

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537**

4-23-68 307 HJC

3

The following FBI record, NUMBER 405 942 G, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 16, 1959	suspicion of robbery stealing and fugitive other authorities	
State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #00416	March 17, 1960	"TC" operating motor vehicle without permission of owner robbery first "b/m DDW" (2 charges)	20 years (20, 7, 5, concurrent)
State Hospital Number 1 Fulton, Missouri	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	September 8, 1966	Patient	

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

4-23-68 307 HJC

4

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	<p>WANTED: James Earl Ray for escape April 23, 1967 (operating motor vehicle without permission of owner; robbery first degree "b/m of a D & DW") (will extradite) Notify Warden State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri information received May 10, 1967.</p>			

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537**

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI WASH DC

FBI EL PASO

3:49PM 4-25-68 URGENT CEJ

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM EL PASO (157-186) (P)

MURKIN

RE AT AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, APRIL TWENTY TWO, LAST.

CARS STOLEN FROM STATE OF GEORGIA.

APPROPRIATE CONTACTS WITH POLICE AGENCIES AND TEXAS DPS COMPLETED
AND NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED REGARDING CARS STOLEN FROM STATE OF
GEORGIA SUBSEQUENT TO APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND RECOVERED IN EL PASO
DIVISION. THESE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO ADVISE IF ANY SUCH
VEHICLES ARE RECOVERED IN NEAR FUTURE. BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES
WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED IF ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION SUBSEQUENTLY
DEVELOPED.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

CAB

FBI WASH DC

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED W
INDEXED W
FILED W

157-186-119

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plain text or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND
SACS BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

✓
MURKIN

RE AT AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, APRIL TWENTY TWO, LAST.

CARS STOLEN FROM STATE OF GEORGIA.

APPROPRIATE CONTACTS WITH POLICE AGENCIES AND TEXAS DPS
COMPLETED AND NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED REGARDING CARS
STOLEN FROM STATE OF GEORGIA SUBSEQUENT TO APRIL FOUR, LAST,
AND RECOVERED IN EL PASO DIVISION. THESE AGENCIES HAVE
BEEN REQUESTED TO ADVISE IF ANY SUCH VEHICLES ARE RECOVERED
IN NEAR FUTURE. BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES WILL BE
IMMEDIATELY ADVISED IF ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION SUBSEQUENTLY
DEVELOPED. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1 - El Paso

DJR/bad
(1)

SEARCHED W
SERIALIZED W
INDEXED W
FILED W

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in ChargeSent ME 3⁵⁸ P T5J MPer [Signature]

157-186-113

Dir 3⁴⁴ CAB
BH 3⁵⁸ LTD
ME 3⁵⁸ P T5J

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

DATE: 4/25/68

FROM : SA DAVID J. REID

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE SUSPECT LON R. HUMMEL:

During the morning of 4/23/68, SA WALLACE A. CROSSMON received a telephone call from SA COLIN DUNNIGAN of the Phoenix Office, at which time SA DUNNIGAN advised as follows:

IRENE FARR, Proprietor of the Farr Motel, 4450 Grand Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, advised that an individual registered at the motel on the night of 4/22/68, under the name of L. R. HUMMEL, 5500 Martin Lane, El Paso, Texas. HUMMEL was driving a white Ford Bronco, 1968 Texas license CLB 94. Mrs. FARR indicated this individual checked out of the motel at 7:30 a.m. on 4/23/68. She said he fit the same general description of JAMES EARL RAY. She noted that his left ear protuded, that he was thin, and that he wore glasses.

SA CROSSMON ascertained that the white Ford Bronco with 1968 Texas license CLB 94 was registered to LON R. HUMMEL, 5939 Falcon Street, El Paso.

The 1967 City Directory reflected that the Crown Plastic Products, Inc., was located at 5939 Falcon Street in El Paso.

SA CROSSMON telephonically contacted the Crown Plastic Products, Inc., telephone 751-1239, at which time he was advised by the switchboard operator that LON R. HUMMEL resigned from the employ of Crown Plastic Products, Inc., about two weeks ago, and went to Wilcox, Arizona, where he planned to contact a Mr. TATE, an employee of a lumber company in Wilcox.

1-El Paso

DJR:s1
(1)



5010-108-01

157-186-170

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI — EL PASO	

Reid

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

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

EP 157-186

During the morning hours of 4/23/68, SA CROSSMON telephonically furnished the above information regarding HUMMEL to SA E. J. VAN LOON of the Phoenix Office.

Noted Phoenix teletype to El Paso dated 4/24/68, indicated that the San Antonio Office had checked the records of the Texas DPS and had not been able to locate a Texas driver's license for LON R. HUMMEL.

Phoenix requested in the teletype that El Paso conduct credit and criminal checks and other appropriate checks to identify and locate LON R. HUMMEL and eliminate him as possibly identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

On 4/24/68, Mrs. LEE NOLAN, President, Crown Plastic Products, Inc., 5939 Falcon Street, El Paso, was interviewed regarding HUMMEL and a teletype has been sent to the Phoenix Office, air mail copy of same to Memphis, setting out the results of the information obtained from Mrs. NOLAN regarding HUMMEL.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI PHOENIX

FBI EL PASO

1016AM URGENT 4-25-68 WPS

TO PHOENIX (44-371)

FROM EL PASO (157-186) -P- 2P

MURKIN

RE: SUSPECT LON R. HUMMEL.

RE PX TEL APRIL TWENTYFOUR LAST.

MRS. LEE NOLAN, PRESIDENT, CROWN PLASTIC PRODUCTS, INC., ADVISED AS FOLLOWS ON APRIL TWENTYFOUR LAST:

LON R. HUMMEL, SON OF FORMER COLLEGE CLASSMATE OF MRS. NOLAN IN IOWA, WAS EMPLOYED BY CROWN PLASTIC PRODUCTS FROM MARCH, SIXTYSEVEN TO APRIL THIRD LAST. HUMMEL DEPARTED EL PASO APRIL SIX LAST, ENROUTE TO WINSLOW, ARIZONA, WHERE HE PLANNED TO CONTACT JOHN TATE, JR., ONE ONE THREE ELM ST., APT. B, WINSLOW. HUMMEL PLANNED TO FIND WORK WITH TATE IN THE LUMBER BUSINESS. HUMMEL WAS DRIVING HIS WHITE FORD BRONCO WITH SIXTYEIGHT TEXAS LICENSE PLATES WHEN HE DEPARTED EL PASO.

HUMMEL DID NOT RESEMBLE JAMES EARL RAY IN ANY WAY, ACCORDING TO MRS. NOLAN, WHO DESCRIBED HUMMEL AS FOLLOWS:

WM, BORN [REDACTED], CUSHING, IOWA, FIVE FEET EIGHT, ONE TWENTYFIVE LBS., BROWN EYES, LIGHT BROWN HAIR, THINNING ON
END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED 2
SERIALIZED 1
INDEXED 1
FILED 1

157-186-121

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE TWO

TOP, FAIR COMPLEXION, IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE.

POSSIBILITY EXISTS VEHICLE AND IDENTIFICATION PAPERS COULD HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM HUMMEL IF HUMMEL WAS NOT PERSON WHO ACTUALLY REGISTERED AT MOTEL IN QUESTION IN PHOENIX.

PX CONTACT JOHN TATE, JR. AT WINSLOW, ARIZONA, ADDRESS TO ASCERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF HUMMEL IN THAT AREA AND TO DETERMINE DESTINATION OF HUMMEL IN ORDER THAT HUMMEL MAY BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED TO ELIMINATE HIM AS POSSIBLE IDENT WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

MEMPHIS ADVISED AM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

LEG

FBI PHOENIX

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

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

TO: SAC, PHOENIX (44-371) (ME - AIR MAIL)

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

MURKIN *Re: Suspect LON R. HUMMEL*

RE PX TEL, APRIL TWENTY FOUR, LAST.

MRS. LEE NOLAN, PRESIDENT, CROWN PLASTIC PRODUCTS, INC.,
ADVISED AS FOLLOWS ON APRIL TWENTY FOUR, LAST:

LON R. HUMMEL, SON OF FORMER COLLEGE CLASSMATE OF MRS.
NOLAN IN IOWA, WAS EMPLOYED BY CROWN PLASTIC PRODUCTS FROM
MARCH, SIXTY SEVEN TO APRIL THIRD, LAST. HUMMEL DEPARTED
EL PASO APRIL SIX, LAST, ENROUTE TO WINSLOW, ARIZONA, WHERE
HE PLANNED TO CONTACT JOHN TATE, JR., ONE ONE THREE ELM ST.,
APT. B, WINSLOW. HUMMEL PLANNED TO FIND WORK WITH TATE IN
THE LUMBER BUSINESS. HUMMEL WAS DRIVING HIS WHITE FORD
BRONCO WITH SIXTY EIGHT TEXAS LICENSE PLATES WHEN HE
DEPARTED EL PASO.

HUMMEL DID NOT RESEMBLE JAMES EARL RAY IN ANY WAY,
ACCORDING TO MRS. NOLAN, WHO DESCRIBED HUMMEL AS FOLLOWS

WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED], CUSHING,
IOWA, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE POUNDS,
BROWN EYES, LIGHT BROWN HAIR, THINNING ON TOP, FAIR COMPLEXION,
IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE.

1 - El Paso

DJR/bad

(1)

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in ChargeSent *10 16* A.M. Per *[Signature]*

SEARCHED *[Signature]*
SERIALIZED *[Signature]*
INDEXED *[Signature]*
FILED *[Signature]*

157-186-121

F B I

Date:

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

EP 157-186

PAGE TWO.

POSSIBILITY EXISTS VEHICLE AND IDENTIFICATION PAPERS
COULD HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM HUMMEL IF HUMMEL WAS NOT PERSON
WHO ACTUALLY REGISTERED AT MOTEL IN QUESTION IN PHOENIX.

PHOENIX CONTACT JOHN TATE, JR. AT WINSLOW, ARIZONA,
ADDRESS TO ASCERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF HUMMEL IN THAT AREA AND
TO DETERMINE DESTINATION OF HUMMEL IN ORDER THAT HUMMEL MAY
BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED TO ELIMINATE HIM AS POSSIBLE
IDENT WITH JAMES EARL RAY. *copy air mail to Memphis.*

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI EL PASO

FBI WASH DC

745 PM URGENT 4/25/68 GFH

TO EL PASO, HOUSTON, SAN ANTONIO

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

✓
MURKIN

DURING AUTOMOBILE TRIP OF SUBJECT RAY AND CHARLES STEIN DEPARTING LOS ANGELES ON DECEMBER FIFTEEN SIXTY-SEVEN AND ARRIVING NEW ORLEANS ON DECEMBER SEVENTEEN SIXTY-SEVEN, SUBJECT RAY MADE APPROXIMATELY SIX TELEPHONE CALLS FROM VARIOUS PAY STATIONS IN TEXAS.

THEY TRAVELED VIA AUTOMOBILE ON INTERSTATE TEN THROUGH EL PASO TO VAN HORN, TEXAS, AND WENT SOUTH ON ROUTE NINETY TO SAN ANTONIO, THEN ROUTE NINETY OR INTERSTATE TEN TO HOUSTON, TEXAS, AND TO NEW ORLEANS.

EACH OFFICE SHOULD CHECK WITH TELEPHONE COMPANY AND DETERMINE THE LONG DISTANCE CALLS PLACED AT EACH PUBLIC TELEPHONE ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED ROUTES DURING PERIOD OF DECEMBER FIFTEEN, SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN, SIXTY-SEVEN AND HAVE EACH CALL CHECKED OUT. ARMED AND DANGEROUS. COPIES MAILED BIRMINGHAM, MEMPHIS AND LOS ANGELES.

END

MJT

FBI EL PASO

TU

2	XEROX
COPY(S) MADE	
APR 25 1968	
BY	<i>[Signature]</i>

157-186-122

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
APR 25 1968	
FBI — EL PASO	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI WASH DC

FBI EL PASO

7:37 PM IMMEDIATE 4-25-68 MJT

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND BIRMINGHAM 44-1740 , MEMPHIS 44-1987
AND RICHMOND (AIRMAIL COPY TO CHARLOTTE)
FROM EL PASO 157-186 (P)

MURKIN

RE ERIC RAY, AKA EARL RAY, FRIEND OF SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE.

EL PASO LET TO DIRECTOR , ATTN. IDENT. DIV., DATED APRIL
TWENTY TWO LAST, CAPTIONED SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE; ET AL, MISSING
PERSONS NOTICE, SETS OUT INFO RECEIVED FROM SGT. ELBERT BALDRIDGE,
FT. BLISS, TEXAS, RE HIS WIFE, SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE, AND TWO
CHILDREN, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].
SGT BALDRIDGE ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

HE AND WIFE SEPARATED SINCE NOVEMBER, SIXTY SEVEN AND
WIFE AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LIVING SPRING LAKE, NORTH CAROLINA,
WHILE WIFE WORKED AT GAYLORD DEPARTMENT STORE, FAYETTEVILLE,
NORTH CAROLINA. ON MARCH THIRTYONE LAST, WIFE TELEPHONICALLY
ADVISED SGT. BALDRIDGE SHE WAS RETURNING TO EL PASO, LEAVING
APRIL ONE LAST AND WOULD ARRIVE EL PASO APRIL THREE LAST.

WIFE AND CHILDREN FAILED TO ARRIVE AND SGT. BALDRIDGE
LEARNED THROUGH RED CROSS WIFE LEFT HER EMPLOYMENT APRIL ONE

END PAGE ONE

*See serials 139, 145,
245, 260, 264, 265
+ 284 R*

157-186-123

SEARCHED AT
SERIALIZED AT
INDEXED AT
FILED AT

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE TWO

LAST, STATING SHE WAS GOING TO PARENTS HOME, NAMELY MR. AND MRS. BILLY FAUCETT, BOX TWO FOUR ZERO, ROUTE ONE, CLARKSVILLE, VIRGINIA, TELEPHONE THREE SEVEN FOUR DASH EIGHT SEVEN ONE NINE.

BALDRIDGE HAS MAINTAINED CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH INLAWS, WHO HAVE NOT SEEN WIFE AND CHILDREN. BALDRIDGE RECEIVED LETTER FROM WIFE THIS DATE, WHEREIN SHE STATED SHE WAS STAYING WITH HER PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. FAUCETT, AND WANTED HIM TO SEND HER MONEY CARE OF HER AUNT, RUTH JAMES, CALHOUN, GEORGIA. LETTER POSTMARKED APRIL TWENTYTWO LAST AT SALTVILLE, VIRGINIA.

BALDRIDGE JUST LEARNED HIS WIFE LIVED WITH ANOTHER MAN WHILE BALDRIDGE WAS IN VIETNAM IN SIXTY SIX AND SIXTY SEVEN AND PLANS DIVORCE. BALDRIDGE OF OPINION WIFE PROBABLY RAN OFF WITH SOME MAN. RECALLED THAT HE AND WIFE PLANNED TRIP TO TAMPA, FLORIDA IN NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR WHICH WAS CALLED OFF DUE TO OVERSEAS TRANSFER. WIFE REMARKED TO BALDRIDGE AT THE TIME THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE CHANCE TO SEE FRIEND NAMED EARL IF THEY WINT TO FLORIDA. BALDRIDGE SUBSEQUENTLY QUESTIONED HER MORE THOROUGHLY RE THIS, AT WHICH TIME WIFE SAID THAT, AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN, SHE ANS HER COUSIN PATSY MADE TRIP TO FLORIDA, WHERE SHE MET ONE ERIC

END PAGE TWO

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE THREE

RAY, WHOM SHE CALLED EARL. WIFE CLAIMED EARL MUCH OLDER THAN SHE. WIFE NOT KNOWN TO HAVE EVER CORRESPONDED WITH EARL. BALDRIDGE WONDERED IF WIFE WAS POSSIBLY IN CONTACT WITH SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY, POSSIBLY IDENTICAL WITH ERIC RAY SHE MET IN FLORIDA.

WIFE TRAVELLING IN SIXTYSIX FORD, TWO DOOR, BROWNISH RED WITH WHITE TOP, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN VIRGINIA LICENSE PLATES FIVE EIGHT THREE FIVE ONE ONE, BLUE FT. BLISS STICKER A ZERO ONE SIX NINE.

WIFE, SHELBY JEAN, WHITE FEMALE, BORN [REDACTED], CLARKSVILLE, VIRGINIA, FIVE FEET FOUR INCHES TALL, ONE HUNDRED TWENTYFOUR TO THIRTY POUNDS, BLACK HAIR, USUALLY WORN HIGH, FAIR COMPLEXION. BROWN EYES, CUT SCAR, LEFT WRIST, SOMETIMES WEARS BLOND WIG.

RICHMOND, AT CLARKSVILLE, INTERVIEW BILLY FAUCETT TO ASCERTAIN RESIDENCE OF PATSY LNU, COUSIN OF SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE IN CLARKSVILLE, AND INTERVIEW PATSY LNU IN EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN IF SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY POSSIBLY IDENTICAL WITH ERIC RAY, AKA EARL, WHO SHELBY JEAN AND PATSY ALLEGEDLY HAD CONTACT WITH IN FLORIDA IN NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN. IF POSSIBLY IDENTICAL, SET OUT
END PAGE THREE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

APPROPRIATE LEADS TO LOCATE SHELBY JEAN AND TWO CHILDREN IN
EFFORT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

END

LCC

FBI WASH DC

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in CODE
(Type in plain text or code)Via RADIOGRAM URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)
✓ MURKIN

BUREAU REQUESTED FORWARD EL PASO AMSD FIVE HUNDRED
COPIES IO FOUR ONE EIGHT TWO AND FIVE HUNDRED COPIES WF
FOUR FOUR TWO DASH A ON JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

① - El Paso

DJR/bad
(1)
[Handwritten signature]

SEARCHED 111
SERIALIZED 111
INDEXED 111
FILED 111

157-186-124

Approved: R.F.H.
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 10:11 AM Per aca

FORWARDED

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE IMMEDIATE
(Priority)

2		XEROX
COPY(S) MADE		
APR 25 1968		
BY	NAR	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND
SACS BIRMINGHAM (44-1740), MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND RICHMOND
(AIRMAIL COPY TO CHARLOTTE
AND ATLANTA)

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

MURKIN

RE ERIC RAY, AKA EARL RAY, FRIEND OF SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE.

El Paso LET TO DIRECTOR, ATTN. IDENT. DIV., DATED APRIL
TWENTYTWO LAST, CAPTIONED SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE; ET AL, MISSING
PERSONS NOTICE, SETS OUT INFO RECEIVED FROM SGT. ELBERT BALDRIDGE,
FT. BLISS, TEXAS, RE HIS WIFE, SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE, AND TWO
CHILDREN, [REDACTED]

SGT. BALDRIDGE ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

HE AND WIFE SEPARATED SINCE NOVEMBER, SIXTY SEVEN AND
WIFE AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LIVING SPRING LAKE, NORTH CAROLINA,
WHILE WIFE WORKED AT GAYLORD DEPARTMENT STORE, FAYETTEVILLE,
NORTH CAROLINE. ON MARCH THIRTYONE LAST, WIFE TELEPHONICALLY
ADVISED SGT. BLADRIDGE SHE WAS RETURNING TO EL PASO, LEAVING
APRIL ONE LAST AND WOULD ARRIVE EL PASO APRIL THREE LAST.

DJR SENT WA 7:37 pm. REC'D LCC
(1) SENT BH 7:28 pm. REC'D HEP
SENT ME 7:46 pm. REC'D TSJ
SENT RH 8:04 pm. REC'D DWS

SEARCHED MT
SERIALIZED MT
INDEXED MT
FILED MT

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 157-186-123 M Per MT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-15-84 BY 1041-7411

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WIFE AND CHILDREN FAILED TO ARRIVE AND SGT. BALDRIDGE LEARNED THROUGH RED CROSS WIFE LEFT HER EMPLOYMENT APRIL ONE LAST, STATING SHE WAS GOING TO PARENTS HOME, NAMELY MR. AND MRS. BILLY FAUCETT, BOX TWO FOUR ZERO, ROUTE ONE, CLARKSVILLE, VIRGINIA, TELEPHONE THREE SEVEN FOUR DASH EIGHT SEVEN ONE NINE.

BALDRIDGE HAS MAINTAINED CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH INLAWS, WHO HAVE NOT SEEN WIFE AND CHILDREN. BALDRIDGE RECEIVED LETTER FROM WIFE THIS DATE, WHEREIN SHE STATED SHE WAS STAYING WITH HER PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. FAUCETT, AND WANTED HIM TO SEND HER MONEY CARE OF HER AUNT, RUTH JAMES, CALHOUN, GEORGIA. LETTER POSTMARKED APRIL TWENTYTWO LAST AT SALTVILLE, VIRGINIA.

BALDRIDGE JUST LEARNED HIS WIFE LIVED WITH ANOTHER MAN WHILE BALDRIDGE WAS IN VIETNAM IN SIXTY SIX AND SIXTYSEVEN AND PLANS DIVORCE. BALDRIDGE OF OPINION WIFE PROBABLY RAN OFF WITH SOME MAN. RECALLED THAT HE AND WIFE PLANNED TRIP TO TAMPA, FLORIDA IN NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR WHICH WAS CALLED OFF DUE TO OVERSEAS TRANSFER. WIFE REMARKED TO BALDRIDGE AT THE TIME THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE CHANCE TO SEE FRIEND NAMED EARL IF THEY WENT TO FLORIDA. BALDRIDGE SUBSEQUENTLY QUESTIONED HER MORE THOROUGHLY RE THIS, AT WHICH TIME WIFE SAID THAT, AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGHT SCHOOL IN NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN, SHE AND ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AND HER COUSIN PATSY MADE TRIP TO FLORIDA, WHERE SHE MET ONE ERIC RAY, WHOM SHE CALLED EARL. WIFE CLAIMED EARL MUCH OLDER THAN SHE. WIFE NOT KNOWN TO HAVE EVER CORRESPONDED WITH EARL.

F B I

Date:

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

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

BALDRIDGE WONDERED IF WIFE WAS POSSIBLY IN CONTACT WITH SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY, POSSIBLY IDENTICAL WITH ERIC RAY SHE MET IN FLORIDA.

WIFE TRAVELLING IN SIXTYSIX FORD, TWO DOOR, BROWNISH RED WITH WHITE TOP, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN VIRGINIA LICENSE PLATES FIVE EIGHT THREE FIVE ONE ONE, BLUE FT. BLISS STICKER A ZERO ONE SIX NINE.

WIFE, SHELBY JEAN, WHITE FEMALE, BORN
, CLARKSVILLE, VIRGINIA, FIVE FEET FOUR INCHES TALL, ONE HUNDRED TWENTYFOUR TO THIRTY POUNDS, BLACK HAIR, USUALLY WORN HIGH, FAIR COMPLEXION, BROWN EYES, CUT SCAR, LEFT WRIST, SOMETIMES WEARS BLOND WIG.

RICHMOND, AT CLARKSVILLE, INTERVIEW BILLY FAUCETT TO ASCERTAIN RESIDENCE OF PATSY LNU, COUSIN OF SHELBY JEAN BALDRIDGE, IN CLARKSVILLE, AND INTERVIEW PATSY LNU IN EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN IF SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY POSSIBLY IDENTICAL WITH ERIC RAY, AKA EARL, WHO SHELBY JEAN AND PATSY ALLEGEDLY HAD CONTACT WITH IN FLORIDA IN NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN. IF POSSIBLY IDENTICAL, SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS TO LOCATE SHELBY JEAN AND TWO CHILDREN IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT.

Armed & Dangerous. -

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SA DAVID J. REID

SUBJECT: ~~MURKIN~~

STOLEN CARS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA:

Noted that serial 101 is a communication from the Atlanta Office, wherein it was requested that appropriate checks be made in an effort to ascertain if any stolen automobiles with Georgia license plates had been recovered on any date in the El Paso Division subsequent to 4/4/68.

SA SICKLES advised on 4/24/68, that he had checked with the EPPD and the EPSO regarding this matter, and that no information had been developed regarding such vehicles.

On 4/24/68, SA PICKEN advised that he had made the appropriate checks in his road trip territory, and with Texas DPS, El Paso, and that no information had been developed regarding such vehicles.

On 4/25/68, SA MAURER telephonically advised that the three Midland Resident Agents had made the appropriate checks on 4/24/68, throughout the Midland Resident Agency, and that no information had been developed regarding any stolen vehicles which had been recovered subsequent to 4/4/68, bearing Georgia license plates.

On 4/24/68, SA LYONS advised that no stolen automobiles with Georgia license plates had been recovered in Juarez, Mexico, subsequent to 4/4/68. He said that

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he and SA ELLISON had checked the Chihuahua State Traffic Department Impound Lot in Juarez on 4/18/68, and that no such vehicles had been observed at the location. He said that EP 617-C, was alerted on 4/18/68, to immediately advise SAs ELLISON and LYONS of any vehicles recovered in Juarez and placed in the above mentioned impound lot. SA LYONS advised that no such information had been received from EP 617-C subsequent to 4/18/68.

At 9:55 a.m. on 4/25/68, SA SICKLES telephonically advised that he had been checking all of the automobiles located at the El Paso Wrecking Company and had determined that a 1966 Oldsmobile 98, four-door hardtop, VIN 384396M242814, 1967 Georgia license plates 56A471, had been impounded at the El Paso Wrecking Company Lot since 4/20/68. He said that the Airport Police at the El Paso International Airport had placed a ticket for over parking on this Oldsmobile on 4/20/68, and that the automobile had been removed from the parking lot at the airport, and taken to the wrecking company lot on that date. SA SICKLES advised that on the rear seat of the Oldsmobile was contained 1968 Georgia license plates 56A357.

At 10:05 a.m. on 4/25/68, the above information was furnished to ASAC JACK KEITH, of the Atlanta Office, who advised that a check would be made to ascertain if the Oldsmobile in question was stolen.

At 10:50 a.m. on 4/25/68, ASAC JACK KEITH, Atlanta Office, advised that the above mentioned Oldsmobile was registered to H. C. RAIFORD, Box 340, Vidalia, Georgia. He said the Atlanta Office had no information to indicate that this automobile had been stolen, and that a check had been made with NCIC regarding this automobile with negative results.

Mr. KEITH said that he had telephonically contacted the Savannah Office and had talked with SA STEPHENSON, who was on the ASAC's desk, and that he had been advised by SA STEPHENSON that the Savannah Office had no theft report on the Oldsmobile in question.

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Mr. KEITH said that SA STEPHENSON indicated that the Savannah Office would contact the El Paso Office after contact had been made with H. C. RAIFORD regarding the Oldsmobile in question.

At 2:15 p.m. on 4/25/68, ASAC SAM WESTFALL, Savannah Office, advised that contact had been made with H. C. RAIFORD, a publisher of a police magazine, who advised that he had left his 1966 Oldsmobile at the airport in El Paso, and took an airplane flight out of El Paso to his home in Georgia, where he had some business to attend to. He indicated that he planned to return to El Paso to pick up his 1966 Oldsmobile, and carry on his business in the El Paso and surrounding area at a later date. Mr. WESTFALL said that RAIFORD had indicated that he leaves his automobile in various places and returns home by airplane on various occasions in order to facilitate his business activities.

Mr. WESTFALL was advised that information should be relayed to Mr. H. C. RAIFORD that his 1966 Oldsmobile was presently located on the Impound Lot of the El Paso Wrecking Company, telephone 778-6336.

SA SICKLES subsequently advised on 4/25/68, that the above mentioned 1966 Oldsmobile was the only automobile impounded at the lot of the El Paso Wrecking Company since 4/4/68, which had on it Georgia license plates.

SA SICKLES advised that EP 610-C had been alerted to advise the El Paso Office of any vehicles with Georgia license plates hereafter impounded at the El Paso Wrecking Company Lot.

10

FBI EL PASO

FBI SAVANNAH

4:52PM URGENT 4/25/68 MFH
TO ELPASO AND ATLANTA
FROM SAVANNAH /26-NEW/ 1P

UNSUB; NINETEEN SIXTYSIX OLDSMOBILE NINETYEIGHT, VIN THREE
EIGHT FOUR THREE NINE SIX M TWO FOUR TWO EIGHT ONE FOUR,
BEARING SIXTYSEVEN GEORGIA FIVE SIX A FOUR SEVEN ONE.

RE ATLANTA TELEPHONE CALL TO SAVANNAH THIS DATE.

HARLAN C. DRAIFORD, OWNER OF PEACE OFFICERS PRESS, P.O.
BOX THREE FOUR ZERO, VIDALIA, GA., WHO PUBLISHES CALENDERS
SUPPORTED BY VARIOUS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THROUGHOUT
THE U. S., ADVISED THIS DATE HE AND HIS SON, [REDACTED] DROVE
TO EL PASO, TEX., TO CONTACT SOME OF THEIR SALESMEN AND SPENT
THE NIGHT OF MAY SEVENTEEN LAST AT MOTEL AT EL PASO. ON MORNING
OF MAY EIGHTEEN LAST, HE PARKED ABOVE CAPTIONED CAR WHICH HE
OWNS AT EL PASO AIRPORT AND DEPARTED EL PASO VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES
TO DALLAS AND DELTA AIRLINES FROM DALLAS TO ATLANTA. HE EXPLAINED
HE FREQUENTLY LEAVES HIS CAR IN THE TERRITORY WHERE HE IS WORKING
AND TEMPORARILY FLIES BACK TO VIDALIA AND WILL RETURN WHERE HE
HAS LEFT HIS CAR. STATED CAR WAS NOT STOLEN AND HE EXHIBITED
OWNERSHIP PAPERS. -

END.

WPS

FBI EL PASO

157-186-126

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APR 25 1968	
FBI - EL PASO	

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Prison Buddy Tells About Man Sought

Says Suspect Ray Said He Would Collect Big Sum

United Press International

DALTON, Ga., April 23.—A prison buddy of James Earl Ray said Tuesday that when Ray heard there was a "million-dollar bounty" on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he smiled and said "I'll collect it."

Ray, a 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri State Prison, is accused by the FBI of assassinating King in Memphis on April 4.

In the Dalton jail, Raymond Curtis, 40, awaiting appeal on a murder sentence, said he has known Ray in the Kansas City jail, in Federal prison in Leavenworth, Kan., and in the state prison at Jefferson City, Mo.

He described Ray as likeable, addicted to "dope," a "loner" and a man concerned only with money.

ON THE DAY President Kennedy was ~~assassinated~~—Nov. 23, 1963—Curtis said he, Ray, and about 150 other prisoners were in an exercise yard when they heard the news.

He said Ray remarked "Well, somebody made a pretty penny on that."

About a week later, Curtis said, he and Ray were in the yard when "a new man just in off the street" told them "the Businessmen's Association has a million dollar bounty out for Martin Luther King."

Ray smiled, Curtis recalled, and said "If there's a million dollars out for King, I believe if I ever get out I'll collect it."

CURTIS SAID HE never figured out what the "new man" meant by the "Businessmen's Association." He said he couldn't remember who the man was.

"I didn't think much about it at the time. In prison, you hear all sorts of hellacious ideas," said Curtis, a tall, rawboned man.

Authorities in Jefferson City confirmed that Curtis and Ray were in prison at the same time. Authorities in Dalton said the FBI had interviewed Curtis on

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

1A EL PASO HERALD-
POST
EL PASO, TEXAS

Date: 4/23/68
Edition: FINAL

Author:
Editor: R. W. LEE
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: EP

☐ Being Investigated

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