

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

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: April 24, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-561271 JK

Specimens received 4/22/68

K171 Missouri State Penitentiary form dated 10/24/66,
bearing known handwriting of JAMES E. RAYALSO SUBMITTED: Copies of two-page report of psychiatric
examination dated 10/24/66

Result of examination:

The "Galt" writings considered together and specimen K171 can be identified as having been prepared by the same individual.

Because of the limited questioned material and the lack of comparable letters and letter combinations, it could not be determined whether the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature on the Q72 gun invoice was prepared by JAMES E. RAY, K171.

Specimen K171 is being retained.

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

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 1, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-561775 JK

Specimens received 4/29/68

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

Result of examination:

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

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

Specimen K211 has been photographed and is temporarily retained.

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

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 9, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-562610 JK

Specimens received 5/7/68

K257 Twenty-one sheets of paper and one copy of a form dated 4/4/58, bearing known handwriting and hand printing of JAMES EARL RAY

ALSO SUBMITTED: One "Inmate Request To Staff Member" form for JACK M. RAY, No. 59602

Result of examination:

The additional known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, represented by K257, does not sufficiently augment the known handwriting of this individual previously received to permit the identification of the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature on Q72 with this individual.

K257 is temporarily retained.

KC 44-760

INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOW INMATES AND OFFICIALS
AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY,
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/681

Mr. BEN GOODIN, Salesman, Schantzmeier Ford, Southwest Blvd., Jefferson City, Missouri, advised that he formerly was chef at the Missouri State Penitentiary and knew JIMMY RAY well, actually being his boss for about six years. He said RAY was a good friend of a blond inmate by the name of DOWDA. He said DOWDA hated Negroes. He said that sometime about a year ago, DOWDA came through Jefferson City driving a Volkswagen. He stopped to see GOODIN and had a female with him he introduced as his wife. He told GOODIN he had a Mustang and his father operated a resort in Florida and he was manager of a chicken fry cafe in either Atlanta, Georgia, or Montgomery, Alabama. He asked GOODIN not to indicate to his wife that he had been in the "pen".

GOODIN said that sometime later DOWDA telephoned him from California, and said that he needed money and asked GOODIN to send him some. He refused, and DOWDA called a second time and GOODIN refused. He said he has not heard from him since.

GOODIN stated that since DOWDA was a "racist" that he might be an accomplice of RAY in the murder of Doctor KING. He also thought that both RAY and DOWDA were mixed up in "peddling dope" in the penitentiary, but he could never prove it. He said DOWDA had a detainer from Florida which was dropped. He said he knew RAY wanted to escape and he "killed" a request by RAY for a transfer to a farm because of this. He said RAY was "strictly a loner" and very quiet. He knew of no personal feelings on the part of RAY in connection with Negroes. He knew of no other close friends RAY may have had.

On 4/21/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS : pe Date dictated 4/23/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/681

On April 22, 1968, RAY PRUETT, number 2195, Clerk, K Hall, said that he knew JAMES RAY well and visited him on occasion in the hall. He said he considered RAY as a "neighbor". He said that RAY never used any type of drugs except for medicine, had no ill feelings toward the Negro race and had no abnormal sexual habits. He said he first met RAY in jail in St. Louis about 1959 and knew him all of the time they were in the penitentiary except for a brief period he, PRUETT, was on parole.

He said that RAY is the type of person who has no enemies. He never said anything bad about anyone and minded his own business. He was very quiet; interested all the time in escaping and caused no one any trouble. He said RAY had no friends as such, but talked to a few persons. His primary interest was baseball. He did not mention his family and was very conservative in regards to spending money. He did not gamble, according to PRUETT. PRUETT said that if RAY would say he killed Dr. KING that he, PRUETT, would not believe him. He said that RAY is just not the type. He said he could furnish no information regarding the possible whereabouts of RAY and had no information concerning who might have aided in his escape from prison.

He said RAY is not the type of person to have committed the crime of killing Dr. KING, in his opinion.

On 4/22/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS : SS Date dictated 4/22/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/681

On April 22, 1968, BILLY EDWARD MILES, number 02185, serving life in the Missouri State Penitentiary said he was interviewed by reporters with the permission of Warden SWENSON and he has been quoted, without the use of his name, about his knowledge of RAY. He said he has known RAY since February of 1961, and knew nothing of his family or background although RAY mentioned having a brother and sister. He said he celled in K-Hall four cells away from RAY and worked in the bakery with him. He said no one is actually a "friend" of RAY's as he had no close friends. He said the person nearest to being his friend is an ex-convict from St. Louis, Missouri, discharged about 1965 by the name of CARL DRAKE. He said RAY and DRAKE got along well. He said he believed he was as close to RAY as anyone else, but he could not say he was a good friend. He said he attended baseball games with RAY and RAY was interested in following games on T.V. and in the papers. He did not use drugs and MILES denied that he knew RAY as a homosexual or possessed of abnormal sexual behavior otherwise. He said RAY was always looking for means to escape, but did not discuss his plans. He never mentioned where he would go should he escape. MILES believed RAY was above average, for a convict, in mentality. He said some of the inmates believed he was "crazy" for his escape attempts. He said, for a time, he and RAY operated a book shop together. He said they made some money off of this. This shop consisted of obtaining various paper back books and selling and trading them for small amounts. He denied that RAY was in any way connected with the sale or use of dope and did not know of his doing any gambling. He said RAY talked to Negroes, but did not associate with them and expressed no animosity towards them. He said RAY was very retiring and self conscious. He could not imagine RAY taking dancing lessons, or spending money foolishly.

MILES said RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS was not known to him.

On 4/22/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS : SS Date dictated 4/22/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/681

On April 22, 1968, JIMMY Z. BRADLEY, in the Missouri State Penitentiary as JAMES Z. BRADLEY, number 71844, said he has been serving a life sentence since December of 1956. He said he knew RAY as an employee in J Hall for a time and knew he lived in K Hall. He said he spoke to RAY on occasion and observed his activities in K Hall. He said RAY lived in K Hall for at least two years and always desired to cell alone. He said he, BRADLEY, was in solitary when RAY escaped and knew nothing of it.

He said that RAY was exceptionally quiet and rather an "odd person". He said he knows that RAY took mild drugs such as amphetamine and had very small veins and it was difficult for RAY to "mainline" his shots. He said RAY always believed he was ill, and used drugs on occasion as a matter of medicine. However, whenever he could he purchased amphetamine and barbituates. BRADLEY said RAY probably had a source within the penitentiary for these drugs, but he declined to discuss the matter further. He said RAY never sold such.

BRADLEY said that RAY is very quiet and would be very hard to locate. He said he would not know where to locate him and could furnish no information as to who might. He said he did not believe RAY would kill anyone unless his life was in jeopardy. He said that no one could say he is a friend of RAY's because RAY had no associates who he would consider as "friends". He said RAY is the type of person who might find employment on a ranch, a chicken farm, or a lumber camp or similar. He said if RAY took dancing lessons this would be completely out of character for him. He said RAY spent money only when he had to and "did not mess around with anyone".

BRADLEY said RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS is unknown to him.

The following is the mailing list for JIM Z. BRADLEY, number 71844, as obtained from his file on April 23, 1968:

On 4/22/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA ROWEN B. AYERS : SS Date dictated 4/22/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

KC 44-760

2

Wife	MAXINE BRADLEY, 135 St. George, St. Louis, Missouri, age 23.
Mother	PHIE BRADLEY, 1724 A. So. 14th, St. Louis, Missouri, age 49.
Father	JOHN B. BRADLEY, 1023 Lafayette Street, St. Louis, Missouri, age 58.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4/24/68

Date

1

JEROME (NMN) CARPENTER, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) #0304, serving life for murder from June 15, 1961, stated he has been confined and has worked in the psychiatric section of the prison. He said he has known JAMES EARL RAY in prison since about 1963, but does not know him well. He said he used to live in Quincy, Illinois and attended school with JERRY RAY, brother of JAMES. He said he knew the father of the RAY boys as JERRY RAY. He recalled that when he was about 15 years of age, his mother ran away with JERRY RAY and went to St. Louis, Missouri. He said they separated about two years ago and his mother moved back to Quincy and lives at 630 North 6th Street. He did not know what happened to JERRY RAY. He said his mother also wrote to him from 1818 South 12th Street in St. Louis, Missouri. She used the name of RUBY CARPENTER and RUBY RAY and worked as an inspectress at various hotels such as the Jefferson, Coronado and the Park Plaza in St. Louis.

He said he knew JIMMY CARPENTER who left the penitentiary some time ago. He said he did not know if this CARPENTER knew JAMES RAY or not. JEROME CARPENTER said he only saw the mother of JAMES RAY once and that was when she came to the home of his grandmother to find out what happened to her husband and his mother.

He said he heard of RAY escaping from the penitentiary but did not know the details. He said RAY was a quiet, meek person who was very soft spoken. He said he rarely saw RAY in the penitentiary and did not know him in Quincy, Illinois. He said he could furnish no information as to the whereabouts of RAY.

On 4/22/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS : SSC Date dictated 4/23/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/24/68

ORLAN EUGENE ROSE, Inmate No. 73723, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he first came to the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1958. He said he first met RAY in jail at Kansas City, Missouri in 1955, and celled with him and WALTER RIFE prior to the time that all three went to Leavenworth, Kansas. He said RIFE may have been a homosexual as he liked to fool around with young boys, but he said at the Jackson County Jail, Leavenworth, and Jefferson City, Missouri, RAY gave no indication of abnormal sexual behavior.

He described RAY as quiet, a loner, and "not a loud mouth". He could not picture RAY, he said, as being vicious. He said RAY liked to follow baseball. He said they both lived in K Hall and associated together. He said they talked every day. He said RAY "did not fool" with as many as five men in the penitentiary. He said RAY used amphetamines when he could get them. He paid from \$2.00 to \$5.00 a shot. He did not get into debt and did not gamble.

He said he was in maximum security when RAY escaped and knew nothing of the details. He said the rumor inside is that RAY did not escape in a bread truck, but he had no information as to how he did escape.

He said RAY has a half-sister in St. Louis, Missouri with his mother. He said RAY did not like his mother as she left him and started living with an ex-convict out of Illinois. He said RAY has a brother and some half brothers. He believed his mother is living and re-married after the ex-convict died. She may have had some property "which she lived up".

ROSE said the inmates call him "The Jew" in the penitentiary, but he said RAY was "tighter" with his money than ROSE. He said he could not imagine RAY spending any money for dancing lessons or leaving a gun behind him someplace because of this characteristic.

ROSE said he did not know any RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS, nor did he know of this person as an associate of RAY's.

On 4/22/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA ROWEN B. AYERS - lw Date dictated 4/23/68

KC 44-760

2

On April 22, 1968, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, in addition to furnishing a copy of the entire files of the Missouri State Penitentiary, furnished an article handed to him on April 22, 1968 by ORLAN ROSE which is:

Warden Swenson:

Would you look the attached article over and consider turning it over to a reporter of the Kansas City Star newspaper. I have a feeling that Jimmy Ray might give himself up if he happens to read what I have written. If you do release the article I give you full permission to reword it as you see fit as long as it contains the same line of thought.

There is a possibility that he might get killed before it is ever learned whether or not he is actually guilty of ~~shooting~~ shooting Doctor King. If this would happen, it would be another Oswald case in the eyes of the world.

If you do not think it appropriate to release this article to the news media, just tear it up, however, knowing Jimmy as I do there is a very faint possibility that he would give himself up if he were to read what I have written. I am sure that he will be reading either the K.C. Star or the St. Louis papers wherever he is.

The above & the attached 4-22-68 4-page statement handed to Capt. W. Zwick by Orlean Rose-73723, then to me - JRS

"IF JAMES EARL RAY IS GUILTY, WHO IS REALLY TO BLAME?"

"For quite a number of years I have been one of the very few close friends of James Earl Ray. Because of this I would like to say a few things about him since everyone else who discusses him reveals that he is either anti-social, a loner, an escape artist, seeks recognition, etc. If this sort of unfavorable publicity continues to be brought out against him there is a very good chance that he might end up like Lee Harvey Oswald without ever having been given a chance to prove his innocence or guilt before a trial court. If this happens it will be a disgrace in the eyes of the world and bring about the same amount of doubt and criticism that arose after Oswald was killed in cold blood by a fanatic who decided to take the law into his own hands.

I first met Jimmy in the Kansas City jail during 1955 where he was being held on a forgery charge. His accomplice on the forgery charge was another man named Walter Rife and we all three lived in the same cell together and passed many hours shooting the breeze while playing three-handed card games for candy bars. Jimmy loved candy bars and always managed to win his share.

On one of our several trips to the federal courthouse, prior to our sentencing, we were taken in the same group. Jimmy's fall partner, Rife, was facing a parole violation or detainer of some sort from the state of Illinois and planned to escape if the proper situation arose. On our trip to the courthouse, a chance did come up by means of a unlocked door in the holdover room which led to a hallway or stairs. Rife begged Jimmy to leave with him through the unlocked door, but Jimmy quashed the deal by saying that all he wanted to do was to plead guilty to the forgery and get his sentence served. I mention this reluctance to escape on Jimmy's part because everyone always brings up that he was continually trying to escape custody. This is not so. I will explain what I think to be the real reason behind his later escape attempts while he was serving the twenty year sentence, but first I would like to point out a few things about Jimmy Ray's personality that have never been mentioned by anyone up to the present time.

Eventually, we all three ended up in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas where our friendship continued. Rife went to work in the

prison hospital and lifted weights during his off duty hours while Jimmy and I either walked the yard or watched the ball games together. It is true that Jimmy is sort of a loner, but this is not unusual in a penitentiary. Being a loner doesn't mean that he didn't have many friends. Jimmy always wore a smile and laughed softly at the various occurrences during our time together in jail and while we were at Leavenworth. His friendly smile alone made him many friends and got him many greetings, but he just wasn't one to mix or join a group bull session as is most usually the case in jail or prison. He would rather stroll around the yard with one or two persons and discuss clothes, travel, baseball, or the enjoyment he got while working as a painter just prior to his arrest. It must have been one of the best paying jobs he ever had because he was always talking about it. If I remember correctly, I believe him and Rife lived in the Pickwick Hotel during the time they both worked for the painting contractor. He liked nice clothes and was always very neatly dressed during his court appearances. He would sometimes mention his brother, but I never heard him ever mention his mother or father in any of our conversations. I took it for granted that he had not been blessed with many luxuries while growing up. He was very saving with the few dollars he was able to obtain while serving time, in fact, I often accused him of being a miser. Somehow he was able to smuggle a wristwatch into the jail at Kansas City and he was so proud of it that I actually believe it was the first wristwatch he ever owned. He did not want to part with it for anything, however, he finally did so because he learned that he could not possibly take it into the prison at Leavenworth with him. I ended up with the watch and passed it on to my brother, but only after having paid Jimmy a much higher price than is usual in jail. Up until I left him at Leavenworth, he was one of my best friends and he was always a very enjoyable person to be around.

When I again met him in 1960 at the Missouri State Penitentiary, he had aged a great deal, he lacked his usual smile, and his whole demeanor seemed to be changed. He was very withdrawn and it took quite a number of conversations before he finally opened up to me and told me why he felt so bad. We were both assigned jobs in the Food Service Department. He worked upstairs in the Bakery and I worked on the bottom

floor where he would deliver bread each weekday for outside delivery. We both lived on the same tier in K Cellhouse and would often talk with each other after our jobs were over. It was during these conversations that I finally learned what I think to be the main reason behind his personality change. He told me that two police officers had framed him on the robbery charge he was serving the twenty years on. He swore up and down that he was innocent of the crime, but that he did not have the money to hire lawyers to prove his innocence or carry his case into the United States Supreme Court. I later learned that the two police officers were not above planting evidence in order to convict an exconvict, and that their conscience must have bothered them because they both resigned from the police force shortly after Jimmy was convicted. Anyway, Jimmy made several attempts to get his case reopened without making any headway. Escape was continually on his mind and after four different attempts, he finally made it.

As far as him being prejudice toward any person or race, I have never heard him ever mention one thing against anyone in all our time spent together. If he couldn't say something good about someone, he just wouldn't say anything. In fact, there was no outward showing of animosity ever revealed by him toward the two police officers who he accused of framing him. If there was he just kept such things to himself.

As far as him being the person who shot Martin Luther King, I just can't believe it is possible. However, if he is guilty of it I am wondering whether or not it all leads back to the fact that he was actually sent to prison on a trumped up charge which in turn caused him to do so as a means of retaliation against society for the twenty year sentence he swears he didn't deserve.

I hope Jimmy is innocent of killing Doctor King. I also hope that he doesn't become a scapegoat simply because he drove a white mustang and happened to favor the alleged assassinator of Doctor King

For the benefit of you persons with hate in your heart toward Jimmy before he has been proven guilty or given the benefit of a fair trial I ask you to withhold your opinions. Instead I would ask you to think of him as being innocent until proven guilty. In the meantime, put

yourselves in his place, on the run from 200 million persons, without a known friend or voice raised in your behalf, and a hundred thousand dollar reward placed on your head. If you were innocent, how would you feel?

In closing, I would like to say that if this article reaches a newspaper and is published and read by Jimmy, I would like to advise you, Jimmy, as a friend to make immediate arrangements for your personal protection by contacting a Judge or Lawyer and give yourself up so that you can be given a fair trial. Don't put it off until you are recognized by some trigger ~~happy~~ happy nut like Jack Ruby who wants to make a name for himself. You realize that you are on the top wanted list with a large reward on your head. You know that the odds are against you because of this. You can't win. In the meantime, while you are thinking this over, if you happen to be cornered by police officers, for Christs sake don't hold a shootout. Grab a phonebook and call a judge or lawyer.

There's no need for me to mention my name because you know who I am. You do have some friends. Turn yourself in, but use discretion in doing so.

KC 44-760

WNO:ss

1

The following investigation was conducted at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, by SA WILLIAM N. OUSELEY:

JAMES HARVEY BRADLEY, Jr., an inmate of the Penitentiary, number 84515, stated he was presently serving a 15 year sentence stemming from charges against him for violation of United States Postal laws. BRADLEY's cooperation was solicited relative to his knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY and FBI wanted Flyer 442-A was displayed to BRADLEY. BRADLEY immediately stated that RAY was unknown to him by name or face.

It was pointed out to BRADLEY that the FBI was in possession of reliable information that RAY had criminal contacts in Kansas City, including contacts with fences of stolen merchandise. BRADLEY admitted that over the years he has met and dealt with many thieves, burglars and ex-convicts, and possibly at sometime he did meet RAY, however, he has absolutely no recollection of RAY and he feels he has never even met the man.

BRADLEY indicated that in view of the nature of the crime RAY is alleged to have committed, and the resulting disorder that it brought about, he would not hesitate in cooperating if he had any knowledge whatsoever concerning RAY. BRADLEY stated he has followed newspaper accounts of this case and saw the pictures of RAY when RAY was first identified, however, none of it meant anything to him as regards RAY being anyone he has ever known. BRADLEY indicated that he personally has heard no talk among other inmates concerning RAY, that is, talk to the effect that RAY was known to inmates BRADLEY has been in contact with the short time BRADLEY has been at the Penitentiary.

It is noted that JAMES HARVEY BRADLEY, JR., more commonly known as JUNIOR BRADLEY, is now 41 years old and has been engaged in criminal activity since he was 16 years old. For the past 15 to 20 years BRADLEY has had the reputation of being the biggest fence of stolen merchandise in the Kansas City area, having contacts in many other states in connection

KC 44-760

2

with his fencing operation. In addition reliable information has been received that BRADLEY's operation was intimately connected with the illegal operations of the organized Italian criminal element in Kansas City better known as the "outfit".

KC 44-760

THW:nks

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
THOMAS H. WEAVER:

At Jefferson City, Missouri:

On April 23, 1968, Captain DON WYRICK, Assistant to the Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised a review of RAY's file with regard to a June, 1965 violation involving taking prohibited items into the hospital at the MSP, the name of the patient he was supposedly taking the items to was not given in the violation report, prepared by Captain DANTON STEELE, MSP, following RAY's search by Guard HOMER BELL. MSP records show HOMER BELL resigned in July, 1967, and his address was Box 275, Dixon, Missouri, telephone SK 9-6401.

On April 23, 1968, in interview with inmate FRANK JOSEPH GUINAN, #09297, MSP, GUINAN advised that RAY was addicted to "bennies" and amphetamine, and RAY and NEAL AEBY, another inmate, were receiving this material at the MSP through a guard named STOUT, who was later transferred to one of the farms and later fired for smuggling a watch into the prison farm. GUINAN said that STOUT's wife operates a beauty parlor in Jefferson City.

GUINAN said he believes there was an elderly con, about 65 or 70, named JIMMY CARPENTER who would have known RAY, but he never knew them to cell together. He said he believes he read in the St. Louis newspapers that CARPENTER is presently confined in the St. Louis County Jail. He stated that all the time he knew RAY, the latter was always in a single cell.

On April 23, 1968, ABBIE LOOTEN, Secretary, Associate Warden of Custody, advised that her records show JOHN LEWIS STOUT, 812 East High, Jefferson City, who was last assigned at the Renz Farm as a MSP guard resigned on March 4, 1966. It was noted that the Jefferson City telephone directory listed Marvelle Beauty Shop at 812 E. High Street.

On April 23, 1968, JOHN L. STOUT, 1020 East High Street, advised that he was formerly a guard at the MSP, and he knew JAMES EARL RAY as just another inmate there. He said he did not know RAY or NEAL AEBY any better than the other inmates under his control at the MSP. He stated that RAY worked in the bakery and AEBY in the kitchen at the MSP, and would have

KC 44-760

2

had the opportunity to associate together in their work, but he never saw RAY associating with anyone in particular, as RAY was a "loner" in his opinion. STOUT stated that he was transferred from the walls to a farm in about 1966, and has not seen either RAY or AEBY since that time. He advised that he had heard rumors about RAY and AEBY taking "dope", but he has no personal knowledge that they were in fact taking "dope" and he never saw either one of them acting as if they were under the influence of any "dope". He was accused of bringing "dope" into the MSP by prison officials while he was there, but he steadfastly denied having been involved in smuggling "dope" or anything else into the prison and would continue to do so. Neither RAY nor AEBY have contacted him since they left the MSP and he has not seen nor heard from either of them since about 1966.

On April 23, 1968, Captain DANTON STEELE, MSP, advised that he vaguely recalls RAY and the incident wherein he had a violation through attempting to take prohibited items to the hospital to some patient, allegedly. He made no record of the name of the supposed patient RAY was taking the items to, and he cannot recall if any name of a patient was ever given.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

1

CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, inmate, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, was advised of the identity of JAMES A. MITCHELL as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was told the purpose of the interview concerned a report he had made sometime ago to the FBI that he had been offered \$50,000. to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING by two individuals identified only as JAMES and EDDIE. This took place in Columbia, South Carolina, in about March, 1965. He was furnished a warning and waiver form, which he read and executed. He then furnished the following oral information:

In early 1965, in Columbia, South Carolina, he met a soldier stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, who was to be discharged within a few days. His name was JIM or GLENN BARBER, but he is not sure of the first name or the spelling of the last name. He had just returned from Panama, and he believes he held the rank of Corporal. BARBER had marijuana and pep pills in his possession and was a very convincing talker. BARBER had met a female in Columbia named JOHNNIE BLACKWELL. She worked as a waitress at a lounge he believes was called the "Downtown," located near Chubby's Steak House in Columbia. She was from a little town twenty miles south of Columbia, name unknown. BLACKWELL roomed with a girl named JUNE TAYLOR, somewhere on Bull Street in Columbia. Both girls were prostitutes, and BILLINGS lived part of the time with TAYLOR. TAYLOR worked at a night club there called the "Red Rooster."

BLACKWELL had met two men known as JAMES and EDDIE and had filled a prostitution date with JAMES for \$50. The initial meeting took place in some club, name unknown, located near Chubby's Steak House, possibly the "Downtown." BLACKWELL told JIM she had to leave because she had a date with a soldier from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, named BARBER. JAMES asked her to ask BARBER if he could get ahold of any weapons, whereupon she told him BARBER had a machine gun.

On 4/26/68 at Springfield, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA JAMES A. MITCHELL - LAC Date dictated 4/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

JAMES expressed an interest in buying it from BARBER and told her to pass this on to him, which she agreed to do. The prostitution date was filled in a motel in town, name unknown.

The following night, at the V.F.W., he, JAMES, EDDY and BARBER met. TAYLOR and BLACKWELL were present, as well as two other girls who worked at the "Red Rooster," but this was their night off. He does not recall their names. This was the first time he had met JAMES and EDDY. The men went outside and BARBER gave them each a stick of marijuana which he had brought back from Panama. They all sat in JAMES's white 1964-65 Lincoln Continental and smoked marijuana. The Lincoln had a Tennessee license plate beginning with the number 2, which designates Memphis. JAMES was always smoking big cigars and wore a large diamond ring. He understood JAMES has money in Mississippi and Tennessee. He owns land in Clarksdale, Mississippi, has a big car lot in Memphis and a night club. In the old days he was a bootlegger. JAMES despises the Negro race and, particularly, any with Communist leanings.

While in the car, JAMES told BARBER he understood he had a .50-caliber machine gun and BARBER said he did. JAMES asked if he wanted to sell it and he said, "Yes." Either JAMES or EDDIE asked where the machine gun was and how long it would take to get it. BARBER said three days because it was in Westwego, Louisiana, in care of a friend who ran a night club, The Canal Bank Inn. He never heard this man's name. JAMES or EDDIE asked BARBER if he had any ammunition for it, and he said he had a whole belt. One of the men then offered him a thousand dollars for the machine gun.

They all met again the next night at the largest drive-in restaurant in Columbia, name unrecalled. JAMES or EDDIE asked him if he had ever used the machine gun before, and he said he used one while in military service. It was agreed that BILLINGS would take BARBER to Westwego, Louisiana, which is on the west bank of New Orleans, to get the machine gun. They were to meet JAMES and EDDIE on a certain unrecalled date in Columbia and collect \$1,000. for the machine gun. The meet was to be at some unrecalled motel. BILLINGS stated he has trouble remembering things that happened this long ago.

He drove BARBER to get the machine gun at the Canal Bank Inn, and BARBER contacted some man outside of his presence who reportedly told him the weapon had not arrived. He and BARBER stayed in an apartment house at the rear of the Canal Bank Inn for two days waiting for the weapon to arrive, but it never did. He became irritated with BARBER and then felt BARBER never had such a weapon. BILLINGS returned alone to Columbia, South Carolina, and he understood BARBER was going to his home in Fort Myers, Florida. BARBER's parents reportedly lived in and operated a trailer park at Fort Myers. BILLINGS stated that at the time all this was going on he had and was driving a 1959 Chevrolet convertible, maroon in color, bearing a Maryland Temporary Tag. He bought the car under his true name from Luby's Chevrolet in Baltimore, Maryland.

Upon his return to Columbia he met with JAMES and EDDIE and informed them he did not get the weapon. He was told the plan was for him and BARBER to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING for \$50,000. \$5,000. was to be in advance, with the remaining \$45,000. to be paid to them in Greenville, South Carolina. JAMES said KING had to be "wiped out" because J. EDGAR HOOVER had reported KING to be a confirmed Communist and the most notorious liar of our day. The killing was to take place along a scheduled march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. The machine gun was to be placed in the back of a paneled truck and driven to a spot on the Selma-to-Montgomery route. When the front line of marchers, including Dr. KING, approached the spot, the rear doors of the truck would be opened and the marchers machine-gunned. The truck was to come from some other state and purchased legally in the name of a deceased person. They would then drive the paneled truck away from the line of march to a country road where a passenger car would be parked. The truck would be abandoned and then they would travel into Montgomery, Alabama, by a devious back-roads route. They would then travel to Greenville, South Carolina, where they would meet JAMES and EDDIE. JAMES would tell them how to get to Sydney, Australia, via Mexico, on a freighter.

JAMES has a friend who formerly lived in Mississippi but now has a sheep ranch in Broken Bow, Australia. This man would help set them up in a bar or some other type of legitimate business.

KC 44-760

4

When he told JAMES and EDDIE that BARBER could not produce the machine gun, they said the plan had been dropped because MARTIN LUTHER KING announced he was not going to participate in the march.

He described JAMES as white male American, age 40; 5 feet, 10 inches; 210 pounds; blue eyes; brown hair, graying on the sides. JAMES lives on a farm eight miles from Memphis, in Mississippi.

EDDIE described as white male American; 6 feet, 1 inch; 180 pounds; brown hair; age 38, good dresser, residence Memphis, Tennessee.

BARBER described white male American, 22; 5 feet, 8 inches; 170 pounds; black hair; husky build, and good looking. He believes BARBER a psychiatric case and believes this was the reason he was discharged from the military.

He has seen JAMES and EDDIE since the above incident; however, he is not going to say more unless the Government dismisses an Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle charge against him. He has two detainers against him, and one is a State detainer. The federal detainer is from U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, and this detainer prevents him from making parole. He is eligible for parole on his current 5-year sentence in September 1968. He might get a parole to a State detainer, but parole would not be favorably acted upon with a federal detainer on file. If this detainer were removed he would furnish the full names of JAMES and EDDIE and where they could be located, in addition to subsequent contacts he has had with these men. He was told that no promises of any kind could be made in this regard.

A photograph of JAMES EARLY RAY, FBI # 306443A, taken at the Missouri Department of Corrections, Jefferson City, Missouri, on March 17, 1960, was shown to BILLINGS. and he stated that he does not know this individual either by name or photograph.

BILLINGS admitted he was at the Medical Center for psychiatric treatment. He has a writ in federal court under the provisions of Title 18, Section 2255, U. S. Code,

KC 44-760

5

trying to get his original Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle conviction set aside on the grounds he was incompetent at the time. He was at the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, but was recently transferred to the Medical Center because he has been seeing a red man with a green coat and alligator shoes. This red man is responsible for all his troubles. He is not visible to him now, but he does see him when he is alone, but not since he arrived here in February 1968.

The following is a description of BILLINGS as obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Height	6'
Weight	190 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Born	 in North Carolina (no town)
FBI #	368794A
Wife	OMA BILLINGS Box 214, Toughkenamon, Pennsylvania
Mother	VIRGINIA BILLINGS
Father	P. B. BILLINGS (Address same as above)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/681

MELVIN LEMONS, Secretary to the Director, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, advised CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, FBI # 368794A, is at the Medical Center for psychiatric treatment with the long-term goal of an eventual return to the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

He stated on April 2, 1968, the Medical Center directed a letter to the U. S. Probation Office at Little Rock, Arkansas, stating that although BILLINGS now appears to be competent, several months ago he was too psychiatrically disturbed to participate in any court here. A plan is to examine him again in a month to determine whether or not he is competent to participate in legal proceedings.

LEMONS stated that while BILLINGS was at the Medical Center on a previous occasion a psychiatric report prepared April 17, 1967, by Dr. ANDREW F. GUSCHWAN, M.D., Staff Psychiatrist, contained the following diagnosis:

"Schizophrenic Reaction, chronic undifferentiated type, sociopathic personality disturbance, anti-social type, migraine headaches, with possible brain damage."

On 4/26/68 at Springfield, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA JAMES A. MITCHELL - LAC Date dictated 4/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/27/68

LEO HOLDEN PARKER, No. 15254, Missouri State Penitentiary, received April 19, 1968, to serve 15 years for Armed Robbery-1st said he was released on parole to Dismas House in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 1, 1967, after serving 13 years for murder in Illinois. He said he was arrested on July 18, 1967, for having kidnaped a boy and girl and robbing them of money and their car. The car was recovered in St. Louis, Missouri. He said this crime was committed on July 11, 1967, and he was arrested on July 18, 1968, and subsequently tried.

He noted the newspaper articles stated that the kidnaper had mentioned being recently escaped from prison and among other things had blue eyes. He has brown eyes. He said, while in jail, he talked to everyone he could to find out what prisoners had escaped from Illinois and Missouri. He was told be a prisoner at the St. Louis Jail that JAMES RAY had escaped. This was in September of 1967. He said this prisoner, whose name he could not recall if he ever knew it, said that RAY had been in St. Louis all summer; had a car; was using or pushing narcotics and was living and eating in a garage and had been making money by various hold-ups. PARKER said he tried to get his attorney to send for a photograph of RAY, but this was not done.

PARKER said that he did not see a photograph of RAY until this last week when pictures were published of him in newspapers in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He noted the close resemblance between him and RAY. He said he thinks RAY is responsible for the crime for which he is serving time and he is therefore desirous of doing everything he can to help locate RAY.

PARKER said a large blow-up picture of him was used in his trial, but the picture had been "touched up" to remove facial scars. He noted he has tattoos on his arms that would show and yet the witnesses did not recall them. He said he believed the victims had been influenced in identifying him by the St. Louis Police. He claims he had a good alibi and did not commit the crime, but was convicted on his record and from biased testimony based on faulty identification of

On 4/26/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS/rl Date dictated 4/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

KC 44-760

2

photograph, although the record indicates it was a court room identification.

PARKER said the victims were RITA BROCKELMAN, 1502 A Montgomery, St. Louis, Missouri, and GEORGE MC QUADE, JR., 4708 Plover, St. Louis, Missouri. He said the case was investigated by JOHN LEPPING and EDWARD ALLERS, Fifth District, St. Louis Police Department.

PARKER said he was in jail at St. Louis for ten months, and all this time he talked to whoever he could to find out who might have been the real perpetrator of this crime. He said he was on the fourth floor to December of 1967, and thereafter on 23 on the main custodial floor. He said, however, that prisoners mingled pretty much throughout the whole building and he does not know the names of anyone he talked to. He said he would continue to search his memory for the name of the person who told him RAY had been in St. Louis during the Summer of 1967, and was there as late as September of 1967.

PARKER said there was publicity of this case in the St. Charles, Missouri, Daily Banner of July 12, 1967, which carried interviews with the victims, and he has a deposition in which Miss BROCKELMAN testified the kidnaper had blue eyes and was very positive of this fact. He also noted the victims were let out about two miles from Alton, Illinois, where he believes RAY formerly lived. He noted the descriptions of him and RAY are practically identical except for marks and eyes.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/29/68

GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, Inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, at first said he did not know JAMES RAY. He was shown various pictures of RAY and then said he recognized him as an associate of an inmate he knew as RAY CURTIS. He said he had served time with CURTIS both in the penitentiary and in jail at Springfield, Missouri, and read an article of an interview with CURTIS in regard to RAY within the past few days.

EDMONDSON said his wife did not know RAY and he personally had no dealings with RAY inside or outside of the penitentiary, and did not discuss escapes or anything else with him.

EDMONDSON said he obtained a Canadian passport in Montreal, Canada under the name of ALEXANDER PETER BORMANN for the reason he spoke German, and is going to adopt that name eventually. He said his wife is GINETTE BORMANN, nee La-Ferte, and she is residing with her parents at 11075 Blvd., Plaza, Montreal North, Quebec, Canada. He said she visits him on occasion, about every other month, but she does not plan to visit again as he expects to be released on a decision of the Missouri Supreme Court within a matter of about 30 days, and he will then go to Canada and join her.

EDMONDSON said it is very easy to get a Canadian passport and the procedure is probably known to every fugitive from the United States. He said all that is needed is \$5.00, plus someone to sign as a "guarantor", plus either a Baptismal Certificate or a Birth Certificate. He said he obtained his by sending in his marriage license and his wife's birth certificate. He said Baptismal records are available as are "guarantors" in the Rue Notre Dame area. He said most of the certificates emanate from the Saint Justin Parish and it costs about \$50.00 to obtain the necessary papers to back up the passport application.

He said there are a lot of "floaters", such as prostitutes and other "hustlers" in the Notre Dame area and they are the ones with whom to make contact. He said there

On 4/25/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS:ENV Date dictated 4/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

KC 44-760

2

is a definite pipe line in this regard. He said it usually would take about a week or ten days to get the necessary papers, and within a few days the passport would be received.

He said it is important to evaluate the contacts to know if 2500 Rue Notre Dame is east or west. He said neither is a good section, but east is French and west is English. He said the English are working people, but the French are "hustlers". He said the address could be considered as "downtown". He also said, if the passport was obtained on a Baptismal record, he might be able to furnish further information which might be helpful.

EDMONDSON said he believed that it would be no problem for RAY to hide out from Police and officials, but he would have to hide from the "whole literate public", which he said he knew from personal experience is not easy. He said, in his opinion, since RAY has been connected with the assassination of Dr. KING, he has no place to go, and no place to hide.

KC 44-760

THW:rmb

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

JOHN KENNETH HURTT, Missouri Department of Corrections number 75502, an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), advised that he celled in the same hall at the MSP as did JAMES EARL RAY for about two or three weeks in about 1966. He said that he was not close to RAY and that he knows of no close associates RAY had in the MSP. He stated that RAY was "always planning an escape", but he does not know who helped RAY escape in April, 1967, if anyone did help him, and he had no advance knowledge of RAY's escape in April, 1967. He advised that he has no information as to what RAY's plans were once he was able to escape, and he has no idea where he might go on escape or where he might try to hide. He said that he never heard of any bounty on the life of Dr. KING, and he never heard RAY mention such a bounty or say anything to indicate one way or the other his feelings regarding the Negro race.

RAY did say that he had a close friend who owned a paper company or office equipment company in Kansas City, Missouri, as HURTT recalled, and he said that RAY had him send a money order to this stationery company supposedly for ordering some paper. He said RAY gave him cigarettes in return for HURTT's sending about a \$15.00 money order to the stationery company, apparently because RAY did not want the records to show he was sending out the money. RAY was always talking about this same man who owned the stationery company, as RAY said, and it was this person who HURTT thought RAY said lived in Kansas City, and he thought that he sent his money order to Kansas City; however, he believes the name was PEPPER, and it is possible that he sent the money order to St. Louis, Missouri, rather than Kansas City, and he cannot recall the exact address. He advised that at any rate, the paper never came, and he asked RAY about delivery, and RAY told him that he had arranged for direct delivery to him and the paper would not be coming to HURTT. He said RAY never told him the money order had been sent to his brother-in-law. He added that this was the only time he ever sent any money out for RAY, and it was the only time RAY asked him to

KC 44-760

2

do this for him. This would have been in about 1966, after RAY got out of solitary confinement following his return to the MSP from the State Hospital in Fulton, Missouri, as HURTT recalled. HURTT said that he was in solitary confinement when RAY escaped in April, 1967.

HURTT advised that he never heard of "Cooley's Organization", and he has been in the MSP for fifteen years. He said that he is not acquainted with any inmates named ORR or MC CLELLAN, and he does not recall any such inmates being assigned to jobs with RAY or celling near him. He stated that he never heard RAY speak of Mexico, Canada, Australia, or New Orleans. He advised that RAY celled with CARL LILLIBRIDGE when RAY returned to the MSP from Fulton, but he knows of no other cellmates RAY had. He said that he has no information to indicate RAY was involved with the sale of amphetamine in the MSP.

On May 9, 1968, and May 10, 1968, Warden HAROLD SWENSON and Major B. J. POIRY, Assistant Associate Warden of Custody, MSP, advised that they have no knowledge of "Cooley's Organization" and have been unable to identify it with any segment of the population at the MSP or to verify its existence, past or present.

KC 44-760

THW:rmb

1

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

The following investigation was conducted by
Investigative Clerk WILLIAM C. MC DONALD:

On May 8, 1968, Mrs. LILLIAN WILLENBRINK, Secretary to Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), advised that the only "Indian barber" in the MSP is ROMAN SAGE, #14319, the "F-Hall" barber.

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS H. WEAVER:

On May 9, 1968, ROMAN SAGE, #14319, who is of Indian heritage, advised that he did not arrive at the MSP until October 13, 1967, which is his first sentence here, and he did not know JAMES EARL RAY and has no information regarding him.

KC 44-760

THW:rmb

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On May 9, 1968, HOWARD NUNN, #68889, inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), advised that he was in K-Hall at the MSP during the time RAY celled there in 1967. He said that he was in K-Hall at the time RAY escaped in April, 1967. He said that he did not know any inmates named MC CLELLAN or ORR, and he does not know if inmates with those names were in the MSP at the time RAY escaped. He stated that he never worked directly with RAY, but he did see him in the MSP and spoke with him. He said he went to work at the bakery at the MSP following RAY's escape, but he never heard any talk in the bakery about RAY or his escape while he was there and he has no information as to the identity of any inmate who may have aided RAY in his escape. NUNN said that he was working at the tag plant when RAY escaped, and he did not know of his plan to escape or his plans following escape. He recalled that RAY was a "loner" who did not speak unless he was spoken to, and RAY never discussed his future plans to him. He said that he has no information regarding any "bounty" for the death of Dr. KING, and he never heard RAY speak of such a "bounty" or of Dr. KING. He stated that he got the impression that RAY had lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, as he did speak of New Orleans in his conversation, but he cannot recall any specific comments RAY made concerning New Orleans. He said he does not recall RAY's speaking of Mexico or Canada, and he has no idea where RAY might be located. He said that he recognizes a 1967 photograph of RAY in coat, white shirt, and tie, as RAY, with a fuller face. He stated that RAY never mentioned any assassination plans, and he felt that RAY was the non-violent type, since he was so quiet. He said he never heard of "Cooley's Organization" at the MSP.

KC 44-760

THW:tlw

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On April 30, 1968, DONALD JOHNSON, #0087, inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that he was in the Missouri State Penitentiary during 1960-66 on one sentence, and he believes he may have known who RAY was during that time, but was not acquainted or associated with him personally. He said when he came back to the Missouri State Penitentiary in February, 1967, to begin his current 15-year sentence from Clay County, Missouri, he worked in the bread room at the Missouri State Penitentiary during the early part of 1967, and he was working the morning shift at the bread room during the time RAY escaped. He stated that he recalls RAY was working the afternoon shift in the bread room, and he does not recall seeing RAY the day he escaped. He advised that he did not see RAY very much anyway, and he did not know of any plan RAY had to escape and never heard anything before he left or afterward as to where RAY planned to go after escape. He said that he does not know whether or not an inmate aided RAY in his escape, and he does not subscribe to the theory that RAY escaped in the bread box being delivered to one of the prison farms. JOHNSON said that his shift was from 4:00 AM until 1:00 PM and he generally at about 8:00 AM took the bread box for the Benz Farm down to the dock from the bread room to be loaded onto a truck going to the farm. He said as he recalls, the day RAY

supposedly escaped, he personally loaded the bread into the wooden bread box, personally took it down the elevator operated by an inmate to the dock, and assisted in placing the box onto the truck. He asserted that he placed the bread into an empty box, and there was nothing unusual about the box he loaded. He said that he does not believe RAY left the prison in the bread box, unless the bread box was exchanged for one in which RAY was hiding without JOHNSON's knowledge. He denied that he assisted RAY in his escape, and stated that the bread box was generally loaded with from 35 to 60 loaves of bread, which he always stacked neatly in the box. He said that he never worked directly with RAY at the prison and did not consider himself a friend of RAY. He stated that he never heard anyone at the prison speak of a bounty on Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, and he never heard RAY say anything that would reveal his feelings with regard to race or about his plans for the future. He said he never heard RAY mention Oregon, Mexico or Canada. He said that he does not believe that the bread he packed into the bread box on the day RAY supposedly escaped came to the top of the bread box. He advised that sometimes the bread sits on the truck at the dock unattended while the driver picks up other supplies to be delivered to the prison farms. JOHNSON denied having knowledge of any plan RAY had to escape and denied knowledge of his possible whereabouts.

AT TUSCUMBIA, MISSOURI:

On April 30, 1968, Sheriff WENDELL HENSLEY, Miller County Sheriff's Office, advised that the town of Lake Ozark, Missouri, is in Miller County, located on the Lake of the Ozarks. He said that he knows of no investigation being conducted at this time or recently by any law enforcement agency about "narcotics pushers" at Lake Ozark or area, and he personally has no knowledge of any peddlers of narcotics operating in this area. He said there has never been any proof of which he is aware that RAY was ever in Miller County or area.

KC 44-760

THW:ENV

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On April 29, 1968, BOBBY FRED ASHE, MSP #01562, inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), advised that he knew JAMES EARL RAY at the MSP, but was not well acquainted with him. He said he would doubt that anyone was "well acquainted" with RAY, as he was a quiet individual who did not become involved in any of the prison rackets. He stated he never knew of RAY to be involved in the sale of "pills" or amphetamine, or to operate or play in poker games. He advised that he never knew RAY to express strong opinions on any subject, including racial matters, and he never heard of a bounty mentioned regarding Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said he knows nothing of RAY's family, background or associates and has no information regarding his escape or plans following his escape. He advised that RAY was not known, so far as he knows, as a "kid" or a "punk" in the prison, and he doubts that RAY was ever a cellmate of JIMMY CARPENTER.

KC 44-760

THW:ENV

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On April 29, 1968, a former cellmate of JAMES EARL RAY at the Missouri State Penitentiary, CECIL CLAYTON LILLIBRIDGE, also known as Carl Lillibridge, Missouri State Penitentiary number 67755, advised as follows:

He knew JAMES EARL RAY at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). From his conversations with RAY, he learned that RAY's maximum ambition in life was to make a "score" of about \$20 - \$30,000.00, after which he would go to Mexico to "hide out", living simply on the loot at the favorable Mexican exchange rate. RAY had spoken to him about his previous trips to Mexico, following "two or three" armed robberies, involving small scores, where he would "cool off" and live on beer, beans and milk. RAY spoke of Campeche Bay, near the Yucatan Peninsula, and he spoke of living with peasants on the outskirts of the town of Campeche, Mexico. RAY also spoke of a cheap "red light district" he favored located in the town of Torreon or Torrejon (phonetic), which the former MSP inmate thought was located in north central Mexico. Cost was a factor in anything RAY did, and he apparently lived frugally and budgeted his money carefully.

RAY did not like Negroes in general, but he expressed no particular feeling toward MARTIN LUTHER KING, although he has heard RAY refer to Dr. KING as "MARTIN LUTHER COON". RAY read enthusiastically, especially the weekly news magazines available at the MSP, and he would react in an outspoken manner opposing H. RAP BROWN and STOKELY CARMICHAEL when he read of their activities, as well as in opposition to publicity Dr. KING received in certain instances.

The former MSP inmate never heard of any bounty mentioned with regard to Dr. KING at the MSP or elsewhere. He believes he has heard RAY speculate that there might be some money available through some splinter group for the murder of BROWN or CARMICHAEL, but he never heard him speak in this regard about Dr. KING. RAY did not mention specific groups or any knowledge of any real payoff information. He recalls RAY's telling him, during the time he celled with him, that while he was on the minor construction detail at the MSP, one of the guards referred to the Negro inmates working on the detail as "boy", and the Negroes went on a "sit-down" strike, and induced about two of the white inmates to join their strike, and when one of the Negroes referred to RAY as "gray", he got into a fight with that inmate, although the prison officials never learned of the fight, and the former MSP inmate's knowledge of the fight was as a result of RAY's telling him, and he does not know whether or not it is true.

RAY was a hypochondriac in that he took six or seven different kinds of pills daily, imagining that he had a "cranial depression" and a "rapid palpitation of the heart". He would use former inmate's watch with a second hand and time his pulse. He was able to obtain "pills" from going on sick call as well as through inmate sources in the MSP. The former inmate had some pills he had obtained for treatment of his arthritis, from which he obtained no relief, and RAY took these pills, thinking that he might some day have arthritis, and the pills might ward off future effects of that affliction. He believes RAY was selling amphetamine all the time he was in the MSP, but former inmate does not know his source.

RAY mentioned a traffic for the sale of small appliances in Mexico, due to the tariff Mexicans had to pay for such items they purchased legally, and he spoke of having smuggled such items into Mexico. He said he was acquainted with a man who operated a small scale smuggling business, who lived near the town of Campeche, Mexico. RAY mentioned this man so often that former inmate recalls his name: either MATEO LOPEZ GARCIA or MATEO GARCIA LOPEZ, who apparently had lived for some time in the United States, and who spoke English. He believes this is the man RAY referred

to as the owner of a small fishing boat, and he would smuggle things from Brownsville, Texas, into Mexico through Campeche Bay. He believes RAY made trips on this boat with the man, and apparently Mexican Nationals are not checked upon entering Mexico through Campeche Bay in fishing boats. He does not believe RAY could speak Spanish, other than for basic words for basic needs. He heard RAY mention a brother in St. Louis, Missouri, and he believes some of RAY's trips to Mexico were with either the brother or with someone he had participated in armed robberies with, name not given. RAY indicated he had invested a little money in TV sets and washing machines which were transported to Mexico by his friend with the fishing boat. RAY said he had been to Mexico City "a couple of times", and he apparently liked Mexico City, but said it was a "tourist trap", and he could not afford to stay there.

RAY's only reference to working had to do with past bartending jobs. He believes RAY said he had tended bar somewhere in Peoria, Illinois, and at some other town in southern Illinois, exact location not known. He never mentioned Oregon or Canada, that former inmate recalls.

RAY never mentioned to him his plans for escape or specific plans to hide out any particular place, but his conversation indicated he wanted to "make the one big score" and retire in Mexico. He mentioned that he and another man, name not mentioned, drove to Mexico, apparently Campeche, one time, in an old model Chevrolet, specific routes not mentioned. He does not know how RAY made his other trips to Mexico he claimed to have made. He said that he had lived in a rented three-room shack on the outskirts of Campeche, within walking distance of the town, and from his conversation, former inmate gathered that this was during the late 1950's. RAY said he had been in Arizona before, but he did not mention any of the Mexican-United States Border towns, other than Brownsville, Texas.

He recalls RAY mentioned having watched a "fire dance" done by small Negro boys at a hotel in Acapulco, Mexico. He indicated he had not stayed at the hotel where the performance was, since it was too expensive, but stayed at an unnamed cheaper hotel, and he indicated that live coals

—
were kicked over a cliff into the surf below the hotel, after which the boys would dive into the surf as it rushed through a small inlet.

He recalls RAY once had another inmate, KENNY HURT, or HURTT, in about 1966, send out about \$15.00 for him once, purportedly for the purchase of stationery for legal papers. The prison authorities watch inmate expenditures closely and at the time, the inmates were allowed only about \$23.00 per month expenditures, but RAY had some income from his illegal activities in prison and needed to conceal the money in other than his own treasury account. HURTT got RAY's money and sent it out to a Mr. and Mrs. _____ (name unrecalled) Stationery Company in St. Louis, Missouri, but no stationery ever came to HURTT, who worried about it and thought it might have been stolen until he was told it would never come, by RAY, who had used HURTT for getting rid of the money without HURTT's knowledge of what he was doing.

Former MSP inmate does not know who RAY might contact, other than the supposed friend at Campeche he named, and he has no knowledge of his whereabouts and no knowledge of his plans to escape, or activities following escape. He does not approve of the murder with which RAY is charged, however, and desired to furnish the above information to help if he can.

KC 44-760

PGM:rmb

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent PRINCE G. MELTON:

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

A former inmate, JULIUS MAURICE BLOCK, of the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, currently incarcerated Federal Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised on April 30, 1968, that he had worked in the bakery at the Missouri State Penitentiary while JAMES EARL RAY was an inmate at the penitentiary and also a bakery worker. RAY was a friend of BOB POWELL and an inmate recalled only as J. R. RUSSELL, believed to be from Farmington, Missouri.

POWELL intimated that RAY was planning an escape from the penitentiary and his escape was finally effected with a large bread box--POWELL, RUSSELL, and possibly others assisting in the loading of the bread box containing JAMES EARL RAY. When the bread truck came in, a remark was made by POWELL about sending something to the farm, and a rather heavy bread box was loaded on the bread truck.

RAY on one occasion made the remark concerning a Negro guard known as Lt. BILLY BOB "That's one Nigger that should be dead." RAY on one occasion referred to a male Negro cook as "that black son-of-a-bitch."

RAY was characterized as a loner and one who seemed to live in his own world. RAY was known to purchase the physical favors of homosexuals while still in the Missouri State Penitentiary, although it was believed that RAY would seek sexual relations with women outside the prison walls.

Prior to the time that RAY escaped in the bread box, POWELL was overheard telling RAY that he wanted RAY to go to Doe Run, Missouri, where a girl named FRANKIE BARBARA (phonetic) resided. POWELL wanted RAY to "beat that bitch real good, but don't kill her." POWELL wanted RAY to tell FRANKIE that the beating had come from POWELL. Apparently FRANKIE BARBARA had been POWELL's girl friend, and when she stopped corresponding with POWELL, POWELL became quite upset.

KC 44-760

2

It was also believed that RAY had stabbed one inmate while still in the Missouri State Penitentiary down on the dock by the garbage cans, but his identity was never discovered by prison officials. It was believed that POWELL held this inmate while RAY stabbed him with a knife. It was not believed that this was a mortal wound, but simply an assault with a knife.

It was indicated that RAY used to steal locks from different doors in the bakery and kitchen area and practiced picking these locks later.

RUSSELL was described as a white male, age 35, about 5'10", 160 pounds. POWELL was a nice-looking, well built, white male with black hair.

KC 44-760

PGM:rmb

1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent PRINCE G. MELTON:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

On May 1, 1968, STERLING JUNIOR HILL, 9104 Walnut, phone JA 3-0790, advised that he was an inmate in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, while JAMES EARL RAY was also an inmate in that institution. HILL advised that he was employed in the prison hospital, at first preparing dentures and later as supervisor of nursing. HILL advised that he was never a close friend of RAY, and they actually resided on opposite sides of the prison. RAY was in the hospital a few times on sick call, but was never actually checked in to occupy a bed. RAY just picked up his medication and left. HILL said, therefore, that although he knew RAY to speak to him, he had never had an extended conversation with RAY and actually knew very little concerning RAY's personal life or friends at the prison.

He remembered RAY as a "loner", who always acted like he was troubled. He remembered that RAY seldom smiled, and he judged that RAY was preoccupied with his own thoughts. After RAY escaped, HILL thought that probably RAY was thinking about his escape plans rather than the events closer at hand. He viewed the photographs of RAY and indicated they were good likenesses, recalling that RAY did cock his head a little to one side.

HILL said he would have no idea as to RAY's whereabouts, since RAY had never mentioned any escape, any friends inside or outside the prison, and had never given any possible itinerary if he left the prison. HILL said that since someone would probably make some money for turning RAY in, he himself would contact this Bureau if he ever does see RAY on the outside. HILL said that his own nickname was "Shotgun" while he was in the prison at Jefferson City, Missouri.

It will be observed that the whereabouts of STERLING J. HILL was obtained through JUNE A. HILL, Attorney (no relation),

KC 44-760

2

Legal Aid and Defender Society of Greater Kansas City, 1029 Oak. Attorney HILL had arranged for inmate HILL's release on the basis of improper legal representation when HILL was originally tried. Attorney HILL said the State then decided that it would not retry HILL because of the time that he had already served. STERLING HILL can also be contacted in care of his sister, Mrs. JUANITA BOSTON, 8120 Main, Kansas City, Mo., phone EM 1-7658.

KC 44-760
ME 44-1987
RBA:LAC
1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA ROWEN B. AYERS:

On May 2, 1968, RICHARD BEMAN, MSP # 07694, serving life for murder, Missouri State Penitentiary, since September 30, 1960, said he has worked in the main dining room, the main kitchen and the hospital at the penitentiary. In April of 1967, he said, he was working in the hospital.

He said he knew RAY on sight and spoke to him and that was all. He said he worked for a time with RAY in the kitchen, but did not associate with him in K Hall and he did not know RAY's associates. He said RAY was very quiet and he had no information on the personal habits or beliefs of RAY. He never heard of any bounty for the killing of Dr. KING, or rumors to that effect. He could furnish no further information.

Police Departments at Jefferson City, Columbia and Sedalia, Missouri, and both the Identification and Laboratory Sections of the Missouri State Highway Patrol have been requested to compare any latents on hand or received with the prints of RAY. Only the Missouri State Highway Patrol had such. To date, checks in this regard have been negative, according to Lieut. KENNETH MILLER, Missouri State Highway Patrol Laboratory, who so advised on May 6, 1968.

KC 44-760

RBA:nks

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
ROWEN B. AYERS:

On April 24, 1968, Mr. DONALD BUNKER, Classification Office, Missouri Department of Corrections, advised that NEAL EDGAR AEBY, No. 137626, was received at the Department of Corrections, Huntsville, Texas under that number as of April 10, 1968. He is former Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) No. 03927, and was discharged August 1, 1967. His emergency address was care of Mrs. JUDY AEBY, 6714 Village Way, Houston, Texas. The file indicated he was not expected to live long because of cancer and Hodgkins disease. His brother, BILLY AEBY, No. 03546, was discharged July 12, 1966.

On April 24, 1968, Lt. WILLIAM ROBERT TURNER, also known as "BILLY BOB", a Negro, advised that he was the first Negro officer at the MSP to have general jurisdiction over the whole yard, including white cells. He said, for this reason, some of the inmates resented him.

Lt. TURNER said he knew "JIMMY" RAY as an inmate and observed him in the yard on many occasions. He said the only inmate he ever saw RAY with on more than isolated occasions, was a NEAL AEBY, who was a cell mate of FRANK JOSEPH GUINAN. He noted GUINAN received a card signed "NEAL" which he believed to be from AEBY. It had no message except greetings "to a wonderful friend".

TURNER said it was his opinion that AEBY was a person who would be willing to kill Negroes. He did not believe RAY would. He said he had occasion to sit on a discipline board before which AEBY appeared. He said AEBY tried to "snow the board" and he, TURNER, recommended rather a harsh punishment for him. He said this word could have gotten to RAY, who may have resented it.

KC 44-760

2

TURNER said that RAY was very quiet and got along well with the Negro population, but did not associate with them. He said AEBY did not get along well with them at all and continually "bad mouthed" them. He also recalled that AEBY had a cancer condition and may have had a lung removed. He said he was also suffering from some other type of disease and always was very pale. He said the sketch, which first appeared concerning the assassin of Dr. KING more closely resembled AEBY than RAY.

Lt. TURNER said he circulates among the entire prison population all the time and supervises recreation periods in the yard. He said he never heard of any bounty on Dr. KING and he would have heard of this had there been any conversations in this regard in the penitentiary.

Lt. TURNER further recalled that he was on duty in the yard on April 23, 1967. He said an inmate came to him and advised him there had been an escape and perhaps two from this institution. He said he went to Major BERNARD POIRY, in charge, and gave him this information. They then called all known "escape artists" to the control center. However, for some reason, RAY was not included. All of the known "escape artists" were accounted for. They then took a roll call of all inmates and at the time discovered that RAY, and only RAY, was missing.

He said the inmate who advised him of the escape is J. C. FLETCHER. He said this escape was called to his attention between Noon and 1:00 PM. He said FLETCHER did not know who had escaped.

Lt. TURNER said he has talked to many inmates in the penitentiary regarding both RAY and possible hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan in the penitentiary. He said there are a few Black Muslims, but otherwise there is no indication of any "hate groups".

TURNER said he is acquainted with JIMMY CARPENTER, released, and he could not recall ever seeing RAY with this person. He did not know RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS either as an inmate or associate of RAY's.

KC 44-760

3

Lt. TURNER recalled that RAY operated a magazine service by himself. He charged twenty five cents to let inmates read magazines or paper back books he acquired. He said many inmates used cigarettes instead of money for exchange medium in the penitentiary and as a result RAY usually had a lot of cigarettes from his book business. He said, no doubt, RAY sold some of the cigarettes for cash.

Lt. TURNER said that JIMMY BRADLEY may have known RAY, but he did not think so. He said BRADLEY, doing life, could be described as a "top-con" in that he is a "fast operator" and always is able to accumulate money through various "prison rackets". He recalled that BRADLEY was in solitary confinement when RAY escaped.

Lt. TURNER said that RAY did not have the reputation of being a drug user, including amphetamine and there was nothing to indicate he had any abnormal sexual problems. He opined that the killing of Dr. KING by RAY is hard for him to believe as he "just is not the type".

On April 24, 1968, THOMAS BEECHER CREWS, Hospital, Missouri State Penitentiary, No. 71845, serving life for murder said he came to the MSP in 1956. He escaped from Fordland Honor Camp, Fordland, Missouri in May of 1967. He hitchhiked to Springfield, Missouri and took the bus to St. Louis. He said he had slightly over \$100.00 when he left Fordland. He said he "just happened on to James Dailey in St. Louis". He said he did not know any JOHN DAVID DAILEY. He said he went to school with DAILEY and has known him all his life. He said DAILEY operated a cafe on Jefferson Boulevard. He said DAILEY tried to talk him into turning himself in. He said he drank coffee at Dailey's off and on for one day and then went to the home of his brother, BILL CREWS, probably 2021 Clark Avenue, where he was arrested.