Number 5357, was mailed to RAY's brother, name unrecalled, in Northbrook, Illinois, at RAY's request since he left his employment prior to receipt of the check, stating that he was going to work on boats with his brother. As Mr. KLINGSMAN recalls, he received a letter from RAY requesting that the pay due be sent to his brother.

Both of the KLINGEMANs characterized JAMES EARL RAY as an excellent employee, quiet, attentive, prompt, polite, a very good worker, but to their knowledge, had no friends or visitors during the time of his employment. They did recall that during the subject's last week of employment, he received three or four phone calls from a male individual who stated that he was RAY's brother. They could not recall the individual's name, nor did they believe that they would recognize this person's voice if they heard it again.

In conversation with Mr. HUIE, the KLINGEMANs received the following information on a confidential basis and advised that they were rather reluctant to divulge it, but felt that it was their duty as citizens. They requested that this information be maintained on a confidential basis within the FBI. They advised that they contacted Chief DENNING because of his reputation and are now following his advice in furnishing this information to the FBI:

Mr. HUIE showed the KLINGEMANs letters from RAY in which RAY listed employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant. (It should be noted that this restaurant is an old, large, upper class restaurant, of excellent reputation. Chief DENNING advised that the KLINGEMANs themselves have an excellent reputation within the community and that he holds them in very high regard). HUIE told them that RAY had served seven years of a twenty-year sentence at Jefferson, Missouri, prison, during which time he had eight visitors, one of whom was his brother; however, HUIE did not identify which one. Prior to his escape, RAY had stashed away a razor, green prison trousers which had been dyed black, and 12 therapy bars in anticipation that he would have to go without food for some time. RAY also had \$300 in his shoe. He escaped in a bread truck and walked to Chicago, Illinois, from Jefferson City, Missouri, which took him about eight days. (The KLINGEMANs do recall that when the subject first appeared at the restaurant, his feet were swollen and that their sister-in-law gave him two Ace bandages to use which he returned three or four days later. This supposedly was mentioned in the letter in HUIE's possession).

Thereafter, RAY read the advertisement in the Tribune wherein the KLINGEMANs had advertised for help in the restaurant. HUIE said that the subject in the letter

mentioned that the employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant was the "high point of his life".

HUIE mentioned that RAY had had only three jobs in his life, one of which was in a shoe factory outside of East St. Louis, Illinois, which was prior to his going to prison the last time. He also said that during the time RAY was employed at the restaurant, he was "tapped on the shoulder" by an individual who recognized him and who threatened to reveal his identity to the police and cause RAY's return to prison if he, RAY, did not work for this person. HUIE said that RAY was given \$1,200 during the initial contacts by the alleged conspirators, and was ultimately paid \$15,000, but was due to receive more.

Again, according to HUIE, RAY was told to go to Canada to investigate the difficulty of crossing the border. Supposedly RAY made two trips through the Detroit Tunnel into Canada. He also made a third trip to Canada, date and sequence not given, and "was instructed" to obtain a 40-year-old newspaper, get the names of the males born that day, and search the current phone directory for similar names. He was then to surveil the individuals with similar names to determine whether or not his physical description was similar to theirs. Thereafter, he telephoned persons of his like description, utilizing a pretext, and thereby found a man who had never applied for a passport. RAY then applied for a passport in this name.

The KLINGEMANs advised that they were not sure that they were furnishing this information in its proper sequence, but that to the best of their recollection, the information preceding and following was given to them in this order by HUIE. Thereafter, RAY was given more money to purchase a Mustang which was to be driven to Acapulco, Mexico, for the purpose of obtaining a tourist sticker. He then drove through Mexico to the West Coast and hid out there to receive further instructions from the other individuals in the alleged conspiracy. HUIE stated that RAY was flown to Atlanta from the West Coast, but the time was not right, there was no action and he was sent back to California. He was also told to be in Mississippi at a certain time and place. Supposedly Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was at a Holiday Inn Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, when RAY was flown there.

Subsequently, RAY was given money to obtain binoculars and a shotgun and was to go to Memphis to be somewhere at 3 p.m. in room 312 or 313. Supposedly there were other individuals who also came to this room and there was a Negro male who purportedly called KING out to the balcony. According to HUIE, the actual murderer of KING was not RAY, although RAY was present and at a later time (probably the trial) RAY will identify the murderer. RAY did pick up the rifle, ran to his car, and sped to a rendezvous in Atlanta, Georgia. He was supposed to pick up a "bundle of money", however, the conspirators did not appear. RAY allegedly spent several days or hours at this apartment in Atlanta, Georgia, awaiting the arrival of his "fellow conspirators".

According to HUIE, the plan was for RAY to go to Mexico, but immediately fly north to throw off pursuit and to steer all investigation to Mexico. However, since the conspirators did not appear in Atlanta, RAY fled to Canada thereafter utilizing his knowledge to obtain a passport and fled to England.

The KLINGMANs advised that the rest of HUIE's story substantially follows the newspaper accounts which appeared after subject RAY's arrest in England. They did note that HUIE stated that RAY did rob a bank in London because he "got real low on money". HUIE at no time identified the alleged fellow conspirators of RAY. He did swear the KLINGMANs to secrecy and told them that he would mail the "lock" proofs on September 18, 1968, and the story would be in the November 18, 1968, issue of Lock magazine. Both Mr. and Mrs. KLINGMAN advised that they would make these proofs available to the interviewing Agents for review.

The KLINGMANs advised that RAY began working for them as a dishwasher and because of his excellent attitude was advanced to cook's helper. During the time he was in their employ, they did not observe him in a car, nor did they know him to own an automobile. He had no visitors, he did not wear glasses, he had no women friends, nor did he make any advances toward the female personnel employed at the restaurant and they noted that his hair was "less bushy" during the time he was at the restaurant than shown in the photographs.

They are not sure how he came to work from his apartment, but believe he might have been met at the Eden's Expressway by WILLIE FERRY and FRED LURUS, who were also employees at the restaurant.

His conduct was excellent and they cannot recall him making any comments one way or another about members of the Negro race and specifically no comments whatsoever concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RAY made no reference to his previous employment, but did mention that he was in Brimerheven, Germany, during World War II. They advised that when RAY received the phone calls during his last week of employment he seemed to be disturbed and that his concentration on his work was not as good as it usually was.

They then recalled that according to NUIE, that when JAMES EARL RAY left England, he was going to Lisbon to get to Africa, however, he was unable to do so which is when he returned to England and held up a bank receiving about \$200 in loot. They again stated that the information furnished to them by NUIE came from letters which RAY had written to his attorney, who in turn turned them over to the author. Also Mr. KLINGSMAN stated that in one of the letters which he believed was to the attorney from RAY, while he was in London, England, there was a drawing identifying a location which appeared to be Diversey Street and Sheffield Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Klingsmans again requested that this information be maintained in confidence and expressed a willingness to co-operate with the FBI in any way possible.

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INVESTIGATION AT 2731 NORTH SHEPHERD

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 9/3/68

EDWARD DONNELLY, who resides at 2731 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment, 7300 Linder Avenue, Skokie, Illinois. DONNELLY was advised interviewing Agents were interested in the person whose name appears on page 12 of the rent registration book DONNELLY keeps for 2731 North Sheffield. DONNELLY was shown a carbon copy of page 12 and was asked if he could recall the person signing the register as JOHN LARRY RAYNE on April 30, 1967. DONNELLY advised he recalled an individual who had stayed in the rear basement apartment by that name.

DONNELLY was shown photographs of the following individuals:

ROBERT T. KENNEDY, FBI Number 6135901

FRANK GRUDZINSKI, FBI Number 6398234

JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 4050432

PHILLIP J. KUSTE, Chicago Police Department IR No. 20181

ROBERT I. CHENE, FBI Number 6398230

WILLIE G. BREKINGWATER, FBI Number 6300347

Mr. DONNELLY advised the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY looks familiar to him; however, he could not be certain if this person was identical with the man who registered as JOHN LARRY RAYNE.

Mr. DONNELLY advised the individual he recalled as being identical with the man who used the name JOHN LARRY RAYNE and who occupied the rear basement apartment had trouble with his feet. He recalled this individual had to rub some kind of preparation on to his feet. Mr. DONNELLY stated this man did not have any visitors and he did not know of any associates of this individual. He recalled that Mr. RAYNE said he had worked on the Mississippi River as a cook

On 9/3/68 at Skokie, Illinois File # 65-45-1112

by SA WILLIAM J. DOWNEY, Jr. and  
SA ROBERT E. DOWNEY, JR. Date dictated 9/30/68

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on barges. He also recalled that when Mr. RAYMS left the apartment, he said he was going to Canada and was going to look for a job in Canada. Mr. DONNELLY could not recall if this man received any mail while he stayed at the apartment.

Mr. DONNELLY said he did not know if Mr. RAYMS had a car or where he worked. He did not know what of type of work he did, but he did know he left the apartment every day as if to go to work.

Mr. DONNELLY described JOHN LARRY RAYMS as a white, male, age 30 to 40, medium height, slender build, dark hair.

Mr. DONNELLY advised after looking at the xerox copy of page 13 of the rent record book that it appeared the next person to rent the rear basement apartment was GEORGE WASHINGTON WACHS, Jr.

Mr. DONNELLY stated that someone of the individuals who had lived in his apartments had told him he was moving out of the apartment to go home and stand trial for murdering his brother-in-law. However, Mr. DONNELLY was unable to recall who had made this statement to him, and he did not know if this statement had been made by Mr. RAYMS or some other person.

7/-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 3, 1968

1

GLORIA DONNELLY, 2731 North Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, telephone number LA 8-0691, was interviewed at her residence. Mrs. DONNELLY advised she and her husband, EDWARD, own the building at 2731 North Sheffield. Mrs. DONNELLY stated that they rent apartments in the basement and on the second floor of their building.

Mrs. DONNELLY reviewed the Rent Record Book maintained for the rentals at 2731 North Sheffield, and determined there was an entry dated April 30, 1967, showing a rental to a JOHN LARRY RAYMS. Mrs. DONNELLY stated the handwriting on the entry would be the handwriting of the person renting the room. This person occupied the rear basement apartment.

Mrs. DONNELLY advised from the Rent Record Book she could not determine how long this individual stayed at the apartment; however, the best she could recall at this time was that Mr. RAYMS stayed there approximately three or four weeks. Mrs. DONNELLY advised the apartment is rented by the week and the rental is \$12, or \$13 a week.

Mrs. DONNELLY stated she had some difficulty recalling this individual, but to the best of her recollection he was a quiet man who did not associate with anyone else in the building and did not have any friends or visitors come by the apartment. She further recalled Mr. RAYMS had complained of his feet hurting. She stated on one or two occasions when she was in the rear basement apartment while he was renting it, she noticed he had a lot of books and had bought some cooking utensils.

Mrs. DONNELLY said that Mr. RAYMS received one letter that she knew of while he stayed at the apartment. This letter was from some place in Canada; after receiving this letter, Mr. RAYMS came up and told them he was going to move and go to Canada. He said he was going to work in Canada. Mrs. DONNELLY advised he said something about trying to get on a ship; however, she could not recall any further details of this comment. Mrs. DONNELLY said that

On 8/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SAs JOSEPH M. BURNE  
ROBERT E. HALL JMB/nrk Date dictated 8/29/68

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after receiving the letter, RAYMS moved the same day. He did not leave a forwarding address or indicate where he was going; however, he left the distinct impression he was going to Canada in answer to the letter received.

Mrs. DONNELLY advised that while Mr. RAYMS rented the basement apartment, he went to work, or at least left the house daily by 7:00 a.m. She advised she could not recall Mr. RAYMS having any type of car.

Mrs. DONNELLY said that her aunt, JEAN WILKS, who had resided with her, rented the apartment to Mr. RAYMS. Mrs. DONNELLY advised JEAN WILKS passed away on May 1, 1968; she recalled her aunt told her this man came into the apartment as a result of seeing an advertisement in the local newspaper called "The Booster". Mrs. DONNELLY advised this is a neighborhood paper and they run advertisements in this paper whenever they have a vacancy.

Mrs. DONNELLY stated the only ones in the building now who would have been in the building at the time Mr. RAYMS occupied the basement apartment are ANNIE KEEGAN and EDWARD SPEERLING. She stated that these two persons rent rooms on the second floor.

Mrs. DONNELLY advised DOROTHY LEHNING and her daughter, PHYLLIS, had occupied the front basement apartment for approximately two years. They moved some time in the spring of 1967, and may have been living in the front basement apartment at the same time that Mr. RAYMS was living in the rear basement apartment.

Mrs. DONNELLY reviewed her Rent Records, and from these records she advised an individual named GEORGE WASHINGTON WACKS, JR. appeared to be the next man to rent the rear basement apartment. The record book showed that Mr. WACKS rented this apartment on May 17, 1967, or June 17, 1967.

Mrs. DONNELLY stated there is currently a disconnected phone in the rear basement apartment. She did not know how long this phone had been in the apartment or if it had been connected when Mr. RAYMS lived in the apartment. Mrs. DONNELLY checked this phone and determined the number on the phone is 327-0336.

Mrs. DONNELLY stated she could not recall Mr. RAYMS leaving anything behind when he left other than

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Some cooking utensils, which would have been left in the apartment for the use of other occupants of that apartment.

Mrs. DONNELLY was shown photographs of the following individuals:

ROBERT T. KENNEDY, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
(FBI) Number 615590 A

FRANK BRUDZINSKI, FBI Number 939823 A

JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 465942 G

PHILLIP JOSEPH KURTZ, Chicago Police Department  
Number 80181

ROBERT I. CHERN, FBI Number 529026 D

WILLIE G. DEERINGWATER, FBI Number 950024 F

Mrs. DONNELLY stated she was unable to identify any of these individuals as being the man named RAYMS who resided in the basement apartment.

Mrs. DONNELLY stated the person who had the most contact with this man was her aunt, JEAN WILES, now deceased. Mrs. WILES ran the rooming house and baby sat for her children and was home all day, and had much more contact with the tenants than herself.

Mrs. DONNELLY described JOHN L. RAYMS as follows: a white male, in his late 20's or early 30's, tall and thin, dark hair. She could not be more specific in her description.

Mrs. DONNELLY made available page number 13 of her Rent Record Book which contained the signature of JOHN LARRY RAYMS.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date September 3, 1968

EDWARD SPERLING, 2nd Floor Apartment, 2731 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence. SPERLING was shown photographs of the following individuals:

ROBERT T. KENNEDY, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Number 615590 A

FRANK CRUDZINSKI, FBI Number 959823 A

JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405942 G

PHILLIP J. KURTZ, Chicago Police Department ID Number 80181

ROBERT I. CHERN, FBI Number 539026 D

WILLIE G. DEERINGWATER, FBI Number 950024 F

SPERLING advised the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY bears a resemblance to a man who had lived in the rear basement apartment at 2731 North Sheffield, approximately a year ago.

SPERLING advised the man he was referring to was a man named RAYMS. SPERLING stated he never saw this individual have any visitors or associate with anyone in the area. He further stated this man was not friendly with any of the other people living in the building. He recalled that this man lived at the building for approximately one month.

SPERLING advised he thought on one occasion he saw this man around or getting into an old car; however, he could not recall the car's description. SPERLING was unable to furnish any other facts regarding this individual.

On 8/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

by SAs JOSEPH M. BURKE  
ROBERT E. HALL JMB/pjk Date dictated 8/28/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 3, 19681

ANNIE EHEGAN, 2731 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at her residence. EHEGAN stated she did not get acquainted with any of the people who had rooms in the basement, and she stated she was unable to provide any information regarding a person who stayed in the rear basement apartment who used the name of RAYMS.

On 8/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114  
SAs JOSEPH W. DUNNE  
by ROBERT E. HALL JCH / msk Date dictated 8/28/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date September 3, 1968

PHYLLIS LEHNING, 925 Schubert, Apartment A, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at her residence. LEHNING advised she formerly resided at 2731 North Sheffield, in the front basement apartment. She stated she and her mother moved from that apartment on approximately May 10, 1967. She stated the apartment at 925 Schubert, was rented from May 1, 1967, to the present.

LEHNING stated she could not recall anyone moving into the rear basement apartment at 2731 North Sheffield, at the approximate time they moved from their front basement apartment. LEHNING was shown photographs of the following individuals:

ROBERT T. KENNEDY, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
(FBI) Number 615590 A

FRANK GRUDZINSKI, FBI Number 959823 A

JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405942 G

PHILLIP J. KURTZ, Chicago Police Department IR  
Number 80181

ROBERT I. CHERN, FBI Number 539026 D

WILLIE GENE DEERINGWATER, FBI Number 950024 F

LEHNING stated none of these individuals looked familiar to her.

On 8/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114

SAs JOSEPH M. BURKE  
by ROBERT E. HALL JMB/pfe Date dictated 8/29/68

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CG 44-3114

JMB:prk

1

The following investigation was conducted  
by SA JOSEPH M. BURKE on August 24, 1968:

A check of the public telephones located  
in the M. SARNATSKY Pharmacy, 1000 West Diversey Parkway,  
determined the numbers of these telephones are 348-9470,  
and 348-9471.

-18-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/9/68

Mr. JAMES E. ABBOTT, President of Nelson Chevrolet, 1002 West Diversey, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment. Mr. ABBOTT advised an individual named GEORGE WASHINGTON WACHS, Jr., was employed by the Nelson Chevrolet Company from May 1, 1967, to August 9, 1967. He was dismissed for excessive absenteeism.

Mr. ABBOTT checked the employment records for WACHS and determined that at the time he was hired he resided at 5309 West Wellington. Mr. ABBOTT made xerox copies of a sheet entitled Social Security Information containing background information on GEORGE WACHS and a copy of an application for position also containing background information on GEORGE WACHS.

Mr. ABBOTT stated he does not know the current location of GEORGE WACHS.

On 8/20/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CR 44-1114

by SAN WILLIAM J. DOWNEY, Jr. and  
SA JOSEPH E. BURMAN/cas Date dictated 8/30/68

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CC 44-1114

INVESTIGATION AT 1648 WEST LUNT

20-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/3/68

LOLA BALLARD DESPINS, Day Clerk at the Lincoln Apartment Hotel, 1848 West Loop, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at her place of employment. DESPINS was shown a xerox copy of Registration Card Number 8075. She advised this card was made out by her and the person registering filled out the name, the street, the city and the state.

DESPINS stated she recalls the individual named on this card, JOHN L. RAYNS; however, she can not recall the individual's facial features. Mrs. DESPINS was shown photographs of the following individuals:

ROBERT T. KENNEDY, FBI Number 6133901

FRANK GUDZINSKI, FBI Number 3692231

JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 4059426

PHILLIP J. KURTZ, Chicago Police Department ID No. 80181

ROBERT I. CHAM, FBI Number 5399235

WILLIE C. DICKINSON, FBI Number 960624F

Mrs. DESPINS stated none of these individuals looked familiar to her.

Mrs. DESPINS made available a ledger sheet for room number 103 for June, 1967. This sheet shows room number 103 was rented on June 18, 1967. The amount for this rental was a total of \$13.61. A notation on June 19, 1967 shows "checked out". Mrs. DESPINS advised this means the person renting the room on June 18, 1967, checked out on June 19, 1967. She stated this person did not come by the desk and did not get back his \$1.00 deposit.

Mrs. DESPINS stated she recalled that the individual who rented the room came to the desk, signed the registration card, then went outside. When he came inside to

On 8/30/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # 65-44112

by SA WILLIAM J. BOENEY, Jr. and  
SA JOSEPH E. BROWN, JR. Date dictated 8/30/68

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2

CG 44-1114

sign the registration card, he had no luggage. However, when he walked around the windows on the outside to go to his apartment, she recalled he was carrying a suitcase.

Mr. DESPINS did not see anyone with Mr. RAYNS and she did not know him to have any visitors; however, his apartment is entered from the rear of the building and visitors would not come past the desk where she works.

Mrs. DESPINS advised room 105 is a small room with a small bed, chest of drawers, and table. The occupants of room 105 share a bath with other roomers in the area.

Mrs. DESPINS reviewed the ledger sheet for room 105 for June, 1967, and determined Mr. RAYNS did not make any long distance phone calls or any phone calls which were reported on this ledger sheet.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 3, 1968

1  
Mrs. NAYE CANAPA, Manager, Lincoln Apartment Hotel, 1648 West Lunt, Chicago, Illinois, telephone number EO 4-0800, was interviewed at her place of employment. Mrs. CANAPA was shown photographs of the following individuals:

ROBERT T. KENNEDY, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Number 615520 A

FRANK GRUDZINSKI, FBI Number 959823 A

JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405942 A

PHILLIP JOSEPH KURTZ, Chicago Police Department IR Number 80181

ROBERT I. CHERN, FBI Number 539026 D

WILLIE G. DEERINGWATER, FBI Number 950024 F

Mrs. CANAPA advised none of these photographs looked familiar to her.

Mrs. CANAPA reviewed the registration cards for May, and June, 1967; card number 8075 reflected that a person named JOHN L. RAYNS, address 2731 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, checked into room number 105 on June 13, 1967. This man was checked in by clerk LOLA BALLARD. The registration card is marked "rented for one week".

Mrs. CANAPA advised she was not familiar with the person named JOHN L. RAYNS, who stayed in room 105 as per the above information. Mrs. CANAPA advised the clerk, LOLA BALLARD, still works at the Lincoln Apartment Hotel and has remarried, her married name being DESPINS.

Mrs. CANAPA made available registration card 8075 to the interviewing Agents.

On 8/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois

File # CG 44-1114

SAs JOSEPH M. BURKE

by ROBERT E. BALL JMB/prk

Date dictated 8/24/68

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CG 44-1114

LABORATORY REPORTS REGARDING RESTAURANT PAY CHECKS

24



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20535

## REPORT

of the

## IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

### LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 44-1114  
FBI FILE NO. 44-38861  
LATENT CASE NO. 91075

August 30, 1968

TO: SAC, Chicago

RE: MURKIN  
CR

REFERENCE: Airtel 8-23-68  
EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Chicago  
SPECIMENS: Eight payroll checks of Indian Trail Restaurant, Inc.,  
Q398 through Q405  
Employee's Withholding Exemption Certificate, Q406

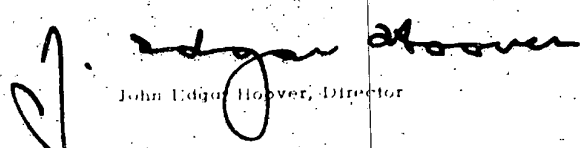
Specimens examined and one latent fingerprint of value developed on check, Q404.

See attached page for result of comparison.

Specimens enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

Enc. (9)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)

  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

-25-

Your File No. 44-1114  
FBI File No. 44-38861  
Latent Case No. 91075

August 30, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G

The latent print developed on the check #5283, Q404,  
is identical with the right thumbprint of James Earl Ray.

The check is enclosed.

-26-

# REPORT of the



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: September 4, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CRFBI File No. 44-38861  
Lab. No. D-680826086 JK  
D-680826101 JK

Specimens received 8/26/68, from FBI, Chicago

Eight payroll checks of Indian Trail Restaurant, Inc., payable to JOHN RAYNS or JOHN L. RAYNS, further described as follows:

| SPECIMEN | NUMBER | DATE    | AMOUNT  |
|----------|--------|---------|---------|
| Q398     | 4838   | 5/7/67  | \$84.89 |
| Q399     | 4913   | 5/14/67 | 84.89   |
| Q400     | 4987   | 5/21/67 | 84.89   |
| Q401     | 5058   | 5/28/67 | 84.89   |
| Q402     | 5130   | 6/4/67  | 89.63   |
| Q403     | 5209   | 6/11/67 | 89.63   |
| Q404     | 5283   | 6/18/67 | 95.19   |
| Q405     | 5357   | 6/25/67 | 77.53   |

Q406 Employee's Withholding Exemption Certificate dated May 10, 1967, bearing Social Security Number [redacted] and signed "John L. Rayns"

Specimens received 8/26/68, from FBI, Chicago

Q407 Sheet from rooming house ledger, page 13, bearing on line 24 the signature "John Larry Rayms"

Q408 Registration card, No. 8075, dated 6/18/67, bearing the signature "John L. Rayns"

### Result of examination:

It was concluded that JAMES EARL RAY, K171, K211 and K257 prepared the questioned Rayms signature on Q407; the questioned handwriting on Q408 and the questioned handwriting and hand printing on Q406. Although significant similarities were noted in the endorsements on Q398 through Q405, except the

endorsement on Q403, when compared with the known writings of RAY, the presence of unexplained variations, insufficient comparable material and distortion in some of the questioned endorsements precluded a definite determination as to whether RAY prepared the endorsements on Q398 through Q405.

The endorsement on Q403 is too distorted for comparison purposes. Although some similarities were noted in the date on line 24 on Q407 beside the Rayms signature when compared with the comparable writing of RAY, the limited and over-written nature of this date precluded a definite determination as to whether RAY prepared this date.

Q398 through Q408 have been photographed and will be returned to Chicago separately.

Page 2  
D-680826101 JK



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Springfield, Illinois

July 18, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On June 21, 1977, Kent Collins, Newscaster, KHQA TV, Quincy, Illinois, advised that on night of June 20, 1977, Jerry Ray, the brother of James Earl Ray, contacted KHQA - TV and wanted to be interviewed concerning James Earl Ray.

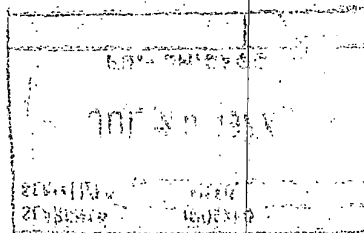
Jerry Ray advised that he has been employed as a greens keeper at a country club in suburban Chicago, Illinois area. However, Jerry Ray has lost his jobs due to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) pressure after Jerry Ray stated that the country club also employs a number of illegal aliens and the country club did not want Federal authorities messing around the country club.

Jerry Ray stated James Earl Ray does not want to go to a Federal prison because Justice Department people will see that James Earl Ray is never heard of again.

Jerry Ray stated that Jerry Ray has been in contact with members of the House Committee on assassinations and that during the past few days he has talked to Walter Fanteroy. This has been since James Earl Ray's escape and recapture.

James Ray claimed that a business card was found in the car James Earl Ray drove in Memphis at the time of the assassination of King. This card belongs to an individual who also had the use of the car and it has been established

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ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.

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that this person was connected with Central Intelligence Agency. Jerry Ray claimed his brother, James Earl Ray, was set up concerning King's assassination and that there is a witness who was four blocks away at the time of King's death who can verify Ray could not have killed King.

Jerry Ray saw James Earl Ray a few days before the escape and at that time James Earl Ray was very despondent so Jerry Ray was not surprised at the escape attempt.

Jerry Ray stated that definitely James Earl Ray does not want to go to the Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois. He stated that at one time before, Federal authorities attempted to place James Earl Ray in the Federal hospital at Springfield, Missouri, in attempt to keep James Earl Ray from talking.

The Quincy Herald-Whig, Quincy, Illinois, dated June 21, 1977, contained the following article concerning an interview by Jerry Ray:

## Brother says Ray saw escape as last hope

By PAUL COLGAN

James Earl Ray was despondent over reports the House Assassination Committee was to be disbanded when he tried to escape from a Tennessee prison earlier this month, his younger brother, Jerry, said in Quincy Monday.

Jerry, 41, who lost his job as a nightwatchman at a country club near Chicago last week because of the attention his brother's escape brought, was in Quincy to visit his sister at a nursing home.

Both Rays lived in Quincy for a time in their youth.

Jerry talked about his brother in a two-hour interview. The following is a portion of that interview.

Jerry Ray said his brother considered the Congressional investigation his last hope to be exonerated in connection with the 1967 Martin Luther King slaying.

Jerry Ray maintained that his brother was innocent of the killing and was "set-up" by others to take the blame.

"He was depressed because he knew they had a thing underway to discredit the assassination committee and try to abolish it," Jerry Ray explained.

Jerry had talked with James on the Sunday before June 10 when James and six fellow prisoners scaled the wall of the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn.

"He told me 'that's the only hope I've got left,'" Jerry Ray explained. "He said 'if they abolish the committee, I'll just have to get out some other way.'"

"At the time it didn't hit me, what he meant," Jerry said. A New York Times article about trouble in the committee and

moves to abolish it published a couple of weeks before his escape was the cause of James' depression, according to Jerry Ray.

"The New York Times article set him off," Jerry Ray said.

James Earl Ray has exhausted nearly every legal avenue he had, including a review by the U. S. Supreme Court, in attempts to have his case retried. Ray had pleaded guilty to the killing in return for a life sentence instead of death in 1968 for the King killing.

Later, after he was sentenced, Ray began to talk of a conspiracy and that he had not acted alone in the killing.

Now his brother Jerry maintains that James had nothing to do with the killing but rather was used as a "set-up guy" to take the blame for the killing.

"He has witnesses to prove he was at a service station four blocks away," at the time of the assassination, Jerry claimed.

"The only evidence they could use against him was that he had his fingerprints on the rifle," Jerry Ray said. He claimed James bought the rifle but didn't shoot it.

A rifle found after the King shooting in Memphis, which is believed to be the murder weapon, had James Earl Ray's fingerprints on it.

Because he believes his brother innocent, Jerry said he feared for his brother during the escape, thinking that other involved in the conspiracy might have arranged the escape to kill him. "There was something strange about it," Jerry said.

"A lot of people would like to see him dead," Jerry added.

"I don't know if he was tricked out or if it was a legal escape," Jerry Ray explained. "The reason I thought he might have been tricked out was because so many guys went and he never did operate that way before. Before every time he escaped it was by himself. And this time they had seven of them that took off so I figured there might have been some trickery going on."

Jerry Ray said he didn't believe his brother planned the escape.

"The guys he hung around with, they didn't escape with him."

Jerry said he has not talked with his brother since the escape because James is being held in solitary confinement for 30 days after the escape.

But prison officials contradict Jerry's version, saying it was a well-planned escape complete with a diversion to draw attention away from the secluded section of the walled prison where James Ray and his comrades used a pipe ladder to climb a wall and escape.

Ray was captured four days later hiding under a pile of leaves in the wooded mountains surrounding the prison.

Brushy Mountain was considered escape proof but Ray had always contended he could escape from any prison. He had been on the run from an escape from Jefferson City prison in Missouri when he became involved in the King assassination.

Also, Jerry Ray claims that the federal officials did not want a Congressional investigation into the King assassination and that the FBI and CIA were trying to stop Ray from talking.

Jerry claimed the name of a

man on a card James had at the time of the assassination, and given him by the mysterious "Raoul" who Fay claims planned the assassination, has been traced to the CIA.

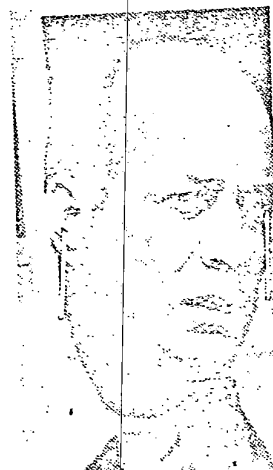
Jerry said that James believes the Congressional inquiry is his "last hope" in getting to the truth in the events surrounding the assassination of King.

Because of this, Jerry said James has been extremely cooperative with the panel giving them all the information he has, including the name on the card and some phone numbers given to him by "Raoul."

"He has given them every bit of information he knows," Jerry said.

Jerry said he is constantly besieged by reporters and FBI men. "You just kind of live with it," he says.

He was working as a nightwatchman at a country club near Chicago for the last four years, but when the FBI and reporters came looking for him, the club asked him to leave.



JERRY RAY

4\*

X

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

Re Springfield airtel to the Bureau dated 6/23/77,  
captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, Aka, ET AL, UFAC - ESCAPE".

Enclosed herewith for is the original and four  
copies of an LHM in captioned matter.

Enclosed for Chicago are two copies of LHM. Chicago  
should disseminate information to Immigration and Naturalization  
Service locally.

*1 cc 2 att  
and LHM forward  
INS by R/S  
7/21/77  
R*

- 2 - Bureau (44-38861) (Encls. 5)
- ② - Chicago (Encls. 2) *q*
- 1 - Springfield (44-561)

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7/18/77

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2 - Bureau (44-38861) (Encls. 5)  
2 - Chicago (Encls. 2) of  
1 - Springfield (44-561)

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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