

FBI WASH DC

FBI DENVER

1135PM DEFERRED 5-24-68 JRW

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM DENVER (157-203) 8 P

MURKIN

DURING DETAILED INTERVIEW ON MAY TWO FOUR LAST, MRS. HOMER LANE BIGELOW, FOUR THREE THREE ONE EAST MEXICO ST., DENVER, A FIVE TIMES MARRIED WIDOW AND MOTHER OF THREE TEENAGERS, TOLD A LENGTHY, RAMBLING AND APPARENTLY HIGHLY IMAGINATIVE STORY ABOUT MEETING A YEAR AGO, FALLING IN LOVE WITH, AND SLEEPING WITH ONE ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE, A DENVER OIL PROMOTER, WHO SHE SAYS BECAME INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY TO KILL KING. SHE CLAIMED SHE WOULD NOT HAVE FURNISHED THE INFORMATION EXCEPT THAT BYRNE RECENTLY TOLD HER HE WAS GOING TO MARRY ANOTHER WOMAN.

SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS A HEAVY AND CONSISTENT DRINKER WHO FREQUENTLY CONSORTED WITH OTHER WOMEN IN DENVER AND A MEMBER OF A HEAVY DRINKING GROUP WHICH INCLUDED FORMER AUSA JAMES W. HEYER, AND OTHER PERSONS, MOSTLY NEIGHBORS, WITH WHOM SHE BECAME ACQUAINTED WHEN ONE OF THE GROUP, MRS. KATHRYN RAHEL, A DIVORCEE, MOVED INTO THE APT. NEXT DOOR.

SHE MET BYRNE AT A PARTY GIVEN BY RAHEL IN MARCH OR APRIL LAST YEAR BUT DID NOT START DATING HIM "HOT AND HEAVY" UNTIL LAST SEPTEMBER. THROUGH

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5/29/68  
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157-203-508  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE TWO

DENVER 157-203

BYRNE SHE MET DENVER AND LOS ANGELES OILPROMOTER H. D. "HAL" HALE, A CLOSE FRIEND OF BYRNE'S AND A HEAVY DRINKER, ALSO.

IN ABOUT OCTOBER LAST YEAR, BYRNE BEGAN INTIMATING HE WAS IN SOME TYPE OF ORGANIZED CRIME SYNDICATE, BUT NEVER BECAME SPECIFIC AS TO MEMBERS OR ACTIVITIES. ALSO TOLD WAR STORIES ABOUT HIS LIFE IN THE MARINE CORP DURING COMBAT. HE CLAIMED HE HAD KILLED MANY MEN. SHE WAS NEVER SURE WHETHER KILLINGS WERE WHILE IN MARINES OR IN CONNECTION WITH SYNDICATE, BUT LATER WAS TOLD HE WAS NEVER IN COMBAT. SHE SAID MAJORITY OF TALKING DONE AFTER BYRNE HAD BEEN DRINKING AND HE WAS CAPABLE OF DRINKING ONE TO TWO BOTTLES A DAY FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. HE CLAIMED TO BE AN MARINE CORPS PILOT WHO ONCE CRASHED INTO A SCHOOL AND WHO LATER FLEW GUNS TO CASTRO IN CUBA BEFORE CAASTRO TOOK OVER, WHILE IN THE EMPLOY OF ONE RAY RYAN, WHO HE DESCRIBED AS "MR. BIG" AND WHO SPENT PART OF HIS TIME IN KENYA, AFRICA WHERE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE MT. KENYA SAFARI CLUB. RAY RYAN SUPPOSEDLY CANNOT RETURN TO U.S. AS BYRNE SAYS THERE IS CONTRACT OUT ON HIM AND WOULD BE KILLED THE MINUTE HE ENTERED. BYRNE ALSO REFERRED TO HAL HALE AS A "MR. BIG" AND INFERRED HALE WAS INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

IN LATE NOVEMBER LAST, BYRNE TOLD HER HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO ACAPULCO, MEXICO, BY HALE AND HIS WIFE, DEE, AND SHE WAS INVITED, TOO. SAID IT WAS BUSINESS TRIP BUT NOT CONNECTED WITH OIL. SHE PAID FOR TRIP FOR THE TWO OF THEM. LEFT DENVER DECEMBER TWENTYEIGHT AND ARRIVED ACAPULCO SAME NIGHT. RETURNED TO DENVER JANUARY TWELVE LAST.

EDN PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

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MET HALES THERE AT HOUSE, CASA JOSETTE, IN LAS BRISAS AREA OF TOWN. HALES ACCOMPANIED BY BILLYE AND LOUIS FAWCETT OF ASHDOWN, ARK, WHERE HALE HAS RELATIVES. HALES AND FAWCETTS LEFT ACAPULCO TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE SHE AND BYRNE DID.

MRS BIGELOW GAINED IMPRESSION THE THREE MEN ATTENDED MEETINGS DURING MORNINGS, THOUGH NO ONE SAID SO, AND THAT MEETINGS RELATED TO CRIMINAL PLANS. SHE DID NOT KNOW WHO ELSE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH HALE ONCE SAID HE HAD SEEN RAY RYAN ON THE STREET. SHE SAID BYRNE RETURNED TO THE HOUSE ONE DAY UPSET. AFTER DINNER HE AND SHE WENT TO PLACE CALLED LE CLUB AND STARTED DRINKING. CLAIMED BYRNE WAS SOBER, THOUGH, WHEN SHE TRIED TO DRAW HIM OUT. ASKED HIM WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT AND CLAIMED TO KNOW HE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET RAY RYAN. BYRNE SAID "THEY WANT ME TO DO A JOB. I DON'T WANT TO DO IT. AS YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET OUT OF THIS FOR THREE YEARS, BUT THEY NEED A TECHNICIAN." BYRNE CLAIMED THAT "THEY" HAD THREATENED HARM TO MRS. BIGELOW'S CHILDREN: THAT "THIS IS ONLY WAY THEY COULD GET TO ME." BYRNE CLAIMED TO BE FRIGHTENED, SAID HE WAS NOT GOING TO DO "IT", AND FOR HER NOT TO WORRY. HE WAS NOT GOING TO LET "THEM" HURT HER OR CHILDREN.

SHORTLY AFTER GROUPS ARRIVAL IN ACAPULCO, YACHT, ULTIMA II, IN HARBOR. THEY LEARNED IT BELONGED TO CHARLES REVSON, HEAD OF REVLON COSMETIC COMPANY. SHE HAD IMPRESSION REVSON NOT ABOARD. AFTER LUNCH ONE DAY BYRNE WANTED TO TAKE SMALL SAIL BOAT OUT, SO HE AND SHE DID. CIRCLED THE YACHT AND TOOK PICTURES OF IT AND SOME CREWMEN AT RAIL. THEY

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WAVED AND CREWMAN WAVED BACK. SHE HAD HEARD THAT RAY RYAN WAS ABOARD. THINKS HALE MENTIONED IT. FELT BYRNE WANTED TO CIRCLE IT BECAUSE OF THAT BYRNE LATER TOLD HER HE RENTED SAIL BOAT BECAUSE HE WAS SUPPOSED TO IDENTIFY A CREWMAN AND THE CREWMAN WAS SUPPOSED TO IDENTIFY HIM.

NEXT DAY ALL SIX TOOK SPEED BOAT TRIP AND ON TRIP AGAIN CIRCLED YACHT. TOOK MORE PICTURES OF YACHT AND CREWMEN. ON TRIP TO ACAPULCO MRS. BIGELOW TOOK SEVEN ROLL PICTURES TWENTY PICTURES TO ROLL. WHEN GOT BACK, HAD THEM DEVELOPED AT NEARBY DRUGSTORE IN DENVER. BYRNE PICKED THEM UP, PAYING ABOUT THIRTYFIVE DOLLARS. SHE SAW THEM AND BELIEVES ALL WERE THERE. BYRNE SAID WAS GOING TO KEEP AND WOULD HAVE PRINTS MADE FOR HER. RECALLS THEY SHOWED THEM TO JAMES HEYER.

IN MARCH WHILE AT BYRNE'S APR, BYRNE PASSED OUR DRUNK. SHE TOOK THE PICTURES AND NEGATIVES AND LEFT. THINKS HE MUST HAVE LOST THE NEGATIVES AND SOME AIRLINE TICKETS FOR HER AND HER CHILDREN OUT OF HER PURSE WHEN GOT OUT OF CAR AT HER APR. NEXT MORNING DISCOVERED LOSS AND LATER NOTICED THAT ALL PICTURES OF CREWMEN OF YACHT WERE MISSING.

AFTER RETURN TO DENVER, SHE TRIED TO DISCUSS BYRNES COMMENTS IN ACAPULCO WITH HIM. HE TOLD HER "FOR GOD'S SAKE DON'T BRING THAT UP." THEY EVENTUALLY HAD WORDS AND DID NOT SEE EACH OTHER FROM JANUARY TWENTYSIX TO FEBRUARY NINE.

SHE SAID DUE TO NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE SHE WENT TO HER ATTORNEY TODD BAKER SHORTLY AFTER THEIR RETURN AND DISCUSSED THE MATTER BRIEFLY WITH HIM. SHE SAID HE LAUGHED AND SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT IF SHE WAS WORRIED HE WOULD MAKE ONE TELEPHONE CALL AND WOULD FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. SHE SAID BYRNE KNEW THAT SHE HAD SEEN HER ATTORNEY THE VERY NEXT DAY AND TOLD HER SHE WAS IN DEEP TROUBLE. THAT SAME DAY BYRNE PICKED UP THE PICTURES AND THEY TOOK THEM OVER TO HEYER'S

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TO SHOW. THEY ALL DRANK A LOT BUT NO ONE WAS DRUNK. AFTER HEYER'S WIFE WENT TO BED, BOTH BYRNE AND HEYER STARTED IN ON HER ASKING WHY SHE WENT TO "TODD" AND TELLING HER SHE WAS GOING TO GET HERSELF, HER KIDS KILLED. HEYERS CLAIMED HER HOUSE WAS "BUGGED" AND THAT THEY KNOW OF ALL HER CONVERSIONS. HE SAID HE AND BYRNE HAD TO MAKE A CALL TO DALLAS AND GET BYRNE OUT OF TROUBLE. THEY ASKED HER TO GO TO THE CAR AND WAIT WHICH SHE DID FOR AWHILE. WHEN SHE CAME BACK IN THEY BOTH LECTURED HER SOME MORE AND GOT HER TO PROMISE SHE WOULD NOT TALK FURTHER. AFTERWARDS HEYER AGAIN CALLED DALLAS AND GAVE THE TELEPHONE TO BYRNE WHO TOOK IT INTO THE NEXT ROOM OUT OF EARSHOT AND TALKED FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES. BYRNE LATER TOOK HER HOME STILL LECTURING HER.

MRS. BIGELOW SAID AFTER THEIR FIGHT ON JANUARY TWENTYSIX SHE NEXT SAW BYRNE ON FEBRUARY NINE LAST AT A PARTY GIVEN BY KATHY RAHEL. SHE AND BYRNE MADE UP AND NO MENTION WAS MADE OF PAST EVENTS UNTIL AFTER BYRNE RETURNED FROM LUBBOCK, TEXAS, IN EARLY MARCH WHERE HE HAD GONE TO BE WITH HIS MOTHER WHO WAS HAVING AN OPERATION. HE WAS TENSE WHEN HE RETURNED AND WHEN ASKED WHAT WAS WRONG, TOLD HER THAT HE HAD HIS PROBLEMS AND DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. HE SAID CRIPTICALLY THAT HE HAD TO DO IT AND HEDID NOT WANT TO. HE WOULD NOT SAY WHAT IT WAS BUT IN RESPONSE TO HER PROBING SAID THAT IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN SOON, WOULD MAKE NATIONAL HEADLINES AND WOULD BE JUST ABOUT AS BIG AS KENNEDY'S DEATH.

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PAGE SIX

SHE SAID THAT ON MARCH TEN, BYRNE'S MOTHER DIED AND HE WAS GETTING READY TO GO TO NEW YORK WHERE FUNERAL WAS TO BE WHEN ON MARCH THIRTEEN, HIS SISTER IN LAW, GENEVIEVE, CALLED FROM LUBBOCK, TEXAS, TO TELL HIM THAT HIS TWIN BROTHER, HER HUSBAND, HAD BEEN KILLED IN VIET NAM. HE WENT TO LUBBOCK. MRS BIGELOW CALLED HIM FREQUENTLY ASKING WHEN HE WAS RETURNING TO DENVER. DURING THE CALLS SHE LEARNED HE AND GENEVIEVE HAD GONE OFF SOMEWHERE FOR A WEEK. THE NIGHT OF THE DAY ON WHICH MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ASSINATED, WHILE OTHERS WERE AT HER HOUSE SHE AGAIN CALLED HIM. SHE SAID HE WAS AT HIS SISTER IN LAWS AND WAS "ABSOLUTELY, OUT OF HIS MIND, DRUNK." SHE SAID HE SCREAMED AT HER FOR HAVING A NASTY MIND REGARDING GENEVIEVE AND HIM. IN SUBSEQUENT CALLS HE WAS CALMER INDICATING HE HAD A LOT TO DO IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTATES.

SHE SAID BYRNE RETURNED TO DENVER ON MAY FOURTEEN LAST AND WAS AT HER PLACE THAT NIGHT "FAIRLY WELL DRUNK" BY NINE O'CLOCK. BEFORE 1JT HAND IN KING'S DEATH. SHE SAID HE REPLIED "WHAT DO YOU THINK, OF COURSE." SHE ASKED HIM IF JAMES EARL RAY DID THE SHOOTING AND HE REPLIED ASKING HER WHAT MADE HER THINK RAY DID IT. SHE SAID SHE INDICATED RAY WAS PROBABLY DEAD AND BYRNE SAID HE WAS NOT. SHE ASKED HIM IF THAT HAD BEEN A PICTURE OF RAY ON THE YACHT SHE HAD TAKEN. HE REPLIED IT WAS. SHE ASKED WHERE THE PICTURES WERE. HE REPLIED "YOU DON'T THINK I WOULD LEAVE THEM AROUND, DO YOU?" HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE WOULD NEVER LET "THEM" HURT HER.

THE NEXT NIGHT WHILE THEY WERE OUT WITH RAHEL AND HER BOY

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FRIEND, BYRNE TOLD MRS. BIGELOW THAT HE WAS GOING TO MARRY GENEVIEVE, THAT HE THOUGHT HE OUGHT TO BE A FATHER TO HER SIX CHILDREN. MRS. BIGELOW SAID SHE WALKED OUT AND WENT HOME, BUT THAT SHE HAS SEEN BYRNE A FEW TIMES SINCE. SHE SAID THAT ON MAY TWENTYTWO SHE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM JAMES HEYER WHO WANTED TO CONTACT BYRNE. HE ASKED HER TO TRY TO LOCATE BYRNE AS IT WAS AN EMERGENCY. SHE WAS TO TELL BYRNE THE FOLLOWING, "EMERGENCY TEACUP" AND BYRNE WOULD KNOW WHAT IT MEANT. BYRNE CALLED LATER AND SHE GAVE HIM THE MESSAGE. HE HAD HER REPEAT IT THREE TIMES, SWORE AND COMMENTED "WONDER IF MINE WILL BE AS BIG AS THE OTHER." SHE FELT THE MESSAGE FRIGHTENED BYRNE AND SHE HAS NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM HIM SINCE. EARLIER SHE HAD ADVISED THAT JAMES HEYER HAS BEEN REPRESENTING BYRNE IN A COURT MATTER INVOLVING THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN OF BYRNE BY BYRNE'S EX-WIFE AND HER PRESENT HUSBAND.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE FILES OF DENVER OFFICE CONTAIN NO INFORMATION HALE, BYRNE, OR HEYER CONNECTED WITH ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. SOURCE OF DENVER OFFICE IDENTIFIES BYRNE AND HALE AS INDEPENDENT OIL OPERATORS. RAY RYAN MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH PERSON SAME NAME WHO DURING PAST TEN YEARS HAS RECEIVED NATIONWIDE PUBLICITY AS MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN AND OILMAN WHO WAS ONE OF FOUNDERS OF INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN MR. KENYA SAFARI CLUB IN AFRICA. MEMBERSHIP OF

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CLUB REPORTEDLY INCLUDES MANY PROMINATE FIGURES SUCH AS WINSTON CHURCHILL AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

IN ORDER TO BETTER EVALUATE VALIDITY OF INFORMATION MEMPHIS REQUESTED TO ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT RAY, USING NAME GALT, WAS ACTUALLY ATTENDING BARTENDING SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA DURING THE PERIOD DECEMBER TWENTYEIGHT TO JANUARY TWELVE LAST.

DETAILED FD THREE ZERO TWO FOLLOWS.

EN

CORRECTION PAGE SIX LINE LXXX 15 SHOULD BE

BEFORE THEY RETIRED SHE TOLD HIM SHE WAS SCARED AND ASKED HIM IF HE HAD A HAND IN KING'S DEATH.

END

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Date:

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

Via TELETYPE DEFERRED  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM: DENVER (157-203)

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Approved: J. H. [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 1134 M

~~Serialized~~

Indexed

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Filed

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*II*  
**ULTIMA II,**

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THE NEXT NIGHT WHILE THEY WERE OUT WITH RAHEL AND HER BOY FRIEND, BYRNE TOLD MRS. BIGELOW THAT HE WAS GOING TO MARRY GENEVIEVE, THAT HE THOUGHT HE OUGHT TO BE A FATHER TO HER SIX CHILDREN. MRS. BIGELOW SAID SHE WALKED OUT AND WENT HOME, BUT THAT SHE HAS SEEN BYRNE A FEW TIMES SINCE. SHE SAID THAT ON MAY TWENTY TWO ~~ATXARREX~~ SHE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM JAMES HEYER, WHO WANTED TO CONTACT BYRNE. HE ASKED HER TO TRY TO LOCATE BYRNE AS IT

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WAS AN EMERGENCY. SHE WAS TO TELL BYRNE THE FOLLOWING, "EMERGENCY TEACUP" AND BYRNE WOULD KNOW WHAT IT MEANT. BYRNE CALLED LATER AND SHE GAVE HIM THE MESSAGE. HE HAD HER REPEAT IT THREE TIMES, ~~HE HAD~~ SWORE AND COMMENTED "WONDER IF MINE WILL BE AS BIG AS THE OTHER." SHE FELT THE MESSAGE FRIGHTENED BYRNE AND SHE HAS NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM HIM SINCE. EARLIER SHE HAD ADVISED THAT JAMES HEYER HAS BEEN REPRESENTING BYRNE IN A COURT MATTER INVOLVING THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN OF BYRNE BY BYRNE'S EX WIFE AND HER PRESENT HUSBAND.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE FILES OF DENVER OFFICE CONTAIN NO INFORMATION HALE, BYRNE, OR HEYER CONNECTED WITH ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. SOURCE OF DENVER OFFICE IDENTIFIES BYRNE AND HALE AS INDEPENDENT OIL OPERATORS. RAY ~~RYAN~~ MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH PERSON SAME NAME WHO DURING PAST ~~TEN~~ TEN YEARS HAS RECEIVED NATION-WIDE PUBLICITY AS MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN AND OILMAN WHO WAS ONE OF FOUNDERS OF INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN MT. KENYA SAFARI CLUB IN AFRICA. MEMBERSHIP OF CLUB REPORTEDLY INCLUDES MANY PROMINATE FIGURES SUCH AS WINSTON CHURCHILL AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

IN ORDER TO BETTER EVALUATE ~~THE~~ VALIDITY OF INFORMATION MEMPHIS REQUESTED TO ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT RAY, USING NAME GALT, WAS ACTUALLY ATTENDING THE BARTENDING SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA DURING THE PERIOD DECEMBER TWENTY EIGHT TO JANUARY TWELVE LAST.

DETAILED FD THREE ZERO TWO FOLLOWS.



FBI DENVER

FBI MEMPHIS

1212PM URGENT 5-25-68 LLH

TO DIRECTOR AND DENVER

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987

MURKIN

RE DENVER TELETYPE MAY TWENTYFOUR LAST.

FOR INFO OF DENVER SUBJECT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO, FROM ABOUT OCTOBER NINETEEN LAST UNTIL ABOUT NOVEMBER THIRTEEN LAST AT WHICH TIME HE RETURNED TO LOS ANGELES. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY AT LOS ANGELES FROM NOVEMBER THIRTEEN UNTIL ABOUT MARCH SEVENTEEN EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER SEVENTEEN - TWENTYTWO LAST, DURING WHICH PERIOD HE TRAVELED TO NEW ORLEANS AND RETURNED TO LOS ANGELES.

INASMUCH AS ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE HAS INDICATED HE IS INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, DENVER SHOULD INTERVIEW BYRNE, SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS, AND CONDUCT WHATEVER INVESTIGATION IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETELY RESOLVE THIS MATTER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

END

CAG

FBI DENVER

X

157-203-509

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| SERIALIZED   | FILED   |
| MAY 25 1968  |         |
| FBI - DENVER |         |



FBI DENVER

FBI MEMPHIS

1212PM URGENT 5-25-68 LLH

TO DIRECTOR AND DENVER

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987

MURKIN

RE DENVER TELETYPE MAY TWENTYFOUR LAST.

FOR INFO OF DENVER SUBJECT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO, FROM ABOUT OCTOBER NINETEEN LAST UNTIL ABOUT NOVEMBER THIRTEEN LAST AT WHICH TIME HE RETURNED TO LOS ANGELES. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY AT LOS ANGELES FROM NOVEMBER THIRTEEN UNTIL ABOUT MARCH SEVENTEEN EXCEPT FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER SEVENTEEN - TWENTYTWO LAST, DURING WHICH PERIOD HE TRAVELED TO NEW ORLEANS AND RETURNED TO LOS ANGELES.

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

END

CAG

FBI DENVER

X

157-203-509

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| MAY 25 1968  |         |
| FBI - DENVER |         |

*Adair*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**FBI Still Actively Seeks King Slayer**

WASHINGTON, May 24—(AP) eral reports that Ray may be dead, Justice Department officials have pointed out continually that there is no evidence to support or refute this.

More than a month and a half after the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., FBI agents across the nation are reported still actively searching for the man accused of the killing — James Earl Ray.

FBI headquarters has been silent for weeks on the case, except to say that it still is being actively investigated — and that the bureau is not simply waiting for Ray to turn up some place.

Ray, 40, escaped April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City where he had served eight years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Although there have been sev-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

47 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS  
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 5-25-68  
Edition: Home Final  
Author:  
Editor: Jack Foster  
Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203-510

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| SEARCHED     | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED   | FILED   |
| MAY 27 1968  |         |
| FBI — DENVER |         |

5/23/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM : SAC, SAVANNAH (44-1768)(P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel, 5/22/68.

RE: HOLT CHEW

VILLIAM SMITH CHEW, son of HOLT CHEW, advised on 5/10/68 that he had picked up his father at the airport in Augusta, Ga., and he brought his father immediately to the Paradise Motel in Screven County, Ga. He advised that he and his father had visited various cities in this area for the purpose of inspecting and investing in land to be developed into a restaurant chain. This restaurant chain will probably be known as "Chevbyn".

The results of this interview have been set out in an FD-302 and copies furnished to Memphis and Denver by Savannah letter dated 5/16/68.

Inasmuch as HOLT CHEW did not stay in Augusta, Ga., no investigation was conducted in that city.

3 - Bureau  
① - Denver (157-203)  
2 - Savannah

CMS/dkm  
(6)

157-203-511

|              |         |
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| SEARCHED     | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED   | FILED   |
| MAY 27 1968  |         |
| FBI - DENVER |         |

*[Signature]* *[Signature]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC DENVER (157-203)

DATE: 5/24/68

FROM : SA HEWITT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

R + D

Re memo to all SRA's of 5/16/68.

This matter was rediscussed and emphasized to following officers to whom Mexico snap shot and more mature appearing quarter view photos were provided. Each such officer was requested to alert all subordinate personnel and exhibit such photos:

AT PUEBLO:

COP ROBERT MAYBER and SGT DAVID DAVENPORT, ID BU, Pueblo P.D. 5/23/68.

CAPT RUSSELL DESALVO, Commanding, Colorado State P<sup>at</sup>rol, Pueblo Division, which covers entire Pueblo R.A. as contacted 5/23/68.

Sheriff ROBERT HORVAT, Pueblo County SO 5/24/69.

AT WALSENBURG:

COP MIKE RAMPA, Walsenburg PD. 5/21/68

Sheriff TONY VELARDE, Huerfano County SO 5/21/68

(Confidential Source, CARL RICHMAND, RICHMADE INDS., who is a gunsmith, sells all types of sporting equipment etc 5/21/69 )

AT TRINIDAD COLO:

157-203-512

COP PETE CONNELL and Officer NICK DEBONO 5/22/68

Sheriff FILBERT GARCIA, Undersheriff AL ZENTHOEFER, Deputies JOHN PEREA, TONY DEBONO, JULIAN CORDOVA, JOHN BARACHI, and ART PFALMER, SO 5/21/68.

LT R.W. YARBERRY, Colorado State P<sup>at</sup>rol, Trinidad and Walsenburg areas.

(DN 235-C at Trinidad 5/20/68)

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| SEARCHED.....   | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED.....   |
| MAY 27 1968     |              |
| FBI - DENVER    |              |

(1)(157-203)

ADM - Three hours plus 180 miles during coverage of other day to day contacts.

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



5/24/68

TELETYPE

URGENT

\_\_\_\_\_ M CST URGENT 5/24/68

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
FROM LITTLE ROCK (157-1215) 4P

MURKIN; CR. MEMPHIS ORIGIN.

RE DENVER TELETYPE, MAY TWENTY-THREE LAST.

FOR INFORMATION LOS ANGELES, REX BASINGER, DENVER,  
COLORADO, ADVISED DENVER OFFICE HE RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL  
ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS FROM FRIEND, EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY,  
BOTH FORMERLY LIVED RUDY, ARK., AND ATTENDED SCHOOL, ALMA,  
ARKANSAS. BASINGER LOST TRACK OF BRADLEY WHEN LATTER WENT  
INTO U. S. NAVY NINETEEN THIRTY-THREE. SUBSEQUENTLY SAW  
BRADLEY IN DALLAS, TEXAS, IN DECEMBER NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE.

BASINGER CLAIMS BRADLEY CALLED HIM MAY SEVENTEEN,  
NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT, FROM TULSA, OKLAHOMA. AT THAT TIME  
BRADLEY SAID HE HAD ERIC GALT WITH HIM. BASINGER STATED  
HE DID NOT KNOW WHO GALT WAS AND BRADLEY SAID HE WAS ALSO  
KNOWN AS JAMES RAY. BASINGER STATED HE DID NOT KNOW JAMES  
RAY AND BRADLEY THEN TOLD HIM RAY WAS THE MAN WHO KILLED

END PAGE ONE

① - Denver (AM)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
RER/ds  
(3)

157-203-513

|              |         |
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| SEARCHED     | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED   | FILED   |
| MAY 27 1968  |         |
| FBI - DENVER |         |

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

LR 157-1215

PAGE TWO

KING. BRADLEY CLAIMED TO HAVE LIVED WITH RAY FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK IN TULSA.

AT SEVEN TEN A.M., MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME, MAY TWENTY-THREE LAST, BRADLEY AGAIN CALLED BASINGER AND STATED HE WAS AT THE OLD SOUTH RESTAURANT, SEVEN ONE FOUR TOWSON AVENUE, FORT SMITH, ARK., AND WAS WORKING HIS WAY WEST. BRADLEY CLAIMED HE WAS EATING HIS MEALS AT THE OLD SOUTH RESTAURANT WHICH IS OPERATED BY BASINGER'S COUSIN, ELBA BASINGER THOMPSON. BASINGER STATED BRADLEY WAS ALLEGEDLY UNDER SUBPOENA BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY JAMES GARRISON, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

BASINGER DESCRIBES BRADLEY AS WHITE MALE, FIFTY-ONE, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE EIGHT POUNDS, BLOND, VETERAN OF U. S. NAVY.

MR. AND MRS. LEON THOMPSON, OPERATORS OF OLD SOUTH RESTAURANT, FORT SMITH, ON MAY TWENTY-THREE LAST, ADVISED BRADLEY UNKNOWN TO THEM AND THEY COULD NOT IDENTIFY PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY. THEY AND OTHER RELATIVES ADVISE BASINGER A MENTAL CASE AND TENDS TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH CRIMINAL

END PAGE TWO

LR 157-1215

PAGE THREE

CASES OF NATIONAL PROMINENCE.

LITTLE ROCK FILES ALSO REFLECT BASINGER PREVIOUSLY EXAMINED BY A PHYSICIAN AT DALLAS, TEXAS, AND DIAGNOSED "WITH PROBABLE PSYCHOSIS AND POSSIBLE SYNDROME."

RELATIVES OF BRADLEY LOCATED FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, AND THEY ADVISED HE RESIDES ONE TWO TWO ZERO EIGHT EMELITA STREET, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, TELEPHONE SEVEN SIX ONE DASH EIGHT SEVEN ZERO NINE, AND IS EMPLOYED AS WEST COAST RADIO REPRESENTATIVE OF CARL MC INTYRE, EVANGELIST. THEY ADVISED HE HAS RESIDED THERE SINCE NINETEEN FORTY-ONE AND WAS DEFINITELY NOT IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA, OR FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, AS ALLEGED. BRADLEY'S UNCLE TALKED TO HIM AT THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER ON THE EVENING OF MAY TWENTY-THREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT. THEY ALSO ADVISE BRADLEY HAS BEEN CHARGED BY JAMES GARRISON, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WITH CONSPIRACY IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND IS DUE TO HAVE EXTRADITION HEARING BEFORE GOVERNOR REAGAN OF CALIFORNIA JUNE FIVE OR SIX NEXT.

LOS ANGELES DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF BRADLEY ON MAY SEVENTEEN AND MAY TWENTY-THREE LAST AND ASCERTAIN IF HE HAS  
END PAGE THREE

LR 157-1215

PAGE FOUR

ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING JAMES RAY.

DENVER AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END



F B I

Date: 5/27/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: DENVER (157-203) 1p.

MURKIN

RE LITTLE ROCK TEL MAY TWENTY FOUR, CC TO DENVER.

DENVER SEES NO REASON TO CHECK FOR COLLECT TELEPHONE CALL  
AGAINST TELEPHONE USED BY REX BASINGER IF LOS ANGELES  
SUCCESSFUL IN DETERMINING WHEREABOUTS OF BRADLEY DURING  
PERTINENT PERIOD. THEREFORE, DENVER WITHDRAWING REQUEST TO  
CHECK FOR TELEPHONE CALL UNTIL RESULTS OF LOS ANGELES  
INVESTIGATION ARE KNOWN.

END.

1-Denver  
BDA:skb  
(1)  
*pkb*

157-203-514

Approved: *SW*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

3:33 pm ME  
3:29 pm WA  
3:31 pm LA  
3:31 pm

Per

*Bed*

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI DENVER

3-33 PM URGENT 5-27-68 BID

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), LOS ANGELES (44-1574) AND MEMPHIS  
(44-1987)

FROM DENVER (157-203)

MURKIN

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CHECK FOR TELEPHONE CALL UNTIL RESULTS OF LOS ANGELES  
INVESTIGATION ARE KNOWN.

END

RJT

FBI MEMPHIS

NCH

FBI LOS ANG.

GFH

FBI WASH DC

157-203-514

h

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

5/27/68

SAC, DENVER (157-203)

MURKIN

ReBuairtel 5/7/68.

Enclosed for Memphis are 15 copies each of 45 investigative inserts reflecting investigation conducted by the Denver Division.

Information regarding the investigation surrounding DONOVAN LEE CURTIS and his associates is not being set out in insert form, as to do so would jeopardize the attorney-client relationship between the source of the original information, Attorney RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, and the unknown individual who contacted him. Pertinent information relating to this facet of the investigation previously furnished the Memphis Division.

Numerous negative contacts with informants and sources and with look-alikes residing in the territory, who have been completely eliminated, are not being set forth in insert form.

Specific individuals and agencies contacted in connection with saturation-type leads are not being listed in the inserts; however, their identities are recorded in Denver's file.

Leads emanating from information set forth in the enclosed inserts are not being restated here, inasmuch as they were handled by appropriate communication at the time the information was developed.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 555)

2 - Denver

BDA: lkr

(4)

157-203-515

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| Filed      | _____ |

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

5/27/68

SAC, DENVER (157-203)

MURKIN

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 555)  
2 - Denver

BDA:1kr  
(4) *CR*

157-203-515

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
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Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
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DN 157-203

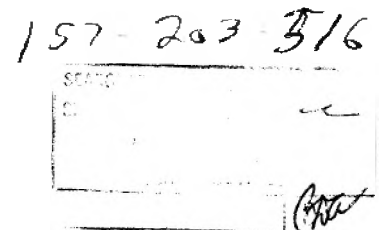
BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Look-Alike, BEN LYNN HART  
Canton, Mississippi

On April 6, 1968, DOYLE MAY, Sales Manager, Johnnie Harper Ford Company, Wheat Ridge, Colorado, advised SA LOUIS D. NELAN that he recently moved to the Denver area from Memphis, Tennessee, and he believes that the drawing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's assassin closely resembles one BEN LYNN HART, who resides at Canton, Mississippi. He described HART as a white, male, age 32, five feet ten inches, 170 pounds, black hair which is receding, and is worn combed straight back.

Mr. MAY stated that HART is a sharp dresser, owned lots of guns, and formerly had a hardware store, but is now a farmer. He claimed that HART was always rough in his handling of Negroes and is a former Klansman.



DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Look-Alike in Car with Tennessee  
License JR 5198

On April 6, 1968, Mr. LOUIS J. HUNT, employee, Phyl Long Ford Dealer, Colorado Springs, Colorado, advised SA ANDREW P. BUGAS, JR., that a 1967 yellow Falcon, Tennessee license JR 5198, occupied by a white, female, not further identified, and a white, male, age 20 to 25, height five feet eleven inches, 195 pounds, blond hair, received repairs on its water pump at the Long agency on April 6, 1968. The car contained luggage and Mr. HUNT observed a Lugar pistol on the floor of the car.

Mr. HUNT stated that after the car was repaired the two occupants left in it heading west. He stated that the owner of the car was listed as HELEN GETTINGS, 3020 Estes, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. HUNT stated that the male resembled the published sketch of the assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

157-203-517

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| FBI - MEMPHIS |         |

*[Handwritten signature]*

DN 157-203

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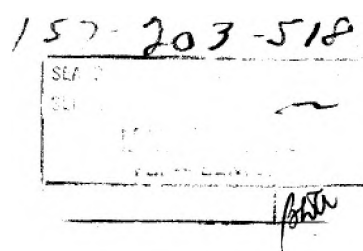
1.

Re: Look-Alike, RICHARD KINST  
Nashville, Tennessee

Mrs. BARBARA GALLEGOS, Olathe, Colorado, telephonically advised SA ROY I. MISCHKE on April 7, 1968, that she observed an artist's sketch of the assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in the newspaper and believes that the sketch somewhat resembles a man she met on a flight from Denver, Colorado, to Colorado Springs, Colorado, on the evening of April 5, 1968. She recalled that the individual said his name was RICHARD KENTS (phonetic) and that he was en route from Nashville to Colorado Springs, to ski with an unnamed friend. She described the man as a white, male, about 25 years of age, six feet tall, medium build and black hair.

Records of Frontier Airlines, Flight 583, for April 5, 1968, indicate that the only passenger deplaning at Colorado Springs was (first name unknown) KINST, who had made reservations on April 3, 1968, for a Trans World Airlines flight from Nashville to St. Louis, and Denver and a Frontier Airlines flight on to Colorado Springs. At the same time, KINST made reservations for return flights to Nashville on April 7, 1968, leaving Denver at 6:05 p.m.

An official of Trans World Airlines advised SA ROY I. MISCHKE that R. KINST did depart Denver on Trans World Airlines Flight 444 and was due to arrive in Nashville aboard Eastern Airlines Flight 662 at 10:15 p.m., April 7, 1968.



DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Information From VINCENT JAMES DE PALMA  
Newport, Rhode Island

Investigator KARL E. TERLAU, Alcohol and Tobacco  
Tax Division, Denver, Colorado, advised SA JOSEPH C. LEARNED  
on April 8, 1968, that he had had no contact nor had he  
received any information from VINCENT JAMES DE PALMA since  
the date of his interview of DE PALMA on January 17, 1968.

157-203-519

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| MAY 1968     |         |
| FBI - DENVER |         |

*BDA*



DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Look-Alike Driving Car With  
Tennessee License JT 5839

On April 8, 1968, Mr. JESS SHANNON, 3275 Locust Street, Denver, Colorado, advised SA JOSEPH C. LEARNED that during the evening of April 8, 1968, he saw an unknown male answering the description of the assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. This man was observed in downtown Denver, driving a 1965 or 1966 Cadillac, bearing 1968 Tennessee license JT 5839. He could furnish no additional information.

157-203-520

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| MAY 1968     |         |
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*[Handwritten signature]*

DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

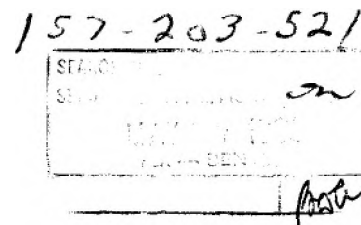
1.

Re: Investigation of HARVEY LOWMEYER or LOWMYER

Commencing on April 9, 1968, the following sources and agencies in the Denver Office territory were immediately contacted in an effort to uncover any information concerning individuals bearing the surnames of LOWMEYER or LOWMYER:

Police Departments;  
Sheriff's Offices;  
State Patrol Offices;  
Bureaus of Vital Statistics;  
Credit Bureaus;  
Selective Service Boards;  
Driver's Licenses Offices;  
Wyoming State Identification Bureau;  
State Employment Services;  
Voters Registrations;  
City Directories;  
Telephone Directories;  
Indices of the Denver Office.

No information concerning this individual was uncovered as the result of the above checks.



DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Laundrymark, "O2B-6" or "D2B-6"

Laundry plants utilizing Thermo Seal marking machines in Boulder, Denver, Englewood, Grand Junction, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, and in Casper and Cheyenne, Wyoming, were canvassed to determine if "O2B-6" or "D2B-6" were ever used by them. No identification of the questioned laundrymark was effected.

157-203-522

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| MAY 17 1968     |              |
| FBI - DENVER    |              |

*[Signature]*

DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Standard Oil Company Credit Card Possibly  
Utilized by ERIC STARVO GALT

On April 9, 1968, Mr. A. T. GUNNING, Credit Department, Denver Region, Chevron Oil Company, 1700 Broadway, Denver, Colorado, advised SA BOYD D. ADSIT that a check of the three regions covered by his office failed to reveal that ERIC STARVO GALT was issued a credit card. Mr. GUNNING stated that their three regional offices are located in Denver, Colorado; El Paso, Texas, and Salt Lake City, Utah, and they cover the States of Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and a small part of Idaho.

Mr. GUNNING commented that there was another credit card office, Standard Oil Company of Kentucky, Post Office Box 2654, in Birmingham, Alabama, which would be the most likely office to have issued a credit card to GALT.

157-203-523

GR

ADT

DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Investigation Concerning ERIC STARVO GALT

Commencing on April 10, 1968, the following sources and agencies in the Denver Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, were consulted for any information concerning ERIC STARVO GALT:

Indices, city directories, telephone directories, voter registration records, state employment services, credit bureaus, Selective Service Boards, driver's license offices, Bureaus of Vital Statistics, police departments, sheriff's offices, State Patrol Offices, Wyoming State Identification Bureau, Marriage License Bureau, and financial institutions.

No information concerning GALT was uncovered as a result of the above checks.

157-203-524  
[Handwritten signature/initials]

DN 157-203

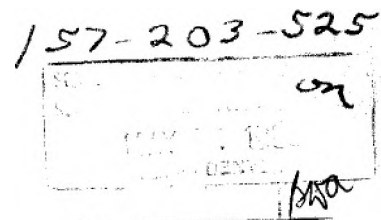
BDA:vfv

1.

Re: 1966 Mustang, Vehicle Identification Number  
6T07C190647, Registered to ERIC STARVO GALT

Inquiries at the Department of Motor Vehicles, Denver, Colorado, by Investigative Clerk DONALD L. RAY and at the Department of Motor Vehicles, Cheyenne, Wyoming, by SA JESSE C. HORNBACK, on April 11, 1968, revealed no information concerning the 1966 Mustang, Vehicle Identification Number 6T07C190647, which was registered to ERIC STARVO GALT.

Stops placed on this vehicle on April 11, 1968, were cancelled on April 15, 1968, in Denver, and on April 19, 1968, in Cheyenne, after receipt of information that the vehicle had been located in Atlanta, Georgia.



DN 157-203

BDA:vfv

1.

Re: Look-Alike, EDWARD GRANTHAM,  
International Schools,  
Memphis, Tennessee

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On April 12, 1968, Mr. EDWARD MEADOWS, 1016 North Custar, Colorado Springs, Colorado, advised SA ANDREW P. BUGAS that he attended a meeting at the Palmer House Motel conducted by one EDWARD GRANTHAM, who was recruiting students for a speedwriting course. Mr. MEADOWS said GRANTHAM represented the International Schools, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. MEADOWS stated that in his opinion GRANTHAM had a profile which resembled that of the artist's sketch of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's assassin. He described GRANTHAM as white, male, six feet one or two inches tall, 175 pounds, dark hair, turning gray, 50 to 55 years old.

Inquiry at the Palmer House by SA ANDREW P. BUGAS disclosed ENIS E. GRANTHAM, 3020 Barron, Memphis, Tennessee, registered at the motel on April 9, 1968, and indicated plans to remain in Colorado Springs, until April 16, 1968. The registration shows his business affiliation as International Schools, Memphis, Tennessee.

157-203-526



DN 157-203

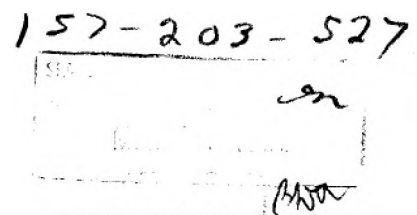
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1.

**Re: Birth Records Check for Births  
on July 20, 1931**

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On April 15, 1968, a check of Colorado State Bureau of Vital Statistics by IC ROLLO J. TRUMBULL, JR., and a check of Wyoming State Bureau of Vital Statistics by SA ROBERT C. GUSTAFSON for all male births on July 20, 1931, which could relate to ERIC STARVO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, or HARVEY LOWMEYER, or any variation of these names, met with negative results.





DN 157-203

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1.

Re: Look-Alike, ROY JAMES

On the evening of April 15, 1968, Reverend M. C. WILLIAMS, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church, 2555 Monaco Parkway, Denver, Colorado, advised Security Patrol Clerk EDWARD N. HAWKINS that he had just been reading an issue, date not specified, of "Jet" magazine and an article contained therein concerning the life of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. According to Reverend WILLIAMS, the article indicated in 1962, that KING had been assaulted by one ROY JAMES in Birmingham, Alabama, and on another occasion in 1965, KING was again assaulted by one JAMES GEORGE ROBERTSON in Selma, Alabama.

Reverend WILLIAMS indicated he was furnishing this data for our information and for whatever assistance it might be.

157-203-528

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DN 157-203

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1.

Re: Magazine Subscription Records Maintained at  
Neodata Service, Inc.,  
Boulder, Colorado

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Mr. T. W. MINES, Vice-President, Neodata Service, Inc., Portland Place, Boulder, Colorado, advised SA J. HALE MC MENAMIN on April 17, 1968, that a physical check of "Argosy" magazine subscribers would involve 2,000,000 subscribers broken down by city and state. He stated that Neodata can program its computer in such a manner as to determine whether or not ERIC STARVO GALT is an "Argosy" subscriber and, if so, where his subscription is sent. The computer program would cost a minimum of \$75.00 and a maximum of \$400.00. This program could also be utilized if the FBI desired a check of 25 other magazine subscription lists processed by Neodata.

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*[Handwritten signature]*

DN 157-203

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1.

Re: Check of Dance Studios for ERIC STARVO GALT

Inquiries of dancing schools throughout the Denver Division were conducted on April 15, 1968, with negative results, concerning any record of prior attendance by anyone using the last name of GALT, GAULT, WILLARD, LOWMEYER, or any variations of above, and concerning anyone fitting GALT's description.

157 203-530

1968

*[Signature]*

DN 157-203

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1.

Re: Look-Alike at Fort Brown Hotel,  
Brownsville, Texas

On April 15, 1968, WILLIAM CONWAY, 2219 Monroe Place, Colorado Springs, Colorado, advised SA ALVIN W. BERRY that he had been in Brownsville, Texas, from April 6, 1968, to April 11, 1968, and had stayed at the Fort Brown Hotel. At the hotel he met an unknown male, described as white, age 35, 215 pounds, five feet eleven to six feet, light complexion, blond hair, who advised CONWAY that he was a Merchant Marine, who resided in Florida. Reportedly, this individual was in Brownsville on vacation and his wife was currently in Frankfort, Germany.

Mr. CONWAY stated that the individual aroused his suspicions because he indicated he was formerly in the hotel business and his comments concerning the business had many discrepancies. Mr. CONWAY stated that he, himself, is a hotel owner.

Mr. CONWAY said that when he read stories concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, he decided to call the FBI. He stated that this individual was still at the Fort Brown Hotel when CONWAY departed on April 11, 1968.

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P. 1

ADMINISTRATIVE

Re: Telephone Calls From Virginia Hotel,  
Quincy, Illinois  
Where Sister of Subject Resides

Reference Springfield teletype to the Bureau and other offices, dated 5/3/68, setting forth telephone calls from relatives of subject residing in Quincy, Illinois.

On 5/3/68, CSDN-350, at Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, advised SA ELMER A. SAMSON that Denver Telephone No. 333-5486, is listed to the El Patio Motel, 8400 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

On 5/4/68, SA EUGENE J. COBLE checked out the El Patio Motel, and the results of his investigation were furnished to the Springfield and Memphis Divisions by airtel dated 5/6/68, setting forth identities of guests who were there on the pertinent date. In view of Springfield's airtel of 5/16/68, indicating it was doubtful any of the calls were made by MELBA MARIE RYAN, results of checks at the El Patio Motel not being set forth.

CSDN-350 also advised that Telephone No. 632-0000 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is a vacant terminal and the number is not a working number.

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*[Handwritten initials and signature]*

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P. 2

Re: Look-Alike HOWARD SIDE  
Hackelburg, Alabama

On 5/13/68, Mrs. MOSELLE DROLLINGER (PROTECT IDENTITY), 12300 East Nevada Avenue, Aurora, Colorado, advised that the following information was furnished to her third-hand. She stated she does not want her identity disclosed to any of her relatives, including her husband.

She stated she attended her mother's funeral at Phil Campbell, Alabama, and recently returned to Denver. She said her sister-in-law, MABEL WHITTEN BROWN, from Akron, Ohio, the exact address she refused to give, and DROLLINGER's brother, DEWEY BROWN, were at the funeral. She said DEWEY received this information from MABEL. MABEL has a first cousin named HOWARD SIDE, who is supposed to have a criminal record. SIDE left many years ago, location unknown, but returned to Alabama shortly after KING's death, and is currently residing with MABEL's uncle, WALTER WHITTEN, and cousin, ODELL WHITTEN, at Hackelburg, Marion County, Alabama. WALTER is in the business of cutting pulpwood while ODELL and SIDE go into the woods to cut the timber. ODELL is supposed to have told MABEL that SIDE is very suspicious of anyone who comes to the house and usually hides behind the door with a gun. She said that SIDE is in his late 40's, but is supposed to look like the sketch made of KING's assassin.

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P. 1

Re: Check of Driver's License Bureaus  
by Birth Date

A check of the Colorado Driver's License Bureau, Denver, Colorado, by IC ROLLO J. TRUMBULL, JR., on April 15, 1968, and a similar check of the Wyoming Driver's License Bureau on the same date, by SA ROBERT E. GUSTAFSON, revealed that driver's licenses in the two states are filed alphabetically and cannot be broken down to specific birth dates except by individual review of every license on file.

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P. 1

Re: Denver Bartender's School

On April 17, 1968, Mr. BRENT HEINES, Instructor, Denver Bartending School, advised SA BOYD D. ADSIT that records of that school, located at 706 17th Avenue, Denver, Colorado, contained no information regarding JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY LOWMYER, ERIC STARVO GALT, or any logical variances of the above.

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P. 1

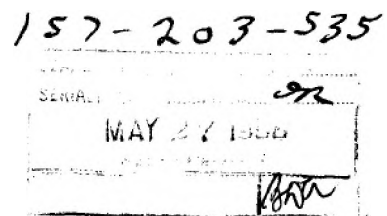
Re: Look-Alike, GARY LEE SMITH  
Lincoln, Nebraska

On April 17, 1968, Mr. JOE ONTIVEROS, Department of Motor Vehicles, 2340 Dayton Street, Aurora, Colorado, advised Complaint Clerk WILLIAM J. SPRING that an individual with the name of GARY LEE SMITH applied for a Colorado Driver's License on April 17, 1968, and took the driver's test with what SMITH said was a borrowed car. Mr. ONTIVEROS stated that SMITH resembles the description and artist's conception of the assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On April 17, 1968, PETER DARMOPRAY, Examiner, Adams County Department of Motor Vehicles, 2340 Dayton Street, Aurora, Colorado, advised SA KELLY V. ENGLAND that GARY LEE SMITH had applied for and received a Colorado Driver's License, No. [REDACTED]. Mr. DARMOPRAY made available the driver's license application and the Request for Search of National Driver Register.

Mr. DARMOPRAY stated he had talked with SMITH when he applied for the license and, during this conversation, SMITH had stated that in late December, 1967, he had completed three years with the U. S. Marine Corps, and had been discharged from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. SMITH also stated that he was from Lincoln, Nebraska, and had had a Nebraska driver's license in the past. Mr. DARMOPRAY advised that SMITH had a self-made identification card and a brand new wallet. SMITH claimed he had recently lost his old wallet and all of his identification.

MARGARET PREMIER, Clerk, Adams County Department of Motor Vehicles, advised SA KELLY V. ENGLAND, on April 17, 1968, that she had observed that when SMITH paid for a driver's



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P. 2

license, his wallet was filled with a considerable amount of cash. She stated she would estimate there was about \$500.00, mostly in twenty dollar bills, in the wallet.

The driver's license application described SMITH as follows:

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Race          | White                |
| Sex           | Male                 |
| Weight        | 175                  |
| Height        | 5' 11"               |
| Hair          | Brown                |
| Eyes          | Blue                 |
| Date of Birth | <input type="text"/> |

Miss PREMIER and Mr. DARMOPRAY added that SMITH was a quiet, soft-spoken person with no noticeable accent; that he walked with a military bearing, and had his hair cut quite short. They stated SMITH was wearing dark slack-type trousers, a white shirt and tie, gray coat, beige overcoat and casual loafer-type shoes.

On April 20, 1968, the FBI Identification Division was requested to compare the fingerprint on the driver's license application with fingerprints available in this case. By communication dated April 24, 1968, the FBI Identification Division advised that SMITH's fingerprint is not identical with the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY.