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HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

# FEDERAL BUREAU

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# INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

DO NOT DESTROY -  
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COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

See also Nos.

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DATE 11/13/01 BY SP-1 CLK/ty

*Newspapers  
44-1574  
B*

#### Out-of-State Car

The killer fled the scene in a car which had an out-of-state license plate, according to one witness—indicating he may have been a stranger in Memphis.

If this is true, he would have had a relatively short time to determine Dr. King's room number and find a room for himself in the flophouse across a vacant area from Dr. King's motel room. Dr. King did not check into the Lorraine Motel until around noon Wednesday, some 30 hours before he was shot on the balcony outside his room, and he did not stay there much Wednesday.

#### Hidden From Street

A call to the motel might have determined his room number. But the flophouse is barely visible from the street which parallels the Lorraine Motel, and the fact that it had a view of Dr. King's room would have been difficult for a stranger to know.

Unless he was familiar with the area, he would have had to drive around the block and search for the nondescript and poorly identified flophouse. Or he may have known that

Dr. King had stayed at the Lorraine Motel previously, and had become familiar with the area long ago.

The assassin, according to the flophouse manager, did not check in until between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Thursday, the day Dr. King was killed. And when he did he appeared to know exactly what he wanted, leaving unknown whether he had ever entered the building before.

#### Trees Block View

Another complication the sniper must have found himself faced with is the high growth of wild mulberry trees on the extreme rear of the lot behind the flophouse. Their branches almost obstruct the view from the flophouse bathroom window, where the sniper apparently stood when he was looking down on Dr. King's room.

Viewing the sniper's window through a telescope placed on a spot where Dr. King was standing shows that the single shot fired from the flophouse must have been aimed barely over the top of the tree branches or perhaps through them.

Another question revolves around the assassin's method of operation which Clark called "a well-planned assault."

#### Police Cars Seen

If the assassin worked alone to find Dr. King, and determined the best place from which to shoot him, he must have seen the dozens of police cars prowling the area but he also must have determined that there were no police in the flophouse and none on the roof tops.

If he knew there were many police in the area—to protect Dr. King—he must also have known his escape could be ~~un~~ difficult.

Yet, according to the known facts, he walked out of the common bathroom from which he fired the shot, with a rifle and blue leatherette bag in hand, and down the stairway onto the sidewalk.

One boarder in the flophouse claims to have seen the killer walk down the hallway with the rifle wrapped in a blanket or a piece of paper and the bag in hand.

At this point, some of the most confusing aspects of

the escape arise. The sniper, according to one eyewitness, must have turned left on the sidewalk when he emerged from the flophouse. He walked a few steps and then dropped the rifle and blue bag in the doorway of the Canipe Amusement Co.

#### Reports of Car

He may have seen a police car parked a quarter of a block away or any one of a number of patrol cars in the area. Or he may have panicked. But according to some reports, he had a white Mustang parked directly in front of the flophouse stairway from which he emerged.

The car, which authorities say has figured in the investigation, was seen leaving the flophouse after the assassination. If the sniper left in the car, after dropping his rifle and bag, he would have had to first turn left, take about 15 steps, and then turn back to the right in the opposite direction to reach the Mustang.

#### May Have Run

If he did not see the Mustang, he presumably walked or ran from the scene which would have been even more difficult, particularly since one witness said a deputy discovered the rifle and bag in the doorway about two minutes after the sniper dropped them there.

Clark said last Friday, when he spent several hours in Memphis, that the FBI had considerable physical evidence. Presumably since then the FBI has uncovered more evidence as the result of tests in the Washington laboratory.

None of the authorities have indicated into which of several neighboring states the trail apparently has led, although Clark has made clear the pursuit has gone beyond Tennessee's borders.

One neighboring state speculated upon, whose borders are about 80 miles away, is Mississippi. A police spokesman at Meridian said Sunday FBI agents were "pretty thick" in the area Friday. But it seems clear at this point that the trail of the assassin has gone much farther.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI agents investigating the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, "one man on the run" whose trail is getting farther from the assassination site in Memphis, according to U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark. (See Page 1.)

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

I-2 LA Times

Los Angeles, Calif.

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Assassin of King Remains at Large

BY NICHOLAS C. CHRISS  
and VINCENT J. BURKE  
Times Staff Writers

MEMPHIS — Dr. Martin Luther King's assassin was still at large Saturday night despite an intensive manhunt which has spread beyond Tennessee's borders.

Memphis police director Frank C. Holloman, in charge of the local search, said prospects for an arrest of the sniper who killed Dr. King Thursday were "very encouraging."

But Holloman produced no facts to support his optimism, stating that to do so might jeopardize the investigation.

Meanwhile, acting under orders from President Johnson, Undersecretary of Labor James Reynolds arrived from Washington and began trying to settle the strike of the city's sanitation workers.

The strike, which began Feb. 12, evolved into a civil rights movement here because 98% of the strikers are Negro. Dr. King stepped in to lend the movement the backing of his

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

A-1 Los Angeles  
Times, Los  
Angeles, Calif.

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Sheets *[Signature]*

44-1574-8-3

Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and was planning a second protest march in support of the strike when he was assassinated.

The settlement of the strike would go a long way toward allaying fears of police that racial violence may erupt during a massive march that is to be held here Monday to honor Dr. King.

#### Thousands Expected

Organizers of the march said they expect 15,000 to 40,000 persons in the march, including delegations from across the country, such men as United Auto Workers President Walter P. Reuther and representatives of AFL-CIO President George Meany and other labor, church and civil rights groups.

For the first time since Dr. King was killed, Holloman did not make an appearance Saturday before reporters. A police department spokesman, Charles Homes, issued a three-paragraph statement from Holloman.

"The investigation is proceeding with all resources of the Memphis Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies. The investigation at this point is very encouraging and I feel very deeply that the success of the investigation and the conviction of the individual responsible for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King is of paramount importance.

"The furnishing of any more details at this time might jeopardize either the investigation or the conviction of the individual responsible."

#### Agents Summoned

The FBI declined to make any statement on the investigation except to say that it is under way. However, it was known that agents from other areas of the country have been called in to assist in the case. It constitutes one of the most intensive man-hunts since the slaying of three young civil rights workers near Philadelphia, Miss., in 1964.

Holloman spent most of the day in a meeting with Negro and white leaders planning and establishing

guidelines for the Monday march.

Only the barest amount of information on the investigation is available but it is known that the search for the sniper has spread into several other states, which have not been identified.

Nothing more has been heard of the mysterious white Mustang which reportedly was seen leaving the assassination scene. U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark indicated Friday that the car figured in the investigation.

#### Hit in Neck

Dr. King apparently was shot from the rear window of a rooming house which looked down at his motel room. Dr. King was standing on a second-floor balcony outside his room when the bullet smashed into his neck.

Curious passersby, many of them Negroes, drove slowly by or stopped in front of the rooming house Saturday.

By adopting his new format of briefing the press by written bulletin, Holloman succeeded in avoiding the kind of discomforting questions to which he was subjected at two news conferences Friday.

On Friday, Holloman flushed and gave a curt reply when he was asked why Memphis police had not checked rooftops or searched the building from which the sniper shot Dr. King. Holloman said he had thought this was unnecessary.

the sanitation workers' strike are the demands of the strikers for recognition of their all-Negro union, affiliated with the AFL-CIO, and an automatic checkoff of dues to be paid to the union by members.

#### Mayor Refuses

Mayor Henry Loeb, with the evident support of most of the city's white populace, has adamantly opposed both of these demands.

However, there appeared Saturday to be some further softening of the opposition to the demands of the strikers. The Memphis Press-Scimitar, one of the city's two newspapers, which have been sharply critical of the strikers' demands, voiced a new stance Saturday.

The newspaper said in an editorial that it "sees no reason why the Memphis city government cannot come" to the same kind of agreements with its employes that two other Tennessee cities, Nashville and Chattanooga, have agreed to.

It said both of the other two cities had found ways to get around the "sticky issues" which had torn Memphis and, it added, "the tragic event of Thursday makes this imperative."

#### Police Close By

At another point Friday, Holloman stressed that even though Dr. King had not requested protection, 35 to 40 policemen had been assigned to patrol the area of his motel. He added that "the protection was so close that one police officer actually saw King when he was struck by the bullet."

This led to the following exchange:

Question — "You mean that they were so close they had their backs to the killer?"

Answer—"No sir. It's just impossible to have prevented a sniper."

Q—"How could he have gotten away with so many police in the area?"

A—"That's what we are trying to establish."

The unresolved issues of

#### Curfew in City

Saturday night was stay-at-home night in Memphis. For the third consecutive night gasoline stations, stores, theaters and other amusement places were closed by a curfew. Under the curfew citizens are subject to arrest if they move about in the city, on foot or by automobile, without a good reason between 7 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

All sales of liquor were halted several days ago and the ban on liquor now has spread to several adjoining counties.

The sporadic violence in Memphis that followed the assassination of Dr. King led to a fatality when Ellis Tate, a 40-year-old Negro who was shot by police Thursday night, died Saturday. Police claimed Tate was caught looting a store, fired on police and was killed in the return fire.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# MASSIVE MANHUNT

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

A-1 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

## \$155,000 Reward For King Assassin

From Herald-Examiner Wire Services

With a major portion of the Eastern coast engulfed in racial violence in the aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the FBI-directed search for his killer has been intensified.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said the manhunt has taken on massive proportions, "spreading some several hundred miles from the borders of Tennessee at this time." Clark reported earlier that evidence indicates the assassination of King was the work of one man and authorities are "very close" to arresting him.

The body of Dr. King was to lie in state today in the campus of a tiny women's college in Atlanta. Early this morning, young Negroes, anguished by his slaying, heaved rocks and smashed windows.

King's body, lying on white satin in a gold and copper coffin, was being brought to Spelman College in a procession from a funeral home at 4 p.m. EST. It will lie in Sisters' Chapel until 4 p.m. Monday, when it will be borne in another procession to Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the funeral will be held Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Clark said FBI agents were pursuing the investigation "in several sections of the country.

"Large numbers of items of evidence have been uncovered, and a number of out-of-state leads have been developed," he said.

Clark did not elaborate except to say that although the killer had not been positively identified, he was confident of "an early solution and apprehension" of the assassin.

Memphis Police Chief Frank L. Holloman said Friday night he, too, was optimistic about an arrest "eventually."

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*Shells*

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### THE SUSPECT

But he said he could not tell whether it would be made "in six hours, a week or longer." The assassin had a \$155,000 price on his head, the total of awards amassed by the Mem-

phis city council, the Memphis Commercial Appeal and Scripps Howard Newspapers, and other sources.

A spokesman for King's family said that after the church services Tuesday, there would be a march to Morehouse College in Atlanta, followed by a religious assembly there. He said the funeral was being set up in these stages because religion, education and marches were "all-important" to King.

No information was available yet on burial plans, he said.

President Johnson cancelled his scheduled trip to Hawaii for Vietnam talks because of the King assassination, and also asked Congress to call a special meeting Monday night to hear his "constructive recommendations" for easing racial tensions.

The 39-year-old King was killed Thursday by a single shot from a .30-06 Remington Pump rifle while he strolled alone on the balcony of his room at the Lorraine Hotel, in a Negro section of Memphis.

A short, balding white man was taken into custody Friday while emerging from the building in which the sniper hid—a rundown apartment building directly across the street from the hotel. Although the man did not fit the description of the sniper, he was rushed to the Federal Building and officials did not disclose his connection with the case.

Repercussions from King's death shook the nation.

President Johnson pledged again for racial peace, vowing that "America shall not be

ruled by the bullet." He declared Sunday a national day of mourning.

Mrs. John F. Kennedy, wife of the late president who was also killed by a sniper, joined the chorus of those pleading for calm. "I pray that with the price he (King) paid—his life—he will make room in people's hearts for love, not hate," she said.

AFL-CIO President George Meany, in one of the scores of tributes to King that poured in from around the world, said that "the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is an American tragedy."

"He was killed while aiding striking members of an AFL-CIO union in their struggle for human dignity. That is how Dr. King spent his entire life—at the side of the most oppressed in this nation. He died in that struggle and all who cherish human dignity mourn tonight."



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Clark Expects Early Arrest in Dr. King Killing

Attorney General Doubts  
It Was Conspiracy, Hints  
Slayer Fled From State

BY NICHOLAS C. CHRISS  
and VINCENT J. BURKE  
Times Staff Writers

MEMPHIS — U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said here Friday he expected a swift arrest in the sniper slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"The investigation so far gives rise to my very strong hopes that the solution can be quickly found," Clark explained. He said, "Substantial evidence has been discovered. We've had some good breaks. We have put all available resources of the FBI into this case."

But no arrests had been made Friday night, and Clark declined to say whether the FBI's clues had focused on a definite suspect.

Dr. King, 39, was fatally wounded Thursday as he stood on a second floor balcony at a motel. He had come to Memphis to lead a protest march similar to one that ended in violence last week.

## Conspiracy Discounted

A single rifle shot, fired from a rooming house across the street, pierced his neck and jaw. The civil rights leader, the nation's foremost advocate of nonviolent protest, died an hour later in a Memphis hospital.

Clark, dispatched here Friday morning by President Johnson, dismissed the possibility that Dr. King died as a result of a conspiracy and discounted the likelihood of Ku Klux Klan involvement.

"All the evidence we have is that this is the work of a single person," the attorney general declared at a crowded news conference in the Memphis federal building.

He hinted that FBI agents and Memphis detectives, working together, had uncovered evidence that the assassin fled the state after the murder.

"The investigation has spread some several hundred miles from the borders of Tennessee," Clark said. "A number of out-of-state leads are being developed."

## 'Might Be a Week'

Agents are cooperating with Memphis officers headed by the city's fire and police director, Frank C. Holloman, who also expressed optimism about an early arrest.

"I cannot say one hour, six hours, 12 hours—it might be a week," Holloman said at a news briefing. It was Holloman who had disclosed earlier that police were seeking a white man as a "possible suspect."

Witnesses, he said, reported seeing the man run from the rooming house immediately after the gunfire. They also reported seeing a white Mustang speed away from near the rooming house.

Holloman described the man as being between 26 and 32 years old, weighing between 165 and 175 pounds and standing about six feet.

## Registered on Thursday

He said the man had registered at the rooming house at midafternoon Thursday, and that a man of similar description had purchased a pair of binoculars in Memphis earlier in the day.

Other than that, Holloman declined to be more specific about the "possible suspect," declining to say what name he registered under or what room he occupied.

However, the landlady, Mrs. Bessie Brewer, 44, said he had

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

I-1 LA Times

Los Angeles, Calif.

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2 APR 8 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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ferred under the name John Willard and he paid his \$8.50 week's rent in cash, with a \$20 bill and two quarters."

"He had a funny smile on his face, a silly grin," she added. "I'll never forget that smile."

Clark said: "There have been several names that have come up and those traced to a conclusion. But they weren't true names."

When asked if a white Mustang was involved in the investigation, he replied: "There has been an intensive investigation of a white Mustang." He did not elaborate.

The back of the rooming house is opposite the front of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was shot. It is believed the shot traveled from the window of a bathroom on the second floor of the rooming house, over some trees and across Mulberry St., a distance of slightly more than 200 feet, before striking Dr. King.

#### Rundown Structures

The rooming house is one of a row of rundown structures fronting on Main St., the next street over. While the motel caters primarily to Negroes, the rooming houses are occupied by whites.

A rifle and "a fairly new" piece of luggage were found — reportedly two minutes after the shooting—in an entrance-way two doors away from the rooming house.

The weapon, Holloman said, was a Remington .30-06 pump rifle with a telescopic sight. The valise, he said, contained several articles which he did not identify.

Presumably they were among the "large number of physical items" which Clark said had been recovered by investigators and were considered evidence.

Most of these, he said, have been sent to the FBI laboratory in Washington to be checked, along with articles taken from the rooming house.

Clark also said useful fingerprints had been obtained, but did not specify where they had been found.

The FBI, the attorney general added, also is in possession of some substantial evidence which relates strictly to the manner in which the killer escaped.

"But the main thing now," he said, "is not how he got away, but how he can be apprehended."

As more than 300 law enforcement officers sought the slayer Friday night, sporadic violence continued in the tense city. However, it was tapering off, Holloman said.

He said that since the shooting more than 120 adults and 15 juveniles had been arrested, and 23 civilians and three policemen injured.

Firemen, Holloman added, had responded to 200 fires, 17 of them major, between 6:15 p.m. Thursday and 3 p.m. Friday. It was not known how many were attributable to arsonists, but normally during that period of time Memphis fire fighters would answer only between "35 and 45 calls," Holloman said.

At his news conference, Clark said he had met with Dr. King's widow early Friday, at the President's request, shortly before she returned to Atlanta with her husband's body. He said he expressed to her "the profound sorrow" of "the President, the nation and the government."

Holloman disclosed that a security check had not been made of the rooming houses across from the motel after Dr. King registered there Wednesday.

Dr. King had not asked for any protection of any kind. We had no communication from him regarding that," Holloman said, adding:

"It's almost impossible to stop a sniper."

He noted, however, that because of the sensitive situation about 40 policemen were in the neighborhood Thursday afternoon and that "officers were on the scene about the same time Dr. King fell."

As FBI men and detectives pressed their investigation, the Memphis City Council added \$100,000 in reward money Friday to \$50,000 previously posted by newspapers here.

The chronology of Dr. King's assassination, as pieced together from police reports, inspection of

the scene and interviews with witnesses, centers on the Lorraine Motel. The motel fronts on Mulberry St., but is set back from the sidewalk to provide room for a parking lot and a swimming pool. A wall conceals the swimming pool from sidewalk passers.

No building fronts on the other side of Mulberry St. The nearest structures are about one-half block away and front on the next street, Main. The rear windows from the second floor look down on the motel.

Between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Thursday the assassin presumably walked into the rooming house at 422½ S. Main St. and asked for a room. The difference between the modernistic motel at which Dr. King was killed and the rundown building in which the killer set up his ambush is striking.

Mrs. Brewer, the landlady, showed the stranger a \$10 a week room with a refrigerator and stove. He turned it down, saying he wanted only a sleeping room. Mrs. Brewer showed him the only other

vacancy, a second floor room in an adjoining rooming house. The vacant room—No. 5—was dirty and grimy and the furniture dilapidated. At the end of the hall is a dirty bathroom used by the half-dozen tenants. The bathtub was littered with dirt, the wash stand stained and grimy, and lying on its side on the floor was an empty one-gallon wine bottle.

But the bathroom window at the end of the dark hall was ideal for the assassin's purpose. It gave him a perfect view of King's motel room.

Mrs. Brewer described the stranger to newsmen, and presumably gave police the same description, which closely matched that given by police of a man they are searching for. She said the man spoke with a Southern accent.

He was carrying nothing with him, Mrs. Brewer said. After Mrs. Brewer left him to return to her quarters, the man presumably went out the separate entryway onto Main St. and came back with his rifle and a leatherette bag. Perhaps they had been kept in a parked automobile nearby.

In the bathroom the assassin could look out over piles of rubbish in the back yard of the building and then to the motel and to Dr. King's motel room—No. 306.

How long a vigil the assassin kept in the bathroom before Dr. King appeared isn't known. He probably had to stand in the bathtub to aim the rifle.

Shortly before 6 p.m. the door to Dr. King's motel room opened and Dr. King stepped out on the balcony. He was heading for dinner at the home of the Rev. S. B. Kyles, a local Negro leader.

#### Aide Stood Below

Directly beneath him on the ground stood the Rev. Jesse Jackson, one of the top aides of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Standing with Mr. Jackson were Dr. King's chauffeur and Benjamin Branch, a Chicago colleague of Mr. Jackson.

When Dr. King came out, Mr. Jackson hailed him from the ground and introduced Dr. King to Branch, saying that Branch would lead the band that was to play at a massive rally. King was to address the dinner at the Mason Temple United Church of Christ.

According to Mr. Jackson, Dr. King leaned over the balcony and replied "That's my man," and then told Branch, "I hope you'll play 'Precious Lord' tonight and play it real sweet."

At the same time Dr. King's chauffeur, Solomon Jones, shouted, "Dr. King, you better get your coat. It's cold."

Jackson said that Dr. King, who had been leaning over the balcony in front of his motel room door, stood up.

At that moment—6:01 p.m.—a finger squeezed a trigger in the bathroom of the rooming house.

"I saw the bullet explode in his face," Jackson told newsmen.

#### Impact Fells Him

The bullet entered the neck and tore a hole about two inches wide and at least an inch deep. Blood gushed from the wound. The impact knocked Dr. King on his back and onto the balcony walkway.

Police nearby heard the shot and rushed to the scene. A number of bystanders thought the noise was a firecracker. So did a dozen other of Dr. King's aides.

After firing the shot, the assassin withdrew the rifle from the window sill and turned to rush from

the building. Walking directly away from his victim, the assassin went down the lengthy and dark corridor past the doorways of other tenants.

In Room No. 4 live Mr. and Mrs. William Anschuz, an elderly couple who have resided there for a long time, paying \$6 a week for their housekeeping room.

Anschuz heard the shot. "I couldn't help hearing it," he recalled, "it was so loud."

He opened the door just as the assassin was passing by. But he insists that he could not see his face because the man threw his left arm up to conceal his face.

Charles Q. Stephens, a tenant in the room between the bathroom and the room taken by the assassin, got a good look at the man.

"He was clean-shaven

and had a long, sharp nose," Stephens said. He had normal eyes and a square chin, thick hair at the front and it receded on each side.

"He was wearing a black, solid-color dress suit, a white shirt and a very dark or black, narrow tie. He combed his hair straight back."

From the bathroom, down the hall and then down the 20 steps that lead to the street without a landing, takes about 30 seconds walking at a normal rate. But the assassin was walking fast, Anschuz said.

When the killer reached the street, he turned to the left and walked south, carrying the rifle and leather bag. After about 15 steps he threw down the rifle and bag in the doorway of a commercial shop, the Canite Amusement Co., distributor of pinball machines and jukeboxes.

A moment later a white Mustang roared away from the area.

Guy Canite, pipesmoking proprietor of the shop, caught a glimpse of the assassin as he dropped the bag and rifle and heard the sound when they hit

the sidewalk. But Canite says he didn't see the face of the man.

After the shooting Dr. King was rushed to an emergency room of St. Joseph's Hospital and pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Rewards Total \$155,000 for Fugitive Killer

By United Press International

Rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. total at least \$155,000.

The Memphis City Council met Friday and guaranteed a minimum reward of \$100,000.

Earlier the Memphis Commercial Appeal offered a \$25,000 reward. Other Scripps-Howard Newspapers added \$25,000 and Lewis Hutchinson, president of Dwight & Co., a management consultant firm in Greenwich, Conn., said he would add \$5,000.

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

II-3 LA Times

Los Angeles, Calif.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**FUNERAL MOOD GRIPS RESIDENTS**

**Headlights Gleam in Watts Tribute to King**

**BY DIAL TORGERSON  
and RAY ROGERS**

*Times Staff Writers*

"I feel so empty," a man said, watching the cars roll through an intersection on 103rd St. in Watts.

It wasn't dark yet, but the cars had their lights burning, as in a funeral. The lights were shining for Dr. Martin Luther King.

As Los Angeles mourned Friday for the martyred minister, Watts, a city within a city, mourned too, in its own way: with anger, with weary sorrow, with vows of rededication, with threats of violence—and, more often than not, with a deep-down sense of emptiness.

"It's a damn shame what they did," a teen-age boy, freed from school amid the tensions of the assassination's aftermath, told a group of friends standing before a bowling alley on Central Ave.

"That's how they are," another

replied. No one asked who "they" were.

Absenteeism was so high at most predominantly Negro schools that principals began dismissing classes early Friday. When militant Negro activists appeared at other schools with smaller Negro enrollments, principals dismissed them, too.

By the end of the day classes had been excused at 28 junior and senior high schools, spilling the school-age population onto the streets. But, although there was an air of tension in Watts and throughout the mostly black section described since 1965 as "the curfew area," South-Central Los Angeles was largely peaceful through the day and into the night.

But peace had its threats: in service stations, men and youths bought gasoline in gallon cans. On the street corners, where Watts socializes, silence fell when stran-

gers appeared. Tempers flared at white visitors.

"If you want to show us how you feel about the death of our brother," a Negro youth told a Caucasian minister at a community meeting, "you better go talk to your own people, because we don't want you down here!"

As the sun went down in Watts, neighborhood groups gathered to talk. Sometimes there was laughter, but not for long. The memory of Memphis kept returning.

By now all the cars had their lights burning. The headlights which had shone for Dr. King's memory blended, now, with those of Friday night in Watts. But it wasn't an ordinary Friday night.

A small group watched a television set through a store window. A film clip showed Dr. King. A young girl clenched her hands. There were tears in her eyes. She said, quietly:

"I just feel so empty."

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

III - L. A. Times  
Los Angeles, Ca

Date: 1/6/68  
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Author:  
Editor: Nick B. Williams  
Title:

Character:  
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Classification:  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

Being Investigated  
44-1574-62

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SERIALIZED FILED  
2 APR 8 1968  
FBI - LOS ANGELES  
Shuts

44-1574-B-9

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# KING KILLER HUNTED

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

A-1 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/5/68  
Edition: Night Final  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

Being Investigated

44-1574-438

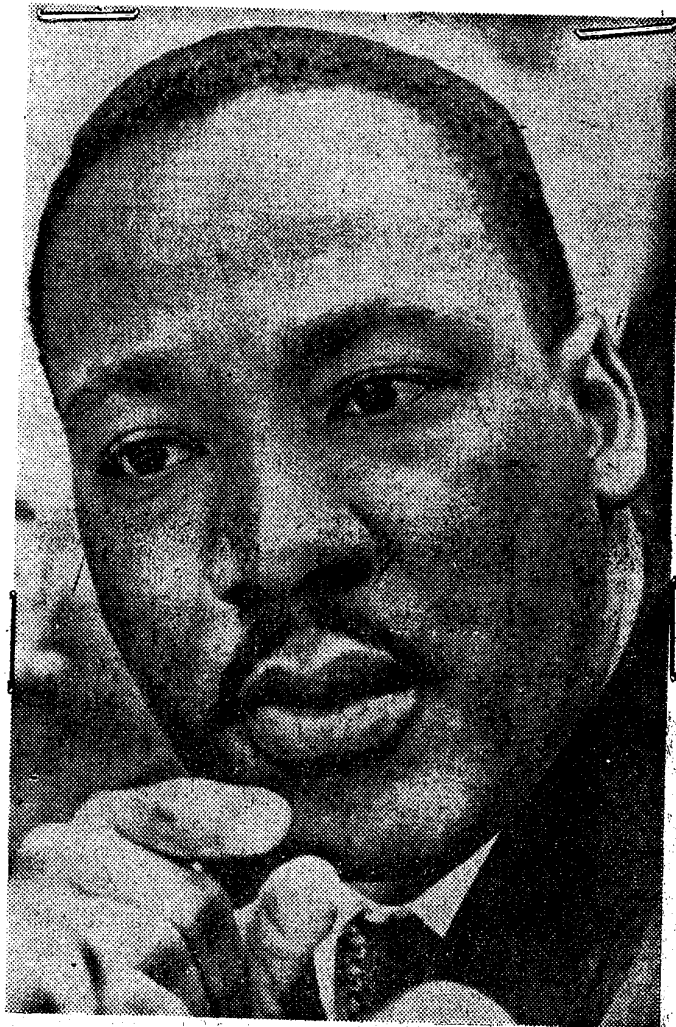
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SERIALIZED	FILED
2 APR 8 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*Shul* *JP*

**Massive Manhunt**

**Led By FBI in**

**Tennessee**



**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATED**  
Sniper's bullet hit Nobel winner in neck

—United Press—



—United Press Telephoto

**POLICE INVESTIGATORS INSPECT BALCONY WHERE KING WAS SHOT**  
Civil rights leader was standing on porch of motel when killed



From Herald-Examiner Wire Services

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.**—Nobel Laureate Martin Luther King Jr., father of non-violence in the American Civil rights movement, was killed by an assassin's bullet last night.

King, 39, was hit in the neck by a bullet as he stood on the balcony of a motel here. He died less than an hour later in St. Joseph Hospital.

Gov. Buford Ellington immediately ordered 4,000 National Guard troops back into the city. A curfew, which was clamped on Memphis after a King-led march turned into a riot a week ago, was reimposed.

An all-points bulletin was issued for the assassin, described as Caucasian, about 6 feet tall, weighing around 165 pounds and 26 to 30 years of age. Witnesses say he was wearing dark clothing.

The FBI was immediately called into the search and united with Memphis and Tennessee police units in spreading a network of law officials over the entire state in a massive manhunt for the assassin.

President Johnson appeared on nationwide television two hours after the shot was fired to "ask every citizen to stay away from the violence that struck Dr. King."

#### **Johnson Postpones Trip**

"I know every American of good will joins me in mourning the death of this leader and in praying for understanding throughout the land," the President said. He said he was postponing his trip to Honolulu because of the assassination.

The 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner was standing on the balcony of his motel here, where he had come to lead protests in behalf of the city's 1300 striking garbage workers, most of them Negroes, when he was shot.

Two unidentified men who were arrested were released several hours later.

As word of King's death spread through the stunned city, Negroes in scattered areas looted stores, stoned police and fire trucks and tossed

several fire bombs. Two policemen were injured, mainly by flying glass when a shotgun blast broke ~~the~~ windshield.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said he and others in the King party were getting ready to go to dinner when the shooting occurred.

"King was on the second floor balcony of the motel," Jackson said. "He had just bent over. If he had been standing up, he wouldn't have been hit in the face."

#### **A Request for a Song**

King had just told Ben Branch: "My man, be sure to sing 'Blessed Lord' tonight and sing it well."

A shot rang out, Jackson said.

Jackson said the only sound King uttered after that was: "Oh!"

Former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, perhaps King's greatest single enemy, called his death a "senseless, regrettable and tragic act."

Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen rushed to King's and the mayor took her home to be with her four home in Atlanta when word of the shooting was received. He took Mrs. King to the airport but while they were awaiting a flight to Memphis, Allen was told that King was dead.

"I had the difficult task of telling Mrs. King of his death," Allen reported. She cancelled the flight children.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Asks Mexico Aid In Manhunt

MEXICO CITY (UPI)—The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has asked Mexican authorities for help in tracking down a suspect in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said a drawing of the suspect made by Mexican police artist Sergio Jaubert, from descriptions provided by American authorities has been distributed throughout Mexico including law enforcement agents at border crossing points.

The official would not indicate whether the FBI request was a routine alert or if there was some evidence the assassin may have been in Mexico.

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

A-1 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/9/68  
Edition: Night Final  
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Editor:  
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or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: LA

Being Investigated

44-1574 B-9

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SERIALIZED	FILED
2 APR 10 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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*Buy 4/10*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Using Composite Photo to Hunt Slayer

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

MEMPHIS—The landlady who rented a room to the suspected slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King said FBI agents showed her a trial composite picture Tuesday in an attempt to identify the assassin.

But she said she didn't know whether it was a good likeness.

"I just couldn't remember what he looked like," said Mrs. Bessie Brewer, who rents rooms in the rundown hotel whose rear windows overlook the motel in which Dr. King was staying.

This was the first indication that the FBI had a composite drawing of the suspect, who checked into the hotel Thursday a few hours before Dr. King was

shot and killed, and was seen by several witnesses running from the hotel after the slaying.

The FBI and Memphis police have clamped tight security on their search for the assassin.

U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said Sunday that the FBI has "one man on the run" and that the "trail has lengthened." Since then, officials here and at the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., refused to answer questions about the manhunt.

The suspect was described Friday by Memphis police as a Caucasian, between 26 and 32 years old, weighing between 165 and 175 pounds and standing about 6 feet

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

I-21 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/10/68  
Edition: Home  
Author:  
Editor: Nick B. Williams  
Title: MURKIN

Character:  
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Classification: LA 44-1574  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
 Being Investigated

44-1574-10

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SERIALIZED	FILED
Z APR 10 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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*2/10/10*

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# FBI TRACES GUN IN KING SLAYING TO BIRMINGHAM

BY VINCENT J. BURKE  
and NICHOLAS C. CHRISS  
Times Staff Writers

MEMPHIS—The rifle believed used to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King was purchased in Birmingham, Ala., The Times learned Wednesday.

The FBI refused to comment, but informants said FBI agents traced the rifle through its serial number to a store in Birmingham and that it was purchased new over the counter a few days before the slaying here last Thursday.

The weapon, which has been undergoing tests at the FBI laboratory in Washington, is a Remington 30.06 pump rifle with a telescopic sight. It fires the same bullet as the Army's M-1 rifle. Results of the laboratory tests have not been disclosed. It could not be determined whether the telescopic sight also was obtained in the Birmingham

store or whether the purchaser left any information about his identity.

Authorities also have traced binoculars left near the scene by the suspected slayer. The binoculars, The Times learned Wednesday, were purchased at York Arms Co., a sporting goods store located about six blocks from the run-down rooming house on S. Main St. where the slayer set up his ambush.

The rifle and a rectangular blue leatherette case containing the binoculars were dropped on the sidewalk on S. Main St. a few feet from the entry to the rooming house by a man who was seen leaving the rooming house a few minutes after the slaying.

### Clerk Interviewed

The binoculars were purchased in Memphis on the afternoon of the slaying and the clerk who sold the binoculars has been interviewed several times by Memphis police and the FBI.

If the man who purchased the rifle in Birmingham and the man who bought the binoculars in Memphis is the same person who fled from the rooming house, then at least four persons have seen his face.

Besides the sales clerks, the others are Mrs. Bessie Brewer, the landlady who rented an \$8.50-a-week room to the suspect, and Charlie Hugh Stephens, one of her tenants.

Mrs. Brewer and Stephens were reinterviewed Tuesday by FBI agents and shown a drawing of the suspect developed by the FBI from descriptions of the man's features.

*prints rifle  
& case  
with response*

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

I-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/11/68  
Edition: Home  
Author: Vincent J. Burke &  
Editor: Nicholas C. Chriss  
Title: Nick B. Williams

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Character:  
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Classification: LA 44-1574  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*Shelton*

#### Sees No Resemblance

Stephens told The Times Wednesday that the drawing did not resemble the fugitive and was much younger than the man he remembered. Mrs. Brewer said Tuesday shortly after her FBI interview that she wasn't able to remember what the fugitive or the drawing looked like.

Stephens said the composite drawing was a full-face view, although he had seen only the man's profile. He said he recalled that the man had a long thin nose but that the FBI drawing revealed a rather chubby face and a bulbous nose.

"It wasn't the face I recalled," Stephens said.

The only description of the suspect that has been made public was given Friday by Memphis police director Frank G. Hollo-

man. He said the man was a caucasian, between 26 and 32 years old, weighed between 165 and 175 pounds and was about six feet tall.

The suspect obtained a room from Mrs. Brewer between 3 and 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Dr. King was wounded fatally about 6 p.m. by one shot believed to have been fired from a common bathroom on the second floor of the rooming house, just a few steps from the suspect's room.

#### Rifle In Wraps

After the shot was fired, the man was seen walking from the direction of the bathroom down a dark hallway with a rifle wrapped in a newspaper or blanket and with the blue leatherette bag in hand.

Several witnesses at

Jim's Grill, next to the rooming house, have reported seeing a white Mustang parked in front of the restaurant. Most of them said they first noticed it there between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. and that they noticed shortly after 6 p.m. that it was no longer there. But none of them saw the killer.

The automobile has not been directly linked to the assassin, although U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said in Memphis last Saturday that it "figured" in the investigation.

What clues the FBI has as to the suspect's whereabouts are being kept secret.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Clue-by-Clue Hunt For The Assassin

Associated Press Writer  
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —  
The task of finding the person  
who killed Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. apparently has settled  
down to the grueling police rou-  
tine of sifting every clue and  
checking every lead.

There was no talk of an early  
arrest, as there had been short-  
ly after King was assassinated  
last Thursday night. Robert G.  
Drewry and John C. Moore, the  
two U.S. commissioners here,  
said they had not been ap-  
proached to issue a fugitive  
warning by either the FBI or  
the U.S. attorney.

As federal officials pressed  
their manhunt, there were re-  
ports of arrests in various parts  
of the country and of a wide-  
spread search in Mexico.

The Mexican rumor started  
after Rolando Veloz, the Mexi-  
can counsel here, told authori-  
ties there was a resemblance  
between a composite sketch car-  
ried in a local newspaper and a  
young man who applied for a  
tourist card the day before King  
was shot.

The young man turned out to  
be a 19-year-old student at

Memphis State University,  
Memphis police said. They said  
what was thought to be a false  
address and phone number were  
those of his father in Park  
Ridge, Ill. They dismissed the  
possibility that he was connect-  
ed with the case.

In Washington, the Justice  
Department denied that the  
investigation had extended into  
Mexico. The Memphis Commer-  
cial Appeal said however it had  
learned that the FBI had con-  
tacted the central police office  
in Mexico City.

It was learned that the gun  
found abandoned in a doorway  
next to the building from which  
police say the shot was fired  
was not among those stolen  
from a sporting goods store two  
days before the slaying.

B.C. Dowdle, proprietor of the  
store, said a police detective tel-  
ephoned him the serial number  
of the Remington pump action  
rifle that was found and asked  
him to check it against the num-  
bers of the stolen guns.

"I was relieved to know that  
the gun didn't come from my  
shop," Dowdle said.

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

A-2 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/10/68  
Edition: Night Final  
Author:  
Editor:  
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or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: LA  
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APR 11 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*



**FUNERAL ADDRESS FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DELIVERED IN ATLANTA, GA.** —United Press Telephoto  
The family and friends, right center, were among 150,000 who attended services

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**MORRIE RYSKIND**

## A Time For Tact

This is surely a time to speak softly, lest a careless word reawaken the fires still smoldering in many of our cities—an aftermath to the brutal assassination of Martin Luther King.

It would be easier, Heaven knows, to discuss any one of a dozen other topics. But a column that pretends to speak out on national affairs but would ignore the one subject uppermost in our minds might indicate utter indifference. Or, in my own special case, cowardly evasion.

For a piece of mine criticizing Dr. King's tactics appeared in the papers the day before he was so wantonly slain. And already a note postmarked Los Angeles enclosed that column, with this indictment pinned to it: "You and the white-power structure of Memphis must be proud of what your hate-mongering has led to. What have you to say now?"

There will soon be, experience has taught me, other such missives, all asking the same basic question. To which my answer is that if my criticism was valid, that is not changed by Dr. King's tragic death; if it was unsound, its defects are not heightened by the act of a madman.

But I would point out that the killing is in direct contrast to the observance of law and order for which I have consistently fought. And that, just now, my radio reports a reward of some \$155,000 for the apprehension of the assassin—with most of that money coming from the "white-power structure of Memphis."

My fervent hope—perhaps already achieved by the time this sees print—is that the killer is caught and, once his guilt has been established beyond doubt, that justice is swift and not frustrated by some of the incredible court decisions which favor the slayer over the slain.

And that is all I would say on the matter at this solemn moment. I pray I have spoken with due consideration for the feelings of Dr. King's immediate family and the other millions to whom he was an idol.

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

A-22 Herald-Examiner

Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/10/68  
Edition: Night Final  
Author: Morrie Ryskind  
Editor: Donald Goodenow  
Title:

MURKIN

Character:

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LA 46-1574

Classification:

Submitting Office: LOS Angeles

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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109 APR 11 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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...But there is one tangential item which I think may properly be brought up even now—especially now. For it becomes overwhelmingly clear the Congress must enact a national law to prevent the indiscriminate sale of firearms. I know little about such matters, but I remember the shock of learning that Lee Oswald could send a mail-order for a rifle and get it with no questions asked.

I am aware of some objections to such a law, but I cannot see any logical reason why a would-be purchaser with a legitimate use for a gun would object to identifying himself completely, down to getting a police okay and being fingerprinted. Surely the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment were not intended to provide criminals with an arsenal.

Our current state laws vary—and that gives the gunman an advantage. I don't know Tennessee's statutes but, if the rifle that killed Dr. King had been registered, surely the murderer—or at least the purchaser—would have been identified at once. Just as the registration required for the possession of automobiles has often helped solve a hit-and-run case.

As I said, this is not my field. Maybe the bill introduced by Senator Dodd has some weaknesses, but these could be rectified. And certainly a country whose computers are now able to check every taxpayer's return and determine whether his figures are accurate, has the technical resources to check the possessor of every firearm. Particularly if the law would demand that every sale or exchange of guns, public or private, be reported to the police before such a transaction is consummated.

I do not argue that any law will ever stop the psychotic from somehow getting a gun and killing somebody. But a national statute with genuine teeth in it might effectively cut our frightful crime rate. And it might have deterred the gunman who felled Dr. King if he knew that his weapon could be traced.

Such a law, I maintain, is desperately needed now when a Stokely Carmichael urges his followers to get their guns and start shooting—and a good many frightened whites are known to be stocking arms against the long, hot summer that the various Stokelys threaten. I trust the Congress will speak out on this—and not so softly, either.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# KING

# SLAYING

# SUSPECT

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

LONG BEACH  
INDEPENDENT

LONG BEACH,  
CALIF.

PAGE 1

Date: 4-12-68  
Edition: MID MORNING FINAL  
Author:  
Editor: WILLIAM BROOM  
Title: EDITOR

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1574

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

44-1574-B 14

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2 APR 12 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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(date.)

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Author:  
Editor:  
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Classification:  
Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

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# Name King Suspect by Slipup

Combined News Services

The search for Martin Luther King's assassin centered on one man Thursday night after the FBI found the suspect's car, identified him, then quickly withdrew the bulletin naming him.

The bulletin, released by mistake, identified the suspect as Eric Starvo Galt, white, 5 feet 11 inches tall, 175 pounds, driving a white Mustang similar to that seen near the hotel door through which King's assassin escaped.

Galt was identified in a FBI teletype arrest order sent to Florida police.

The FBI refused comment on the development, but said no warrant had been issued in the case. However, it was learned that the FBI issued a pick-up order for Galt in Florida Thursday, then canceled it Thursday night.

**REPORTERS** in Birmingham, Ala., found a rooming house—listed as Galt's address—dark and locked.

One of the residents of the rooming house, at 2608 Highland Ave., said a man answering Galt's description had lived there three months earlier, but the owner refused to talk to reporters and kept the door locked.

"I don't know him," the owner said through a closed window. "I'm sure he's never lived here. I'm not going to open the door."

Percy Strickland, a telephone repairman who lives in the rooming house, said, however, that "I have heard the name of Eric Galt plenty the last week. The FBI has talked to everybody in this rooming house."

Strickland said borders "come and go and it's hard to distinguish," but he remembered Galt as being "younger than the FBI description."

**THE CAR**, which had been parked for several days in an Atlanta subdivision, was towed to FBI headquarters here and reporters were barred admittance to the building.

The car bore Alabama License tag 1-38993 and had two 1967 Mexican tourist stickers on its windows. The FBI earlier had asked authorities in Mazatlan, Mexico, to watch all points of entry and hotel employees there had been given artist's sketches of the assassin — a neat, brown-haired man in his 30s.

The telephone repairman

(Continued Page A-4, Col. 1)

(Continued from Page A-1)

said Galt lived in the bottom floor of the two-story, pale gray stucco building and was considered "one of the boys."

One resident said Galt had not been seen in the neighborhood for three months.

Birmingham police said Galt had no criminal record.

**IT WAS** reported that the gunman apparently purchased a 30.06 Remington repeating rifle in Birmingham several days before the slaying. Birmingham is located in Jefferson County.

The 1968 license tags were issued to a man who lived in a rooming house about four blocks from Birmingham's downtown business section.

The car had been parked in an Atlanta subdivision, Capitol Homes, since last Friday, the day after King was slain, according to Joe Manus, a neighborhood resident.

Another neighborhood resident, Mrs. Mary Bridges, said she saw a well-dressed, dark-haired man near the car during the past several days. She said she was not certain if the man resembled a police artist's sketch of the assassin who checked into a Memphis flophouse across a courtyard from King's hotel last Thursday and shot the civil rights leader from a bathroom window.

**THE ATLANTIC** Constitution, in a story by Duane Riner, said two residents of the housing project were known to have seen a young man whom they said looked like the description of the sniper.

The news story said the FBI agents swarmed around the car most of

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

Date:  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Thursday afternoon snapping pictures and taking fingerprints.

Quoting Mrs. Ernest Payne, the newspaper said the car was seen arriving in the parking lot between 8:30 and 9 a.m. last Friday, the day after King was shot down in Memphis, Tenn.

The newspaper said she described the man who stepped out of the car as between 25 and 30 years, 5-foot-9 or -10, and weighing 165 to 170 pounds.

\* \* \* \*

**SHE TOLD** the newspaper she had not heard that the suspected killer was described as 26 to 32 years of age, 6-foot tall, weighing 165 to 175 pounds.

She was quoted as saying the man had sandy-colored hair. The newspaper said another witness described it as dark and curly.

A youth was quoted as saying there were cigarette ashes all over the car floor and red mud on the interior at the drivers' side. The paper said the boy, Johnny Nieson, 13, said there were two 1967 Mexican visa stickers on the window.

It was the stickers that prompted Johnny's mother, Mrs. John H. Riley, to call the FBI Wednesday night, the news story said.

\* \* \* \*

**"THE STICKERS** had preyed on her mind since she'd heard on television a couple of nights earlier that a man fitting the description of the suspected assassin had visited the Mexican consulate in Memphis prior to the murder and obtained a visitor's pass," the paper said.

The paper said Mrs. Riley's estimate of the time the car arrived differed from Mrs. Payne's. Mrs. Riley was quoted as first seeing the car at 7 a.m. Friday.

"We discussed it and

watched it because we hadn't seen it before," she told the paper. "Most of the cars parked here are people who live here."

Although Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark has issued three optimistic statements in the case, it was the first solid break since the slaying.

Four other men known to have been arrested for questioning about the slaying have been released.

Two of the men were law students who were in Memphis last week to help plan a civil rights demonstration. The third was a bald-headed man arrested over the weekend near the assassination site, and the fourth was a minister arrested Tuesday in Joplin, Mo.

**NEW YORK (UPI)—**Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said Thursday night a progress report would be made to the nation soon on the man hunt for the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"We will report on some developments that should be made public soon," Clark told newsmen. When pressed for a specific date Clark said, "When there are facts a report will be made."

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

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Author:  
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Submitting Office:  
 Being Investigated

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# Canceled Order Reveals FBI Sought Alabaman in King Case

## Atlanta Police Impound 1966 White Mustang Fitting Description of the One in Which Assassin Escaped

BY VINCENT J. BURKE AND ED MEAGHER  
Times Staff Writers

**BIRMINGHAM** — The FBI inadvertently disclosed Thursday that it was looking for a white Alabaman who owns an automobile fitting the description of the one in which the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King is believed to have escaped.

The car, a 1966 white Mustang, was impounded by Atlanta police Thursday, after residents in a neighborhood near the state capitol reported that it had been parked on the street there since last Friday.

A pick-up order for that car's owner, Eric Starvo Galt, 36, was circulated by the FBI on Florida police teletypes Thursday—and was withdrawn a few hours later. The license number of the car cited in the pick-up order matches that of the car found in Atlanta.

Special Agent John Hanlon of Miami ordered the pick-up message withdrawn, but said he could not comment on the matter. No warrant was issued charging Galt with a crime.

### FBI Refuses Comment

In Washington, Justice Department and FBI officials refused comment on these developments. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, Dep. Atty. Gen. Warren M. Christopher and FBI spokesman Tom Bishop all declined to say whether such incidents were related to the search for Dr. King's assassin, or whether they even took place.

The last known address for Galt was a Birmingham rooming house.

One resident of the building said a man answering Galt's description had lived there three months earlier, but the owner kept the door locked and refused to talk to reporters except to say:

"I don't know him, I'm sure he's

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

I-1 LA Times

Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/12/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

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Submitting Office: LA

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44-1574 B 15

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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never lived here. I'm not going to open the door."

However, Percy Strickland, a telephone repairman who lies in the rooming house, said he had "heard the name of Eric Galt plenty the last week. The FBI has talked to everybody in this rooming house."

Strickland said roomers there "come and go, so it's hard to distinguish." But, he added, "I remember Galt as being a little younger than the man the FBI described."

The description included in the Florida pickup order said Galt was about 5 feet 11 inches, 175 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair.

Witnesses in the vicinity of the Memphis motel where Dr. King was shot to death last Thursday said a white Mustang had been parked outside the rooming house from which the shot was fired — and was driven away at high speed shortly afterward.

The car impounded in Atlanta bore two Mexican tourist stickers of recent issued date, and was in need of a wash job. It had Alabama license tags, 1-38993.

#### Records Seized

Meanwhile, gun sale records of the dealer believed to have sold the rifle used to kill Dr. King were seized by the FBI here.

The name of the wholesale dealer which accepted the rifle from its manufacturer, the Remington Arms Co., were traced from the weapon's serial number, and his records disclosed the name of the retailer. The rifle was found in a doorway near the rooming house where the shot was fired.

The retail firm's manager told The Times Thursday that he was first approached by the FBI Monday, four days after the assassination.

He said that he could neither confirm nor deny that his company had sold a rifle of the type used in

the killing because the federal agents had impounded his sales records.

There were indications that the interrogation by FBI agents of the manager and store employes had failed, however, to identify the weapon's purchaser.

The FBI has been questioning other dealers here, but the dealers are not being asked if they sold the rifle.

Instead, they are being asked whether any customer in the period preceding the assassination approached them to inquire about the known capacity of rifles of various caliber.

This line of questioning led to speculation that the FBI believes there is a chance the slayer is a Birmingham resident.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Decoy Car Clue Told In Assassin Hunt

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— Street entrance to the rooming house, turned south and dropped the white Mustang near the murder weapon in front of a doorway which police say a business firm next door. The slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., used to escape and a series of unexplained police calls gave rise today to published reports that it may have been the getaway car.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal said the car with Arkansas tags and a similar vehicle, parked a short distance north, both left the scene within 15 minutes after King was fatally shot a week ago today.

Both vehicles were within 100 feet of the doorway to the second-floor rooming house where police said the assassin waited and shot King as he stood on the balcony of a motel across a rear street.

The killer was believed to have walked out of the Main

The Commercial Appeal speculated that the man then walked a few steps farther along, got into the dirty white Mustang with Arkansas tags and sped away.

The second Mustang, parked north of the rooming house entrance, also left the scene near the time of the shooting.

A recording of the police radio dispatcher's transmissions showed seven calls in 12 minutes from a lieutenant's car in the northeast section of the city detailing the case.

The lieutenant said Tuesday he did not make the calls. This led to speculation that someone other than police may have sent the calls on the police frequency

to draw officers away from the escape route.

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

A-1 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/11/68  
Edition: 8th Star  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: LA  
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44-1574 B-76

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2 APR 12 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Sheets [Signature]



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Secrecy Shrouds Mystery Man in King Slaying

After Giving Out His  
Name, FBI Discourages  
Others From Talking

BY ED MEAGHER  
Times Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM—More than 24 hours after the name Eric Starvo Galt first figured publicly in the investigation of the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, it still was unclear Friday whether a man of that name is a suspect—or even exists.

FBI agents, after inadvertently disclosing Thursday they were seeking a man who once lived here under that name, declined to comment on any aspect of the case.

So tight was the secrecy that the FBI drew around its investigation, Birmingham residents once acquainted with the man who used the name Galt were instructed by agents to keep silent.

But it became more apparent that agents were on Galt's track as early as last week—several days before a white Mustang registered to him was impounded Thursday in Atlanta.

## Car Seen Near Scene

The car found in Atlanta matches the description of a dirty white Mustang witnesses said they saw speed away from the Memphis murder scene after Dr. King was shot April 4.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark did nothing to relieve the mystery when he issued a statement in Washington Friday. It duplicated almost verbatim the hopeful remarks he made in Memphis the day after the assassination and his declaration that "the FBI is devoting every possible resource to this investigation."

Clark refused to answer newsmen's questions personally. Press aides said the statement was his response to inquiries about the progress of the investigation.

"Physical evidence," the statement said, echoing Clark's comments in Memphis last week, "is very substantial. While it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested, I remain hopeful that it will be soon."

## 'A Cold Trail'

Another government source, however, said it was his opinion that the FBI now is stalking down "a cold trail."

This could explain the secrecy with which the FBI and other investigative agencies guarded details of the investigation Friday. But it also gave rise to speculation that no such man as Eric Starvo Galt ever really existed.

Some theorists held that a would-be assassin began fashioning a new identity either late last summer or early last fall to cover his tracks once he had completed his mission.

The Mustang registered to Galt was purchased from a Birmingham auto dealer last August and is a 1966 model. The dealer, William Paisley, upon FBI instructions, would not comment.

A man named Galt got his Alabama driver's license here Sept. 6, and was accompanied to his driving test by the landlord of the

rooming, house listed on the registration. The landlord, Peter Cherpes, said he had been instructed by the FBI to make no comment. He said he had turned his records over to agents.

Galt filed for a duplicate license March 1 and gave the rooming house at 2608 Highland Ave. here as his address, indicating he had lived there as late as that date.

However, one resident who did comment said he had not seen the man answering Galt's description in the dwelling for three months.

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

1-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES  
Los Angeles, Calif

Date: 4-13-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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1 APR 15 1968  
FBI - LOS ANGELES

While the presence of the Mustang in Atlanta was not reported until Thursday, it became increasingly clear Friday that FBI agents had been seeking a man named Galt for several days, possibly as early as last Friday—the day after the slaying.

#### Check With Union

Percy Strickland, a telephone repairman who lives in the rooming house, said Thursday he had "heard the name of Eric Galt plenty the last week. The FBI has talked to everybody in the rooming house."

Then it was learned Friday that long before the Mustang was found FBI agents had checked with both the Maritime Union and Seafarers International Union in Mobile, asking about an Eric Galt.

In obtaining his driver's license, the man named Galt had given his occupation as an unemployed seaman.

Agents also checked with one of the largest fishing concerns in the Alabama gulf area and in

Coast Guard files in Washington before the Mustang was found, it was learned.

The name of Eric Galt might never have come to public attention if newsmen in Atlanta had not caught a glimpse of the license number as the Mustang was being towed away Thursday by the FBI.

#### Cited in FBI Bulletin

The license, Alabama 1-38993, is the same number as that cited in an FBI bulletin issued Thursday in Miami, an alert that sought help in finding Galt. The bulletin said he was last seen driving a white Mustang with that number.

As far as is publicly known, the only direct link between the auto impounded in Atlanta and the Memphis slaying is the make and color.

Witnesses who reported seeing a white Mustang drive away from the Memphis murder scene did not get a license number.

Dr. King was assassinated shortly after 6 p.m. Memphis time April 4, or shortly after 7 p.m. Atlanta time.

The Mustang registered to Galt was first reported seen in Atlanta on the morning of April 5, although witnesses differ in this respect. One said she saw it as early as 7 a.m. Two others insist that they saw it being parked at 8:30 or 9.

#### 400 Miles Apart

The distance from Memphis to Atlanta is about 400 miles. Taking into account the one-hour loss because of the time zone change, a driver, depending on his speed, could have left Memphis after the slaying and arrived in

Atlanta as early as 3 a.m. the next day.

The automobile was found in the parking lot of the Capitol Homes Development, a garden-type project designed for low income families, about five blocks from the State Capitol, past which Dr.

King's funeral procession passed Tuesday, four days after the Mustang was first sighted in Atlanta.

The Rev. Ike Powell notified police about the car Thursday, after receiving a call from a member

of his Inner City Methodist Church. He said he had hesitated at first because "it's such a big world and there are so many white Mustangs."

When city detectives arrived, said Mr. Powell, they "didn't appear too excited."

But he said FBI agents arrived later and soon "were all over the place."

Johnny Nielsen, a 13-year-old boy, said he noticed a large amount of cigaret or cigar ash on the front seat, a great deal of red mud on the front floorboard and used 1967 license tags on a ledge inside the back window.

Two Mexican "Turista" decals of recent issuance were on the back and side windows he said, indicating perhaps that the owner had visited Mexico recently.

This, of course, led to speculation that if the car owner had any connection with the assassination he might have scouted a Mexican hiding place earlier—or a jumping off place to South America.

#### Envoy Denies Request

Earlier reports indicated the search for the assassin had spread to Mexico, although the U.S. ambassador there and Mexican Federal Police have denied that a request was made of Mexican officials to join the hunt.

Police in Atlanta said they have not been asked to participate in the FBI investigation here, whatever its mysterious nature.

When the Miami teletypewriter message asking for help in finding Galt first appeared, it was reported as a "pickup order." Later a Miami source said: "This meant they (FBI agents) wanted him spotted not picked up."

Still later, after the Mustang was impounded, the message was withdrawn with the puzzling explanation that it had been released by mistake.

The FBI would make absolutely no comment about these unusual procedures, although the message had concluded:

"If located notify Agent Charles Bell FBI Miami."

The message described the man sought as a white male, 36 years old, about 5 feet 11 inches and 175 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair. This roughly matches the description circulated by federal authorities the night Dr. King was slain.

Gun sale records of a Birmingham dealer believed to have sold the rifle used to kill Dr. King reportedly have been seized by the FBI here, and the dealer has acknowledged that he was questioned by agents Monday.

However, he said he could neither confirm nor deny that his firm had sold the rifle that had killed the civil rights leader because his records have been impounded.

The gun, found near the assassination scene, was traced to him through the wholesaler who purchased it from the manufacturer, it was reported.

Meanwhile, Memphis police said they still were checking on the story of a young Citizens Band radio operator who claimed he had relayed reports of an alleged police chase of the assassin on the city's outskirts soon after the shooting.

He said he had ignored reports from a "police lieutenant" that he was chasing a white Mustang. The lieutenant he named has denied making any such report and that he was involved in a chase.



**VIEWS OF SUSPECT**—Sketches being used in the hunt for slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King include the one at left, being used by Mexican authorities based upon a description provided by the FBI, and the other, based on a description given by man who lives in building from where the shot was fired.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Police Say FBI Is Withholding Sketches of King's Assassin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The FBI is withholding nationwide distribution of a composite drawing of Dr. Martin Luther King's suspected assassin, police sources said Sunday.

"They haven't given us anything but a physical description," one police official said. "They aren't handing out pictures of the man. They either don't have a good one or they're going it alone."

The official asked that his name not be used, citing the FBI's ban on comment about the investigation.

When Jacksonville, Fla., police questioned a Louisville, Ky., man Saturday night about Dr. King's slaying—the man since has been cleared of any connection—Police Lt. M. P. Richardson said, "It's a long shot, but he looks too much like

the sketch of the man who is wanted in the King slaying."

Jacksonville police said Sunday the man was arrested after a resident noted a likeness to a composite picture which appeared in Florida newspapers. This sketch was prepared by a newspaper artist from the description given of the slayer. It was not released—nor endorsed—by the FBI.

Residents of the Memphis rooming house from which Dr. King was shot April 4 reported last week that investigators had shown them composite drawings. But they said the sketches were the same as, or at least very similar to, those prepared by newspaper artists.

FBI officials rejected reporters'

requests for a composite drawing of the man they are seeking in what perhaps is the most massive manhunt of modern times. They refuse to say whether they have prepared such a sketch.

Agents have a good physical description of Dr. King's assassin: 30 to 32 years old, 5 foot 10, weighing 165, with a receding hairline and a long, thin nose.

They also have a good description of the white 1966 Mustang that witnesses said sped away from the Memphis rooming house minutes after Dr. King was shot as he stood on a motel balcony 205 feet from the rear of the rooming house.

A white Mustang was impounded Thursday night from an Atlanta parking lot where it had been parked since the morning after the slaying.

The impounded car bore license tags issued in Birmingham, Ala., to Eric Starvo Galt, 37, who had identified himself as an unemployed merchant seaman when he applied for an Alabama driving license last year.

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

I-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/15/68  
Edition: Home  
Author:  
Editor: Nick B. Williams  
Title: MURKIN

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or  
Classification: LA 44-1574  
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*cc to Bureau  
4/15/68*

44-1574-B-18

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*Shuts*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Greatest Manhunt of Century

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

A-1 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Date: April 14, 1968  
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## But King's Killer Still Free

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) In the dingy flophouse the bathroom window is still jammed open, and across the street the wreaths are wilting on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel.

In the gutter spoiled polaroid pictures flutter and tourists trample over a placard which says "I Am a Man." They can see it all, the place where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. died.

The tears have dried and the eulogies echoed away, the violence is subsiding and the flowers are dying, but the man who killed King still is free.

Within hours after King fell dying, the FBI launched the greatest manhunt of the century for a shadowy sailor named Eric Starvo Galt. It searched for Galt in utter secrecy, and those few police departments asked to look out for him were asked only to locate him—not to arrest him. No warrant was issued for him.

Officially the FBI will not even concede that it wants a man named Eric Starvo Galt. The name became known only after the FBI issued—and later hastily withdrew—a "locate and notify" order for him.

No such bulletin was issued in Memphis, where King died. No such bulletin was issued in Birmingham, Galt's last known residence.

Eric Galt is an enigma. In fact there is some official suspicion that Eric Galt may not exist, for it is very hard for a man to leave so few traces of himself. As far as can be determined, his trail grows cold in Atlanta, where agents found his white Mustang Thursday. It had been abandoned there the morning of April 5, one day after the killing.

He was traced to a rooming house in Birmingham where no one has seen him since November — although a duplicate driver's license was mailed to him there last month.

Where he came from, where he has gone—they are mysteries. The death of Martin Luther King Jr. is a hodgepodge of mysteries—of mysterious men in white hoods, of mysterious radio messages, of mysterious cars and total secrecy.

On Friday, the day after the killing, and on Sunday and Monday on television programs, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark talked freely and optimistically.

The attorney general now avoids reporters. Sources which normally provided guidance in criminal investigations say they have never seen such secrecy. Normally in a search for a suspect, the FBI freely publicizes descriptions and likenesses. But this secrecy, sources indicate, comes from beyond the FBI, beyond the Justice Department—from the White House.

The day after the slaying, Clark said "We are very hopeful that we can have an early and successful conclusion" and later he said "Our evidence points very strongly" toward only one man being involved in the assassination.

But the FBI did not want Eric Galt touched—bothered or chased. Even though it had not found him, it apparently did not want him to know he was hot. Did it, perhaps, hope that Galt might lead agents to someone else?

The organ groaned sadly and a lady's voice overflowing with pathos sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" through a loudspeaker. In the office of R. S. Lewis and Sons funeral home in Memphis, Solomon Jones paused in his narrative occasionally to smile at mourners entering the front door. There was a body on view in the chapel.

Jones told in a soft, funereal voice the story of King's last day. He was driving for King on Thursday, April 4, and Jones told his story exactly the way he told it that night.

He said he was standing on the pavement beside King's car, the engine running, and King was turning to leave the balcony and come down to be driven to a friend's house for dinner.

"I heard the shot, and I felt it go past me. Believe me, gentlemen, if it had been a little lower it would have killed me and not Doctor King. I ran to the street and I looked across, and I saw a man jump up from behind the bushes and run back toward Main Street. He had something white on his head like a hood."

According to Memphis Police Director Frank Holloman, a smooth, gray-haired man from Mississippi with a 25-year FBI ring on his finger, the assassin stood in the bathroom of a nameless flophouse to take his shot.

He rented a room, locked himself in the bathroom and fired out the window, at the back of the building. Then he fled down the stairs and out

into Main Street, one block over from the hotel, which is on Mulberry Street.

He ~~leaped~~ into the doorway of Canipe Amusements Co., one door up the street, and dumped his rifle and a small case containing binoculars in the doorway. Then he leaped into a white Mustang and roared away.

That is how police say it happened, and it is constructed from testimony of witnesses and, presumably, from evidence.

But Sidney Walker also claims to have seen something strange. Walker, a tall, wizened Negro, said he was in Jim's Grill, below the flophouse, having coffee when he heard the shot. Walker said he sprinted out the door, around the corner, down Huling Street and into Mulberry Street by the hotel. He saw King's aides gathering around him on the balcony, and, he said, he saw a man running down the street, away from him, with a white hood on his head. The police had not yet arrived, he said.

But, according to Holloman, 150 officers converged on the scene in a matter of seconds.

Chauncey Eskridge, King's lawyer, was standing in the parking lot with Jones when the shot rang out. He, too, ran to the street. He said he saw no one with hoods, but claimed that a group of policemen leaped out of the bushes—the same bushes from which Jones said he saw a hooded man run. Eskridge also said, shortly after the killing, that he saw a beige Cadillac driving down Mulberry Street. Asked about this later, he said the FBI had asked him not to talk about it.

All these witnesses were admittedly in a high state of agitation. Jones said he had to be taken into one of the hotel rooms to calm down before he could drive King's aides to the hospital. The authorities, apparently, lend little weight to the reports of hooded men.

The white stucco house with a red tile roof at 2608 Highland Ave. in Birmingham has a red

and white neon sign insistently announcing ~~the~~

#### Economy Sleeping Rooms

By the Day or Week

Air Conditioned Dining Room Room and board at 2608 Highland costs \$27 a week, and most of its guests stay only two or three weeks before they move on. Eric Starvo Galt used to live there.

Peter Cherpes runs the place and he says he talked to the FBI and won't talk to anyone else. Only one of the roomers has been there long enough to remember Galt and that roomer, Percy Strickland, doesn't recall much.

"He was just one of the boys," Strickland said. He said he figured Galt had lived there no more than six months—a long time at 2608 Highland—and doesn't recall seeing him since November.

"The FBI has been asking about him plenty the last week," said Strickland, surveying with pride the two bathtubs full of flowers on the lawn.

Authorities — questioned but not warned to secrecy by the FBI—say that Galt applied for a driver's license at Birmingham on Sept. 6, 1967. He got No. 2898947 mailed to him on Sept. 29. He asked for a duplicate and that was mailed to him on March 1, 1968, to the rooming house. He gave no reason for wanting the duplicate.

When he requested the license, he said he was an unemployed merchant mariner. There is no record of him at the Port of Mobile.

He bought the white Mustang which was so passionately sought for a week from William D. Paisley of Birmingham on Aug. 30, 1967. Paisley said the FBI told him not to talk to reporters.

The Alabama State Employment Office never heard of Eric Galt. The Birmingham police never heard of him, and the Birmingham Credit Bureau has no file on him. No one knows, now, where Eric Galt has been since November. But it was in Birmingham, four days before

King died, that a sporting goods store sold the gun that killed him.

The 400 block of south Main Street in Memphis is not an appealing avenue. On the east side there is a big cafe fixtures store, with coffee machines and hot dog cookers in its windows; Jim's Grill, a rundown but clean cafe with a jukebox belting out blues, and white and Negro help and white and Negro patrons. Next to this are two flights of stairs leading up to Mrs. Brewer's flophouse. One is an entrance and the other is an exit. Both are forbidding but, relatively the entrance is a good deal more appetizing than the exit. Behind the two buildings that comprise the flophouse — a guest goes from one to the other through a battered passageway — there is a vacant lot. It is overgrown with vines and mimosa trees and a high fence separates it from the machinery sales parking lot — customers only.

It is a drop of about nine feet from this back lot to the sidewalk of Mulberry Street, and the dirt embankment is held up by a cement wall. Across the street there is the Lorraine Hotel—an old hotel with a modern wing on the rear.

On Huling street, which connects Main and Mulberry there is another flophouse entrance. This is "the colored rooming house." Mrs. Brewer's establishment is the "white rooming house." In the doorway of the "colored" version, a Negro man with straight, shoulder length hair and lady's boots sits, somnolently surveying the scene.

Down South Main Coy the Painter peddles his bicycle. The basket between the handlebars is piled high with cans of spray paint and a big box, and the weight is balanced in the rear by a three-foot container of greens and potatoes lashed to the fender. On the front fender a silver sign with black letters says: "Fools comes like shoes"

all colors ~~and sizes~~. Coy the artist." Coy is a bushy haired Negro with wild, darting eyes and a beaver hat.

The balcony in front of room 306 at the Lorraine is a tourist attraction now. The wreaths that are draped over it are fading in front of the picture windows and the green and orange curtains. A white trucker gazes up at it and says "it sure is a shame. I wish I'd known I was coming here. I'da brought my camera."

At 3:15 p.m. on April 4, a dark haired man with a sharp nose and a neat, dark suit walked up the yellow-walled entrance stairs to Bessie Brewer's place. He asked for a room. Bessie showed him No. 8, on her side of the building, which had a kitchenette. It cost \$10 a week. But he said:

"I only want a sleeping room."

So she took him through the broken mortar into the other building, where rooms 4, 5 and 6 are located. She showed him room 5 and he said "this will be fine."

He paid his \$8.50 rent with a \$20 bill and two quarters and signed "John Willard" on the register. Mrs. Brewer remembered his smile.

"He had a silly smile," she said.

She didn't remark upon his dress—not the sort of elegance usually found in her establishment—nor upon the fact that he carried nothing with him.

Sometime during the next couple of hours he went out again. He went about six blocks away, to York's Arms, and bought a pair of binoculars. The FBI later told York's Arms to say nothing.

Then, perhaps, he picked up the rest of his gear from his white Mustang, parked on Main Street a little ways from the flophouse stairs. The rest of his gear consisted of a Remington 30.06 pump action rifle with a telescopic sight, wrapped in brown paper. A hunter's gun, not an assassin's.

were reports he had a  
eat in Jim's Grill.  
in his room for a  
ne. He left a depression on  
the mattress. Then he went into  
the bathroom and locked it. He  
was in there for half an hour.  
Willie Anchutz, who lived in No.  
6, wanted in. He knocked on the  
door. He got no answer.

The bathroom's yellow walls  
are turning brown and the  
fixtures are stained with  
several colors, all of them  
dingy.

The pull cord on the lightbulb  
overhead brushes a tall man's  
head as he enters and that old,  
free-standing bathtub almost  
butts the wall under the  
window.

The window is jammed open.  
It hasn't been closed all winter,  
another hardship on Mrs.  
Brewer's guests. In order to get  
the rifle trained on Room 306,  
he probably stood in the  
bathtub, or on it, while Willie  
was hammering impatiently on  
the door.

After Willie went away, King  
emerged on the balcony across  
the street. He was 200 feet  
away, 30 degrees to the right, 5  
degrees down. With a high-  
powered rifle, a clear, relatively  
calm day, a telescopic sight—an  
easy target. He came in and out  
of his room three times. The  
third time he died.

The shot shook Mrs. Brewer's  
boarding house like a clap of  
thunder. Willie Anchutz ran to  
his door.

Willie said he saw the man  
hurrying down the hall, a long,  
paper-wrapped object and a  
blue bag in his hand, and one  
arm thrown up by his face. The  
man wasn't running, but he was  
hurrying.

"That sounded like a shot,"  
Willie observed.

"Yes, it was," confirmed the  
killer, without looking around or  
stopping.

He next appeared in front of  
Guy Canipe's amusement com-  
pany—"records ~~and~~ ~~and~~."

He ducked into the recessed  
doorway of Canipe's place and  
what Canipe did thereafter  
depended upon when you talked  
to him. The day after the  
killing, Canipe said he saw the  
man drop a rifle and a blue bag  
—"like a typewriter case"—in  
the doorway.

"I didn't go out. If you had  
seen a man drop a rifle in your  
doorway, what would you have  
done?" Canipe asked. Then  
that he got busy in the back of  
his store.

But a week after the shooting,  
Canipe sat with his brown hat  
on behind a desk and, carefully  
spitting into a wastebasket, told  
how he had gone to the front of  
the store to see the man race  
off in a white Mustang. Canipe  
said he was reluctant to say so  
much because he was afraid he  
might get shot himself.

White 1966 Mustangs are  
plentiful in Memphis. In fact, a  
Ford dealer estimates 600 of  
them were sold and 400 are still  
on the street. "They were wild  
for white in '66," he said.

As a matter of of apparent  
fact, there were two white  
Mustangs parked on the 400  
block of South Main on the  
evening of April 4. One roared  
away seconds after King died  
and the other, said the boys in  
Jim's Grill, got away 14  
minutes later.

Police director Holloman had  
about 40 policemen in the area  
around the Lorraine because he  
was worried about King staying  
in a rough neighborhood. Last  
time King was in Memphis he  
had stayed at the fashionable  
Holiday Inn Rivermont.

Police flooded the area in  
seconds, and within minutes all  
Memphis was in confusion.  
Tension mounted, bursting into  
violence later.

Half an hour after the  
shooting, from a point of 10  
miles across the city, a police  
car began relaying reports of a  
hot pursuit. Actually, the police  
car was parked next to the car  
of a college student, who had a  
citizens ~~band~~ in his car.

Over this ~~radio~~ was picking  
up reports from what identified  
itself as a blue Pontiac, also  
with CB equipment. The broad-  
caster in the blue Pontiac said  
he was chasing a white  
Mustang. He kept pouring on the  
details, and the police car  
radioed them to headquarters.  
Speeds were rising, 75 miles an  
hour, now 100 miles an hour.

Three police cars were  
dispatched to take up the chase,  
running north of Memphis. The  
blue Pontiac reported the white  
Mustang, with three white men  
in it, had opened fire.

But then the youth receiving  
the calls noticed that the signal  
strength meter on his receiver  
was fading. It was not even  
fluctuating. The blue Pontiac  
was going 100 miles an hour; it  
wasn't even moving.

Was this, perhaps, an effort  
to draw police off to the north,  
opening escape routes to the  
south?

It is a leisurely eight to 10  
hour drive from Memphis to  
Atlanta.

Sometime between 7 and 9  
a.m. Friday, a white Mustang  
drove up to a small parking lot  
between two apartment build-  
ings at Capitol Homes, a low-  
rent, integrated housing project  
within sight of Georgia's gold  
domed capitol.

Mrs. Ernest Payne was  
looking out her window. She  
remembered the man who got  
out of the car because she likes  
people to be neat.

"I thought he worked at the  
capitol, or was an insurance  
man. He was dressed so  
neatly." He was dark haired,  
dressed in dark clothes, with a  
pointed nose. He fit, roughly,  
the discription of Eric Starvo  
Galt. There was no doubt about  
the car, when the ladies at  
Capitol Homes finally got  
worried about it on Thursday,  
six days later. It was Galt's.

The FBI refuses comment on  
the investigation. Holloman will  
not comment on the investiga-  
tion. Rumors, both plausible  
and extravagant, sweep Mem-  
phis concerning every conceiva-  
ble organization or person. The  
FBI will not comment. Hollo-  
man will not.

The Mexican Consul got  
worried about a man to whom  
he had provided a tourist visa.  
The investigation roared into  
Mexico. But it turned out the  
man with the visa was merely a  
Memphis State University  
student, innocent.

A hitchhiker got nervous  
watching television accounts of  
King's death in Joplin, Mo. He  
was hauled in and questioned,  
but he cleared himself.

Reports flow in to Memphis  
and Washington from every FBI  
bureau in the nation. The search  
for Galt has gone from Mississi-  
ppi to Alabama to Georgia to  
Florida.

The bullet was recovered  
from King's body, but the  
indications are that it was too  
severely broken up for ballis-  
tics tests. A fingerprint, or a  
palmprint, or both, were found  
—either in the bathroom or on  
the rifle. But indications are  
that authorities don't expect  
much from them. Ramsey  
Clark, however, insists the  
"physical evidence is very  
substantial."

The manhunt continues, mas-  
sive, secret, for one man,  
perhaps for several men. Life in  
the south goes on. Many still  
mourn, few still weep, and  
some never care.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Landlord Identifies Sketches of Figure in King's Slaying

BY ED MEAGHER  
Times Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM — An elderly boardinghouse owner said Monday that he had identified for FBI agents two sketches of a man known to him as Eric Starvo Galt, the mysterious figure whose name has become involved in the investigation of the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Peter N. Cherpes, 72, speaking to newsmen after obtaining permission from the FBI to break a secrecy pledge, said he identified Galt last Tuesday or Wednesday from drawings—one profile and one full face—as the man who stayed at his place for six weeks, from Aug. 25 to Oct. 1 last year.

"It's him, I'm sure," Cherpes said.

## Profile Sketch Held Similar

Cherpes told reporters one of the sketches, the profile, was similar to one drawn by a Memphis newspaper artist, with help from an eyewitness. Dr. King was slain by a sniper April 4 in Memphis.

Galt's name became involved in the case Thursday, when the FBI office in Miami put out a "locate and notify" bulletin on him over Florida police communication facilities. The bulletin was canceled a few hours later without explanation. No warrant has been issued to arrest Galt.

Then, Thursday evening, a white Mustang similar to one believed to have been used by the sniper in fleeing Memphis was found abandoned

done on a residential street in Atlanta. The car was registered to Galt. It had been there since the day after the shooting.

Cherpes said Galt had such a car during his stay at the boardinghouse.

When Galt registered, Cherpes said, he listed his address as Pascagoula, Miss., and said he planned to stay three or four months.

"He told me," said Cherpes, "that he was on a vacation. I thought that three or four months was an unusually long vacation and I asked him about it.

"He said he had been working awfully hard and needed a long rest," Cherpes said. "He explained that he had been working at an iron works in Pascagoula." Cherpes said Galt told him that he had been working at the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corp. in Pascagoula.

In Pascagoula, a spokesman for the Ingalls firm said that company records showed that no one by the name of Galt has been employed there.

## Carefully Investigated

The spokesman said it was possible that someone in a minor job, such as a sweeper, could be employed under a fictitious name. But a majority of the shipyard's employes are carefully investigated for security reasons, he said.

The spokesman said the FBI had meticulously checked over the company's personnel records and had scrutinized all photographs of employees. All employes, even in minor jobs, are photographed, he said.

Other attempts to trace leads on the man known as Galt also have come to dead ends. In Louisiana, where Galt had said he held a driver's license, officials said there was no record of one.

And in Washington, the Internal Revenue Service said it has no record of Galt filing federal income tax returns with Alabama or Georgia IRS offices. Other districts still are being checked. The lack of any records

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on Galt has led to speculation that the name is fictitious, and that the man began creating a false identity when he arrived in Birmingham in August.

Galt stayed only six weeks at the rooming house, Cherpes said, and gave no explanation why he cut his stay short. Cherpes said Galt volunteered that he was going to Mobile, just across the state line from Pascagoula.

(In a copyrighted interview in the Birmingham News, Cherpes was quoted as saying that Galt received a package in the mail from Chicago in September, and that a letter addressed to Galt came from Chicago a few weeks ago.

(The package Galt received in September, Cherpes said, weighed 20 to 25 pounds, was about two feet long and one foot wide. The next day, Cherpes said, Galt told him it was the wrong merchandise and he planned to send it back. Cherpes said he saw Galt carrying the box to his car.

(When Galt left in October, Cherpes said, he told him he was expecting a letter from Chicago and asked Cherpes to hold it for him. Cherpes said he held the letter for a week and then returned it, as he did not have a forwarding address for Galt.)

Another puzzling aspect of the case concerns a duplicate Alabama driver's license mailed to Galt at the Birmingham boardinghouse in March.

The state highway patrol said it received a telephone message March 1, presumably from Galt, asking that a duplicate license be issued because he had lost his license. Galt was told the duplicate would be mailed to him, but that he would have to send 25 cents to cover cost of handling. The patrol said it received the 25 cents March 6.

The duplicate license was mailed, but it is not known what became of it. Cherpes said he did not remember seeing it, and speculated that it might have been picked up from a common table where mail is placed for tenants

at the rooming house. However, no one has been found who recalls seeing the man known as Galt in Birmingham since October.

"Galt was a quiet fellow," Cherpes recalled. "Didn't have much to say. Looked at color TV in the sitting room a lot. Oh, he was pleasant and would speak when spoken to, but he didn't talk about himself much. I think he told me he was divorced.

"He ate all of his meals here, excepting the last week, when he ate out. I don't know where."

The boarding house has accommodations for 18 roomers. Galt stayed in No. 14 on the ground floor and parked his car on the street, Cherpes said.

"Galt was a good-looking man," said Cherpes. "He spoke with a Southern accent and dressed well." Cherpes added that Galt usually wore a suit with shirt and tie. The outfit that Cherpes remembers best was a plaid suit, "a sport suit."

Cherpes said he would have estimated Galt's age at from 25 to 30. Galt's driver's license, issued in Birmingham last Sept. 6, listed him as 36 and described him, as being 5-foot-11, 175 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes.

#### No Callers

Galt, Cherpes recalled, never had any callers during his stay or any telephone calls.

"He didn't go out much," said Cherpes, "only once in a while. He usually turned in early."

Asked if Galt paid his weekly bill in cash, Cherpes said, "Yes, he did. And on time."

Registration papers on the white Mustang indicate Galt purchased the car from a Birmingham salesman Aug. 26, the same day he rented the room.

The .30-06 Remington hunting rifle found near the murder scene and believed to be the death weapon was sold in Birmingham, according to the manufacturer's serial number records.

Cherpes, however, so far as can be reported, is the first person to identify the man known as Galt. The FBI maintained its "no comment" policy.



**GALT REPORTEDLY STAYED HERE**—The owner of this Birmingham rooming house says he has identified two sketches of a man sought in slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King as a roomer known as Eric Galt.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# No FBI Sketch of Assassin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The FBI is withholding nationwide distribution of a composite drawing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin, police sources have disclosed.

"They haven't given us anything but a physical description," said one police official. "They aren't handing out pictures of the man. They either don't have a good one, or they're going it alone."

The official asked that his name not be used, citing the

FBI's ban on comment about the investigation.

When Jacksonville, Fla., police questioned a Louisville, Ky., man Saturday night about the King slaying — the man since has been cleared of any connection — Police Lt. M.P. Richardson said, "It's a long shot, but he looks too much like the sketch of the man who is wanted in the King slaying."

Jacksonville police said the man was arrested after a resident noted a likeness to a composite picture which ap-

peared in Florida newspapers. This sketch was prepared by a newspaper artist from the description given of the slaying. It was not released — nor endorsed — by the FBI.

Residents of the Memphis rooming house from which King was shot April 4 reported last week that investigators had shown them composite drawings. But they said the sketches were the same — or at least very similar — as those prepared by newspaper artists.

FBI officials rejected reporters' requests for a composite drawing of the man they are seeking in what perhaps is the most massive manhunt of modern times.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Mysterious Letter From Chicago Undelivered to King Murder Suspect

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UPI)—Eric Starvo Galt, object of the FBI's most intensive manhunt, received a letter from Chicago a few weeks before the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his landlord said Monday. In a copyrighted interview in the Birmingham News, rooming house manager Peter Nicholas Cherpes, said the sketch of the man wanted in King's slaying "looked exactly like" Galt.

He said Galt stayed at his rooming house at 2608 Highland Ave. from Aug. 26 to Oct. 7 last year.

"He was above the average roomer in dress, talk and appearance," Cherpes said. "He always wore sporty clothes and a tie. He was always pleasant and I never knew of him drinking."

Cherpes said Galt "didn't say much about his family affairs, only that he was divorced. He only talked about the weather, never about politics or racial troubles."

He said that during September, Galt received a prepaid package in the mail from Chicago. He said it weighed 20 to 25 pounds, was about two feet long and one foot wide. The next day, Cherpes said, Galt told him it was the wrong merchandise and he planned to send it back.

"About half an hour later I saw him carrying the box to his car," Cherpes said.

In October, Cherpes said, Galt told him he was leaving for Mobile, Ala., to seek a job. Galt said he expected a letter from Chicago and asked Cherpes to hold it for him.

In February or March, Cherpes said, the letter came

from Chicago. He said the envelope was thin and green, with a Chicago post mark.

"I was puzzled for a while where to mail it," Cherpes said. "I didn't have an address for Galt. So I held the letter for a week, and returned it."

Cherpes said it appeared to him the letter contained a check.

When he received the letter, Cherpes said, he went to his file to look for Galt's registration card and found it. But when FBI agents came to him last week, Cherpes said, it was missing.

Cherpes earlier denied knowing Galt. He said this was because the FBI has asked him not to say anything about the man. But he said the FBI had no authority to stop him. His rooming house was bolted and he refused to admit anyone yesterday afternoon.

He said Galt was a natty dresser who always paid his \$27 a week room and board in cash, on time.

"When he was here, on the third or fourth day, he asked me if I would drive his car downtown for him to take a driver's test," Cherpes said.

"He was a new man to Alabama and to Birmingham and also a customer," Cherpes continued, "and I wanted to help him on that basis. If he had asked for my recommendation, I would have investigated more closely."

Cherpes said that when Galt arrived at the rooming house, he told him his last job was in the shipyards at Pascagoula, Miss. However, Ingalls Shipbuilding Co. at Pascagoula said it had never hired a man by that name.

Galt told Cherpes he was expected to stay at the rooming house three or four months. But he only stayed six weeks, Cherpes said.

The interview with Cherpes came amid growing reports that Galt—as such—may never have existed. Authorities were looking into the possibility that someone may have carefully constructed the identity of Galt for a brief period in Birmingham.

He gave his occupation, when applying for the driver's license in September, as merchant seaman. But none of the merchant seamen's unions have ever heard of him.

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Authorities have apparently been unable to trace him earlier than his appearance at Cherpes' rooming house, and his trail grows cold in Atlanta, where his car was abandoned April 5, the day after King was slain in Memphis.

There is no warrant for him.

It had been speculated that his middle name, as given in an FBI "locate and notify bulletin," was misspelled. It was given there as Starvo, but Stavro is a common European name.

The FBI refuses to comment on the investigation—even to confirm that it is searching the nation for Galt.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Two Taxi Drivers Identify Sketch of King Case Figure

ATLANTA (UPI)—Two Atlanta taxi drivers identified for the FBI Tuesday a sketch of the elusive Eric Starvo Galt and said the mystery figure in the search for Dr. Martin Luther King's assassin rode in their cabs the day after the slaying.

Both drivers said the trips were in Atlanta's hippie neighborhood around Peachtree and 14th Sts.

Both men work for the Atlanta Million Cooperative Cab Co. Their names were withheld at the request of the company.

The FBI has pored through the records of Atlanta Million Cab and other taxi concerns in the city in an attempt to trace Galt from the time he apparently abandoned a white Mustang found in the Capitol Homes housing project. Dr. King was shot by a sniper in Memphis April 4.

### Agents Return to Cab Firm

Apparently working on a new lead, FBI agents returned to the offices of Atlanta Million Cab Tuesday and asked specifically if any drivers had made pickups in the hippie neighborhood on the Friday after Dr. King was slain.

Two drivers who had made such pickups were questioned by an agent who showed them a sketch of the man the FBI apparently thinks is Galt.

Both drivers identified the man in the sketch as the one they picked up.

The first driver told the FBI he picked up the man at the intersec-

tion of Peachtree and 14th Sts. He drove his fare only two blocks—a fact that made him remember the trip—and then the man demanded to be let out immediately.

The driver said he had gone two blocks south on Peachtree to 12th St., and there the man got out, paid his fare and walked quickly down 12th St. toward the west.

The second cab driver told the FBI he recognized the man in the sketch as the same man who rode in his cab to the address of a modern two-story apartment building.

The second driver did not recall if the man entered the apartments or walked off in another direction. The location is at the intersection of 13th St. and Crescent Ave., one block west of the 14th and Peachtree Sts. intersection where the first driver said he picked up the same man.

Ed Collins, president and general manager of the taxi firm, said it was not immediately determined exactly what time

Friday the pickups were made. He said they probably were made during the evening.

In Birmingham, Ala., where Galt once lived, Jefferson County Sheriff Mel Bailey said he believed the assassin may have originally planned to kill Dr. King in the Alabama steel city.

Bailey, who threw a tight security net around Dr. King when he was in the city last October to serve five days in jail, said he believed a conspiracy existed to murder the civil rights leader.

The sheriff said his theory was only conjecture, but that "it is based on the evidence uncovered so far in the case."

Bailey noted that Galt, who has been identified by fellow boarders in a rooming house in Birmingham as being the same man shown in FBI sketches, lived in the city when Dr. King was serving his jail term.

"He could have laid in wait with that sniper rifle on many occasions, waiting for a shot at King," the sheriff said.

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FBI—LOS ANGELES

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**JOYCE HABER**

# Mann May Do King Film Biography

At the instant that dreadful rifle was fired in Memphis, felling the man, finding the martyr, spouting death, pronouncing history, the immortalization of Dr. Martin Luther King was assured.

The gentle, giant-sized, youngest man ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize would be the cause for mourning and prayer and rallies, but beyond that, he and his cause would be elucidated in sermons and sociology and history, in posters and paintings and sculpture, in biographies—in print and on celluloid.



Martin Luther King

Barring acts of God, the authorized movie biography will be executed by Abby Mann. His personal involvement with Dr. King gives Mann an inside track on the film rights to his life story, and no more dedicated social-political commentator looms on the Hollywood horizon.

Writer Abby Mann's own account of his dealings with Dr. King will appear in Sunday's Calendar magazine.

"I was with him all during the time he was considered passe," Mann told me the other night over dinner. "I never considered him passe. I thought he was the answer then, and I do now."

The author of that other tract of our times, the brutal "Judgment at Nuremberg," met Dr. King two years ago on an introduction arranged by Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier. He followed King for two weeks in Miami, and came away with his blessings on a filmed biography at the time.

But Mann was unable to get financing from the studios, several of which are currently in fierce competition to bring the life of that other contemporary Negro martyr, Malcolm X, to the screen. Yet, "It was not until after King had asserted the rights of all Negroes," as Life wrote in an editorial, "that Malcolm X found his own strange but self-reliant following."

The remarkable story of Martin Luther King may be the big picture for Mann, and Hollywood, once he completes his producing-adapting chores on Arthur Miller's "After the Fall." Should Mann get the rights, he may author the screenplay, as well as produce.

Ideally, Sidney Poitier would play King, with Harry Belafonte also in a starring role.

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### MGM Proxy Fight Looms

Don't be surprised if Canadian-tycoon Edgar Bronfman, their to Seagram's and present owner of 600,000 shares of MGM, moves against Metro's management in proxy fight. According to industry sources, Bronfman would have the backing of Time, Inc., which recently bought into the movie company.

And that, despite Monday's announcement that Metro's earnings, under president Robert O'Brien, are at an all-time high.

No. 1 candidate for O'Brien's post, should such an upset take place: president of Cinerama, Seymour Poe.

### Montand Signing Due

As of this writing, Yves Montand is all-but-signed for the male lead, opposite Barbra Streisand, in Howard W. Koch's production of "Clear Day," which Vincente Minnelli will direct . . . There was much shouting about "studio influence" when "Doctor Dolittle" received a Best Picture nomination,—but note that not a single Fox show got nominated for an Emmy award in a major category. Not Judd, which is a quality series, not Peyton Place, in any capacity, although it's the longest-running dramatic series on the air. What goes, TV Academy? . . . Young Christopher Jones, the "difficult" bad boy of TV's Jesse James some seasons back, has been awarded a two-week, all-expenses paid vacation in New York by American International Pictures for his cooperation during the filming of "Three in the Attic," opposite Yvette Mimieux.

At a special session of all industry execs in Hollywood Wednesday, CBS program vice president Mike Dann exhorted all writers, producers, and directors to hire Negroes, wherever possible, in all capacities . . . The off-Broadway rock musical "Hair," restaged for Broadway and currently playing previews in New York, may or may not be restaged again, as morals permit. I don't know what will happen by the time it premieres, but right now, singer Marni Nixon reports, Act I closes with six men, repeat men, stark naked, full face to the audience . . . Quote-I-Wish-I-Could-Print department: Lee Marvin's, after someone suggested that he take a couple of dancing lessons for his role in "Paint Your Wagon."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Cabby Says Galt Photo Isn't One He Identified

ATLANTA (AP)—An Atlanta cab driver said Wednesday night that an FBI picture he identified as a man he hauled two blocks the night after Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated was different from the picture of Eric Starvo Galt released by the FBI Wednesday.

"The one the FBI showed me was much younger. The face was much thinner. The cheeks weren't as fleshy," said the driver, who has asked that he not be identified.

Looking at an Associated Press wirephoto copy of the picture released by the FBI in Washington, he said, "That is definitely not the man I picked up and not the one they showed me. The only time I've ever seen that was on television tonight."

### Shown 3 Photos

He said the FBI agent showed him three photographs. "He may have shown me that one, but that wasn't the one I recognized," the driver said.

The driver said he had recognized one of the FBI photographs as that of a patron he carried two blocks in Atlanta's hippie section on Friday night, April 5. He said he remembered the man because he was rude and threw the money on the seat, causing it to fall on the floorboard.

Describing the FBI print shown to him, he said, "It had a necktie, not a bow tie. The tie was on crooked

Dr. King was slain were definitely Galt, said "I don't think so," when asked if the FBI's photographs were of his former tenant.

(Others in Birmingham who had identified the sketches as Galt said they were not satisfied the photograph was that of the man named in the conspiracy warrant, UPI said.)

It had been pulled over to the side. The hair was the same color but it was flatter on top. This man looks older. The other was about 28 to 30, no older than 35."

In Memphis, the man who saw the possible slayer leaving the scene shortly after Dr. King was shot said the FBI photograph did not resemble the man he saw.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, who lives on the second floor of a rooming house from which the fatal bullet is thought to have been fired.

"The hair is too full and the face is too young," Stevens said after viewing the picture.

Bessie Brewer, operator of the rooming house, said she was unable to tell if the picture was of the man who registered under the name of John Willard the afternoon of April 4, three hours before Dr. King was killed, and left immediately after the shooting.

"I don't know," she said. "I couldn't tell you to save my soul." The FBI did not indicate when the picture of Galt released was taken, or under what circumstances the photograph was obtained.

(In Birmingham, United Press International reported Peter Cherpes, Galt's former landlord who earlier said sketches of the man seen running from the vicinity of where

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*C. J. Williams*