

F B I

Date: 4-24-68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: SAC's, Jackson (157-9586) - Enc. (3)  
Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

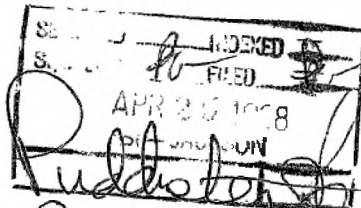
Re Jackson airtel 4-16-68, submitting an envelope, Q238, and accompanying letter, Q239, sent to the Chief of Police, Meridian, Mississippi.

Four latent fingerprints developed on the envelope and two latent fingerprints developed on the letter. Two latent fingerprints on the letter are identical with the fingerprints of Chief of Police C. L. Gunn, whose fingerprints were also submitted. The four latent fingerprints on the envelope are not identical with the fingerprints of Gunn, or with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

Q238, Q239, and the fingerprints of Gunn are enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

1 - New York



Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

4-24-68

**Airtel**

**To: SAC's, Jackson (157-9586) - Enc. (3)**  
**Memphis (44-1987)**

**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

Re Jackson airtel 4-16-68, submitting an envelope, Q238, and accompanying letter, Q239, sent to the Chief of Police, Meridian, Mississippi.

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Q238, Q239, and the fingerprints of Gunn are enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

1 - New York

157-9586-379

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| SEARCHED      | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| APR 25 1968   |         |
| FBI - JACKSON |         |

*[Handwritten signature/initials over the stamp]*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                          |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date received<br><i>4/18/68</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Received from (name or symbol number)<br>JN 246-R (PROB) | Received by<br>SA M. PALMER MILLER                               |
| Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person <input type="checkbox"/> by telephone <input type="checkbox"/> by mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> orally <input type="checkbox"/> recording device <input type="checkbox"/> written by Informant |                                                          |                                                                  |
| If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:<br>Dictated <u>4/18/68</u> to <u>BARBARA BREAZEALE (c/d)</u><br>Transcribed <u>4/22/68</u><br>Authenticated by Informant _____                                                                                                                      |                                                          | Date of Report<br>4/18/68<br>Date(s) of activity<br>April, 1968  |
| Brief description of activity or material<br>MURKIN; UKA, Newton County                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                          | File where original is located if not attached<br>170-373-SF1-19 |
| Remarks:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                                                                  |

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ENCLOSED REPORT,  
IF USED IN A REPORT BEING PREPARED FOR DISSEMINATION,  
SHOULD BE SUITABLY PARAPHRASED IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY  
PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THIS INFORMANT.

- 1 - 170-373-SF1
  - 1 - 157-9586 (MURKIN)
  - 1 - 157-4480 (UKA, Newton County)
  - 1 - 157-399 (Riot)
  - 1 - 157-9562 (Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church)
- loh*

Block Stamp

157-9586-380

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| SERIALIZED <i>h</i> | FILED <i>h</i>   |
| APR 22 1968         |                  |
| FBI - JACKSON       |                  |

*Rutherford*

Source advised that he could provide no info re the KING assassination and that no Klan meetings were held in Newton County. He said that he had no info re any intended riot activity and he said that he expected none. No info re Mt. Pleasant Church.

(It should be noted that the contact with source was very brief. He was contacted on the interstate highway job and it was not desirable to be seen thereby others.)

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

RE: JOHN HUBEART WILLARD  
PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are three copies and for Memphis and Birmingham two copies each of an FD-302 reflecting interview of JOHN HUBEART WILLARD on April 22, 1968.

JOHN HUBEART WILLARD, Pontotoc, Miss., who is employed by the Day-Brite Lighting Company, Tupelo, Mississippi, was interviewed by Special Agents and exhibited photographs of Subject JAMES EARL RAY. Background investigation has previously been conducted concerning WILLARD and his whereabouts during the pertinent period and he has been eliminated by witnesses. He was working during the pertinent period and this has been substantiated by active investigation. WILLARD was questioned concerning his associates and contacts over the past two years and indicated he can recall no incidents where he could have ever come in contact with the subject in this matter.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
- 2 - Birmingham (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- ② - Jackson

FGH:lsk

(9) lsk

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Puddister*

157-9586-381

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

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- ② - Jackson

FGH:lsk

(9) *lsk*

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*157-9586-381*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20, 1968

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

FUGITIVE

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM

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

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

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

157-9586-382

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| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| APR 26 1968 |         |
| FBI-JACKSON |         |

157-9586

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

157-9586-383

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| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| APR 26 1968   |         |
| FBI - JACKSON |         |

157-9586



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

P. O. Box 1450  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
April 26, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY  
IDENTIFICATION ORDER NO. 4182

Dear Sir:

Attached is material on JAMES EARL RAY who  
was added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives,"  
Saturday, p.m., April 20, 1968.

Very truly yours,

ROY K. MOORE,  
Special Agent in Charge

1 - 66-262  
① - 157-9586

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| Serialized | _____ |
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| Filed      | _____ |

157-9586-384

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : ALL AGENTS

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
RM

By communication dated 4/22/68, the Atlanta Office advised as follows:

For the information of receiving offices, Subject JAMES EARL RAY, Aka. was last known to be in the Atlanta, Georgia, area on 4/5/68. Intensive investigation by the Atlanta Office to date has not established mode of transportation utilized by RAY after 4/5/68, through checks with transportation companies, car rental agencies, etc.

All receiving offices are requested to check car recoveries within their respective divisions of cars stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 4/4/68, and consider same to have been possible mode of transportation for Subject RAY. The same consideration should be given to any cars recovered in the near future that were stolen from the State of Georgia after 4/4/68. In those instances where cars were stolen from Georgia and where the transporter of same cannot otherwise be accounted for, investigation should be conducted to determine if RAY was person who may have stolen and transported same.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



5010-108-01

1 - Each Agent  
① - Jackson  
JLP:bal  
(85) *bal*

157-9586-385

|                     |                  |
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| SEARCHED <i>h</i>   | INDEXED <i>h</i> |
| SERIALIZED <i>h</i> | FILED <i>h</i>   |
| APR 26 1968         |                  |
| FBI - JACKSON       |                  |

*[Signature]*

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

F B I

Date: 4/27/68

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

TO: DALLAS AND MEMPHIS (44-2649) (44-1987)

FROM: JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN.

RE DALLAS TEL FOUR TWENTY-SIX, LAST. INFO FROM  
JAMES L. GATTEN.

INTERSTATE FIFTY-NINE AND U. S. FORTY-NINE BOTH  
SUPER FOUR-LANE HIGHWAYS WHICH INTERSECT AT HATTIESBURG, MISS.  
ALL EXITS ARE HIGH SPEED EXITS AT PRINCIPAL HIGHWAY INTERCHANGES  
WITH NO RURAL ROAD EXITS.

SULLIVAN AND KILRAIN TRUCK STOP AND B. R. TABOR  
GULF SERVICE ARE THE ONLY PLACES OF BUSINESS OPERATED NEAR  
THIS AREA. PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY EXHIBITED TO SAM LITTLETON  
AND L. D. WALTERS, MANAGER AND SERVICE ATTENDANT, AT THE  
TRUCK STOP, AND JOHN ROBBINS, OF THE GULF STATION. ALL ADVISED  
RAY HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN THESE AREAS. THEY ADVISED THAT NUMEROUS  
TRUCK DRIVERS ON THE INTERSTATE PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESS DAILY  
AND COULD FURNISH NO IDENTITY CONCERNING THE TRUCK DRIVER  
OR HITCHHIKER DESCRIBED BY GATTEN. END.

1-Jackson  
ECF/jrs (1)  
Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

DL 5108P

ME 511J

Searched *[Signature]*  
Indexed *[Signature]*  
Filed *[Signature]*  
Per *[Signature]*

157-9586-386

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

FROM : SA RICHARD L. BROCK

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/16/68

Re telephone call to SA PUDDISTER 4/16/68.

On 4/16/68 HUBERT HENDERSON, Chief of Police, Forest, Miss., furnished the following information to SA RICHARD L. BROCK and SA JOHN B. RUCKER, JR.:

At approximately 7:15 AM on 4/16/68 Chief HENDERSON stopped a late-model white Comet automobile bearing 1968 Mississippi license HB 8230 in Forest, Miss., after another individual had reported that the driver of the Comet automobile had run him off the road near Morton, Miss.

Chief HENDERSON advised that the passenger in the Comet automobile was named PETE WALKER and remained at the Forest PD while the driver of the Comet was taken to Morton to appear before Justice of the Peace HOLLINGSWORTH on a reckless-driving charge.

During conversation with WALKER, HENDERSON stated that WALKER related he had flown into Jackson, Miss., at 4:00 AM this date and had been met by the driver of the Comet, both of whom worked for an insurance company. WALKER related that his travels take him all over, and he specifically referred to being in and out of Tennessee on frequent occasions. In addition he mentioned travels to Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia.

2 - Jackson one copy  
RLB:mif  
(2) mf  
*destroyed*



5010-108-01

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

*CCO marked for indexing* 157-9586-387

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| APR 16 1968                                    |                                             |
| FBI - JACKSON                                  |                                             |

JN 157-9586

WALKER stated he lives in Pearl, Miss., where he built a home after purchasing three acres of land, in that he formerly resided in Magee, Miss. HENDERSON stated that during conversation with WALKER the weather was discussed and WALKER mentioned that it was raining "like hell the day that Nigger was shot." WALKER added he was in Meridian when KING was shot. HENDERSON advised he noticed that WALKER bore a striking resemblance to a sketch of the assassin of KING seen in a newspaper, and he attempted to elicit information from WALKER concerning his background while he and WALKER conversed at the police station.

HENDERSON recalls that WALKER may have been divorced at one time and that he had a nervous breakdown in the past.

HENDERSON described PETE WALKER as follows:

|                             |                                                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sex                         | Male                                                           |
| Race                        | White                                                          |
| Hair                        | Brown, cut short and combed straight back                      |
| Eyes                        | Blue, prominent                                                |
| Age                         | 35 - 38 years                                                  |
| Height                      | 5' 10"                                                         |
| Weight                      | 150 - 160 pounds                                               |
| Build                       | Medium                                                         |
| Dress                       | Neat appearance, dark business suit, dark tie, and white shirt |
| Outstanding Characteristics | Receding hairline at temples, very long nose                   |

JN 157-9586

HENDERSON described the driver of the Comet automobile as follows:

|        |                      |
|--------|----------------------|
| Sex    | Male                 |
| Race   | White                |
| Age    | 27 - 28 years        |
| Hair   | Light brown to sandy |
| Height | Six feet             |
| Weight | 165 pounds           |
| Build  | Medium               |

HENDERSON further advised that one of his patrolmen, RAY DERRICK, made mention to HENDERSON after WALKER had left the police station that WALKER looked like someone he had seen before, at which point HENDERSON referred DERRICK to the sketches of KING's murderer and DERRICK remarked that that was where he had seen WALKER, pointing out the fact that WALKER and the sketch of KING's assailant appeared extremely similar.

On 4/16/68 RUDY ADCOX, Patrolman, MHSP, Forest, Miss., advised that the driver of the white Comet automobile, charged with reckless driving on 4/16/68, was ERNEST GENE BROWN, 1135 Grand Avenue, Jackson, Mississippi, born [redacted] ADCOX further stated he knew PETE WALKER years ago in Magee where WALKER was reared, and that WALKER has a brother who resembles him.

ADCOX further stated that he has not seen a sketch of the assailant of KING and, therefore, could not compare the likeness of WALKER to the sketches.

On 4/16/68 ROBERT MC QUEEN, Dispatcher, MHSP, Meridian, Miss., advised that 1968 Mississippi tag HB-8230 was issued to GENE ERNEST BROWN, 1135 Grand, Jackson, Miss., for a 1963 Mercury.



JN 157-9586

LEADS:

JACKSON

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. Interview ERNEST GENE BROWN, 1135 Grand Avenue, re employment, full name, and residence of PETE WALKER.

2) Locate and interview PETE WALKER, obtain background data and photographs, and determine whereabouts during pertinent periods per this investigation, and forward information and photographs to Memphis and Birmingham Division. Consider additional investigation at Magee, Mississippi, if situation warrants.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/23/68

FROM : SA DAVID H. PHILLIPS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo of SA RICHARD L. BROCK 4/16/68.

On 4/16/68 PETE LAVON WALKER, 3467 Old Brandon Road, Jackson, Miss., was interviewed at his place of employment, the Reserve Life Insurance Company, Jackson, Miss., at which time he advised he is the individual that was with ERNEST GENE BROWN, 1135 Grand Avenue at approximately 7:15 PM on 4/16/68 when BROWN was arrested by the Forest Police Department on a local traffic charge.

WALKER advised that he is currently in training with the Reserve Life Insurance Company and as a result travels throughout Miss. and La. He advised that on the day that Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was shot he was in Meridian, Miss. where he was registered at the Holiday Inn. WALKER advised that he stayed at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the shooting and arrived home on Thursday, the day that KING was shot.

WALKER advised that he was working with an insurance agent by the name of HENDRICK and that his presence could easily be substantiated.

WALKER voluntarily came to the Jackson FBI Office and submitted to photograph.

The following is a physical description of WALKER obtained through observation and interview:

Name PETE LAVON WALKER  
Date of Birth   
Place of Birth Magee, Mississippi



2 - Jackson *one copy destroyed*  
DHP/jdh  
(2) *jd*

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| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| APR 23 1968   |         |
| FBI - JACKSON |         |

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

JN 157-9586

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Military Service  | U.S. Army, 1954 - 1956             |
| Serial Number     | U.S. [REDACTED]                    |
| Social Security # | [REDACTED]                         |
| Wife              | ALICE H. WALKER                    |
| Arrests           | States only traffic arrests        |
| Mother            | Mrs. W. J. WALKER,<br>Magee, Miss. |

WALKER advised that the last time he was in Memphis, Tenn. was in either 1962 or 1963 and he further advised that in 1964 he was a patient at Baptist Hospital, Jackson, Miss. as a result of an automobile accident which resulted in a nervous condition.

*6*  
*#*

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI NEW ORLS

623PM URGENT 4/22/68 OLP

TO JACKSON

FROM NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) 1P

MURKIN

RE: MICHAEL WHEAT (LOOKALIKE)

MARGUERITE NIMTZ, NEW ORLEANS, LA., ADVISES THAT SHE IS THE PRINCIPAL OF A LOCAL NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL. RECENTLY SHE WAS CONTACTED IN REGARD TO PURCHASING BOOKS. THE BOOK SALESMAN GAVE HIS NAME AS MICHAEL WHEAT, ONE TWO ZERO S. GRAY AVE., PICAYUNE, MISS., TELEPHONE NO. SEVEN NINE EIGHT - FOUR SIX FIVE SEVEN.

NIMTZ STATES THAT WHEAT BEARS A RESEMBLANCE TO JAMES EARL RAY, WHOSE PHOTO SHE HAS OBSERVED IN NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPERS.

JACKSON AT PICAYUNE, MISS., LOCATE AND INTERVIEW WHEAT IN EFFORT TO ELIMINATE AS RAY.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

END

KCH

FBI JKSN MISS

P

157-9586-388

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| SEARCHED    | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| APR 22 1968 |         |
| FBI-JACKSON |         |

*Publicist advised  
K  
Stop on Files*

*Files adv. 4/23/68  
said Picayune handled by O'Neil.  
Files will have this handled today.*

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI NEW ORLS

623PM URGENT 4/22/68 OLP

TO JACKSON

FROM NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) 1P

MURKIN

RE: MICHAEL WHEAT (LOOKALIKE)

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JACKSON AT PICAYUNE, MISS., LOCATE AND INTERVIEW WHEAT IN EFFORT TO ELIMINATE AS RAY.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

END

KCH

FBI JKSN MISS

P

157-9586-388

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| SEARCHED    | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| APR 22 1968 |         |
| FBI-JACKSON |         |

SAC, NEW ORLEANS

4/24/68

SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

Re Jackson letter to New Orleans 5/22/68.

RE LEANDER "LEE" D'AVY

Referenced Jackson communication set out lead for New Orleans at Donaldsonville, Louisiana, to contact pipelines, re identity of driver of 1961 Chevrolet with Texas license plates.

New Orleans is requested to discontinue this lead inasmuch as D'AVY has stated the driver of this vehicle is definitely not identical with the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and bears no resemblance to the photograph.

2-New Orleans  
1-Memphis  
2-Jackson  
JLP/vgj  
(5) *log*

*one copy destroyed 4/24/68*

*see attached, marked for indexing*  
157-9586-389

|            |                   |
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW ORLEANS

FROM : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/22/68

On 4/22/68, Mr. LEANDER "LEE" D'AVY, 348 Idlewild, Jackson, Mississippi, appeared at the Jackson Office of the FBI, and furnished the following information to SA SAMUEL N. JENNINGS:

D'AVY advised he is unemployed at the present time, but has previously worked as a cab driver and at numerous odd jobs such as selling fishing worms, acting as a doorman at some bars on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, and a variety of jobs, after receiving a General discharge from the U. S. Army for stealing a Government vehicle.

D'AVY said he was hitchhiking with his ten-year-old son, LEANDER D'AVY, JR., on April 9, 1968, at Brookhaven, Mississippi. He caught a ride in front of the Coca-Cola Plant in Brookhaven, with a man who acted suspicious, and who had the name "Ray" written on the back of the Texas Inspection Sticker on the windshield of his car. D'AVY pointed out this was the day of the funeral of MARTIN LUTHER KING, and after reading in the paper that JAMES EARL RAY was alleged to be the murderer, he believes this man whom he caught a ride with might be involved in the murder of Dr. KING in some way. The unidentified man offering D'AVY and his son a ride from Brookhaven, Miss., to Baton Rouge, Miss., was driving about a 1961 Chevrolet, four door sedan, medium green in color, with current Texas license plates, number not recalled or recorded. The unidentified driver claimed he

2 - New Orleans

① - Jackson

SNJ/bjk

(4)

1 - MEMPHIS *Copy sent for info*



*CCO marked for investigation*

JN 157-9586

had recently worked on a pipe-line job near Grenada, Mississippi, and was presently enroute to another new pipe-line job in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

During the trip, D'AVY started to comment about Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and this caused the unidentified driver to become very upset and pound his fists on the steering wheel. D'AVY claimed the driver never gave him any name whatsoever, but he believes his name may have been RAY, since that was the name on the back of the Texas Inspection Sticker on the windshield. He said the Miss. Highway Safety Patrol stopped them just outside of Brookhaven, Miss., on a routine-type driver's license check. The driver exhibited a Texas driver's license to the patrolman. The patrolman also noted that one of the headlights did not work on this car; however, allowed them to continue on without receiving any type of ticket. During the drive to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the unidentified driver gave D'AVY's ten-year-old son a cheap, inexpensive ring which was made in Mexico, and which he took from the glove compartment of the car. D'AVY still has this ring.

D'AVY described the unidentified driver as follows: white male, age 25-35, 5' 9" in height, 180 pounds, blue or green eyes, sandy colored brown hair with a full head of hair combed straight, no glasses, did not smoke, had on no rings, and did not appear to be carrying anything in the way of suitcases or clothes inside the car. He spoke with a normal accent which was not particularly regional. He claimed to be from Orange, Texas, originally, but did not know several people named by D'AVY who are supposedly well-known in Orange, Texas.

D'AVY viewed several photographs, including the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and stated the unidentified driver who picked him up is definitely not identical with the photographs and bears no resemblance to the photographs.



JN 157-9586

D'AVY theorized that as soon as the true identity of the killer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING became known to the public, it was necessary for those who had participated in the murder with RAY, to eliminate RAY in order that he could never identify them. D'AVY claims he has not only theorized about this, but he has dreamed about it also, and felt he should tell the FBI about it.

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS

AT DONALDSONVILLE, LOUISIANA

Will contact pipe-line companies with current activity in the Donaldsonville, Louisiana, area, and attempt to identify and interview unknown individual described above who is allegedly driving about a 1961 Chevrolet, medium green, four door sedan, with Texas license plates, and determine whereabouts of this person during the last week of March, 1968, and the first week of April, 1968.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/23/68

FROM : SA JOHN H. PROCTOR, Jr.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reference SAC, memo to all Agents dated 4/18/68, regarding check of Miss. Driver's License Checks.

On 4/19/68 Thomas Stephenson, Manager of the Meridian Credit Bureau Meridian, Miss. advised that HAROLD JAMES NANCE 2711 11th St. Meridian, Miss. is a waiter at Weidmans Rest. and has been so employed for the past ten years. He is married to Nancy Alice Nance and their credit is listed as satisfactory.

On 4/19/68 observation of NANCE at his employment and subsequent interview failed to determine that he has ever seen anyone that is identical with ERIC STARVO GAULT.

*one copy destroyed 4/29/68*  
2 - Jackson (157-9586)  
JHP:jp  
(2)

*CCO*  
*monitored for indexing*

157-9586-390

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5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC JACKSON 157-9586

DATE: 4-23-68

FROM : SA M. PALMER MILLER

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
RE: DRIVERS LICENSE CHECKS

THOMAS J. GERMANY:

DOB [redacted] (no GERMANY located DOB [redacted] POB Newton, Miss., address Conehatta, Miss., 39057; Social Security # [redacted] wife PEGGY; employed since 8-17-64 at Lazy Boy, Newton, Miss.; no illness or absence from work in last 6 months. Info furnished by ELIZABETH BOULTON, Lazy Boy. No arrest record Newton County, Miss.

ROBERT JOHN CARRIVEAU

DOB [redacted], POB Two Rivers, Wisc., address (permanent) Rt. 1, Rogersville, Ala., Phone 205-247-5206; employment since 11-19-63 as AC1, USN, Service # 303-13-31, assigned NAAS Meridian 5-29-67; wife CLARA DARLENE to whom married 7-19-50; 3 children; social security # [redacted] mother ELIA nmn FARR CARRIVEAU, 1812 Washington St., Manitowoc, Wisc.; father BENNY WEE BUTLER, Rt. 1, Rogersville, Ala.; part time job with Singer Sewing Machine, 802 22dn Ave., Meridian; Ht. 5'7", Wt. 170; on leave from NAAS 4-2-68 to 4-7-68 at Rogersville, Ala.; not a discipline problem while in USN. Info furnished by F.B. KAUFFMANN, SRA, ONI, NAAS Meridian from Navy service record of CARRIVEAU.

MPM/mpm

157-9586-391

*ccc*  
*marked for indexing*

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| FBI-JACKSON                                    |                                             |



5010-108-01

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

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)  
MURKIN

Re Chicago tel to Jackson, Birmingham and Memphis dated 4/20/68; Jackson airtel to Memphis dated 4/22/68 re GERALD ELWOOD HULTGREN, FBI #745724D.

For the information of New Orleans, Mrs. LENORE STEWART, Chicago, Ill., advised that her son, GERALD ELWOOD HULTGREN, last known to be residing in Pascagoula, Miss., with an individual named E. M. RAY, allegedly took a trip to an unknown location. Mrs. STEWART furnished E. M. RAY's name as a possible suspect in this matter.

Referenced Jackson airtel disclosed that E. M. RAE, correct spelling, is a lifelong resident of Pascagoula, is well known in the community and bears no similarity of descriptions of subject.

HULTGREN is presently being sought by Pascagoula PD as a suspect in the theft of a pay check of E. M. RAE.

In view of the above investigation at Pascagoula, New Orleans should discontinue efforts to locate HULTGREN

- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - New Orleans
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
- ① - Jackson

JLP:pdw *pdw*  
(6)

*ccg*  
*marked for indexing*

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Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

157-9586-392

JN 157-9586

who allegedly left for New Orleans, Louisiana, ~~and~~ that  
E. M. RAE has been eliminated as a possible suspect.

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI DALLAS  
858PM URGENT 4-26-68 LJF

TO JACKSON, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM DALLAS (44-2649) 2P

MURKIN

RE LITTLE ROCK TEL TO DALLAS AND MEMPHIS, APRIL TWENTYFIVE,  
LAST.

JAMES L. GATTEN, ONE ZERO ZERO FIVE MEYER, APARTMENT FORIY  
ONE, IRVING, TEXAS, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING TODAY:

HE IS BELL HOP AT RAMADA INN, LOVE FIELD, DALLAS, TEXAS, AND  
DELIVERS CARS FOR HERTZ THRUOUT THE UNITED STATES.

ON APRIL SIX LAST GATTEN LEFT ATLANTA, GA., ENROUTE TO DALLAS  
IN HERTZ CAR. [ON EARLY AM APRIL SEVEN LAST GATTEN PICKED UP A  
HITCH HIKER ON INTERSTATE FIFTY NINE, ABOUT TEN MILES WEST OF  
INTERSECTION OF INTERSTATE FIFTY NINE AND STATE ROUTE FORTY NINE.  
HITCH HIKER WAS IN REMOTE AREA, AND TOLD GATTEN THAT HE HAD  
BEEN DROPPED OFF BY TRUCK WHICH TURNED OFF ON RURAL ROAD] HITCH  
HIKER RODE WITH GATTEN TO MIDTOWN NEW ORLEANS WHERE HE GOT OUT  
ON INTERSTATE TEN NEAR INTERSECTION OF TULANE STREET, STATING HE  
WOULD TAKE A CITY BUS FROM THERE.

END PAGE1

157-9586-393

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| FBI - JACKSON |         |

*Handled by Fortenberry - tel sent to Memphis + Dallas*

*157-9586-393*

*Stevenson advised 4-26-68 and*

*Publicity advised*

*New Orleans advised*

*Publicity*

PAGE TWO

HITCH HIKER DESCRIBED AS : WHITE MALE THIRTY-FIVE TO FORTY, LIGHT SANDY BROWN HAIR, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES TO SIX FEET ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FIVE POUNDS, UNSHAVEN, APPROXIMATELY ONE DAYS LIGHT COLORED BEARD, WEARING SHORT SLEEVED SPORT SHIRT, BLUE DRESS SLACKS, LOAFERS, SPOKE WITH SOUTHERN DRAWL NOT VERY NOTICABLE. HITCH HIKER SMOKED SEVERAL CIGARETTES, AND APPEARED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH PLANT LIFE OF THAT AREA. STATED HE WAS IN MERCHANT MARINES, AND PICKING UP A SHIP IN NEW ORLEANS.

GATTEN DISPLAYED WANTED FLYER, RE JAMES EARL RAY, AND STATED NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT PICTURE RESEMBLED THE HITCH HIKER. THE OTHER TWO PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE FLYER DID NOT RESEMBLE HITCH HIKER AT ALL.

GATTEN DOES NOT RECALL IF HITCH HIKER HAD LONG POINTED NOSE, DIMPLE IN CHIN, OR PROMINENT LEFT EAR.

DURING TRIP NO MENTION WAS MADE BY EITHER PERSON OF THE KING MURDER.

JACKSON: ATTEMPT TO LOCATE TRUCK DRIVER WHO DROPPED HITCH HIKER OFF IN RURAL AREA ON INTERSTATE FIFTY NINE, ABOUT TEN MILES WEST INTERSECTION OF STATE ROUTE FORTY NINE AND INTERVIEW RE HITCHHIKER.

END

REM

FBI JKSN MISS

P

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI DALLAS  
858PM URGENT 4-26-68 LJF

TO JACKSON, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM DALLAS (44-2649) 2P

MURKIN

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END PAGE1

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*[Handwritten signature]*



PAGE TWO

HITCH HIKER DESCRIBED AS : WHITE MALE THIRTY-FIVE TO FORTY, LIGHT SANDY BROWN HAIR, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES TO SIX FEET ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FIVE POUNDS, UNSHAVEN, APPROXIMATELY ONE DAYS LIGHT COLORED BEARD, WEARING SHORT SLEEVED SPORT SHIRT, BLUE DRESS SLACKS, LOAFERS, SPOKE WITH SOUTHERN DRAWL NOT VERY NOTICABLE. HITCH HIKER SMOKED SEVERAL CIGARETTES, AND APPEARED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH PLANT LIFE OF THAT AREA. STATED HE WAS IN MERCHANT MARINES, AND PICKING UP A SHIP IN NEW ORLEANS.

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END

REM

FBI JKSN MISS

P

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI MIAMI

830 PM URGENT 4/26/68 LCC  
TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN  
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN.

THE MAIN FILE ON KING HAS BEEN REVIEWED AT THE BUREAU  
AND LEADS ARE BEING SENT OUT CONCERNING PERSONS INVOLVED IN  
PRIOR THREATS AGAINST KING. THESE LEADS AS WELL AS LEADS  
CONCERNING ANY OTHER SUSPECTS DEVELOPED FROM ANY SOURCE  
MUST BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE AND THOROUGH HANDLING ON A TOP PRIORITY  
BASIS. PROCESS HAS BEEN OBTAINED AGAINST JAMES EARL RAY AND  
EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING TO LOCATE RAY AND TO  
ESTABLISH MOTIVE OF CRIME. YOU HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE  
FURNISHED INFORMATION RELATING TO OTHER POSSIBLE CONSPIRATORS.  
THESE MUST ALL BE THOROUGHLY RESOLVED NO MATTER HOW REMOTE.  
END

REM

FBI JKSN MISS

P

*Ingram advised 4-26-68 pmd*  
*Pudister advised to*

157-9586-394

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*Pudister*  
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FBI JKSN MISS

FBI MIAMI

830 PM URGENT 4/26/68 LCC  
TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN  
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

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END

REM

FBI JKSN MISS

P

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| FBI-JACKSON |         |

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI - COLUMBIA

416PM URGENT 4/26/68 KAB

TO JACKSON

FROM COLUMBIA (44-289)

MURKIN CIVIL RIGHTS

SGT. ROBERT R. ELDRIDGE, N. CHARLESTON AFS, CHARLESTON, S.C., (CONCEAL) ADVISED TODAY THAT WHILE STATIONED KESSLER AFB, MISS., PRIOR TO SEPT. SIXTYSEVEN DID BUSINESS AT FERNWOOD TEXACO STATION, FERNWOOD, MISS., , WHICH IS IN PART OF CITY OF BILOXI, MISS.

OWNER OF STATION WAYNE RODGERS AND RODGERS HAD TWO EMPLOYEES. ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES, NAME UNRECALLED, DESCRIBED WHITE, MALE, FORTY-FIFTY YEARS OLD, FIVE FT EIGHT INCHES, ONE SEVEN FIVE LBS., STATED MANY TIMES THAT HE KNEW OF A MAN THAT WOULD PAY THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND TO FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO SOMEONE TO KILL KING. ELDRIDGE DESCRIBED EMPLOYEE AS THE OLDER PERSON OF THE TWO PERSONS EMPLOYED BY RODGERS.

ELDRIDGE SAID WHEN HE LEFT AREA RODGERS INDICATED MOVING BUSINESS TO SHELL SERVICE STATION THAT IS LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM GUS STEVENS, A WELL KNOWN RESTAURANT IN BILOXI, MISS.

JACKSON LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RODGERS AND EMPLOYEE RE ABOVE.

MEMPHIS ADVISED BY AM. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

WLB

FBI JKSN MISS

P

*Called to Hurling  
4/26/68*

*Bi/oxi  
Lead  
to*

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| FBI - JACKSON |         |

*Bullard*

FBI JTSN MISS

FBI-COLUMBIA

416PM URGENT 4/26/68 KAB

TO JACKSON

FROM COLUMBIA (44-289)

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JACKSON LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RODGERS AND EMPLOYEE RE ABOVE.

MEMPHIS ADVISED BY AM. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

WLB

FBI JKSN MISS

P

157-9586-395

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| APR 26 1968 |         |
| FBI-JACKSON |         |

FBI JKSN MISS

FBI DALLAS

258PM URGENT 4-26-68 LMB

TO JACKSON

FROM DALLAS (44-2649) 2P

MURKIN. OO MEMPHIS.

RE DALLAS TEL, APRIL TWENTYTHREE, LAST AND JACKSON TEL, APRIL TWENTYFOUR, LAST, RE INFO FROM MYRTIS RUTH HENDRICKS.

HENDRICKS ADVISED APRIL TWENTYFIVE, LAST, SHE HAD WORKED FOR DEAVOURS NIX AS A PROSTITUTE SHORTLY BEFORE LAST CHRISTMAS WHICH WAS BEFORE SHE STARTED WORKING IN RESTAURANT IN LATTER PART OF MARCH, LAST. SHE WAS ALWAYS TAKEN TO A HOUSE ON OUTSKIRTS OF LAUREL AT NIGHT FOR HER PROSTITUTION DATES. HOUSE WAS ONE STORY, WAS AMONG OTHER LARGE HOUSES IN AREA WHICH WERE NOT CLOSE TOGETHER. THERE WAS GAS LIGHT IN FRONT YARD AND HAD A CHIMNEY WHICH WAS FOR MOCK FIREPLACE IN HOUSE. DOES NOT RECALL HOW MANY ROOMS IN HOUSE BUT RECALLS ONE ROOM WAS ALWAYS LOCKED AND BELIEVES THIS WAS WHERE KLAN MEETINGS WERE HELD. SHE WORKED AT HOUSE FROM ABOUT NINE PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT. DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF THE CUSTOMERS NIX AND THERE FOR HER.

END PAGE ONE

*1 CC TO Deavours Nix*  
*Puddister*

157-9586-396

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| APR 26 1968   |         |
| FBI - JACKSON |         |

*K. L. Lee*

PAGE TWO

NIX'S STATEMENT " I GOT A CALL ON THE KING" WAS OVERHEARD WHEN SHE WAS UPSTAIRS IN THE RESTAURANT. BELIEVES STATEMENT WAS MADE TO MAN WHO LIVED UPSTAIRS AT RESTAURANT, NAME NOT RECALLED. SHE WAS IN BATHROOM AT TIME AND DOES NOT KNOW IF ANYONE ELSE PRESENT OUTSIDE WITH NEX. WHEN NIX MADE STATEMENT "MARTIN LUTHER KING IS DEAD", HE WAS STANDING IN LITTLE BOOTH WHERE FOOD IS SERVED TO PERSONS AT DRIVE-IN. SHE STATED THIS REMARK WAS MADE IN EARLY EVENING BUT SHE DOES NOT RECALL WHO WAS PRESENT.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO BUREAU AND MEMPHIS. P

END

PGL

FBI JKSN MISS

P

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND  
ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Atlanta airtel to Director, 4/22/68.

|                  |                   |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3 - Bureau       | 2 - Jackson       | 2 - Phoenix        |
| 2 - Albany       | 2 - Jacksonville  | 2 - Pittsburgh     |
| 2 - Albuquerque  | 2 - Kansas City   | 2 - Portland       |
| 2 - Anchorage    | 2 - Knoxville     | 2 - Richmond       |
| 2 - Baltimore    | 2 - Las Vegas     | 2 - Sacramento     |
| 2 - Birmingham   | 2 - Little Rock   | 2 - St. Louis      |
| 2 - Boston       | 2 - Los Angeles   | 2 - Salt Lake City |
| 2 - Buffalo      | 2 - Louisville    | 2 - San Antonio    |
| 2 - Butte        | 2 - Memphis       | 2 - San Diego      |
| 2 - Charlotte    | 2 - Miami         | 2 - San Francisco  |
| 2 - Chicago      | 2 - Milwaukee     | 2 - San Juan       |
| 2 - Cincinnati   | 2 - Minneapolis   | 2 - Savannah       |
| 2 - Cleveland    | 2 - Mobile        | 2 - Seattle        |
| 2 - Columbia     | 2 - Newark        | 2 - Springfield    |
| 2 - Dallas       | 2 - New Haven     | 2 - Tampa          |
| 2 - Denver       | 2 - New Orleans   | 2 - WFO            |
| 2 - Detroit      | 2 - New York      | 2 - Atlanta        |
| 2 - El Paso      | 2 - Norfolk       | JJL:rjb            |
| 2 - Honolulu     | 2 - Oklahoma City | (119)              |
| 2 - Houston      | 2 - Omaha         |                    |
| 2 - Indianapolis | 2 - Philadelphia  |                    |

157-9586-397

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| APR 29 1968                                    |                                             |
| FBI - JACKSON                                  |                                             |

*Rudolph*

Approved: *JK* *cmf*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

*Caluse All SA's**done by SAC mem.*



AT 44-2386

For information those offices not receiving reairtel, it was pointed out therein that Subject JAMES EARL RAY, aka. was last known to be in the Atlanta, Georgia, area on 4/5/68. Intensive investigation by Atlanta to date has not established mode of transportation RAY may have used after 4/5/68. Receiving Offices were requested in reairtel to check cars recovered their division that were stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 4/4/68, and where the transporter of same was not identified or otherwise accounted for, investigation should be conducted to determine if RAY was person who may have stolen and transported same.

Investigation reflects Subject RAY can be placed in the Atlanta, Georgia, area 3/24/68.

In view of the above, all Continental Offices are requested to review car recoveries within their respective territories of cars stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 3/23/68, and where the transporter of same is not otherwise eliminated or accounted for, consider Subject RAY as suspect. Where there is any remote indication that Subject RAY may have been person transporting such a car, exhaustive and intensive investigation should thereafter be conducted.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

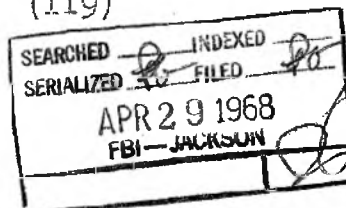
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND  
ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Atlanta airtel to Director, 4/22/68.

|                  |                   |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3 - Bureau       | 2 - Jackson       | 2 - Phoenix        |
| 2 - Albany       | 2 - Jacksonville  | 2 - Pittsburgh     |
| 2 - Albuquerque  | 2 - Kansas City   | 2 - Portland       |
| 2 - Anchorage    | 2 - Knoxville     | 2 - Richmond       |
| 2 - Baltimore    | 2 - Las Vegas     | 2 - Sacramento     |
| 2 - Birmingham   | 2 - Little Rock   | 2 - St. Louis      |
| 2 - Boston       | 2 - Los Angeles   | 2 - Salt Lake City |
| 2 - Buffalo      | 2 - Louisville    | 2 - San Antonio    |
| 2 - Butte        | 2 - Memphis       | 2 - San Diego      |
| 2 - Charlotte    | 2 - Miami         | 2 - San Francisco  |
| 2 - Chicago      | 2 - Milwaukee     | 2 - San Juan       |
| 2 - Cincinnati   | 2 - Minneapolis   | 2 - Savannah       |
| 2 - Cleveland    | 2 - Mobile        | 2 - Seattle        |
| 2 - Columbia     | 2 - Newark        | 2 - Springfield    |
| 2 - Dallas       | 2 - New Haven     | 2 - Tampa          |
| 2 - Denver       | 2 - New Orleans   | 2 - WFO            |
| 2 - Detroit      | 2 - New York      | 2 - Atlanta        |
| 2 - El Paso      | 2 - Norfolk       | JJL:rjb            |
| 2 - Honolulu     | 2 - Oklahoma City | (119)              |
| 2 - Houston      | 2 - Omaha         |                    |
| 2 - Indianapolis | 2 - Philadelphia  |                    |

Approved: JK cmf

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

157-9586-397

AT 44-2386

For information those offices not receiving reairtel, it was pointed out therein that Subject JAMES EARL RAY, aka. was last known to be in the Atlanta, Georgia, area on 4/5/68. Intensive investigation by Atlanta to date has not established mode of transportation RAY may have used after 4/5/68. Receiving Offices were requested in reairtel to check cars recovered their division that were stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 4/4/68, and where the transporter of same was not identified or otherwise accounted for, investigation should be conducted to determine if RAY was person who may have stolen and transported same.

Investigation reflects Subject RAY can be placed in the Atlanta, Georgia, area 3/24/68.

In view of the above, all Continental Offices are requested to review car recoveries within their respective territories of cars stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 3/23/68, and where the transporter of same is not otherwise eliminated or accounted for, consider Subject RAY as suspect. Where there is any remote indication that Subject RAY may have been person transporting such a car, exhaustive and intensive investigation should thereafter be conducted.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

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

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

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

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

- 1 - Each Continental Office  
2 - Memphis

GMR/vtp

157-9586-398

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| SEARCHED    | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| APR 29 1968 |         |
| FBI-JACKSON |         |
| Haddister   |         |

JN  
Approved: RG Jensen  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

F B I

Date: 4/16/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN

Re Tampa teletype to Director dated 4/15/68 and report of SA RICHARD K. HARPER dated 7/5/67 at Tampa entitled, "BERNARD CLINTON LWEIS, ET AL".

RE DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, FBI # 71618A

On 4/16/68, WILLIAM KENNETH KNIGHT, FBI #2557953 furnished the following information to Special Agent RICHARD K. HARPER at the Tampa City Jail where he is presently incarcerated.

KNIGHT advised that after thinking about the MARTIN LUTHER KING assassination he learned the following which he thought he should relate.

He advised the armed robbery of SHELBY JACKSON at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on June 5, 1966 about which KNIGHT furnished information to SA RICHARD K. HARPER which is contained in referenced report. The following incident took place while travelling toward Memphis, Tennessee along with DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, and HERMIT EUGENE KING FBI # 377580B.

3-Bureau  
2-Birmingham  
2-Memphis  
②-Oklahoma City  
2-Tampa (157-3231)  
RKH:sas  
(11)

91-3343

00170-5

SAC [initials]  
ASAC [initials]

3

00 [initials]

5

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| SEARCHED            | INDEXED |
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| APR 29 1968         |         |
| FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY |         |

157-9586-399

44-686-65

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M Per \_\_\_\_\_

TP 157-3231

KNIGHT advised that they were listening to the car radio and the news of the shooting of MEDGAR EYANS was broadcast and the three of them were trying to figure out a route to Memphis which would bypass possible road blocks. During the conversation which took place KNIGHT recalled SPARKS and WING discussing the fact that SPARKS had been offered a \$10,000. payment to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. They did not elaborate on this other than to indicate that when both were in the state penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, some "agents" had come to interview SPARKS concerning this alleged offer and payment and that he had "run them off" meaning that he had refused to talk to the agents about the matter.

KNIGHT was quizzed thoroughly concerning this incident and advised that it was not discussed further, nor would SPARKS mention who had approached him with the offer.

KNIGHT stated that SPARKS is perfectly capable of committing a murder and is a known hater of Negroes. According to KNIGHT, SPARKS is not known to make jokes and it was believable to KNIGHT that an actual offer was made to SPARKS by someone.

For the information of offices receiving, DONALD EUGENE SPARKS is presently incarcerated at Fort Payne, Alabama and has been incarcerated during the period of the MARTIN LUTHER KING murder which would definitely eliminate SPARKS as a suspect.

TP 157-3231

Furthermore, Tampa is not in a position to elaborate this information and it is requested that:

OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA & McALESTER, OKLAHOMA

Review files for any pertinent details regarding "agents" attempting to interview SPARKS concerning alleged offer to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING.

For the information of Oklahoma City, Tampa files reflect SPARKS incarcerated at McAlester, Oklahoma from 3/9/65 - 5/10/66 under penitentiary #71755. Oklahoma should advise the Bureau, Memphis and Birmingham of any pertinent information in this regard.

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION

AT FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA

May desire to interview DONALD EUGENE SPARKS concerning this matter upon receipt of background information from Oklahoma.

FBI

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) -P-  
 MURKIN  
 OO MEMPHIS

Re Tampa airtel to Director 4/16/68; in case entitled "JOHN A. CHAMBLEE, RACIAL INFORMANT, OO JACKSON" the following references: Jackson airtel to Oklahoma City 3/23/65, Oklahoma City airtel to Jackson 3/29/65; in case entitled "WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, RACIAL MATTER" the following references: Jackson airtel to Bureau 4/2/65, Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau 4/8/65, Jackson airtel to Bureau 4/8/65, Jackson airtel to Bureau 4/22/65, Phoenix airtel to Jackson 4/27/65, and Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau 5/17/65.

RE: DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, FBI # 716 18A  
FORMER TOP TEN SUBJECT

Enclosed herewith for the information purposes to Jackson and Atlanta, is one copy of Tampa airtel to Director, 4/16/68, for background information.

Set forth hereafter is a recapitulation of investigation concerning DONALD EUGENE SPARKS (former Top Ten Fugitive) and his allegedly being offered money by the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi to murder Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in 1964.

Jackson Division by airtel to the Bureau 4/2/65 in case "WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, RACIAL MATTER"

- 3 Bureau
- 1 Atlanta (Info)(Enc. 1)
- 2 Birmingham
- ① Jackson (Info)(Enc. 1)
- 2 Memphis
- 1 Tampa (Info)(157-3231)
- 3 Oklahoma City (2-44-686)  
(1-170-5)

GWS:JRI  
 (13)

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| SEARCHED      | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED    | FILED   |
| APR 29 1968   |         |
| FBI - JACKSON |         |

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge



forwarded to the Bureau an original and 7 copies of a letterhead memorandum showing information received from JOHN ARTHUR CHAMBLEE, a detective of the Jackson, Mississippi Police Department, considered by Jackson a reliable individual who is acquainted with members or former members of the WKKKKOM. CHAMBLEE, in reporting this information that was overheard as general rumor among Klansmen and he did not know the source, was doubtful of its truthfulness.

The information in substance was that on 3/17/65, CHAMBLEE advised that he had received unverified information that in 1964, the original Knights of the KKK of Mississippi had hired a "killer" from the State of Oklahoma to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. when KING was in Jackson, Mississippi. This "killer" was known as "TWO JUMPS" and came to Jackson, Mississippi to "case" the layout and while in Jackson, stayed at the Terrymore Motel. He was to use a high-powered rifle with telescopic sights. This deal allegedly fell through when the Klansmen could not raise the \$13,000 demanded by "TWO JUMPS."

CHAMBLEE also reported "TWO JUMPS" was allegedly also the killer of a Bureau Top Ten fugitive later identified as JOHN GIBSON DILLON. "TWO JUMPS" allegedly killed DILLON at the Flamingo Motel in Jackson, Mississippi and thereafter transported the body to Oklahoma or Kansas where it was dumped in an old well.

The Oklahoma City Division by airtel of 4/8/65, advised Bureau and Jackson Division that complete background in the case involving Top Ten Fugitive JOHN GIBSON DILLON did not substantiate that DILLON was killed in Mississippi. From facts available to Oklahoma City, it was doubtful in fact if DILLON was killed in Mississippi.

The Jackson Division on 4/2/65 interviewed PCI CLENNIE JOE BUCHANAN, described by Jackson as a notorious confidence man and gambler who had at that time been under development as an informant of the Jackson Division for some two months.

BUCHANAN was asked if he knew an individual named DONALD SPARKS or GENE SPARKS to which he promptly replied, "Who, TWO JUMPS?" He was thereafter shown a photograph of DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, Tulsa, Oklahoma Police Department Number 38224 dated September 7, 1963. BUCHANAN promptly identified this photograph of SPARKS as being identical to the person he has known for many years as "TWO JUMPS." BUCHANAN went on to relate that SPARKS got the nickname of "TWO JUMPS" from his ability as a cowboy and according to BUCHANAN, SPARKS was an excellent "broncho buster" and could ride almost any horse. BUCHANAN considered SPARKS to be an extremely hard and tough individual who would not hesitate to kill anyone. Extensive investigation was conducted in several field offices to concretely identify "TWO JUMPS" and from the identification of PCI CLENNIE JOE BUCHANAN, Jackson, Mississippi, it was felt that DONALD EUGENE SPARKS was identical to "TWO JUMPS."

Investigation by the Jackson Division at the Terrymore Motel in Jackson failed to disclose any registration that could be identified as being that of SPARKS. In addition to the above identification of SPARKS as "TWO JUMPS", Phoenix CI PX 737-C was interviewed at Phoenix on 1/26/65. This informant advised he knew DONALD EUGENE SPARKS and was well aware that SPARKS' nickname is "TWO JUMPS."

Based on this identification on 5/14/65, an attempt was made to interview DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, Inmate Number 71755, at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Following his being advised of his rights, SPARKS stated at the outset he would not furnish any information. He did deny being contacted by anyone at any time to commit a murder and said he did not kill anyone for money or any other reason. He denied ever being hired by anyone in the South and specifically in Mississippi to commit any murder. He denied knowing anyone connected with the Ku Klux Klan.

SPARKS at this time stated he had never cooperated with any police officers and did not intend to start doing so now. He said he had been contacted by numerous officers and would appreciate it if police officers would not bother him again since they wasted his time, as he was working in the plumbing shop in the Penitentiary and could not be away from his job. SPARKS terminated the interview by getting up and leaving the room.