

OC 44-686

By airtel to the Bureau dated 5/17/65, in case "WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, RACIAL MATTER", the Bureau was advised of the attempted interview with SPARKS. Additionally, 9 copies of an FD 302 dated 5/17/65, was furnished to the Jackson Division. This showed the interview with SPARKS. At that time, it was the considered opinion of Agents that had worked cases involving SPARKS, his associates, and Agents who handled the former case involving former Top Ten Fugitive JOHN GIBSON DILLON, that information that SPARKS was hired to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and that he did kill DILLON was not accurate nor truthful information. It was pointed out that following DILLON's murder there was a massive amount of rumor, speculation and hearsay information circulated among the criminal element concerning the death of DILLON. It was this hearsay information that was probably being reported by Jackson's informant in all honesty.

The Bureau's attention is directed to the fact that ~~HERMIT EUGENE KING~~ aka, ANTI-RACKETEERING, is the subject of a current pending file, Oklahoma City 92-588, Bureau file 92-9329. He is an Oklahoma ex-convict, Burglar, Armed Robber, who travels extensively throughout the United States. He was last interviewed by Bureau Agents, 3/5/68, where he was living at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He was at that time employed at Jeanie's Lounge in Bartlesville.

LEADS

ATLANTA, JACKSON AND TAMPA DIVISION (INFORMATION)

Information copies of this communication are being furnished to Divisions above in the event additional inquiry appears necessary.

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION

At Fort Payne, Alabama

Although DONALD EUGENE SPARKS is notorious for his failure to cooperate with police officers, it is suggested an attempt be made to interview him concerning his using the name "TWO JUMPS" and being offered money by the Ku Klux Klan of

OC 44-686

Mississippi in 1964 to murder Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
An attempt should be made in the interview with SPARKS
to determine if he is at all familiar with JAMES EARL RAY,
present fugitive being sought for the murder of Dr. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., and exhibit photograph of RAY to him.

JAMES EARL RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND
DANGEROUS.

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI DALLAS

524 PM URGENT 4-24-68 CBB

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), LITTLE ROCK, PHOENIX, MEMPHIS
FROM DALLAS (44-2649)

MURKIN

RE PHOENIX TELS APRIL TWENTYONE AND TWENTYTWO LAST; AND LITTLE
ROCK AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, DALLAS, JACKSONVILLE, PHOENIX, AND MEMPHIS,
APRIL TWENTYTHREE LAST.

PARENTS OF R. B. HARRELL AKA RICHARD AND JIMMY, LOCATED AND
INTERVIEWED AT ABERNATHY, TEXAS, THIS DATE. ADVISED WHEREABOUTS SON
UNKNOWN BUT WAS LAST HEARD FROM ONE YEAR AGO FROM BAKERSFIELD,
CALIFORNIA. PARENTS NOT COOPERATIVE IN PROVIDING INFO CONCERNING SON,
BUT PROVIDED FOLLOWING RELATIVES OF R. B. HARRELL:

BROTHER - HENRY HARRELL, LOONEY FARM, IDALOU, TEXAS; BROTHER -
J. C. HARRELL, TWO ONE TWO AVENUE C., ABERNATHY, TEXAS; UNCLE -
RICHARD HARRELL, WILLOW CREEK, CALIFORNIA; AUNT - JEWELL CRANE,
LAKE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS; GRANDMOTHER - FANNIE GILL LIVES WITH JEWELL
CRANE, ABOVE; UNCLE - JOE BONHAM, PUCKETT, MISSISSIPPI.

J. C. HARRELL, BROTHER OF R. B., INTERVIEWED AT ABERNATHY,
TEXAS, AND ADVISED LAST HEARD FROM OR SAW BROTHER THREE YEARS
WHEN R. B. TOOK HIS PICKUP AND LEFT ABERNATHY. HE BELIEVED HE WAS
END PAGE ONE

157-9586-401

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

Wittos
Brock

PAGE TWO

DRIVING TO CALIFORNIA. R. B. HAS NOT COMMUNICATED WITH HIM SINCE THAT TIME. HE BELIEVES R. B. IS IN CALIFORNIA. WHEN HE LEFT ALBERTA R. B. WAS TRAVELING WITH A WOMAN, NAME UNKNOWN AND HER CHILDREN.

JACKSON, AT PUCKETT, MISSISSIPPI, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE JOE BOWEN, UNCLE OF R. B. HARNELL, AND INTERVIEW FOR BACKGROUND INFO AND WHEREABOUTS R. B.

LITTLE ROCK AT LAKE VILLAGE, LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JEWELL CRANE AND FANNIE GILL AS ABOVE.

SAN FRANCISCO AT WILLOW CREEK, LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RICHARD HARNELL FOR BACKGROUND INFO AND WHEREABOUTS R. B. HARNELL.

DALLAS AT IDALOU, TEXAS, LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HENRY HARNELL AS ABOVE.

AM COPIES FORWARDED JACKSON AND SAN FRANCISCO WITH RE COMMUNICATIONS AS ENCLOSURES. P

TED

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI DALLAS

524 PM URGENT 4-24-68 CBB

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), LITTLE ROCK, PHOENIX, MEMPHIS
FROM DALLAS (44-2649)

MURKIN

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J. C. HARRELL, TWO ONE TWO AVENUE C., ABERNATHY, TEXAS; UNCLE -
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LAKE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS; GRANDMOTHER - FANNIE GILL LIVES WITH JEWELL
CRANE, ABOVE; UNCLE - JOE BONHAM, PUCKETT, MISSISSIPPI.

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157-9586-401

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JACKSON, AT PUCKETT, MISSISSIPPI, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE JOE JOHNSON, UNCLE OF R. B. MARRELL, AND INTERVIEW FOR BACKGROUND INFO AND WHEREABOUTS R. B.

LITTLE ROCK AT LAKE VILLAGE, LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JERRELL CRANE AND FAMILY CILL AS ABOVE.

SAN FRANCISCO AT WILLOW CREEK, LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RICHARD MARRELL FOR BACKGROUND INFO AND WHEREABOUTS R. B. MARRELL.

DALLAS AT IDALOU, TEXAS, LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HENRY MARRELL AS ABOVE.

AM COPIES FORWARDED JACKSON AND SAN FRANCISCO WITH RE COMMUNICATIONS AS ENCLOSURES. P

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

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

TO: SAC, JACKSON

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

OO MEMPHIS

Re Dallas teletype to Bureau, Little Rock, Phoenix,
and Memphis dated 4/24/68.Enclosed herewith for Jackson are two copies of referenced
teletype.

LEAD

JACKSON

AT PUCKETT, MISSISSIPPI

Cover lead set forth for the Jackson Division in
referenced teletype.ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- ② - Jackson (Encs. 2)
 1 - Dallas (44-2649)
 2 - Memphis
 RFB/ngm
 (5)

At _____
 Teletype _____
 A.M. _____
 A.M.S.D. _____
 Spec. Del. _____

Phillips has already handled

157-9586-402

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

Phillips

Reg. Mail _____

Approved: _____
Registered _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

4/25/68

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FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
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2 - Memphis
RFB/ngm
(5)

157-9586-402

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

F B I

Date: 4/29/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

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

Re Dallas teletype to Bureau, 4/24/68, and
Memphis airtel to Jackson, 4/25/68.

Re R. B. HARRELL, aka Richard and Jimmy

The following investigation was conducted by SA
DAVID H. PHILLIPS at Puckett, Mississippi:

On 4/26/68, JONATHAN EDWARDS, Sheriff, Rankin County,
Mississippi, advised that there is no one residing in Puckett,
Miss., by the name of JOE BONHAM. Sheriff EDWARDS said that
he does not know of any BONHAM family in and around the
Puckett, Miss., area.

On 4/26/68, GRADY COOK, Town Marshal, Puckett,
Miss., advised he has been a resident of this town for the

- 2 - Memphis
- 2 - Dallas (44-2649)
- 1 - Little Rock (Info)
- 1 - Phoenix (Info)
- 1 - San Francisco (Info)
- ② - Jackson

JLP:ccs

(9)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

M & Per _____

JN 157-9586

past 44 years and that he has never heard of a JOE BONHAM family. Mr. COOK said he would ask around of other natives of the Puckett area in an attempt to locate any information concerning a BONHAM family. On 4/29/68, GRADY COOK advised that the only information he was able to develop concerned a JOE BURNAHAM who resided in the Puckett area many years ago. He said this BURNAHAM was last known to be residing near Morton, Miss., and employed at a chicken farm or a chicken hatchery south of Morton, Miss.

LEAD:

JACKSON

AT MORTON, MISS.

Will continue efforts to locate relatives of RICHARD BURNAHAM HARRELL in order to determine HARRELL's present whereabouts.

FBI

Date: 4/29/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)
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- 2 - Memphis
- 2 - Dallas (44-2649)
- 1 - Little Rock (Info)
- 1 - Phoenix (Info)
- 1 - San Francisco (Info)
- 2 - Jackson

JLP:ccs

(9) ccs

157-9586-403
(Morton lead to Brock
inst to handle immediately
appropriate background serials
furnished. J)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

CCO
marked for indexing

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

M Per _____

JN 157-9586

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LEAD:

JACKSON

AT MORTON, MISS.

Will continue efforts to locate relatives of RICHARD BURNAHAM HARRELL in order to determine HARRELL's present whereabouts.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (170-326)

DATE: 4/25/68

FROM : SA RALPH D. GARDNER

SUBJECT: JN 258-R (PROB)
RI

On 4/4/68 source was telephonically contacted and requested to immediately determine the present whereabouts of all officers in his Klan unit.

Source telephonically contacted the writer late on the evening of 4/4/68 and informed that the EC, W. L. ELLIS, JR., Lexington, Miss., had been telephonically contacted in Lexington. Source stated that he personally spoke on the telephone with the following individuals at 6:55 P.M.:

CARL F. DRAKE
AARON MC COOL
IZENE HALE "PETE" SHOEMAKER
JOHN MARSHALL PILGRIM
TERRY PILGRIM

8 - Jackson (2- 170-326)
(2- 157-9586)
(1 - 157-7230, CARL F. DRAKE)
(1- 157- AARON MC COOL)
(1- 157- PETE SHOEMAKER)
(1- 157-4600, JOHN MARSHALL PILGRIM)
(1- 157- TERRY PILGRIM)

RDG/bdb
(8)

lhb

157-9586-404



5010-108-01

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 15 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/17/68

FROM : SA ROBERT P. WOMACK

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reference is made to NO tel to JN dated 4/11/68 indicating BILLY D. MC GRIFF and VAN SULLIVAN, JR., had been in Memphis on the day of MURKIN.

Attached insert indicates investigation to locate VAN SULLIVAN, JR, for interview.

LEAD:

JACKSON

AT SARDIS, MISS.

Locate and interview VAN SULLIVAN, JR., who is employed by L. E. Myers Co. erecting highpower line into Sardis; headquarters of co. at Standard Service Station in Sardis which may be identified by locating Myers' truck which are yellowish and orange in color that will be parked near station.

(1) - Jackson
RPW: pdb
(1)



5010-108-01

*Sardis lead telephoned
to Rabinow 4/18/68 handled
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157-9586-405

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/10/68

Mrs. MARIAN LILLY, I.B.E.W. Local 605, 116 Clairborne, Jackson, Mississippi, advised BILLY D. MC GRIFF is a member of their local. She states that during the week April 1 - April 5, 1968, MC GRIFF and 33 other electricians were working for L. E. Myers Company in Sardis, Mississippi. She states MC GRIFF returned to Jackson, Mississippi, in the afternoon of April 5, 1968. She advised MC GRIFF is presently working on a job in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the name of this job could be determined through Local Union 995, 405 St. Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mrs. LILLY stated she had talked with MC GRIFF when he returned on April 5, 1968, and MC GRIFF had stated that he had been in Memphis on April 4, 1968, when Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was assassinated. She stated MC GRIFF did not elaborate on what he was doing there, but understood that their job in Sardis, Mississippi, had been "rained out" and that MC GRIFF and some of the other electricians had driven to Memphis, Tennessee. She advised she does not know where MC GRIFF stayed, nor what he was doing, nor what he did in Memphis, Tennessee.

On 4/10/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA WILLIAM BLACKKETTER and
SA ANTHONY E. DANIELS:WB:bal Date dictated 4/10/68

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JN 157-9586

RPW:pdb

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA ROBERT P. WOMACK and SA LESTER L. AMANN:

Mrs. VAN SULLIVAN, JR., Route 1, Mize, Mississippi, advised that her husband was away from home working, employed by L. E. Myers Company, Clinton, Mississippi, on a job putting up a power line that leads into Sardis, Mississippi. She said that he had returned to work with this company on April 15, 1968, and had not called her to advise of his address. She stated, however, that the headquarters for the Myers Company is located at a Standard Service Station in Sardis. She did not know the name of the station, but said that there were usually one or more of Myers' truck, which were yellowish orange in color, parked near the service station. She said that he would probably return to their home over the weekend, but it was possible that he would stay away more than a week.

She advised that her husband had been told by the man from the electrical workers union from Jackson by telephone that the FBI had been asking questions about him about the affair in Memphis.

JN 157-9586

RTR/brh

1

The following investigation was conducted
by SA RICHARD T. RABIDEAU at Sardis, Mississippi:

On April 18, 1968, efforts to locate
VAN SULLIVAN, JR., met with negative results.

On April 23, 1968, inquiry was made of
workmen for the L. E. Myers Company in the vicinity
of Sardis, Mississippi. It was determined that the
brother of VAN SULLIVAN, name unknown, was seriously
ill and as a result VAN SULLIVAN had returned to his
residence near Mt. Olive, Mississippi. Persons
contacted were unable to advise when VAN SULLIVAN,
JR., would return to Sardis, Mississippi and resume
work.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (157-9586)

FROM : ASAC ELMER F. LINBERG

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/24/68

CLEM MC GOWAN, Section Chief, Division 6, Civil Rights Section, Bureau, telephonically advised ASAC at 5:40 PM today that a systematic review of Bureau files is being made for all references to violence concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. The review reflects the following three pieces of information from Jackson files which should be thoroughly checked out:

1) JN 265-R (Prob) on 4/28/67 reported that L. C. BLALOCK, owner of Curly's Place, Winona, Miss., reported that one JULIO RAMCO, Jacksonville, Fla., would pay anyone \$100,000 cash to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING.

2) An airtel 6/15/67 from the Bureau to Jackson referred to an alleged offer of \$100,000 by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi (WKKKKOM), Jackson, Miss., to anyone who would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MC GOWAN did not have a title for this airtel, stating that he was operating from notes handed to him by file review clerks. The information supposedly originated from one DONALD NISSEN, an inmate in jail in Texas.

3) Jackson teletype 9/17/67 in the case entitled, "UNSUB; Alleged Plan To Kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, Grenada, Miss., RM", referred to the fact that Reverend EMMETT BARFIELD, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Grenada, claimed that two white residents of the parish planned to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING 9/19/66 (?) at Grenada.

MC GOWAN stated the above instances as well as any other threats to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING should be thoroughly explored for leads in this case.



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(2)

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marked for indexing

157-9586-406
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 22 1968
FBI - JACKSON

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

Hande

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



GILES W. CRISLER
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

J. D. GARDNER
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
CHIEF OF PATROL

Phone 366-2611 Area Code 601
P. O. Box 958
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

April 22, 1968

Mr. Roy K. Moore
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Post Office Box 1450
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Mr. Moore:

The assistance rendered by John Holloway
and John Pitts by the Data Processing Unit is a good
example of cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

A copy of your letter is being forwarded to
both members of the Department of Public Safety.

If in the future we can assist in any way,
do not fail to call.

Sincerely,

GILES W. CRISLER
Commissioner

GWC:bj

cc: John Holloway
John Pitts

MURKIN
CASE

2 *el*
3 *or*
4 *or*
5 *70*

157-9586-407

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 23 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	
<i>Mc DANIEL</i>	

COURTESY

SERVICE

SAFETY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/22/68

FROM : SA FLOYD B. HANNON, III

SUBJECT: MURKIN

GEORGE JONES telephonically contacted the Jackson Office of the FBI on 4/20/67, and advised he knew the wife of JAMES EARL RAY.

JONES stated he recognized the name and the picture as it appeared in a newspaper. He said RAY had left his wife, whom JONES is acquainted with, about a month ago, and had taken several of her belongings. He believes the wife may know where RAY is presently located.

JONES would not divulge the wife's name, but said he would have her call the office.

JONES was reluctant to give his name and stated he did not want to get involved. He did mention he had cooperated with the FBI in the past.

A check of the Jackson indices reflected file JN 170-470 on a subject GEORGE JONES, who had been operated as an RI - PROB prior to discontinuing of the file 1/17/68. The file reflects JONES' home address to be 225 Oak, Jackson, which is the address where VIRGINIA RAY was later located.

③ - Jackson (157-9586) — one copy destroyed 4/22/68
1 - (170-470)

FBH/bjk
(3) *ef*



5010-108-01

157-9586-408

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

ccc marked for indexing

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 20, 1968

Mrs. VIRGINIA RAY, home address 944 Inge Street, Jackson, Mississippi, furnished the following information:

On the evening of September 5, 1967, in the early evening hours, VIRGINIA UMFRESS (RAY), was at her place of employment, the Rainbow Inn, Saittillo, Mississippi, talking to the bartender, LAWRENCE WEBB and a customer whom she met for the first time by the name of JAMES RAY.

After drinking one and one-half Budweiser beers, VIRGINIA UMFRESS said the next thing she can recall is coming out of the Court House at Jasper, Alabama, the next day around noontime with a marriage license in her hand. She said she married JAMES RAY but does not recall any other details of the trip from the Rainbow Inn in Saittillo, Mississippi, to the Court House at Jasper, Alabama. For this reason she believes she was drugged or something. She could not recall any conversation with RAY.

VIRGINIA UMFRESS RAY stated that on the trip back to Mississippi she recalled sleeping most of the way and no conversation. She described the vehicle that they were riding in as a 1967 Malibu, white in color with red uphdstery. She said the two front fenders had severe dents in them and RAY mentioned that he had hit a bridge. Upon returning to Mississippi they drove to Tupelo to the trailer which UMFRESS had been living in just South of Tupelo on Highway 45 South.

She advised that they arrived in Tupelo around 5:00 P. M., on September 6, 1967, and they stayed at her trailer for the night. The next morning around 10:00 A. M., on September 7, 1967, after much discussion they drove to

On 4/20/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER:yv Date dictated 4/20/68

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JN 157-9586

Jackson, Mississippi, to pick up VIRGINIA UMFRESS RAY's two year old son.

At this point, VIRGINIA UMFRESS RAY advised that her maiden name is VIRGINIA JACO and that in January, 1964, she married JOHNNY WAYNE UMFRESS who is employed as a carpenter with a company in Itawamba County, Mississippi. She divorced this man in 1966 and he still lives in Fulton, Mississippi.

JAMES RAY at first refused to drive to Jackson, Mississippi, however, she convinced him to come along with her. They left Tupelo, Mississippi, around 10:00 A. M., on September 7, 1967, and drove straight down to Jackson, Mississippi, arriving in the middle of the afternoon. They went directly to her grandparents, F. A. and VERA JACO, with whom her two year old son had been boarding at 225 Oak Street, Jackson.

VIRGINIA RAY said she went into her grandparents' house by herself while JAMES RAY, her new husband, made a gasoline purchase at the Sinclair Service Station across the street from her grandparents house. She said JAMES RAY used a Sinclair credit card in making all gasoline purchases.

At her grandparents' home she introduced JAMES RAY to her cousin GEORGE JONES, his wife JOYCE JONES, and her aunt, MARIE JACO, as well as her grandparents. She explained that her grandparents' home has separate apartments and that her cousin MARIE JACO, GEORGE and JOYCE JONES have separate apartments.

They remained overnight at the Oak Street address and between 6:00 and 7:00 A. M., when she got up, JAMES RAY said they were leaving for California. She said she refused to go and that RAY picked up GEORGE JONES's shotgun, pointed

JN 157-9586

it at her stomach and said he was going to kill her. At this point her cousin JOYCE JONES came into the room and stepped between them and told RAY that he would have to kill her first. JAMES RAY hesitated for a moment, turned and ran out of the house. He got in his car and drove away taking the shotgun with him. VIRGINIA RAY said she has not seen JAMES RAY since and has heard nothing about him or from him since that time.

A short while after this incident she realized that sometime during the night or early morning RAY had taken the marriage license out of her overnight bag which she had picked up the morning before at the trailer in Tupelo. He also took a bronze horse trophy from the mantle.

Upon seeing the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in the Jackson newspapers on April 19, 1968, she immediately thought it strongly resembled JAMES RAY, her missing husband.

VIRGINIA RAY furnished the following information concerning the contents of the 1967 Malibu in the possession of JAMES RAY:

A large blue Samsonite type suitcase which appeared to be the largest size. She described it as a hard finish airplane type luggage.

A black cloth type bag with a zipper across the top and handles. The lining of the cloth bag appeared to be plaid. Inside the bag was a current Alabama license plate and a current Mississippi license plate. She then recalled that the Malibu had Tennessee tags on it all during the period she was with RAY. She said she recalled asking RAY why he had the extra license plates and he said he needed them in his business. He said his business was that of a musician and that he played a guitar.

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He had numerous cosmetic type kits which only women would use. She was not able to further describe the cosmetics other than it struck her as odd that he would have these items.

In the trunk of the car he had the small bronze horse trophy and a pair of expensive looking lizard skin riding boots.

RAY claimed to have been associated with horse shows and won the trophy at a horse show.

VIRGINIA RAY furnished the following physical description of her husband:

Name	JAMES (no middle name) RAY
Age	41 years (according to RAY in September, 1967)
Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	5 feet 11 inches
Hair	Light brown, cut very short, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.
Eyes	Bluish gray
Complexion	Light with ruddy or rough face.
Scars	Had severe scars across the back of each hand. Scars went across from one side to the other between the knuckles and the wrist.
	Had a small prominent scar on forehead to one side or the other in the center.
Tattoos	Had a large tattoo of a battleship across his upper back. The colors on this tattoo were very bright and not faded.
	Had a small tattoo on the calf of one leg reading "Hell Hole".

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Could not recall which leg.
This tattoo located just
below the knee off to the
side.

Other characteristics

Upper front teeth missing
Had a full or partial upper
plate.
Drank continuously. Any kind
but usually Four Roses, also
had moonshine whiskey, white
in color, smoking nothing
but Pall Mall cigarettes.

Just prior to shaving his
beard appeared to be medium
to light in color.

Upon inquiry, Mrs. RAY said she noticed nothing
peculiar about her husband's ears. She said his eyebrows
were average and brown in color.

The most peculiar thing about him other than the
tattoos, was the fact that he addressed everyone as "hoss".
Numerous times while speaking he would use the word "hoss"
to the person he happened to be speaking to.

The only thing she could recall about his facial
expression was the color of his eyes, bluish gray, and the
fact that his eyes frightened her more than anything else.
She could not recall anything peculiar about his smile.
She then added that she did not recall ever seeing him
smile.

Mrs. RAY said that her grandparents, F. A. and
VERA JACO, her cousin JOYCE and her husband GEORGE and
her aunt MARIE JACO all saw JAMES RAY. She said they
too feel there is a resemblance between the photograph of
JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the Jackson newspapers
on April 19, 1968, and her husband. She said that the
previous photograph which appeared in the Jackson newspapers
prior to April 19, 1968, did not resemble her husband. It

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was the photograph which appeared on April 19, 1968, which prompted her to call the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She said she has no information concerning the whereabouts of JAMES RAY since she last saw him on September 8, 1967.

Mrs. RAY then added that on the morning of September 8, 1967, after JAMES RAY hurriedly left her grandparents' home her cousin JOYCE JONES and her husband GEORGE JONES drove her back to Tupelo, Mississippi, to her rented trailer home.

Upon arriving there shortly before 5:00 P. M., she noticed that the door of the trailer was ajar approximately three or four inches. She recalled that she had given the key to the trailer to her husband.

When she entered the trailer she noticed some items were missing. The first thing she noticed was that her portable record player and 50 or 60 albums, mostly country music were missing. She thought the record player was a True Tone portable model.

A portable radio, make unknown, described as one that played with batteries or plug-in type, was missing.

A Brownie Holiday Flash Camera was missing.

A Dominion Portable hair dryer was missing.

Several sweaters, three pairs of her shoes and six dresses just back from the cleaners were missing.

She said that a picture of her mother which she described as being in an elaborate frame was also missing and in addition, a picture album of the family was missing.

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Her cousin GEORGE, age 18 years, started her automobile, a 1955 Buick, blue and white in color in that she could not get it started herself. Her cousin GEORGE, discovered that some foreign substance had been placed in the gas tank causing the fuel line to be clogged.

After GEORGE JONES got her car started she drove it back to Jackson following GEORGE and JOYCE in their car.

She said they arrived in Jackson around 9:00 or 10:00 P. M., that night, September 8, 1967. She remained at her grandparents' house and lived there for a while.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	VIRGINIA RAY
Sex	Female
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Clarksdale, Mississippi
Height	5 feet 7 inches
Weight	185 pounds
Hair	brown
Eyes	Blue
Previous address	Moved to Jackson in 1959, graduated from Central High School in 1961 and returned to Tupelo, Mississippi in 1962.
Marriages	Met JOHNNY WAYNE UMFRESS in Tupelo, January 1963, and married him 1964. Divorced him 1966. Married JAMES RAY, Jasper, Alabama, on September 6, 1967.

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Employment	Barmaid, Rainbow Inn, Slatillo, Mississippi, September 1967, National Industries, Jackson, Mississippi, from September 17, 1967, to April 1968.
Current employment	N. W. Manufacturing Company, Jackson, Mississippi.
Working hours	7:30 A. M., to 4:00 P. M. Monday through Friday.
Telephone	None

In further describing JAMES RAY, Mrs. RAY said the first time she met him he was wearing plaid type trousers and a brown shirt. She said he was just an average dresser, nothing peculiar, seldom wore suits during the three days she knew him.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/23/68

FROM : SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/20/68, during the course of an interview with Mrs. VIRGINIA RAY at the Jackson FBI Office, a telephone call was placed to the Kansas City FBI Office. SAC KARL DISSLY, Kansas City, advised that there is no record of any scars on the back of each hand of subject JAMES EARL RAY. There is no record of any tattoos on JAMES EARL RAY.

SAC DISSLY advised that the Los Angeles Division has positively placed JAMES EARL RAY in Los Angeles, Calif., on 8/2/67 and on 8/12/67. He stated that Los Angeles can practically account for JAMES EARL RAY's presence in the Los Angeles area from September, 1967, up to the first of the year. In addition, the Los Angeles Office located a record of appointments with a psychiatrist in the Los Angeles area wherein JAMES EARL RAY, using his full name, had a series of appointments with this psychiatrist.

The telephone call to Kansas City was placed in an effort to obtain any information which would indicate that subject JAMES EARL RAY had any tattoos or large scars on the back of each hand.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/23/68

GEORGE JONES, 225 Oak Street, Jackson, Mississippi, advised that Mrs. VIRGINIA RAY is his wife's cousin and that Mrs. RAY told him that the photograph which appeared in the Jackson newspapers on April 19, 1968, appeared to look like her husband, JAMES (no middle name) RAY.

JONES said he was at the Oak Street address in September, 1967, when VIRGINIA RAY showed up with a man whom she introduced as her husband. JONES said VIRGINIA and her husband spent one day and one night at the Oak Street address and left early the following morning. RAY took GEORGE JONES' shotgun, pointed it at VIRGINIA, and said he was going to kill her. JOYCE JONES, wife of GEORGE JONES, stepped in between them and JAMES RAY fled the house and has not been seen since that time.

JONES said that the previous evening he accompanied RAY to a local beverage store where RAY obtained two or three pints of whiskey. He said that in his opinion, RAY was nothing but an alcoholic.

GEORGE JONES described RAY's vehicle as being a 1967 white Malibu with red upholstery and the two front fenders severely dented.

JONES furnished the following description of RAY:

Name	JAMES RAY
Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	6'
Weight	180 pounds
Age	Approximately 40 years
Characteristics	Had a red face and appeared to be an alcoholic.

On 4/20/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA's JOHN L. PUDDISTER and
JAMES W. AWE: JLP/cmb Date dictated 4/23/68

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JN 157-9586

Numerous photographs were exhibited to GEORGE JONES, among which was a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY. JONES said none of the photographs exhibited appeared to look like JAMES RAY, VIRGINIA's husband.

The photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was singularly pointed out to JONES. He commented that this definitely was not VIRGINIA RAY's husband.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/23/68

Mr. F. A. JACO, home address, 225 Oak Street, Jackson, Mississippi, advised that he is the grandfather of VIRGINIA RAY.

Mr. JACO advised that in September, 1967, VIRGINIA RAY visited his home with a man whom she introduced as her husband, JAMES RAY.

Several photographs were exhibited to Mr. JACO. He advised that none of these photographs resembled the individual introduced to him as JAMES RAY.

A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was singularly exhibited to Mr. JACO. He advised that this was definitely not the man who VIRGINIA RAY introduced to him as her husband.

On 4/20/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA's JOHN L. PUDDISTER & JAMES W. AWE: JLP/cmb Date dictated 4/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/23/68

Mrs. VERA JACO, home address 225 Oak Street, Jackson, Mississippi, advised that she is the grandmother of VIRGINIA RAY.

Mrs. JACO advised that in September, 1967, VIRGINIA RAY visited her home with a man whom she introduced as her husband, JAMES RAY.

Several photographs were exhibited to Mrs. JACO. She advised that none of these photographs resembled the individual introduced to her as JAMES RAY.

A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was singularly exhibited to Mrs. JACO. She advised that this was definitely not the man who VIRGINIA RAY introduced to her as her husband.

On 4/20/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA's JOHN L. PUDDISTER & JAMES W. AWE: JLP/cmb Date dictated 4/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/23/68

Mrs. ~~GEORGE JONES (JOYCE)~~, home address 225 Oak Street, Jackson, Mississippi, after viewing several photographs exhibited to her, commented that none of these photographs looked like the JAMES RAY whom her cousin, VIRGINIA, introduced as her husband.

The photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was singularly exhibited to Mrs. JONES. She commented that this was definitely not the man that VIRGINIA RAY introduced as her husband.

On 4/20/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA's JOHN L. PUDDISTER & JAMES W. AWE: JLP/cmb Date dictated 4/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/23/68

Miss MARIE JACO, 225 Oak Street, Jackson, Mississippi, advised that VIRGINIA RAY is her niece.

Several photographs were exhibited to Miss JACO and she commented she could not recall having met any of these individuals.

The photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was singularly exhibited to Miss JACO. She advised that this photograph was definitely not a photograph of the man that her niece, VIRGINIA RAY, introduced to her as her husband in September, 1967.

On 4/20/68 at Jackson, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586
by SA's JOHN L. PUDDISTER & JAMES W. AWE: JLP/cmb Date dictated 4/23/68

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 4/24/68

FROM : SA ANTHONY E. DANIELS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo from SA JOHN L. PUDDISTER dated
4/8/68.

MAE GRANGER, Jackson Credit Bureau, made
available the following information from the Credit
Bureau file:

~~RICHARD HARVEY SWEAT, 734 Sherwood Drive,
employed as of 2/66, as an inspector of the Retail
Credit Bureau. SWEAT is married to MARY JANE BATES
SWEAT, who is employed as a secretary at the Mississippi
Federal Co-Op.~~

Credit rating for SWEAT listed as satisfactory,
and lists his age as 26 in 1966.

The following individuals were contacted and
advised they had nothing in their files identifiable
with RICHARD HARVEY SWEAT:

FAYE CULPEPPER,
Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol

EVELYN KING,
Identification Division,
Jackson Police Department.



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cc'd marked for investigation

157-9586-409

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