

X AIRTEL

6/27/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Knoxville airtels to Louisville dated 6/16/77 and 6/21/77.

For information of Bureau and Memphis, referenced communications reflect that on 6/15/77, SANDY WEBB, Assignment Editor, WATE-TV (NBC), Knoxville, Tennessee, received a letter, contents of which are hereinafter set forth verbatim, addressed to "WATE, DAVID R. ELVINDRIN, Channel 6, NBC TV, Knoxville, Tennessee." Said letter is postmarked "Marshes Siding 42631" on June 13, 1977. DAVID R. ELVINDRIN is unknown at WATE-TV, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Louisville indices regarding ELVINDRIN negative.

Following is verbatim transcript of above described letter which was unsigned:

"Dear Sir:

"Just a few lines to say I am sorry but Mr Ray did not kill Dr. King. I was down at Knoxville and overheard a Kubin (Cuban) say he did kill Dr. King. He was drink and tell a woman the story and said he hope King was kill so he could not tell anyone the truth. He want to go back to Kubie and get away from thir so I don't believe Ray did kill anyone. If you had listen at Ray you would know the truth and take all to heart and see. I am a black man and hope you leason (listen) to the fact. So long think you very much."

2 - Bureau  
① - Knoxville (44-696)  
2 - Memphis  
2 - Louisville  
EVA/ses  
(7)

44-696-485

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 30 1977	
FBI - KNOXVILLE	

*Jmr*

LS 44-947

Although above described letter is ambiguous and lacking in specifics, Louisville believes some effort should be made to identify the writer and thereafter interview him concerning any specific information he might possess, UACB.

LEAD:

LOUISVILLE DIVISION:

AT MARSHES SIDING (MC CREARY COUNTY), KENTUCKY:

Attempt to identify author of above anonymous letter, noting author claims to be "black man", thereafter interviewing him to ascertain specifics of allegation.

X

AIRTEL

7/14/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Louisville airtel to Bureau dated 6/27/77.

On 6/30/77, HURSTLE SLAVEN, Postmaster, Marshes Siding, McCreary County, Kentucky, stated that there are no Black families residing in Marshes Siding. He was displayed the writing on the envelope which was sent to WATE-TV, Knoxville, Tennessee and advised he is not familiar with that handwriting.

On 6/30/77, RAYMOND STRUNK, owner, Strunk's Grocery, Marshes Siding, Kentucky, stated that there are no Black families living in Marshes Siding and he has no Black customers. It should be noted that Strunk's Grocery is adjacent to the Marshes Siding Post Office.

On 6/30/77, Captain J. W. STRUNK, McCreary County Police, Whitley City, Kentucky, was contacted and stated there are no Black families residing in McCreary County, Kentucky, or Marshes Siding, Kentucky.

Since investigation has failed to disclose any Black man or family residing in Marshes Siding, McCreary County, Kentucky, no further investigation will be conducted by Louisville.

2 - Bureau  
① - Knoxville (44-696)  
1 - Memphis  
1 - Louisville  
RWM/scs  
(5)

44-696-486

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 18 1977	
FBI - KNOXVILLE	

*[Handwritten signature]*

"How Ray Escaped Prison & who" April 13th 1972  
p. 11

To be released to Public if possible  
L.R. Baines

To whom it may concern,  
I am making this statement on my own  
free will, to try to clear up a matter that  
the public has been kept secret of for nearly  
10 yrs.

That is whether or not, James Earl Ray,  
who was convicted of killing Dr. Martin  
Luther King, had any help in escaping from  
Missouri State Prison or not. & And also  
if rewards were offered inside the prison  
for Kings killing.

I was sent to Mo. State Prison in 1957  
for 12 yrs. during which time I became  
known as a tough guy, because of my own  
escape with James Bradley, in which we  
attacked three prison guards, over powered,  
a guard tower, & took the guard in the tower  
as hostage, and was later captured in the  
Missouri River. We were given 8 additional  
years to serve for this.

Also because of several knife fights &  
running the prison with dope smuggled in we  
both had bad reputations.

Because of our reputations every one knew  
us & we them.

Later James Earl Ray came to the  
prison. He was a quite guy & didn't  
speak much to any one, but it was proved  
he could be trusted. He was not a snitch.

At various times Bradley & I would  
pay Ray to watch for guards while we  
ran a card or dice game in an empty cell.  
On we would use Ray to pass out & dope  
& collect money from it for us.

44-696-487

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
<b>AUG 29 1977</b>	
FBI-KNOXVILLE	
<i>[Signature]</i>	

(7)

All the prison knew Bradley & I escaped over the wall, so it was no surprise when Ray asked us the best ways to get out of the prison. We told him of several ways it could be done, by going over the wall or thru it, including the bread truck way.

Ray was a walk man at that time (walking in the cell block). To escape by the bread truck, he ask for & got a job transfer to the bakery. Later he walk good his escape.

There was no outside help in the escape. The only help he got was from Bradley & myself in telling him how to escape or thru by the window in the loading dock not saying he was in the bread box.

Also the papers says claiming that Ray told his cellmate he would kill King for \$100,000, this is a lie. as is of any word going around for King killing and a reward for it.

His cell mate told these lies to the F.B.I. because they thought by doing so their own sentence would be cut or they would get a parole. His cell mate did not even know he was going to escape because Ray did not trust them, nor did they know King was killed & requested for it, till it came out in the papers. That story got out only because that is what the F.B.I. wanted the public to hear.

While Ray was still out on escape

(3)  
after King was killed, the F.B.I. came  
to the prison to talk to me & to  
Bradley.

I was in solitary at the time for  
breaking into the prison clothes factory & stealing  
a bunch of clothes.

The F.B.I. ask me if I knew where  
Ray was ~~hiding~~ hiding out at, if I  
knew how he escaped, if I could  
tell them anything.

At the time I was under a 25 yr. sentence,  
& I told them I didn't know nothing about nothing,  
cause I would have been tried for aiding in the  
escape.

Bradley who was under sentence of 4 life terms,  
& two yr sentences and a 4 yr. term, also told  
them no.

I did in answer to their question tell them  
that I did not believe Ray killed King.

I said he was set up to look like it  
cause he was an escape & no one would believe  
his story.

I know Ray well & he could not  
kill a stray cat or dog must have taken a  
human life.

I told the F.B.I. 10 yrs. ago  
that & also that I believe Ray did not  
do it, & did put the gun in it, his  
prints were on the gun, but he couldn't  
pull the trigger, some one else had to  
cause knowing Ray, Ray wouldn't have the  
nerve or heart to do so. He just did  
what he was paid for & that was it.

(27)  
went into room + was the guy in it,

The F.B.I did not release any of the facts they found out at the prison, just what would make Ray look bad.

Before I could not say anything because, I was in Mo. doing time, + could be prosecuted for aiding. The same for Bradley.

Or at least, Bradley is dead, he was killed by St. Louis, Police after he made a parole a few years ago. so I'm the only one left that knows besides Ray that he did have help to get out of prison but it was from the prison its self, he got the help, not out side.

What happened out side after the escape I do not know.

John R. Berner  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1977

My Mo. Prison # number was # 72271  
Bradley was # 71844 I believe.



AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
BURLINGTON COUNTY  
MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. 08060

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Post Office Box # 332  
Trenton, New Jersey 08603

Attn: Agt. Buffalo

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (44-2104) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY;  
"MURKIN" ✓  
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: 8/25/77

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau, are two Xerox copies of a letter written by GENE R. BARNES which is self-explanatory. One Xerox copy of this letter is being furnished Alexandria, Knoxville, Memphis and St. Louis Offices for their information.

This letter was furnished to the FBI in Trenton, N.J., by Investigator DONALD V. POWELL, Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, Mt. Holly, N.J., who obtained the letter during an interview with BARNES at Stafford County, Virginia.

Copies of BARNES' letter are being furnished to Memphis and Knoxville who were office of origin in the MURKIN and JAMES EARL RAY case, respectively. Information copy also being furnished St. Louis, Missouri, inasmuch as BRADLEY referred to in BARNES' letter claimed he spent time in Missouri State Prison.

Newark files disclose that BARNES was subject of a Newark ITSP investigation in February, 1977, and subsequently arrested by Virginia State Police during a high-speed chase on 2/8/77, and incarcerated in the Stafford County Jail in Stafford, Virginia.

Alexandria see your file 87-3041.

Newark indices failed to contain any identifiable information concerning JAMES BRADLEY mentioned in BARNES' letter.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
( 1 - "MURKIN")
- 1 - Alexandria (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Knoxville (Enc. 1) *me*
- 1 - St. Louis (Enc. 1) *li*
- 3 - Newark  
(1 - 44-2104)  
(1 - 87-29367)  
(1 - 88-12106)



5010-110 (9)

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

44-696-481

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>AUG 29 1977</b>	
FBI-KNOXVILLE	

NK 44-2104

Newark file regarding "MURKIN" has been destroyed.

Any further investigation in this matter is being left to the discretion of the office of origin in the respective cases.

Newark conducting no further investigation in this matter.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# King' Film Shocking, Gullager Says

By **KEN MINK**  
News-Sentinel Sunday Editor

**BIG RIDGE STATE PARK** — Clu Gullager, well-known TV and movie actor who is in East Tennessee this week to film a guest star role in the new TV series "Young Dan'l Boone," says an upcoming TV special about the last week in the life of Martin Luther King contains some "shocking" facts about the murder.

Gullager plays the role of an FBI agent named Sullivan in the King presentation, which is tentatively titled "King" and is due for six hours of TV time over several days.

"The King story is really going to shake up a lot of people around the country," said Gullager between takes of his "Young Dan'l Boone" filming. "I just hope no one gets killed because of this show . . . there very well could be some violence resulting from this thing."

**GULLAGER SAID** the King series was written and directed by noted Hollywood movie official Abby Mann. "When I first read the King script I asked Abby 'How can you get this on the air?' and he told me 'because it's true.'"

Gullager, who has starred in numerous TV shows and movies (he was the star of the Billy the Kid TV series, was a regular on The Virginian, co-starred in The Last Picture Show, etc.), says he normally shies away from stories dealing with public events.

"But this story is important to America. It really shakes up one of our nation's most respected establishments. NBC would not have bought this had it not had faith in the documentation. I know I certainly would not want to be responsible for anything like this unless I had the proof to back me up."

**GULLAGER DID** not want to be specific about all of the allegations that come from the film, which is being presented as truth and not fiction. There are rumors that the film contends the FBI was involved in helping set up the assassination of the famed black leader at Memphis. "I can't tell you specifics on that," he said, "but let me just say that the film reveals alleged corruption of a devastating proportion in one of our most respected national institutions." He said "a lot of people have applied pressure to try to keep the show off the air."

He said NBC likes the film production so well that they expanded it from a five-hour show to a six-hour show. "I don't know the air dates right now, but Paramount and Filmways are doing the actual production work," he said.

Gullager says popular black actress Cicely Tyson (who gained fame with her portrayal of "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman") plays the role of Coretta King, Martin Luther King's wife. Paul Winfield plays King.

"**THE FILM IS** being shot in Hollywood and Atlanta and other locations," explained Gullager. "It deals primarily with the last week of King's life, with flashbacks to earlier periods."

Gullager says no one plays the role of James Earl Ray, the confessed killer of King and now an inmate of Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros.

"The story leads right up to King's murder and shortly thereafter," said Gullager. "As far as I can remember there is little of Ray in the film. I don't think Abby (Mann) even talked to Ray. He got his documentation elsewhere."

In the Boone series, Gullager portrays a frontier man whose two sons are accused of an injustice by Indians. The issue has to be settled through a lacrosse-like roughhouse Indian game.

"**THEY HAD TO** import 10 stunt men from Hollywood to help shoot the game scenes," said Gullager. "It really gets violent. I'm interested to see how much of it gets by the censor."

The "game" is somewhat like a bar free-for-all, with the last man standing being the winner. "But I guess you could say it's no more violent than foot-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2

Date: 9/30/77  
Edition:  
Author: News-Sentinel  
Editor:  
Title:

**MURKIN**

Character:  
or 44-696  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: KNOX.

Being Investigated 44-690-48

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 14 1977	
FBI-KNOXVILLE	

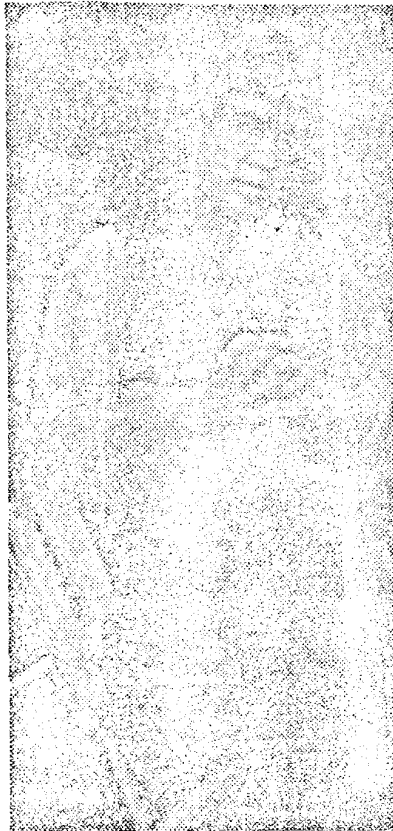
10-14-77 J

ball," laughed Gullager. "It took three days to film that one scene, though."

Gullager, who has been sought after highly during the last few years as his tremendous acting ability has seen him filling a variety of roles, says he has overcome his Southern roles typecasting that dominated his early career.

"I get all kinds of roles now. But typecasting is not really a bad thing, I believe. I teach an acting class in California and I tell my students to try to be typecast as being good in a certain role early in their careers. Being an all-around actor is fine when you're established, but until you get there you get a lot more work by being good at particular-type roles."

After leaving East Tennessee, Gullager is due to move on to Lexington, Ky., to take part in an all-star cast in a remake of the famed "Black Beauty" racing film. Also in the show are such names as Martin Milner, Jack Elam, Forrest Tucker, William Devane, Warren Oates, Farley Granger, etc. It's being largely filmed in the Lexington area and will be shown as a five-consecutive-nights series late this year by NBC.



Gullager on Set of 'Young Dan'l Boone'

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

The following FBI record, NUMBER 405 942 G, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. 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.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 128	February 19, 1946		
Sheriff's Office Los Angeles, California	James Earl Ray #B-119908	October 11, 1949	suspicion of burglary	
Police Department Los Angeles, California	James Earl Ray #139648	October 11, 1949	suspicion 459 Penal Code (burglary)	8 months County Jail suspended; 2 years probation served; first 90 days County Jail; 146 December 30, 1949 Cal29436
Sheriff's Office Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	April 18, 1950	vagrancy	
Police Department Alton, Illinois	James Earl Ray #7514	July 23, 1951	no operator's license - no State License - no City License	released to pay later
Police Department Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #D90696	May 6, 1952	robbery (Gun)	Grand Jury \$3000
Cook County Jail Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #131165	May 9, 1952	robbery	June 13, 1952 sentenced to penitentiary 1 to 2 years
State Penitentiary Joliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #32419	June 13, 1952	robbery	1 to 2 years
State Penitentiary Pontiac, Illinois	James E. Ray #19121	July 7, 1952 in transfer from Joliet	robbery	1 to 2 years March 12, 1954 discharged

44-696-490

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 27 1977	
FBI-KNOXVILLE	

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**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Sheriff's Office Edwardsville, Illinois	James Earl Ray #2840	August 30, 1954	burglary and larceny	
Police Department Hannibal, Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	March 23, 1955	investigation of breaking and entering Post Office	
State Highway Patrol Facon, Missouri	James Earl Ray #B-3376	March 23, 1955	cashing stolen postal money orders	released to Postal Inspector Kansas City, Missouri March 24, 1955
United States Marshal Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #12018	March 28, 1955	forgery United States Postal Money Order	sentenced to 15 months custody of Attorney General
Sheriff's Office Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #29637	March 28, 1955	Forgery - Government	July 7, 1955 3 years and 9 months
United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	July 7, 1955	Post Office Laws Forge Money Orders	3 years and 9 months May 20, 1958 conditional; release March 31, 1959 maximum April 5, 1958 conditional release on charge of Post Office Forgery Post Office Money Orders
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 10, 1959	suspicion of robbery	

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

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 18, 1959	suspicion of robbery stealing and fugitive other authorities	
State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri	Janes Earl Ray #00418	March 17, 1960	"TC" operating motor vehicle without permission of owner robbery first "b/m DDW" (2 charges)	20 years (20, 7, 5, concurrent) April 23, 1967 escaped
State Hospital Number 1 Multon, Missouri	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	September 8, 1966	Patient	
SO Memphis Tenn	James Earl Ray #39728	7-19-68	murder 1st deg	
SO Memphis Tenn	James Earl Ray #39728	7-19-68	Capias-murder 1st and CDW	
SPen Nashville Tenn	James Earl Ray #65477	3-11-69	Murder 1st degree	99 yrs



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

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	<p><b>WANTED BY BUREAU:</b> James Earl Ray, aka James McBride, James Walyon, W. C. Herron, James O'Connor, Jim, for UFAC-Robbery First Fug Index #121426 Bu file #88-41730 O.O. Kansas City inf rec 7-27-67  <b>CAUTION: ARMED AND DANGEROUS Chg Conspiracy</b> Civil rights added Bu-file #44-388861 changed O.O. Memphis changed per BM 4-25-68  <b>NO LONGER WANTED</b> per inf rec 7-19-68</p> <p><b>FLASH BY BUREAU:</b> James Earl Ray aka Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Connor James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim" If any inf or inq rec refer one copy of record to Top Ten Superv Crim Research Sec Div 8 Bu inf rec 6-10-68  <b>(TO REMAIN ACTIVE UNTIL SUBJECT'S DEATH)</b></p>			

**THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI.**

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Possibility of trial keeps him hanging on

**T**V newscaster Chet Huntley had just finished detailing the wrath of a summer storm, spreading death and destruction across Tennessee and near-by states.

And all the while, in Memphis, a storm of another ilk was brewing.

The day broke dark and foreboding over the Lorraine Motel that April 4, 1968. Ensuing actions there would set off shock waves that would leave scores of American cities awash with the debris of human anger.

That evening, shortly after 6 p.m., Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stepped out of room 306 onto the Lorraine Motel balcony for a breath of fresh air. It was to be his last, for across the way an

assassin hidden in the dingy bathroom of a seedy rooming house gunned down King, ending the life of the nation's leading Civil Rights spokesman.

James Earl Ray — acting alone — squeezed the trigger on a powerful .30-06 rifle whose exploding projectile quieted the voice of King, in Memphis to speak in conjunction with a Memphis garbage workers strike.

Ray was guilty.

The evidence said so.

Bookwriters agreed.

The court, and authorities, said there was no question.

Ray himself pleaded guilty and received a 99-year penitentiary sentence. But three days later he changed his plea to not guilty, said he never had anything to do with the murder of King, and asked for a trial by jury.

He's never gotten it.

Almost every day since then he has tried legal maneuvers unsuccessfully to get into a courtroom.

Ten years, a decade, of waiting.

Ray — America's number one convict — spoke of the case freely in an exclusive *Knoxville Journal* interview July 25.

Among his comments in the far-ranging discussion were:

- He expects a trial by the end of this year or early in 1979 on the strength of "a lot of new evidence."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
THE KNOXVILLE  
JOURNAL  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

PAGE   2  

Date: 8/4/78  
Edition: MORNING

Title: James Earl Ray

Character:  
or  
Classification: 44-696  
Submitting Office: KNOX.

44-696-491

*[Handwritten initials]*  
*[Handwritten signature]*  
ASAC *[Handwritten signature]*

ORIGINAL SENT BU  
ON 8-9-78 *[Handwritten initials]*

The FBI has harassed his family since he was charged with the King killing.

• One reason, he stressed there were others, he entered the guilty plea originally was because of pressure to do so or see his father returned to prison.

• Witnesses have now reportedly given his attorney, Mark Lane, signed affidavits placing him outside the time span and away from the rooming house when Dr. King was shot.

• If ever released, he said he would live in a foreign country because he would be "more comfortable" that the U.S. government would not try to return him to prison.

Far more questions exist about the assassination than there are answers.

Is Ray, who steadfastly maintains his innocence, bitter?

"No, not bitter, but I get a little disgusted with all the pretense and the hypocrisy in talk about human rights," said Ray, interviewed in a small guard office bearing only a desk and telephone in Brushy Mountain Penitentiary.

"Even if they had offered me Fort Knox, I should have stayed in Canada," explained Ray who had gone to Canada after escaping in 1967 from a Missouri prison.

Does Ray, now about 50 and after 10 years of trying, ever really believe he will obtain a trial?

"If I do, it will be this year," Ray said, "or in early 1979. I'm confident I'd be cleared. The state knows I'd be acquitted or else I'd have had a trial eight or nine years ago."

He cites two laws on which suits will be filed soon by his attorney, Mark Lane, author of *Rush to Judgment* on the 1963 Kennedy assassination and co-author with comedian Dick Gregory of *Code Name Zorro* about the murder of King.

One law, Ray said, is a statute which says if a motion for a new trial is filed and the judge dies before the 30-day motion time limit elapses, then a new trial is to be automatically granted.

"I filed for a new trial," said Ray, "and three weeks later Judge Battle died. (Judge W. Preston Battle, the presiding judge in the Ray case died of a heart attack March 31, 1969.) And, also, a jury must return a degree of guilt even if a guilty plea is entered."

Ray obviously is pinning his hopes for a new trial on what he said is "a lot of new evidence which hasn't been reported." He remained tight-lipped for the most part on what new evidence is involved, but he did cite a signed affidavit he said his attorney Lane has been given by a Memphis stockbroker, whom he would not identify publicly. Ray said the stockbroker has said he saw Ray in another part of Memphis several blocks from the rooming house when King was shot. Ray said the stockbroker has remained silent all these years because for the man to come forward would have caused him personal embarrassment.

Ray, who rarely permits a smile to break across his face, admits his past indiscretions, and also that he bought the .30-06 rifle found in the rooming house, explaining that the mysterious acquaintance known only as "Raoul" told him to buy the gun. "I bought the wrong kind at first and went back and bought the right one. Sure, I knew it was for something illegal. I thought maybe we were going to sell it in Mexico, but I sure didn't know it was going to be used to kill anyone."

"Raoul met me in a motel April 3, he gave me the address (the rooming house) to take it. April 3 is the last time I saw the gun." Ballistics tests have not conclusively tied the murder slug to the rifle.

Ray said he went to the rooming house first at about 4 p.m. on April 4 to rent a room. "I saw only a lady named Brewer (the landlady). From 4 until about 5:30 p.m. I was running errands."

Where, then, was he at 6:01 p.m. when King was shot?

"I was several blocks away from the rooming house and the Lorraine Motel. I had gone to a tavern where I ate a sandwich, then I went to a service station to get a leak fixed in a tire. They were busy and told me to come back. I was there from about five til until about five after six."

Ray said statements have been obtained from those service station attendants who remembered him being at the station. Ray said he was returning to the motel when he saw the police cars. He said he thought they had found guns or something and left the scene. Ray said he had been used by Raoul to smuggle goods across the border.

"When I heard the reports on the radio that King had been shot and they were looking for a white Mustang, I was somewhere in Mississippi heading for New Orleans. I switched and went to Birmingham, then to Atlanta and then to Canada. The FBI say they traced me to Mexico. I don't know who they were following, but it wasn't me."

Shortly thereafter, U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark made an announcement that the killer had left behind, in the rooming house, considerable physical evidence, including Ray's radio with his prison number, beer cans with his prints on them, binoculars and other items.

On June 8, 1968, two months after the Memphis killing, Ray was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport. He said he had tried to go to a dozen foreign countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Australia, Canada, and even Rhodesia.

Ray claims the state witness, a man named Charles Stephens who said he saw Ray running from the rooming house, signed a statement used by the authorities to return him from England. Ray said a Memphis cab driver named McGraw got a call from Stephens to pick him up at the rooming house and "when he got there Stephens was too drunk to get out of bed."

He told a CBS interviewer the man he saw didn't look anything like me. He identified my old nose. The FBI didn't know I had had my nose altered by plastic surgery. And Grace Walden, with Stephens in the rooming house, identified the man running away as in his 50s. I was in my 30s."

Grace Walden was subsequently in July, 1968, picked up and taken to the Tennessee State Mental Hospital at Bolivar where she remained for 10 years. She is now free.

Arthur J. Hanes Sr. was Ray's lawyer initially, but Ray replaced him with noted Houston attorney Percy Foreman.

Ray said his lawyers were working too closely with "book-writers" and felt that was not in his best interest, so he hired Foreman. He said, however, that

Foreman "made \$11,000" on such activities and after that "he didn't want to go to trial."

Ray said Foreman implied at one time that if he (Ray) did not plead guilty "they would send my father, George Ray, back to the penitentiary."

Ray's father escaped prison in Fort Madison, Iowa, in the 1920s and lived in obscurity until investigation of Ray began in connection with the King case. "That wasn't the only reason (for the plea)," hastened Ray, "but that was one of them."

Ray said his family has been harrassed by authorities since his arrest. "As an example, my brother, John Ray, operated a tavern in St. Louis. In 1970, he was charged with aiding and abetting a bank robbery (driving the getaway car). He was convicted and got 18 years. But the guy who robbed the bank pleaded guilty and got 18 months," said Ray.

John Ray was returned to St. Louis on a pre-release program, but the U.S. Parole Commission rescinded his scheduled parole on the ground that he was suspected of lying in May to a congressional committee investigating the assassination.

If ever freed, Ray said he would likely move to Ireland, or Australia, because he said, "I would feel more comfortable the government would not try as hard then to send me back to prison."

Ray has taken polygraph tests in the past, some he allegedly failed, and some he allegedly passed, including a CIA psychological-stress evaluation in which a voice tape analyzed.

Ray feels if he can obtain FBI documents, files, etc. of the King investigation, it would help to free him in a court of law. But, in a letter to Ray dated July 11, 1978, Clarence F. Lyons Jr., chief of the Judicial and Fiscal Branch, Civil Archives Division, said of Ray's request to obtain the FBI records: "On Jan. 31, 1977, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, ordered that 'within 90 days of the date of the entry of this order, the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall assemble at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. all known copies of the recorded tapes, and transcripts thereof, resulting from the FBI's microphonic surveillance, between 1963 and 1968, of the plaintiff's former president, Martin Luther King Jr.; and all known copies of the tapes, transcripts, and logs resulting from the FBI's telephone wiretapping, between 1963 and 1968, of the plaintiff's offices in Atlanta, Georgia, and New York, New York, the home of Martin Luther King Jr., and places of public accommodation occupied by Martin Luther King Jr.'"

The Court also ordered: "That at the expiration of the said 90 / period, the Federal Bureau of investigation shall deliver to this court under seal an inventory of said tapes and documents and shall deliver said tapes and documents to the custody of the National Archives and Records Service, to be maintained by the Archivist of the United States under seal for a period of fifty (50) years."

Ray, while maintaining his innocence, says he does not know who killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but implied a conspiracy might have been involved.

And in that light, Attorney General Bell earlier this year might have been thinking similar thoughts. He ordered changed a Justice Department report which concluded there was no conspiracy because he didn't think that conclusion was justified.

Ray said he believes his escape from the maximum security Brushy Mountain Penitentiary June 10, 1977, helped his case for garnering a new trial, saying he escaped in efforts to work out a deal for a trial.

The escape sparked Tennessee's biggest manhunt, but Warden Stonney Lane was confident Ray would not escape the bounds of the rugged East Tennessee terrain and he was right. Fifty-four hours later, Ray was captured.

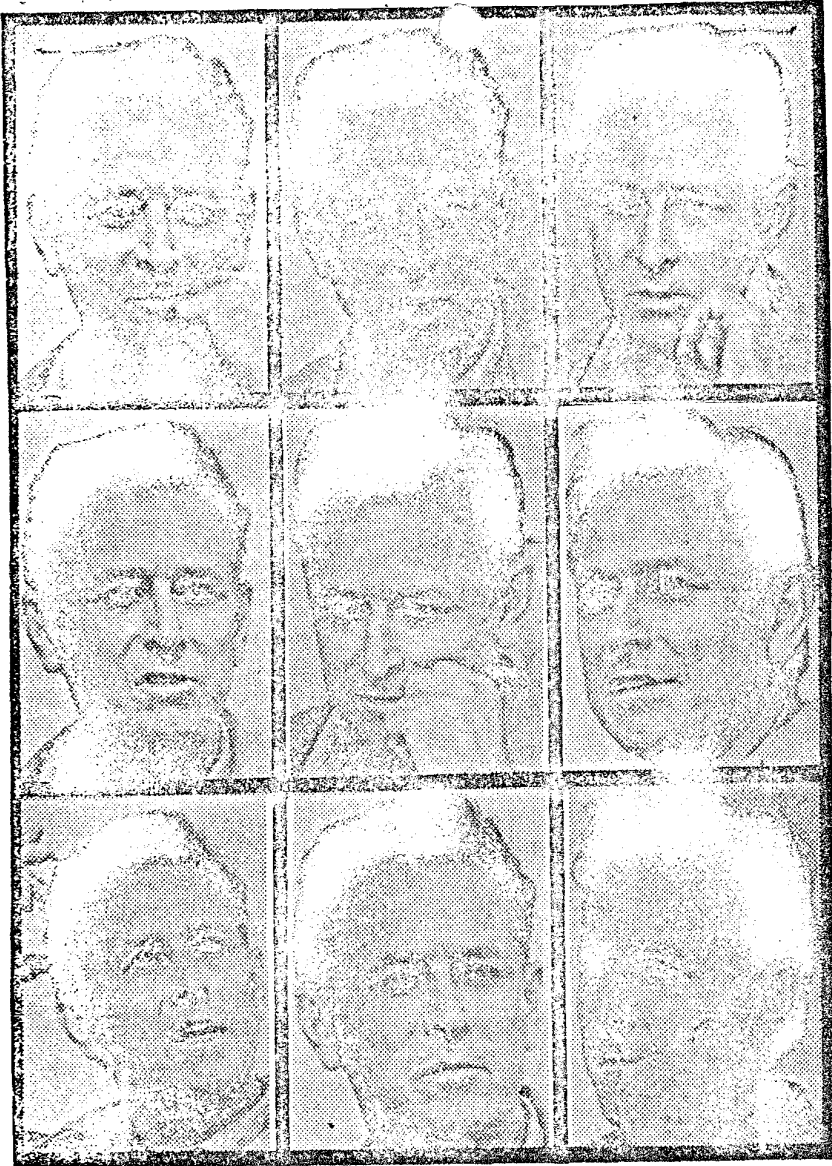
The House of Representatives authorized and funded a select committee to look into the Kennedy and King assassinations in Sept. 1976, and Ray is scheduled to testify before the committee in Washington about August 16. The hearing likely will be televised.

Meanwhile, James Earl Ray, alias John Willard, alias Harvey Lowmyer, alias Paul Bridgman, alias Ramon George Sneyd, alias Eric Starvo Galt sits in his cell in Brushy Mountain Penitentiary.

Waiting.



6  
...I get a little disgusted with all the pretense and hypocrisy in talk about human rights.

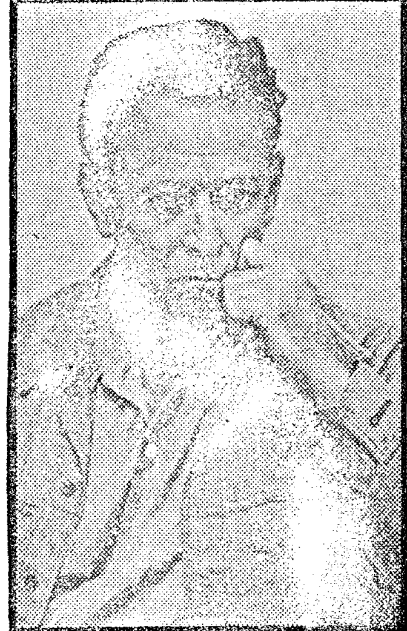


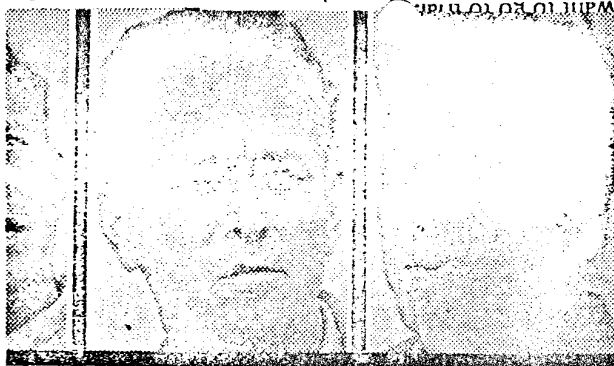
6  
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**Waiting...**

6  
I was several blocks  
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house and the Lorraine  
Motel... 9





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Is Ray, who steadfastly main-  
tains his innocence, bitter?

"No, not bitter, but I get a lit-  
tle disgusted with all the pretense  
and the hypocrisy in talk about  
human rights," said Ray, inter-  
viewed in a small guard office  
bearing only a desk and tele-  
phone in Brushy Mountain Peni-  
tentiary.

"Even if they had offered me  
Fort Knox, I should have stayed in  
Canada," explained Ray who had  
gone to Canada after escaping in  
1967 from a Missouri prison.

Does Ray, now about 50 and  
after 10 years of trying, ever really  
believe he will obtain a trial?

"If I do, it will be this year,"  
Ray said, "or in early 1979. I'm  
confident I'd be cleared. The  
state knows I'd be acquitted or  
else I'd have had a trial eight or  
nine years ago."

He cites two laws on which  
suits will be filed soon by his  
attorney, Mark Lane, author of  
*Rush to Judgment* on the 1963  
Kennedy assassination and co-au-  
thor with comedian Dick Gregory  
of *Code Name Zorro* about the  
murder of King.

One law, Ray said, is a statute  
which says if a motion for a new  
trial is filed and the judge dies  
before the 30-day motion time  
limit elapses, then a new trial is to  
be automatically granted.

"I filed for a new trial," said  
Ray, "and three weeks later Judge  
Battle died. (Judge W. Preston  
Battle, the presiding judge in the  
Ray case died of a heart attack  
March 31, 1969.) And, also, a jury  
must return a degree of guilt  
even if a guilty plea is entered."

Ray obviously is pinning his  
hopes for a new trial on what he  
said is "a lot of new evidence  
which hasn't been reported." He  
remained tight-lipped for the  
most part on what new evidence  
is involved, but he did cite a sign-  
ed affidavit he said his attorney  
Lane has been given by a Mem-  
phis stockbroker, whom he  
would not identify publicly. Ray  
said the stockbroker has said he  
saw Ray in another part of Mem-  
phis several blocks from the  
rooming house when King was  
shot. Ray said the stockbroker has  
remained silent all these years be-  
cause for the man to come for-  
ward would have caused him per-  
sonal embarrassment.

Ray, who rarely permits a smile  
to break across his face, admits his  
past indiscretions, and also that  
he bought the .30-06 rifle found

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# Ray accuses press, committee collusion

NASHVILLE

**J**ames Earl Ray says the House Assassinations Committee, aided by reporters, is distorting evidence and trying to "nail us to the cross."

Last week, federal marshals took Ray to Washington to testify before the committee about the killing of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And as he has for nearly a decade, Ray recanted his 1969 guilty plea, saying he was duped by a mysterious man named Raoul, ill-served by his former lawyer and coerced by the the rigors of his confinement.

In a letter written on Brushy Mountain Penitentiary stationery and addressed to The Associated Press here, Ray said: "Concerning the hearing, apparently they had everything layed out to, quoting Cong. Mandel Davis, 'nail us to the cross' ... My assesment of the hearings are the same as Cong. Davis; and it seems that most of the press did their best to assist the committee."

Some questions and evidence presented during Ray's three days of testimony in Washington concerned his whereabouts just before the King was shot on April 4, 1968, in Memphis. There were suggestions that Ray stalked King through Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

The committee produced a laundry ticket purportedly placing Ray in Atlanta on April 1, a day Ray says he was driving through Mississippi toward Memphis to meet Raoul.

"They can surprise you with documents that you have not viewed for years and thus give a false impression of the evidence," Ray wrote in his letter. "I was in Mississippi April 1, 1968 but I

may have a problem proving it now."

Ray also alleged that the committee paraphrased a letter he wrote in 1968 about his inability to sleep in a Memphis jail cell, and turned its emphasis around.

"There are other examples of this and the next time we should be ready for the committee's distortions," he said. "In fact the committee has now agreed to provide us with the material they will in future sessions use in their questioning."

The committee's investigation of

King's death resumes this winter. Ray has recanted his guilty plea to King's killing. He is serving a 99-year prison term.

Flown by helicopter from the Petros prison on April 15, Ray said he was taken to a federal prison near Petersburg, Va.

"I got into an altercation with prison officials first thing — they wanted me to fill out forms, take pictures, etc.," he wrote. "I was checked into the prison under the name Michael Brewer. I suppose the 'row' was supposed to effect

my ability to testify. There was not much to it, my snirt was torn off and I intended wearing it to the hearing, however, the FBI came and confiscated it."

Two agents came to Brushy Mountain, he said, to interview him about the fight, but Ray refused the interview, saying he feared they would use the occasion to claim they had obtained a confession.

Ray's letter is postmarked Thursday, the same day the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals upheld his conviction for escaping Brushy in June 1977.

— Associated Press

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 3

Date: 8/29/78  
Edition: CITY  
Author:  
Editor: W. F. CHILDRES  
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Classification: 44-696-492  
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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# Abernathy Charges Memphis Police, FBI, in King Death

By TOM KING  
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

The president emeritus and chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said here Friday night that the FBI, the Government and the Memphis Police Department "conspired to cut down Martin Luther King Jr."



Abernathy

Rev. Ralph David Abernathy was in Knoxville as keynote speaker at radio station WJBE's 10-year anniversary banquet at the Ramada Inn on Kingston Pike.

Mr. Abernathy said before the banquet that he was greatly disappointed in the work and findings of the House Assassinations Committee investigating the slaying of the late civil rights leader.

"This committee is wasting the taxpayers' money. I am convinced that there was a conspiracy and that the Memphis police had to be involved," Mr. Abernathy said. "Whoever shot Martin Luther King was aided in his escape from Memphis by the police."

Mr. Abernathy, who has spurned a Thanksgiving eve invitation from President Carter, said if the House committee does not "get to the truth of the matter," he will form a citizens' committee "that will dig for the truth. I'm not saying James Earl Ray (convicted of killing Dr. King) is innocent. But if he was involved I don't think he acted alone. There were people in high places of our Government involved, and I know of affidavits signed and sworn that J. Edgar Hoover ordered Dr. King's assassination."

Mr. Abernathy called former President Richard Nixon and former Vice President Spiro Agnew "the two most notorious criminals in America." He said both belong in jails.

Mr. Abernathy told the crowd of

about 300 that the power structure of America is geared to keeping the black man at certain levels.

"Don't ever believe that the white man intends to do the black man right," the civil rights leader said. "The power structure is against you and I tell you to try and become a part of the power structure of Knoxville."

Mr. Abernathy said all is not well with Knoxville, adding, "You made a mistake in inviting me to Knoxville. I will not be bought. I will not sell myself out. I've been jailed 42 times and I've been called everything but a child of God."

The civil rights leader urged President Carter to keep two promises — tax reform "to force the wealthy corporations of America like ITT, Lockheed and General Motors to shoulder their load," and to improve the quality of education for all people, regardless of race.

Mr. Abernathy said he would put nothing past the FBI. "I think the FBI would stoop to any level it needed to to destroy a man like Martin Luther King."

The civil rights leader said the more he talked with Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison in October, the more he was convinced he was not the trigger man.

"I think he might have been involved, but I really don't think he knew what was really happening," he said. "When we were on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel when Dr. King was murdered, it was me, Andrew Young, Dr. King and, after he was shot, a fourth man appeared. I was told he could have been with the Community Relations Service out of Washington. I fear he was an infiltrator from the FBI."

Mr. Abernathy was presented a small key to Knoxville by Mayor Randy Tyree. The visitor remarked, "Knoxville has made history. I realize that times are hard and things are tough. I have gotten 300 or 400 keys from cities in the U.S. and abroad, but I have never received a key so tiny before. The mayor made it clear that I might wear it around my neck or on my wrist, but where the devil is the chain?"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE

Date: 11-17-78  
Edition: City

Title:

MURKIN

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Classification:

Submitting Office: Knoxville

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