

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-1987)

DATE: 6-28-68

FROM : SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: CHARLES QUITMAN STEPHENS

In view of the expressed interest of the Attorney General's Office in the well being and welfare of CHARLES Q. STEPHENS, a principal witness in this case, I made efforts on two occasions on the morning of 6/28/68 to contact FRANK C. HOLLOMAN and Chief LUX of the Memphis PD, with information about CHARLES Q. STEPHENS. I had subsequently received information indicating that STEPHENS was returning to Memphis this date and had promised to contact me on his return. I was unable to reach either HOLLOMAN or LUX because of previous commitments on their part.

At approximately 4:30 p.m., June 28, HOLLOMAN called me and advised that the PD had located STEPHENS in a bar on South Main Street. I told HOLLOMAN at that time that I was aware of the fact that STEPHENS was back in town and this was my reason for trying to reach him earlier in the day. I told him I wanted to inform him of STEPHENS' contemplated return to town. HOLLOMAN raised the question as to whether or not there was anything the FBI could do to insure the safety of STEPHENS. I told HOLLOMAN that of course he knew we could not take STEPHENS into protective custody inasmuch as he was a state witness. HOLLOMAN said that he was worried about the safety of STEPHENS and was afraid that in the event something happened to him because of his known propensity for drinking a principal witness in a murder case might be missing. I agreed with HOLLOMAN, but again said I did not think there was anything the FBI could do and it was not our responsibility to protect CHARLIE STEPHENS. I suggested to HOLLOMAN it was quite possible that there might be a public spirited citizen he knew who was in a position to furnish a place for STEPHENS to stay. HOLLOMAN said he would look into the matter and would advise me later.

During my discussion with HOLLOMAN, Chief LUX was overheard in the background and HOLLOMAN told me they had called Attorney General CANALE's Office and advised his office of the fact that STEPHENS was back in town and that the responsibility for insuring the safety of STEPHENS rested with Attorney General CANALE's Office.

RGJ:BN
(1)



5010-108

Sub

44-1987-Sub-277

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
JUL 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyer *RB*

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC MEMPHIS

DATE: 7/3/68

FROM : SPC DOWNUM

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Joyce Mac Donald, manager at 422½ So. Main called to advise that a suspicious looking man was asking questions about the Lorraine Motel and Willie Anchet. She sounded very upset and wanted to know what the FBI could do to help her. She was informed the FBI did not render personal protection.

The Memphis PD was advised of the above information as well as SA Robert F. Boyle.

Sub

44-1987-Sub-278

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>fil</i>
SERIALIZED <i>fil</i>	FILED <i>fil</i>
JUL 3 1968	
FBI-MEMPHIS	

[Signature]



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 7-6-68

FROM : SPC DANNY N. DOWNUM

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Paul Houser, Tour Foreman of the U.S. Post Office at 730 S. Main, called to advise he had intercepted some mail addressed to Eric S. Galt, Lorraine Motel. He described the mail as being a record from the American Heritage Company entitled "Invention of the Presidency."

Houser stated he would give the record to the Supervisor of the Station, Mr. Blackburn. According to Houser, the FBI can examine the record and take whatever action necessary by contacting Blackburn after 6:00 a.m., Monday, July 8, 1968, at the above address or phone number 534-3672.

DND
(2)

*Blackburn advised
to furnish record to
USPO Inspector
George Holman
7/8/68
GHB*

Sub

44-1987-Sub-279

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED 5	FILED 5
JUL 6 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayle GHB



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 7/8/68

FROM : SA ORVILLE V. JOHNSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

On 6/28/68, Mr. WYATT MADDOX, Manager, Tri-State Hotel, 362 South Main Street, Memphis, telephone number 525-3981, telephonically advised the writer that Mrs. BREWER, formerly the landlady at 422½ South Main, has had a family disagreement with her husband and has moved from that address. MADDOX stated that he is a close friend and associate of Mrs. BREWER and will know here whereabouts at all times in the future should she be needed or should efforts be made to locate her.

MADDOX said that Mrs. BREWER is no longer living with her husband, but at the present time is living at 382½ South Main, which is an apartment house owned by the same people that own the Tri-State Hotel. He said due to the difficulties that Mrs. BREWER has had with her husband, she will not answer her door, at anytime.

MADDOX pointed out that should it be necessary to contact Mrs. BREWER, Agents should contact him and then he will be in a position to either contact Mrs. BREWER or tell the Agents where they could locate her.

OVJ:tjm
(1)

44-1987-Sub-279A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 8 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle
Hester
①

Sub

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-1987)

FROM : SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 7-10-68

Mrs. BESSIE BREWER telephonically advised this date that she currently resides at 290 South Front Street. She lives in an upstairs apartment and has no phone. Her landlady is Mrs. JACKSON, Tel. 526-8132.

RGJ:BN
(1)

44-1987-Sub-280

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB

Hester

gft



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 7/10/68

FROM : SA JOE C. HESTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 7/10/68 Mr. GEORGE D. HOLMAN, JR., Postal Inspector, Memphis, Tenn., advised that on 7/9/68 JOHN L. RAY, Social Security No. [redacted], rented for business and personal mail Post Office Box 938 in the Main Post Office. RAY gave his address as 176 Linden Ave., Memphis.

JCH:mjh
(2)

mjh

*for
weekly
summary*

44-1987-Sub-281

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyer *BJ*

Hester *JCH*



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA JOE C. HESTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 7-25-68

JERRY

SA JIM SKELLEY of the West Memphis RA called today to report that JOHN and LARRY RAY, brothers of JAMES EARL RAY, checked into the Bil-Roy Motel, 10th and Broadway, West Memphis, Arkansas, last night, driving a Chrysler with Missouri Tag AE-2558. This was furnished for information only.

JCH:BN
(1)

[Signature]

ASAC —

Sub

44-1987-Sub-282

SEARCHED <i>llh</i>	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
JUL 26 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>SAC</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 7-25-68

FROM : SA JOE C. HESTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Mr. WILLIAM MARTINDALE, Civil Rights Section at the Bureau, called this date and advised that the Bureau had received a teletype from Birmingham indicating that subject's lawyer, ARTHUR HANES, had advised Inspector WILLIAM J. HALEY of the Birmingham, Alabama, PD that HANES' wife and secretary had received numerous harassing and threatening telephone calls. HANES said these calls ranged from silence to outright threats of death. Inspector HALEY had advised the Birmingham Office that the telephone company security office had been notified and were instituting "investigative measures."

Mr. MARTINDALE requested that Attorney General PHIL CANALE be notified of the threats. At 12:05 PM today, Mr. CANALE was so advised by the writer.

JCHBN
(1)

ASAC

Sub

44-1987-Sub-283

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

SAC



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 7/29/68

FROM : SA FRANCIS W. NORWOOD

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 7/24/68 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY referred to as the "PATRICIA ANDERSON photograph" was displayed by the writer to MARIA SPURLOCK, presently employed at the Holiday Inn, Interstate 65 North, Nashville, Tenn., and Mrs. CAROLYN KEMPER, presently employed by Nationwide Insurance Company, Trinity Lane and Gallatin Road, Nashville. Both of these individuals were the witnesses in the robbery of the Gallatin Road Branch, Capital City Bank of Nashville, on 8/23/67. Both of them observed the photograph of RAY and stated that they could not identify him as being either one of the two individuals who robbed instant bank.

1-91-3331 (WILLIAM EUGENE BEARD, aka; Capital City Bank of Nashville, Gallatin Road Branch, Nashville, Tenn., 8/23/67)

FWN:mjh

(2)

mjb

Sub

44-1987-Sub-284

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
JUL 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : File (44-1987)

FROM : ASAC C. O. HALTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 8/1/68

SAC CAMPBELL of Las Vegas telephonically informed as follows, July 31, 1968:

City Editor BATISTE of the "Las Vegas Review Journal" has informed SAC CAMPBELL that an individual named BILL JOE CHEEK, Aka Scott Owen Bell, has contacted BATISTE and has insisted that the FBI and law enforcement officers all over the country have been looking for him, that is, CHEEK. CHEEK tells the story that on the day MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed in Memphis, CHEEK was one of several body guards for MARTIN LUTHER KING and was in Memphis. Before Dr. KING was shot, CHEEK and one or two other fellows decided they would get a bite to eat. After they had left the motel, they heard shots and observed a man running in front of a rooming house. CHEEK claims to have tackled JAMES EARL RAY at the time he ran from the rooming house.

CHEEK is a white male, about 25 years of age, 5' 5" in height, and weighs 115 lbs. The editor of the newspaper is most interested in knowing whether he has a story.

It was pointed out to SAC CAMPBELL that CHEEK's story no doubt was a fabrication but that CHEEK should be interviewed. It was agreed that I would telephone the Bureau and then let SAC CAMPBELL know the reaction of the Bureau.

After talking with Supervisor McDONOUGH of the Bureau, I telephonically informed SAC CAMPBELL that CHEEK should be interviewed but that we are not in a position to give the editor details of information obtained from CHEEK. However, should the interview with CHEEK prove that he is a nut and that his story is a fabrication, it will be satisfactory for SAC CAMPBELL to indicate off the record to the editor that CHEEK

COH:ME
(2)

Mc *Sub*



5010-108

44-1987-Sub-225

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *QNT*

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

ME# 44-1987

is a "nut" and that CHEEK does not have a legitimate story.

If SAC CAMPBELL advises that CHEEK does not have any information of value, the results may be reported to the Bureau by airtel. Otherwise, if CHEEK seems to have something of significance, the Bureau should be telephoned.

SAC (157-1312)

8/6/68

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

BLACK KNIGHTS, INC.
RM

On 7/23/68 ME 352-A (Prob) orally advised SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE as follows:

On morning of 7/22/68 Black Knights, Inc. leaders, WARREN LEWIS, JOE ALEXANDER, Firestone employee, and FNU COLLINS and a JULIUS GRIMM all went to see Sheriff WILLIAM MORRIS of Shelby County to protest what they felt was preferential treatment being afforded JAMES EARL RAY, charged with the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. They had heard he had a private TV and phone in his cell.

They also went to see a Mr. CHENSHAW of Memphis Housing Authority (MHA) to see about moving slum area Negroes into units operated by MHA. They allegedly have taken photos of slum housing areas in preparation of sponsoring possible rent strikes by tenants in sub-standard housing.

WARREN LEWIS told informant that Black Knights will afford security protection for Rev. RALPH D. ABERNATHY, Chairman of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) when SCLC holds its 1968 National convention in Memphis. He said COLLINS is called NICKY COLLINS. LEWIS also claimed Sheriff MORRIS promised him that he, LEWIS, could be an observer at JAMES EARL RAY's trial.

WARREN LEWIS also told informant that he is not happy about Neighborhood Organizing Project (NOP) operated by black powerites, the Black Organizing Project, under sponsorship of War on Poverty Committee at 1210 N. Thomas, close to his barber shop at 887 N. Thomas. He said he does not trust the NOP as it has too many irresponsible leaders.

- 1 - 157-1312
- 1 - 157-1292 (WARREN LEWIS)
- 1 - 170-1040 Sub (ME 352-A Prob)
- 1 - 157-166 (SCLC)
- 1 - 44-1987 (MURKIN)
- 1 - 66-1687 Sub (Dissemination)
- 1 - 157-953 (BLACK POWER INFILTRATION MEMPHIS WAR ON POVERTY COM.)
- 1 - 157-1087 (NOP)

WHL/acp

(8)

44-1987-Sub-286

Boyle *[Signature]*

ME 157-1312

The fellow called HENNIE in Black Knights and who works at Stax Records, will be in charge of security for the Knights.

The Knights will have an executive board meeting at LEWIS' barber shop Saturday night, 7/27/68, and will have a membership meeting Sunday, 7/28/68.

On 7/23/68 this information was orally furnished to Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department.

MAC (157-1067)

8/6/68

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP), aka
Invaders
RM

On 7/26/68 ME 353-R (Prob) orally advised
SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE as follows:

On 7/25/68 informant visited the Neighborhood
Organizing Project, of War on Poverty Committee, being
staffed by Invaders and Black Organizing Project members.
This was the unit at 1310 Florida. There he saw CHARLES
HARRINGTON, LARRY LARRY DEWE, ERIC "LARRY" HOLMAN, and
GLORIA UNDERWOOD, who lives at Florida and DeSoto. She
is a 1967 or 1968 graduate of Carver High School. They said
they are getting high school dropouts to take the G.E.D.
test in an effort to qualify them to go to college; that
Rev. JAMES BEVEL, member of Memphis City Council, will
speak at BOP office, 1310 Florida, Tuesday, 7/30/68 at
2:00 p.m. There were 6 workers and 6 small children there.

On night of 7/26/68 ME 353-R (Prob) called writer;
said that on 7/26/68 he had seen, briefly, male Negro ROBERT
ROBINSON of 1701 Foster, Memphis State University student,
and leader in Black Students Association (BSA) at MSU, a
cell of the Umbrella Group, Black Organizing Project; that
ROBINSON said he had heard that a lot of black militants
would be coming into Memphis between now and the start of
the trial of JAMES EARL RAY, charged with the murder of
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ROBINSON had no specific info.
He said BSA is getting funded and will be able to put out
paper in the fall of 1968. He was in a hurry, said he would
see 353-R (prob) later.

- 1 - 157-1067 (BOP)
- 1 - 170-1022 Sub (ME 353-R Prob)
- 1 - 157-1019 (CHARLES HARRINGTON)
- 1 - 157-1134 (ROBERT A. ROBINSON)
- ① - 44-1987 (MURKIN)
- 1 - 65-1607 Sub (Dissemination)
- 1 - 157-1275 (ERIC LARRY HOLMAN)
- 1 - 157-1001 (LARRY LARRY DEWE)

WHL/mep
(8) *my*

44-1987-Sub-227
llc
llc

QCT

ME 157-1007

On 7/29/68 this information was orally furnished to Lt. R. H. ANKIN, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee Police Department, and to Captain JEWELL RAY, Intelligence Bureau, who is in charge of security of JAMES EARLY RAY at Shelby County Jail.

ME 44-1987

HEG:cjs

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The following investigation was conducted by SA HARLEY E. GYLFE on the dates indicated:

Inquiry was made at banks in Memphis, Tennessee, to determine the identity of individuals making a withdrawal of \$10,000 or over in cash during April, 1968:

Mr. CHARLES E. RAUSHER, Cashier, Union Planters National Bank, 65 West Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on May 23, 1968, that he would contact responsible personnel of the Main Office and the 30 branch offices of this bank to determine if any unusual withdrawals of \$10,000 or more were made during April, 1968. Mr. RAUSHER advised that during World War II the main office and all branches of this bank prepared a form for the Federal Reserve Bank in Memphis indicating any withdrawal of \$2,500 or more, which amount later was raised to \$10,000. This form bore the identification TCR-1 and indicating the name of the person making the withdrawal, the date, amount, and in most cases denominations. He advised this practice was discontinued shortly after World War II and has not been reinstituted.

Mr. RAUSHER advised the bank does not maintain a record of large withdrawals of \$10,000 or more but it is the general practice of all tellers of the banks to call to the attention of the responsible officials of the bank information concerning large withdrawals. He again stated that \$10,000 or more would be considered a large withdrawal.

Mr. RAUSHER advised on June 12, 1968, that all large withdrawals made during the current calendar year and especially during April, 1968, had been determined to be normal, legitimate business transactions and in no way questionable.

Mr. FRANCIS H. HALL, Assistant Manager, First National Bank of Memphis, 165 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on May 23, 1968, that he would check with responsible officials of the bank concerning large withdrawals made from the main office or any of the 27 branches of this bank. Mr. HALL explained that at the present time this bank does not maintain a listing of large withdrawals made during any period of time. He stated that during World War II, the main office and each carefully recorded all large withdrawals on Federal Reserve Bank Form TCR-1. He stated that shortly after the war this practice was discontinued and has not been reinstituted. He said they formerly recorded all

44-1987-Sub-288

SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 2 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

withdrawals of \$2,500 or more, which amount was subsequently raised to \$5,000 and then to \$10,000. Mr. HALL stated it is the practice of all tellers of the First National Bank of Memphis to report any large or unusual withdrawals to responsible officials of the bank. He stated the officials in turn, almost without exception, refer this information to his office.

On June 12, 1968, Mr. HALL, above, advised he had determined no unusual withdrawals made during the current calendar year and especially during April, 1968. He said all large withdrawals were determined to be normal, legitimate withdrawals, such as for purchase of property, stocks, bonds, and other legitimate business transactions. He added that none of the large withdrawals, as \$10,000 or more would be considered a large withdrawal, were determined to be questionable in any way.

Mr. DAN GREER, Auditor, National Bank of Commerce, 45 South Second Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he would check with personnel of the main office and fourteen branches of that bank to determine if there were any unusual or large withdrawals made since January 1, 1968. He said he would be particularly alert for any such withdrawals during the period of April, 1968. Mr. GREER advised that during World War II his bank made a practice of preparing on a Federal Reserve Bank Form information relating to large withdrawals but this practice was discontinued after the war and has not been reinstituted.

On June 3, 1968, Mr. GREER advised he had not completed a review of all the branches as to large withdrawals but stated that to date no large withdrawals have come to his attention.

On June 11, 1968, Mr. GREER, above, advised he had determined that all large withdrawals made since January 1, 1968, and especially during April, 1968, had been normal, legitimate business transactions. He stated the large withdrawals made had been for purchase of property, bonds, stocks, or similar business transactions. Mr. GREER stated that none of the large withdrawals appeared to be questionable in any way.

Mr. JOHN WORLEY, Auditor, Commercial and Industrial Bank, Sterick Building, Memphis, Tennessee, on May 23, 1968, advised that his bank, consisting of the main office and four branches, does not maintain a record of large withdrawals made from this bank. He stated \$10,000 or more would be considered a very large withdrawal. He stated it is his understanding that during World War II the main office and the branches of this bank recorded large withdrawals and furnished this information possibly to the Federal Reserve Bank. However, this practice was discontinued after the war and was never reinstituted.

On May 29, 1968, Mr. WORLEY, above, advised he had checked with the officials in the main office and the branches of Commercial and Industrial Bank and had determined there were no out of the ordinary withdrawals made during the period January 1, 1968, to date, especially during April, 1968. He stated the branches maintain a minimum amount of cash on hand and, therefore, a large withdrawal would normally deplete their cash reserve and would immediately come to the attention of the officials of the bank. Mr. WORLEY stated all the large withdrawals were for normal, legitimate business transactions and were not questionable in any way.

Mr. RAY H. WEATHERLY, Auditor, Memphis Bank and Trust Company, 44 North Second Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on May 23, 1968, that he would review large withdrawals from the main office and three branches of that bank especially for April, 1968. Mr. WEATHERLY stated that during World War II, as is his understanding, the main office and branches of this bank recorded any unusual or large withdrawals and furnished the information to the Federal Reserve Bank in Memphis. He stated this practice was discontinued shortly after the end of World War II and was never reinstituted. He said the bank does not maintain a list of any large withdrawals for any period of time but stated it is customary for the tellers of the bank to call to the attention of responsible officials of the bank any large or unusual withdrawals.

On June 12, 1968, Mr. GARY SOLOMAN, Accountant, Memphis Bank and Trust Company, 44 North Second Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he worked with Mr. WEATHERLY, above, concerning the review of large withdrawals made from the main office or any branch of this bank since January 1, 1968. He

advised that all large withdrawals, and \$10,000 or more would be considered as a large withdrawal, had been reviewed and it was determined all such withdrawals were normal, legitimate business transactions. He stated these withdrawals were generally for the purchase of property, bonds, stocks, or as a transfer from checking to savings or savings to checking account. Mr. SOLOMAN stated that particular interest was given to such withdrawals during April, 1968, but it was determined no withdrawals made during this period were of a questionable nature in any way.

On May 23, 1968, Mr. JESSIE TURNER, Executive Vice President, Tri-State Bank of Memphis, 222 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised he would have the auditor and assistant cashier, Mr. ARVIS V. LATTING, cause a check to be made of all large withdrawals from this bank, specifically of \$10,000 or more, during the past three or four months. He advised he would determine if any such withdrawals were for legitimate business transactions or if there was anything questionable about them and would furnish this information at a later date.

On June 5, 1968, Mr. ARVIS V. LATTING, above, advised that Mr. TURNER had not brought the above matter to his attention but he advised he, LATTING, would immediately check with officials of the main office and the branch to determine if there were any large or unusual withdrawals made, especially during April, 1968. Mr. LATTING stated this bank does not maintain a list of large or withdrawals but it is the practice of the tellers to call to the attention of responsible officials any large withdrawal or any unusual withdrawal.

On June 12, 1968, Mr. LATTING, above, advised he had determined that all large withdrawals made from the main office or branch during the past three or four months, and especially during April, 1968, were normal, legitimate business transactions. He said these withdrawals were made to transfer funds from a checking to savings or savings to checking account, or for the purchase of stock, bonds, property, etc. Mr. LATTING stated that none of the withdrawals were questionable in any way.

Mr. HOWELL OSBORN, Vice President, Peoples Bank, Shelby Center, 6767 Summer Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on May 23, 1968, that this is a small, local bank and all customers are

personally acquainted with the officers of the bank. He stated any withdrawal of \$1,000 or more would be immediately brought to the attention of the officers of this bank. He stated there were no large or unusual withdrawals of a questionable nature in any way made during March, April, or May, 1968.

It should be noted that Mr. CHARLES RAUSHER, Mr. FRANCIS HALL, and Mr. DAN GREER, all mentioned above, voluntarily furnished the information relative to their respective banks furnishing the form TCR-1 to the Federal Reserve Bank, Memphis, during World War II. Mr. HALL commented that the Federal Reserve Bank requested this form be prepared in duplicate but his bank had made the practice of preparing it in triplicate and furnishing the original and one copy to the Federal Reserve Bank for each separate transaction handled by the bank requiring this form be executed. Mr. HALL stated he did not recall the exact time the bank discontinued this practice but is certain it was prior to 1950. He stated he did not know of any bank in the Memphis area which has continued this practice since that time.

The above individuals advised a review of their files revealed no one using the name JAMES EARL RAY or any of his known aliases of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, JOHN WILLARD, PAUL BRIDGEMAN, PAUL BRIDGMAN, or RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, had an account with their respective firms, had never had an account and had not rented any safety deposit box from their respective firms.

ME 44-1987

HEG:cjs

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The following individuals were contacted at their respective associations were contacted on June 12, 1968, at which time each advised SA HARLEY E. GYLFE that their respective institutions do not handle transactions for anyone other than their customers except in those instances where the individual is personally known to an official or employee of the association. They all advised that, therefore, there would not be any questionable withdrawals from customers' accounts during any period, including April, 1968:

Mr. J. H. WEIR, President, First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Memphis, 150 East Court Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee;

Mrs. VIRGINIA FINLEY, Supervisor, Savings Department, Home Federal Savings and Loan Association of Memphis, Main Office, 147 Jefferson Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee;

Miss FRANCES NOTHERN, Treasurer, Leader Federal Savings and Loan Association, Main Office, 158 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee;

Mrs. CAROL ROBERTS, Teller, Mutual-Federal Savings and Loan Association of Memphis, 588 Vance Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee;

Mrs. SHIRLEY HARPER, Secretary, Colonial Savings and Loan Association (formerly Southaven Savings and Loan Association), 1 Office Park Plaza, Memphis, Tennessee;

Mr. ERNEST OPPENHEIMER, Executive Vice President, First Federal Savings and Loan Association, mentioned above, advised on June 13, 1968, a review of the records of this association did not reflect any large or unusual withdrawal by any customer during April, 1968. He pointed out that this firm does not pay out large amounts in cash but rather by check. He pointed out that some large withdrawals were made in April, 1968, but these generally were for payment of income tax, purchases of property, and other legitimate transactions. He also pointed out there were some large deposits made to

44-1987-Sub-289

INDEXED
FILED
AUG 20 1968
MEMPHIS

[Signature]

customers' accounts during April, 1968, but these generally were due to quarterly dividends being paid to customers. Mr. OPPENHEIMER pointed out that this association does not rent safety deposit boxes to any customers.

Mrs. VIRGINIA FINLEY, Home Federal Savings and Loan Association of Memphis, mentioned above, advised this association does not rent safety deposit boxes to any customers. Mrs. FINLEY also advised a review of the records of this association did not indicate any unusual or questionable withdrawals during April, 1968, which would not be explained as a legal transaction.

Miss FRANCES NOTHERN, Treasurer, Leader Federal Savings and Loan Association, mentioned above, advised on June 13, 1968, that a review of the records of this association did not indicate any unusual or large withdrawals during April, 1968. She pointed out there were several withdrawals for this period but these were for legitimate transactions, such as transferring from a savings to checking account or the purchase of property, stock, or bonds. Miss NOTHERN pointed out that this association does not rent safety deposit boxes to customers.

Mrs. CAROL ROBERTS, Teller, Mutual-Federal Savings and Loan Association of Memphis, mentioned above, advised on June 13, 1968, this firm does not have safety deposit boxes for rent to customers. Mrs. ROBERTS also pointed out that a review of the records of this association failed to indicate any unusual or questionable large withdrawals during April, 1968. She pointed that the large withdrawals made during this period were for legitimate transactions such as for purchase of property, stocks, bonds, etc.

Mrs. SHIRLEY HARPER, Secretary, Colonial Savings and Loan Association, mentioned above, advised this firm was formerly known as Southaven Savings and Loan Association. She pointed out this firm does not rent safety deposit boxes to any customers. Mrs. HARPER advised this firm does not maintain a practice of making withdrawals in cash and all withdrawals, unless for \$15 or less, are paid by check. She stated a review of the records of the firm does not reveal any unusual or questionable withdrawals during April, 1968. Mrs. HARPER, who was contacted on June 12, 1968, advised all large withdrawals during April, 1968, were determined to be for purchase of property, stocks, bonds, etc.

ME 44-1987

3

The above-mentioned individuals advised that a review of their respective files determined that no one using the name of JAMES EARL RAY or any of his known aliases of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, JOHN WILLARD, PAUL BRIDGEMAN, PAUL BRIDGMAN, or RAMON GEORGE SNEYD had at the present time or had formerly had an account with their respective firms

ME 44-1987

HEG:jap

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NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION, SOUTH
OF BUTLER STREET ON SOUTH MAIN

(Area south from Beale Street and South Main to Calhoun Street on the east side, and from Calhoun Street north on South Main on the west side to, but not including, Seabrook Paint Company at 421 South Main)

The following individuals were contacted by Special Agent HARLEY E. GYLFE in the presence of Lt. CHARLES A. GREGORY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, on April 5, 1968, unless otherwise indicated. All were unable to furnish any information whatsoever concerning activity on South Main Street north of their respective places of business during the day and early evening of April 4, 1968:

Fuller Products Company
492 South Main

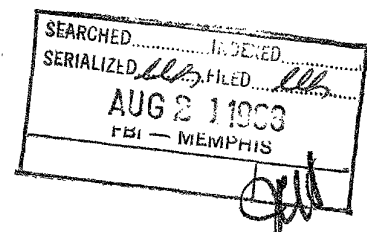
This place was locked and did not appear to be open for business.

Arnett Salvage
496 South Main

Mr. CHARLIE LOEFFEL, owner, advised this firm is also known as Memphis Salvage. He stated he left work at 3:30 P.M. and added he is the only employee.

Lowther Sales Company
498 South Main

Mr. JOHN LOWTHER, owner and operator, advised this firm is also known as John's Surplus Sales Company. He stated he left work and went home at approximately 5:00 P.M. He stated he does not have any additional employees in his firm.



Bernatsky Brothers
500 South Main

BEN BERNATSKY left work at 5:10 P.M.; WILLIAM BERNATSKY left work at 3:30 P.M.; SYDNEY HOFFMAN left work at 5:05 P.M.; and SAM DOTY left work at 5:10 P.M. All went directly to their residences. BEN BERNATSKY advised there are no other employees.

Gattas Wholesale Company
506 South Main

JOE GATTAS, owner, advised he left work at 5:05 P.M. and that there were no other employees on duty.

Unidentified building
508 South Main

This building was closed and empty.

508 Hotel
508 South Main Street

Mrs. RUTH CALDWELL, manager, advised she and her husband left the hotel at 5:40 P.M. and did not return until 7:00 P.M. She said there were only three residents in their rooms when she left that day, namely ELDON FRY, Room 11; DORSEY CROFT, Room 17; WADE YOUNG, Room 12.

Mr. ELDON FRY, Room 11, advised he was in his room at 6:00 P.M., did not see anything north of this address, and was not aware that anything had occurred in the neighborhood until he saw the Police arrive in this area.

Mrs. BERTHA THOMAS, Room 14, advised she left her room at noon and did not return until 8:00 P.M.

Mr. DORSEY CROFT, Room 17, advised he was not out on the street during the afternoon and was not aware of any activity in the neighborhood until he heard the sirens after 6:00 P.M.

Mr. WADE YOUNG, Room 12, advised that he did not return to his room until after 7:00 P.M. He said he was down on Calhoun Street at the restaurant when the Police arrived in the area.

Sales and Service
510 South Main

This building was locked and did not appear to be in use.

Mize Refrigerator Works
514 South Main

Mr. JESSE M. MIZE, owner, advised he left the office at 4:30 P.M. and that his only employee, JIMMY HAMPTON, left at 4:45 P.M.

American Vending
516 South Main

This building was vacant and closed, moved to another address.

Godwin Distributing Company
518 South Main

Mr. ALLEN C. SMITH, owner, advised that in this building is also located the firm Allen Smith Enterprises. He stated that he left the building at 5:50 P.M. and drove south on South Main. He stated his secretary left work at 5:00 P.M. He said his only other employee was not working that day.

Pullman Hotel
520 South Main (upstairs)

Mrs. C. P. HOWELL, manager, advised she was not in the hotel at 6:00 P.M. and had gone to visit relatives in the South Memphis area in the afternoon. She stated that all of the roomers in this hotel are railroad personnel, post office employees, and five retired gentlemen. She stated that none of the residents were in the hotel at 6:00 P.M.

Unidentified store
520 South Main (downstairs)

This building is vacant and for rent.

Polly's Tavern
522 South Main

The entrance to this building was padlocked,
appeared to be out of business.

Unidentified building
522½ South Main

This building was locked and appeared to be
vacant.

Mincers Dry Goods
524 South Main

This building was closed and locked, appeared
to be vacant.

Unidentified store
526 South Main

This store was vacant and locked, did not have
a name to identify the previous occupant.

Dewberry Barber Shop (Last building on South Main
528 South Main before intersection of Calhoun and Main)

Mr. CHARLES DEWBERRY advised he left his shop
at 5:40 P.M. and traveled south from his shop
on South Main.

Ernestine and Hazel's Sundry
531 South Main

Mrs. ERNESTINE MITCHELL, owner, advised she did
not have any white customers during the day and
that she had approximately five Negro men and
one Negro woman during the early evening hours
until she was instructed to close at approximately
7:00 P.M.

Papa George's Antiques
527 South Main

This building was locked and did not appear
to be open for business.

Unidentified building
525 South Main

This building was locked and vacant.

Unidentified building
523 South Main

This building was locked and vacant.

519 and 521 South Main (vacant lot)

Unidentified building
517 South Main

This is a vacant building which is locked.

Fixtures Company, Inc.
515 South Main

Mr. SAM MERMELSTEIN, owner, advised he and all
his employees left at 4:30 P.M.

Eugene D. Wilson Company
511 South Main

Mr. EUGENE D. WILSON, owner and operator of
this company, advised that he and all the employees
left at 5:00 P.M.

Ashworth Chemical Company
505 South Main

Mrs. MILDRED DANIELS, employee, advised that
all employees of this firm, with the exception
of HENRY TALBERT, left at 4:00 P.M.

Mr. HENRY TALBERT, employee, advised he was the
only person in this building from 4:00 P.M. to
7:00 P.M., and that he was in the back office
the entire time and not aware of any activity
on the street nor of his building.

495 - 503 South Main (vacant lot)

E-Z Storage and Van Company
493 South Main

Mr. FRANK GATTUSO advised that he and all of the employees left between 4:30 and 5:30 P.M. and went directly to their homes.

Red Line Storage
491 South Main

This building was closed and locked.

Midsouth Fixture Company
489 South Main

Mrs. MARJORIE FIVEASH, Office Manager, advised that this office closed at 4:15 P.M. and all employees went directly to their residences.

Unidentified building
487 South Main

This building was closed and appeared to be vacant.

Brown - Wallace Company
479 - 481 South Main

Mr. WALTER BROWN advised he left at approximately 3:30 P.M., and Mr. GEORGE WALLACE advised he left at approximately 4:30 P.M. Mr. WALLACE stated there were no other employees.

Lewis Supply Company
477 South Main

Mr. L. EUGENE JOHNSON, President, advised that the office closed at 5:00 P.M. and that to the best of his knowledge all employees went directly to their residences.

Mr. NORMAN H. STOVALL, Treasurer, advised he left at 5:05 P.M.:

Mr. CHARLIE LEWELLEN, Shipping Clerk, left at 5:10 P.M.

ROBERT BLACKMAN, porter, left at 4:00 P.M.

The following employees of Lewis Supply Company were contacted, all with negative results, on April 8, 1968:

(Some employees advised they drove north on South Main when they left work, but none recalled any cars, any individuals, or any activity on South Main immediately north of the building when they left work)

GEORGE L. FRANK, Vice President in Charge of Sales;
FLOYD REDDICK, truck driver;
WILLIE WALLACE, truck driver;
DANIEL MALONE, truck driver;
JON F. DACUS, warehouse foreman;
LOUIS REDDICK, truck driver;
HOSEA JOHNSON, order clerk;
LEE LOYD JONES, order clerk;
CHARLIE MILLER, order clerk;
BERNARD JONES, laborer;
GLENN RICE, truck driver;
ROY HESTER, truck driver;
WILLIAM NOBLIN, receiving clerk;

NOBLIN advised he was picked up by JACK BLEDSOE and ELWYN BLEDSOE of Dyess, Arkansas, who are employed at U & P Fixtures. Mr. JACK BLEDSOE and Mr. ELWYN BLEDSOE, Dyess, Arkansas, were interviewed at their place of employment, U & P Fixtures, 3462 Jackson Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee. They advised they were driving a 1966 Volkswagen and picked up WILLIAM NOBLIN at work, Lewis Supply Company, on South Main Street at approximately 5:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968. Both JACK and ELWYN BLEDSOE advised they do not recall any cars, individuals, or any activity on South Main Street in the next block north of Lewis Supply Company.

DALE MANLEY, shipping clerk;

MANLEY advised he was picked up at work by JOHN RICHARDSON. Mr. JOHN RICHARDSON, Route 1, Mason, Tennessee, who is employed by Universal Truck Bumper, 621 North Second Street, advised he drives a 1960 yellow, 4-door Ford, and that he and PAUL LESTER picked up DALE MANLEY at approximately 5:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, at MANLEY's place of employment, Lewis Supply Company. RICHARDSON advised he does not recall any cars, people, or any activity in the block of South Main Street which is north of Lewis Supply Company.

Mr. PAUL LESTER, 4235 Kenosha, Memphis, who is employed by Universal Truck Bumper, 621 North Second Street, advised he rode with JOHN RICHARDSON to pick up DALE MANLEY, mentioned above. He stated he does not recall any cars, any people, or any activity north on South Main Street from Lewis Supply Company.

DANNY McCOLLUM, receiving clerk;
RONNIE SYKES, shipping clerk;
THOMAS R. MEADOR, salesman;
JAMES O. NEWSON, salesman;
LEONARD HUMPHREYS, salesman;
JOE COFFMAN, salesman;
WILLIAM G. LEE, salesman;
GUY PETTY, salesman;
TOM WILKERSON, salesman;
BOBBY SCOTT, salesman;
WILLIAM G. CLAYTON, Manager, Engineering and
Power Transmission Department;
Mrs. PEGGY TURNER, Assistant to Sales Manager;
Mrs. MARIE COOK, Secretary to Vice President in
Charge of Sales;
Miss PATRICIA CHRISTIAN, secretary;

Miss CHRISTIAN advised she was picked up at work by SHARON SPENCE and LINDA KAY CROWE in a 1968 red Mustang. Miss SHARON SPENCE, 129 W. Barton, West Memphis, Arkansas, was contacted on April 11, 1968, and she advised

she drives a 1968 red Mustang and picked up PATRICIA CHRISTIAN at Lewis Supply Company on South Main Street at approximately 5:00 P.M. on 4/4/68. She advised LINDA KAY CROWE rode with her.

Miss LINDA KAY CROWE, 2017 E. Broadway, West Memphis, advised she was riding with SHARON SPENCE when they picked up PATRICIA CHRISTIAN at Lewis Supply. Both SHARON SPENCE and LINDA KAY CROWE advised they do not recall any cars, any people, or any activity in the block on South Main Street north of Lewis Supply Company on April 4, 1968.

Miss FAYE CISSELL, Accounts Payable Clerk;
Mrs. BOBBY ORR, Bookkeeper;
Mrs. CHRISTINE DANBY, clerk;
Mrs. DOROTHY HUMPHREYS, Accounts Receivable Bookkeeper;
Miss MABEL BENCE, secretary to Mr. STOVALL;
Mrs. ONNOVA REGENOLD, secretary to Mr. JOHNSON;
Miss CLARISSE SANDERS, billing clerk;
Mr. BARNETT FIELDS, billing clerk;
Mr. OLIVER RICHARDSON, billing clerk;
Mr. WILLIAM WORD, buyer;
Mr. JOHN RAMER, accountant;
Mr. ROBERT MANLEY, clerk;
CLARENCE MEDLIN, stock clerk;
FRANK QUINN, purchasing agent;
Miss RENEE CAREY, messenger;
LAVELLE WITHERINGTON, stock clerk;
FLOYD SIMMONS, clerk;
DOUGLAS BLACK, salesman;
CLARK E. ANDREWS, city desk manager;
Miss MARTHA PETTY, security and switchboard operator;
Mrs. LOUISE CANADA, switchboard operator;
Mrs. KATHRYN MITCHELL, secretary;
DANNY TIDWELL, front desk clerk

(INTERSECTION OF BUTLER and SOUTH MAIN)

Machinery Sales, Inc.
465 South Main Street

Mr. H. J. MEADOWS, partner, advised he was out of the city on April 4, 1968. Mr. ED NOLEN, partner, advised that he and all the employees left between 4:30 and 5:00 P.M. He was the last to leave and left at 5:00 P.M.

ME 44-1987

10

(INTERSECTION OF NETTLETON and SOUTH MAIN)

W. B. Mallory and Sons Storage,
431 - 435 South Main

This building was locked and may be vacant.

423 - 429 South Main

This is a vacant lot used for parking cars.

ME 44-1987

WYD:jap

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents WILLIAM Y. DORAN and JOHN MARKEY at Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

On April 25, 1968, "Milwaukee Journal" reporter TOM LUBENOW telephonically contacted Chief HAROLD BRIER, Milwaukee Police Department, and advised him that after reading a recent edition of "Newsweek" in which an article appeared concerning a JERRI PETERSON, white female with blonde hair and blue eyes, who was reportedly a girl friend of JAMES EARL RAY, he received information from a source he refused to identify in Los Angeles, California, indicating that a girl meeting the above description left Los Angeles approximately a week ago and had reportedly checked into the Royal Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a man vaguely resembling JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that the girl's name was DYRELL DENNIS. He stated that he verified the fact that DENNIS had stayed at the Royal Hotel, 5th and Wisconsin Avenue, during the period April 14-21, 1968, at which time she checked out.

On the same date, the above information was furnished to the Milwaukee Division of the FBI by Chief BRIER, and efforts were made to locate DYRELL DENNIS for interview.

On the same date, DENNIS was located at the Towne Hotel, 723 North Third Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at which time she furnished the following information:

She stated that she left Los Angeles alone by Greyhound bus approximately two weeks previous for the reason of visiting her 17-year-old son, CURTIS PAUL, who resides with his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT PAUL, on Twelfth Street, Milwaukee. She stated that she was previously employed at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, as a switchboard operator under the name DYRELL DENNIS until March, 1968. She stated that her previous employments included work as a switchboard operator for the "Los Angeles Times" between 1951 and 1954; switchboard operator for Motion Picture Studios (now Desilu) 1945 - 1949. She furnished her home address as 1151 Wilcox, Los Angeles, California.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
AUG 2 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

QTH

44-1987-Sub-291

DENNIS was displayed available photographs of subject JAMES EARL RAY, and she stated that she did not have any knowledge of RAY or anyone by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT or any of the other names used by the subject. DENNIS stated that she intended to remain in Milwaukee if she is able to obtain employment, but will return to Los Angeles if she cannot.

DAVID LENSKEI, Manager, Royal Hotel, stated on April 25, 1968, that DENNIS registered alone at the Royal Hotel, Room 208, on April 14, 1968, and paid through April 21, 1968, during which time she was suspected of engaging in narcotics or prostitution activities. Based upon previous information received from Los Angeles, it was determined that LUBENOW's source in this matter was LOUIE LOMAX, controversial Negro TV personality whose program was recently terminated at Los Angeles, and that DENNIS was probably identical with JERRI (LNU), the mysterious blonde referred to by LOMAX in articles appearing April 24, in Los Angeles and New Orleans.

On April 26, 1968, Los Angeles communication to the Bureau stated that JOE PETERS, bartender, Sultan Room, Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, identified photographs of DYRELL DENNIS as being identical with a woman he had seen in the company of subject JAMES EARL RAY on one occasion.

On April 27, 1968, DYRELL DENNIS was located at the Belmont Hotel, 751 North Fourth Street, Room 504, at which time she furnished the following information:

She stated that during the period March 1-9, 1968, she was residing at the St. Francis Hotel in Los Angeles, California. She said that she occasionally went to the Sultan Room on Hollywood Boulevard during this period of time, and that on one week night, the exact date of which is unknown, she was approached by a man who was sitting at the bar in the Sultan Room. She stated that this man, who was unknown to her, introduced himself as ERIC (LNU). She described him as a white male, late thirties or early forties, 5'10", slender build, salt and pepper hair, light blue eyes, who was dressed neatly in a suit, white shirt and tie, and was well groomed. She further advised that ERIC (LNU) had

pointed facial features, appeared very nervous, spoke with a nasal twang which she said was not southern or hillbilly, had an olive or tan complexion, drank screwdrivers, and said something about working with computers. She said that ERIC (LNU) asked her if he could buy her a drink and subsequently they had several drinks together. She said he displayed a large sum of money in ten and twenty dollar bills and that he gave her money with which to play the jukebox. She said that she talked him into giving her a twenty dollar bill, after which they left the Sultan Room and went to the Rabbit's Foot Club on Hollywood Boulevard where they continued to drink. She stated that after leaving the Rabbit's Foot Club she went to ERIC's room, which she recalls as Number 403 at the St. Francis Hotel. She stated that they talked for a short time and that on more than one occasion he told her that he could become violent. She stated that she became afraid of him, thinking that he was probably a psychopath, and decided against having relations with him. She said that she told him to go and get some scotch and water, and when he left the room she fled from the St. Francis Hotel.

She subsequently met up with RAY FERNANDEL (phonetic), whom she described as a Mexican male, in his forties, 5'7" 155 pounds, black hair, dark eyes, and he was from Los Angeles. DENNIS stated that FERNANDEL is a friend of hers and that they returned to the Sultan Room where they ran into ERIC (LNU), and he threatened to call the Police unless she returned the twenty dollar bill, which she did. DENNIS stated that she was with ERIC (LNU) for approximately three hours, during which time both of them were intoxicated.

DENNIS was shown all available photographs of subject JAMES EARL RAY, and she advised that the only photograph that resembled ERIC (LNU) is Missouri Department of Corrections photograph taken January 4, 1966, which photograph was not available when DENNIS was interviewed April 25, 1968.

DENNIS stated that she saw ERIC (LNU) on one other occasion, which was one or two days after the above described experience, when she observed him leaving the St. Francis Hotel by the rear exit. She said she has not seen or heard from him since.

DENNIS was advised of the provisions of the Harboring Statute, and she advised that she would be glad to assist the FBI in efforts to locate ERIC (LNU) or JAMES EARL RAY. DENNIS advised that she planned to stay in Milwaukee if she could obtain employment, however, she intended to make a trip to San Antonio, Texas, to visit another son. She stated she would keep the FBI in Milwaukee advised of her whereabouts.

It should be noted that during the course of the interview with DENNIS on April 25, 1968, she was intoxicated and not very coherent, but at the time of the interview on April 27, 1968, DENNIS was sober and coherent.

The following background and descriptive data was obtained by observation and interview:

Name:	DYRELL DENNIS, nee FRY
Aliases:	DYRELL PAUL (previous marriage) DYRELL RODRIGUEZ (previous marriage)
Sex:	Female
Race:	White
Date of Birth:	
Place of Birth:	Janesville, Wisconsin
Height:	5'3"
Weight:	110 pounds
Hair:	Light brown
Eyes:	Green
Father:	HARRY FRY, 1124 Eighth Street, Grafton, Wisconsin.
Son:	CURTIS PAUL, 12th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Previous arrests:	Admits past arrests for vagrancy and addiction; presently wanted on local warrant, Los Angeles, California, for being at large from drug addiction treatment center (not extraditable).
Residence:	No permanent residence.

ME 44-1987

SMD:jms

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The following named individuals were interviewed by SAs STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON and JOHN W. BAUER at Memphis, Tennessee, on April 5, 1968, and advised they could furnish no information at all concerning the assassination of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

LARRY GARLAND COOKSY, Assistant Comptroller, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

GEORGIA HAYNES, Color Consultant, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

JAMES S. HOLT, Assistant Office Manager, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

LEROY WHITE, Shipping Clerk, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

LEONARD LAWHORN, Warehouse Manager, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

F. KENNETH DAVIS, Floor Manager, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

EDITH AILEEN MATHIS, Office Clerk, Seabrook Wallpaper Company, 421 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

44-1987-Sub-d93

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
AUG 2 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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ME 44-1987

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The following individuals were contacted at the Acme Storage Company, 413 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, on April 5, 1968, by SA's JACK D. VAHRENWALD and EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR., and stated they could furnish no information in this matter as they had all left work between 4:30 and 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 4, 1968, and that they did not notice anything unusual across the street:

Mrs. E. L. GAIA, Owner, Acme Storage Company, residence 717 South McLean, Memphis

Mrs. PAUL PRATHER, 3088 Kathy Cove, Memphis

Miss NELL HAWKS, 201 Angelus, Memphis

DAVE FONDREN, 648 Beale Street, Memphis

L. C. POPLAR, 1044 Delmar, Memphis

THOMAS MEAD, 386-A Butler Street, Memphis

R. D. ROBERTSON, 617 Beale Street, Memphis

44-1987-Sub-293

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AUG 2 11 00	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

ME 44-1987

JJS/bbs

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The following individuals were contacted by
SAs CHARLES L. LUTES and JAMES J. STANTON on April 15,
1968:

HENRY ROBINSON and DELORES ROBINSON, 103 Huling,
were contacted at which time HENRY ROBINSON advised that he
was not at home the day that MARTIN LUTHER KING was shot.
He stated he was at work and advised he was unable to furnish
any information regarding KING.

ROBINSON stated that he is the landlord for the
rooming houses located at 103, 105 and 107 Huling. He
stated the following tenants reside in these rooming houses:

WILLIE MAE WILLIAMS;
"SHORTY", also known as Mr. JAMES;
CHARLES TURNER;
LEONARD WILSON, and
he and his wife.

He stated all other rooms in the rooming house
were vacant.

DELORES ROBINSON advised that on the day Mr. KING
was murdered, she did not see or hear anything out of the
ordinary and was unable to furnish any information with
regards to the murder of KING.

44-1987-Sub-B94

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FBI — MEMPHIS	

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ME 44-1987

JJS/bbs

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The following investigation was conducted on April 13, 1968, by SA CHARLES L. LUTES and SA JAMES J. STANTON:

On Huling Street in Memphis, Tennessee, these individuals were contacted in rooming houses, which rooms are above the U. S. Fixture Company, Inc.:

WILLIE MAE WILLIAMS, 103 Huling Street, advised that she did not observe anything on April 4, 1968, the date that Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed. She advised she heard commotion and went to look out the rooming house window, but was told at this time by the police department to get away from the window.

She advised that a Mr. HENRY ROBINSON is the landlord of the rooming houses located at 103 Huling, 105 Huling, and 107 Huling, and there are approximately 15 units total in these 3 residences.

She stated there are no apartments in back of these rooming houses, and she stated at the rear of the rooming house there is a warehouse which is an extension of the U. S. Fixture Company.

LEONARD WILSON, 107 Huling, advised he was not at home at the time of the murder of KING and was unable to furnish any information regarding the murder.

WILSON advised that there was only one other tenant at 107 Huling, and all the other units were vacant.

CHARLES TURNER, 107 Huling, was contacted and advised he did not see nor hear anything in connection with the shooting of KING, and was unable to furnish any information in regards to the murder. He stated there are 2 tenants who live at 105 Huling, and 2 other tenants he believes reside in the apartments or the rooming house located at 103 Huling. 44-1987-Sub-225

A visual check was made of the building extending from S. Main Street to Mulberry Street, and it was determined to bear the residence number of 416 rear and is a warehouse for the U. S. Fixture Company.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
APR 16 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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ME 44-1987

JDV:raj

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The following investigation was conducted on April 11, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee, by SAs JACK D. VAHRENWALD and EUGENE A. MEDORI, JR:

Mr. ROBERT E. ACUFF, 2004 Carnes, Memphis, advised that he is the manager of Crosstown Transfer and Storage Company, 417 South Main, Memphis.

On April 4, 1968, ACUFF and one of his employees, FRED BROOKS, worked at the Crosstown Warehouse, 417 South Main, until about 5:30 p.m. ACUFF had parked his car on the west side of the street across from Jim's Grill, 418 South Main. ACUFF stated that he did not notice a white Mustang parked across the street nor did he notice anything that could be connected with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

GEORGE A. GATTAS, Vice President, Fred P. Gattas Company, Inc., 387 South Main, advised that his company occupies the buildings at 371 South Main, 372 South Main, 387 South Main, and 400 South Main, Memphis, and that he has approximately 60 employees. The company's normal store hours are 9:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and from 9:30 a.m., to 9:00 p.m., on Thursdays.

On Thursday, April 4, 1968, due to the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., he decided to send most of his employees home at 5:30 p.m. and retain just a skeleton force until at least approximately 6:30 p.m.

GATTAS was at the 387 South Main location at the moment KING was shot; however, GATTAS did not hear the shot and did not realize what had happened until he heard police sirens in the street. A police officer came into his office and asked to use the telephone and told him what had happened.

He stated he could furnish no information about this matter.

The following employees of the Fred P. Gattas Company, Inc., were interviewed and were unable to furnish any information of value pertaining to the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

44-1987-Sub-296

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
AUG 2 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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ME 44-1987

2

Mrs. ALICE MOSS,
1112 Craft Road, E 1,
Personal Secretary to FRED P. GATTAS, President

Mrs. RUTH CHANPLER,
1501 Rolling Hills, Memphis
Head bookkeeper

CATHY WREN
2162 Virton
General Office Employee

Mrs. MARY E. WHEELER
3320 Ridge Crest
Payroll Clerk, works 400 S. Main

CHARLINE HEINZ
1062 Lorraine
Accounts Receivable Bookkeeper

DEBORAH JANE MORGAN
1629 Dena Drive
Mail Order Clerk

ELAINE ERICKSON
1732 Tutwiler
Accounts Pay Clerk - 400 S. Main

EVA DUNAWAY
256 North Garland
General Office Employee

HIRAM P. EARNSHAW
726 North Aubundale
Superintendent of Warehouses

ELIZABETH ANN BELL
3222 Choctaw
Machine Operator

ME 44-1987

3

ELIZABETH RANCH
2100 Evelyn
Saleswoman

VERA RHINEHART
1944 Lamar
Cashier

SUE SMITH
444 North McNeil
Cashier

FREDA REISMAN
810 Washington, # 319
Department Head

ALLENE S. MC MORRIES
3767 Shirlwood
Clerk

ANICE M. ENGELMAN
1164 North McNeil
Clerk

FAYE IRENE NEAL
Route # 1, Maywood, Olive Branch, Mississippi
Giftwares Buyer

ELEANOR FARLEY
843 Biggs
Saleswoman

BEVERLY JEAN MATLOCK
1083 N. McNeil
Cashier

RUBY LEE WILSON
1965 Silver
Cleaning lady

PAULINE JAMES
1410 Mary Jane
Buyer - Housewares

ME 44-1987

4

ALINE DARNELL
3710 Johnwood
Cashier

MICHAEL EDMUNDSON
3194 Walnut Grove
Stock Boy

ELSIE S. WOLFE
1645 Vance
Saleswoman

PATRICIA ANN KUEIDER
3145 Morningside
Saleswoman

ABDUL SALM Y. MASSARYEH
3679 Johnwood
Salesman

LILLY B. LEVERS
905 Blythe
Receptionist

ANNA K. GILLET
268 "C" N. Lauderdale
Typist

SANDRA LYNN GILLCOATT
255 N. Bellevue, #4
Mail clerk

LULA C. GRIFFIN
710 Lydgate Road
Supervisor, mail order department

EUGENE HARRELL BURKE
832 Hale Road
Manager - Saddlery Department

ME 44-1987

5

ALICE HARRELL
8745 Jack Bond Road
Clerk - Saddlery

MARJORIE S. DODSON
4795 Wauince
Mail Packer

MARGUERITE JONES
417 Ross, West Memphis, Arkansas
Mail Packer

MARGARET E. SURATT
302 Angelus Street
Clerk

LOIS JANE BAILEY
3225 Morningside
Sales

JESSE B. SISK, JR.
1782 MacAulay
Watch Repairman

VERA PAPPADAK
1766 Pendleton, Apartment 4
Sales

NORA TEAL
1789 Madison, Apt. 51
Sales

PAUL LEE
3679 Johnwood Drive
Department Manager

ME 44-1987

6

MADELYN J. SAMPIETRO
934 N. Auburndale
Supervisor

EDNA BRICE
3470 Rosamond
Buyer

JESSE M. DAVIS
1912 Denton
Salesman

JAMES ALLEN ROSS
997 Lane
Stock

JOHN H. SFORRESTER
103 E Lafayette Circle
Buyer

STEPHEN G. EDMUNDSON
3194 Walnut Grove
Buyer

ROBERT WAYNE HILL
1923 West Holmes
Sales and Stock - Saddlery

STEVEN J. ABRAHAM, JR.
392 Carroll Drive
Warehouse Supervisor

MARY ELLEN LAMPIETRO
934 N. Auburndale
Receptionist

ME 44-1987

7

AUSTIN JOHNSON
133 Goodloe
Warehouse Foreman

LINDA S. LAMPIETRO
934 N. Auburndale
General Office Employee

JOSEPH H. MC GOWEN
363 N. McNeil
Receiving Clerk.

Mrs. ALICE MOSS, personal secretary, to the president, FRED P. GATTAS, advised that two employees who were at work on April 4, 1968, were not available for interview on April 11, 1968. These employees were GENE AUTRY BIGGS, who was on vacation, and Mrs. VIOLA MC KINNEY, who was ill.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 8/23/68

On 8/1/68 ME 338-R(Ghetto) orally advised the writer as follows:

Informant has long been a personal friend, professionally, of white male RENFRO TURNER HAYS, a private investigator, who has in recent years done much investigative work for Memphis attorneys such as RUSSELL X. THOMPSON and JERE HUFFMAN.

It will be recalled that on Friday night, 7/26/68, Captain JEWELL G. RAY, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, and now in charge of security for prisoner JAMES EARL RAY, indicted for the 4/4/68 sniping shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., advised the writer that RAY's attorney ARTHUR HANES of Birmingham, Alabama., was in town and was going to the Home Federal Building Office of RUSSELL X. THOMPSON to meet with THOMPSON and RENFRO T. HAYS.

It will be further recalled that on the night of the KING killing, 4/4/68, ME 338-R(Ghetto) phoned the writer to confidentially point out that HAYS could have been a suspect in the KING killing, in that he had a white compact car and had been inquiring on or about 4/3/68 as to the room number of KING who was then staying in Room 306, Lorraine Motel.

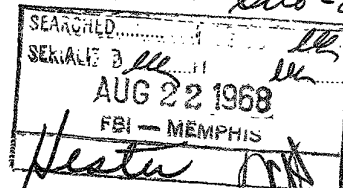
On 8/1/68 HAYS contacted ME 338-R(Ghetto) and said he, HAYS, and THOMPSON were going to do some legal and investigative work in behalf of RAY's defense for ARTHUR HANES and that among other things they would want photographs made of RAY in the Shelby County Jail and possibly other photographs such as the rooming house at 422½ South Main Street and at the Lorraine Motel.

- ① - 44-1987
1 - 170-70 Sub (ME 338-R(Ghetto))
1 - 170-866 (RUSSELL X. THOMPSON)
1 - 170-831 (RENFRO TURNER HAYS)
1 - 100-662 (NAAC)

WHL:gmh

(5)

gmh



5010-108

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

ME 44-1987

RENFRO said that THOMPSON, a white attorney, formerly in the integrated law firm of Ratner, Sugarmon, Willis and Thompson, was now a law partner of former Memphis Mayor, WILLIAM B. INGRAM; that nevertheless he would not jeopardize his Negro clientele because he was still on retainer of NAACP; and that the NAACP had no objections to his helping with the RAY defense as the NAACP would like to learn more about RAY and THOMPSON felt this would be an excellent way to get the inner secrets, if any, regarding the mystery surrounding JAMES EARL RAY.

HAYS wanted ME 338-R(Ghetto) to arrange to have photographs taken for the RAY defense. HAYS claimed that a Memphis white photographer, WILBUR CURTIS, with offices in the 100 North Main Building, has taken a series of aerial photographs of the rooming house and Lorraine Motel area.

HAYS said that THOMPSON and HANES are relying heavily for defense leads and strategy on an article which appeared in "Ramparts" Magazine, issue of 7/13/68 entitled, "Some Disturbing Parallels," by WILLIAM W. TURNER, former FBI Agent, and now a senior editor for "Ramparts."

A Xerox copy of this article is attached to each copy of this memorandum.

ME 338-R(Ghetto) has decided not to get involved, feeling that any fees would be offset by loss of business from the Negro community. He might arrange for some still photographs of the rooming house and the Lorraine which he already has taken.