

4/25/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC, ATLANTA
FROM SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYTWO, SIXTYEIGHT, RE
INFORMATION FURNISHED BY RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS.

POLICE AND INFORMANT SOURCES UNABLE TO IDENTIFY FENCE
NAMED COIN (PH) IN NEW ORLEANS AREA. SOURCES BELIEVE COIN
POSSIBLY IS DANIEL BERNARD COHEN, AKA DAN, AGE SIXTY, SIX FEET,
TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, BROKEN NOSE. COHEN HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD
BUT FOR YEARS HAS ASSOCIATED WITH CRIMINAL ELEMENT, PARTICULARLY
BURGLARS. POLICE SOURCE SAID COHEN WAS FENCE IN FIFTIES, STATED
COHEN WAS ONCE QUITE WEALTHY, BUT LOST ALL MONEY.

COHEN INTERVIEWED APRIL TWENTYFIVE, SIXTYEIGHT, DOES
NOT RECALL RAY, BUT STATES SOMETHING VAGUELY FAMILIAR ABOUT
RAY IN THAT RAY'S FACIAL FEATURES RESEMBLE MANY INDIVIDUALS.
COHEN SAID PRIOR TO FIFTYSIX COHEN HIRED MANY EX-CONS IN

1 - New Orleans
1 - Birmingham (AMSD)
① - Kansas City (AMSD)
1 - Memphis (AMSD)
LMS:epk
(4)

44-760-500

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Howe	RJH

NO 157-10673

PAGE TWO

OPERATION OF CRESCENT CIGARETTE COMPANY, A VENDING MACHINE COMPANY. COHEN STATES RECALLS NO ONE IN AREA WHO ASSOCIATED WITH CRIMINAL ELEMENT WITH NAME SIMILAR TO COHEN'S NAME.

COHEN ADVISED REMAINS CLOSE FRIENDS WITH CHARLES ADAM SMITH (FBI NUMBER ONE THREE ONE EIGHT SIX FIVE), WHOM COHEN WILL LOCATE FOR INTERVIEW. *by FBI*

SMITH WAS INCARCERATED IN U. S. PENITENTIARY, FT. LEAVENWORTH, KS., FOUR TIMES: THIRTYFIVE; FORTYTHREE FOR TWO YEARS; FORTYSEVEN FOR FOUR YEARS, LAST RECEIVING FOUR YEAR SENTENCE APRIL TWO, SIXTYTWO AT TOPEKA, KS., IN USDC.

JAKE LACAZE, INMATE ORLEANS PARISH PRISON, HOLD-UP MAN AND SAFE BURGLAR, ADVISED LACAZE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH COHEN IN FIFTIES, BUT RAY IS UNKNOWN. STATED COHEN WOULD HELP ANYONE, CRIMINAL OR NOT, EXCEPT WHEN BEING SOUGHT BY LAW. LACAZE SAID HE HAS OPERATED IN SOUTHERN LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI AND NAME COIN UNKNOWN AS ASSOCIATES OF CRIMINALS OR FENCE.

NO 157-10673

PAGE THREE

BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4/25/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SAC, BIRMINGHAM

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-989)

MURKING.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE TO BUREAU APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST.

RE SIXTY SIX WHITE MUSTANG EIGHT CYLINDER HARDTOP.

LOU ECHLIN, SECURITY DEPT., FORD MOTOR CO., ADVISED

HIS DEPT. REVIEWED ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND WARRANTY CARDS INDICATING ALL WARRANTY WORK PERFORMED SINCE AUGUST THIRTY, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN. NO WARRANTY SERVICE PERFORMED SINCE THAT DATE ON A SIXTY SIX MUSTANG, VIN SIX T ZERO SEVEN C ONE NINE ZERO SIX SEVEN FOUR.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT ATLANTA, MEMPHIS, AND KANSAS CITY.

1 - Atlanta (AM) (RM)
1 - Kansas City (AM) (RM)
1 - Memphis (AM) (RM)

WJH/cmt

(4)

44-760-501

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[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

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TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) ST. LOUIS
FROM: PHOENIX (44-371) (P)
3

MURKIN

RE PHOENIX TELS APRIL TWENTYONE, TWENTYTWO AND
TWENTYFOUR, LAST, RE DAVID L. WILSON.

WILSON'S RELATIVES, FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, ADVISED TODAY
CALLER ON TAPED ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL TO COCONINO COUNTY SO,
FLAGSTAFF, SOUNDS LIKE DAVID WILSON HIMSELF. WILSON'S WIFE
NOW STATES WHEN SHE FIRST HEARD TAPE SHE THOUGHT IT SOUNDED
LIKE HER HUSBAND BUT WAS AFRAID TO SAY SO. ON APRIL TWENTYTHREE
LAST, WILSON SENT WIFE TO PARENTS AT FLAGSTAFF AND TOOK OFF.
WILSON'S SISTER DOROTHY MEYER OR DOROTHY BURNHAM, EMPLOYED
NYCRR, SALINE, MICHIGAN, TELEPHONE FOUR TWO NINE NINE THREE
EIGHT ZERO, RESIDING IN TRAILER ON ANN ARBOR STREET, ADVISED
VIA LONG DISTANCE THAT DAVID WILSON IS KOREAN VETERAN

1 - Detroit(AM) (Enc 3)
1 - Dallas (AM)
1 - Jacksonville (AM)
1 - Phoenix
EJVL:rs
(7)

① - Kansas City (AM)
1 - Little Rock (AM)
1 - Los Angeles (AM)

44-760-502

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Howe 1001

PX 44-371
EJVL:rm
PAGE TWO

WHO WAS WOUNDED IN KOREA BY GRENADE AND SHELLSHOCKED AND SPENT TIME IN VA HOSPITALS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND KENTUCKY, CITIES UNKNOWN. SHE STATED DAVID IS PSYCHOTIC AND GIVEN TO TELLING TALL TALES. THIS CONDITION LED TO DAVID'S DIVORCE FROM FIRST WIFE MARY HAMMONDS, CLINTON, TENN., DAUGHTER OF DEPUTY SHERIFF BILL HAMMONDS, AND MARY CAN FURNISH DETAILS AND IDENTITY OF HOSPITALS. MEYERS STATES DAVID ENLISTED FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY, AND DISCHARGED SEVERAL MONTHS LATER AT FT. CAMPBELL OR FT. KNOX.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION CHECK FOR MILITARY FINGERPRINTS OF WILSON, NOTING SAME NOT ON HIS RECORD UNDER FBI SEVEN NINE TWO TWO FOUR TWO C.

ST. LOUIS CHECK FOR RECORD OF ARMY SERVICE FOR DAVID LINDSEY WILSON, DOB AT WESTBURN, TENNESSEE.

DETROIT INTERVIEW MEYER AT SALINE, MICHIGAN, AND ARRANGE TO GET ANY INFO SHE RECEIVES AS TO WHEREABOUTS OF WILSON. ENCLOSED FOR DETROIT IS XEROX COPY EACH OF RETELS.

PX 44-371
EJVL:rs
PAGE THREE

MEMPHIS AT CLINTON INTERVIEW MARY HAMMONDS FOR INFO
VERIFYING WILSON'S MILITARY SERVICE AND MENTAL CONDITION, AND
POSSIBLE CONTACT HE MIGHT MAKE WITH HER.

DETROIT, DALLAS, JACKSONVILLE, KANSAS CITY, LITTLE ROCK
AND LOS ANGELES ADVISED AIRMAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4/25/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND SAC, MIAMI
FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374)

MURKIN. ✓

ON APRIL TWENTYFIVE INSTANT, MRS. GLADYS D. MEEHAM,
WIFE OF DR. DONALD MEEHAM, SPRINGVILLE, NY, ADVISED SHE
AND HER FAMILY HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE ROCK SOUND CLUB
IN BEACH COTTAGES, ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS. SHE HAD SEEN THE
TODAY SHOW ON APRIL TWENTYFIVE INSTANT, WHEREUPON SHE
OBSERVED A PICTURE OF JAMES EARL RAY.

MRS. MEEHAM SAW A MAN IN ROCK SOUND CLUB ON THE
EVENING OF APRIL EIGHTEEN OR NINETEEN LAST WHO BORE A
REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE TO RAY. SHE OBSERVED THIS MAN AT
BREAKFAST THE FOLLOWING MORNING. HE WAS DRESSED IN
BUSINESS SUIT AND APPEARED PALE AS THOUGH HE HAD JUST
ARRIVED. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ANOTHER MAN WHOM SHE COULD
NOT DESCRIBE EXCEPT THAT HE WAS SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO

1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info) (AM)
1 - Kansas City (Info) (AM)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (AM)
RGE:bab
(4)

44-760-503

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Howe *RBA*

BU 44-374

PAGE TWO

THE MAN SHE OBSERVED AS TO AGE, HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND BUILD.

MIAMI HANDLE.

AM CCS TO BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS.

RAY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

4/24/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND SACS, CHICAGO, BALTIMORE, AND
ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN. ✓

MEDICAL RECORDS, QUINCY, ILLINOIS, INDICATE JAMES RAY,
AGE TEN IN NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT, TREATED FOR AN EPILEPTIC
SEIZURE. ADDRESS AT THAT TIME AND OTHER RECORD INFORMATION
INDICATES THIS IS PROBABLY SUBJECT.

~~RUBY CARPENTER~~, EX-SECOND WIFE OF SUBJECT'S FATHER,
LOCATED, INTERVIEWED, AT QUINCY ADVISED FATHER'S TRUE NAME
IS JAMES GERALD RAY, AKA JERRY, AND RESIDED AUGUST, NINETEEN
SIXTY ONE TO AUGUST, NINETEEN SIXTY THREE AT RURAL ROUTE ONE,
CLARENCE, MISSOURI, AFTER WHICH HE MOVED TO PRESENT RESIDENCE
CENTER, MISSOURI. HE RESIDED IN ST. LOUIS FROM NINETEEN
FIFTY TWO THROUGH NINETEEN SIXTY ONE AT FOUR ONE FOUR NINE
WEST PINE. SUBJECT RESIDED WITH FATHER APPROXIMATELY
NINETEEN FIFTY NINE AT FOUR ONE FOUR NINE WEST PINE STREET
DURING WHICH TIME HE WORKED AS BAKER AT UNKNOWN COMMERCIAL

- 1 - Springfield (44-561)
- 1 - Memphis (AM)
- 1 - Birmingham (AM)
- 1 - Omaha (AM)
- ① - Kansas City (AM)

DTS/sar
(5)

44-760-504

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[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

SI 44-561

BAKERY IN ST. LOUIS. ON OCCASIONS SUBJECT RESIDED WITH MOTHER, ONE NINE ONE THREE HICKORY STREET, ST. LOUIS AND ALSO HAD ROOM IN ST. LOUIS, ADDRESS UNKNOWN. RUBY HAS NOT SEEN SUBJECT SINCE NINETEEN SIXTY ONE AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE UNKNOWN TO HER. ACCORDING TO RUBY, SUBJECT NEVER MARRIED, WAS CLOSER TO BROTHERS, JERRY AND JOHN, THAN TO ANYONE ELSE. SINCE LEARNING OF SUBJECT'S INVOLVEMENT IN MURKIN, RUBY HAS TALKED TO HIS FATHER AT CENTER, MISSOURI, ON APRIL TWENTY ONE LAST, AT WHICH TIME HE ADVISED HE DID NOT KNOW SUBJECT'S WHEREABOUTS AND HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH HIM. RUBY TALKED TO SUBJECT'S SISTER, MELBA MARIE RYAN, QUINCY, ILLINOIS, AND MELBA LIKEWISE INDICATED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING WHEREABOUTS. RUBY BELIEVES SOMETIME DURING EARLY NINETEEN FORTIES SUBJECT'S FATHER RESIDED GALESBURG, ILLINOIS, WHERE EMPLOYED AS SWITCHMAN FOR CB & Q RAILROAD. SHE PROMISED TO COOPERATE AND REPORT SUBJECT IF LOCATED.

RECORDS, QUINCY COMPRESSOR, QUINCY, ILLINOIS, INDICATE SUBJECT EMPLOYED AUGUST SIX, NINETEEN FIFTY ONE, THROUGH

SI 44-561

SEPTEMBER FOUR, NINETEEN FIFTY ONE, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

NO

ONE LOCATED WHO RECALLS. RECORDS INDICATE PRIOR EMPLOYMENT
AVERY OR ARVEY CORPORATION, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, AS LABORER
FOR ONE YEAR AND NEO PRODUCE COMPANY, CHICAGO, FOUR MONTHS,
DATES NOT SHOWN.

RECORDS, SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD NUMBER ONE,
QUINCY, SHOW SUBJECT REGISTERED APRIL THIRTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY
NINE, AT WHICH TIME OCCUPATION STUDENT, AMERICAN TELEVISION
SCHOOL, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

GEORGE PARSONS (PROTECT IDENTITY), SOCIAL WORKER, QUINCY,
WHO TOOK CARE OF SISTER, MELBA, DURING NINETEEN FIFTIES,
ADVISED SUBJECT CLOSEST TO BROTHERS, JOHN AND JERRY, AND HE
IS CERTAIN THEY WOULD PROTECT HIM.

HAZEL HAMILTON, CASE WORKER, CATHOLIC CHARITIES, QUINCY,
ILLINOIS, ADVISED FAMILY RESIDED DES MOINES, IOWA, SHORT
PERIOD OF TIME NINETEEN FORTY TWO TO NINETEEN FORTY THREE
AFTER WHICH MOVED TO QUINCY, ILLINOIS. PRIOR TO DES MOINES
RESIDENCE, FAMILY LEFT EWING, MISSOURI.

SI 44-561

ADAMS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT RECORDS INDICATE WHEN SUBJECT ARRESTED ALTON, ILLINOIS, AUGUST TWENTY, NINETEEN FIFTY NINE ON CHARGE ARMED ROBBERY HE HAD ACCOMPLICE, JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN. THESE RECORDS ALSO INDICATE SUBJECT'S FATHER AS JERRY RAYNES, RESIDED ONE SEVEN TWO SEVEN SOUTH ELEVENTH STREET, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, JANUARY TWENTY EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTY. PRIOR RESIDENCE FOUR ONE FOUR NINE WEST PINE STREET, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, OCTOBER SEVEN, NINETEEN FIFTY EIGHT. RECORDS ALSO INDICATE MOTHER AS LUCILLE RYAN RESIDED ONE ONE THREE FIVE SOUTH TENTH, APARTMENT EIGHT, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, AS OF OCTOBER SEVEN, NINETEEN FIFTY EIGHT, AND ONE NINE ONE THREE HICKORY STREET, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, AUGUST NINE, NINETEEN FIFTY NINE. THESE RECORDS SHOW CHILDREN MELBA, CAROLE, AND FRANKLIN, WHO ARE SISTERS AND BROTHER OF SUBJECT, ALL BORN LEWIS COUNTY, MISSOURI. RECORDS FURTHER INDICATE FATHER EMPLOYED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS BY JACK RANDOLPH, J & R AUTO SALES, FIVE NINE ZERO ONE SOUTH BROADWAY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

SI ONE SIX FIVE SIX DASH C WHO IS ACQUAINTED WITH ASSOCIATE WALTER T. RIFE WORKING FULL TIME ON THIS CASE AND

F B I

Date: _____

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

SI 44-561

IN DAILY CONTACT WITH HIS ASSOCIATES, QUINCY, ILLINOIS.

ST. LOUIS ATTEMPT TO LOCATE COMMERCIAL BAKERY WHICH EMPLOYED SUBJECT APPROXIMATELY NINETEEN FIFTY NINE AS BAKER. CHECK RECORDS; SET FORTH LEADS. CHECK RECORDS AMERICAN TELEVISION SCHOOL CONCERNING SUBJECT'S ATTENDANCE THERE APRIL THIRTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY NINE. ASCERTAIN RESIDENCE DATA. IDENTIFY ASSOCIATES. CONDUCT NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATIONS RESIDENCES ADDRESSES SHOWN YOUR TERRITORY AT ST. LOUIS. APPROPRIATE INQUIRY J & R AUTO SALES AND AT LEWIS COUNTY, MISSOURI.

BALTIMORE UTILIZE [REDACTED] INFORMATION FURNISHED ABOVE.

OMAHA INITIATE INQUIRIES DES MOINES, IOWA, CONCERNING PRIOR RESIDENCE OF FAMILY THERE APPROXIMATELY NINETEEN FORTY TWO TO NINETEEN FORTY THREE, NOTING FATHER WAS EMPLOYED CB & Q RAILROAD, ALTHOUGH SUBJECT WOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY TEENAGER DURING RESIDENCE YOUR DIVISION.

CHICAGO CHECK RECORDS AVERY OR ARVEY CORPORATION AND NEO PRODUCE COMPANY FOR BACKGROUND DATA.

- 5 -

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

SI 44-561

BUREAU, FILE SPRINGFIELD DIVISION INDICATES JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT FBI NUMBER EIGHT TWO ONE SEVEN THREE THREE WITH EXTENSIVE RECORD INCLUDING MURDER, ARMED ROBBERY, PAROLE VIOLATOR. BUREAU REQUESTED TO FURNISH SPRINGFIELD AND INTERESTED OFFICES CURRENT IDENTIFICATION RECORD FOR JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN, FBI NUMBER EIGHT TWO ONE SEVEN THREE THREE TO ASSIST IN LOCATING FOR INTERVIEW.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING SPRINGFIELD AT GALESBURG, ALTON, QUINCY BASED ON ABOVE.

COPIES MAILED MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, OMAHA, AND KANSAS CITY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) (P)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN

Re: NORM PERRY, look-a-like.

Re Alexandria telephone call to WFO, 4/24/68.

On 4/24/68, SA R. STEVEN POLACHEK contacted Miss HANNAH FORD, Supervisor, Pan American Airlines, 16th and K Streets, N.W., WDC, regarding NORM PERRY, who had been a passenger aboard Delta flight number 106 from Atlanta to WDC on 4/6/68. PERRY had a stopover at Dulles Airport, Virginia, and then continued on to London, England, on a Pan American flight.

Miss FORD advised that it would take two days for her to obtain the Pan American record on PERRY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

- ③ - Bureau
- 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)
- 2 - Richmond (44-657)
- ② - Kansas City
- 2 - Memphis
- 1 - WFO

RSP:bah
(12)

AIRTEL

44-760-505

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[Signature]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

WFO 44-703

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will contact Miss HANNAH FORD,
Pan American Airlines, WDC on 4/26/68, re information concern-
ing NORM PERRY.

F B I

Date: 4/27/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
 (Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
 (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) - 11:39
 MEMPHIS - 11:41
 CHICAGO - 11:49
 ST. LOUIS - 12:06 PM

FROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN.

RE KANSAS CITY TEL APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST.

INTERVIEW WITH BREAD TRUCK DRIVER FOR MSP ALFRED BURKHARDT REVEALS BREAD TRUCK HE WAS DRIVING ON APRIL TWENTYTHREE SIXTYSEVEN IN WHICH SUBJECT REPORTEDLY HIDING BEING DRIVEN TO ~~MISSOURI~~ MISSOURI STATE PRISON FARM ATTACHED TO PENITENTIARY CALL THE RENZ FARM NOT THE CHURCH FARM AS REPORTED BY PENITENTIARY RECORDS. THIS FARM IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES NORTH OF THE MAIN PENITENTIARY.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT KANSAS CITY IN REFERENCED COMMUNICATION AND IN SUMMARY AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS DATED APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST, DESCRIBED THIS PRISON FARM AS CHURCH FARM. IT HAS NOW BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT IS THE RENZ FARM. COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH BURKHARDT BEING SUBMITTED THIS DATE BY AIRTEL.

RBH/rl
 (1)
 Approved: [Signature]
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11:39 A MPer [Signature]

Howe -
 44-760-506

FBI KAN CITY

1250PM URGENT 4-27-68 KOB

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY, AND TAMPA
FROM HOUSTON (44-1509)

MURKIN; CR

RE TAMPA TEL TODAY

GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, SALESMAN, PAT LAPE MOBIL HOMES,
THREE SEVEN ONE TWO TELEPHONE ROAD, HOUSTON, INTERVIEWED
APRIL TWENTY SIX AND ADVISED JAMES EARL RAY UNKNOWN TO HIM
BY NAME OR PHOTO. RUSSELL WAS INMATE AT MO. STATE PEN DURING
PERIOD RAY WAS INCARCERATED. RUSSELL RELEASED IN SIXTY SIX
AND CAME TO HOUSTON FROM ST. LOUIS SIX MONTHS AGO. RUSSELL
SERVED TIME FOR BURGLARY. RUSSELL ESTIMATED FOUR THOUSAND
FIVE HUNDRED INMATES AT MISSOURI STATE PEN. NAME NEIL EGAR
AEBY NOT KNOWN TO HIM. AEBY WAS INMATE FRIEND OF RAY AND
INTERVIEWED BY HOUSTON, APRIL TWENTY FIVE, LAST.

END

KAM

FBI KAN CITY

44-760-507

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FBI KAN CITY

FBI LOS ANG

10-10PM URGENT 4-26-68 REF

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740),
ATLANTA (44-2386), NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, SAN ANTONIO,
EL PASO (157-186) AND KANSAS CITY
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574) 2P

MURKIN ✓

RE TELEPHONE BOOTHS ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES.

JAMES EARL RAY RESIDED IN HOLLYWOOD AREA LOS ANGELES FROM
NOVEMBER NINETEEN, SIXTY SEVEN, THROUGH MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTY
EIGHT APPROXIMATELY. NOVEMBER NINETEEN UNTIL APPROXIMATELY
JANUARY TWENTY RESIDED NEAR ST. FRANCIS HOTEL AND JANUARY TWENTY
ONE TO MARCH SEVENTEEN RESIDED THERE. TOLL NUMBERS FROM
TELEPHONE BOOTHS AT THE HOTEL ARE BEING ANALYZED FOR ANY
POSSIBLE CALLS BY SUBJECT WHILE IN LOS ANGELES AREA. FOLLOWING
NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO DATE.

DALLAS -

DECEMBER THIRTY ONE, SIXTY SEVEN, DALLAS, SIX NINETEEN PM,
THREE SEVEN FOUR DASH TWO EIGHT FIVE EIGHT.

DECEMBER TWENTY SEVEN, SIXTY SEVEN, HENDERSON, EIGHT
TWENTY FIVE PM, SIX FIVE SEVEN DASH TWO SIX FIVE THREE.

END PAGE ONE

44-760-508

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LA 44-1574

JANUARY NINE, SIXTY EIGHT, EL PASO, SEVEN TWENTY SIX PM,
SEVEN SEVEN TWO DASH TWO SEVEN ONE ONE.

ST. LOUIS -

JANUARY TWENTY, SIXTY EIGHT, ST. LOUIS, THREE FIFTY SEVEN PM,
THREE SIX ONE DASH NINE SIX ZERO ONE.

JANUARY TWO, SIXTY EIGHT, OVERLAND, NINE FORTY SEVEN PM,
FOUR TWO THREE DASH TWO THREE FOUR EIGHT.

NEW ORLEANS -

DECEMBER TWENTY TWO, SIXTY SEVEN, NEW ORLEANS, SEVEN FORTY
EIGHT PM, FIVE TWO THREE DASH ZERO NINE THREE ZERO.

SAN ANTONIO -

FEBRUARY TWENTY NINE, SIXTY EIGHT, SAN ANTONIO, TWELVE
TWENTY SEVEN PM, TWO TWO SEVEN DASH EIGHT ZERO SEVEN EIGHT.
TICKET REFLECTS CALLER RUSSELL JOHNSON.

EACH OFFICE SHOULD ESTABLISH IDENTITY OF SUBSCRIBER AND
IDENTITY OF CALLER AND ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE GAINED
CONCERNING RAY IF HE MADE ANY OF THESE CALLS.

END

DJB

FBI KAN CITY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

FROM : SA ROBERT S. WATSON (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO Memphis)

DATE: 4/27/68

EDDIE SCRUGGS, 1846 North 7th, Kansas City, Kansas, was interviewed concerning the man named GARY CHARLES whom he has employed for the past three days. SCRUGGS had previously advised that he though CHARLES resembled sketches he had seen in the paper regarding JAMES EARL RAY. Mr. SCRUGGS was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and SCRUGGS advised that his employee, CHARLES, was not the person whose photograph he had seen. Interviewing Agent observed GARY CHARLES and determined that CHARLES not JAMES EARL RAY. The only background information SCRUGGS had available on CHARLES was the following:

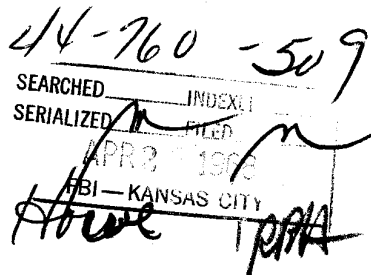
Soc. Sec. No.	
Race	White
Sex	Male
Hair	Curly, red
Height	5'7"
Weight	140 pounds
Age	Mid-20s

SCRUGGS advised that he wanted to get more background information from CHARLES and furnish it to the FBI.



5010-108-01

RSW/rl
(3)



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

FBI KAN CITY

3:04PM URGENT 4-27-68 JLL

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) KANSAS CITY
(44-760), ST. LOUIS (44-775), SPRINGFIELD.
FROM LITTLE ROCK (157-1215)

MURKIN CR

RE ST. LOUIS TEL TO DIRECTOR APRIL TWENTY SIX LAST.

BENNY KALEB PINKSTON, LOCATED THIS DATE AT COUNTY JAIL,
FORREST CITY, ARK. WHERE HE IS SERVING THIRTY DAY SENTENCE FOR DRUNK
AND DISTURBING PEACE. PINKSTON ADVISED THAT HE WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED
IN MURDER OF DR. KING AND WAS IN JAIL AT FORREST CITY, ARK. WHEN
MURDER OCCURED. STATED DID NOT RECALL EVER THREATENING DR. KING'S LIFE,
HOWEVER, DID NOT BELIEVE HIS OBJECTIVES OF RACIAL MIXING.

PINKSTON ADVISED THAT WHEN HE WAS RELEASED FROM JAIL IN ST.
LOUIS, MARCH THIRTEEN LAST. HE PROCEEDED TO CAIRO, ILL. AND CONTACTED
HIS ATTORNEY DAVID LANSDEND. HE TRAVELED FROM CAIRO TO FORREST CITY
WHERE HE ARRIVED ABOUT APRIL ONE LAST AND WHERE HE HAS RESIDED SINCE

PINKSTON STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN CONFINED TO SEVERAL MENTAL
INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING ILLINOIS STATE HOSPITAL, VANDALIA, ILL., IN
SIXTY THREE AND ADVISED HE IS A DISABLED VETERAN AND HAS HAD MENTAL
END PAGE ONE

44-760-510

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Love *RBH*

PAGE TWO

LR 157-1215

PROBELMS SINCE HE CAME OUT OF THE U. S. ARMY FORTY SEVEN.

PINKSTON FURNISHED FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION; BORN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FORREST CITY, ARK., FIVE FEET FIVE, ONE FORTY LBS.,
BROWN EYES, BLACK HAIR, MEDIUM BUILD, COMPLEXION DARK, WEARS
GOATEE, THIRD GRADE EDUCATION, MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. ARMY,
FORTY FIVE TO FORTY SEVEN, HONORABLE DISCHARGE, ASN THREE EIGHT
FIVE ZERO FIVE NINE ONE NINE, ARREST RECORD, ADMITS NUMEROUS
ARREST FOR DRUNK AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT BUT NO FELONY ARRESTS.

DELMAR CAMPBELL, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE, FORREST CITY,
ARK., ADVISED THIS DATE PINKSTON WAS ARRESTED APRIL THREE SIXTY
EIGHT FOR DRUNK AND DISTRUBING PEACE, FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS
AND SENTENCED THIRTY DAYS IN JAIL. STATED PINKSTON IS MENTALLY
INCOMPETENT BUT HARMLESS.

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED REGARDING PINKSTON.

END

KAM

FBI KAN CITY

4/26/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, CHICAGO

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) -P-

RE: MURKIN
CR

Re BH tel to Bureau 4/11/68 at 6:37 p.m., setting forth information regarding a stop notice for JOHN E. WILLARD, BH tel to Bureau, 4/11/68 at 6:30 p.m., setting forth results of check with W. M. GARDNER, Manager, Retail Credit Co., Birmingham, Alabama, concerning one J. D. WILLARD, and AT tel to Bureau, 4/15/68 at 6:15 p.m. setting forth information re A. M. TENNISON, JR. of National Life and Accident Insurance Co., Nashville, Tennessee.

On 4/24/68, Mr. A. M. TENNISON, JR., Assistant Auditor, General Accounting Division, National Life and Accident Insurance Company, Nashville, Tennessee, advised SA HENDERSON HILLIN, JR. that he had searched all available records of his company and could find no information concerning a J. D. WILLARD as a former employee of the company or anyone about whom the National Life and Accident Insurance Company had made any effort to locate. He advised that he had located a record for JOHN E. WILLARD, a former agent with the National Life and Accident Insurance Company in the Chicago South Central District. His record

Airtel 2 - Chicago
1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Info)
Teletype 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
1 - Kansas City (Info)
A.M. 2 - Memphis
A.M.S.D. HH/vtp
Spec. Del. (?)
Reg. Mail
Registered

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KJ

ME 44-1987

contained the following information:

JOHN E. WILLARD, certificate number 81056, service number 37145, was employed in the Chicago, Illinois South Central District as an agent from July 13, 1964 to January 8, 1965. WILLARD left the company and owed the company \$498.85 in collected premium funds which were not turned in. Thereafter the company made numerous efforts to collect this money from him and began efforts to locate him for contact in 1966. On October 27, 1966, the company put out a broadcast of disappearance for JOHN E. WILLARD and distributed this to various credit agencies throughout the United States. The Chicago, Illinois Credit Bureau reported to the National Life and Accident Insurance Company thereafter that they had determined that WILLARD was last known to be residing at 2564 South Blue Island Avenue, Chicago, and had previously been employed by the Gateway Transport Company.

A former address of 5202 South Maplewood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, was indicated. WILLARD is a white male, born [redacted], 5'11", 203 pounds, and is married to IRENE JOY WILLARD, born [redacted]. The Chicago Credit Bureau reported that they were divorced or separated. Born to this union were three children, JOHN, JAMIE and DANNY.

Mr. TENNISON stated that this was a regular occurrence in that insurance agents would work for a period of time and quit owing the company money, and an effort would be made to locate them. He advised that this stop notice has been distributed throughout the United States and to this date WILLARD has not been located by the company and no restitution on these funds made.

LEADS:

CHICAGO DIVISION

Although the subject in this case has been identified, Chicago might desire to utilize information contained above covering lead set forth in referenced communication.

A & D.

4/25/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

MURKIN

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL APR. TWENTYFOUR, LAST.

INQUIRY OF BOCA RATON CLUB, BOCA RATON, FLA., APR. TWENTYFOUR, LAST, REFLECTS WILLIAM RAYMOND STEKLY EMPLOYED AS HOUSE MAN APR. THREE TO APR. NINETEEN, LAST. STEKLY LEFT APR. NINETEEN, LAST GIVING FORWARDING ADDRESS IN CARE OF WANDA JEAN STEKLY, LUPIN LANE, CARMEL VALLEY, CALIF. STEKLY'S SUPERVISOR AT BOCA RATON CLUB STATED STEKLY DOES NOT RESEMBLE SUBJECT'S PHOTO AND STEKLY WAS DEFINITELY WORKING AT BOCA RATON CLUB ON APR. THREE TO APRIL NINETEEN, LAST.

①-Kansas City (AM)
1-San Francisco (173-65) (AM)
1-Miami
RS/mev
(3)

44-760-512

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F B I

Date: April 25, 1968

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, Aka. -
FUGITIVE;
MURKIN
CR; UFAC - ROBBERY

OO: ME

Reference Cincinnati teletype to Director and auxiliary offices, dated 4/20/68, and Cleveland teletype to Director and auxiliary offices, dated 4/21/68.

Investigation Concerning MILLIE MARIE HUFF and WILLIE CORNETT, Big Rock, Kentucky.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

No lead set forth to contact AUGGIE HUFF at Kingsport, Tennessee. Lead withheld until determination made as to the individual MANCEL VERNON FAYNE referred to in the 4/20/68, teletype.

On 4/21/68, WILLIE and VIVIAN CORNETT, Big Rock, Kentucky, advised that they are not at all familiar with

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Birmingham
- ② - Kansas City (88-9449)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Cleveland
- 2 - Cincinnati
- 2 - Louisville

RCL:pab
(15)

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[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

LS 44-947

the subject and stated subject is not related to them

CORNETT advised MILLIE MARIE PAYNE, nee HUFF, is their niece but they are unaware of her location. They advised they are unaware of the location of MILLIE MARIE PAYNE'S mother, GOLDIE HUFF. CORNETT stated he knew of no relative on either side of them family having the last name RAY.

CORNETT advised PETE HUFF lives in Ohio at an unknown location and AUGGIE HUFF resides in Kingsport, Tennessee, exact location unknown.

The following relatives of MILLIE MARIE PAYNE were contacted as to possible relationship to JAMES EARL RAY or knowledge of RAY. All advised they are unfamiliar and not related:

~~WILSON CORNETT~~
~~Big Rock, Kentucky~~
(uncle of MILLIE MARIE PAYNE).

~~BENTLEY HUFF~~
~~Big Rock, Kentucky~~
(brother of MILLIE MARIE PAYNE).

~~CORBIN HUFF~~
~~Brother of CLAUDE HUFF~~
brother of MILLIE MARIE PAYNE.

~~MILFORD CORNETT~~
~~Big Rock, Kentucky~~
(cousin).

~~ANNA LENE CORNETT~~
~~Big Rock, Kentucky~~
(cousin).

~~ELMER CORNETT~~
~~Big Rock, Kentucky~~
(cousin).

LS 44-947

KEN CORNETT
~~Big Rock, Kentucky~~
(cousin).

On 4/21/68, LORETTA and JOHN RAY, Big Laurel, Kentucky, advised that they are the only RAY family in Laurel County and are not related nor are they familiar with the subject.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4-26-68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, MIAMI, AND HOUSTON

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN.

RE MIAMI TEL THREE ZERO TWO P.M., APRIL TWENTYSIX.

REFERENCE MIAMI TEL SETS FORTH INFO RECEIVED FROM PAUL ALVIN LAIL, FORMER MISSOURI STATE PEN INMATE. OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH INTERVIEW OF LAIL IS STATEMENT THAT HE FELT RAY MIGHT GO TO PLACE ABOUT SIZE OF HOUSTON, TEXAS. SINCE NEIL ABEY ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN RESIDENT OF HOUSTON AREA, REQUEST MIAMI REINTERVIEW LAIL TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD ANY REASON FOR PICKING OUT CITY SIZE OF HOUSTON, OR IF HE HAS INFO SUGGESTING RAY MAY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ABEY OR ANYONE ELSE IN HOUSTON. AM COPIES TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY.

A & D.

P.

END

RGJ:BN

(4)

CC: 1 - ATLANTA (AM)
1 - BIRMINGHAM (AM)
1 - KANSAS CITY (AM)

44-760-514

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Howe 193H

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PLAINTEXT

AIRTEL

URGENT

TO : DIRECTOR (44-38861) SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) SAC, ATLANTA
(44-2386)
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)

MURKIN

RE WFO TEL TO DIRECTOR, CHICAGO, MINNEAPOLIS AND PHILADELPHIA,
APRIL TWENTY-FOUR LAST; WFO TEL TO DIRECTOR, CHICAGO, MINNEAPOLIS,
PHILADELPHIA AND ST. LOUIS, APRIL TWENTY-FOUR LAST AND ST.
LOUIS TEL TO DIRECTOR, CHICAGO AND MEMPHIS, INSTANT DATE.

~~MORT ROYSTING~~, ATTORNEY OF VA REGIONAL OFFICE, CHICAGO,
^{SUBJECT'S}
ADVISED TODAY VA CLAIM FILE NUMBER SEVEN SIX SIX ONE THREE
FOUR ZERO, INACTIVE SINCE MARCH FIFTEEN, FIFTY-FIVE AND
RETIRED TO FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER, CHICAGO, AND SUBSEQUENTLY
FORWARDED TO VA RECORD PROCESSING CENTER, FOUR THREE ZERO ZERO
GOODFELLOW BOULEVARD, BUILDING ONE ZERO FOUR E, ST. LOUIS,
MISSOURI.

~~BILL CIRONE~~, ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION, VA REGIONAL OFFICE,
CHICAGO, ADVISED TODAY THAT INACTIVE REHABILITATION AND
EDUCATION FOLDERS INCLUDING RAY'S, WERE DESTROYED APPROXIMATELY
TWO YEARS AGO.

AM COPIES TO KANSAS CITY AND WFO.

- ① - Kansas City (AM)
- 1 - WFO (AM)

JWS:cms
(3)

44-760-515

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PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND SACS, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374)

MURKIN.

REMYTEL, APRIL TWENTYFOUR LAST, CONCERNING EARL
EVERET RAY, UNCLE OF JAMES EARL RAY.

COPY OF NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CERTIFICATE
OF DEATH OBTAINED AND SIGNATURE WHICH APPEARS TO BE NORMAN
J. ROBERTS IS ACTUALLY SIGNATURE OF THOMAS J. ROBERTS, TWO
FOUR ZERO ZERO MAIN STREET, BUFFALO, NY.

RECORDS OF BUFFALO RETAIL MERCHANTS CREDIT BUREAU,
BUFFALO, NY, CONTAIN RECORDS FOR EARL RAY WHO SHOWED
RESIDENCE IN NINETEEN FIFTYSIX OF FOUR SEVEN SIX FRANKLIN
STREET, WHICH RESIDENCE WAS TORN DOWN IN NINETEEN SIXTY.
PREVIOUS RESIDENCE FOUR THREE NINE CHERRY STREET, QUINCY,

1 - Chicago (44-1114) (Info) (AM)
① - Kansas City (Info) (AM)

RGE:bab
(3)

44-760-516

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Lowell

BU 44-374

PAGE TWO

ILLINOIS. EMPLOYMENT BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL IN NINETEEN FIFTYSIX. BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL UNABLE TO FIND ANY EMPLOYMENT RECORD. PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT SHOWN AS ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, QUINCY. CREDIT BUREAU FILE INACTIVE SINCE NINETEEN FIFTYSIX.

BUFFALO CREDIT BUREAU CONTAINS REPORT FROM QUINCY CREDIT BUREAU WHICH SHOWED THAT IN JULY NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE, EARL RAY PAID FIFTEEN DOLLAR FINE ON CHARGE OF ASSAULTING YVONNE MC GINLEY. ALSO SHOWED RAY IN MENARD PRISON AS OF MAY NINETEEN FIFTYONE ARISING OUT OF AN ASSAULT CHARGE FOR WHICH HE WAS SENTENCED TO THREE TO TEN YEARS IN SEPTEMBER NINETEEN FORTYEIGHT.

NO OTHER INFORMATION OF VALUE IN FILE.

AM CCS TO CHICAGO AND KANSAS CITY.

JAMES EARL RAY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

FBI KAN CITY

FBI SANDIEGO

6-09 PM URGENT 4-25-68 ATJ

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), KANSAS CITY (44-760) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN DIEGO (44-387)

MURKIN

RE SUSPECT: GERALD B. GERLT.

RE KC TELETYPE TO BUREAU, APRIL TWENTY FOUR LAST.

DOROTHY MARSHALL, EL CAJON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT, EL
CAJON CENTRAL INDEX OF STUDENTS IN THAT DISTRICT, ADVISED THERE
ARE NINETEEN GRADE SCHOOLS, EACH HAVING ITS OWN STUDENT RECORDS.

KANSAS CITY, ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC SCHOOL TO
WHICH RICHARD LEE WARNER'S RECORDS WERE FORWARDED.

END

DJB

FBI KAN CITY

44-760-517

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Howe *PRD*

United States District Court
FOR THE

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

JAMES EARL RAY

Commissioner's Docket No. 1

Case No. 316

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION of

U.S.C. Title 18

Section 1073

BEFORE W. C. Sheley

Name of Commissioner

Jefferson City, Mo.

Address of Commissioner

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

That on or about April 23, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri

in the

Western District of Missouri

Attest: A true copy
W. C. Sheley
U.S. Commissioner

(1) JAMES EARL RAY

did⁽²⁾ unlawfully flee from the State of Missouri to avoid confinement in the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri where he was confined and serving a sentence of 20 years for robbery.

And the complainant states that this complaint is based on 1. Ray disappeared from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo. on April 23, 1967. 2. He has not been located in the penitentiary and bulletings to all law enforcement agencies in Missouri has not disclosed his whereabouts. 3. Ray is not a native of Missouri, and has never known to be gainfully occupied in Missouri. 4. Since his escape has been reported being outside of Missouri. 5. Information developed by Captain Danton Steele, MSP, and MAJOR BERNARD POIRY, MSP, who investigated the disappearance resulted in information from fellow inmates of RAY that he intended to escape and thereafter flee from Missouri. This information confided to these officers by inmates whose identities could not be disclosed.

And the complainant further states that he believes that HAROLD SWENSON, Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Mo. Major Bernard Poiry, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Mo. Captain Danton Steele, " " " " " "

are material witnesses in relation to this charge.

Special Agent, FBI

April 24, 1968

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence,

Signature of Complainant.

Official Title.

United States Commissioner.

(1) Insert name of accused.

(2) Insert statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged.

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Luedershoff | *1/m*

U.S. COMMISSIONER

VS0001: V 2400 002A

~~AMENDED - FULL PAGE~~Commissioner's
Warrant of Arrest

United States District Court

FOR THE

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Central Division

Commissioner's Docket No. 1Case No. 316

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

JAMES EARL RAY

Attest: A true copy

W. S. Shiley
U.S. Commissioner

WARRANT OF ARREST

To any U.S. Marshal his deputies or any other authorized officerYou are hereby commanded to arrest James Earl Ray, and bring him
here insert name of defendant or descriptionforthwith before the nearest available United States Commissioner to answer to a complaint charging him
with unlawfully flee from the State of Missouri to avoid confinement in
here describe offense charged in complaint
the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri where he was
confined and serving a sentence of 20 years for robbery.in violation of U.S.C. Title 18, Section 1073Date April 24,, 19 68.

United States Commissioner.

1. Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received _____, 19 _____ at _____, and executed by arrest of.

at _____ on _____, 19 _____.

Name.

Title.

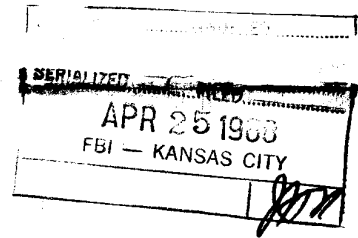
Date

District of _____

, 19 _____.

By _____, Deputy

•



CONFIDENTIAL

APR 25 1968

4/26/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)
MURKIN
(OO-Memphis)

Re Memphis telephone call 4/25/68 requesting summary of pertinent parts of investigation, Kansas City area.

Since determining that ERIC STARVO GAULT identical with JAMES EARL RAY, most of the pertinent parts of investigation in the Kansas City Division consists of interviewing prison officials, fellow inmates, and reviewing records at Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Mo.

RENE
MSP contains an average of 1,200 inmates. JAMES E. RAY was serving a 20-year sentence there for robbery, first, and operating motor vehicle without permission. He was received at MSP 3/17/60. He reportedly escaped 4/23/67. It is believed he hid in a box delivering bread from the main prison to the ~~MSP Church Farm~~, a dairy farm located ~~eight~~ FIVE miles north of the main prison in an isolated area. There are approximately 250 to 300 prisoners at this farm. Subject's brother, JOHN RAY, St. Louis, Mo., visited him nine times during the period of his incarceration, the last time being 4/22/67. His only other visitor was another brother, JERRY W. RAY, Wheeling, Ill., who visited him five times during the same period.

Generally, the interviews with fellow inmates and prison officials revealed subject to be a "loner", and was called the "hide-out guy", because he would stay hidden within

3-Bureau
2-Memphis
②-Kansas City
RBH:lib
(7)

[Handwritten signature]

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[Handwritten initials: SAC, WA]

KC 44-740

the confines of MSP for a matter of days at a time.

Subject reportedly used amphetamines and barbituates while in prison. He reportedly injected them in his veins by use of a syringe and needle. Fellow prisoners stated he had a difficult time doing this because of small veins.

RAY preferred to cell alone at the prison, was very quiet, and made few friends. The majority of those that knew him felt he was incapable of murdering Dr. KING. Reports conflict as to any homosexual activity on the part of subject. It was stated he did read "girlie" books and even engaged in selling and renting books at the MSP. He reportedly was "very tight" with his money, and used it mainly to support his drug habit.

During his period of incarceration he received numerous money orders, averaging approximately \$25.00 a piece. Most of these were sent by the two brothers, mentioned above.

Reports conflict on his anti-Negro sentiments, however, prior to his serving time in the MSP, he was incarcerated at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Ks. (USPL) from 1955 until 1958. On release report from USPL, dated April, 1958, it stated "On 9/12/57 RAY was approved for our honor farm, but was never actually transferred to such assignment due to the fact he did not feel he could live in honor farm dormitories because they are integrated. Due to this fact, he was never placed under such status. He was assigned to bakery where he remained until released."

In MSP, RAY always worked in the kitchen or bakery.

One fellow inmate, MSP, stated that RAY had talked of previously working in the lumber industry in Oregon, and especially enjoyed the Rogue River area. Another fellow inmate stated RAY liked to tinker with mechanical things, and liked to repair radios.

Information was received that subject had made previous attempts to escape from MSP, but each time was unsuccessful. On one occasion, the ladder placed against the prison wall broke as he attempted to climb it, and on a second occasion, the rope he was using failed to support him and he fell, injuring his arm.

KC 44-760

Because of his attempts to escape, he was given a psychiatric evaluation at the MSP, and this report, dated 10/24/66 reveals that he has no physical disease or defect which requires treatment at this time. His memory is unimpaired for both recent and remote events; his speech is coherent, and there are no hallucinations or delusions. He appears somewhat tense and anxious at times, showed some mild depression, but not of psychotic proportions. He has good verbal assessment of reality, but in the past he has used poor judgment. Psychological tests indicate he has an IQ of 105, which places him within the average range of intellectual functioning. Tests also showed some degree of depression but no evidence of a psychosis. He was diagnosed as having a sociopathic personality, anti-social type, with anxiety and depressive features, but has no mental disease or defect within the meaning of Section 552.010, Missouri State Code.

GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, former Top Ten, also former escapee from the MSP, who was located in Canada and is currently incarcerated at MSP, advised that RAY associated with all the St. Louis inmates at the MSP; appeared normal in all associations, but would be "trying to make a buck where he could." EDMONDSON stated all the inmates, MSP, are familiar with procedure to get Canadian passports which are easy to come by, since all that is required to secure same in Montreal is birth certificate, baptismal certificate, plus statement by a "guarantor" and \$5.00. EDMONDSON said most baptismal records have a source in the Ste. Justine Parrish and contact is made to obtain same through "floaters" in the Rue Notre Dame area and there is a pipeline in Montreal.

Another fellow inmate stated he did not believe RAY would go to Mexico or leave the U. S. during his escape. This inmate also stated that RAY was very nervous from use of drugs, which caused him to have a bad stomach and this resulted in RAY's having to quit smoking.

Handwriting samples of subject were obtained from the MSP and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory, which resolved that the "GALT" writings considered together and the specimen from MSP, their #K171, can be identified as having been prepared by the same individual.

They further stated because of limited material and lack of comparable letters and letter combinations, it could

KC 44-760

not be determined whether the "HARVEY LOWMYER" signature on the K-72 gun invoice was prepared by JAMES E. RAY. Additional handwriting samples are being obtained from the MSP and will be forwarded to the FBI Laboratory.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

44-760-520

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R. Ayers

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

2

3740 Belway Jr 1-9881
(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,

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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

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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

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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.

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Atlanta teletype summary to Bureau, 4/24/68.

Enclosed for Bureau are three copies of insert reflecting interview with LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA.

One copy of above insert being furnished to Miami and Memphis for information. Two copies of insert furnished to St. Louis and San Diego. Six copies of insert furnished to Kansas City.

In addition to leads previously set out in retel, the following offices are requested to conduct the following investigation:

LEADSKANSAS CITY

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
- ⑥ - Kansas City (Enc. 6)
- 1 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Miami (Enc. 1)
- 2 - San Diego (Enc. 2)
- 2 - St. Louis (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Atlanta

JTB:lcc ADDITIONAL COPIES SENT
(17)

CASE AGENT *4/29/68*

44-760-521

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Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per *W/end*