

KC 44-760

for any information he may have regarding subject at residence of his mother, Mrs. MILDRED WADE, 2150 East Cottage, St. Louis, Mo.

KANSAS CITY

AT WAYNESVILLE, MISSOURI

Will contact Mr. and Mrs. BEN F. WADE, Route 2, in an attempt to locate HAROLD WADE to interview him regarding subject.

AT WICHITA, KANSAS

Will interview Mrs. ALENE WADE, 2531 North Minneapolis, in an attempt to locate JAMES A. WADE in order that he may be interviewed regarding subject.

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Will review records, Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department, #EX45492 and #98630, in an attempt to determine whereabouts of DENNIS WADE FONTENOT so that he may be interviewed regarding whereabouts of subject.

ARMED & DANGEROUS.

4/29/68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

137-4750

MURKIN

KANSAS CITY HAS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THE AVAILABILITY OF A LIVE INFORMANT WHO CAN BE USED IN A FIELD DIVISION OTHER THAN KANSAS CITY. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT KANSAS CITY AND ST. LOUIS CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY AND MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BUREAU REGARDING HAVING THIS INFORMANT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SUBJECT'S BROTHER, JOHN LARRY RAY, WHO OPERATES A TAVERN AT ST. LOUIS. IT IS NOTED JOHN LARRY RAY VISITED THE SUBJECT IN PRISON ON APRIL TWENTY TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN, THE DAY BEFORE THE SUBJECT'S ESCAPE, AND IT IS FELT JOHN LARRY RAY HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY COOPERATIVE.

COMPANIES AT MEMPHIS, TENN., WHICH OPERATE BARGE LINES OR WHICH SERVICE WATER CARRIERS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED FOR INFORMATION RE EMPLOYMENT BY THE SUBJECT UNDER HIS TRUE NAME OR KNOWN ALIASES. INVESTIGATION THUS FAR IS NEGATIVE.

- ① - KANSAS CITY (AM)
1 - ST. LOUIS (AM)

JCH:gmh
(3)

1 copy made
for 137-4750

*await
Chicago
info
RTH*

44-760-610

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Home

PAGE TWO

ME 44-1987

MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING A MURDER INDICTMENT BEFORE A LOCAL GRAND JURY ON OR ABOUT MAY THREE NEXT. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN IF AGENT TESTIMONY WILL BE REQUIRED.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES IN TENNESSEE TO IDENTIFY STOLEN CARS LOCATED IN TENNESSEE WHICH WERE STOLEN IN GEORGIA ON OR ABOUT APRIL FIVE LAST. ALL SUCH LEADS ARE BEING HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY.

NUMEROUS SUSPECTS CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED TO AND ELIMINATED BY BOTH THE MEMPHIS OFFICE AND THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO KANSAS CITY AND ST. LOUIS. P. END.

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

Transmit the following in Code
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND
SACS, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, APR. TWENTYNINE, LAST,
REQUESTING KANSAS CITY'S AND ST. LOUIS' RECOMMENDATION
REGARDING A LIVE INFORMANT IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA.

THIS PCI, LAWRENCE E. WRAY, FBI NO. NINE SIX EIGHT ONE
ZERO FIVE B, WAS A FORMER INMATE IN THE MO. STATE PENITENTIARY
AT THE TIME SUBJECT WAS INCARCERATED THERE.

KANSAS CITY OFFICE RECOMMENDS THIS INDIVIDUAL NOT BE
USED AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN
THE PAST, HE IS CURRENTLY ON PAROLE WITH THE STATE OF MO.,
AND INASMUCH AS HE STATED HE WAS A CELLMATE OF RAY, WHICH
WAS NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY RECORDS. ALSO, CHICAGO'S SOURCE IS
IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO HELP IN THIS MATTER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS (P)

X - KANSAS CITY

RBH:gah

(1)

137-4750

SL-1145A
ME-1147A 44-760-611
WA-1150AApproved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FBA KAN CITY

FBI ATLANTA

923A EDT URGENT 5/2/68 VSC

TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY
AND SPRINGFIELD
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION, MAY ONE, SIXTYEIGHT.

INDIVIDUAL KNOWN TO SOURCES IN HIPPIE AREA OF ATLANTA AND BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT RAY, IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED MAY ONE INSTANT. NAME PAUL SAXON, W/M, AGE FORTYSEVEN, FROM MISS. HE IS PROGRAMMER FOR OXFORD INDUSTRIES, ATLANTA. OTHER SOURCES IN HIPPIE AREA BEING CONTACTED ON REGULAR BASIS AND INVESTIGATION OF NARCOTICS PHASE CONTINUING.

EXPANDED AIRLINES CHECK CONTINUING. NEGATIVE TO DATE.

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ABANDONED HERTZ RED REBEL AUTO AT BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT INDICATES CAR HAD BEEN RENTED AND NOT BELIEVED CONNECTED WITH THIS CASE. HOWEVER, LEAD SET FORTH TO INTERVIEW PERSON WHO RENTED CAR DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE AT LENGTH. HE COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFO.
END PAGE ONE

44-760-612

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

ABANDONED FARM OWNED BY ALLEGED LEADER OF MINUTEMEN IN RURAL AREA CHECKED MAY ONE. NO EVIDENCE OF HUMAN HABITATION OR BEING USED AS HIDE-OUT.

TAXICAB TRIP SHEETS OF PERTINENT PERIODS BEING SCRUTINIZED AND LOGICAL LEADS BEING CHECKED OUT.

CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUALS ADVERTISING CARS FOR SALE IN CLASSIFIED ADS OF ATLANTA NEWSPAPERS CONTINUING, NEGATIVE TO DATE.

INVESTIGATIONS OF ALL STOLEN CARS IN ATLANTA DURING PERTINENT PERIOD, INCLUDING THOSE FURNISHED BY NCIC CONTINUING. NO PERTINENT INFO OBTAINED TO DATE.

COMPLAINTS OF LOOK-A-LIKES BEING RECEIVED ON CONTINUING BASIS AND BEING CHECKED OUT.

PLACES FEATURING COUNTRY MUSIC CHECKED OUT WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

A & D. P

END

PH,M

FBI KAN CITY

@

F B I

Date: 4/29/68

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

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Memphis teletype to Bureau and others dated 4/22/68, requests "receiving offices to contact major law enforcement agencies within their divisions and determine whether or not any armed robberies or burglaries perpetrated in which latents recovered or in which unsub may fit general description of subject RAY."

- LEAD -

THE KANSAS CITY DIVISIONAT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

Inasmuch as numerous small departments in rural areas within St. Louis Division have latent fingerprint work handled by Missouri State Highway Patrol, Kansas City should insure that unidentified latents at MSHP Headquarters are checked against fingerprints of JAMES RAY, FBI Number 405 942 G.

subject armed & dangerous

2 - Kansas City
1 - St. Louis
GMP/ral 1 - *Memphis*
(3)

44-760-613

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	
HOWE	

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

Jeff City

F B I

Date: 4/29/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re NY airtel to Bureau, 4/25/68.

The following investigation was conducted
to identify DONALD J. RAY, 994 South Roys Avenue,
Columbus, Ohio:

Current city and telephone directories list
DONALD J. RAY at 994 South Roys Avenue, wife SUSANNA,
telephone 274-8883, employed as firefighter, City of
Columbus. Directories reviewed 4/26/68.

Mrs. RUTH CLAPROOD, Clerk, Driver's License
Index, OBMV, Columbus, Ohio, advised records show
DONALD J. RAY, 994 South Roys Avenue, was born
[redacted] Columbus, Ohio, is 5'8" tall, weight 158
pounds, has brown hair and brown eyes. His SSN is
[redacted] and he is employed as a firefighter,
City of Columbus.

Mrs. CARLA JACQUES, Credit Bureau of Columbus,
Inc., on 4/26/68 advised from records DONALD JEAN
RAY, wife SUSANNA, 994 South Roys Avenue, Columbus,
Ohio, employed as a firefighter, City of Columbus,
was employed by Pure Oil Company for 10 years. Since
1956 he has been employed as a firefighter. Nothing

3-Bureau (RM) 2-Memphis (RM) 2-Los Angeles (RM)
2-Chicago (RM) ②-Kansas City (RM) 2-New York (RM)
1-Cincinnati

RFM/msw
(14)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe RBH

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

CI 157-1893

derogatory appears in credit records concerning him.

Mrs. KAY NICHOLS, Record Room, Columbus PD, on 4/26/68 advised there is no record there for DONALD J. RAY.

RAY was interviewed 4/26/68. Residence and employment was verified. He has been employed as a firefighter, City of Columbus 12 years. His physical description does not fit that of JAMES EARL RAY, and his facial appearance does not resemble fugitive. He claims to have no relatives who resemble fugitive nor can he furnish any information to assist in locating subject.

No further investigation being taken concerning this person.

4/30/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SAC RICHMOND
FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL APRIL TWENTYNINE LAST.

RE: TELEPHONE BOOTHS, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES.

JAMES EARL RAY RESIDED IN HOLLYWOOD AREA, LOS ANGELES, FROM NOVEMBER NINETEEN, SIXTYSEVEN, THROUGH MARCH SEVENTEEN LAST, APPROXIMATELY. NOVEMBER NINETEEN UNTIL APPROXIMATELY JANUARY TWENTY RESIDED NEAR ST. FRANCIS HOTEL AND JANUARY TWENTYONE TO MARCH SEVENTEEN RESIDED THERE. TOLL NUMBERS FROM TELEPHONE BOOTHS AT THE HOTEL BEING ANALYZED FOR POSSIBLE CALLS BY SUBJECT. TOLL CALL MARCH TWO LAST, WDC, SEVEN FIFTYONE PM, THREE THREE SEVEN DASH FIVE THREE ONE FIVE. LISTED TO COLONIAL PARKING, INC., TWO ONE FOUR ZERO PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, WDC. CALL RECEIVED AT TEN FORTYSEVEN PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME BY ANSWERING SERVICE

- 2 - Bureau
 - 2 - Teletype Unit
 - 1 - Los Angeles (Air Mail)
 - 1 - Memphis (Air Mail)
 - ① - Kansas City (Air Mail)
 - 2 - WFO
- RDA:tab
(9)

44-760-615

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe RBR

WFO 44-703

PAGE TWO

FOR COLONIAL. CALL FROM PETER HOLDEN, TWO TWO ZERO ZERO MILLS ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, LOS ANGELES PHONE TWO ONE THREE DASH SIX SIX ZERO DASH ZERO FIVE ONE NINE, RESIDENCE SEVEN SIX EIGHT DASH NINE SEVEN SEVEN FOUR.

HOLDEN LEFT NO MESSAGE BUT SAID HE WOULD CALL BACK AT ONE AM. NO SECOND CALL RECEIVED BY COLONIAL'S ANSWERING SERVICE. COLONIAL BELIEVES HOLDEN CALLED ABOUT HIS ONE HALF TON BLACK PICKUP CHEVROLET TRUCK WITH WHITE TOP AND VIRGINIA LICENSE TAGS. TRUCK PLACED IN STORAGE TEN FOURTEEN SIXTYSEVEN; TAKEN OUT OF STORAGE MARCH TWENTYSEVEN LAST. PLACED IN STORAGE ON MARCH TWENTYEIGHT LAST. REMOVED FROM STORAGE ON APRIL EIGHT LAST. AREA CONTACT LISTED AS AUTO DRIVENAY, JOHN RICHMOND, TELEPHONE THREE FOUR SEVEN DASH THREE FOUR FOUR FOUR. TWO MEN NAMES NOT KNOWN CAME TO COLONIAL STORAGE LOT ON APRIL FOUR, FIVE OR SIX LAST TO REMOVE SOME SPRAY PAINT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FROM TRUCK IN STORAGE TO A BEIGE ONE HALF TON TRUCK WITH RACKS FOR CARRYING LADDERS AND VIRGINIA LICENSE TAGS. ONE MAN WHOSE

WFO 44-703
PAGE THREE

FATHER MAY OWN TRUCK IN STORAGE SAID DRIVEWAY SERVICE WANTED TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS TO DRIVE TRUCK IN STORAGE TO CALIFORNIA, DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE TWENTYFIVE YEARS TO THIRTY YEARS, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, ONE SEVENTYFIVE TO ONE EIGHTYFIVE POUNDS, RUDDY COMPLEXION, BLOND HAIR, STOCKY BUILD WEARING ONE PIECE LIGHT TAN COVERALL. OTHER MAN WITH HIM DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE THIRTY TO THIRTYTHREE YEARS OLD, SIX FEET ONE INCH, ONE NINETY POUNDS WEARING DARK GABARDINE JACKET. BOTH HAD SOUTHERN ACCENTS AND WORE EXPENSIVE SHOES LIKE ALLIGATOR STYLE LOAFERS WITH MEDIUM POINT. THEY HAD PICKUP TRUCK TUNED UP FOR TRIP TO CALIFORNIA. ON APRIL EIGHT LAST ANOTHER MAN DROVE TO COLONIAL PARKING LOT IN MUSTANG AND PLACED PACKAGE BELIEVED TO HAVE CONTAINED CLOTHES AND A TWENTYTWO CALIBER RIFLE IN CAB OF TRUCK IN STORAGE. THESE WERE PLACED BEHIND DRIVER'S SEAT. A BOX OF AMMUNITION WAS PLACED IN GLOVE COMPARTMENT OF TRUCK. HE SAID HE WAS A DRIVER FOR DRIVEAWAY AND WAS GOING TO DO SOME HUNTING WHILE EN ROUTE WITH THE TRUCK TO CALIFORNIA. HE IS DESCRIBED AS WHITE

WFO 44-703

PAGE FOUR

MALE IN LATE THIRTY'S, SIX FEET ONE TO TWO INCHES, ONE SEVENTY-FIVE TO TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, BROWN HAIR WITH GRAY AND REDDISH TINT. AFTER PUTTING ABOVE ITEMS IN TRUCK HE DROVE AWAY IN MUSTANG AND RETURNED IN A TAXI TO DRIVE PICKUP TRUCK AWAY. WFO INDICES NEGATIVE RE PETER HOLDEN.

IN VIEW OF PERIODS TRUCK USED BY HOLDEN, RICHMOND FURTHER DETERMINE HOLDEN'S ACTIVITY.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO LOS ANGELES, MEMPHIS AND KANSAS CITY.

4/30/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

ReWFOat to DL dated 4/25/68 and records of Postal Inspector.

On 4/30/68, Mr. MARLIN BROWN, Mail Director, Mail Loss and Depredations Division, Postal Inspectors, U. S. Post Office Department, WDC, advised SA ROBERT W. DAWSON that a memo in the files reflects that available records concerning RAY's conviction in 1955, for postal violations was made available to FBI, KC, Mo., by Postal Inspector in Charge, DONALDSON, at Kansas City.

In view of the above, no further action is being taken by WFO at WDC concerning above lead. It is to be noted that Mr. BROWN advised that records concerning postal violations are maintained at Post Office Headquarters for five years only.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

- 2 - Memphis
- 2 - Dallas (44-2649) (AM)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-10673) (AM)
- ② - Kansas City (44-760) (AM)
- 1 - WFO

RWD:hs
(9)

AIRTEL

44-760-616

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	
Howe / RBA	

F B I

Date: 4/30/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plain text or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

MURKIN.

RE SUSPECT ROBERT DALE PORTER.

RE OKLAHOMA CITY TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, OMAHA, MEMPHIS,
EL PASO, ETC., APRIL TWENTYNINE, LAST.

RECORDS CHECKED AT THE CLARK HOTEL, VAN HORN, TEXAS,
APRIL THIRTY, INSTANT, REFLECT ROBERT DALE PORTER, SAME
DESCRIPTION AS FURNISHED IN RETEL, CAME ON FOOT TO THE
HOTEL AT ABOUT SEVEN P.M., APRIL THREE, LAST, AND RENTED
ROOM SEVEN PAYING TWO DOLLARS FOR ROOM AS PORTER STATED TO
CLERK THAT TWO DOLLARS WAS ALL THE MONEY HE HAD. PORTER
SPENT NIGHT IN ROOM SEVEN GIVING ADDRESS OF ONE ZERO THREE
AND ONE HALF EAST BALMER, WAVERLY, IOWA. PORTER MADE NO

- 1 - El Paso
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (AM)
- ① - Kansas City (44-760) (AM)
- 1 - Oklahoma City (44-686) (AM)
- 1 - Omaha (44-310) (AM)
- 1 - St. Louis (AM)

RHP/mep

(6)

Approved: RHP
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

44-760-617

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	
Howe	EMT

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

TELEPHONE CALLS AT HOTEL AND DID NOT INQUIRE AS TO WHERE HE COULD MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL AWAY FROM HOTEL. PORTER WAS ALONE AND HAD NO VISITORS WHILE AT HOTEL. PORTER LEFT HOTEL AT ABOUT TEN A.M. ON FOOT APRIL FOUR, LAST, DIRECTION OF TRAVEL NOT STATED TO HOTEL PERSONNEL AND UNKNOWN.

IN ABSENCE OF PHOTO OF PORTER AND SINCE THE PORTER WHO STAYED AT HOTEL IN VAN HORN FITS DESCRIPTION FURNISHED OF PORTER IN RETEL, NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY EL PASO RE PORTER.

BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY, OKLAHOMA CITY, OMAHA, ST. LOUIS ADVISED AIR MAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

FROM : SA PAUL J. WALTERSCHEID

SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: ME

DATE: 4/30/68

On 4/27/68 Sgt RICHARD BAIRD, Junction City, Ks, PD, advised one JOHNNIE RHODES was taken to Geary County Community Hospital this date after store personnel at Duckwall Store advised he appeared ill and was mumbling that someone was after him and trying to kill him. RHODES indicated he had been working in Oregon for the past year, was now enroute to his home in Alabama, and had arrived in Junction City by bus this date. Sgt BAIRD advised that in his opinion RHODES bore some physical resemblance to JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G, and RHODES agreed to be fingerprinted. Hospital authorities advised RHODES mental condition appeared unstable and he would be retained for several days. NCIC check on RHODES was negative.

On 4/27/68 RHODES was interviewed at Geary Co. Community Hospital and following description obtained:

Name	JOHNNIE RHODES
Race	White
Sex	Male
Birth	[redacted] Florence, Ala.
Ht	5'11"
Wt	130 lbs
Bld	Slender
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Brown, balding in front
Complexion	Pallid
S&M	Tattoo of scroll and "Mother" outside left forearm, small scar near center of forehead, flesh colored mole above right hip.
Marital status	Separated
HA	902 S. Chestnut St, Florence, Ala.
Occupation	Laborer
Relative	Half-sister - Mrs FLORA NEEL HUNT, Douglas, Ala.
Military service	US Navy 1946 to 1949

(1)



5010-108-02

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

44-760-618

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe Kott

KC 44-760

Due to RHODES' apparent mental condition it was not possible to interview him thoroughly. It was noted that only ppints of physical resemblance with RAY appeared to be a small scar on the forehead and a rather long pointed nose.

RHODES fingerprints were compared with those of RAY set out in I.O. 4182, and no similiarities were noted. Partial classification by Chief GERALD PONTON, JCPD, was negative. RHODES' prints are being sent to the Identification Division by JCPD.

A-20

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

TELETYPE

URGENT

Via _____

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN

RECORDS, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AS REVIEWED
THIS DATE, REVEAL THE FOLLOWING TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE RELEASED
DURING THE PAST YEAR FROM THAT INSTITUTION:

EARL KNIGHT, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, MSP NUMBER SIX
FIVE ZERO SEVEN EIGHT, PAROLED. SISTER LISTED AS SUE MC SPARIN,
TWO SEVEN EIGHT WEST CALIFORNIA AVENUE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

ALSO, IVAN UNDERWOOD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, MSP
NUMBER ONE TWO NINE TWO SEVEN. WIFE MRS. KATHLEEN UNDERWOOD,
EIGHT FIVE SEVEN BINGHAM, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

MEMPHIS OFFICE ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE ABOVE TWO
INDIVIDUALS FOR ANY INFORMATION THEY MAY HAVE REGARDING SUBJECT
IN THIS MATTER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

RBH:jab
(1) *jab*

44-760-619

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

W A 218 p
me 223 p

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 1, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-561775 JK

Specimens received 4/29/68

K211 Various documents comprising thirty-four pieces of paper bearing purported known handwriting and hand printing of JAMES EARL RAY, obtained from his file at Missouri State Penitentiary

Result of examination:

It was concluded that the questioned hand printing appearing on items attributed to Eric S. Galt was prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, K171 and K211.

Because of the presence of characteristics which cannot be explained on the basis of the known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, it cannot be definitely determined whether the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature on Q72 was prepared by this individual; however, significant handwriting similarities were noted.

Specimen K211 has been photographed and is temporarily retained.

44-760-620

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 1, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. D-561775 JK

Examination requested by: Kansas City

Reference: Airtel 4/27/68

Examination requested: Document

Remarks:

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

- (2) - Kansas City (44-760) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report) 44-760/62
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) Enclosure (Lab report)
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2286) Enclosure (Lab report)
- 1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosure (Lab report)

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

[Signature]

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

4/30/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

ReKctel, 4/29/68.

On 4/30/68, Inspector M. SNELL, Beaumont PD advised their records reflect WILLIAM THOMAS JACOBS last handled at Jefferson County, 3/25/65 when he was sentenced to two years, Texas Prison System, Huntsville Unit, DPS No. 183303.

LEAD:

HOUSTON

AT BRYAN, TEXAS

Will at Huntsville Unit check records of WILLIAM THOMAS JACOBS and ascertain present location for purpose of interview.

3 - Bureau
① - Kansas City (Info)
2 - Houston 1 - Memphis (info)
JSW/sjm
(6)

44-760-627

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe

FBI KAN CITY

WASH DC

356PM URGENT 5/2/68 WPK

TO BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) MEMPHIS (44-1987) KANSAS CITY SPRINGFIELD
AND ST. LOUIS

DIRECTOR (44-38861) 2P

MURKIN

44-760-623

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe *1/21*
Cy. as *Per*
Jeff. City

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE MAY ONE LAST, NO COPIES
ST. LOUIS, CONCERNING INTERVIEW OF JAMES W. BROWN AND
INFORMATION HE FURNISHED REGARDING RAY'S COMMENT THAT
COOLEY (PHONETIC) OR COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION WOULD PAY TEN
THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HAVE KING DEAD. FOR INFORMATION OF
ST. LOUIS, BROWN WAS INMATE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FROM
APRIL NINETEEN SIXTY THROUGH JUNE NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE AND
ACQUAINTED WITH JAMES EARL RAY WHILE IN PRISON.

BIRMINGHAM REINTERVIEW BROWN THOROUGHLY REGARDING
RAY'S STATEMENT TO OBTAIN ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO
COOLEY. DETERMINE ANYONE ELSE FAMILIAR WITH THAT STATEMENT
AND IF COOLEY WAS IN OR OUT OF PRISON AT THE TIME. ATTEMPT TO
ESTABLISH WHERE RAY KNEW COOLEY.
END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

ALL OTHER OFFICES WHEN INTERVIEWING RAY'S PRISON
ASSOCIATES, ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY
COOLEY OR INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE OR ELIMINATE
THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO RAY.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

@

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

DATE: 4/30/68

FROM : Edward L. Norris
Security Patrol Clerk

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Sweeney handled 4/30/68

Clarence Worth Sheriff, Hays, Ks. telephonically contacted office and stated a resident of Hays observed am at the Post Office who was looking at poster of Ray, resident then stated this person resembled James Earl Ray very much. He then stated this man got into a light blue 1966 Chevrolet 4-dr. sedan with the right rear hubcap ~~xxx~~ missing. Car had Louisiana license numerals unknown.

Above for information only.

JP
no account used other credit card made purchase called Oct 1967 82.88

3 minutes

44-760-624

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 30 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe

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(2)



5010-108-01

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

DANIELS, WILLIAM R.

5/68

44-760-625

1313 FRANKLIN AVE.,
INDEPENDENCE, MO.

**DO NOT DESTROY
PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

FROM : Eugene N. Thomeczek,
Security Patrol

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/28/68

William R. Daniels, 1313 Franklin Ave., Independence, Mo. CL 2-7660, telephonically contacted this office and furnished the following information as result of TV publicity concerning subject Ray:

Daniels ~~xx~~ was fishing on Missouri River North of Buckner Mo., today.. An individual who he described as WM, Age ~~3~~ early 40's, 5'11", 165-70#, with what "looked like a scar above his eyes, but might have been dirt". This individual was shooting a pistol, possibly a Luger, and also had a shotgun and rifle in his possession. This individual was wearing brown khaki pants and a white tee-shirt and was driving a 1959 Ford, dark color, possibly grey.

Daniels advised that the individual appeared very nervous and was picking up the spent cartridges after he finished shooting.

He believes this individual Ident Ray.

Lead covered by Melton

44-760-625

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Howe *10/24*



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

FBI KAN CITY

FBI SANDIEGO

1 222 PM

URGENT 5-1-68 CND

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

MURKIN

RE SUSPECT GERALD B. GERLT.

RE KANSAS CITY TEL TO BUREAU APRIL TWO NINE LAST.

GERALD BRUCE GERLT, FOUR NINE ONE NORTH FIRST STREET,
EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA, INTERVIEWED APRIL THIRTY LAST AND
ADVISED AS FOLLOWS;

GERLT, HIS WIFE, TWO STEPSONS, AND A DAUGHTER LEFT
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, MARCH THREE ONE LAST ENROUTE CALIFORNIA
ARRIVING LEUCADIA, APRIL THREE LAST AND STAYED AT WOLVERINE
MOTEL APRIL THREE THROUGH NINE LAST, WHICH WAS VERIFIED
THROUGH MOTEL RECORDS.

DURING MONTH OF MARCH LAST GERLT, HIS WIFE, AND TWO
STEPSONS MADE ONE TRIP TO NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN CONNECTION
WITH HIS EMPLOYMENT, JERRY'S NURSERY AND LANDSCAPING COMPANY,
SIX FIVE FOUR ZERO STATE AVENUE, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS.

IT IS GERLT'S RECOLLECTION THEY DEPARTED KANSAS CITY,
KANSAS, MARCH TEN, LAST, STAYING AT THE GREIBERS MOTEL,

END PAGE ONE

Handled 5/1/68
RK

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI — KANSAS CITY	

Wankle
Homesley
RK

PAGE TWO

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, NIGHT OF MARCH TEN. HE LOADED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS OF NURSERY STOCK, MARCH ELEVEN, AND DEPARTED FOR KANSAS CITY, KANSAS STAYING OVERNIGHT AT AN UNRECALLED MOTEL, WEST MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS, MARCH ELEVEN, AND LEAVING EARLY MORNING OF MARCH TWELVE ARRIVING KANSAS CITY APPROXIMATELY EIGHT P.M., NIGHT OF MARCH TWELVE LAST.

GERALD JONES, PART OWNER, JERRY'S NURSERY AND LANDSCAPING COMPANY, CAN VERIFY DATES OF TRIP THROUGH RECORDS.

GERLT RECALLS NO OTHER TRIPS TO TENNESSEE SINCE SIXTYFIVE.

ON MARCH FOURTEEN LAST, HE AND HIS WIFE SALLY WENT TO FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA, WHERE FINAL PROCEEDINGS WERE FILED BY WIFE AGAINST CHARLES WERNER.

GERLT ADVISED RACIST VIEWS OF STEPSON'S CAN BE TRACED TO THEIR FATHER, CHARLES WERNER, ONE NINE ZERO TWO ABBOTT STREET, FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA, WHO HAS TAUGHT THEM TO HATE PERSONS OF NEGRO RACE.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY DISPLAYED GERLT AND COULD FURNISH NO INFO.

DESCRIPTION OF GERLT. WMA, BORN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA, SIX FEET, THREE FOUR ONE
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

POUNDS, BROWN HAIR, BROWN EYES, PARENTS INEZ G. GERLT, NEE FARLOW, MOTHER, RUDY GERLT, FATHER, BOTH RESIDE FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA.

KANSAS CITY CONTACT GERALD JONES AND VERIFY DATES GERLT AND FAMILY IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

MEMPHIS, AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, VERIFY GERLT'S STAY AT GREIBERS MOTEL, MARCH TEN LAST.

END

PAB

FBI KAN CITY

@

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 4/30/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/4-30/68
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED JAMES EARL RAY, aka Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, Jim - FUGITIVE IO # 4182, WF # 442-A; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOE C. HESTER	TYPED BY wp
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

Title marked changed to reflect the subject's true name of JAMES EARL RAY and to reflect additional aliases of the subject.

REFERENCE

Report of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 4/17/68 at Memphis.

-P-

ENCLOSURES

TO CHICAGO AND KANSAS CITY:

One copy of referenced report.

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: 5-Bureau (44-38861) 3-Atlanta (44-2386) 3-Birmingham (44-1740) 3-Chicago (Enc. 1) (44-1114) 1-Jackson 3-Kansas City (44-760) (Enc. 1) 3-Los Angeles (44-1574) 3-Mobile (157-2627) 3-New Orleans 3-St. Louis (44-775) 3-Springfield 5-Memphis (44-1987)		SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED MAY 2 1968 FBI - KANSAS CITY DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

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ME 44-1987

ADMINISTRATIVE

On April 19, 1968, the Washington Field Office initiated a check of files of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, concerning JAMES EARL RAY, and nothing identifiable with RAY was located. A further check is underway at the Washington National Record Center at Suitland, Maryland, in retired passport files.

In order to cover the possibility that subject RAY may have recently been issued a passport and the record thereof had not been received in Washington, Mr. EDWARD STOKEN, Passport Office, sent a teletype message to all passport agencies. The Passport Office in Honolulu was checked telephonically with negative results. On April 19, 1968, Mr. ROBERT D. JOHNSON, Acting Director, Passport Office, telephonically advised SA KENNETH HASER that all passport agencies had teletyped Washington that their records are negative concerning RAY.

Mr. JOHNSON further advised that he had issued instructions whereby the Duty Officer of the Passport Office was alerted concerning RAY and instructions were made to all passport agencies to refer immediately to the nearest FBI office any information concerning RAY and his intended travel.

B
COVER PAGE

ME 44-1987

The period of this report precedes the last period date of the last report, as this report contains investigation which for reasons of brevity were not included in the last report.

Leads for other offices continue to be set out by more expeditious means than by report, and it would serve no purpose to list such leads in this report.

It should be noted that in the interviews with persons who were at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, on the night of 4/4/68 at about the time of the murder, they report seeing a white Mustang parked almost in front of Jim's Grill. The owner of this Mustang has not been located and has not voluntarily come forth. It is not believed that this Mustang is pertinent to this investigation and should not be confused with the Mustang that was parked just south of Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, in which car it is believed the subject fled from the scene. The crime scene diagram on page 4 of referenced Memphis report indicates the positions, or what is believed to be the approximate positions, of the two white Mustangs as mentioned above.

INFORMANTS

All offices have been requested to maintain contact in this matter with criminal, security, and racial informants.

The Memphis Office has maintained contact with informants, none of whom have been able to furnish any positive information regarding the subject or his whereabouts.

LEAD

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will continue efforts to locate the subject.

C*
COVER PAGE

SERO, HARRY

5/68

44-760-627p2

(INDEX PAGE 112

WARD, LUCRETIA B. (MRS) 5/68

44-760-627p2

(INDEX PAGE 26)

DAVIS, GEORGIA M. (MRS) 5/68

44-760-627p2

(INDEX PAGE 20

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

Report of: **SA JOE C. HESTER**
Date: **April 30, 1968**

Office: **Memphis**Field Office File No.: **ME 44-1987**Bureau File No.: **44-38861**

Title: **JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM**

Character: **CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY**

Synopsis: Photographs of subject RAY exhibited to persons at rooming house, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis; to persons at Rebel Motel, Memphis, and to clerk at Oliver Rexall Drug Store, Whitehaven, Tennessee, without effecting a positive identification. Salesman at York Arms, Memphis, who sold binoculars indicated he could not positively identify 1968 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as binocular purchaser but believes that photograph is identical with purchaser. Additional interviews with occupants of Lorraine Motel set out, including interviews with Mrs. GEORGIA M. DAVIS and Mrs. LUCRETIA B. WARD, who describe activities immediately prior to murder. Persons who were at Jim's Grill, 418 South Main Street, Memphis, on 4/4/68 interviewed. Information regarding emergency room treatment of victim KING set forth. Information regarding Alabama driver's license and automobile registration in the name of ERIC STARVO GALT set forth. Former manager, Continental Dance Studio, New Orleans, Louisiana, located and unable to recall that subject attended this school in New Orleans. Laboratory findings set forth regarding evidence located at Memphis. Latent fingerprints found on the Remington Model 760 rifle, on the telescopic sight, on the binoculars, on the newspaper, on the after-shave lotion bottle, and on the Schlitz beer can have all been identified with the fingerprints of the subject. HARRY SERO, former jailmate at Missouri State Penitentiary, interviewed. Additional persons who resided Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, located and interviewed, with negative results. Memphis City Engineer measured distance from where shot fired to where victim struck as 207 feet. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. EXHIBITION OF SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPHS	4
A. Rooming House, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis	4
B. Rebel Motel, Memphis	12
C. Oliver Rexall Drug Store, Whitehaven, Tennessee	15
D. York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis	17
II. INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS AT OR NEAR LORRAINE MOTEL, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE	19
A. Mrs. GEORGIA M. DAVIS	20
B. Mrs. LUCRETIA B. WARD	26
III. INVESTIGATION AT JIM'S GRILL, 418 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MEMPHIS	47
IV. MEDICAL INFORMATION RE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING	70
A. Emergency Room Summary	71
B. Description of Photographs Taken of the Victim	74
V. ALABAMA DRIVER'S LICENSE AND AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION FOR ERIC STARVO GALT	75
A. Registration for 1966 Ford Mustang	76
B. Driver's License Issued to ERIC STARVO GALT	77
VI. INFORMATION CONCERNING CONTINENTAL DANCE STUDIO, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA	78

BLACK, O. L. - (MRS)

5/68

44-760-627p3

(INDEX PAGE 116

FRANKLIN, THOMAS D.

5/68

44-760-627p3

(INDEX PAGE 118

HOWELL, LAWRENCE, C.

5/68

44-760-627p3

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WELDON, JAMES E. (MRS) 5/68

44-760-627p3

(INDEX PAGE 118

TABLE OF CONTENTS, continued

	<u>Page</u>
VII. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND LATENT FINGERPRINTS . .	83
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS	111
A. HARRY SERO, Former Jailmate at Missouri State Penitentiary	112
B. Persons Who Resided Economy Rooming House, Birmingham, Alabama	114
1. LAWRENCE C. HOWELL	114
2. Mrs. O. L. BLACK	116
3. Mrs. JAMES E. WELDON	118
4. THOMAS D. FRANKLIN	118
C. MEASUREMENT OF DISTANCE FROM ROOMING HOUSE TO LORRAINE MOTEL BALCONY	119

ME 44-1987

DETAILS:

PERSONS AT ROOMING HOUSE,
422½ SOUTH MAIN STREET,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. CHARLIE QUITMAN STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. STEPHENS said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of RAY were not familiar to him, but he advised the 1966 profile photograph of RAY appearing in Wanted Flyer 442-A, April 19, 1968, and Identification Order 4182 dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER. STEPHENS said he only saw the man's profile in the boarding house and as a result could only say the profile photograph of RAY in 1966 looked very much like the above mentioned man in Room 5B.

STEPHENS said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread either at the rooming house or anywhere else.

5

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. WILLIAM CHARLES ANSCHUTZ, Apartment 4B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him and that he would not be able to identify the man he saw running down the hall on April 4, 1968, in the late afternoon after hearing the noise which he thought was a shot, as the man was covering his face with his arm as he ran down the hall.

6

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987
by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mrs. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, Room No. 2, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. She said she had looked at the bedspread on April 4, 1968, when it was displayed to her after being recovered by the Memphis Police. She said the bedspread did not come from her rooming house and in fact she had never seen one like it before in her life. Mrs. BREWER said none of the men in the photographs shown her were familiar to her. She further advised that she did not believe she would recognize the man using the name JOHN WILLARD if he were to "walk up and say hello to me right now." She said she did not look at the man called WILLARD "squarely in the face" and as a result, does not think she will be able to identify him.

7

On April 24, 1968 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. BERTIE L. REEVES, Apartment 3, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him and that he had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it.

8

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mr. FRANK BREWER, Room No. 2, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he never saw the man registered as JOHN WILLARD at the boarding house.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mr. BREWER, and he advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to him. He also stated he had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it.

9

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 25, 1968

Mrs. CHARLIE STEPHENS, Apartment 6B, 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised she never saw the man registered into Room 5B on April 4, 1968, as she was sick in bed that entire week.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1955, 1960, and 1966, and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Mrs. STEPHENS, and she advised none of the men in the photographs were familiar to her. She also stated she had never seen the bedspread or any bedspread similar to it before.

10

On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON:jap Date dictated 4/25/68

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