

ME 44-1987 Sub

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She bases her belief on his being capable of murder on her belief that he has murdered the two former roommates and the patient at the VA Hospital.

The plan for the production of the movie in Mexico is to begin momentarily and to her knowledge, HAYS is currently residing with WISMILLER's grandmother at 3050 Sinclair, Frayser, Tennessee. She stated she has informed several of her close friends of this information based on her fear and physical health, stating she suffers from a heart condition requiring approximately five medications. She stated she would discuss this matter with any agency which can assist her.

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In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee

April 27, 1979

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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On April 4, 1979, Captain Barry Linville, Homicide Division, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, telephonically informed the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that an individual identifying herself as Patricia Hays Wismiller, 1170 Dyer Place, telephone 323-3443, Memphis, Tennessee, had telephonically contacted the Memphis Police Department and informed them of a scheme whereby her uncle, Renfro Hays, would admit to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and then a movie would be made based on this confession with Hays receiving advance funds from the anticipated profits of this movie.

On April 4, 1979, Patricia Hays Wismiller was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the following is a result of that interview:

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**1**Date of transcription 4/20/79

**PATRICIA HAYS WISMILLER, 1170 Dyer Place, telephone 323-3443, was informed of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the fact she was being contacted in regard to information she had furnished on April 4, 1979, to the Memphis City Police Department regarding the activities of RENFRO TURNER HAYS. WISMILLER furnished the following information:**

**RENFRO TURNER HAYS is the brother of WISMILLER's father and has been residing at her home with her and her minor son until the evening of April 3, 1979. Due to a fear on her part of HAYS which has developed, she had his belongings removed from her residence with the assistance of a friend, BOB MENENDEZ, employed with the Federal Aviation Administration, telephone 327-3387.**

**She advised HAYS is employed as a private detective and currently works from the office of BOB GILDER, an attorney, in Southaven, Mississippi. Since approximately the middle of February, 1979, until approximately four nights ago, she has overheard conversations between HAYS, GILDER, SKIP FALLER, ARNO (last name unknown), and MARK (last name unknown) involving a plan whereby HAYS will confess to the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. In furtherance of this scheme, HAYS will travel to Mexico where he will sign a confession and FALLER, who is from California and produces movies, will make a movie based on the assassination of Dr. KING by HAYS. The confession by HAYS will be needed to establish the truthfulness of the movie. She described this confession as one which is non-binding on HAYS and would not establish legal liability for others involved in the movie for conspiracy.**

**Once HAYS has signed the confession in Mexico and the movie has been completed, HAYS will then travel to Argentina where he will reside. HAYS has indicated he would reside in Argentina based on his knowledge of the German language which is spoken by many people who live in Argentina and since following his confession, many individuals might seek revenge against him if he remained in the United States. HAYS, for his confession to the murder, would receive an advance payment of money based on anticipated profits from the movie.**

Investigation on 4/4/79 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987 Sub  
 by SAs JAMES R. FLAKE  
HAROLD L. HAYS/JRF/mgv Date dictated 4/5/79

SKIP FALLER, who resides in California, is currently staying with his father, LOUIS A. FALLER, III, 5073 Whitworth Road, Memphis, and is accompanied by MARK (last name unknown) who has arrived in Memphis from Chicago. She stated the other individual involved in the project is ARNO (last name unknown) who has a Memphis telephone number of 396-1493. She advised her mother, BERTA HAYS, 3360 Rosamond, BOB MENENDEZ, and her minor son have also heard portions of the conversations between GILDER, HAYS, ARNO, FALLER and MARK regarding the proposed movie. She informed HAYS and the others she was going to the police with the information regarding the proposed movie and has been warned by HAYS not to do so and was warned indirectly through her mother that it would not be to her best interest to inform the police of their plans. Based on these warnings, WISMILLER advised she is fearful for her life which is additionally based on beliefs of her own of violence in the background of HAYS including three murders which she believes he committed. She stated two of his former roommates have died and were ruled as suicides; however, she believes HAYS was involved in their deaths. She also advised approximately seven years ago when HAYS was a patient at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Memphis, a female patient died due to suffocation by placing a plastic bag over her head. WISMILLER stated HAYS has described on numerous occasions his discovery of this patient and having pulled the plastic bag from her head; however, WISMILLER believes HAYS was involved in the death of this patient.

HAYS was involved in the investigation of the murder of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING and often laughs and jokes about his having been in the downtown area where the murder occurred. He was additionally driving a white Mustang at the time which had been given to him by WALTER BUFORD, a local Memphis attorney. HAYS has told WISMILLER he confessed to killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING to a local reporter. She advised she thinks HAYS was capable of the murder of KING; however, she does not believe that he did, in fact, kill KING.

She bases her belief on his being capable of murder on her belief that he has murdered the two former roommates and the patient at the VA Hospital.

The plan for the production of the movie in Mexico is to begin momentarily and to her knowledge, HAYS is currently residing with WISMILLER's grandmother at 3050 Sinclair, Frayser, Tennessee. She stated she has informed several of her close friends of this information based on her fear and physical health, stating she suffers from a heart condition requiring approximately five medications. She stated she would discuss this matter with any agency which can assist her.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI ( 44-38861 ) DATE: 3/9/79

FROM : *mm* Legal Attache, OTTAWA ( 44-4 ) ( P )

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reference: Memphis LHM, 2/22/79, submitted by Bureau Routing Slip, 2/28/79.

Dissemination, as outlined below, was made on dates indicated to foreign agencies listed.

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of

Pertinent information from referenced Memphis LHM, 2/22/79.

<u>Name and Location of Agency</u>	<u>Date Furnished</u>
RCMP	3/9/79

44-38861-

NOT RECORDED

MAR 16 1979

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77-38891-

BCMB  
Name and Location of Agency

3/8/79  
Date Forwarded

Pertinent information from referenced Memphis LHM, 2/22/79.

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to foreign agencies listed.

Dissemination, as outlined below, was made on dates indicated

Reference: Memphis LHM, 2/22/79, submitted by Bureau  
Routing slip, 2/28/79.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

FROM: Legal Attache, OLLAMA ( 44-4 ) ( P )

TO: Director, FBI ( 44-38891 ) DATE: 3/8/79

Memorandum  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27  
5010-106  
REC-1 (Rev. 8-11-70)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Los Angeles, California

May 11, 1979

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On May 2, 1979, a confidential source, whose reliability has not been verified, furnished the following information:

He is presently serving a life sentence for murder in the California Prison System, and is currently incarcerated at the California Mens Colony (CMC), East Facility, San Luis Obispo, California.

During the past year he developed a friendship with another inmate known to him as Gary Lee Kraut, who also uses the last name of Wilkenson. Kraut is a federal prisoner serving a 50 year term for kidnaping. Kraut was transferred to CMC from the Federal Prison in Marion, Illinois. The source developed a friendship with Kraut because they were both serving extremely long sentences for very serious crimes.

During Christmas, 1978, Kraut stated to the source that he was the individual who was actually guilty for shooting Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. Kraut advised that he was married to James Earl Ray's first wife Betty, who currently resides somewhere in Quincy, Illinois. The source does not know Betty's last name, but she is described as a white female, 45 years of age, with reddish hair. Kraut has a son as a result of his marriage to Betty. Kraut advised the source that there was a black male with him, known only as Bobby, who was later killed in a shootout with police in an unknown area. Bobby had some connection with Eldridge Cleaver.

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44-38861-6353  
ENCLOSURE



JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Kraut further advised the source that while he was in Marion Federal Prison, Marion, Illinois, he had made a jewelry box with a false bottom. This jewelry box had been sent to Betty. In the false bottom of the box were the names of a group of individuals who would carry on the work of Kraut since he was in prison. Kraut advised the source that Dr. Martin Luther King's father was next on the list to be assassinated and that it was just a matter of time. Kraut advised the source that Betty (last name unknown) used to own a bar, whereabouts unknown, and a white male that she knew obtained the rifle with which King was shot. Kraut further advised the source that he shot Dr. Martin Luther King with a rifle, but he did not state what caliber the rifle was. Kraut stayed awake for two days in order to have the chance to shoot King.

Kraut advised the source that he had been offered a chance to testify before the House Assassinations Committee on the death of Martin Luther King, but did not concede to testify. Kraut allegedly knows James Earl Ray and James Earl Ray's brother.

The source advised that in the past four or five months he has had no further friendship with Kraut because they had had a disagreement. The source does not believe that he could re-establish a friendship with Kraut.

On May 4, 1979, a review of the California prison record pertaining to Gary Lee Kraut, also known as Wilkenson, Federal Prison Number 31702-138(H), revealed the following information:

Kraut is serving a 50 year sentence after being convicted of the Federal Kidnaping Statute in the District of New Mexico. He pled guilty on April 22, 1975, and was committed to the U. S. Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, on June 12, 1975. Kraut will be eligible for parole on December 29, 1984, and for mandatory release from his sentence on July 26, 2008.

On April 10, 1978, the State of California in an agreement with the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C., accepted Kraut as a boarder in the California Prison System where he was delivered to the California State Prison located at Chino, California.

**JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM**

The record indicates that Kraut was transferred to the California Prison System as he had testified in a murder trial at Marion Federal Penitentiary in the case of Bobby Gene Garcia, Federal Prison Number 02002-135. Kraut lied on the witness stand, but still helped federal prosecution in the matter, and Garcia was found guilty on December 24, 1976, of killing victim inmate Ralph Cunningham. Garcia was sentenced in U. S. District Court, Benton, Illinois, on March 23, 1978.

The file contained a Federal Bureau of Investigation identification record pertaining to Kraut, a United States Probation Department Presentence Report dated April 30, 1975, and a California Department of Corrections Cumulative Case Summary Legal Status Report dated May 13, 1978, which are attached to this memorandum, and which give background information pertaining to Kraut.

The following descriptive data was obtained from the prison record:

Name	Gary Lee Kraut
Alias	Gary Lee Wilkenson
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Illinois
Height	5'8"
Weight	170
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Skin	Fair
Occupation	Barber
Scars and Marks	Numerous tattoos
Criminal Identification and Investigation Number	A06292368
FBI Number	494 471 D
Federal Prison Number	31702-138(H)
California Prison Number	B92457

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7-18-75 155 LSL

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 494 471 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
FD Quincy Ill	Gary L. Kraut #--	10-8-59	larc of motor veh	10-9-59 ret'd to Chaddock Boys School for disciplin
St Bu Springfield Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #323273	FP 5-11-60	Patient Alton SHosp	
SO Decatur Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #70099	9-17-60	L of auto	
PD Alton Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #9499	8-10-64	bob	rel to Calhoun Co SO
SO Jerseyville Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #1698	8-10-64	strong arm rob	
Calhoun Co SO Hardin Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #1698	8-10-64	strong armed rob	
SF Vandalia Ill	Gary Kraut #66968	8-21-64	1	9 mos Final Dis 4-10-65
Cook Co Jail Chgo Chgo Ill	Gary L. Kraut #360087	5-11-65	21-1-38	
PD Chgo Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #102082	5-10-65	criminal tress	disch Nolle on chg of theft
Cook Co Jail Chgo Ill	Gary Kraut #362128	6-18-65	21-2	
PD Chgo Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #102082	6-18-65	auto-theft	
St Hwy Pat Macon MO	Garry Lee Kraut #B-929	3-7-66	theft over \$50	1 yr Co J1

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

7-18-75 155 LSL

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IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 494 471 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SF Vandalia Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #70568	3-28-66	decept pract	75 das TOT SO Morgan Co Jacksonville Ill 5-17-66
PD Quincy Ill	Gary Lee Kraut	10-22-66	Inv decept pract & forg	
SF Vandalia Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #72319	1-6-67	attp't theft	6 mos final discharge 3-30-67
SO Fort Madison Iowa	Gary Lee Kraut #1055	7-19-68	B&E	ret to Ill to answer to a forg chg
PD Quincy Ill	Gary Lee Kraut	12-14-67	1-forgery 2-reckless dr 3-flee to avoid arrest 4-no dr lic	all charges dismissed on motion of State Attorney
PD Quincy Ill	Gary Lee Kraut	7-30-68	Vio of bail bond and forgery	sent 1-5 yrs Ill SPen
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L. Kraut #35305	9-23-68	forg (1) & viol bail bond (1)	1-5 yrs (2cc) 2-11-70 Par Manditorily rel 4-23-70
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L. Kraut #35305	Inquiry 10-10-68		
PD Hannibal Mo	Gary Lee Kraut #61 940	5-9-70	Parole viol (Warrant)	
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L Kraut #35305	5-20-70	forg (1) Viol bail bond	1-5 (2cc)

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1963 O-417-031

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

7-18-75 155 LSL

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD New Orleans La	Gary Lee Kraut #150-649	2-20-71	fugitive from Cleveland Miss	
SO Cleveland Miss	Gary Lee Kraut #1005	3-3-71	1) Forgery 2) GL	
SPen Parchman Miss	Gary Kraut #35430	5-27-71	uttering forgery	3 yrs disch on expiration of sent 8-1-73
Cook Co Jail Chgo IL	Gary Kraut 7306223	pvt rec 8-6-73	Menard 35305 Viol of Parole	
SPen Joliet IL	Gary Kraut 74848	8-3-73	forgery Bail Jumping	1-5 yrs 1-5 yrs 2cc
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L. Kraut 35305 SID 730 613	9-11-73	forg vio Bail Bond 1-5 yrs (2cc) Adams Co (Jol tr)	
SO Jacksonville Fla	Kenneth Ray Wilkenson 256140 SID 964840	6-11-74	auto theft	
PD Alton Ill	Gary Lee Kraut 9499 SID 730613	11-15-74	Req for poss of firearms no drivers license	5-20-75 both dism
Co Jail Edwardsville IL	Gary Lee Kraut 6923	11-18-74	burg	

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

7-18-75 155 LSL

The following FBI record, NUMBER 484 471 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM Tampa FL	Gary Lee Kraut 5092-3803-T	1-6-75	kidnapping, D/ New Mexico UFAP/armed robb S/D Illinois	
SO Albuquerque NM	Kenneth Wilkenson 12-5991	3-26-75	kidnapping	TOT Fed
USM Albuquerque NM	Gary Lee Kraut 0310-09949	3-26-75	kidnapping	50 yrs
US Pen Marion IL	Gary Lee Kraut 31702-138	6-12-75	kidnapping	50 yrs

PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME	KRAUT, Gary Lee	DATE	April 30, 1975
ADDRESS	AKA Kenneth Ray Wilkenson 303 McClure Alton, Illinois	DOCKET NO.	75-27
LEGAL RESIDENCE	Illinois	OFFENSE	Violation 18 USC 1201 Kidnapping
AGE	30	DATE OF BIRTH	[Redacted]
SEX	Male	RACE	White
CITIZENSHIP	United States	PENALTY	Up to Life
EDUCATION	12th Grade	PLEA	Guilty, April 22, 1975
MARITAL STATUS	Married	VERDICT	
DEPENDENTS	1 (wife)	CUSTODY	U. S. Marshal
SOC. SEC. NO.	Unknown	ASST. U.S. ATTY	Don Svet
FBI NO.	494 471 D	DEFENSE COUNSEL	Bill Deaton Public Defender

DETAINEES OR CHARGES PENDING:  
 Macoupin County, Illinois - detainer charging Armed Robbery, 12/20/74  
 Pasco County, Florida - detainer charging Robbery, 1/14/75

CODEFENDANTS (Disposition)  
 Unknown

DISPOSITION *50 years*  
 DATE *May 2, 1975*  
 SENTENCING JUDGE *Honorable Howard Bratton*

OFFENSE:

Official Version: Prior to the offense, on June 11, 1974, this defendant, using the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkinson, was arrested in Jacksonville, Florida and subsequently sentenced to 90 days in jail for attempted auto theft. Authorities there allege that the defendant broke into a home after his escape on July 29, 1974, and stole the occupant's automobile. Warrants have been issued by the local sheriff's office.

On November 18, 1974, under the name of Gary Lee Kraut, this defendant was arrested for residential burglary in Edwardsville, Illinois. He posted a cash bond and was released. District Attorney Van Dyke is in possession of a letter from Gary Kraut indicating that he had received 55 years in federal prison in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He requested that charges there be dropped and that his bond be returned.

On December 14, 1974, Macoupin County records reveal that this defendant was identified as committing an armed robbery in Shipman, Illinois. \$200, two shotguns, a .22 rifle, credit cards identification, a deputy sheriff's commission and badge belonging to Albert Burnett were taken. An unlawful flight to avoid prosecution was issued by the FBI and a detainer has been lodged with the U. S. Marshal's Office.

Using Burnett's identification, an unknown male then rented a 1975 Ford Mustang at Lambert Field near St. Louis, Missouri in the early morning hours on December 15, 1974.

On this same date at 10:30, an individual posing as a deputy sheriff and driving the same 1975 Ford, took 2 rifles and a pistol from a man whose van had become stuck in the mud. This defendant's picture was identified by all three occupants of the truck as the perpetrator.

On December 17, 1974, 55 year old George Salome was working on his ranch, which was 22 miles south and east of Socorro, New Mexico, when he encountered this defendant and a male traveling companion.



OFFENSE: (CONT'D)

As they were having car trouble, Mr. Salome volunteered to take them to the nearest phone. Shortly after that, this defendant pulled a gun on Mr. Salome and forced him to drive south.

During the trip, according to the victim, this defendant fired three shots out of the car window. They made a stop in Carrizozo, New Mexico, where the Salome truck was filled with gas. The trio continued to Alamogordo, New Mexico, where they stopped at another service station for gas.

Mr. Salome indicated that he had to use the rest-room and was followed by the defendant. Kraut stated as he closed the rest-room door, "Don't come out as I will kill you". Five minutes later, Salome found the service station dark, the attendant and his kidnapers gone.

According to the Socorro County District Attorney's Office, they have been unable to get Mr. Salome into their office to sign a complaint. They do not feel that there will be a prosecution.

An examination by the New Mexico State Police of the 1975 Ford rented in Illinois and abandoned in New Mexico revealed numerous fingerprints belonging to Gary Lee Kraut.

On December 17, 1975, 62 year old Archie L. Cape was preparing to close his service station when he noticed a pickup as it pulled into the side of the station. Assuming that the occupants were going to use the rest-room, he continued with his duties just prior to closing.

He was suddenly confronted by a white male who was armed. His wallet was taken, as well as 12 to 15 dollar bills in his shirt pocket. As his assailant held the pistol to his left ear, they moved to the office, where the day receipts were taken.

OFFENSE: (CONT'D)

Using Mr. Cape's 1965 Cadillac, the trio then drove to El Paso, Texas, without incident. Upon their arrival, the third individual rented a room in a local motel, and Mr. Cape was bound and gagged. They removed his watch and left him after turning on the television set so he would have something to look at. When he was able to free himself, he called the local police.

On January 29, 1975, the Cape Cadillac was recovered in El Paso, Texas. Mr. Cape was unable to identify from photographs this defendant as his kidnapper.

Subsequent Activities: Officials believe that subject and a companion purchased a 1963 Corvair in El Paso, Texas, as sales representatives identified a photograph of Kraut, who was using the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson.

On December 19, 1974, the red Corvair was located in Gulf Port, Mississippi, where it had been traded for a 1961 GMC Pickup. The pickup was later traded for a 1966 maroon Oldsmobile 98, all under the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson.

On December 27, 1974, police allege that this defendant and one other attempted an armed robbery in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The robbery was unsuccessful and one subject was killed. A maroon Oldsmobile 98 was used by the second armed robber to make good his escape.

On December 29, 1974, sheriff's officers were involved in a shoot out with a wanted individual who was killed. Investigation revealed that the dead man had been accompanied by Kenneth Ray Wilkenson, who was driving a maroon Oldsmobile. The maroon Oldsmobile described in an earlier Fort Lauderdale armed robbery was located by Pasco County Sheriff's Deputies, and this defendant was arrested on December 30, 1974. He admitted to the arresting officer that he had kidnapped both Salome and Cape in New Mexico.

Subsequent Activities: (Cont'd)

On January 24, 1975, Gary Lee Kraut was indicted and charged with kidnapping. Mr. Kraut attempted to plea under Rule 20 in Florida. Marshal Sharp of the Tampa office advised that the Judge refused to accept the plea because Kraut attempted to bargain with him concerning his place of confinement and his desire to waive the presentence report. Mr. Kraut then had to be forcibly removed from the court room.

On April 14, 1975, after his return to the District of New Mexico, Mr. Kraut, who now used the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson, entered a plea of guilty to the grand jury indictment in the presence of public defender. Prior to this, a psychiatric examination had found him competent. Sentencing was set before the Honorable Howard Bratton for May 2, 1975.

## DEFENDANT'S VERSION OF OFFENSE:

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports that after his release from prison on April 23, 1974, he tried very hard to settle down. Work was a problem, but he was finally able to find a job in November of 1974. Because he lost his job two days later, he became embittered and went on a crime spree, which began with several burglaries in Illinois. He indicated that once this got started, he couldn't stop.

In general, he confirms the official version of the two kidnappings, indicating he was on the Salome ranch in an attempt to avoid a road block near Socorro, New Mexico. He states he did not want to harm Mr. Salome, but found it necessary to use his gun after Mr. Salome insisted on taking him to Socorro to use a phone.

He advises that during the trip, he bought gas for the Salome truck and really didn't want to harm him. He reports that he didn't want to hurt Mr. Cape and even turned on the television set so he could watch it after he left him in the motel room.

He makes no statement concerning the balance of his escapade, except to confirm that he traveled in various cars from Texas to Florida.

KRAUT, Gary Lee

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PRIOR RECORD:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Illinois Correctional system, and the Mississippi State Penitentiary has the following record for Mr. Kraut:

P.D. Quincy, ILL (age 15)	10/8/59	Larceny of Motor Vehicle	Committed to Chaddock Boys' School
Springfield, ILL (age 16)	5/11/60	Patient at Alton State Hospital	
Decatur, ILL (age 16)	9/17/60	Larceny of Auto	No disposition shown
Hardin, ILL (age 19)	8/10/64	Theft of \$20	9 months

With at least one other, subject was involved in an armed robbery where a .22 darringer was used. He was discharged on 4/10/65.

Chicago, ILL	5/10/65	Criminal Trespass	Charge dismissed
Chicago, ILL	6/18/65	Auto Theft	No disposition listed
Macon, MO	3/7/66	Theft over \$50	1 yr. county jail
Vandalia, ILL	3/28/66	Deceptive Practices	75 days
St. Farm Vandalia, ILL	1/6/67	Attempted Theft	6 months; discharged 3/30/67
P.D. Quincy, ILL	12/14/67	Forgery/Flee to Avoid Arrest/ Reckless Driving/ No Driver's License	All charges dismissed

KRAUT, Gary Lee

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PRIOR RECORD: (CONT'D)

Fort Madison, IA	7/19/68	Breaking & Entering	Released to Illinois authorities
State Penitentiary Menard, ILL	7/31/68	Forgery/Bail Bond violation	1-5 yrs. on each charge, concurrent

Subject cashed a \$48 bogus check at a local tavern. He was paroled on 2/11/70

PD Hannibal, MO	5/9/70	Parole Violation	Returned to Illinois
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He was parole violated because he issued no account checks in two cities and was fired from his place of work for failure to report. He was reinstated 11/70 to parole supervision.

State Penitentiary Parchman, MI	5/27/71	Uttering Forgery	3 yrs.; discharged 8/1/73; returned to Illinois as parole violator
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While employed, subject cashed two forged checks on his employer. He absconded in his roommate's automobile.

State Prison Menard, ILL	4/23/74	Forgery/Bail Bond violation	Released to MR supervision
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He was discharged on 10/23/74.

FAMILY HISTORY:

Records from Illinois and Mississippi prison systems indicate that this defendant was born on [redacted] His adopted mother indicates that his real name was Kenneth Ray Wilkenson. He was given the name of Gary Lee Kraut upon adoption.

FAMILY HISTORY: (CONT'D)

According to Mrs. Kraut, he was the product of an affair between a married woman, whose husband was overseas, and a man who was a local resident. While this defendant indicates that he was immediately placed out for adoption, Mrs. Kraut indicates he was 22 months old when he was received into their home.

According to this defendant, his parents were alcoholics, who kept reminding him that he was adopted, and this was the major disruptive element. Mrs. Kraut states that they worshiped the boy as he was the first one in their home, but that from a very early age, he began to indulge in attention-getting behavior, which made him very difficult to control.

When he was approximately 3 years old, the couple adopted a second child, who was 4 years old. The two boys did not get along well.

Mrs. Kraut indicates that Gary began indulging in rebellious behavior when he entered school, which included lying and stealing. Psychiatric intervention was tried for about 8 months with no effect, and Gary was finally placed with another family at age 9. He returned to the Kraut home at age 14, after several home placements did not work. He was with the Krauts until age 15, when he was arrested for auto theft. Mrs. Kraut indicates that they have seen little of him since then.

Upon leaving the home, Gary was, according to prison records, placed in a series of foster homes and juvenile institutions until he became an adult.

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports to this writer that he did locate and visit his mother and her family, but that they have nothing in common.

MARITAL HISTORY:

This defendant reports that he married using the name of Tanner in early November of 1974. Mrs. Carol Tanner reports that she met this defendant and married him three days later in Fielding, Illinois.

MARITAL HISTORY: (CONT'D)

She is unsure of the date, but feels that it was before Thanksgiving day. This was her third marriage. She reports that she felt sorry for him because he did not have many friends.

Mrs. Tanner reports that the main problem with their marriage was Mr. Kraut's inability to find work. She confidentially states that her father tried to get him a job, but it just seemed that he didn't want to work. In addition, he had a temper which was worse when he was drinking.

While she was confined in the hospital with pneumonia, Mrs. Tanner reports that her husband wrecked her automobile, fleeing from the armed robbery in Alton, Illinois. This was the last time that she has seen him.

No children were born to this union, although Mrs. Tanner reports that she miscarried about three weeks ago. She has one child by a prior marriage.

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports to two prior marriages, both of which were dissolved by divorce while he was confined in Illinois and in Mississippi respectively. Each wife bore him one child. Prison records indicate limited contact with these families, and no attempt on his part to support them. Their current whereabouts is unknown.

HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

During his early years, Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson was raised in a rural setting in western Illinois, along the Mississippi River. Upon leaving his adopted home, he was placed in a series of state homes and institutions. Most of his adult life has been lived in various jails and prisons.

EDUCATION:

Prison records confirm this defendant's assertion that he graduated from Tri-City High School, Buffalo, Illinois. He indicates

EDUCATION: (CONT'D)

average performance, however, Illinois prison records reveal that he was socially promoted. Although he appears to have normal ability, his disruptive classroom behavior made it very difficult for him to learn.

RELIGION:

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson is a Catholic.

INTERESTS AND LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES:

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson indicated to this writer that he enjoys fishing, hunting, and swimming as his major leisure-time pursuit.

HEALTH:

Kenneth Ray Wilkenson or Gary Lee Kraut is 30 year old. He stands 5'8½" tall and weighs 160 pounds. He has brown hair and blue eyes. He has numerous tattoos on both arms, including a panther on his left arm and a joker on his right.

His adopted mother and prison records indicate that he is in good physical health, although Mrs. Kraut advises that when he returned to their home at age 14, his toes were so badly infected with athlete's foot, that his big toe nails had to be removed. Prison records indicate that he suffered a gunshot wound in 1967.

He has an extensive psychiatric history. Prison records reveal that he was confined as a juvenile and as an adult for three suicidal attempts. He is described in prison reports as an emotionally unstable personality, dependant type. Both his adopted mother and his current wife indicate that he has an extremely violent temper that is very unpredictable. Mrs. Kraut also reveals that until Gary or Kenneth was 13 years old, he would become so uncontrollably angry that he would soil himself. Psychiatric records from Illinois have been requested and will be appended to this document upon receipt.



**EMPLOYMENT:**

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson's prior employment history is almost non-existent. He reports to working two days in November for a cablevision company in Illinois in 1974.

On two occasions, the record indicates that he has taken checks from his employers, forged and cashed them.

He indicates he is a small engine mechanic, although his prison work record does not support his claim. He does not have any employment plans at this time.

**MILITARY SERVICE:**

Prison records indicate that Mr. Kraut joined the Navy shortly after he graduated from high school. He indicated no military service to this writer, which is probably more accurate as his juvenile record would preclude induction.

**FINANCIAL CONDITION:**

This defendant indicates no assets or liabilities.

**EVALUATIVE SUMMARY:**

After this 30 year old, married defendant was released from the Illinois State Penitentiary at Monard on April 23, 1974, he continued what appears to be a life totally committed to criminal behavior. Since age 19, he has spent less than three years outside of jails and prisons. Currently, there are five known felony offenses in other states, in addition to the offense that brings him before this Court. It does appear that most of these charges will be dropped, however, in favor of the federal prosecution.

He has a history of suicidal attempts, a violent temper, violent mood swings, and a penchant for the use of weapons, which in this writer's mind makes him extremely dangerous.

It is this writer's recommendation that Mr. Kraut or Mr. Wilkenson be confined for a substantial period of time for the protection of society.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Powell  
U. S. Probation Officer

JCP/ma

KRAUT, Gary Lee

SUPPLEMENT TO FAMILY HISTORY:

FAMILY MEMBERS:

Mother: Zeta Manzullo, age 52, address 622 E. Buena Vista,  
Chester, Illinois.\*

Father: Tommy Wilkenson, age 63, believed living in Missouri.\*

Adopted Mother: Bertha Kraut, age 55, address Star Rt. 1,  
Kampsville, Illinois. She is a housewife who reports that she  
has never worked outside of the home.

Adopted Father: Elmer Kraut, age 57, address Star Rt. 1, Kampsville,  
Illinois. He currently works a small 20 acre farm part-time and  
works full-time as a welder.

In addition, Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports that he has three brothers,  
three half-brothers, and one half-sister. His family is unknown to  
him.

\*According to the defendant's report

CUMULATIVE CASE SUMMARY  
LEGAL STATUS

COMMITMENT NAME		DOB	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	RACE
KRAUT, Gary Lee			33	ILLINOIS	WHITE
RECEIVED (DATE)	COUNTY	JUDGE		CASE NUMBER	
4-22-78	NEW MEXICO	HOWARD BRATTON		31702-138H	
SENTENCING DATA					

KIDNAPPING      50 years

<del>ISL</del>	<del>DSL</del>
<del>MINIMUM TERM</del>	<del>TOTAL TERM</del>
<del>MINIMUM ELIGIBLE PAROLE DATE</del>	<del>MAXIMUM RELEASE DATE</del>
<del>FIRST BOARD APPEARANCE</del>	<del>TOTAL GOOD TIME CREDITS AVAILABLE (DAYS)</del>
<del>WEAPON</del>	<del>MINIMUM RELEASE DATE WITH FULL GOOD TIME CREDITS</del>
<del>PRIOR FELONY</del>	<del>MINIMUM RELEASE DATE ADJUSTED BY GOOD TIME CREDITS LOST (pencil only)</del>
<del>CRIME PARTNER</del>	<del>DISPARATE REVIEW</del>
	<del>PRECONFINEMENT CREDITS</del>

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KRAUT      B-92457

RCC-CIM

5/13/78 MLK/lmd

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CHS TRANSCRIPT CII/A06292368 REQUESTED FOR CASDCORR CHINO  
REQUESTED BY CA0349401 MNEMONIC - CFS 07/27/78 11123104

STATE OF CALIFORNIA \*\*\*\*\* DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE \*\*\*\*\* BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION  
CII NUMBER A06292360 PAGE 1

\*\*\*\*\* THE FOLLOWING RECORD IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY \*\*\*\*\*

DATE OF THIS REPORT 07/27/78 NAME KRAUT, GARY LEE SEX M DOB [REDACTED] RAC WGT HGT HAI EYE SKN POR  
M W 508 170 BRO BLU FAR IL

FPC HENRY FPC NCIC FBI OLN SOC  
L 1 AAT 3 17AAAAATT03SR04AAAA04  
M 1 U2A 1 4

OCCUPATIONS: BARBER

DESCRIPTORS: NUMEROUS TATS

NO CRIME SUMMARY DATA IN THIS RECORD

CYC	SEQ	AGENCY/FILE NO.	DOE	NMC	ACH	ACTIONS/DISPOSITIONS
1	1	CASDCORR CHINO B-92457	042478	1	1	INITIAL CUSTODY CHARGE NOT SPECIFIED COMMENT: CHRQ-STATE BORDER FROM IL

END OF TRANSCRIPT

-22-

07344

# CASE SUMMARY

PARENTS:	Age	Occupation	Address
Father: Thomas Wilkerson	63	Unk.	Unk. Missouri
Mother: Zeta Mae Manzullo	55	Housewife	622 E. Buena Vista, Chester, Ill.

Ad. Parents \* see next page  
**SIBLINGS:** Subject 33 unstable-Transient  
 1. Claims 3 half brothers and 1 half sister names and whereabouts unknown  
 2. (Ad.) Leroy Kraut 34 Unk. Unk.  
 3.  
 4.  
 5.  
 6.  
 7.

MARRIAGES:	Age	Place	Date	Outcome
1. Glenda Shields	23	Quincy, Ill.	1966	Divorced 1968
2. Betty Tournear	32	Palmira, Mo.	1968	Divorced 1969
3. Carol Tanner	30	Fielding, Ill.	11-74	Divorced 11-2-76
		303 McClure St., Alton, Ill.		

CHILDREN:	Age	Support	Residing
1. Brian Kraut	11	Mother-Glenda	w/ mother
2. Jerry Lee Kraut	9	Mother-Betty	w/ mother-305 S. Main Camp Point, Ill.
3.			
4.			

**FAMILY ARREST HISTORY**  
 (E) None

**RESIDENTIAL PATTERN:** Born Chester, Ill., reared Hardin, Ill. 1945-60, Transient 1960-75, Ill.  
 (K) Youth Commission 1958-63, Ill. S.P. 1968-70, 1973-74. \*\*\* see next page

**RELIGION:** Subject: Cath Spouse: n/a Parents: Cath

**EDUCATION:** Age Left School: 17 Claimed Grade: 12th Measured Grade: refused Verify:

**INTELLIGENCE LEVEL:** refused

JOBS:	Firm	Address	Title	Length	Verify
1.	Continental Cable Vision	Quincy, Ill.	Line Tech	1974-8mos.	No
2.	Claims no other significant employment				
3.					

**Disability:** None **Union:** None

**S. S. No.:** Unk. **Occupation:** (H) T.V. Line Tech.

**FINANCIAL:** No assets or debts

**MILITARY:** Service Branch: U.S. Navy Rank: E Verify: Serial No. Unk.

**Date Entered:** 1964 **Date Discharge:** 1964 **Type Discharge:** Gen.  
**Disciplinary:** None **Duties:** Recruit **Disability:** None

**Time in State Before Comm. Offense:** 3 days **Age 1st Arrest:** 9 **Age 1st Comm.** 14  
**Offense and Inst. of 1st Commitment:** Auto Theft-Chaddock Boy's School  
**Escape History:** 7-74 Escape from Jacksonville, Fla. County Jail

**DELINQUENCY HISTORY:**  
 1964 - 63 Auto Thefts - Boy's school, Ill. Youth Commission

**ALCOHOL:** (F) - chronic excessive - unrelated

**NARCOTICS and DRUGS:**

None Heroin Other Opiate Addict User Suspect Marijuana 1974 Amphetamines 1974  
 LSD -1974 claims couple of times claims claims  
 First Used in: Rate of use: Occasional heavily

**COMMENTS:** (A) claims 4 prior jail sentences (L)  
 (C)

No. B-92457 Name KRAUT, Gary L. RCC-CIM 5/13/78 lmd Page 2

CASE SUMMARY CONT'D

* Ad. Parents			
Elmer Kraut	60	Welder	Star Rt. 1, Kampsville, Ill.
Bertha Kraut	58	Housewife	" " " " " " " "

\*\*\* Residential Pattern

Miss. S.P. 1971-73, Federal Prison, 1975-78

KRAUT      B-92457      RCC-CIM      5/13/78      lmd      Page 3

#### INSTITUTION PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

SOURCES FOR REPORT: The following is excerpted from the Federal case file, as no POR is available at the time of dictation; Kraut refused to take the psychological and educational testing, therefore we were unable to utilize test results in the overall evaluation; and through interviews with Kraut.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION: See Confidential File.

TO BE VERIFIED/COMPLETED:

Holds/Detainers: Kraut has a Federal detainer as a result of having to serve a concurrent sentence with his present confinement.

Records/Transcripts: Request the probation report relating to instant offense.

Crime Reports: None.

Casework Follow-up: Request a duplicate and verify Kraut's Social Security number.

INSTITUTION PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Medical: Full duty no camp with medical restriction convulsive disorder. Avoid driving, machinery, and working at heights.

Dental: Class 1 - 5.

Psychiatric: No referral indicated.

Counseling: Kraut maintains a system of defenses marking him as a poor candidate for psychotherapy. He presently indicates no interest in any such involvement. Kraut has a prior history of chronic excessive use of alcohol and drug habituation. It is recommended that he be urged to become involved in a program dealing with these type of abuses.

Education: Kraut expresses an interest in furthering himself academically. He proved to be uncooperative during the administration of testing, and therefore no grade point level or intellectual potential is available. Further testing should be done at the receiving institution and he should then be given an opportunity to be placed in the appropriate grade level.

Vocational Training: Kraut indicates during his previous periods of confinement he has obtained various training allowing him to develop skills as a welder, TV technician, and electric motor repairman.

KRAUT

B-92457

RCC/CIM

-25-

5-16-78

jm

Page 4



He refuses to become involved in any further vocational training program.

Work Assignment: Institution discretion.

**Criminal History:** Kraut is known to have first come to the attention of the authorities when he was nine years of age. From that point on until the present he continued acting out his inner rage and hostility through his antisocial and delinquent activities leading him to serve commitments in various boys schools and the Illinois Youth Commission. He has since served various terms of confinement in county facilities, as well as the state penitentiary in Illinois and Mississippi, in addition to his Federal sentence. His crimes have been directed both against property as well as persons, and he is presently committed to this Department on an offense similar to his Federal commitment. He shows little evidence of altering his long term criminal identification, and will in all likelihood continue becoming involved in further delinquent behavior.

**Evaluation:** Kraut is reported to have been born to a casual relationship of his natural parents. His mother reportedly was married and her husband was serving in the armed forces overseas. Evidently she had an affair with his natural father, leading to her pregnancy. He apparently was given away by his mother shortly after his birth and placed in a foster home. He was later placed with his adopted parents, whom he indicates finally adopted him when he was twenty-two months of age. Kraut began to show signs of early disturbance by the time he was three years of age. His erratic and chaotic responses and behavior appear to be correlated with the time his adopted parents adopted a second child who was one year his senior. Kraut describes his adopted parents as alcoholics who were constantly reminding him of his being an adopted child. The parents previously had described him as beginning to seek attention through behaviors making it difficult for them to control him. Shortly after entering school he began to act out his hostility through excessive rebellious behavior, which included lying and stealing. His parents attempted to obtain psychiatric intervention, but apparently this had no effect on him. When he was nine years of age he was placed in a foster home, and it was at this point he began to act out delinquently coming to the attention of the authorities. Kraut relates he spent the next five years in either foster placements or juvenile homes, and did not return to the home of his parents until he was fourteen years of age. At fifteen he was arrested for auto theft, and indicates he was committed to the Illinois Youth Commission. Kraut relates he has not had much contact with his parents during the ensuing years. Kraut indicates his mother has four children from her marriage, but at this point he cannot recall the names of his three half brothers and his one half sister. He states he later contacted his mother and the family, but apparently he was rejected by her as he felt rejected by his adopted parents.

KRAUT

B-92457

RCC/CIM

5-16-78

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Kraut states his first marriage occurred in 1966, but this relationship ended shortly after he was committed to the Illinois State Penitentiary. He reports while he was in prison his wife obtained a divorce. Immediately after his release he married his second wife, and again this union was dissolved upon his return as a parole violator. Kraut indicates he married his third wife in November of 1974. Within a short period of time he had taken and crashed her car, leading to his crime spree leading to his Federal commitment and present confinement. He reports his wife divorced him while he was in the Federal institution. Kraut relates he has two children as a result of his first two marriages, but apparently he has had little or no contact with either youngster for many years. Despite this he claims his second wife and youngster are residing Camp Point, Illinois. It appears she may have had contact with him during the time he was in Federal custody.

Kraut approached the interview situation displaying a high level of anxiety leading him to experience difficulty in handling his ensuing hostility. He proved to be highly manipulative, and would use conscious prevarication in his efforts to obtain satisfactory placement. He is an institutionalized emotionally volatile individual with a good deal of underlying explosive features. The overall impression is of an antisocial-sociopathic man who utilizes passive-aggressive defenses. He tends to be overwhelmed with self pity, and this needs to be expected considering his projected lengthy term of confinement. Kraut relates he has at times used his given name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson. He reports after his adoption he was given the name of Gary Lee Kraut. He apparently has used either name alternately, as well as other aliases. His crime spree finally culminated in his capture in Florida, after he and his crime partners committed numerous offenses in other states. During the period of two days he and his crime partners have been involved in shootouts with the police, and during each of these one and then the other of his crime partners were killed by the authorities.

**RE-ENTRY PROGRAM:**

Parole Location: Not applicable at this time.

Residence: Not applicable at this time.

Employment: Not applicable at this time.

Resources: It is highly unlikely Kraut can depend upon any significant emotional or financial support from either his adopted parents or real mother, or his adopted brother.

Parole Conditions: Not applicable at this time.

**TRANSFER:**

Institution: CMC-East.

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KRAUT

B-92457

RCC/CIM

5-16-78

jm Page 6

Custody: Medium to close - his projected release date precludes lesser than recommended security. Kraut's emotional instability or impulse control strongly indicate he should be maintained in an institution where psychiatric management and controls are available.

Camp Potential: E - history of escape.

Crime Partners: Kraut's crime partners were killed in shootouts with the police. Neither of these men have been identified in earlier reports, or by Kraut.

ENDORSEMENTS:

Correctional Counselor I: Ora Tarrson 5-10-78

Supervisor: Federal boarder. CMC, Cat. P appears most appropriate placement.

5/17/78

L. Robertson, CC II

CSR: CMC-E, Cat. P transfer endorsed. S is a Federal boarder with a 1989 minimum release date. Note confidential file. If Subject is unable to make GP at CMC for any reason, he is to be referred to the Interstate Unit to be returned to the Federal System.

5/19/78

Peggy Kernan, CSR

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KRAUT

B-92457

RCC/CIM

5-16-78

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Los Angeles, California  
May 11, 1979

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On May 2, 1979, a confidential source, whose reliability has not been verified, furnished the following information:

He is presently serving a life sentence for murder in the California Prison System, and is currently incarcerated at the California Mens Colony (CMC), East Facility, San Luis Obispo, California.

During the past year he developed a friendship with another inmate known to him as Gary Lee Kraut, who also uses the last name of Wilkenson. Kraut is a federal prisoner serving a 50 year term for kidnaping. Kraut was transferred to CMC from the Federal Prison in Marion, Illinois. The source developed a friendship with Kraut because they were both serving extremely long sentences for very serious crimes.

During Christmas, 1978, Kraut stated to the source that he was the individual who was actually guilty for shooting Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. Kraut advised that he was married to James Earl Ray's first wife Betty, who currently resides somewhere in Quincy, Illinois. The source does not know Betty's last name, but she is described as a white female, 45 years of age, with reddish hair. Kraut has a son as a result of his marriage to Betty. Kraut advised the source that there was a black male with him, known only as Bobby, who was later killed in a shootout with police in an unknown area. Bobby had some connection with Eldridge Cleaver.

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.

44-38861-632  
ENCLOSURE

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Kraut further advised the source that while he was in Marion Federal Prison, Marion, Illinois, he had made a jewelry box with a false bottom. This jewelry box had been sent to Betty. In the false bottom of the box were the names of a group of individuals who would carry on the work of Kraut since he was in prison. Kraut advised the source that Dr. Martin Luther King's father was next on the list to be assassinated and that it was just a matter of time. Kraut advised the source that Betty (last name unknown) used to own a bar, whereabouts unknown, and a white male that she knew obtained the rifle with which King was shot. Kraut further advised the source that he shot Dr. Martin Luther King with a rifle, but he did not state what caliber the rifle was. Kraut stayed awake for two days in order to have the chance to shoot King.

Kraut advised the source that he had been offered a chance to testify before the House Assassinations Committee on the death of Martin Luther King, but did not concede to testify. Kraut allegedly knows James Earl Ray and James Earl Ray's brother.

The source advised that in the past four or five months he has had no further friendship with Kraut because they had had a disagreement. The source does not believe that he could re-establish a friendship with Kraut.

On May 4, 1979, a review of the California prison record pertaining to Gary Lee Kraut, also known as Wilkenson, Federal Prison Number 31702-138(H), revealed the following information:

Kraut is serving a 50 year sentence after being convicted of the Federal Kidnaping Statute in the District of New Mexico. He pled guilty on April 22, 1975, and was committed to the U. S. Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, on June 12, 1975. Kraut will be eligible for parole on December 29, 1984, and for mandatory release from his sentence on July 26, 2008.

On April 10, 1978, the State of California in an agreement with the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C., accepted Kraut as a boarder in the California Prison System where he was delivered to the California State Prison located at Chino, California.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 5/11/79

*Handwritten initials*

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (2) (RUC)

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: Memphis

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of a letterhead memorandum, and two copies for the Memphis Division.

The confidential source mentioned in the body of the letterhead memorandum is VERNON LA VERN ADLER, inmate, California Mens Colony (CMC), East Facility, San Luis Obispo, California. (DC)

For information, on 5/2/79, VERNON LA VERN ADLER, California Prison Number B35449, date of birth [redacted] Millville, Minnesota, Social Security Number [redacted] was interviewed by SA ROBERT L. BOYD at his request. He is currently serving a life sentence for murder, having been sentenced on 6/29/71, by the Superior Court, County of San Diego, California. (X)

ENCLOSURE REC-8 ST-103 44-38861-6353

- ① - Bureau (Encs. - 4)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Encs. - 2) CRIMINAL DIVISION MAY 19 1979
- 1 - Los Angeles

rlb/bef  
(5)-

*Handwritten notes:*  
1 CRU  
0706  
5-29-79  
VDK/boy

Approved: *[Signature]*  
59 JUN 29 1979

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

MAY 29 1979

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
MAY 15 2 30 PM '79

U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

LA 44-1574

ADLER advised that he wished to furnish information pertaining to GARY LEE KRAUT, another inmate, who is a federal prisoner, and who is serving a 50 year sentence for kidnaping at the CMC, San Luis Obispo. He requested that his name be concealed as the source of the information. He was specifically informed that his name would be concealed in the communication setting forth the information; however, there could be no guarantee of complete confidentiality as a result of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act as now interpreted. He still requested that the information be submitted to the proper authorities for their consideration. He further advised that if the fact that he had informed on another person was made known in the California Prison System that his life would be in immediate jeopardy.

During the course of the interview, ADLER appeared to be stable, sincere, and no signs of vindictiveness were evident in his demeanor. It is felt that he is sincere in what he has stated whether it is valid or not. He stated that he would definitely agree to take a polygraph examination pertaining to the information.

On 5/4/79, a cursory examination of ADLER's prison file reflected that he has been in and out of jail since he was eight years old. His longest term of freedom since that time was for a period of three months. On 10/12/71, he was diagnosed by a medical doctor as being a schizoid personality.

The record reflects the following descriptive information:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth	Millville, Minnesota
Height	5'6"
Weight	130 pounds
Social Security Number	<input type="text"/>
Criminal Identification and Investigation Number	2 745 725

He was sentenced in the Superior Court, County of San Diego, to a life sentence on 6/29/71, for Murder One, in violation of California Penal Code, Section 187 (Murder).



LA 44-1574

It is noted from a review of the FBI identification record contained in GARY LEE KRAUT's prison file that his whereabouts on the pertinent date of 4/4/68, the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, cannot be ascertained from the identification record, although he still could have been incarcerated and the fact not represented in the identification record.

A review of the indices of the Los Angeles Division failed to reveal any information identifiable with GARY LEE KRAUT, aka Gary Lee Wilkenson, or VERNON LA VERN ADLER.

In view of the above, no further investigation is being conducted in this matter by the Los Angeles Division UACB.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

9-3

Date 6/7/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987-Sub M)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM  
CR

OO: MEMPHIS

Re Los Angeles airtel and LHM, 5/11/79.

A review of indices of the Memphis Office failed to reveal any information pertaining to GARY LEE KRAUT, aka Gary Lee Wilkenson or Vernon LaVern Adler.

Memphis is taking no further action regarding this matter.

PC

REC-244-37661-6354

- ② - Bureau
- 1 - Memphis

JRF:tjm  
(3)

EX-112

24 JUN 11 1979

Approved: [Signature]  
84 JUL 10 1979

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

Per [Signature]

SECRET

JUN 12 1979

RECEIVED  
CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

JUN 11 2 34 PM '79

U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

TO: SAC, NEW YORK  
FROM: SAC, PHOENIX  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Illegible typed text]

- 1 - [Illegible]
- 1 - [Illegible]
- 1 - [Illegible]
- 1 - [Illegible]

SECRET

INMATE'S NAME: EARNEST DRUMMER DATE: August 27, 1979  
INSTITUTION: Hosp. Infir STATE SECT. NUMBER: 70254  
CITY: Reidsville, GA 30453

OUTSIDE SOURCE:

National Crime Information Center  
Director, FBI, Attention, N G I C Section  
10th St, Pennsylvania Ave, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20535 EARNEST DRUMMER  
U.S. P.O. B. 70254 HOSP. INF.  
Reidsville, GA, 30453

Dear Mr. Frank B. Buell:  
I Need to personally talk to an FBI agent.  
I know the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,  
This is a long over due case it should have been  
solved ten yrs ago. if you act now it can be  
solved. James Earle Ray didn't do the killing.  
All my incoming mail is censored be careful  
as to how and what information you might give me.  
This information is so secret it can't leak. I want  
to talk to an agent, FBI of course. 6355  
Awaiting your immediate reply 44-38861-

16 SEP

16 SEP 4 1979

Signature  
Earnest Drummer  
Sgt. [unclear]

97 SEP 24 1979

PI-118

CIVIL RIGHTS &  
SP. INQUIRY  
SECTION

AUG 31 10 27 AM '79

BI

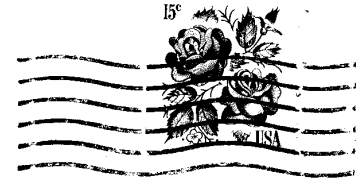
FBI

AUG 29 2 36 PM '79

REC'D N. C. I. C.

*[Faint handwritten notes and markings, possibly including a signature and date]*

Ernest Drummer  
P.O. Box 70254 Hosp. In Fir  
Reidsville, Ga 30453



National Crime Information Center  
Director, ~~FBI~~, Attention NCIC Section  
10th St, Pennsylvania Ave, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Attn: Mr Frank B. Buell



Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:  
 Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fin. & Pers. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. ✓  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

UP-087

(KING ASSASSINATION)  
 (BY GREGORY GORDON)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - THE FBI WAS TOLD IN 1973 THAT A ST. LOUIS MAN PAID OFF JAMES EARL RAY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., BUT NEVER INVESTIGATED, NEWLY RELEASED AGENCY FILES DISCLOSED TODAY.

IN 1974, SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER AN INFORMANT PASSED THE INFORMATION ALONG TO THE FBI'S ST. LOUIS BUREAU, AT LEAST ONE KEY FIGURE IN THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY DIED - MAKING IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR AGENTS TO NOW DETERMINE THE REPORT'S VERACITY.

THE FACT THAT THE INFORMANT'S REPORT WAS NEVER PROPERLY DISSEMINATED HAS CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT TO THE FBI, CHARGED WITH TRACING ALL CLUES IN THE 1968 KING ASSASSINATION.

ACCORDING TO THE HEAVILY CENSORED FBI DOCUMENTS RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, AN INFORMANT TIPPED A ST. LOUIS AGENT IN THE FALL OF 1973 THAT BUSINESSMAN RUSSELL G. BYERS TOLD HIM HE WAS OFFERED "EITHER \$10,000 OR \$20,000 TO KILL KING."

THE AGENT'S REPORT, WHICH LAY DORMANT IN FBI FILES FOR FIVE YEARS, GAVE THIS ACCOUNT OF THE POSSIBLE LEAD:

THE INFORMANT SAID BYERS TOLD HIM HE WAS OFFERED A CONTRACT TO KILL KING AT A MEETING IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY WITH "A LAWYER, NOW DECEASED, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED" AND WITH "A SHORT, STOCKY MAN, WHO WALKED WITH A LIMP."

"(LATER, WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER INDIVIDUAL, BEYERS (SIC) COMMENTED THAT THIS MAN WAS ACTUALLY THE INDIVIDUAL WHO MADE THE PAYOFF OF JAMES EARL RAY AFTER THE KILLING.)"

THE FBI FILES DO NOT NAME THE "SHORT, STOCKY MAN," BUT THE NEW YORK TIMES SAID GOVERNMENT SOURCES IDENTIFIED HIM AS AS JOHN KAUFFMANN, A STOCKBROKER WHO DIED MARCH 1, 1974.

THE TIMES SAID IT INTERVIEWED BYERS LAST MONTH AND HE CONFIRMED THAT HE MET WITH KAUFFMANN AND JOHN SUTHERLAND, A PATENT LAWYER FROM IMPERIAL, MO., IN LATE 1966 OR EARLY 1967 AND THAT THEY OFFERED HIM \$50,000 TO KILL KING. SUTHERLAND ALSO IS DEAD 44-38861-

THE LATEST DOCUMENTS PROVIDE THE FIRST EVIDENCE THE BUREAU WAS TOLD OF A ST. LOUIS PAYOFF TO RAY, WHO WAS CONVICTED OF THE KING ASSASSINATION AND IS SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE IN TENNESSEE. RAY NEVER HAS BEEN POSITIVELY TIED TO A CONSPIRACY.

ACCORDING TO THE FBI REPORT, THE INFORMANT QUOTED BYERS AS SAYING HE "DECLINED TO ACCEPT" A CONTRACT TO KILL KING NOT RECORDED  
202 AUG 22 1979

"HE (BEYERS) DID REMARK THAT THIS LAWYER HAD CONFEDERATE FLAGS AND OTHER ITEMS ABOUT THE HOUSE THAT MIGHT INDICATE THAT HE WAS A REAL REBEL." THE AGENT'S REPORT SAID.

THE REPORT WAS DATED MARCH 19, 1974, BUT IT APPARENTLY SAT IN FBI FILES IN ST. LOUIS UNTIL AN AGENT REALIZED LAST WINTER IT HAD NOT GONE TO HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON. IT THEN WAS FORWARDED TO THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE PROBING THE KING AND JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATIONS.

UPI 08-03,02:47 PED

RECEIVED DIRECTOR  
F. B. I.  
AUG 3 4 00 PM 1978

RECEIVED  
CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
FRONT OFFICE  
AUG 4 3 48 PM 1978  
F. B. I.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
F. B. I.  
AUG 7 11 45 AM 1978



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
**Memorandum**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

DATE: 8/21/79  
ATTN: Mr. Dan Rinzel

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MURKIN

*JL*

*File  
copy*

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
dated \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

A.  This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B.  The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C.  The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D.  Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E.  Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F.  This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G.  This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

*44-38861-*

H.  This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

**NOT RECORDED**  
AUG 28 1979

Enc. (1)

**NOTE: Enclosed are copies of materials received by our Boston Office from Mr. R. B. Cutler of Manchester, Mass. Those materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy have been sent to Mr. Kench in the Criminal Division.**



*AUG 21 1979*

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

*[Handwritten signature]*  
BI/DOJ

*de*  
*MF*

8/21/79

SAC, BOSTON

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY  
BS 175-112; BUFILE 62-109060

*o*  
xx MURKIN  
BS 157-644; BUFILE 44-38861

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

Re Boston Airtel to Bureau dated 8/8/79.

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau, is additional  
correspondence from Mr. CUTLER. His "MESSAGE" to me dated 8/14/79  
does not warrant a reply and, accordingly, his "MESSAGE" has not  
been acknowledged by me.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109060-8100

3 - Bureau (Encls.)  
2 - Boston (175-112)  
(157-644)

44-38861-

JJD:ds  
(5)

NOT RECORDED  
8 SEP 4 1979