

SI 44-561

HAZEL HAMILTON, Case Worker, Catholic Charities, Quincy, Illinois, had been SUZAN RYAN's supervisor since 3/54.

The file showed SUZAN RYAN resided at Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois, from 3/8/54 until 1961.

The file showed that the RYAN children had an uncle, WILLIAM E. MAHER, who resided 1118 East Seventh Street, Alton, Illinois.

Also, the file included that an aunt, Mrs. SADIE FITZSIMMONS, address unknown, visited SUZAN RYAN while under supervision.

On 9/2/59 SUZAN RYAN had apparently run away from the supervision of the Catholic Children's Home and was located in Alton, Illinois, with a Mrs. MARY MAHER.

On 8/31/59 SUZAN RYAN was located with her mother, 1209 East Fourth Street, Alton, Illinois, where the mother lived under the name of BERNES. Apparently at one time the mother had resided at a home in St. Louis that was condemned at which time she had moved to Alton, date of the move or other information not shown.

The file contained information that JAMES RYAN resided at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, or 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, where he lived with CAROL RYAN. The file did not indicate whether this was the father or son, JAMES RYAN.

The file contained a letter dated 3/30/60 that JACK was going to Chicago and that he had been held "for those licenses".

The file showed that MELBA RYAN, CAROL RYAN, and FRANKLIN RYAN were born in St. Louis County, Missouri, and SUZAN and [REDACTED], Quincy, Illinois.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN


On 4/22/68 Circuit Judge RICHARD SCHOLZ, Quincy, Illinois, confidentially made available the dependency files concerning the LUCILE RYAN family in Quincy. Judge SCHOLZ advised that the information contained in these files was confidential and should not be made public.

The file contained the following information:

On 3/9/55 five members of the family became wards of Adams County Circuit Court, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed the following to be the complete list of the members of the family:

| | |
|----------|---|
| Father | GERALD RYAN |
| Mother | LUCILE MAHER RYAN |
| Son | JAMES, age 26, whereabouts not known |
| Son | JOHN, age 24, Pontiac Prison |
| Daughter | MARJORIE, died at age 2 |
| Son | JERRY, age 20, parolee from Pontiac |
| Daughter | MELBA, age 16 |
| Daughter | CAROL, age 14, living with mother |
| Son | FRANKLIN, age 12, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois |
| Daughter | SUZAN, age 8, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois |



On that date MELBA, CAROL, FRANKLIN, SUZAN, and  became wards of the Adams County Court.

The file showed that MELBA MARIE RYAN was born at Macomb, Illinois, and was taken from GEORGE PARSONS, Supervisor, Illinois Youth Commission, who had been caring for MELBA on 6/28/55 and was given to a Mrs. TURNER FOLEY, 332 North 24th Street, Quincy, Illinois.

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On [REDACTED] was tested by Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, and [REDACTED]

On 8/9/55 MELBA MARIE RYAN was committed to the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, and custody of RYAN taken from GEORGE PARSONS and given to the Illinois Youth Commission. Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently at that time MELBA MARIE RYAN had attempted to set fire to the PARSONS' home. He stated that this had been kept quiet by PARSONS and was not known generally.

On 3/20/56 Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, had found [REDACTED]

The file showed that on [REDACTED]

On 6/13/56 CAROL RYAN was declared a delinquent for wandering about the streets at night without lawful business and also since her mother LUCILE RYAN was declared a depraved person.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that this was due to LUCILE RYAN soliciting prostitution date for CAROL RYAN. He advised that LUCILE RYAN had worked as a prostitute during most of her life and that the area around 214 Spring Street was an area infested by houses of prostitution at the time of the RYAN/RAY family lived in that area. He stated that there had been testimony that LUCILE RYAN had attempted to solicit prostitution dates for herself in a tavern and when she was unable to find any dates had brought in her fourteen year old daughter, CAROL, and attempted to obtain prostitution dates for CAROL.

On 8/6/57 MELBA MARIE RYAN was granted a discharge from the Jacksonville State Hospital.

On 10/24/57 custody of FRANKLIN RYAN and SUSAN RYAN was given to the Catholic Charities of Springfield, Illinois.

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On [REDACTED] was transferred from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]

On 8/21/58 a court order gave custody of MELBA MARIE RYAN, CAROL RYAN, FRANKLIN D. RYAN and SUZAN RYAN and [REDACTED] to the Catholic Charities, Springfield, Illinois.

A notation was contained in the file that on 7/57 LUCILE RYAN moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and was residing at 1135 South Tenth Street, Apartment 8, St. Louis, Missouri.

At that time the father of the RYAN children, GERALD RYAN or GERALD RAY, was residing at 4149 West Pine Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information that [REDACTED] in County Court, Sangamon County, Illinois, on [REDACTED]

On 6/30/60 a letter was addressed to the Court from Mrs. JENNY RAYNES from St. Louis, Missouri.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently this would be a woman living with the father of the RYAN children.

On 128/60 JERRY RAYNES was shown residing at 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri; his DOB was shown as 11/24/1899, and employed by J & R Auto Sales, St. Louis, Missouri. At that time he was living with daughter, CAROL RYAN, DOB 1/30/41, who was employed by the Kresge Company in the St. Louis area.

At this time JERRY RAYNES gave JACK RANDOLPH, 5901 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, as a reference. The file showed that JACK RANDOLPH was the owner of J & R Auto Sales and that RAYNES was employed as a car salesman on a used car lot for RANDOLPH.

The file showed that custody of FRANKLIN D. RYAN was given to his father JERRY RAYNES, 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, on 3/30/60.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN had died in approximately 1962 or 1963 when an automobile in which he was riding drove into the Mississippi River in West Quincy, Missouri. He advised that any records concerning the death of FRANKLIN D. RYAN would be in Missouri.

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Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was also known as BUZZY RYAN and that possibly some people would not know the true name of FRANKLIN D. RYAN.

The file showed that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was first declared a dependent on 9/8/52 and at that time was residing at 214 1/2 Spring Street.

Included in the FRANKLIN D. RYAN section of the dependency records was a letter dated 3/29/59 from LUCILE RYAN, his mother, who at that time was residing at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. In the letter she stated that "JIMMY is going to Chicago". The letter indicated that at that time JIMMY was residing with LUCILE RYAN at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information showing that before 9/24/59 Mrs. LUCILE BERNES, aka LUCILE RAY and LUCILE RYAN resided 1209 East Fourth Street, Alton, Illinois, and that she had moved from that address to 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis.

A notation was contained in the file that one 8/20/59 LUCILE RYAN's son, JAMES EARL RAY, and an accomplice JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN were arrested for an armed robbery of a supermarket in Alton, Illinois, and that this matter was pending in Circuit Court, Madison County, Illinois.

The file contained a section concerning JERRY W. RYAN, DOB 7/16/35. He was declared a delinquent on 3/10/50 for unlawfully growing up in idleness and crime and was to be sent to St. Charles Boys' Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois.

At that time his father was GERALD RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, and mother, LUCILE RYAN, at same address.

Psychological tests given JERRY W. RYAN at that time showed he functioned between a low, average and dull in intelligence.

The file showed that SUZAN RYAN, aka SUSANNE RYAN, DOB 4/28/47, had been a ward of the court from 9/8/52 until 4/15/65 when she was discharged from the supervision of the court.

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HAZEL HAMILTON, Case Worker, Catholic Charities, Quincy, Illinois, had been SUZAN RYAN's supervisor since 3/54.

The file showed SUZAN RYAN resided at Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois, from 3/8/54 until 1961.

The file showed that the RYAN children had an uncle, WILLIAM E. MAHER, who resided 1118 East Seventh Street, Alton, Illinois.

Also, the file included that an aunt, Mrs. SADIE FITZSIMMONS, address unknown, visited SUZAN RYAN while under supervision.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/20/68 WILBUR CONNORS, aka MANNY CONNORS, 825 South Fifth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and SA ELYON H. DAVIS and furnished the following information:

On that date was the first he had learned of his wife, KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, had been arrested with WALTER RIFE and JAMES EARL RAY in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955. He advised that he had never heard his wife mention JAMES EARL RAY and is quite certain that she did not know RAY or have much of any contact with him. He pointed out in 1955 his wife was only seventeen years of age and that she did not have a criminal record and for this reason he did not believe she had been involved with RAY and RIFE in any crime.

WILBUR CONNORS advised that his sister-in-law, LAURA CONNORS, owns the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. CONNORS advised that he is in this hotel on almost a daily basis and can state that WALTER RIFE was certainly working each day at the restaurant and the Virginia Hotel from the period 3/27/68 through 4/4/68.

CONNORS advised that he personally does not know JAMES EARL RAY and does not have any information concerning RAY's activities or whereabouts.

On 4/20/68 LAURA CONNORS, owner, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and furnished the following information.

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44-561-476



SI 44-561

Around 2/6/68 she had leased the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel to WALTER TERRY RIFE. She advised since that date the restaurant has been operated by RIFE and that RIFE has been working in the restaurant every day. She advised that RIFE's wife, JAN RIFE, gave birth to a baby in late 2/68 and for this reason WALTER RIFE had worked from approximately 7:00 each morning until 11:00 at night operating the restaurant. She stated that certainly WALTER RIFE was working during the period 3/27/68 until 4/4/68.

She advised that she does not know JAMES EARL RAY, FBI No. 306443A, and after viewing five different photographs of RAY advised that this is not an individual who she has ever known. She stated that MELBA MARIE RYAN does live at the Virginia Hotel and that she had learned on the previous night that MELBA MARIE RYAN was a sister to JAMES EARL RAY. She stated, however, in her conversations with MELBA MARIE RYAN, MELBA MARIE RYAN had denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of RAY and she does not believe that RAY has contacted the sister since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

On 4/20/68 ARTHUR CONNORS advised that he is the husband of LAURA CONNORS, owner of the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. ARTHUR CONNORS advised that he can verify that WALTER RIFE was working at the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel during the period of 3/27/68 through 4/4/68.

ARTHUR CONNORS also viewed a photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A. CONNORS advised that this individual was completely unknown to him and he has never seen him at the Virginia Hotel.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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WILBUR CONNORS advised that his sister-in-law, LAURA CONNORS, owns the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. CONNORS advised that he is in this hotel on almost a daily basis and can state that WALTER RIFE was certainly working each day at the restaurant and the Virginia Hotel from the period 3/27/68 through 4/4/68.

CONNORS advised that he personally does not know JAMES EARL RAY and does not have any information concerning RAY's activities or whereabouts.

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44-561-416



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

SI 44-561

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③ - Springfield (44-561)
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44-561-416



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

SI 44-561

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/20/68 KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, presently married to WILBUR CONNORS and residing 825 South Fifth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and SA DAVIS.

She advised that she had never met JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A, until one night during 1955 when WALTER RIFE, an acquaintance of her, approached her in a tavern in Quincy, Illinois, and asked her if she wanted to go with RIFE to Hannibal, Missouri. While in the automobile, she was introduced to JAMES EARL RAY and after arrival in Hannibal, Missouri, WALTER RIFE and JAMES EARL RAY were arrested concerning some postal money orders that had been stolen. She advised that she had never seen RAY before that date and has never seen him since. She stated that she had no information concerning the whereabouts of RAY or any information concerning the background of RAY.

She advised that her husband did not know RAY and had never heard of her being arrested with RAY and RIFE in Hannibal, Missouri.

She advised that she is acquainted with MELBA MARIE RYAN since MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel but that she did not know that this was a sister of JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that she would furnish any information of value that she might learn to the FBI concerning RAY or the RAY and RYAN family; however, she had none to furnish at the present time.

③ - Springfield (44-561)
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44-561-417



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

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5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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③ - Springfield (44-561)

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| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

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44-561-419



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/22/68 Chief RAY WELSH, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, made available the records of the Quincy Police Department of EARL EVERETT RAY.

The files showed that EARL EVERETT RAY is holder of Peoria, Illinois PD #14439 and that on 8/23/43 EARL RAY, 1401 Cherry Street, was arrested for throwing acid in the face of his wife, Mrs. EARL RAY. This case was later closed and no prosecution was involved.

The file showed that EARL RAY was 43 years of age in 1943. On 8/25/47 EARL RAY was wanted by the Quincy PD on an assault to kill charge. This apparently also involved his wife. On 9/10/48 the files contain information that EARL RAY and his wife were involved in a fight and that her sister, DORIS, was a witness. At that time Mrs. RAY moved to 1403 Cherry Street and her sister was DORIS GODMAN, 645 College Street.

On 7/24/55 EARL RAY was arrested for the assault of YVONNE MC GINBERG, 415 York Street, Quincy, Illinois.

On 8/59 EARL RAY was arrested for assault and battery and the victims were AUDREY RAY, wife, and LEONA FERGUSON. This occurred at 1403 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, after he had hit AUDREY RAY in the mouth and LEONA FERGUSON in the stomach. At that time EARL RAY was living at 1415 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.

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5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/22/68 Chief RAY WELSH, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, made available the records of the Quincy Police Department of EARL EVERETT RAY.

The files showed that EARL EVERETT RAY is holder of Peoria, Illinois PD #14439 and that on 8/23/43 EARL RAY, 1401 Cherry Street, was arrested for throwing acid in the face of his wife, Mrs. EARL RAY. This case was later closed and no prosecution was involved.

The file showed that EARL RAY was 43 years of age in 1943. On 8/25/47 EARL RAY was wanted by the Quincy PD on an assault to kill charge. This apparently also involved his wife. On 9/10/48 the files contain information that EARL RAY and his wife were involved in a fight and that her sister, DORIS, was a witness. At that time Mrs. RAY moved to 1403 Cherry Street and her sister was DORIS GODMAN, 645 College Street.

On 7/24/55 EARL RAY was arrested for the assault of YVONNE MC GINBERG, 415 York Street, Quincy, Illinois.

On 8/59 EARL RAY was arrested for assault and battery and the victims were AUDREY RAY, wife, and LEONA FERGUSON. This occurred at 1403 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, after he had hit AUDREY RAY in the mouth and LEONA FERGUSON in the stomach. At that time EARL RAY was living at 1415 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.

3 - Springfield (44-561)
EHD/smr
(3) *smr*

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| MAY 03 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |
| <i>Davis</i> | |



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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3 Springfield (44-561)
EHD/smr
(3)

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| MAY 03 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

EST

44-561-419



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : - SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/22/68 HAZEL HAMILTON, Case Worker, Catholic Charities, 510 Jersey Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and furnished the following information.

She advised that sometime around 1948 the RYAN family or the RAY family of which EARL RAY, FBI #306443A, is a member, moved to Quincy, Illinois.

HAZEL HAMILTON advised that the RAY family moved to Quincy, Illinois, from Des Moines, Iowa, and that the family had moved to Des Moines from Ewing, Missouri. She advised that the family apparently changed names whenever it suited them and she knew that the family had used names including RAY, RYAN, BERNES, RAYNS, and RAYNES.

She advised that the mother and father of JAMES EARL RAY and the other children were absolutely no good and that when this family first moved to Quincy, Illinois, some member of the family was working at the Hotel Lincoln Douglas.

She advised that five of the children, MELBA MARIE RYAN, CAROL RYAN, FRANKLIN RYAN, SUZIE RYAN, and [REDACTED] had at times been under the supervision of Catholic Charities and had been wards of the Adams County Court.

She advised that she had had very little contact with the three older brothers, JAMES EARL RAY, JERRY RAY or JERRY RYAN, and JOHN RAY or JACK RYAN. She stated that the youngest daughter, SUZAN RYAN, graduated from Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois, in approximately 1965, after which she moved to Chicago, Illinois, and the last known address she had for SUZIE was Apartment 809, 117 North Dearborn, Chicago, where she lived with a JANET VAIR.

3 - Springfield (44-561)

EHD/smr

(3)

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| MAY 03 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Werner

44-561-2119



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

SI 44-561

In 1963 she had information that the father, living under the name of JERRY RAYNE, was residing at RFD, Clarence, Missouri.

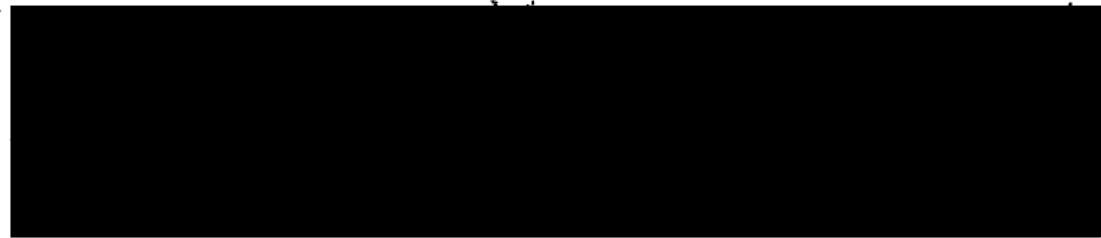
In 1963 FRANKLIN D. RYAN had died in West Quincy, Missouri, and was later buried.

She advised that she does not know what exact year the family moved to Quincy, but thought it was around 1948 and stated that definitely JAMES EARL RAY was the oldest child in this family. She listed the children as follows in order of age:

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Son | JAMES EARL RAY |
| Son | JOHN RAY |
| Son | JERRY RAY |
| Daughter | MELBA RAY |
| Daughter | CAROL RAY |
| Son | FRANKLIN D. RAY |
| Daughter | SUZAN RAY |

She advised that she knew that the father of this group of children had used the name of JAMES RAY, GERALD RAY, JAMES RYAN and GERALD RYAN, as well as JERRY. She stated that the father RAY had been a ladies' man and it was her understanding that he had lived with many women but had probably never married any other than the mother of the children.

She advised that a Mrs. MAHER was the grandmother of the children, and in the past had induced them to run away from home and apparently had died in St. Louis while Mrs. MAHER was living with LUCILE RYAN.



She felt that the entire family is close enough to the criminal element that the family has developed an attitude of not cooperating with the law and she feels that it is possible that any member of the family might harbor JAMES EARL RAY; however, she stated that this is merely a personal belief and she had no information that the family had ever harbored anyone.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ELYON H. DAVIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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She advised that the mother and father of JAMES EARL RAY and the other children were absolutely no good and that when this family first moved to Quincy, Illinois, some member of the family was working at the Hotel Lincoln Douglas.

She advised that five of the children, MELBA MARIE RYAN, CAROL RYAN, FRANKLIN RYAN, SUZIE RYAN, and [REDACTED] had at times been under the supervision of Catholic Charities and had been wards of the Adams County Court.

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3 - Springfield (44-561)

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[Handwritten signature]

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| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

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44-561-419



5010-108

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

SI 44-561

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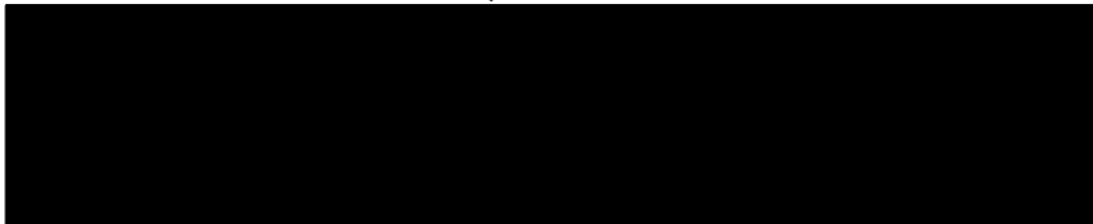
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She advised that she knew that the father of this group of children had used the name of JAMES RAY, GERALD RAY, JAMES RYAN and GERALD RYAN, as well as JERRY. She stated that the father RAY had been a ladies' man and it was her understanding that he had lived with many women but had probably never married any other than the mother of the children.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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DATE: 5/2/68

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3 Springfield (44-561)
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(3)

smr

44-561-419

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| MAY 03 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Robert



5010-108

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

SI 44-561

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5-3-68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

Send twice

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (MAIL)
SAC CHICAGO
SAC DALLAS

FROM SAC SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-

MURKIN; THREATS TO MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RE CHICAGO TEL TO DALLAS AND SPRINGFIELD MAY TWO, LAST.

MRS. EUGENE WALDEN, ROUTE THREE, WEST FRANKFORT, PROTECT
IDENTITY, MEDIZER'S MOTHER, ADVISED JOHN C. MEDIZER RESIDES
FIVE FIVE ZERO SIX E.R.L. THORNTON, POSSIBLY THORNTON, FREEWAY,
DALLAS, TEXAS.

DALLAS, HANDLE.

AIRMAIL COPY SENT BUREAU, MEMPHIS, AND KANSAS CITY.

1 - Bureau (AM)
1 - Memphis (AM)
1 - Kansas City (AM)
1 - Springfield (44-561)
CHG:ssj/blw
(4)

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

DSJ

Roberts

44-561-420

*sent to 4:57 PM
DL 4:59 P*

*sent to
MW*

FBI CHICAGO

FBI SPRNGFLD

457PM URGENT 5/3/68 MAL

TO CHICAGO AND DALLAS

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) ONE PAGE

MURKIN; THREATS TO MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RE CHICAGO TEL TO DALLAS AND SPRINGFIELD MAY TWO, LAST.

MRS. EUGENE WALDEN, ROUTE THREE, WEST FRANKFORT, PROTECT
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DALLAS, TEXAS.

DALLAS, HANDLE.

AIRMAIL COPY SENT BUREAU, MEMPHIS, AND KANSAS CITY.

END

JLS

FBI CHICAGO

44-561-426
SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI ATLANTA

1105A URGENT 5/3/68 HJM
TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND SPRINGFIELD
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386 1P

MURKIN

44-561

RAYMOND CURTIS REINTERVIEWED WHITFIELD CO. JAIL AND ADVISED AFTER VIEWING PHOTO OF HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER THAT NEITHER PHOTO NOR NAME WAS FAMILIAR TO HIM. HE STATED NEVER GOT GOOD LOOK AT MAN HE MENTIONED AS KEEPING JAMES EARL RAY IN SPENDING MONEY BUT DID NOT BELIEVE LOHMEYER WAS THAT INDIVIDUAL.

CONCERNING MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY AND HIS STATEMENT OF BOUNTY TO BE PAID BY "KK OF THE SOUTH" AND THE SOUTHERN BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION, CURTIS STATED THAT BY KK, HE DID NOT MEAN KU KLUX KLAN BUT EITHER "KENNEDY AND KING" OR "KILL KING" WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THESE INITIALS WHEN HE HEARD THEM IN PRISON. P

END

AEF

FBI SPRNGFLD

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| MAY 3 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Robert

44-561-421

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI ATLANTA

1105A URGENT 5/3/68 HJM
TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND SPRINGFIELD
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386 1P

MURKIN

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END

AEF

FBI SPRNGFLD

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| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| MAY 3 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

44-561-421

4/29/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

Re KC tels to Bureau and ME, 4/23/68 and 4/24/68.

Enclosed for investigative assistance of SI is copies of retels.

RE: INTERVIEW OF BROTHERS CARL BENTON AND JAMES FRANCIS DRAKE.

CARL DRAKE, a self-employed contractor, 2934 St. Vincent, St. Louis, Mo., home phone PR 6-3540, was located and interviewed by SA WALTER C. JOHNSON on 4/29/68, and stated while an inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), he became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY who was incarcerated in either 1960 or 1961, and subsequently became close friends until DRAKE's release in June 1965. Their main association was while they both walked together in the prison yard and DRAKE feels he became as close a friend to RAY as anyone at the prison. He described RAY as "a loner, close-mouthed" who kept his own council and did not even consult him prior to RAY's unsuccessful attempt to go over the wall by the use of a ladder. RAY had very few friends, however, he mixed well with other inmates, both black and white, and had never showed any propensity for violence or appeared to be a racist.

- 3 - Bureau
 - 2 - Springfield (Encl-2)
 - 2 - Memphis
 - 1 - St. Louis
- WCJ:pjh
(8)

mm Subject armed & dangerous

44-561-422

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| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Modesto L. Schenk
w/enc.
Case @ Roberts

SL

44-775

DRAKE pointed out there were several instances of racial trouble at the penitentiary but RAY never seemed involved or expressed his feelings in the matter.

RAY often mentioned that he could not do his 20-year sentence but never indicated any escape plans or any contacts with outside individuals. RAY's brother, JACK RAY, from St. Louis, Mo., was the only member of the family he mentioned and believed JACK averaged visiting RAY about once a year at the penitentiary. He vaguely recalled RAY mentioning he had another brother killed in an auto accident. He did not discuss his general background other than mentioning on several occasions he had previously done time at Menard Prison, Chester, Illinois.

RAY was not addicted to use of drugs, however, DRAKE said nearly all inmates "fooled around" with anything they could get their hands on. DRAKE said about two weeks after his release in June 1965, he visited JACK RAY upon the request of JIMMY, and that was the last time he saw JACK. Their conversation concerned primarily JIM's welfare at the MSP.

DRAKE had not heard of JIM's escape and presumed he was still in prison until the recent publicity.

DRAKE regards RAY as a small-time robber mentally incapable of planning the assassination of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING without additional intelligent guidance from some other source. He believes RAY may be capable of being hired for this but would certainly not be alone in this matter. He is also of the opinion that whoever hired RAY, that person or group, has disposed of RAY. He commented that with the "heat" on RAY and rewards advertised, it would be extremely difficult for a fellow like RAY to hide.

CARL DRAKE indicated that he would cooperate in any way he could with the FBI in the event any information came to his attention re the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

CARL DRAKE said his brother, JAMES FRANCIS DRAKE was also an inmate at the MSP and was acquainted with RAY in a similar manner. All three formerly walked the yard together and that was JAMES DRAKE's main association with JAMES RAY. JAMES FRANCIS DRAKE was released two years before CARL and later served time at Terre Haute Federal Prison, and was released in November 1967. CARL said his brother, JAMES, resides with his mother, OLA DRAKE, at Modesta, Ill., and is currently employed at the Valley Steel Co., Jacksonville, Ill.

SL 44-775

LEAD

THE SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:

AT MODESTA, ILL.:

Locate and interview JAMES FRANCIS DRAKE for any background information he may have re JAMES EARL RAY.

Subject armed & dangerous

4/29/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

Re KC tels to Bureau and ME, 4/23/68 and 4/24/68.

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3 - Bureau
2 - Springfield (Encl-2)
2 - Memphis
1 - St. Louis
WCJ:pjh
(8)

subject armed + dangerous

44-561-422

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| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| APR 30 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Roberts

Modesto Ed @ Schoenly

SL

44-775

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Subject armed & dangerous

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI KAN CITY

11-55 AM URGENT 4/23/68 PHM

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, ST. LOUIS, SPRINGFIELD
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760

MURKIN

JEROME CARPENTER, INMATE, MO. STATE PENITENTIARY, ADVISED THAT SUBJECT'S FATHER MARRIED HIS MOTHER, RUBY CARPENTER, SOME TIME AGO. HE STATED THAT SINCE THAT TIME APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AGO RUBY CARPENTER AND SUBJECT'S FATHER SEPARATED. HE ADVISED THAT HIS MOTHER, RUBY CARPENTER, CURRENTLY RESIDES SIX THREE ZERO NORTH SIXTY ST., QUINCY, ILL. CARPENTER FURTHER ADVISED PERSON CLOSEST TO SUBJECT IN MO. STATE PENITENTIARY IS INDIVIDUAL BY NAME OF CARL BENTON DRAKE, WHO WAS RELEASED FROM PENITENTIARY SOMETIME DURING SIXTYFIVE. CARPENTER ADVISED HE DID NOT KNOW DRAKE'S WHEREABOUTS; HOWEVER, PRISON RECORDS REVEAL HIS MOTHER TO BE OLA DRAKE, TWO ONE ONE EIGHT NORTH NINTH, ST. LOUIS, MO., AND HIS WIFE TO BE BETTY DRAKE, THREE ZERO EIGHT MILL ST., POPLAR BLUFF, MO. FULL DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.

ST. LOUIS ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS AND INTERVIEW CARL BENTON DRAKE.

SPRINGFIELD AT QUINCY, INTERVIEW RUBY CARPENTER FOR ANY INFORMATION SHE MAY HAVE RE SUBJECT OR HIS FAMILY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

END

REM

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SERIALIZED FILED
APR 23 1968
FBI - SPRINGFIELD
Schultz
44-561-423

44-775
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APR 23 1968
FBI - SAINT LOUIS
Robson

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI LITTLE R

6:43

PM URGENT 4-24-68 DRM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987), ST. LOUIS, AND KANSAS CITY

FROM: LITTLE ROCK (157-1215)

RE: MURKIN

RE LITTLE ROCK TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND ABOVE-LISTED OFFICES, APRIL TWENTYTWO SIXTYEIGHT, AND BUREAU TELETYPE TO LITTLE ROCK THIS DATE.

RE: INTERVIEW OF RUSSELL LEE MARTIN.

MARTIN INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND STATED WELL ACQUAINTED JAMES EARL RAY WHILE BOTH INCARCERATED MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY. MARTIN RECEIVED PARDON AFTER HELPING SOLVE NARCOTICS RING OPERATING IN MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AND RELEASED APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO. MARTIN STATED PRIOR TO RAY'S ESCAPE, RAY SOLD NARCOTICS TO OTHER INMATES AND THAT HE, MARTIN, RAN A GAMBLING GAME. MARTIN STATED RAY WAS A "LONER" AND HAD VERY FEW FRIENDS, BUT WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH TWO OTHER INMATES WHO WERE BROTHERS, ONE NAMED CARL DRAKE, FIRST NAME OF OTHER BROTHER NOT KNOWN, BOTH SUPPOSEDLY

Johnson
Pls return
when copy

44-7757

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Mc 09m

Schoenhof

44-581-424

PAGE TWO

WELL KNOWN TO ST. LOUIS, MO., PD. DRAKE BROTHERS ARE BOTH SUPPOSED TO BE OUT OF PRISON AND PRESUMED TO BE IN ST. LOUIS BY MARTIN.

MARTIN STATED THAT BASED UPON HIS OBSERVATION, RAY AND THE DRAKE BROTHERS WERE ACQUAINTED BEFORE THEY WERE SENT TO PRISON.

MARTIN STATED THAT IF RAY WERE IN BLYTHEVILLE, ARK., AREA AND KNEW THAT HE, MARTIN, WAS IN BLYTHEVILLE, RAY WOULD CONTACT HIM. MARTIN STATED THAT IF ANY INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED BY HIM REGARDING WHEREABOUTS OF RAY, HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT RA AT BLYTHEVILLE, ARK. MARTIN EXPRESSED COMPLETE COOPERATION WITH REGARDS TO RAY.

MARTIN STATED THAT TWO BROTHERS BY THE NAME OF DALEY (PH) WHO WERE FROM ST. LOUIS WOULD ALSO KNOW RAY, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW CLOSE THEY WERE TO RAY.

MARTIN STATED THAT THE YOUNGER DRAKE BROTHER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A NARCOTICS ADDICT.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, MO., ATTEMPT TO LOCATE DRAKE BROTHERS AND DALEY BROTHERS THROUGH ST. LOUIS PD.

PAGE THREE

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO., REVIEW PRISON RECORDS
FOR IDENTITIES OF DRAKE BROTHERS AND DALEY BROTHERS AND ADVISE
ST. LOUIS.

LITTLE ROCK WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH MARTIN.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

END

JHH

FBI ST LOUIS

X

X

SPRNGFLD

FBI MEMPHIS

250PM URGENT 5-3-68 SAB

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, JACKSON
KANSAS CITY, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, SAVANNAH AND
SPRINGFIELD

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 2P

MURKIN.

RE BUTEL MAY TWO LAST.

ONE PAIR SHORTS AND T-SHIRT BELIEVED PROPERTY OF SUBJECT,
RECOVERED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SLAYING, BORE BLACK LAUNDRY MARKS
"O TWO B DASH SIX" ON RED THERMO SEAL TAPE. SHEET AND PILLOW
CASE FOUND IN ABANDONED MUSTANG AT ATLANTA BORE BLACK LAUNDRY
MARKS "TWO ZERO R DASH THREE" ON WHITE THERMO SEAL TAPE.

IN VIEW OF RAY'S INDICATED TENDENCIES TOWARD PERSONAL
CLEANLINESS, PHOTOS OF RAY SHOULD BE SHOWN AT ALL LAUNDRIES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS OF REBUTEL AND CONSIDERATION
GIVEN TO ALERTING LAUNDRIES ABOVE DESCRIBED TAGS MAY STILL
BE AFFIXED TO SOME OF SUBJECT'S LAUNDRY.

THE BUREAU MAY WISH TO FURNISH RECEIVING OFFICES WITH

END PAGE ONE

Coordinate with CG - they will coordinate state of Illinois - App. hand...

tal
Coordinate w/ CG
re Curt. of Dry @ Jolit
(2) we have the photo

44-561-425

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| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Robert

PAGE TWO

PHOTOGRAPHS IN COLOR OF LAUNDRY MARKS.

A& D. P END

DMJ

FBI SPRNGFLD

X

FBI SPRINGFLD

FBI MEMPHIS

250PM URGENT 5-3-68 SAB

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, JACKSON
KANSAS CITY, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, SAVANNAH AND
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[Signature]

44-561-425

PAGE TWO

PHOTOGRAPHS IN COLOR OF LAUNDRY MARKS.

A& D. P END

DMJ

FBI SPRNGFLD

X

X

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI WASH DC

710PM URGENT 5/2/68 WPK

TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, JACKSON, KANSAS CITY,
MEMPHIS, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, SAVANNAH AND
SPRINGFIELD

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861) 2P

MURKIN

IT IS NOTED THAT SUBJECT APPARENTLY WAS NEAT IN HIS
DRESS AND REGULARLY UTILIZED LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING
SERVICES.

THE ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSON, MEMPHIS, MOBILE AND
SAVANNAH OFFICES SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO CIRCULARIZING
IO'S AND/OR WANTED FLYERS TO ALL LAUNDRIES AND DRY
CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS IN YOUR HEADQUARTERS CITY AND
OTHER LOGICAL POINTS IN YOUR TERRITORY. IN THE OTHER
OFFICES THIS CIRCULARIZATION MAY BE LIMITED TO SUCH
ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE LARGER CITIES AT THIS TIME. IT IS
SUGGESTED THAT THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED IN THE LOWER
CLASS ROOMING HOUSE AREAS BE CONTACTED FIRST. IN ADDITION
PERSONAL CONTACT FOR PURPOSE OF SHOWING SLICK PHOTOGRAPHS
OF SUBJECT SHOULD BE UTILIZED WHERE JUSTIFIED.

END PAGE ONE

*Sac
advised
OK*

*Handled by CG - [unclear]
will handle state-wide
circularization - [unclear]*

44-561-426

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| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Roberts

see ASAC

PAGE TWO

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATELY FURNISH EACH OFFICE SUFFICIENT
BACKGROUND REGARDING LAUNDRY MARKINGS AND ANY OTHER
PERTINENT INFORMATION ON THE LAUNDRY ASPECTS OF THIS CASE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CEK

FBI SPRNGFLD

X

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI WASH DC

710PM URGENT 5/2/68 WPK

TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, JACKSON, KANSAS CITY,
MEMPHIS, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, SAVANNAH AND
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PERSONAL CONTACT FOR PURPOSE OF SHOWING SLICK PHOTOGRAPHS
OF SUBJECT SHOULD BE UTILIZED WHERE JUSTIFIED. 44-561-426
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PAGE TWO

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CEK

FBI SPRNGFLD

X

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-561)

DATE: 5/2/68

FROM : SA ROBERT C. HAINES

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following information is set out for information of the file, since it has previously been telephonically furnished the case agent; or because the results of inquiry are negative in nature.

WILLIAM and MILDRED MAHER, 712 Brown St., Alton, are the uncle and aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. They have advised that RAY has not been in contact with them for 10 or 12 years; that they do not believe he will contact them since they had a falling out when they last were together; and that if RAY does contact them, or they think or anything that might be pertinent regarding him, they would get in touch with the FBI promptly.

With regard to other relatives of RAY, Mr. and Mrs. MAHER advised as follows:

Mrs. MARY MAHER, grandmother, deceased (Serial 287).
LUCILLE BIAN, mother, deceased (Serial 182).

Chief WILLIAM H. PETERSEN, NA, Alton PD, has advised that JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN, an associate of RAY in 1959, died in prison (Serials 279, 284).

Investigation at Carrollton, Illinois, in connection with information furnished by Sheriff DONALD VINYARD, Serial 199, disclosed that the two men he was referring to were in their early twenties and were registered at Hunts Motel in Greenfield with a young woman for immoral purposes. The young men were found to be not identical to RAY through display of RAY's photo.

Inquiry has further developed information that SADIE FITZSIMMONS, RAY's aunt, is deceased (Serial 230.)

44-561-422

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| MAY 3 1968 | |
| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Robert C. Haines



5010-108

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

SAC (44-561)

5/2/68

SA ROBERT C. HAINES

MURKIN

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| MAY 3 1968 | |
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DTS

44-561-927

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI CHICAGO

1145PM DEFERRED 5/1/68 GGE

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS, ATLANTA, SPRINGFIELD,
AND ST. LOUIS.

FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 2P

MURKIN.

RE JOHN GAWRON

INVESTIGATION CHICAGO REVEALED THAT GAWRON, CLOSE
ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT AND FAMILY, INCARCERATED STATE PRISON,
JOLIET, PONTIAC, AND MENARD, ILLINOIS, FOR NUMEROUS
BURGLARY VIOLATIONS. COMPLETE PRISON FILE MAINTAINED
MENARD, ILLINOIS, UNDER FBI NO. ONE THREE FOUR THREE THREE
FOUR. INFO FURNISHED TELEPHONICALLY TO SPRINGFIELD.

RE BROTHER JERRY RAY.

JERRY REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE ADVISED LEFT CHICAGO
ONE PM, APRIL TWENTY-NINE LAST BECAME TIRED, SPENT UNTIL FOUR
AM APRIL THIRTY LAST IN MOTEL, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS, ARRIVED
ST. LOUIS NINE AM. STAYED AT JOHN RAY'S APARTMENT, LEMP
STREET UNTIL NOON THEN WENT TO CAROL PEPPER'S RESIDENCE,
STAYED THERE APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS, RETURNED TO JOHN'S
TAVERN, STAYED THERE AND WITH JOHN UNTIL LEAVING ST. LOUIS
ABOUT ELEVEN AM INSTANT.

END PAGE ONE

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| FBI - SPRINGFIELD | |

Robert

44-561-429

PAGE TWO CG 44-1114

MOST OF CONVERSATION WITH JOHN AND CAROL CENTERED AROUND ARTICLE IN LIFE MAGAZINE. STATES NO INDICATION, IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN OR CAROL, THAT THEY AWARE OF SUBJECT'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OR WHEREABOUTS SINCE ESCAPE UNTIL SEPTEMBER ONE LAST. JOHN TOLD HIM FBI COMBED TWO BLOCK AREA LOOKING FOR JACK GAWRON, BROTHER AWARE GAWRON INTERVIEWED BY FBI BUT NO INDICATION THAT DETAILS OF INTERVIEW KNOWN. ADMITS THAT, IN PAST, HE DROVE GAWRON AROUND LOOKING AT POSSIBLE BURGLARY SCORES AT WHICH TIME GAWRON WOULD PAY FOR EXPENSES. STATES TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, GAWRON NEVER COMMITTED BURGLARY IN PLACES CASED AND CLASSIFIED HIM AS PERSON LIVING ON PAST GLORIES. JERRY STATES WALTER RIFE WAS BROTHER JAMES RAP PARTNER IN LEAVENWORTH AND THAT HE, JERRY, SERVED TIME WITH BOTH LONNIE AND WALTER RIFE IN MENARD. JERRY CONTINUES TO EXPRESS COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. DID NOT SEE GAWRON WHILE IN ST. LOUIS.

RE JAMES E. BODKER

INVESTIGATION CHICAGO REVEALS BODKER IS AN ACTUAL INDIVIDUAL, HAS CAR SUBURBAN MOTORS, AND WAS AT HIS MOTHER'S RESIDENCE APRIL FOUR LAST. ELIMINATED.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

DJK

FBI SPRNGFLD

X