

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627)

DATE: 5/9/68

FROM : SA DAN O. STEPHENS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/7/68, Mrs. J. R. RALSTON, 3396 LeBron Ave., Montgomery, Ala. telephonically advised as follows:

She and her husband formerly owned Ralston Bakery, located Prattville Shopping Center, Prattville, Ala. This establishment was sold by them during 12/67 to one BILLY RAY WILLARD, who was then employed as a salesman by a bakery supply firm located in New York, NY. This individual indicated that he was an experienced baker and wanted to establish a business. He then resided in Texas, and, after buying this business, he moved his wife from Texas and they occupied a trailer in a trailer park in Prattville. The shop was sold to him on credit and he was making weekly payments to her husband on this debt.

This individual remained in Prattville from time of this purchase until 5/3/68 at which he left Prattville without any prior notice and his whereabouts are unknown. He abandoned the bakery, his trailer and personal effects, and a 1963 Chevrolet station wagon which he had recently purchased and financed through a Prattville bank. He made a payment to them on the bakery the week before his departure. He reportedly left the area in a white Volkswagen and was accompanied by a young man from Prattville. His companion returned to Prattville several days later claiming that he had left WILLARD in Mississippi. It has been reported that WILLARD is wanted by the local authorities in Prattville for passing a number of worthless checks there prior to his departure.

She has seen the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and has noticed some similarities between the two individuals. She ~~does not believe~~ that they are identical, but are similar.  
CC: 10 NOT 544

On 5/7/68, OBIE THOMPSON, COP, Prattville, Ala. confirmed the fact to SA GERALD G. GRAYBILL that WILLARD is wanted on worthless check charges and that his whereabouts are unknown. He is reported to have a brother, JOHN WILLARD, who resides in Mesquite, Texas. He further advised that JOHN WILLARD came to Prattville at one time a co-signed the note on the car purchased by his brother.



5010-108-01

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

157-2627-449

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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*[Handwritten signature]*

~~XXXXX~~ THOMPSON further advised that he was in contact with WILLARD a number of times prior to his sudden departure and he does not even consider him similar in appearance to RAY.

On 5/7/68, Mrs. RALSTON described WILLARD as being white male, ~~2222~~ 29-30 years old, 6', heavy build, dark hair, full face.

On 5/8/68, KENNETH HILL, Ass't Chief of Police, Prattville, Ala. PD, advised writer that he was well acquainted with WILLARD during his stay in Prattville. He further advised that WILLARD was also wanted for questioning in connection with the burglary of his bakery prior to his departure. Investigation has indicated that WILLARD burglarized his own establishment, and also issued a number of worthless checks in the area. He reportedly left Prattville on 5/3/68 in his white Volkswagen, bearing Fla. license plates, and was accompanied by TERRY JOHNSTON, who resides on Washington Ferry Rd in Prattville. He further advised that JOHNSTON returned to Prattville on or about 4/10/68 and reported that he left WILLARD at Tuscaloosa, Ala. because the latter was beginning to act "crazy". He indicated ~~that~~ he and WILLARD had been traveling around on a "spree".

HILL further advised that he believes that WILLARD has returned to Texas and is probably in the area of Mesquite, Texas where his brother reportedly resides.

He described WILLARD as being WM, 30's, 5'10", 160 lbs., light hair. He added that WILLARD does not resemble RAY. He also advised that WILLARD was in Prattville from time that he purchased the bakery until 4/3/68 when he left.

Inasmuch as WILLARD's whereabouts can be accounted for up until 4/3/68, it can be safely assumed that he is not identical with RAY, and it is suggested that no further investigation be conducted in this regard.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC 157-2627

DATE: 5-9-68

FROM : SA DANIEL R. STANKOSKI

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following were recontacted re captioned matter and appropriate photos displayed with negative results:

MO 211-C 4-22-68  
PCI FLOYD PHILLIPS 4-26-68  
" LAWRENCE RUSHING 5-2-68  
" ROBERT L. BERRY 5-3-68

DRS/drs  
(1)



5010-108-01

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*Proctor*

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

5/10/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627)(P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS, AKA  
HAL NICHOLS

Reairtel San Francisco to the Bureau, 5/3/68.

Enclosed are copies of an investigative insert,  
25 for Memphis and two for San Francisco, reflecting investi-  
gation at Montgomery, Ala.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

2-Memphis (Encs. 25)  
1-San Francisco (173-65)(Encs. 2)(Info)  
②-Mobile  
SHR-alg  
(5) *alg*

*c*

157-2627-451

*TB*

*TB*

Post Office Box 2128  
Mobile, Alabama 36601  
May 10, 1968

Mrs. Ozzie Scarborough  
603 Englewood Drive  
Dothan, Alabama 36301

Dear Mrs. Scarborough:

Reference is made to your letter dated April 30, 1968, and my letter to you dated May 1, 1968.

The material furnished by you in your letter of April 30, 1968, has been reviewed and does not indicate any connection with the case of James Earl Ray, being sought by this Bureau.

Accordingly, I am returning this material to you.

Your action in referring this material to this office is indeed appreciated.

Very truly yours,

W. M. ALEXANDER  
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee  
1 - Mobile (157-2627)(P)  
JTB:sms  
(2)

157-2627-452  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized 7B  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed 7B

FBI MOBILE

FBI CHICAGO

216 PM URGENT 5/10/68 PAK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA (44-2386), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)  
JACKSON (157-9586), MEMPHIS (44-1987), MOBILE (157-2627), NEW  
ORLEANS (157-10673) AND ST. LOUIS (44-775)  
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) P 6P

MURKIN.

PERSON IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS, WHITE,  
MALE, BORN [REDACTED] AT BELLEVUE, MISS., SIX FOOT ONE,  
ONE EIGHTYFIVE LBS., DIRTY BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES, CONTACTED CHICAGO  
PD, WAS TURNED OVER TO CHICAGO FBI AND EXTENSIVELY INTERVIEWED  
EARLY MAY TEN, INSTANT.

PHILLIPS APPEARS EMOTIONALLY BALANCED. HE FREELY  
IDENTIFIED AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL MANY OF THE PERSONS MENTIONED  
IN REPORT OF SA SAM H. ALLEN, JR., MEMPHIS, APRIL TWO FOUR  
SIXTYTWO, IN CASE "WALL COOPER BOURLAND: ETAL: OCS," BUFILE  
SEVEN TWO DASH ONE THREE NINE ZERO, MEMPHIS SEVEN TWO DASH THREE  
THREE, FROM WHICH CHICAGO CONCLUDES HE OBVIOUSLY IS WELL  
ACQUAINTED WITH PERSONS HE DISCUSSED.

PHILLIPS SAYS HE RAN RESTAURANT SHANNON, MISSISSIPPI,  
UNTIL ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, WHICH WAS REALLY FRONT FOR ILLEGAL  
END PAGE ONE

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*Preston*

PAGE TWO

WHISKEY SALE. HE PAID FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS MONTHLY TO SHERIFF, ONE HUNDRED TO JUSTICE OF PEACE AND ONE HUNDRED TO CONSTABLE, BUT BUSINESS GOT SO BAD HE HAD TO QUIT BECAUSE COULD NOT PAY PROTECTION.

THE BIGGEST ILLEGAL "BOOZE" OPERATOR IS CARL MURPHY, JR., (SEE REREP SA ALLEN), WHITE, MALE, BORN [REDACTED] LEE COUNTY, MISS., FIVE FOOT TEN, ONE NINETY LBS., DARK BROWN HAIR, HAZEL EYES, RESIDENCE ROUTE ONE, TUPELO, MISS. PHILLIPS HAS KNOWN MURPHY ALL HIS LIFE AND ENGAGED IN "BOOZE" DEALS WITH HIM. AFTER MISSISSIPPI WENT "WET", PHILLIPS WANTED TO SELL ONLY TAXED LIQUOR WHILE MURPHY DEMANDED SALE OF BOTH TAXED LIQUOR AND "MOONSHINE."

PHILLIPS STATES THAT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, CANNOT BETTER FIX DATE, MURPHY TALKED TO HIM AT A SERVICE STATION SOMETIME AFTER "SELMA MARCH" BOOK PUBLISHED, AND OFFERED HIM TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO "HIT KING," WHICH OFFER DECLINED. PHILLIPS KNOWS NO SPECIFIC REASON WHY MURPHY WOULD WANT TO KILL KING, UNLESS FOR MONEY, AS MURPHY WILL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY. IN ADDITION PHILLIPS BELIEVES MURPHY HIGH IN WHITE HATE GROUP, PROBABLY KU KLUX KLAN, AND FRIENDLY WITH IMPERIAL WIZARD SHELTON IN TUSCALUSA, ALABAMA.

ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO GROUP OF LAWYERS IN TUPELO, MISS.,  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

INCLUDING PETE MITCHELL, JOHN SHANDS (WHOSE BROTHER IS CITY JUDGE), AND (FNU) ROGERS, GOT UP A BIG MEETING, HANDED OUT LITERATURE, AND IT WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE AREA THIS WAS ACTUALLY KKK GROUP ALTHOUGH CALLED SOME OTHER UNRECALLED NAME.

PHILLIPS SAID THAT IN ABOUT SIXTYTWO, MURPHY HIRED J.W. RILEY TO KILL JAMES "GRUBBY" GRUBBS, WHO HAD "BOOZE" TERRITORY BUT WOULD NOT BUY FROM MURPHY. RILEY SHOT GRUBBS WITH SHOTGUN, MURPHY WAS PRESENT, AND DAVID SCOTT DROVE CAR. RILEY AND MURPHY WERE INDICTED, RILEY WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO TWELVE YEARS FOR MANSLAUGHTER. RILEY SERVED FOUR YEARS, GOT OUT, AND WAS KILLED BY FBI AGENTS IN SHOOT OUT AFTER HICKORY FLATS, MISS., BR. PHILLIPS SAYS WORD IS THAT MURPHY SET UP RILEY ON BR AND FOR COUNTERFEIT MONEY.

PHILLIPS DOES NOT BELIEVE SCOTT WAS TRIED FOR MURDER AND IN PAST FEW YEARS SCOTT, WHO REMAINS CLOSE TO MURPHY, SUDDENLY OBTAINED FARM, CATTLE AND HOME ABOUT ONE AND ONE - HALF MILES SOUTHWEST OF BELDEN, MISS. PHILLIPS SAYS PERSON JUST DOES NOT BECOME SO AFFLUENT THESE DAYS IN MISSISSIPPI WITHOUT "REAL CROOKED CONTACTS."

PHILLIPS CLAIMS USED TO WORK FOR GRUBBS AND WAS TOLD BY SCOTT BEFORE KILLING TO TAKE OFF FOR ST. LOUIS, AS THEY WERE GOING TO

END PAGE THREE



PAGE FOUR

KILL GRUBBS. PHILLIPS CLAIMS THEY "CHASED GRUBBS ALL OVER THE COUNTY" BEFORE KILLING HIM.

MURPHY REPORTEDLY KILLED JOHN OLIVER YOUNGER AND BOBBY PITTMAN EAST OF BELDEN, MISS., AT MURPHY RESIDENCE, ABOUT NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. THEY BROUGHT TRAILER LOAD OF "BOOZE" TO MURPHY AND WHEN ASKED FOR PAY HE KILLED THEM, SHOT HIMSELF IN STOMACH WITH TWENTY TWO CALIBER, CLAIMED SELF DEFENSE AND SHERIFF FRANK CARTER, WHO WAS CROOKED WITH MURPHY, NEVER EVEN INVESTIGATED CRIME.

PHILLIPS CLAIMS MURPHY CAN "GETAWAY WITH NEARLY ANYTHING," ALTHOUGH HAS BEEN TO BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE PRISON, BUT MAKES MORE MONEY IN PRISON THAN OUT. WHENEVER CHARGED ALWAYS TRY TO BRIBE JURY AND GENERALLY DOES, OR NEVER GETS TO JURY THROUGH BRIBES TO POLICE, SHERIFF OR JUDGES.

PHILLIPS VISITED HIS MOTHER, MRS. JETTIE L. KEY, FIVE SEVEN FIVE EAST MAIN ST., BALDWIN, MISS., FROM ABOUT APRIL EIGHTEEN TO TWENTYNINE, LAST, AND TALK AROUND TOWN ABOUT KING SLAYING WAS THAT MURPHY "GOT AWAY WITH ANOTHER ONE." PHILLIPS HAS NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION BUT BELIEVES MURPHY EITHER WAS INVOLVED IN OR KNOWS WHO KILLED KING AND GOT SOME MONEY OUT OF IT. PHILLIPS PERSONALLY FEELS MURPHY AND KKK INVOLVED IN MURKIN.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

MURPHY HAS MANY CONTACTS IN SURROUNDING STATES. DEALS WITH SHELTON IN TUSCALUSA, MAKES FREQUENT LIQUOR BUYING TRIPS TO NEW ORLEANS, AND DEALS IN "BOOZE" WITH EDDIE (LNU) AT CASA NOVA, NIGHT CLUB, CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI. MURPHY HAS MANY TRUCKS ON ROAD AND KEEPS THEM HID IN BARN. HAS UNTOLD NUMBER PLACES WHERE COULD HIDE FUGITIVE, PARTICULARLY IN UNION COUNTY AND AS SCOTT FARM.

PHILLIPS VOLUNTEERED FOREGOING AS "GOOD CITIZEN." HE HAS NOT ASKED FOR ANYTHING, BUT WHEN SPECIFICALLY QUESTIONED, SAID WOULD RETURN TUPELO AREA TO HELP BUREAU IF HAD JOB AS FRONT. HAS SIXTH GRADE EDUCATION AND APPEARS FAIRLY SHREWD FROM "SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS." SAYS HE IS KNOWN BOOTLEGGER IN MISSISSIPPI, DOES NOT WANT TO CARRY ON THIS TRADE, BUT COULD EASILY "GET INTO THE STREAM OF THINGS AGAIN." BELIEVES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DISCOVER ANYTHING IMPORTANT TO MURKIN AS ANYONE INVOLVED WOULD BE COMPLETELY CLOSED MOUTHED.

CHICAGO IS UNABLE TO REASONABLY ASSESS FOREGOING DATA FOR AUTHENTICITY OR AS TO PROSPECTS IN MURKIN. PHILLIPS DOES NOT KNOW SUBJECT RAY.

UACB, EACH RECEIVING OFFICE WILL CAREFULLY REVIEW FILES FOR ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING CARL MURPHY, JR., WITH VIEW IN MIND  
END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

OF DETERMINING HIS PRECISE KKK RELATIONSHIP AND ACTIVITIES,  
AS WELL AS SEEKING ANY POSSIBLE CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT RAY,  
EITHER THROUGH CONTACTS IN HIS TRAVELS, IMPRISONMENTS OR COMMON  
ACQUAINTANCES. ESTABLISH PRECISE TRAVELS AND WHEREABOUTS PAST  
SEVERAL MONTHS.

BUREAU REQUESTED TO LOCATE CARL MURPHY, JR. IDENTIFICATION  
RECORD AND SUTEL DETAILS OF INCARCERATIONS TO PERMIT LOGICAL  
INVESTIGATION IN EFFORT TO DISCOVER CONNECTION WITH RAY.

PHILLIPS HAS PROMISED TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH CHICAGO.  
HE WAS FINGERPRINTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED AT CHICAGO. DENIES ANY  
PRISON SENTENCE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CRS

FBI MOBILE

@

FBI MOBILE

FBI PHILA

531PM 5-10-68 URGENT ERA

TO SACS MEMPHIS 44-1987, MOBILE AND NORFOLK  
FROM SAC PHILADELPHIA 44-1368

MURKIN

RE SUSPECT UNSUB; AKA ROBERT L. MOORE.

ON MAY TWO LAST CONTACT WITH HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY,  
BALA-CYNWYD, PA, REFLECTS ESSO CREDIT CARD NUMBER [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ISSUED ROBERT L. MOORE,  
ONE NINE ONE SIX KING HENRY COURT, APT. ONE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, IN  
JULY SIXTYFOUR.

INSTANT CREDIT CARD HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED LOST OR STOLEN; HOW-  
EVER, CREDIT CARD LISTED ON REWARD FLYER HAS CURRENT DELINQUENT  
CHARGES OF APPROX SEVENTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS WITHIN LAST EIGHTEEN  
MONTHS.

HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING NOTED THAT MAIL SENT TO INSTANT ADDRESS  
HAS NOT BEEN RETURNED.

NORFOLK LOCATE AND INTERVIEW MOORE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TEB

FBI MOBILE

CL

*One CC  
Sent Bham  
by PLS 5/10/68*

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FBI MOBILE

FBI RICHMOND

641PM URGENT 5/10/68 DWS  
TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, MEMPHIS, MOBILE  
FROM RICHMOND (44-657) 3P  
MURKIN.

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL MAY NINE LAST.

C AND P TELCO, HOPEWELL, VA., RECORDS INDICATE NUMBER FOUR FIVE EIGHT DASH FOUR SIX ONE FIVE SUBSCRIBED TO BY CHARLES W. CLARK, ESPOSITO PLACE, HOPEWELL, VA. RICHMOND INDICES INDICATE ON JANUARY NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN, C. W. CLARK, THREE ZERO FIVE BROWN AVENUE, HOPEWELL, SIGNED LEASE WITH ONE J.J. UNGER, THEN A MEMBER OF UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA (UKA), KKK, HOPEWELL, LEASE FOR UKA UNIT THIRTY-SIX, KLAVERN. INDICES FURTHER REFLECT ON JANUARY NINE, NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN CLARK AND WIFE APPEARED HOPEWELL SCHOOLBOARD TOGETHER WITH OTHER NON-SCHOOLBOARD MEMBERS, NUMEROUS KNOWN KLANSMEN.

RH THREE THREE EIGHT DASH R ADVISED CLARK NOT A MEMBER OF UKA THIRTY-SIX PRESENTLY.

RH THREE FOUR ZERO DASH R ADVISED CONVERSATION HEARD IN UNIT TWELVE OF UKA HOPEWELL ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO RELATING ONE DOT CLARK, FORMERLY A MEMBER OF INSTANT UNIT, HOWEVER, SHE QUIT AT LEAST A YEAR AGO.  
END PAGE ONE

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*Boon*

44-657

PAGE TWO

CREDIT CONDUCTED PETERSBURG AND HOPEWELL REFLECT CLARK RESIDING GREATER PETERSBURG DASH HOPEWELL AREA SINCE APRIL, NINETEEN THIRTY-NINE. UNTIL NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, CLARK RESIDED BROWN AVENUE, HOPEWELL, VA.

ARREST CHECKS CONDUCTED GREATER HOPEWELL DASH PETERSBURG AREA REFLECT FOUR TRAFFIC CITATIONS. CREDIT CHECK INDICATES CHARLES WASHINGTON CLARK, AND WIFE DOROTHY GILLIAM HAVE SATISFACTORY CREDIT RATINGS. CLARK EMPLOYED AS A CARPENTER FOR PERRIN DASH ESPOSITO BROTHERS, HOPEWELL, VA. AS FOREMAN. PD RECORDS HOPEWELL INDICATE CLARK PAGE FORTYFIVE IN NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT. PLACE OF BIRTH ESSEY, KING AND QUEEN COUNTY, VA. DISCREET NEIGHBORHOOD INQUIRY REFLECTS CLARK, WIFE, AND TWO TEENAGE DAUGHTERS MOVED TO ESPOSITO PLACE ADDRESS OCTOBER, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN. CLARK'S STEPSON SONNY (LNU) AND STEPSON'S WIFE, UNKNOWN. NEIGHBOR INDICATES WIFE OF SONNY (LNU) FROM ALABAMA CITY PRIOR TO MOVING TO HOPEWELL THREE TO FOUR MONTHS AGO. NEIGHBOR INDICATES WIFE OF SONNY RECENTLY QUIT EMPLOYMENT

END PAGE TWO

RH 44-657

PAGE THREE

DRUG FAIR, HOPEWELL. MANAGER DRUG FAIR HOPEWELL INDICATES ONLY ALABAMA NATIVE WHO RECENTLY QUIT EMPLOYMENT IS ONE D. E. CATLETT, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA. CREDIT RE CATLETT NEGATIVE AT HOPEWELL AND PETERSBURG.

UAC NO FURTHER INQUIRIES BEING MADE.

INSERTS TO FOLLOW TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT KNOXVILLE AND KANSAS CITY.

END

AAH

FBI MOBILE

9

F B I MOBILE

Date: 5/10/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPEURGENT

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, (44-38861)  
SACS CHICAGO (44-1114) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC MOBILE (157-2627)

MURKIN.

RE CHICAGO TEL 5/10/68 CONCERNING ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS.

MOBILE INDICES CONTAIN NO INFO IDENTIFIABLE WITH CARL  
MURPHY, JR. DISCUSSED IN RETEL. NO ACTION INDICATED FOR MOBILE  
BASED ON RETEL.

JTB/

(1)

157-2627-456

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized 70  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed JTB

Boston JTB

WA 9:54 PM (CAB)  
CD 9:58 PM (HBE)  
ME 10:01 PM (SS) Avinger

Approved: WMA  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per



F B I

Date: 5/9/68

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

TO: SAC, ATLANTA

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

In connection with investigation conducted to date in instant case, the Memphis Office has prepared a listing of pertinent dates, activity, and residences as known to Memphis concerning subject JAMES EARL RAY. This information may be subject to amplification as additional information becomes known.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Place</u>
4/23/67	Escape	Missouri State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri
7/18/67	Harkay Apts., \$450 lease, 7/18/67 - 1/18/68 H. ROTHMAN, owner, \$75 per month. GALT skipped out.	Montreal, Canada
7/26/67	Canadian Postal Money Order	Montreal, Canada
8/26/67	2608 Highland Avenue (Rented room.)	Birmingham, Alabama
8/28/67	Birmingham Trust Nat'l Bank (Rented safety deposit box.)	Birmingham, Alabama

## ALL COPIES AIRMAIL:

2 ATLANTA	2 LOS ANGELES
2 BIRMINGHAM	2 MIAMI
2 CHICAGO	2 MOBILE
2 DALLAS	2 NEW ORLEANS
2 JACKSON	2 SPRINGFIELD
2 KANSAS CITY	2 ST. LOUIS

RGJ:BN

(24)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

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ME 44-1987

<u>Date</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Place</u>
8/29-30/67	Bought Mustang from WILLIAM D. PAISLEY	Birmingham
9/12/67	Continental Dance Club Studio Aka. Friendship Club	Birmingham
10/3/67	Photographic Equipment to Galt (Per records Superior Bulk Film Co., Chicago)	Birmingham
10/4/67	Operator rooming house (P. CHERPES) signed for package for GALT	Birmingham
10/5/67	GALT typed letter from Birmingham Highland Avenue address returning camera to Chicago	Birmingham
10/7/67	Approximate departure	Birmingham
10/18/67	Letter from Film Company (above) returned to Chicago from Birmingham address	--
10/19 - 11/16/67	Room 212 Motel Rio, Morelos 86	Puerto Villarta Jalisco, Mexico
10/22/67	Superior Bulk Film Co., Chicago records show typed letter from GALT asking refund be sent Hotel Rio, Puerto Villarta, Jalisco, Mexico	
11/7-13/67	Hotel "Tropicana" (Rm. 417)	Puerto Villarta
11/17/67 - 1/18/68	1535 North Serrano (Apt. 6)	Los Angeles, Calif.
11/20/67	Records Chicago Film Co. (above) show GALT asked refund be sent 1535 North Serrano	Los Angeles, Calif.

ME 44-1987

12/ 7-19/67	Provincial Motel (GALT)	New Orleans, La.
1/2 - 3/17/68	St. Francis Hotel 5533 North Hollywood Boulevard	Los Angeles
12/ 7 -2/12/68	National Dance Studios	Los Angeles
1/1/68 - 3/2/68	International School of Bar- tendering	Los Angeles
3/24/68	113 14th St. N. E. (Rooming House) GALT last seen by landlord approximately 3/31/68	Atlanta, Georgia
3/29-30/68	Purchase of Weapon (HARVEY LOWMEYER), Aero-Marine Supply	Birmingham
4/1/68	Piedmont Laundry (GALT) No starch in clothes	Atlanta
4/3/68	Rebel Motel (ERIC S. GALT) Departed prior to 1 PM, 4/4/68	Memphis
4/4/68	Rooming House (JOHN WILLARD) South Main St., in about 3 PM	Memphis
4/5/68	Last seen A.M. of 4/5/68, Piedmont Laundry, parking Mustang	Atlanta

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627)

DATE: 5/10/68

FROM : SA DAN O. STEPHENS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/6/68, CHARLES SPEARS, 1014 Carter Hill Rd., Montgomery, Ala. advised as follows:

At approximately 3:30 PM, 3/30/68, he was in ~~XXXXXX~~ the Service Dept., Firestone Store, S. Court St., Montgomery, getting some new tires installed on his car. During this time he got in a conversation with another customer, who was also having his car, a 1967 Pontiac, red, bearing Illinois license plates bearing the name "Cicero", on them, serviced in some manner. This individual that he then resided in Illinois, but was originally from Montgomery, and returned often for visits. He conversed with this individual briefly but the man made a definite impression on him.

He has since seen the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and recalls that above individual resembled him, particularly around the eyes and nose. He described this individual as being a white male, approximately 34 years old, ~~chbd~~ blue eyes, medium height and build.

Several other customers were in the area at the time, but he was unable to recall any of them. He does not recall what this individual was having done to his car or which employee was servicing his car.

He was unable to furnish any additional identifying information concerning this individual.

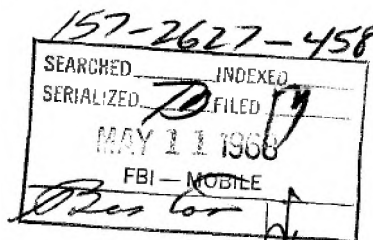
He could not positively state that this individual was identical with RAY, but recalled that he resembled him particularly the portion of face around the nose and eyes.

Inasmuch as Mofile reflects that RAY was reportedly in Birmingham in midafternoon 3/30/68, and in possession of the white Mustang at the time, it is felt that further inquiry in this matter is unwarranted.



5010-108-01

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



## CHARACTERS IN BOOKS

BY IAN FLEMING

### CASINO ROYALE

James Bond	Smyert Shpionan	Monsieur Sixte
de Villorin	Goytchev	Lord Danvers
Duclos	Garrad-Jones	Carmel Delane
Dasilva	Petchora	Signor Tomelli
Clements	Donovan	Rene Mathis
Caffery	Harthrop-Vane	Monsieur Versoix
Fawcett	Ventnor	Adolph Gettler
Herr Nummer	Mace	Herr Gettler
Herr Ziffer	Savarin	
Smersh	Mathis	
Deauville	Charles Dasilva	
Le Touquet	Kingston	
Zographos	Monsieur Muntz	
Cypher	Trouville	
Alsace Lorraine	Royale	
Strasbourg	Vesper Lynd	
Archivist	Dior	

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*Boatman*

**DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER**

Galland	Felix Leiter	Sir Reginald Leeper
Sillitoe	Pickapepper	Mr. Swart
Daker	Mauve Decade	Brigadier Rademeyer
Jacoby	Bill Winfrey	Volk
Bronsteen	Kid Tatters	Bernard Nealon
Sefton Delmer	Lame-Brain Pissaro	John Blaize
DeBeers	Belair Stud	Williamson
Ronnie Vallance	Mr. Weiss	Prospector Katze
Rufus B. Saye, wa, Jack Spang	Windy Wint	du Raan
Peter Franks	Boofy Kidd	Mr. Louwrens
Tiffany Case	Ernie Cuneo	Sergeant Cilliers
Sergeant Dankwaerts	Jack Entratter	Andries Coetzze
Sergeant Lobiniere	Bobby Bilbo	Alexander Foote
Mister Grunspan	Mr. Lucian	Desmond
Willy Behrens	Frasso	Percy Sillitoe
George Feyer	McGonigle	Ernest Oppenheimer
Michael Tree, wa, Shady Tree	Captain Hook	J. A. Brink
Seraffimo Spang	B. Kitteridge	Claasens
W. Winter	Mr. Rothblatt	Bill Syer
Mike Hammer	<b><u>THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS</u></b>	Fuchs
Rocky	Ian Fleming	LeBeers

**THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS**

Van Blommestein & Birt

Tim Patterson

Piet Willers

T. S. Patterson

Blake

Davis

de Graaf

Mrs. Coetzze

Christine Granville

Sammy Silberstein

Captain van der Westhuisen

William Percival Radley ("Tony")

Donald Miles

Henry Orford

Blaize

Bernard Nealon

Harry Morgan

Finkle

William N. Witherspoon

P. M. R. Willis

Ardayast Powanlian

David Mitchel

Frank Wile

Max Pop

Francis Gballeit

Arthur Sherman

Belcher

Herbert Cox

Monsieur Diamant

Harry Openheimer

Kutze

Groffelaar

Patrick Sullivan

Leiser Weitman

John Gundry

Willy Rosen

Sillitoe

Henry Brasseur

Kheir

Mr. Capper

Robert Johnson

Ernest Oppenheimer

**THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS**

Lyall

Philip Schreiber

Amschel Benny Engel

M. Lallet

M. Mario Pinci

Alio Giwa

Nathan Ascher Glatt

Dr. H. P. Lowe

H. J. Browning (Mr.)

Solomon Cukrowicz

David Gollansky

Alahaju Mustafa Ibrahim

Mike Collins

R. F. Sheldon

Mr. H. Rogers

Harras

**DOCTOR NO**

John Strangways

M

Bill Templar

Stoker Smith

James Molony

Dr. Peter Steincrohn

Major Boothroyd

Quarrel

Hugh Foot

Mr. Pleydell-Smith

Ben Gibbons

Josiah Smith

John Bryce

Waygood Otis

Julius No

Lemmy

**FOR YOUR EYES ONLY**

Rattray

Bates

Proctor

Pyramus

Thisbe

Havelock

Jimmy Farquharson

Aschenheim

Fayprince

Henriques

Feddens

Major Gonzales

von Hammerstein

Colonel Johns

Haversack

Burns Martin

Monty

Ethan Allen

Robin Hood

Harvey Millers

Godalming

Cheltenham

Tunbridge Wells

Governor

Philip Masters



**FOR YOUR EYES ONLY**

**Tattersall**

**Whitehall**

**Albergo Colomba D'oro**

**Signor Kristatos**

**Ronnie Vallance**

**Santos**

**Enrico Colombo**

**Van Cleef**

**Mr. Toad**

**Albergo Daniell**

**Milton Krest**

**Mr. Abedana**

**Professor Hildebrand**

**General Ivan Aleksandrovitch Serov**

**Colonel General Grubozaboyschikov**

**Lt. General Slavin**

**Lt. General Vozdvishensky**

**Tokaev**

**Khoklov**

**Petrov**

**Rene Mathis**

**Drax**

**Colonel Klebb**

**Kronsteen**

**Makharov**

**Fouche**

**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE**

**Donovan Grant**

**"Red" Grant**

**Krassno Granitsky**

**"Granit"**

**Dr. Baumgarten**

**Colonel Arkday Fotoyev**

**Lt. Col. Nikolai Godlovsky**

**Professor Deniken**

**Darko Kerim**

**Lermontov**

**Swaine**

**Adeney**

**Wilkinson**

**Kerim Bey**

**Cecil Beaton**

**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE**

Croesus  
David Somerset  
Bianco  
Major Dansey  
Gyllius  
Vavra  
Krilencu  
Zora  
Vida  
Boris Kerim  
Melchior Benz  
Kurt Goldfarb  
Stefan Trempo  
"Trempo"  
Captain Norman Nash  
Wilbur Frank  
Comtesse Metterstein  
Rosa Malheur

**GOLDFINGER**

Blackwell	Homer
Schwab	Philip Scrutton
Santos	Foulks
Johnny Crawford	Hagen
Auric Goldfinger	Bernard Darwin
Mr. Armour	Mr. Scotland
Jill Masterton	Le Touquet
Colonel Smithers	Tilly Masterton
Sassoon	Dr. Foch
Ellerman	Mr. Gold
Lord Cowdray	Helmut M. Springer
Rothschilds, Barings, Jed Midnight Hambros	
Williamson	Billy (The Grinner) Ring
Oppenheimer	Jack Strap
Boris Anrep	Mr. Solo
Hopton Wood	Jim Colossimo
Alfred Blacking	Slappy Hapgood
Farquharson	Giulio
Hawker	Bloody Morgan
Lord Lonsdale	Cortez

GOLDFINGER

O' Brien  
Weathership Charlie  
Dutch Schuyts  
Napoleon, Hitler

LIVE AND LET DIE

Grady  
Arthur Fein  
Buonaparte Ignace Gallia  
Tee-Hee Johnson  
Leigh Fermor  
Samuel D. Baldwin  
Mr. Halloran  
Captain Dexter  
Zachary Smith  
Baron Samedi  
Sam Miami  
G-G Sumatra  
Flannel  
Mr. Bryce  
Quarrel

THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN

M.  
Captain Walker  
Major Townsend  
Mr. Robson  
  
Sir James Molony  
Bill Tanner  
Ramon "The Rod" Rodriguez  
Enrico Scaramanga  
Harold L. Peterson  
Oliver Winchester  
Beau Desert  
Commander Edmund G. Ross  
Mark Hazard  
Tony Hugill  
Mr. Brown  
Francisco Scaramanga  
Mr. Hendriks  
Sam Binion  
Leroy Gengerella  
Hal Garfinkel

**THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN**

Louie Paradise	Tranby Croft	Marie Laurencin
Mr. Travis	Steffi Esposito	Leica
Mr. Nick Nicholson	Meyer	Baxter
Stanley Jones	Gibbon	Professor Bhose
King Tiger	Longchamp	Galatea
Sir Alexander Bustamante	Brevett	Graf Hugo von der Drache
Mr. Scramble	Canfield	
Mr. Arosio	Dangerfield	Kaltenbrunner
Rastafari	Max	Otto Skorzeny
Macdonald	Porterfield	Group Captain Tandy
Bannister	Grimley	Peter Trimble
Percival Sampson	General Bealey	Detective-Inspector Vivian
Lister Smith	Duff Sutherland	
Justi Morris Cargill	Morphy	
Donitz	Ronnie Vallance	
Guderian	Tallon	
	Gala Brand	
<b><u>MCONRAKER</u></b>		
Hugo Drax ("Hugger")	Egon Bartsch	
Jack Hobbs	Professor Train	
Gordon Richards	Dr. Walter	
Basildon (Basil)	Willy Krebs	

ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE

Phillippe Bertrand

Boudin

Monet

Ernst Stavro Blofeld

Croupier

Rossi

Andre Mattei

Peckham

Laurence Sterne

Johnson

Goldsmith

Dean Swift

Lord Nelson

Sable Basilish Pursuivant

Gebriider Gumpold-Moosbrugger

Tissot

Tracy

Blauenfelder

Monsieur Maurice

Monsieur Pol

Changeur

Marc - Ange Draco

Jean Gindicelli

Griffon Or

Sir Thomas Bond

Nell Gweynn

Boswell

Reynolds

Garrick

Canning

Lord Bently Royal

Sir Hilary Bray

G. W. Marshall

Sir James Malony

Achmed

Jenny Bray

Mary potts

O'Neill

Maria Stavro Michelopoulos

Captain Boris

Alphonse de Bleuville

D'dsigneys

Professor Auguste Kommer

Conte de Bleuville

ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE

Fritz	Jed Phancey	Sol (Horror) Horowitz
Ivan	Derek Mallaby	Horst Uhlmann
Bertil Yugo	Ben Said	Lieutenant Morrow
Sir George Dunbar	Maurice Smart	O'Donnell
George Albert Windsor	Don Shirley	Captain Stonor
Ernst George Blofeld	James Grant	
Shaun Campbell	Audrey Thompson	
Herr Graf	Nosy Parker	
Pat Smythe	Hoppy Jones	
Simon de Bleuville	Bill Kenny	
Muir	Charlie Fuqua	
Summerhayes	Harling	
Mr. Leathers	Len Holbrook	
Marius	Frank Donaldson	
Che-Che	Bill Donaldson	
Ernst Stefan Blofeld	Kurt Rainer	
Mr. Franklin	Trude	
Sir Ronald Vallance	Herr Doktor Braunschweig	
Mr. Trumper	Pat Moss	
Toussaint	Elliott Frey	
<u>THE SPY WHO LOVED ME</u>	Millicent	
Mr. Sanguinetti	Sluggsy Morant	

**THUNDERBALL**

Bircher-Brenner  
Kneipp  
Preissnitz  
Rikli  
Schroth  
Gossman  
Bilz  
Joshua Wain  
Alan Moyle  
Heinkel  
Count Lippe  
Beresford  
Jules  
Gregor Karlski  
Ernst Stavro Blofeld  
Marius Domingue  
Pierre Borraud  
Giuseppi Petacchi  
Fidelio Sciacco  
Bruno Bayer  
Fonda  
Enrico Valli

**YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE**

Vargas	Tiger Tanaka
Emilio Largo	Trembling Leaf
Kotze	Grey Pearl
Leopoldo Rodriques	Dikko Henderson
Dominetta Vitali	Admiral Ohnishi
Pitman	Porterfield
F. Larkin	Sir James Molony
Roddick	Ernst Stavro Blofeld
Felix Leiter	Richard Lovelace Henderson
Bryce	
Harold Christie	Tracy
Sergeant Molony	Colonel Hamilton
Mr. Snow	Prenderghast
Mr. Player	Bill Tanner
Constable Santos	Jim Saunderson
Emil Traut	Mariko Ichiban
Brigadier Fairchild	Superintendent Ando
Peter Pedersen	Taro Todoroki
Admiral Carlson	Kono
Strelik	Kazama
Petty Officer Fallon	
Dr. Stengel	Doctor Guntram Shatter- hand, aka-Comte de Bleuville

# THRILLING CITIES

Leonard Russell	Joey Glimco	Frederick Bussy
Mr. Frere	Francis "The Immune" Maritote	
Hugh Barton	Charles "Cherry Nose" Gioe	
Jack Conder	Richard Hauff	Pierre Jaccoud
Dick Hughes	Cosmo Orlando	Charles Zumbach
Kadoorie	Carlo "Bananas" Urbaniti	
Richard Mason	Ripa	Andre Zumbach
Dr. Lobo	Joseph Broge	Professor Pittard
Samuel Montague	Gene Gleason	Francesco Waldman
Len Cosgrove	Dan Jacobson	Salvatori Funari
"Cos"	David Barlow	
"Tiger" Saito	Felix Leiter	
Alan Searle	Marthe Richard	
Mr. Fratinelli	Antony Terry	
Captain James Hamilton	Knoeller	
Virgil Peterson	"Rickey" Renee	
Professor Philip Fox	Dr. Julius Raab	
Colonel Edward Bradley	Dr. Kriesky	
Ben Goffstein	Anton Karas	
Ray Russell	Colonel Podharsky	
Charles Beaumont	Dr. Bircher-Brenner	
Ray Brennan		



**OCTOPUSSY, THE DARLING**

**Major Dexter Smythe**

**Professor Bengry**

**Dr. Jimmy Greaves**

**Luna**

**Hannes Oberhauser**

**Gieves**

**Arundels**

**Marchesis**

**Dr. Cahusac**

**THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS**

**Corporal Menzies**

**Tanqueray**

**Trigger**

**Captain Paul Sender**

**Graf in Liselotte Mutzenbacher**

**Ameryllis**

**Donskaya**

**Lomova**

**THE PROPERTY OF A LADY**

**Dr. Fanshawe**

**Faberge**

**Kenneth Snowman**

**Peter Wilson**

**Piotr Malinowski**

**CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG**

**Commander Caractacus Pott**

**Mimsie Pott**

**Jeremy (Pott)**

**Commander Crackpott**

**Lord Skrumshus**

**Man Mountain Fink**

**Soapy Sam**

**Blood-money Banks**

**Monsieur Bon-Bon**

**Jacques**

F B I

Date: **May 8, 1968**Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **Airtel** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

*JMA* To: All SACS and LEGATS  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN  
OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

In connection with the captioned case there has been speculation that James Earl Ray concocted the alias of Eric Starvo Galt by combining the names of characters from books by Ian Fleming and from a book "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand. This speculation is based on the fact that in the James Bond books by Ian Fleming there is a character named Ernst Stavro Blofield and in "Atlas Shrugged" there is a character named John Galt, as well as one named Eric Starnes. Ernst Stavro Blofield is a formidable person, John Galt is a "social drop out" and Eric Starnes is described in the book as a "whiner" from a low-class family.

In view of the above and in order that Agents handling this investigation can be alert to the possibility of Ray's utilizing an alias based on characters in Fleming's books, there is set out as an attachment to this airtel a list of various characters in those books for your assistance.

Enclosure

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

157-2627-460

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 13 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

*Director*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627)

DATE: 5/11/68

FROM : SA ROBB

SUBJECT: MURKIN

With reference to the JAMES EARL RAY who gave blood at the Blood Plasma Center in Mobile 4/24/68, listin address of 311 May St., Montgomery, I conducted the following investigation on 5/10/68:

A check at 311 May St. revealed it is a small unoccupied dwelling.

Mrs. MYRTLE DAY and DORIAN DAY, 315 May St., advised a JAMES EARL RAY and his wife lived there until about one month ago, when they moved, not giving any idea where they were going.

I exhibited photos of JAMES EARL RAY to both of these people and they both said their former neighbor does not resemble RAY in any way, and is definitely not identical. They said their former neighbor was practically bald.

SHR/

157-2627-461

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 13 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

*Poston* *#57*



5010-106-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627)

DATE: 5/10/68

FROM : SA ROY H. EVELAND

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo from SAC dated 4/25/68

On 4/30/68 the following persons were requested to provide as much publicity as possible concerning JAMES EARL RAY:

JACK SMOLLEN, Manager, Radio Station WJHO, Opelika, Alabama  
HUGH WILSON, News Editor, Opelika Daily News  
ED WEGENER, Director, Educational TV Station, Auburn, Alabama

There are no known "hippie" rooming houses in Opelika, Alabama.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

RHE/  
(1)

157-2627-462

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 13 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

*[Signature]*

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BH 44-1740  
WAS:gas

Confidential source, whose reliability has not been established, advised that he was received in the Missouri State Penitentiary during September, 1965, and was immediately placed in quarantine for a thirty-day observation period which is required of all new prisoners and thereafter he was assigned to Cell 188, Tier #8, J Hall, and scheduled to work in the carpenter shop. In this connection, the source stated that there is only one inmate to a cell and that the Missouri State Penitentiary has five halls within the prison wall which house prisoners.

The source said that while in J. Hall, during November, 1965, he first became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY, who was already assigned to J Hall and who worked daily in J Hall as a "Walk Boy." The source explained that the duties of JAMES EARL RAY as a "Walk Boy" were to take orders for cigarettes, gum, candy, etc., which could be purchased within the prison and to bring hot water for shaving and instant coffee to the inmates. The source added that JAMES EARL RAY was the only "Walk Boy" in J Hall and further that he was free to contact any inmate and could move throughout the hall freely. He pointed out that this was RAY's only duty in the hall and that he could remain inside during working hours, having no other assignments.

The source said that his first conversation with RAY took place when RAY observed him reading a Birmingham, Alabama "Post-Herald" newspaper which he had a subscription to while in prison. The source advised that RAY asked him on this occasion if he was from the State of Alabama to which he replied he was from Walker County, Alabama. RAY said to the source that he knew where Walker County, Alabama, was located and further that this was a dry county, serving no alcoholic beverages, which gave the source the impression that RAY knew what he was talking about, especially since he mentioned beer joints like the All State Tavern, another beer joint which source believed was Rose's Place and Riverview Cafe.

SEARCHED <i>LB</i>	INDEXED <i>LB</i>
SERIALIZED <i>LB</i>	FILED <i>LB</i>
MAY 13 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

*Booster*

157-2628-463

RAY said that he had visited or stayed in the Birmingham, Alabama, area in the past; however, RAY never mentioned any associates, acquaintances, friends, relatives or employments in the State of Alabama. The source advised that this conversation ended with RAY asking him if he could have his Birmingham, Alabama, "Post-Herald" newspaper when he finished reading them each day, which was agreeable to source. The source advised thereafter RAY would come by his cell each evening and pick up his newspaper which he would place between the cell bars.

The source said that RAY never discussed his family nor did he ever indicate from which part of the United States he came from, but the source believed that RAY was from the southern part of the United States only because RAY never indicated where he was from, coupled with his interest in a southern newspaper.

The source stated that he personally gave RAY his present home address and telephone number on one occasion, telling RAY to stop by his home sometime if and when he ever got released from prison and they would have a drink or two together. The source pointed out that RAY did not ask him for his address or telephone number and that he merely furnished this to RAY knowing that he was doing a 20 year prison sentence and more than likely he would never again see RAY after he left prison. He stated that when he gave RAY his address and telephone number, RAY replied "Don't be surprised if I call you up sometime" and thereafter placed this piece of paper in his pocket.

The source said that RAY was a very quiet individual, soft spoken, calm, clean, never laughed or enjoyed a good story, solemn face, and remained to himself most of the time. The source advised that he would often see RAY in the prison yard and on occasion attempted to strike up a conversation with RAY, but he never appeared interested so the source gave up trying to make conversation with RAY.

The source said that the only topic which would arouse RAY's interest was the subject of money. The source

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BH 44-1740

stated that on one occasion during a conversation with RAY, RAY said "One of these days if I ever get out of here I am going to make myself a bunch of money." When source asked how he intended doing this, RAY replied he had contacts and there are more ways of making money than robbing banks. Source then asked RAY what his plan was, to which RAY replied "The Businessmen's Association has offered \$100,000.00 for killing MARTIN LUTHER KING and he's five years past due." The source stated he then asked RAY what the Businessmen's Association was, to which RAY replied "I don't know but I will find out." The source added that this was the first and last time RAY ever mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING nor did he ever again mention the Businessmen's Association in his presence.

The source said that RAY told him that he always worked alone and therefore limited the possibility of being caught and said "I have got a place picked out where I can hide," never mentioning where the place was located.

The source stated there was a prison cigarette lottery going on almost daily in J Hall and that RAY was involved in this lottery, delivering wagering tickets as well as picking these up and would deliver the winnings to inmates each night. He said there were two separate lotteries in J Hall. One lottery was run by two inmates named JOHNNY VALENTI and another individual from St. Louis, Missouri, name unknown. The source described this individual as a white male, Italian, age 43 to 46, dark complexion with gunshot wound in face and nicknamed "Dago." The source said the other lottery in J Hall was run by an individual nicknamed "Boston," who was doing a 20 year sentence and described him as a white male, 45 years of age, very short and occupied either cell 23, 24 or 25 on the flag in J Hall, meaning the first floor.

The source said that he did not like VALENTI's wagering odds so he always placed his wagers with the individual nicknamed "Boston." The source stated that

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BH 44-1740

RAY would always handle the wagers since he could talk to any inmates in the cellblock and was reimbursed by JOHNNY VALENTI and "Boston" for this service. Source estimated that there were approximately two dozen lotteries being operated in the Missouri State Penitentiary, which consisted of five separate halls housing the prisoners.

The source advised that he never saw RAY run narcotics or handle contraband at any time and on one occasion RAY showed him his arms to prove that he had never been addicted to narcotics. The source added that he never observed RAY with any large sums of money.

The source advised that there was an organization being operated at the Missouri State Penitentiary by the inmates and this organization was called "Cooley's Organization." The source said that this was a protection and enforcer organization and that while en route to the Missouri State Penitentiary he first became aware that such an organization existed. The source advised that he was at one time lodged at the County Jail in Springfield, Missouri, for several months and became acquainted with a prisoner, (FNU) CRAIG, whom he described as a "four time loser." The source said that CRAIG has a brother who is a detective on the Springfield Police Department and that CRAIG had previously served time at Missouri State Penitentiary and was being returned to this penitentiary. The source said that when CRAIG learned that he also was en route to the Missouri State Penitentiary, CRAIG advised him to join the Cooley's Organization at the Missouri State Penitentiary since he would need to get along with other prisoners and be being a member of this organization, he would obtain "special favors." The source said that CRAIG informed him that the Cooley's Organization would settle any grievances he may have while at Missouri State Penitentiary against other prisoners and that this was a very powerful organization, having influence with guards and could even, for a price, arrange "a murder."



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The source advised that after his release from quarantine, he again observed CRAIG, who was then working in the mess hall at the Missouri State Penitentiary. The source advised that he then approached CRAIG and told CRAIG that he desired to join the Cooley's Organization and at this time gave him a \$10.00 canteen book, pointing out that the membership fee to join the Cooley's Organization was \$10.00 and that this membership fee would make an inmate a paid up member as long as he was in prison. The source advised that CRAIG told him that he would obtain his membership for him and the same night JAMES EARL RAY came to his cell and gave him a card saying "Here is your card," and nothing else, and therefore he always felt that RAY was a member of the Cooley's Organization since he was so trusted. However, RAY never said to him that he was a member nor did he ever ask him.

The source said that his membership card was type written with his name on it and had the heading "Membership Cooley's Club." The source said that this membership card was like a credit card and it could get an inmate credit on purchases of candy and other sundries but could not be used for credit purposes on lotteries.

The source advised that he had two or three differences with prisoners over wagers while in J Hall and upon getting no satisfaction, he personally contacted CRAIG in the mess hall at which time he displayed to CRAIG his membership card and filed his grievance with CRAIG. The source stated that CRAIG informed him that he would handle this complaint; however, the fee for handling his grievance was 50% of what was due a prisoner. The source added that subsequently RAY appeared at his cell in J Hall with his share of the cigarettes collected from his grievance.

The source stated that CRAIG was later transferred from the mess hall to the Church Farm, which is located outside the prison wall at Missouri State Penitentiary. The source said that prior to CRAIG's departure, CRAIG

contacted him and instructed him who to see in the future to take complaints should he have any additional grievances. At this point, the source pointed out that most grievances would be placed either at the mess hall or the prison yard, noting that only during these periods of time all the inmates from different halls could talk with each other. The source added that he was unable to furnish any description of name of the individual he was instructed to contact in the mess hall after the departure of CRAIG since he had no further complaints and was subsequently transferred to the Renz Farm, which is also located outside the prison.

The source stated that the Cooley's Organization was operating when he arrived at the Missouri State Penitentiary and was still doing business when he departed and he felt that this operation had been started and maintained by old cons who are now trustees and who reside in A Hall, which is the trustees' barracks. He added that he personally feared the power of the Cooley's Organization as did other inmates and in his opinion, he personally felt they could render retaliation regarding him if they became aware that he gave information concerning their organization.

The source said that during the time RAY was assigned to J Hall, he had attempted an escape which was unsuccessful and thereafter he never saw RAY again since RAY was not returned to J Hall and he later went to Renz Farm. He said that while at Renz Farm he did hear that RAY successfully escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary by hiding himself in a bread truck.

The source was asked if there ever circulated at Missouri State Penitentiary a rumor concerning the killing of three Negro inmates and if RAY's name was ever mentioned as a suspect or being involved in these killings. The source said that he did learn that when prison authorities first tried to integrate the prisoners, four white men with pillowcases over their heads waited

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for five Negro prisoners to enter the shower room on one occasion and stabbed three of the Negroes to death, wounded a fourth and the fifth escaped. He said that at no time did he hear any rumor that RAY was involved in these killings.

The source said that the inmates located in J Hall at the time he was also lodged there and who could possibly furnish additional information concerning RAY were (FNU) SPRATT, cell 187, and GENE (LNU), cell 190, who escaped by overpowering a guard and taking his uniform; however, this individual was successfully apprehended and returned to Missouri State Penitentiary. Source advised that another inmate, name unknown, who occupied cell 190, was a lottery player. Another inmate, name unknown, nicknamed "Cowboy," was a hall tender in charge of convicts in J Hall.

This source was displayed numerous photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that all photographs bear a close resemblance to RAY; however, he specifically identified the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken at the Missouri State Penitentiary during the time he was incarcerated. The source said that he would have no difficulty in identifying RAY should he ever see him again, even if he attempted to disguise his identity; giving as his reasons that RAY was definitely "slough-footed" and his toes pointed out noticeably when he walked causing his heels and soles to wear down on the outside edges. He has a prominent cleft on his chin, which is noticeable and remarked that RAY liked his booze and that he had the impression from talking with him that he was a heavy drinker. The source also added that in his opinion from his knowledge of RAY in prison that he thought RAY had a normal sex life.

The source advised that the only other person that he knew that RAY might have been closely associated when in prison was a full-blooded Indian prisoner who was the barber in J Hall but whose name he could not recall. The source stated that he definitely had not been contacted by RAY since he has been released from prison, which was May 3, 1967, and stated that he would notify the Birmingham FBI Office if RAY ever attempted to contact him in any way or manner in the future.

F B I

Date: 5/9/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN - 157-2627  
CR  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

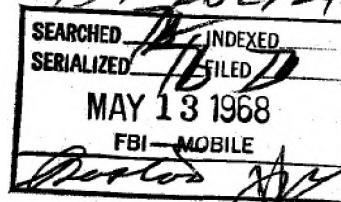
Re Birmingham teletype to Bureau, Memphis and  
Kansas City, 5/8/68.

Enclosed for Bureau and all receiving offices  
are two copies of an investigative insert reflecting  
the results of interviews with THOMAS BRITTON, a former  
inmate of Missouri State Penitentiary who is acquainted  
with JAMES EARL RAY and who furnished considerable  
information relative to RAY's prison activities.

The confidential source referred to in enclosed  
insert is THOMAS BRITTON, 1710 Alabama Avenue, Jasper,  
Alabama, who is presently employed as a cabinet maker at  
Foster's Cabinet Shop, Haleyville, Alabama. After giving  
this matter careful consideration, the identity of BRITTON  
is being concealed at this time in view of his cooperative  
attitude coupled with the fact that he desires his  
identity be protected as he fears retaliation from the  
Cooley's Organization, Missouri State Penitentiary, should  
they learn he is cooperating or furnishing information

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Kansas City (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- ① - Mobile (Enc. 2) / Copy rec.
- 1 - New Orleans (Enc. 2)
- 1 - St. Louis (Enc. 2)
- 1 - Springfield (Enc. 2)

WAS:gas  
(11)



Approved: *[Signature]* Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

SPR

BH 44-1740

to the FBI. Also, Birmingham feels that additional information may be furnished by BRITTON, noting that JAMES EARL RAY presently has his home address and telephone number and could possibly contact him in the future. Disclosure of his identity could possibly alienate this potential source of information.

THOMAS BRITTON was interviewed on 5/6/68 by SA JOHN H. KRESEK and was again interviewed on 5/7/68 by SA's JOHN H. KRESEK, ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER.

Information copies of this investigative insert are being furnished to the New Orleans, Mobile, St. Louis and Springfield Divisions in view of their investigative interest in this matter, coupled with the fact the results of this interview may be valuable when and if JOHNNY VALENTI is located, noting that he has been alleged to be in the New Orleans or St. Louis, Missouri, area. Also, Springfield has several relatives of RAY residing within their division.

**REPORT  
of the**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**  
  
Re: **MURKIN  
CR**

Date: **May 10, 1968**  
FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-562676 JK**

Specimens received **5/8/68**

Photocopies of documents obtained from Alabama State Department of Public Safety, Montgomery, Alabama, comprising the known handwriting of eleven individuals, further described as follows:

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Kc258	WILLIAM ELMER JOHNSON
Kc259	FRANK GARRETT PERRY
Kc260	JAMES PRESTON RIDDICK
Kc261	ROBERT CLIFTON SMITH
Kc262	FONTAINE STORM
Kc263	R. W. KERR
Kc264	CLYDE JUSTIN HILL
Kc265	WINFORD PRESTON GILMORE
Kc266	PAUL EDGAR GOODPASTER, JR.
Kc267	LEE EMERSON BELLAMY
Kc268	ROGER DAVID BROUSSARD

**Result of examination:**

Nothing of particular significance was noted from such comparisons as could be made between the writings on Kc258 through Kc268 when compared with the known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, whose known handwriting appears on specimens K171, K211 and K257.

The submitted items have been retained.

*157-2627-465*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>TB</i>	FILED <i>TB</i>
MAY 13 1968	
FBI — MOBILE	





**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 10, 1968**

Re:

**MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-562676 JK**

Examination requested by: **Mobile**

Reference: **Airtel 5/6/68**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

- 1 - Mobile (157-2627) Enclosure (Lab report)**
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) Enclosure (Lab report)**
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) Enclosure (Lab report)**

157-2627-466

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 13 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

*Beaton*

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

FBI MOBILE

FBI NORFOLK

11-14

AM DEFERRED 5/23/68 CBS  
TO SACS MEMPHIS (44-1987), MOBILE AND  
PHILADELPHIA (44-1368)  
FROM NORFOLK (44-263)  
MURKIN

RE SUSPECT UNSUB; AKA ROBERT L. MOORE.

RE NORFOLK TELETYPE TO MOBILE AND PHILADELPHIA, MAY FIVE  
LAST, AND PHILADELPHIA TEL TO MEMPHIS, MAY TEN LAST.

ROBERT LEE MOORE, DOB, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED AT NORFOLK MAY TEN LAST,  
AND DETERMINED NOT TO BE IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

FOR INFO PHILADELPHIA, MOORE RESIDING AT ONE NINE ONE SIX  
CAPE KING HENRY COURT (REGENCY APARTMENTS), APARTMENT ONE,  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA. MAILING ADDRESS, CARE OF BOX FOUR  
TWO ZERO ONE, LONDON BRIDGE STATION, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA.  
MOORE EMPLOYED WITH DONALD E. PITTS, UNITED HOME BUILDERS, INC.,  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

INSTANT CREDIT CARD RECOVERED BY BOND ESSO STATION, THIRTY  
FIRST AND ATLANTIC AVENUE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA. MOORE  
END PAGE ONE

157-2627-467

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 13 1968	
FBI - MOBILE	

*Boston*