

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 20, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES advised on May 16, 1968, that except for his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, who visits him nearly every weekend, he has not been in contact with any member of his family since the recent visit from his two sons, JOHN and JERRY RAY. He recalled that his son, JERRY, had indicated his plans to return to the Chicago area and he presumes he has done so. He has not seen nor heard from his son, JOHN, since the visit. He added that his daughter, CAROL, visits him almost every weekend when possible and brings him such groceries and other necessities as are needed by him for the week. For this reason, he seldom if ever leaves his residence.

Mr. RAYNES stated that during the late summer or early fall of 1967 he had decided to leave St. Louis and had for some time been looking for a small acreage in a rural area. He had seen a real estate listing for a farm in Ralls County priced at \$8000. As he did not have that much money he had contacted the banker at the Center State Bank, Center, Missouri, concerning the possibility of obtaining a loan to buy the property. During this discussion the banker had indicated the bank planned to sell 46 acres south of Center, Missouri, at a foreclosure sale at the Court House in New London, Missouri, and that the bank hoped to realize \$3000 for the property. Mr. RAYNES attended the sale and since only one other person bid on the property he was able to buy it for \$2600. He used money obtained from the sale of his property in St. Louis to buy this small farm on which he now resides, which consists of 46 acres. In paying for the place he used a \$1900 check from CAROL PEPPER and \$700 of his own money, the surplus being used to pay back taxes.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he has had no contact with the subject directly or indirectly since subject went to prison in 1960. Subject never wrote him and since his escape has not contacted him.

Mr. RAYNES stated that as a matter of pure conjecture, since he had no actual knowledge of his own concerning the matter, it seemed to him that someone else had used subject in the KING case and that if this was so such individual would probably have killed subject following the murder. He was of the opinion that subject as an experienced criminal would know better than

On 5/16/68 at RFD Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 986
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY : pdp Date dictated 5/16/68

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to leave his fingerprints anywhere. He was of the opinion that someone had "gotten to" subject following his escape.

Mr. RAYNES then stated that he now recalls that during the recent visit of his sons JOHN and JERRY, some statement by his son, JERRY, to the effect that subject was in Chicago, Illinois, during the summer of 1967 following his escape. Mr. RAYNES was unable to recall anything more specific about the statement and admitted that he might have misunderstood. He noted that both his sons had been drinking heavily at the time.

Mr. RAYNES stated that subject had lived with his mother while he was in St. Louis and that he knew very little about subject. He was of the opinion that subject would not kill anyone unless he was under the influence of narcotics. He does not consider the subject smart enough to plan the KING murder alone.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he was very fearful of publicity and was afraid that Negroes might attack him if his relationship to subject becomes publicly known. He stated further that during a recent visit from his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, she had indicated she had been interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and that they had indicated to her the possibility that subject might have been in St. Louis following his escape. She has not exhibited to him any knowledge or information as to any knowledge on her part as to subject's whereabouts.

Mr. RAYNES again stated he would immediately contact the FBI on receipt of any knowledge or information concerning subject or his whereabouts.

The provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute were again brought to his attention.

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MR. JERRY RAYNES advised he was aware subject had been arrested in England as he had gotten this news on television.

MR. RAYNES stated he had nothing to add to that which he had already told. He stated he has had no direct or indirect contact with subject for years. He added he and subject have never been close and subject has never discussed his problems or plans with him.

MR. RAYNES stated as far as he knows, JOHN is still in St. Louis. He further stated he has heard no talk, nor has he been contacted for money to send JOHN to England to assist Subject. He added such a gesture would be futile and a waste of time and money.

He stated CAROL PEPPER had called him on several occasions since subject's arrest, but never mentioned JOHN, or any collection. He said she was bitter because of the harassment she and her husband are getting from members of various news media who have photographed their home and talked with all their neighbors.

He stated someone attempted to contact him on Monday. This person took pictures of his house and wanted to interview him, but he refused and ordered the men off his land.

MR. RAYNES was asked if he knew subject had visited in Canada in 1967. He said he did not. He was asked if subject had any friends or associates in Canada, and he stated it was possible but he does not know of any connection subject would have there.

6-14-68 Center, Missouri SL: 44-775 - 990

On _____ at _____ File # _____

SA JAMES A. DUFFEY :WMS 6-17-68

by _____ Date dictated _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6-13-68

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, R. F. D., Center, Missouri, on June 6, 1968, was recontacted.

He stated he had been in contact with his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, St. Louis, by telephone on June 5, 1968, and she stated she had been unable to obtain any information as to the whereabouts of the subject. She stated she planned to visit him this weekend, and would bring any groceries he might need.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he has no idea where subject might be. He expressed the opinion that subject would not contact him in any event. He mentioned the assassination of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY, stating it "was a terrible thing" and SHIRAHAN SHIRAHAN should be executed for this act. He also stated that if subject is guilty, he should be executed also, as the KING murder was the same kind of crime. He also mentioned the heartache SHIRAHAN had brought on not only the KENNEDY family, but on the killer's own relatives. He stated that all recent killings appear to him to be part of a plan by some evil persons.

Mr. RAYNES stated he would immediately notify the FBI in the event any information concerning subject or his whereabouts comes to his attention.

On 6-6-68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 991
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY /ral Date dictated 6-7-68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 6, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, advised he had just returned from shopping. He stated he had driven to New London, Missouri, for this purpose as he also wanted to pay his electric bill. He explained that he has heard nothing about the subject. He stated his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, had not visited him since she was ill two weeks ago, and therefore, he had been forced to do some shopping for himself.

Mr. RAYNES was told that a recheck of Florida Marriage records under the names RAY, RAYNES, and RAYNS had failed to reflect his marriage there to LUCILLE MAHER. He stated he could not understand that and again indicated they were married near Jacksonville by a Justice of the Peace.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he has not been contacted by any member of his family except CAROL, since JACK and JERRY visited him a month ago.

He has not received any word directly from or indirectly about the subject. He again expressed the feeling that subject was "used" in the plot to kill Dr. KING and after the shooting subject had been killed by whoever master-minded the KING killing. He was of the opinion that subject is probably dead or he would have been apprehended by this time. He stated he did not consider subject to possess sufficient intelligence to so successfully evade capture for this length of time, were he alive.

On 6/3/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 992
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY/leh Date dictated 6/4/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 4, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, advised on May 29, 1968, that he had no word from or about the subject and that he had no idea as to subject's whereabouts.

He stated that after his family moved from Ewing, Missouri, they went to Quincy, Illinois, for a short time but that the subject was there only a short while as he went to live with his grandmother MAHER in Alton, Illinois. Subject obtained employment with a shoe company tannery in or near Alton and worked there until he entered the Army. Subject was very frugal, saved his money, and reportedly had saved up \$1400 at the time of his entry into military service. He recalled that subject was very shy, had no close friends or associates, and depended on his grandmother to take care of his money as he apparently had no use for banks.

Mr. RAYNES stated that subject had not lived with him except for a period of approximately two weeks in Quincy, Illinois, he believed in about 1943. He thereafter had little contact with the subject except for two or three meetings with him in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1958 or 1959 when subject lived with his mother and grandmother on Hickory Street in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. RAYNES stated that as he knew subject he did not believe he would hurt anyone. He expressed the belief that subject lacked the intelligence to plan and carry out the murder of KING and conjectured that someone had probably coached him, payed him, and then after the murder killed him. He reiterated that in his estimation subject was a shy "countryfied" individual.

Mr. RAYNES was asked if the name LAFAYETTE DILTS meant anything to him as being an individual who might have lived as a neighbor to the family during their residence in Quincy, Illinois, during the 1940's. He stated that the name seemed vaguely familiar but that he was unable to recall ever having known DILTS. He added that in the event he had known DILTS it had been a long time ago and that he did not remember him.

On 5/29/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 923
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY : pdp Date dictated 5/29/68

SL: 44-775

Mr. RAYNES expressed fear that his daughter, CAROL PEPPER, might possibly be ill as she had complained of a toothache during a brief visit with him on the previous Saturday and he has not heard from her since. During the Saturday visit she told him she was nervous because of the publicity attending this case.

Mr. RAYNES stated that CAROL PEPPER had never at any time given him any indication that she had ever been in contact with the subject since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary or that she has any knowledge or information as to his whereabouts.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he had read some publicity to the effect that subject had bad teeth which he did not believe was true. He recalled that subject had good teeth when the family lived in Ewing, Missouri, and Quincy, Illinois, but admitted, however, that due to his infrequent contacts with subject since that time the subject's teeth could have gone bad without his knowledge.

The provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute were explained to Mr. RAYNES and he indicated that he would never entertain even the slightest notion of harboring the subject because in his estimation if subject is alive he is probably extremely ill mentally and is urgently in need of medical help. He stated positively that in the event any information comes to his attention as to the subject's whereabouts he will immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 3, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Rural Free Delivery, Center, Missouri, stated he has heard nothing from the subject, either directly or indirectly, and that he is completely unaware of subject's whereabouts. He stated he has no reason to believe that any other members of the family have any knowledge or information as to subject's whereabouts.

He expressed the opinion that subject is probably dead because in his estimation subject would have been unable to evade the intensive manhunt which has been underway for him.

Mr. RAYNES stated that because news men have called him at all hours of the day and night and due to the further fact he has received one crank call, he had caused his telephone number to be changed to the unlisted number - 267-3681.

The provisions of the Federal Harboring Statute were explained to Mr. RAYNES and he stated he would immediately contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the event he received any information as to subject's whereabouts, from any source.

Mr. RAYNES stated that he is extremely fearful that Negroes might take retaliatory measures against him should his location and his relationship to subject become publicly known.

On 5/26/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 994
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY :jfb Date dictated 5/27/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 20, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, RFD Center, Missouri, was contacted and asked concerning the location of his property in St. Louis, Missouri, which was sold during the summer of 1967. He stated this property was located at 1819 Park, and he sold it to a man named ROBINSON whose first name he believes is ARCHIE who resides on Hickory Street in St. Louis. He claimed it was an involved transaction, that he first had traded his property to ROBINSON for a farm and \$2,500, but they had changed the arrangement and he accepted \$3,200 for this property. He stated he turned the money over to his daughter CAROL for safe keeping. He stated he did not loan his son JACK \$1,000, but recalls that he did loan him \$700 through his daughter CAROL.

Mr. RAYNES was vague about dates and about specifics in general. He was questioned twice concerning this and still stated he did not lend JACK \$1,000, nor any money directly, but all transactions were handled through CAROL.

On 5/20/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 995
by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY:bam Date dictated 5/20/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 15, 1968

JERRY RAY telephonically contacted Special Agent SPURGEON J. PETERSON at 1:40 p.m. on May 9, 1968. He stated he was leaving for Chicago in approximately fifteen minutes. He indicated his intention to return to his former employment at the Country Club but stated that he would not know until he arrives there where he will live, as telephonic inquiry with his inquiry with his employer indicated the employer has obtained a residence for him as a protection against the press.

He stated that he would contact the Chicago Division on the following day.

He advised further that in his visits to and from conversations with his father, JERRY RAYNES, his brother, JOHN RAY, and his sister, CAROL PEPPER, he had received no information that any of them had been in contact with subject following subject's escape or had any knowledge or information concerning subject's present whereabouts.

On 5/9/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 996
by SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON :jfb Date dictated 5/9/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6-11-68

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed at his place of business, the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. RAY was asked if he had obtained the name of the painter for whom he was an employee during part of 1967. RAY advised that he could not recall the painter's name but that he had furnished the painter's address to SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY, FBI, St. Louis.

On 6-4-68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775 - 997
by SA F. JACK WILLIAMS:amb ²²⁶ Date dictated 6-5-68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 22, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed at the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

He stated that with regard to his belief that his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, had plenty of money on him at the time of his escape from prison was based on the fact that he had been questioned regarding his knowledge of his brother's dealing in amphetamines while in prison. He stated that it was pure guess work on his part and he merely felt this way because he recalls that from his experience in prisons that usually the people who deal in narcotics in prisons are among the wealthier inmates. He stated he has no idea how JAMES EARL RAY would have spent any money he earned in prison, either while in prison or subsequent to leaving prison. He reiterated that he has not seen or heard from JAMES EARL RAY since his escape and has never heard anyone say that he was in Chicago, particularly in the summer of 1967. He recalls that in the summer of 1967 he was in Chicago himself at which time he traded cars with his brother JERRY.

On 5/17/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 998
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY/mj Date dictated 5/20/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 21, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed in a Bureau automobile on Illinois Avenue, south of Arsenal Street.

JOHN LARRY RAY stated that as pointed out previously he was released from Menard Penitentiary in Illinois in February, 1960, and visited his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, who was incarcerated at that time at the City Jail, St. Louis. This incarceration was in connection with a holdup of the Kroger Store in October or November, 1966, by his brother and a man named OWENS.

After JAMES EARL RAY's trial about April, 1960, he was moved to the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. From that time and until prior to his escape he visited his brother on occasion, exact number of occasions not recalled. He does recall that on at least one occasion on attempting to visit his brother, he determined that his brother was in some type of solitary confinement and could not have visitors. Therefore, although he had signed in to visit his brother, he actually did not see his brother. JOHN LARRY RAY pointed out that this may be the reason for the numerous visits shown to the Penitentiary by him, all of which he does not recall.

JOHN LARRY RAY stated that he has not seen nor heard of his brother or from his brother since his escape from the Penitentiary outside of what he has learned from newspaper articles and news commentaries.

He very emphatically denied having any knowledge, either direct or indirect, of his brother ever being in Omaha, Nebraska. He stated that his knowledge of his brother being in California is limited to what was reported in the newspaper.

When questioned regarding conversation between him and his brother on visits, JOHN LARRY RAY stated that he rarely visited his brother over a half hour because they had very little to say to one another. He indicated that his brother is "close mouthed" and the conversation consisted primarily of the welfare of JAMES EARL RAY.

On one or more occasions he does recall, however, that JAMES EARL RAY mentioned that as soon as he got out of the Penitentiary (not clarified as to whether he intended to escape or whether he meant after his sentence was served) he intended to leave the country.

On 5/9/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 999
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY/mib *PWB* Date dictated 5/15/68

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SL: 44-775

On at least one of these occasions when he was talking about leaving the country, he indicated that he thought very highly of the way former German Army officer, I. N. SMITH, was running the Rhodesian Government. JOHN RAY stated that this was merely a passing comment and he did not attach any significance to it but is mentioning it now because he is of the opinion that if JAMES EARL RAY is alive, he is out of the country.

Again, JOHN LARRY RAY reiterated that he has no direct or indirect knowledge of his brother, JAMES EARL RAY's present whereabouts nor has he had any knowledge regarding this since his escape from the Penitentiary.

He said again that his brother was not reported as an escapee but rather on the first news report that he recalls hearing was reported as missing. He denied that he ever spoke to anyone of knowing that JAMES EARL RAY was in Omaha or Los Angeles, California, other than the reported California visit in the newspaper.

JOHN LARRY RAY advised that his brother, JERRY RAY, left St. Louis today to return to Chicago. JOHN LARRY RAY stated that he is of the opinion from conversations with JERRY RAY that JERRY RAY has no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts. He noted that JERRY RAY arrived in St. Louis last Friday night from Chicago as previously advised and while in St. Louis since last Friday visited with him and with CAROL PEPPER, their sister.

JOHN RAY stated that they visited JERRY RAYNES at his farm in Center, Missouri, together using JERRY's automobile. They remained all night on the occasion of the visit to Center, Missouri. During conversations with "the old man" at Center, Missouri, he gained the impression that he has no knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Date May 23, 1968

JOHN LARRY RAY was interviewed in the vicinity of Wisconsin and Illinois Avenue, after a prior telephone contact with him at the Grapevine Tavern.

RAY advised that the basis for the front page article in the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" this date was an interview with him by a newspaper reporter from the "Globe-Democrat". He stated that he has been regularly refusing to talk to reporters, however, this particular reporter showed him a story allegedly to be put on AP by the Los Angeles "Times" reporter, whom he had refused to talk to. According to RAY, this article indicated that he hated his brother, had no close family ties, and was hiding out, all of which he indicated was untruthful. After reading this article, the reporter indicated to him that, if he agreed to an interview, the reporter would put it in a more favorable light and the result would be a refuting of these lies.

He advised this newspaper reporter that his sister, CAROL, whose last name he did not furnish the newspaper, owned the tavern known as the Grapevine, which he was operating. He also indicated to the reporter that he did not hate his brother, as alleged in the supposed AP story and to impress reporter with the closeness of his family, he told him he could go to his father in Hannibal, Missouri, who is alive, or to his sister and borrow \$500.00 any time he wanted to. He stated that the purpose of this statement was to impress reporter with the closeness of his family and it had no other meaning.

With regard to the statement in the newspaper article about him running a trucking business, he pointed out this is not true. However, he noted that he had talked to CLARENCE HAYNES, who resides at 1822 North Twenty-first Street, about going into the trucking business together. He noted that HAYNES has one truck and they tentatively agreed that RAY would more or less obtain customers for this trucking business. He noted that HAYNES was supposed to have cards printed up reflecting both their names, however, to date he has not seen these cards, however, they may have been printed and the reporter may have gotten this information either from HAYNES or from the printing company. He pointed out that he is definitely not in the trucking business, yet, however, may enter this with HAYNES.

On 5/22/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL: 44-775 - 1000
by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY :jfb Date dictated 5/23/68

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He pointed out that since this paper has hit the street he has been dodging newspaper reporters and television coverage all day. He noted that he was contacted by JIM BRADY of Channel 2, St. Louis, and tentatively agreed to meet him at 1:00 p.m. this date for pictures of his place of business and of him for television purposes, however, said he set up this meeting date as only a way of getting rid of BRADY. Thereafter, he did not keep this appointment and thereafter left his place of business so he could not be located.

With regard to mailing postcards to his sister, SUSAN, in Chicago, he noted that he had sent her one from Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and related the following as incidental to this:

He stated that shortly after his release from prison, he was living and working in the Chicago area and decided to visit Detroit, Michigan, and New York, New York. He drove from Chicago to Detroit and, while in Detroit, drove across the bridge to Canada. En route across the bridge, he was stopped by what he believed to be a United States Immigration Officer who told him that he could not remain in Canada more than twenty-four hours. Thereafter, he proceeded to Windsor, Ontario, and remained that night, during which time he mailed this postcard to his sister, SUSAN. He returned the next morning to Detroit. Then, instead of going to New York City, he returned to the Chicago area.

With regard to the postcard of July 29, 1962, at Washington, D. C., he does not specifically recall mailing this card, however, has been in Washington, D. C., dates not specifically recalled, on more than one occasion. He indicated that he did travel extensively, noting that after he worked for a while and got a few dollars ahead he would take trips to various places in the United States without giving any particular thought as to where he was going. He noted he has visited Florida and all along the east coast up to and including New York City.

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With regard to the money that he deposited in his bank accounts last August, he related the following that immediately preceded those deposits:

He stated that his father, JERRY, sold the place at 1819 Park Avenue and received some \$2,000.00 or more in cash from this sale. Thereafter, JERRY gave this money to CAROL to deposit in her bank account, however, a portion, believed to be \$1,000.00, was to be held by JOHN. He noted this was no specific agreement, merely that they were together and he intended to go to California and try to locate a small business purchase. He noted that JERRY could have the impression that CAROL got all the money to hold, however, recalls that JERRY was present when he got the \$1,000.00.

After the above, he proceeded to take a leisurely trip en route to San Francisco and, while in some town in Wyoming he decided that he would change a portion of this cash into Travelers Checks, which he did. He then proceeded to San Francisco, where he stayed approximately two weeks. While in San Francisco, he discovered that in order to get a liquor license you had to buy an existing license and these business licenses were from \$6,000.00 to \$30,000.00 each, which he could not afford.

Thereafter, he drove south to San Diego and remained approximately one week. On departure from San Diego, he visited Tijuana, Mexico, for approximately two hours and thereafter drove back to St. Louis.

He specifically stated that he does not know anyone in the area traveled above and he does not know whether or not his brother knows anyone in those areas. He again specifically denied that he made any direct or indirect contact with his brother or anybody acquainted with his brother during the above-mentioned trip. He denied remaining in Los Angeles, stating that he drove straight through Los Angeles, not remaining for any period of time. He denied contacting anyone in Los Angeles.

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He stated he cannot furnish the specific dates that he was in San Francisco, San Diego or Tijuana, however, would place it as the month or five weeks that immediately preceded the date he opened two bank accounts with the \$1,300.00 and \$1,350.00 deposits. He stated he opened these accounts either the day or the day after he returned to St. Louis.

He noted that both he, his brother JERRY and his father have at various times given CAROL money to deposit in her account to hold for them. He stated that whenever he needed money he would go to CAROL and get it and has no idea who owes who what or whether the money is a loan or the return of money previously given to CAROL. He stated he assumes CAROL keeps some kind of accounting of this, however, cannot be positive of this because it is never mentioned.

It is noted that JOHN LARRY RAY, in order to avoid newspaper reporters, had left his personal car parked adjacent to the Grapevine Tavern and proceeded to the place of the above interview in a black 1965 or 1966 Mustang, bearing Missouri License CBl-627.

Missouri License CBl-627 is issued to MARGARET ECKER, 5660 Morganford, for a 1965 Ford Mustang.