

DN 157-203

BDA:pmb

2

On May 24, 1968, the Master File Section, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Revenue, Denver, Colorado, was checked by SA THOMAS H. WISEMAN, and the driving history for ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE, under driver's license number Y924, indicated traffic violations on October 29, 1964; December 18, 1964; April 4, 1965; and June 1, 1966. Fines were paid in each instance, running from \$9.00 to \$75.00.

Records of the Retail Credit Men's Association, Denver, Colorado, were checked on May 23, 1968, by SA THOMAS H. WISEMAN, concerning ROBERT E. BYRNE. The records showed that BYRNE was a graduate of Cornell University, and was in the U. S. Marine Corps for five years. He was listed as self-employed in the oil business since college and claimed earnings of \$23,000.00 per year as of December 17, 1956. The file indicated that an Internal Revenue Service lien was filed against him in January, 1963. The file contained several bad credit reports and indication of suits having been filed against BYRNE.

On May 29, 1968, Mrs. ELDORAH HOLM, Records Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, advised SA BOYD D. ADSIT that there was no arrest record on file concerning ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE or JAMES WILLIS HEYER.

On May 23, 1968, Mr. BUEL O'LOUGHLIN, Identification Division, Denver Police Department, advised SA THOMAS H. WISEMAN that JAMES WILLIS HEYER has Denver Police Department number 148418. HEYER was arrested March 7, 1968, for disturbance, interference with police officer, and using filthy language. The case is presently pending. Mr. O'LOUGHLIN advised that no record was on file concerning HAL HALE, BERNICE PAULSEN, RAY RYAN, or Mr. or Mrs. HOMER LANE BIGELOW.

Files of the Denver Office indicate that JAMES WILLIS HEYER, born [redacted] at Denver, Colorado, was Assistant U. S. Attorney in Denver, Colorado in the mid-1950's, and was later a Municipal Judge, Denver, Colorado.

DN 157-203

BDA:pmb

3

On May 24, 1968, the Master Files Section of the Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Revenue, Denver, was checked by SA THOMAS H. WISEMAN concerning JAMES WILLIS HEYER. The driver history record under driver's license S332493 indicates that HEYER was cited for various traffic violations on seven occasions between October 26, 1964, and February 2, 1968. Fines were paid in each instance, ranging from \$5.00 to \$25.00.

Files of the Retail Credit Men's Association, Denver, as checked on May 23, 1968, by SA THOMAS H. WISEMAN concerning Mrs. HOMER LANE BIGELOW, indicated that Mrs. BIGELOW has an unsatisfactory credit standing in the community and has numerous department stores indicating that her accounts are being handled very slowly.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-203)

DATE: 6/13/68

FROM : ASAC MORLEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Remy detailed memorandum of 6/10/68, and memorandum of SA GALLIE of 6/12/68.

At 9:50 P.M. on Wednesday, 6/12/68, I was contacted at my home by the Security Patrol Clerk of the Birmingham Office pursuant to the SAC's instructions in that office.

I was advised that JOHN DE SHAZO had been located at UCLA in Los Angeles through a phone call that VERNON McGRAW had made to McGRAW's home in Birmingham and, therefore, no further action concerning our attempts to locate DE SHAZO were necessary.

On the morning of 6/13/68, I contacted Miss BATCHELDER, Mrs. MARTIN, Mr. VANDERLIPPE, SAC BATES of San Francisco, Mrs. TED HATCH and the Colorado State Patrol and cancelled stops which I had placed with those individuals for DE SHAZO. All those individuals are mentioned in my memorandum of 6/10.

JFM:mf
(1) *mf*

** Mr. Salazar*

157-203-662

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 14 1968	
FBI — DENVER	



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

FROM : SA JOHN H. GALLIE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: June 12, 1968

At 12:18 p.m. today Mr. TED HATCH at Lee's Ferry, Arizona, telephonically contacted the writer and advised that no one by the name of DESHAZO was with his group. He stated there is another group separate from his group that is also leaving on this trip from Lee's Ferry, Arizona, and he is immediately going to check that group for DESHAZO and if he locates DESHAZO he will have him call the Denver Office by 1:25 p.m. Mr. HATCH stated that he would be in Vernal, Utah tonight.

JHG:ekw
(1)

Lee's Ferry arrived 4:30 pm

157-203-663

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 12 1968	
FBI - DENVER	



5010-108-01

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

6/11/68

ROUTING SLIP TO ALL FIELD OFFICES

FROM: *PCW* SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY

OO: MEMPHIS

Re report of SA JOE C. HESTER 6/5/68 at Memphis.

Page 17, paragraph 4, line 6 - 12/17/67, should
be 12/7/67.

Please correct your copies.

SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

TOR:tjm

Done
SWA

157-263-664

SEARCHED <i>ma</i>	INDEXED <i>ma</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ma</i>	FILED <i>ma</i>
JUN 11 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

[Signature]

King Slay Case Becomes More Puzzling

By William Clements
(C) 1968, Denver Post-Chicago Daily News
Was the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a conspiracy carried out by a white man hired months in advance and paid thousands of dollars?

Or was it the work of a lone assassin with a personal vendetta against Negroes?

If a conspiracy, who else is involved?

If not, then where did James Earl Ray—the man accused of the crime—get the money he spent so freely on travel, lodging, food and drink during the months before his arrest last Saturday in London?

Authorities in the United States, Canada and Great Britain are searching for answers to these questions.

Warden Harold R. Swenson, who knew Ray well when he was in the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City, believes Ray incapable of pulling off a major crime, let alone a murder.

WARDEN'S VIEW

When told the FBI had identified Ray as the killer of Dr. King, Swenson commented:

"I am floored—this guy's penny ante, innocuous. It just doesn't shape up."

In London, a 21-year-old receptionist at a hotel where the fugitive stayed recently, described him this way:

"He was very quiet, nervous, pathetically shy and unsure of himself."

Yet, during a period of wild spending on the West Coast last fall—where Ray went to a bartending school and took modern-dance lessons—he acquired a reputation as a loud-mouth racist.

At the Rabbit's Foot Lounge on Hollywood Boulevard, where Ray drank screwdrivers topped

with beer, one patron described him as fanatical.

"Yes, I believe him to be quite capable of violence," he said.

Ray, born in Alton, Ill., on March 10, 1928, has a criminal record dating back to 1949.

But as a criminal he was not very successful, often bungling jobs by leaving behind telltale evidence, or simply rushing into bad jobs that netted him little, if any, money.

In Chicago in 1952, for instance, he robbed a cab driver of \$11 at gunpoint. Then he was shot in both arms trying to elude police by jumping headfirst through a basement window.

Years later, in California, he was linked to a robbery through shoes that he had left on the scene.

The list goes on.

FBI VIEWPOINT

Is this, then, the same man whom the FBI says unaided meticulously established a second identity, plotted the murder of Dr. King, shot him in downtown Memphis, fled the country and for two months eluded the largest manhunt in recent history?

The FBI says yes, publicly discounting the conspiracy theory.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, in repeated statements issued since Ray was linked to the murder by fingerprints and ballistics, said the bureau has no reason to believe the killing of Dr. King on April 4 was part of a conspiracy.

Clark said during the second week of April that Ray was still in the country. It is known now, however, that Ray already had fled to Toronto and was living in a boarding house.

If Clark was wrong about that, some people are asking,



AP Wirephoto

MRS. SUN LOO

She was Ray's landlady.

could he also be wrong on the lone assassin theory?

Within the larger question of whether Ray was capable of carrying out a complex crime like the murder of Dr. King are intriguing smaller ones. They will have to be answered as the investigation of Ray's activities continues.

The investigation might well start on April 23, 1967, when Ray hid in a bread box on a truck that was leaving the prison. After repeated attempts to escape from the prison, he finally succeeded.

Little is known of Ray's whereabouts between then and early July 1967 when he turned up in Montreal, and rented a room on St. Germaine St.

This is where he first used the name Eric Starvo Galt in an attempt to establish a second identity.

Ray-Galt kept the room until late August or early September. Canadian authorities are con-

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

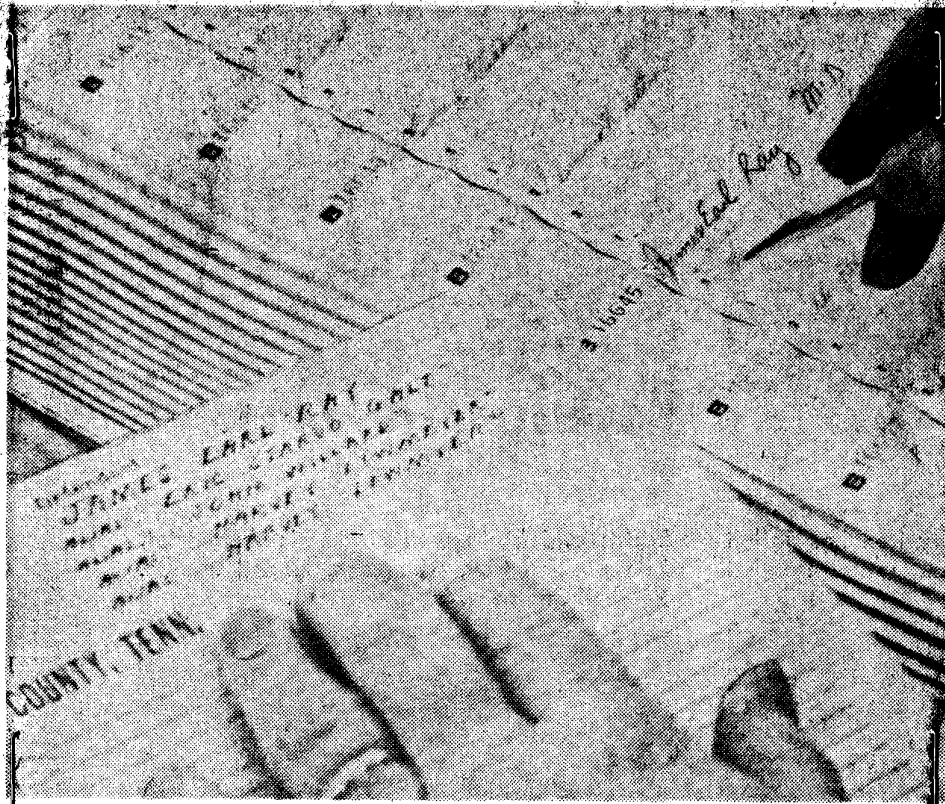
48 DENVER POST
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 6-12-68
Edition: Home
Author: William Clements
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title:

MURKIN
Character: CR
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated

157-203

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - DENVER	



JAMES EARL RAY'S NAME IS ENTERED IN SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., COURT RECORD
The accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gets still another identification.

vinced that during this time he made several trips to Toronto.

On Aug. 26, 1967, Ray rented a room at the Economy Grill and Rooms on Highland Avenue in Birmingham, Ala., again using the name Eric Starvo Galt.

The next day he spotted an advertisement in the local newspaper offering a 1966 white Mustang. The advertisement was placed by William D. Paisley, a lumber executive who said Galt drove the car around the block once and decided to buy it.

Galt returned on Aug. 30 and paid for the car in cash, \$1,995 drawn from his safe-deposit box in the Birmingham Trust National Bank.

MONEY SOURCE

Where did the money come from?

The next segment of Ray's life unfolds last fall in California, where again he was spending money. He paid, in cash, \$156 for the dance lessons and \$250 for bartending school.

On Dec. 15, he drove to New Orleans. Accompanying him was a bearded song writer named Charles Stein, who said that at one point Ray stopped to make a telephone call to "an important New Orleans industrialist."

The identity of the industrialist has not been established.

Ray graduated from bartending school in California on March 1. At the same time, in Birmingham, somebody picked up a letter mailed to him at the Economy Grill.

The letter was from the Alabama Highway Patrol, containing a duplicate license Ray had applied for.

The letter was returned to the patrol with the 25 cents it had requested.

Who picked up the letter and sent it back? Nobody seems to know.

On April 3, Ray apparently checked into the Rebel Motel in Memphis after a flight from Birmingham. The next day he also rented a room at the rooming house behind the Lorraine

Motel where Dr. King was shot.

Here again there is mystery.

The woman who rented Ray a room at the rooming house said he came in without luggage, paying her with a new \$20 bill.

LEFT MURDER SCENE

But moments after Dr. King's murder, Ray was spotted walking away with a blue suitcase and a rifle wrapped in a bedspread.

Later, on the sidewalk not far from the rooming house, the luggage and gun were found.

Were they placed in the house by someone other than Ray? Again there is no answer.

Perhaps the most perplexing question now being asked by FBI and Canadian authorities is how Ray was able to slip out of the country after Dr. King's murder.

And, once in Toronto, how was he able to get two pho-

both certificates and a passport?

During the next two months Ray—living as Ramon George Sneyd—was seen with two men whose identities have not been established.

And, during this period, he was again spending money in a somewhat lavish fashion.

Where did he get the money? Nobody seems to know.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Britain Speeds Action On Extradition of Ray

LONDON, June 12—(AP)—The British government started speedy official action on a formal U.S. request Wednesday for the extradition of James Earl Ray to stand trial in Tennessee for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By the end of the day, the application had cleared its first legal hurdle at the British Foreign Office.

But court formalities and appeals, if the 40-year-old escaped convict chooses to use them, could delay Ray's return up to six weeks or even longer should the case take some unexpected turn.

U.S. officials, headed by Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr., chief of the Justice Department's criminal division, beat their self-imposed deadline for handing in the petition by one day.

But parts of the petition, which was at least an inch thick when it was handed in to the Foreign Office by U.S. Consul Gen. Jack Herfart, apparently had been readied in advance of Ray's arrest last Saturday at London Airport as he tried to board a plane for Brussels.

The petition contained a summary of some of the evidence against Ray in King's murder at a Memphis motel April 4. It also contained information on his escape from the Missouri State Prison while serving an armed robbery charge.

The U.S. Government is seeking extradition on both counts and must satisfy a British judge that both also would be crimes under British as well as U.S. law.

The petition also contains fingerprints and other material to identify Ray as the man now being held under round-the-clock guard in London's Wandsworth Prison. Officially he is being held here as Ramon George Sneyd, traveling under a Canadian passport issued in the name and charged with passport offenses as well as carrying a loaded gun.

Within hours after receiving the petition, the Foreign Office certified that the request fell within the terms of the 1931 extradition treaty between the two countries.

It then was sent to the Home Office, roughly comparable to the U.S. Justice Department. There lawyers started a preliminary screening to ensure it established a case against Ray, as required by British law.

The Home Office said that if the petition is in order it should be in the hands of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton sometime Thursday.

Under normal procedure Milton would study the petition and schedule a hearing about a week after receiving it.

If Milton grants extradition, Ray has 10 days to appeal to the High Court, and another 14 days to take the case to the House of Lords if his lawyers want to challenge the order on point of law.

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

3 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 6-13-68
Edition: Home Final
Author: (AP)
Editor: Jack Foster
Title:

MURKIN
Character: CR

or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203-666

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

FBI

Date: 6-12-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, ALBANY
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P
MURKIN

In view of subject's apprehension, any office having outstanding leads or requests for circularization in any publication of any kind should cancel outstanding request now.

A & D.

2 Albany
1 All Continental Offices
1 Memphis

RGJ:BN
(56)

157-203-667

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

admit

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Signs of a Plot

Although the evidence appears to be overwhelming, it still has to be proved that James Earl Ray was the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is broadly assumed that the right man was taken into custody in London, and there is no particular reason to doubt the assumption — except that a jury will have to make that decision after hearing the evidence. This is an elemental fact which often is overlooked in the excitement attending such an arrest.

The London authorities have been scrupulously careful about protecting his rights and not prejudicing his chances for a fair trial. The same caution was noted in the procedures by the Los Angeles police's connection with the arrest of the alleged assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. After the experience following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, the authorities in this country have approached the situation with extreme caution. That is as it should be.

On the face of it, the Robert Kennedy assassination had its origin in bitterness of the Israeli-Arab conflict. If there was a conspiracy there, no evidence of it has been brought out. The murder of Dr. King, on the other hand, seems to have fallen into quite a different category. All the signs of a plot are present.

The FBI will want to know the source of the Swiss bank account which enabled Ray to travel abroad. Because Swiss bankers have a very tight system to protect the identity of depositors, this information may be difficult to obtain. The present case, however, is of sufficient public importance to carry some punch that the facts will be forthcoming. The Swiss banking system has long been a thorn in the side of American investigators. It is not likely that depositors will be asked to reveal their names and addresses. The Swiss have a long history of protecting their banks.

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

6 CASPER STAR TRIBUNE
CASPER, WYOMING

Date: 6-12-68
Edition: Morning
Author: E.P. Martin
Editor: William Rissner
Title:

Character: MURKIN
or CR
100 Rm
Classification: 157-203
Submitting Office: DENVER
☐ Being Investigated

157-203-668

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Unless much of the published information is groundless, it is fair to predict that other arrests will be made in this case. Ray is reported to have referred to a million-dollar fund in connection with a move to have Dr. King killed. No such an amount would be necessary, since killers come cheaper than that. The arrangements for a getaway, the false identities and the forged passports naturally would add to the expense.

It is interesting to note that there have been some international aspects in connection with all three of the major assassinations in the United States in this decade. There was rumored to be a Cuban conspiracy in the death of President Kennedy, and there was the apparent Israeli-Arab motivation in the murder of his brother. Now there are the Canadian aspects, involving a false passport system and an individual or organization that provides assumed names, in connection with the murder of Dr. King.

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

6/14/68

SAC, DENVER (157-203)

MURKIN

Re letter from Memphis, dated 5/29/68 returning inserts submitted by Denver and requesting report be prepared. Report was in preparation at time RAY was apprehended. All information in report was aimed at locating RAY and was negative in nature. Any leads emanating from the information were set out for interested offices immediately upon receipt.

Since RAY has been located, no purpose would now be served in circulating this report among the offices involved. Copies of the inserts will be maintained in the Denver file and one copy of each insert is being provided the office of origin for record purposes.

2 - Memphis (Encls. 37)
1 - Denver
BMA/sip
(3)

red._____

Nr

157-205-669

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

June 12, 1968

SAC, LITTLE ROCK (157-1215) (P)

MURKIN

Re Denver airtel to the Director, 5/29/68.

RE: ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE, Denver, Colorado.

On June 6, 1968, Mr. LOUIS FAWCETT, Ashdown, Arkansas, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank, Ashdown, and is secretary-treasurer of the B & F Manufacturing Company, a manufacturer of wood products, advised as follows:

He and Mrs. FAWCETT (BILLYE) are life-time friends of Mr. HAL DAVIS HALE presently of Denver, Colorado, and Los Angeles, California. Mr. HALE is a native of Ashdown and his mother currently resides there. Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT have frequently taken vacations with Mr. and Mrs. HALE.

During the past ten years, Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT have visited with Mr. and Mrs. HALE under various circumstances and about three/during that period they found ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE also visiting with Mr. and Mrs. HALE. BYRNE is known only to work on various projects in the oil industry for Mr. HALE and was never known by Mr. FAWCETT to be employed by anyone else and never on a steady basis for Mr. HALE. He understood that BYRNE merely "ran errands" for Mr. HALE. The last time Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT saw BYRNE was during a period in December, 1967, and January, 1968, when the above named persons vacationed at Acapulco, Mexico.

2 Bureau
1 Memphis (44-1987)
① Denver (157-203)
2 Little Rock
JWM/dlg
(6)

157-203-670

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - DENVER	

adick | *BWA*

LR 157-1215

Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT arrived at a motel called Casa Josette which is about five miles out of the City of Acapulco and up the mountain and along the bay. They arrived on December 26, 1968. On or about December 28, 1967, BYRNE arrived with a woman whose name Mr. FAWCETT recalled only as Mrs. BIGELOW. On January 9, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT flew out of Acapulco direct to Dallas, Texas, where those two got their automobile and drove directly to Ashdown, Arkansas. When Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT left the Casa Josette, they left BYRNE and Mrs. BIGELOW there.

During the period Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT, Mr. and Mrs. HALE, and BYRNE and Mrs. BIGELOW were at the Casa Josette together all six took rides in the bay in rented motor boats and took drives through the mountains in rented jeeps, two of which they rented. On two occasions the six saw a yacht in the bay below Acapulco which they "guessed" belonged to the owner of the Revlon Cosmetic Company although no one in the party had any definite knowledge of the ownership of the yacht and no one made contact with crew members or the party on the yacht. On those two occasions they sailed around the yacht at which time Mr. FAWCETT and probably others made pictures of the yacht and waved at the crew members. It was merely a greeting to the members of the crew. Mr. FAWCETT stated he and Mrs. FAWCETT made no trips in a sailing ship although they saw one on one occasion sailing around their motor boat.

The balance of the time was spent sitting around the motel, eating, drinking, and talking. Mr. FAWCETT made no contact with any persons other than those in his party although he spoke to several persons and thinks the same applies to Mr. BYRNE. BYRNE and Mrs. BIGELOW slept until noon each day as did Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT and Mr. and Mrs. HALE. Mr. and Mrs. FAWCETT's room was next to that occupied by Mr. BYRNE and Mrs. BIGELOW and at no time during the period did

LR 157-1215

Mr. FAWCETT see a stranger or a person not in their party visit or talk with Mr. BYRNE or Mrs. BIGELOW. Although Mr. FAWCETT was not with BYRNE at all times during the afternoons and evenings he was never known to make contact with any persons outside their party. It definitely seemed to Mr. FAWCETT that BYRNE was there to have a good time only and to drink as was his constant habit. There was no indication he sent any messages or received any messages from persons on the yacht or other vessels in the bay.

Mr. FAWCETT considers it inconceivable that BYRNE is associated with or had contact with any criminal element while in Acapulco or in fact has any interest in matters political or criminal. Mr. FAWCETT insisted in referring to BYRNE as a "well-educated drunken bum." He claimed BYRNE has been drunk every time FAWCETT saw him and in fact seldom saw him that he did not have a drink in his hand. He began drinking during the mornings or at noon when he got up and continued drinking throughout the afternoon and evening while FAWCETT was with him.

Mr. FAWCETT advised his wife, BILLYE, was visiting friends out of town and would not return for several weeks. For that reason, and for the reason of the information furnished by Mr. FAWCETT concerning BYRNE, Little Rock is not interviewing Mrs. FAWCETT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Extradition Of Ray May Face Delays

LONDON —(UPI) —Efforts to return James Earl Ray to the United States for trial in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. may run into a sea of delay and difficulty because of Britain's complex extradition laws, legal sources said Saturday.

The language of the 1870 law is vague on the subject of political assassination, the sources said, and it will require U.S. authorities to present strong evidence that Ray is responsible for the civil rights leader's death.

Ray, linked to the slaying through a path of evidence leading from a Memphis, Tenn., rooming house through Canada and into Britain, was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport a week ago Saturday.

The U.S. must go before the court with prima facie evidence of this guilt — not just suspicion — before he can be sent to America, the sources said.

Lawyers from both nations planned to meet Monday to set a date for the hearings on America's extradition request.

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

24 DENVER POST
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 6-16-68
Edition: Home
Author: (UPI)
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title:

MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203 - 671

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JUN 17 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Obtained Genuine Passports

By MICHAEL COPE

(C) 1968, Denver Post-Canada News Agency

TORONTO, Canada — Just how did James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was captured in London, England, the other day, manage to have two perfectly genuine Canadian passports?

Certainly, one of the passports was canceled, but only after he had used it to slip through an intensive security net spread across North America to catch him.

LATEST OF SCORES

Ray was the latest of scores of criminals and spies who for years have been outwitting law enforcement agencies around the world with mail-order passports from Ottawa.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police who have been piecing together Ray's month-long stay in Toronto after the Memphis, Tenn., assassination, have determined that he filled out a passport application in a local travel agent's office and mailed it to Ottawa, together with the \$5 fee, three full-face unsmiling passport photographs and a copy of a birth certificate of a Toronto resident. Ramon George Sneyd, whose name he had borrowed.

Two weeks later, the Canadian External Affairs Department obligingly mailed back a valid passport to the most-wanted man in the world, and four days later, Ray boarded a transatlantic jet for London.

SURFACED IN LISBON

He surfaced two weeks later in Lisbon, Portugal, where he went to the Canadian Embassy and persuaded them to issue another passport on the ground his borrowed name had been misspelled in the Ottawa-issued original as Sneyd. His original passport was canceled and handed back to him. The Mounties now suspect he wanted a new passport merely to get rid of the various entry and exit stamps.

The only problem the suspected assassin had getting his first Canadian passport was in securing a birth certificate, the only document necessary to support the passport application.

And the Mounties have established that Ray spent at least three days pouring over old newspaper files in the reference section of the Toronto Central Library. His interest was in the births announcement columns of the two afternoon newspapers. In the Daily Star, on Oct. 8, 1932, was a birth notice in respect of Ramon George Sneyd.

COATED COPIES

Wallet-sized, plastic-coated copies of any birth certificate can be mail-ordered from the Ontario Government's Registrar's Office for \$2. The only information needed is the place and year of birth and the names of both parents.

All this information is usually included in a birth announcement as it was in the 35-year-

old Sneyd announcement. The real Ramon Sneyd is a 14-year veteran of the Toronto Police Department and he was astounded when the federal Mounties turned up to question him about the passport he had never applied for.

Ray also used the alias of another Canadian living in Toronto, Paul Bridgman, an educational consultant whose birth notice appeared in the Toronto Evening Telegram on Nov. 10, 1932. A pencil mark had been made against the Bridgman birth announcement when police checked the library's copy of the old newspaper.

3 LOOK ALIKE

What really astonished the American and Canadian investigators working on the case in Toronto was that both the real Sneyd and the real Bridgman have dark hair like Ray and are of similar height and weight. Photographs of the three men look remarkably alike.

The third alias Ray used, Eric Starvo Galt, was even more remarkable. The real Eric Galt, a warehouse foreman in suburban Toronto, even has a 1½-inch long scar on his forehead as Ray does.

It was only when the FBI discovered Ray had spent two months in Canada last year, after escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary where he was serving a 20-year sentence for robbery, that it was suspected he might have fled to Canada again.

PHOTOS CHECKED

A sharp-eyed Mountie checking through thousands of passports photographs at the Rec-

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

21 DENVER POST
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 6-16-68
Edition: Home
Author: Michael Cope
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title:

MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203-672

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

ords Office in Ottawa spotted a similarity between the fake Sleyd and the FBI's Most Wanted Man poster.

Canada's lax passport laws are well known in jails and prisons around the world. In one American penitentiary, it has been reported, the inmates run a night class for convicts planning escapes, coaching them how to get a passport in Canada.

The underworld is also involved in the passports racket. In both Toronto and Montreal, lists of names, dates and places of birth and a physical description, are for sale to crooks on the run, usually for \$100 to \$150. Perhaps Ray bought his aliases and was merely checking them out in the library.

Canadian passports have also long been favorites with spies. Gordon Lonsdale, the biggest Soviet agent ever trapped in Britain in 1961, traveled on a Canadian passport. His two assistants captured at the same time, New York-born Helen and Peter Kroger, were equipped with Canadian passports. Another Russian spy ring broken up by the Australians in 1960 was using Canadian passports for its agents.

Even the Russians' hatchet man who murdered Leon Trotsky in Mexico as long ago as 1940 traveled on a genuine Canadian passport identifying him as Frank Jacson.

When Igor Gouzenko, a top secret cypher clerk in the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, defected to the West in 1945, he told the Canadians that Communist agents even had access to the maximum security Passport Records Office in Ottawa.

On at least one occasion, he said, Soviet agents had broken in and substituted genuine applications with fakes.

All this, and the disclosure that James Earl Ray as the world's most hunted man was able to get a mail-order passport with such ease, has become something of a national scandal in Canada.

The new prime minister,

Pierre Trudeau, is both worried and determined to halt the trafficking in his country's passports. One of the first pieces of legislation he intends to put before the governing Parliament after the June 23 general election here is a bill setting out much stiffer penalties — up to 14 years in prison — for any person caught fraudulently applying for a passport.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ex-Birmingham Mayor Agrees to Defend Ray

BIRMINGHAM Ala., June 17 (UPI)—Arthur J. Hanes, former Birmingham mayor, said Monday he has tentatively agreed to represent James Earl Ray, the escaped convict charged in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes was mayor of Birmingham in the early 1960s when the city was the center of civil rights demonstrations led by Dr. King. He later defended two Ku Klux Klansmen charged with murdering Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white woman who participated in civil rights activities at Selma.

Hanes said he received a letter from Ray asking that he be his lawyer if he is brought to the United States from London to stand trial for the Negro leader's death.

"After conferring with his London lawyer, I have tentatively accepted this case and am flying to London Wednesday to confer with this client in order to begin preparation of the case in the event he is extradited," Hanes said.

Hanes said he had "no idea whatsoever" why Ray asked him to represent him. He said the letter was signed R. G. Sneyd, the name under which Ray is being held in England.

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

18 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 6-18-68
Edition: Home Final
Author: (UPI)
Editor: Jack Foster
Title:

MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203-673

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 18 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Picks Defense Attorney

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (UPI) — Arthur J. Hanes, 51-year-old former FBI agent and former mayor of Birmingham, said Monday he tentatively has accepted the case after receiving a two-page, hand-written letter from James Earl Ray in London. Ray, alias Raymond G. Sneyd, was arrested in London June 8 on fugitive charges

stemming from the slaying of King in Memphis, Tenn., and his earlier escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary. Tennessee authorities are seeking Ray's return to Memphis for trial in the April 4 killing of King.

Hanes said he and his son, a 1967 University of Alabama Law School graduate, would fly to Washington Tuesday and to London Wednesday to confer with Ray "and begin preparation of the case in the event he is extradited."

"I think the American jury system is the greatest," Hanes said. "If you give it to a jury to decide, they'll mull it over and come up with the right verdict."

Hanes said he had "no idea" if Ray contacted him.

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

5 DENVER POST
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 6-18-68
Edition: Home
Author: (UPI)
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title:

MURKIN

Character: CR

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203 - 674

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 19 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Denver

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : SAC, DENVER (157-203)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 6/20/68

Enclosed for Memphis are 15 copies of FD 302's reflecting interviews with Mrs. HOMER LANE BIGELOW, Mr. FRANK F. BACHELLER, Mr. HAROLD B. MOTT and Mr. ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE. Also enclosed are 15 copies of insert regarding BYRNE.

Also enclosed is one copy each of six inserts containing results of investigation to locate RAY, which investigation no longer has pertinence to the case. Inserts are being furnished OO for record purposes and one copy of each being retained by Denver.

2 - Memphis (Encls. 81)
1 - Denver

BDA/sip
(3)

sip

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed *OR* _____

157-203-675



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

DN 157-203
BDA/sip
(1)

RE: EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY

On May 23, 1968, REX H. BASINGER, 1416 Downing, Apartment 2, Denver, Colorado, advised Special Agent BOYD D. ADSIT that he received a collect call from EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY in Tulsa, Oklahoma about 1:00 PM, May 17, 1968. BASINGER stated that he grew up with BRADLEY in Rudy, Arkansas and attended school with him in Alma, Arkansas. He stated that BRADLEY left high school to join the Navy in 1933 and that he has seen him once since, which was in December, 1963 or January, 1964, in Dallas, Texas. He stated that he accidentally met him in a tavern in Dallas.

BASINGER described BRADLEY as 5'11" tall, stocky build, blond hair, freckles, unknown tattoos, 180 pounds and 51 years of age. He stated that BRADLEY has a mother in Rudy, Arkansas, whose name may be Mrs. JOE "JAKE" FINE.

BASINGER claimed that during the call on May 17, 1968, BRADLEY appeared to be drunk and to be calling from a tavern. He thought that perhaps BRADLEY had relations in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He stated that BRADLEY indicated he might be passing through Denver sometime in the near future.

During the conversation, BRADLEY asked BASINGER if BASINGER had seen him on CBS TV and indicated that he was one of those indicted by District Attorney GARRISON of New Orleans, who GARRISON claims to be involved in the JOHN F. KENNEDY assassination conspiracy. BRADLEY commented that "we famous people run together" and stated that he had been living in Tulsa with ERIC GALT for about a week. BASINGER stated he asked BRADLEY who GALT was and BRADLEY replied by asking BASINGER if he had heard of JAMES RAY. When BASINGER stated he had not heard of RAY, BRADLEY reportedly said that he was the one who "knocked over KING, JR.".

BASINGER stated he tried to determine where BRADLEY was staying, but was unsuccessful. He believed that BRADLEY was once on the West Coast possibly in San Jose, California, where he preached as a non-denominational preacher. During the conversation, BRADLEY indicated he might be returning to the West Coast.

157-203-676

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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DN 157-203

BDA/sip

(2)

On May 23, 1968, BASINGER advised that he had received another telephone call from BRADLEY at 7:10 AM that morning. He stated that the telephone call was cut off for an unknown reason, but was not a collect call. BASINGER believes that the call was charged to someone in Fort Smith, Arkansas, from where it originated. During the conversation, BASINGER said that BRADLEY indicated he had been eating at the Old South Restaurant, 714 Towson Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, which restaurant is run by a cousin of BASINGER, Mrs ELBA BASINGER THOMPSON. BASINGER was of the opinion that the call had been placed from that restaurant. BASINGER said that BRADLEY indicated he had traveled to Fort Smith to see the results of a recent tornado in that area and that he planned to head west after leaving Fort Smith.

DN 157-203
BDA/sip
(1)

RE: WILLIAM MOLLETT

On June 2, 1968, Mrs. ETHEL T. GEORGE, 1922 Grant, Denver, Colorado, the address of the Grant Hotel, telephone number 623-4461, advised Special Agent FREDERICK M. VOLZ that she is assistant manager of the Grant Hotel and resides in Room 2. She stated that she has a private telephone, which has the telephone number 623-4461. She stated the only other telephone is listed to the Grant Hotel.

She stated that WILLIAM MOLLETT stayed in Room 24 by himself for two months and moved out approximately six weeks ago to herd sheep, possibly in Montana. She did not know his employment while in Denver.

She advised that MOLLETT used her telephone to call his brother or sister in Kentucky and she exhibited a telephone bill showing that a call was made to Melvin, Kentucky, telephone number 606-938-2468 on April 5, 1968. The bill was \$1.35, which Mrs. GEORGE said MOLLETT paid to her in cash. She recalls that the conversation was about relatives and that some relative had died. She stated that this was the only time that MOLLETT used her telephone.

She described MOLLETT as 5'5" tall, slim build, approximately 55 years old, with grey hair. She was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and she advised that MOLLETT is definitely not RAY.

157-203-677

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DN 157-203
BDA/sip
(1)

RE: FRED GLASS
GUNNISON, COLORADO

By communication dated May 20, 1968, the San Antonio Office of the FBI advised that a long-distance call was placed from a public telephone bearing telephone number 379-9059, which was located on Highway 90 or Interstate Highway 10 in Texas. The call was placed to telephone number 641-1586, Gunnison, Colorado on December 17, 1967.

On May 23, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. FRED GLASS, who live west of Gunnison, Colorado, advised Special Agent RAY M. HICKMAN that they have telephone number 641-1586 and that they have many relatives in the San Antonio, Texas area from whom they usually receive telephone calls rather than letters. Mrs. GLASS stated that she has a niece who had been having marital troubles during December, 1967 and that the niece had called her on several occasions from San Antonio. She could not recall the specific dates, but was sure that the calls were around the 17th of December.

Mr. GLASS stated that he is a contractor and that he receives many calls from all over the country. He stated that most of the time, calls are made to his office but occasionally a call will come to his home. He keeps no record of such calls and it is his belief that the call in question came from some relative of his wife.

Both Mr. and Mrs. GRAY stated that they do not know JAMES EARL RAY and that they had never heard of him prior to the publicity concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. They stated that they had never seen anyone identical with the person pictured on the Identification Order of the FBI.

157-203-678

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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DN 157-203

BDA/sip

(1)

RE: Check of Salvation Army and Other
Charitable-type Missions

The Citizen's Mission, 1617 Larimer Street; the Baptist Mission, 1616 Larimer Street and the Denver Rescue Mission, 1818 Larimer Street, all Denver, Colorado, were previously contacted regarding the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

On May 22, 1968, the Salvation Army, Harbor Lights Center, 1736 Larimer Street; the Salvation Army Installation at 1200 Larimer Street and the Mile High Club, 2206 Larimer Street, Denver, were contacted for this same purpose by Special Agent G. HOWARD CARTER. None of the persons contacted were able to identify RAY with anyone they had seen and each expressed his willingness to be on the lookout for the subject.

157-203-679

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
JUN 24 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

DN 157-203
BDA/sip
(1)

RE: Unidentified Deceased
Persons

On May 16, 1968, Mrs. VERA WOODS, Colorado State Department of Public Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Denver, Colorado, advised Investigative Clerk ROLLO J. TRUMBULL, JR. that her files for 1968 contain no record of an unknown deceased male who would be identifiable with JAMES EARL RAY.

On May 17, 1968, Mrs. HELEN WILLMSCHEN, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State of Wyoming Health Department, advised Special Agent ROBERT C. GUSTAFSON that her office maintains death certificates on unidentified persons, however, there have been no such deaths since April 5, 1968. She stated that in each death in the state, each county coroner is required to submit a death certificate to her office within ten days. In the event a person dies and his identity is unknown, it is the responsibility of the county coroner and the sheriff to establish his identity. She stated that if any death certificates are received for unidentified bodies she will notify the Denver Office.

157-203-680

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DN 157-203
BDA/sip
(1)

RE: Witnesses In Unsolved Bank Robberies

During the period from April 23 1967 - April 4, 1968 Denver experienced three bank robberies which are presently unsolved in which witnesses are available.

It is noted that there are no unsolved bank burglaries in which eyewitnesses are available.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to the witnesses, who advised that RAY is not identical with the bank robbers.

157-203-681

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - DENVER	

June 24, 1968

**Honorable Jack Foster
President and Editor
Rocky Mountain News
400 West Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80204**

Dear Mr. Foster:

I have read the article entitled "Superb Police Work," which appeared in your June 11th edition.

It is gratifying to know that the work of this Bureau in the case involving James Earl Ray has merited your approval. I appreciate your high regard not only for the work of the FBI but also for the other law enforcement agencies which gave such splendid cooperation in this investigation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Denver

157-203-682

SEARCHED <i>bl</i>	INDEXED <i>bl</i>
SERIALIZED <i>bl</i>	FILED <i>bl</i>
JUN 26 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

AR

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

British Court Approves James Ray Extradition

LONDON — (UPI) — A British court ruled Tuesday that James Earl Ray will be extradited to the United States to face charges of assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray, 40, identified as an escaped convict from the Missouri Penitentiary, was accused of shooting the civil rights leader in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4. He was arrested at London Airport June 8.

Ray's defense attorney, Roger Frisby, argued in Bow Street Magistrate Court that the slaying was a political crime. But Frank Milton, chief metropolitan magistrate for London, agreed with the U.S. position it was outright murder.

Ray had shown earlier in a surprise statement to the court that he feared — and perhaps expected — the extradition to be granted.

There was still much legal red tape to go through before Ray returns to the United States. Frisby said he definitely would appeal Tuesday's ruling.

In the ruling Milton said no evidence had been presented at the two-part hearing to substantiate defense claims that the slaying was a political crime.

He also ruled that Missouri law covering robbery with violence was relevant in the extradition case. Missouri wants Ray for trial on charges he escaped from prison while serving a term for armed robbery.

Milton ruled Ray extraditable on both counts. At last week's hearing, Ray denied killing Dr. King.

"You will not be released for 15 days," Milton told Ray. "You may apply for habeas corpus."

This, under British law, is the form that Ray's appeal will take to the Division Court of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice.

The defense called it a political crime, but the magistrate said:

"This was the assassination of a man who was not in control of the government of his country, not as far as has been shown by the evidence. It was not part

of a campaign to get rid of the government—but the act of a solitary person."

Ray showed virtually no emotion when Milton announced his decision.

He was staring down at the table and looked up slowly without blinking. Then with a slight shrug of his shoulder, he rose to receive further instructions from Milton. He remained expressionless.

This was in contrast to his nervousness a few minutes earlier when he had made his statement that he had been denied the right to see his American lawyer.

Ray bounced up and down, heels to toes, and spoke in a staccato Southern accent that left even the court reporter unable to understand some of his words.

SHARP CONTRAST

It was a sharp contrast to the relatively composed man who sat through a similar session last week when British barrister David Calcutt, representing the United States, described him as the "single-hand" killer who left his fingerprints on the murder weapon.

It was then that Scotland Yard Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler told of Ray's anguished statement when he was arrested.

Butler testified that, when accused, Ray collapsed on a seat in his cell crying: "Oh God, I feel so trapped."

"I don't want to repeat it," Ray said Tuesday. "I would like to take the opportunity to object to Mr. Butler's statement that this case will pro-

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

1 DENVER POST
DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 7-2-68
Edition: Home
Author: (UPI)
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
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Character: RM

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157-203-683

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - DENVER	

ably be given wide publicity in the United States, especially in the so-called liberal press."

He then said that Birmingham, Ala., attorney Arthur J. Hanes had been denied permission to see him on a recent visit. He said he had written to British Home Secretary James Callaghan asking for permission for Hanes to visit him in jail but was turned down.

"I think that in view of the seriousness of this case, I should have had a little more freedom to write and visit people in the circumstances," Ray said.

"That is all I have to say and I would like to thank the court."

Hanes, who conferred with British attorneys when he visited London with his son and law partner, Arthur Hanes Jr., said on his return to the United States he had "pretty well obtained my objectives I set for myself."

However, Hanes said Tuesday in Birmingham that Ray's surprise statement that Hanes was denied permission to see him was "absolutely right."

"I made official requests to see the man and was told this was not permissible," Hanes said.

FULL STATEMENT

Here is the full court statement of Ray as reported by the British Press Association:

"I don't want to repeat myself. I would like to take the opportunity to object to Mr. Butler's testimony, especially in view of the fact that this case will probably be given wide publicity in the United States, especially in the so-called liberal press.

"I would urge this court to take in the totality of the cir-



DAVID CALCUTT

"There was no conspiracy."

circumstances. One, that I did not sign any kind of statement whatsoever, and also the fact that I said I did not want to have the conversation with anybody connected with the United States Justice Department.

"One other thing I object to. I'm not sure it is connected with the case, I believe there is a connection between this hearing and the trial in the states. Shortly after I was arrested by the British authorities, I engaged an attorney in the United States, Mr. Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala.

"He subsequently made the

trip to consult with me. This was opposed by the home secretary and I made an application to the home secretary and I received no answer.

"I then wrote to Mr. Edward Heath (Conservative party leader), and I was informed by the governor at Wandsworth Prison that this was not permissible and he would forward the letter to Mr. Callaghan (home secretary). Evidently, the home secretary would decide whether Mr. Heath would be permitted to read the letter.

"I think that in view of the seriousness of this case, I should have had a little more freedom to write and visit people in the circumstances. That is all I have to say and I would like to thank the court."

OTHER STATEMENTS

Earlier, the U.S. government denied Ray's contention that the killing of King was a political crime for which he could not be extradited.

"There is not a shred of evidence to show that the murder took place to further the ends of a larger enterprise," attorney Calcutt said.

"There is nothing to show that this shooting was done to further the cause of the colored people," Calcutt continued.

"There was no conspiracy. No other man or other body was involved.

"There have been undertones that this might be so, but the evidence before this court points to a lone assassination for private purposes."

Calcutt addressed the court after Frisby told the magistrate that whoever killed King didn't do it on personal grounds but

because he disapproved of the type of activity King was conducting.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Black Conspiracy Defense Possible

(C) 1968 Denver Post-Washington Post
LONNIG — Defense lawyers for James Earl Ray may contend in the United States that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed by political conspirators, but that the conspiracy was masterminded by black instead of white extremist groups.

This became known Saturday as Alabama Attorney Arthur J. Hanes had a second prison visit with the 40-year-old Ray, who is facing extradition to the United States on charges of murdering King in Memphis, Tenn.

Hanes agreed to discuss his client's state of mind with reporters but declined to say anything about the precise line of

defense he might argue at the event that Ray is returning for trial in Memphis.

But he did state readily that a likely contention will be that King was as much hated by black nationalists who regarded him as an "Uncle Tom" as he was by white supremacist groups. Such a line of argument would not necessarily preclude an admission that a white gunman could have been hired to execute the murder.

Hanes will only say that he intends to enter a not guilty plea if Ray is extradited and that he now has the names of some witnesses he plans to call in the United States. He intends to go to Memphis, where the murder occurred on April 4.

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

4 DENVER POST
 DENVER, COLORADO

Date: 7-7-68
 Edition: Home
 Author:
 Editor: Palmer Hoyt
 Title:

MURKIN

Character: RM

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

159-41-688

SEARCHED	157-203ED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 8 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

July 3, 1968

SAC, Denver (157-203)

MURKIN

Time and Mileage Figures for June, 1968

1) Regular Hours

SA	75 hours, 30 minutes
Clerical	31 hours, 27 minutes

Overtime Hours

SA	7 hours, 45 minutes
Clerical	0

Total Hours 114 hours, 42 minutes

2) Total Miles Traveled 39

3) 0

4) 4

Figures for July will not be submitted, UAC.

2 - Memphis

1 - Denver

BDA:mf

(3)

Filed

157-41-685

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

July 8, 1968

SAC, Denver (157-203) (RUC)

MURKIN

In view of subject's apprehension and the fact that the Denver Division has no outstanding leads in this matter, this case is being considered RUC.

2 - Memphis

① - Denver

BDA:mf

(3) *My*

Recd
cy
m

Filed *Be*

157-211-686

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, DENVER (157-203)

DATE: 7/9/68

FROM : SA BOYD D. ADSIT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

For record purposes, the following informants were contacted on the dates indicated in connection with the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY:

<u>INFORMANT</u>	<u>DATE CONTACTED</u>	<u>FILE NUMBER</u>	<u>CONTACTING AGENT</u>
DN 301-C	5/30/68	137-907	E. William Trainor
LOUIS SANDOVAL	5/30/68	137-1808	E. William Trainor
ANDRE PHILLIP			
DE JESUS	5/31/68	137-80	Andrew P. Bugas
RICHARD MORRIS	5/31/68	137-1470	Robert H. Little
DN 22-C	6/4/68	137-656	Eugene J. Coble
DN 234-C	6/4/68	137-419	Eugene J. Coble
GEORGE IRVING	6/13/68	137-1887	Boyd D. Adsit

1 - 157-203
(1)
BDA/bda



5010-108-01

157-203-687

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
JUL 9 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Copy of Letter 'Proves' Ray, Sneyd Same Man

By JERRY LIPSON

(C) 1968, Denver Post-Chicago Daily News
A copy of a letter written by James Earl Ray after his arrest in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., removes any doubt that Ray and Ramon George Sneyd, the name under which he was arrested, are the same man.

It also suggests that he originally intended to return voluntarily to the United States to face trial, and implies that he has an independent source of money to cover arrangements for his defense.

The undated letter was sent from London's Heathfield Road Prison, where Ray has been held, to a married sister who lives in a suburb of St. Louis, Mo.

'LORD SNEYD'

It was signed "Lord R. G. Sneyd."

While government officials working on the King assassination have not expressed doubt that Ray and Sneyd are the same person, the fact that Ray was using an alias has been a point of legal confusion during extradition hearings.

Also, Ray's attorney, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., who has visited the accused slayer in London, continues to refer to Ray as Sneyd.

However, Ray's younger brother, John Ray, is convinced that the letter is genuine and was sent by Ray despite the signature "Lord R. G. Sneyd."

John Ray said he based his conclusion on the handwriting and language of the letter, and on the personal comments it contained.

"I don't know where he got the name of Sneyd," John said. "But he had lots of names."

Asked about his brother's assumption of the title "Lord John Ray,"

"That's probably just his little joke."

Even though the letter was addressed to Ray's married sister, it was written in response to a letter sent to Heathfield Road Prison by John Ray, who wanted to assure himself that the man arrested June 9 in London was actually his brother.

"I assume he was," John said, "but I just wanted to make sure."

"At first I was going to ask him in the letter if he was my brother, but then I was afraid they might not give it to him, or that they might not let him write back."

John said he finally addressed his letter to James Earl Ray, and in it he raised the possibility of visiting his brother in the London prison.

He also said he asked about hiring Texas criminal lawyer Percy Foreman to handle Ray's defense, and discussed action of Ray's appeal of the 20-year armed robbery sentence Ray was serving when he escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967.

John Ray, who formerly operated a tavern in southeast St. Louis, visited his brother at the Missouri Penitentiary on April 23, 1967. He dropped out of sight following Ray's capture in London, and was located by the Chicago Daily News last week.

The letter from James Earl Ray was obtained by the Daily News, and a copy made, during the newspaper's attempts to trace John Ray. It is the first communication from Ray to be made public since his capture.

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

7 Denver Post
— Denver, Colorado

Date: 7-15-68
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title:
JAMES EARL RAY

Character:
or
Classification: 157-203
Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated

157-203-627

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 16 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

Vol 8

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Stops Battle; Will Face Trial

LONDON, July 16—(AP)—James Earl Ray gave up his battle against extradition Tuesday and agreed to return to the United States for trial on charges of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He is expected to fly home under heavy guard in the next few days for trial in Memphis, Tenn., in the shooting of the Nobel laureate there last April 4. Ray, an escaped convict from the Missouri State Penitentiary, was arrested in London June 8. He has steadily claimed his innocence of the killing.

A legal informant said Ray signed a statement declaring he would not pursue an appeal in the British High Court against a Magistrate's Court order July 2 extraditing him to the United States.

The statement, signed Tuesday morning at a conference with his court-appointed British lawyer, cut short a complicated legal case which had little chance of success.

People who talked to Ray recently in Wandsworth prison said he had been growing restless and tired of waiting. Another factor was the news that the British had refused to continue legal aid for his appeal. He had been granted free legal service for the lower court case.

Ray's statement was signed in an irregular hand, "Ramon George Sneyd," the alias under which he had been held here since his arrest.

It said, "I have made this decision after considering all the facts, and I believe that this is the best course of action for me to adopt."

Ray was contending that King's murder was a political crime and therefore he could not be extradited under British law. But he apparently decided several days ago to drop the appeal, which had been set for the High Court before three British judges on July 23.

Ray could be on a plane headed for the United States within 24 hours.

His American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, of Birmingham, Ala., is flying to London and is due here Wednesday morning. He may ask for permission to accompany Ray home. U.S. officials indicated this request would be turned down.

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

3 Rocky Mtn News
Denver, Colorado

Date: 7-17-68
Edition: Home Final
Author:
Editor: Jack Foster
Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:
or
Classification: 157-203
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203-689

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 17 1968	
FBI-DENVER	

F B I

Date: 7/16/68

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

TO: ALL SACs

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 7/9/68.

The Bureau has requested that all divisions continue to submit monthly cost data until further notice.

In view of the above, all divisions are requested to comply with the Bureau's instructions, including offices who have negative cost data to report.

2 - ALL OFFICES
2 - Memphis

RFB:jap

(4)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

157-203-690

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 18 1968	
FBI - DENVER	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Accused King Slayer Boards Plane to U.S.

LONDON, July 18 — (UPI) — American authorities took custody of James Earl Ray Thursday night. They put the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. aboard a plane bound for the United States but kept details of his journey secret.

The U.S. Embassy announced Ray had started his journey back to the United States but declined to enlarge on the trip schedule. Other sources said the former Missouri convict was taken to an airfield near London shortly after midnight London time.

Earlier Thursday British authorities completed legal steps allowing Ray's extradition to the United States.

Ray will go back to Memphis, Tenn., to stand trial for murder in the April 4 sniper slaying of the civil rights leader. Even Ray's American attorney, Arthur J. Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala., did not know the schedule for Ray's return. He complained he was refused permission to fly back in the plane with Ray.

"I don't want this man grilled, cross-examined and

interrogated in the plane when I'm not there," Hanes said, adding he had told Ray to "keep his mouth shut" and "not even talk about the weather."

At Memphis, authorities prepared for Ray's arrival by imposing tight security around the concrete county building complex. State troopers, deputy sheriffs and city policemen were placed on duty around the building. They were armed with pistols and night sticks.

British authorities also were secretive about the trip.

"There is nothing we can say at the moment," the press secretary for the British Home Office said.

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

94 Rocky Mtn News
Denver, Colorado

Date: 7-19-68
Edition: Home Final
Author:
Editor: Jack Foster
Title:
JAMES EARL RAY

Character:
or
Classification: 157-203
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

157-203-691

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 19 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ALL EMPLOYEES

DATE: 8/1/68

FROM: SAC, DENVER

SUBJECT: MURKIN
Denver File 157-203

The Bureau, by airtel to Memphis dated 7/9/68, has requested that all divisions continue to submit monthly cost data in this case until further notice.

Accordingly, you are requested to furnish SA ADSIT positive information on number of man-hours, total mileage, and unusual costs within two work days after the close of each month. If you did no work on this case, no routing slip is necessary. However, if work was done during the month on MURKIN, SA ADSIT must have the figures by the A.M. of the second work day of the following month in order to furnish same to the office of origin on that date.

Stenographers and clerks should furnish their figures to the Steno Supervisor and Chief Clerk, respectively.

- 1 - All Employees
- 1 - SAC
- 1 - ASAC
- 1 - Supervisor
- ① - 157-203
- 1 - 66-17

BDA:imw
(103) *imw*

OFFICE MEMO NUMBER 268

157-203-492

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ma</i>	FILED <i>ma</i>
AUG 1 1968	
FBI — DENVER	

hr

8/2/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, DENVER (157-203) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following is an accumulation of work hours
and costs devoted by the Denver Division on this case during
the month of July, 1968:

1. Special Agents -- 1 hour
Clerical Employees -- 30 minutes
2. 0
3. 0
4. 1

2 - Memphis
2 - Denver
BDA/sip
(4)

157-203-693
Searched _____
Serialized ma
Indexed _____
Filed me

8/2/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, DENVER (157-203) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following is an accumulation of work hours
and costs devoted by the Denver Division on this case during
the month of July, 1968:

1. Special Agents — 1 hour
Clerical Employees — 30 minutes
2. 0
3. 0
4. 1

2 - Memphis
2 - Denver
BDA/sip
(4)

157-203-693
Searched.....
Serialized *[signature]*
Indexed.....
Filed *[signature]*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date June 10, 1968

Mrs. HOMER LANE "KIRK" BIGELOW, 4331 East Mexico Street, Denver, Colorado, advised she was born HELEN LOUISE COYKENDALL on [redacted] New York City of MARY E. and SAMUEL ADAMS COYKENDALL, 170 Chilean Avenue, Palm Beach, Florida. She stated that she is the mother of three children who reside with her and that she has been married five times, her last husband, to whom she had been married once before, having committed suicide in Denver, Colorado in March, 1963.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated that she met ROBERT EDWARD BYRNE, an independent oil broker in March or April, 1967. She stated that Mrs. KATHY RAHEL, who presently lives at 624 Ogden Street, Denver, Colorado, a thrice married divorcee, moved in next to her in about April, 1967 and lived there until November, 1967. She stated that she and Mrs. RAHEL had mutual friends and soon became acquainted. Mrs. RAHEL threw a party at which BOB BYRNE was present. She learned that BYRNE was born in Shanghai and lived in South Africa as a boy. His father was in the export-import business in New York. She stated that BYRNE moved to Garden City, Long Island, New York when he was in his early teens and went to school with one HAROLD MOTT, who later married KATHY RAHEL and lives in the same apartment building on Ogden Street as does RAHEL.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated that BYRNE was a part of a "partying group", which included KATHY RAHEL; HAROLD MOTT; JAMES W. HEYER, a Denver attorney; KEVEN MC CARTHY, a Singer Sewing Machine executive; JOHN and ELVA THOMPSON, who are not married, but live together in an apartment two doors removed from Mrs. BIGELOW; and RENEE and KEN MC LAUGHIN, an attorney. She stated that none of these people are considered to be substantial people by her. She advised they like wild parties and lots of drinking. She said that the group usually meets at KATHY RAHEL's apartment.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated that she and her children were in the East for the summer of 1967 returning to Denver on the Labor Day Weekend. She stated that she immediately saw

On 5/24/68 at Denver, Colorado File # Denver 157-203-694
 by SA PAUL E. BUSH and BOYD D. ADSIT BDA/sip Date dictated 6/3/68

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.

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(2)

BOB BYRNE again at the THOMPSON's apartment and a romance between them started at that time "hot and heavy". She said it progressed to the point where they frequently slept together. During their association, she met a close acquaintance of BYRNE by the name of HAL HALE. She stated that HALE is in the oil business and has several oil holdings. He is married and lives in California, but has an office in a house located in the 500 block of Gilpin Street in Denver, Colorado, which office is maintained by a bookkeeper. She stated that HALE is originally from Ashdown, Arkansas. She advised that she first met HALE in September or October, 1967 and that he is not a member of the partying group to which BYRNE belongs.

Mrs. BIGELOW described BOB BYRNE as 43 years of age, 6'4½ - 5" tall, dark hair, scars on his legs, which he claims he obtained from wounds received while in the Marine Corps as a pilot during World War II. She stated that he is a graduate of Cornell University and has a degree in Hotel Management. She said that BYRNE was married once after he came to Denver about 15 years ago, but is now divorced. His ex-wife is now Mrs. JAMES S. (LYNN) ROBB and lives at 12534 West Virginia Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado. She recalled that BYRNES' ex-wife presently has BYRNE in court either for non-support or in connection with attempts on the part of her and her new husband to adopt the three children of the first marriage.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated that BYRNE does not appear to have money, but that he has refused to accept cash from her in the past. She believes, however, that he has accepted money from another girl friend, BERNICE PAULSEN, who resides at 1010 Clarkson, Denver and who is a secretary for a law firm.

She stated that BYRNE had a twin brother, JOSEPH BYRNE, who was killed March 13, 1968 while on a flight over Laos. JOSEPH BYRNE was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, whose wife's name is GENEVIVE and whose family consisted of six children, all residing with their mother at 4704 29th Street, Lubbock, Texas, telephone Swift 2-1182. She stated that he has two other brothers, WILLIAM BYRNE, in

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insurance at 119 Underhill Road, Ossining, New York and DONALD BYRNE in the oil business in Kansas City, Missouri.

She stated that BYRNE is a "heavy, two fisted drinker" who does most of his talking when he has been drinking. She said that he is probably not an alcoholic as he never seems to forget anything he says, but that he is capable of drinking one to two bottles of liquor a day for four or five days and then will go without drinking for a like period.

Mrs. BIGELOW claimed that BYRNE started intimating that he was in some type of organized crime syndicate about a month after their romance started; but that he never became specific as to members of the syndicate or its activities. She said he also told war stories about his life in the Marine Corps during combat and he claimed he had killed many men. She was never sure whether the killings were while he was in the Marines or were in connection with the syndicate; but later she learned from other sources that he was never in combat.

She claimed that he once told her that he was a professional killer and also that after World War II, he was engaged in a gun running business in which he flew guns to Cuba in a light airplane prior to take over by CASTRO. She said that she gained the impression that he was in the employ of one RAY RYAN, while gun running and he described RYAN as "Mr. BIG", who spent part of his time in Kenya, Africa, where RYAN is a member of the Mt. Kenya Safari Club. She said according to BYRNE, RYAN supposedly cannot return to the United States as there is a "contract" out on him and he would be killed the minute he set foot on American soil. She also said that BYRNE mentioned another name which she cannot recall of a man who was big in the underworld and who lives on an island between Miami and Miami Beach. This man is supposed to have been connected with RAY RYAN and a financier of the gun running operation. BYRNE also reportedly referred to HAL HALE as "Mr. BIG" and inferred that HALE was involved in the criminal activity.

BIGELOW stated that in late November, 1967 BYRNE

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told her he had been invited to Acapulco, Mexico by HALE and his wife DEE and that she was invited as well. BYRNE told her that it was a business trip, but not connected with oil. She said that she paid for the trip for the two of them and that they left Denver on December 28, 1967 and returned to Denver, January 12, 1968. She said that they met the HALEs at a house named Casa Josette in the Las Brisas area of Acapulco. The HALEs were accompanied by BILLIE and LOUIS FAWCETT of Ashdown, Arkansas. The HALEs and the FAWCETTS left Acapulco two or three days before BYRNE did.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated that she gained the impression the three men attended meetings during the mornings although no one specifically so stated, and that the meetings related to criminal plans. She did not know who else might have been present at the meetings, although HALE once commented that he had seen RAY RYAN on the Street in Acapulco. She said that BYRNE returned to the house one day upset. After dinner he and she went to a club and started drinking, however, BYRNE was sober when she tried to draw him out. She asked him what it was all about and she claimed that she knew that he was supposed to meet RAY RYAN. BYRNE reportedly said "they want me to do a job. I don't want to do it. As you know, I have been trying to get out of this for three years, but they need a technician." She said that BYRNE claimed that "they" had threatened to harm Mrs. BIGELOW's children and that "this is the only way they could get to me". She stated that 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" harm her or her children.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated that shortly after the group's arrival in Acapulco a yacht, the Ultima II, anchored in the harbor. They learned that it belonged to CHARLES REVSON, head of Revlon Cosmetic Company. She said she gained the impression that REVSON was not aboard. After lunch one day BYRNE wanted to take a small sailboat out on the harbor so she accompanied him and the operator of the boat. She stated that they circled the yacht and took pictures of it while some of the crewmen were at the yacht's rail. They waved and the crewmen waved back. She said that she had heard that RAY RYAN was aboard and thinks that it was HALE who mentioned it. She felt that BYRNE wanted to circle the yacht because of that. She said that BYRNE

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later told her he rented the sailboat because he was supposed to identify the crewman and the crewman was to identify him. She stated that the next day or so, all the party took a speedboat trip and on the trip they again circled the yacht. More pictures were taken of the yacht and its crew.

On the trip to Acapulco Mrs. BIGELOW stated that she took seven rolls of pictures with 20 pictures to the roll. When they returned to Denver, she had them developed at a nearby drug store and BYRNE picked them up paying about \$35.00. She stated that she saw them at that time, but BYRNE stated he was going to keep them since he had paid for them and would have prints made for her. She recalls that they later showed them to JAMES HEYER, the attorney friend of BYRNE. In March, while at BYRNE's apartment, BYRNE passed out from over drinking according to Mrs. BIGELOW. She said that she took the pictures and the negatives and left his apartment. She thinks that she must have lost the negatives and some airline tickets out of her purse when she stepped out of her car at her apartment. She discovered the loss the next morning and later noticed that all the pictures of the crewmen of the yacht were missing.

She stated that after returning to Denver she tried to discuss BYRNE's comments in Acapulco. He reportedly told her "for God sake don't bring that up". They eventually had words and did not see each other from January, 26, 1968 to February 9, 1968. Due to the need to talk to someone she went to her attorney, TOD BAKER, Denver, Colorado, shortly after their return to Denver and discussed the matter briefly with him. She said he laughed and said that it was impossible, but if she was worried, he would make one telephone call and would find out what it was all about.

She claimed that BYRNE knew she had seen her attorney the very next day and told her that she was in deep trouble. That was the day that they picked up the pictures from the drug store and took them over to JAMES HEYER. She said that they all drank a lot, but no one was drunk. After HEYER's wife went to bed, both BYRNE and HEYER started questioning her as to why she went to her attorney and telling her that she was going to get herself, her kids and

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BYRNE killed.

She said HEYER told her that her house was "bugged" and that they knew of all her conversations. He said that he and BYRNE had to make a call to Dallas in order to get BYRNE out of trouble as a result of her talking. She said they asked her to go to the car and wait while they made the telephone call. She did and when she returned, they both continued to lecture her and obtained her promise not to talk further. Afterwards, HEYER again called Dallas, according to Mrs. BIGELOW and BYRNE handled the call out of earshot of Mrs. BIGELOW.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated after their fight on January 26, 1968, she next saw BYRNE on February 9, 1968 at another 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. She claimed that BYRNE was tense when he returned and told her that he had his problems and did not know what to do about them. He said, cryptically that he had to do it and he did not want to. She said that he would not say what it was he had to do, but in response to her probing did say that "it" was going to happen soon, would make national headlines and would be just about as big as KENNEDY's death.

Mrs. BIGELOW said that on March 10, 1968 BYRNE's mother died and as he was getting ready to go to New York, where the funeral was to be held, he received a call from his sister-in-law GENEVIVE on March 13, 1968, telling him that his twin brother, her husband, had been killed overseas. She said that he immediately went to Lubbock, Texas, where she called him frequently asking when he would be returning to Denver. From these calls, she learned that he and GENEVIVE had gone off somewhere for a week. The night of the day on which MARTIN LUTHER KING was assassinated while others were at her house, she again called him. She said that he was at his sister-in-laws and was "absolutely, out of his mind, drunk". She said he yelled at her for having a "nasty mind" regarding GENEVIVE. In subsequent calls, he was reportedly calmer and indicated that he had a lot

to do in connection with the two estates.

She stated that BYRNE returned to Denver on May 14, 1968 and was at her apartment that night "fairly drunk" by 9:00. Before they retired she told him she was scared and asked him if he had had a 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 that BYRNE said he was not. She said she asked him if "that had been a picture of RAY on the yacht she had taken", and he replied that it was. She said she asked BYRNE where the pictures were and he replied "you don't think I would leave them around do you?" He ended the conversation by saying he would never let "them" harm her. The next night, according to Mrs. BIGELOW, while they were out with KATHY RAHEL and her friend MOTT, BYRNE told her that he was going to marry GENEVIVE in that he thought he ought to be a father to her six children. Mrs. BIGELOW said that she walked out on the group and walked home, but that she has seen BYRNE a few times since.

She stated that on May 22, 1968 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 give BYRNE the message "emergency teacup" and BYRNE would know what it meant. She said BYRNE did call later and she gave him the message. She stated that he had her repeat it three times, swore and commented "I wonder if mine will be as big as the other's". She felt the message frightened BYRNE and she has not seen nor heard from him since.

Mrs. BIGELOW stated that she started making notes concerning this situation about April 18, 1968. She stated that she has thought about it many times and finally decided that if BYRNE was going down to Lubbock, Texas to marry GENEVIVE perhaps he ought to be stopped. She stated that she probably would not have called the FBI except for the fact that BYRNE plans to marry GENEVIVE. She stated that she realizes she has no proof of her allegations and she figures she will harm BYRNE by furnishing the information.

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She advised that up to the time of MARTIN LUTHER KING's death there was no mention of KING in any of her conversations with BYRNE.