

01 10

1-800-531-5000

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

U.S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

FEDERAL BUREAU

[REDACTED]

~~PICKETT, OTTIE~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/24/01 BY SP. CLK/gh



SERIALS 3627 ONLY

44-10-38861

SECTION 43

ATTENTION

BEFORE CHANGING CLASSIFICATION
OR PROCESSING ANY DOCUMENT
FROM THIS FILE FOR RELEASE TO
THE GENERAL PUBLIC, CONTACT
FOI/PA SECTION UNIT D, EXT. 5767.

FBI/DOJ

Transfer-Call 421

SECTION 43
SERIALS 3627 ONLY

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SUBJECT - Martin Luther King Jr.
FILE # - 147-1000

ANALYST - *7/24/75*
EXT - *5775*
TEAM - *1*

50 Pages
1 Document

b 7(c)(D)

Section 45

[illegible]

REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

Reproduction of Material Form
Congressional Inquiry Unit
6-

Date

12/28/76

The following material has been reproduced
for excising and review at FBIHQ by representatives of
the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No.

44-38861

Section

43

Serials

3627

through

Only

(except following serials not in
file on this date:

Enclosure Behind File or Bulky Enclosure:

No. Copies

3

By

82

RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/17/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/18/68-5/15/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE IO #4182 WF #442-A DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.- VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA ALAN G. SENTINELLA	TYPED BY bjc
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE: Atlanta report of SA ALAN G. SENTINELLA, 4/18/68.

- P -

LEADS

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GA.

Will continue efforts to locate subject and report results thereof.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						None	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
5-Bureau (44-38861)						EX 109		
4-Birmingham (44-1740)								
4-Memphis (44-1987)						REC-7		
1-Chicago								
1-Kansas City						5-27 MAY 20 1968		
1-St. Louis								
1-New Orleans						Lefoy SIX SAC SUP. STAG SECT.		
2-Atlanta (44-2386)								
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency	FBI MEMPHIS							
Request Recd.	FBI MEMPHIS							
Date Fwd.	5-28-68							
How Fwd.	4-28-68							
By	79 JUN 17 1968							

Rec - CP Unit, Rm 2060

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAY 20 4 28 PM '68

MAY 21

MAY 20 2 31 PM '68

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

Handwritten signature

MAY 21 4 35 PM '68

RECEIVED - CIVIL RIGHTS
FBI

MAY 23 2 47 PM '68

RECEIVED - CIVIL RIGHTS
FBI

MAY 20 12 47 PM '68

AT 44-2386

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Rerep sets forth check of various agencies previously conducted with negative results. Upon determination by Bureau on 4/19/68, that subject of this case is JAMES EARL RAY, these agencies were appropriately rechecked, that is, airlines, banks, birth, city and telephone directories, credit, arrest, car rentals, drivers license, dancing schools, hotels, INS, laundries, motels, public utilities, MVB, Selective Service, public transportation other than airlines, labor unions, and criminal and racial informants.

In addition, the authors of want ads appearing in the metropolitan Atlanta newspaper re used cars for sale during the period 3/24-4/5/68, were contacted, all look-alike complaints resolved through interview, appropriate agency checks and neighborhood investigation where warranted.

The foregoing efforts proved negative and results are not being set forth in this report. Results of each inquiry appear in Atlanta file in appropriate form.

Copies of this report for the United States Attorneys at Birmingham and Memphis are included with copies for those offices, but not marked as such. Dissemination to be held in abeyance pending Bureau instructions.

With reference to interviews of RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, this individual stated he would not testify to the information he furnished because he feared for his life. It is noted that CURTIS furnished the same information to the national news media.

- B* -
(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA ALAN G. SENTINELLA Office: Atlanta, Georgia
Date: May 17, 1968
Field Office File #: AT 44-2386 Bureau File #: 44-38861
Title: JAMES EARL RAY,
IO Number 4182
WF Number 442-A
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis:

Results of FBI Laboratory examination of items obtained from 1966 Mustang and during search of subject's room set forth. Fibers on several items in Mustang could have come from bedspread in which rifle previously located in Memphis, Tenn., was wrapped. One latent fingerprint on map of Mexico located in room determined identical with a latent fingerprint on above rifle and binoculars also located in Memphis. Reinterviews of "GALT's" landlord did not produce information of significance. Landlord identified photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as being photograph of individual known to him as "GALT." Operator of neighborhood laundry used by "GALT" identified photograph of RAY as being good likeness of "GALT." Interviews with LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA and RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS previously incarcerated with RAY set forth. Unable to suggest subject's whereabouts. IN VIEW OF CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT 44-2386

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. RESULTS OF EXAMINATION BY FBI LABORATORY AND IDENTIFICATION DIVISION	3
A. Re 1966 Ford Mustang	4
B. Re Search of Subject's Room	11
II. PRESENCE OF SUBJECT IN ATLANTA	17
A. Reinterviews of Landlord	18
B. Use of Laundry	26
III. INTERVIEWS OF FORMER JAIL MATES OF THE SUBJECT	28

AT 44-2386

I. RESULTS OF EXAMINATION BY FBI LABORATORY
AND IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

AT 44-2386

A. Re 1966 Ford Mustang

REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: **FBI, Memphis**Re: **MURKIN**Date: **April 19, 1968**FBI File No. **44-38861**

Lab. No. **PC-A5627 IZ KS**
D-560623 JK
PC-A5655 KS IS KZ
PC-A5656 KS
PC-A5693 KS
PC-A5695 KS

Specimens received **4/12/68** when personally delivered by
SA A. F. Miller, from FBI, Atlanta (PC-A5627 IZ KS; D-560623 JK)

ITEMS FROM 1966 FORD MUSTANG:

- Q89 Floor mat from right front floor
- Q90 Floor mat from rear floor
- Q91 Floor mat from left front floor
- Q92 Floor mat from trunk
- Q93 Air filter cartridge
- Q94 Wheel jack from trunk
- Q95 Dark blue short-sleeved sweat shirt
- Q96 One rubber sandal, size 7-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
- Q97 One white fitted sheet
- Q98 One black and white shirt jacket
- Q99 One pillowcase
- Q100 One fitted sheet with yellow thread
- Q101 One black sport shirt
- Q102 One pair of size 34 walking shorts
- Q103 Rug from trunk
- Q104 Pillow from trunk
- Q105 Styrofoam container from trunk
- Q106 One pair of men's brown socks from trunk
- Q107 One hunting knife and sheath
- Q108 Spare tire mounting from trunk
- Q109 Lug wrench from trunk
- Q110 Blue-handled screwdriver from trunk
- Q111 Used windshield wiper blade from trunk
- Q112 One Personna razor blade
- Q113 Soil sample from spare wheel and tire
- Q114 Vacuum sweepings from front passenger side floor
- Q115 Vacuum sweepings from left front floor
- Q116 Vacuum sweepings from rear floor
- Q117 Vacuum sweepings from trunk

Specimens received 4/12/68 when personally delivered by
SA Jack B. Simpson, FBI, Atlanta (PC-A5655 KS IS KZ)

Q143 Soil from right fender well
Q144 Soil from right front wheel
Q145 Soil from right rear wheel
Q146 Soil from right rear fender well
Q147 Debris from lower part of left fender
Q148 Soil from left front wheel
Q149 Soil from left rear wheel
Q150 Scraping from front left tire tread
Q151 Soil from underneath body in front of differential
Q152 Soil from differential
Q153 Soil from front of exhaust pipe
Q154 Soil from underneath body in front section
Q155 Soil from left fender well
Q156 Soil from left rear fender well
Q157 Scrapings from left rear tire tread
Q158 Scrapings from tread of right rear tire
Q159 Scrapings from under glove compartment
Q160 Scrapings from tire tread, right front tire
Q161 Scrapings from front part of engine
Q162 Water from windshield washer bag
Q163 Spare tire and wheel from trunk

Specimen received 4/12/68 from FBI, Memphis (PC-A5656 KS)

K20 Soil from approximately twenty feet from site where gun
and bedspread abandoned

Specimens received 4/16/68 from FBI, Memphis (PC-A5693 KS)

K44 - K49 Soil from parking lot and area between curb and
sidewalk near Unit 34 of Rebel Motel

Specimens received 4/16/68 from FBI, Memphis (PC-A5695 KS)

K50 - K59 Soil samples from area in rear of 418 and 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South
Main Street

Results of examination:

The previously submitted bedspread, specimen Q13, is composed of brown cotton fibers, green cotton fibers and green rayon fibers. Brown cotton fibers, green cotton fibers and green rayon fibers that could have come from the Q13 bedspread were found on Q95, Q97 through Q104 and Q106 and in the Q117 sweepings. No such fibers were found on Q89 through Q92 or in the Q114 through Q116 sweepings.

Caucasian head hairs like the hairs previously found on the Q13 bedspread, in the Q15 zipper bag, on the Q26 towel, on the Q89 and Q99 socks and on the Q98 hairbrush were found on Q95, Q97, Q99, Q100 and Q102. These hairs could have come from the same person. It is pointed out that hairs do not possess enough individual microscopic characteristics to be positively identified as originating from a particular person. Caucasian head hairs were also found in the Q114 through Q117 vacuum sweepings. Some of these hairs are like the Q13, Q15, Q26, Q99, Q30 and Q98 hairs and could have come from the same person. Some of the hairs from Q114 through Q117 are different from the Q13, Q15, Q26, Q99, Q30 and Q98 hairs and did not come from the same person. No hairs were found on Q89 through Q92, Q96, Q101, Q102, Q104 or Q106.

The Q89 through Q91 floor mats are composed of translucent red plastic. No brand names are indicated on the mats. The letters "HIS" are hand printed on the back of each mat, apparently with a felt tip marker. The significance of the letters is not known.

Specimen Q92 is a black and gray plaid rubber mat. No marks were found on Q92.

Specimens Q94, Q103 and Q103 are standard items furnished with Mustangs.

Specimen Q95 is a dark blue short-sleeved sweat shirt of medium size. No labels or laundry marks were found on Q95.

Specimen Q96 is a black and white rubber sandal for the left foot. A label on the bottom bears the following: "MEN'S - M SHOE SIZE 7-8 JAPAN"

Specimen Q97 is a twin-bed size, fitted, white bed sheet. Specimen Q99 is a white pillowcase. A white laundry tape is present on Q97 and Q99. The following is printed in black on each tape: "2-OR-3" It was concluded that the marks on these tapes did not originate from the machine which prepared the laundry tapes on the Q89 shorts and the Q70 T shirt.

Specimen Q98 is a black and white shirt jacket. The following is present on the label of Q98:

" M RH19788 68% DACRON 35% COTTON
15-15 1/2 MONTICELLO SHIRT JACKET TAPERED"

Specimen Q100 is a twin-bed size, fitted, white bed sheet. The sheet is in two pieces. The two pieces are stitched together with yellow thread and white thread. Inquiry at a department store in Washington, D. C., developed the following information concerning Q100: It is a #3 grade irregular seamed sheet. Most such sheets even if manufactured in the United States are sold in other countries. If sold in this country, they are sold in low class "illegitimate stores." Such sheets do not bear the manufacturer's name.

Specimen Q101 is a black short-sleeved shirt. The following is present on the label of Q101:

"ARTURO ROSETTI CUSTOM TAILORED -L- 100% COTTON
MADE IN U.S.A. RH19722"

Specimen Q102 is a pair of olive green walking shorts. The following is present on the label of Q102:

"HONG KONG DIPLOMAT CUSTOM TAILORED 65% POLYESTER FIBRE
35% SUPER FINE COTTON WAIST 34"

Specimen Q103 is a light pink, looped pile cotton rug that measures 24" by 50 1/2". No labels were found on Q103.

Specimen Q104 is a feather pillow that measures about 19" by 24". The pillow has a specification label. The back of the label is stamped "Q 1967."

Specimen Q105 is a container for a Polaroid camera, possibly a model 230. No label was found on Q105.

Specimen Q106 is a pair of men's stretch socks with no label.

Other than the laundry tapes on Q97 and Q99, no visible laundry marks were found on any of the cloth items listed above. No invisible laundry marks were found on any of these items.

No buttons are missing from any of the garments listed above.

The Q107 hunting knife has a blade that measures 3 9/16" in length. The blade is rusty. The words "GLUCCI JAPAN" are imprinted on one side of the blade and the number "45" is imprinted on the other side. The word "GLUCCI" is stamped on the sheath.

Specimen Q110 is a flat-tipped Stanley brand screwdriver.

Specimen Q111 is an "AMCO" brand windshield wiper blade. Part of the rubber has been torn off.

Specimen Q112 is a "Personna" double-edge razor blade. No hairs were found on Q112.

The K39 and K44 through K59 soils from Memphis are different from the soil found on the previously submitted Q13 bedspread in physical characteristics and composition. Therefore, the soil from the bedspread did not come from the sources of K39 and K44 through K59.

No soil similar to the soil from the bedspread was found in Q113, Q143 through Q153, Q160 and Q161 or on the Q162 tire and wheel. None of these soils from the car originated from the source of the soil on the bedspread.

Although nothing was noted which would aid in the determination of the original sources of specimens Q113, Q143 through Q149, Q153, Q159, Q161, Q163, Q164 and the soil from Q162, they are suitable for comparison purposes. Specimens Q147, Q150, Q153, Q155,

through Q153, Q160 and Q161 are either too limited in amount or too mixed with miscellaneous debris to be of value for significant comparisons other than for elimination purposes.

The soils from the car were different from K30 and K44 through K59 in physical characteristics and composition and, therefore, did not come from the sources of K30 and K44 through K59.

No soil of value for significant comparison was found on Q89 through Q103 or in the vacuum sweepings, specimens Q114 through Q117. The mineral debris in Q114 through Q117 consists of typical car floor debris, a mixture of miscellaneous materials from numerous sources. No mineral debris of apparent significance was found in Q114 through Q117.

The scrapings from under the glove compartment, Q159, do not contain blood.

The Q162 liquid was identified as water. No traces of any alcohols such as used in windshield wash were identified in this specimen.

AT 44-2386

B. Re Search of Subject's Room

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: April 23, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-560880 JK
PC-A5688 IZ

Specimens received 4/16/68

- Q174 Booklet entitled "What is the John Birch Society"
- Q175 Gulf Oil Company map of Atlanta
- Q176 "Arrow" map of Greater Atlanta
- Q177 Box of Nabisco Saltine Crackers
- Q178 Jar of French's Mustard
- Q179 Coffee cup
- Q180 Water glass
- Q181 Small can of Carnation Evaporated Milk
- Q182 Jar of Maxwell House Instant Coffee
- Q183 Box of "C & H" Sugar
- Q184 One knife (Forgecraft)
- Q185 One National's Citation pencil
- Q186 Wire electric cup heater
- Q187 One portable Zenith television model #N 2205-6
- Q188 Jar of Kraft's Catalina French Dressing
- Q189 Package of Golden Grain California Lima Beans
- Q190 Can of "Iris" ground black pepper
- Q191 Box of five National's Citation pencils
- Q192 Gulf map of Southeastern USA
- Q193 Shell map of Texas and Oklahoma
- Q194 Map of Mexico
- Q195 Map of Los Angeles published by Mitock & Sons
- Q196 Map of Los Angeles (Atlantic Richfield Co.)
- Q197 Shell map of Louisiana
- Q198 Map of California
- Q199 Enco map of Arizona and New Mexico
- Q200 Standard Oil map of Birmingham and vicinity
- Q201 Tie (Brown with brown, blue and silver diagonal stripes)
- Q202 Pair of grey trousers
- Q203 Booklet entitled "Your Opportunities in Locksmithing"

Result of examination:

Examination of Q176 ("Arrow" map of Atlanta) revealed the following markings: In area number 17, ink lines were noted on Daniel Street between Arbor Avenue and Boulevard Drive; in area number 03 an ink circle approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter the center of which would be approximately on Auburn Avenue at Courtland; in area number 14, two ink circles which are approximately concentric with diameters of about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The centers of these two circles lie approximately at the intersection of Simpson Road and Paines; in area number 09 an ink circle approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter and the numeral 10 were noted. The center of this circle lies approximately on 14th Street between Crescent Avenue and Peachtree Road; in area number 06 an ink circle approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter appears. The center of this circle is approximately at the meeting place of Highland View and Ponce de Leon Terrace.

The notations set out below were observed on Q196 ("Atlantic Richfield Co." street map of Los Angeles.") On the top of that side of this map which contains the alphabetical street listings a small pencil circle was noted in the "Van Nuys District" at the intersection of Buffalo Avenue and Oxnard Street.

On the large map on the other side of this map the following markings were noted in the Beverly Hills area. Two vertical lines in ink at the east end of the park which is located at Olympic Boulevard and Heath Avenue; vertical lines in ink at San Vicente Boulevard and Masselin Avenue; an ink line running between the two vertical lines previously mentioned generally following Pico Boulevard and Packard Street; an ink line extending from the vertical lines at the park along Olympic Boulevard to Alfred Street.

An ink line at the intersection of Beverly Glen Boulevard and Woodruff; an ink line at the intersection of Beverly Glen Boulevard and Warnall Avenue.

Also noted was an ink marking at Sunset Boulevard and Palm Drive.

Ink parentheses were noted around the words "Somma Way" and "Rocca Pl" which are located in Stone Canyon.

The pair of trousers, specimen Q202, is old and soiled. The lining and pockets are yellowed, the two front pockets have holes in them and the edge of the left front pocket is threadbare. The trousers have a "NEEDLECRAFT" label. The waist is 34 1/2 inches and the inseam is 26 inches. A name handwritten in black on the right rear pocket is probably a cleaners mark. This name appears to be "Z SOLOFF;" however, the last two letters are not clear. No invisible cleaners marks were found on Q202.

Several brown to dark brown head hairs of Caucasian origin were found on the trousers and in the pocket debris. These hairs are different from the hairs from the Mustang and Memphis scene. It was concluded that they did not originate from the same source. No hairs were found on the Q201 necktie.

Nofibers were found on the Q202 trousers or on the Q201 necktie that could be associated with cloth items previously submitted in this case.

No marks or labels were found on the Q201 necktie.

Examination of the other items described above disclosed no other pertinent information.

The submitted evidence has been retained.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537



REPORT

of the

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 44-2386
FBI FILE NO. 44-38861
LATENT CASE NO. 91075

April 19, 1968

TO: SAC, Atlanta

RE: MURKIN

REFERENCE: Letter 4-15-68

EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Atlanta

SPECIMENS: Portable TV and numerous items from storage room in Rooming House at 113 Fourteenth Street, Atlanta, Georgia, Q174 through Q200, and Q203

Six latent fingerprints and one latent impression, which may be a fingerprint, impression of lower joint of a finger, or partial palm print, were developed on map of Mexico, Q194. No other latent impressions of value found or developed.

One of the latent fingerprints on the map is identical with the latent fingerprint previously reported on the rifle, Q2, and with the latent fingerprint previously reported on binoculars, Q14. Other latent prints on the map compared with latent prints previously reported in this case, but no identification effected.

15

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

SAC, Atlanta

April 19, 1968

Results of laboratory examination and disposition
of specimens subject of separate report.

This report confirms and supplements Butel of
4-17-68.

AT 44-2386

II. PRESENCE OF SUBJECT IN ATLANTA

AT 44-2386

A. Reinterviews Of Landlord

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 30, 1968

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at his place of employment, The Vista Cafeteria, 1052 Northside Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

At the outset of the interview, GARNER acknowledged that he had been on a prolonged "drunk" since about Friday, April 19, 1968, and was at the time of the interview in the throes of a "terrific hangover." GARNER explained that he has had a continual drinking problem for the past few years in that he has from time to time "gone on drinking sprees" for periods lasting several days in duration.

GARNER at this time acknowledged that he was previously on one of his "drunks" from a period beginning about March 22, 1968 through about March 30, 1968 which included the first week that the man known to him as ERIC S. GALT resided at the rooming house operated by GARNER at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

GARNER said that despite his being in the throes of a "hangover" resulting from his most recent drinking binge, he now felt able to again recount his recollections of his contacts with "GALT". GARNER provided the following information:

GARNER began drinking in his room at 107 - 14th Street about Friday, March 22, 1968. On Sunday afternoon, before darkness (exact time unknown but possibly between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.) the man whom he later knew as ERIC S. GALT appeared at GARNER's door. GARNER said he now believes the door to his room was open, and that he (GARNER) was sitting in a chair in his room in a drunken condition. GARNER recalls that "GALT" inquired regarding obtaining a single room. At the time the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. had been closed for sometime possibly three or four weeks. This rooming house had been closed because it had become "infested with 'hippies'" and the

On 4/29/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SAs JOHN E. OGDEN and
O. RICHARD HAMILTON JEO: hjm Date dictated 4/30/68

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.

only way he could get them to move from the rooming house was to close it up. When "GALT" asked for a single room, there was no single room available in the rooming house at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. so he decided to put "GALT" in the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. Accordingly, "GALT" was the first roomer in this rooming house for several weeks.

GARNER now recalls that "GALT" produced a partly consumed quart or fifth size bottle of vodka. This bottle was square in shape but the brand name could not be recalled. He believes he may have had a drink with "GALT" in his (GARNER's) room at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. after which he accompanied "GALT" to the rooming house next door where he showed "GALT" room number 2. When "GALT" stated that the room was quite small, GARNER opened the door connecting with room number 4 which is utilized normally as a storage room and which has no windows. GARNER told "GALT" he could use the connecting room and at this time there was some mention made that "GALT" would put his television set on the desk in room number 4 as well as other articles belonging to "GALT". GARNER recalls that the connecting door is equipped with a hasp and padlock and that he (GARNER) upon unlocking and opening this door, replaced the padlock, (n)locked on the hasp. GARNER said he did not see the television or other items belonging to "GALT" at this time and has no clear recollection of ever seeing any of "GALT's" possession prior to "GALT's" departure from this address.

GARNER also recalls that "GALT" left the partly consumed bottle of vodka with GARNER and that after showing "GALT" to his room, GARNER returned to 107 - 14th Street, N.E. where he continued to drink.

He said the vodka bottle was undoubtedly thrown away in the trash.

GARNER states that he is unable to recall any of the conversations he may have had with "GALT." When specifically asked whether "GALT" had stated how he happened to pick this particular rooming house; where he had come from; whether he had made inquiries about places to eat, laundry and drycleaning facilities or service to his automobile, GARNER said he cannot recall any conversation concerning these or similar matters.

He reiterated that his contact with "GALT" on this occasion is very hazy because of his intoxicated condition.

At this point, GARNER stated that information previously provided to Agents concerning having obtained "GALT's" name at the time of initial contact was probably erroneous because he now recalls that he did not have "GALT" write his name at this time but that this was done a week later on March 31, 1968, when "GALT" paid GARNER for a second week's rent in advance.

GARNER said that he continued his drinking activities on through the week of March 24, 1968 and did not begin to sober up until the following weekend. He cannot clearly recall any of his actions during this week but has a hazy recollection of going to "GALT's" room at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. about Tuesday night and of again having some drinks with "GALT" in this room. He states that he cannot recall any of the conversations with "GALT" at this time and he does not recall observing any of the items that might have been in room number 2. He does not recall why he happened to go to the room but suspected that he may have been "checking the building" and just dropped in to visit with "GALT" when he discovered he was in the room. He believes this was Tuesday night, March 26, 1968, but is not sure of this.

GARNER also stated that sometime during the first week possibly on Wednesday, he recalls walking across the street from his residence to Postal Sub Station C for the purpose of buying some envelopes. He said that he was still in a drunken condition but hazily recalls encountering a young man approximately 20 years of age in front of the Post Office who addressed GARNER by name. This unknown individual asked GARNER a question to the effect "Who was the man I saw you with last night in the white Mustang?" GARNER said this suggested to him that he had possibly gone with "GALT" somewhere in "GALT's" automobile while he (GARNER) was dead drunk but although he has tried to recall such an incident, he cannot recall ever being in "GALT's" car. GARNER was specifically questioned at this point as to whether he has any friends or acquaintances residing in the vicinity of Highland View Street, Ponce de Leon Terrace and Barnett Street, N.E. GARNER said that he did not know anyone in that neighborhood and cannot recall having visited that neighborhood on any occasion in the recent past.

Several efforts were made to encourage GARNER to recall additional information concerning the unknown man who questioned him concerning being in the white Mustang, but he repeatedly stated that he just does not know this person but that it is possibly someone who has been a patron at one of the restaurants which GARNER has operated in the past.

GARNER recalls no further contact with "GALT" until Sunday, March 31, 1968. At this time GARNER had "begun to sober up" and went to the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. to check the rooms. He said he does this frequently to be sure that the "hippies" have not again invaded these premises. On this occasion, he encountered "GALT" in the hall. At this time, "GALT" said "he might as well pay him for another week." GARNER said that he did not enter "GALT's" room at this time but picked up an envelope which was lying on the table in the hall and it was at this time he had "GALT" print his name thereon with the view of transferring the name to his permanent records when GARNER returned to his own room. GARNER said he knows he was paid in cash but does not recall the denomination of the bills or any further conversation with "GALT" at this time.

GARNER said that he remained in a sober condition from March 31 until the beginning of his most recent drinking spree on April 19, 1968. He is, accordingly, sure that he did not see "GALT" again after he was paid on Sunday, March 31, 1968. He said he may have seen "GALT's" automobile parked in the rear of 113 - 14th Street, N.E. at various times during the week, but could not be positive and does not recall any specific dates. He noted that he does not recall ever seeing "GALT's" car parked in the parking lot behind the rooming house when GARNER returned from his restaurant to 14th Street about 4:00 p.m. He said that when and if he saw the car, it is his best recollection that it would have been during the early morning hours when he left to go to the restaurant or possibly late in the evening. He stated he retains the impression that "GALT" left the rooming house sometime in the morning and would not return until quite late in the evening. He conceded that it is possible that the car may have been absent from the rooming house for periods of two or three days while "GALT" was a tenant there.

AT 44-2386

JEO:hjm

5

GARNER related that on Friday, April 5, 1968, he went to his restaurant at 1052 Northside Drive, N.W. about 5:30 in the morning. He remained at that restaurant until about 10:00 a.m. at which time he returned to the rooming houses on 14th Street for the purpose of getting the linen ready to be picked up by an employee of the Atlanta Linen Company which performs the laundry services for GARNER. GARNER stated that when help is available, he usually takes one of the female employees from the restaurant when he goes to the rooming houses on Friday to change the linen. He recalled, however, that on Friday, April 5, 1968, he was "short of help" at the restaurant and, accordingly, went alone to get the linen. He believes he could have arrived at the rooming house between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. at which time the driver for the Atlanta Linen Company was waiting for him. GARNER said he went to all of the occupied rooms and took the linen from the beds. Upon entering room number 2 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., he observed that the bed was made up but from the appearance of the bed it looked as though someone had been lying on top of the spread. He found on top of the bed a note possibly written on a piece of cardboard of the type placed in shirts by the laundry. This note was apparently from "GALT" and although he cannot recall the exact wording, stated something to the effect that "GALT" had to go to Birmingham and would return in about a week to pick up his television and/or property. GARNER said he tossed the note in the waste can in the room and obtained the linen from the bed which he turned over to the employee of the Atlanta Linen Company.

While in the room, he observed that the door connecting room number 2 and the adjacent storage room had been locked but he did not enter the room at this time to determine what property had been left there by "GALT". Sometime later, he did enter the room and noted that a television set was in the room along with miscellaneous items which he cannot specifically recall that were lying on the desk in the room.

GARNER said that he has not received any word or communication from "GALT" concerning the property left there. He cannot recall seeing "GALT" talk to any of the other roomers at either of the rooming houses and knows nothing concerning any of "GALT's" activities while he resided at this address. He is certain that "GALT" did not mention having been referred to this rooming house by anyone and feels that he would have recalled this even though he was in an intoxicated condition during a great portion of the time "GALT" resided there.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/7/68

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, was interviewed at his place of business, 1052 Northside Drive, N.W.

GARNER specifically was asked regarding any discussions he may recall with the man whom he knew as ERIC S. GALT concerning drugs and/or narcotics. GARNER replied that he could recall no conversation with "GALT" concerning these matters and can recall nothing to indicate GALT was using drugs or narcotics.

GARNER also was asked specifically whether he recalled any conversation with "GALT" concerning racial matters. GARNER said he cannot recall any such conversation.

GARNER reiterated information previously furnished that the only conversation with GALT was the one on March 31, 1968, at which time he was paid for an additional week's rent. He again stated he is positive he did not encounter "GALT" at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., on Friday, April 5, 1968, when he GARNER, went to that address to remove the dirty linens to be given to the laundry man.

GARNER said PERRY LEE ZACKERY, the cook at Garner's Cafeteria, and another employee at the cafeteria, went to the rooming houses on 14th Street on the afternoon of April 5, 1968, to make up the beds. He cannot recall the identity of the woman who accompanied ZACKERY, but knows only it was a Negro female whom he had picked up to work in the restaurant as a dishwasher. He noted that during the past several weeks, he has had numerous different women working at the restaurant, and cannot specifically recall which one was working on April 5, 1968. He suggested that EDNA JACKSON, who resides at 646 Whitaker Street, might have been the woman who accompanied PERRY ZACKERY to clean the rooming houses on April 5, 1968.

24

On 5/1/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA JOHN E. OGDEN:lcc Date dictated 5/3/68

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 May 9, 1968

JIMMY GARNER, 107 14th Street, Northeast, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which he was wearing a suit, white shirt, and fore-in-hand tie. He stated this is the best likeness he has seen to date of RAY and stated, "If not him, it's his twin brother."

GARNER stated he has continued to try to recall additional information concerning RAY and his brief stay at 113 14th Street, Northeast; however, he has been unable to recall any additional information.

25

On 5/6/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA ROBERT R. PERRY :bjc Date dictated 5/7/68

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.

AT 44-2386

B. Use Of Laundry

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 9, 1968

Mrs. ESTELLE PETERS, Piedmont Laundry, 1168 Peachtree Street, Northeast, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which he is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and fore-in-hand tie. She stated she believes the photograph of RAY in which he was wearing a bowtie is a better likeness, however, stated the more recent photograph in which he is wearing a fore-in-hand tie looks older and the eyes and nose appear very similar.

She stated she has been unable to recall any additional information concerning the individual whom she knew as ERIC S. GALT.

27

On 5/7/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA ROBERT R. PERRY :bjc Date dictated 5/7/68

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.

AT 44-2386

III. INTERVIEWS OF FORMER JAIL MATES OF THE SUBJECT

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

1

On April 24, 1968, SAs JAMES RICHARD FLICK, JOSEPH G. SHEA, and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN interviewed LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA, an inmate at the Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia. DOWDA advised he was formerly incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He stated while at the Missouri State Prison, he was acquainted for approximately three years with JAMES EARL RAY, a fellow inmate. DOWDA advised he was released from the Missouri State Prison on December 23, 1966, and JAMES EARL RAY was still incarcerated. He stated he had been the chief cook at the Missouri State Prison and RAY worked as a bread slicer.

DOWDA advised RAY was the type person the other inmates did not "mess with." He described RAY as a "loner" who usually initiated the conversation if he wanted to talk to anyone. He stated that RAY spoke in a mild, low tone and when angry would speak even softer. He stated he had never known RAY to become excited and shout. To his knowledge, he has never known RAY to smoke. He stated RAY had a fair complexion, which was blotchy, having pimples around the lower portion of his face. He stated RAY had a rash on the right side of his head during the entire time he had known RAY and RAY would scratch this rash. He stated this rash was very noticeable due to the type of haircut in the Penitentiary and RAY put some type of salve on this rash. He stated RAY's hair was lightly streaked with gray. He advised the only scar he can recall which RAY had was a large burn scar on his forearm, side unrecalled. He stated this scar was located near the wrist. He stated RAY had dingy teeth.

DOWDA advised RAY always talked about "running around" in St. Louis, Missouri. He normally talked about two girl friends, one of these he had met at the Gaslight

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

2

(a bar) located in either St. Louis or Kansas City. DOWDA stated the other girl was a girl RAY had met around the college at Columbia, Missouri, and it was his impression this girl had worked in a tavern there.

DOWDA advised RAY, while in prison, wore a ring on his left hand which was made at the Penitentiary, having been made from white metal with raised initials. He stated RAY never smiled, but when he smiled, it looked like a smirk. He advised RAY was clean and not sloppy in his dress. He described RAY as an avid reader and considered RAY to be intelligent. He advised RAY participated in softball games as a pitcher and would watch all of the baseball games at the Penitentiary, however, he had never heard RAY speak of professional baseball.

DOWDA stated that some time in 1966, a group of Black Muslims had petitioned for the right to have their own religious services. He stated the Muslims would congregate in groups and that a subsequent search of the Negro prisoners had uncovered a large cache of weapons. DOWDA stated the white prisoners then armed themselves and there was a riot at the prison. DOWDA stated three Negro prisoners were killed. DOWDA stated he would not say RAY had knifed these Negro prisoners, but did say that if RAY had not knifed them, he definitely knew who had killed them.

DOWDA stated RAY definitely was a racist and hated Negroes. He stated RAY had made the statement and firmly believed that all the Negro prisoners inside the Penitentiary should be killed. He stated RAY had on several occasions made the statement that if the price were right, he would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DOWDA stated he does not recall ever hearing anything which would indicate a "contract" was out for the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

3

DOWDA advised he would not be surprised if JAMES EARL RAY was the murderer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, however, he does not believe RAY would have killed KING without being paid for it.

DOWDA stated approximately four months before he, DOWDA, was released RAY had attempted to escape from the Missouri State Prison by going out of the prison behind the ovens in the prison bakery. He stated RAY was apprehended and RAY had broken his arm in this escape attempt. He stated RAY had talked about escaping from the Penitentiary prior to this. DOWDA advised he does not believe RAY returned from maximum security confinement prior to DOWDA's release from prison.

DOWDA stated while in prison, RAY was particularly interested in Western music. He stated he does not recall RAY ever mentioning anything about dancing. He stated that during this period a number of orchestras from the Lake of the Ozarks had played at the State Prison and RAY would never miss these performances. He stated RAY often talked about planning to go to the Lake of the Ozarks when he got out of prison. DOWDA stated he would have no idea who RAY would contact at the Lake of the Ozarks, but stated if he were to look for RAY there, he would first find out who was selling dope and through this person, locate RAY. He stated RAY had talked about being on dope prior to being in the Missouri State Prison. He advised RAY had to have an outside source of income while in prison inasmuch as RAY's dope habit was costing RAY \$35 to \$40 a week for shots and RAY appeared to be well fixed, never wanting for anything.

DOWDA estimated RAY spent \$15 to \$20 a week for personal conveniences. He stated RAY, while in prison,

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

4

used amphetamine, taking the shot in the "main line." He stated RAY would take two to three shots a day. He stated RAY never lacked for money, but had no idea of RAY's source of income. DOWDA stated he is certain RAY was not selling amphetamine to other prisoners, stating he has known RAY to give free amphetamine to prisoners who needed a shot. DOWDA denied that he himself had ever taken any shots, but admitted he has taken pills. DOWDA claimed he and RAY were not engaged in the sale of amphetamine at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA stated that HAROLD SCHAEFER, Guard on the gate in the kitchen of the Missouri State Prison, was very close to JAMES EARL RAY and it was DOWDA's understanding that SCHAEFER was RAY's source of amphetamine. He stated BENJAMIN O. GOODIN was a civilian in charge of the kitchen and he is certain GOODIN was not connected in any way with the bringing of amphetamine into the prison. He stated while GOODIN was friendly with RAY, he understands it was GOODIN who had disclosed RAY's hiding place when RAY had attempted to escape in 1966.

DOWDA advised one NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was RAY's closest friend in the Missouri State Prison and was responsible for bringing RAY into the kitchen. He stated ABBY at this time was chief cook at the prison. He believes ABBY was serving time for breaking into a drug store and he does know that dope was connected with ABBY's offense. He stated ABBY had a detainer on him as he was an escapee from the State of Texas. DOWDA does not know whether or not ABBY is presently in custody but does not believe he is presently in the Missouri State Prison.

He stated RAY had another friend, one DONALD DEAN RIGGER. He stated RIGGER was from California and RIGGER's wife was a psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital, which

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

5

is located north of San Francisco, California.

DOWDA advised that RAY and other inmates that might have DOWDA's address would have a Route 1, Sanford, Florida, address, and would not know that he is presently in Marietta, Georgia. He stated his father, STEVEN C. DOWDA, presently resides at 110 South Chandler Street, Deland, Florida, and that anyone inquiring for him at Sanford, Florida, would be sent to Deland, Florida. DOWDA claims he has not been contacted by RAY and has heard nothing to indicate RAY has attempted to contact him. He stated RAY had talked about traveling over all the United States, but had never mentioned anything which would indicate RAY was associated with anyone in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. DOWDA stated the only other prisoner he knew who was from the State of Georgia, who was an inmate at the Missouri State Prison was one JERRY WHITE from Calhoun, Georgia. He advised WHITE had a Federal detainer against him and believes WHITE is still incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA advised he had made a trip to California in November of 1967, and that he and his wife had spent Thanksgiving Day visiting her uncle, BOB GRAHAM, who resides at Palos Verdes, California. He stated GRAHAM is Regional Manager for IBM in that area. He stated that he and his wife had stopped at Jefferson City and while there, contacted a Missouri State Prison guard, Mr. "PETE" PETRIE. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning RAY and was not aware that RAY had escaped. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning inmates inasmuch as his wife did not know he was a former inmate of the Missouri State Prison. He stated he had stopped in the Kansas City, Missouri, area and attempted to locate PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., who had been in the Missouri State Prison as PAUL ALVIN CARTER. He stated LAIL had been released approximately a year before he had and that they had agreed to attempt to get together

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

6

after their release from prison. He stated LAIL worked in the license shop at the Missouri State Prison and although he was acquainted with RAY, he did not believe LAIL was a particularly good friend of RAY. He stated after his return from California, he was contacted by PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR. He stated LAIL owns a home at 34 Barbodos Drive, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach, Florida, Telephone Number 965-4221. He stated LAIL in February of 1968 was out of a job and had come to Marietta, Georgia, looking for employment. He stated LAIL had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and a small baby and had resided with DOWDA for approximately one and one-half weeks, leaving approximately two or three days after DOWDA was arrested, DOWDA having been arrested on March 4, 1968.

DOWDA advised he could recall nothing else concerning RAY which might assist in his location, but in the event he remembered anything additional, he would contact the FBI.

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JAMES RICHARD FLICK on April 25, 1968 at Marietta,
Georgia:

LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the
Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia, where he was incarcerated
and provided the following information regarding JAMES
EARL RAY:

DOWDA advised after the interview with agents
on April 24, 1968, he recalled that he had also been
employed by Liggett Lane (phonetic) Drug Company at Tenth
and Peachtree Streets, Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA advised
he was employed there as the manager in the soda fountain
department. DOWDA advised that he had learned previously
that the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, had been seen in Atlanta
and thought possibly he might have come looking for DOWDA.
DOWDA stated he had no idea whether or not RAY might have
been aware of his employment, but stated there was a possibility
that he may have been. DOWDA continued he had been employed
at Liggett Lane Drug Company around November or December
of 1967. DOWDA stated during that time he worked under
Dr. (First Name Unknown) CHOTAS, who was the General Manager
of Liggett Lane Drug Stores and worked with EDITH (Last
Name Unknown) who became the Manager of the soda fountain
department after DOWDA left their employment. DOWDA advised
if RAY had ever come into the Liggett Lane Drug Store
looking for him these two persons would have been the persons
most likely to have been contacted in this regard.

DOWDA stated he had never received any information
that anyone **similar** to RAY had been seeking him but stated
that there was a distinct possibility that this may have been
true.

DOWDA further advised sometime after he had been
arrested by agents in Marietta, Georgia, at the Bonanza
Sirloin Pit, he had been advised by persons, who he could
not recall that a long distance phone call had been made to
the Bonanza Sirloin Pit in Marietta around November or

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

2

December, 1967, and was received at that time by either LLOYD JERINGAN or DAN AYERS (Phonetic). DOWDA advised that he was not certain which of these persons received this phone call but was advised that the person who called left no phone number and apparently did not identify himself to the person who received the telephone call. DOWDA advised he had no idea who the phone call may have been from and stated that he never did receive any further information about this call, nor was the call ever completed to him.

DOWDA stated as best he could recall the phone call might have originated in Oklahoma, but stated that neither he nor, as best he could recall, RAY had any mutual friends in that area.

O. A. HEMBEREE, 2424 Sewell Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia, advised that LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA had been employed by him as a tractor driver and all around assistant from March 8, 1968 to April 12, 1968. HEMBEREE advised that during this time DOWDA had worked satisfactorily for him every day that they could have worked, weather permitting. HEMBEREE advised the total duration of this time was approximately five weeks and stated that as best he could recall at no time did DOWDA ever leave this area. HEMBEREE continued that on two or three occasions, DOWDA had worked on Saturdays, but had never worked on any Sundays during this time. HEMBEREE advised there was no way to specifically determine the exact dates on which DOWDA worked, but provided the following dates on which DOWDA was paid and the amounts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
March 8, 1968	\$50
March 15, 1968	\$65
March 22, 1968	\$25
March 29, 1968	\$42.38

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
April 5, 1968	\$60
April 21, 1968	\$80.64

HEMBREE stated during this five or six week period, he had made two loans to DOWDA in two checks, one for \$30 and one for \$10. HEMBREE advised that if DOWDA were to have been employed five days per week, his checks would run approximately \$90 to \$115. HEMBREE advised that all of the checks indicate that DOWDA may not have possibly worked all five days of the week, but again stated that this was due to the weather, stating that in rainy-type weather it was impossible for them to work.

HEMBREE stated that DOWDA had been a satisfactory employee while working for him.

AT 44-2386

JTB:lcc

1

On April 29, 1968, LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the Marietta City Jail, Marietta, Georgia, by Special Agents ROBERT E. PERRY, JAMES RICHARD FLICK and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN. DOWDA had been transferred to this jail due to an escape attempt by other prisoners at the Cobb County, Georgia, Jail.

DOWDA advised JAMES EARL RAY had been very close to (First Name Unknown) "PUNCHY" MILLER, an ex-boxer who had worked in the kitchen at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). MILLER had been one of the leaders at the MSP and was removed from the kitchen after the accidental killing by him of another prisoner during a fight. DOWDA stated he had no knowledge that MILLER was engaged in the distribution of amphetamines at the prison. He stated MILLER was released from prison and went to a town located close to the MSP, where he started passing bad checks. BENJAMIN O. GOODIN, Supervisor in the MSP kitchen, tried to retrieve these bad checks, but was unable to do so before MILLER was returned to prison for passing bad checks. DOWDA could not explain why GOODIN should make MILLER's checks good. DOWDA stated GOODIN had been in the U. S. Navy and had served aboard several ships which were sunk. He stated GOODIN reports to the Veterans Administration weekly and is on some kind of drugs, which he believes MILLER obtains by prescription. He advised RAY was not particularly close to LEO BARNETT. He stated LEO BARNETT's mother lives in Flat River, Missouri and has a brother, DARRELL BARNETT, who is in the MSP.

DOWDA advised that in April, 1967, he had taken a trip to Missouri and had gone to Flat River in an effort to locate LEO BARNETT. He stated BARNETT's mother told him LEO was serving time in the penitentiary in Florida. He stated he then returned to Georgia without seeing any of the guards or anyone else in Missouri. He advised on his return trip he had met "DINK" CHUMLEY in a bar in Alabama. He stated CHUMLEY was having trouble with his wife, who had burned all CHUMLEY's clothes and he was enroute to Georgia in an effort to get away from her. He stated CHUMLEY decided to come to Marietta, Georgia, with him, which he did. DOWDA stated the trip to Missouri only took him three days and again denied having contacted anyone else.

DOWDA stated CHUMLEY stayed in the Atlanta area for several months and then left to go to South Carolina to see a girl friend. He advised CHUMLEY returned from South Carolina and told DOWDA that he had a job and was working somewhere in Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA stated he has no idea concerning the present whereabouts of CHUMLEY.

DOWDA advised that RAY, while in prison, worked as a bread slicer and only earned between \$5 and \$6 per month, but never seemed to want for money. He stated RAY, while in prison, always wore his hair short. He stated RAY only mentioned two girls while in prison and from conversation, DOWDA felt RAY thought more of the girl he had met at Columbia, Missouri, than the girl he had met at the Gaslight.

DOWDA advised NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was the supplier of amphetamines in the MSP. He stated he believed ABBY's source was HAROLD SCHAEFER, a guard at the kitchen gate of the prison. He stated ABBY nearly ran the K Hall and after his transfer to C Hall, ABBY nearly ran it also. He stated ABBY could get his cell door open by guards anytime he wanted.

DOWDA advised the main supplier of amphetamines in MSP was a prisoner whose name he does not now recall. This person was known by two initials and he was serving a long sentence for the fatal shooting of a St. Louis police officer. He advised this person attempted to escape several times and was almost in complete charge of C Hall. He stated he had the run of the prison and had a pass to eat in the officers dining room, which he did most of the time. He was very close to Warden NASH and after NASH's suicide, tried unsuccessfully to get close to Warden SWINSON. He stated after Warden SWINSON took over, one-half pound of amphetamines were found in the trash can of this prisoner's cell. This prisoner had six to eight prisoners pushing the amphetamines for him. He stated he believed this prisoner obtained his drugs through a guard. He described this prisoner as a white male, approximately 32 - 33 years of age; 6' - 6' 1"; 180 pounds; black hair. He stated this prisoner was close to JAMES EARL RAY, as well as prisoners LEO BARNETT and NEIL ABBY.

DOWDA advised the only prisoners at the MSP whose addresses he had were for LEO BARNETT and LEO BARNETT. He

AT 44-2386

3

stated he had not obtained RAY's address, however, he feels RAY has his address in Florida, but would not know if he were in Marietta, Georgia.

DOWDA stated he had taken a trip to California during the Summer of 1965 and on this trip he had spent two or three days with a distant cousin, JACK HOLCOMBE, who resides at San Jose, California. He stated he had also visited a friend of his sister, one BEVERLY WHEELER, who is a nurse in a Los Angeles hospital. He stated it was on this trip that he got in trouble in Missouri and was sentenced to the MSP. DOWDA denied having returned to California the Spring of 1967. He stated that on his trip to California in the Fall of 1967, he had planned to call JEWEL RIGGER, psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital located outside Santa Rosa, but had not made the call. He advised JEWEL RIGGER is the wife of an inmate at the MSP. He stated LLOYD A. BELT, Supervisor in the kitchen at the MSP resides at Healey, Missouri and on the trip to California, in the Fall of 1967, he had visited BELT.

DOWDA advised that within the MSP there are two gangs, one being from St. Louis and the other from Kansas City, Missouri. He stated there was a good deal of friction between these gangs and that RAY associated with the leaders of the St. Louis gang.

DOWDA advised he had talked to his wife concerning the reported visitor to his home at 2:00 A.M. on a morning in the Fall of 1967. He stated his wife claims she has no knowledge of anyone visiting their apartment at this time of the morning. DOWDA stated he has no idea who this person could be. DOWDA stated the resident manager of these apartments must have been mistaken. He stated the manager had not approached his wife concerning any person visiting their apartment at 2:00 A.M. in the morning.

DOWDA advised that during the period he worked at the Lane Liggett Drug Store, located on the corner of Peachtree and 10th Streets, he met many persons he felt were ex-cons, but denied ever being approached concerning source of drugs in this area. DOWDA stated he has no knowledge as to the persons who might be supplying drugs in that area.

AT 44-2386

4

He stated he is certain the druggist at the Lane Liggett Drug Store was not supplying these individuals. He recalled having talked to a man in his late 40s, approximately 5' 10", 150 - 155 pounds, having dark curly hair, with gray streaks, who had visited the restaurant in the drug store and had mentioned owning several rooming houses in the area. He advised he does not recall this person's name and had only the one contact with this individual. DOWDA advised the name JAMES GARNER sounded familiar to him and feels he has heard this name mentioned sometime in the past, possibly when he was employed at the restaurant in the Lane Liggett Drug Store. He advised he does not personally know JAMES GARNER and could furnish no information concerning him.

AT 44-2386

JTB:lcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
JACK T. BEVERSTEIN and JOSEPH G. SHEA.

On April 24, 1968, CARL GENE TAYLOR, also known as "Junior" TAYLOR, 185 W. Dixie Street, Marietta, Georgia, advised that the photo of JAMES EARL RAY did not resemble person known to him as "Red", who had stayed with LEWIE DOWDA a couple of weeks in approximately March, 1968. He stated person known to him as "Red" was a white male, approximately 6', 35 years of age, 185 pounds, and had bright red hair. He advised this person had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and small baby and had resided with the DOWDAs at the Olive Spring Apartments.

TAYLOR advised he had been employed with DOWDA at the Bonanza Steak House in Marietta, Georgia. He advised he had never seen anyone resembling JAMES EARL RAY in the company of DOWDA. He stated during the Fall of 1967, DOWDA and his wife had traveled to California to visit her relatives and at no time did DOWDA ever mention contacting anyone he was acquainted with who could logically have been JAMES EARL RAY.

AT 44-2386

JTB:rjb

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA JACK T. BEVERSTEIN:

On April 25, 1968, EDITH BUSBY, Manager, Soda Fountain, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia, advised LEWIE DOWDA had been employed as Manager of the Soda Fountain from December 23, 1967, to January 23, 1968, at which time DOWDA left, claiming he was going to move to Florida. She stated it is her understanding DOWDA is now employed at the Bonanza Steak House, Marietta, Georgia. BUSBY viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated she had never seen this individual. She advised no one has contacted her concerning the whereabouts of DOWDA.

On April 25, 1968, Dr. TOM CHOTOS, Manager, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, advised photograph of JAMES EARL RAY is unfamiliar to him. He stated no one has ever contacted him for instructions how to contact LEWIE DOWDA.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date May 2 , 1968

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, who is confined in the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he did not personally serve time with JAMES EARL RAY in the Menard Prison, Illinois, and the only information he has regarding this is what RAY told him. This information was related to him by RAY while he and RAY were serving time together in the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri, for a six or seven month period.

He stated he never heard RAY say that he had served time in Joliet or Pontiac Prisons, but he felt that if RAY had served time in either one of those places, he would probably have been shipped to Menard Prison for discharge.

CURTIS advised there was a close associate of RAY's serving time in Jackson County with them. He cannot recall the name of this individual, but stated he was convicted as a co-defendant with RAY on the same check charge and from conversation with RAY, this individual was presumably the same person with whom RAY served time in Menard Prison.

CURTIS advised he recalls a third unidentified individual visiting RAY and his co-defendant in Jackson County Jail who seemed very close to both of them, but stated he strongly doubted that the visitor's log maintained at the Jail would reflect the name of this visitor due to irregularities in keeping such logs.

He advised he could not furnish a description of the third man.

CURTIS advised he was confined in the Jefferson County Jail with RAY and his co-defendant from approximately March of 1955 until July of 1955, and that they all subsequently ended up together in Leavenworth Prison.

44

On 4/22/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # Atlanta-44-2386

by SA BERNARD R. BERRY :bjc Date dictated 4/26/68

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.