

7/24/68

**AIRTEL**

**TO : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (157-1215)**  
**FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)**  
**SUBJECT: MURKIN**

Re Little Rock Airtel to Bureau, 7/22/68.

Little Rock's attention is called to Memphis Airtel, 7/13/68, advising that the results of your investigation should be submitted to the Bureau by LHM. It is also called to your attention that the information furnished by RAYMOND CURTIS indicated that the boat to be used in RAY's escape was allegedly docked at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Since the "Nell Willey" has been docked at the Memphis Yacht Club for as long as Mr. A. D. CARTWRIGHT, JR. has owned it, Mr. CARTWRIGHT is not in a position to prove or disprove the information furnished by CURTIS.

Little Rock is therefore requested to interview Mrs. J. BURNETT of New Iberia, La. for such information as where the boat was docked during the period her husband owned it; whether or not this boat had a full-time crew; and whether or not any person might have had access to this boat and might have planned with CURTIS and RAY the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The Memphis Office does not believe one single word of CURTIS's story, however, the Bureau has instructed that logical investigation be conducted to prove or disprove his story. Since CURTIS has not indicated the date when his plans were made with RAY for the murder of KING, it will be necessary to thoroughly interview Mrs. BURNETT regarding all phases of this boat's operation prior to the sale to Mr. A. D. CARTWRIGHT, JR.

Airtel.....  
Teletype..... 2 - Little Rock  
A. M. .... ② - Memphis  
A. M. S. D. JCH:ME  
(4)  
Spec. Del.....  
Reg. Mail.....  
Registered.....

SEARCHED G 810  
SERIALIZED llh  
INDEXED llh  
llh

44-1987-Sub-A-831

Boyle RB

F B I

Date: 8/1/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

Re Kansas City letter to the Bureau 7/24/68 and Atlanta teletype to the Bureau, Interview in County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, 7/3/68.

Enclosed herewith for Chicago is one copy of each referenced communication.

For the additional information of Chicago, it has been determined the houseboat capable of travel on the Mississippi River was at one time owned by one CHARLES WILLIE, now deceased, a well-respected and wealthy plantation owner of Wabbaseka, Arkansas. One A. D. CARTWRIGHT, JR., owner of the Cartwright Nursery Company, Collierville, Tennessee, obtained possession of the houseboat in February, 1966. The results of interview with CARTWRIGHT are not known to Jackson.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
  - 2 - Chicago (Enc. 2) (RM)
  - ① - Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (RM)
  - 2 - Jackson
- JGW:mif  
(8)

*44-1987-Sub-A-821A*

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

*G 821*

*Boyle RB*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

JN 157-9586

The following lead will be given expeditious attention, UACB:

LEAD:

CHICAGO

AT ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY. Will, if JAMES ROBERT WILLETT is still incarcerated at Illinois State Penitentiary, determine if he is the individual referred to by RAYMOND CURTIS as "Mississippi," and will thereafter conduct exhaustive interview concerning the allegations made by RAYMOND CURTIS.

Will furnish results of the interview to the Bureau by report or LHM.

If WILLETT is no longer incarcerated at the Illinois State Penitentiary, will set out such leads as are necessary to locate and interview him, as above.

UACB, interview of DONALD ROY WILLETT and MILTON LAWRENCE WILLETT, the other inmates of the Missouri State Penitentiary by the name of WILLETT, who were incarcerated subsequent to 1960, will not be conducted, as no information was contained in the Missouri State Penitentiary Records indicating that these individuals have ever resided in, or had contacts in, the state of Mississippi.

F B I

Date: 7/23/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. )

MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JULY TWENTYTWO, LAST.

AS RESULT OF DREW PEARSON SYNDICATED COLUMN ON JULY TWENTYTWO, LAST, ALTON AREA POLICE AGENCIES AND NEWS MEDIA CONTACTED AND WILL IMMEDIATELY FURNISH CONTENTS OF CITIZEN CALLS RESULTING THEREFROM.

SI SIXTEEN FOURTEEN - C WILL NOT RETURN TO ALTON AREA UNTIL FRIDAY.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE TODAY THROUGH DEPUTY DEMOS NICHOLAS, MADISON COUNTY SO, TO INTERVIEW WILLIE LEE WHOM NICHOLAS IS USING AS INFORMANT. RESULTS WILL BE FURNISHED BUREAU PROMPTLY.

MAIL COPIES TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

1 - Springfield (44-561)  
1 - Chicago (44-1114)  
① - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - St. Louis (44-775)  
RCH:mpb  
(4)

44-1987-Sub-A-822

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>lls</i>	FILED <i>lls</i>
JUL 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle* *10/13*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in ChargeSent \_\_\_\_\_  
M Per \_\_\_\_\_

F B I

Date: **7/24/68**Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **TELETYPE** **URGENT** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)****FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. 1)****MURKIN****RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JULY TWENTYTHREE, LAST.**

**NEWS MEDIA, POLICE AGENCIES AND BANK OFFICIALS AT THE BANK OF ALTON REPORT NO REACTION TO SYNDICATED COLUMN OF DREW PEARSON APPEARING NATIONALLY JULY TWENTYTWO, LAST.**

**WILLIAM MAHER, UNCLE OF JAMES EARL RAY, ADVISES HE IS CONVINCED RAY HAS NOT BEEN IN ALTON AT ANYTIME SINCE ESCAPE FROM MSP. MAHER BASES OPINION ON CONTACT WITH RELATIVES AND CONTINUED READING OF KNOWN ITINERARY OF RAY.**

**MAIL COPIES TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, ST. LOUIS. P.**

1 - Springfield (44-561)  
 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)  
 ① - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
 1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)  
 RCH:mpb  
 (4)

*44-1987-Sub-A-223*

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
JUL 26 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Bayer* *QD*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

7/26/68

**A I R T E L**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**  
**FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)**  
**SUBJECT: MURKIN**

Re Baltimore airtel to Director 7/23/68, enclosing for Chicago list of members and non-members National Institute of Dry Cleaning as of July, 1968, for the States of Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri.

Chicago Office is of the opinion that it would be expeditious to send out circulars to members and non-members of the National Institute of Dry Cleaning through use of obsolete labels which Mrs. GAIL BOWEN of the National Institute of Dry Cleaning in Silver Spring, Maryland, volunteered to see off. These labels could then be affixed to the circulars which are to be distributed.

BUREAU, Baltimore is requested to recontact Mrs. BOWEN and request that above described labels be prepared.

The Bureau is requested to advise Baltimore whether the prepared circulars will be sent out from the Bureau, Chicago or Springfield.

3 - Bureau  
2 - Baltimore (44-660)  
1 - Indianapolis (Info)  
1 - Memphis (Info)  
1 - Springfield (Info)  
1 - St. Louis (Info)  
1 - Chicago  
JMF:jup  
(10)

44-1987-Sub-A-884

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
JUL 26 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *OK*

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

7/24/68

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

MURKIN ✓ 44-1987

Re Jackson airtel to Director, 7/11/68.

On 7/22/68, U. S. Commissioner W. C. SHELEY, Jefferson City, Missouri, advised SA ROWEN B. AYERS he had dismissed the complaint on JAMES EARL RAY on that date.

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

At Jefferson City, Missouri:

On 7/18/68, Mr. HARRY LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), furnished the following information on inmates with the last name of WILLETT received at the MSP subsequent to 1960:

DONALD ROY WILLETT was received at the MSP 6/11/63, from St. Louis City to serve a 3 1/2 year sentence on charge of Burglary 2nd Degree and one prior. He was assigned MSP # 06915. This inmate was released to a detainer in favor of Sheriff, St. Charles County, Mo. on 3/1/65. Relatives listed are:

- Brother Mr. ALVIN WILLETT, 4212 Iowa St. Louis, Missouri;
- Sister CATHERINE MILTON, 2845 W. 23rd, Chicago, Illinois;
- Sister VIRGINIA O'NEAL, 1708 Doris, Cahokia, Illinois;
- Sister BETTY KALK, 2111 Huntington, St. Louis, Missouri;
- Sister EILEEN OHLENDORF, 3859A Wyoming, St. Louis, Missouri;
- Sister MARY ELLEN WILLETT, 4621 Oregon, St. Louis, Missouri;

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
  - 2 - Jackson (157-9586)(RM)
  - ② - Memphis (RM)
  - 2 - Kansas City
- WCM:nks  
(8)

44-1987-Sub G-825

SEARCHED <i>ll</i>	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
JUL 26 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyer* *RT*

KC 44-760

Father H. WILLETT, 4621 Oregon, St.  
Louis, Missouri;  
Mother LORRAINE WILLETT, same address.

He is described as a WM, born [redacted] at St. Louis, Missouri, height 5'8", weight 142, hair brown, eyes gray, build slender, complexion medium, Social Security No. [redacted] FBI #852 311 C, tattoo of a needle inner right forearm.

JAMES WILLETT (TN JAMES ROBERT WILLETT), aka BILL WILLETT, was held at the MSP 11/14/63, to serve a two year sentence on charge of escape, in Cole County, Mo. He had previously been received at the MSP, 12/1/60, from Dunklin County to serve a four year sentence on charge of Forgery. He was assigned MSP #01787. Records reflect WILLETT escaped from the Church Farm, MSP 1/13/62. He was apprehended and returned to the MSP, 1/15/62, to complete the original sentence.

This file reflects BILL WILLETT served a two year sentence in the Mississippi State Penitentiary in 1956.

The following information was obtained from an inter-office communication dated 9/10/62, to Director of Classification, MSP, from LEROY H. ROOK, M.S. Clinical Psychologist:

"In response to your IOC of September 6, 1962, the above named inmate was called to the psychiatric service on September 10, 1962 for interview and evaluation. The subject has just completed a three months tour on E-3 for becoming insolent and abusive to Lt. Williams. The subject has a history on the psychiatric service of being hospitalized from June 26, 1962 to July 5, 1962 on account of self-inflicted wounds and being in an emotionally disturbed state. He was again admitted on August 13, 1962 until August 15, 1962 for self-inflicted wounds and a highly nervous state. At that time he was demanding help but the nature of the help he expected was never made clear.



"Marital: Subject states that he was married in July, 1958, and has been separated from his wife but no divorce has been obtained. His wife is now eighteen, and was only fourteen years of age at the time of their marriage. One boy was born to this union. The baby is now with the wife's mother. The wife is working and the mother is caring for the child. The wife is also staying with the mother.

#### "FAMILY AND PERSONAL RELATIONS

"Subject states that he corresponds every week with his mother, Bertha Willet, and occasionally with his sister, Lois Boyd. He writes frequently to his wife, Elizabeth, and claims to have received no visits. Subject was reared in poor financial circumstances in Mississippi and Missouri. His father died in 1939 and had worked as a farmer.

"Subject was one of six children. He states that he lived alternately with his family in Mississippi and his half-brother, Frank, in Kennett, Missouri. His brother Paul is a farmer in Mississippi. His brother Charles, who had been a farmer in Kennett, Missouri, died in 1957. His half-brother, Frank Smithy, is a farmer in Kennett, Missouri, and his half-brother, David, is said to be Chief-of-police of a town in Ohio. None of the subject's family is said to have been in difficulty with the authorities. Subject claims he got along well with all members of his family, however, he apparently lived a rather unsupervised life, living at times with various members of his family.

#### "POST-RELEASE PLANS

Subject has no desire to return to Kennett, Missouri, because of his trouble with the authorities. He is interested in obtaining work through the Dismas Clark Foundation. He would live with his wife if she would return to him, but he does not expect her to leave her mother in Kennett.

KC 44-760

"The subject is an emotionally unstable individual. He is of average intellectual endowment, it seems, but he is ignorant, untutored, and uneducated. He is the sort of restless kind of individual who cannot bring himself to concentrate long enough to study in school. He was assigned to school when he first came here, but he got out of that because he was unable to concentrate on his work. Since that time he says he's never had a job. At the present time he states that he would take any job, but that he would like especially to work in the chair shop because he has had some experience on the outside working for his carpenter father-in-law as a carpenter's helper on inside cabinet work.

"When interviewed on this date the subject was in about as good a condition as we expect to ever see him in. It is recommended that he be assigned to work commensurate with his abilities and according to what is available."

The following was taken from Pre-Parole Progress Report dated November 8, 1961 by CLYDE CARRIOTT:

"Conduct: One conduct violation reported for creating a disturbance, refusing orders, and writing obscenities on a test paper. For this he had his Yard and Show privileges denied for one month. He was reprimanded and released for Tatooing.

"Work: 12-29-60, Assigned to School. Work and training reports rate subject variously as good, poor, and fair. One report shows him to be considerate. The third report shows him as shirking his work, not doing what he was expected to do. His last report rates him good and states that he did average work. Subject states that he was not interested in school and therefore did not complete requirements for grade school.  
8-4-61, Assigned to state at his request.

"Helath: Normal.

"Military: None.

KC 44-760

"SUMMARY

"James Willett, a twenty-six year old inmate, will have served one year of a four year sentence for Uttering. Subject admits having served a sentence in Mississippi State Prison. However, no verified information has been received concerning this, and FBI record does not show any previous record.

"Subject states that he was released from Mississippi State Prison in May, 1958. He married a fourteen year old girl and lived in Kennett, Missouri. He states that he had considerable difficulty with his in-laws and that custody of his son had been given to his wife's mother. He stated that he had been arrested for disturbing the peace because his mother-in-law did not let him see his son and he had forced his way into the home. Because of his difficulty he forged a check in order to have money-to leave town.

"Subject apparently has lived a rather unstable and unsettled life and has been rather careless and irresponsible. It is not evident that he has had any change of attitude in this regard. He sees little value in education and has little ambition. Institutionally his record has been marginal, however, it would not prohibit further parole consideration."

Records reflect WILLETT was discharged from the MSP 3/14/65.

A letter in WILLETT's file indicated that he was incarcerated in the Illinois State Penitentiary on 5/2/67.

WILLETT is described as a WM, born [redacted] at Huntsville, Alabama, height 5'9", weight 135, hair brown, eyes brown, build slender, complexion medium, occupation farmer, Social Security No. [redacted] FBI # 692 571 E, tattoos - snake outer right forearm; eagle center of chest; numerous other tattoos on both arms.

KC 44-760

Relatives listed are:

Mother	BERTHA WILLETT, Route 1, Box 64, Marks, Mississippi or 436 Singapore, Carpentersville, Illinois;
Wife	ELIZABETH WILLETT, 912 Anthony St., Kennett, Missouri;
Sister	MARGARET RATCLIFF, Elygen, Ill.;
Sister	LOIS BOYD, Route 1, Box 64, Marks, Mississippi
Brother	FRANK WILLETT, General Delivery, Bearing, Missouri.

MILTON LAWRENCE WILLETT, MSP # 09993, was received from Jackson County, Mo., to serve a two year sentence on charge of Forgery. He was paroled to Kansas on 2/23/65, and given a final discharge on 11/28/65.

He is described as a WM, born [redacted] at Osborne, Kansas, height 5'8", weight 114, hair brown, eyes hazel, build small, complexion medium, occupation clerical, FBI # 146 931 B.

His wife is listed as MARY K. WILLETT, 607 West 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

There is no indication that this individual was ever in Mississippi.

7/25/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

( P )

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JULY TWENTYFOUR,  
LAST.

CHIEF WILLIAM H. PETERSEN (NA), ALTON PD, ADVISED THAT  
ALL INFORMANTS OF ALTON PD CONTACTED REGARDING POSSIBLE  
PRESENCE OF JAMES EARL RAY IN ALTON JULY NINETEEN, SIXTY-  
SEVEN. NO INFORMANT ABLE TO PLACE RAY IN ALTON DURING THAT  
PERIOD.

PETERSEN ALSO ADVISED EXPERIENCED OFFICERS ACQUAINTED  
WITH RAY IN PAST HAVE CONTACTED KNOWN BURGLARS AND EX-CONS  
FOR SAME PURPOSE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

MAIL COPIES TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, AND ST. LOUIS. P.

END

1 - Springfield (44-561)

1 - Chicago (44-1114)

① - Memphis (44-1987)

1 - St. Louis (44-775)

RCH/eab

(4)

44-1987-Sub-A-225A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED... <i>b</i> ...	FILED... <i>b</i> ...
JUL 27 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle RB*

*G*

F B I

Date: 7/26/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. 1)

MURKIN

RE SI TEL JULY TWENTYFIVE, LAST.

CONTACT INITIATED WITH HOTELS AND MOTELS, GREATER ALTON  
AREA INCLUDING DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPH OF JAMES EARL RAY. CONTACTS  
TO DATE PRODUCED NO IDENTIFICATIONS TO INDICATE RAY IN ALTON  
AREA SUBSEQUENT TO ESCAPE MSP.

NO OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED TO DATE.

MAIL COPIES TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

- 1 - Springfield (44-561)
  - 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)
  - ① - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
  - 1 - St. Louis (44-775)(AM)
- RCH:mpb  
(4)

*44-1987-Sub-G-896*

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

*Boyle BB*

*G*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana  
July 25, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

44-1987-Sub-D-827

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>lls</i>	FILED <i>lls</i>
JUL 30 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle* 1313

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/22/68

**1**

**Mrs. MELL BURNETT, Apartment 2, Layton Castle, 1158 South Grand Street, Monroe, Louisiana, furnished the following information:**

**Mrs. BURNETT was formerly the wife of the late CHARLES C. WILKIN, who died three years ago. She and her late husband owned plantations and farms/properties near Altheimer, and Eberwein, Arkansas, and he was formerly President of the First National Bank of Altheimer, Arkansas. In 1958 they bought a boat, a fifty-eight foot steel hull boat, which they named "The Hull Wilkin," and they spent a great deal of time on the Gulf from 1958, to 1960. During that period of time, the boat was often docked for long periods of time at Greenville, Mississippi; Monroe, Louisiana; and Bayou La Batre, Louisiana. In January, 1961, Mrs. MELL BURNETT, then Mrs. CHARLES C. WILKIN, sold the boat to Garthright Morrison, Gallitoville, Tennessee, and delivered it to Memphis, Tennessee.**

**Mrs. BURNETT stated that she had never heard of JAMES EARL RAY (now an inmate of Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia), and she was reasonably sure that her late husband, CHARLES C. WILKIN, did not know him. She stated that he was not a customer or passenger on "The Hull Wilkin" during the period 1958, to 1960, when she and her late husband owned it, and she was sure that no arrangements were made to use the boat during that period to transport any criminal along the Mississippi River. Mrs. BURNETT stated that she had never heard of JAMES EARL RAY until his name appeared in the news in connection with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

On 7/22/68 at Monroe, Louisiana File # ME 157-10873

by SA EARL GUN-ldm Date dictated 7/22/68

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



**JAMES EARL RAY;**  
**DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM**

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.

FBI

Date: 7/25/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (P)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN  
 (OO: Memphis)

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau, 7/13/68, and  
 Atlanta teletype, 7/3/68.

Enclosed to the Bureau are four copies of a LHM,  
 and to Memphis two copies of the LHM, an interview with  
 Mrs. NELL BURNETT, Monroe, La.

Mrs. NELL BURNETT, formerly Mrs. CHARLES C.  
 WILLEY and wife of the late CHARLES C. WILLEY of  
 Altheimer, Ark., was interviewed at her temporary  
 residence, Apartment 3, Layton Castle, 1183 South  
 Grand St., Monroe, La., on 7/22/68, and she stated  
 that she did not know RAYMOND CURTIS, now an inmate of  
 Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Ga., and that to the  
 best of her knowledge, her late husband did not know  
 such a person. She stated that she was nearly always  
 with her late husband when he was on their boat, and  
 she felt sure that he did not know such a person as  
 RAYMOND CURTIS. Mrs. BURNETT stated that her late  
 husband, CHARLES C. WILLEY, died three years ago,  
 and in January, 1966, she sold the boat to Cartwright  
 Nurseries, Collierville, Tenn. Mrs. BURNETT had never  
 heard of JAMES EARL RAY prior to the recent publicity  
 connecting him with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER  
 KING, JR.

3-Bureau (Enc. 4)  
 1-Atlanta (44-2386) (Info.)  
 1-Jackson (157-9586) (Info.)  
 2-Little Rock (157-1215)  
 2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
 2-New Orleans  
 EC-kbz  
 (11)

44-1987-Sub-A-828

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 30 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 7/29/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. 1)

MURKIN.

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JULY TWENTYSIX, LAST.

CONTACT WITH REMAINING HOTELS AND MOTELS, GREATER ALTON  
AREA AND DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPH JAMES EARL RAY UNPRODUCTIVE.

SI SIXTEEN FOURTEEN - C REPORTS NO NEW INFORMATION  
DEVELOPED.

MALE COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

- 1 - Springfield (44-561)
  - 1 - Chicago(44-1114) (AM)
  - ① - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)
  - 1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)
- RCH:mpb  
(4)

G

44-1987-Sub-A-829

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 31 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyer*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

July 29, 1968

Airtel

TO: SAC, Chicago  
Indianapolis  
St. Louis  
Springfield  
~~Memphis~~

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Reference Springfield airtel to the Bureau dated 7/18/68.

Eighteen-hundred copies of the circular/letter are being mailed to the Chicago and Indianapolis Offices under separate cover and 700 copies of the circular letter are being mailed under separate cover to the St. Louis Division for distribution to laundry and dry cleaning establishments as per instructions contained in referenced communication.

Fifty copies of the circular letter are being mailed to the Springfield and Memphis Divisions under separate cover for action deemed appropriate by these divisions.

44-1987-Sub-G-230

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 31 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle

F B I

Date: 7/30/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JULY TWENTYNINE LAST.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT AS RESULT OF TRIP TO NORTHERN ILLINOIS, HE DEVELOPED INFORMATION CONCERNING ONE BENNIE BUSHYHEAD, AN AMERICAN INDIAN FROM OKLAHOMA CITY, WHO ALLEGEDLY WAS FRIEND OF JAMES EARL RAY AND MAY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY.

INFORMANT WILL BE INTERVIEWED IN DEPTH TO DETERMINE RESULTS OF INQUIRY SINCE LAST CONTACT AND RESULTS REPORTED TO BUREAU.

MAIL COPIES TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

- 1 - Springfield (44-561)
  - 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)
  - ① - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
  - 1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)
- RCH/ssj  
(4)

*44-1987-Sub-A-831*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
JUL 31 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle BB*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/30/68

**KATHERINE WILLIAR**, temporarily resides at 100 25th Street, Baltimore, Maryland. She will leave there during the afternoon of July 19, 1968 and will be at Ocean City, Maryland through July 20, 1968. Mrs. WILLIAR will return to Baltimore, Maryland July 21, 1968. She can always be reached through her mother, Mrs. MARGARET OLSON, Box 245 Pocomoke, Maryland.

During February and January, 1968, Mrs. WILLIAR stayed at the Saint Francis (an apartment hotel) located at Hollywood and Western Streets, Los Angeles, California and at an apartment located at 5822 Carlton Way, Los Angeles. During this time, she worked as a secretary for Mr. MAT MORRIS, an antiquarian. She could not recall the address of his shop.

Mrs. WILLIAR, while at Saint Francis Hotel, became acquainted with CHARLES and RITA STEIN. He is a song writer. RITA is CHARLES' sister. The STEIN's lived at 5666 Franklin Street, Los Angeles with RITA's children. Mrs. WILLIAR baby sat for the STEIN's on three or four occasions.

Mrs. WILLIAR never met JAMES EARL RAY and never heard the STEIN's mention him.

On 7/19/68 at Baltimore, Maryland File # 44-669

by SA ROBERT C. NORTON:RFJ Date dictated 7/24/68

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

44-1987-Sub-C-232  
 [Handwritten initials and marks]  
 Boyle RB

F B I

Date: 7/30/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_ AIR MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
RM

Re Baltimore airtel to WFO dated 7/3/68, and WFO airtel to Los Angeles dated 7/8/68.

Enclosed for Memphis are 15 copies of an IRF of KATHERINE WILLIAR.

By teletype dated 4/26/68, Los Angeles advised that telephone records of the home of CHARLES STEIN reflect a call on 3/19/68 to Pocomoke City, Maryland, telephone number 957-2337, which phone is listed to Mrs. STANLEY WHITNEY OLSON, mother of KATHERINE PATRICIA OLSON WILLIAR.

On 7/3/68, STANLEY OLSON, father of KATHERINE WILLIAR, employed with Contee Sand and Gravel Company Field Office, Brooklyn Park, Maryland, advised he was called by his daughter 7/2/68 and she informed him she had moved from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. and that her new address was 1735 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Apartment 404, Washington, D.C. Mr. OLSON commented that his daughter was supposedly attending school of scientology in Washington, and that she has been interested in astrology, and also had some association with a group called Rosicrucians. He said his daughter only contacted him when she is in need of some money.

Inquiry at 1735 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. determined that WILLIAR had gone to Baltimore on 7/3/68 and might be contacted through inquiry at the Park Plaza Hotel, Baltimore or through PATRICIA JAMES, 931 Druid Lake Drive, Baltimore.

2- Memphis (44-1987) (15 ENCLOSURES) (REGISTERED MAIL)  
1- Baltimore (44-669)  
RCN:nrj  
(3)

*MGM*  
44-1987-Sub-C-833

G 781

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Boyle BB</i>	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

BA 44-669

On 7/9/68, inquiry at the Park Plaza Hotel determined that WILLIAR had been in the bar about 7/3-4/68 and left telephone number 523-3249 where she could be reached if a waitress was needed.

On 7/10/68, PATRICIA JAMES telephone number 523-3249 was contacted. She said WILLIAR had been a house guest at her apartment and had gone to Washington, D.C. She last saw WILLIAR on the prior weekend in Baltimore, but had no knowledge of her friends, employment, or acquaintances.

On 7/10/68, records of the Baltimore Police Department reflect that KATHERINE P. WILLIARD was arrested 3/8/65 and charged with larceny by false pretense. On 4/12/65 she was sentenced to three months Baltimore City Jail on four charges to run concurrent and dismissed on four others. She is described as a white female, date of birth, [redacted] Quantico, Virginia, 5' 6", 120 lbs., green eyes, brown hair, occupation, secretary, Baltimore Police Department number 131-581.

Subsequently, WILLIAR was contacted on 7/19/68 by the Baltimore Office and two subsequent appointments were made to talk to her, however, she did not keep the appointments.



F B I

Date: 7/31/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. 1)

MURKIN.

RE SITEL TO BUREAU JULY THIRTY, LAST.

CONTACT WITH MARION VANFOSSEN AND HOWARD SHELTON, STATE PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICERS, MADE WITH VIEW TO DEVELOPING INFORMATION FROM PAROLEES AND PROBATIONERS WHO COULD FEASIBLY HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF JAMES EARL RAY AND/OR ROBBERY OF THE BANK OF ALTON.

CAPTAIN EBERT GRIMES, EAST ALTON PD, ADVISED HE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM INFORMANT THAT RAY DEFINITELY NOT INVOLVED IN BR AT ALTON; THAT BR COMMITTED BY ROBERT L. STANTON AND JACKIE LEE CRIDER; THAT STANTON KILLED CRIDER IN DISPUTE OVER SPENDING LOOT. FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, STANTON SHOT AND KILLED CRIDER IN JUNE, LAST. LATTER INFORMATION BEING FOLLOWED CLOSELY AND BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF RESULTS.

MAIL COPIES TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS, P.

1 - Springfield (44-561)  
 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)  
 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
 1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)  
 RCH:mpb  
 (4)

44-1987-Sub-A-834

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

*Boyer*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

8-1-68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

(P 1)

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU JULY THIRTYONE LAST.

ROBERT L. STANTON INTERVIEWED MADISON COUNTY JAIL,  
EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS; DENIES COMPLICITY IN BANK ROBBERY  
AT THE BANK OF ALTON.

STANTON' MEETS PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION UNSUB NUMBER ONE  
IN ABOVE BANK ROBBERY; HAS HISTORY OF USING AUTOMATIC PISTOL  
SIMILAR TO THAT USED BY UNSUB NUMBER ONE AND EMPLOYED PART  
TIME FOR CAB COMPANY WHICH HAS STAND DIRECTLY ACROSS STREET  
FROM BANK.

STANTON REPORTED INVESTED HEAVILY IN NEW CABS SHORTLY  
AFTER BANK ROBBERY.

ALL OF ABOVE BEING FOLLOWED CLOSELY TO VERIFY AND STANTON  
WILL BE REINTERVIEWED.

MAIL COPIES TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

- 6
- 1 - Springfield (44-561)
  - 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)
  - ① - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
  - 1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)

RCH:ras  
(4)

44-1987-Sub A-235

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

*Boyle*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>ATLANTA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>7/30/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/10/68 - 7/15/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA ROBERT R. PERRY</b>	TYPED BY <b>mlw</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CGR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA ALLEN G. SENTINELLA, 5/17/68.

- P -

LEADS:

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Will continue reporting results of investigation requested of the Atlanta Division.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On 5/14/68, wanted flyers were mailed to all laundries and dry cleaning establishments in the Metropolitan Atlanta area

- A -  
( COVER PAGE )

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED <b>NONE</b>						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  COPIES MADE:  5 - Bureau (44-38861) 4 - Birmingham (44-1740) ④ - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     44-1987-Sub-A-235A                      SEARCHED..... INDEXED <i>lll</i>                      SERIA <i>lll</i> 11 <i>lll</i>                      AUG 3 1968  <i>Boyle</i> </div>
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Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations <i>1 cc Fred Phil Canale, Atty General Shelby</i> <i>Col, Tenn. 10/16/68 rrp</i>
Agency	<i>1 cc Fred Phil Canale, Atty General Shelby</i>			
Request Recd.	<i>Col, Tenn. 10/16/68 rrp</i>			
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

AT-44-2386  
RRP:mlw

as well as the headquarter cities of all Resident Agencies in the Atlanta Division.

On May 20, 1968, Postal Inspector RAGSDALE, Atlanta, advised that on that date mail held for JAMES EARL RAY at General Delivery, Atlanta Post Office, was due to be returned to the sender of the mail. Mr. RAGSDALE advised there has been no additional delivery of mail since last contacted and the Bureau would be immediately notified if any additional mail for RAY should be sent to the Atlanta Post Office, General Delivery. He stated clerks at the General Delivery window have been alerted concerning this mail.

On June 3, 1968, Postal Inspector BRADY advised that money order number 5615057923, dated March 28, 1968, purchased in Atlanta in the amount of \$7.50, payable to the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, was purchased at Postal Station C, which is located on Fourteenth Street, N.E., Atlanta. It is noted this address is almost directly across from the rooming house which was occupied by the subject in March, 1968.

Results of negative investigation conducted by Atlanta Agents in this matter are not being set forth in this report as they contain no information of value and were primarily elimination-type leads.

All safety deposit boxes in the Atlanta Metropolitan area have been checked for a box rented in the name of the subject or his known aliases with negative results.

Reference to the interviews of RAYMOND CURTIS at Dalton, Georgia is noted that while CURTIS indicates that he would not testify to any information he furnished, he had already in fact written two letters to Ebony Magazine concerning the information contained in these interviews.

All persons departing Atlanta by airline for points in Canada from April 5 - 12, 1968, were eliminated as identical with subject RAY. No reservations could be located in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD or PAUL BRIDGEMAN.

- B\* -  
( COVER PAGE )

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Copy to:**

**Report of:** SA ROBERT R. PERRY  
**Date:** July 30, 1968

**Office:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Field Office File #:** 44-2386

**Bureau File #:** 44-38861

**Title:** JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

**Character:** CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

**Synopsis:** BILLY MAC WISDOM, inmate, U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, says he saw person who resembled subject, December, 1967, or January, 1968, at which time a white male he knew as "CHUCK" attempted to sell this individual a rifle with telescopic sight. Two individuals who were guests at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, December, 1967, at the same time of the subject had no information. Itinerary for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. from April, 1967 to time of his death obtained from SCLC Headquarters. ROBERT TATUM, Mableton, Georgia, who purchased .38 caliber revolver found on RAY at time of his arrest in London states sold revolver to a RAY SPAIN of Birmingham, Alabama. RAYMOND CURTIS interviewed at Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he was trying to sell a story to Ebony Magazine for approximately \$5,000 to help pay off the mortgage on his mother's home. At first interview he denied statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine concerning he and subject, JAMES EARL RAY. Second interview, same date, he allowed Agent to read his twenty page handwritten story concerning activities of himself and JAMES EARL RAY.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

AT 44-2386

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT R. PERRY:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 11, 1968, JIMMY GARNER, 107 14th Street, NE, advised he had no additional information concerning the whereabouts of subject. He stated inasmuch as he and the subject had done some drinking together, and there has been no publicity concerning the subject residing at the rooming house on 14th Street, it is possible the subject might recontact him. He stated if he should hear any thing from the subject, he would immediately contact the Atlanta FBI Office.

On May 13, 1968, BILLY MAC WISDOM, contacted by SAs ROBERT R. PERRY and JAMES O. PONDER at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is currently in custody. He was interviewed at the AWB Building where he is being held in administrative segregation for refusing to work where assigned at the penitentiary.

He stated he has no knowledge of the whereabouts of subject, RAY, and no knowledge of any plot to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He stated that in November, 1967, he saw a person in the 14th Street area of Atlanta, who closely resembled the subject.

WISDOM stated he has never resided in the 14th Street area himself. He stated this individual who he had seen believed to have a 1956 or 1957 Oldsmobile automobile.

WISDOM further stated that he would not furnish any information concerning subject, RAY, if he had such information.

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ROBERT R. PERRY:

On May 29, 1968, BILLY MACK WISDOM was interviewed at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is an inmate.

He stated since last interviewed he had recalled some additional information and wished to furnish all information he had concerning the person he believed identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

He stated that a white male, who he knew as "Chuck", blond, and probably in his early twenties, and who drove a red and white 1966 Mustang convertible with an unknown license, tried to sell a rifle to this individual who he believed identical with RAY either in December, 1967, or January, 1968. He said he recalled it was right after he was released from the Fulton County Jail following his arrest and in December, 1967.

He stated this attempted sale took place on the corner of Barnett and St. Charles Streets in Northeast Atlanta where several hippie-types were residing in an apartment house which faced St. Charles Street on the corner of Barnett, and would be located on the southwest corner of the intersection. He stated JIM NEIMAN, a singer at the Catacombs, also might know the person he believed identical with RAY.

He stated CHUCK was visiting the girl who resided in this apartment, which he described as the first apartment on the right, and two hippies who he knew only as "WEASEL" and "JOHN", also living there. Both were bike-riders who wore leather jackets and hung out around the Catacombs. He stated he believed CHUCK resided in the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Street area near Peachtree Street and stated he was not the hippie type but a veteran, 21 or 20 years old, 140 pounds, 5 feet 8 inches, blond hair, and not employed.

WISDOM stated he first saw this person he believed identical with RAY in September or October, 1967, at the Regency Hyatt House in downtown Atlanta when he was with a BOB JONES of Decatur, who is believed to operate a nightclub in Daytona Beach, Florida. He said he saw this person other

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

2

times at the Catacombs, a hippie coffee house on Fourteenth Street in Atlanta. He stated he talked with NEIMAN at that time.

He stated the last time he saw this individual was at the intersection of St. Charles and Barnett Streets; however, he could not be certain as to whether it was before or after he was in the Fulton County Jail. He stated CHUCK had tried to sell this rifle for \$150.00 because the rifle was in a case and had a telescope. He stated after thinking about the matter further he recalled he was in jail at Christmas-time, 1967, and this attempted sale probably took place before he was placed in Fulton County Jail about December 8, 1967.

He stated CHUCK was in town in early January, 1968, and believes he may be from Tennessee. He stated WEASEL and JOHN had lived on Vedado Way.

On May 29, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. BARBOUR, who reside at 865 St. Charles Street and on the apartment listed at 869 St. Charles, which is the southwest corner of the intersection bordered by St. Charles and Barnett, stated at one time there had been a Mr. and Mrs. W. T. JONES residing in the right-hand apartment at 869 St. Charles. They were described as hippie-types, and asked to leave because of the many hippies who were apparently spending the night there. Mrs. BARBOUR stated there was always a crowd, and there would be as many as ten motorbikes parked in front of the house at one time. She described Mr. and Mrs. JONES as young white male and young white female, who did not dress like hippies, however, had hippie-type friends. She stated Mrs. JONES' name was RHONDA and a Mrs. LILLIAN JONES, at 15 Habersham, telephone 261-7818, was apparently the mother of W. T. JONES.

She stated Mrs. LILLIAN JONES indicated she would pay the rent if W. T. JONES was unable to do so.

On May 29, 1968, records of the Atlanta Police Department reflected BILLY MACK WISDOM was arrested on December 11, 1967, released on December 30, 1967, on bond, and sentenced in United States District Court, Atlanta, on January 29, 1968.



AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

3

On May 31, 1968, Mrs. LILLIAN JONES, Apartment B-9, 15 Habersham, N.E., advised she has two sons, KELLY JONES, who is in school, and W. T. JONES. She stated W.T.'s full name is WILLIAM THOMAS JONES, and he is presently on probation for theft of motor vehicles, and his probation officer is JAMES HUDSON, United States Probation Officer. She stated she had no idea of his whereabouts and knows that he moved recently from North Highland Avenue. She stated her parents are presently financing her rent, and she is unable to work at this time. She stated she has met "WEASEL" and "JOHNNIE", who she described as a tall person, and also noted that her daughter-in-law RHONDA is pregnant. She stated RHONDA's parents, who reside somewhere in Alabama, are presently paying the rent for her son and his wife. She stated if she obtains any information concerning his whereabouts, she will advise the FBI.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reviewed on May 31, 1968, reflected WILLIAM THOMAS JONES, Atlanta Police Department number 189931, FBI number 179 306 D, white male born [redacted] was indicted by Fulton County Grand Jury on May 3, 1968, charged with robbery and rape. He is described as white male, 5 feet 11 inches, 177 pounds, black hair, hazel eyes, tattoo upper right arm of "LONIE", numerous cut scars.

On May 31, 1968, Lieutenant C. J. STRICKLAND, Atlanta Police Department, Homicide Squad, advised WILLIAM T. JONES is presently on Federal probation, and his probation officer is JAMES HUDSON. Lieutenant STRICKLAND stated he was one of the detectives assigned to the robbery-rape case and to contact Mr. HUDSON for any additional information.

On June 4, 1968, United States Probation Officer JAMES HUDSON advised WILLIAM T. JONES is under supervision until July, 1971, and is on parole, not probation. He stated he is not in possession of a present address for JONES; however, JONES is due to report that week and noted that he has always done so promptly. Mr. HUDSON stated he considers JONES' mother a "nut" and stated that his grandmother, Mrs. G. A. CHRISTIAN, 3729 Dunbarton Road, N.W., telephone 233-5223,

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

4

apparently has some money and is financing JONES' mother. He also stated a Mrs. HARRINGTON, telephone 688-7279, resides at 1083 Culpwood Avenue, may have some information concerning JONES. JONES reportedly stole her car and used it in some armed robberies in Dekalb County.

Inquiries in the area of the Catacombs May 29, 31, June 4, 5, and 6, 1968, have failed to find anyone who knew the whereabouts of WEASEL, JOHN, or CHUCK. Several persons recalled knowing WEASEL and CHUCK, but were unable or declined to furnish any information as to their present whereabouts.

AT 44-2386

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT R. PERRY on May 10, 1968; and May 13, 1968:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

LOUIS KLAUBER, 1145 Peachtree, NE, Georgia Laundrys and Cleaners Association, advised he has a list of approximately 700 cleaning establishments located throughout the state of Georgia, which contains the listing of all except plants that are not covered by employment compensation. He stated this list is very complete and he would be happy to make a copy of it available.

On May 13, 1968, LOUIS KLAUBER, Room 438, 1145 Peachtree Street, NE, made available listing at no cost.

AT 44-2386

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT R. PERRY:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 15, 1968, R. C. MATTHEWS, JR., Group Vice President, Trust Company of Georgia, 2126 Mabry Road, NE, advised he had been in New Orleans at the Provincial Motel, in December, for about 3 days, however, did not recall the exact dates. He stated he and his wife were there on a short vacation, and proceeded from New Orleans to Birmingham, for Christmas. He stated they talked to no one while at the motel, and he stated the photograph of the subject is not familiar. Mr. MATTHEWS stated he recalled work being done on the swimming pool at that time, and that he and his wife had stopped to watch this construction.

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

1

On May 29, 1968, N. R. HINES, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, 1610 Southland Avenue, advised that he had been at the Provincial Motel at 1024 Chartres Street in New Orleans, December, 1967, for one night on business. He stated he was at the motel very little, arrived late after dinner, and just spent one night there. He recalled that the room he had faced the street, and he was unable to recall seeing anyone who resembled the subject. He stated he was not at the motel during the day.

AT-44-2386  
RRP:mlw

On May 20, 1968, DORA MC DONALD, Secretary to the late Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, made available to Mrs. WILLINGHAM of the Accounting Division of SCLC, two copies of a memorandum directed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflecting the itinerary of Doctor KING for April 15, 1967, to the time of his death. This information was obtained from airline billings and reservation records and may not indicate all of the late Doctor KING'S travels.

MEMORANDUM

TO: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FROM: SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
RE: TRAVEL ITINERARY FOR DR. KING  
DATE: MAY 20, 1968

DATE	PLACE
April 15, 1967	Hilton Inn - San Francisco, California
April 22-24	New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center
May 6, 1967	Louisville, Kentucky
May 12	Terrace Motor Inn - Appleton, Wisconsin
May 14	New York
May 19	From Chicago to Detroit
May 20	Summit - New York City
May 27	New York City
May 29 thru June 3	Frogmore, South Caroline
June 5 and '6	New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center
June 12	Seagill Restaurant -- Chicago
June 15	Sheraton Cleveland Hotel
June 22	New York City and Sheraton Cleveland, Cleveland
June 24	Ted's Rhycho Restaurant -- Malibu, Calif.
June 25	Hyatt House Hotel -- Los Angeles, California
July 9, 1967	Cleveland and Chicago
July 13	Chicago and Cleveland
July 18--23	Chicago and Cleveland
July 23	New York Hilton
July 26	Sheraton Chicago - Chicago
July 29	Cleveland to Pittsburgh
July 28	

- 11 -

July 28	Marriott Twin Brdgs - Washington, D.C.
August 4	Boston, New York City and Louisville, Kentucky
August 3	Laramie, Wyoming and New York
August 10	Los Angeles
August 13	Washington, D.C.
August 22 and 23	Howard Johnson's -- Cleveland
August 28	Chicago
August 11	International Hotel - Los Angeles, California
August 9	Los Angeles
August	Sheraton Palace - San Francisco, California
Sept. 7 and 8	Howard Johnson - Cleveland
Sept. 8 and 9	Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 22	Fairmont Hotel and Tower - San Francisco, California
Sept. 24	Independence, Ohio
October 2 --7	Howard Johnson - Cleveland
October 20	Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
Nov. 9	Cleveland
Nov. 12-14	London Hilton Park Lane, Wl.
Nov. 3	Birmingham, Alabama - A.G. Gaston Motel
Nov. 26	Americana of New York
Dec. 2	Savannah, Georgia to Atlanta
Dec. 14 and 15	New York Hilton, New York
Dec. 28--Jan 1, 1968	Miami, New York, and Chicago
Jan 1, 1968	Chicago to Atlanta
January 31 to Feb. 3	Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Cleveland, New York and Atlanta
Feb. 2 and 3	New York Hilton, Rockefeller Center
Feb. 5	New York Hilton
Feb. 10	International Hotel, Jamaica, New York
Feb. 12	Holiday Inn of Washington, D.C.
Feb. 14 and 16	Mississippi and Alabama Tour
March 5,	Dallas Texas
March 10 and 11	

- 12 -



March 10 and 11	New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center
March 15	Detroit
March 17	Los Angeles
March 18	Hotel Acapulco
March 19	Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts -- Mississippi
March 22	Washington, New York, Virginia and Georgia
July 3	N. Randa, Ohio
April	Memphis

AT-44-2386  
RRP:mlw

By communication dated June 10, 1968, the Los Angeles Division advised that JAMES EARL RAY was apprehended in London, England and he had in his possession a .38 caliber Liberty Chief revolver, serial number 715, manufactured by Miroku Firearms Manufacturing Company in Japan. MILA SVOBODA, owner, Liberty Arms Company and the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California advised that the above described revolver had been sent to R. TATUM, New and Used Guns, 118 Edwards Drive, Mableton, Georgia, on October 3, 1966, under invoice from Solinger Cutlery in Montrose, California. The revolver was the only item in the shipment.

AT MABLETON, GEORGIA.

On June 11, 1968, ROBERT TATUM, 118 Edwards Street, Mableton, Georgia, advised Special Agent JAMES RICHARD FLICK he had purchased a .38 caliber revolver, serial number 715, a Japanese make from the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California for \$40, on October 11, 1966. On December 3, 1966, he sold the gun for \$50 to WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904 42nd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. He obtained SPAIN'S name and address from a driver's license and described SPAIN as a white male, thirty to thirty-five years of age with brown hair. He stated SPAIN is not identical to subject RAY.

By communication dated July 2, 1968, the Bureau advised that RAYMOND CURTIS, Whitfield County Jail, had written two letters to Ebony Magazine who had referred these letters to the Bureau. These letters are as follows:

"Box 21, Tunnel Hill  
"Georgia  
"June 22, 1968

"Mr. Charles L. Sanders

"Dear Mr. Sanders:

"I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

"Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-written for I am not a writing it as bad as it is.

AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

"It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

"In that three years we made maps just had to find the right place to kill King. Well I have made the maps over myself. They are with the story also.

"And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why. I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

"Mr. Sanders there are men in five states that is behind the King killing and they don't know what I know. But James Earl Ray did not. Now that they have Ray Tenn. will trial him if they get him back.

"Well, they want me to testify. Well, I just don't know yet what I will do.

"You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That not much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

"If you have a man or have someone down this way, if you will have them stop by the jail I will let them read the story and you can go from there. O.K.

AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

"I thank you again.

"I will be looking to hear from you soon.

"Raymond Curtis

"I am still in the Dalton County, Jail."

"Box 21, Tunnel Hill

"Georgia

"May 30, 1968

"Mr. John H. Johnson  
(evidentially connected with Ebony Magazine)

"Sir:

"I am Raymond Curtis, a man that said we talk about killing King. Will, Sir, there is things that have never been told. Thing he did and better. Things that would make a story so if you are interested and want the story then I will look to hear from you or someone you send if you are not interested and you know someone that is I would appreciate it if you would tell them about me and give my address. O.K. I am still at the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia. My home address is at the top. Sir, I would appreciate if if you would let me hear from you.

"Thank you for your time.

"Raymond Curtis"

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 5, 1968

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was contacted at the Whitfield County Jail and advised of the identities of Special Agents THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. and ALBERT D. MILLARD. He was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he read, indicated he understood, but refused to sign. He was advised that he was being interviewed concerning statements he made in a letter he had mailed to Mr. SANDERS of Ebony Magazine.

CURTIS stated he was merely trying to sell a story to Ebony for approximately \$5,000 to help his mother pay off a mortgage on her home. She had obtained this mortgage as a result of paying attorney's fees for the defense of CURTIS at a previous trial.

CURTIS stated that he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a burglary in Joliet, Illinois, in October or November, 1954. It was pointed out to CURTIS that certain statements made by him in his letter to Ebony Magazine could possibly involve him in a conspiracy with JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS then stated he wished to go on record as to the statements made in his letter to Mr. SANDERS. He categorically denied the following statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine:

- 1) That he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a crime in 1954;
- 2) That RAY wanted the job of killing KING;
- 3) That he and RAY talked about killing KING for three years;
- 4) That he and RAY talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK Businessmen's Association which Association was to put up the money to kill KING;
- 5) That he knew the men from Mississippi;
- 6) That for three years he and RAY made maps just to find the right place to kill KING and that he made the maps over himself;
- 7) That he and RAY knew just where they would go after the killing of KING;
- 8) That he was to be in on the killing of KING;
- 9) That there are men in five states who are behind the killing of KING and these men do not know what he (CURTIS) knows.

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On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386  
 by SA ALBERT D. MILLARD and SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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AT 44-2386

2

During this interview CURTIS drew two maps setting out how he thought RAY would stalk KING. This map indicated the following towns where he said KING made most of his speeches: Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Birmingham, Mobile, and Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Vicksburg, and Marks, Mississippi.

CURTIS further advised that there was a man living on a houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River whose name he would not divulge who was to take RAY down the River on his boat to New Orleans after the killing. CURTIS further advised that in the past he had pulled several burglaries and armed robberies in towns along the Mississippi River and while police were looking for him on the highway he would be on a boat down the Mississippi. He added that he had written a story concerning the KING killing which was currently being typed and this was the story he mentioned in the letter to Ebony Magazine and which he intended to sell to Ebony.

JAMES EARL RAY;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

On July 3, 1968, Sheriff G. T. Mauldin, Whitfield County, Georgia, advised that Curtis sent no letters or communications from the Whitfield County Jail which passed over the jailer's desk. He stated Curtis probably sent his mail out with visitors and jail trustees which would probably not have been observed by men of his department. Sheriff Mauldin stated that Curtis' attorney, Erwin Mitchell, former U. S. Congressman from the Seventh District of Georgia, is of the opinion that most of Curtis' comments concerning his knowledge of Ray's alleged assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. are pure fabrications on the part of Curtis or the result of something Curtis has read in the newspapers.

Approximately one hour following the conclusion of the interview with Curtis, he sent a note to Sheriff Mauldin requesting to again see an FBI Agent and stating that he wanted to tell the entire truth. Curtis was re-interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 5, 1968

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he refused to sign. He then stated in connection with the previous interview that apparently in his letter to Ebony Magazine, he used the word "we" indicating that he and JAMES EARL RAY had planned the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he realized now this would involve him in a conspiracy. For that reason in the previous interview he denied the statements he had made in his letter to Ebony Magazine. CURTIS then advised he had written a story which he intended to sell to some magazine for the purpose of obtaining money for his mother. He stated the story was still in his possession and had not yet been sent out to be typed. He permitted SA HENRY to read this 20-page handwritten story one page at a time and he declared this story was true. The first five or six pages of the story merely set out his early life in crime and the prison sentences he had served as a result of the crimes, starting at the age of 15. The remainder of the story is the same as he originally furnished in an interview in April, 1968, concerning his knowledge and association with JAMES EARL RAY. The story reflects that he first became associated with RAY in 1954 when they pulled a payroll robbery together in Quincy, Illinois, with a third individual. Shortly thereafter CURTIS lost contact with RAY when RAY and this third individual were apprehended in connection with a bank robbery at Southwest City, Missouri. After that CURTIS again became acquainted with RAY in prison and while in prison they both learned of the death of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. At this time RAY stated the murder of KENNEDY sounded like a big job and he was always on the inside of a prison when big jobs and big money were to be had.

Shortly after the death of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. became prominent, and RAY stated on several occasions that somebody was going to kill KING. During this period an individual came into the Missouri State Penitentiary from Vicksburg, Mississippi. This individual upon learning of JAMES EARL RAY's feelings toward killing KING advised RAY of the KK Businessmen's Association of the South

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On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386  
 by SA THOMAS R. HENRY JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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and stated that people in five states were putting up money for KING's assassination. The story further reflected that RAY informed this individual that he intended to have everything set when he killed KING. RAY followed KING's movements through maps so that he could later stalk KING to the point of assassination. RAY indicated during the time that he would leave a false gun and false trail immediately following the murder. RAY was supposed to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi, following the murder, contact the man from Vicksburg who had the houseboat, and this man was to take him either to New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River.

At the conclusion of the interview CURTIS stated he would not testify to any of the above information. He did advise that the name of the individual on the houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was (first name unknown) WILLETT, also known as "Mississippi," who served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

CURTIS refused to allow his story to be copied and stated he would not write it over again nor would he allow the pages to be removed from his prison cell. CURTIS then presented crude sketches of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Missouri State Penitentiary.

FBI

Date: 8/2/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (2 PP)

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU DATED AUGUST ONE, LAST.

SI SIXTEEN FOURTEEN DASH C ADVISED TODAY HE HAS DEVELOPED INFORMATION THAT ON THE MORNING OF ROBBERY THE BANK OF ALTON HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON, DELMER GRINDSTAFF AND JOHN MC CLINTOCK WERE IN STOLEN NINETEEN FIFTY-THREE BUICK WHITE OVER BLUE TWO-DOOR; THAT COVINGTON WAS WEARING DARK BLUE WINDBREAKER, JACKET, AND GLOVES, GRINDSTAFF WAS WEARING LIGHT BLUE AIR FORCE TYPE COVERALLS. CLOTHING DESCRIBED BY INFORMANT POSSIBLY IDENTICAL TO THAT UTILIZED TO UNSUBS INSTANT BR. INFORMANT FOLLOWING INFORMATION CLOSELY TO DETERMINE ACTIVITIES OF COVINGTON, GRINDSTAFF, AND MC CLINTOCK DURING DAY OF ROBBERY AND UNTIL COVINGTON AND MC CLINTOCK LEFT ALTON FOR CALIFORNIA SHORTLY AFTER BR.

INFORMANT FURNISHED NAMES OF BILL DIXON AND GEORGE GOFF

AS PERSONS WHO POSSIBLY HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 - Springfield (44-561) ① - Memphis (44-1987) *SEARCHED INDEXED*
- 1 - Chicago (44-1114) 1 - St. Louis (44-725) *SEARCHED INDEXED FILED*

*44-1987-Sub A-286*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

AUG 5 1968  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
*Boyle*

*44-1987-Sub A-286*