

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627-SF1)

DATE: 5/23/68

FROM : SA CHARLES A. BOYLE, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re 157-2627-SF, Serial #21.

RE: 1958 Ford
VIN G8DG109522

Investigation by SA BOYLE regarding 1958 Ford, VIN G8DG109522, indicates that above vehicle was stolen from the City Hall parking lot at Bayou La Batre, Alabama, on 3/30/68, at 8:30 p.m. This vehicle bore 1968 Alabama license 2A-11230, and is a dark green, four-door sedan.

On 5/10/68, TOM DEES, Mobile County Sheriff's Office, reviewed his file pertaining to vehicles stolen during the month of March, 1968, and the file failed to reflect any record for above-mentioned vehicle.

On the same date, Lt. WALTER LAVENE, Records, Mobile Police Department, reviewed his records and these records failed to reflect any report identifiable with instant vehicle.

On the same date, Chief of Police GEORGE H. CRAWFORD, Bayou La Batre, Alabama, was interviewed regarding instant vehicle and he stated that one HARVEY PHILMAN had reported this vehicle stolen; however, discovered that he had misparked the vehicle and discontinued stolen report submitted to Bayou La Batre Police Department. CRAWFORD stated that PHILMAN was employed as a snapper boat fisherman and as PHILMAN reported recovery of the vehicle one-half hour after reporting it stolen, he did not forward any record of this incident to the Mobile County Sheriff's Office.

CAB:sms
(1) *ams*



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On the same date, HARVEY PHILMAN, Route 1, Bayou La Batre, stated that he is employed as a snapper boat fisherman out of the Bayou La Batre area and that he is the owner of a 1958, four-door, dark green Ford, bearing 1968 Alabama license 2A-11230. He stated that he had forgotten where he parked his vehicle and upon realization of this fact he informed Chief of Police GEORGE CRAWFORD. Shortly afterwards, he remembered that he had parked his car in the City Hall parking lot. PHILMAN stated he later recovered his vehicle.

No neighborhood investigation was conducted, due to the circumstances involved in this stolen vehicle report.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627- SF 1)

FROM : SA DANIEL W. MC ALLEN, III

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/27/68

RE: 1968 Chevrolet Camaro
VIN 124678N326696

Mr. CECIL GILLAN, Mgr., Capitol Chevrolet, 243 Catoma St., Montgomery, Ala., advised on 5/10/68 that Capitol Chevrolet had a 1968 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, black top, white body, VIN 124678N326696, stolen from the second floor of their parking ramp sometime between 3/25/68 and 4/3/68. GILLAN stated that the vehicle was washed on 3/25/68 and returned to the second floor ramp, and during the course of a vehicle inventory, the Camaro convertible was discovered to be missing. GILLAN stated that all of the small cars are stored on the second floor, and that he is certain that the vehicle was returned as one of his employees inquired of him whether he wanted the top covering removed during the washing, and that he looked at the car at that time and watched the car being returned to the second floor.

GILLAN stated that a fence is pulled across the ramp during evening hours, that the fence is locked, and that there is a watchman in the area. GILLAN advised further that customers are not permitted to drive new cars except in the presence of a salesman. He further advised that the keys would have been in the vehicle when it was stolen. GILLAN stated he filed a stolen report with the Montgomery PD on 4/10/68, but that the vehicle has not been recovered as of the present time. GILLAN stated that he talked with all of his employees regarding the above captioned theft, and is satisfied that none of the employees had anything to do with this theft.

On 5/9/68, Detective WALTER KRAFT, Auto Theft Squad, Montgomery PD, advised that he had received a stolen report on a 1968 Chevrolet Camaro convertible on 4/10/68 from Mr. CECIL GILLAN, Mgr., Capitol Chevrolet, Montgomery, Ala.



DWM/agf
(1) *agf*

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Detective KRAFT stated that his investigation had revealed no suspect with regard to the above captioned theft, and that the vehicle has not been recovered at the present time.

On 5/10/68, photographs of the Subject JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to employees of Capitol Chevrolet, 243 Catoma St., Montgomery, Ala. All employees contacted advised that they could not identify the above individual, and that they had never seen him previously.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627 SF 1)

FROM : SA DANIEL W. MC ALLEN, III

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/27/68

RE: 1967 Honda, VIN LC9OE01604

On 5/10/68, Mr. MICHAEL WILSON, 1902 St. Charles St., Montgomery, Ala., advised that he is the owner of a 1967 Honda motorcycle, VIN LC9OE01604, which was stolen from his front yard on the evening of 4/6/68. Mr. WILSON advised that the theft occurred between the hours of 6:00 P.M., 4/6/68, and 1:00 A.M., 4/7/68, during which hours he was in attendance at the WBAM Rock and Roll show at Garrett Colosseum, Montgomery, Ala. Mr. WILSON advised that he uses the vehicle to travel back and forth to school, and that he has no idea who may have stolen it. He further described the motorcycle as having a black frame, gray gas tank, chrome fender in rear, and a blue muffler. He stated that the motorcycle had an electric starter, and that the key was not in the cycle at the time it was stolen. He advised that he filed a stolen report with the Montgomery, Ala., PD on 4/7/68, but that he has received no information regarding the recovery of this motorcycle.

The following neighborhood investigation was conducted in the vicinity of 1902 St. Charles St., Montgomery, Ala., on 5/10/68. Each of the below listed individuals stated he could furnish no information regarding the theft of the above captioned vehicle.

Mrs. MINNIE THIGPEN
1902 St. Charles St.;

Mr. W. E. BOST
1905 St. Charles St.;

Mr. E. B. GILMER
1909 St. Charles St.;

Mr. WAYNE D. HAWKINS
1841 St. Charles St.;

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[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]



DWM/agf
(1) agf

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Mrs. MAXINE SINGLETON
1841 St. Charles St.

Mr. DANNY LORENTSON, 1823 St. Charles St., furnished the following information. He stated that he is eight years old, and he was playing in the vicinity of 1902 St. Charles St. on the afternoon of 4/6/68. He advised that he saw a young man, whom he described as being of high school age, approximately 5'10" tall, and having brown hair, approach the front yard of MICHAEL WILSON and look at MIKE WILSON's motorcycle. He stated that he saw this individual attempt to insert a key in the motorcycle, but that a short time later he walked out of the yard, without having started the cycle. He stated he had never seen this individual before, and that he did not see him later in the day. He stated that after he had learned that MIKE WILSON's motorcycle had been stolen, that he told MIKE WILSON about the above incident.

On 5/9/68, Detective WALTER KRAFT, Auto Theft Squad, Montgomery PD, advised he had received a stolen report on a 1967 Honda, VIN LC9OEO1604, from Mr. MICHAEL WILSON of 1902 St. Charles St., Montgomery, on 4/7/68. He advised the investigation of this theft had revealed no suspects, and that the instant vehicle had not been recovered as of 5/9/68.

On 5/10/68, photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to each of the individuals contacted above. All advised that they could not identify this individual and they had never seen him previously.

SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)

5/29/68

SA DANIEL W. MC ALLEN, III

MURKIN

Re: 1962 Buick, VIN 4I6012733

On 5/20/68, Mr. MATTHEW JAMES, 654 Cobb Street, Montgomery, Ala., advised that he is the owner of a 1962 Buick 4-door LeSabre, VIN 4I6012733, which was stolen from in front of 654 Cobb Street on the evening of March 31, 1968. Mr. JAMES fixed the time of the theft as between 11:30 P.M., 3/31/68 and 2:00 A.M., 4/1/68. Mr. JAMES advised that the keys were not in the car at the time it was stolen. Mr. JAMES stated that he is sure one JAMES REED, a former roommate of his, address unknown, was responsible for the theft. Mr. JAMES advised that he recovered the car about five days later, when he was told by JAMES REED, that the car was located on McGowan Street, Montgomery, Ala. Mr. JAMES advised that he went to where the car was located and noted that it was in running condition except it had a flat tire. JAMES stated that he believes REED came to his home and took the car and used it for a few days. He advised that REED had used the car on other occasions but he always knew prior to the time that REED would take it. He stated that he informed REED that he was going to call the Montgomery PD and advise them of the location of the vehicle and have the automobile processed. At this point, REED stated not to do that, that he has already got in the car and started it up. JAMES stated that he then called the Montgomery PD and advised them that he had recovered the car. JAMES further advised that REED is presently in custody of the Montgomery PD, on an auto theft charge. JAMES advised that he had received this information from a detective from the Montgomery PD, name unrecalled, who had told him that JAMES REED had taken his car over to McGowan Street. REED further described his car as a 1962 LeSabre, bronze, bearing 1968 Ala. license 3-42824.

DWM/mb

(2)

YMB

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On 5/9/68, the following neighborhood investigation was conducted in the vicinity of 654 Cobb St. All of the below listed persons advised that they could furnish no information re the theft of 1962 Buick.

Mr. TIMOTHY PEARVY, 651 Cobb Street
Miss ANNE JOHNSON, 654 Cobb Street
Mrs. JANE JENKINS, 658 Cobb Street
Mr. ARMINTOR CRAWLEY, 663 Cobb Street

On 5/9/68, Detective WALTER KRAFT, Montgomery PD, advised that he had received a stolen report on a 1962 Buick, Serial No. 416012733 on 3/31/68. He advised that his report noted that this vehicle had been recovered on 4/5/68 on McGowan St., Montgomery, Ala. He advised that a Negro was seen getting out of the vehicle when it was parked on McGowan St. He noted that no one had been charged with the theft as of 5/9/68.

Photographs of the subject JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to each of the individuals contacted during the course of above investigation. Each individual stated that he had never seen JAMES EARL RAY previously.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)

FROM : SA DANIEL W. MC ALLEN, III

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/29/68

Re: 1962 Buick, VIN 4I6012733

On 5/20/68, Mr. MATTHEW JAMES, 654 Cobb Street, Montgomery, Ala., advised that he is the owner of a 1962 Buick 4-door LeSabre, VIN 4I6012733, which was stolen from in front of 654 Cobb Street on the evening of March 31, 1968. Mr. JAMES fixed the time of the theft as between 11:30 P.M., 3/31/68 and 2:00 A.M., 4/1/68. Mr. JAMES advised that the keys were not in the car at the time it was stolen. Mr. JAMES stated that he is sure one JAMES REED, a former roommate of his, address unknown, was responsible for the theft. Mr. JAMES advised that he recovered the car about five days later, when he was told by JAMES REED, that the car was located on McGowan Street, Montgomery, Ala. Mr. JAMES advised that he went to where the car was located and noted that it was in running condition except it had a flat tire. JAMES stated that he believes REED came to his home and took the car and used it for a few days. He advised that REED had used the car on other occasions but he always knew prior to the time that REED would take it. He stated that he informed REED that he was going to call the Montgomery PD and advise them of the location of the vehicle and have the automobile processed. At this point, REED stated not to do that, that he has already got in the car and started it up. JAMES stated that he then called the Montgomery PD and advised them that he had recovered the car. JAMES further advised that REED is presently in custody of the Montgomery PD, on an auto theft charge. JAMES advised that he had received this information from a detective from the Montgomery PD, name unrecalled, who had told him that JAMES REED had taken his car over to McGowan Street. REED further described his car as a 1962 LeSabre, bronze, bearing 1968 Ala. license 3-42824.

DWM/mb

(2) mb



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On 5/9/68, the following neighborhood investigation was conducted in the vicinity of 654 Cobb St. All of the below listed persons advised that they could furnish no information re the theft of 1962 Buick.

Mr. TIMOTHY PEARVY, 651 Cobb Street
Miss ANNE JOHNSON, 654 Cobb Street
Mrs. JANE JENKINS, 658 Cobb Street
Mr. ARMINTOR CRAWLEY, 663 Cobb Street

On 5/9/68, Detective WALTER KRAFT, Montgomery PD, advised that he had received a stolen report on a 1962 Buick, Serial No. 416012733 on 3/31/68. He advised that his report noted that this vehicle had been recovered on 4/5/68 on McGowan St., Montgomery, Ala. He advised that a Negro was seen getting out of the vehicle when it was parked on McGowan St. He noted that no one had been charged with the theft as of 5/9/68.

Photographs of the subject JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to each of the individuals contacted during the course of above investigation. Each individual stated that he had never seen JAMES EARL RAY previously.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC MOBILE (157-2627-SF1)

DATE: 6/12/68

FROM : SA BOSTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: 1964 Ford $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton VIN F 10 JK470527

Attached investigation was conducted by SA MCALLEN and the RD copy should be filed in view of Subject's apprehension/.



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Mr. Ralph Smith, Route #1, Fresno City,
furnished the following information:

On the evening of April 3, 1968 he had his pickup truck parked in his driveway alongside his house. The keys were not in the truck.

The following morning as his daughter was leaving the house she noticed the truck was not in the driveway and inquired of him as to its location.

This was when Smith first realized his truck ~~was~~ ^{had been} stolen and called Sheriff Watson from Murreville and reported the theft. Smith stated that he heard nothing during the night of the theft.

The following morning Smith located the truck parked alongside highway 34 about 3 miles from his house. He ~~did~~ ^{didn't} not know the mileage on the truck at the time of the theft but

advised that the thieves had used approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ tank of his gas. The truck was in good running condition when he found it and contained nothing that did not belong to him. Smith advised he had no idea who stole the truck but thought that it might have been some kids out "joyriding". Smith advised that a Sheriff's deputy processed the vehicle when it was

recovered for fingerprint, but that he didn't obtain any.

(I showed him some photos - no identification)

Note: This is a rural area and there are no other houses in sight in any direction. In view of this, no neighborhood was conducted.

5/7/68

Mrs. Ida Stanton, Route 1, Morrowville, Alabama advised that a 1965 $\frac{3}{4}$ ton Chevrolet pickup truck had been stolen from their barn on the evening of April 8, 1968. She stated that neither she nor her ~~son~~ ^{husband} had heard anything unusual the night of the theft, and that they concluded that the truck had been pushed out of the barn onto the highway and started from there. The keys were not in the truck. She stated she knew no other information concerning the theft, had no idea who committed it and called Sheriff Watson immediately. The vehicle has not been recovered.

The truck was described as follows

1965 $\frac{3}{4}$ ton Chevy pickup

Blue Green color

Motor # C154A130334

Tag # BP-19325D

(I showed her some photos - no identification)

Note: This is a rural area. There are no other houses in the area and no neighborhood was conducted.

Sheriff Watson, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Monroeville, Ala advised 5/7/68 that on 4/3/68 he received two stolen reports on pickup trucks, one from Mr. Ralph Smith, Rt. 1, Etna City and one from Mrs. Ida Stanton, Rt. 1, Monroeville.

Watson advised that these residences are not widely separated and surmised that the two vehicles were probably stolen by the same person or person. Watson stated that the Smith pickup was a 6 cylinder vehicle, and the Stanton pickup an 8 cylinder vehicle and he assumed that whoever stole the Smith truck realized it had a small engine and looked for another vehicle.

Watson furnished the following info on the trucks

Smith { 1964 Ford 1/2 Ton
VIN-F 10 JK 470527
Ala 8P193988

Stanton { 1965 3/4 Ton pickup
Motor # C154A130834
Blue Green
Tag 8P193250

Watson advised he had no idea who committed either theft and that his investigation was negative.

Watson advised that the Smith vehicle was found about 3 miles from Smith's home on Highway 84. The day following the theft but that he had discovered nothing of evidentiary value.

(I showed him some photos no ident)

5/7/68

Trooper Rether, Alabama State Trooper
Greenville, Ala advised he received a
stolen report on ~~4/26~~^{4/9}/68 on a 1964 Ford
pickup truck owned by Ralph Smith, Faison City.
Rether advised that the following day he received
information that the vehicle had been located.
He stated investigation negative and no suspect.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627-SF1-20)(C)

DATE: 6/13/68

FROM : SA JOHN B. HEISLER

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

RE:1966 SUZUKI 150CC MOTORCYCLE, VIN 19781

On 5/9/68, Mobile, Ala., P.D. Offense Report 21949 reflected that JAMES DARYL BUSEY, 621 Mohawk St., Mobile, Ala., reported the theft on 3/28/68, of captioned vehicle. This motorcycle was stolen sometime between 7:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. from the parking lot of Murphy High School, Mobile, Alabama. The key was not in the ignition and was in the possession of BUSEY. The estimated value of this vehicle was \$400. The report reflected that it bore Serial No. 19500 and Motor No. 19781, with 1968 Ala. license M2369.

JAMES DARYL BUSEY, 621 Mohawk St., Mobile, Ala., was interviewed on 5/9/68, and advised the above-captioned vehicle, which was owned by him, had been stolen from the parking lot of Murphy High School. He had the key in his possession and theorized that the thief must have broken the lock on the fork of the motorcycle. He had no suspects as to the theft of this motorcycle, and the motorcycle has not been recovered to date.

A check of the parking lot at Murphy High School reflected that the parking lot is a large lot adjoining the high school, is unattended and has traffic going and coming during the daylight hours. There were no residences in the immediate vicinity of the parking lot which would merit a neighborhood investigation.

JBH/alg
(1)

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-2627-SF1-19)(C)

FROM : SA JOHN B. NEISLER

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

DATE: 6/13/68

RE: 1961 CHEVROLET, VIN 11169A104120

On 5/9/68, Mobile P.D. Offense Report 20891 reflected that DAVID JOHN KOSKY, 1504 Springhill Ave., Mobile, Ala., filed a complaint reporting theft of captioned automobile, which was bearing 1968 Ala. license 2-34225. This vehicle was stolen from the Northside parking lot, Providence Hospital, Mobile, Ala., some time between noon of 3/20/68, and 9:00 a.m. of 3/21/68.

Rev. DAVID JOHN KOSKY, Chaplain, Providence Hospital, 1504 Springhill Ave., was interviewed and advised that his automobile, as captioned above, was stolen from the northside parking lot of Providence Hospital. This is an unattended parking lot. The Mobile, Ala., P.D. recovered this vehicle on 4/8/68, in front of 62 Silverwood Dr., Mobile, Alabama. He stated that at the time of the theft, he had numerous personal articles in the vehicle, such as a set of golf clubs and items of clothing. None of these items were removed from the car. He recovered all the personal items and the vehicle. He has since sold the vehicle and does not know the present owner.

He had no idea as to who may have stolen this vehicle. The automobile was locked, and the Rev. KOSKY had the keys in his possession.

It was not feasible to conduct neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of the parking lot inasmuch as it is unattended, and there are no residences in the immediate area.

JBN/alg



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC MOBILE (157-2627-SF1)

DATE: 6/14/68

FROM : SA BOSTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1967 Ford Fairlane VIN 7H428138795

Attached investigation conducted by SA McALLEN. The RD should be placed in file in view of Subject's apprehension.

JTB/



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

William Staff Jr., Staff Chevrolet, Atmore Alabama
advised: 5/7/68:

Mr. Vernon Blackwell from the Bank of Atmore requested him to do some repair work on a 1967 Ford Fairlane 500 XL which the bank had repossessed. Staff stated that this request was made during the second week of March, and that some of the repair work had been done and the vehicle was temporarily stored on the lot outside the garage. The keys were in the car.

Staff further advised that on March 16, 1968 he noticed that the vehicle was not on his lot and drove down the street to the Bank of Atmore to see if Blackwell had picked the car up. He noticed a 1967 Ford identical to the stolen vehicle parked in the vacant lot across the street from the bank, assumed that Blackwell had come for the car, and returned to the garage.

Approximately one week later, Blackwell called Staff and inquired as to whether Staff was finished with his work on the Ford, and this was when Staff discovered that the car had been stolen from his lot.

Staff fixed the time of the theft as

the afternoon of the 16th of March.

The service garage was open. There were no customers or salesmen on the lot, and no one saw the vehicle being driven away.

Staff stated that he has no idea who stole the car, but noted that in spite of the fact that it was a ~~1967~~ ¹⁹⁶⁷ model, was in rough shape and wasn't worth much except for parts.

Staff advised that he reported the theft to the Atmore PD and that the PD assured him that they would advise the State Troopers. He has not been advised of any recovery.

Staff described the vehicle as follows.

1967 Ford Fairlane 500 XL fastback

390 XL engine

2 door hardtop, burgandy color

air conditioned

disc brakes

power steering, windows

The following photos were displayed to Staff:

James Earl Ray	FBI #	306 443 A
Michael Joseph Farniglietti	Memphis PD #	101894
Roger Thomas Eley	"	101893
Thomas Francis Marcus	"	101895
Jack Annanias Griffith	"	101892

After viewing the above photos
Staff stated he had never seen any of
these individuals previously.

Mr. Vernon Blackwell Bank of Atmore, Atmore Ala. furnished the following information on 5/7/68.

He was requested by Mr. W.T. Combie to repossess a 1967 Ford that was being driven by Combie's son ^{and} who was in arrears with his payments.

Following the repossession Blackwell requested William Staff from Staff Chevrolet to do some repair work on the car in order that the bank could sell it. Blackwell turned the vehicle over to Staff during the second week of March.

A week or so later he called Staff to check on the repairs and Staff told him that he didn't have the car, and assumed that Blackwell had already claimed it. Blackwell stated the vehicle had been abused by the owner and was in poor condition and couldn't figure out why anyone would want the car except for its value as parts. Blackwell stated he is certain that Combie would not have had anything to do with the theft since he requested the repossession in the first place. Blackwell also stated that he hadn't told anyone he was repairing the vehicle, nor that he was sending it to Staff for repairs. He advised that Staff has had

cars stolen off their lot in the past
because they have the keys in the car.
He stated that Staff Chevrolet insurance carrier
had made good the loss.

(I showed Blackwell the same
photos I showed Staff - no identification)

5/7/68

Clint Weaver Radio Dispatcher Atmore Ala. P.D. advised that he received a stolen report on a 1967 Ford from Wm. Staff Jr. on March 27, 1968 and that he had forwarded this information to the Ala. State Troopers at Greenville Ala. the same date.

Trooper Litter, Alabama State Troopers, Greenville, Ala. advised that he had received a stolen dispatch from the Atmore PD on 3/27/68 regarding the theft of a 1967 Ford Fairlane VIN ~~7H~~ 7H428138795 with Ala. Tag 5-20007. He advised that an alert had been sent out over the air for the vehicle. No suspects have been developed and the vehicle has not been recovered.

MO 157-2627 JCM / mrc

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JOHN C. McCLUNEY, at Montgomery, Alabama:

On May 8, 1968, ANNETTE EDDINGS, Bureau of Identification, Montgomery Police Department, produced her records reflecting as follows:

On March 29, 1968, SHIRLEY HICKS, 2710 Poplar Street, employed at the Governor's House Motel, reported her automobile stolen. It was described as a 1960 Chevrolet two-door, red in color, VIN 01111J195277, Alabama License 29-10445. It was reported stolen during the day of March 29, 1968, from the parking lot of the Governor's House Motel. It was reported stolen to the police department at 2:47 p.m.

There was a subsequent notation made that the automobile had been repossessed and had not actually been stolen.

On May 10, 1968, SHIRLEY HICKS, waitress Governor's House Motel, reported as follows:

She is the owner of the 1960 Chevrolet. She purchased it from THEO GIBSON, 2084 Midway Street, Montgomery, Alabama. She got behind with her payments on the automobile and the automobile was repossessed from her by THEO GIBSON. Since that time, she has regained possession of the automobile and is making payments to GIBSON.

She viewed a photograph of subject RAY and reported he was unknown to her.

On May 14, 1968, THEO GIBSON, 2084 Midway Street, employed as a fireman on the Montgomery Fire Department reported as follows:

He had sold his 1960 Chevrolet, two-door, to SHIRLEY HICKS, employed at the Governor's House. She

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did not make the payments as agreed, and he repossessed the automobile on March 29, 1968, taking it from the lot of the motel. He kept it in his possession until April 13, 1968, when he again delivered it to SHIRLEY HICKS. He viewed the photograph of subject RAY and stated RAY was unknown to him.

Detective L. A. REYNOLDS, Montgomery Police Department, was interviewed on May 10, 1968, and Detective WALTER M. CRAFT of the Montgomery Police Department on May 13, 1968, was also interviewed. They could furnish no additional information of value.

On May 8, 1968, ANNETTE EDDINGS, Bureau of Identification, Montgomery Police Department, furnished her records reflecting as follows:

A 1963 Pontiac four-door, dark brown over light tan, VIN 663D29314, Alabama License 3-5703, was reported stolen at 9:55 a.m. March 24, 1968. It was reported stolen by Ralph Smith Motor Company, 411 Jefferson Street, Montgomery, Alabama. The automobile was recovered abandoned on April 5, 1968, by the police department at Monroe and Ripley Streets, at Montgomery.

On May 10, 1968, J. M. SPRUELL, Ralph Smith Motor Company, 411 Jefferson Street, reported:

The 1968 Pontiac was stolen from the lot during the night of March 23, 1968. There was no ignition key in the automobile at the time of the theft.

SPRUELL was notified at the time the automobile was recovered at Monroe and Ripley Streets, on April 5, 1968. At the time he reached the automobile, he observed that the engine was still warm and thus the automobile had been recently driven by the person having possession of it. No person was located possessing the automobile. He observed that the automobile had no gasoline in it and apparently this

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is why it had been abandoned. There was a gallon gasoline can taken from the automobile which was empty and which had not been in the automobile at the time of the theft. Nothing else was found in the automobile which had not previously been in it.

SPRUELL was shown a photograph of subject RAY and stated RAY had never been observed by him, to his knowledge.

On May 10, 1968, physical observation was made at the corner of Monroe and Ripley Streets. This is an area of large State office buildings and thus no one could be interviewed who might have seen the automobile at the time it was abandoned.

On May 13, 1968, Detective WALTER M. CRAFT, Montgomery Police Department, reported he had been unable to obtain any fingerprints on the automobile or any other information of possible evidentiary value indicating who may have had possession of the automobile. He observed the photograph of subject RAY and reported a person of that general appearance had not been seen by him.

On May 10, 1968, Detective L. A. REYNOLDS, Montgomery Police Department, furnished no additional information of value.

On May 8, 1968, ANNETTE EDDINGS, Bureau of Identification, Montgomery Police Department, produced her records reflecting as follows:

1960 Chevrolet Impala, two-door, gray, VIN 01837F216217, Alabama License 3-55762, was reported stolen at 4:40 p.m. March 25, 1968. It was reported by the owner, LOUIS MITCHELL, 1125 East Grove Street, Montgomery, Alabama, and was reported stolen during the night of March 24, 1968, from 1138 Lenora Street at Montgomery. It was recovered at Air Freight on Oak Street, date not given.

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On May 10, 1968, ELLA BELL BROWN, 1138 Lenora Street, reported as follows:

On March 24, 1968, the 1960 Chevrolet Impala was borrowed by her husband, THEODORE BROWN, from the owner LOUIS MITCHELL. It was parked in front of the BROWN's residence at 1138 Lenora Street. It was last seen there about 9:00 p.m. on March 24, 1968. No ignition key was necessary to start the engine of this automobile. It was discovered missing between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. March 25, 1968, and subsequently reported to the police department.

On May 10, 1968, A. C. ROBINSON, employed at Air Freight, 401 Oak Street, reported as follows:

The 1960 Chevrolet Impala, gray, was on the lot of Air Freight, at the far end from the office building, for about one day and night, during the last of March, 1968. There were two flat tires on the automobile when seen by ROBINSON. ROBINSON did not see anybody who left the automobile there. He viewed a photograph of subject RAY and reported he had not seen a person with the general description of RAY.

On May 13, 1968, Detective WALTER M. CRAFT, of Montgomery Police Department, reported as follows:

The Chevrolet which was stolen on the night of March 24, 1968, was seen on the premises of Air Freight within a day after it was stolen. It had been abandoned at Air Freight. CRAFT had found nothing in the automobile of possibly evidentiary value and could find no fingerprints. He viewed a photograph of subject RAY stating he was unknown to him.

On May 13, 1968, LOUIS MITCHELL, 1125 East Grove Street, reported as follows:

On Sunday, March 24, 1968, he lent his 1960 Chevrolet Impala to a friend, THEODORE BROWN, 1138 Lenora Street. On

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March 25, 1968, BROWN told MITCHELL that the automobile had been stolen. Later that day BROWN reported he had seen the automobile abandoned on the premises of Air Freight on Oak Street at Montgomery. MITCHELL notified the police department and the automobile was recovered on Oak Street. There were two flat tires on the car, but nothing was found in the automobile that had not been in there previously. MITCHELL viewed the photograph of subject RAY and stated he had never seen a person of that general description.

The following were interviewed negatively:

R. S. SNELL and SARA MOSELEY
Air Freight
401 Oak Street

Detective L. A. REYNOLDS
Montgomery Police Department

All on May 10, 1968.

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MO 157-2627 SF-1
HRL/lpw

The following investigation was conducted by SA
HOWARD R. LINSKOTT on May 8, 1968:

GERALD W. SCOFIELD, Florala, Alabama, was interviewed at Lowe Army Air Field, Ft. Rucker, Alabama, at which time he advised that a 1965 Plymouth, four-door sedan, VIN P352100362, was stolen from the residence of 5 Damascus Drive, Enterprise, Alabama, on March 27, 1968. He advised that the automobile had 1968 Alabama license 23-1552. He stated that he had returned from working the night shift at Lowe Army Air Field and parked the automobile in front of his brother's house, and went to bed at approximately 2:00 A.M. He advised that the next morning when he got up the automobile was gone. He stated that he had removed the keys from the car and had them in his possession. SCOFIELD advised that he had reported the automobile stolen to the Enterprise Police Department, and stated he knows of no one who would steal his car.

SCOFIELD stated the car is insured by Universal CIT Corporation and is financed by the same corporation.

Neighborhood:

Mrs. MOSE TREADAY, 17 Damascus Drive and CARL ROTHWELL, Damascus Drive, Enterprise, Alabama, advised that they could furnish no information pertaining to the theft of the 1965 Plymouth owned by GERALD SCOFIELD.

Law Enforcement Investigation:

EDWARD H. MURDOCK, Chief, Enterprise Police Department, Enterprise, Alabama, advised that his department is presently investigating the theft of a 1965 Plymouth four door sedan, owned by GERALD W. SCOFIELD. He stated that investigation to date has developed no suspects in the matter. MURDOCK stated that if any suspects were developed he would immediately notify the Mobile Division of the FBI.

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On May 3, 1968, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent's MYRON G. TURNER and JOHN C. McCLUNEY at Montgomery, Alabama:

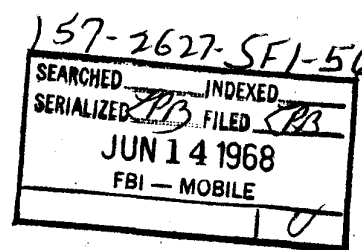
Assistant Chief E. P. BROWN, Montgomery Police Department, telephonically advised:

An anonymous telephone call had just been received that there was a person employed at the P & T Auto Parts Store at Montgomery, Alabama, who resembled subject RAY.

JAMES A. FISHER, owner of P & T Warehouse Distributorship, selling auto parts, reported he had an employee named DONALD EILAND who had been employed by him since December, 1967. That person was on duty on this date.

DONALD BROOKS EILAND, employed at P & T Warehouse Distributorship, and residing 221 A Mount Vernon Street, Montgomery, Alabama, was interviewed. He stated he was born on [redacted], at Montgomery, Alabama, and has been employed continuously by this firm since December, 1967. He is a white male, 5'9", 140 pounds, gray eyes.

A check was made of his fingerprints and he was positively eliminated as being possibly identical with subject RAY.



The following investigation was conducted by SA DANIEL R. STANKOSKI at Andalusia, Alabama, on May 10, 1968:

RAY BOZEMAN, Circuit Clerk, Andalusia, Alabama, for Covington County, advised that a warrant for FRED WARREN charging him with grand larceny in that he feloniously took and carried away a 1962 Chevy II, VIN 20469N123735, Alabama license 23-11511, valued at \$500. The warrant was issued on March 18, 1968, and it was signed by J. C. FRANKLIN.

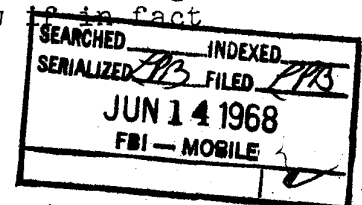
BOZEMAN advised he could furnish no information concerning who FRED WARREN is and perhaps the Sheriff's Office could furnish this information.

MARY BASS, Deputy Clerk, Covington County Sheriff's Office, Andalusia, Alabama, advised that there are no records identifiable at the Sheriff's Office concerning FRED WARREN. She stated she recalls the theft of FRANKLIN's automobile at Andalusia, Alabama, and stated that it was her impression that FRED WARREN was an employee of FRANKLIN's at the time of the theft at the Amvets Club, Andalusia, Alabama.

BOB STARKEY, Manager, Andalusia, Alabama, Credit Bureau, advised that his files contain no information identifiable with a FRED WARREN.

JO ANN NICHOLS made available the Probate Judge's records, alphabetical index for tags issued in Covington County, and a review of those records failed to disclose any tag issued to FRED WARREN from October 1968 to March 1968, which are the current records for that county.

Sheriff P. R. GANTT and Chief Deputy AARON BERRY, Covington County Sheriff's Office, advised that they could furnish no additional information concerning the theft of CURTIS FRANKLIN's automobile or FRED WARREN. Both advised that the automobile to date is unrecovered and they have no idea who could be responsible for the theft of the automobile by name. Both advised that they knew the individual using the name FRED WARREN; however, they did not know if in fact this was his true name.



157-2627-SF1-57

J. CURTIS FRANKLIN, Route 6, Andalusia, Alabama, advised that approximately three weeks to one month ago a white male individual came to Lester's Gulf Station at Andalusia, Alabama, and asked for a job. FRANKLIN advised that this individual was walking and he stated that he gave him a hard luck story and stated he needed a job as he was "broke" and hungry. FRANKLIN advised that he told the man to look around town and see if he could find a job and if he could not find a job, to come back and he would see that he was fed as he did not want to see this individual walking around Andalusia hungry.

FRANKLIN advised that about dusk the individual came back to the Gulf Gas Station and inquired about a job again and stated he did not obtain employment in Andalusia. FRANKLIN advised that he hired this individual to do general labor work at his home and at the Amvets Club at Andalusia, Alabama.

He stated that this individual said he was going to use his 1962 Chevy II automobile, black in color with a white top, to go to Opp, Alabama, to get some dinner and he stated that this was the last time that either the individual or the automobile was seen.

FRANKLIN described this individual as being:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Approximately 60 years
Hair	Gray
Weight	140-145 pounds
Height	5'6"
Characteristics	Broken nose
Health	Heart trouble

and giving his name as FRED WARREN of Orlando, Florida, and somewhere in Ohio.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to FRANKLIN, at which time he advised that this was definitely not the individual who "made off" with his automobile.

NITA FREDIEN, Gantt, Alabama, employee at the

Amvets Club, Andalusia, Alabama, owned by CURTIS FRANKLIN, advised that she was familiar with an individual known to her as FRED WARREN and she stated that approximately a month ago this individual used CURTIS FRANKLIN's automobile to go to Opp, Alabama, and has never returned. She stated that she saw this individual get in the automobile with the owner's permission and leave for Opp.

She described this individual as being:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Approximately 55 to 60 years
Hair	Graying
Weight	140 to 150 pounds
Height	5'7"

Five photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to her, at which time she advised that this was definitely not the individual known to her as FRED WARREN.

LESTER WIGGINS, owner of Lester's Gulf Station, Andalusia, Alabama, advised that he was familiar with an individual by the name of FRED WARREN, who was at one time employed at CURTIS FRANKLIN's Amvets Club. He described this individual as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Early 60's
Hair	Graying
Weight	150 pounds
Height	5'6"

and stated he was from somewhere in Florida and Ohio.

Five photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to WIGGINS, at which time he advised that this was definitely not the individual known to him as FRED WARREN.

MO 157-2827

CWS/sdp

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RE: 1966 Mustang
VIN 6T07A141241

The following investigation was conducted by
SA CLARENCE W. SLAUGHTER at Dothan, Alabama:

It has previously been stated that a 1966 two-door Mustang, VIN 6T07A141241, property of BARNETT C. HUDSON, Hudson Office Supplies, Dothan, Alabama, was stolen the night of March 26, 1968, at Dothan, Alabama.

On May 8, 1968, Lieutenant JAMES DEAL, NA, Dothan, Alabama, Police Department, advised SA CLARENCE W. SLAUGHTER that the above-described Mustang was recovered March 28, 1968, at Phenix City, Alabama, and the case had been cleared in the arrest of one JOSEPH HOWARD COKER, JR., white male born [redacted] residence Dothan, Alabama, who has been charged with grand larceny in connection with the theft of this automobile.

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DRS/ljr

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
DANIEL R. STANKOSKI at Andalusia, Alabama, on May 10, 1968:

RAY BOZEMAN, Circuit Clerk, Clerk's Office, Covington County, advised that his office has a **JOHN DOE** Warrant issued in that **JOHN DOE**, otherwise unknown, took and carried away one light blue 1967 Chevrolet Impala, 2 door, VIN 164877D101736, property of **JOE LASHLEY** valued at \$3,000. The warrant was issued March 25, 1968 by **JOE LASHLEY**, Route 6, Andalusia, Alabama. The vehicle was bearing 1968 Alabama license 23-12009.

MARY BASS, Deputy Clerk, Covington County Sheriff's Office, advised that **JOE LASHLEY**'s vehicle had been recovered burned near Opp, Alabama, and was currently stored at **JACK FULLER**'s Service Center on the Opp Highway, U.S. 331. She advised that the Sheriff's Office at Covington County has developed no information as to who could have been responsible for the theft of that automobile.

On May 10, 1968, **P. R. GANTT** and Chief Deputy **AARON BERRY**, Covington County Sheriff's Office, advised that they have developed no information as to who could have stolen the automobile belonging to **JOE LASHLEY**. Both advised that the automobile had been recovered burned at Opp, Alabama, and they have not received any word from the Opp Police Department as to who could have left the automobile in Opp burned.

MYLETA LASHLEY, Route 6, advised that she is the wife of **JOE LASHLEY** and she stated that their automobile, a 1967 Chevrolet Impala was stolen on a Monday night between 6:40 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. She advised that her husband reported this automobile was stolen the same night to the Covington County Sheriff's Office. She advised that they went to a drive-in at Opp, Alabama, and when they came back the vehicle was missing. She advised that the automobile was not locked and that they had not given permission to anyone to use the automobile.

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She advised that her neighbors who two days after had moved from that residence next to theirs in her opinion were not involved with the theft of her and her husband's automobile from their residence at Route 6, Andalusia, Alabama. She advised that the insurance company is the former Hamilton Agency at Opp, Alabama.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to Mrs. LASHLEY at which time she advised that none of the photographs were familiar to her and none of them were identical with the neighbors who had lived next to her.

Mrs. BRADLEY GREEN and BRADLEY GREEN, owners of the J and B Motel, Andalusia, Alabama, advised that they rented a furnished house to 3 individuals, two being white males and one being a white female. She advised that this residence was located next to the residence occupied by JOE LASHLEY.

Both advised that a motorcycle had been left at the residence of these individuals which was later determined to have been sold in Mississippi. They also advised that LASHLEY's automobile had been stolen approximately 2 or 3 days before the individuals left, however, it had been recovered burned in Opp, Alabama.

Mrs. GREEN identified these two individuals as JOHN VARNUM, 7611 14th Street, Miami, Florida, and CHARLES EVANS, 209 Rose Drive, Asheville, North Carolina.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY for display to both Mr. and Mrs. BRADLEY GREEN and both advised that none of these photographs were identical to the two white males that they rented the residence next to JOE LASHLEY to.

SANDRA SPIVEY who resides at Route 6, Andalusia, Alabama in the residence formerly occupied by JOHN VARNUM and CHARLES EVANS and an identified white female advised that she could furnish no information concerning the previous

occupant of that residence. She advised that no papers, license plates or anything of that nature had been left in that residence when the former people moved out as the owners of the residence had cleaned that residence out.

A physical observation of the surrounding area disclosed that the land across from both the LASHLEY and the SPIVEY residence is farm land with a lake to the rear of both residences and forests to both the right and left of these two residences. Therefore, no further neighborhood inquiry could possibly be made in this area.

The following investigation was conducted by SA DANIEL R. STANKOSKI on May 10, 1968, at Opp, Alabama:

JACK FULLER, owner, Jack's Service Center, Highway 331, Opp, Alabama, advised that on March 28, 1968, he was notified by the Alabama Highway Patrol that a 1967 Chevrolet automobile had been burned approximately 10 miles north on 331 and approximately 2 miles off on a dirt road near the Little Feller Place which is an Amaco Service Station. He advised that he towed in the automobile to his service center and has it locked in an impound lot.

He stated that he found nothing which might indicate who could have been responsible for abandoning the automobile in that area, however, he stated he did note that the front tires of the automobile had been removed from it after it had been burned and he stated that he estimated it to have been in the wooded area approximately 3 days.

An examination of a 1967 Chevrolet at an impound lot at Jack's Service Center, Opp, Alabama, disclosed that it was a 1967 Chevrolet Automobile formerly blue in color as indicated by portions of the front end of the automobile. It was observed that this automobile had an automatic transmission and the entire automobile was burned and gutted with the exception of the front end. The interior, windows, mirrors, trunk, tires, and rear section of the automobile were completely burned and had rusted.

There was no evidence of stripping of the automobile with the exception that there were no front tires on the automobile.

An examination of the license plate holder disclosed no license plate and it was observed that the interior was badly burned as well as the exterior and it was not feasible or practical that latent fingerprints be obtained from the automobile as it was rusted. It was also impossible to open the left front door to obtain the serial number for verification of serial number, however, the owner had identified the automobile by sight.

On May 10, 1968, a physical survey was conducted in the vicinity where a 1967 Chevrolet owned by JOE LASHLEY had been abandoned and burned. This survey of the surrounding area failed to disclose anything of an evidentiary nature.

The following two neighbors which are the only two close individuals to the area where aforementioned automobile was found abandoned were interviewed and neither of them would furnish any information concerning the abandonment of the automobile.

C. R. GODIN, Route 3, Opp
W. H. BLOCKER, Route 3, Opp

JERRY JOHNSON, Assistant Chief, Officers FRED BURNICK and JERRY BRANNON of the Opp, Alabama Police Department were contacted at which time they advised that they had not developed any suspects in the burning and abandonment of a 1967 Chevrolet automobile which had been abandoned in a wooded area on a dirt road approximately 10 or 12 miles north of Opp, Alabama.

On May 10, 1968, an attempt was made to contact JOE LASHLEY, owner of the 1967 Chevrolet automobile, with negative results.

On May 13, 1968, JOE LASHLEY advised that he was the owner of a 1967 Chevrolet Impala Super Sports automobile blue in color. He advised that his automobile was stolen on a Monday night from his residence at Route 6, Andalusia, Alabama. He advised that it was stolen sometime between 6:30 and 10:30 on that Monday night. He stated that he and his wife left the automobile at his residence, used their other automobile and went to a drive-in at Opp, Alabama. He advised that when they returned the automobile was missing and he made inquiry with the neighbors and he stated that they could furnish no information concerning this automobile. He stated that he obtained a John Doe Warrant at the Sheriff's Office the same night as the automobile was stolen.

He stated that his automobile was recovered at Opp, Alabama, in a burned condition and he stated he has no idea who could have been responsible for the automobile being stolen and burned. He stated that he was "a little behind on his payments" however, he was not in financial difficulty at the time and he stated that he does not know who could have been responsible for the burning and theft of his automobile.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to LASHLEY at which time he advised that none of the photographs were familiar to him and he positively stated that they were not identical with the two white males who left the residence next to his two days after his automobile had been stolen.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC(157-2627-SF1) (BZ)

DATE: 6/14/68

FROM : SA BOSTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
STOLEN CARS

SF was opened to check stolen cars listed in NCIC to determine if Subject RAY may have been involved in interstate transportation of them.

Investigation did not develop such info and this Sub file should now be closed in view of Subject's location.

JTB/



5010-108-01

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

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