

5/31/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
FROM: SAC, ALBANY (44-493) (P)
RE: MURKIN
CR

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau 5/22/68.

RAYMOND ANDREW YOUNG was recontacted 5/29/68, at Docktor's Pet Center, Fairmount Shopping Center, Syracuse, N.Y., and he identified the photograph of LESTER EDWARD PACKETT, FBI #827170A as being the individual he met at the bar in the vicinity of the Clark Hotel on 4/17/68. He stated that he recalled this individual had a southern accent and made some comment about being from Tennessee.

In view of this identification no further investigation being conducted regarding this aspect of case.

2-Los Angeles
2-Memphis (44-1987)
1-Atlanta (44-2386) (Info)
1-Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
1-Charlotte (Info)
1-Detroit (Info)
1-Kansas City (Info)
1-Knoxville (Info)
1-Las Vegas (Info)
1-Miami (44-1864) (Info)
1-Mobile (Info)
1-Albany
RHR:ad
(14)

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

44-1854-641

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Jellison *mf*

BUREAU OF THE CHIEF POSTAL INSPECTOR
OPEN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB INVESTIGATIONS - MAY - 1968

<u>Correspondence Club</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Inspector</u>
<u>Atlanta, Georgia Division</u>			
RJS	Columbia, S. C.	364-00188-E	Bullard
The Register	Delray Beach, Fla.	364-00839-E	Marquette
Enterprises of America	Pinellas Park, Fla.	364-01459-E	"
His and Her Club	Savannah, Ga.	364-03123-E	Capps
ABC Publications	Hollywood, Fla.	364-03126-E	Marquette
Jean Marie	Orlando, Fla.	364-03137-E	"
Rebel Florida	Orlando, Fla.	364-41602-E	Richie
Kay Manor	Miami, Fla.	364-48750-E	Marquette
<u>Fort Worth, Texas Division</u>			
Sterling Action Club	Corpus Christi, Tx.	364-39986-E	Marsh
F and T	Fort Worth, Tx.	364-40081-E	"
?	Fort Worth, Tx.	364-40330-E	"
Horizons Correspondence Club	Dallas, Tx.	364-40389-E	"
<u>Boston, Massachusetts Division</u>			
Nutmeg Press	Grosvenor Dale, Ct.	364-23774-E	Allain
Kitten Club	North Adams, Mass.	364-30737-E	"
Action Relationships	Boston, Mass.	364-42967-E	"
Arthur A. Swanson	Boston, Mass.	364-43051-E	"
Jane Weton	Boston, Mass.	364-43137-E	"

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OPEN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB INVESTIGATIONS (Continued)

<u>Correspondence Club</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Inspector</u>
<u>Chicago, Illinois Division</u>			
Carlton Enterprises	Chicago, Ill.	364-01633-E	Hinckley
Social Exchange Publishing	" "	364-01637-E	"
Arnold J. Madiol	Grand Haven, Mich.	364-43568-E	Potts
Martin's	Detroit, Mich.	364-43569-E	"
Random House	Warren, Mich.	364-48063-E	Hinckley
<u>Cincinnati, Ohio Division</u>			
Swinger's Travel & Vacation Club	Fort Wayne, Ind.	364-27059-E	Herzog
Vigo Villa	Terre Haute, Ind.	364-28234-E	Herzog
<u>Kansas City, Missouri Division</u>			
Swinging Set	Kansas City, Mo.	364-11096-E	Fay
Club Lolita	Kansas City, Mo.	364-38211-E	Fay
<u>New York, New York Division</u>			
Ram Enterprises	New York, NY	364-32101-E	Miller
Pace Setter Corp.	Brooklyn, NY	364-32705-E	Miller
Black Book	New York, NY	364-32822-E	Dolan

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB INVESTIGATIONS (Continued)

<u>Correspondence Club</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Inspector</u>
<u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Division</u>			
Mixer	Trenton, NJ	364-00460-E	Similes
Select Club	Camden, NJ	364-22100-E	Ferguson
Frenchy	Chinchilla, Pa.	364-44883-E	Similes
Swinger's Life	Enola, Pa.	364-45329-E	Ferguson
The In Crowd	Philadelphia, Pa.	364-45370-E	"
Club Ecstasy	York, Pa.	364-45500-E	"
Stonehill Studios	Berkeley Heights, NJ	364-48312-E	Kallies
<u>Saint Louis, Missouri Division</u>			
R J S	Davenport, Iowa	364-46385-E	Wensman
Ron Williams	Saint Louis, Mo.	364-46572-E	"
<u>Saint Paul, Minnesota Division</u>			
The Group	Wayzata, Minn.	364-39222-E	Gosnell
Action	St. Paul, Minn.	364-47443-E	Gosnell
<u>San Francisco, California Division</u>			
A to Z Club	Los Angeles, Cal.	364-21863-E	Poindexter
Ad Reply Service	Van Nuys, Cal.	364-38729-E	"
The Group	Los Angeles, Cal.	364-38802-E	Vanden Bosch

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB INVESTIGATIONS (Continued)

<u>Correspondence Club</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Inspector</u>
<u>San Francisco, California Division (Continued)</u>			
The National Close Up	North Hollywood, Cal.	364-38870-E	Poindexter
Jan	Reno, Nevada	364-38993-E	Lawrence
Reynolds Machinery	Los Angeles, Cal.	364-39006-E	Poindexter
Tape Club	" " "	364-41205-E	"
Swinging Sam Young	Ontario, Cal.	364-41386-E	"
Swingers Club	Santa Monica, Cal.	364-41403-E	"
United World Publications	San Diego, Cal.	364-41409-E	"
Sincerely Yours Club	La Puente, Cal.	364-44006-E	"
Phi Pi Epsilon	Los Angeles, Cal.	364-44144-E	"
Modern Enterprises	Los Angeles, Cal.	364-44296-E	"
Japan International	Newport Beach, Cal.	364-44297-E	"
Remco	Las Vegas, Nevada	364-44337-E	"
Blue Star	Reno, Nevada	364-44412-E	Vanden Bosch
James L. Hubbel	Strathmore, Cal.	364-44539-E	" "
The Local Swinger	Downey, Cal.	364-44606-E	Poindexter
Donald Fickes	Norwalk, Cal.	364-44660-E	"
Sir, Inc.	Van Nuys, Cal.	364-44661-E	"
Le Group	Van Nuys, Cal.	364-44686-E	"
Roberta Perkins	Santa Rosa, Cal.	364-44696-E	Vanden Bosch
Kinsey Club	San Diego, Cal.	364-44745-E	Poindexter

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB INVESTIGATIONS (Continued)

<u>Correspondence Club</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Inspector</u>
<u>Washington, D. C. Division</u>			
Richard Stanley	Charleston, W. Va.	364-28406-E	Bradley
David C. Bohner	Washington, D. C.	364-28571-E	Bradley
Mr. and Mrs. E. King	Hagerstown, Md.	364-29026-E	Bennett

5/31/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

MURKIN

ReAttel to Bu dated 5/23/68 requesting WFO obtain from Postal Inspector, WDC, a list of all obscene pen-pal clubs in the United States presently under investigation by the Post Office Department.

- 3- Bureau (Encl. 2)
- 2- Atlanta (44-2386) (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- Baltimore (44-669) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Boston (Encl. 2)
- 2- Chicago (44-1114) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Cincinnati (157-1893) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Columbia (Encl. 2)
- 2- Dallas (44-2649) (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- Detroit (44-989) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Houston (44-1509) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Indianapolis (Encl. 2)
- 2- Kansas City (44-760) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Las Vegas (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- Los Angeles (44-1574) (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- Miami (Encl. 2) (AM) *al*
- 2- Memphis (44-1987) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Minneapolis (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- Newark (44-854) (Encl. 2)
- 2- New Haven (157-818) (Encl. 2)
- 2- New York City (44-1609) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Omaha (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- Philadelphia (44-1368) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Pittsburgh (44-578) (Encl. 2)
- 2- Sacramento (100-427) (Encl. 2) (AM)

Copy count continued on next page

1- WFO

SHR:age

(60)

AIRTEL

44-1854-643

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WFO 44-703

- 2- St. Louis (44-775) (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- San Diego (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- San Francisco (173-65) (Encl. 2) (AM)
- 2- Savannah (Encl. 2)
- 2- Tampa (157-3231) (Encl. 2) (AM)

Enclosed herewith for each office listed below having leads in their division are two copies each consisting of five pages which contain list of correspondence clubs under Post Office investigation.

Also enclosed for information is one copy each for Bureau, Memphis and Atlanta.

Offices covering Headquarters divisions of Postal inspectors will contact division chiefs for addresses and other identifying information regarding the clubs listed and furnish such information to other FBI field offices for further investigation where appropriate.

All offices having clubs within their division will thereafter conduct appropriate investigation to determine if subject JAMES EARL RAY is a member or has ever corresponded with that club.

Discretion should be used with lists being furnished and source of agency furnishing list should not be disclosed.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

6/1/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

REJKAIRTEL FIVE TWENTY-EIGHT LAST.

IN VIEW OF FACT THAT PROJECT TO REVIEW DRIVER'S
LICENSE FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA WILL BE AT COST OF THREE
THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BUREAU, YOU SHOULD NOT INSTITUTE CHECK
OF DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY, SIXTY-EIGHT.
YOU SHOULD, HOWEVER, INSURE THAT APPROPRIATE STOPS ARE
MAINTAINED CONCERNING SUBJECT AND HIS KNOWN ALIASES IN
EVENT APPLICATION FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE IS MADE UNDER THESE
NAMES. ADVISE BUREAU IF REVIEW OF RECORDS INVOLVES ANY
UNDUE PROBLEM OR WILL INVOLVE EXTENSIVE UTILIZATION OF
PERSONNEL.

AIR MAIL TO MEMPHIS, MIAMI AND TAMPA.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1 - MEMPHIS (44-1987)
1 - MIAMI (44-1854)
1 - TAMPA (157-3231)

44-1854-644

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Johnson

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ATTN: SA DAVID N. JELLISON

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

DATE: June 3, 1968

FROM : SA ROBERT W. WISEMAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On this date ZELL DAVIS, JR., Asst. State Attorney and practicing attorney in Palm Beach Co., Florida advised the writer of the following information concerning captioned matter.

He has a client, whose identity cannot be revealed, that he considers competent and reliable in all respects, who wishes the following information be furnished the FBI concerning a suspect who may be identical with RAY.

This client stated that he first saw this suspect about four days after the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, has seen him on several times since, last being during the middle of last week (about 5/22/68). The suspect has been observed, in each instance in the same area of Miami, Florida, is on foot, sometimes with jacket but not well dressed. Suspect walks from the vicinity of NE 2nd. Avenue and NE 1st. St., past Wilson's Parking Garage (rear of Dupont Building) on NE 1st. St. has sometimes obtained change from the attendant-cashier at this garage for soft drinks and then continues West on 1st. street in the direction of a "mission". The appearances have all been between the hours of 8PM and 11 PM. Photos of subject RAY were given to DAVIS who, in turn advised that his client selected the photo with sun glasses (10/67) and the photo standup with top coat (1955) as most closely resembling this suspect. All other physical data is similar with the addition of the mustache. DAVIS added that his client suggested that if a surveillance of the area by the FBI was set up and this suspect did not appear, that a check with the cashier-attendant at Wilson's to see if subject had been recently observed might be indicated.

The above submitted for appropriate action at Miami.

44-1854
RW



5010-108-01

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Jellison

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/20/68

Mr. BENJAMIN LARNARD THOMPSON, JR., 12801 East Randall Park Drive, after being informed of the identity of the interviewing Agents, voluntarily furnished the following information:

In March, 1967, he commenced working for Aerodex, Miami. Prior to that time, he earned his living through commercial fishing off the Florida Keys.

For a number of years he worked for East Coast Fisheries, Miami. In this regard, he would operate boats mortgaged through PETER SCHWARTZ who was one of the owners of East Coast Fisheries. Four or five years ago, he operated a 38 foot fishing boat named the "Virginia Lee" on which SCHWARTZ held the mortgage. He returned this boat to SCHWARTZ about a year later and switched the mortgage to a 48 foot fishing boat named the "Miss Gayle," on which SCHWARTZ also held the mortgage. Approximately two and one-half or three years ago, he and SCHWARTZ had financial differences, and he left the employment of East Coast Fisheries.

Following this incident, he went in partnerships with LOUIS LOBER, Miami, and purchased a 28 foot fishing vessel, which had no name. He and LOBER fished commercially until on or about August 1, 1966, at which time he sold his equity in this boat to LOBER and got out of the fishing business entirely.

Most of his fishing was accomplished from Bakers Haulover (Miami) in the north to Elliott Key in the south. His fishing interests were in lobsters.

Approximately four years ago, he was arrested by the British Government for fishing for lobsters in Bahamian waters. He had been carrying on this activity for approximately ten weeks before he was caught. British authorities kept him in jail overnight and the following day he was fined \$27 and allowed to leave Nassau with his boat with the promise of not fishing in Bahamian waters again. He recalls

On 5/18/68 at Miami, Florida File # Miami 44-1854 - 646
by SAs GAY R. SHAMAN and THOMAS H. STROY:THS/vc Date dictated 5/18/68

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.

MM 44-1854

that there was quite a bit of newspaper publicity for a period of five days during this incident.

With regard to his former partner, LOUIS LOBER, he spoke with LOBER about four months ago. At that time LOBER still had the boat and was fishing. He noted the reason he sold his interest in the boat to LOBER, as mentioned above, was the fact he could not make a living any longer in fishing. LOBER, whom he described as being around 37 years old, recently had an operation on his throat for the removal of a growth from his "voice box." As far as he knows, LOBER has never been arrested and in fact, both he and LOBER went to school together in Miami and he considers LOBER to be of good character and reputation.

With regard to his personal whereabouts during the period from April 3 - 12, 1968, since January, 1968, he has worked at Aerodex, Miami, on a shift in which he leaves home around 2:15 p.m. and returns around 12:30 a.m. On April 3, 4, and 5, 1968, he was working at Aerodex on the above mentioned shift. On April 6 and 7, 1968, a weekend, he remained home and did not leave Miami or Dade County, Florida. From April 7 - 12, 1968, he worked at Aerodex on the above described shift.

He has never left the State of Florida with the exception of going to New York City once when he was in high school.

He has never been in the State of Alabama and he has never heard of the names EDDIE WILBURN, SAMUEL LEWIS, WILLIAM PIERCE or BOB BRINKLEY. He does not know anyone from Huntsville or Athens, Alabama and he has never been in nor does he know anyone that drives an automobile with a police radio.

He has never been in Belle Glade or Okeechobee, Florida, and he does not know anyone that owns a motel, hotel, cottages or owns an airplane.

2.

MM 44-1854

He has never been a member of the Ku Klux Klan and does not know anyone who is or was a member of the Klan.

There are no other BEN THOMPSONs who are fishermen in the Miami-Key West, Florida area as far as he knows, noting his father, BEN THOMPSON, SR. died in November, 1967, while residing at 4220 N. W. 23rd Avenue, Miami. His father gave up full time fishing in 1954 when he had heart trouble. Prior to that, in 1952, his father sold his boat. From 1952 to November, 1967, his father was semi-retired and only fished occasionally. When his father was much younger, he worked on a wrecking tug and at times, went to Cuba on this tug. However, his father did not own any business in Cuba. He has never been to Cuba himself and he has never had any interests in Cuba.

During the time he was a commercial fisherman, he has had a great many individual deck hands, however, to his knowledge, none of these individuals had ever served any time in a prison or penitentiary.

He has a relative named RONNY PIERCE who is about 35 years of age and who is a fisherman living in Marathon, Florida. As far as he knows, RONNY has never been in any trouble.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to him and he felt the photographs showing RAY by himself, with the picture of RAY with sunglasses, looked familiar, however, he could not be sure of this identification. Possibly he may have seen photographs of RAY in the newspapers or on television.

He emphatically denied being involved in this matter in any manner or under any circumstances. It is a complete mystery to him if or why his name would be used in this matter. If someone is using his name in this regard, then the identity of this individual is unknown to him.

The following descriptive data was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	BENJAMIN LARNARD THOMPSON, JR.
Sex	Male
Race	White

MM 44-1854

Date of birth	[REDACTED]
Place of birth	Key West, Florida
Height	5'8"
Weight	140 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Medium
Marital Status	Married

4

FBI MIAMI

FBI ATLANTA

1043A URGENT 6/4/68 PML/VSC

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS AND MIAMI
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386 2P

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, JUNE THIRD, LAST.
FOR INFO MIAMI, RETEL REFLECTS ONE RAMON GEORGE SNEYD,
WHOSE PASSPORT PHOTO MAY BE THAT OF SUBJECT RAY, OBTAINED A
BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PASSPORT ON APR. TWENTYFOUR, LAST. IN
APPLYING FOR PASSPORT, HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION:
W/M, BORN [REDACTED] TORONTO, ONE SIX EIGHT LBS.,
BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, RESIDES NINE SIX EIGHT DUNDAS, TORONTO,
CAN., WHICH IS CHEAP ROOMING HOUSE WHERE SNEYD RESIDED SINCE
APR., 'SIXTYEIGHT. PROPRIETOR COULD NOT MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFI-
CATION OF SNEYD AS RAY FROM PHOTO. PASSPORT APPLICATION OBTAINED
THRU TRAVEL AGENCY NEAR ROOMING HOUSE AND TRAVEL AGENCY RECORDS
INDICATE SNEYD HAD PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO LONDON VIA BOAC AND WOULD
RETURN MAY TWENTYONE, LAST.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION INDICATES EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHTS
3 2 0 3 2 8
THREE TWO ZERO AND THREE TWO EIGHT ARE DAILY FLIGHTS FROM ATLANTA
TO TORONTO AND EASTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX IS DAILY
FLIGHT FROM ATLANTA TO MONTREAL.

END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

OACB, MIAMI REQUESTED TO CHECK ABOVE FLIGHTS FOR DATES
APR. FIFTH THRU APR. NINETEEN, 'SIXTYEIGHT, FOR NAME AND
VARIATIONS OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.

ARMED & DANGEROUS. P

END

B4W

FBI MIAMI

Edw. McDonough, Div. 6 telephoned
stating at same time name of
Paul Bridgeman should be checked.
This name used by Sneyd as person to
be notified in event of emergency on application.
Paul Bridgeman may have been
incarcerated with subg.

PM URGENT 6-4-68 PJL
TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, KANSAS CITY, AND
MEMPHIS
FROM ^{IA}MAIMI (44-1854)

MURKIN - CR.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO DIRECTOR SIX FOUR SIXTYEIGHT.

ALL TICKETS MAINTAINED IN EASTERN AIRLINES RECORDS, MIAMI FOR
PASSENGERS TRAVELING ON EASTERN FLIGHTS ONE ZERO SIX, THREE TWO ZERO,
AND THREE TWO EIGHT FROM APRIL FIVE, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT TO APRIL
NINETEEN NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT REVIEWED THIS DATE WITH REFERENCE TO NAMES
RAMON GEORGE SNEYD AND PAUL BRIDGEMAN AND ALL CHECKS NEGATIVE.

ONLY TICKETS PURCHASED THROUGH EASTERN AIRLINES ARE MAINTAINED IN
EASTERN RECORDS.

RECORDS FOR OFF LINE TICKET PURCHASES BY PASSENGERS WHO ALSO USED
ABOVE FLIGHTS MAINTAINED IN COMPUTER RECORDS AND ARRANGEMENTS BEING
MADE TO LOCATE AND REVIEW SAME AND SET FORTH LEADS.

A & D.

END

Jellison

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SENT AT

705 - WA

727 - AT

730 - KC

751 ME

44-1854-648

The following investigation was conducted by
SA PATRICK A. PHILBIN, at Belle Glade, Florida, May
20, 1968.

WILLIAM LEE PIERCE located at Tru-Flo Pump Company, advised he presently lives in Pahokee, Florida, across from the Farmer's Market on Lewis Friend Highway, but uses P.O. Box 398, Belle Glade, Florida, as his mailing address.

PIERCE advised that he came to Belle Glade as a young man from the area of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in the early 1930's, and after working hard in construction and other fields became one of the biggest property owners in the area and did construct some apartments known as the Bill Pierce Apartments on Highway 441 in the city limits. He stated just after World War II he and several others cleared out a large field which is now the city airport and that he got into the air taxi and crop dusting business and that he had learned to fly back then but had never gotten a pilot's license. He stated that all of his airplanes were torn up and destroyed in a hurricane about 1949 and that was the end of his venture in this field. He stated that in the 50's he had developed some machinery which wove the fibers of the Rami plant into cloth resembling cotton and was doing an extremely profitable business in Cuba with Batista until Castro took over and put him out of business there. He said his financial statement would have been worth several million dollars at that time but that severe financial losses, poor business operations in construction, etc., cost him almost everything he had. He stated that he had signed a \$350,000 contract with TRUJILLO in the Dominican Republic for his weaving machine and that two days later TRUJILLO was assassinated and that was the end of that.

PIERCE stated that he became involved in several money losing ventures and a shopping center fell through in which he had invested heavily and that friends wanted him to declare bankruptcy but that he had worked hard and had paid off \$27,000 in debts and with the exception of \$125,000 which he owes in Federal Income taxes he is out of debt and plans to work hard and get back on his feet. He stated that at the present time he is completely broke but that he feels he can still make money and will soon have his own welding shop and has plans for the development of various types of machinery.

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PIERCE stated that the only trips made in the past year was one trip to Bainbridge, Georgia, during March, 1968, to visit his sister-in-law, BESSIE WILLIAMS and one trip to Islamorada, Florida, to visit his step son CHARLES WARREN SMITH a day or two prior to Easter.

PIERCE stated he owns no airplane, could not fly one at this time. He has not been to Atlanta, Memphis, Kansas City, Missouri, for years and has not been contacted by anyone from the "Los Angeles Times" and has never heard of anyone named BEN THOMPSON who owns a yacht or shrimp boats in the area of Key West, Florida.

PIERCE stated that in the operation of his apartments and during his lifetime he probably has made a number of enemies.

PIERCE is a white male, born August 8, 1900, at Revere, Pennsylvania, is 5'8½" tall, weighs 200 pounds, hair is dark brown and greying, eyes are brown, has several moles on face, wife FAY nee MILLER. Drives a tan 1957 Ford Sedan, Florida license 6W-62269.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT W. WISEMAN at Boca Raton, Florida, relative to identifying the unknown individual at the Texaco station located at U.S. #1 and Palm Aire Street, in Boca Raton who was the recipient of a business card from Mr. H. D. BRINKER.

Physical inspection of the Boca Raton area developed that there is no Palm Aire Street, however there is a Sunoco station located at the intersection of Highway #1 and Royal Palm Road, which appears to be the logical location of instant service station. Mr. BERNARD IRELAND, Jr., co-owner of instant service station advised that beginning March 7, 1968, and for a period of three weeks he employed one DALE WHITMAN, whom he described as in his early twenties, very personable and an excellent public relations man with customers. WHITMAN was dissatisfied with his employment and was interested in bettering himself and left voluntarily to secure employment elsewhere with an unknown uniform company in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Subsequent investigations identified DALE WHITMAN's mother as Mrs. GORDON YOST, who resides in a trailer lot #35, Tropic Gardens Trailer Park, S. Federal Highway, Delray Beach, Florida, which is just north of the Boca Raton City limits. Mrs. YOST interviewed on May 21, 1968, stated that her son DALE WHITMAN is an only child of a previous marriage and his father is deceased. She stated that during ~~approximately~~ the middle of February, 1968, her son phoned her from Chicago, Illinois, stating that his wife had left him and that divorce action by her had been instituted. As a result he came here to this area and resided with her and her second husband up until May 7, 1968. She stated that he was very dissatisfied with the employment opportunities here in South Florida, and had worked for a while at the Sunoco station in Boca Raton, left there and worked for an unknown uniform company in Fort Lauderdale, as a truck driver and on the afternoon of May 7, 1968, came home saying that he was going up north to seek better employment, and that he would contact her at some later

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date when he got settled and left. She advised that she has had no contact with him since and has no idea of his current whereabouts but is of the opinion that he would not go back to Chicago because of his unhappy situation and divorce action. Mrs. YOST continued saying that prior to coming to Florida, she and her son DALE resided for many years in the Warren, Ohio area and that she has two brothers in Warren, Ohio, now who her son might contact. She stated that one brother or uncle of DALE WHITMAN is BYRD JAY LANE, who resides at 1594 Kuszmaul Avenue in Warren, Ohio, and that the other brother ROBERT LANE also is in Warren, Ohio, address unknown, but his address will be known to BYRD. She added further that she has another brother named NOAH LANE who resides at an unknown address in Columbus, Ohio, and his address also will be known to BYRD. BYRD JAY LANE and ROBERT LANE are both employed by General Motors Corporation in Warren, Ohio. The employment of NOAH LANE in Columbus, Ohio is not known to her.

Mrs. YOST continued saying that her son DALE took most of his personal effects with him upon departure including any correspondence, notes and similar items. She stated that after he departed she did find some notes with telephone numbers on them and business cards which she threw away in the trash without reading and had no knowledge of their contents believing that they were of no value to her son or he would not have left them. Mrs. YOST is unfamiliar with the name of H. D. BRINKER or H. ROBERTSON BRINKER or the Riddle Factory Catering Company of Detroit, Michigan. She does not recall her son mentioning anything about this, but added that she does know that he was interested in bettering himself and was making every effort possible while in this area to get better employment than the two that he did have. Mrs. YOST did divulge in the conversation that her son DALE WHITMAN at age 18 had enlisted in the U.S. Navy and shortly thereafter while being stationed in Bainbridge, Maryland, was involved with the Federal Government concerning a car theft for which he had a two year probationary sentence. She explained this is the reason why she was initially reluctant to discuss her son's whereabouts or possible whereabouts with the interviewing agent.

MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA PATRICK A. PHILBIN on May 18, 1968, in Belle Glade, Florida.

Chief of Police CHARLES GOODLETT (NA), Belle Glade Police Department, advised that he has known WILLIAM L. PIERCE for about 35 years. He said that PIERCE used to own PIERCE's Quaters which was a sort of "flop house" for migrant farm workers. However, he advised PIERCE lost the business about six months ago for non-payment of taxes.

Chief GOODLETT further advised that PIERCE used to have an interest in cattle, farm land and a "Ramey" machine he invented that wove hemp into cloth. He continued by saying the PIERCE had made a lot of money years ago but had lost it by making bad investments over the years.

Chief GOODLETT stated he was very well acquainted with BILL PIERCE and he is not a racist or a bigot.

Chief GOODLETT advised PIERCE is presently working for the True-Flow Welding Company and lives in Pahokee, Florida.

The records of the True-Flow Welding Company showed that WILLIAM PIERCE was at work on April 4, 5 and 6, 1968.

12

Searched	_____
Serialized	_____
Indexed	_____ <i>RP</i>
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MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA WELDON L. KENNEDY at Marathon, Florida, on May 18, 1968.

DAVID DAY, Deputy, Monroe County Sheriff's Office Sub-station, Monroe County, Florida, advised that RONALD K. PIERCE, age approximately 45 years old, is an indigent lobster fisherman who is married and has five children and to supplement his fishing income he works part time as an automobile mechanic.

DAY further advised that PIERCE is a long time resident of Marathon, Florida, who seldom, if ever, leaves the Florida Keys. As far as DAY knows, PIERCE does not hold a pilot's license, has no interests in flying, and does not own a plane. PIERCE has had no affiliation in Cuba.

12

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MM 44-1854

RT/dmc

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA RONALD TODD at Okeechobee, Florida:

On May 18, 1968, GERALDINE BOWLES, Ridge Apartments, Buckhead Ridge, advised that she is the wife of JOHN T. BOWLES. She stated that she recalls that she was at the home of BOWLES' sister, Mrs. CHARLES GRIZZAFFE in Tampa, Florida, the day MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed. She stated that she had gone to Tampa that morning from Okeechobee, Florida for a dental appointment. She made the drive with Mrs. GRIZZAFFE and spent the night at her home. Early the next morning JOHN BOWLES flew from Okeechobee to Tampa and she flew back to Okeechobee with him that morning. She stated that she had not known he had been in Tampa the day KING was killed; however, she stated that they are getting a divorce and she is not aware of all of his activities. She commented that upon returning to Okeechobee on April 5, 1968, she asked his mother if he had been home on the night of April 4, 1968, and his mother stated that he had. She asked his mother this question because she wanted to know if he might have been out with his girl friend, MARY KNIGHT, a barmaid at the Fin and Feather Bar. She commented that nothing has occurred within the past two months that would cause her to believe he might have been involved in the murder of KING. She said she did not believe he could possibly be involved. She added that he has been in the Okeechobee area for the past two months with the exception of the few trips he took over to Tampa. She said she did not believe BOWLES would attempt to fly the airplane any further than Tampa.

On May 18, 1968, MARY KNIGHT, 106 1st Street, was located at the Fin and Feather Bar, Buckhead Ridge, and she stated that she was working the night KING was murdered. She said she could not recall if BOWLES was

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MM 44-1854

RT/dmc

2

at the bar that night. She said she is certain he could not have been involved and that with the exception of a few trips to Tampa around the time of KING's death he has been in Okeechobee, Florida. She stated that she is BOWLES' girl friend and that both she and BOWLES are getting a divorce.

On May 20, 1968, CHARLES GRIZZAFFE, Ridge Apartments, Buckhead Ridge, advised that his wife is the sister of JOHN T. BOWLES. He stated that he lives at 332 Westcrest, Tampa; however, he comes to Okeechobee, Florida often since he owns the Ridge Apartments at Buckhead Ridge. He stated that BOWLES and his wife, GERALDINE, manage the apartments for him. He stated that BOWLES made several trips to Tampa around the first part of April, 1968, to visit a dental laboratory. BOWLES would always call him first so that someone could meet him at the airport. He stated that nothing has occurred that would cause him to suspect that BOWLES might have been involved in the murder of KING.

On May 20, 1968, GLEN HAMILTON, Okissimnee Fishing Camp, Okeechobee, Florida, advised that BOWLES keeps his airplane just across the road from his camp. The place is called Hog Island. He stated that BOWLES buys gasoline from him for his airplane. The airplane has a capacity of about 13 gallons and a top speed of about 75 miles per hour. He believes the furthest BOWLES has flown is Tampa. He stated that he has not heard or seen anything that would lead him to believe BOWLES could possibly be involved in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

DNJ/pmg
44-1854

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA WELDON L. KENNEDY at Marathon, Florida, on May 20, 1968.

RONALD K. PIERCE, Sr., also known as "RED" PIERCE was interviewed and stated that he was born on September 2, 1929, at Battlecreek, Michigan. He is 5'11" tall, weighs 205 pounds, has brown eyes and red hair. PIERCE advised he operates a small fishing boat and fishes for a living. No one else ever uses his boat.

PIERCE advised he last left the Florida Keys in 1957. PIERCE often works as an automobile mechanic to obtain extra money. PIERCE has no relatives by the name of WILLIAM PIERCE, does not know how to fly, has no plane and owns no interest in any land or airports.

PIERCE is married, has five children and knows no one by the name of SAM LEWIS, EDDIE WILBURN or JIM GARRISON.

PIERCE is related to BEN THOMPSON who he used to fish with several years ago and who he has not seen for over a year.

12

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MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

1

The following investigation was conducted by SAs DAVID N. JELLISON and LEONARD C. PETERSON at Miami, Florida, on May 17, 1968.

Current Miami, Florida Southern Bell Telephone Directory lists a WILLIAM L. PIERCE at 500 N.E. 83rd Street, Miami, Florida.

Mrs. WILLIAM L. PIERCE, wife of WILLIAM L. PIERCE was located and interviewed at the PIERCE apartment, 500 N.E. 83rd Street, Apartment 5, Miami, Florida. She stated she and her husband were staying at Conch Key, Florida, on the night of April 4, 1968. Later that night they returned to Miami, Florida where they remained for four or five days prior to her husband's departure to Waynesville, North Carolina, with his mother, DOLLY PIERCE.

PIERCE owns the Rocky Waters Motel, Waynesville, North Carolina, and his telephone number is 926-1585. Mrs. PIERCE advised that he has been at the Rocky Waters Motel since leaving Miami.

Mrs. PIERCE stated her husband has a private pilot's license which he obtained at the Asheville, North Carolina airport. He last flew a private plane in about October, 1967, in North Carolina. He flies only for personal pleasure and does not own a plane. Mrs. PIERCE knows of no one in a position to loan a plane to her husband.

Mrs. PIERCE further advised her husband has not been in Kansas City or New Orleans and to her knowledge he is not associated with JIM GARRISON or EDDIE WILBURN, he has never been associated with any Klu Klux Klan organization and he owns no property such as land or airports. Mrs. PIERCE advised her husband was born in Arizona on September 7, 1913.

12

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44-1854-655

6/5/68

AIRTEL

TO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

MURKIN
CR

Re investigation concerning information
furnished by "Los Angeles Times" reporters.

Enclosed for the Memphis Division are 15
copies of 4 separate FD-302s and 15 copies of 7
separate investigative inserts for possible inclusion
in a report.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Memphis
2 - Bureau (Enc 165) (RM)
1 - Miami
DNJ/pmg
(3)

pmg
✓

Searched
Serialized
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Filed

Jellison *DNJ*

44-1854-656

1052PM DST 6-5-68 URGENT RGT

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA (44-2386), CHICAGO, DALLAS, HOUSTON,
LOS ANGELES, MEMPHIS, MINNEAPOLIS AND NEW YORK
FROM MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

MURKIN.

RE KANSAS CITY TEL TO THE BUREAU JUNE THREE LAST,
ATLANTA TEL TO THE BUREAU JUNE FOUR LAST AND MIAMI TEL
TO THE BUREAU JUNE FOUR LAST.

FOR INFO OFFICES WHICH DID NOT RECEIVE RE ATLANT TEL
OF JUNE FOUR LAST, THIS TEL REFLECTS ONE RAMON GEORGE
SNEYD, WHOSE PASSPORT PHOTO MAY BE THAT OF SUBJECT RAY, OBTAINED
A BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PASSPORT ON APRIL TWENTYFOUR LAST. IN
APPLYING FOR PASSPORT HE FURNISHED FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION:
WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED] TORONTO, ONE
SIXTYEIGHT LBS., BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, RESIDING NINE SIX
EIGHT DUNDAS, TORONTO, CANADA, WHICH IS CHEAP ROOMING HOUSE
WHERE SNEYD RESIDED SINCE APRIL SIXTYEIGHT. PROPRIETOR COULD
NOT MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF SNEYD AS RAY FROM PHOTO.
PASSPORT APPLICATION OBTAINED THROUGH TRAVEL AGENCY NEAR

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PAGE TWO

ROOMING HOUSE AND TRAVEL AGENCY RECORDS INDICATE SNEYD HAD PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO LONDON VIA BOAC AND WOULD RETURN MAY TWENTYNINE LAST. RE ATLANTA TEL OF JUNE FOUR LAST REQUESTED MIAMI REVIEW EASTERN AIRLINES (EAL) FLIGHTS THREE TWENTY AND THREE TWENTYEIGHT FOR DAILY FLIGHTS FROM ATLANTA TO TORONTO AND FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX DAILY FROM ATLANTA TO MONTREAL. BUREAU FURTHER ADVISED SNEYD IN OBTAINING PASSPORT FURNISHED NAME OF PAUL BRIDGEMAN AS PERSON TO NOTIFY IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY AND ADVISED BRIDGEMAN MAY HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED WITH SUBJECT. BUREAU INSTRUCTED NAME OF SNEYD AND BRIDGEMAN BE CHECKED TO DETERMINE IF PASSENGERS ON ABOVE-MENTIONED FLIGHTS FOR PERIOD APRIL FIVE THROUGH APRIL NINETEEN LAST.

EAL RECORDS CHECKED ON JUNE FOUR LAST DID NOT REFLECT EITHER SNEYD OR BRIDGEMAN AS PASSENGERS THRESE FLIGHTS DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

EAL RECORDS INDICATE THAT TICKETS OF OTHER AIRLINES WERE USED ON PERTINENT FLIGHTS DURING PERTINENT PERIOD AND TICKET NUMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE THREEE

UNITED AIRLINES, CHICAGO, ILL., COACH CLASS:

ZERO ONE SIX-TWO ONE THREE-TWO SEVEN EIGHT THREE NINE
COUPONE TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY ON APRIL FIVE LAST:

ZERO ONE SIX-FOUR TWO FIVE-TWO FIVE TWO SEVEN TWO SEVEN,
COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY ON APRIL NINE LAST;

ZERO ONE SIX-THREE ZERO ONE-TWO FIVE NINE SIX THREE TWO,
COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY ON APRIL NINE LAST.

DELATA AIRLINE, ATLANTA, GA., COACH CLASS:

ZERO ZERO SIX-TWO ZERO TWO-TWO FOUR THREE THREE FOUR
FIVE, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL SIX LAST;

ZERO ZERO SIX-TWO ZERO ONE-THREE ONE THREE SIX ONE NINE,
COUPON TWO, FLGITH THREE TWENTY, APRIL SIX LAST;

ZERO ZERO SIX-FOUR NINE EIGHT-SEVEN TWO ZERO SEVEN EIGHT
FIVE, COUPON TWO, FLGITH THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL EIGHT LAST;

ZERO ZERO SIX-EIGHT SIX ZERO-TWO SEVEN SEVEN EIGHT SIX
EIGHT, COUPON FOUR, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL EIGHT LAST;

ZERO ZERO SIX-TWO ZERO TWO-ONE NINE SIX EIGHT SIX TWO,
COUPON ONE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL THIRTEEN LAST;

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ZERO ZERO SIX-FOUR ZERO ONE-ZERO SIX EIGHT SEVEN FIVE
THREE, COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL SEVENTEEN
LAST;

ZERO ZERO SIX-FOUR ZERO ONE-ZERO FIVE ONE THREE ONE
EIGHT, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST;

ZERO ZERO SIX-FOUR ZERO ONE-ZERO FIVE ONE FOUR TWO ONE,
COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST.

SOUTHERN AIRWAYS, INC., ATLANTA, GA., COACH CLASS:

ZERO THREE EIGHT-THREE ZERO ZERO-FOUR EIGHT SEVEN SEVEN
FIVE TWO, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL SIX LAST;

ZERO THREE EIGHT-THREE ZERO ZERO-FOUR NINE NINE FOUR
TWO SEVEN, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL THIRTEEN
LAST.

FIRST CLASS:

ZERO THREE EIGHT-TWO ZERO ZERO-SIX TWO TWO FIVE NINE
TWO, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL TEN LAST;

ZERO THREE EIGHT-TWO TWO ZERO-SIX TWO TWO FIVE NINE ONE,
COUPON TWO, FLGITH ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL TEN LAST.

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TRANS-TEXAS AIRWAYS, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HOUSTON,
TEXAS, COACH CLASS:

ZERO THREE THREE-THREE TWO ZERO-ZERO EIGHT ONE THREE
ZERO TWO, COUPON THREE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL NINE
LAST.

BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS, EXCHANGE PARK, DALLAS,
TEXAS, COACH CLASS:

ZERO ZERO TWO-THREE ONE ONE-ONE ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO SEVEN,
COUPON THREE, FLGITH ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN LAST;

ZERO ZERO TWO-THREE ONE ONE-ONE ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO EIGHT,
COUPON THREE, FLGITH ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN LAST;

ZERO ZERO TWO-THREE ONE ONE-ONE ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO SIX,
COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN LAST;

ZERO ZERO TWO-THREE ONE ONE-ONE ZERO SEVEN ONE ONE ZERO,
COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN LAST;

ZERO ZERO TWO- THREE ONE ONE-ONE ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO NINE,
COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN LAST.

NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES, SIX TWO ZERO ONE-THIRTYFOURTH
AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., COACH CLASS:

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PAGE SIX

ZERO THREE TWO-FOUR ZERO FOUR-TWO FIVE ONE THREE SIX ONE,
COUPON ONE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL FOURTEEN LAST.

AMERICAN AIRLINES, SIX THREE THREE THIRD AVENUE, NEW
YORK, NY., FIRST CLASS:

ZERO ZERO ONE-THREE NINE TWO:FIVE ZERO SIX TWO FOUR EIGHT,
COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL FIFTEEN LAST;

ZERO ZERO ONE-THREE NINE TWO-FIVE ZERO SIX TWO FOUR SIX,
COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL FIVE LAST;

ZERO ZERO ONE-FOUR NINE TWO-SIX SIX SIX EIGHT SEVEN TWO,
COUPON FOUR, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST;

PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES, NEW YORK, NY, FIRST CLASS:

ZERO TWO SIX-THREE FOUR TWO-FOUR SIX ZERO TWO SEVEN SEVEN,
COUPON THREE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL FIFTEEN LAST.

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LOS ANGELES,
CALIF., COACH CLASS:

ZERO ZERO FIVE-THREE ONE ZERO:FIVE ZERO ZERO FOUR SEVEN
EIGHT, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL NINE LAST.

AIR CANADA, PLACE VILLE MARIE, MONTREAL, PROVIDENCE OF
QUEBEC, COACH CLASS:

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ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-SIX FOUR SEVEN TWO EIGHT
THREE, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL FIVE LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-SIX ZERO FOUR EIGHT ZERO
EIGHT, COUPON ONE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL SIX LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-SIX ZERO FOUR EIGHT ONE
ZERO, COUPON ONE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL SIX LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-SIX SEVEN FIVE FOUR FOUR
NINE, COUPON ONE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL SEVEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-SIX SEVEN FIVE FOUR FIVE
TWO, COUPON ONE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL SEVEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR:FOUR ZERO ONE:EIGHT SIX SIX FOUR FOUR FIVE,
COUPONS THREE AND FOUR, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL SEVEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-FIVE THREE SIX EIGHT TWO
FOUR, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL EIGHT LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-FIVE THREE SIX EIGHT TWO
TWO, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL EIGHT LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-FOUR EIGHT ONE FOUR FIVE
FIVE, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL TEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-TWO SIX ONE-TWO FIVE EIGHT THREE ZERO ZERO,

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COUPON TWO, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-FOUR NINE ONE-SEVEN FOUR NINE FIVE ONE NINE,
COUPONS THREE AND FOUR, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN
LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-FOUR NINE ONE-SEVEN FOUR NINE FIVE TWO
ZERO, COUPONS THREE AND FOUR, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL
ELEVEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE NINE ZERO-FIVE THREE SEVEN SIX EIGHT
SIX, COUPON THREE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL TWELVE LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE ZERO ONE-ONE THREE THREE EIGHT NINE
EIGHT, COUPON TWO, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX,, APRIL FOURTEEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-FOUR ZERO ONE-EIGHT SEVEN EIGHT NINE SEVEN
FOUR, COUPON FOUR, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL FOURTEEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-FOUR ZERO ONE-EIGHT THREE EIGHT NINE EIGHT
NINE, COUPONS THREE AND FOUR, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL
SEVENTEEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-FOUR NINE ONE-FIVE THREE ZERO FIVE FOUR
THREE, COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL EIGHTEEN LAST;

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ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE SIX ONE-ZERO EIGHT FIVE ONE FIVE THREE,
COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL EIGHTEEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-FOUR SIX ONE-ZERO EIGHT EIGHT FOUR ONE
FIVE, COUPON FOUR, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL EIGHTEEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-TWO NINE TWO-EIGHT NINE SIX FIVE NINE
FOUR, COUPON TWO, FLGITH ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL EIGHTEEN LAST;

ZERO ONE FOUR-THREE ZERO ONE-ZERO FIVE SIX FIVE THREE
ZERO, COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL NINETEEN LAST.

TRANSAIR LIMITED, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WINNIPEG,
CANADA, COACH CLASS:

TWO SIX FOUR-THREE ZERO ZERO-ZERO ZERO FOUR SIX ONE SIX,
COUPON TWO, FLIGHT THREE TWENTY, APRIL NINE LAST;

TWO SIX FOUR-THREE ZERO ZERO-ZERO ZERO FOUR SIX ONE FOUR,
COUPON TWO, FLGITH THREE TWENTY, APRIL NINE LAST.

NATIONAL AIRLINES, MIAMI, FLA., COACH CLASS:

ZERO ONE ZERO-FOUR NINE SEVEN-ONE FIVE SEVEN NINE THREE
SIX, COUPON THREE, FLIGHT ONE ZERO SIX, APRIL ELEVEN LAST.

BRITISH WEST INDIAN AIRWAYS, LTD., KENT HOUSE, LONG
CIRCULAR ROAD, MARAVAL, PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, BRITISH WEST

MM (44-1854)

PAGE TEN

INDIES, COACH CLASS:

ONE ZERO SIX-FOUR ZERO ZERO-SEVEN ZERO ONE TWO SIX SEVEN,
COUPON ONE, FLIGHT THREE TWENTYEIGHT, APRIL TWELVE LAST.

MIAMI IS HANDLING NATIONAL AIRLINES TICKETS.

MIAMI IS ALSO HANDLING BRITISH WEST INDIAN AIRWAYS, LTD.,
THROUGH LOCAL TICKET OFFICE, MIAMI, WHO ARE OBTAINING DESIRED
INFORMATION BY TELETYPE FROM HOME OFFICE.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED, THROUGH LEGAT OTTAWA, TO HAVE
APPROPRIATE CHECKS MADE WITH AIR CANADA, MONTREAL, AND TRANSAIR,
LIMITED, WINNIPEG, TO DETERMINE IF PERSONS USING LISTED TICKETS
ARE IDENTICAL WITH RAY AND TO HAVE APPROPRIATE LEADS SET OUT
FROM INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE BY LEGAT.

CHICAGO, AT UNITED AIRLINES, DETERMINE TO WHOM LISTED
TICKETS WERE ISSUED AND SET OUT LEADS TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL
TO RAY.

ATLANTA AT DELTA AIRLINES AND SOUTHERN AIRWAYS, INC.;

HOUSTON AT TRANS-TEXAS AIRWAYS;

DALLAS AT BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS;

MINNEAPOLIS AT NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES;

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PAGE ELEVEN

NEW YORK AT AMERICAN AIRLINES AND PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES;
LOS ANGELES AT CONTINENTAL AIRLINES
COVER LEADS AS SET OUT FOR CHICAGO.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

WA WPK

FBI WASH DC

NY JVD

FBI NEW YORK

TUTU

FBI MIAMI

FBI WASH DC

1243 AM URGENT 6-6-68 NAU

TO ATLANTA CHICAGO DALLAS HOUSTON LOS ANGELES MEMPHIS MIAMI MINNEAPOLIS
NEW YORK
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN.

REMIAMI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE FIVE LAST.

INDIVIDUAL KNOWN AS RAMON GEORGE SNEYD WAS
DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN IN TORONTO, CANADA, AS OF
APRIL EIGHT SIXTY-EIGHT. CHECK OF AIRLINE RECORDS CAN,
THEREFORE, BE LIMITED TO PERIOD OF APRIL FIVE THROUGH
APRIL EIGHT SIXTY-EIGHT. ADVISE BUREAU OF IDENTITIES OF
PERSONS TO WHOM SUCH TICKETS WERE ISSUED BUT DO NOT
SET OUT LEADS TO TRACE SUCH PERSONS UNTIL ADVISED BY
BUREAU.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

HTF

FBI MIAMI

TU

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Jellison DMG

FBI MIAMI

FBI MINNAPLS

1155 AM 6-6-68 URGENT NCD
TO MIAMI (44-1854)
FROM MINNEAPOLIS (157-450) 1P

MURKIN

RE MIAMI TEL TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, CHICAGO, DALLAS, HOUSTON,
LOS ANGELES, MEMPHIS, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW YORK, DATED JUNE FIVE,
LAST.

DONALD SONNICHSEN, SUPERVISOR, NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES,
ADVISED NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES TICKET NUMBER ZERO THREE TWO
DASH FOUR ZERO FOUR DASH TWO FIVE ONE DASH THREE SIX ONE,
ISSUED TO A MR. A. DUNN ON APRIL SEVEN, LAST, ON NORTH
CENTRAL AIRLINES FLIGHT EIGHT ONE ZERO FROM TORONTO TO DETROIT.

DUNN RETURNED TO TORONTON, APRIL ELEVEN, LAST, FLYING
AIR CANADA AIRLINES DEPARTING WINDSOR.

MIAMI, CHECK WITH EASTERN AIRLINES AND DETERMINE WHETHER
OR NOT ABOVE TICKET NUMBER IS CORRECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

MEMPHIS ADVISED AM

END

CORR THIRD PARA FIRST LINE FOURTH WORD SHD BE TORONTO

END

HTF

FBI MIAMI

44-1854-659

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FBI - MIAMI	

J. Allison

F B I

Date: 6/6/68

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

TO MINNEAPOLIS (157-450)

FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN, CIVIL RIGHTS

REURTEL SIX, SIX, SIXTYEIGHT, AND BUTEL TO MINNEAPOLIS JUNE
SIX, LAST.NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES TICKET NUMBER SHOULD BE ZERO THREE
TWO-FOUR ZERO FOUR-TWO FIVE ONE THREE SIX ZERO, COUPON ONE,
FLIGHT THREE TWO EIGHT, APRIL FOURTEEN, LAST.HCB:vc
(1)

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44-1854-660

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 6/5/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/4 - 5/31/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, Jim - FUGITIVE IO #4182, WF #442-A; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOE C. HESTER	TYPED BY mnr
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

NON-PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY

REFERENCES:

Reports of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 4/17/68 and 4/30/68 at Memphis.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

Additional copies of this report have been designated for the Bureau in order that dissemination may be made to Legats, Ottawa and Mexico City.

It should be noted that during interviews with certain of the subject's associates and former prison mates, their stories have varied from time to time. Some of their stories may have varied after this report was prepared. This is recognized but could not be avoided. Any more recent information obtained from them will be set out in subsequent reports.

LEADS:

All offices will continue to conduct investigation in this matter and will set out all leads which appear to be appropriate.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER
Date: JUNE 5, 1968

Office: MEMPHIS

Field Office File No.: 44-1987

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G, escaped Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) 4/23/67, and on 7/20/67 a complaint was filed before USC W. C. SHELEY, Jefferson City, Mo., charging RAY with unlawful flight to avoid confinement in violation of Title 18, USC, Section 1073. On 4/17/68 an authorized complaint was filed against ERIC STARVO GALT for violation of Title 18, USC, Section 241, charging that he did conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in the free exercise and enjoyment of his rights secured by the Constitution of the United States. Complaint was filed before USC, Birmingham, Ala., by SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of GALT. Recommended bond is \$50,000. On 5/7/68 Shelby County GJ, Memphis, returned a secret indictment charging JAMES EARL RAY with murder in the first degree. Chronological listing of subject's activities from 4/67 to 4/68 set forth and reflects he resided briefly at Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada. He traveled to Birmingham, Ala., purchased a 1966 Ford Mustang, then traveled to Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, for a brief residence, and then to Los Angeles, Calif. Subject made 2 round trips by automobile from Los Angeles to New Orleans and in 3/68 established residence in Atlanta, Ga. Using the name HARVEY LOWMEYER, a Remington, Model 760, rifle was purchased 3/30/68 Birmingham, Ala. At 6:00 P.M., 4/4/68 Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was shot and killed by a single bullet fired from the bathroom of a nearby rooming house while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, Memphis. Same Remington rifle identified above recovered at scene along with other items and personal belongings of the subject. Results of Laboratory examinations of all evidence described herein. Interviews of relatives of JAMES EARL RAY, fellow prisoners, and associates set forth. Subject is described as a loner with no close associates, reportedly on amphetamine, and selling drugs at MSP while incarcerated there. Identification record and description also set forth. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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I. CRIMES COMMITTED FOR WHICH
FEDERAL PROCESS OUTSTANDING

The subject, JAMES EARL RAY, was received at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, March 17, 1960, from the St. Louis City Circuit Court to serve a sentence of 20 years after conviction for robbery first degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon (2 counts) and for operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. He was given sentences of 20, 7, and 5 years, all to run concurrently.

The subject, who was MSP inmate #00416, was assigned to the Bakery Unit of the Food Service Department. Just prior to the 5:00 P.M. count on April 23, 1967, he was discovered missing and could not be found within the penitentiary. It was not until some 10 days later that prison officials determined that the subject had escaped by being concealed in a large bread box being taken by open truck from the main prison to Renz Farm, a prison farm that lies outside the prison walls and about 5 miles north of the main prison. This method of escape has not been positively verified and remains largely a matter of conjecture.

Federal assistance was requested to locate the subject, and on July 20, 1967, a complaint was filed before U. S. Commissioner W. C. SHELEY at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging the subject with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement following a conviction for robbery first degree, this being in violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1073.

On April 24, 1968, an amended complaint was filed by SA ROWEN B. AYERS before U. S. Commissioner SHELEY.

At about 6:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, while standing on the second floor balcony outside Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was struck in the right side of the face by a single bullet. Investigation disclosed that this shot was fired from the bathroom of a rooming house located at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis, which bathroom was located at the rear of the rooming house and which had a window overlooking the Lorraine Motel. It is 207 feet from the bathroom window to the spot where KING was shot.

It was determined that on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, a man using the name JOHN WILLARD rented Room 5B at 422½ South Main Street, paying one week's rent. After hearing the rifle shot at about 6:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, other tenants in the rooming house observed the man known as WILLARD fleeing from the rooming house carrying a large package which was subsequently abandoned by him on the sidewalk in front of 424 South Main Street. Further investigation disclosed that WILLARD fled from the scene in a white Mustang parked a few feet south of 424 South Main Street.

Found abandoned in front of 424 South Main was a 30-06 Remington, Model 760, rifle, a small plastic suitcase containing numerous toilet articles, undershorts, a T-shirt, binoculars, a newspaper, an after shave lotion bottle, 2 cans of Schlitz beer, and a brown and green bedspread in which all of these items were partially wrapped.

Investigation at motels in the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee, to identify persons who might be driving a white Mustang automobile disclosed that ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, had spent the night of April 3, 1968, at the Rebel Motel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, and was driving a Mustang with Alabama license 1-38993. Subsequent investigation at Birmingham, set out in more detail elsewhere in this report, indicated that ERIC STARVO GALT was responsible for the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and on April 17, 1968, Assistant U. S. Attorney R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, Alabama, authorized the filing of a complaint against ERIC STARVO GALT for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241, charging that GALT did conspire to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in the free exercise and enjoyment of his rights secured by the Constitution of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. Assistant U. S. Attorney TAYLOR recommended bond be set in the amount of \$50,000.

This complaint was filed by SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE before U. S. Commissioner MILDRED F. SPRAGUE, Birmingham, on April 17, 1968, and Mrs. SPRAGUE issued a warrant of arrest for ERIC STARVO GALT.

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On May 7, 1968, a Shelby County Grand Jury, Memphis, Tennessee, returned a secret indictment charging the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, with murder in the first degree. While this indictment has not been made public, the local press is aware of its existence and has commented on it.