

CG 44-1114

inmates doing lengthier sentences. According to FISHER, RAY was quite friendly with a WARREN RAY, who was not a relation, and who was doing approximately 65 years and must still be in the penitentiary. FISHER said that JIM BRADLEY, a lifer, also was friendly with RAY though he does not know to what extent.

No leads are being set forth to interview BRADLEY since he has already been interviewed, nor WARREN RAY since it appears that WARREN RAY is undoubtedly identical with RAY EUGENE WARREN and information concerning both of these inmates was set forth in Kansas City report of 5/15/68.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



5/28/68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR 44-38861, SAC, DENVER, AND SAC, OKLAHOMA  
CITY 44-888.

FROM: SAC, OMAHA 44-310

MURKIN

RE TELCALL FROM JOE KELLY, BUREAU SUPERVISOR, CIVIL RIGHTS  
DIVISION, TO OKLAHOMA CITY, MAY THREE LAST; OKLAHOMA CITY TEL  
TO BUREAU, MAY FOUR LAST; AND OKLAHOMA CITY AIRTEL TO BUREAU,  
MAY TWO FOUR LAST.

FOR INFO OF DENVER OFFICE, INTERVIEW WITH CARMEN RAMAGE  
INDICATED ROBERT DALE PORTER, ASSOCIATE OF RAY AT MISSOURI  
STATE PENITENTIARY, TOLD HER THAT EX GUARD HAD OBTAINED UNIFORM  
USED BY RAY IN ESCAPE; AND INTERVIEW WITH PORTER NAMED EX GUARD  
JOHN STOUT AS PERSON SUPPLYING AMPHETAMINES TO RAY IN MISSOURI  
STATE PENITENTIARY. KELLY REQUESTED IMMEDIATE DETERMINATION  
BE MADE WHETHER ABOVE-MENTIONED GUARDS IDENTICAL AND IF NOT  
EFFORTS BE MADE TO IDENTIFY UNKNOWN GUARD AND RESULTS  
FURNISHED BUREAU.

CARMEN RAMAGE ADVISED OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE PORTER DID  
NOT MENTION NAME OF EX GUARD AND DID NOT MENTION EX GUARD

① Memphis (AIR MAIL)

1 - Omaha

MJH:fh

(2)

44-1987-Sub-K-141

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
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| MAY 1 1968      |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Rouss*

*K*

*guy*



ON 44-310

PAGE TWO

SUPPLYING AMPHETAMINES TO RAY OR OTHER INMATES. EFFORTS TO  
LOCATE PORTER NEGATIVE AT WAVERLY, IOWA.

ON INSTANT DATE JAMES LERMON, BREMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE, WAVERLY, IOWA, ADVISED HE WAS IN RECEIPT OF  
COMMUNICATION FROM SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHERIDAN, WYOMING  
INDICATING THAT ROBERT DALE PORTER IN CUSTODY AT SHERIDAN  
AND BEING HELD UNDER A CHARGE OF GRAND LARCENY.

DENVER AT SHERIDAN, WYOMING, WILL INTERVIEW PORTER TO  
DETERMINE IDENTITY OF ABOVE-MENTIONED GUARDS.

AIR MAIL COPY OF MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END



5/29/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) and  
KANSAS CITY

FROM: DENVER (157-203) 3P

MURKIN

RE OMAHA TELETYPE TO BUREAU, DENVER AND OKLAHOMA CITY DATED  
MAY TWENTY-EIGHT, LAST.

ROBERT DALE PORTER, WHITE MALE, DOB [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AT SHERIDAN COUNTY JAIL,

SHERIDAN, WYOMING. ADVISES WAS IN MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY  
WITH RAY ON TWO OCCASIONS, FROM JULY, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE TO  
SEPTEMBER OF NINETEEN SIXTY-TWO AND FROM MARCH TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY-  
FOUR UNTIL RAY'S ESCAPE IN APRIL OF NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN.

HE STATED THAT EX-GUARD JOHN STOUT SUPPLIED AMPHETAMINES FOR  
MANY OF THE CONVICTS AND THAT HE, PORTER, RAN A DELIVERY SERVICE  
FOR STOUT. HE STATED STOUT WAS FIRED IN ABOUT MARCH OR APRIL OF  
NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN.

PORTER SAID THE RUMOR AT TIME OF RAY'S ESCAPE WAS THAT HE  
WALKED OUT THE FRONT GATE. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS WAS

END PAGE ONE

- ① - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
1 - Oklahoma City (44-686) (AM)  
1 - Omaha (44-310) (AM)  
1 - Denver GMM:lmw (4)

44-1987-Sub-K-142

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| MAY 31 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Coman*



DN 157-203

PAGE TWO

SUPPOSEDLY IN A GUARD'S UNIFORM OR CIVILIAN CLOTHES. HE DOUBTS VERY SERIOUSLY IF STOUT COULD HAVE PROVIDED A UNIFORM FOR RAY AS STOUT WAS A GUARD AT THE HONOR FARM AND RAY WAS CONFINED IN PRISON PROPER. HE HAS NO IDEA WHO MIGHT HAVE SUPPLIED A UNIFORM FOR RAY BUT POINTED OUT THE PRISON LAUNDRY CONTAINS MANY UNIFORMS AND SUITS AND IS STAFFED ENTIRELY BY CONVICTS. HE SAID IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE NO PROBLEM FOR A CONVICT TO OBTAIN A UNIFORM OR SUIT OF CLOTHES FROM THIS LAUNDRY. PORTER STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT FEEL STOUT PROVIDED ANY ASSISTANCE IN RAY'S ACTUAL ESCAPE, THAT HE FELT CERTAIN RAY WOULD HAVE CONTACTED STOUT FOR ASSISTANCE AFTER LEAVING THE PRISON.

PORTER STATED THAT TWO FORMER CIVILIAN KITCHEN WORKERS AT THE MISSOURI STATE PEN ALSO RAN AMPHETAMINES FOR THE CONVICTS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN WELL KNOWN BY RAY. THEY ARE FIRST NAME UNKNOWN WHITE, A NEGRO, AND FIRST NAME UNKNOWN SHEPPARD.

PORTER CONTINUED THAT RAY WAS A VERY QUIET MAN, DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH MANY INDIVIDUALS, AND THAT UNDOUBTEDLY HIS BEST FRIEND AT THE MISSOURI STATE PEN WAS NEIL AEBY. PORTER BELIEVES AEBY HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PEN BUT IS CURRENTLY  
END PAGE TWO



DN 157-203

PAGE THREE

IN THE COLE COUNTY JAIL AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, FIGHTING  
EXTRADITION TO TEXAS.

KANSAS CITY, AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, IMMEDIATELY ATTEMPT  
TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JOHN STOUT, FNU WHITE, FNU SHEPPARD, AND  
NEIL AEBY.

FD THREE ZERO TWO FOLLOWS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPY SENT MEMPHIS, OKLAHOMA CITY AND OMAHA.

END.



F B I

Date: 5/29/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, LAS VEGAS (157-133) (P)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN  
 OO: Memphis

Re Jacksonville airtel to the Bureau dated 5/22/68, regarding alleged offer of \$100,000.00 by White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKKK), Jackson, Mississippi, to anyone who kills MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Enclosed for Little Rock is one copy each of Dallas airtel to the Bureau, 6/6/67; Kansas City airtel to the Bureau, 7/21/67; Dallas airtel to the Bureau, 5/1/68, and Jacksonville airtel to the Bureau, 5/22/68, which are background information.

On 5/27/68, EDWARD J. PRESTON, 1565 Sharon Way, Reno, Nevada, advised SA NORMAN M. STONE he is a partner in Safety Auto Control, Inc., which recently moved to 855 Marrietta Way, Sparks, Nevada. He said DONALD JAMES NISSEN, is unknown to him and has never been employed by that company which has only been in existence about one year.

PRESTON states his company manufactures an auto safety product which is sold nationally. He said his company does not handle any of the sales of this product, noting all sales are handled exclusively by Allstate Safety Control, Inc., Room 201, Tanglewood Office Building, 7509 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, Arkansas. He said if NISSEN was selling this auto safety part, he would be employed by Allstate Safety Control, Inc. He suggested ROBERT SPEARS, manager, of that company be contacted. 44-1987-Sub K-143

3 - Bureau (44-38861)  
 1 - Jackson  
 1 - Jacksonville (44-769)  
 2 - Little Rock (enc. 4)  
 ② - Memphis (44-1986)  
 2 - Las Vegas  
 NMS:kah  
 (11)

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| MAY 31 1968     |              |
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Bayle  
 Cronan



LV 157-133

LEAD:

LITTLE ROCK

AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Contact ROBERT SPEARS, Manager, Allstate Safety Control, Inc., Tanglewood Office Building, Room 201, 7509 Cantrell Road, in an effort to locate DONALD JAMES NISSEN.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

5256PM URGENT 4/26/68 MAL

TO DIRECTOR, FBI, MIAMI, AND ST. LOUIS  
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (THREE PAGES).

MURKIN. CR.

RE ATLANTA TEL DATED APRIL TWENTYFOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY  
EIGHT; SPRINGFIELD TELEPHONE CALL TO MIAMI APRIL TWENTYFIVE, NINE-  
TEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

RE PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., AKA.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE ST. LOUIS DIVISION, ONE  
LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA CONFINED COUNTY JAIL, MARIETTA, GEORGIA,  
ON ARMED ROBBERY CONVICTION INTERVIEWED. DOWDA WAS ACQUAINTED  
WITH RAY AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FOR THREE YEARS, ENDING  
SEPTEMBER TWENTYTHREE, NINETEEN SIXTY SIX, WHEN DOWDA RELEASED.  
DOWDA STATED RAY WAS DOPE ADDICT, USING INJECTIONS AND WAS  
ADDICTED PRIOR TO INCARCERATION. RAY USED AMPHETIMINE. DOWDA  
STATED HAROLD SCHAEFFER, GUARD ON GATE AT THE PRISON, WAS FRIENDLY  
WITH RAY AND BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE SELLING THE AMPHETIMINE. DOWDA  
CLAIMED RAY HAD UNKNOWN OUTSIDE SOURCE OF INCOME TO SUPORT A  
THIRTYFIVE TO FORTY DOLLAR PER WEEK DOPEHABIT AS WELL AS FIFTEEN  
TO TWENTY DOLLARS PER WEEK OTHER EXPENDITURES. DOWDA CLAIMS THREE  
NEGRO PRISONERS KILLED IN PRISON AFTER PROTESTING DENIAL OF BLACK  
END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

MUSLIMS TO WORSHIP. CLAIMED RAY KILLED THE NEGROES OR KNEW WHO DID. DESCRIBED RAY AS RACIST WHO FELT ALL NEGROES IN THAT PRISON SHOULD BE KILLED AND SAID RAY MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS TO EFFECT IF PRICE WAS RIGHT WOULD KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. DOWDA STATED RAY'S CLOSEST FRIEND IN PRISON WAS NEIL ABBEY (PHONETIC) WHO HANDLED DOPE AND GOT RAY A JOB IN THE KITCHEN. DOWDA DOES NOT KNOW NEIL ABBEY'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS BUT ABBEY WAS AT ONE TIME CHIEF COOK AT THE PRISON. ANOTHER CLOSE FRIEND WAS DONALD DEAN RIGGER FROM CALIFORNIA WHOSE WIFE WAS A PSYCHIATRIST AT NAPA STATE HOSPITAL LOCATED ABOVE ~~SAN~~ SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. DOWDA STATED RAY WOULD ONLY HAVE AN ADDRESS FOR HIM IN CARE OF DOWDA'S FATHER, CHARLES ALFRED DOWDA, FORMERLY ROUTE ONE, SANFORD, FLORIDA, BUT PRESENTLY ONE ONE ZERO SOUTH CHANDLER STREET, DELAND, FLORIDA, DOWDA DENIES CONTACT IN ANY MANNER WITH RAY SINCE DOWDA'S RELEASE. STATED ANOTHER FORMER INMATE, PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., AKA PAUL ALVIN CARTER, THIRTYFOUR BARBODOS DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, WAS FRIENDLY WITH RAY AND DOWDA SAW LAIL EARLY MARCH, SIXTY EIGHT, BUT NO MENTION MADE OF RAY. DOWDA HAS NO IDEA WHY RAY WOULD GO TO ATLANTA.

*Handwritten notes: ABBEY (with checkmark) and ABBEY?*

END PAGE TWO



PAGE THREE

A REVIEW OF SPRINGFIELD FILES RE CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL REFLECTED HIM AS SUBJECT OF NINETEEN SIXTY THREE UFAC CASE, OFFICE OF ORIGIN ST. LOUIS, IN WHICH HE IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS;

PAUL ARTHUR LAIL, JR, AKA PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR, AKA PAUL LAIL, JR., AKA PAUL ARTHUR CARTER, FBI NUMBER SEVEN FIVE FOUR DASH FOUR EIGHT THREE A, WHITE, MALE, AMERICAN, DATE OF BIRTH JUNE THIRTY NINETEEN THIRTY, AT MARION, NORTH CAROLINA, SIX FOOT FIVE INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY POUNDS, RED HAIR, BLUE EYES, NO UPPER TEETH, SCAR ON LEFT KNEE, OCCUPATION SIGN PAINTER, ELECTRICIAN, TRUCK DRIVER, RADIO REPAIR MAN, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

ST. LOUIS REQUESTED TO REVIEW FILES RE LAIL AND FURNISH INFORMATION OF VALUE TO MIAMI DIVISION SO THAT LAIL MAY BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED REGARDING THE SUBJECT.

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH IDENT RECORD OF LAIL FBI NUMBER SEVEN FIVE FOUR DASH FOUR EIGHT THREE A TO INTERESTED OFFICES.

END

GRXXX

GFH

FBI WASH DC

1  
PX 44-371  
ME 44-1987  
CMD/gle

ACQUAINTANCE OF RAY

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
WALTER E. PETERS:

On May 6, 1968, ALFRED M. DEBAKEY, inmate, U. S. Marshal's Detention Center, Florence, Arizona, advised that he had written a letter to Mrs. ROBERT H. BRYANT, 3189 Crump Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, whom he identified as his sister. He advised that he had served time with JAMES EARL RAY at the Missouri State Penitentiary from February, 1965, to July, 1966. He advised that RAY was on the same floor but a different wing and that while he was at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, RAY operated the prison store and (first name unknown) CURTIS was a delivery boy for RAY. DEBAKEY identified CURTIS as being the same man who recently was interviewed and furnished information concerning RAY in Georgia.

DEBAKEY advised that he had never known RAY prior to their meeting in the MSP at Jefferson City and further stated that he has not seen nor heard of RAY since his, DEBAKEY's, release in July, 1966. He advised that his association with RAY consisted of being a customer in the prison store, talking to RAY in the prison yard and playing baseball with RAY. DEBAKEY believed that he would make bond when he was returned to Tampa, Florida, and if he does make bond, he wanted to have the information concerning RAY available in the event he should run into RAY.

It will be noted that ALFRED M. DEBAKEY is the subject of a case entitled "ALFORD MALICK DE BAKEY, also known as, CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION - FRAUDULENT CHECKS," Phoenix file 70-3760. DEBAKEY is described as white, male, American, born [redacted] Blythesville, Arkansas, 5' 9", 150 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, slender build. His criminal record consists of the following:

El Reno Reformatory, El Reno, Oklahoma,  
1955-1956; charge - Bogus checks

44-1987-Sub K-143B

31

glt

100 - 44-1987-Sub B-917-0



2

PX 44-371  
ME 44-1987  
CMD/gle

Terre Haute Penitentiary, Terre Haute, Indiana,  
1958-1961; bogus checks

U. S. Federal Hospital, Springfield, Missouri,  
September, 1958

MSP, Jefferson City, Missouri, 1965-1966

Concerning the incarceration at Springfield, Missouri, DEBAKEY advised that this incarceration was part of his incarceration at Terre Haute and that while there he was certified as a psychotic.

5/29/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

Ex-convict JAMES W. BROWN reinterviewed at his present residence, Talladega, Ala., and following is synopsis of additional information obtained:

BROWN was shown all available photos of JAMES EARL RAY and picked out photo taken at bartending school as one most resembling RAY. Concerning other photo taken of RAY in California in January or February, 1968, BROWN said this did not resemble RAY, but did strongly resemble a person who came to a gas station where BROWN worked in June, 1967, in Reform, Ala. This person was driving a late-model red Mustang, and was accompanied by two white males, one being an ex-convict from the Missouri State Pen, FNU ALLEN, other unknown to BROWN. BROWN had no conversation with driver of Mustang, but ALLEN, whom BROWN had known in the pen, told BROWN that he and his two friends were going to Tuscaloosa, Ala., from Columbus, Ga. ALLEN had been released from pen few months before BROWN (June, 1965.) BROWN claimed he had seen ALLEN and RAY in conversations in the pen on several occasions and that BROWN was positive that ALLEN and BROWN knew each other.

3 - Bureau  
2 - Kansas City (44-760)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
2 - St. Louis (44-775)  
2 - Birmingham  
RMB:mfl  
(11)

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44-1987-Sub-K-144

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| MAY 1 1968    |         |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |

Ronan



BH 44-1740

BROWN claimed that ALLEN was considered to be a "stool pigeon" inside the pen. ALLEN came from Kennett, Mo., and had been convicted of robbery. BROWN claimed that RAY was living in F Hall when BROWN met him through JOHNNY VELANTI, and that ALLEN also lived in F Hall. (Review of Kansas City report dated 5/15/68 fails to indicate that RAY ever lived in F Hall; however, it is noted that in St. Louis report of 5/10/68, VELANTI claimed that RAY did live in F Hall.)

BROWN claimed the information he was furnishing concerned JAMES EARL RAY and he did not have him confused with any prisoners with similar names such as JAMES RAYE (as claimed by VELANTI) or JAMES WRAY.

BROWN claimed that VELANTI once said he, VELANTI, could get along in Mexico if he ever got there, and that he, VELANTI, would go to some small town past Mexico City to hide out, if he ever escaped. VELANTI named the town, but BROWN can not recall name. This claim was made in presence of RAY. VALENTI also claimed he had run off from an orphans' home at the age of 14, and was later "taken in" and raised by a Sheriff. VELANTI then became involved in allowing the escape of several prisoners being held by this Sheriff in Louisiana. Because of their close association in the pen, BROWN said it was most likely that RAY and VELANTI would get together outside.

BROWN continued to claim he had no knowledge of any convict organization in the pen, but it appeared to interviewing agents that he was possibly withholding information when pressed on this point. He said there were several poker games operated by certain convicts and that some others took bets on sporting events. One of these was JOHNNIE JOHNSON, who operated a game with his "half-brother" BOBBY ASHE. BROWN claimed he had seen JOHNSON and RAY in several conversations together and that RAY usually always played in the game operated by JOHNSON and ASHE.

BROWN identified one "SLICK" STEDHAM (ph) as a poker game operator who also was used to collect gambling debts inside the pen.

BROWN identified his closest friends in the pen as DONALD COX from St. Louis, who left in 1963 after serving



BH 44-1740

five years on robbery conviction; CHESTER EELEY (ph) from St. Louis, who is still confined; CHARLIE LAWSON, from St. Louis, who was released in 1965 after serving assault sentence, and WALTER STRAKEY, who is now believed to be in the Texas State Pen.

LEADS

ST. LOUIS:

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.:

Reinterview JOHNNIE VELANTI, as to his association with RAY, as claimed by BROWN, and as to all background of VELANTI as furnished by BROWN. Obtain further identification of JAMES RAYE and/or JAMES WRAY, from VELANTI. From VELANTI ascertain what hall RAY resided in during VELANTI's association with him. Ascertain if he knew RAY to work as a "walk boy" in any hall; if he knew RAY to participate in poker games, and, if so, who operated the game, and if RAY ever bet on any sporting events, and, if so, with whom. Ascertain if VELANTI's wife was injured in the same accident in which VELANTI's oldest child was killed, as claimed by BROWN. Identify place in Mexico where VELANTI claimed he could go to and hide and get along with the people.

Upon identification of FNU ALLEN from Kennett, Mo., will locate and interview ALLEN as to his knowledge of RAY and the identities of the two persons with him in the red Mustang in June, 1967, in Columbus, Ga.

KANSAS CITY:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.:

Will identify the persons identified by BROWN as his closest friends in the pen and set out leads to have them interviewed as to the veracity of BROWN, their knowledge of his association with VELANTI and/or RAY, their knowledge of any convict organization in the pen.

Will ascertain identity of "SLICK" STEDHAM and JOHNNIE JOHNSON and have them located and interviewed as to



BH 44-1740

their knowledge of RAY, his gambling habits, and their association with him, if any. Will determine if JOHNSON and BOBBY ASHE are related.

Will identify FNU ALLEN from Kennett, Mo., and set out lead to have located and interviewed per information furnished by BROWN.

Will review records of BROWN for any information as to his stability, reliability and veracity. Will furnish photos of all persons identified by BROWN, as set out above, to be used in reinterview of BROWN, if deemed appropriate by Birmingham.



6/3/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, LITTLE ROCK (157-1215) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: ME

RE: DONALD JAMES NISSEN

Re Las Vegas airtel to Bureau, 5/29/68.

Mr. ROBERT SPEARS, All State Safety Control Inc., 7509 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, Ark., advised on 6/3/68 that the name DONALD JAMES NISSEN is not familiar to him and, after a check of his records, advised that NISSEN is not employed by him. He had no suggestion as to the possible whereabouts of NISSEN.

3 - Bureau  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - Jackson (Info)  
1 - Jacksonville (44-769) (Info)  
1 - Las Vegas (157-133) (Info)  
2 - Little Rock  
LJM/jew  
(10)

44-1987-Sub-K-145

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| JUN 4 1968      |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |
| BOYLE RJ3       |              |



6/4/68

**AIRTEL**

**TO: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)**  
**FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)**  
**SUBJECT: MURKIN;**  
**CR**

Re Chicago airtel to the Bureau, 5/28/68, concerning fellow inmates.

Referenced communication notes that WARREN RAY is apparently identical with RAY EUGENE WARREN. Files of the Memphis Division note similarity of names of other inmates interviewed in connection with this case.

**LEAD**

**CHICAGO**

Chicago is requested to furnish Kansas City and Memphis basis, other than similarity of name, which makes it appear that WARREN RAY is identical with RAY EUGENE WARREN.

**KANSAS CITY**

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO. Will at the Missouri State Penitentiary ascertain if there was inmate named WARREN RAY, and if so set forth a lead to have him interviewed in the event he served time at the Penitentiary during the pertinent period of RAY's (JAMES EARL RAY's) incarceration.

2 - Chicago  
2 - Kansas City (44-760)  
2 - Memphis

Airtel

Teletype YOR:mjh  
(6)

A.M.

A.M.S.D.

Spec. Del.

Reg. Mail

Registered

SEARCHED

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INDEXED

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44-1987-Sub K-145A

R

Ronan

John

6/4/68

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: DONALD STOUT-SUSPECT CO-CONSPIRATOR

Re Memphis teletype to Bureau, dated 5/2/68.

Avis Rent-A-Car National Headquarters telephonically advised the NYO at 10:30 AM, 6/4/68, as follows:

JACK ELROD, the manager of Avis' South Bend, Indiana Airport Office, telephonically contacted Avis Headquarters and said that DONALD STOUT about five minutes ago tried to rent a car at the airport. He stated that STOUT was then at the Budget Rent-A-Car counter at the South Bend Airport. STOUT desires to travel to Gary, Indiana. He is carrying a Michigan driver's license with a Dearborn, Michigan address. He has credit cards belonging to Hertz, National, and Air Travel.

The above information was immediately furnished telephonically to the Memphis and Indianapolis Offices by the NYO and contents of referenced teletype was furnished to the Indianapolis Office.

LEAD

MEMPHIS

Advise NYO when stop regarding DONALD STOUT may be removed.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 3- Bureau
- 1- Indianapolis
- 1- Memphis (44-1987)
- 1- Minneapolis
- 1- New York

JFS:RAR  
(8)

44-1987-Sub K-146

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 6 1968      |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Boyle BB*



6/4/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR 44-38861 (AIRMAIL) AND ST. LOUIS 44-775  
FROM: KANSAS CITY 44-760

MURKIN

RE BIRMINGHAM AIRTEL TO THE BUREAU MAY TWENTYNINE LAST.  
INVESTIGATION AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON  
CITY, MO., THROUGH MR. HARRY LAUF, RECORDS OFFICE, ON JUNE FOUR  
INSTANT, REVEALED THAT THE DONALD COX REFERRED TO IN REAIRTEL  
IS DONALD G. COX, MSP NO. ZERO ZERO EIGHT THREE EIGHT, FBI NO.  
SIX THREE SIX ONE EIGHT SEVEN A, WHO WAS RECEIVED AT MSP JUNE  
THREE, SIXTY, FROM ST. LOUIS ON A CHARGE OF ROBBERY FIRST  
DEGREE TO SERVE A SIX-YEAR SENTENCE AND WHO WAS DISCHARGED  
AUG. TWENTYFIVE, SIXTYTHREE. HE LISTED THE FOLLOWING  
RELATIVES: WIFE - DEANNA COX, THREE FIVE SIX EIGHT THERESA,  
ST. ANNS, MO.; SISTER - MRS. DORIS WATSON, EIGHT FOUR FOUR  
HARLAN AVE., SLMO; AUNT AND UNCLE - MR. AND MRS. M. A. HOUSMANN,  
NINE THREE ONE HARLAN AVE., SLMO; AUNT AND UNCLE - MR. AND MRS.  
G. W. HIGGENBOTHAM, ONE THREE ZERO FOUR DILLION DR., SLMO.

1 Bureau (AM)  
2 Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
1 Kansas City  
THW:rmb  
(4)

K

44-1987-Sub K-147

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 5 1968      |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

Ronan



KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

SAINT LOUIS. AT ST. LOUIS, MO. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW  
DONALD COX THROUGH RELATIVES LISTED ABOVE AS SET FORTH IN  
REAIRTEL.

MEMPHIS ADVISED AM.

P

END



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 4, 1968

ROBERT DALE PORTER was interviewed at the Sheridan County Jail, Sheridan, Wyoming.

PORTER stated that he recalled JAMES EARL RAY very well stating that he was in jail with him on two separate occasions. PORTER stated that he was confined in the Missouri State Penitentiary from July of 1961 to September of 1962, and again from March of 1964 to December of 1967. He stated that RAY was in the Missouri State Penitentiary when he first got there in July of 1961 and he knew him from that time until the time of RAY's escape which he believes was in about April of 1967. PORTER stated that while they were not cell-mates, they were both assigned to the same walk and therefore did get to know each other rather shortly after his arrival at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

PORTER stated that he was in maximum security at the time when RAY escaped, however, he did hear through the prison grapevine that RAY "want out the front gate." He said he does not know whether RAY was wearing a uniform or civilian clothes at this time.

PORTER stated that he never made any statements such as an ex-guard had obtained a uniform used by RAY in his escape. He said that RAY was a friend of an ex-guard by the name of JOHN STOUT, but that he doubted very seriously if STOUT would have provided the uniform. He said that STOUT supplied amphetamines to RAY and many others in the State Penitentiary, but doubted very seriously if he could have provided a uniform. He said this because STOUT was assigned to duty at the honor farm which was outside the confines of the prison proper. He stated that the guards were not allowed to carry packages into the prison and were STOUT to try to come into the prison with a uniform he would have to leave it at the prison laundry just inside the gates. He did point out however, that there would be absolutely no problem at all for a convict to steal a uniform or a suit of civilian clothes from this prison laundry. He said that it was run entirely by convicts and that there was no guard in the laundry at all. He said that any convict in the yard would have access to this

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| SEARCHED            | INDEXED <u>2</u> |
| SERIALIZED <u>5</u> | FILED <u>5</u>   |
| JUN 6 1968          |                  |
| FBI-MEMPHIS         |                  |

*Hecker*

On 5/29/68 at Sheridan, Wyoming

File # DN 157-205

by SA GEORGE M. HALONEY: bjc

Date dictated 5/31/68

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 K-148*



laundry and there would be no problem at all for a convict to lift a uniform or a suit of clothes off one of the racks and hide it where he could later get it.

With regard to STOUT, PORTER said that it was his belief that STOUT was requested to resign in about March or April of 1967, after he was "set up" by a convict, GEORGE RUSSELL. PORTER said that RUSSELL was trying to get in good with the prison authorities and made a deal with STOUT for him to take a watch of RUSSELL's out to a watch repair shop. He demanded a receipt and when STOUT gave RUSSELL a receipt for this watch, he, STOUT, turned it over to prison officials who thereafter requested STOUT's resignation. PORTER said that he does not believe that the prison authorities were ever aware of STOUT's activities with regard to supplying amphetamines and other barbiturates to the convicts, although he was probably the biggest operator in the prison.

PORTER said that it was his opinion that STOUT did not assist RAY in effecting his escape, but feels quite certain that RAY, after escaping, would have looked up STOUT for assistance.

PORTER said that other workers in the Missouri State Penitentiary who supplied the convicts with amphetamines and did other favors for them, were (FNU) WHITE, a Negro kitchen steward and (FNU) SHEPPARD, also a kitchen steward.

With regard to his recollections of RAY, PORTER said that he was a very quiet man who did not associate with many of the convicts. He said that he has known RAY on occasion to use amphetamines, but never saw him use any narcotics. He said that RAY never discussed with him or to his knowledge, anyone else, his plans for an escape and said that on one or two prior unsuccessful escape attempts, even his co-workers were not aware of his plans. He said that undoubtedly RAY's best friends in the Missouri State Penitentiary one NEIL AEBY. He said that he thought that AEBY had just been released from the Missouri State Penitentiary and is presently in the Cole County Jail, Jefferson City, Missouri, fighting extradition to Texas on another charge.

The following description of PORTER was obtained through observation and interview:



DN 157-203

3

|             |                                                 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Name:       | ROBERT DALE PORTER                              |
| Race:       | White                                           |
| Sex:        | Male                                            |
| DOB:        |                                                 |
| Height:     | 72 inches                                       |
| Weight:     | 175 pounds                                      |
| Eyes:       | Blue                                            |
| Hair:       | Brown                                           |
| Occupation: | Laborer                                         |
| Residence:  | 103 $\frac{1}{2}$ East Bremer,<br>Waverly, Iowa |

F B I

Date: 6/4/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, DENVER (157-203) (P)  
RE: MURKIN

Re Omaha teletype to Director 5/28/68.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are 7 copies and  
Kansas City 2 copies of an FD-302 reflecting interview of  
ROBERT DALE PORTER at Sheridan, Wyoming, on May 29, 1968.

② - Memphis (Encl. 7) *Rec'd 7 eps. pgs. 2 & 3,*  
2 - Kansas City (Encl. 2) *only 4 eps. pg. 1.*  
2 - Denver  
GMM: bjc  
(6)

44-1987-Sub K-149

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| SEARCHED    | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| JUN 6 1968  |         |
| FBI-MEMPHIS |         |

*K*

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



6/6/68

AIRTEL      AIRMAIL

TO:            SAC, BIRMINGHAM  
FROM:         SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)  
RE:            MURKIN

Re Birmingham airtel to Bureau, 5/29/68.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

On 6/4/68, JAMES STIDHAM, register #65993, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), who advised he has been an inmate at the MSP for 17 years, advised he does not know JAMES EARL RAY and has never heard of him. He stated he has no information regarding RAY, gambling in the MSP or anything else about which the FBI might desire to question him.

On 6/4/68, ROBERT BURNS, register #75811, an inmate at the MSP, advised he would have nothing to say regarding JAMES EARL RAY, any possible inmate organization or anything else pertaining to present or former inmates or inmates' activities at the MSP. He said he would not say whether or not he ever heard of JAMES EARL RAY.

2 - Birmingham  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
2 - Kansas City  
THW:gah  
(6)

K

44-1987-Sub-K-150

|                 |              |
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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 7 1968      |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Ronan R*



FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ST LOUIS

804PM URGENT 6-7-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND MINNEAPOLIS  
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

RE MP TEL THIS DATE RE INFO FROM PAUL BRIDGEMAN.

EX-CON WILLIAM RUSSELL ADVISED HE SERVED THIRTY NINE MONTHS  
MSP. RELEASED APRIL FIFTH LAST. WORKED LAUNDRY, FARM, AND WAS IN-  
MATE BARBER. MET RAY WHILE BARBER. RAY CLOSE MOUTHED KEP TO SELF.  
TRIED TO BE INCONSPICUOUS TO GUARDS. RUSSELL AT FARM AT TIME OF RAY  
ESCAPE. NO IDEA HOW ACCOMPLISHED. NO INFO OF RAY BACKGROUND. STATED  
OPINION SMART MAN WOULD NOT COME HOME AFTER ESCAPE. RAY WAS SO QUIET  
RUSSELL UNABLE TO JUDGE WHETHER HE DUMB OR SMART. NEVER MENTIONED  
ANY TRAVEL OR DISPLAYED FOREIGN LANGUAGE ABILITY. LONGEST CONVERSA-  
TION WITH WAS EVENING RAY TOOK AMPHETAMINE SHOT WITH RUSTY NEEDLE,  
CAUSING ARM TO STIFFEN. RUSSELL WALKED RAY TO INFIRMARY. BOTH UNDER  
INFLUENCE OF AMPHETAMINE. RUSSELL UNABLE TO RECALL SUBSTANCE OF CON-  
VERSATION. RAY NOT CLOSE TO ANYONE. USED AMPHETAMINE BUT NOT KNOWN  
TO SELL SAME. RUSSELL HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED IN ANY MANNER BY RAY  
SINCE ESCAPE, AND HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF RAY WHEREABOUTS. STATED WOULD  
NOT HELP RAY IF CONTACTED, BUT WOULD NOT ADVISE FBI IN EVENT OF CON-  
TACT.

FOR INFO MP, PUSSY CAT A GO GO, SLMO CLOSED TWO YEARS AGO. OWNER  
ELIAS MOHANNA NOW AT MSP. KC REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW BY SEPARATE TEL.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TSJ

FBI, MEMPHIS

(K)

44-1987-Sub K-151

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| SEARCHED      | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| JUN 7 1968    |         |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |
| Bayle RB      |         |
| Ronan         |         |



DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

6/5/68

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

Re Kansas City airtel to the Bureau, dated 5/8/68, regarding MICHAEL KEY CLARK, JIMMIE LEE HILL, and JOHN RAY LESTER; San Francisco teletype to the Bureau, dated 5/23/68, regarding MICHAEL KEY CLARK; and San Francisco teletype to Los Angeles, dated 5/22/68, regarding JIMMIE LEE HILL.

On May 17, 1968, JOHN W. LESTER was interviewed at his place of employment, 111 Napa Street, Sonoma, California. LESTER advised his son, JOHN RAY LESTER, who had served time at the Missouri State Penitentiary was presently working at a computer factory in San Francisco and would not return to his residence until the evening of May 17, 1968. Mr. LESTER requested that the FBI not contact his son at his place of employment and in fact his parole officer would not permit it.

On May 17, 1968, JOHN RAY LESTER, 19250 Hickory Avenue, El Verano, California, advised that he was sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary for armed robbery in September, 1959, and was paroled in October, 1967. He advised he first saw JAMES EARL RAY at the Missouri State Penitentiary in or about 1964; he would see him in the prison yard or in the hallway but at no time did he ever talk to RAY. He advised RAY worked in the kitchen for about sixty days in 1964 but he still did not talk to him or learn anything about him. He stated RAY attempted to escape from prison in about 1966 and was placed in solitary confinement for about a year. LESTER stated it was his impression that RAY was not close to anyone, was very quiet, and preferred to be by himself. LESTER stated he could not furnish any information regarding RAY's associates or his background.

2 - Bureau (RM)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(RM)  
1 - San Francisco  
MTG/sms #11  
(5)

44-1987-Sub-K-152

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 10 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

Ronan



6/6/68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
SAC KANSAS CITY

FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (157-450)

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TEL JUNE FIVE, LAST.

MRS. ALICE GAIN, JACKSON, MINNESOTA, ADVISED JOHN E. SHEPARD IS HER BROTHER WHOM SHE LAST SAW ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO AT WHICH TIME HE WAS EMPLOYED AS COOK AT MSP, AND RESIDED JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI. ABOUT CHRISTMAS, NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN, SHE HEARD FROM ANOTHER BROTHER, STEWART SHEPARD, FOUR TWO ONE HICKORY LAKE, VALLEY CITY, KANSAS, AND AT THAT TIME JOHN E. SHEPARD WAS WORKING IN WICHITA, KANSAS, AND WAS LIVING WITH STEWART SHEPARD. STEWART SHEPARD EMPLOYED KING VAN LINES, WICHITA.

KANSAS CITY, THROUGH STEWART SHEPARD LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JOHN E. SHEPARD AS SET OUT IN REFERENCED TEL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

MEMPHIS AND DALLAS ADVISED AM.

1 - MINNEAPOLIS  
1 - DALLAS (AM)  
① - MEMPHIS (AM)  
OSL:jlj

(3)

44-1987-Sub K-153

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 10 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*[Signatures]*



WFO 44-703

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

During the period April 5, 1968, to May 31, 1968, the Washington Field Office has maintained contact with Criminal Informants, Security Informants, Racial Informants, Sources of Information, Confidential Sources, and Potential Informants for any information concerning the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. To date such contacts have not developed any positive information, except that WF 1651-C on 5/10/68, reported that one BUBBLE-EYE MASON had allegedly been in prison with JAMES EARL RAY and knew of a hideout used by RAY in Mexico. Investigation by WFO has identified MASON as WARDELL HICKS. HICKS during interview denied ever serving time with RAY, knowing RAY, or having any knowledge concerning RAY.

Results of contacts with negative information are being maintained in WFO files.

44-1987-Sub K-154

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 10 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

Hester

WFO 44-703

RWD:rwd

1

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

A source advised on May 10, 1968, that in barroom conversation overheard concerning JAMES EARL RAY, that one BUBBLE-EYE MASON, who had done time with RAY and is allegedly a friend of RAY, had knowledge of a hideout used by RAY in Mexico. Furthermore, Mason reportedly said RAY was aware of a contract out on Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., prior to the time RAY escaped from prison and that RAY had talked of collecting the contract.

44-1987-Sub K-155

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 10 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Hester* *off*



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/29/68

1

WARDELL HICKS also known as "Bubble Eye" MASON, 1201 Q Street, North West, Apartment # 5, telephone 234-4876 said he does not know JAMES EARL RAY. HICKS added he does not have any information concerning RAY. HICKS said he does not know anything about RAY being interested in a contract to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING or about a hideout used by RAY in Mexico.

HICKS also said he has seen photographs in newspapers of JAMES EARL RAY but does not know anyone who might be RAY. HICKS added he was never in prison with RAY. HICKS indicated he served time in local prisons and never in prison in Missouri. HICKS listed prisons he, HICKS has been in as:

- Maryland State Reformatory
- District of Columbia Jail
- Workhouse, Lorton, Virginia
- Lorton Reformatory, Lorton, Virginia

HICKS said he, HICKS got out of prison on May 8, 1968 when he was released from the District of Columbia Reformatory, Lorton, Virginia. HICKS is unemployed.

He added he would gladly furnish information concerning JAMES EARL RAY to the FBI in the event he obtains information about RAY.

44-1987-Sub K-156

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 10 1968     |              |
| FBI — MEMPHIS   |              |

*[Signature]*

On 5/29/68 at Washington, D. C.File # WFO 44-703by SA ROGER D. ASHLAND:RDADate dictated 5/29/68

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 6/6/68

FROM : SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re BUBBLE-EYE MASON

Re WFO airtel to BA 5/10/68; BA airtel to WFO  
5/15/68.

Enclosed for Memphis are 15 copies each of one  
IRF, one administrative page, and one report insert.

② - Memphis (Enc. 45)  
1 - WFO  
RWD  
(3)

44-1987-Sub K-157

|                 |              |
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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 10 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

Hester



5010-108

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



6/7/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Minneapolis teletype to Director 6/7/68.

Re interview PAUL BRIDGEMAN, former inmate, Missouri State Prison, with JAMES EARL RAY.

BRIDGEMAN during interview stated he heard RAY mention GEORGE GILL, Santa Ana, California, as being a friend of RAY's.

Review of Los Angeles indices revealed file 26-31671, subject CHARLES GOULD GILL, aka George C. Gill, George Gould Gill, George Elvon Kelly, "Hank" Kelly, Terence Kenneth O'Dell. Bufile 26-284370. This individual is described as follows:

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sex:                     | Male                                                                                                                                                             |
| Race:                    | White                                                                                                                                                            |
| Born:                    | [redacted] Clay City, Illinois                                                                                                                                   |
| Height:                  | 5'9"                                                                                                                                                             |
| Weight:                  | 140 lbs.                                                                                                                                                         |
| Build:                   | Slender                                                                                                                                                          |
| Hair:                    | Brown, curly                                                                                                                                                     |
| Eyes:                    | Blue                                                                                                                                                             |
| Distinguishing features: | Lower teeth missing, upper dentures; 1' scar inner corner right eyebrow; 1 1/2" scar left side of chin; tattoo of dagger and scroll with "Home" upper right arm. |

- 3 - Bureau (AM)  
② - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)  
2 - Minneapolis (157-450)(Enc.)(AM)  
2 - Los Angeles  
TJA:CM  
(9)

44-1987-Sub K-158

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| JUN 10 1968     |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS   |              |

*Hester*



LA 44-1574

Enclosed for Minneapolis is one photograph of  
GEORGE GILL to display to BRIDGEMAN.

Minneapolis is requested to determine if BRIDGEMAN  
ever observed GILL, or if BRIDGEMAN has any descriptive data  
regarding GILL to enable Los Angeles to locate and interview.



F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in CODE  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via RADIO DEFERRED  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR(44-38861)  
SAC, NEW YORK(44-1609)  
SAC, MEMPHIS(44-1987)

FROM: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS(44-563)

SUBJ: MURKIN

RE: DONALD STOUT

SUSPECT-CO-CONSPIRATOR

RE: NEW YORK TELEPHONE CALL JUNE 4, 68. ON JUNE 4, 68.

INVESTIGATION AT AVIS RENT-A-CAR, SOUTH BEND, IND. REVEALED  
INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION WAS RAY C. STOUT, 3751 MC KINLEY, DEARBORN,  
MICHIGAN. STOUT IS EMPLOYED BY VANDA COSMETICS, ORLANDO, FLA.  
HE USED AMERICAN EXPRESS CREDIT CARD [REDACTED] HE IS 36  
YEARS OF AGE, 6 FEET 2 INCHES, WEIGHT 225 LBS. IN VIEW HIS  
DESCRIPTION DOES NOT MEET THAT OF DONALD STOUT. NO FURTHER ACTION  
BEING TAKEN.

K

44-1987-Sub K-158A

h 24

Roman

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

JH

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KAN CITY

434 PM URGENT 6/12/68 WSA

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS, OKLAHOMA CITY  
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 2P

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE, JUNE ELEVEN LAST.

RE COMMUNICATION REVEALED THAT A REVIEW OF RAY'S INMATE  
FILE AT MSP, JEFFERSON CITY, MO. REVEALED THAT JOSEPH SEIBERT  
INMATE NO. W ZERO NINE ONE ONE ONE, ALSO MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL  
ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM MSP ON MARCH ELEVEN, SIXTYSIX. KANSAS  
CITY WAS REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW SEIBERT TO ASCERTAIN IF HE HAD  
ANY KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S ESCAPE PLANS AND IF SEIBERT POSSESSES  
ANY INFORMATION REGARDING ESCAPE ROUTE TO CANADA AND MEANS OF  
OBTAINING CANADIAN PASSPORT.

HARRY LAUF, RECORDS CLERK, MSP, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT  
JOSEPH SEIBERT WAS TAKEN TO JACKSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE,  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, ON A WRIT ON OCTOBER ELEVEN, SIXTY  
SEVEN; HE ESCAPED FROM THERE OCTOBER THIRTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN. HE  
WAS ARRESTED OCTOBER TWENTYSIX, SIXTYSEVEN, BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
END PAGE ONE

K

44-1987-Sub K-159

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| SEARCHED..... | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED 5  | FILED 5      |
| JUN 12 1968   |              |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |              |

Hester

Ronan



KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

AT TULSA, OKLA., FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND WAS TO BE PROSECUTED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, TULSA, OKLA. MSP RECORDS FURTHER REVEAL THAT ON NOV. TWENTYNINE, SIXTYSEVEN, SEIBERT WAS TAKEN TO THE EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL, VENITA, OKLA., FOR NINETY DAYS OBSERVATION. MSP RECORDS COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE SEIBERT.

OKLA. CITY, AT TULSA, OKLA., ATTEMPT TO LOCATE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF SEIBERT AND INTERVIEW HIM AS REQUESTED BY THE BUREAU.

RE COMMUNICATION FURTHER ADVISED THAT ALTHOUGH JAMES EARL RAY HAS BEEN ARRESTED, IT IS IMPERATIVE WE CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR RAY'S ACTIVITIES AND WHEREABOUTS DURING ENTIRE PERIOD OF FREEDOM FROM APRIL TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYSEVEN, TO JUNE EIGHT LAST, IN VIEW OF WORLD WIDE PUBLICITY ATTACHED TO POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY IN REGARD TO DEARTH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IT IS ESSENTIAL WE DETERMINE KNOWN ASSOCIATES OF RAY DURING HIS PERIOD OF FREEDOM, HIS SOURCE OF FUNDS AND DEPOSITORY FOR KEEPING FUNDS, HOW HE GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OBTAIN CANADIAN PASSPORTS, HIS CONTACTS IN CANADA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SUCH DOCUMENTS, AND HIST TRAVEL DURING THIS PERIOD.

CORR PAGE ONE LINE TWELVE LAST WORD, SIXTY

PAGE TWO LINE FOURTEEN WD ONE, DEATH

PAGE TWO LINE EIGHTEEN WD TEN SHLD BE..... HIS

END

RJT

FBI MEMPHIS

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 5/2/68

**BILLY BROWN AEBY**, Stark Road, Seagoville, Texas, phone AT 6-3042, interviewed in the Dallas Office, advised he is unemployed and his wife, **MARY**, works at the General Office of Gibson Products Company, Seagoville. AEBY advised he has five brothers as follows:

**AUBREY**, an inmate at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas;

**NEAL**, an inmate at the Texas State Penitentiary;

**OTIS**, a shampoo salesman residing in Houston, Texas;

**FRANKLIN**, engaged in the lumber business in Wisconsin;

**JAMES**, a Dallas, Texas businessman who operates a Mobil Station, Lovers Lane and Preston Road.

AEBY stated he is on bond at this time in connection with possession of narcotics charges in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. He said he expects to plead guilty to these charges if he can get an agreement on about eight years in the penitentiary as a sentence. He desires to begin serving his sentence as soon as possible. These are state charges.

AEBY said he entered Missouri State Penitentiary in 1961 to serve three concurrent nine year sentences for armed robbery out of St. Louis, Missouri. He was transferred to a prison farm in 1964. During the period of 1961-64 he was acquainted with **JAMES EARL RAY**, whom he knew as **JIMMIE RAY**. Both were employed in the prison bakery where RAY was considered a good worker. RAY worked both in the pastry crew and bread crew and in the latter capacity was a bread slicer and packager. AEBY speculated that if RAY were to seek a legitimate job on the outside, it might be in the bakery field since he would appear to be qualified to some degree in this area.

AEBY classed RAY as being "money hungry" and he dealt extensively in the sale of amphetamine powder and benzadrine to other inmates, such items apparently being obtained by RAY through prison guards. RAY used amphetamine on a restricted basis himself, but AEBY thought he was more interested in the money derived from sales. The amphetamine

On 4/27/68 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649

by SA'S NANNING C. CLEMENTS & JAMES J. ASHERMAN:MCC:JW Date dictated 4/29/68

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.

cover ltr in Sub-Bas 583 A  
K



powder is injected in solution in the human body.

AEBY stated RAY kept to himself a great deal and did not attempt to meddle in other peoples' business. The only inmate with whom RAY was apparently associated to any degree, was a man, name not recalled, 50 years old or more, who got caught with bullets in his pocket and was sent to an isolation ward as a result. AEBY recalled that on one occasion, RAY had an inmate named GREEN beaten up by two other inmates because of non payment to RAY for amphetamine powder. One of the inmates who beat GREEN up was recalled as (first name unknown) WABE from Kansas City. AEBY mentioned that one EARL HARRIS, a Negro "kingpin" from St. Louis, sold amphetamine powder to Negroes and was believed to have known RAY. He recalled also one RABPH OVERTON would possibly have known RAY, but not intimately.

The only relative RAY ever spoke of was a brother in St. Louis who was apparently a middle man for money paid by relatives and friends of inmates for amphetamine powder. This was a devious device by which persons on the outside would pay for the powder on behalf of their relatives and friends. RAY'S brother, in turn, was believed to have turned the money over to a lawyer who was trying to get an appeal on RAY'S robbery conviction. AEBY believed RAY'S brother was undoubtedly in the hoodlum element.

AEBY recalled RAY as having the general appearance, except for hair, of the 1960 photos of RAY which appear on the FBI Identification Order No. 4182. He said RAY normally wore his hair medium length, possibly with a part which was believed on the left side. AEBY stated he would not have recognized RAY from a stand up photo which appeared in some newspapers and would not have recognized him from a 1968 photo of RAY under the name of ERIC STARVO GALT. This name is unknown to AEBY.

AEBY described RAY as having a normally modulated voice, possibly having a midwestern accent. He said RAY had clean personal habits, did not use profanity or vulgar language to any marked degree, is likely a good dresser, and would likely have the general appearance of a businessman on the outside. He said it appeared to him RAY probably has a high school education.

AEBY said RAY was not recalled to have had any special

DL 44-2649

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interest or to have ever commented regarding Negroes, Ku Klux Klan, his army service, sports, foreign travel, women friends, homosexuality, clubs, drinking, and the outside world in general. He liked to play poker and AEBY considers he was a good player. He is not a braggart, is usually mild mannered and might appear timid to persons who do not know him well. AEBY has no knowledge that RAY had any interest in "hard narcotics".

AEBY said he considered RAY'S normal criminal occupation as apparently armed robbery, based on conversation, that he would be of the "hit and run" type covering wide areas. He said he cannot conceive that RAY would have killed MARTIN LUTHER KING except for money. He said since RAY was "on the lam" he would only be asking for trouble to have killed KING except for money.

AEBY said he does not specifically recall anything unusual regarding RAY'S features or personal nervous habits. He said he would not know where to begin looking for RAY if it was his job to find him. He said he does not anticipate RAY will attempt to contact him, although RAY unquestionably knew AEBY was from the Dallas area. He stated he expects to be "on the street" for a week or more at best, but would cooperate if RAY should contact him or whenever other information of value comes to his attention.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

June 18, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

**MURKIN**

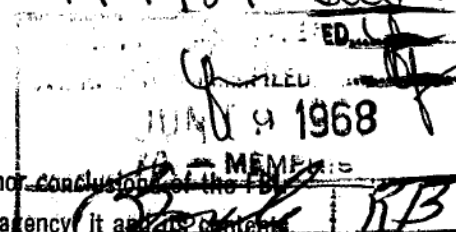
George Ben Edmondson, a former top ten fugitive who was captured in Canada after escaping from Missouri State Penitentiary, is currently incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary, and during re-interview on June 14, 1968, he advised as follows:

It is much easier to obtain a passport in Canada than a drivers license. He said he is not familiar with contacts in Toronto, but is familiar with the procedure in Montreal. He advised that there is no difficulty in passing over to Canada from the United States. One method of securing a passport is to obtain it from a group of persons in Montreal for a fee. He stated he obtained his blanks from Yvon Gadbois. Gadbois reportedly has numerous baptismal blanks printed up which are prepared by several printers, the identities of which he does not know. Edmondson stated that Gadbois is also engaged in the "dirty picture business", and perhaps light "dope" such as marijuana. He is the type of person Edmondson describes as a "hustler". Edmondson advised that Gadbois has access to an official seal with which to stamp-validate the record. Edmondson understands this is furnished through a sexton of the Saint Justine Church. Edmondson stated he was also told this sexton makes an entry in the church records to validate the record should any question arise. He said he doubts this, and it could be it was used as a "come along".

Edmondson said that Gadbois fills out the baptismal record and puts a seal on it. If you do not know a "guarantor", he will provide the name of one and charges more money. The cost of a baptismal record runs from \$25 to \$150 depending on the amount of work Gadbois has to do. Edmondson said his record was applied for on Friday and it was furnished to him by Gadbois on the following Monday or Tuesday ready to be mailed for the passport.

K

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.



## **MURKIN**

Edmondson advised that the best method, and the one he would have used had he had a chance to study the matter, is as follows: Read an obituary in the newspaper of the death of a person about the same age as the one seeking a passport. He said it is better to get one with few relatives. He said the names of relatives, date and place of birth, are all set out in the death notices. One then writes to the equivalent of the "Bureau of Vital Statistics" in the name of the deceased person stating the birth certificate was lost and request a new one. When the new birth certificate for the deceased person is received, one sends \$5 to the passport office with a photograph and the passport is issued.

Edmondson said that although he obtained a baptismal record from Gadbeis, he did not actually use it because he studied the system in the meantime, and then sent his wife's expired passport with their marriage license to the passport office and requested the issuance of passports for both. He sent the name of an employee of his as a guarantor. The passports were readily issued.

He said it is also possible to obtain a passport with a birth certificate or baptismal record by making an affidavit. A person does not actually have to have a guarantor as this requirement will be waived.

In connection with "crossing over" to Canada, Edmondson said this presents no problem. He said the first time he crossed it was at Plattsburg, New York, about nine or ten days after he escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary. He had hitchhiked a ride from New York City. He showed a drivers license he had as identification. He believed it was in the name of Gaddorf. This time he was asked why he was going to Canada and for how long. He said he replied he was going for two weeks if his money held out. Edmondson stated he went back and forth six or eight times while he was an escapee, and except this once, he was never questioned or required to show any identification. He said the best plan is to pick one of the busiest places to cross. This could be the International Bridge at Detroit, Michigan, and at Plattsburg, New York.



## **MURKIN**

Edmondson also advised persons entering Canada in a fugitive status like to leave the United States from a busy airport such as New York City, and go to Montreal. He said customs are so busy they merely spot check certain passengers and do not ask for identification.

Edmondson advised that the information he has was picked up by him by reading regulations and other sources and the system is not hard to understand.

Edmondson advised that Gadbois had several associates. He said he met some of these but did not know their names. He said he recalled one "hustler" who works with Gadbois by the name of Marcell Villeneuve, also known as Slim, who lives in Pierre Fonda. He said this person is a fence operating an alleged appliance business and he is "real well connected" in Montreal, and can get about anything one would want in the way of electric appliances which are stolen. He stated Marcell also traffics in prostitution and may handle a little "pot".

Another associate of Gadbois is Bill Maharagh who is a photographer described as about 50 to 55 years, 5'7"-8", 180 pounds, gray hair - balding, and who wears very thick glasses. He deals in "dirty pictures, pot, and generally hustles" for Gadbois. He said this man is a "blatant homosexual".

Another associate of Gadbois is a used car dealer who is an East Indian. He has been "rapped" in Montreal for "hot" cars.

Edmondson said he was arrested and put in jail at Ottawa, Canada. Marcell came to see him and offered him a lot of services for a price. He wanted \$350 and took care of some things for Edmondson. He said for another \$1000 he could get Edmondson released, but he sent this message through Edmondson's wife, as the prison authorities would not let him re-visit Edmondson. Edmondson advised he turned down the offer of Marcell and stated he was deported on August 9, 1967. Therefore, Marcell would have had a visit with him between July 1 and August 9, 1967. Edmondson further advised he was using the name of Alex Bormann while living in Canada.



6/18/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

MURKIN  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Re report of SA RAYMOND B. HOWE, 6/14/68, at Kansas City.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 5 copies and to Memphis 2 copies of letterhead memorandum concerning interview with GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON.

Original interview was put in FD-302, however, it is being furnished in letterhead memorandum form inasmuch as the Bureau may wish to disseminate to Canadian authorities. The Bureau file number for GEORGE EDMONDSON, UFAC-ROBBERY, is 88-35159, Kansas City file 88-8175. The interview with EDMONDSON was conducted by SA ROWEN B. AYERS at Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri.

3 Bureau (Enc. 5)  
1 Memphis (Enc. 2) *MEM*  
2 Kansas City  
RBH:MD  
(6)

*K*

44-1987-Sub-H-1162

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| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| JUN 19 1968   |         |
| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |

*Boyle RB*  
*Dexter*



Sept. 12, 1968

Attention Mr. Blackwell:

Kindly acknowledge receipt  
hereof, immediately please

Yours very truly,  
Herbert James Pitt  
Reg. No. 17232  
P.O. Box 4000  
Springfield, Missouri

44-1987

lls llh

BT

IN CRIMINAL COURT  
WITHIN AND FOR SHELBY COUNTY TENNESSEE

Hubert James Putt,

Petitioner

People of state of TENN.  
Re:-vs- JAMES EARL RAY  
Criminal Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

Petition For Writ Of Habeas Corpus Ad Testificandum

Comes now Hubert James Putt, herein after referred to as petitioner, and respectfully moves this Honorable Court to produce said petitioner in this court upon a writ of habeas corpus to testify on behalf of the defendant in the above-referenced criminal case when said case comes on for trial in this term of Court

It would be prejudicial to defendant Ray for petitioner to disclose what testimony petitioner will offer in this case but in all fairness to the prosecution it should be stated that this petitioner was inadvertently involved in the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and knew



the very day that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy were to be killed.

Petitioner further informs the Court that this petitioner is suspected of liquidating Albert Anastasia, of Murder INC., et al and in connection with same and the assassinations hereinabove mentioned petitioner must reserve the right to invoke the Fifth Amendment. Unless, of course, this Court and other Courts in other states will guarantee that petitioner will not be subjected to prosecution as a result of any and all testimony given in this case and a criminal case pending in the State of California, to-wit: People of the State of California versus Sirhan B. Sirhan.

I, Hubert James Pitt, being duly sworn according to law depose and say under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief; that same are not made out of levity or by collusion with anyone, but in sincerity and truth and

For the reasons stated herein.

Petitioner further states under oath that he has been held in Federal custody and mistreated and subjected to terror for over four (4) years; that he has served more than the time required on his sentence and the Atty. Gen'l. of the U.S.; the Director U.S. Bureau of Prisons, and U.S. Judges and U.S. prison officials and doctors have joined in a conspiracy to hold said petitioner in prison illegally.

Petitioner further makes oath in due form of law that he is indigent and unable to pay the cost of filing this petition, but believes he is entitled to redress and requests permission to file and to proceed in forma pauperis.

Premises Considered, Petitioner prays:

That the Court Act hereon with celerity and cause said petitioner to be brought into this court upon a writ of habeas corpus to testify