

F B I

Date: 6/25/68

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

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

For information of Chicago and Springfield, on 5/17/68, the Los Angeles Times had contact with one BOB (LNU), who said he had information concerning what actually had taken place in connection with the death of Dr. KING. The following is a summary of the allegations made by BOB:

1. The day before the shooting, RAY was picked up in Athens, Alabama, and was taken to Memphis.

2. He registered in a rooming house. Another man registered as SAMUEL LEWIS. LEWIS was supposed to be the backup man and kill KING at the rally that night if RAY missed his chance on the balcony.

3. After shooting KING, RAY walked two or three blocks to the getaway car, accompanied by a girl and a guy. The car was a new blue Buick, with Alabama license plates. The first digits of the license are believed to be one four. The car was owned and driven by EDDIE WILBURN of Huntsville, Alabama. It is equipped with a police radio. The second man stayed overnight and then took an early bus to Knoxville.

3 - Bureau - *By airmail*  
 2 - Chicago - *By airmail*  
 ② - Springfield *By airmail*  
 1 - Los Angeles

FGK/gja  
 (8)

44-561-693

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 27 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

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

LA 44-1574

4. RAY, two girls and a child were driven from Memphis by WILBURN in the blue Buick. They went to Kansas City and the trip took six and one half hours. The girls, the child, and WILBURN are all from Huntsville, Alabama.

5. In Kansas City, RAY stayed overnight at a home, described as a small gray, shingled, one bedroom house about three miles from central Kansas City.

6. At dusk the next day, 4/5/68, RAY was flown to Belle Glade, Florida in a private plane. The plane took off from a private field, also used as a training field for the military. RAY arrived early 4/6/68.

7. The plane in which RAY was flown is owned by a WILLIAM PIERCE, a wealthy man who owns or operates an airport in Belle Glade, and once owned a contracting company in Cuba. It is not known if PIERCE flew the plane. PIERCE also owns a motel in Belle Glade and cottages in nearby Okeechobee, or maybe on nearby Lake Okeechobee. PIERCE is said to be a Klu Klux Klan member.

8. RAY is believed to have stayed in the motel or in a cottage. He may still be there or in Cuba.

9. On 4/11/68 RAY boarded a yacht, probably a charter boat in Key West, Florida. The boat was owned by BEN THOMPSON. A BEN THOMPSON of Miami owns three fishing boats.

10. PIERCE often flies his own private plane to New Orleans and is supposed to know District Attorney JIM GARRISON.

11. PIERCE and WILBURN are said to be related.

12. WILBURN is possibly a Veterans of Foreign Wars club member in Huntsville, Alabama.

LA 44-1574

13. The rifle was supposedly left in the furnace of a Memphis rooming house, and is believed still there. This is believed to refer the rifle of the backup man.

14. RAY is now wearing bifocals.

15. The white Mustang belonging to RAY was not in Memphis on the day of the KING slaying, and he did not escape in it. Presumably it never left Georgia in April.

16. On the day of the killing, 4/4/68, RAY made a telephone call from Memphis to Belle Glade and it is believed to have been made from a bus station.

17. In the weeks before the killing, RAY stayed somewhere in Belle Glade, Florida.

18. WILBURN is supposed to have been paid off in Reno. The night before the killing when somebody hit a keno ticket for \$25,000 in Cal-Neva Lodge, which was rigged to pass the money. The rigging was done with the knowledge of CHARLIE CATE, 6880 Pebble Beach Drive, Reno, California, who runs a shift at the Cal-Neva. JACK STRUGIS of St. Louis, who formerly worked in a bar on Second Street, Reno, Nevada, came into a lot of money and allegedly was a contact in this operation also.

19. RAY stayed in the Clark Hotel, Room 700, on 4/17-18/68.

20. LAMONT WHITE, who works for Western Union, Los Angeles, sent money to Louisiana and bought two pistols. The pistols really went to FRANK BRICKLEY of Chatanooga, Tennessee, who was formerly in prison with RAY. BRICKLEY is allegedly in Los Angeles.

21. HAROLD's Cafe, 555 South Main Street, Los Angeles is a "queer" bar where RAY formerly worked and a guy named CONNIE, who works there, allegedly knows RAY.

LA 44-1574

22. WILLIE SHEA, who once worked the Top Rail Bar, Seventh and Alvarado Streets, Los Angeles, was allegedly formerly married to RAY. SHEA is from St. Louis and now lives in North Hollywood, California. SHEA's mother lives in Compton, California. SHEA is married and now lives at 812 South Westlake Avenue, Los Angeles, with a man who owns a bar. SHEA is blond, about 38 years of age.

23. A telephone credit card supposedly used by RAY was issued to Ridell Catering, U. S. Rubber Company, Detroit, either in the name of FNU RIDELL or ROBERT BRICKELY. RIDELL reportedly lives in Harper Woods, Michigan. Calls on credit card reportedly made from Memphis to Belle Glade.

24. SAMUEL LEWIS, the second man in the rooming house, was discharged in 1963 from the penitentiary at Milan, Michigan, and previously served time in Chillicothe and Terre Haute. The Los Angeles Times reported the Warden at Milan had no record of LEWIS.

25. LEWIS took a bus from Knoxville to Los Angeles on 4/7/68, and travelled en route through Memphis and El Paso.

26. The house in Kansas City is described as follows: It is located off a main street starting from downtown Kansas City, Missouri, direction unknown, and from the main street a smaller street goes to the left, which street has a Western Union building located on it and goes off from the main street in the form of a steep hill. Two or three miles up the hill on the left are located nice looking apartments, brownish in color, where students from some school live, and just prior to this on the right is the location of a moving company, name unknown, and a grocery store is located in the vicinity of the moving company on the same side. About two blocks beyond the grocery store there is a narrow street with ramshackle houses on one side and vacant lots on the other. Turning right on this street, the third house on the left would be the correct house involved, which is occupied by an individual who sells beer and booze after hours and

LA 44-1574

hides guys out. The house is described as one bedroom, no garage, dirt driveway, single story, and has a large freezer in the living room.

The information contained above has been checked out and investigation to date has failed to substantiate any of the above allegations. The Los Angeles Times has declined to further identify the source of their information; however, investigation indicates it is probably LESTER EDWARD PACKETT, FBI No. 827-170A. ODELA A. PACKETT, his estranged wife, advised that she believes LESTER has probably returned to Chicago, where he was living earlier this year.

The Bureau has instructed that reasonable effort be expended to locate LESTER EDWARD PACKETT and resolve the above allegations.

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: Will conduct credit and arrest checks, and other reasonable investigation to attempt to locate and interview PACKETT concerning the above allegations.

SPRINGFIELD

AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS: Will examine records of Illinois State Department of Motor Vehicles for any record of automobile drivers license issued to LESTER EDWARD PACKETT; or any current automobile which may be registered to him which would aid in locating him.

F B I

Date: 6/25/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Type in plaintext or code)

Via A I R T E L \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Priority)

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

*[Signature]*  
 FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtel to Boston dated 5/31/68.

For information of Cincinnati, St. Louis has advised that JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, alleged JAMES EARL RAY and an unnamed man, robbed a bank in June - July, 1967. GAWRON subsequently revealed the location as the Bank of Alton, Illinois, and the unnamed man as JIMMIE (LNU), and that he was visited by JIMMIE (LNU) the night of 5/13 - 14/68. One JAMES H. CARPENTER, FBI #230 243 is known to have visited GAWRON on these dates, however, CARPENTER was in St. Louis City Jail from 6/5/67 - 3/1/68, and could not have participated in the Alton bank robbery.

The bank of Alton, Illinois was robbed by 2 unknown subjects on 7/13/67, wearing nylon stocking masks and using a sawed off shotgun. They escaped with \$27,230. Description of the number 2 man could fit RAY.

Subsequent to the bank robbery a shotgun and items of clothing were found in a vacant lot in Alton, including a white Van Heusen Van-Guard shirt with markings "NU" or "NO", "JOH - U" or "JOH - O", inside collar; a pair of tan pleated trousers with the markings "44--" and "3107-3" on the right front pocket and "T6276" and "U7703" on the right rear pocket.

- ② - Springfield
- ① - Cincinnati (157-1893) (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
- 1 - Indianapolis (Info)
- 1 - St. Louis (Info)
- 2 - Chicago  
 (1 - 91-5375)

JHW:CMS

④

44-561-694

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FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Signature]*

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

*Wanda K. Pedito*

CG 44-1114

Bureau has instructed that certain offices are to canvas laundry and dry cleaning establishments regarding these laundry and dry cleaning marks.

Mr. RALPH YONKE, American Laundry and Dry Cleaning Institute, Chicago Street, Joliet, Illinois, advised these marks were probably made by a machine manufactured by the National Marking Machine Company, 4026 Cherry Street, Cincinnati, Ohio and that they could indicate the location of machines making the above described markings. He does not know of any such markings being used in the Chicago area.

LEADS

SPRINGFIELD

AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. Will furnish Cincinnati, Chicago and other interested offices specific information re the laundry and dry cleaning markings on the recovered clothing as to whether they were machine or hand made, the color of the ink used and whether they were stamped in the clothing or on material pinned to the clothing.

CINCINNATI

AT CINCINNATI, OHIO. Will contact the National Marking Machine Company, 4026 Cherry Street, and obtain all available information regarding the above described laundry and dry cleaning markings.

6/25/68

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JHW:CMS

(9)

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Date: 6/27/68

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYSIX LAST.

INVESTIGATION ALTON DISCLOSES HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON NOT AT USUAL HAUNTS AND SOURCES ACQUAINTED WITH HIM CANNOT PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING CURRENT WHEREABOUTS.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C ADVISED TODAY TWO DAYS AFTER BR AT BANK OF ALTON ON JULY THIRTEEN LAST, COVINGTON AND PERSON STAYING WITH HIM WHO IS UNKNOWN, WENT TO QUINCY, ILLINOIS; COVINGTON RETURNED ALONE ON JULY SEVENTEEN LAST AND UNKNOWN ASSOCIATE RETURNED JULY TWENTYONE LAST DRIVING NINETEEN SIXTYSIX CHEVROLET IMPALA HARDTOP, BLUE IN COLOR, INDIANA LICENSE. UNKNOWN PERSON DESCRIBED FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, THIRTY TO FORTY YEARS, BLACK HAIR, THIN MUSTACHE, STOCKY BUILD, CHAIN SMOKER.

INFORMANT CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY UNKNOWN PERSON.

MAIL COPY TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, AND ST. LOUIS.

- ① - Springfield (44-561)
  - 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)
  - 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
  - 1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)
- RCH/ssj  
(4) *ssj*

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 FILED.....*10/2*

Approved: *TC*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *5/8* *P* M Per *CLK*

*44-561-695*

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

518 PM 6/27/68 URGENT CEK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

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END

CAB

FBI WASH DC

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

44-561-695

6/27/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Chicago airtel to Springfield 6/25/68 and Springfield airtel to the Bureau 6/26/68.

Enclosed for Cincinnati is one copy of referenced Springfield airtel setting forth more recent instructions regarding the canvassing of laundry and dry cleaning establishments.

As stated in referenced Springfield airtel, all leads re this matter should be held in abeyance at the present time.

- 2 - Cincinnati (157-1893) (Enc. 1)
  - 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (Info)
  - 2 - Springfield (44-561)
- WR/ssj  
(5)

*ssj*

*[Handwritten signature]*

SEARCHED.....  
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*Haines*

44-561-696

6/27/68

AIRTEL

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2 - Springfield (44-561)

WR/ssj

(5)

SEARCHED.....  
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FILED.....

44-561-696

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

<b>REPORTING OFFICE</b> ST. LOUIS	<b>OFFICE OF ORIGIN</b> MEMPHIS	<b>DATE</b> 6-25-68	<b>INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD</b> 5/7 - 6/21/68
<b>TITLE OF CASE</b>  JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE IO 4182; WF 442-A; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> SA HAROLD R. DOBSON	
		<b>TYPED BY</b> wma	
		<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

**REFERENCE:** Report of SA HAROLD R. DOBSON, SLMO, 5-10-68.

**STATUS:** P

**LEADS:**

**THE ST. LOUIS OFFICE:**

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.:

Will continue efforts to determine subject's whereabouts and activities 4/23 to 7/18/67.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS - None**  
**CASE PENDING OVER ONE YEAR - NO**  
**PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS - NO.**

<b>APPROVED</b> 	<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b>	<b>DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW</b>							
<b>COPIES MADE:</b> 5 - Bureau (44-38861) 5 - Memphis (44-1987) 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Info) 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info) 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (Info) 1 - Kansas City (44-760) (Info) 1 - Springfield (44-1987) (Info) 3 - St. Louis (44-775)		44-561-687							
		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td>SEARCHED</td> <td>INDEXED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SERIALIZED</td> <td>FILED</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">JUN 27 1968</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">FBI - SPRINGFIELD</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Roberts</i></p>		SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED	JUN 27 1968	
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FBI - SPRINGFIELD									

SL; 44-775

ADMINISTRATIVE TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
GENERAL . . . . .	C
PORTAGEVILLE; MO; TOLL CALLS . . . . .	D
CAROL PEPPER TELEPHONE . . . . .	E
JERRY RAYNES TELEPHONE . . . . .	F
CIRCUIT JUDGE JOHN C. CASEY . . . . .	G
Interview 5-10-68 . . . . .	G
Interview 5-22-68 . . . . .	K
JOHN EUGENE GAWRON . . . . .	N
Interview 5-9-68 . . . . .	O
Interview 5-14-68 . . . . .	T
Interview 5-22-68 . . . . .	Z
Interview 5-31-68 . . . . .	FF
St. Louis Police Department Record . . . . .	HH
St. Louis City Jail Record . . . . .	TT
Interview 6-19-68 . . . . .	UU
SL 1209-C . . . . .	VV
JEFFERSON-GRAVOIS BANK re JOHN RAY . . . . .	YY
JEFFERSON-GRAVOIS BANK re JAMES OWENS . . . . .	ZZ
CENTER STATE BANK re JERRY RAYNES . . . . .	AAA
SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX PROJECT . . . . .	BBB
OBSCENE PEN PAL CLUBS . . . . .	CCC
MISCELLANEOUS CONTACT WITH POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES . . . . .	DDD
LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENT CIRCULARIZATION . . . . .	III

COVER PAGE *B*

1

SL:

44-775

HRD:wma

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Information copies of this report were designated for the Springfield, Chicago, Birmingham, Atlanta and Kansas City Divisions in view of continuing investigation being conducted by them.

Overlapping investigative period between this and rereport was caused by necessary transcription time.

All St. Louis informants and sources have been periodically contacted for any information concerning subject coming to their attention or which they might obtain, and they have been repeatedly alerted to immediately furnish any information received.

Toll calls checks on relatives and other individuals figuring in this case failed to produce any information regarding subject's whereabouts, or any indications that he was in contact with them. Such checks were discontinued on subject's apprehension.

UACB, further contacts with relatives are not contemplated, as continuation might be construed as interference with subject's defense.

All stops bearing on location of subject were cancelled on his apprehension.

COVER PAGE C



1  
SL: 44-775  
WRB:jfb

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Toll Calls from Lafonts Cafe and Lafonce Sinclair Service Station, Portageville, Missouri

MA 8-3401

On May 15, 1968, Special Agent WILLIAM R. BURTON determined that telephone number MA8-3401 is listed to the Pemiscot County Packing Company at Wardell, Missouri.

On that date, Mr. V. D. MC MINN and RALPH PERRELL, co-owners of the Pemiscot Packing Company, Wardell, Missouri, advised him that they were acquainted with J. D. DAILEY and the Lafonts Cafe at Portageville, Missouri, as they have delivered meat to DAILEY there on several occasions. They recalled that Mrs. DAILEY had called on several occasions to order meat for the cafe. They viewed a photograph of subject and stated they were not acquainted with any person of that appearance.

FA 8-9990

On the same date Special Agent BURTON determined that this number is listed to a pay telephone in the building occupied by the Broseley Laundramat at Broseley, Missouri.

Mr. HAROLD SADLER, Manager of the Broseley Laundramat, Broseley, Missouri, advised Special Agent BURTON on the same date that his laundramat is a self-service business which operates unattended twenty-four hours a day but that he is in and out of the laundramat at numerous times during the day to check on the condition of the facilities. He is not acquainted with J. D. DAILEY or the Lafonce Service Station in Portageville. He viewed a photograph of subject and stated he was not acquainted with any person of that appearance. He stated that since the laundramat is unattended he would have no way of knowing the identities of any persons receiving calls at the pay booth there unless he happened to be in the laundramat at the time such calls were received.

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1  
SL 44-775  
SJP/ral

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Re: CAROL PEPPER'S Telephone

On 5/22/68, Mr. T. E. UMPHRES, Area Security Supervisor, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, St. Louis, Mo., confidentially advised that telephone MI5-2948 of ALBERT PEPPER, 2025 Bellvue, St. Louis, had been discontinued. The subscriber has been issued a new non-published number. It is 645-9152. This information was obtained by subpoena.

COVER PAGE E

1  
SL 44-775  
SJP/ral

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Re: JERRY RAYNES' TELEPHONE

On 5/22/68, Mr. T. E. UMPHRES, Security Supervisor, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, St. Louis, confidentially furnished the following information to SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON. The information was made available upon the issuance of a subpoena. JERRY RAYNES, Center, Mo., had his telephone number AM7-3467 changed to a non-published number. The new number is 267-3681.

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SL: 44-775

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE: CIRCUIT JUDGE JOHN C. CASEY

On May 10, 1968, Judge JOHN C. CASEY, Circuit Court, Division 18, Municipal Court Building, 13th and Market Streets, St. Louis, Missouri, advised SA HAROLD R. DOBSON that he had originally sentenced subject to 20 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary following subject's conviction of an armed robbery of a Kroger Store in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1959. Subject appealed the conviction and sentence but the findings of the trial court were sustained. The appeal is reported in 354 Southwestern Second, page 840.

Thereafter subject filed a motion to vacate the judgment and sentence under Section 27.26 of the Missouri Rules of Criminal Procedure on August 4, 1966, alleging improper introduction of his signed statement, failure to afford him a sanity hearing, allowance by the court of faulty jury instructions, reception of perjured State testimony, and failure of the court to furnish him the advice and assistance of an attorney during the various stages of trial and appeal. Judge CASEY noted that such motion and the argument in support thereof had been prepared personally by subject and that, although they were obviously based on similar motions and arguments of other prisoners which he knows to be on file at the Missouri State Penitentiary as models for individual motions prepared by other prisoners, they were ably prepared, were on a par with similar motions and arguments regularly prepared by practicing attorneys in this area, and evidence a thorough knowledge and preparation on the part of the subject in regard to the specific points of law involved.

Judge CASEY stated that he had thereafter overruled subject's motion but that the Supreme Court of Missouri had on April 12, 1967, reversed him on this matter and ordered subject's motion restored to his docket as of June 15, 1967. Judge CASEY noted that the matter had actually become academic as of that date due to subject's escape. Judge CASEY stated he had appointed Attorney JOHN D. SCHNEIDER of St. Louis to represent subject in this matter, but that to the extent of his knowledge SCHNEIDER never saw the subject or had any contact with him.

COVER PAGE 6

SL: 44-775

Judge CASEY stated that he had not become aware of subject's escape until fairly recently and that on receipt of such information he had immediately called the warden of Missouri State Penitentiary and confirmed the fact of subject's escape.

Attorney SCHNEIDER on May 1, 1968, filed a report that subject had escaped and that no action was therefore possible on subject's motion at that time. Judge CASEY stated that a summary of same had appeared in the St. Louis Daily Record on May 8, 1968, and had not yet been picked up by news media.

Judge CASEY further stated that the Circuit Attorney had thereafter filed a motion to dismiss subject's motion to vacate on the grounds that the post conviction remedy in Section 27.26 was not available to a person not in custody.

Judge CASEY expressed the opinion that in the light of Miranda and similar decisions the subject might have an excellent chance of vacating the original judgment and sentence at this time.

Judge CASEY stated that in his opinion two courses of action were open to him: First, to summarily sustain the Circuit Attorney's motion and order subject's motion to vacate dismissed without prejudice, based on and using as a precedent the case of State versus CARTER as reported in 11 Southwestern, page 979. In his estimation this method would attract no interest of the press and result in little if any publicity.

The second course of action open to him in his opinion appeared to be to enter an order publicly notifying subject that unless he gave himself up and prosecuted his motion by June 3, 1968, that it would be dismissed.

Judge CASEY indicated he personally preferred the second method due to the remote possibility that if the matter is given sufficient publicity and the subject is still alive, it might be possible that he would recognize the possibility of gaining freedom on the armed robbery sentence and conclude that he might be able to beat the KING charge before a southern jury, and might therefore give himself up. Judge CASEY

COVER PAGE H

SL: 44-775

recognized that this was an extremely tenuous possibility but stated that in his estimation it appeared to be a slim chance to effect the apprehension of subject.

Judge CASEY stated he desired to bring the matter to the attention of the Bureau to be sure that neither action would prejudice its investigation in this case and to determine which, if either, of the above mentioned methods, might be deemed most advantageous to Bureau interests in this matter. He pointed out that the second method had the possible disadvantage of furnishing ammunition to the news media and the "bleeding heart" element for criticism along the lines that if subject's imprisonment had not been unjust he would not have felt impelled to escape and would probably thereafter not have killed KING.

Judge CASEY stated that the file on subject's case is currently maintained in his personal possession and that he has thus far countered news inquiries concerning the case by referring reporters to the Southwestern Second citation which reports subject's appeal as previously mentioned. He stated that he did not know how long he would be able to maintain an exclusive possession of the file and noted that the "bleeding heart" ammunition would be obtainable from subject's motion and argument in support thereof regardless of what method he chose to resolve the matter of subject's motion to vacate.

This matter was brought to the attention of the Bureau and its observations were requested with the recommendations of the St. Louis Division, being that while it was an auxiliary office and not in the possession of knowledge as to all facets of the investigation it appeared that the public order method of disposing of subject's motion might be preferable in that the Bureau should not be placed in the position of having failed to exploit to the fullest extent even the most remote possibility of securing the apprehension of subject.

On May 13, 1968, the Bureau directed that Judge CASEY be advised that the action he takes in this matter should be entirely with his own discretion and that the FBI was not in a position to advise him or make any recommendation.

COVER PAGE I

SL: 44-775

Judge CASEY was so advised and the Bureau's appreciation for his concern for its interests was expressed to him.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

RE: ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT JUDGE  
JOHN C. CASEY

On May 22, 1968, St. Louis Circuit Judge JOHN C. CASEY advised SA HAROLD R. DOBSON that in connection with a hearing on a state motion to dismiss subject's motion to vacate the judgement and sentence of the court in connection with subject's 1959 Kroger robbery conviction, which was scheduled to be heard before him on May 24, 1968, he had reached a decision to enter a public order on that date for subject to appear and with his attorney prosecute his motion to vacate on or before June 3, 1968, or face dismissal of his motion. Judge CASEY further advised that it was his intention at that time to make a statement from the bench to the effect that it appeared subject's motion to vacate would if it were properly presented and followed by subject and his attorney. Judge CASEY stated he anticipated his action would result in considerable publicity as it would in effect give public notice that subject's original conviction for armed robbery of the Kroger store in 1959 was obtained unconstitutional methods and that subject had an excellent opportunity of vacating the original judgement and sentence provided he gave himself up and, with his attorney, properly prosecuted his motion.

Judge CASEY was mindful, however, of the fact a considerable number of Negroes would be concentrated in the Washington, D. C., area at the time his order would be made, and that this concentration would probably increase until the end of May, 1968. He felt it might be entirely possible for some of the less qualified leaders of these people or those qualified leaders who desire to see rioting and destruction in this country, to interpret his ruling and remarks as an indication of the intention of the white "establishment" to "whitewash" the murder of Dr. KING, by indicating the possibility of freeing KING's murderer from a previous charge. Judge CASEY

COVER PAGE K



SL: 44-775

reasoned that if a sufficient number of the concentrated Negroes gave credence to such a distorted interpretation, it appeared entirely possible to him that an insurrection or at least a riotous condition might be, thereby, precipitated at Washington, D. C. He indicated that he desired some official observation concerning the possibility of a result such as he envisioned. He noted that he could easily postpone the hearing until after the tremendous concentration of Negroes involved in the Poor Peoples' March on Washington might be dispersed.

He was advised that the matter appeared to be entirely within his own discretion as a Judge, and that while it was doubted that the Bureau would presume to advise him in any way on the matter that due to the apparent potential for the precipitation of racial violence, the matter would be brought to the Bureau's attention for whatever observation it might feel to be of pertinence to the matter.

This was accordingly done.

By teletype dated May 23, 1968, the Bureau directed that Judge CASEY be contacted and advised that the matter was entirely within his own discretion, that the Bureau could not advise him on the matter. It was also directed that he be told that if he had any reason to believe his action might result in civil violence that he should alert appropriate police agencies.

Judge CASEY was so advised prior to the time court convenes on the morning of May 24, 1968.

Later on the same date, Judge CASEY advised SA DOBSON that the hearing had not developed along the lines he had anticipated earlier that day in that the court-appointed attorney for subject had objected strenuously to the attempted introduction by the state of a notation of subject's escape on his Missouri State Prison record as being insufficient

COVER PAGE L

3

SL: 44-775

evidence without further qualification of RAY's escape. The attorney further took the position that the presence of RAY was unnecessary at a hearing on the motion to vacate as said motion was based solely upon the record which was available and which contained abundant evidence in support of the subject's motion. Judge CASEY, therefore, took the matter under advisement and no ruling was made.

Judge CASEY further advised that subject's attorney had been appointed to represent subject following subject's escape and that the attorney had stated in open court he had never seen the subject and had never been afforded an opportunity to consult with him.

Judge CASEY noted that there had been no reporters present in the courtroom during the hearing, and that he had not as yet seen any publicity whatsoever on the matter.

COVER PAGE M

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44-775

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Information appearing on the following pages was furnished by JOHN EUGENE GAWRON who has been discontinued as a PCI because of his unreliability.

In evaluating the information provided by GAWRON as set forth on the following pages, it is to be noted that other investigation conducted by St. Louis in this case, including interviews with JAMES H. (JIMMIE) CARPENTER and JOHN PAUL VELANTI, clearly reflects that the "JIMMIE" and "JOHNNIE" referred to by GAWRON are unquestionably CARPENTER and VELANTI respectively. Furthermore, it has been determined that CARPENTER was incarcerated in the St. Louis City Jail from June 5, 1967 to March 1, 1968. In view of this, CARPENTER could not have been engaged in other activities during that period of time which activities are ascribed to him by GAWRON. It thus appears certain that information furnished by GAWRON must be considered unreliable and that in certain essential respects it is completely false.

COVER PAGE N

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5-21-68

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Source was recontacted May 9, 1968, by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY and SA ALBERT J. RUSHING, at which time he furnished the following additional information.

From about 10:00 p.m. on the night of May 8, 1968, until 1:00 a.m. that night, source was at the Grapevine Tavern, at which time JOHN RAY was also there. JOHN RAY drove source home at about 1:00 a.m. On this occasion JOHN RAY told source that JERRY RAY was still in the St. Louis area but had been at the residence of their father in north Missouri. JOHN RAY expressed expectation that JERRY would be coming in during the course of the evening while source was at the tavern. JERRY did not appear there, however, and at the time of this interview, source has not seen JERRY. On this occasion source had no conversation with JOHN RAY regarding subject JAMES EARL RAY. Source has not seen nor talked with CAROL PEPPER since the time source was previously contacted.

Interviewing Agents made reference to source during this interview of the information he had previously furnished to the effect that JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER had indicated to source in about the latter part of June, 1967, that they had knowledge of the subject's whereabouts at that time in Omaha and Los Angeles. Source was advised that this had not been corroborated in interviews with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER, who had denied to the FBI that they had any knowledge regarding subject's whereabouts since subject's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). It was explained to source that it was very important to resolve this conflict and inquiry was made of him as to whether he was quite certain that the information he had furnished in this regard previously was absolutely true and accurate. He stated that he was quite certain in this regard and that the information he had furnished was positively true but that he could add no further details regarding the information he had furnished, since this was all the information that had been provided him. It

COVER PAGE 0

On 5-9-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775  
 by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY  
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:paw/ral Date dictated 5-15-68

SL 44-775

was pointed out to source that under the circumstances it appeared that either he or JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER had lied to the FBI, and he was specifically asked whether he had in any manner lied to us concerning this information, and it was pointed out to him that if he had lied in any way, it would be much better for him to correct such falsification now than at a later date. Source said he had positively not lied. He reluctantly acknowledged that if JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER had denied any knowledge of subject's whereabouts after his escape from the penitentiary, then they had lied in that regard, although he added in that connection that he could not say that JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER had had direct contact with the subject, but their information may have come to them indirectly so far as source was aware.

With regard to the information source claimed to have received indicating that subject had been in Omaha or Los Angeles as previously referred to, inquiry was made of source as to whether it was JOHN RAY or CAROL PEPPER who had made the specific statements and furnished the specific information to source. He stated it was his recollection that although JOHN RAY was the one who did most of the talking in the conversations referred to, CAROL PEPPER also indicated by her comments that she and JOHN RAY both had the same information regarding the alleged presence of subject in Omaha and Los Angeles.

Source commented that he had read in the papers that subject, under the name GALT, had apparently had considerable amount of money and had been able to peel off \$20 bills from a large roll of money when he purchased an automobile. In that regard source said he had some idea as to what might have been the source of that money and he hoped and expected that within a week or so he would be able to furnish his ideas in that regard. When pressed for further details at this time, the following information was elicited from source.

After source was released on bail from the St. Louis City Jail on June 23 or 24, 1967, he read in the Chicago "Tribune" newspaper a few days later, possibly only a day or two after his release from jail, of a bank robbery which had occurred in a southern state. He recognized this bank and

COVER PAGE P

SL 44-775

its location as a bank which he and subject RAY had cased on two Fridays during the period in 1959 when source and subject were closely associated. They traveled by automobile from St. Louis on those occasions in casing the bank, and on two or three subsequent occasions when subject and source were in the same vicinity they again looked the bank over. They had planned to hit the bank in a robbery on a Friday as they were aware that that was a payroll day when the bank handled considerable amounts of money. When they initially cased the bank they observed several police officers in uniform who were around the bank, but on later occasions they did not observe the presence of police officers. At that period of time, when they were casing the bank and planning a possible robbery, source was suffering a physical disability because of injuries to his legs and feet which had occurred earlier in the course of the commission of a burglary in northern Missouri when source was almost caught and had to drop from an upper story window, causing his legs and feet to be seriously injured, resulting in his hospitalization for a time. Because of this, source concluded that he was not physically able to go on the robbery at the time they were casing the bank and the job never came off, and subject was thereafter apprehended at St. Louis in a robbery and sentenced to the penitentiary.

A few days after source read in the Chicago "Tribune" of the robbery of this bank, he was visited at his residence by an unnamed middle-aged man, whom source had previously known in St. Louis in 1959, and whom he thinks he probably introduced to subject in 1959. This man, whom source declined to name, told source he had been on a bank robbery and he displayed a valise full of money. Source, during the visit, had told his visitor that he was hard up and broke at that time and the man took \$250 from the valise and gave it to source, which source assumed was in the nature of a loan. Information furnished by the man to source was to the effect that the money in the valise was the loot from the bank robbery. Either from what the man told source or from the news article previously referred to, source learned that the amount of loot obtained in the robbery was approximately \$50,000, and that an additional sizeable amount of money had been missed in the robbery, which money was in the bank vault. The \$250 given to source by the man consisted of one \$50 bill, according to source's recollection,

COVER PAGE Q

SL 44-775

and other smaller bills. Source is uncertain in his recollection, but either from what the man told him or from what source had read in the newspaper he understood that the bank referred to by the man was the bank referred to in the news article.

It is source's recollection that the visit from this man who gave source \$250 occurred a few days prior to his conversations with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER, in which they indicated to source that they had knowledge of subject's whereabouts, including his alleged presence in Omaha and Los Angeles.

Source has had contact with the man who visited him as referred to on only one subsequent occasion, and he estimates this was about six weeks ago, at which time the man again stopped by source's residence for a short visit. Although source had originally assumed that the \$250 was a loan from this man, the matter of the \$250 was not brought up by either of them at the time of this latter visit. From his conversation with this man, source learned that the man's accomplice in the bank robbery previously referred to was subject, JAMES EARL RAY, and source gained the impression from the man that there were probably one or more additional accomplices who were not identified to source.

Source stated he was not ready at this time to furnish further details regarding the exact location of the bank or the identity of the man who gave him \$250. He was pressed for information pertaining to the identity and location of the bank, and it was elicited from him that the bank was in a southern state. He acknowledged that by a southern state he meant a state far south, such as Louisiana or Alabama, and he added "or Mississippi" but denied that the state was actually Mississippi. He said the place where the bank was located was not just a small town and that the city or town was located near a river which constitutes a state boundary. Source learned from the unnamed man that the persons who robbed the bank were in the bank for only a minute or two and made a getaway in which they crossed the river on a bridge into an adjoining state. Source said that it was entirely possible that they could have been across this bridge and in another state within five minutes from the time they left the bank.

COVER PAGE R

Source said he wanted to wait at least a few days before he furnished further information, implying that within that period of time he might again be in touch with the unnamed man and would endeavor to ascertain the identities of any additional accomplices. He said he was not sure he was ready at this time to reveal the identity of the unnamed man and wanted to defer this decision. It was discussed with source the possibility of whether he might immediately reveal all details in his possession if a payment of money could be made to him for such, and he indicated he would be receptive to such payment, but concluded after some apparent consideration that he felt it would have to wait for at least a few days. He made a comment to the effect that he wanted to make sure he was "clear" himself. It was elicited from source that the unnamed man he referred to has not been a resident of St. Louis but is believed by source to be from the "southwest part of the country", and source believes he has served time in a penitentiary, possibly in Arkansas. Source also indicated he has gained an impression that the man has probably spent some time in Mexico.

Source said the reason he had not mentioned the matter of the bank robbery earlier was because he had felt that there was already enough of a rap against subject RAY, and he did not believe that there would be any great interest in the additional charge involving the robbery. Source said that he hoped to be able within a few days or a week or so to furnish additional details and that he would do so at a later time if possible.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5-24-68

1

Source was recontacted on May 14, 1968, by SA GEORGE M. PEET and ALBERT J. RUSHING. Inquiry was made of source at this time regarding other occupants of the two buildings at 1805-1807 South Eleventh Street of which source is the caretaker. It was ascertained that source is currently the only occupant of the 4-unit building facing the street and numbered 1805-1807 South Eleventh Street. Source's unit which he occupies is on the first floor at 1807 South Eleventh. The last previous occupant of the unit on the first floor numbered 1805 South Eleventh was JAMES H. RAMSEY who, according to source, moved in there about the first of May, 1967. Source and RAMSEY were both arrested on June 2, 1967, by the St. Louis Police Department on a burglary charge for which source was thereafter confined in the city jail as has been previously referred to.

Both source and RAMSEY were released on bond from the city jail on about June 23 or June 24, 1967, and RAMSEY at that time stayed for a couple of days with source at 1807 South Eleventh. RAMSEY then went back to Weiner, Arkansas, where his parents reside for a time but came back to St. Louis in the latter part of September, 1967, and again lived at 1805 South Eleventh on the first floor. Both source and RAMSEY were sentenced on the burglary charge in St. Louis in October, 1967, source receiving six months probation and RAMSEY receiving a sentence of nine months probation which source believes expires in July, 1968. In February, 1968, RAMSEY left 1805 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, and returned to his home and the home of his parents at Weiner, Arkansas, with the permission of his probation officer.

With regard to the building at the rear of the building referred to above source advised the rear building bears only the number 1805 South Eleventh. It also is a 2-story 4-family unit but neither of the two units on the first floor is occupied at this time. The second floor front is currently occupied by a woman named JUANITA HERNANDEZ (phonetic) and the second floor rear is occupied by a woman named MURIEL MC NICKOLS.

COVER PAGE TOn 5-14-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775by SA GEORGE M. PEET  
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:amb/ral Date dictated 5-20-68

SL 44-775

Source advised no further mail has been received at his residence for JOHN RAY.

Inquiry was made of source regarding the manner in which he first learned that subject RAY had escaped in April, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) and he furnished the following information in that regard:

After source's arrest in St. Louis on June 2, 1967, and while he was thereafter in the St. Louis City Jail in June, 1967, there were also confined in the jail three other persons all of whom had apparently been confined previously at the MSP and it was one or all of these three persons, according to source's recollection, who first informed him that subject RAY had escaped. One of these persons was DANNY GRINDSTAFF (DANIEL GEORGE GRINDSTAFF, FBI #443 4963, St. Louis Police Department #56472). Another was CHARLIE HAGERMAN (phonetic). Source cannot recall the identity of the third person and has never seen this third man again and does not know anything else about him.

Inquiry was made of source as to who it was that had come to his residence on the night of May 13, 1968, in an automobile and visited him there. He said that JIMMIE CRAWFORD (he was uncertain regarding the last name of this person but believed it was CRAWFORD or something like that) and another man had come to source's residence at about 8:00 p.m. or 8:30 p.m., May 13, 1968. Source had become acquainted with CRAWFORD following source's arrest on June 2, 1967, when source was first held for three or four days in the Central District Holdover of the Police Department before being transferred to the city jail. Source and CRAWFORD were cellmates during those few days in the holdover. Later while at the city jail in June, 1967, source also saw CRAWFORD a few times in the jail but they were on different tiers in the jail and they did not actually converse while in the jail. While they were celled together in the holdover, however, source learned from CRAWFORD that he had served sentences previously in the MSP.

When CRAWFORD came to source's residence on the evening of May 13, 1968, CRAWFORD was accompanied by another man and source believes CRAWFORD mentioned the other man's

COVER PAGE U

SL 44-775

first name but source did not pay attention and does not remember the name. CRAWFORD and this other man were at source's residence about 10 or 15 minutes. When they first arrived CRAWFORD asked source whether there was anything doing and source understood from this that CRAWFORD meant did source have any burglary jobs going. Source told him there was nothing doing at this time.

During the conversation CRAWFORD indicated he was down on his luck and asked source for money for meals. Source gave him either \$3 or \$4 in cash. Also during this visit CRAWFORD asked source whether he knew JIMMIE RAY and source replied, "Hell yes, I know him well." CRAWFORD asked source whether the latter knew RAY was out and source replied to the effect that he knew RAY was out and heard it also that RAY was "red hot" and that they were really looking for him. Source said there was no further conversation that he could recall and that CRAWFORD and the other man left after they had been there about 10 or 15 minutes.

During the time that CRAWFORD and the other man visited source on the evening of May 13, 1968, a friend of source named J. H. MC CORMICK was present inasmuch as MC CORMICK was there visiting with source before CRAWFORD and the other man arrived. MC CORMICK had formerly stayed part of the time with JAMES H. RAMSEY while RAMSEY was occupying the residence on the first floor at 1805 South Eleventh Street. MC CORMICK now lives at 2115a Park, St. Louis, and is employed by the Bee Line Truck Company in St. Louis where he cleans up trucks. MC CORMICK very often visits source at the latter's residence in the evening after MC CORMICK gets off from work.

Inquiry was made of source concerning the bank robbery matter referred to by him in a previous interview and he was strongly advised and urged to furnish further details in that regard at this time. Source insisted he was not yet ready to furnish further details. He was advised that a review of the "Chicago Tribune" newspaper for the latter part of June and entire month of July, 1967, disclosed no reference to a bank robbery such as he had described. Source insisted that he had nevertheless read the news article concerning the robbery in the "Chicago Tribune" as he had previously stated, describing

COVER PAGE ✓

SL 44-775

the news article as being a small article, either from the Associated Press or the United Press.

In reviewing with source the information he had previously furnished concerning the alleged bank robbery he referred at this time to the amount of the loot as having been \$48,000. He said that he had read of the robbery in the "Chicago Tribune" a short time after his release from jail on June 23 or 24, 1967, and when pressed for a more precise estimate of the time interval he said that it was within a few days or perhaps several weeks after his release from jail and could have been as much as a month after he was released from jail.

Source said it was either a few days or a few weeks after he had read of the robbery in the "Chicago Tribune" that the unnamed man gave him \$250. It was at the time of this man's first visit and on the occasion when the man gave source \$250 that the man told source the identity of the bank that the money in the valise had come out of and it was at the time of this same first visit that the man told source that JIMMIE RAY had been with him on the robbery.

Regarding the identity of the unnamed man source said he was not yet ready to reveal the identity of the man. He added that he does not actually know the man's name but had always known him only by a first name which he had always thought was probably a phony name and he said that he cannot now recall even this first name.

When inquiry was made of source as to how the man could have known where source lived and could have found source there, source said he assumed that the man learned such information from JIMMIE and he guessed that JIMMIE might have obtained that information from some of JIMMIE's relatives. Source, however, said he did not know specifically at all how the man might have found him.

Concerning the second and last visit of the man to source, source on this occasion said that this second visit occurred three or four weeks after the man's first visit to source. At that time the man indicated he was just coming through St. Louis and had merely stopped in briefly to see source. The man had a cup of coffee with source and subject

COVER PAGE W

SL 44-775

RAY was not mentioned on the occasion of this second visit nor was the fact that the man had previously given source \$250 mentioned on the occasion of this visit.

Various inconsistencies in the foregoing information furnished by source on this occasion were pointed out to him, including the fact that source now said the man's second visit occurred three or four weeks after the first visit whereas he had previously said the second visit had occurred about six weeks ago. Source said he could not be sure and that "as I've told you, my brain doesn't always work right."

During the rather lengthy interview with source, efforts were made to identify the town in which this alleged bank robbery occurred during the summer of 1967. He indicated the bank was about eight blocks from the central business section of town in a city of about 50,000 to 60,000 population, that there was a residential area near the bank which was a new building in 1959, and was located on a corner with a parking lot adjacent to the bank. He indicated that it was not far from a bridge across the Mississippi River. During the getaway the individual who gave him the \$250 got out of the car and walked maybe one-fourth or one-half mile north of the bridge and with the loot walked across a railroad bridge while apparently subject RAY reportedly drove across the bridge. He indicated the police department was on the road leading from the bank to the bridge. At one time he indicated the city was Memphis. On another occasion he said that it could have been Memphis or was close to Memphis or was laid out like Memphis. At the conclusion of this extended inquiry concerning the location of the bank he again indicated that he would wait until he thought the time was right to tell us because he wanted a few more days to determine if someone else was also aware of the robbery in order that source might not be necessarily fingered as a source of the information. He said that he thought in a few days he might be able to work it out so that someone else might actually be blamed in that regard. He did say that the bank was on the east side of the Mississippi River. When pressed as to whether the story of the bank robbery which he had related and in which he had now furnished various conflicting details was

COVER PAGE X

6

SL 44-775

actually true he insisted that the basic facts as he had related them were the truth.

Source was advised that information had been received to the effect that in about May, 1967, subject RAY had been reportedly seen on various occasions in the immediate vicinity of source's residence on South Eleventh Street, such information indicating that RAY was actually very possibly with source and that source may have been keeping him at that time. Source emphatically denied this and also denied that he had any contact with RAY since the latter's escape from the penitentiary in April, 1967. Source said that if RAY had in fact been seen near source's residence he certainly never contacted source or came in source's residence. He said that any information to the contrary was positively a "bum steer".

During the course of this interview it was ascertained from source that he had in the previous interview erroneously referred to the name of the bar in St. Louis which he and subject RAY frequented in 1959. He said this bar was not Ruby's Bar but at that time had the name Opal's Bar and was later known as the Haven Bar.

COVER PAGE Y

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 5-24-68

Source was recontacted on May 22, 1968. Source advised that no additional information regarding the possible whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY had come to his attention. He advised that within the past several days he had not had occasion to talk with CAROL PEPPER, although during that period he had talked a couple of times with JOHN RAY, but the latter mentioned nothing concerning JAMES EARL RAY on those occasions.

Source stated he was not aware that JOHN RAY may have made a trip to California or elsewhere in the summer of 1967.

With regard to a bank robbery to which source had referred in previous interviews, source at this time furnished the following information. The bank which was robbed was a bank in Alton, Illinois, but source does not remember the name of the bank. The amount of loot obtained in the robbery was approximately \$28,000. In previous interviews source had intentionally furnished incorrect information regarding the location of the bank and the amount of the loot in order that the bank robbery to which he had referred might not be identified. However, the other information which he furnished regarding the bank robbery in previous interviews was correct.

Source was released from the St. Louis City Jail on about June 23 or 24, 1967. About a couple of weeks later he read in the "Chicago Tribune" and in one of the St. Louis newspapers about the robbery of the bank in Alton in which approximately \$28,000 in cash had been obtained. The news article indicated that the robbers had missed an additional \$20,000 because they ducked out too quickly while a teller went to the vault to get additional money.

Upon reading in the newspaper of this bank robbery, source recognized the bank as one which he and JAMES EARL RAY had cased in 1959.

A few days after reading in the newspaper about this bank robbery, a man came to see source at the latter's

COVER PAGE ZOn 5-22-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775by SA WILLIAM M. WARFIELD  
SA ALBERT J. RUSLING AJR/ral Date dictated 5-23-68

SL 44-775

home. This man's first name is JIMMIE, and source cannot remember his last name. Source had originally become acquainted with JIMMIE in 1959 in the vicinity of Sarah and Olive Streets in St. Louis, and he believes he introduced RAY to JIMMIE in 1959. The name CRAWFORD, which source had furnished in a previous interview as the possible name of this man JIMMIE, was in error, and source now is certain that the man's first name is not CRAWFORD. When JIMMIE came to source's home a few days after source had read of the robbery in a newspaper, he came by himself and was carrying a valise or briefcase, which he opened and which contained a lot of money which was strapped. JIMMIE told source this money was from the bank robbery in Alton, the same robbery of which source had read in the newspaper. JIMMIE told source that JIMMIE and RAY had pulled this robbery. Source inquired of JIMMIE as to how they got by any road blocks. JIMMIE told source that one of them had crossed the Mississippi River in an automobile via the Lewis and Clark Bridge into Missouri, and the other one walked across a railroad bridge over the Mississippi River, these two bridges being within view of each other. JIMMIE did not tell source whether it was he or RAY who drove across the river in the automobile and did not say which one of them carried the loot. In talking to source, JIMMIE did not indicate that more persons than JIMMIE and RAY were involved in the robbery, but source assumed that there might well have been a "wheel man" to drive the car, and he would have been in addition to JIMMIE and RAY. JIMMIE told source that he and RAY were not masked during the robbery but wore "tips", which source understood to mean they wore tips on their fingers which had been cut from rubber gloves. JIMMIE told source that when they left the bank the police were already on the way there. During this visit JIMMIE asked source how he was fixed financially, and source told him "not too good". JIMMIE then gave source \$250 from the valise or briefcase. This money consisted of two packages of \$1 bills totaling \$100 each, these two packages being strapped, and one \$50 bill. When JIMMIE left source on this occasion, JIMMIE commented that he would see source later. During this visit and their conversation, JIMMIE did not indicate to source any further information regarding the whereabouts of RAY, either at this time or any other time.

COVER PAGE AA



SL 44-775

At a time which source estimates to be two or three months after the above visit, JIMMIE again came to source's residence. JIMMIE was alone and came in an automobile, but source did not observe this car sufficiently to be able to describe it at all. On the occasion of this visit, JIMMIE merely passed the time of day with source and had a cup of coffee with him. JIMMIE commented that he was "going down south" but did not specify where or why he was going. There was no mention made during this visit of the bank robbery or of RAY or of the \$250 JIMMIE previously gave source.

Source believes he did not see JIMMIE again on any other occasion until Monday, May 13, 1968, when JIMMIE came to source's residence at about 9:00 p.m., after dark. Another man whom source never had seen before came with JIMMIE. JIMMIE introduced the other man by the first name JOHNNIE. JOHNNIE told source he was from New Orleans and mentioned that he had "taken a pinch" in Kansas City but did not say when this occurred; source believes JOHNNIE said it was a murder rap. JIMMIE asked source if the latter had any money and stated he and JOHNNIE needed something to eat on. Source thereupon gave JIMMIE \$2. JIMMIE asked source whether the latter had a "heater" (gun). Source told JIMMIE he did not have a heater right now but could have one the next day. JIMMIE then told source he and JOHNNIE would come back later. JIMMIE and JOHNNIE then left after having been at source's residence about ten or fifteen minutes.

Later that same night, May 13, 1968, source went out and saw a friend in St. Louis from whom he borrowed a .38 caliber revolver, make unknown, which was nickel plated, had a six-inch barrel and had a regular brown-colored grip. This was a five-shot revolver, and when source obtained it from his friend, one chamber was empty and the other four chambers were loaded with live ammunition. Source does not desire to reveal the identity of the friend from whom he borrowed this gun stating, however, that the friend is in St. Louis.

The next evening, May 14, 1968, at about 9:00 p.m., JIMMIE and JOHNNIE both came back to source's residence, and after they had a couple of beers with source in the latter's

COVER PAGE BB

SL 44-775

backyard, they went inside source's residence. Source at that time gave JIMMIE the gun he had borrowed from his friend. During their conversation at this time, JIMMIE commented to the effect, "I'm on the north side this time", by which source understood JIMMIE was living in the north part of St. Louis. Neither JIMMIE nor JOHNNIE specified to source the purpose for which they desired the gun, but source understood from their remarks that they wanted it for some unspecified robbery. JIMMIE commented to source to the effect that "I'll have to skip. I've about \$1,000 worth of clothes which I'll bring here for you to hold for me." Source expressed to JIMMIE his willingness to hold the clothing for JIMMIE.

During their conversation at this time, JIMMIE or JOHNNIE noted that a piece of the gun located at the rear of the cylinder was broken off in such a manner that the bullets in the cylinder could fall out. Either JIMMIE or JOHNNIE asked source whether he had any adhesive tape, and source did then produce a roll of adhesive tape. JIMMIE and JOHNNIE then put tape on the gun behind the cylinder so that the bullets would not fall out.

It is the recollection of source that his friend, JOE MC CORMICK, arrived at source's residence, but not until after JIMMIE and JOHNNIE had departed, and he believes MC CORMICK did not see them there.

Source has not had any subsequent contact at all with JIMMIE or JOHNNIE, and they have not returned the gun. Source has been carefully watching the newspapers and listening to news reports, but has not heard of any job which he believes they might have pulled. Source recalls that on the occasion when he gave JIMMIE the gun, JIMMIE commented to the effect, "I'll see you tomorrow or the next day", and also to the effect, "We'll remember you for the heater."

Source describes JIMMIE as a white male, about 45 to 50 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches and of slender build. He does not recall a description of JIMMIE's hair. Source recalls that JIMMIE at sometime mentioned that he served time in Arkansas and spoke also of having served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

COVER PAGE CC

SL 44-775

Source describes JOHNNIE as being about 30 to 35 years of age, clean cut in appearance, black hair, sharp dresser, somewhat shorter and heavier than JIMMIE.

JIMMIE is the same person who shared a cell with source in the St. Louis Police Department Holdover for two or three days after source was first arrested in early June, 1967, and JIMMIE is the same person whom source later saw during the month of June, 1967, in the St. Louis City Jail, although they were not on the same tier in the jail.

Source feels certain that the bank which was robbed as reflected in the newspaper and as referred to by JIMMIE is the same bank which source and JAMES EARL RAY cased in 1959. This bank is in Alton, Illinois. Source and RAY cased it on two or three occasions in 1959. They planned that in the robbery source would carry a sawed-off shotgun which he already had in his possession and would stand inside the bank door with the shotgun while RAY carrying a pistol would take the money from the bank tellers. It was planned that source would guard the door at the bank until RAY completed taking the money from the tellers, and then they would both leave the bank. They planned to use as their getaway automobile an old car of some sort which RAY then had and which they planned to park in the bank parking lot immediately adjacent to the bank. They planned to use a stolen license plate on the car. After the robbery they planned to go to a rooming house in Alton, where they would already have obtained a room and where they would already have stored food and necessary supplies. They planned to remain in this rooming house for at least a week after the robbery. Source had already spotted the particular rooming house where they expected to obtain a room, and he had located it because it had a sign in front showing there were rooms for rent there. Source and RAY planned to park their automobile in an area immediately behind the rooming house which is reached off a small street or alley behind the house, and by parking the car in this position immediately behind the house, it would be substantially concealed.

Source on May 22, 1968, accompanied interviewing Agents to Alton, Illinois. He directed Agents to a location

COVER PAGE DD

SL 44-775

where he pointed out the Bank of Alton, and he stated this was the bank to which he had referred. In the course of locating the bank, source commented that he had not been in Alton since 1959, but he remembered that there was a drugstore near the bank bearing in its name the word "Dick's". He also commented during the course of locating the bank that he remembered that a Washington Avenue bus passed on the main street in front of the bank. Upon locating the bank building and viewing it, source commented that the building had apparently been remodeled since he last saw it in 1959. He said that in addition to the present main front door there had been in 1959 a side door on the side of the bank where there are now located drive-in windows. He recalled that in 1959 the drive-in windows were not on the side of the building where they are now located, but were on the back wall of the building. Source then accompanied Agents and directed them to the rooming house to which he had referred. The house to which he directed Agents and which he then pointed out is a house bearing the address 1209 Fourth Street in Alton. Upon viewing this house at this time, source commented that there were steps going down from the front of the house to a basement level and it was the basement level in which he and RAY had hoped to obtain a room in 1959.

COVER PAGE E E

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 6, 1968

1.

A source, 1807 S. Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was recontacted May 31, 1968.

Source advised that no further information whatever had come to his attention bearing on the possible whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY. Source said he had not seen JOHN RAY or CAROL PEPPER during the preceding week but he thought he might see CAROL PEPPER within the following day or two since he owed her \$40 he had borrowed from her and he expected she might come by to see him in order to collect.

A photograph of JAMES H. CARPENTER, Federal Bureau of Investigation #30243, was exhibited to source. He identified this photograph as being a photograph of the person he had referred to in the previous interview who visited source in about July, 1967, and told source at that time that he and JAMES EARL RAY had robbed the bank at Alton, Illinois. He identified the photograph as being of the person previously referred to by source as JIMMY who gave source \$250 on the occasion referred to above. He further identified the photograph as being of the person he referred to as JIMMY who visited source on May 13, 1968, and May 14, 1968, with JOHNNY (last name unknown), and to whom source had provided a .38 caliber revolver.

Source was then advised that it had been determined that the person depicted in the photograph was actually in the St. Louis City Jail at the time of his alleged visits to source in 1967, and at the time of the robbery of the bank at Alton, Illinois. It was pointed out to him that the information he had provided in that regard was, therefore, false. Source then said he had realized for the past eight days that he had given the Federal Bureau of Investigation

COVER PAGE *FF*

On 5/31/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY  
SA ALBERT J. RUSHING AJR:bam Date dictated 6/3/68

2.

SL 44-775

"a bum steer" and that the information he had previously furnished was a "bum beef" concerning JIMMY with regard to the Alton bank robbery. In referring to JIMMY at this time source referred to him as JIMMY CARPENTER saying he now recalled that CARPENTER was the last name of the JIMMY he had been referring to.

Source said that during the past eight days he had been thinking about this matter and had decided it was actually some other JIMMY who had given him the \$250 and told him he had robbed the bank with JAMES EARL RAY.

Source reiterated that JIMMY CARPENTER was the person who visited source with JOHNNY on May 13 and 14, 1968, and to whom source gave the gun. Source said he now realized he actually became acquainted with JIMMY CARPENTER for the first time in June, 1967, when they were in jail together in St. Louis. He said the other JIMMY he had referred to, the one who gave source \$250 and told source he had robbed the bank at Alton with RAY was a person with whom source had become acquainted in 1959 in St. Louis. He insisted he did not know the last name of this JIMMY and said he could not think of anyone at all who might know this JIMMY except JAMES EARL RAY. Source insisted that it was his recollection he had introduced JIMMY and RAY in 1959.

It was pointed out to source that since the information he had furnished about JIMMY CARPENTER and the bank robbery now appeared to be false, source might also be lying about the participation of RAY in the bank robbery. Source insisted that the otherwise unknown JIMMY (last name unknown) had visited him in 1967, as previously stated and told him of RAY's participation with JIMMY in the robbery.

COVER PAGE 66

1  
SL 44-775  
AJR:amb

RE: JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT RAY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

On 5-14-68, SA ALBERT J. RUSPING checked records of the St. Louis Police Dept. for pertinent information regarding the arrest of JOHN EUGENE GAWRON on 6-2-67, by the St. Louis Police Dept. The following copies of reports and correspondence pertinent to that matter were obtained from the St. Louis Police Dept.:

COVER PAGE HH

2 Arrest .1 Clean-up 6 COTTES

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

NAME OF REPORT: Burglary & Stealing  
 DATE & TIME REPORTED TO POLICE: 6-2-67 7:24 A.M.  
 DISTRICT: 3rd  
 BLOCK NO.: 1801/185  
 HOW COMPLAINT RECEIVED: (0-3) RADIO ( ) STATION ( ) CITIZEN ( ) ON VIEW  
 STATUS: ( ) ACTIVE (X) INACTIVE  
 COMPLAINT NUMBER: 193-379

DATE & TIME CRIME OCCURRED: 6-1-67 9:30A.M. 6-2-67 7:15A.M.  
 LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: 1801 S. 11th St.  
 TYPE OF PREMISES: Tavern  
 VICTIM (IF FIRM, NAME OF BUSINESS): Art's Place  
 OWNER: Arthur Gibbs (Owner)  
 RESIDENCE ADDRESS (BUS. ADDRESS, IF FIRM): 3423 Wisconsin  
 RES. PHONE: MO-49724  
 BUS. PHONE: CA1-8353

PERSON REPORTING OCCURRENCE TO POLICE: Graybill, Don  
 PERSON WHO SECURED PREMISES AND TIME: Gibbs, Arthur  
 PERSON WHO DISCOVERED THE CRIME: Same as #24  
 WITNESSES NAME: NONE

PERSON REPORTING OCCURRENCE TO POLICE: Graybill, Don  
 RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 1107 a Soulard  
 PERSON WHO SECURED PREMISES AND TIME: Gibbs, Arthur  
 RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 323 Wisconsin  
 PERSON WHO DISCOVERED THE CRIME: Same as #24  
 ADDRESS: Same as #25

TRADEMARKS OF SUSPECTS: Business Burglar  
 POINT WHERE ENTRANCE MADE: Panel under front window  
 METHOD USED TO GAIN ENTRANCE: Knock out Panel  
 PERSONS WANTED/OR ARRESTED:  
 A. Ramsey, James Henry  
 EST. ( ) RACE SEX AGE HGT. WGT. HAIR EYES COMPLEXION BUILD CLOTHING  
 ACTUAL ( ) W M 38 5'8" 150 Black Brown Med Thin  
 B. Gawron, Jack Eugene  
 EST. ( ) RACE SEX AGE HGT. WGT. HAIR EYES COMPLEXION BUILD CLOTHING  
 ACTUAL ( ) W M 69 5'9" 180 Gray Brown Med Heavy

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION, BRAND, & SERIAL NUMBER | VALUE

ITEM NO.	QUAN.	(B)	(C)	MONEY (D)	JEWELRY (E)	FURS (F)	CLOTHING (G)	AUTO/MIX (H)	TOTAL (I)	RECD. (J)
A.	2	Cases	Falstaff Beer					2.76	5.52	7.76
B.	2	6 Packs	Falstaff Beer					.96	1.82	
C.	14	Packages	various brands cigarettes					.25	3.50	3.25
D.		10.00	in quarters from juke box	10.00					10.00	
									20.84	6.01

STATE ALL OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE OFFENSE, USE CONTINUATION FORM.

TRANSCRIBED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROCESSED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TELETYPE NUMBER: NONE DATE OF REPORT: 6-2-67

CLERK NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CLERK NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT—CITY OF ST. LOUIS  
CONTINUATION REPORT

FILE NO. - FOR RECORDS SECTION

PAGE NO. 2

COMPLAINT NO. 193-379

At about 7:24 A.M. this date Patn. Dennis Bini 5601 in charge of radio car O-3 was dispatched to investigate a burglary at 11th. & Souldard and on arrival was met Graybill who stated to the officer that he had been walking on 11th. St. and had noticed that a panel had been knocked out under a window of the tavern at 1801 S. 11th. St.

At this time Patn. Bini went to the front of this tavern and discovered that a wood panel about 24" X 30" had been knocked out under the window in the south east corner of the tavern.

On making this discovery Patn. Bini crawled through this hole to make a search of the tavern and on entering was able to find no one on the premises however discovered that the juke box located in the center of the tavern had been forced open and the coin box was missing, further that the cigarette machine located on the west wall of the tavern had been forced open this being done by smashing the glass covering the front of the machine. It was further found that after breaking the door glass there had been an unknown amount packages of cigarettes removed from the machine and the door of the machine had spots of what appeared to be blood smeared on same.

At this time Patn. Bini left the tavern and on doing so found that there were several broken beer bottles on the sidewalk these bottles being broken in a trail leading from a point directly beneath the broken panel to the front steps of 1805 S. 11th. and up the steps to the front door.

On making this discovery Patn. Bini knocked on the front door of 1805 S. 11th. and was admitted by the following subject:

RAMSEY, JAMES HENRY W-M-S-38-Ark-welder-residing 1805 S. 11th. St.  
A.R. 3-2074

On being admitted to the house Patn. Bini informed Ramsey that he was under arrest for burglary and informed him of his rights, those being the right to have an attorney, the right to have an attorney present during questioning, the right to have an attorney appointed for him in the event that he could not afford one, the right not to make a statement and that if a statement was made by him it would be used against him in court.

After being advised of his rights and waiving same Patn. Bini questioned Ramsey relative to this burglary and pointed out to him the trail of bottles leading to his front door.

Ramsey stated that he had no knowledge of the burglary or of how the broken beer bottles got on his front steps as they had not been there this morning when he went to bed further that he did not have any beer in his home and only three packages of cigarettes.

At this time Patn. Bini searched Ramsey and found in his (Ramsey) shirt pocket 1 package of Viceroy cigarettes and in his pants pockets 1 package of Pall Mall and 1 package of Marlboro cigarettes all of which

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, USE ANOTHER CONTINUATION REPORT

## METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT—CITY OF ST. LOUIS

## CONTINUATION REPORT

FILE NO. - FOR RECORDS SECTION

PAGE NO.

3

COMPLAINT NO.

193-379

were open and partly full. On finding these cigarettes Patn. Bini noticed that the Viceroy cigarettes had a smear of what appeared to be blood on the outside of the package and questioned Ramsey as to where he had gotten these cigarettes to which he stated that he had bought them last P.M. from his landlord John Gawron who lives at 1807 S. 11th. St.

At this time Patn. conducted a further search of the Ramsey home and found in the refrigerator 23 bottles of Falstaff beer and 1 bottle of Falstaff beer under the night table in the bed room and at this time questioned Ramsey as to where he had gotten this beer and as to Ramsey's earlier statement that there was no beer in the house to which Ramsey stated the beer had not been in the house when he went to bed this A.M. about 4:30 A.M.

At this time Patn. Bini radioed for a district car to assist and for a supervisor and Patn. Vincent Stehlin 5324 in charge of radio car P-3 and Sgt. Michael Crnkovich 433 in charge of car 34 responded along with District Detective James Hopkins 3579 of this command.

On being informed of the above incidents by Patn. Bini the above officers went to 1807 S. 11th. St. where they were admitted by Jack Gawron who was placed under arrest for burglary by Patn. Bini and was at that time advised of his rights, those being the right to have an attorney the right to have an attorney present during questioning, the right to have an attorney appointed for him in the event that he could not afford one, the right not to make a statement and that if a statement was made by him it would be used against him in court.

On being advised of these rights and waiving same Gawron was questioned relative to his knowledge of the above described burglary to which he denied any knowledge. Gawron was at this time informed of the statement made by Ramsey that he (Gawron) had sold Ramsey <sup>some</sup> cigarettes last P.M. and this package of cigarettes had what appeared to be blood on same further that whoever had burglarized the tavern had apparently cut their hand as blood was found on the cigarette machine. At this time Gawron stated that he had been in the company of Ramssy last P.M. but had not sold him any cigarettes as he (Gawron) had no cigarettes for himself and certainly none for sale.

At this time a search of the Gawron home was conducted by the officers and Patn. Stehlin found in the drawers of the dresser in the center room 3 packages of Lerk, 4 packages of Lucky Strike 2 packages of Marlboro, 2 packages of Viceroy and 2 packages of Camel cigarettes all of which had no cellophane wrapper. When questioned as to the ownership of these cigarettes Gawron stated that they were his property and the reason for no cellophane wrapper was that he had bought them in Ill. and could not make further statement concerning the cigarettes.

On further search of the premises Detective Hopkins found in a box in the center room of the home under numerous rags the following tools:

1 sledge hammer with a 24" handle, 2 17" inch pry bars, 1 8" Wizard

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, USE ANOTHER CONTINUATION REPORT

KK