

SAC, CHICAGO (88-11505)

2/21/68

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (88-5361) -RUC-

JAMES EARL RAY, aka
FUGITIVE
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST
OO: KANSAS CITY
Bufile 88-41730

Reurlet to Springfield dated 12/29/67.

The following investigation was conducted by
IC JOSEPH D. HAMMITT:

Mr. JAMES TABOR, Supervisor, Auto Registration
Section, Secretary of State, Springfield, Illinois, advised
on 1/31/68 that a check of records for 1967 and 1968 failed
to reflect any vehicles registered or titled to a JERRY
RAY.

Mrs. MARIE DICKENSON, Supervisor, Drivers License
Section, Secretary of State, Springfield, Illinois, advised
on 1/31/68 that a check of records failed to reflect any
driver's or chauffeur's license issued to a JERRY RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Chicago (88-11505)
② - Kansas City (88-9449)
1 - Springfield (88-5361)
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(5)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN KANSAS CITY	DATE 2/23/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/8/67 - 2/19/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE		REPORT MADE BY SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH	TYPED BY gah
		CHARACTER OF CASE UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST	

REFERENCE: Kansas City report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 12/29/67.

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LEADS:

CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS (INFO)

One copy of this report is submitted for the information of Chicago, Springfield and St. Louis, all of whom have current investigation outstanding to locate the subject or are expected to be requested to conduct additional investigation in the future.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						none	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:		
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES				PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:						88-9449-218 1 - Bureau (88-41730) (RM) 1 - Chicago (INFO) (RM) 1 - Springfield (88-5361) (INFO) RM 1 - St. Louis (INFO) (RM) 2 - Kansas City (88-9449)			44-1987-Sub G-486 <i>[Handwritten notes and stamps]</i>	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations				
Agency						<i>[Handwritten notes and signatures]</i> Chester				
Request Recd.										
Date Fwd.										
How Fwd.										
By										

KC 88-9449

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI: *R. C. Rife*

Reinterview supervisory employees of the subject and fellow inmates of the subject at the Missouri State Prison for any possible additional information they may be able to furnish regarding the subject's escape and his possible destination, associates and friends.

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI: *R. C. Rife*

1. At the Federal Records Center, review the U. S. Penitentiary file of WALTER TERRY RIFE, USP #72497-L, an associate of the subject, for any background or other information which might assist in the location of the subject.

2. Continue contact of informants, employment agencies and other logical sources of information in an effort to locate the subject.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On 11/29/67, SA ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE, of the Chicago Office, made inquiry at the U. S. Post Office, Wheeling, Illinois, with negative results in an effort to develop information regarding the subject.

On 2/7/68, Mr. A. E. FIFEHOUSE, Manager, Missouri State Employment Service, 1411 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri, whose files are confidential, checked for the name of the subject with negative results.

INFORMANTS:

The following were contacted on the dates indicated by Special Agent JOSEPH L. KISSIAH with negative results to develop information regarding the subject:

PCI HENRY C. McFAD, on 12/23, 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/7/68.

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PCI HELEN GRAYSON, on 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/8/68.

PCI JAMES COLEMAN BOYD, on 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/5/68.

PCI JOE F. ROSS, on 12/29/67; 1/19 and 30/68, and 2/19/68.

KC 473-C, on 1/3, 18 and 29/68.

KC 601-C, on 1/8/68.

PCI J. W. JONES, on 1/8 and 1/31/68.

C*

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH Office: KANSAS CITY
Date: February 23, 1968
Field Office File #: KC 88-9449 Bureau File #: 88-41730
Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY FIRST

Synopsis: Investigation by Springfield and St. Louis Offices in effort to locate relatives and associates of subject unproductive. Chicago Office has located JERRY RAY, Northbrook, Ill., subject's brother, who described subject as drifter and has no knowledge of present whereabouts. Other relatives identified. Additional investigation Missouri State Penitentiary, and Kansas City, Mo., set out. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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DETAILS:

By communication dated December 21, 1967, the St. Louis Office advised as follows:

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

A check of the St. Louis City Directory reflected no address listed for 1135 South Tenth Street. A visual inspection of the area revealed no residence addresses on the west or odd-numbered side of the 1000 block of South Tenth Street. The highest odd-numbered address in this block was 1133, which is a business establishment which was built a few years ago.

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An inspection of the St. Louis City Directories and St. Louis Telephone Directory listed a LUCILLE RYAN, 4992 Lansdowne, an employee of the Land Clearance and Housing Authority, who was determined not to be identical with any relative of subject RAY.

Also listed was a Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 8747 New Hampshire, who also advised upon interview she was not a relative of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

By communication dated December 29, 1967, the Chicago Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE:

On November 29, 1967, Chief MARVIN HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised a check of his records failed to reveal any record for subject or JERRY RAY.

On December 12, 1967, Mrs. RUTH MEYER, Palatine, Illinois, Credit Bureau, which maintains listings in Wheeling, Illinois, advised a check of their records failed to reveal any information concerning subject or JERRY RAY.

On December 18, 1967, Chief HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised he had been unable to locate any additional information concerning a JERRY RAY, however, he will continue to make inquiries to determine if he can locate JERRY RAY.

By communication dated January 4, 1968, the Springfield Office advised as follows:

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA MACK W. OLIVER, Jr.:

At Quincy, Illinois

On November 8, 1967, Detective Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, advised that JAMES EARL RAY, 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, was arrested on March 24, 1955, for forgery. Sargeant HANSON said that this was the only time RAY had been arrested in Quincy but that the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, indicated RAY had been arrested on other occasions and his FBI number was 306-443-A and that he had Illinois State Bureau number 463857.

Sargeant HANSON stated that the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department were negative on JAMES EARL RAY since August 24, 1955.

Sargeant HANSON said that the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department indicated a LUCILLE RYAN, no address, was arrested on August 23, 1957, for larceny. Sargeant HANSON said that the files indicated LUCILLE RYAN was born on [redacted] at Alton, Illinois, and that this was the only time she had been arrested at Quincy, Illinois.

On November 8, 1967, Deputy CECIL THORNHILL, Adams County Sheriff's Office, advised that the files of the Adams County Sheriff's Office were negative concerning JAMES EARL RAY and LUCILLE RYAN.

On November 8, 1967, Miss ELIZABETH ROTH, Manager, Quincy Credit Bureau, advised that the files of the Quincy Credit Bureau indicated that LUCILLE RYAN had resided at Quincy, Illinois, prior to 1967. Miss ROTH said that her files contain very little information concerning LUCILLE RYAN. and the last information she had on LUCILLE RYAN was in 1957.

On November 8, 1967, Miss ELIZABETH ROTH, Quincy Credit Bureau, advised that the files of the Quincy Credit Bureau indicated JAMES EARL RAY resided at 1403 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, in 1948 and that her files contained nothing on JAMES EARL RAY since 1948.

On November 20, 1967, Mrs. MARION A. REED, 214 $\frac{1}{2}$ Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that she has resided at present address for several years and that the names JAMES EARL RAY AND LUCILLE RYAN meant nothing to her.

On November 20, 1967, CHARLES A. HEIDVREDER, 215 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he has been at present address for several years and the names of JAMES EARL RAY and LUCILLE RYAN meant nothing to him.

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By communication dated February 8, 1968, the Chicago Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE:

On January 23, 1968, Chief MARVIN HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised he had determined a JERRY RAY had resided at 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, but he does not know if JERRY RAY still resides at that address or if he is the brother of the subject.

On January 23, 1968, inquiry at 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, revealed the present residents have lived there since October, 1967, although there was a JERRY RAY residing there prior to that time. They had no information as to the present location of JERRY RAY.

On February 7, 1968, JERRY RAY was located and interviewed at the Sportman's Country Club, 3535 Dundee Road, Northbrook, Illinois, where he is employed and resides. He advised he is the brother of subject but has seen subject only three times in the last 15 years, that being the three times he visited subject at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. He advised subject left home about the time he was 14 or 15 years of age and has not maintained regular contact with any of the family since that time. Subject has always been a drifter and he has no knowledge of friends or associates of subject with whom he might be in contact. Their father, GEORGE RAY, and their mother, LUCILLE RAY, separated and LUCILLE was subsequently known as LUCILLE RYAN. Both GEORGE RAY and LUCILLE RYAN are now deceased. He has no aunt by the name of LUCILLE RYAN and anyone by that name would have had to been their mother. He has another brother, JOHN RAY, who is single and a drifter, travelling and changing jobs frequently. He has no regular address but as of three days ago, was staying at the Mc Arthur Hotel on Broadway Street, St. Louis, Missouri. He had a younger brother, FRANK, who was killed in an automobile accident four years ago. He also has a sister, Mrs. ALBERT (CAROL) PEPPER, who just moved from 712 Shenandoah, St. Louis, Missouri, to Bellview, a suburb of St. Louis, but he does not have the

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address or phone number for CAROL. He is sure the phone company will have a new number for CAROL as that would be the way he would try to contact her. These are the only relatives subject has.

JERRY RAY advised he has been in contact with CAROL and JOHN as of three days ago, and both stated they have had no contact with subject or any knowledge where subject can be located. He does not believe subject will contact any of the relatives as long as he is in a fugitive status; however, should he receive any information concerning subject, he will immediately advise the FBI.

KC 88-9449

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

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On February 1, 1968, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised he has received no further information which might aid in locating JAMES EARL RAY. He said he had disposed of all of his notes regarding the original investigation of this escape. He said, for this reason, he could not furnish the names of any person or persons, who had furnished him with details regarding either the escape of RAY, or his possible whereabouts. He said the investigation had been handled by Captain DENTON STEELE and Major BERNARD POIRY.

On February 1, 1968, Captain STEELE said the only information he could recall about the escape of RAY was that his clerk, WILLIAM SOCKLE, told him it was a waste of time to look for RAY in the walls because he had escaped. He said he heard this same thing "on the prison grapevine" from others, but he did not know the source of this information and believed SOCKLE might know. He said SOCKLE is working at the University of Missouri Medical Center.

On February 1, 1968, Major BERNARD POIRY stated that a GEORGE OWENS covered RAY up in a box in a bread truck so RAY could get out of the walls. He said there was another inmate involved, but he could not recall his name.

On February 14, 1968, Major POIRY further advised he could not recall the name of the other inmate referred to by him. He said the investigation, as far as he was concerned, left no doubt that RAY got into a bread box for Church Farm and was covered by another inmate and gained access to an "out truck". After he cleared Jefferson City, RAY apparently got out of the truck and departed. Major POIRY said he has not developed any information as to the whereabouts of RAY.

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AT COLUMBIA, MISSOURI:

On February 15, 1968, WILLIAM SOCKLE, Sunset Trailer Court, formerly an inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary, said he worked with RAY in the kitchen for a time. He said he also knew him well later because he took his meals in the kitchen, as a clerk, and RAY was there most of the time at meals. He said RAY talked all the time about escaping and "getting out of the area". He did not have any associates and did not divulge his plans to others. SOCKLE could not recall that RAY ever said where he would go if he escaped. SOCKLE said all he knew about the background of RAY was that he "fell" from St. Louis. He said RAY is quite intellectual and would be hard to find. He said he tried to escape on previous occasions, but was not deterred. He did not recall telling Captain STEELE that RAY had left the walls, but said this was possible as all the inmates who knew RAY, knew that he had left, in spite of the fact that he had previously "hidden out" within the walls.

SOCKLE said he could not suggest the name of any inmate or others who might furnish information regarding the whereabouts of subject.

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AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

On January 18, 1968, Miss FRANCES M. ZIMMERMAN, U. S. Parole and Probation Office, 419 U. S. Post Office and Court House, made available a presentence report regarding subject JAMES EARL RAY, which had been prepared by that office on April 26, 1955. This report reveals that the subject on April 1, 1955, had entered a plea of guilty to an Information charging him with forging United States Post Office Money Orders. His companion in forging a large number of these money orders in numerous states was WALTER TERRY RIFE, who also entered a plea of guilty to a similar charge after which both he and the subject were sentenced on July 1, 1955, in Kansas City, Missouri, to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. Both were apparently released from that institution on April 5, 1958.

A further review of the files of the U. S. Parole Office indicates that after the subject's release from the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, he reportedly returned to the Kansas City, Missouri, area briefly to reside at the Blackstone Hotel and to contact the Missouri State Employment Service regarding employment possibilities. Accordingly, the following individuals were contacted on the indicated dates in a negative effort to develop information regarding the current location of the subject:

February 7, 1968
Mrs. GLADYS HANSEN
Blackstone Hotel, 817 Cherry Street

February 8, 1968
Mrs. MARGARET HAYS
Blackstone Hotel, 817 Cherry Street

February 8, 1968
Mr. SID CROWE
Casual Labor Office, 307 East Admiral Boulevard

February 8, 1968
Mr. CALVIN PROCTOR
Palmer Hotel, 408 East Ninth Street

February 13, 1968
Mr. FRED LAWRENCE
Identification Division, Kansas City, Missouri,
Police Department.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC:88-9449

DATE: 3/18/68

FROM : SA: Rowen B. Ayers

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka
Fugitive
UFAC-Robbery 1st.

Rereport of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH dated 2/23/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA Rowen B. Ayers:
At Jefferson City, Mo.

On 3/11/68, Warden Harold Swenson, Missouri State Penitentiary said that no further information has been developed by MSP officials concerning the escape or whereabouts of subject.

On 3/11/68, PCI [REDACTED] (protect identity), an inmate of the MSP who associated with RAY prior to the latter's escape, said he has not been able to determine any information which would indicate the whereabouts of RAY, He said RAY kept pretty much to himself and did not confide in others. He said he is continuing to be alert to information concerning the whereabouts of RAY.

On 3/11/68, PCI JACK PREUITT, was in the MSP and could not be contacted. He is also attempting to develop information concerning the whereabouts of subject.



5010-108

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

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449) DATE: 3/25/68

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447) P

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST

OO: KC

Re Chicago airtel to St. Louis, 2/8/68, and report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 2/23/68, at Kansas City.

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

On 2/22/68, H. A. HARORR, Desk Clerk, McArthur Hotel, Chestnut and Broadway, advised after checking his records they contained no information indicating a JOHN RAY had been a resident of that hotel. He viewed subject's photographs and stated he did not recall seeing an individual resembling subject in the hotel. He spoke with other desk and service personnel at the hotel and they advised they recalled no JOHN RAY having resided at or frequented the hotel.

On 3/5/68, Mrs. ERNEST N. COOK, 712 Shenandoah, advised that she recalled the ALBERT S. PEPPER family as having resided upstairs at that address. She stated, however, they had recently moved to a new address, 2025 Bellview, Maplewood, Mo.

On 3/19/68, Mrs. CAROL RYAN PEPPER, 2025 Bellview (telephone 645-2948) was interviewed. She was most uncooperative and denied that her maiden name had been RAY, stating, however, that it had been LUCILLE RYAN. She advised that her father and mother, GEORGE and LUCILLE RAY, were deceased and that she had a brother, JERRY RAY residing somewhere in Illinois. She also advised that she had another brother, JOHN RAY, whereabouts unknown, whom she had not seen in several years.

- 2 - Kansas City
 - 2 - Chicago
 - 2 - St. Louis
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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SL: 88-7447

Upon viewing a photograph of subject, she denied being related to this individual and stated she had never seen him. When questioned concerning her husband's employment, she advised he worked for some hardware store and stated she was unable to furnish the name or address of this business place.

In view of Mrs. PEPPER's uncooperative attitude the interview was terminated.

On 3/20/68, Mr. and Mrs. ERNEST M. COOK, 712 Shenandoah, were interviewed. They advised after viewing subject's photograph they had never observed an individual resembling him visiting the PEPPERS who had resided upstairs over their apartment for a period of several months up until two or three months ago. They advised that an individual reportedly a brother of Mrs. PEPPER had visited the PEPPERS on various occasions and that he and his family supposedly resided in the St. Louis area. They stated this individual did not resemble subject in their estimation.

They further advised that an individual referred to as "DADDY" by Mrs. PEPPER visited the PEPPERS on numerous occasions and this person reportedly recently bought a home and moved to Poplar Bluff, Mo., or somewhere in the Poplar Bluff area.

When questioned concerning other relatives or close associates of the PEPPER family, they advised that JAY and ROSEMARY SHIRLEY and their three children, SHERILL, JAY and ANNETTE, had been frequent visitors at the PEPPER home. They were of the opinion that Mrs. SHIRLEY was the sister of ALBERT PEPPER. This family had resided at the 712 A Shenandoah address prior to the time the PEPPER family moved in. The COOKS were of the opinion that the SHIRLEY family had recently bought a home somewhere in the St. Louis area. They can furnish no other information concerning the identity or the location of the SHIRLEY family.

- LEADS -

CHICAGO DIVISION:

AT NORTH BROOK, ILL.:

In view of the uncooperative attitude of subject's sister, Mrs. ALBERT S. (CAROL) PEPPER, will reinterview

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subject's brother, JERRY RAY, for more detailed information concerning various members of subject's family, including the individual referred to by CAROL as "DADDY", who recently moved to Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Will determine from JERRY RAY whether or not subject's mother prior to her death was married to an individual by the name of RYAN and whether this person might presently be located if he is still living.

ST. LOUIS DIVISION:

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.:

Will attempt to locate the JAY (ROSEMARY) SHIRLEY family and interview them for available information concerning possible whereabouts of subject and identify the other members of the family who might be in possession of information of value.

Will consider the advisability of interviewing ALBERT S. PEPPER after additional background information on the PEPPER family has been developed.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

KC 88-9449

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The following investigation was conducted at Leavenworth, Kansas, by IC LEONARD L. AYRES:

On February 8, 1968, Mr. GEORGE E. SEUFERT, Records Control Supervisor, U.S. Penitentiary (USP), Leavenworth, Kansas, advised that the file concerning WALTER TERRY RIFE, had been sent to the GSA Federal Records Center, Kansas City, Missouri.

The following investigation was conducted at Kansas City, Missouri, by IC WILLIAM F. ROHR:

On February 20, 1968, Mr. WILLIAM CABY, Reference Supervisor, GSA Federal Records Center, Kansas City, Missouri, made available USP, Leavenworth, Kansas, file #72497-L concerning WALTER TERRY RIFE, which contained the following information:

RIFE described white male, date of birth [redacted] 69 1/2", 161 pounds, brown hair, blue-gray eyes, FBI #4558766.

RIFE was sentenced in the Western District of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, on July 1, 1955, to a period of three years for violation of the Post Office laws, forging money orders, and was committed to the USP, Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 7, 1955.

RIFE received a conditional release on September 27, 1957, at which time he was taken into custody on a detainer lodged by the State Parole Office, Springfield, Illinois, charging parole violation. RIFE was then sent to the Illinois Penitentiary at Menard, Illinois, #22674, and was scheduled to be released from this institution approximately July 23, 1960.

During period of incarceration, the following individuals were on RIFE's correspondents list:

Mother

ROSIE S. RIFE, ~~88-9449-35~~
Age 68, 400 College Avenue,
Quincy, Illinois

Sister

Mrs. VIOLA MAYFIE
2716 Cherry Street,
Quincy, Illinois

Sister 3

Mrs. MONAN LEE CRAMFORD,
813 North Main Street,
Harrisburg, Illinois

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Niece	Miss DARLENE CRAWFORD, 332 East Locust Street, Harrisburg, Illinois
Brother	FLOYD RIFE, 279 Indian Hills, Quincy, Illinois
Friend	KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, 321 South 7th, Quincy, Illinois

It was noted that the friend, KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, was the only frequent correspondent of RIFE while confined at the USP, Leavenworth, Kansas, and it was also noted that RIFE planned to marry BUSKIRK upon his release from the penitentiary.

RIFE had no release plans insofar as work or residence upon his release from the USP, Leavenworth, since he knew that a detainer had been filed for Parole Violation from the State of Illinois.

No other pertinent information contained in file.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449) (44-760) (P)

DATE: 4/19/68

FROM : SA THURMAN T. MAYNARD

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka
UFAP; MURKIN

On 4/19/68 JERRY IAMB, Secret Service, 811 Grand, advised he could locate no record concerning the subject and ~~HE~~ akas in their files.

On 4/19/68 JAMES P. TIERNEY, Attorney, 1200 Commerce Towers, 9th & Main, KCMO, advised he had no record indicating that he may have represented the subject in a trial in 1955, and he was probably a court-appointed attorney for the subject as court records indicate. After about one year, records concerning persons of which he was a court appointed attorney, and of which there has been no further contact by the person with him, are destroyed. He has a vague recollection that he represented RAY, but he can recall no further contact with RAY since ~~1955~~ 1955. He advised that permanent files are maintained concerning clients that pay their own fees, and a review of his records indicated no record of the subject.

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5010-108

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

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

4/23/68

SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD

MURKIN

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST

On 4/19/68 W. L. RUDELL, Post Office Inspector, Kansas City Division, Kansas City, Missouri, advised that he had been the case agent of the Post Office case involving JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE. He stated that the file is somewhat in less than desired shape and should have been destroyed previously. From memory and the file in the office RUDELL furnished the following information:

He stated that on 3/22/55 JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER TERRY RIFE were arrested in Hannibal, Missouri, by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and were charged with forgery of U. S. Postal Money Orders. Investigation revealed that these money orders had been stolen in a burglary at the Kellerville, Illinois, Post Office approximately 1:30 a.m. 3/7/55. At least 66 blank postal money orders and validating stamps were stolen. 34 of these money orders had been recovered and were cashed at St. Petersburg, Florida; Miami, Florida; Tallahassee, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri; New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Hot Springs, Arkansas; and Kansas City, Missouri. Subjects had been driving a 1946-47 Nash, which they traded for a 1949 Lincoln, Amacker Motors, 135 Northeast 36th Street, Miami, Florida, on 5/14/55. Upon interview RAY and RIFE claimed to have obtained the stolen money orders from an unknown man in Quincy, Illinois.

Both subjects admitted to their guilt in a signed statement and were convicted in United States District Court. The following descriptive data was obtained through memory of RUDELL and from the files:

(1-44-760)
(1-88-9440)
WAW:ss
(2) *ss*

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Cluster
[Signature]

KC 44-760

Name JAMES EARL RAY, aka
James Walton,
Willard J. Mc Bride,
Vernon Mc Bride
Residence 1429 Cherry; and
215 Oak, Quincy, Illinois
Employment Painter
Birth [redacted] at
Alton, Illinois
Race White
Sex Male
Height 5'10"
Weight 170
Hair Brown
Eyes Blue
Complexion Medium
Education Two years high school
Military service U. S. Army, three years,
general discharge under
honorable conditions
Arrests May, 1952, Chicago, Illinois,
two years robbery served at
Pontiac, Illinois, released
March, 1954
FBI number 306443A
Associates Mrs. KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK,
Age 18 (1955), claimed met on
March 22, 1955

Name WALTER TERRY RIFE, aka
Willard J. Mc Bride,
Walter T. Berry
Race White
Sex Male
Height 5'9" 3/4"
Weight 160 pounds
Hair Brown
Eyes Gray
Scars and marks Tattoo of cross on left arm
Birth [redacted] at Quincy, Illinois
Education Eighth grade
FBI number 4558766
Military service U. S. Army, two years,
dishonorable discharge,
served four years U. S.

KC 44-760

Arrests

Disciplinary Barracks, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. March 1, 1950, sentenced in Illinois for forgery and while serving as trustee furnished hacksaw blades to prisoners, received 1 to 14 years additional. Sentences served at Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary. Released on 1/18/55 on five year parole.

Residences

Quincy, Illinois;
Park Hotel, Montgomery City, Missouri

RUDELL advised that when apprehended these subjects had been staying at the Park Hotel in Montgomery City, Missouri. He furnished a list of places where the money orders had been cashed by the subjects.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-9449) (P) DATE: 4/25/68

FROM : SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE
UFAC-ROBBERY FIRST

OO: KC

Rerep SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 2/23/68 at Kansas City.

The following negative investigation was conducted by the writer to locate the captioned individual prior to the receipt of Butel to All SACS, 4/19/68, in which it was announced that JAMES EARL RAY is being sought in connection with the fatal shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,

PCI HAROLD JACK BENNETT was contacted 2/21/68 by SA ROWEN B. AYERS

PCI LAWRENCE WRAY was contacted 3/11/68 by SA ROWEN B. AYERS

The following informants were all contacted on the indicated dates by SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH:

PCI JOE F. ROSS, 3/4 & 12/68

PCI HENRY MC FAD, 3/4 & 13/68

PCI RAYMOND E. MC DOWELL, 3/8 & 21/68

PCI JAMES BOYD, 3/13; 4/2 & 18/68

KC 601-C, 3/13; 3/25/68 and 4/15/68

PCI JOSEPH W. JONES, 3/14/68

KC 473-C, 3/14; 4/2 & 17/68

PCI HELEN GRAYSON, 3/19; 4/2 & 19/68

In addition, the following establishments were

② 88-9449
1-44-760
JLK:lib
(3)



5010-108-02

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[Signature]

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

KC 88-9449

contacted by SA KISSIAH on the indicated dates with negative results:

2/21/68, Mr. J. PARKER, The Helping Hand Institute
523 North Grand

2/23/68, DON ANDERSON, Manager, Manpower, Inc.,
1320 Walnut

2/26/68, STEVE WOLF, Manager, Labor Pool, 103
Pickwick Building

Follow-up contacts were made with Mr. ANDERSON
on 3/15/68; with Mr. WOLF on 3/27/68 and with Mr. PARKER
on 4/17/68, all with negative results.

Immediately upon advice from the Bureau that
the captioned individual was being sought for the murder
of Dr. KING, all current investigation regarding the subject
was handled in KC file 44-760.

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

*Kansas City
Background*

MURKIN
OO: Memphis

ReButel 4/24/68 to Memphis and Kansas City, in which Bureau designated office of origin as Memphis in this entire matter, and instructed Kansas City to forward immediately appropriate copies of communications in Kansas City file entitled "JAMES EARL RAY, aka, UFAC-ROBBERY" to Memphis.

Enclosed for Memphis are one copy of the following:

1. Copy of classification study dated 8/10/55 and progress report for JAMES EARL RAY.
2. Copy of pre-sentence report for JAMES EARL RAY, dated 4/26/55.
3. Report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, 8/29/67 at Kansas City.
4. Report of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, 10/30/67 at Kansas City.
5. Report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 12/29/67 at Kansas City.
6. Memo of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 1/25/68 at Kansas City.
7. Report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 2/23/68 at Kansas City.
8. Springfield letter to Chicago, 2/21/68.
9. Memo of SA ROWEN B. AYERS, 3/18/68 at Kansas City.

- 2 - Memphis (Encs. 14) (RM)
- 2 - Kansas City (1 - 44-760)
(1 - 88-9449)

JLK:lib, ak
(4)

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Heath

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

KC 44-760

10. St. Louis letter to Kansas City, 3/25/68.
11. Investigative insert by IC LEONARD L. AYRES at Leavenworth, Kansas on 2/8/68, and IC WILLIAM F. ROHR at Kansas City, Mo. on 2/20/68.
12. Memo of SA THURMAN T. MAYNARD, 4/19/68 at Kansas City.
13. Memo of SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD, 4/23/68 at Kansas City.
14. Memo of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 4/25/68 at Kansas City.

ARMED & DANGEROUS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI-HOUSTON

1108GGAM IMMEDIATE 4-26-68 IMR

TO DIRECTOR; ATLANTIC; BIRMINGHAM; MEMPHIS; NEW ORLEANS;

LOS ANGELES; SAN ANTONIO

FROM HOUSTON 44-1509

MURKIN

RE: LOUIS LOMAX - CHARLES STEIN

REMYTEL LAST P.M.

LOMAX AND STEIN ARRIVED HOUSTON FOUR FIFTEEN P.M.

APRIL TWENTYFIVE LAST AND ACCORDING TO EVERETT COLLIER,
VP AND EDITOR, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, LOMAX AND STEIN SEARCHED
FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS WITH A CHRONICLE REPORTER
ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THE PHONE BOOTH WHERE SUBJECT RAY
ALLEGEDLY MADE CALL ON EVENING OF DEC. SIXTEEN, LAST.
SEARCH WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, AND LOMAX AND STEIN ARE GOING TO
MAKE ANOTHER SEARCH THIS MORNING. LOMAX HAS REQUESTED
THE CHRONICLE TO PHOTOGRAPH THE PHONE BOOTH IF SAME IS LOCATED.
MR. COLLIER, ALTHOUGH COOPERATING SO FAR WITH LOMAX AND
STEIN, IN NOT SURE WHAT HIS POSITION WILL BE IN THIS REGARD.

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Juste
Ronan R

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SINCE HE DOES NOT BELIEVE STEIN CAN BE TOO ACCURATE IN LOCATING THE PHONE BOOTH. STEIN WAS DESCRIBED BY THE CHRONICLE REPORTER AS EXTREMELY "VAGUE" AND NOT SURE OF THE AREA WHERE THE CALL WAS ALLEGEDLY MADE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT IF THE PHONE BOOTH IS NOT LOCATED LOMAX AND STEIN WILL FLY TO SAN ANTONIO LATER TODAY AND START LOOKING FOR THE PHONE BOOTH FROM SAN ANTONIO TOWARD HOUSTON ON INTERSTATE TEN. COLLIER ALSO ADVISED THAT NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER ALLIANCE (NANA) HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH LOMAX TODAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF WRITING A STORY TODAY ABOUT STEIN'S TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS WITH RAY, AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH RAY. COLLIER STATED HE THOUGHT NANA WAS CONTROLLED BY DREW PEARSON, THE COLUMNIST.

ALTHOUGH A CHECK OF THE POSSIBLE TELEPHONE BOOTHS IN THE HOUSTON VICINITY HAS FAILED TO LOCATE A LONG DISTANCE CALL ON DEC. SIXTEEN LAST, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A CALL WAS MADE ON THE EVENING OF DEC. SEVENTEEN LAST FROM A

TELEPHONE BOOTH IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BY STEIN TO NUMBER
THREE ONE EIGHT DASH FOUR SEVEN SEVEN ZERO SIX ONE SIX,
LAKE CHARLES, LA.

NEW ORLEANS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CHECK OUT THIS TELEPHONE
NUMBER.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

END.

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

X

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KAN CITY

HOLD FOR TWO....1123 AM URGENT 4/26/68 PHM
TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS, CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 2P

MURKIN

RECORDS, MSP, REVEAL FOLLOWING VISITORS TO SUBJECT AT PEN DURING INCARCERATION: MARY MAHER, NINETEEN THIRTEEN HICKORY, ST. LOUIS, MO., WAS ON ELIGIBLE LIST BUT NEVER VISITED SUBJECT AT PEN. BROTHER, JOHN RAY, NINETEEN EIGHTEEN PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO. VISITED SUBJECT AT PEN ON FOLLOWING DATES: OCT. SEVENTEEN, SIXTYTWO; JULY SEVEN SIXTYTHREE; NOV. THREE, SIXTYTHREE; NOV. ELEVEN SIXTYTHREE; MAY SIX, SIXTYFIVE; JULY TEN, SIXTYSIX; NOV. THIRTEEN, SIXTYSIX; DEC. TWENTY, SIXTYSIX; AND PARIL TWENTYTWO, SIXTYSEVEN. IT IS NOTED SUBJECT ESCAPED APRIL TWENTYTHREE SIXTYSEVEN. BROTHER, JERRY W. RAY, BOX EIGHTYTWO, WHEELING, ILL. VISITED AUG. TWENTYONE SIXTYTHREE; SEPT. FIFTEEN SIXTYTHREE; MAY SIXTEEN, SIXTYFIVE; JUNE TWENTY, SIXTYFIVE, AND JULY ONE, SIXTYFIVE.

SUBJECT REPORTEDLY ESCAPED BY HIDING IN BREADBOX WHICH WAS BEING DELIVERED BY TRUCK TO ONE OF PRISON DAIRY FARMS CALLED
END PAGE ONE



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Ronan
Hester

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CHURCH FARM, WHICH IS LOCATED IN ISOLATED AREA, EIGHT MILES
NORTH OF MAIN PRISON. APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED FIFTY TO THREE
HUNDRED PRISONERS WORK AT THIS FARM.

ST. LOUIS AND CHICAGO INTERVIEW VISITORS OF SUBJECT FOR
ANY INFORMATION RE SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

END

FBI MEMPHIS

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

ST. LOUIS LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JAMES CARPENTER FOR ANY
INFO HE MAY HAVE RE WHEREABOUTS OF SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

END

MCP RECVD TWO MESSAGES.

FBI LDLPHIS

X

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KAN CITY

1126AM URGENT 4/26/68 PHM

TO DIRECTOR, 44-38861, MEMPHIS, ST. LOUIS.

FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 2P

MURKIN

JACK FOX LANPHERE, FORMER PRISONER, MSP, ADVISED HE RECALLS RAY BEING CLOSE TO INMATE BY NAME OF JIMMY CARPENTER. CARPENTER ALSO WORKED IN KITCHEN WITH RAY. DESCRIBED CARPENTER AS OLD-TIME CON-MAN NEARING SEVENTY, WHO "STOOD GOOD FOR RAY'S DEBTS IN PRISON YARD."

RECORDS, MSP, REVEALED JAMES HUGH CARPENTER, MSP NO. ZERO ONE SEVEN SIX ONE, WAS RECEIVED AT PEN NOV. TWENTYTHREE SIXTY, FROM ST. LOUIS, FOR TEN YEAR SENTENCE ON ROBBERY, FIRST DEGREE, AND ASSAULT. HE WAS DISCHARGED MAY ONE SIXTYSEVEN. HE IS WM, DOB JONESBORO, ARK., FBI NO. TWO THREE ZERO TWO FOUR THREE. FRIEND LISTED AS EULA HOWELL, TWENTYONE ZERO TWO LAFAYETTE, ST. LOUIS, MO. NEPHEW, DON DEETER, TWENTYTWO ZERO ONE PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO.

MSP INMATE FRANK GUINAN ADVISED CARPENTER IS PRESENTLY CONFINED ST. LOUIS COUNTY JAIL.

END PAGE ONE

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CEFBI MEMPHIS

FBI PITTSBGH

1225 PM 4/26/68 URGENT RAN

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND CHICAGO (44-1114) MEMPHIS (44-1987)
MIAMI, AND SAN FRANCISCO
FROM PITTSBURGH (44-578)

MURKIN. 00: MEMPHIS.

RE CHICAGO TEL BUREAU, FOUR TWENTYFIVE LAST.

RE THREATS TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FOR INFO MIAMI, HARRY P. STEWART, US. SECRET SERVICE
REPORTED HIS NEPHEW, STEWART LINDH, TWO TWO ZERO SIX,
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., CLAIMED HE AND TEWO OTHERS THROUGH
NEWSPAPER AD OBTAINED RIDE WITH STOUT. AT KANSAS CITY, MO.,
STOUT DISAPPEARED WITH THEIR EFFECTS. BEFORE STOUT DISSAPPEARED,
HE TOLD THEN HE WAS GOING TO SHOOT KING.

ON FOUR TWENTYSIX INSTANT, RAYMOND ZACKOVICH, SECRET
SERVICE AGENT, PITTSBURGH, ADVISED HARRY P. STEWART, FORMER
SECRET SERVICE AGENT, RETIRED ONE YEAR AGO. STEWART NOW
RESIDING AT ROUTE ONE, BOX THREE EIGHT EIGHT, SEBASTIAN, FLA.

END OF PAGE ONE

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MIAMI, INTERVIEW STEWART FOR ADDITIONAL DATA HE RECEIVED
AND PRESENT LOCATION OF HIS NEPHEW, STEWART LINDH.

SUTEL.

AIR MAIL ATLANTA.

PENDING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

P

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI CHICAGO

106PM URGENT 4/26/68 LMA

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA (44-2386), MEMPHIS (44-1987),
DALLAS, AND RICHMOND (44-657).
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 3P

MURKIN OO MEMPHIS

RE THREATS TO MARTIN LUTHER KING

RE CHICAGO TEL APRIL TWENTY FIVE, LAST TO DIRECTOR,
AM COPIES TO DALLAS, ST. LOUIS, WFO AND SPRINGFIELD; RICHMOND
TEL TO DIRECTOR, APRIL TWENTY FIVE, LAST.

FRED CATALANO, NATIONAL SOCIALIST WHITE PEOPLE'S PARTY, (NSWPP)
LEADER, CHICAGO, ADVISED, INSTANT, MEDIZER REPORTEDLY LEFT CHICAGO
ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO. TOLD CATALANO WAS GOING TO VISIT FRIENDS IN
DALLAS, TEXAS. WOULD PROBABLY BE IN TOUCH WITH DALLAS NSWPP UNIT, IN
CARE OF LT. ALVIS GREY.

ADVISED WOULD PROBABLY SPEND TIME AT TARGET LOUNGE, NEAR
DALLAS, WHERE MAY HAVE WORKED AS DRUMMER.

ADVISED MEDIZER WOULD MOST LIKELY GO TO ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA
AT NSWPP HEADQUARTERS AFTER CURRENT TRAVEL. ADVISED CHRIS

END PAGE ONE

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Ronan R

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VIDNJEVICH, NSWPP, ARLINGTON, MIGHT ALSO HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE MEDIZER PRESENT LOCATION.

FOR INFO DALLAS, JOHN C. MEDIZER IS WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED] FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE POUNDS, BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES, WAS ACTIVE IN NSWPP IN CHICAGO, SUMMER AND FALL, SIXTY SEVEN.

MEDIZER QUIT JOB AT ROTO PRINT COMPANY, CHICAGO, MARCH TWENTY NINE, SIXTY EIGHT TELLING CO-WORKERS HE WAS GOING TO ARGENTINA TO WORK FOR NAZIS, AFTER FIRST VISITING DALLAS, WHERE HE HAD FRIENDS. CHICAGO NSWPP SOURCE ADVISES MEDIZER WORKED AS DRUMMER IN VARIOUS PLACES IN DALLAS PRIOR TO COMING TO CHICAGO.

MEDIZER DURING EMPLOYMENT CHICAGO MADE VAGUE THREATS AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING AND THAT HE WOULD "TAKE CARE OF HIM".

MRS. MORRIS, DIPLOMAT HOTEL, CHICAGO, WHERE MEDIZER RESIDED, ADVISED MEDIZER TOLD HER HE WAS GOING TO AUSTRALIA. HE LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS.

BASED ON STATEMENT MADE BY MEDIZER RE KING, DALLAS SHOULD ATTEMPT LOCATE MEDIZER AND INTERVIEW RE ANY POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT MURKIN.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

CHICAGO 44-1114

IF NOT LOCATED SUTEL LEADS TO LOCATE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

ME PGD

FBI MEMPHIS

X

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SANANTON

115PM CST URGENT 4-26-68 DMB

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
FROM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (P)

Bureau lead to all offices

MURKIN

REBURAD TO ALL OFFICES APRIL TWENTYTHREE LAST.

BUREAU REQUESTED COMPARE FINGERPRINTS OF JAMES EARL RAY,
FBI NO FOUR ZERO FIVE NINE FOUR TWO G. WITH LATENTS PREVIOUSLY
FURNISHED BY SAN ANTONIO IN FOLLOWING CASES, FURNISHING RESULTS
TO MEMPHIS AND SAN ANTONIO.

UNSUB; TEXAS STATE BANK, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, JUNE EIGHTEEN-
NINETEEN, SIXTYSEVEN. BB. BUFILE NINE ONE DASH TWO SEVEN TWO
NINE TWO; SAN ANTONIO NINE ONE DASH TWO TWO EIGHT ONE.

UNSUB; FALLS CITY NAT. BANK, FALLS CITY, TEXAS, MARCH NINETEEN-
TWENTY, SIXTYSEVEN. BB. BUFILE NINE ONE DASH TWO SIX SIX ONE
SEVEN, SAN ANTONIO NINE ONE DASH TWO TWO ONE TWO.

UNSUBS (TWO); SAN ANTONIO SAVINGS ASSN., HANDY ANDY NO.
SEVENTEEN, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, JANUARY NINETEEN, SIXTYEIGHT BB.
BUFILE NINE ONE DASH TWO NINE ONE SEVEN ZERO, SA NINE ONE DASH
TWO FOUR SEVEN SEVEN.

REVIEW OF NINETYONE CASES IN SAN ANTONIO DIV. FOR PURPOSES
OUTLINED IN REBURAD CONTINUING.

END

ME FGD

FBI MEMPHIS

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BUFFALO CREDIT BUREAU FILE CONTAINS REPORT FROM QUINCY CREDIT BUREAU WHICH SHOWED THAT IN JULY NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE, EARL RAY PAID FIFTEEN DOLLAR FINE ON CHARGE OF ASSAULTING YVONNE MC GINLEY. ALSO SHOWED RAY IN MENARD PRISON AS OF MAY NINETEEN FIFTYONE ARISING OUT OF AN ASSULT CHARGE FOR WHICH HE WAS SENTENCED TO THREE TO TEN YEARS IN SEPTEMBER NINETEEN FORTYEIGHT.

NO OTHER INFROMATION OF VALUE IN FILE.

AM CCS TO CHICAGO AND KANSAS CITY.

JAMES EARL RAY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI-BUFFALO

1:25 URGENT 4/26/68 DJL

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) , MEMPHIS (44-1937) AND SPRINGFIELD (44-561)
FROM BUFFALO 44-374) 2P

MURKIN.

REMYTEL, APRIL TWENTYFOUR LAST, CONCERNING EARL
EVERET RAY, UNCLE OF JAMES EARL RAY.

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Roman

COPY OF NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CERTIFICATE
OF DEATH OBTAINED AND SIGNATURE WHICH APPEARS TO BE NORMAN
J. ROBERTS IS ACTUALLY SIGNATURE OF THOMAS J. ROBERTS, TWO
FOUR ZERO ZERO MAIN STREET, BUFFALO, NY.

RECORDS OF BUFFALO RETAIL MERCHANTS CREDIT BUREAU,
BUFFALO, NY, CONTAIN RECORDS FOR EARL RAY WHO SHOWED
RESIDENCE IN NINETEEN FIFTYSIX OF FOUR SEVEN SIX FRANKLIN
STREET, WHICH RESIDENCE WAS TORN DOWN IN NINETEEN SIXTY.
PREVIOUS RESIDENCE FOUR THREE NINE CHERRY STREET, QUINCY,
ILLINOIS. EMPLOYMENT BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL IN NINETEEN
FIFTYSIX. BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL UNABLE TO FIND ANY
EMPLOYMENT-RECORD. PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT SHOWN AS ST. MARY'S
HOSPITAL, QUINCY. CREDIT BUREAU FILE INACTIVE SINCE
NINETEEN FIFTYSIX.

END PAGE ONE

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ST LOUIS

158PM URGENT 4-26-68 JJR

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861), KANSAS CITY (44-760) AND

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TEL APRIL TWENTYSIX, INSTANT.

ON INTERVIEW APRIL TWENTYTWO, LAST, SUBJECT'S BROTHER JOHN LARRY RAY, AKA JACK, CLAIMED CONTACT WITH SUBJECT TWO TO FOUR YEARS AGO, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP); PRIOR TO THAT ONLY ON ONE OCCASION APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN YEARS AGO AT TIME OF SUBJECT'S DISCHARGE FROM U.S. ARMY AND VISITING IN QUINCY, ILL. DENIED ANY OTHER CONTACTS WITH BROTHER (SUBJECT). ALSO CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF BROTHER'S ESCAPE FROM PENITENTIARY.

IN VIEW OF INFORMATION IN RETEL REGARDING JOHN RAY VISITING SUBJECT AT MSP ON NINE OCCASIONS FROM NINETEEN SIXTYTWO TO NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, KANSAS CITY IS REQUESTED TO RETRIEVE RECORDS OF THESE VISITS FOR HANDWRITING OF JOHN RAY AND SUBMIT SAME TO
END PAGE ONE

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Hester
Ronan

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SL-44-775

BUREAU FOR HANDWRITING COMPARISON WITH KNOWN HANDWRITING OF
JOHN LARRY RAY, FBI NUMBER THREE SIX EIGHT SEVEN TWO FIVE A,
IN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER IN FACT SUBJECT'S BROTHER DID
VISIT HIM ON THE OCCASIONS MENTIONED IN RETEL.

P.

END.

SAB

FBI MEMPHIS

TU P

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI TAMPA

403PM URGENT 4-26-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, HOUSTON, AND KANSAS CITY
FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 2P

MURKIN

BOB FELLOWS, NEWSMAN, WFLA CHANNEL THIRTEEN,
TAMPA ADVISED THIS DATE HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY
A SOURCE, WHOSE RELIABILITY IS UNKNOWN, AS TO DESIRING TO
FIND OUT IF CHANNEL THIRTEEN WAS INTERESTED IN PAYING
MONEY FOR INTERVIEW WITH A PERSON WHO KNEW JAMES EARL
RAY, AKA. FELLOWS SAID SOURCE CALLED HOUSTON, TEXAS
FOR A GEORGE RUSSELL, REPORTELY EMPLOYED IN TRAILER
SALES. WHEN SOURCE DID NOT GET ANSWER, CALLED (FNU)
STORZ, SUPPOSEDLY SOURCE'S SISTER, WHO LIVES NEXT
DOOR TO TRAILER SALES. SOURCE SAID GEORGE RUSSELL
SERVED TIME IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON AND HAS KNOWN
RAY SOME YEARS. FELLOWS ADVISED SOURCE HIS
TV STATION NOT INTERESTED BUT PERHAPS CBS ATLANTA
MAY BE INTERESTED.

END PAGE ONE

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Ronan *RB*

Hester *qth*

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TP 157-3231

FELLOWS THEN RECONTACTED SOURCE WHO CALLED HOUSTON TELEPHONE MI THREE THREE THREE FIVE ZERO AND REACHED RUSSELL. FELLOWS ASKED RUSSELL IF HE WOULD TALK TO CBS NEWSMAN ABOUT KNOWLEDGE OF RAY AND RUSSELL SAID, "HELL NO." FELLOWS SAID SOURCE REPORTED RUSSELL TO BE HER BROTHER WHO SERVED TIME IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN UNTIL NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN.

TAMPA OFFICE RECORDS SHOW JUAREZ ROETTGER CALLED TAMPA OFFICE NOVEMBER NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN AND ADVISED BROTHER GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, LIVING IN HOUSTON, MAYBE WANTED BY FBI. TELETYPE SENT BUREAU, ST. LOUIS AND HOUSTON NOVEMBER NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN UNDER HIS NAME AND BUREAU AND ST. LOUIS ADVISED RUSSELL NOT WANTED.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO DETERMINE IF RUSSELL SERVED TIME WITH RAY.

HOUSTON INTERVIEW RUSSELL AS FORMER FELLOW PRISONER OF RAY AS FELLOWS DOES NOT DESIRE SOURCE (JUAREZ ROETTGER) BE INVOLVED.

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ST LOUIS

1024PM URGENT 4-26-68 JLS

TO BUREAU (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

RE BUTEL THIS DATE TO SL CONCERNING DELANO ELMER WALKER AND
PRIOR THREAT CONCERNING KING.

WALKER PRESENTLY SERVING THREE YEAR SENTENCE FOR ASSAULT AT
MO. TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MEN, MOBERLY, MO. .ORIGINALLY SENTENCED TEN
TWO SIXTYSEVEN AND RECEIVED AT MOBERLY ELEVEN FOURTEEN SIXTYSEVEN.
DURING INTERVIEW WITH PRISON OFFICIAL ELEVEN TWENTY SIXTYSEVEN, HE
MENTIONED SEVERAL BIZARRE INCIDENTS INCLUDING THE ALLEGATION THAT
HE WAS CONTACTED TO ASSASSINATE KING. PRISON RECORDS INDICATE
WALKER HAS A HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS. UPON INTERVIEW TODAY BY
SA, WALKER STATED THAT QUOTE, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO "WHILE DRINKING
IN BAR IN SL, TWO MEN TALKED TO HIM ABOUT RACIAL SITUATION. ONE
OF THEM GAVE HIM FIFTY DOLLARS AND THEY WOULD SEE HIM AFEW DAYS
LATER CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF HIM ASSASSINATING KING. THREE OR
FOUR DAYS LATER, TREE MEN IN A NEW BUICK DROVE TO HIS HOUSE
AT ELVINS, MO., AND HE TOLD THEM HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THIS
PROPOSITION. CLAIMS HIS WIFE ALLEGEDLY SAW THESE MEN. STATED
THAT SHORTLY AFTER THIS INCIDENT, HE WAS TAKEN TO STATE MENTAL HOS-
PITAL AT EARMINGTON, MO. IT IS NOTED THAT WALKER ORIGINALLY
END PAGE ONE

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Rosen

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SL 44-775

REPORTED INCIDENT HAPPENED DAY BEFORE NOV TEN SIXTY-FIVE AND NOT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AS STATED UPON INTERVIEW. FURTHER DURING ORIGINAL INTERVIEW HE CLAIMED ONE MAN APPROACHED HIM IN TAVERN AND SAME MAN CONTACTED HIM NOV ELEVEN SIXTY-FIVE AT RESIDENCE. LOCAL COP ELVINS, MO., INTERVIEWED WIFE AND NEIGHBORS ELEVEN ELVEN SIXTYFIVE AND THEY ADVISED NO ONE HAD VISITED WALKER RESIDENCE THAT AFTERNOON. NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED REGARDING WALKER UACB.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ST LOUIS

1154AMIMMEDIATE LCR 4-27-68

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM ST. LOUIS 44-775.

MURKIN

RE TELEPHONE CALL THIS DATE FROM RICHARD LONG, DIVISION SIX, REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING RAY'S FORMER FELLOW PRISONER, WALTER E. NOLAN.

SAM KRAMER, PLAZA BUFFET, EIGHTEENTH AND CHESTNUT, ST. ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ADVISED APRIL TWENTYFOUR HE IS NOT UNCLE OF NOLAN BUT HE AND WIFE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REHABILITATE HIM. NOLAN, RELEASED MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FALL SIXTYSEVEN, HAS SINCE OCCASIONALLY CONTACTED KRAMER. BELIEVED NOLAN HAS WORKED AS BAKER AT HULLINGS RESTAURANT, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, AND FEW WEEKS PART TIME AS COOK ON RIVERBOAT, BARGE LINE UNKNOWN. KRAMER UNAWARE OF RESIDENCE BUT BELIEVED TV NEWS-CASTER LES CARMICHAEL, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, MIGHT KNOW, AS
END PAGE ONE

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Hester
Kramer

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HE HAD CONTACTED NOLAN FOR HISTORICAL DATA RE LENGTHY IMPRISONMENT FOR HUMAN INTEREST STORY.

CARMICHAEL ADVISED NOTICED FALL SIXTYSEVEN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE CONCERNING NOLAN PREPARING OWN BRIEF WHICH RESULTED IN RELEASE FROM PRISON. CONTACTED NOLAN THROUGH ST. LOUIS ATTORNEY, NAME NOT RECALLED. ATTORNEY SPOKE HIGHLY OF NOLAN'S INTELLIGENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY. AFTER SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH NOLAN DECIDED INSUFFICIENT HUMAN INTEREST IN MATTER AND DROPPED. RECALLED NOLAN AS HIGHLY INTELLEGENT, NOT RADICAL OR EXTREMIST BUT HAD EXTREMELY HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTHORITIES IN PENITENTIARIES. NEVER DISPLAYED RACIAL EXTREMISM. NEVER MENTIONED RAY AS FRIEND OR ASSOCIATE.

LOCATED NOLAN BANK ACCOUNT. NO SIGNIFICANT DEPOSITS OR WITHDRAWALS. CURRENT BALANCE EIGHTEEN DOLLARS AND THIRTYFOUR CENTS. NO SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX.

MRS. CARMEN PATTON, FIVE TWO ZERO SIX WASHINGTON ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, LANDLADY, AWARE OF NOLAN'S PRISON BACKGROUND THROUGH NEWSPAPER ARTICLE. DESCRIBES HIM AS QUIET AND MANNERLY. NO ASSOCIATES VISIT. CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS A COOK, PLACE
END PAGE TWO