

SAC, NEW ORLEANS

4/24/68

RKA
SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

Re Jackson letter to New Orleans 5/22/68.

RE LEANDER "LEE" D'AVY

Referenced Jackson communication set out lead for New Orleans at Donaldsonville, Louisiana, to contact pipelines, re identity of driver of 1961 Chevrolet with Texas license plates.

New Orleans is requested to discontinue this lead inasmuch as D'AVY has stated the driver of this vehicle is definitely not identical with the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and bears no resemblance to the photograph.

2-New Orleans
1-Memphis
2-Jackson
JLP/wgj
(5)

44-1987-Sub E-620A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 25 1968	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

173

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW ORLEANS

FROM : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/22/68

On 4/22/68, Mr. LEANDER "LEE" D'AVY, 348 Idlewild, Jackson, Mississippi, appeared at the Jackson Office of the FBI, and furnished the following information to SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS:

D'AVY advised he is unemployed at the present time, but has previously worked as a cab driver and at numerous odd jobs such as selling fishing worms, acting as a doorman at some bars on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, and a variety of jobs, after receiving a General discharge from the U. S. Army for stealing a Government vehicle.

D'AVY said he was hitchhiking with his ten-year-old son, [REDACTED], on April 9, 1968, at Brookhaven, Mississippi. He caught a ride in front of the Coca-Cola Plant in Brookhaven, with a man who acted suspicious, and who had the name "Ray" written on the back of the Texas Inspection Sticker on the windshield of his car. D'AVY pointed out this was the day of the funeral of MARTIN LUTHER KING, and after reading in the paper that JAMES EARL RAY was alleged to be the murderer, he believes this man whom he caught a ride with might be involved in the murder of Dr. KING in some way. The unidentified man offering D'AVY and his son a ride from Brookhaven, Miss., to Baton Rouge, Miss., was driving about a 1961 Chevrolet, four door sedan, medium green in color, with current Texas license plates, number not recalled or recorded. The unidentified driver claimed he

2 - New Orleans

1 - ~~Jackson~~ Memphis 44-1137

SNJ/bjk

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44-1987-Sub E-620

APR 23 1968

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JN 157-9586

had recently worked on a pipe-line job near Grenada, Mississippi, and was presently enroute to another new pipe-line job in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

During the trip, D'AVY started to comment about Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and this caused the unidentified driver to become very upset and pound his fists on the steering wheel. D'AVY claimed the driver never gave him any name whatsoever, but he believes his name may have been RAY, since that was the name on the back of the Texas Inspection Sticker on the windshield. He said the Miss. Highway Safety Patrol stopped them just outside of Brookhaven, Miss., on a routine-type driver's license check. The driver exhibited a Texas driver's license to the patrolman. The patrolman also noted that one of the headlights did not work on this car; however, allowed them to continue on without receiving any type of ticket. During the drive to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the unidentified driver gave D'AVY's ten-year-old son a cheap, inexpensive ring which was made in Mexico, and which he took from the glove compartment of the car. D'AVY still has this ring.

D'AVY described the unidentified driver as follows: white male, age 25-35, 5' 9" in height, 180 pounds, blue or green eyes, sandy colored brown hair with a full head of hair combed straight, no glasses, did not smoke, had on no rings, and did not appear to be carrying anything in the way of suitcases or clothes inside the car. He spoke with a normal accent which was not particularly regional. He claimed to be from Orange, Texas, originally, but did not know several people named by D'AVY who are supposedly well-known in Orange, Texas.

D'AVY viewed several photographs, including the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and stated the unidentified driver who picked him up is definitely not identical with the photographs and bears no resemblance to the photographs.

JN 157-9586

D'AVY theorized that as soon as the true identity of the killer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING became known to the public, it was necessary for those who had participated in the murder with RAY, to eliminate RAY in order that he could never identify them. D'AVY claims he has not only theorized about this, but he has dreamed about it also, and felt he should tell the FBI about it.

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS

AT DONALDSONVILLE, LOUISIANA

Will contact pipe-line companies with current activity in the Donaldsonville, Louisiana, area, and attempt to identify and interview unknown individual described above who is allegedly driving about a 1961 Chevrolet, medium green, four door sedan, with Texas license plates, and determine whereabouts of this person during the last week of March, 1968, and the first week of April, 1968.

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)
MURKIN

Re Chicago tel to Jackson, Birmingham and
Memphis dated 4/20/68; Jackson airtel to Memphis dated
4/22/68 re GERALD ELWOOD HULTGREN, FBI #745724D.

For the information of New Orleans, Mrs. LENORE
STEWART, Chicago, Ill., advised that her son, GERALD
ELWOOD HULTGREN, last known to be residing in Pascagoula,
Miss., with an individual named E. M. RAY, allegedly took
a trip to an unknown location. Mrs. STEWART furnished
E. M. RAY's name as a possible suspect in this matter.

Referenced Jackson airtel disclosed that E. M.
RAE, correct spelling, is a lifelong resident of Pascagoula,
is well known in the community and bears no similarity of
descriptions of subject.

HULTGREN is presently being sought by Pascagoula
PD as a suspect in the theft of a pay check of E. M. RAE.

In view of the above investigation at Pascagoula,
New Orleans should discontinue efforts to locate HULTGREN

- ② - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - New Orleans
1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
1 - Jackson
JLP:pdb
(6)

44-1987-Sub E-619A

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Boyle BTD

Approved: RKM
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

JN 157-9586

who allegedly left for New Orleans, Louisiana, ~~and~~ that
E. M. RAE has been eliminated as a possible suspect.