

Woman: Before you start talking, your first name?

Male: Bill Harris.

Woman: What?

Male: Bill Harris.

Woman: Bill Harris is taling.

Male: With the (inaudible)

Woman: All right. Hold on just a minute. Bill, Bill, would you shut up a minute.

Male: Right.

Woman: This is Bill Harris here at the Hawaiian Hotel. He's sitting here across from me and we're doing a bit of talking and he's chuckling in the process, but he has something to say. He's a very, very intelligent person. Would you shut up a minute. I've read you out already.

Male: I've read you out honey, and you're more better than I am.

Woman: Would you hush a minute.

Male: Yeah.

Woman: Now, here is an individual who's lived a great deal. I think (inaudible) would you shut up a minute. I've seen his hand, I've washed his body, I've listened to him, I've watched him. He's a fine person. I think in some ways, because of the extent of his intelligence

Hester

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he's a bit frustrated because ah, I think he's deeply soggy, and I've washed him and listened to him. Many times people with the lower levels of psychic ability have this thing. I think Bill is one of them. (tape brke, approximately 30 seconds) I don't think to the extent you and I have, David. Ah, and I think maybe we can introduce him to some areas of study that will mean a great deal to him, and I will try to do so. But, I, I'm going to leave this tape on because he's had some very, very significant experiences in his life that are interesting to listen to and to assess. And so, Bill, come on, in an organized way say, how it is with you.

Bill: I've been tied up with organized labor for the last eleven years.

Woman: All right, organized labor in what form?

Bill: In form of organizing.

Woman: What level?

Bill: In the organizing labor form and the ah, ah, the form of deciding where we strike and when we strike in public employees. I was with Martin Luther King when he was struck in Memphis, Tennessee. I was with Jim Pierce when we decide whether we're going to strike in Memphis, and I was the predominant figure that strived that this was the place that we ought to decide the South.

The only ah, decedent that I had was in the black organization, was when we was going against Globe, a Jewish fellow who was elected by organized labor in Memphis. And, ah, then, the president of the Acme Corporation was Jerry Worth, the side we would win and they asked me, that we would win in Memphis because of whether we had to sacrifice who it was and what it was. Ah, I firmly believe that Martin Luther King was a sacrifice for labor movement and he was killed by the labor movement. They can accuse who they want to, but, I firmly believe that Mr. Ray, or whoever it was, was committed to kill Martin Luther King, was killed by assassines, unknown, was killed by the labor movement. And I'll tell you why. Jerry Worth, at that time, was committed when I was at the last meeting with Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. Now, I was there when the President of the Union was there. I was their national organizer. I was the Regional Director of the American Federation of State State (inaudible) Employees. And when Martin Luther King was assassinated I was the Director of the Regional Director, Southern Director of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. And, Mr. Worth walked in and took over the operation and he told me period I was no longer in charge of the operations, that he was in charge of the operations. From then on, and from

that day forward, until the 27th day of Martin Luther King's assassination, he was in charge period.

Woman: What was that man's name again?

Bill: Jerry Worth. He was the President of our International. Until that day, Martin Luther King went to Atlanta, two days prior to that he went to Atlanta to go to the Flowers Church. He asked that he not be brought back in a field of violecne and subside. He did not want to participate in any organization with violence. My international president assured him that there would be no violence.

I was the principle organizer of the drive.

Female: What drive?

Bill: In Memphis, Tennessee. You don't believe me do you? All right. I asked him. And Jim Pierce was my Regional Director. I asked Jerry Worth whether or not he could assure me that there would be no violence, no other thing, and we would ask Martin Luther King to return to Memphis. He told me in his own words, he guaranteed me there would be no violence on any part. The preachers in the church in Memphis and the Alabama Church in the Albania Church, the Lutheran Church, told me that there would be no violence and I told my president and Jerry Worth quoted me. We paid Martin Luther King to be flown to Memphis, Tennessee and there was a conspiracy to assassinate him among the unions before he

got there.

Woman: Which union?

Bill: Teamsters. And they paid for it.

Woman: Was there other unions involved in that?

Well, ask him.

Bill: All the workers, the teamsters, and AFLCIO conspired to pay the man to kill Martin Luther King.

Woman: How do you know this?

Bill: I know this because I was there. The money was paid to the man and he got him in a \$10,000, collect (inaudible)

Woman: Well, David, you've heard Bill, ah, what is your last name? Oh that's right.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Of course honey. Listen, I've had so many thing said to me where I could never say anything.

Male: (inaudible)

Woman: What are you laughing at? How do you spell your last name? How do you spell your last name?

Harris. Don't worry about it. Now, you tell me that you think you are an alcoholic. I don't think so, you've gone through an awful lot. Sure, you have memories. All right you say this on tape. In just a moment. Wait just a moment.

Will you wait just a moment. Let me talk again. I would never ever presume to print anything that I have on this

tape. No. I would never do it. But, I tell you one thing right now, Bill, you're there. A lifetime in a short time. There are others you know, who live a lifetime in a short time. You've learned something.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Let me ask you a question? Would you let me ask you a question? Shhhhhh. Let me ask you a question. Would you shut up a minute. Let . . . I want to ask you a question.

Bill: (inaudible) Go ahead.

Woman: Out of the all the life experience that you had, and some of it I know has been very very rough, I know it could have been more so in this life. Shhhhhh, just a moment. Gather your thoughts together, because I want a concrete answer.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to say on this tape what it is in your inner most self you feel you've learned from all this turbulence and life experience you've passed through. I know it has changed your life in many ways. I'm hoping it has changed it in a positive way rather than a negative way and perhaps you can say what has all this meant to you, within the last five years, can you say? All right, take the mike, gather your thoughts together and see if you can say what all this has meant to you. From a perhaps detached and

philosophical point of view at this stage in your life.

It's been rough I know, but see if you can say, all right.

Bill: All right, before this all happened, I was a beautiful individual. There was a point where I was ah, we had to have Martin, we had to have somebody to win this thing. I was subjected first of all to killing Martin Luther King. I objected violently to it.

Woman: And when were you born?

Bill:

Woman: Where?

Bill: In a little southern town in North Carolina.

Woman: Where?

Bill: I was born in North Carolina in 1927 in a little town called, White Lake, North Carolina. I was violently opposed to the assassination when I started out with. I was told, now this is, in personal invitation, I've left the labor movement since then. I've not been associated with the labor movement since then. I was violently opposed to the assassination when I was told it had to be. And Ray has no connection with the assassination whatsoever. He was perpetrated by the labor movement, he was marked by the teamsters union. He was shot and killed by the teamsters union and the figure you have there today was only a figure. Ray is only a damn figure of the imagination.

A guy who was perpetrated, put there, gave him money to be there and perpetrated for it. The International Organization paid politically to assassinate Martin Luther King. They had to win in Memphis, they had to beat the governor there, the Mayor there, because he was Jewish. He was elected by the labor movement.

Woman: Who was it?

Bill: I don't know who the hell it was. The Jew there was a guy who owned all of his cars, a damn hamburger stand. He was Jewish to start out with. His name was Jewish. Now I was brought in there, not as a participant. I was brought in there as a damn organizer. I was told what to do. Martin Luther King was assassinated by the labor movement, by the teamsters union, and Ray had nothing to do with it. Not one thing. No part of it. No part of it. He couldn't have fired the first shot. Because nobody knew he was then at, but Jerry Worth, myself and Ray, let's see, knew where Martin Luther King was staying at.

Woman: My darling. If you've sort of bared your soul.

Bill: I haven't bared my soull.

Woman: Well, up to a point, yes. Ah, it's good for you. Would you hush a minute. The FBI, you know, has worked on this too. Well, would you hush a minute.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Don't forget (inaudible) Just one moment. There is much, you have lots to say and there is much that you have not said. But you've said as much as you really want to say and that's all right. Um, the inside, the change of you from what happened to you as a part of that particular thing, that terrible thing, an international thing what's happened. Ah, has made a terrible impact on you. Now you can over come this in many ways, and you will in time. Now, I'm telling you this because I know. And, don't ask me how I know, but I do know. Well, the memory of what happened and the knowledge that you have before that terrible thing . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Shhhhhh, won't you let me finish. Will, if you so choose and disappear and you will use the lesson that comes, will you hush a minute. The lesson that came from that knowledge at that time in your life, well, they will disappear. Now I can tell you a few things that would help you if you so choose to listen. There are some very special books for one thing that are somewhat difficult to come by but if you go to your bookstore, where ever you live, they will be able to find them. I can give you the author and the ah, the place to write to find these books. Now, David and I own the whole set of them and we read them where ever we

go, every night. David has studied these (inaudible) they are the best to be found in this whole field. They will help you, yes. And, I will show them to you. We brought one with us. Well, we brought more than one. But, I want you to become acquainted with them and do what you can. They're out in paper back now. We have all the hard cover ones. They're rather expensive in hard cover. But, they're now out in paper back and I want you to read them. Some people are (inaudible). They're written by a Tibetan Monk, they're baby books. Well, I'm going to introduce you, very cursory, to the baby books. You will overcome all that you've gotten through. Now I don't know if you believe in . . . do you believe in reincarnation.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, you have much more to do yet, you have too fine a mind to let . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, listen. Would you listen. No.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Listen.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Every man has, but every woman has too.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Now, just a moment.

Bill: I participated in it, yes, unwillingly.

Woman: And you feel guilty about it don't you.

Bill: You're god damn right I do.

Woman: All right. One, you still eat meat?

Bill: Yes.

Woman: Well.

Bill: Look, I can't (inaudible)

Woman: All right, this is what I'm saying. You start reading some of the books and you'll find. You'll read them over and over and you can, through meditation devote yourself to a certain type of reality, ah, but still remain very much in this level. A human being lives at many many levels and you know that and it's a frustration to you because you don't know the levels at which you're living.

Bill: That's beautiful. But, you talk about frustration.
(inaudible)

Woman: All right, you did what you had to do. Sweetheart, would you just plain listen. You did what you were told and had to do.

Bill: In front of 20 million people.

Woman: All right.

Bill: I feel like (inaudible)

Woman: Don't feel, if you don't eliminate that guilt in some manner from your system . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No you have not.

Bill: I haven't said that I'm not going to do it.

Woman: But you did.

Bill: Yeah.

Woman: And that's why the lines in your face.

Bill: All right.

Woman: And you're still a young man.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: My darling you don't need to die from me.

Bill: Why not?

Woman: That's why I want you to do some reading.

All right, now we're going to shut this tape off and I want to show you some books.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, no, I'm not going to, oh hell. You can have your own guilt if you want to, good heavens. I have no guilt of, of anything.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, I could never kill anything. All right, so this is the difference of course. Just a moment. If you believe in reincarnation, I know that in a life

time, I was a man once, not a woman.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You've got to over come this, honey, and you can't do this.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Listen anything I give to you is given willingly.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh no. Well, . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: When you're deeply soggy then you know. That's right.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I know that. Oh I know that. Don't you think I knew that, without even listening to your conversation. I felt your vibrations.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: That's right, I don't have to assume anything to anyone.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, not at all. Thank you.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Thank you.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, I'm going to cut the tape off right now.

I want to introduce you briefly to these books.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: And you know I'm very deeply in love with my husband.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to look at them, though. (inaudible)

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: And one day, that's nice.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh my goodness I wouldn't want any more.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to go home and, uh, make mad passionate love to your wife, my god.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh, don't say that.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You don't know what my ideas are.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Most men, ah, do, find their achilles heel.

Bill: I respect you.

Woman: Do you know what my idea is?

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: It doesn't matter.

Bill: Because you've got proof, about 190 of them.

(inaudible)

Woman: I don't have to prove anything to anybody.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You've got to use that wonderful mind of yours and stop living the past.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, I am a woman too, but just in my husband's hurry.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No. Well, I'm going to shut this off for now.

Bill: Now, let's talk.

Woman: David, we're home now.

6/18/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN
(OO:ME)

Enclosed for the Bureau and each office is a transcript of a conversation between SHIRLEY GAINES and BILL (MNU) HARRIS concerning captioned matter.

On 5/28/74, DAVID J. GAINES, 6171 Leesburg Pike, Apartment 532, Falls Church, Virginia, telephone 534-5572, contacted WFO and stated he would like to make available a tape recording for the FBI's consideration concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

GAINES stated that the tape contains a conversation between his wife, SHIRLEY GAINES, and an individual who identifies himself as BILL (MNU) HARRIS. According to GAINES, both participants on the tape were in a seminebriated condition when the recording was made. In the recording, HARRIS states that JAMES EARL RAY had nothing to do with the assassination of KING but that he and others connected with the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters Union planned and paid for the assassination.

The record reportedly was made while GAINES was on a job as a private court and conference reporter at a public hearing on Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Citizen Advisory Commission at Brunswick, Maryland, sometime in June of 1972. He stated that during this time he and his wife were staying at the Hawaiian Hotel in Brunswick, Maryland. HARRIS and several other men were staying in the room next to theirs.

GAINES stated that his wife, SHIRLEY, heard on the radio recently that several men were being investigated for their part in the assassination of KING. She then remembered the tape that she and HARRIS had made. GAINES stated that after listening to the tape he decided to bring it to the FBI.

2 - Bureau (Enc 1)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(Enc 1) *com*
1 - Alexandria (Info)(Enc 1)
1 - Baltimore (Info)(Enc 1)
1 - WFO
ABK:ctw
(7)

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later

WFO 44-703

He stated that the tape is a copy and that he retains the original at his home, which the FBI may have if they desire to.

In view of the fact that WFO does not have available all the facts concerning the assassination of KING and since Memphis was office of origin, the Memphis Office should review the transcript to determine if any investigation need be conducted as a result of information contained in the transcript.

Information copies are being sent to Alexandria and Baltimore in the event additional investigation is requested by Memphis.

F B I

Date: 6/17/74

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)
RE: MURKIN

Re Knoxville telephone call to Memphis, 6/17/74.

In the early A.M., 6/16/74, a Security Patrol Clerk of the Knoxville Office received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself only as JOHN TRAVERS, Chattanooga, Tennessee. This individual stated that earlier that evening he had overheard a man in a motel, not further identified, state that he was going to "bust" JAMES EARL RAY out of prison sometime the following week. The caller said that the person making such statement was unknown to him.

When pressed for an address or phone number where he could be contacted, the telephone caller refused and would not give any further details.

Knoxville indices negative concerning JOHN TRAVERS. Telephone and City Directories also negative re JOHN TRAVERS.

This is furnished for information of Memphis.

2 - Memphis
1 - Knoxville

WWS:1hm
(3)

44-1987 Sub m 859

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[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

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

6/17/74

AIR MAIL

AIRMAIL

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This is furnished for information of Memphis.

2 - Memphis
1 - Knoxville

WRS:jms
(3)

Jim Rose
Warden
Tenn. State Penit.
Mark 37209

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

DATE: 6/18/74

Re Memphis airtel to Mobile, 5/20/74.

On 6/14/74, LEWIS BYRD, Administrative Assistant, Searcy Hospital, Mount Vernon, Alabama, advised that GLEN BALLEW has been a mental patient at this hospital on at least seven occasions. He was last admitted 10/16/73 after he was acquitted on an appeal of a life sentence he received for first degree murder. The appeal was obtained as it was determined that BALLEW was insane. BYRD advised that BALLEW suffers from paranoid schizophrenia and a recent evaluation by doctors indicated he was in bad mental health and is a prolific letter-writer, writing letters to the President of the U. S., the local PD, FBI and DICK TRACY. In view of BALLEW's mental condition, he was not interviewed. It is not felt that it is logical that any further investigation should be conducted in this matter.

② - Memphis
1 - Mobile
RGR:mb
(3)



5010-108-02

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

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FBI - MEMPHIS

Hester

HESTER

6/27/74

airtel

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

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau, 6/18/74.

LEAD:

BALTIMORE DIVISION

AT BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND. Will, through registration records of the Hawaiian Hotel, attempt to identify BILL HARRIS and have him interviewed regarding statements made by him concerning the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. In the event HARRIS is now an official of a labor union national headquarters or is a controversial figure in the labor movement, Bureau permission should be obtained before conducting this interview.

Memphis indices contain nothing identifiable with BILL HARRIS in connection with this case.

For the additional assistance of Agents conducting the interview with HARRIS, the following is set forth:

2 - Bureau
2 - Baltimore
1 - WFO (Info)
2 - Memphis

JCH:cmc
(7) *cmc*

gjh

gjh

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44-1987 sub-m 861

ME 44-1987

KING arrived in Memphis on the morning of 3/28/68, from Atlanta, Georgia. The sanitation workers at Memphis were then on strike in what had become a long, bitter dispute over wages, check-offs, etc. The sanitation workers were represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) of which one JERRY WORTH was President. WORTH had been in Memphis during part of this strike, but this office cannot say whether or not WORTH was here on any particular day. HENRY LOEB was then the Mayor of Memphis.

KING led a march through downtown Memphis shortly before noon on 3/28/68, but the march had barely gotten underway before the marchers began looting the stores along the route of the march. KING fled the scene, and the Memphis Police Department dispersed the mob and forced them out of the downtown area.

KING spent the night of 3/28/68, in Memphis, leaving the next day to return to Atlanta. KING's prestige had suffered a serious blow in that he had been unable to control his followers and the "peaceful" march had turned into a riot. It has been speculated that KING's return to Memphis on 4/3/68 was done at the urging of his advisors, and his leading another march on 4/5/68, was to be done to rebuild his public image. As you are aware, KING was shot and killed at about 6:00 pm on 4/4/68, while standing on the balcony of his motel.

All of the evidence in this case points to the fact that JAMES EARL RAY, acting alone, was KING's murderer. There has been nothing to indicate that RAY ever received any large sum of money from anyone, and what we know of his living habits, both before and after the murder, would indicate he lived on a very limited amount of money. We do not know the source of even the small amount of money possessed by RAY, but since we know him to have robbed a bank in

ME 44-1987

England after fleeing to that country, it is a reasonable presumption that RAY committed robberies in the United States during the time he was a fugitive.

RAY entered a plea of guilty to the charge that he murdered KING and is now serving 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison. At the time of his guilty plea RAY was represented by PERCY FOREMAN of Houston, Texas. RAY now claims he was not adequately represented by FOREMAN, and he is attempting to have his guilty plea set aside in order to be granted a trial in state court.

RAY's current attorneys have made public statements to the effect that RAY bought the murder weapon and brought it to Memphis thinking he was part of a gun smuggling operation. They claim he did not know the gun was to be used to murder KING, and they claim that RAY did not pull the trigger.

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ATLANTA

11:46 PM URGENT 4-22-68 JWE

TO DIRECTOR, CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD, KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA AND SPRINGFIELD TELETYPES APRIL TWENTYTWO.
RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS REINTERVIEWED CONCERNING PORTION OF
INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED, CONCERNING RAY'S REPORTED
INCARCERATION AT MENARD PRISON.

CURTIS ADVISED HE DID NOT SERVE TIME WITH SUBJECT RAY AT
MENARD PRISON BUT RELATED ONLY WHAT RAY TOLD HIM CURTIS, WHILE
BOTH WERE IN KANSAS CITY COUNTY JAIL FOR SIX OR SEVEN MONTH
PERIOD. CURTIS ADVISED HE NEVER HEARD RAY MENTION SERVING TIME
AT JOLIET OR PONTIAC PRISONS, BUT IF HE DID, HE WAS SURE RAY
WOULD HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO MENARD FOR DISCHARGE PURPOSES.

CURTIS FURTHER DESCRIBED UNKNOWN CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF RAY
IN JACKSON COUNTY MOSSOURI JAIL AS THE CELL MATE OF RAY AND
PERSON CONVICTED ON SAME CHECK CHARGE WITH RAY.

CURTIS WHILE CONFINED WITH RAY AND UNKNOWN SECOND MAN
IN JACKSON COUNTY RECALLS A THIRD UNKNOWN MALE VISITING RAY
AND HIS CODEFENDANT. APPEARED THIRD MAN
END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

RAY AND CELLMATE. CURTIS ADVISED JAIL VISITORS LOG MORE THAN LIKELY WILL NOT REFLECT IDENTITY OF THIRD MAN. CURTIS COULD NOT RECALL NAME OF THIRD MAN OR DESCRIPTION.

CURTIS ADVISED HE WAS CONFINED JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL WITH RAY AND CO-DEFENDANT FROM MARCH NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE TO JULY NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE. CURTIS, RAY AND SECOND MAN ALL ENDED UP AT LEAVENWORTH WHERE WAS RELEASED PROBABLY IN NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT. SECOND MAN WHO IS ASSOCIATED WITH FAY DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, THIRTY SIX, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES DASH SIX FEET, ONE EIGHT ZERO POUNDS WHO WAS STRONGLY BUILT AND SPENT HIS THREE YEARS AT LEAVENWORTH ON BODY CONDITIONING AND LIFTING WEIGHTS.

CURTIS ADVISED HE LAST SAW RAY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL IN MAY OR JUNE SIXTYSIX. CURTIS RELUCTANT TO TALK FURTHER THIS MATTER.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

ELN

FBI KAN CITY

DJK

FBI SPRNGLD

RSM

RBI CHICAGO

LCC

FBI WASH DC

©

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI ATLANTA

5:55 PM EST URGENT 4/22/68 VSC

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, AND NEW ORLEANS, KANSAS CITY,
SPRINGFIELD

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386 6 P

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO ABOVE OFFICES, APR. TWENTYONE
SIXTYEIGHT.

ON APR. TWENTYONE, LAST, SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN, (NA),
DALTON, GEORGIA, ADVISED, RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS CURRENTLY SERVING
LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER, ADVISED EARLIER HE SERVED TIME ON
THREE OCCASIONS WITH JAMES RAY. MAULDIN STATED CURTIS' INFO
PROBABLY RELIABLE. CURTIS INTERVIEWED WHITFIELD COUNTY JAIL,
APR. TWENTYONE, LAST, ADVISED FIRST ACQUAINTED RAY IN MARCH
FIFTYFIVE, JACKSON COUNTY JAIL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WHERE
RAY INCARCERATED ON POST OFFICE BURGLARY CHARGE JUST SUBSEQUENT
TO RELEASE FROM PRISON IN MENARD, ILLINOIS. CURTIS, AT TIME
UNDER ARREST FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND BANK ROBBERY. DURING THIS
PERIOD, CURTIS AND RAY CELL MATES FOR SIX TO SEVEN MONTHS. RAY
HAD FRIEND (NAME UNRECALLED), WHO VISITED HIM IN JACKSON
PRISON. FRIEND HAD BEEN CELL MATE OF RAY WHEN RAY AT MENARD,
END PAGE ONE

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ILLINOIS. THIS MAN KEPT RAY IN SPENDING MONEY WHILE RAY IN PRISON AND WOULD HARBOR RAY. RAY HAD ANOTHER CLOSE FRIEND (NAME UNRECALLED) OF ITALIAN DESCENT, APPARENTLY "A BIG MAN" IN SYNDIGATE. THIS ITALIAN HAD APPARENTLY OPERATED WITH RAY IN PAST AND ENGAGED WITH RAY IN HANDLING STOLEN POST OFFICE MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELERS CHECKS. AFTER SIX TO SEVEN MONTHS AS CELL MATES, JACKSON COUNTY JAIL, RAY SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS ON POST OFFICE BURGLARY CHARGES, TRANSFERRED TO LEAVENWORTH FEDERAL PENITENTIARY. TWO WEEKS LATER, CURTIS RECEIVED SIXTEEN YEARS SENTENCE FOR BANK ROBBERY AND SENT TO LEAVENWORTH. WHILE CONFINED LEAVENWORTH DURING THIS PERIOD, RAY SPOKE OF NO GIRL FRIEND AND CORRESPONDED WITH NONE. RAY MENTIONED HE "OPERATED" FREQUENTLY OUT OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS, WHICH MEANT "ENGAGED IN BURGLARY AND PAYROLL JOBS." WHILE HE AND RAY WERE INCARCERATED, THEY ENGAGED IN CROOKED POKER GAMES AND TOOK FELLOW PRISONERS FOR MONEY RAY GOOD POKER PLAYER AND EXCELLENT CARD HANDLER. RAY MENTIONED UNDER WORLD AND HOODLUM CONNECTIONS (NAMES UNRECALLED) IN CHICAGO, DETROIT, TAMPA, AND TIJUANA, MEXICO AREAS. SERVING SEVEN TO EIGHT MONTHS WITH RAY AT LEAVENWORTH, CURTIS TRANSFERRED U.S. PENITENTIARY, ATLANTA, GA. CURTIS SERVED U.S. PENITENTIARY, ATLANTA, AND IN JUNE, SIXTYTWO, SENT BACK MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, TO SERVE

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

AT 44-2386

ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGES. WHILE IN STATE PENITENTIARY JEFFERSON MISSOURI, AGAIN INCARCERATED WITH RAY. ON OCCASIONS IN SAME CELL TOGETHER IN "B" HALL AND "C" HALL. SERVED TOGETHER FROM SIXTYTWO TO SIXTYSIX. WHILE IN "B" AND "C" HALLS, THEY WERE TOGETHER IN THREE-MAN CELL WITH THIRD INDIVIDUAL (WHOM CURTIS STATED COULD VERIFY FOLLOWING FACTS, BUT WHOM CURTIS REFUSED TO IDENTIFY). DURING THIS INCARCERATION PERIOD, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATED AND WORD CAME FROM OUTSIDE THIS PROBABLY CONSPIRACY, AND KENNEDY HAD "BOUNTY" ON HIS HEAD. CURTIS, UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS ON "BOUNTY". HE STATED IN SIXTYTHREE TO SIXTYFOUR, DR. KING'S MOVEMENTS BECAME TOPIC OF CONVERSATIONS AT STATE PENITENTIARY AND WORD GOT AROUND TO PRISONERS THAT "KK OF THE SOUTH" WHO APPARENTLY WENT TO BUSINESSMEN HAD RAISED ABOUT MILLION DOLLARS FOR "BOUNTY" ON KING'S HEAD. CURTIS, UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER IDENTIFICATION OR INFORMATION OF KK OF SOUTH. FROM "SIXTYTWO TO "SIXTYNINE BEFORE CURTIS RELEASE, RAY MENTIONED A DOZEN TIMES "HAD HE KNOWN ABOUT A BOUNTY ON JOHN F. KENNEDY'S HEAD AND HAD HE BEEN OUT, HE WOULD HAVE COLLECTED IT". RAY STATED A DOZEN TIMES THAT "IF HE GOT OUT IN TIME AND IF KING WAS STILL ALIVE, HE WOULD LIKE TO GET THE BOUNTY ON KING". RAY NEVER MENTIONED WHOM HE WOULD CONTACT TO GET BOUNTY BUT ADVISED

END PAGE THREE

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CRIMINAL ELEMENTS KNEW HOW TO CONTACT SUCH PEOPLE. ABOVE STATEMENTS BY RAY OVERHEARD BY THIRD CELL MATE MENTIONED ABOVE. RAY HAD FRIEND IN NEW ORLEANS (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN), COIN (PHONETIC) SPELLED LIKE "QUARTER OR DIME", WHO APPARENTLY A FENCE, WELL CONNECTED WITH HOODLUM ELEMENTS AND WHO IN 'FIFTYFIVE WAS FIFTYFIVE OR SIXTYFIVE YEARS OLD, WHOM WOULD HARBOR RAY. CURTIS KNEW NO CLOSE FRIENDS OF ASSOCIATES OF RAY. RAY ALLEGEDLY THRU PRISON GRAPE VINE HAD WIFE, BUT NEVER MENTIONED BY RAY; HOWEVER, FEW PRISONERS MENTION FAMILY CONNECTIONS. RAY ALSO MENTIONED GAMBLING IN LOS ANGELES. RAY WAS "HIGH LIVER" WHEN OUTSIDE AND WOULD ASSOCIATE WITH PROSTITUTES, TAKING ONE FROM TOWN TO TOWN. RAY WITH REGARD TO KING'S KILLING INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE ALL RULES AND WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY DEMAND BOUNTY MONEY BE PUT IN BANK. RAY MENTIONED THREE FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH HE HAD READ ABOUT, WHICH CURTIS ASSUMED RAY WOULD GO TO IF OUT OF UNITED STATES. THESE ARE NEW ZEALAND, BRAZIL, AND SWITZERLAND. CURTIS OF OPINION, NOT OVER THREE PEOPLE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ACTUAL ASSASSINATION. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL PLANNED WITH DIVERSIONARY MEASURES AND SECOND INDIVIDUAL, NOT RAY, WOULD HAVE DRIVEN GETAWAY CAR TO ATLANTA AS DIVERSIONARY MEASURE. CURTIS WILL NOT TESTIFY, AS HE FEARS FOR HIS LIFE, IF INFO GETS OUT. HE DEMANDED IDENTITY BE PROTECTED. IN SPITE OF ABOVE, SHERIFF MAULDIN ADVISED CURTIS HAS ALSO GIVE ABOVE INFO PRIOR TO INTERVIEW BY FBI TO LLOYD GULLEDGE, REPORTER, DALTON NEWS

END PAGE FOUR

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AT 44-2385

CITIZEN NEWSPAPER, DALTON, GEORGIA. MAULDIN NOT PRESENT DURING THIS INTERVIEW AND DOES NOT KNOW WHAT INFO CURTIS GAVE GULLEDGE. MAULDIN STATED CURTIS THREE TO FOUR DAYS AGO RECEIVED LETTER WITH RETURN ADDRESS, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY. CURTIS KNOWS NO SPECIFIC RACIAL HATREDS BY RAY, WHO IS MEAN IF CROSSED, BUT NOT AGGRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL. HE SAID IF RAY RETURNED TO ATLANTA AFTER ASSASSINATION, IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN TO COLLECT BOUNTY.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI. (1) DETERMINE THIRD CELL MATE WITH RAY AND CURTIS IN "B" AND "C" HALLS, BETWEEN 'SIXTYTWO TO 'SIXTYSIX (INDIVIDUAL ALLEGED TO BE AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY), VERIFY CURTIS' STORY. (2) THRU POLICE AND INFORMANT CONTACTS IDENTIFY ITALIAN WHO WAS "A BIG MAN" IN SYNDICATE BETWEEN KANSAS CITY AND CHICAGO AND WHO STOLE POST OFFICE MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELERS CHECKS FOR SUBJECT RAY. (3) DEVELOP INFO FROM INMATES AND OTHER SOURCES RE RAY'S ALLEGED WIFE. (4) DEVELOP INFO RE PRISON GOSSIP RE "MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY ON KING'S HEAD".

NEW ORLEANS AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.,) DEVELOP INFO RE COIN (PHONETIC).

SPRINGFIELD AT MENARD PRISON, MENARD, ILL. IDENTIFY RAY'S FORMER CELL MATE IN MENARD STATE PRISON.

END PAGE FIVE

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SPRINGFIELD AT QUINCY, ILL. CONTACT INFORMANTS AND SOURCES TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFO RE SUBJECT.

DETROIT, LOS ANGELES, SAN DIEGO, AND TAMPA CONTACT LOGICAL INFORMANTS TO DETERMINE IF SUBJECT KNOWN TO HOODLUM ELEMENTS.

SAN DIEGO NOTE SUBJECT ALLEGEDLY VISITED TIJUANA IN PAST.

AM COPIES SENT TO CHICAGO, DETROIT, LOS ANGELES, SAN DIEGO AND TAMPA.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

END

AEF

% 5:42 PM EST - PHM, FBI KAN CITY

FBI SPRNGFLD

5:25 PM EST - FGC, FBI NEW ORLS

TU

5:12 PM EST - AMB, FBI BIRMGHAM

4:57 PM EST - DGB, FBI MEMPHIS

4:38 PM EST - GFH, FBI WASH DC

FBI ATLANTA

1247 AM URGENT 4-22-68 ARK

TO DIRECTOR, SPRINGFIELD, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY,
NEW ORLEANS AND LOS ANGELES
FROM ATLANTA (44-2386) 4P

MURKIN

INTERVIEW OF RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS.

ON FOUR TWENTYONE SIXTYEIGHT RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS CURRENTLY
INCARCERATED WHITFIELD COUNTY JAIL, DALTON, GA., PENDING APPEAL
ON A LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER AND WHOM SHERIFF MAULDIN STATED
IN HIS OPINION WOULD FURNISH INFORMATION THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE
RELIABLE TO THE BEST OF CURTIS' KNOWLEDGE, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

CURTIS WHO SERVED THREE DIFFERENT SENTENCES WITH SUBJECT
IN MISSOURI, STATED SUBJECT HAD FORMER CLOSE FRIEND WHILE IN
JACKSON COUNTY JAIL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WHO HAD JUST
PREVIOUSLY SERVED TIME WITH HIM AT MENARD PRISON ILLINOIS WHO
VISTED SUBJECT FREQUENTLY AND KEPT HIM IN SPENDING MONEY.

SUBJECT ALSO HAD, NAME UNKNOWN, ITALIAN CONTACT WHO WAS BIG MAN
IN SYNDICATE BETWEEN KANSAS CITY AND CHICAGO WHO HANDLED STOLEN
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POSTAL MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELERS CHECKS WHO IS KNOWN TO KOPD. SUBJECT ALSO HAD CLOSE FRIEND (FNU) COIN (PHONETIC) WHO IN NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE WAS FIFTYFIVE TO SIXTY YEARS OF AGE WHO IS A FENCE AND LIVED IN NEW ORLEANS. SUBJECT ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS BURGLARIES AND PAYROLL JOBS, QUINCY, ILL. IN PAST. SUBJECT WHILE IN PRISON AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI BETWEEN NINETEEN SIXTYTWO AND SIXTYSIX, HEARD SUBJECT MENTION ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT THERE WAS A BOUNTY ALLEGEDLY A MILLION DOLLARS ON KINGS HEAD AND IF HE GOT OUT OF PRISON BEFORE KING WAS KILLED, HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS, NAMES UNKNOWN TO CURTIS, AND COLLECT BOUNTY BY KILLING KING.

CURTIS, ALTHOUGH REQUESTED IDENTITY BE PROTECTED, FURNISHED UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH RAY TO REPORTER, DALTON DAILY CITIZEN NEWS, DALTON, GA., EARLIER THIS DATE.

END PAGE TWO

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KANSAS CITY AT KANSAS CITY WILL THRU INFORMANTS AND POLICE CONTACT ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY ITALIAN SYNDICATE MAN WHO INVOLVED IN HANDLING STOLEN POSTAL MONEY ORDERS AND TRAVELERS CHECKS. KANSAS CITY WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION THRU INNATES RE MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY ON "KING'S HEAD."

NEW ORLEANS AT NEW ORLEANS ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY (PHU) COIN ALLEGED FENCE AND ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT.

SPRINGFIELD AT MENARD ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SUBJECT'S FORMER CELL MATE PRIOR TO NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE. AT QUINCY, ILL. THRU INFORMANTS AND OTHER LOGICAL SOURCES ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND RE SUBJECT.

ALL OFFICES PROTECT IDENTITY OF CURTIS.

COMPREHENSIVE TELETYPE RE ALL DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS TO FOLLOW.

NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED INDICATING INDIVIDUALS WHO LOOKS LIKE SUBJECT SEEN IN ATLANTA AREA. LEADS CHECKED OUT WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

END PAGE THREE

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ATLANTA PURSUING FURTHER INVESTIGATION AT AIRLINES AND
CHECK OF STOLEN CARS AND SALE OF USED CARS DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.
INVESTIGATION RECEIVING TOP PRIORITY ATTENTION.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

DPK

FBI LOS ANG.

BGM

FBI WASH DC

DJK

FBI SPRINGFIELD

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

HEP

FBI BIRMINGHAM

ENT

FBI KANSAS CITY

OLP

FBI NEW ORLEANS

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 3 016 268, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Jacksonville Fla USCG Tampa Fla	Raymond Curtis ✓ #FP 36-796 Raymond Louis ✓ Curtis #C-7410094	6-13-41 Temp CG Cert of Ident 1-5-42	vag	rel 6-13-41
PD Atlanta Ga	Raymond Curtis #47364	9-30-42	inv	10-8-42 6 mos on chg A&B
Fulton Co B of CI Atlanta Ga	Raymond Curtis #96670	9-30-42	A&B	10-8-42 6 mos
PD Tampa Fla	Raymond Louis ✓ Curtis #25543 ✓	2-1-43	drk & vag	2-1-43 #1 \$15 or 15 das 2- nolle prossed
PD Key West Fla	Raymond Curtis #5032	2-8-43	inv	
SO Tampa Fla	Raymond Curtis #15246	2-14-43	GL	2-19-43 rel
Japt of the Port Tampa Fla	Raymond Lewis ✓ Curtis #17435103 ✓	CG Ident Card 3-16-43		
ISC Wash DC	Raymond L Curtis ✓ #--	deckhand FP 5-11-43		
IOS Army	Raymond Louis Curtis #104-FOB	deckhand 5-12-43		
CO El Paso Texas	Raymond Curtis #20-17665	8-31-43	vag-inv	9-2-43 rel
DD Gulfport Miss	Raymond Curtis #A-221	taxi drivers permit 10-16-43		
Mar Dept Wash DC	Raymond Louis Curtis #44022204	enlisted 11-29-44		
DD Anniston Ala	Raymond Curtis #5348	8-17-45	holding for Gadsden	TOT Gadsden 8-17-45
MO Camp Sibert Ala	Raymond L Curtis #44022204	8-18-45	93rd AW	44-1987 Sub M 865
CO Los Angeles Calif	Jack Green ✓ #84678	11-8-45	susp 211 PC (robb)	comm to Youth Youth D46 2-26-46 on chg of GT/ Pers
CO Los Angeles Calif	Jack Green #A-73163	11-13-45	robb FBI-MEMPHIS HESTER	5-13-46 rel Cust Ione

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 3 016 268

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USDB Camp Cooke Calif	Raymond Lewis Curtis #1147	8-29-46	61 AW	1 yr
PD Hammond Ind	Raymond Louis Curtis #6398	2-18-55	not given	TOT USM
USM South Bend Ind	Raymond L Curtis #2317	2-19-55	bank robb	
USM Kans City Mo	Ray Lewis ✓ Curtis #12011	3-22-55	bank robbery Ct 1 2½ yrs Ct 5 conse total sent 12½ yrs	6-17-55 10 yrs
SO Kans City Mo	Ray Lewis Curtis #29604	3-22-55	bank robb	6-17-55 12 yrs & 6 mos
USP Leavenworth Kans.	Ray Louis Curtis ✓ #72595-L	8-11-55	bank robb	16½ yrs
SO Springfield Mo	Raymond Lewis Curtis #S-28259	5-14-62	H/F Oregon Co Mo (armed rob)	5-15-62 rel to Oregon Co Mo
Dept. of Corr Jefferson City Mo	Raymond Curtis #04849	5-18-62	PG rob	10 yrs
Medical Center for Fed Prs Springfield Mo	Ray Lewis Curtis #13980-H	5-4-62 in trans from USP:A	rob of FDIC bank	16 yrs & 6 mos
Dept of Corr Jefferson City Mo	Raymond Louis Curtis #12347	6-27-66	PG: escaping from the Renz Pr an institution under the control of the State Dept of Corr of Mo while lawfully confined therein	2 yrs
PD Tampa Fla	Raymond Louis Curtis #25 543	1-2-67	drk	\$25/25

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 3 016 268

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Ident Div St B of Invest Atlanta Ga	Raymond Louis Curtis #45286-70	1-29-67	arm robbery & murder	15 yrs run concurrent wit case #5-1837 7-67
PD Atlanta Ga	Raymond Louis Curtis #47364	3-11-69	under sent (murder) in transit	
Diagnostic & Class Ctr Jackson Ga	Raymond Curtis #A-73862	3-12-69	murder	life(date of sent 7-26-67)
St Bd of Corr Atlanta Ga	Raymond Curtis #A-73862/58632	5-9-69	murder	life

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Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

SV 88-6573

The following descriptive data and background information were obtained from Georgia prison files:

Name	RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS
Alias	Raymond Curtis Jack Green
Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	6'3½"
Weight	200
Build	Medium
Complexion	Fair
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Scars and Marks	Tattoos on both arms and one thigh
Residence	Box 21 Tunnel Hill, Georgia
Occupation Employment	Car salesman - truck driver Jack Curtis Used Cars Dalton, Georgia (1967)
Religion	Baptist
Marital Status	Married - separated
Military Service	U. S. Army, 1944 to 1947 Serial Number 44022204 Dishonorable discharge at Camp Cook, California, on June 28, 1947
Social Security #	Unknown
FBI Number	3016218
Atlanta Police Dept. Number	47364
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth	Dalton, Georgia
Education	6th grade
Citizenship	U. S. Citizen
Fingerprint Classification	17 0 9 T IO 14 L 26 U IOI

(1)

The things Of Ramond Curtis's Life

At the age of 14. In Dalton Georgia. I was put in jail for my first for time for: stilling pecans. And again for stilling fish hooks out of the 5+10 store at the age of 14 or 14½. At the age of 15 I ran away from home and went to Atlanta Georgia. After about three ~~month~~ months in Atlanta I was put ~~my~~ in jail for stilling a man coat. I was given six mo. probation and given a bus ~~ticket~~ ticket back to Dalton Ga. I went back to school after a few weeks. I ran away again and went to Chattanooga Tenn. where again I was caught and put in jail for stilling. They gave me 30 days in the chain gang. After about two weeks of it my mother came and got me and took me back home to Dalton Georgia. After a month or so I got on a freight train and went to Nashville Tenn. And again I was caught for stilling apples from a store. Two weeks later my mother came and got me and carried me back home to Dalton Ga.

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(2)

And I got in jail again in Dalton for stilling copper ~~wire~~ and selling it. So again my mother got me out. So at the age of about 16 I ran ^{away} ~~away~~ again. But this time I hoboed a freight going south and I made it to Savanna where I was caught and given 30 days in the chain gang for hoboing. I did the 30 days and hoboed a train to Jacksonville Florida. I started working around the produce market loading trucks. That is when I learn't the taste of beer & wine. So after hanging around there and taking the money out of the drunkers pockets after they passed out. Other words rolling the drunks.

After about a month of it I hoboed on to Tampa Florida. There I hung around the beer joints on sidewalk rolling drunks. Until one day I got drunk and got in jail. I was given 15 days on the chain gang. After a day or two I escaped & went to Key West Florida. Again I got in jail for drunk. So they found out I was escaped from Tampa and sent me back. They gave me 15 more days for escaping. So after I did my time. I worked around the fishing boats for three or four months then I hoboed on to New Orleans. Where I hung around the bars rolling drunks. After about two months I was put in jail again for drunk and fighting.

and given 30 days on the chingang. So after about a week of it I escaped again, I hopped to El Paso Texas. Where I was put in jail for hobbing. After about a week they told me to get out of town so I ~~hopped~~ hopped a freight to Los Angeles Calif. I went to work at an amusement park by day and rolled drunk at night. So after about a month or so of it I hopped a freight and went to San Francisco Calif. There I hung around sidewalk and rolled drunk again. So I joined up with a circus there and went to Seattle Washington. I met this boy in Seattle and quit the circus. So me and the boy stole a car and went to Montana. Drove the car to Montana and ~~did not~~ ~~did not~~ ditched it. And hooked a ride with a truck to Reno Nevada. We ~~tried to~~ rolled a man about half drunk and he called the law on us. My buddy got caught but I got away. I went back to L.A. and on down to San Diego and over to Old Mexico. There I got caught and the police ran me back over the border. I ~~was~~ met up with a trucker and got a ride back to New Orleans. There I went to work on a sea going boat. After about two weeks of it it pulled in to New York where I quit. There I met up with this boy where we would hang around the hotels and ~~we~~ robbed

(24)

The room's when the people went out for dinner
do after about a month of that which I didn't
get caught I went back to Dalton Georgia. So
after about 4 or 5 months I left home again and
joined up with a carnival. I ~~stayed~~ stayed
with it about 90 days till we reached Chicago Ill.
Then I stayed on West Madison St. Where I
started rolling drunk again and. There were more
drunk than any one man could roll. When I
met this boy we started robbing Hotels & Apart-
ments again while people were at work. So after
about 4 or 5 months of that I got caught for
burglary. And while I was in jail awaiting
trial I got a letter from my mother stating
I was to report to the induction center for
the Army in Atlanta July the 29th 1944.
So I ~~showed~~ showed the letter to the judge
and he put me on the bus to Atlanta Ga.
So I went in the Army and they sent me to
Fort Bragg N.C. So after about 2 months Army
I got drunk and went A.W.O.L. and came to
Dalton Ga. After about 10 days they came and got
me and put me in the grade guard house 30 days
extra duty a shipped ^{me} to Camp Croft S.C. to take
basic training. So after about 5 or 6 weeks I got
drunk and went A.W.O.L. again and went back
to

(5)

About 3 or 4 weeks later they came and got me again and took me back to camp and gave me 6 months in the guard house. After I finished my training they ~~shipped~~ shipped me to Camp Dyer Alabama for Tank training. After about two mos. me and my buddy went in to town on pass we got drunk and met two men and robbed them of their money and their car next day they caught us and took us back to camp and put us in the guard ~~house~~ house. Before they tried us we escaped and made it to New York City. There we rolled drunk and got by on the law got after us and I got away and my partner got caught. I hopped on to Chicago from there on to Los Angeles Calif. There I rolled drunk and robbed to get by on for about 2 months until I got caught. The State of Calif. gave me a year. At the end of the year the Army came and got me and took me to Fort Ord Calif. There they gave me a year for A.W.O.L. and I did my year and was discharged then came back to Dalton Ga. August 1947. After a mo. I left home and went to Chicago. I got back on rolling drunk. After a month of that I got a job driving a truck on the ~~high~~ South side of Chicago. That is where I met my wife and we got married in 1948.

I worked driving this truck for about a year. One day my boss left his ~~wallet~~ wallet laying on his desk with quite a bit of money in it and I got it and he never knew where it went. After a ~~month~~ month more I quit and went to work driving a bus. Then I met this man we went to robbing taverns & liquor stores. We would ~~rob~~ rob from 1 to 3 a night. We robbed over a 100 taverns & liquor stores on the South side of Chicago. Robbing by night & driving a bus by day was a little too much so I quit driving the bus and went to robbing full time. So we moved out to Moline & Blue Island Elgin-Rockford and the towns surrounding Chicago robbing ~~payrolls~~ taverns and any thing that look good. So we came back in to Chicago back in ~~business~~ robbing the bookies they couldn't call the law because we were breaking the law themselves. So we moved out to Calumet City. All was owned by the syndicate all the beer joints - liquor stores - nightclubs bookies joints were owned and run by the syndicate. So we started robbing them. Until we heard the syndicate were so hot after us we had to move out. Because if the syndicate had caught us we wouldn't have went to no jail. So we started driving to Saint Louis Missouri once a week. Then we would rob 2 or 3 liquor stores & beer joints on the North side.

(7)

While the law was checking them out we would ~~would~~ be on the south side robbing 2 or 3 more. Then we would cross the river to East Saint Louis. Then the next morning we would drive back to Chicago and never get caught. One week we went to ~~Quincy~~ Quincy Ill. which ~~is~~ a mother town run by the syndicate. We robbed a bookie joint owned by the syndicate. The syndicate got so hot on us it took us five days to ~~get out of town~~ to find a way out of town. But we made it back to Chicago. (This happened between 1948-1954) We robbed so many we had to find us a new territory to keep from robbing the same place the 2 or 3rd time. I owned my own home at Oaklawn Ill. so we started driving up into Wisconsin over in to Elwood and I bought a farm in Indiana where we robbed in Gary - Hammond - Valproso - Lawfayette - San Pae - Indianapolis - so we decided the banks would be better. So we started robbing banks. We robbed a bank in Cuck Indiana and got a pretty good little bundle there. So we went down to Fair Missouri and robbed one there and went back to Chicago and we robbed a big jewelry store on the North side of Chicago.

(8)

So on February 15th 1955 we went to South West City Missouri right on the border of Kansas - Oklahoma - Arkansas. So we robbed the South West City Bank. And we got \$56,000. Went back to Chicago the F.B.I were waiting on me when I got there. The Federal ~~took~~ ^{took} me to Kansas City Missouri to await trial. There I met James Earl Ray we were in the same ~~cell~~ cell together for about 6 months. He was tried and gave 3 years for forgery ~~if~~ and I was gave 17 years for bank robbery we were sent to Leavenworth ~~Penitentiary~~ Penitentiary and we were good friends there also. After about 6 months ~~I~~ ^I ~~was~~ ^{was} transferred to Atlanta Federal ~~Penitentiary~~ Penitentiary. There I stayed until 1962 about 7 to 7½ years. There you couldn't get any beer wine or liquor so when you were down in ~~the~~ the dumps or depressed you could swap cigarettes for pop pills or some other kind of dope. So in the mean time I got filed a riot on the ~~state~~ state robbery charge the state of Missouri had on me. So they tried me and gave ten years. So after about 7½ I made peroll to the state of Missouri in 1962 which is a hell whole. I didn't think there was a place on earth excited like it. Dope dey

(9)

Murder is a common every day activity in the Missouri Penitentiary. So when I got there I met my old pal James Earl Ray he was there also doing 20 years for robbery. Then me and him became close buddies again. There I fell back on the pep pills a dope again in order to get with what was going on there. And hoping & praying every day that I would see the day I would get out again. For I couldn't ~~see~~ have been no closer to hell than I was there. So after about 3 years I talked the warden in to sending me out to one of the state farms. But ~~there was like a~~ After I had been locked up so long that out there on the farm I was like a dog that been chained up ^{and} had been turned loose for the first time. You could get liquor out there so one night I got drunk and I took off for (Georgia). Within 3 days I was back inside the prison walls and they gave me 10 more years for running. So I went back to the pep pills and walking the yard with my friends. So I did another year and made peroll back to Dalton Georgia.

(10)

After I got back to Dalton in 1966 I went to work with my brother selling cars. I was doing good. This drinking came back to my family. Only after about 6 months of freedom I was accused and charged with murder. Although I am not guilty I was found guilty and given a life sentence. I have been sitting in jail two years waiting on the supreme court. I have been doing nothing but thinking of my life and what I have done to it. As with the things I have done justice has caught up with me even ~~at the moment of the charge~~ that I am in ~~the~~ ~~for~~ though I am innocent of the murder charge against me. Thinking about it the funniest part is I am in the same cell now for murder I was first put in at the age of 14 for stealing jeans 29 years ago.

You had better look out.
For if you go there once
You can go there twice.

F B I

Date: 6/27/74

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Savannah airtel to the Bureau, dated 6/12/74;
and Memphis airtel to the Bureau, dated 6/4/74.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are the following:

- (1) One copy of Atlanta teletype to the Bureau and Memphis, ET AL, 4/22/68, captioned "MURKIN".
- (2) One copy of a second Atlanta teletype to the Bureau and Memphis, ET AL, 4/22/68, captioned "MURKIN".
- (3) One copy of a third Atlanta teletype to the Bureau and Memphis, ET AL, 4/22/68, captioned "MURKIN".
- (4) One copy of autobiography of RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS.
- (5) One copy of Identification Record of RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS, FBI # 3 016 268.

2 - Bureau
 ② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 5)
 1 - Savannah (44-1768) (Info)
 3 - Atlanta (2- 44-2386)
 (1- 88-13285)

ORH:lru
 (8)

44-1987 Sub m 867

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

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