

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11-21-68

Mrs. SARAH HALE, 1825 Lafayette Street, St. Louis, Missouri, advised she had resided at that address, which is a two-story, single-family, brick dwelling, for the past 22 years and that no part of the premises had ever been rented to other individuals during that period. She was unable to identify the names utilized by RAY or photographs of him as pertaining to any person she has ever known. No such person ever stayed at, or occupied any portion of, her home at that address during the period of her residence. She was likewise unable to recall ever having been acquainted with any member of the RAY family.

INDEX: 1825 LAFAYETTE ST.

44-1987-Sub-M-268
 SEARCHED.....INDEXED *ll*
 SERIALIZED *ll* FILED *ll*
 NOV 25 1968
 FBI - MEMPHIS

On 11-21-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File# ME 44-1987
SL 44-775
 by SA HAROLD R. DOBSON:amb Date dictated 11-21-68

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11-21-68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) P
RE: MURKIN
CR
OO:ME

Re Birmingham tel to Bureau, Memphis, and SL, 11-20-68, concerning registration card 9022 located at Granada Hotel for JOHN L. RAYNES for 8-28-67, giving home address of 1825 Lafayette St., SLMO.

Enclosed to Memphis are 15 copies of FD-302 of interview with SARAH M. NALE, 1825 Lafayette, SLMO, 11-21-68.

Review of SL file failed to identify 1825 Lafayette with any known activities of RAY.

It was noted, however, JOHN EUGENE GAWRON stated 4-29 and 5-1-68, he and RAY frequented a bar, believed to be Ruby's Bar, later known as The Haven Bar, on Lafayette just west of 18th St. during 1959. (See SL report of SA HAROLD R. DOBSON, 5-10-68, cover pages R & S.) GAWRON subsequently advised on 5-14-68, the correct name of the bar was Opal's Bar, later known as The Haven Bar. (See SL report of SA DOBSON, 6-25-68, cover page Y).

OPAL HIGHLY advised on 5-15-68, she had operated Opal's Bar at 1805 Lafayette from 1947 to 1961. She was unable to recall RAY as having been a patron but recalled JACK (LNU), whose description fitted GAWRON, as a frequent customer. (See 6-25-68 SL report, page 84)

3 - Bureau
1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 15) *ps*
2 - St. Louis
HED:amb
(8)

For your next report

NR

44-1987-Sub-M-269

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Hester

SL 44-775

From the foregoing it would appear RAY was probably generally familiar with the 18th and Lafayette area in SL.

The current SL City Directory lists SARAH M. HALE as the resident at 1825 Lafayette, SLMO.

This address was observed by SA DOBSON on 11-21-68, to be a two-story single-family brick dwelling. Mrs. HALE advised him on the same date she had resided there for the past 22 years. She has never rented any portion of the premises to other persons during this period. She was unable to identify the names utilized by RAY or photographs of him as pertaining to any person she has ever known. She was likewise unable to recall ever having been acquainted with any member of RAY's family.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/19/68

JOSEPH C. MEYER, Lemonwood Inn, 3515 Inwood Road, employed as a field engineer for Recognition Equipment Company, Dallas, advised he is attending a computer school in Dallas sponsored by the Recognition Equipment Company. He formerly resided at 300 North Haugh Avenue, Picayune, Mississippi. While residing in Picayune, an incident occurred about two weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING in Memphis. The details of that incident are as follows:

He and his son went fishing near Picayune on a Sunday morning between about 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM. They were approaching a small fishing lake on Ridge Road when they noticed a man laying behind a light colored Ford Mustang shooting a rifle into a target on a tree about 40 yards away. He and his son parked their car at the small lake nearby and began fishing. The man with the rifle, which he observed to be a lever action and either new or very well taken care of, came up to them and started talking to him. The man said he was bore sighting the rifle, but he wished his brother was there because he was more experienced at this. They talked of fishing, hunting and general topics. The man did not talk with an accent and gave the impression of not being from that area.

The man was dressed in canvas field hunting clothes. He was about 5'10" to 11" tall, 175 pounds, dark wavy hair, well groomed. MEYER has observed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and he stated that some of the photographs definitely do not look like the man he saw, but one of the photographs he recently saw in Look Magazine, the one without glasses, in some ways resembles the man he saw firing the rifle. He said he does not believe he would be able to identify the man he saw even if he saw him again.

MEYER thought nothing of the incident until he heard of the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Then he thought there might possibly be some connection, but he did not report the matter to the local police because he was afraid they would only laugh at him. He said he went back to the area that the man was firing and was unable to find any cartridges. He looked at the tree that had been

On 11/14/68 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
 INDEXED ll
 SERIALIZED ll FILED ll
 NOV 25 1968
 by SA WILLIAM B. HOLLOWAY/pd FBI - MEMPHIS Date dictated 11/18/68

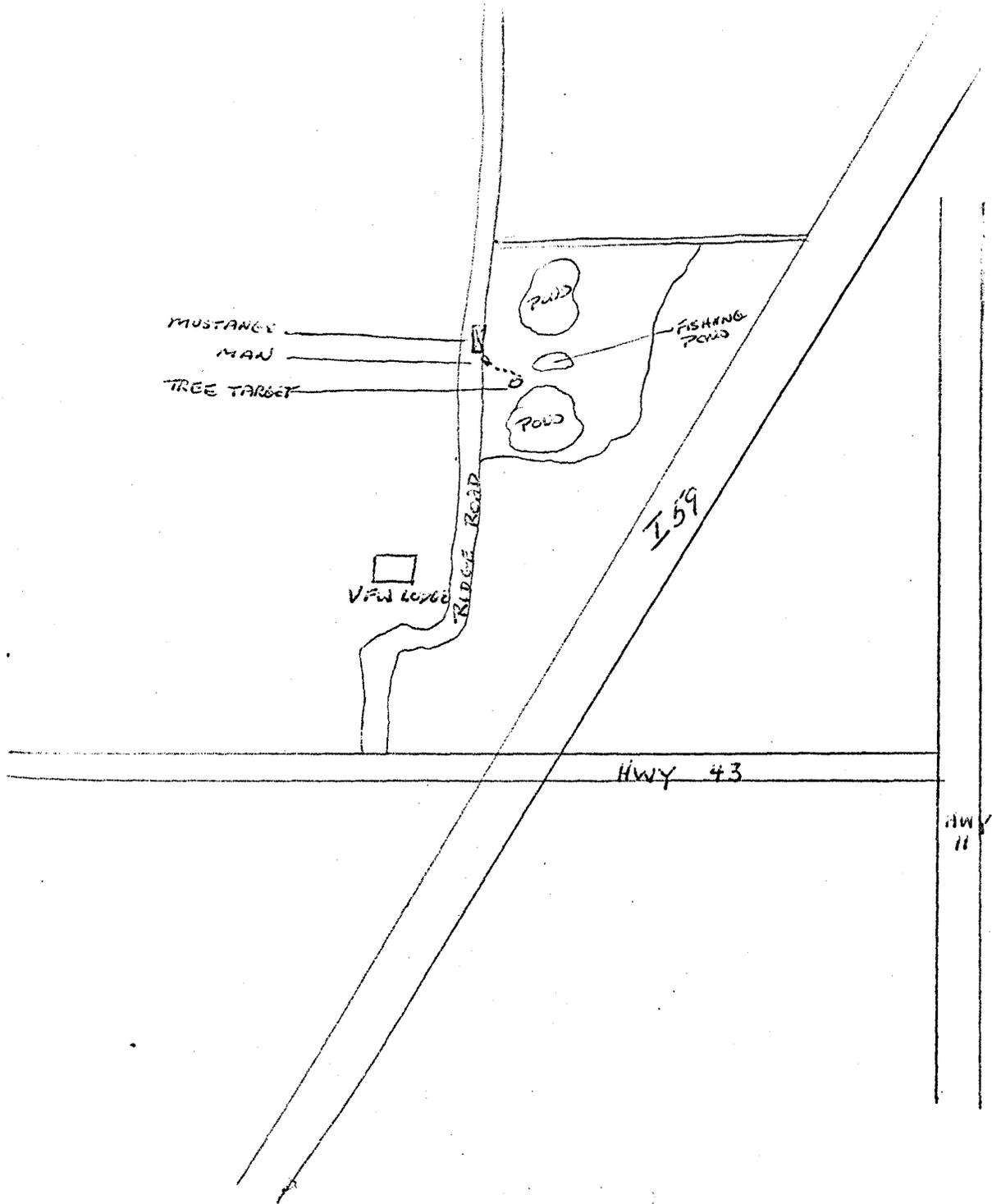
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DL 44-2649

2

shot at and noted that the places where the bullets hit indicated that a high powered cartridge was used because large chunks of the tree bark were torn away.

MEYER furnished a sketch of the area where the man was firing the rifle and it is attached hereto.



NOT TO SCALE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

DATE: 11/21/68

On 11/14/68, JOSEPH C. MEYER, Field Engineer for Recognition Equipment Company, Dallas, temporarily residing at the Lemonwood Inn, 3515 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas, advised he is attending a computer school sponsored by Recognition Equipment Company, after which he does not know where he will be stationed. He said that he formerly resided at 300 North Haugh Avenue, Picayune, Mississippi. He related an incident which occurred while he was residing in Picayune. The details of that incident are set out in enclosed FD-302.

A copy of the FD-302 of interview of MEYER is enclosed for Jackson in the event Memphis requests investigation of this matter by Jackson at Picayune.

Any additional investigation is left to the descretion of the Office of Origin.

For your next report

Subject did not we have to have King.

44-1987-Sub-M-271

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 8)
- 2 - Jackson (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Dallas

WBH/pd

(5)

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



5010-108-02

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 22, 1968

Mr. CHARLIE TRONCALE, owner-manager, Granada Hotel, 2230 Fourth Avenue, North, made available the guest registration cards for his hotel during the period August 22 - 28, 1967, inclusive. A review of these cards resulted in the location of guest registration No. 9022 for one JOHN L. RAYNS, residence 1825 Lafayette St., St. Louis, Mo., who checked in at 9:05 a.m. on Saturday, August 26, 1967, and was assigned to Room 210 by Desk Clerk ADRIAN M. KOONCE at a rate of \$4.50. No record was maintained as to the time of checkout or method of travel. The card reflected the guest had luggage. The original of this card has been forwarded to the FBI Laboratory at Washington, D. C., for appropriate handwriting comparison.

A record was obtained of the names and addresses (where recorded) of the approximately 150 guests, other than permanent residents, during the period for which the cards were reviewed and two copies of the list are being transmitted to the Memphis FBI Office. No guest card was observed for any "RAOUL" or similar name during the period involved.

Upon observing the guest registration card of RAYNS, Mr. ADRIAN M. KOONCE identified his initials as having roomed RAYNS, but stated that due to the elapsed time he had no independent recollection of him. He stated he had previously been exhibited a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and was unable to identify that individual.

No further information was obtainable from Mr. KOONCE or other personnel of the Granada Hotel.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>llb</i>
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NOV 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Leslie

On 11/20-21/68 at Birmingham, AlabamaFile # BH 44-1740ME 44-1987-Sub M-312by SA HENRY A. SNOW:mflDate dictated 11/22/68

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1

BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
HAS:mfl

The following investigation was conducted by
SA NEIL G. MARTIN on November 9, 1968:

At the request of the Bureau, a personal examination was conducted of the guest registration entry book of the Granada Hotel, 2230 Fourth Avenue, North, Birmingham, Alabama, from October 23 - October 31, 1967, for the name JOHN L. RAYNES, JAMES EARL RAY, and all other known aliases of subject RAY, with negative results.

The following employees were displayed photographs of subject and were interviewed regarding his possible visit on October 25, 1967, with negative results:

FRANK L. PHILLIP
Night Desk Clerk
1129 Gadsden Highway

A. M. KOONCE
Relief Day Desk Clerk, resides at hotel

On November 12, 1968, the following individuals were likewise interviewed:

Mr. CHARLIE TRONCALE
Manager and owner
19 Norwood Boulevard

O. C. SMITH
Regular Day Desk Clerk
1300 North 22nd Street

Mrs. CATHERINE MONTGOMERY
Hotel Maid
1712 Avenue T, Ensley

ELMORE STUDAMIRE
Hotel Bellhop
214 Ninth Court, West

44-1987-Sub-A-273

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

It is noted, per Mr. TRONCALE, that these are the only employees of the hotel who were employed there during the pertinent period.



F B I

Date: 11/22/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

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

ReBuairtel, 11/14/68, and Birmingham teletype 11/20/68.

Attached for information of the Bureau are four copies of FD-302 reflecting location of guest registration card for JOHN L. RAYNS at Granada Hotel, Birmingham, on date 8/26/67. Five copies of this FD-302 are forwarded to Memphis, and one each to interested offices.

Two copies of an insert are attached for the Bureau and five copies for Memphis regarding a previous search of the records at the Granada Hotel for the period 10/23-31/67, inclusive, which resulted negatively and was based upon Bureau telephone call, 11/9/68.

Two copies of legible handwritten list of registration cards at the Granada Hotel are being furnished Memphis in response to reBuairtel, 11/14/68, in order that the names thereon may be compared with lists submitted by the Mobile, New Orleans and, possibly, San Antonio Divisions.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 6) *kk*
 - 2 - Memphis (Enc. 12) (44-1987)
 - 1 - Mobile (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - New Orleans (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - San Antonio (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - St. Louis (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Birmingham
- HAS:mfl
(11)

M

*Join your
request*

44-1987-Sub-M-246

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
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NOV 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

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

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI JKSN MISS

4:18 PM DEFERRED 11-26-68 WLB

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) & MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN.

RE LOS ANGELES AIRTEL TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER TWENTY ONE, LAST.

RE LOS ANGELES AIRTEL SET OUT THAT MRS. W. PITMAN, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, ON NOVEMBER TWELVE, LAST, OBSERVED CARD BOARD BOX IN THE REAR PARKING AREA OF THE BANK WHERE SHE WAS EMPLOYED. THIS BOX BORE PENCILED HANDWRITING AS FOLLOWS "JAMES EARL RAY, ONE ONE TWO TUCKER STREET, LELAND, MISSISSIPPI, JOHN WESLEY RAFORD, JR., JOHN WESLEY TUCKER. THE HANDWRITING APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY THE SAME PERSON. ON THE BOX WERE NAMES JOHN AND JONOUR.

JACKSON INDICES CONTAIN NO RECORD OF RAFORD AND TUCKER OR SIMILARITIES THEREOF OF JONOUR.

CHIEF OF POLICE E. J. DEAN, LELAND, MISS., ADVISED
END PAGE ONE

*Include
in next report
FD 302's coming*
M

44-1987-Sub-M-276

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

PAGE TWO

INSTANT DATE THAT MRS. MARGARET BERRY, NEGRO, LIVES AT ONE ONE TWO TUCKER STREET, LELAND. ADVISED HE HAS NO ARREST RECORD FOR HER. CHIEF DEAN ADVISED THAT NAMES OF

JOHN WESLEY RAY

UNKNOWN TO HIM. HE KNOWS OF NO ONE IN LELAND BY THE NAME OF JAMES EARL RAY AND OF NO ONE IN CALIFORNIA WHO MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LELAND ADDRESS ON THE BOX.

MRS. MARGARET BERRY, ONE ONE TWO TUCKER STREET, LELAND, MISS., ADVISED INSTANT DATE THAT SHE HAS LIVED AT THIS ADDRESS SINCE JANUARY, FIFTY FOUR, WHEN SHE PURCHASED THE HOUSE. SHE LIVES AT THIS RESIDENCE WITH TWO YOUNG NIECES. SHE ADVISED THAT SHE HAS NO IDEA WHY A BOX SHOULD BE LOCATED IN CALIFORNIA WITH HER ADDRESS ON IT. THE NAMES JOHN WESLEY RAFORD, JR., JOHN WESLEY TUCKER AND JONOUR ARE UNKNOWN TO HER. SHE ADVISED SHE HAS A NEPHEW EDDIE JONES AND A NIECE RUBY JONES AS OF FORTY SEVEN, IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. SHE HAS HEARD NOTHING FROM THEM SINCE THAT TIME. SHE HAS NO RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN CALIFORNIA.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

SHE KNOWS OF TWO BOYS FROM LELAND WHO ARE IN CALIFORNIA,
CITIES UNKNOWN, BY THE NAMES OF FIRST NAME UNKNOWN WARREN
AND JAMES LOVEY. THESE BOYS, WHILE IN LELAND, LIVED ON
THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN AND WERE NOT CLOSELY ASSOCIATED
WITH HER.

LOS ANGELES BEING ADVISED BY AIRMAIL.

CORRECTION THIRD LINE FROM END, WORD FIVE SHOULD
BE TOWN NOT TOON.

END

RJT

FBI MEMPHIS

P

LINE FOUR PAGE TWO SHOULD BE.
JOHN WESLEY RATFORD, JR., JOHN WESLEY TUCKER AND JONOUR ARE

F B I

Date: 11-27-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AM _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P
MURKIN

In connection with the articles prepared by WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, which have appeared in "Look" magazine, certain investigation has been conducted by offices receiving this Airtel. The Memphis Division, as office of origin, requests that results of investigation conducted by the various offices be furnished in the form of either FD-302 or investigative insert so that all results can be incorporated in a report. This material should be submitted so that it reaches Memphis no later than December 4, 1968.

- 3 BUREAU (AM)
- 2 BIRMINGHAM (AM)
- 2 BUFFALO (AM)
- 2 CHICAGO (AM)
- 2 DETROIT (AM)
- 2 JACKSON (AM)
- 2 LOS ANGELES (AM)
- 2 MOBILE (AM)
- 2 SAN ANTONIO (AM)
- 2 SPRINGFIELD (AM)
- ① MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(22)

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED llh
INDEXED _____
FILED llh

For your next report
44-1987-Sub-M-276
Hester

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



William Dearborn Hersey

INFORMATION RETENTION SPECIALIST

One Fairlee Lane
Norton, Mass.
November 17, 1968

Hersey

Memo for F.B.I.

According to a story on James Earl Ray appearing in Look for November 26 Ray had in his possession when captured a copy of a book written by me called "How To Cash In On Your Hidden Memory Power". It was described as a well worn copy.

This book describes a code system for remembering numbers by converting them into words. It is a universal mnemonic code. It is not original with me. However the thought crossed my mind that if Ray had learned this code he might well have made notes in words of numbers such as telephone numbers or addresses of friends or associates and might have had in his possession some writing that might have no apparent significance but which might conceal and contain important numeric information.

The code is very simple and anyone trained in it could quickly translate words into numerical combinations which could quickly then be examined for any possible significance.

William D Hersey

Phone 617-843-3890

44-1987-Sub-M-277
lll *lll*
Hersey *GH*

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NOV 17 1968	
FBI - BOSTON	

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/25/68

SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis are two copies each of a letter received at the Boston Office from WILLIAM DEARBORN HERSEY, "Information Retention Specialist," of One Fairlee Lane, Norton, Mass., dated 11/17/68.

HERSEY sets out information in his letter concerning a memory code which may have been utilized by subject JAMES EARL RAY since RAY had a copy of a book written by HERSEY in his possession when captured.

Bureau and Memphis may desire to refer HERSEY's letter to the prosecutor at Memphis, Tennessee.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 2)
② - Memphis (Encs. 2) (44-1987)
1 - Boston
BTM:maj
(5)

M

44-1987-Sub-M-278
ll
ll
ll
Hester
ll



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Springfield, Illinois
November 26, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

JAMES TABOR, Supervisor, Auto Registration Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, advised on November 26, 1968, that 1967 Illinois license LM 5942 was issued on August 8, 1967, to JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Post Office Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, for a 1962 Plymouth four door sedan, Vehicle Identification Number 2921165934. TABOR advised that the 1962 Plymouth, four door, was purchased July 14, 1967, from Bundy Oldsmobile, 711 Illinois Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois.

GENEVA JONES, Supervisor, Drivers License Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, advised that JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Winnetka, Illinois, failed his license examination and driving examination on June 9, 1967; however, he passed his examinations on June 12, 1967. On June 21, 1967, RAYNS was issued Operator's License #R520-4723-3045, and this license describes him as 5 feet 9 inches tall, 158 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, born [redacted] Permit #D754464 had also been issued on June 21, 1967.

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44-1987-Sub-M-279

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NOV 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

11/26/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) ATTN: CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-661) (P)
MURKIN

Re Springfield teletype to Bureau, dated 11/25/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of a letterhead memorandum covering investigation regarding a 1962 Plymouth purchased by JAMES EARL RAY in July 1967 at East St. Louis, Illinois. Investigation continuing to develop all information concerning the 1962 Plymouth, including its disposition. Information available indicates that the 1962 Plymouth was disposed of in Chicago, Illinois. //

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are also being enclosed for Chicago and Memphis.

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 11)
- 2 - Chicago (44-1114) (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Springfield (44-661)

WA/esp
(9)

For your report
R

44-1987-Sub-M-280

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NOV 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

M

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/26/68

1

Mrs. BESSIE BARRETT, owner and operator of the Flamingo Motel, advised as follows:

She and her husband maintain some handwritten notes relative to telephone billings of various individuals who stay at the motel and who might make a local or long distance call from his or her motel room. She reviewed these notes for March 22, 1968, when an individual named ERIC S. GALT occupied Room Number 3 at the motel for a one day period. She could find no record of this individual making any calls for which he was billed. She stated that she could not review the original registration card as it is still in the hands of ARTHUR HANES, an attorney in Birmingham, but a copy of this card appeared in a Look magazine article of recent date. She pointed out the copy in the magazine article and commented that on the edge of the card is marked only "Pd". She stated that if any additional charges were to be added to the room charges, the word "over" is usually placed on the edge of the card.

Mrs. BARRETT furnished the registration cards from the motel for the month of March, 1968. A review of all of these cards for March, 1968, failed to locate any name such as "RAOUL" or JOHN L. RAYNS.

The following list of occupants at the motel was obtained through a review of the Flamingo Motel records which list covers the period of March 19 through 25, 1968:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 19, 1968	16	THOMAS K. KLINE 1201 Saint Clair Indianapolis, Indiana	one night	not listed

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>llb</i>
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NOV 27 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Hester</i>	<i>OK</i>

On 11/25/68 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 157-2627

by SA ROBERT L. FRYE : mrc Date dictated 11/26/68

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44-1987-Sub-M-281

MO 157-2627

2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 19, 1968	14	CHARLES REESE Route 3, Box 248 Saraland, Alabama	3 nights	Mercury, 1968 Alabama License 2A-10464
"	7	RAY WATSON (Motor Convoy) Atlanta, Georgia	1 night	Not listed
"	13	JAMES D. GWIN Mobile, Alabama	1 night	Not listed
"	7	OTIS B. CASANOVA 505 North First Street Rolling Ford, Mississippi	1 night	Not listed
"	9	LEM GRIFFITH 5522 North Davis Highway Pensacola, Florida	1 night	Ford pickup 1968 Florida License 9G/K3090
"	29	KEVIN R. BONNER Post Office Box 1157 Craig Air Force Base Selma, Alabama	1 night	1960 Dodge 1968 Alabama License 27-7190
"	27	Mr. & Mrs. HERBERT R. HORTON Box 1351 Jamestown, North Dakota	1 night	Mercedes Benz 1968 North Dakota License 276096
"	8	BILL SNOW 620 Royal Street City and state illegible	1 night	Not listed
"	15	GENE HUDSON (Montgomery Elevator Company) 262 Huntley Drive Montgomery, Alabama	1 night	Barracuda, 1968 Alabama License 3-54700
"	16	CALVIN COOPER Shelby, North Carolina	1 night	Not listed

MO 157-2627

3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 20, 1968	26	M. L. MURPHY (Western Electric) 2141 McKinley Montgomery, Alabama	3 nights	Rambler, Alabama tag not listed
"	2	GEORGE J. WILLIAMS 1654 Second Street Northwest Birmingham, Alabama	1 night	Ford truck, Alabama License 8P-26217
"	3	GLEN R. SCHAEFFER TERRY W. JOHNSTONE Post Office Box 86 Marion, Mississippi (U.S. Government)	1 night	International Government License C19392
"	13	A. F. BETTENTON 410 Clinton Vidalia, Louisiana	1 night	Not listed
"	27	GEORGE CONTON and family, 828 Greenwood Avenue Trenton, New Jersey	1 night	New Jersey License 15K887
"	8	R. F. McCLELLAN 203 Dalraida Montgomery, Alabama	1 night	Make of car not listed, 1968 Alabama License 3-6583
"	29	FLOYD B. ELSMIRE 1308 East Wendover Greensboro, North Carolina	1 night	Pontiac, North Carolina License AA8695
"	19	ELSIE VAN ENGEL MARY OAKLEY 1018 East Anderson Street Orlando, Florida	1 night	Buick, 1968 Florida license 7-45645

MO 157-2627

4

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 20, 1968	15	JACK WILSON 1308 Allamont Way Birmingham, Alabama	1 night	Pontiac 1968 Alabama License 1-42424
"	16	EDWARD STAFFIRE 411 Putnam Drive Tallahassee, Florida	1 night	Volkswagen, 1968 Florida License 1D-28189
"	1	HAROLD GREER Route Number 2 Kodak, Tennessee	1 night	Not listed
March 21, 1968	29	LARRY D. BROWN Fort Gordon, Georgia	1 night	1967 Chevrolet Impala, state not listed, license number MDX745
"	15	Sp. & Mrs. WALTER C. STURGE 449 Main Street Phoenix, Arizona	1 night	Not listed
"	1	D. G. SMOUSE Box 11 Gantt, Alabama	1 night	Not listed
"	25	ROBERT C. MULLER Box 8, F43615 Souron Craig Air Force Base Selma, Alabama	1 night	Not listed
"	17	STEPHEN L. SMITH 1030 North Third Street Apartment 33 Phoenix, Arizona	1 night	1967 Mustang, 1968 Arizona License JCN537
"	9	B. W. DURHAM (Precision Point Corporation) 82 Shoreline Drive Gulf Breeze, Florida	1 night	Ford, 1968 Florida License 33W5521

MO 157-2627

5

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 21, 1968	7	LAWRENCE T. BAILEY (Rushton Equipment Corporation) 3220 Ridgley Drive Birmingham, Alabama	1 night	Oldsmobile, 1968 Alabama License 1-21046
"	3	S. E. MILLER and wife 1420 33rd Street San Diego, California	1 night	1964 Oldsmobile, California License OKV-041
"	5	JOHN P. CRISP Knoxville, Tennessee	1 night	Pontiac, 1968 Tennessee License CH8746
March 22, 1968	6	CHARLES BOYER 88 Marvin Road Ormond Beach, Florida	1 night	Lincoln, 1968 Florida License 8WW3038
"	28	BILL BIVENS and RON RABON Route 5, Box 397 Highpoint, South Carolina	1 night	GMC, state not listed, number 399
"	2	Mr. and Mrs. RICHARD MURRAY 4128 Summitt Ridge Dallas, Texas	1 night	Ford, 1968 Texas License KRE232
"	9	Mr. and Mrs. W. O. STUD address not listed	1 night	Make and model of vehicle or state not listed, number 2291
"	26	Lieutenant C. R. MUDRIE Craig Air Force Base Selma, Alabama	1 night	Make and model of vehicle not listed, New Jersey license NAX-620

MO 157-2627

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 22, 1968	8	WILLIS W. OVERSTREET (Security) Randolph Air Force Base San Antonio, Texas	1 night	Not listed
"	17	RALPH CLAYTON (Turner Motor Company) 2060 Zula Mafill, Alabama	1 night	1968 Plymouth 1968 Alabama License 2A-9696
"	12	WILLIAM EUGENE BATSON (General Battery and Ceramic Corporation) 1121 Wood Drive Greer, South Carolina	1 night	Not listed
March 23, 1968	5	JAMES LESTER Deluth, Minnesota	1 night	Not listed
"	9	ARTHUR L. SHARPE (Transit Homes, Incorporated) Greenville, South Carolina	1 night	Chevrolet, North Carolina License 135F
"	10	JAMES BRANTON (General Battery and Ceramic Corporation) 313 Pine Street Greer, South Carolina	1 night	Volkswagen, South Carolina License A37673
"	7	CHARLIE REESE and wife Address not listed	1 night	Nct listed
"	15	GILBERT GORDON Montgomery, Alabama	1 night	1964 Ford, 1968 Alabama License 367442
"	14	ROBERT R. LAWRENCE 614 Campbell Avenue West Haven, Connecticut	1 night	White truck, state not listed, License Number G8484

MO 157-2627

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 23, 1968	20	VERNON TURNER Lugoff, South Carolina	1 night	1968 Chevy II, South Carolina License DL-59511
"	11	JIM A. BROWN 903 Pope Columbia (state not listed)	1 night	Ford, License Number B-130
"	6	RUDOLF DEVERLING, 301 Mangels Avenue San Francisco, California	1 night	Chevrolet, California License CVL803
"	17	TALMADGE KEYNEEDS Louisville, Mississippi	1 night	Ford, Mississippi License 80B725
March 24, 1968	14	RICHARD LAMAR PARRISH Box 134 Lanett, Alabama	1 night	Not listed
"	25	Mr. and Mrs. H.P. BARGANEIR Greenville, Alabama	1 night	Not listed
"	5	JANET KIRBY Apartment 840 Fairbanks Street Anchorage, Alaska	1 night	1964 Cadillac License DBZ355
"	20	G. LAWRENCE HANN 422 West Minnesota Deland, Florida	1 night	Vehicle not listed, Florida License 8-3399
"	8	Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE W. SMYTH Route 4 Saffard, Alabama	1 night	Pontiac, 1968 Alabama License 27-1620

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8

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 24, 1968	25	L. H. SCHWAB 3247 Dorchester Drive Montgomery, Alabama	1 night	Chevrolet station wagon, Alabama License (number not listed)
"	23	C. W. HATHAWAY 428 Kimbrough Fort Worth, Texas	1 night	Chevrolet, Texas license (number not listed)
"	11	JOSEPH FLETCHER 1849 Green Pine Drive Cincinnati, Ohio	1 night	Chevrolet, (state not listed) license number 7536TT
"	21	RONALD WILSON 1229 Marlene Street El Cajon, California (Aero Mayflower Transit)	1 night	Ford truck (state not listed) license number 449-H
"	28	PHILIP MEARS 1536 Schley Augusta, Georgia	1 night	1967 Chevrolet (license not listed)
"	26	RAYMOND BUNCH address not listed	1 night	Vehicle not listed
March 25, 1968	4	Mr. and Mrs. B. F. KILLIAN, and Mrs. D. C. VAUGHAN 407 Durant Avenue North Charleston, South Carolina	1 night	Ford, license not listed
"	7	R. C. VAUGHAN 2129 Georgia Avenue Birmingham, Alabama	1 night	Not listed
"	11	FRED WILLIAMS Route 7, Box 858 Birmingham, Alabama	1 night	Not listed

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9

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 25, 1968	17	J. B. WILLIAMS 11 South Central Avenue Lindale, Georgia	1 night	½ ton Chevrolet Georgia license, number not listed
"	9	Mrs. LUCILLE CONWAY 450 Earl Place Montgomery, Alabama	1 night	Vehicle not listed, license number 29-11164
"	5	ALEX M. FARKAS 304 South Eighth Street West Helena, Arkansas	1 night	Not listed
"	25	W. M. GRIFFIN Georgiana, Alabama	1 night	Truck, make and model not listed or license not listed
"	22	F. J. WAHRENBERGER 6345 Fourth Avenue Saint Petersburg, Florida	1 night	Dodge, 1968 Florida License 4-64288
"	20	R. C. FISHER 1915 Glenwood Circle Vicksburgh, Mississippi	1 night	Not listed
"	4	Mrs. AMANDA SCHMIDT Freemont, Wisconsin	1 night	Not listed
"	8	RICHARD BITTON Route 1 Pulaski, Tennessee	1 night	Chevrolet, Tennessee License EJ9499
"	23	J. GREENHILL 2716 Lionheart Drive Winter Park, Florida	1 night	Mustang, no number listed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/12/681

Mr. U. K. GARDNER of the Services Unlimited Company, 1353 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that his company was in possession of the records of the Flamingo Motel of Selma, Alabama. Mr. GARDNER advised that as a result of a review of these records on November 9, 1968 for the period of March 1 through 31, 1968 that one ERIC GALT registered at the Flamingo Motel of Selma, Alabama, on March 22, 1968. He was assigned Room Number 3 and was charged \$8 for a one day stay at this motel. According to Mr. GARDNER, ERIC GALT had no charges against his account for any outgoing telephone calls or any incoming collect telephone calls. GARDNER advised that the account records for the Flamingo Motel for the period of March 1 through 31, 1968 contained no additional reference to ERIC GALT.

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Hester

On 11/9/68 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 157-2627

by SA CARMELO GRAFFAGNINI /ljr Date dictated 11/11/68

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/20/68

1

Mrs. BESSIE BARRETT, owner and operator of the Flamingo Motel, Highway 30 East, Selma, Alabama, telephonically furnished the following information:

She recalls locating a registration card for one ERIC S. GALT, which she believed was dated March 24, 1968. She stated that she recalls locating this card because she was contacted by an ARTHUR HANES, who is an attorney from Birmingham, Alabama. She advised that Mr. HANES came to the motel and asked her if she recalled an individual by the name of GALT staying at her motel. She stated that HANES had indicated to her that this individual, by the name of GALT, had been identified as the killer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. She told HANES that she would never knowingly permit any individual such as this to stay at her motel and she could not recall any individual that looked like the photographs of this person, which appeared in the paper, as staying at the motel.

HANES requested that she review registration cards for the dates of March 1, 1968, through March 25, 1968, and after reviewing these cards she found a registration card for an ERIC S. GALT. HANES requested that she allow him to take this car with him. Mrs. BARRETT said she relinquished possession of the car to Mr. HANES and she believes it is in his possession at the present time.

Mrs. BARRETT stated that the bookkeeper for the motel is a Mrs. THELMA GARDNER, Services Unlimited, 1353 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, and Mrs. GARDNER would have a "sheet record" of the motel occupants which would show the date, name of person, room he occupied, and charges; however, would not contain any information concerning make, model or license number of the individual's automobile or the address he listed as being his home.

She stated that the motel would have no records of

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On 11/9/68 at Selma, Alabama File # M 157-2627

by SA ROBERT L. FRYE : mrc Date dictated 11/20/68

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.

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MO 157-2627

2

any prepaid calls received by GALT or calls made by GALT unless he received a collect phone call at the motel or made calls from the motel room, which calls would be placed on his bill and he would be charged for same. She stated that any calls made by GALT from the motel room should be shown on the "sheet record" or on a billing card in possession of the bookkeeper.

11/26/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (RUC)
 SUBJECT: MURKIN
 (OO: Memphis)

Re Bureau airtel to Birmingham, New Orleans, Memphis, Mobile, and San Antonio, dated 11/14/68.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are 25 copies each, and for the Bureau one copy each, of FD-302's pertaining to investigation conducted at Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama, relative to captioned case. As noted, investigation conducted on 11/9/68, was conducted as a result of Bureau telephone conversation requesting contact at the Flamingo Motel to determine if ERIC S. GALT or JOHN L. RAYNS were at the motel during the period 3/21,22 or 23/68.

Investigation conducted by SA ROBERT L. FRYE at the Flamingo Motel on 11/25/68, was conducted as a result of referenced Bureau airtel.

The FD-302's are furnished to Memphis for incorporation in their next report and a copy of each is designated for the Bureau so that the Bureau might be apprised of the results of this investigation.

No further investigation being conducted at Mobile at this time and this case being considered RUC to Memphis.

3 - Bureau (Encs 3)
 ② - Memphis (Encs 75) *Wen*
 1 - Mobile
 RLF : mrc
 (6)

Joe
FD 302's
from Mobile
for ur next
report

M

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Hester

11-25-68

AIRTEL URGENT

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561 2P

MURKIN

LOOK MAGAZINE ARTICLE INDICATES JAMES EARL RAY
PURCHASED NINETEEN SIXTYTWO PLYMOUTH, EAST ST. LOUIS,
ILLINOIS. ILLINOIS MVB RECORDS SHOW NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN
LICENSE LM FIVE NINE FOUR TWO ISSUED TO JOHN L. RAYNS,
FIVE NAUGHT SEVEN CHESTNUT, P. O. BOX TWO NINE THREE,
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS, FOR SIXTYTWO PLYMOUTH, FOUR DOOR SEDAN,
VIN TWO NINE TWO ONE ONE SIX FIVE NINE THREE FOUR, ILLINOIS
TITLE NUMBER B ONE SIX NAUGHT FOUR FIVE SIX THREE. "DRIVERS
PERMIT" ISSUED TO RAYNS NUMBERED D SEVEN FIVE FOUR FOUR
SIX FOUR.

LICENSE NUMBER LM FIVE NINE FOUR TWO PREVIOUSLY
ISSUED TO FIFTYNINE CHRYSLER TWO DOOR, VIN M FIVE THREE
ONE ONE NAUGHT EIGHT TWO FOUR NAUGHT.

PLYMOUTH PURCHASED BUNDY OLDSMOBILE, SEVEN ONE ONE
ILLINOIS AVENUE, EAST ST. LOUIS. ARTICLE INDICATES PLYMOUTH
SOLD IN CHICAGO DURING SIXTYSEVEN.

1 - 44-561
1 - Chicago (AM)
① - Memphis (AM)
TC:VLS
(3)

M

44-1987 Sub-M-225

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Hester *Q*

SI 44-561

**INVESTIGATION CONTINUING TO DEVELOP TITLE HISTORY
TO DETERMINE DISPOSITION OF SIXTYTWO PLYMOUTH.**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Springfield, Illinois
November 29, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

On November 26, 1968, Mr. JOHN L. WEST, Salesman, Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., 8th and Illinois, East St. Louis, Illinois, advised that records of his company indicate that JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Post Office Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, purchased a 1962 Plymouth, four-door, Sedan, VIN 2921165934, on July 14, 1967, as per invoice #6852. Mr. WEST advised that this invoice indicates that the price of the above car was \$200. In addition, there was sales tax in the amount of \$9.50 and a notary fee in the amount of 50 cents, bringing total price of the automobile to \$210. Mr. WEST further advised that his records indicate that RAYNS made a cash deposit of \$20, as per receipt #38466 dated July 14, 1967, and apparently returned shortly thereafter with the balance of \$190, as the records indicate receipt #38469 dated July 14, 1967, indicate RAYNS paid this amount. WEST pointed out that although he could not be specific as to the time element involved between the period of time that the \$20 cash deposit was paid and the balance of \$190 was paid, it was apparently only a matter of a few minutes to an hour, since there were only two receipts issued between deposit receipt and balance receipt given to RAYNS.

Mr. WEST pointed out that there was no trade-in involved in the transaction. He also advised his file on RAYNS indicates Illinois sales tax form #1978804, which was dated July 14, 1967, was completed on that date and this along with the license information was mailed to the Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, on July 31, 1967. Mr. WEST stated that from his records he had to assume RAYNS transferred his license from a previously owned automobile to the 1962 Plymouth, inasmuch as he was able to find a receipt #463, in the amount of \$3.00, which is the fee normally paid for transfer of title. Mr. WEST stated if an individual purchases an automobile and applies for a new license, he would be charged a minimum of \$7.00.

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Hester

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JAMES EARL RAY

Mr. WEST advised he recalled that the 1962 Plymouth was taken into Bundy Oldsmobile as the trade-in from an unrecalled Negro male who had purchased a new Cutlass, about a month prior to the transaction with RAYNS. WEST stated that the salesman who sold the car to RAYNS was GOBEL BIGGS.

Mr. WEST stated he could not specifically recall the sale of the automobile to RAYNS. He stated photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were unfamiliar to him. He likewise showed photograph to other sales personnel at Bundy Oldsmobile and they, too, stated that they could not recall RAY as ever having been in Bundy Oldsmobile. WEST did point out, however, that his business is primarily the sale of new cars and used cars of a higher quality than the automobile sold to RAYNS. Therefore, the transaction was somewhat insignificant and he was unable to recall any further specific details and was only able to furnish the above information as direct result of review of the receipts, invoices and orders set forth above.

Mr. GOBEL BIGGS, Salesman, Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., East St. Louis, Illinois, after reviewing the invoice orders and other receipts pertaining to the sale of 1962 Plymouth, four-door, Sedan, VIN 2921165934, which he sold to JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Post Office Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, stated he could not recall this individual or anything of the transaction. Mr. BIGGS advised the transaction was rather insignificant and it involved the sale of a "junker" with \$200, and he could have possibly remembered more about the man had he sold the individual a new car or a used car in better condition. Mr. BIGGS did state, however, that he still has in his possession a "follow-up information card" for JOHN L. RAYNS with the address of 507 Chestnut, Post Office Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, and he indicates on this card that RAYNS purchased a 1962 Plymouth on July 14, 1967. Mr. BIGGS stated it is the policy at Bundy Oldsmobile for all salesmen to send new car literature to individuals to whom they have sold automobiles in the past; and, based on this information card, he is relatively certain that he has sent such literature to RAYNS at the above address on at least seven or eight occasions, since the initial purchase of the 1962 Plymouth. He stated he has no way of knowing whether this literature was received by RAYNS at this address or whether it was returned by the Post Office. He stated if such literature would have been returned by the Post Office to Bundy Oldsmobile, it would have just been destroyed; therefore, he would have no way of knowing

JAMES EARL RAY

whether or not it was actually received. BIGGS, upon viewing photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, stated he could not associate this individual with being identical with RAYNS and was unable to furnish any other details as to the transaction, including the manner of payment, although he was certain from the invoice and receipts that this automobile was paid for in cash.

Mr. JAMES TABOR, Supervisor, Auto Registration Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, advised on November 27, 1968, that a check of records reflect that 1967 Illinois license LM-5942 was issued June 5, 1967, to JOHN LARRY RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, for a 1959 Chrysler, two-door, VIN M531108240, which was purchased used June 5, 1967, from GEORGE SEYMOUR HELLER, 7102 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois. Certificate of Title #B1178475 issued June 6, 1967, to RAYNS for this vehicle with no lien. On August 8, 1967, above-mentioned 1967 Illinois license transferred to RAYNS for a 1962 Plymouth, four-door, VIN 2921165934, which was purchased used July 14, 1967, from Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., 711 Illinois Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. The application for this transfer reflects that above-mentioned 1959 Chrysler to be sold later. Certificate of Title #B1604563 issued August 8, 1967, to RAYNS for instant Plymouth with no lien.

Mr. TABOR also advised that 1967 Illinois license RT-5302 was issued 8/28/67 to JERRY W. RYAN, 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, for instant Plymouth, purchased used August 25, 1967, from JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Winnetka, Illinois. Certificate of Title #B1777474 issued September 7, 1967, to RYAN for this Plymouth with no lien.

Mr. TABOR also advised that 1967 Illinois license SC-7905 was issued October 25, 1967, to GJERDIS DOROTHEA RAY, 1344 Hazel Avenue, Deerfield, Illinois, for instant 1962 Plymouth, purchased used October 20, 1967, from JERRY W. RYAN, 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois. Certificate of Title #B2105425 issued November 6, 1967, to RAY for this Plymouth with no lien and has not been surrendered to date.

On November 29, 1968, Mrs. GENEVA JONES, Supervisor, Driver's License Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, advised she could find nothing in her files identifiable

JAMES EARL RAY

with GJERDIS DOROTHEA RAY. Concerning JERRY W. RYAN she furnished the following:

Address: 314 Wisconsin,
Lake Forest, Illinois
Date of Birth:
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 178 pounds
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Driver's
License
Number: R500-4393-5202, which expires
July 16, 1971

RYAN obtained this driver's license after taking an examination on May 20, 1968, while driving a 1960 DeSoto.

On April 19, 1968, Mr. WILLIAM KAUFMAN, Illinois State Board of Probation and Parole, Springfield, Illinois, advised that one JERRY WILLIAM RAY, also known as JERRY WILLIAM RYAN, white male, date of birth at Quincy, Illinois, 5'10", 170 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes, was the brother of JAMES EARL RAY.

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.

F B I

Date: 11/29/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

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

Re Springfield airtel to Bureau dated 11/26/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of a letterhead memorandum regarding automobile transactions and title transfers by JAMES EARL RAY, also known as, during the Summer and Fall of 1967. Also enclosed for Chicago and Memphis are two copies each of this letterhead memorandum.

Also enclosed herewith for Chicago are 14 photostats of registration and title records for 1959 Chrysler and 1962 Plymouth mentioned in enclosed letterhead memorandum. It should be noted that some of these photostats are not legible.

JERRY W. RYAN, 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, mentioned in enclosed letterhead memorandum, appears identical to JERRY WILLIAM RAY, aka Ryan, brother of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

Chicago conduct appropriate investigation regarding JERRY W. RYAN, 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, and 314 Wisconsin, Lake Forest, Illinois, and GJERDIS DOROTHEA RAY, 1344 Hazel Avenue, Deerfield, Illinois, and consider interviewing each concerning the transactions mentioned in enclosed letterhead memorandum.

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 11)
 - 2 - Chicago (44-1114) (Enc. 16)
 - ② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *mgm*
 - 2 - Springfield (44-561)
- WR/ssj
(9)

M
For your report

44-1987-Sub-M-287

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DEC 2 - 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *off*

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

11/30/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (P*)
RE: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call, 11/27/68.

All motels and hotels in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico,
were checked under RAY's true name and aliases for the
month of October, 1967 with negative results.

2 - Bureau
① - Memphis
2 - San Antonio
FAS/jsm
(5)

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44-1987-Sub-M - 288
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DEC
Hester

12/6/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN
(OO: Memphis)

Memphis Office is continuing to review the investigation relating to information contained in the "Look" Magazine articles prepared by WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE.

Investigation concerning his employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant (5/3/67-6/24/67) and his residence at 2731 North Sheffield, Chicago, Ill., is contained in the report of SA RENE J. DUMAINE dated 10/2/68 at Chicago. Note that this is his first employment following his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary on 4/23/68.

The Springfield Office has determined that the subject on 6/5/67 while still employed at the Indian Trail Restaurant in Winnetka, Ill., purchased a 1959 Chrysler from one GEORGE SYMOUR HELLER, 7102 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Ill. It is not known what became of this Chrysler; however, the Illinois license for the Chrysler was transferred to a 1962 Plymouth which was purchased 7/14/67 from Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., East St. Louis, Ill. Note that this Plymouth was purchased about three weeks after the subject left his employment at Winnetka, Ill., and four days after the purchase he signed a lease on 7/18/67 at the Harkay Apartments, Montreal, Canada.

3 - Bureau
2 - Chicago
② - Memphis
JCH:guh
(7)

gme

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R

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44-1987-Sub-M-289

uh/Hester
JCH

ME 44-1987

Both the Chrysler and the Plymouth are mentioned by HUIX in the first of his "Look" articles, and this Plymouth is the car RAY had in his possession when he met the mysterious "RAOUL" in Canada. In the second of the "Look" articles, it is reported that on instructions from "RAOUL" this car was sold by RAY in Chicago on or about 8/22/67. Illinois Motor Vehicle records reflect that on 8/25/67 this Plymouth was purchased from the subject by JERRY W. RYAN, 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Ill., and on 10/30/67 JERRY W. RYAN sold this car to GJERDIS DOROTHEA RAY, 1344 Hazel Ave., Deerfield, Ill. It is believed that JERRY W. RYAN is the subject's brother and that GJERDIS RAY is JERRY RAY's former wife. Investigation is continuing in this regard.

The second of the "Look" articles states that when RAY met "RAOUL" at Windsor, Ontario, on 8/21/67, RAY made two trips in his automobile between Windsor and Detroit, each time bringing undeclared items through customs which items were turned over to "RAOUL" in Detroit. The "Look" article states that on the second of these trips RAY declared his television set and paid duty in the amount of \$4.50. He declared the television set in hopes that this would prevent a thorough inspection of his automobile by customs officials. Neither Detroit nor Buffalo has been able to locate a record to verify that such a customs declaration was ever made.

This same "Look" article states that after leaving Windsor, Ontario, on 8/21/67, RAY spent the night of 8/21/67 in a motel about five miles east of Gary, Indiana. A canvass of motels in that area has failed to locate a registration for RAY on that date.

The "Look" article indicates that RAY was instructed by "RAOUL" to go to Birmingham, Alabama, from Canada. RAY went to Birmingham where he spent the night of 8/25/67, at the Granada Hotel. This article further states that on other occasions RAY stayed at the Provincial Hotel in New Orleans; at the Flamingo Hotel in Selma, Ala.;

ME 44-1987

at the San Francisco Hotel in Acapulco, Mexico; and at an unknown hotel in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Guest registrations from the Granada Hotel, the Provincial Hotel and the Flamingo Hotel have been obtained and are being compared in an effort to identify "RAOUL." The San Antonio Office has been unable to locate a registration for RAY in Nuevo Laredo. The Bureau has not instructed the Legat, Mexico, to conduct investigation at Acapulco.

LEADS:

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

Instruct Legat, Mexico, to conduct appropriate investigation to verify subject's stay at the San Francisco Hotel, Acapulco, and to determine who his associates were during the approximately five days he spent in Acapulco. You will note the "Look" article states subject stayed one night at the San Francisco Hotel and the next four nights at some other hotel in Acapulco. Since we know he arrived in Puerto Vallarta on 10/19/67, he should have been in Acapulco approximately 10/14-18/67.

CHICAGO OFFICE:

Locate and interview all persons involved in the sale and/or transfer of instant 1959 Chrysler and instant 1962 Plymouth and determine who has possession of these cars at present.

12-6-68

AIRTEL

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

Re Springfield airtel to Director, 5-1-68, and Indianapolis airtel to Director, 10-17-68.

On December 5 and 6, 1968, PAUL HOWARD, temporarily residing Room 224, Rogers Hotel, Bloomington, Illinois, an unsavory individual with alleged underworld connections, contacted a representative of the Springfield Office.

HOWARD advised that since casually meeting ROBERT HOOD STRADER in a bar he has associated with him constantly from November 26, 1968, to the present. He identified STRADER as the owner of the Prototype Specialty Company, 2745 South Holt Road, P. O. Box 41004, Indianapolis, Indiana, whose wife, MARGARET STRADER, was currently confined to St. Joseph Hospital, Bloomington, Illinois, where she has given birth to a child.

As noted in referenced communications, STRADER, who apparently has a history of mental illness, has alleged he had information concerning the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. HOWARD related the story as furnished him by STRADER with events in the order as set forth in referenced airtels. STRADER alleged to HOWARD that the FBI was fully familiar with his story; that he is well acquainted with numerous agents throughout the United States and that "federal agents" were protecting him and are constantly alert to his whereabouts. According to

3 - Bureau
① - Memphis (44-1987)(Info.)
1 - Indianapolis (44-563)(Info.)
1 - Chicago (44-1114)(Info.)
1 - Springfield
DTS:VLS
(7)

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44-1987-Sub-M-290

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

SI 44-561

HOWARD, STRADER continually discusses the MARTIN LUTHER KING killing and has furnished so much alleged detail in this matter that he has HOWARD thoroughly confused. STRADER allegedly is in the process of selling his story concerning the KING slaying to the "Chicago Daily News" for \$2,500,000 and he has an appointment with JOHN LINDSTROM on December 7, 1968, at a motel in Lafayette, Indiana, concerning his story. STRADER allegedly stated whoever will pay the most for his story will get it.

HOWARD advised he and STRADER travelled to the office of STRADER's attorney, DONALD FOLEY, of the Merchants Bank Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, where between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., December 5, 1968, STRADER made four or five disk recordings utilizing both sides of the recording disks in which he related all of his alleged facts concerning the KING slaying. FOLEY then allegedly contacted or was to contact an agent of the Indianapolis Office.

Incidental to their trip to Indianapolis, Indiana, STRADER and HOWARD travelled to the Veterans Administration Hospital, Danville, Illinois, where STRADER is allegedly a patient on temporary leave due to report back on December 26, 1968. The purpose of the visit was to pick up checks mailed to STRADER at the hospital but after entering the hospital STRADER returned to HOWARD and stated the checks had not come.

In view of past information concerning STRADER, no action is recommended. Additional information furnished by HOWARD in this matter will be furnished the Bureau and interested offices upon its receipt.

12-9-68

AIRTEL

AM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Chicago and Birmingham are requested to expedite the submission of FD-302's regarding investigation of information appearing in the "Look" magazine articles, as Memphis is now preparing a report concerning this phase of the investigation.

- 3 BUREAU (AM)
- 2 BIRMINGHAM
- 2 CHICAGO
- 1 MEMPHIS

JCH:BN
(8)

L

44-1987-Sub-M-291

JW

SEARCHED _____

INDEXED _____

SERIALIZED _____

FILED _____

see Lester

ll

12/3/68
PLAINTEXT

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: ME

*Sub M-250
-251
-252*

Re Bureau airtel dated 11/19/68.

RE: ROBERT LEE SAUNDERS

Memphis is not in possession of any information concerning SAUNDERS other than that contained in Birmingham airtel, 11/15/68, a copy of which was furnished to the Bureau.

SAUNDERS allegedly overheard a conversation between four Negro males during which the word or the name KING was used. Since we are certain that the victim KING was killed by subject RAY, a white male, and since we have no reason to suspect that he was aided by one or more Negro males, it does not appear that SAUNDERS' information has any connection with this matter or that it warrants any further action.

Memphis does not feel that this interview with SAUNDERS is pertinent to this case but will, UACB, include his interview in the next report as previously instructed by the Bureau.

ASAC
3-Bureau
2-Memphis
JCH:peh
(5)
peh

R

see
my
Hester

~~44-1987-Sub-292~~

44-1987-Sub-M-292

12-4-68

AIRTEL

AM

TO: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

OO: Memphis

Reference Birmingham Airtel to Bureau 11/22/68, by which a handwritten list of names was furnished the Memphis Office. This list of names is enclosed herewith. They should be listed in appropriate FD-302's and returned promptly to Memphis for inclusion in a report now in preparation.

It is also requested that you submit separate FD-302's reflecting interviews with Mr. CHARLIE TRONCALE and Mr. ADRIAN M. KOONCE of the Granada Hotel.

2 Birmingham (Enc. 1)(RM)
1 Memphis

JCH:DN
(3)

Sub M-272

TW

44-1987-Sub-M-293

llh
get

BU 44-374
MP 44-1987
-1-

On December 2, 1968, FRANK GRIMES, United States Customs, Buffalo, New York, advised SA R. GORDON EDDY that customs had completed a check of its records for August and September, 1967 and could locate no record of a television set being declared at any of the points of entry to the United States from Canada within the Buffalo Division for the months of August and September, 1967. GRIMES said that these records would normally be maintained on an informal entry form in the Monies and Accounts section and are retained for a period of two years. He had the records checked for both the names ERIC S. GALT and JAMES EARL RAY.

:ceb

44-1987-Sub-M-294

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ell</i>	FILED <i>ell</i>
DEC 5 - 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *OH*

12/3/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374) (P)

MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Buffalo, 11/25/68,
and Memphis airtel, 11/27/68.

Enclosed herewith to Memphis are original and
nine copies of investigative insert at Buffalo.

For information of Bureau, U.S. Customs, Buffalo,
N.Y., could locate no record of JAMES EARL RAY declaring
a television set at any point of entry to the United States
within the Buffalo Division.

- 2 - Bureau (AM) *msu*
- ② - Memphis (Encs - 10) (AM)
- 1 - Buffalo

RG:osb
(5)

*Detroit, not Buffalo,
is where Ray claims
to have declared TV.*

*Insert
from Buffalo
for report*

*Have Buffalo
check on other
aliases
of Ray
also*

44-1987-Sub-M-295

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
DEC 5 - 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *ll*

December 3, 1968

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, SAVANNAH (44-1768)
FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for Memphis and Savannah is one Xerox copy of letter and envelope sent to Mrs. DONNELLY by RAY RUSSELL.

Mrs. GLORIA DONNELLY, owner, 2731 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, made available a letter from RAY RUSSELL and the envelope the letter came in, to Agents of the Chicago Division. For the information of Savannah, investigation has previously established that JAMES EARL RAY, using the name of JOHN LARRY RAYMS, rented a room, which was the rear basement apartment at 2731 North Sheffield, and resided at that address from April 30, 1967, to sometime in May or June, 1967.

Mrs. DONNELLY contacted Agents due to the fact that letter signed by RAY RUSSELL, who is apparently an inmate at the prison at Reidsville, Georgia, refers to the rear basement apartment and mentions the name, JOHN LARRY RAYMS. Mrs. DONNELLY cannot recall the identity of RAY RUSSELL. She has checked her rent records and cannot find anyone by that name that rented from them. Mrs. DONNELLY also advised she does not understand why RUSSELL would be writing to her asking her for help in getting money.

2 - Savannah (Enc. 1)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)
1 - Chicago

JMB/kag
(5)

44-1987-256

M 185 A

44-1987-Sub-M-296

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 5 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester