

9 1 OCT 13 1968

not necessary to REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
independent per hnd - FBI

OCT 11 1 50 PM '68

OCT 15 '68

REC'D
INTELL DIV. GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
OCT 11 3 20 PM '68
OCT 11 3 29 PM 1968

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
OCT 11 9 24 AM '68
OCT 11 4 20 PM '68
OCT 11 4 39 PM '68
DEPT. OF JUSTICE F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

MEMBER

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
BUSINESS CONCERNING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(SEE PAGE 11)

MEMBER

MEMBER

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BUSINESS CONCERNING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (44-1324) (5)

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (44-1324) (5)

MM 44-1854

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Will determine, through the Missouri State Penitentiary records, if DONALD LEE MITCHELL was incarcerated at the same time as JAMES EARL RAY and determine, if possible, if MITCHELL and RAY would have been housed in the same quarters and could have had contact as reported by MITCHELL.

OBSCENE

This enclosure not to be opened
without supervisor's permission.

0605-1288E-177

OBSCENE

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.

OBSCENE

*This enclosure not to be opened
without supervisor's permission.*

44-38861-52410

OBSCENE

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.

OBSCENE

This enclosure not to be opened
without supervisor's permission.

OBSCENE

1950-1951-1952-1953-1954

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.

OBSCENE

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4/11/68 8/11/68-8/12/68

OBSCENE

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

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line 9.

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.

44-38861-5290

OBSCENE

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OBSCENE

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.

OBSCENE

*This enclosure not to be opened
without supervisor's permission.*

OBSCENE

44-38861-5240

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.



44-38861-5340

OBSCENE

This enclosure not to be opened
without supervisor's permission.

OBSCENE

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.

OBSCENE

This enclosure not to be opened
without supervisor's permission.

OBSCENE

44-38861-5310

MM 44-1854

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

FD-302 of SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR., dated October 2,
1968, at Naples, Florida, on September 30, 1968.

Obscene #1 "black ass", page 2, paragraph 1,
line 1.

Obscene #2 "bastards", page 3, paragraph 5,
line 9.

OBSCENE

44-38861-5245

OBSCENE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
October 2, 1968

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 44-1854*

Re: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

On September 30, 1968, DONALD LEE MITCHELL was interviewed at his request at the Collier County Jail, Naples, Florida.

ENCLOSURE

44-1854-5340

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date October 2, 1968

DONALD LEE MITCHELL was interviewed at the Collier County Jail at his request. Prior to the interview, he was advised of his rights as reflected on an executed waiver of rights form.

MITCHELL furnished the following statement in his own handwriting:

In Formant "September 30, 1968
FBI

"I, DONALD LEE MITCHELL, make the following statement to Special Agent ERNEST HARRISON, JR., whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"In 1961, I had the opportunity to meet one JAMES EARL RAY. I was introduced by a friend of mine by the name of HAWKS, who was doing twenty four (24) years. He was from New Madrid, Missouri, not far from my home town of Kennett.

"He informed RAY that I was about the last of the good convicts. RAY said he was pleased to meet me, because the big city boys from St. Louis, and K.C., Mo. were turning out to be a bunch of 'punks'. This was the Mo. State Pen, Jefferson City, Mo.

"RAY was the quiet type of guy. He had very little to say to convicts or guards for that matter. I seen him every now and then, but didn't ask many question. We had used a little dope together, but that was all.

"RAY showed great contempt for the colored convicts, as he very seldom talked to them except on business deals for dope or money. He was always telling me how the boys from St. Louis

- 2 -

On 9/30/68 at Naples, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR./mgc Date dictated 10/2/68

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.

"and K.C. always kissed their (Obscene #1) _____.
He said he never would, because if it hadn't
been for LINCOLN they would still be shining
his shoes.

"I was released from prison on August 21,
1962. And never heard from RAY until, 1966.

"In June 4, 1965, I received two (2)
years from Butler County, Mo. After thirty
(30) days in quarantine I was sent to Church
Farm, (one of the prison farm which is honor).

"Later in January, 1966, I was trans-
ferred back to the walls to complete the rest
of my time.

"I was placed in Food Service and there
I remained until by release of June 1, 1966,
from the Missouri State Penitentiary, at
Jefferson City, Mo.

"On, or around the middle of February,
1966, I came in contact with JAMES EARL RAY
again. He explained that it was nice to see
me and that he had a good deal for me.

"He wanted to know if I would do him
and myself a big favor; so I said yes; any-
thing to help a friend.

"When he first mentioned escape I thought
he wanted me to leave with him, but I quickly
explained that I got out on June 1, 1966, that
year. He said no, I want you to help me.

"Than after I make it I'll wait on you in
St. Louis. He asked me how I would like to
make a lot of money so I said doesn't everyone.
But I explained I had this girl friend in
Tennessee, who was waiting on me, but he let
me know that it really didn't make any
difference at all.

"So I wanted to know what his plans were. This is how RAY, explained it to me. Some people (friends in St. Louis) fixed it with some one in Philadelphia, for him to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

"I told RAY I didn't want to get mixed up in it. So he let me know real politely that I was already in it only didn't realise it yet. An I couldn't get out unless I wanted it. Than I agreed to go along, after I heard this. Also he told me I was coming up there to the pen, for chicken feed, was I afraid to get ahead? I told him no, but killing KING, we couldn't get away with.

"RAY told me not to worry about a thing. Also how did a grand some of Fifty Thousand (50,000) dollars sound to me? I said great, but what if we get caught? He explained we wouldn't and if we did we would get out of it with a fixer lawyer, besides who in the South like "Niggers"??

"RAY also said after we get KING, we'll be able to get more for one of the KENNEDY's. I said that the Kennedy Family had done more for the United States, than anyone ever had. He said they were like KING, a bunch of Cominists all of them and that in the way they wanted people to believe, an I did.

"RAY said: Take that punk J.F.K. (meaning JOHN F. KENNEDY, Late President) for instants, he made you eat with a nigger on the streets didn't he? He made you live by them, go to school with them. So how is he so great? I said, that a change had to come and we had better be ready for one. RAY got mad at me and said not as long as I can kill one of the (Obscene #2) . I seen he was angry, so I told him, I guess he was right about it. He said, he knew he was and would get KING to prove it.

"At this time I wanted to know how, JAMES EARL RAY, planned to escape from the walls, of the Mo. State Pen.

"This is how it was to be done. RAY would leave his cell in the month of April, or approx. for the show. He would than have his bed fixed so as a gaurd would not discover him missing. Than I came into the picture:

"RAY was to place himself on top of the main kitchen, where I worked. Than at 2:30 AM I was to send him food and cigarettes, with a jar of water. He was to remain there for about three days, after that I was to get some kind of pills he gave me into the coffee that was to be sent to the Gauard Towers.

"After that he would wait until they were asleep and he would go over the wall. He had someone, by the name of VINCE or VINCESON waiting on him from St. Louis, Mo.

"RAY continued to pass me notes, on the matter up until the night he plan to leave.

"The first note read: DON L. don't let me down if you do you know the score. But you won't!

"The second was. Tear these notes up and flush them! Say can't you just see all that money for one lousey Nigger? We will live in style and travle the world. You can bring your girl along. Your Pal JIM.

"#No. Three: 'Pal, the time has grown near, so all is left is the wait. I think April 12, is a good day, or do you believe Lucky 13. Smile friend, JIM.'

"The last note was:

"Tonight is it my friend and I know I can count on you for your part. Don't lose those pills I gave you!! Remember everything, because my ride will be then. See you on June 1, my friend. Your Friend Always JAMES.

"RAY's escape would have been good if not a guy by the name of SEEBRING (or something of the sort) hadn't tried it as well on the same night, but they found him hiding in the show after everyone had left for the cell-house.

"RAY was latter captured on top of the main kitchen, where a gaurd had seen him, when he tried to change places.

"JAMES EARL RAY never stated which one of the Kennedy family: All he said was one day it will be: K.K.K. as he put it KENNEDY, KING and KENNEDY. Than our worries will be over.

"He never stated who the other people were in St. Louis or Phillie (just that they may have others lined up for us.)

"When SEEBRING was placed in the kitchen I asked why he was trying to leave: He stated he had life and was playing a hunch, but did not know RAY had planned to leave.

"The above is a true statement made by me on this 30th day of September, 1968.

"There has been know threats or promises made to me in this matter what-so-ever. It is of my own free will.

"/s/ DONALD LEE MITCHELL

"I, DONALD LEE MITCHELL, do hereby swear that the above is true to the best of my knowledge so help me God.

"Signed: DONALD LEE MITCHELL "

"Wittnessed: ERNEST HARRISON, JR., FBI-Miami.

In addition to the above, MITCHELL further advised that RAY said if he, MITCHELL, would help him kill MARTIN LUTHER KING it would be worth \$50,000 to each of them and later on they could get more than that for taking care of those "stinking KENNEDYS". RAY said it was people like KING and the KENNEDYS who try to run the world and they are all Communists and want nothing but power and domination of the whole world. RAY would never tell MITCHELL who had arranged for the money if he killed KING only that it was arranged through someone in St. Louis with someone in Philadelphia.

MITCHELL said he was to be near the building from which RAY would shoot KING and after the shots were fired and attention was focused on the building he, MITCHELL, was to run and create attention to get the police to chase him. He was to have the police chase him for some distance before being caught and this would give RAY ample time to walk away from the building. MITCHELL was then to tell the police that he heard shots and since he was an ex-convict he got scared and did not want to get in any trouble so he ran. The police would be unable to prove anything against MITCHELL, since there would be no gun or powder marks or fingerprints or any evidence linking MITCHELL to the shooting. RAY was then going to go "up north" and after awhile purposely get himself picked up on his jail break from the Missouri State Penitentiary, because he said that he would have enough money at that time to hire a lawyer to get him a parole.

MM 44-1854

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[8*]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 10/10/68

FROM: *P* SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Attached are two Xerox copies each of two letters written by subject JAMES EARL RAY while incarcerated in Shelby County Jail, Memphis, Tennessee.

Copies of this correspondence are furnished for the information of the Bureau.

P
2 - Bureau (Enc.-4) ENCLOSURE
1 - Memphis
RGJ:ME
(3)

P

EX 110
REC-1

44-38861-5271

17 OCT 14 1968

STAR

*2 Card Act of
K...
CR
10/17/68*



OCT 31 1968

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

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
OCT 17 9 19 AM 1968
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
OCT 17 9 52 AM '68

JAMES RAY
COUNTY JAIL
MEMPHIS, TENN.



To Mr. J. B. Stoner

P.O. Box - 6263

Savannah, Georgia - 31405

11-8-68

Dear Mr. Stoner;

I will just write a few lines to thank you for coming to Memphis, also my brother came to visit me after you and I talked to him about the libel case and he said he would write you and explain some things more fully, about one change made in the magazine pertaining, I was also informed that some scribbler named Drew person has been writing articles in some what the same vein, maybe his articles would interest you.

(1)

44 33861 5211

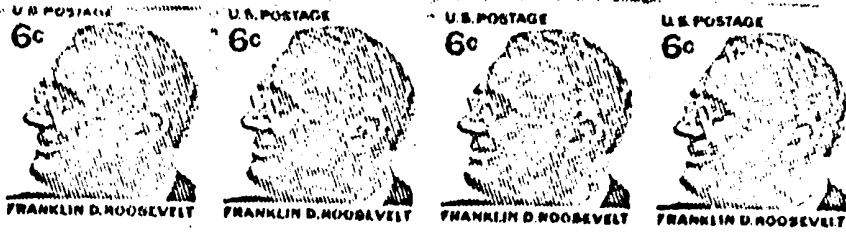
ENCLOSURE

I suppose he's another one of Clark's
stoges. I guess that's about all for now

Sincerely

James E. Ray

J. RAY
COUNTY JAIL
MEMPHIS, TENN.
U.S.A.



To, Mr. Frank Melton
Chief Magistrate
Bow Street Court
London, England.
c/o Chief Clerk,

10-7-68

DEAR SIR;

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF
IF YOU COULD GIVE ME ANY INFORMATION
ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. WOULD YOU SEND ME THE PRICE OF THE
TRANSCRIPT OF MY EXTRADITION HEARING
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT INCLUDING
THE PAPERS THAT WERE SENT OVER BY
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, MY ATTORNEY
MR. HANES SAID HE HAD TRIED TO GET
THESE PAPERS FROM MR. MICHEL EUGENE
BUT REC'D NO ANSER,

2. COULD YOU ALSO WRITE ME AS TO WHOM
APPOINTED MR. EUGENE AS MY SOLICITOR,
AS THIS MITE COME UP AT MY TRIAL

44 30761 5241

ENCLOSURE

MR. EUGENE ASK ME THIS QUESTION ALSO,
THINKING I HAD SELECTED HIM, AS I
UNDERSTAND IS THE PROCEDURE IN ENGLISH
COURTS, I UNDERSTAND MR. FRANK MELTON
APPOINTED HIM OFFICIALLY BUT I WOULD LIKE
TO KNOW WHO RECOMMED MR. EUGENE

SINCERELY

James E. Ray

P.S. THE NAME.

Ramon Gense Sneyd

WAS USE AT THE

BOW ST. HEARING.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (173-994) (P)

SUBJECT: PERNELL EZZELL
 INFORMATION CONCERNING
 (OO: TAMPA)

KENSALT (P)
 (OO: LOS ANGELES)

MURKIN (p)
 (OO: MEMPHIS)

DATE: 10/4/68

Re Tampa letter to the Director, 9/30/68.

For information of Tampa, New Orleans Division interviewed PERNELL EZZELL at Shreveport, La., on 8/27/68.

Enclosed for Tampa is one copy of the FD-302 which sets forth results of that interview.

New Orleans airtel to Los Angeles, 8/28/68, under the KENSALT caption furnished Los Angeles with 25 copies of the FD-302 in question.

New Orleans airtel to Memphis dated 8/30/68, under the MURKIN caption, furnished Memphis with 25 copies of the FD-302 interview in question.

Interview with EZZELL by New Orleans was based on Los Angeles teletype to New Orleans dated 8/24/68, under the KENSALT caption.

EZZELL CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS IN VIEW OF HIS POSSESSION OF FIREARMS IN THE PAST AND SINCE HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN ALCOHOLIC WHO BECOMES UNSTABLE WHEN INTOXICATED.

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Los Angeles (Info)
- 3 - Tampa (1 - 62-963) (Enc. 1) (EZZELL)
- (1 - 44-729) (KENSALT)
- (1 - 157-3231) (MURKIN)

New Orleans
 HSC:srl
 (3)

OCT 2 1968

44-38861 -
 NOT RECORDED

NOV 1 1968

55 NOV 6 1968

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

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-587-991

SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

October 11, 1968

EX 110 REC-7
Director, FBI (44-38851)

1 - Mr. Long

MURKIN

Re Birmingham airtel to Bureau dated 10/8/68.

Department is handling the evidence in this matter, and you will be advised accordingly.

1 - Memphis (44-1987)

REL:gcw
(5)

OCT 11 1968

COMM-FBI

300

MAIL

TELETYPE UNIT

37

#245852
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/13/86 BY [signature]

44 ENCLOSURE 8861-5242

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 10/14/68

FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1982) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Submitted herewith for the Bureau's information are two copies of an Order issued by Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Memphis, Tenn., relative to seating accommodations in the courtroom in anticipation of forthcoming trial.

Also submitted are two copies of an "Order on Scire Facias," issued by Judge BATTLE.

In addition to the above Orders issued by Judge BATTLE, there are enclosed two copies each of the following:

Letter prepared by subject JAMES EARL RAY to his brother JERRY, dated October 14, 1968.

Letter dated October 9, 1968, addressed to subject by his brother, JERRY RAY, St. Louis, Mo.

Letter dated October 14, 1968 from subject to Attorney ARTHUR HANES.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc.-10)
 - 1 - Memphis
- RGJ:ME
(3)

ENCLOSURE

REC 53

COPIES MADE DATE 5-18-78 BY
 THIS: 9/5 BY MURKIN
 FOR: [unclear] DATE 5-16-78
 TO: [unclear]
 (SEE BUREAU OFFICES)

15 OCT 15 1968



6 OCT 25 1968

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

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

OCT 17 12 23 PM 1968

OCT 17 12 27 PM '68

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a memorandum or report body]