

PAGE TWO

NO 157-10673

STEIN ADVISED LEE HE WAS DRIVEN TO NEW ORLEANS BY ERIC GALT. (RAY). STEIN ADVISED LEE HE DID NOT KNOW GALT AND HAD MET HIM TWO DAYS PREVIOUS TO TRIP. STEIN'S TRIP ARRANGED BY MARIA MARTIN WHO HEARD GALT STATE WAS COMING TO NEW ORLEANS AND MARTIN APPROACHED GALT TO ARRANGE RIDE FOR STEIN.

GALT STAYED AT PROVINCIAL MOTEL ON CHARTRES STREET IN NEW ORLEANS. WHILE IN NEW ORLEANS STEIN BECAME FEARFUL GALT MIGHT LEAVE HIM, SO HE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED GALT AT PROVINCIAL MOTEL AND ASKED HIM TO COME TO LEE'S HOUSE SO GALT WOULD KNOW WHERE TO PICK STEIN UP. LEE STATED GALT CAME TO HER HOME ON SECOND DAY OF STEIN'S VISIT AND WAS INTRODUCED TO HER AS ERIC. SHE STATED GALT WAS EXTREMELY QUIET AND DID NOT SAY MUCH. GALT DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE STEIN'S INTRODUCTION OF LEE AND MERELY LEANED AGAINST PORCH POST. LEE ADVISED GALT WAS DRIVING WHITE MUSTANG, BUT SHE COULD NOT COMMENT ON LICENSE ON THIS CAR. LEE ADVISED SHE WAS IN GALT'S COMPANY APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES. LEE ADVISED STEIN COMMENTED HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

GALT, AS GALT PAID FOR EVERYTHING ON TRIP AND REFUSED TO ALLOW STEIN TO PAY FOR GAS OR FOOD.

LEE ADVISED ON THIRD DAY OF STEIN'S VISIT GALT PULLED UP TO HER RESIDENCE IN MUSTANG, BUT DID NOT LEAVE CAR, MERELY HONKED HORN AND STEIN LEFT HER RESIDENCE.

LEE DESCRIBED GALT AS WHITE MALE, THIRTY TO THIRTYTHREE, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES, MEDIUM BUILD, LIGHT HAIR, LONG SKINNY NOSE. LEE ADVISED FRONT VIEW OF PHOTOGRAPH OF GALT TAKEN IN SIXTY THAT APPEARS ON IDENTIFICATION ORDERS AND WANTED FLYERS IS EXCELLENT LIKENESS AND PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN SIXTYEIGHT IN BARTENDERS SCHOOL IN LOS ANGELES DOES NOT RESEMBLE GALT. LEE ADVISED SHE KNEW OF NO OTHER TRIP MADE TO NEW ORLEANS BY RAY EXCEPT THE ONE IN DECEMBER SIXTYSEVEN.

RE INTERVIEW WITH HERBERT RODRIGUEZ, HIS SISTER, THERESA STONE AND DALE RODRIGUEZ, HIS WIFE, ALL RESIDING FOUR ZERO ONE NINE ROYAL STREET.

HERBERT RODRIGUEZ ADVISED RECALLS RECEIVING PHONE CALL SOMETIME IN THE EVEING WITHIN THE LAST TWO MONTHS FROM A MALE
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

NO 157-10673

AND ALL HE COULD RECALL OF THE CONVERSATION WAS THE INDIVIDUAL ASKED RODRIGUEZ FOR HIS ADDRESS AND ADVISED HE WAS BRINGING A BOX. RODRIGUEZ STATED HE HAD JUST COME OFF A LONG ROAD TRIP PRIOR TO THE PHONE CALL AND WAS STILL "PUNCHY" FROM SAME. IT IS NOTED RODRIGUEZ IS AN EX-FIGHTER. (COULD NOT IDENTIFY PHOTOS OF RAY).

DALE RODRIGUEZ IN REINTERVIEW STATED BOTH SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAD GONE TO BED IN EITHER FEBRUARY OR MARCH NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT, WHEN THEY RECEIVED KNOCK ON DOOR AND SHE ANSWERED THE DOOR, ACCEPTED A BOX, ASKED HOW MIMI WAS, STATES COULD NOT RECALL ANY CONVERSATION FROM THE MAN, DID NOT LET HIM IN HOUSE OR TURN ON LIGHTS. SHE RECALLED IT WAS WINDY AND RAINING THAT NIGHT. FURTHER, SHE BELIEVED INDIVIDUAL WITH BOX TO BE APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET SEVEN INCHES AND COULD NOT IDENTIFY ANY PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY. BOX STAYED AT HOUSE FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO DAYS AND WAS PICKED UP BY MRS. LORRAINE CALLOWAY, MOTHER OF HERBERT RODRIGUEZ. HERBERT AND DALE RODRIGUEZ HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS IN DECEMBER NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN.

THERESA STONE ADVISED SHE SAW STEIN ON WHAT SHE BELIEVED WAS DECEMBER EIGHTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN IN FRONT OF RESIDENCE OF HER
END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

NO 157-10673

COUSIN, MARIE LEE, WHO AT THAT TIME RESIDED IN FOURTEEN HUNDRED BLOCK OF BURGUNDY STREET. SHE STATED SHE HAD GONE THERE TO SEE CHARLIE STEIN. WHEN SHE WAS THERE STEIN RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AND STEIN ASKED HER HOW BEST ROUTE FOR A PERSON TO GET TO THAT ADDRESS. SHE COULD NOT RECALL WHERE THE PERSON WAS COMING FROM. SHE STATED SHE RECALLED THIS DATE AS DECEMBER EIGHTEEN BECAUSE SHE WAS IN HURRY TO GO TO WORK AND IT WAS BETWEEN NINE AND TEN P.M. FURTHER, SHE DID NOT WORK ON SUNDAY OR TUESDAY NIGHTS. SHE ADVISED AS SHE WAS LEAVING SHE MET WHITE MALE ARRIVING AT HOUSE, INTRODUCED BY STEIN AND DOES NOT RECALL THE NAME AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL FROM PHOTOGRAPHS EXHIBITED TO HER OF RAY. FURTHER STATES SHE WAS IN A HURRY AND IT WAS DARK. SHE RECALLED MARIE LEE WAS PRESENT WHEN THIS INDIVIDUAL ARRIVED AND WHEN SHE, THERESA, LEFT. STONE HAD NO PERTINENT KNOWLEDGE OF TRIP OF RAY TO NEW ORLEANS MARCH SIXTYEIGHT.

RE MRS. LORRAINE CALLOWAY.

UPON REINTERVIEW, CALLOWAY NOW RECALLED SHE PICKED UP
END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

NO 157-10673

THERESA STONE'S DAUGHTER, DENISE, AFTER SCHOOL, BROUGHT HER TO STONE-RODRIGUEZ RESIDENCE AND AT THAT TIME PICKED UP THE BOX AND TOOK IT TO HER HOME. MRS. DALE RODRIGUEZ AGREES TO THE MANNER IN WHICH BOX WAS DELIVERED TO CALLOWAY HOUSE UPON RECALL.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE NIGHT INDIVIDUAL WHO DELIVERED BOX AT RODRIGUEZ RESIDENCE IN MARCH NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT, A CHECK WITH THE U. S. WEATHER BUREAU DETERMINED THAT IT RAINED HEAVILY THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND EVENING OF MARCH TWENTYONE AND EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH TWENTYTWO, SIXTYEIGHT, AND THAT THIS WAS ONLY RAINFALL OFFICIALLY RECORDED DURING THE PERIOD MARCH SEVENTEEN-TWENTYFOUR SIXTYEIGHT.

THOROUGH CANVASS OF MOTELS AND LODGING PLACES ALONG CHEF MENTEUR HIGHWAY CONTINUING.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

Docket No. 19118
Judge Charles J. Wittaker

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Kansas City, Missouri
April 26, 1955

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME	James Earl Ray	CITIZENSHIP	United States
ADDRESS	Transient	MARITAL STATUS	Single
AGE	27 years (Born March 17, 1928)	NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS	None
SEX	Male	OFFENSE	Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order
RACE	White		

172492-2

I. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955 at Kansas City, Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on a U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-42,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Docket No. 19119 to an information in one count charging him with the forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-42,239,598. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and this presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Belleville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, Serial Nos. 7-42,239,535 to 7-42,239,600 inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On March 8, 1955 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On March 21, 1955 one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-42,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Company, 1226 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-42,239,568 to the Chaffee Office Machine Company, 1410 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later when this money order was ascertained

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to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who had been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the Mollerville, Illinois Post office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

On March 24, 1955 Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Office Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the money order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 6, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis, Missouri from a "Wino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders.

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Illinois have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

Last three digits	Cashed by	Cashed at	Second Endorser	Date of earliest discernible bank stamp	Am.
538	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 10	\$50
543	Ray	do	Dowas Men's Shop	Mar. 10	\$55
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	EssRay Art Galleries	Mar. 21	\$75
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	Mar. 21	\$75
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	\$75

552	Rife	Memphis, Tenn.	Borg & McCargo	Mar. 11	\$75
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Bright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schneiders	Mar. 21	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear Shop	Mar. 18	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dinos (?) J. C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's Store	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfcifers of Arkansas	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Biles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 15	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan C. Whipple I. Zucker)	Mar. 15	\$50
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abrams	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liqueurs Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
592	Rife	do	Knex (?) Bar & Luncheonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Clothing	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn(?)	Mar. 21	\$75

*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

II. PRIOR RECORD:

Defendant's F. B. I. Fingerprint Return No. 306 hu3 A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 : Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California - suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 8 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drink-

ing in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

- 1-18-50 : Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. - vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.
- 7-23-51 : Alton, Illinois Police Department - no operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was fined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.
- 5-6-52 : Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.
- 8-30-54 : Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.
- 3-23-55 : Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day.

III. FAMILY HISTORY:

Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born March 10, 1928 in Alton, Illinois.

He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948 he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Prior Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954 he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about 49. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other relatives

in Quincy, Illinois.

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1954, he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the 1st through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION:

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

None.

VIII. HEALTH:

Defendant is 5' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillectomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

IX. EMPLOYMENT AND MILITARY HISTORY:

Defendant states that at Alton, Illinois on February 19, 1946 he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He received his basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He was then transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to await transportation to the European Theater of Operations. He states that he left the continental limits of the United States for Germany in July of 1946. Overseas he was attached to the 382nd Military Police Battalion. He admits that he was once AWOL for a period of two days which resulted in a suspended sentence to confinement for period of sixty days. He returned to the United States from Germany in December of 1948 and was, he states, on December 23, 1948 given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Defendant states that his last employment was with an uncle whom he refuses to identify but who resides in Quincy, Illinois. He worked for this uncle as a painter for a period of time in the summer of 1954.

He claims that from August 1951 to May 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. This employment was terminated when he was arrested for robbery, which eventually resulted in a penitentiary sentence.

He states that from July of 1950 to June 1951 he was employed by the Arboy Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. He was discharged from this employment for absenteeism caused by his arrest in Alton, Illinois for vagrancy when visiting in that city.

He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have left this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

From July 1949 to September 1949 defendant states he was employed as a laborer at a wage of \$1.10 per hour by the Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago, Illinois. He quit this job to move to California.

He purports that from May 1944 to December of 1945 he was employed at a wage of 65¢ per hour by the International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois. He indicates he was laid off by this employer in a general reduction of forces and that he then entered the army.

X. RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES:

None.

XI. SUMMARY:

This defendant, white male, age 27, no dependents, has entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he at Kansas City, Missouri -

on or about March 21, 1955 forged a stolen U. S. Postal Money Order. This money order was one of sixty-six such orders stolen in a burglary of the U. S. Post Office, Kellerville, Illinois on March 7, 1955. Defendant emphatically denies the burglary of the post office. He states that his companion in the instant offense, Walter T. Rife, whom he met at a bar in Quincy, Illinois suggested that he accompany Rife and cash the money orders which Rife reportedly had purchased from an unknown person. Defendant states that he purchased for \$1 the identification he and Rife used in uttering these stolen orders in various states. When arrested for the instant offense defendant was in possession of thirty-four money orders which had been stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office. He admits the forgery and uttering of fourteen money orders. His companion, Rife, has admitted the forgery and uttering or attempting to utter eighteen of the stolen money orders.

Approximately one year before becoming involved in the instant offense defendant was released from service of a sentence of one to two years for armed robbery in the Illinois State Penitentiary. In August of 1954 he burglarized a cleaning establishment in East Alton, Illinois. Although he admittedly was charged with burglary he apparently has never been before the appropriate court and apparently is not presently wanted on this charge. In 1949 in Los Angeles, California he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to eight months in the county jail. After serving ninety days of this sentence he was released on probation for a period of two years.

Defendant shows absolutely no remorse at this time. He anticipates receiving a substantial sentence for the instant offense. In writer's opinion he is a confirmed criminal and a menace to society when in the free world.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward S. Murray
U. S. Probation Officer

EM:lo

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

RELEASE PROGRESS REPORT

Committed Name **RAY, James Earl** Reg. No. **72498-L** Date **April 1958.**

Released by Conditional Release April 5, 1958. Supervision ends 10-2-58.
Earned 45 Days AOT (kit B)
FBI No: 305 443 A.

Ray is being released from this institution by reason of Conditional Release. He was sentenced in the U. S. District Court on July 1, 1955 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was received at this institution on July 7, 1955. Ray became eligible for parole consideration on Sept. 30, 1956, but he has never filed application for a parole interview. At the time of initial classification, Ray was placed under medium custody and assigned to the Fire Department. He remained on such assignment until Sept. 15, 1955 when he was reassigned to the Paint Shop. On Sept. 12, 1957, Ray was approved for our Honor Farm but was never actually transferred to such assignment due to the fact that he did not feel he could live in an Honor Farm Dormitory because they are integrated. Due to this fact, he was never placed under such status. He was assigned to our Bakery where he remained until released on CR. Ray has no detainers on file against him and has received a total of one disciplinary report. This report occurred on Sept. 13, 1955 when he was reported for lack of interest in his job. For this report, he was placed under thirty days restriction and given a job change.

On Nov. 1, 1956 Ray was approved for AOT only and remained under such status until his release. He was also granted a monetary award of \$10 per month for April of 1957 thru Jan. 1958 on a 1/75 basis.

Corrected RBN

Release plans call for Ray to return to his place of conviction in Kansas City, Missouri where he will reside alone. He was referred to our Employment Placement Service who in turn referred him to Mr. Robert Lutz, Employment Counselor, Mo. State Employment Service, 1411 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

Ray is being released with a total of \$99.33 in his personal account, \$64.70 is being given to him in cash. The remaining \$35.63 is being forwarded to the USPO, Kansas City, Missouri. Ray was also given a \$1 for bus fare to Kansas City.

He will be under supervision until Oct. 2, 1958.

DESTINATION: Kansas City, Missouri
U. S. P. O.: Kansas City, Missouri

4/4/58
NAC/epa

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANS.

CLASSIFICATION STUDY

Committed Name **RAY, James Earl**
True Name **Same**
Aliases

Reg. No: **72498-L**

FBI No. **303 448K**

Sec. Sec. No.

Date Classified, **8-20-58**

Sentenced	7-1-55	Offense	PO Laws: Forge Money Cards
Sent. Begins	7-1-55	Sentenced	3 Years & 9 Months
Date Com.	7-1-55	Judicial Dist.	WD Missouri
Elig. Parole	9-30-56	Committing Judge	Charles E. Whittaker
Elig. Min. Exp.	5-20-58	Detainers	
Supervision Exp.	10-2-58		
Sent. Exp.	3-31-59		
Com. Fine			
Prob. to follow			

Age 227	Date birth	Birthplace Alton, Ill. Co.	Race White
Citizenship U.S.		Marital Status Single	Education Status 8th
Selective Service Reg.: Place	Quincy, Ill.	Date	Classification B-1

Military Service:

Entered	Discharged	Service	Rank	Type Dschg.	Serial No.
2-19-46	12-23-46	Army	PO1	(Honorable)	

Foreign service from July 18, 1946 to Dec 21, 1948.
Foreign service from July 18, 1946 to Dec. 21, 1948.

Employment Record:

From	To	Employer	Address	Occupation	Wages
5/44	12/45	International Shoe Co.	Marion, Ill.		
7/44-49	9-49	Dryden Rubber Co.	Chicago, Ill.	Laborer	
7/50-50	7-50	McCord Co.	" " "		
7/50-50	6-51	Arby Corp.	Chicago, Ill.		
8/50-51	5-52	Borg-Walker Co.	" " "		

Residences:

From	To	Address	Place of Residence	With Whom
12/48	---	Quincy, Illinois	Quincy, Ill. - legal	Self
3/3-28	2/46	Alton, Ill.		Parents

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Committed Name **RAY, James Earl** *wf* Reg. No. **72493-L**

Name	Relatives and Interested Persons			Address
	Relation	Age	Marital	
<u>George Ray</u>	Fa		1	Deceased.
<u>Mary Ray</u>	Mo		1	Deceased.
<u>Lucille Ryan</u>	Aunt		1	801 N. 12th, Quincy, Illinois.

Names preceded by "C" are approved correspondents, by "V" approved visitors.
Codefendants

Walter Rife, #72497-L Leavenworth, Kansas.

Attorney of Record **James Tierney**

USPO **Springfield, Ill.**

Reports Rec'd: U. S. Atty Pros. Agency USPO SJA Review

Sources

Pending Verifications

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4. Military Service. | 1. Correspondence from Aunt. |
| 8. Presentence Investigation Report. | |
| 9. U.S. Attorney's Report. | |
| 10. Prosecuting Agency Report. | |
| 13. Prior Records. | |
| 14. F.B.I. Record of Arrests. | |

ADMISSION SUMMARY
(Continued)

Committed Name RAY, James Earl

Register Number 72498-L

DATE	PLACE	OFFENSE	DISPOSITION	SOURCE
11-10-49	Los Angeles, Calif	Susp burg	8 mo jail - 2 yr prob	FBI & File
4-18-50	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Vag	Susp sen - 6 mo	FBI & File
7-23-51	Alton, Ills	No operator lic- no st lic- no city lic	Rel	FBI & File
5-6-52	Chicago, Ills	Robb	1-2 yr SP Pontaic, Ill #19121 - disch 3-12-54	FBI & File
8-30-54	Edwardsville, Ill	B & L	Inq pend	FBI & File
3-23-55	HANNIBAL, MO	PO FORGE MONEY ORDERS	CURRENT OFFENSE	

OFFENSES
 1-Susp Burg
 1-Vag
 1-No opr lic
 1-Robb
 1-B & L
5-Total

S U M M A R Y
ESCAPE
NONE

DISPOSITION
 1-SP
 1-Jail
 1-Susp
 1-Rel
 1-Inq pend
5-Total

ADMISSION SUMMARY

(Continued)

Committed Name **RAY, James Earl**

Register Number **72498-L**

PRESENT OFFENSE:

Official Version: On April 1, 1955, Ray entered a plea of guilty to an information in one count charging him with forging the endorsement of a U.S. Post Office money order and he was sentenced to serve one and a half years. On July 1, 1955 another information was filed against him in three counts, charging offenses at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. He was also charged in an information with an offense connected with a money order at Tallahassee, Florida. He received a total of three and three-fourths years for these various offenses.

The facts which were brought out in this case indicated that on March 7, 1955 the U.S. Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U.S. Postal Money Orders and the office validating stamp were stolen. The following day at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. Several other money orders were cashed at various places, and it was finally learned that Ray and his co-defendant, Walter Terry Rife, our 72497-L, were the persons who were attempting to cash these money orders. At the time of their apprehension thirty four of the money orders which had been stolen from the post office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in the automobile, all of which had been dated and stamped with the validating stamp and some which had been made out ready for cashing while others had not.

Through questioning and admissions on the part of Ray and Rife, all of the sixty six money orders were accounted for with the exception of two, and Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida. Thus the entire group of sixty six money orders has actually been accounted for. Following their apprehension the Postal Inspectors obtained from the room occupied by Ray and Rife a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the money orders and this merchandise was eventually returned to the persons from whom it had secured by this fraud.

Inmate's Version: Other than to admit that he had gone on a spree of cashing these money orders, Ray had no further information to give and no statement to make.

Previous Institutional Adjustments: Ray was committed to the Illinois State Penitentiary on July 13, 1952 to serve one to two years for robbery. On May 6, 1952 he had held up a Red Top cab driver at gun point and took from him \$11.00 belonging to the cab company, and then ordered the cab driver out of the cab and drove off in the cab. He was apprehended shortly thereafter by police who shot him during the capture and he admitted his guilt. He claims that he was heavily intoxicated at the time and had used a pipe in place of a gun, placing it at the back of the driver's body. He had a good adjustment at the Pontiac Division of Illinois State Prison, was assigned to their honor farm where he worked as a cook in the farm dormitory and as a helper in the officer's quarters. He was considered an average worker and had no punishment reports. He was discharged by expiration of sentence March 12, 1954.

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Ray says that both of his parents were born in the state of Illinois and that they

ADMISSION SUMMARY
(Continued)

Committed Name RAY, James Earl

Register Number 72498-L

are both now deceased. He says his father died of a heart attack in 1947 and his mother died in 1949 of causes not given. He claims that he is an only child.

PERSONAL HISTORY:

It would appear that Ray was born at Alton, Illinois on [redacted] the only child of parents and resided in the parental home in Alton until about 18 years of age. However, during this period of time he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When he was about 18 years of age, he joined the U.S. Army where he remained from February 19, 1946 until December 23, 1948 when he received an honorable discharge under Article of War 616-369 inaptness and lack of adaptability for military service. He had foreign service from July 18, 1946 to December 21, 1948. Following discharge from military service he resided for a short time at Quincy, Illinois and then moved to Chicago where he stayed for about six months and then went on out to Los Angeles, California. He was convicted of a burglary in Los Angeles and when released on probation from that sentence he returned to Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed to the Illinois State Penitentiary in 1952. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary he has been rather nomadic, but considers Quincy, Illinois as his residence.

Ray claims that he completed eight grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois and that while residing in Chicago in 1952 he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two year high-school education.

Ray has not had much of an employment history. The last employment he had was with an uncle in Quincy, Illinois and he refused to reveal the name of the uncle to the U.S. Probation Officer. However, he gave us the name of William Maher, 1118 E. 7th St., Alton, Illinois. He also gave us the name of an aunt, Lucille Ryan, 801 N. 12th St., Quincy, Illinois. Neither of these parties has answered our inquiry. He claims that from August, 1951 to May of 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corp., in Chicago, Illinois and that employment was terminated when he was sent to the penitentiary for robbery. Other employment prior to this is listed under the employment section of page one of the classification study.

Ray has never been married.

EVALUATION, RESOURCES & PLANS:

Ray has no property and says he has no particular plans for the future at this time. He would like to work on a farm, pointing out that he was a trusty at the Illinois State Penitentiary. He admits drinking to excess at times. Just what motivates him to commit crime is not known.

ADMISSION UNIT REPORT:

This man has a good attitude towards his sentence. He has no resentments and states that he feels as though the Court gave him a break. His adjustment in the population should be good. States that he had no difficulties while on a previous sentence in Illinois. This man seemed to be a rather nervous person while being interviewed but was cooperative with the program while in this unit. He states that he would like to work in the Kitchen as a helper. He stated that he worked on the farm while serving time at Pontiac, Ill. He keeps himself clean

ADMISSION SUMMARY
(Continued)

MASTER

Committed Name **RAY, James Earl** *ef* Register Number **72498-L**

and his quarters orderly.

ASSOCIATE WARDEN RECOMMENDS: CLOSE custody, no transfer.

8-1-55
EAC/bb

ADMISSION SUMMARY

(Continued)

Committed Name **RAY, James Earl**

Register Number

72498-LK

8-10-55

MEDICAL

HISTORY: Ray has had good health in the past. His tonsils were removed in 1951. Complains of chronic difficulty in breathing through his nose, frequent headaches, thinks he may be allergic to the climate in this region. Specifically denies history of narcotic addiction, venereal disease, major mental illness, tuberculosis or convulsive disorder. Presently rates himself as able to do hard work.

PHYSICAL FINDINGS: He is a 27 year old white male, of medium physique, weighing 168 pounds and 71 inches tall. Examination of the heart, lungs and cardiovascular system is negative. Blood Pressure: 118/74. Vision: 20/25. Audiogram within average limits.

DENTAL CONDITION: Average; needs one extraction, three fillings, and a prophylaxis for complete dental restoration.

LABORATORY: Urinalysis negative. VDRL and Kohlmer non-reactive.

DIAGNOSES:
1 missing tooth.
4 carious teeth.
Dental calculus.
Slight refractive error.
Allergic rhinitis. (?)

WORK: Regular duty.

ADMISSION INSPECTION: 7-7-55
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: 7-12-55
REPORT DICTATED by RCS: 7-24-55

ADMISSION SUMMARY

(Continued)

Committed Name Ray, James E

Register Number 72498

VOCATIONAL: INSTITUTIONAL OCCUPATIONS: Pontiac, Illinois, 1952-54, Farm Kitchen

WORK HISTORY: This man has no trades or skills, is not interested in Vocational Training or self-improvement programs. States that he has worked irregularly in factories as a laborer but never for longer than 19 months. He is single and has no dependants. His only interests are to work in the Culinary Dept. here and he appears suitable for this for the present at least.

PRINCIPLE OCCUPATION: Laborer

WORK RECOMMENDATION: Dining Room.

EDUCATIONAL: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND. This man claims to have completed 16 grades of public school at the age of 16 in Alton, Illinois. Not interested in educational work while here.

STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST RESULTS: Subject was given the interpartial test form L which indicated a grade equivalent of 8.2.

EDUCATIONAL RECOMMENDATION: Encourage participation in educational program on a High School level.

R. R. H.

PSYCHOMETRIC	RATING	TEST	I.Q.	DEV.	SCATTER
Intelligence	Average	USPHS	103	20	Average
Manipulative Dexterity					Percentile
Hand.....ES	Min. rate of manipulation				?
Finger.....ES	" " " "				?

ADMISSION SUMMARY

(Continued)

Committed Name

Register Number

RAY-72498-L

CATHOLIC
RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE
INTERIOR ATTITUDE
GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

BY PREFERENCE
NONE
INDIFFERENT
ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES.

ADMISSION SUMMARY
(Continued)

MASTER

Committed Name RAY, James Earl

Register Number 72498-L

COMMITTEE ACTION SHEET

CUSTODY	MEDIUM. Although there are charges pending he has no detainers against him and no escape record and as the Committee did not consider him to be an escape hazard he was placed in medium custody.
TRANSFER	NONE. His residence and prior state penitentiary term qualifies him for this institution. He says he was on the farm on the state sentence.
SOCIAL PAROLE	USUAL SERVICES. No immediate social problems.
MEDICAL	REGULAR DUTY. No treatment indicated.
EMPLOYMENT	GENERAL MAINTENANCE. Fire Department. He was offered nursing but states he does not like to work around sick people. He should be considered for training later.
EDUCATIONAL	He has a G.E. of 8.2 and an I.Q. of 103.
RELIGION	RELIGION. Recommend attendance at services.
PROGRAM PLANNING	He has no release plans at this time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN KANSAS CITY	DATE 8/20/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/23/67 - 8/18/67
TITLE OF CASE "CHANGED" JAMES EARL RAY, aka Earl James Ray, W. C. Herron, Earl James, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Walyon, "Jim" - FUGITIVE;		REPORT MADE BY ROWEN B. AYERS	TYPED BY ENV
		CHARACTER OF CASE UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST	

The title of this report is being marked changed to add aliases of JAMES WALYON and EARL JAMES as indicated on RAY's Identification Record. The title is also changed to add an alias of EARL JAMES RAY, an alias furnished by Mr. H. F. LAUF, Missouri State Penitentiary Identification and Records Officer.

REFERENCES:

Kansas City letter to Bureau, dated 7/20/67.
Bureau letter to Kansas City, dated 8/15/67.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

Case has been: Pending over one year Yes No; Pending prosecution over six months Yes No

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

- COPIES MADE:
- 1 - Bureau (88-41730)
 - 1 - USA, Kansas City, Mo.
 - 2 - Springfield (Enc.1)
 - 2 - St. Louis (Enc.1)
 - ③ - Kansas City (88-9449)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

88-9449-14

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Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

44-1987-Sub-G-481

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

KC 88-9449

ENCLOSURES:

To SPRINGFIELD:
One photograph of subject.

To ST. LOUIS:
One photograph of subject.

LEADS:

ST. LOUIS

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

1. At Army Record Branch (MPRC), will review file of JAMES EARL RAY, [REDACTED] for complete background data concerning subject.

2. At 1913 Hickory, will contact LUCILLE RYON, mother of subject for information regarding relatives, associates, background, habits, and whereabouts, and for any other information which may aid in locating him. Similarly interview subject's brothers, JOHN and JERRY, at the same address.

3. Will contact logical neighbors to ascertain if subject has been in the area.

4. Will alert appropriate Police Officers in this area to be on the look-out for subject.

SPRINGFIELD

AT PONTIAC, ILLINOIS:

At State Penitentiary, under Number 19121, will examine records of subject in an attempt to develop contacts, background and possible addresses.

B
(COVER PAGE)

KC 88-9449

KANSAS CITY

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS: *V. Depress*

Will examine records of subject under #72498-L,
for information which may aid in locating him.

AT FULTON, MISSOURI:

Will similarly review records of State Hospital
Number 1. *any more he
- hospital*

C*
(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Report of: ROWEN B. AYERS
Date: 8/29/67

Office: KANSAS CITY

Field Office File #: 88-9449

Bureau File #: 88-41730

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY FIRST

Synopsis:

JAMES EARL RAY, Inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary, (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, missed at the Penitentiary on April 23, 1967. Subject known at MSP as a "hide out guy" due to his habit of concealing himself within the walls. Investigation indicated RAY concealed himself in bread box and escaped from truck making delivery to an auxiliary farm. He was dropped as an escaped prisoner on 7/10/67. RAY was serving 20 years on charges of Armed Robbery (1st) and for operating vehicle without owner's consent. Authorized complaint filed before U.S. Commissioner, Jefferson City, Missouri on 7/20/67, charging RAY with violation Title 18, Section 1073, U. S. Code. Warrant issued. Subject's criminal record dates back to 1949. He has been confined in Illinois institutions as well as serving time in Federal Penitentiary. His mother and brothers reside in St. Louis, Missouri. RAY confined at State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri in 1966. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

DETAILS:

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.

This case is predicated on a letter, dated June 19, 1967, from Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, Kansas City, Missouri, enclosing a letter, dated June 8, 1967 from H. F. LAUF, Identification and Records, Missouri State Penitentiary. Mr. LAUF's letter set forth the following information:

"The indicated subject was missing, from inside the walls of the main Penitentiary on April 23, 1967 and since that date information has been discovered giving us reasons to believe that he has escaped. We also have reasons to believe Ray has fled the state, to avoid prosecution, as all efforts to locate him have failed.

"This inmate is described as a white male, age 39, DOB [redacted] height 5'11", dark brown hair, blue eyes, weight 163, medium complexion and medium build. He was received here March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court, to serve 20 years for Robbery First Degree by means of a Dangerous & Deadly Weapon (2 chgs.); Operating a Motor Vehicle without permission of the Owner (20, 7, 5 Concurrent).

"We should appreciate it if your office would cause a Federal warrant to be issued against this individual. If he is apprehended, outside of the state of Missouri, the Department of Corrections will extradite him and pay the expenses thereof."

On June 19, 1967, Mr. WILLIAM A. KITCHEN requested an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement complaint be filed against JAMES EARL RAY.

On June 23, 1967, Mr. H. F. LAUF, mentioned above, advised SA THOMAS H. WEAVER that subject is known as a "hide out guy" who stays hidden within the confines of the Missouri State Penitentiary for several days and has done so in the past. He said there is considerable speculation as to whether RAY had actually been able to leave the prison. He said investigation, to date, has failed to develop any information as to RAY's whereabouts.

KC 88-9449

WCM:ENV

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

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On July 11, 1967, Missouri State Penitentiary, MSP,
file number 00416, was reviewed. The following information was
obtained:

JAMES EARL RAY, MSP #W-00416, was received at the
MSP, March 17, 1960, from St. Louis City, to serve a term
of twenty (20) years for the crime of Robbery First, by
means of a Dangerous and Deadly Weapon and operating a Motor
Vehicle without permission of the owner. He was assigned
to the Bakery Unit of the Food Service Department. RAY was
dropped from the MSP count on July 10, 1967, "As it is
assumed that he escaped".

RAY was discovered absent prior to the 5:00 PM
count on April 23, 1967, after a thorough search, at which
time RAY could not be found.

Relatives listed in this file are:

Mother: LUCILLE RYON,
1913 Hickory St.,
St. Louis, Missouri;

Brothers: JOHN RAY, same address as mother;
JERRY RAY, " " "

RAY is described in this file as a white male, born
[redacted], at Alton, Illinois; height 5'11"; weight 163
pounds; hair dark brown; eyes blue; complexion medium;
occupation baker; previously incarcerated Leavenworth Federal
Penitentiary; build medium; U.S. Army General Discharge,
[redacted]

KC 88-9449

On July 10, 1967, Mr. BERARD C. POIREY, Custodial Assistant Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that he had conducted an investigation into the escape of RAY. He said he had determined that an associate of RAY's who worked with RAY in the bakery, had let RAY get into one of the large boxes consigned to the church farm, near Jefferson City, Missouri, and then had covered him up. He said one of the bread boxes had been received at the church farm in an exploded condition, and bread scattered over the truck. He said, therefore, it has been assumed by the prison officials that RAY actually escaped from the Penitentiary and is not inside the walls as previously thought possible. He said RAY was being dropped as an escaped inmate, as of July 10, 1967.

On July 19, 1967, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he has contacted several inmates of the Penitentiary who knew RAY, and they indicated to him that RAY had indicated he wanted to escape from the Penitentiary and leave the State of Missouri.

On July 20, 1967, a complaint, as authorized, was filed before United States Commissioner W. C. SHELEY at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging RAY with Unlawful Flight To Avoid Confinement in connection with the commission of a crime of Robbery First, in violation of Title 18, Section 1073, United States Code. Bond returnable was set by the United States Attorney at \$5,000.00 to the United States Commissioner at Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. SHELEY issued a warrant on the above complaint on July 20, 1967, which has been transmitted to the Office of the United States Marshal at Kansas City, Missouri.

On August 18, 1967, Mr. H. F. LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised no further information has been developed regarding the whereabouts of subject.

On July 14, 1955, Mr. WILLIAM L. RUDDALL, Post Office Inspector, Kansas City, Missouri, advised the Kansas City Division that JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER PERRY RIFE were arrested in Hannibal, Missouri, on March 22, 1955, and

KC 88-9449

were charged with forgery of U. S. Postal Money Orders. He advised that their investigation reflected that the burglary in which the money orders were stolen, was perpetrated at Kellerville, Illinois, at approximately 1:30 AM on March 7, 1955, and that sixty-six blank Post Office money orders and a validating stamp were stolen. He advised that some of these money orders were cashed at St. Louis; Miami, Florida; Tallahassee, Florida; St. Petersburg, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, and that thirty-four orders were recovered.

He stated that subjects had advised him that RAY owned a 1946 or 1947 Nash automobile, license number unknown; that it had been traded for a 1949 Lincoln at the Amacker Motors, 135 NE 36th Street, Miami, Florida, on May 14, 1955; and had been titled to WALTER P. BERRY, an alias of RIFE. He said that RIFE and RAY claimed to have obtained the money orders from an unknown man in Quincy, Illinois.

On August 15, 1967, the Identification Division of the F.B.I. furnished the following descriptive summary for JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Dates of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Places of Birth	Decatur, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Alton, Illinois.
Height	Approximately 5'10"
Weight	174 pounds, September, 1966
Complexion	Ruddy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Build	Medium
Occupations	Laborer; baker
Scars and marks	Small scar on center of forehead; scar in palm of right hand.
Addresses	St. Louis, Missouri, March, 1960; 2015 Park, St. Louis, Missouri, October, 1959; Quincy, Illinois, July, 1955, March, 1955, April, 1950;

KC 88-9449

Hotel Quincy, Quincy, Illinois,
March, 1955; Victor Hotel, Quincy,
Illinois, March, 1955, August,
1954; 1429 Chery, Hannibal,
Missouri, March, 1955; 853 West
Fullerton, Chicago, Illinois,
May, 1952; 805 Alby Street,
Alton, Illinois, July, 1951.

Fingerprint Classification:

16 M 9 U 000 12 Ref 9
M 4 W IOI 12

NCIC Fingerprint Classification:

161311001212III12III17 .

On August 3, 1967, the Identification Division
of the F.B.I. furnished the following identification for
subject under FBI 306 443 A:

KC 88-9449

<u>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</u>	<u>NAME AND NUMBER</u>	<u>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
SO, Los Angeles, Calif.	James Earl Ray #B-119908	10/11/49	susp burg	
PD Los Angeles, Calif.	James Earl Ray #139648	10/11/49	susp 459PC (burg)	8 mos Co J1 sp; 2 yrs Prb srv 1st 90 das Co J1 146 12-30-49 Csl29438
SO Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	4/18/50	vag	
PD Alton Ill	James Earl Ray #7514	7/23/51	no oper lic np St Lic - no City Lic	- rel to pay later
PD Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #D90696	5/6/52	Robb(Gun)	GJ \$3000
Cook Co J1 Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #131165	5/9/52	Rob	6/13/52 sent to Pent'y 1-2 yrs.
SP Joliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #32419	6/13/52	Rob	
SP Pontiac, Illinois	James E. Ray #19121	7/7/52 in trans from Joliet	Rob	1-2 yrs 3/12/54 disch
SO Edwardsville, Illinois	James Earl Ray #2640	8/30/54	B & L	

KC 88-9449

<u>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</u>	<u>NAME AND NUMBER</u>	<u>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
PD Hannibal, Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	3/23/55	Inv B & E Post Office	
St Hwy Pat Macon, Mo.	James Earl Ray #B-3376	3/23/55	cashing stolen postal money orders	rel to Postal inspector Kans City, Mo. 3/24/55
USM Kansas City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #12018	3/28/55	forg US Postal Money Order	sent to 15 mos custody AG
SO Kansas City, Mo.	James Earl Ray #29637	3/28/55	Forg- Govt	7/7/55 3 yrs & 9 Mos.
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	2/19/46		
U Spen Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	7/7/55	PO Laws Forge Money Orders	3 yrs & 9 mos 5/20/58 CR 3/31/59 Max 4/5/58 Cond Rel on chg of PO forg PCMO
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/10/59	susp Robbery	

KC 88-9449

<u>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</u>	<u>NAME AND NUMBER</u>	<u>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
PD St. Louis, Mo.	James Earl Ray #81071	10/16/59	Susp Rob Steal & FOA	
SPen Jefferson City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #00416	3/17/60	TC oper mtr veh w/o permission of owner Robb 1st b/m DDW (2 chgs)	20 yrs (20,7,5, conc)
St Hosp No 1 Fulton, Mo.	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	9/8/66	Patient	

This record further reveals that RAY has also used the aliases of JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALYON, W.C. HERRON, JAMES O'CONNOR, JAMES WALTON and JIM.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN KANSAS CITY	DATE 10/25/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/31/67 - 10/3/67
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE		REPORT MADE BY SA ROWEN B. AYERS	TYPED BY nks
		CHARACTER OF CASE UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST	

REFERENCES:

Kansas City report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, dated 8/29/67.
St. Louis letter to Kansas City, dated 10/18/67, (Interoffice).

-P-

ENCLOSURES:

TO CHICAGO:

One copy of referenced report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS,
at Kansas City, dated 8/29/67.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: NONE

Case has been: Pending over one year Yes No; Pending prosecution over six months Yes No

<p>APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES MADE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Bureau (88-41730) 2 - Chicago (Incs. 1) 2 - Springfield 2 - St. Louis (88-7447) ② - Kansas City (88-9449) <p><i>ms</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">88-9449-17</p> </div> <p>Searched _____</p> <p>Serialized _____</p> <p>Indexed _____</p> <p>Filed _____</p>
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Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

44-1987-Sub-A-482

SEARCHED _____

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Obster

KC 88-9449

LEADS:

CHICAGO DIVISION

At Wheeling, Illinois

Will attempt to locate and interview JERRY RAY, Box 22, brother of subject, regarding whereabouts of subject, associates, relatives, and for any other information which might aid in locating subject.

SPRINGFIELD DIVISION

In addition to investigation already requested of the Springfield Division, the following should be conducted:

At Alton, Illinois

1. Will attempt to establish the whereabouts of GEORGE RAY, father of subject, formerly of 538 East Broadway and mother, LUCILLE of the same address. However, it is noted that LUCILLE RAY may be an aunt, who was last known to reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Will contact WILLIAM MAHEN, 1118 East 7th Street, a former address of subject, as listed in military records as 538 Broadway, Alton, Illinois (1945).

At Quincy, Illinois

Will conduct logical investigation to locate subject, it being noted he resided at 215 Oak Street in 1948; in care of LUCILLE RYAN, and 214 Spring Street in 1952.

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

At St. Louis, Missouri

At 1135 South 10th Street, will attempt to locate LUCILLE RYAN, probably an aunt, rather than mother of subject, and ascertain from her the location of subject and the names of all of his relatives with their addresses. Set out appropriate leads.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA ROWEN B. AYERS
Date: 10/30/67

Office: KANSAS CITY

Field Office File #: 88-9449

Bureau File #: 65-41730

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY, FIRST

Synopsis: Efforts to locate relatives of subject at St. Louis, Missouri negative. LUCILLE RAY variously listed in institutional records as mother and aunt, and appears to be relative with whom he was most in contact. She was last known to reside at 1135 South 16th, St. Louis, Missouri. Parents may be deceased. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

DETAILS:

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KC 88-3449

WCM:jab

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

At Fulton, Missouri:

On August 31, 1967, ROBERT ROSSON, Registrar, State Hospital No. 1, advised that JAMES EARL RAY was received on September 8, 1966, and discharged on October 21, 1966. Mr. ROSSON stated that RAY had been sent for examination due to his attempted escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary; however, it was determined that RAY was actually hiding out inside the walls and no escape charge was filed.

Mr. ROSSON stated that after examining RAY it was determined that he had no mental disease or defect and recommended his return to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. ROSSON advised that according to his records there is no information to reflect that RAY is dangerous.

Mr. ROSSON stated that the only relative listed in this file is JERRY RAY, Brother, Box 22, Wheeling, Illinois.

KC 88-9449

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

At Leavenworth, Kansas:

CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant, U. S.
Penitentiary (USP), Leavenworth, Kansas, on September 12, 1967,
advised that USP file number 72498-L, pertaining to JAMES
EARL RAY is now stored at the Federal Records Center, GSA,
2306 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri, Attention -
Chief, Reference Service Branch, GSA - Accession Number 65 A 10,
in Boxes 85327 - 87468.

KC 88-9449

JWW:rmb

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The following investigation was conducted by
Investigative Clerk JAMES W. WRIGHT:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

On October 2, 1967, Mr. JAMES H. YATES, Archives Assistant, Federal Records Center - General Services Administration, 2306 East Bannister Road, made available U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, file number 72498-L pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY, from which the following information was obtained:

RAY was sentenced on July 1, 1955, in U. S. District Court, Kansas City, Missouri, to a term of three years and nine months on a charge of Forgery of U. S. Post Office Money Orders. He was committed to U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 7, 1955, and was given a Conditional Release from that institution on April 5, 1958, the period of supervision terminating October 2, 1958.

At time of admission to U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, RAY listed the following relatives:

GEORGE RAY, Father, (Deceased);
MARY RAY, Mother, (Deceased);
LUCILLE RYAN, Aunt, 108 N. 12th St., Quincy, Illinois.

RAY requested numerous changes of address for his aunt, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, while she resided in Quincy, Illinois. She resided at Lancaster, Missouri, for a brief period, and the last known address for Mrs. RYAN was 1135 South 10th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

On December 20, 1955, RAY requested permission to correspond with a cousin, JERRY RYAN, 339½ South 7th Street, Quincy, Illinois, however, the request was denied. He also requested permission to correspond with an uncle, WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois.

Records reflect RAY served in U. S. Army, Serial [REDACTED], from February of 1946, to December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a discharge under honorable conditions by reason of ineptness and lack of adaptability

KC 88-9449

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for military duty. He was on foreign service from July 18, 1946, to December 21, 1948.

Records further reflect that RAY has no trades or skill and during his period of confinement at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, he was not interested in vocational training or self-improvement programs. He claims to have completed ten grades of public school at the age of 16 in Alton, Illinois. RAY claims he is an only child and that his father died in 1947 and his mother died in 1949.

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SL 88-7447
CBB/leh

The following investigation was conducted by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Missouri:

A check of the records of the St. Louis Police Department on September 5, 1967, reflected the details surrounding the arrest of subject, RAY, in connection with the armed robbery of the Kroger Store, 3417 Ohio Street in St. Louis, on October 10, 1959, and also reflected that on April 23, 1967, a teletype was received from the warden at Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, in connection with the recent escape of subject, RAY, from that institution. Detectives FRANCIS AUER and CHARLES BILLINGS, assigned to the 3rd District, St. Louis Police Department, conducted investigation on the same date, in an effort to locate subject. A check by these officers at 1913 Park Avenue, 2015 Park Avenue, and 1913 Hickory Street, previous addresses listed for subject, his mother and other relatives developed no information whatever of subject or other members of his family.

On October 3, 1967, HELEN CREAMER, residing at 1915 Hickory Street, advised she had resided at that address for the last couple of years and had never seen subject or any of his relatives. Investigation in the neighborhood of 1913 Hickory Street, revealed this to be a blighted area and the majority of the residences have been evacuated preparatory to being demolished. Members of families still residing in the area were interviewed and all denied ever having known a RAY family residing in the area since they have resided there.

At the time of the contact with officers AUER and BILLINGS at the 3rd District, Detective ROBERT FREIHOUT and several other members of the 3rd District Detective Bureau, who are personally acquainted with subject, RAY, were advised of his fugitive status and all promised to be alert for any available information concerning the whereabouts of subject or members of his family.

A review on September 13, 1967, by IC EARL M. RANEY of the military service records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, for JAMES EARL RAY, Serial Number [REDACTED] indicated he enlisted in the United States Army on February 19, 1946, at East St. Louis, Illinois,

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SL 88-7447

and served on active duty until December 23, 1948, at which time he was given a General Discharge as a Private First Class at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, by reason of inaptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Records indicated he was tried and convicted by a Special Court-Martial for being drunk in quarters and breaking arrest. He was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for three months and forfeit \$45.00 per month for four months.

Records also indicated he received treatment for gonorrhea and syphilis while he was a member of the military.

The following background and descriptive information is contained in the United States Army records for RAY:

Date and place of birth	[redacted] Alton, Illinois
Height	5'11"
Weight	145 pounds
Race	White
Hair	Black
Eyes	Blue
Military Occupation	Military Policeman
Civilian Occupation	Color Matcher;
Addresses	538 Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1946; 215 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, December, 1948; In care of Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, July, 1952.
Relatives	Father, GEORGE RAY, Mother, LUCILLE RAY, both of 538 East Broadway, Alton, Illinois, February, 1946.
Photograph	None available.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN KANSAS CITY	DATE 12/20/67	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/23/67 - 12/21/67
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE		REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH L. KISSIAH	TYPED BY KSW
		CHARACTER OF CASE UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST	

REFERENCES: Kansas City report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, 10/30/67.
 Springfield letter to Kansas City, 10/30/67. (Interoffice)
 Springfield letter to Kansas City, 11/24/67. "

P

LEADS

CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS (INFORMATION)

One copy of this report is submitted for the information of Chicago, Springfield and St. Louis, all whom have current investigation outstanding to locate the subject.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

Case has been: Pending over one year Yes No; Pending prosecution over six months Yes No

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 1 Bureau (88-41730)
- 1 Chicago (Info)
- 1 Springfield (88-5361)(Info)
- 1 St. Louis (Info)
- ② Kansas City (88-9449)

Kear

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

88-9449-22

Searched _____
 Serialized EO
 Indexed _____
 Filed EO

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

44-1987-Sub-A-483

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FBI

Duster JH

KC 88-9449

KANSAS CITY

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Will continue to contact logical informants for any information which might lead to the location of the subject.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On November 16, 1967, DOROTHY WALKER, Clerk, U. S. Post Office, Alton, Illinois, advised SA ROBERT C. HAINES that records of that office contain no removal notice on file for WILLIAM MAHER.

INFORMANTS:

The following were contacted on the dates indicated by SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH in a negative effort to develop information regarding the subject:

PCI JAMES C. BOYD, on 10/24 and 11/21/67.

KC 473-C, on 11/17, 12/4 and 12/21/67.

PCI J. W. JONES, 11/17 and 12/1/67.

PCI HENRY C. MC FAD, 11/17 and 12/11/67.

PCI HELEN GRAYSON, 11/21/67.

PCI JOE F. ROSS, 11/21 and 12/5/67.

KC 601-C, 11/24 and 12/18/67.

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(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:
Date:

JOSEPH L. KISSIAH
12/29/67

Office: Kansas City

Field Office File #:

KC 88-9449

Bureau File #: 88-41730

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT -
ROBBERY FIRST

Synopsis:

Files of Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac, Illinois, reviewed pertaining to subject whose only correspondent was reportedly his mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN. Subject had no visitors at that location. Efforts to locate WILLIAM MANER, reportedly an uncle of the subject, Alton, Illinois, unproductive. BECAUSE RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON AND BECAUSE OF HIS CONFINEMENT IN A STATE HOSPITAL, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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DETAILS:

By communication dated October 30, 1967, the Springfield Office advised as follows:

TOM DUFFY, Records Office, Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac Branch, Pontiac, Illinois, was contacted October 23, 1967. He advised that records pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY, Pontiac #19121, FBI #306-443A, have been reduced to micro film. He advised that all that is kept on micro film is certain categories.

The micro film records pertaining to subject were reviewed by SA ARTHUR LEE WOODS, on October 23, 1967. Records reveal that RAY was received at the Illinois State

KC 88-9449

Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois, on June 13, 1952, on the charge of robbery to serve a one to two year sentence on a plea of guilty from Cook County, Illinois. RAY was released upon expiration of a short term sentence on March 12, 1954.

Subject listed relatives as follows:

Father, GEORGE RAY, deceased.

Mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois.

Brothers, JOHN and JERRY, both at home with mother.

Correspondence file was checked and determined the only person who corresponded with subject while he was incarcerated at the Pontiac Prison was his mother, Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN.

Subject, while incarcerated, had no visitors. Records fail to reveal any associates or former addresses for subject.

By communication dated November 24, 1967, the Springfield Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

AT ALTON, ILLINOIS:

Records of the Alton Police Department and the Credit Bureau of Alton were reviewed on November 15, 1967, and found to contain no reference for the subject or his father, GEORGE RAY.

It is noted that at the time of his admission to the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, RAY indicated his father and mother were both deceased.

KC 88-9449

Investigation at 1118 East 7th Street to locate and interview WILLIAM MAHER disclosed that the house is now vacant.

A review of the records of the Alton Police Department and the Credit Bureau of Alton in connection with WILLIAM MAHER was unproductive in developing information concerning his current whereabouts.

Records of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company and a review of the City Directory of Alton, Illinois, and of Wood River - East Alton were unproductive with regard to MAHER.

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SAC (88-9449)

1/25/68

SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH

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JAMES EARL RAY, aka
FUGITIVE
UFAC-ROBBERY FIRST
OO KC

A review of the report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, dated 8/29/67, at Kansas City, reveals that on 7/10/67, Mr. BERARD C. POIREY, Custodial Assistant Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri, advised he had conducted an investigation into the escape of the subject and had determined that an associate of the subject's, who worked with him in the prison bakery, had let the subject get into one of the large boxes consigned to the church firm near Jefferson City, Missouri and then had covered him up, thereby helping him to effect his escape. On 7/19/67, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he had contacted several inmates who knew the subject and they indicated to him that the subject had indicated he wanted to escape from the penitentiary and leave the state of Missouri.

A review of a pre-sentence report on the subject prepared by the U.S. Probation Office, Kansas City, Missouri, on 4/26/55, reveals that the subject on 4/1/55 had entered a plea of guilty due to information charging him with forging U.S. Post Office money orders. His companion in forging a large number of these money orders in numerous states was WALTER PERRY RIFE, who also entered a plea of guilty to a similar account and records of the Post Office Inspector's Office, Kansas City, Missouri, indicate both Subject RAY and WALTER PERRY RIFE were sentenced to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas on 7/1/55 in Kansas City, Missouri and were apparently released from that institution on 4/5/56. Inasmuch as Subject RAY and WALTER PERRY RIFE, FBI # 4568766 were very close friends for a period of time and it has been difficult to identify other friends and relatives of the subject, it is felt that an effort should be made to locate and interview RIFE.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY

JLK:WSA

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<i>Olester</i>	<i>OK</i>

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

KC 88-9449

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Will interview Mr. BERARD C. POIREY, Custodial Assistant Warden and Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, as well as inmates who indicated to Warden SWENSON that the subject wanted to escape and leave the state of Missouri, as well as the inmates who helped the subject to effect his escape for any specific information they may have regarding associates, friends, or destination of the subject after his escape.

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Will at the Federal Penitentiary locate and review the record of WALTER PERRY RIFE, FBI # 4558766, who was sentenced to that penitentiary on 7/1/55 and who was apparently released from there on 4/5/58 for any available information as to background, associates and possible current whereabouts so he might be interviewed for any knowledge of the subject and his location.