

4/25/68

PLA INTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR, (44-38861), AND SACS, MEMPHIS (44-1987),
AND KANSAS CITY (44-760)

FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN. CR

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, MIAMI,
ST. LOUIS, APRIL TWENTYFIVE, INSTANT.

RE: PURCHASE OF AUTOMOBILE BY JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER
RIFE ON OR ABOUT MAY FOURTEEN, FIFTYFOUR, AT MIAMI, FLA.

LUKE SELLARS, PROPRIETOR, LUKE SELLARS MOTORS, MIAMI,
FLA., ADVISED HE WAS THE PROPRIETOR OF AMACKER MOTORS, ONE
THREE FIVE N.E. THIRTYSIX ST., MIAMI, IN NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR.
HE DISSOLVED THIS BUSINESS IN NINETEEN SIXTYONE AND HAS
SINCE DESTROYED ALL RECORDS.

SELLARS ADVISED WHEREABOUTS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES AMACKER
MOTORS UNKNOWN. SELLARS STATED DOES NOT RECALL SALE OF VEHICLE
TO SUBJECT AS MENTIONED IN REFERENCED TEL, HOWEVER, IF THERE
WAS SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT SALE, HE WOULD RECALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

① - St. Louis (Info)
1 - Miami
DNJ:vc
(2)

44-775-358

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 28 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

MM 44-1854

PAGE TWO

SELLARS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECT AND
RIFE.

SUSPECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.
ST. LOUIS ADVISED BY AM.

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI LOS ANG.

9:08AM PDTN URGENT 4-28-68 RCE
TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) MEMPHIS, ST. LOUIS
FROM: LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

AT EIGHT FIFTEEN AM INSTANT TRANSWORLD AIRLINE
GATE AGENT, JAMES CLUTTER, ADVISED THAT TWO BOARDING
AGENTS OBSERVED AN INDIVIDUAL FITTING DESCRIPTION OF
JAMES EARL RAY, EXCEPT FOR SHORTER SALT AND PEPPER GRAY
HAIR, BOARDING TWA FLIGHT NUMBER ONE SEVEN FOUR, DEPARTING
LOS ANGELES EIGHT TWENTYONE AM, ARRIVING ST. LOUIS
ONE FORTY PM. HE IS WEARING WHITE BUTTONED DOWN SHIRT
AND YELLOW CARDIGAN SWEATER. HE GAVE NAME OF GEORGE
RUDE AND ASKED FOR CONNECTING FLIGHT INFORMATION TO MARION,
OHIO, VIA OZARK AIRLINES. HE IS CARRYING A BLUE
FLIGHT BAG AND IS SITTING MIDWAY ON COACH SECTION ON RIGHT
SIDE. HE ALSO HAS TWO OTHER PIECES OF LUGGAGE CHECKED.

ST. LOUIS WILL DETERMINE WHETHER GEORGE RUDE IDENTICAL
TO SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

RJK

FBI ST LOUIS

X

44-775-359

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 28 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

assign lead

*Walters adv 11:20
Buckley adv 11:20
Buckley adv 11:25*

J. Buckley

F B I

Date: 4/28/68

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

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775) 1P

MURKIN

RE LA TEL TODAY.

RE: SUSPECT GEORGE STEVEN RUDE.

RUDE CONTACTED BY SA'S ON ARRIVAL SLMO BORN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HACO, ILL., WHICH IS RESIDENCE. FIVE FEET EIGHT,
ONE HUNDRED FIFTYFIVE LBS., BROWN GREY HAIR, BLUE EYES, FALSE FRONT
TEETH, SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER ELEVEN ONE NINE THREE THIRTY EIGHT
FORTY NINE. LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO SUBJECT. LEFT INDEX FINGER
COMPARED TO IO, NOT IDENT. IN LA SEEKING EMPLOYMENT.

END

ARD/OK

44-775-360

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent WA 2 38 ME 2 40 M Per [Signature]

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

1

On April 24, 1968, SAs JAMES RICHARD FLICK, JOSEPH G. SHEA, and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN interviewed LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA, an inmate at the Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia. DOWDA advised he was formerly incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He stated while at the Missouri State Prison, he was acquainted for approximately three years with JAMES EARL RAY, a fellow inmate. DOWDA advised he was released from the Missouri State Prison on December 23, 1966, and JAMES EARL RAY was still incarcerated. He stated he had been the chief cook at the Missouri State Prison and RAY worked as a bread slicer.

DOWDA advised RAY was the type person the other inmates did not "mess with." He described RAY as a "loner" who usually initiated the conversation if he wanted to talk to anyone. He stated that RAY spoke in a mild, low tone and when angry would speak even softer. He stated he had never known RAY to become excited and shout. To his knowledge, he has never known RAY to smoke. He stated RAY had a fair complexion, which was blotchy, having pimples around the lower portion of his face. He stated RAY had a rash on the right side of his head during the entire time he had known RAY and RAY would scratch this rash. He stated this rash was very noticeable due to the type of haircut in the Penitentiary and RAY put some type of salve on this rash. He stated RAY's hair was lightly streaked with gray. He advised the only scar he can recall which RAY had was a large burn scar on his forearm, side unrecalled. He stated this scar was located near the wrist. He stated RAY had dingy teeth.

DOWDA advised RAY always talked about "running around" in St. Louis, Missouri. He normally talked about two girl friends, one of these he had met at the Gaslight

44-775-341

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 28 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

[Signature]

AT 44-2386
JTB:bjc
2

*Harlight Box 457 n Boyle FRI 7863
Harlight Jan 10070 Nat. Budg. H267554
Harlight Package Liquor 4398 Ohio FRI-
8659*

(a bar) located in either St. Louis or Kansas City. DOWDA stated the other girl was a girl RAY had met around the college at Columbia, Missouri, and it was his impression this girl had worked in a tavern there.

DOWDA advised RAY, while in prison, wore a ring on his left hand which was made at the Penitentiary, having been made from white metal with raised initials. He stated RAY never smiled, but when he smiled, it looked like a smirk. He advised RAY was clean and not sloppy in his dress. He described RAY as an avid reader and considered RAY to be intelligent. He advised RAY participated in softball games as a pitcher and would watch all of the baseball games at the Penitentiary, however, he had never heard RAY speak of professional baseball.

DOWDA stated that some time in 1966, a group of Black Muslims had petitioned for the right to have their own religious services. He stated the Muslims would congregate in groups and that a subsequent search of the Negro prisoners had uncovered a large cache of weapons. DOWDA stated the white prisoners then armed themselves and there was a riot at the prison. DOWDA stated three Negro prisoners were killed. DOWDA stated he would not say RAY had knifed these Negro prisoners, but did say that if RAY had not knifed them, he definitely knew who had killed them.

DOWDA stated RAY definitely was a racist and hated Negroes. He stated RAY had made the statement and firmly believed that all the Negro prisoners inside the Penitentiary should be killed. He stated RAY had on several occasions made the statement that if the price were right, he would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DOWDA stated he does not recall ever hearing anything which would indicate a "contract" was out for the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

3

DOWDA advised he would not be surprised if JAMES EARL RAY was the murderer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, however, he does not believe RAY would have killed KING without being paid for it.

DOWDA stated approximately four months before he, DOWDA, was released RAY had attempted to escape from the Missouri State Prison by going out of the prison behind the ovens in the prison bakery. He stated RAY was apprehended and RAY had broken his arm in this escape attempt. He stated RAY had talked about escaping from the Penitentiary prior to this. DOWDA advised he does not believe RAY returned from maximum security confinement prior to DOWDA's release from prison.

DOWDA stated while in prison, RAY was particularly interested in Western music. He stated he does not recall RAY ever mentioning anything about dancing. He stated that during this period a number of orchestras from the Lake of the Ozarks had played at the State Prison and RAY would never miss these performances. He stated RAY often talked about planning to go to the Lake of the Ozarks when he got out of prison. DOWDA stated he would have no idea who RAY would contact at the Lake of the Ozarks, but stated if he were to look for RAY there, he would first find out who was selling dope and through this person, locate RAY. He stated RAY had talked about being on dope prior to being in the Missouri State Prison. He advised RAY had to have an outside source of income while in prison inasmuch as RAY's dope habit was costing RAY \$35 to \$40 a week for shots and RAY appeared to be well fixed, never wanting for anything.

DOWDA estimated RAY spent \$15 to \$20 a week for personal conveniences. He stated RAY, while in prison,

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

4

used amphetamine, taking the shot in the "main line." He stated RAY would take two to three shots a day. He stated RAY never lacked for money, but had no idea of RAY's source of income. DOWDA stated he is certain RAY was not selling amphetamine to other prisoners, stating he has known RAY to give free amphetamine to prisoners who needed a shot. DOWDA denied that he himself had ever taken any shots, but admitted he has taken pills. DOWDA claimed he and RAY were not engaged in the sale of amphetamine at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA stated that HAROLD SCHAEFER, Guard on the gate in the kitchen of the Missouri State Prison, was very close to JAMES EARL RAY and it was DOWDA's understanding that SCHAEFER was RAY's source of amphetamine. He stated BENJAMIN O. GOODIN was a civilian in charge of the kitchen and he is certain GOODIN was not connected in any way with the bringing of amphetamine into the prison. He stated while GOODIN was friendly with RAY, he understands it was GOODIN who had disclosed RAY's hiding place when RAY had attempted to escape in 1966.

DOWDA advised one NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was RAY's closest friend in the Missouri State Prison and was responsible for bringing RAY into the kitchen. He stated ABBY at this time was chief cook at the prison. He believes ABBY was serving time for breaking into a drug store and he does know that dope was connected with ABBY's offense. He stated ABBY had a detainer on him as he was an escapee from the State of Texas. DOWDA does not know whether or not ABBY is presently in custody but does not believe he is presently in the Missouri State Prison.

He stated RAY had another friend, one DONALD DEAN RIGGER. He stated RIGGER was from California and RIGGER's wife was a psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital, which

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

5

is located north of San Francisco, California.

DOWDA advised that RAY and other inmates that might have DOWDA's address would have a Route 1, Sanford, Florida, address, and would not know that he is presently in Marietta, Georgia. He stated his father, STEVEN C. DOWDA, presently resides at 110 South Chandler Street, Deland, Florida, and that anyone inquiring for him at Sanford, Florida, would be sent to Deland, Florida. DOWDA claims he has not been contacted by RAY and has heard nothing to indicate RAY has attempted to contact him. He stated RAY had talked about traveling over all the United States, but had never mentioned anything which would indicate RAY was associated with anyone in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. DOWDA stated the only other prisoner he knew who was from the State of Georgia, who was an inmate at the Missouri State Prison was one JERRY WHITE from Calhoun, Georgia. He advised WHITE had a Federal detainer against him and believes WHITE is still incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA advised he had made a trip to California in November of 1967, and that he and his wife had spent Thanksgiving Day visiting her uncle, BOB GRAHAM, who resides at Palos Verdes, California. He stated GRAHAM is Regional Manager for IBM in that area. He stated that he and his wife had stopped at Jefferson City and while there, contacted a Missouri State Prison guard, Mr. "PETE" PETRIE. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning RAY and was not aware that RAY had escaped. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning inmates inasmuch as his wife did not know he was a former inmate of the Missouri State Prison. He stated he had stopped in the Kansas City, Missouri, area and attempted to locate PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., who had been in the Missouri State Prison as PAUL ALVIN CARTER. He stated LAIL had been released approximately a year before he had and that they had agreed to attempt to get together

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

6

after their release from prison. He stated LAIL worked in the license shop at the Missouri State Prison and although he was acquainted with RAY, he did not believe LAIL was a particularly good friend of RAY. He stated after his return from California, he was contacted by PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR. He stated LAIL owns a home at 34 Barbados Drive, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach, Florida, Telephone Number 965-4221. He stated LAIL in February of 1968 was out of a job and had come to Marietta, Georgia, looking for employment. He stated LAIL had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and a small baby and had resided with DOWDA for approximately one and one-half weeks, leaving approximately two or three days after DOWDA was arrested, DOWDA having been arrested on March 4, 1968.

DOWDA advised he could recall nothing else concerning RAY which might assist in his location, but in the event he remembered anything additional, he would contact the FBI.

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Atlanta teletype summary to Bureau, 4/24/68.

Enclosed for Bureau are three copies of insert reflecting interview with LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA.

One copy of above insert being furnished to Miami and Memphis for information. Two copies of insert furnished to St. Louis and San Diego. Six copies of insert furnished to Kansas City.

In addition to leads previously set out in retel, the following offices are requested to conduct the following investigation:

LEADSKANSAS CITY

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
 - 6 - Kansas City (Enc. 6)
 - 1 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - Miami (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - San Diego (Enc. 2)
 - 2 - St. Louis (Enc. 2)
 - 2 - Atlanta
- JTB:lcc
(17)

44-775-362

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 28 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Wagner
James

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

AT 44-2386

At Jefferson City, Missouri:

- 1) Will, at Missouri State Penitentiary, determine from medical records type rash JAMES EARL RAY had on side of head and medication prescribed for RAY.
- 2) Check correspondence file to determine if RAY has any approved correspondence which may identify girl friends RAY talked about.
- 3) Attempt to determine supplier of narcotics to RAY while RAY in prison and attempt to develop information concerning RAY's outside source of income, as RAY may now attempt to contact these persons.
- 4) Ascertain present whereabouts of inmate JERRY WHITE.
- 5) Through sources at prison, evaluate information furnished by DOWDA.

At Kansas City, Missouri:

Attempt to locate bar known as Gaslight, to determine if subject RAY is known there and attempt to determine identity of girl RAY met there.

At Columbia, Missouri:

Contact bars in vicinity of college and determine if subject RAY known as well as attempt to learn identity of girl RAY had met in this area.

At Lake Ozark, Missouri:

Will, through sources, attempt to identify narcotics pushers and through them determine if subject has been in this area.

SAN DIEGO

At Pales Verdes, California:

Will locate BOB GRAHAM and interview concerning DOWDA's visit Thanksgiving 1967; determine if DOWDA made any remarks concerning contact with RAY or anyone else in California.

AT 44-2386

ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Missouri:

Will attempt to locate bar known as Gaslight to determine if RAY is known at this bar and identity of RAY's girl friend.

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI CHICAGO

356PM URGENT 4/29/68 CAB

TO ALL SACS - RELAY MESSAGE PLAN

FROM DIRECTOR, 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

unidentified Latent Print Project

ALL OFFICES HAVING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THEIR TERRITORIES WHICH MAINTAIN UNIDENTIFIED LATENT FINGERPRINTS IN CONNECTION WITH MAUTERS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THESE AGENCIES AND REQUEST THAT THE FINGERPRINTS OF SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY AS SET FORTH ON THE IO BE COMPARED WITH LATENTS OBTAINED SINCE HIS ESCAPE FROM MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY ON FOUR TWENTY-THREE SIXTY-SEVEN.

THIS IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLY ESTABLISHING RAY'S PAST WHEREABOUTS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS. LEGATS OTTAWA AND MEXICO CITY REQUESTED TO DO LIKEWISE. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

LCR

FBI ST LOUIS

X

✓

44-775-363

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

assign lead

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/27/68

Mr. ALFRED BURKHARDT, 305 Boonville Road, formerly employed by the Missouri State Penitentiary, said he was the relief driver of the "bread truck" for Renz Farm on April 23, 1967. He said he picked up the bread about 8:30 a.m. He noted the box was on the platform (loading dock). He said this was unusual because usually the empty is taken from the truck and the full box returned. He said he recalled it had been there the day before. He said he was supposed to check the box to be sure it contained nothing but bread. He said the box was about 3 by 2-1/2 feet. He said he had heard that someone tried to get into one of these boxes, after RAY's escape, and could not do it with room for bread. He said the box is checked at the dock, and at the tunnel. He said, however, that it was not "probed." He said the check was visual. He said the box was delivered to Renz Farm and he heard no more about it.

However, he "heard" the next day that civilian cook at Renz Farm complained "that the bread had been all messed up." He also "heard" that there was no shortage of bread on April 23, 1968. He said he also "heard" that some of RAY's clothing had been found on the loading dock a week or two after the escape. He said the only thing unusual about this particular trip and perhaps the 22nd, was that the box was on the dock when he arrived there.

44-775-364

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

On 4/26/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS (lib) Date dictated 4/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/27/68

Mr. STEPHAN I. KRAL, Elston, Missouri, Officers' Dining Room Supervisor, Missouri State Penitentiary, formerly guard at Renz Farm, said it was his regular job in 1967 to drive the truck to the main prison for bread five days a week, except weekends. He said the truck leaves Renz Farm about 8:00 a.m., and gets the bread no later than about 8:30 a.m. He said the empty box is taken from Renz Farm and taken to the loading dock. At that place the driver gives the order for bread. The inmates take the empty box on an elevator to the bakery and a box is loaded with the order. It is then brought back to the dock. The driver is supposed to check it to be sure it contains nothing but bread. He said the box was about 4 by 3 feet. He said it holds about 100 loaves of bread and they are packed 15 loaves to each layer. He said he always ran his arm down inside the box to count the layers. He said the truck then goes out to the truck tunnel. There a guard again checked to be sure there was nothing under or around the truck, including the box and under the hood. He, if satisfied, signaled the tower and the exit gate was released and the truck went back to the farm. He said the truck made several stops for lights, intersections, etc., en route and one would have no difficulty getting off the truck. He said the box was large enough to hold a man.

Mr. KRAL said that he heard some talk, after RAY escaped, that some officers had seen RAY "practicing a little yogi", that is, curling up in corners, and similar. He said he presumed he was doing this to see if he could fit in the bread box, but he had no personal information in this regard. He also said he "heard" that Renz Farm had been receiving more bread than requested for two or three days prior to April 23, 1967.

Mr. KRAL said the entire delivery trip from Renz to the Penitentiary and back did not continue until after 9:00 a.m.

He said he did not know what procedures of checking were followed on April 23, 1968, as this was a weekend and both the regular driver and regular tunnel checker were off duty.

74-725-365

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	
KC 44-760	

On 4/26/68 at Jefferson City, Mo.

File #

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS

(lib)

Date dictated 4/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

4/27/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
SAC, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)

MURKIN.

Enclosed herewith are photostatic copies of two FD-302's concerning interviews with truck drivers at Missouri State Penitentiary who were reportedly driving the bread truck at the time of subject's escape.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3-Bureau (Enc. 3)
2-Memphis (Enc. 4)
2-St. Louis (Enc. 4) *[initials]*
2-Kansas City
RBH:lib
(9)

44-775-366

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
APR 29 1968	
FBI — ST. LOUIS	

[initials]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

FROM : ASAC EDWARD J. KRUPINSKY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/29/68

At 11:45 A. M. today ASAC KYLE CLARK of the Chicago Office called to advise that JERRY RAY, brother of the subject in this case, is leaving for St. Louis and is expected to arrive around 5:00 or 6:00 P. M. today. Purpose of his trip is to visit his sister, CAROL; and will be in St. Louis until Wednesday when he anticipates returning to Chicago.

He is driving a 1960 DeSoto, four-door, light-green; bearing 1968 Illinois License (white background, red numbers) KX-5820.

I asked ASAC CLARK what coverage Chicago is giving JERRY RAY, and he stated that they do not have him under surveillance, however, they have developed contacts who can report on his whereabouts. ASAC CLARK stated that while he appears to be co-operating, the Chicago Office is not one hundred per cent convinced he is. They do not feel that he knows the present whereabouts of the subject, and are merely playing him along in case of future contact. He stated that JERRY RAY is going to tell both JOHN RAY and CAROL that the FBI in no way revealed their names to the press.

In addition, ASAC CLARK stated that JERRY RAY would stay either at the MacArthur Hotel or with his sister, CAROL.

CLARK also desires to be advised when JERRY RAY departs St. Louis for his return to Chicago in order that they may afford coverage of his activities there.

*Hadley
coverage of
MacArthur
Brown
coverage of
Raymond
Hadley
coverage of
John
Raymond*

2 44-775
EJK:gmf
(2) *[signature]*

44-775-367

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

[signature]



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

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)

Subject armed & dangerous

D

44-775-368

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

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

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Memphis teletype to Bureau and others dated 4/22/68, requests "receiving offices to contact major law enforcement agencies within their divisions and determine whether or not any armed robberies or burglaries perpetrated in which latents recovered or in which unsub may fit general description of subject RAY."

- LEAD -

THE KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

Inasmuch as numerous small departments in rural areas within St. Louis Division have latent fingerprint work handled by Missouri State Highway Patrol, Kansas City should insure that unidentified latents at MSHP Headquarters are checked against fingerprints of JAMES RAY, FBI Number 405 942 G.

Subject armed & dangerous

2 - Kansas City
1 - St. Louis
GMP/ral 1 - Memphis (cc made)
(3)

D.

44-775-369

SEARCHED	
SERIALIZED	
INDEXED	
FILED	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : RESIDENT AGENTS

FROM : SAC THOMAS J. GEARTY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/29/68

At the request of the Memphis Office, St. Louis has checked St. Louis Police Department and St. Louis County Police Department to determine if any unidentified latents from crimes in areas covered by these departments could be identical with fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942 G, with negative results.

- LEAD -

ALL RESIDENT AGENTS

Law enforcement agencies within your Resident Agency territory which maintain files of unidentified latent fingerprints in unsolved cases should be requested to check the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY against these unidentified latents. Submit a memorandum as to the results of inquiries conducted.

A & D

1 - SL 44-775
1 - SA DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER
1 - SA JAMES A. DUFFEY
1 - SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN
1 - SA WILLIAM R. BURTON
1 - SA AUBREY D. PARK
GMP/ral
(6) *ral*



5010-108

44-775-370

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

DATE: 4/29/68

FROM : SA F. JACK WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

On 4/12/68, at approximately 6 p.m., Mrs. CLARA PHILLIPS, 4245 Cook, caught the GM&O bus to Ullin, Illinois. On this bus Mrs. PHILLIPS met a man she describes as a W/M, over 6' tall, with brown hair brushed back on each side, dressed in dark suit with white shirt, with exceptionally wide shoulders and a very thick neck. This man had a mustache but resembled very closely the picture of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's assassin as pictured in the St. Louis Post Dispatch dated 4/18/68. Mrs. PHILLIPS stated that this individual was enroute to Union City, Tenn., and indicated that he lived near a lake just outside of Union City. The man appeared to like music, was very quiet and did not give Mrs. PHILLIPS any name.

PHILLIPS could not identify any of the photos displayed to her of JAMES EARL RAY. She insisted that the subject most resembled the picture which appeared in the paper with the exception of the mustache and his face was much thinner.

Results of this interview were discussed with Supervisor EDMUND WELTON and due to the wide discrepancies in physical description, it was decided that no further action would be required.

FJW:pjh
(1)

44-775-371

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 4/30/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **TELETYPE URGENT** _____
(Priority)TO: BUREAU
MEMPHIS
KANSAS CITY

FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN. CR.

FELLOW INMATE OF SUBJECT RAY

RE JACKSONVILLE TEL TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY, ST. LOUIS, AND MEMPHIS, APRIL TWENTYNINE, LAST.

INVESTIGATION AT MISSOURI TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MEN, MOBERLY, MISSOURI, INDICATE THERE IS NO WILLIAM OR BILLY MILES PRESENTLY INCARCERATED THERE. BILLY MAC MILES, AKA BILLY MAX, FBI EIGHT NINE SEVEN EIGHT FOUR C, TRANSFERRED FROM MISSOURI TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MEN TO FORDLAN PRISON FARM FEBRUARY TEN, SIXTYFOUR. WARDEN AT MOBERLY DETERMINED TELEPHONICALLY HE WAS PAROLLED FROM FORDLAN SEPTEMBER TEN, SIXTYFOUR, RETURNED TO MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, AS A PAROLE VIOLATOR, MAY THRITYONE, SIXTYSIX, RELEASED FROM THAT INSTITUTION UPON COMPLETION OF

1 - ST. LOUIS

WRD:mjb

(1)

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Di 12¹²/p
Mc 12¹⁰/8m
KC 12²⁰/8m

Per

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

44-775-372

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (137-16003)

DATE: 4-30-68

FROM : SA ROBERT A. HESS

☐ CI☐ SI☒ PCI☐ PSI

SUBJECT: ROMONA BELLERS

Dates of Contact 4-26-68		
Titles and File #s on which contacted MURKIN 44-775		
Purpose and results of contact ☒ NEGATIVE ☐ POSITIVE PCI exhibited current WF and IO of JAMES EARL RAY, however, stated this individual was unknown to her. In that captioned informant has failed to supply any information of value since initially contacted on 11-2-67, it is recommended this file be closed.		
☒ Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	Rating Unknown	Coverage WSTA
Personal Data No change		

1 - 137-16003

① - 44-775

RAH: amb

(2)

44-775-373

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 30 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

EPA

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

**SENTENCE JANUARY TWENTY, SIXTYSEVEN. HIS RELATIVES LISTED AS
WIFE, SHIRLEY SUE MILES, SIX ONE TWO BURFORD STREET, MARSHFIELD,
MISSOURI; HIS FATHER GARIE MILES, RURAL ROUTE, MARSHFIELD, MISSOURI.**

**KANSAS CITY AT MARSHFIELD, MISSOURI, DETERMINE IF BILLY
MAX MILES IDENTICAL WITH BILLY MILES DESCRIBED IN RE TELETYPE
BY LEO BARNETT, FLORIDA STATE PRISON, RAIFORD, FLORIDA.**

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

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

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) -P-
RE: MURKIN
CR

Re ME airtel to All Continental Offices, 4/19/68, requesting that all laundries determined to be using Thermo-Seal laundry marking machines be contacted in effort to locate laundry marking "20R-3", and LA teletype to Bureau, 4/18/68.

All offices discontinue efforts to locate inasmuch as laundry mark identified as coming from laundry in Culver City, California, per Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, 4/18/68.

- 1 - Each Continental Office
2 - Memphis

GMR/vtp

44-775-374
374
44-775-373

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 27 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	
French	

Approved: *RL Jensen*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

FROM : SA DONALD S. DE FONCE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/24/68

On 4/21/68, MARGIE COOKSEY, Box 300A, Route 2, Imperial, Mo., advised her daughter, whose name she would not divulge, identified her landlord, CLIFFORD GREEVES, of 11057 Margate Hall, Bridgeton, Mo., as being identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

She described GREEVES as a white male, 30 - 31 years of age, 5'11" - 6', medium build, long light hair, with $\frac{1}{2}$ " scar on right side of forehead, employed as drive of Pepsi-Cola truck.

COOKSEY said GREEVES purchased the apartment, 6452 Alamo, Clayton, Mo., about a month ago, where her daughter lives. She advised her daughter observe RAY's photograph in the "Saturday Post-Dispatch".

- LEAD -

Interview CLIFFORD GREEVES, 11057 Margate Hall, Bridgeton, Mo.

44-775-375

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 24 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

DeFonce



1 - SL 44-775
DSD/ral
(1) *DeF*

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS

FROM : SA JACK J. FISHER (44-775)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/23/68

At 9:00 a.m., 4/23/68, ROBERT JOSEPH TRINGALI, a Technician for the Missouri National Guard, 3676 Market, telephone JE5-8591, who resides with his parents at 3349 Ringfield Drive, Affton, Mo., telephone TW2-7975, appeared at this office and asked to look at all available pictures we have on JAMES EARL RAY. He said last night on the 10:00 p.m. news broadcast on Channel 5 he had seen a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and had thought that it resembled a man he saw at the Stadium Club in East St. Louis, Ill., last Saturday morning. TRINGALI related that he and his girl friend whose name he declined to give at this time went to the Stadium Club and about 2:00 a.m. he went to the men's room and when he came back found two men sitting at the table with his girl friend. He said he told the men to leave but they did not leave until they had drunk a couple of beers. He said that one of the men who later identified himself as BRIAN EVERETT GALLAGHER was drinking very heavily and said to TRINGALI, "Do you know this face?"; to which TRINGALI replied that he did not and then GALLAGHER said, "Well, you should know this face--that means trouble." TRINGALI said that this individual then kept talking and took out his driver's license and threw it across the table at TRINGALI. TRINGALI recalled that it had the man's photograph on it and his name as BRIAN EVERETT GALLAGHER and an address of Anaheim, Calif. TRINGALI said the man appeared to be in his late 30's or early 40's, just under 6 feet tall, medium build, 170 pounds, dark hair with a wave in front combed back, average complexion, eyes half closed--appeared to be sunken possibly from having bags under his eyes.

The writer exhibited to TRINGALI all of the photographs available in this office of RAY, including the 3 on the wanted flier and the photograph taken by the St. Louis Police Department on 10/10/59. He was also shown an artist's conception and photographs of RAY appearing in a clipping from the "St. Louis Globe Democrat" on 4/20-21/68. TRINGALI said that these pictures do not resemble the man he remembers but neither are they the picture of RAY which he saw on the

1 St. Louis
JJF:ral
(1) *[Signature]*

44-775-374
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

APR 23 1968

FBI - ST. LOUIS

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan *[Signature]*

MURKIN

10:00 p.m. news broadcast on Channel 5 last night. The writer checked with WARREN KIESEWETTER of KSD-TV who said the photograph of RAY which they displayed last night on the 10:00 p.m. news broadcast was taken 1/4/66, while RAY was a prisoner of the Missouri Department of Correction under #00416. We do not have a copy of this photograph, but a telephone call was made to RAY HOWE of the Kansas City Office who said he will forward one to us.

TRINGALI's recollection of GALLAGHER's companion is that he was 45 or older, about the same height as GALLAGHER, somewhat stockier. His hair was brown with grey at the temples. Both of the men were neatly dressed. He gained the impression that GALLAGHER was from out of town, whereas his companion was a native as GALLAGHER asked his companion if there was any other place in this town where they could go. It is TRINGALI's recollection that the man who identified himself as GALLAGHER also had a confrontation with a waitress there. He described her as 27 or 28 years old, 5'6", brownish-blond hair.

When the 1/4/66 photograph of RAY is obtained from Kansas City, it is suggested that they be displayed to TRINGALI and to his girl friend.

Done 4/25/68 - Definitely not subject

Docket No. 14118

Judge Charles E. Hittaker

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Kansas City, Missouri

April 25, 1955

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME James Earl Ray
ADDRESS Transient
AGE 27 years (Born March 1, 1928)
SEX Male
RACE White

172492-2

CITIZENSHIP United States
MARITAL STATUS Single
NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS None
OFFENSE Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order

I. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955 at Kansas City, Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on a U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-12,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Docket No. 14119 to an information in one count charging him with the forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-12,239,597. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and this presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Belleville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, Serial Nos. 7-12,239,535 to 7-12,239,600 inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On March 8, 1955 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On March 21, 1955 one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-12,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Company, 1206 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-12,239,568 to the Chaffee Office Machine Company, 1410 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later when this money order was ascertained

44-775-377

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 24 1955	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who has been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the Mollerville, Illinois Post Office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

On March 24, 1955 Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Office Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the money order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 6, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis, Missouri from a "kino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders. *Revised by Rife Phoney name*

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Illinois have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

Last three digits	Cashed by	Cashed at	Second Endorser	Date of earliest discernible back stamp	Am.
538	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	150
543	Ray	do	Downs Men's Shop	Mar. 15	153
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	EschRay Art Galleries	Mar. 21	175
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	Mar. 21	175
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	175

552	Rife	Murphis, Tenn.	Borg & McGargo	Mar. 11	\$75
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Bright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schneiders	Mar. 21	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear Shop	Mar. 16	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dinos (?) J. C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's Store	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfeifers of Arkansas	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Biles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 15	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan G. Whipple I. Zucker)	Mar. 15	\$50
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abrams	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liquors Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
592	Rife	do	Knox (?) Bar & Luncheonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Clothing	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn(?)	Mar. 21	\$75

*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

II. PRIOR RECORD:

Defendant's F. B. I. Fingerprint Return No. 305 hu3 A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 : Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California - suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 6 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drink-

ing in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

- 1-18-50 : Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. - vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.
- 7-23-51 : Alton, Illinois Police Department - no operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was fined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.
- 5-6-52 : Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.
- 8-30-54 : Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.
- 3-23-55 : Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day. *done*

XIII. FAMILY HISTORY:

Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born March 10, 1928 in Alton, Illinois. He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948 he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Prior Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954 he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

49. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other relatives

in Quincy, Illinois.

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1954 he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the lot through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION:

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

None.

VIII. HEALTH:

Defendant is 5' 10 1/2" tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillectomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

II. EMPLOYMENT AND MILITARY HISTORY:

Defendant states that at Alton, Illinois on February 19, 1946 he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He received his basic training at Camp Candler, Missouri. He was then transferred to Camp Ailer, New Jersey to await transportation to the European Theater of Operations. He states that he left the continental limits of the United States for Germany in July of 1946. Overseas he was attached to the 382nd Military Police Battalion. He admits that he was once AWOL for a period of two days which resulted in a suspended sentence to confinement for period of sixty days. He returned to the United States from Germany in December of 1948 and was, he states, on December 23, 1948 given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Defendant states that his last employment was with an uncle whom he refuses to identify but who resides in Quincy, Illinois. He worked for this uncle as a painter for a period of time in the summer of 1954.

He claims that from August 1951 to May 1952 he was employed by the Berg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. This employment was terminated when he was arrested for robbery, which eventually resulted in a penitentiary sentence.

He states that from July of 1950 to June 1951 he was employed by the Arday Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. He was discharged from this employment for absences caused by his arrest in Alton, Illinois for vagrancy when visiting in that city.

He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have left this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

From July 1949 to September 1949 defendant states he was employed as a laborer at a wage of \$1.10 per hour by the Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago, Illinois. He quit this job to move to California.

He purports that from May 1944 to December of 1945 he was employed at a wage of 65¢ per hour by the International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois. He indicates he was laid off by this employer in a general reduction of forces and that he then entered the army.

I. RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES:

None.

II. SUMMARY:

This defendant, white male, age 27, no dependents, has entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he at Kansas City, Missouri

on or about March 21, 1955 forged a stolen U. S. Postal Money Order. This money order was one of sixty-six such orders stolen in a burglary of the U. S. Post Office, Kellerville, Illinois on March 7, 1955. Defendant emphatically denies the burglary of the post office. He states that his companion, in the instant offense, Walter T. Rife, whom he met at a bar in Quincy, Illinois, suggested that he accompany Rife and cash the money orders which Rife reportedly had purchased from an unknown person. Defendant states that he purchased for \$1 the identification he and Rife used in uttering these stolen orders in various states. When arrested for the instant offense defendant was in possession of thirty-four money orders which had been stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office. He admits the forgery and uttering of fourteen money orders. His companion, Rife, has admitted the forgery and uttering or attempting to utter eighteen of the stolen money orders.

Approximately one year before becoming involved in the instant offense defendant was released from service of a sentence of one to two years for armed robbery in the Illinois State Penitentiary. In August of 1954 he burglarized a cleaning establishment in East Alton, Illinois. Although he admittedly was charged with burglary he apparently has never been before the appropriate court and apparently is not presently wanted on this charge. In 1949 in Los Angeles, California he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to eight months in the county jail. After serving ninety days of this sentence he was released on probation for a period of two years.

Defendant shows absolutely no remorse at this time. He anticipates receiving a substantial sentence for the instant offense. In writer's opinion he is a confirmed criminal and a menace to society when in the free world.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward S. Murray
U. S. Probation Officer

EBM:lo

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

MURKIN

Enclosed for each Office is one copy of a pre-sentence report prepared regarding JAMES EARL RAY for the U. S. District Court, Western District of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, dated April 26, 1955. This report contains background information regarding JAMES EARL RAY, including his travel through numerous states in connection with the theft and passing of stolen money orders in March, 1955.

RIFE located and interviewed Quincy, Illinois.

LEADS

All Offices are requested to review the enclosure thoroughly for the purpose of covering all pertinent leads suggested in the enclosure. This coverage should include, if not already done, a check of all places where the subject is listed as having been incarcerated, all places at which he is believed to have visited in the passing of stolen money orders, and any other investigation, including contact of law enforcement agencies, credit bureaus, public sources, informants and any other logical investigation suggested by the enclosed material which might assist in developing information helpful in locating JAMES EARL RAY at this time.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Memphis (Enc. 1)	2 - Miami (Enc. 1)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 1)	2 - New Orleans (Enc. 1)
2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 1)	2 - Omaha (Enc. 1)
2 - Little Rock (Enc. 1)	2 - St. Louis (Enc. 1)
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1)	2 - Springfield (Enc. 1)
JLK:ak	2 - Tampa (Enc. 1)
(25)	2 - Kansas City

44-775-378

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 24 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	
Subyar	

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, also known as
Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard, James McBride, James
Walton, W. C. Herron and James
O'Conner

FUGITIVE

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his earliest possible location.

Ray has been the subject of a massive and intensive search since the brutal gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. One rifle bullet, believed fired from the window of a nearby rooming house, felled the victim.

44-775-379

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

2

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices have been posted in the FBI's Identification Division, succeeded in determining that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery, based on a Federal warrant issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri. He had been confined at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in March, 1960, with a 20-year sentence following conviction for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In September, 1966, while serving the sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri. He was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary since April 23, 1967.

Ray, who has an arrest record dating back to 1949 and has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders, has also been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail, the Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, State Prisons and the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

He served in the Army between February, 1946, and December, 1948, received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest and was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Ray is a 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [REDACTED] He is approximately 5'10" inches tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair which he has worn cut short. He has a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand. He has been described as having a straight, narrow nose and straight and even teeth and to have a nervous habit of occasionally tugging at an ear lobe. His left ear protrudes noticeably.

Acquaintances describe him as a "loner" and "drifter" whose language and diction reflect a "rural" quality and indicate he has had limited education.

He is reportedly a fan of western and country music, drinks vodka and beer, dresses neatly and claims past employment as a merchant seaman and cook on Mississippi River vessels. He is known to have worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

He is known as an avid dancer who has taken dancing lessons. He also completed a course at a school of bartending in the Los Angeles area early in 1968.

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories.



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his prompt location. Ray has been the subject of a massive search since the gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel.

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom FBI wanted notices have been posted determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery.

Possessing an arrest record dating back to 1949, Ray has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders.

A 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [redacted] Ray is approximately 5'10" tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably.

Described as a "loner and "drifter," with a "rural" quality in his speech, Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

44-775-380

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

D

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

FROM : SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
CR - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY

DATE: 4/26/68

The following is set forth based on a file review resulting from an indices check of subject's name and aliases as reflected in the St. Louis Office as set out below:

JAMES MC BRIDE
SL File 87-147

No description available. JAMES MC BRIDE in this file is an alias of one of the subjects in above case. At the time this case was instituted in 1940 subject would have been 12 years of age.

JAMES MC BRIDE
SL File 88-4429

JAMES MC BRIDE in this file is an alias of associate of subject, WALTER RIFE. This file has previously been reviewed and appropriate leads set out.

JAMES MC BRIDE
SL File 137-1376

A review of this file reflects that PCI JAMES MC BRIDE was in the U. S. Army from 2/16/53, until 2/15/55. During several months of this period, subject was confined at the State Penitentiary in Pontiac, Ill., on a robbery charge.

JOHN WILLARD
SL File 26-11934

A review of above file reflects JOHN WILLARD to be an associate of subject, JOHN ROBERT LEACH, in above case. JOHN WILLARD was a member of a well-known family which had resided for years in the vicinity of Rolla, Mo.

1 - SL 44-775
1 - SL 88-7447
CBB/ral
(2) *Bur*



5010-108

no leads

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

44-775-387

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 26 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

SL 44-775

JOHN WILLARD
SL File 87-16342

A review of above file reflected JOHN WILLARD to be one of approximately 100 aliases used by subject DOYLE CHESTER COLE used by him in check passing activities.

JAMES WALTON
SL File 91-300

A review of above file revealed JAMES WALTON to be an alias of an UNSUB of a case originating in 1939 when subject would have been less than 12 years of age.

JAMES EARL RAY
SL File 91-1017

A review of above file reflected that the Bureau was requested to check subject JAMES EARL RAY's prints against the latent fingerprints obtained at the Lemay Bank and Trust Company, which was held up 1/19/54.

MC BRIDE, JAMES

MAY 67

137-13767* ✓

ASN US [REDACTED]

MC BRIDE, JAMES

88-7447* ✓

aka of James Earl Ray SEP 67

W/M, dob. [REDACTED]

pob. Decatur, Ill.; Quincy, Ill.; Alton, Ill.

FBI #306 443 A

MC BRIDE, JAMES

88-4429* ✓

aka of Walter Rife OCT 68

W,m, b. [REDACTED]

Quincy, Illinois

W,m Soc. Sec. # [REDACTED]

McBride, James

87-147- ✓

no description

WILLARD, JOHN

OCT 67

87-16342* ✓

aka of Unsub

WILLARD, JOHN

44-775*

~~aka of Unsub~~ aka of Eric Starvo Galt
dob. [redacted] APR 68 ✓
FBI #405,942 G
Wanted Flyer 442

WILLARD, JOHN

JA 51 26-11934* ✓

St. James, Mo.

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI JACKSVLE

7:32 XXXXX6:32 PM EST URGENT 4/29/68 JLC

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY, ST. LOUIS
AND MEMPHIS
FROM JACKSONVILLE (44-769) 2P

MURKIN.

RE MIAMI TEL TO DIRECTOR, ET AL, APRIL TWO SIX, LAST. RE
LEO BARNETT ASSOCIATE OF RAY IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON.

LEO BARNETT, AGE THREE SEVEN, FLAT RIVER, MISSOURI, PRESENTLY
INCARCERATED FLORIDA STATE PRISON, RAIFORD, FLA., ADVISED KNEW RAY IN
MISSOURI STATE PRISON FROM ABOUT ONE NINE SIX TWO TO AUGUST, ONE NINE
SIX SIX, HOWEVER, NOT WELL. RAY WAS IN DIFFERENT CELL BLOCK AND WORKED
IN KITCHEN WHILE BARNETT WORKED IN SOAP FACTORY. BARNETT WOULD ONLY
SEE RAY APPROXIMATELY ONCE A WEEK. HE MET RAY THROUGH MUTUAL FRIEND,
BILLY MILES, AND ONLY ASSOCIATED WITH RAY BECAUSE OF MILES WHO IS
PRESENTLY AT NEW PENITENTIARY, MOBERLY, MISSOURI. HE RECALLED RAY
AS QUIET, NOT SAYING MUCH, AND BOTHERING NOBODY, A LONER, WITH NO
CLOSE FRIENDS. DESCRIBED HIM AS HAVING BAD NERVOUS CONDITION AND
A DEFINITE MENTAL PROBLEM. RAY IN HIS OPINION WAS TAKING POWDERED
AMPHETAMINE WHILE IN PRISON AND ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF AMOUNT
END PAGE ONE

Invest advised 555 PM 4-29-68

*Conrad
S. McIntyre*

*assign
lead*

44-775-382

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Burcan

PAGE TWO

RAY WAS USING, HE SUSPECTED GREAT QUANTITY AT TIMES WHEN THE SUPPLY WAS AVAILABLE AND AT OTHER TIMES NONE DUE TO WEIGHT LOSSES AND GAINS OF TEN TO FIFTEEN POUNDS OVER SHORT PERIODS. BARNETT NOTED THAT AMPHETAMINE TAKEN IN QUANTITIES WOULD PRODUCE A SUBSTANTIAL RAPID WEIGHT LOSS. THE SUPPLY OF AMPHETAMINE PRIOR TO ONE NINE SIX FOUR WAS READILY AVAILABLE AT FIVE DOLLARS A SHOT OR LESS. AFTER ONE NINE SIX FOUR WAS VERY SCARCE BUT WHEN AVAILABLE REMAINED AT FIVE DOLLARS A SHOT. BARNETT WAS CERTAIN RAY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN KILLING OF THREE NEGROES IN ONE NINE SIX FOUR SINCE HE WAS AWARE OF THOSE INVOLVED. THE ONLY PLACE HE HEARD RAY SPEAK OF WAS RAYTOWN, NEAR KANSAS CITY. BARNETT FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE RAY WAS COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTANT KILLING SINCE HE THOUGHT HIM TOO STUPID WITH NOT ENOUGH INITIATIVE. OTHER THAN MILES, ONLY INDIVIDUAL HE KNEW WHO WOULD KNOW RAY WELL WOULD BE LOUIE "WHITEY" DALTA (PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED).

ST. LOUIS, AT NEW PENITENTIARY, MOBERLY, INTERVIEW BILLY MILES REPORTEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH RAY.

KANSAS CITY, AT RAYTOWN, CONDUCT INVESTIGATION RE RAY, IF NOT PREVIOUSLY DONE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

JLS

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI OKLA CITY

1120PM URGENT 4-29-68 JDB

TO DIRECTOR, FBI 44-38861, OMAHA 44-310, MEMPHIS 44-1987
EL PASO, KANSAS CITY 44-760, AND ST. LOUIS.
FROM OKLAHOMA CITY 44-686 P

MURKIN

RE OMAHA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR FOUR TWENTYFOUR SIXTYEIGHT.

ROBERT DALE PORTER, FBI NUMBER FOUR FIVE NINE ZERO FOUR EIGHT TWO,
LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED BY BUAGENTS THIS DATE. PORTER ADVISED SINCE LEFT
RESIDENCE OF MOTHER, CLARA PORTER, WAVERLY, IOWA, LATTER PART OF
FEBRUARY, HAS TRAVELED THROUGH IOWA, WYOMING, CALIFORNIA, NEVADA,
UTAH, COLORADO, MISSOURI, TEXAS, AND OKLAHOMA, MAINLY HITCHHIKING
RIDES. PORTER IS LEAVING THIS DATE, HITCHHIKING TO HOME OF
MOTHEHER, WAVERLY, IOWA. PORTER STATES HAS NOT SEEN RAY SINCE
RAY'S ESCAPE, AND HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S WHEREABOUTS. PORTER
STATES NEAL AEBY WAS CLOSEST FRIEND OF RAY IN MISSOURI STATE
PENITENTIARY. HE STATED JOHN STOUT, EX-GUARD, MSP, USED TO
OBTAIN AMPHETAMINES FOR RAY TO SELL TO OTHER INMATES, AND WAS
CLOSE FRIEND OF RAY. RETEL REFLECTS PORTER STAYED NIGHT OF
END PAGE ONE

44-775-383

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

2