

Date 5/13/681

Miss DRENDA SUE KENT, after being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents, was interviewed at her home address, 1900 Perdido, Apartment A-98. She furnished the following information:

Miss KENT advised that her home telephone number is 525-7532, but that this number is subscribed to by one of her roommates GAYE DROST.

Miss KENT stated that she was unaware of any telephone calls being made from Texas from December 15, 1967, through December 17, 1967.

Miss KENT did state, however, that her father, Lieutenant Colonel BURNARD B. KENT, 42 Main Circle, Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, telephone number 512-OL 24191, called her from Texas sometime around Thanksgiving. Miss KENT advised that this was the last telephone call from Texas that she could recall.

Miss KENT was displayed various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, and upon viewing these photographs, she advised that RAY was unknown to her.

On 5/9/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SAs CHRISTOPHER MAZZELLA and 18
THOMAS E. DUHADWAY CM:mak Date dictated 5/10/68

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Date 5/10/681

CLEO F. SNIPES, 3009 Huntsville Road, Kenner, advised he is presently employed as a painter at the Henry Lamia Company. He stated that he previously had telephone number 721-2027, which was disconnected January, 1968. He stated that to the best of his memory he probably received a long-distance call from the Houston, Texas area in December, 1967, from his twin brother, LEO SNIPES. He stated that his twin brother left New Orleans, before Christmas, 1967, and called several times from Bridge City, Texas, where he presently resides. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were not identified by SNIPES nor has he ever heard of JAMES EARL RAY or CHARLES STEIN.

On 5/10/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

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by SA DELBERT W. HAHN:kbz Date dictated 5/10/68

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Date 5/21/681

CHARLES R. CONEWAY, JR., student, Tulane University, was interviewed at his residence, 1809 St. Charles Avenue, Apartment H. CONEWAY stated that his home address is 1718 Bayrum Street, Houston, Texas, where his mother, Mrs. WAYNE S. CONEWAY, resides.

CONEWAY advised that during the Fall Term of the 1967-68 school year, he lived in an apartment at 1800 Pine Street, with SAYERS BRENNER, who is also from Houston, Texas.

CONEWAY stated he left New Orleans for Houston on December 17, 1967, for Christmas vacation. CONEWAY advised he had not received any long distance calls from Texas during the period from December 15 to 17, 1967.

CONEWAY advised that his roommate, SAYERS BRENNER, received a long distance telephone call from his, BRENNER's, father, MILTON BRENNER, of Houston, Texas. CONEWAY stated he thought this call was on December 15, 1967, and that arrangements were made for BRENNER's father to pick BRENNER up on December 16, 1967, in New Orleans.

CONEWAY reviewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that this individual was unknown to him.

CONEWAY advised that he is the subscriber to telephone number 861-7067.

On 5/16/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA WILLIAM B. WOOD -epk 20 Date dictated 5/17/68

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Date 5/17/681

DONALD EDWARD JOHNSON, 4617 Senac Drive, advised that he is the subscriber to New Orleans telephone number 887-8469.

Mr. JOHNSON informed that he could not specifically recall receiving a long distance telephone call at his residence on December 17, 1967, from the general area of Houston, Texas.

He stated that in the past he has received many long distance telephone calls at his residence in connection with his employment. He advised that he is a salesman for Clark Brothers.

Upon viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, he advised that RAY was unknown to him. He stated that he had observed photographs of RAY in local newspapers as a suspect in the shooting of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On 5/9/68 at Metairie, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA STEPHEN M. CALLENDER / njc ²¹ Date dictated 5/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/17/681

Mrs. JOAN L. ROD, 1604 David Drive, Metairie, Louisiana, furnished the following information:

She and her husband RICHARD ROD, and their four children have resided at 1604 David Drive for approximately ten years and they presently have a telephone with number 888-0404. The telephone is listed in her husband's name and the telephone bill is made out in her name because she had previously been employed by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. Her husband is employed as a diesel engine mechanic for Gerhardt's Incorporated, 819 Central Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana.

She advised she cannot recall receiving a telephone call from Houston, Texas, or from that area during December 15 through 17, 1967. Neither she nor her husband have any relatives, friends, or acquaintances who were living in Texas during December, 1967, nor does she know of anyone who passed through that area and called them in December, 1967.

She further advised that only her family uses the telephone and no one else received a call on their telephone in December, 1967. Her husband sometimes receives business calls on their home telephone, and possibly he received a telephone call from that area.

On 5/9/68 at Metairie, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA STEPHEN M. CALLENDER / ²² njc Date dictated 5/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/17/68

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RICHARD ROD was interviewed at his place of employment, Gerhardt's Incorporated, 819 Central Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, and furnished the following information:

He is employed as a diesel mechanic and he and his wife JOAN have resided at 1604 David Drive, Metairie, Louisiana, for approximately ten years. Their telephone number is 888-0404.

He advised that his wife had called him on the telephone just before the Agent arrived and informed him of the questions asked her. He advised that he cannot recall receiving a telephone call from either Houston, Texas, or that immediate area during December 15 through 17, 1967. He does not have any friends, relatives or acquaintances who were in, or passed through that area during December, 1967.

He further advised that from time to time he receives business calls from customers at his home and therefore, he has tried to recall if he received a telephone call from a customer in Texas during the December 15 through 17, 1967, period and he just cannot recall receiving such a call. He has the office personnel checking their December, 1967, job orders for any calls coming from the Houston, Texas area, but so far, no job orders have been located coming from that area.

On 5/9/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SAA ROBERT LOUIS WERTMAN / 23 njc Date dictated 5/13/68

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NO 157-10673

Mr. ROD was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and after reviewing same, he advised that he has never seen this individual.

He further commented that he would discuss this matter with his wife and try to further recall if they received such a call and he would continue to have his office check their records for such a call and advise the interviewing Agent.

At a later time on May 9, 1968, Mr. ROD telephonically contacted the interviewing Agent and advised that a search of their office records failed to reflect that he received a telephone call from the Houston, Texas area during the period December 15 through 17, 1967.

1

NO 157-10673/jmc

The following investigation was conducted by
SAA ROBERT LOUIS WERTMAN at Metairie, Louisiana:

On May 12, 1968, RICHARD ROD, 1604 David Drive, telephonically advised that he and his wife had been discussing the possibility of receiving a telephone call from the Houston, Texas area between December 15-17, 1967 and determined that possibly one of their babysitters had received such a telephone call at their home. In contacting one of five of their babysitters, Mrs. THOMAS W. WEST, who was babysitting for them on December 16, 1967, advised that her then fiance, THOMAS WEST was in Pasadena, Texas near Houston, Texas on the weekend of December 15-17, 1967 and her fiance contacted her by telephone at the ROD residence. Mr. ROD stated that Mr. and Mrs. WEST now reside at 3631 St. Rene Street, Metairie, Louisiana.

On May 13, 1968, Mrs. VIRGINIA PEQUENO WEST, 3631 St. Rene telephonically advised that she had received a telephone call on December 16, 1967 while babysitting at the ROD residence and this telephone call was received from her husband, THOMAS W. WEST, who was in Pasadena, Texas. She stated that her husband is presently employed at Baroid, 1738 Peters Road, Harvey, Louisiana.

Date 5/14/68

THOMAS W. WEST, 3631 St. Rene Street, Metairie, Louisiana, was contacted at his place of employment, Baroid, 1738 Peters Road, at which time he furnished the following information:

In 1960, he was involved in an automobile accident, in Jamestown, Louisiana and received severe head injuries and since that time he has been under medical treatment at the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. He stated that since residing in New Orleans he has traveled to Houston, Texas on the weekends for medical treatment in that since the accident he has been bothered with severe headaches.

During the weekend of December 15-17, 1967, he telephonically contacted his fiance, VIRGINIA PEQUENO, who he is presently married to, at the RICHARD ROD residence, 1604 Davis Drive, Metairie, Louisiana. He recalls that he first attempted to contact his fiance at her home without success and he then called his fiance's sister, who is the neighbor of RICHARD ROD and his fiance's sister said that VIRGINIA was babysitting at the ROD residence. He then placed a long distance call to his fiance at the ROD residence. This telephone call was made from one of two telephone booths in Pasadena, Texas, one of which is located at a Seven - Eleven Grocery Store, approximately 8 or 9 miles away from Route I-10 in Texas or is at a telephone booth at a cut rate service station in Pasadena, Texas. He stated that the Seven - Eleven Grocery Store is located on the corner of South Shaver and Pauline in Pasadena, Texas and the cut rate service station is located on South Shaver between the Seven - Eleven Grocery Store and Pasadena, Texas. He stated that during the weekend he made the telephone call to his fiance, he was residing with friends at 712 Trimm Street, Pasadena, Texas.

WEST was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and after reviewing same stated that he does not know this individual nor has he ever seen this individual. He did comment that he recalls reading about this individual in the newspaper, however, he has never seen this individual in or around the telephone booths in Pasadena, Texas.

On 5/13/68 at Harvey, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SAA ROBERT LOUIS WERTMAN 25 /jmc Date dictated 5/14/68

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NO 157-10673

Mr. WEST advised that he was born [REDACTED] in Sweetwater, Alabama and he is presently employed as a district mechanic for Bariod. He requested that his employer not be told the reason he was being contacted in this matter, inasmuch as he has lost several jobs in the past three years due to his physical condition in that he blacks out due to severe headaches. He also requested that his employer not be advised regarding his treatment for this illness at the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/13/681

WALTON C. HALL, JR., 5911 Airline Highway, advised that he is the subscriber to New Orleans telephone number 888-7744. He advised that friends of theirs, JAMES and DOROTHY BLALOCK, moved from New Orleans to Houston, Texas, in December, 1967, shortly before Christmas. The BLALOCKs advised that they would call Mr. and Mrs. HALL as soon as they arrived safely in Texas. Mr. HALL stated that the BLALOCKs called them from the vicinity of Port Arthur, Texas, on the Sunday before Christmas, December 17, 1967, to advise them that they had arrived safely in Texas, and had moved to Houston. Mr. HALL added that he believes this call was made from a pay phone and was of short duration because the BLALOCKs were still on the road. Mr. HALL commented that he and his wife were concerned because the BLALOCKs were pulling a house trailer.

Mr. HALL furnished the following address for JAMES and DOROTHY BLALOCK:

4922 Griggs Road,
Houston, Texas
77021
Telephone number 748-2902
Area Code 713

Mr. HALL added that JAMES BLALOCK is an employee of Texas Automatic Sprinkler Company in Houston, Texas.

HALL viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that the face looked familiar because he has seen photographs of RAY either in the newspapers or on television; however, JAMES EARL RAY was unknown to him. HALL commented that he knows of no one using the names of ERIC STARVO GALT, W. C. HERRON, HARVEY LOWMYER, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JOHN WILLARD or JAMES EARL RAY.

On 5/10/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA PEIRRE D. FOURNIER - kmt, njc 27 Date dictated 5/13/68

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Date 5/13/681

Mrs. ETHELL R. JACKSON, Negro female, 2989 Lasalle Street, furnished the following information:

Mrs. JACKSON advised that she is the subscriber to telephone number 895-3872; however, she does not recall receiving a long distance telephone call from the State of Texas during the month of December, 1967. Mrs. JACKSON stated that to the best of her knowledge, she has no relatives or friends residing in the State of Texas and could not imagine who possibly may have called her from this destination. She advised, however, that it was possible one of her relatives may have called and not indicated the place where they were calling from. She indicated that she could not furnish any specific information regarding this telephone call.

Mrs. JACKSON was shown several photographs of the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, whom she could not identify as anyone whom she has seen.

On 5/11/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA PATRICK J. DENTE - jah 28 Date dictated 5/13/68

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Date 5/13/681

Mrs. IVAN SKOGLUND (JULIA), 2716 D'Abie Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that she has telephone number 945-4302.

Mrs. SKOGLUND stated that her husband IVAN is presently a patient in a mental hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, and that she receives numerous calls from RICHARD TATUM, her nephew, concerning the well-being of her husband.

Mrs. SKOGLUND advised that to the best of her knowledge, the telephone call from Texas during December was either from her nephew, RICHARD TATUM, or from her son, MILTON PHELPS, who was traveling from California to New Orleans for the Christmas holidays. She stated she can recall receiving a telephone call from MILTON sometime during the month of December, 1967, and that during this short conversation, MILTON had advised her that he would be in New Orleans shortly.

Mrs. SKOGLUND stated that to her knowledge, MILTON has never been in trouble with the law and is considered a highly respected individual.

She stated that she is employed by the United States Coast Guard, Gateway Building, Marine Inspection Office, as a Supervisory Clerk in Licensing and Certification. She stated that she has been so employed by the Coast Guard for the last 27 years.

Mrs. SKOGLUND stated that she has conducted numerous name checks for the FBI since the assassination of Doctor KING in reference to GALT, LOWMYER and RAY. She added that she is familiar with photographs of RAY, having seen these photographs in various newspapers and magazines. She added that JAMES EARL RAY is unknown to her.

On 5/10/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

by SA JAMES D. HILL : 29 njc Date dictated 5/13/68

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Date 5/10/68

1

GEORGE (NO MIDDLE NAME) PREISS, 2718 Ideal Place, after being made aware of the official identity of the interviewing Agent, furnished the following information:

His residence telephone number is 947-3471 at the above address, which is occupied by PREISS and his wife. PREISS said that he is unable to recall any telephone call received on his residence telephone during the period December 15-17, 1967. He said that he knows of no relatives or acquaintances who might have been traveling in Texas during the pertinent period and who may have telephoned PREISS' home. He can recall absolutely nothing regarding any telephone call to his home.

PREISS mentioned that his wife is presently visiting relatives in Kentwood, Louisiana. He said that it is remotely possible that she may have received a call in December, but he is certain that she would have mentioned it to him, and he can remember no telephone call during December which his wife spoke of receiving. He said that his wife plans to return to New Orleans in about ten days.

PREISS said that he has two relatives who live in Texas, and it is possible that either of them may have telephoned his home, especially since the call was made during the Christmas season; PREISS recalls no such call from either relative, however. He identified the Texas relatives as his wife's brother, ROY E. MC DANIEL, SR., who resides at 2414 Lovers Lane, Dallas, Texas, and MC DANIEL's son, ROY E. MC DANIEL, JR., residing at 2964 Lavita Lane, Dallas, Texas.

After viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, PREISS advised that he had previously seen photos of RAY in the newspaper, but the face does not appear at all familiar to him and he has never seen the man before. RAY's name and all known aliases likewise had no significance to PREISS.

During the interview, it was noted that PREISS is an elderly man who speaks with a noticeable German accent.

On 5/9/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA WILLIAM R. RUMPH 30 Date dictated 5/9/68

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NO 157-10673
WRR/jpb

He indicated that in March of 1968, he became seventy years old, and he is presently retired and living on Social Security. PREISS said that he is a native of Bavaria, Germany, and came to the United States in 1922. PREISS further said that, while he had learned of the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., from news sources, he paid very little attention to the matter or indeed to any current events, preferring to spend his time working on his hobby of horticulture. It was noted that a large variety of unusual plants were growing on PREISS' property.

NO 157-10673
SMC:njc

On May 9, 1968, information was received from the Houston Office of the FBI that it had been determined that long distance telephone calls had been placed from coin telephones in the Beaumont, Texas area on December 16, 1967, to the following New Orleans telephone numbers:

282-6540

899-4323.

Date 5/13/681

Mrs. MARION LARKINS, Negro female, 5818 Lafaye Street, furnished the following information:

She is the subscriber of telephone number 282-6540, but does not recollect receiving a long distance telephone call from the State of Texas during the month of December, 1967. She advised that she does have a niece, Miss PATRICIA CONDOLL, who resides in Houston, Texas, but does not recall receiving a telephone call from Miss CONDOLL. Mrs. LARKINS further advised that her niece has subsequently been married and she has no knowledge of her marriage name or present address.

Mrs. LARKINS was shown several photographs of the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, whom she could not identify as anyone she has known or seen. She advised she could furnish no specific information regarding the long distance telephone call.

On 5/11/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA PATRICK J. DENTE - jah 33 Date dictated 5/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date May 14, 1968

GUY L. WILLIAMS, 5373 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that telephone number 899-4323 is listed under his mother's name, but that she has been dead since 1964. He said he lives with his half brother, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ GARLAND COOPER JARVIS, who is 56 years old.

He said that he does not recall receiving a telephone call from Beaumont, Texas, on December 16, 1967. He said, however, that his brother is a seaman and may have called him from Beaumont, Texas. He said that GARLAND COOPER JARVIS is currently en route to Saigon, Vietnam, on board the "Wesleyan Victory," a Gulf South American Lines vessel out of New Orleans and Beaumont, Texas, or some Grace Lines ship.

He was exhibited a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and he stated that RAY is unknown to him, except that he has seen his picture in the newspapers.

On 5/13/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673

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by SA DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN - nmb Date dictated 5/13/68

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NO 157-10673
SMC:njc

On May 7, 1968, information was received from the San Antonio Office of the FBI that it had been determined that the following long distance telephone calls had been made from coin telephones located at or near San Antonio, Texas, to the following listed telephone numbers at New Orleans, Louisiana, on the dates indicated:

Telephone Number	Date
834-0436	December 17, 1967
895-9029	December 16, 1967
943-9109	December 15, 1967.

Date 5/13/681

Mrs. IRMA BLANCHARD, 3838 Airline Highway, Apartment 2, advised that she is the subscriber of telephone number 834-0436, but does not specifically recall receiving a long distance telephone call from the State of Texas during the period December 15-17, 1967. Mrs. BLANCHARD advised, however, that she does telephonically communicate with the Reverend ALVIN BILLIMEK of San Antonio, Texas. She advised that Reverend BILLIMEK is a Redemptorist missionary priest who travels throughout the State of Texas and very possibly called her on this particular occasion. She advised that this is the only individual whom she knows in the State of Texas who would possibly contact her.

Mrs. BLANCHARD stated that in view of the fact of Reverend BILLIMEK's position, she did not particularly care to get him involved in this matter and as such, declined to furnish Reverend BILLIMEK's address other than stating that his residence is located at a Redemptorist parish in San Antonio, Texas.

Mrs. BLANCHARD was shown several photographs of the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, whom she could not identify as anyone she may have met or previously seen.

On 5/11/68 at Metairie, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA PATRICK J. DENTE - jah 36 Date dictated 5/13/68

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Date May 10, 1968

Miss FAY JOHNSON was contacted at 3003 Toledano Street, Apartment 211 where she advised that she resides with Miss BEVERLY GUIDRY and Miss YVETTE SOUCY.

JOHNSON advised that their telephone number at the apartment is 895-9029.

JOHNSON was questioned concerning any telephone calls received at the apartment from December 15 to December 17, 1967 from anywhere in Texas. She advised that a mutual friend of theirs who is in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed somewhere near San Antonio, Texas during that period has called the apartment on numerous occasions and that she feels fairly certain that he called shortly before Christmas, 1967. She said that she could not be certain that the call was between December 15 to 17, but that it was near those dates. She advised his name is GERARD DARENSBOURG.

JOHNSON advised that Miss GUIDRY also has a friend in Houston, Texas and that individual occasionally calls the apartment, but she does not know this person's name and could not say he called during the above period.

JOHNSON advised that Miss GUIDRY is in Lafayette, Louisiana and will not return until May 13, 1968.

JOHNSON was shown various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY at which time she advised that she did not know this person although she was aware that he was being sought for the murder of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On 5/10/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA PAUL C. HENSEL 37 Date dictated 5/10/68

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Date May 10, 1968

Miss YVETTE SOUCY was contacted at the Katz and Betzhoff Drug Store, Napoleon Avenue and St. Charles Street, where she advised she is employed. She stated that she lives at 3003 Toledano, Apartment 211 and has telephone number 895-9029.

She advised that she has not received any telephone calls from Texas during the period December 15 to 17, 1967 although her roommates, Miss FAY JOHNSON and Miss BEVERLY GUIDRY do have friends in Texas and they sometimes receive calls from those friends.

SOUCY was shown various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY at which time she advised that she did not know him but recognized him as the man being sought for the slaying of DR. KING.

On 5/10/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA PAUL C. HENSEL 38 Date dictated 5/10/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/13/68

Miss BEVERLY GUIDRY was contacted at 3003 Toledano Street, Apartment 211, at which time she advised that she resides at that apartment and subscribes to telephone number 895-9029 which is located at that apartment.

GUIDRY stated that she cannot recall receiving any telephone call from any place within the State of Texas, during the period December 15 to 17, 1967. She advised that she cannot recall her roommates Miss YVETTE SOUCY or Miss FAY JOHNSON receiving calls from Texas during that period.

GUIDRY advised that she has one friend in Houston, Texas, with whom she communicates but that at best she can recall she generally telephones this individual in Houston. She advised that person's name is LILLY THIBEAUX, 5016 Blossom.

Miss GUIDRY was shown various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY at which time she advised she recalls seeing RAY'S photograph in a newspaper but that she was not familiar with RAY and had never received a call from him.

On 5/13/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SA PAUL C. HENSEL/ac 39 Date dictated 5/13/68

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Date 5/10/681

Mrs. RUSSELL FARLEY, 4816 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Priour Street, advised her telephone number is 943-9109 and she has had this telephone since an unrecalled date in 1964.

Mrs. FARLEY advised that she cannot recall receiving a telephone call from anyone in the State of Texas between December 15 and December 17, 1967. Mrs. FARLEY stated if she did receive this call, the only person that would call her from Texas is her son, RUSSELL FARLEY, JR., who is currently enrolled in the Job Corps and is staying at the Job Corps Training Center at San Marcos, Texas.

Mrs. FARLEY advised her son can be reached through Mr. T. J. GIZELBACH, Area Manager, Texas Educational Foundation, Gary Job Corps Training Center, Box 1108, San Marcos, Texas.

Mrs. FARLEY, a Negro, was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and she advised that she has never seen this individual and knows nothing about the individual.

Mrs. FARLEY further advised that if her son, RUSSELL FARLEY, JR., did in fact telephone her in December of 1967, he would have made this telephone call from a pay telephone booth as he would not have been permitted to use any of the telephones at the Job Corps Training Center to make a personal long distance telephone call.

On 5/9/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673
by SAs THOMAS E. DUHADWAY and 40
CHRISTOPHER MAZZELLA TED:mak Date dictated 5/10/68

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NO 157-10673

SMC/njc

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932 PM 8P URGENT 7/3/68 ELS

TO DIRECTOR AND JACKSON

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ATLANTA JULY TWO LAST.

RAYMOND CURTIS WAS INTERVIEWED AT WHITFIELD CO. JAIL, DALTON, GA., JULY THREE INSTANT BY SAs THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND ALBERT D. MILLARD. CURTIS IS CURRENTLY CONFINED WHITFIELD CO. JAIL AWAITING APPEAL ON LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER. CURTIS WAS ADVISED OF THE IDENTITY OF THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS THROUGH DISPLAY OF CREDENTIALS. HE WAS FURNISHED A RIGHTS AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE READ, INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD, AND REFUSED TO SIGN. HE ADVISED HE KNEW HE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED CONCERNING STATEMENTS HE MADE IN A LETTER HE HAD MAILED TO MR. SANDERS OF EBONY MAGAZINE. CURTIS STATED HE WAS MERELY TRYING TO SELL A STORY TO EBONY FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HELP HIS MOTHER PAY OFF A MORTGAGE ON HER HOME, WHICH SHE MORTGAGED TO OBTAIN ATTORNEY FEES FOR HIS DEFENSE. AT FIRST HE STATED, WITH REFERENCE TO THESE STATEMENTS, THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR, WHICH WAS A BURGLARY IN JOLIET, ILL., IN OCT, OR NOV., FIFTYFOUR. AT THIS POINT IT WAS POINTED OUT TO CURTIS THAT CERTAIN

END PAGE ONE

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157-10673-1153

PAGE TWO

STATEMENTS MADE BY HIM IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY COULD POSSIBLY INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSPIRACY WITH RAY CONCERNING THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH WERE IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY MAGAZINE:

1. THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR.
2. THAT RAY WANTED THE JOB OF KILLING KING.
3. THAT HE AND RAY TALKED ABOUT KILLING KING FOR THREE YEARS.
4. THAT THEY TALKED TO THE MAN FROM MISSISSIPPI THAT KNEW ALL ABOUT THE KK BUSINESSMANS ASSOCIATION THAT WAS TO PUT UP THE MONEY TO KILL KING.
5. THAT HE KNEW THE MEN FROM MISSISSIPPI.
6. FOR THREE YEARS, THAT HE AND RAY MADE MAPS JUST TO FIND THE RIGHT PLACE TO KILL KING AND THAT HE HAD MADE THE MAPS OVER HIMSELF.
7. HE AND RAY KNEW JUST WHERE THEY WOULD GO AFTER THE KILLING OF KING.
8. THAT HE WAS TO BE IN ON THE KILLING OF KING.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

9. THAT THERE ARE MEN IN FIVE STATES THAT ARE BEHIND THE KING KILLING AND THAT DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS DREW CRUDE MAPS SETTING OUT HOW HE THOUGHT RAY WOULD STALK KING. THIS MAP SHOWED THE FOLLOWING TOWNS WHERE HE SAID KING MADE MOST OF HIS SPEECHES: ATLANTA, LITTLE ROCK, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, SELMA, JACKSON, VICKSBURG, MISS., AND MARKS, MISS. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THERE WAS A MAN LIVING ON A HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER (WHOSE FIRST NAME HE KNEW BUT WOULD NOT DIVULGE). THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE RAY DOWN THE RIVER ON HIS BOAT TO NEW ORLEANS AFTER THE KILLING. HE STATED IN THE PAST HE (CURTIS) HAD PULLED SEVERAL BURGLARY AND ARMED ROBBERIES (HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON PARTICULARS) IN TOWNS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND WHILE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR HIM ON THE HIGHWAY HE WOULD BE ON A BOAT DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI. HE FURTHER STATED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY CONCERNING THE KING KILLING WHICH WAS CURRENTLY OUT BEING TYPED AND IT WAS THE STORY HE MENTIONED IN THE LETTER TO EBONY AND INTENDED TO SELL TO EBONY.

PAGE FOUR

SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN, MA, WHO IS SHERIFF OF WHITFIELD CO., GA., AND OPERATES THE COUNTY JAIL, ADVISED CURTIS HAD SENT NO LETTERS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JAIL WHICH WENT OVER THE JAILERS DESK. HE SAID CURTIS WOULD PROBABLY SEND ALL MAIL OUT WITH VISITORS AND JAIL TRUSTEES AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BY MEN OF HIS DEPT. IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT CURTIS' ATTORNEY, ERWIN MITCHELL, FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF GA., IS OF THE OPINION THAT MOST OF CURTIS' COMMENTS CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S ASSASSINATION OF KING ARE PURE FABRICATIONS ON THE PART OF CURTIS OR AS A RESULT OF SOMETHING CURTIS HAS READ IN LOCAL PAPERS.

APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, HE SENT A NOTE TO SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN REQUESTING TO AGAIN SEE AN FBI AGENT, THAT HE NOW WANTED TO TELL THE ENTIRE TRUTH. CURTIS WAS AGAIN INTERVIEWED BY SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND AGAIN FURNISHED A RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE REFUSED TO SIGN. HE THEN STATED THAT APPARENTLY IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY HE USED THE WORK "WE" INDICATING THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY HAD PLANNED THE KING MURDER WHICH WOULD INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSYRACY AND FOR

PAGE FIVE

THAT REASON HE DENIED THE STATEMENTS IN LETTER TO EBONY. HE THEN ADVISED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY WHICH HE INTENDED TO SELL TO SOME MAGAZINE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING MONEY FOR HIS MOTHER WHICH STORY WAS STILL IN HIS POSSESSION AND WHICH HE HAD NOT YET SENT OUT TO BE TYPED. HE ALLOWED SA HENRY TO READ THIS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PAGE STORY, HANDWRITTEN, ONE PAGE AT A TIME. HE DECLARED THIS STORY WAS TRUE. THE FIRST FIVE OR SIX PAGES OF THIS STORY MERELY SET OUT HIS EARLY LIFE IN CRIME AND THE PRISON SENTENCES HE HAD SERVED AS A RESULT OF THESE CRIMES FROM THE AGE OF FIFTEEN. THE REMAINDER OF THE STORY IS THE SAME AS WAS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS IN APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ASSOCIATION WITH RAY. THIS STORY DOES REFLECT THAT HE FIRST BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN FIFTYFOUR WHEN THEY PULLED A PAYROLL HEIST IN QUINCY, ILL., WITH A THIRD INDIVIDUAL. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE LOST CONTACT WITH RAY WHEN HE AND THIS THIRD INDIVIDUAL WERE CAUGHT IN A FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLAR BANK ROBBERY AT SOUTHWEST CITY, MO. AFTER THAT HE AGAIN BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH RAY IN PRISON AND WHILE IN PRISON THEY BOTH LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. RAY THEN STATED IT SOUNDED LIKE A BIG JOB AND HE WAS ALWAYS ON THE INSIDE OR A PRISON WHEN BIG JOBS AND BIG MONEY WERE TO BE HAD.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BECAME PROMINENT AND RAY STATED ON

SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO KILL KING.

THE STORY WENT ON TO REFLECT THAT DURING THIS PERIOD AN INDIVIDUAL CAME INTO THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT

JEFFERSON CITY FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., AND WHO, UPON LEARNING

OF JAMES EARL RAY'S FEELINGS TOWARD KILLING KING, ADVISED

HIM OF THE KK BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH AND

OF THE FACT THAT PEOPLE IN FIVE STATES WERE PUTTING UP

MONEY FOR KING'S ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED

OUT THAT RAY INFORMED HIM THAT HE INTENDED TO HAVE EVERY-

THING SET WHEN HE KILLED KING AND THAT RAY, THROUGH MAPS,

LEARNED OF KING'S MOVEMENTS SO HE COULD LATER STALK HIM

TO THE POINT OF ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED

OUT THAT RAY ADVISED HE WOULD LEAVE A FALSE GUN AND FALSE

TRAIL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MURDER. RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO

END PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN

GO TO VICKSBURG FOLLOWING THE MURDER, CONTACT THE MAN FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., WHO HAD THE HOUSEBOAT, AND THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE HIM EITHER TO NEW ORLEANS OR CANADA VIA THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS STATED HE WOULDNOT TESTIFY TO ANY OF THE ABOVE. HE DID ADVISE IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL ON THE HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG, MISS., WAS (FNU) WILLETT, ALSO KNOWN AS MISSISSIPPI WHO SERVED TIME IN THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY.

THE STORY ALSO MENTIONED A MAN FROM NEW ORLEANS WHO COULD OBTAIN ANY KIND OF IDENTIFICATION AND CURTIS LATER IDENTIFIED THIS MAN AS JOE COIN, WHICH INFORMATION HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN SET OUT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS. THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, AND WHILE READING CURTIS' STORY, HE CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT HE WOULD NOT TESTIFY AGAINST RAY AS HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. HE INDICATED THAT ANY STATE PRISON HE WAS SENT TO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD KILL HIM AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS INFORMATION HE FURNISHED THE PRESS AND TV MEDIA AND IT IS FELT HE WAS USING THIS AS AN EXCUSE AS TO WHY HE

END PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT

DID NOT WANT TO BE SENT TO A STATE PRISON ON HIS CURRENT LIFE SENTENCE. HE STATED HE WOULD NOT ALLOW HIS STORY TO BE XEROXED NOR WOULD HE WRITE IT OVER AGAIN OR ALLOW THE PAGES TO LEAVE HIS CELL. HE DID STATE HE WOULD TRANSCRIBE HIS STORY OVER A DICTATING MACHINE AND WOULD REDRAW CERTAIN MAPS HE PRODUCED FOR HIS STORY.

HE THEN PRESENTED CRUDE SKETCHES OF THE FED. PENITENTIARY AT LEVENWORTH, THE MISSOURI STATE PEN, IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED MAP CONCERNING THE TOWNS WHERE KING MADE NUMEROUS SPEECHES.

UACB, CURTIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DICTATE HIS STORY ON A DICTATING MACHINE IN THE PRESENCE OF SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR.

DUE TO THE UNRELIABILITY OF CURTIS, NO LEAD FOR AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING SET FORTH FOR JACKSON IN CONNECTION WITH IDENTIFYING (FNU) WILLETT, AKA MISSISSIPPI UACB.

END

JWD

FBI JKSN MISS

PT

F B I

Date: 7/5/68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)
MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype 7/3/68.

RE RAYMOND CURTIS
INTERVIEW IN COUNTY
JAIL AT DALTON, GA.

Enclosed herewith for Little Rock and Memphis
is one copy of referenced teletype.

PAUL J. DENNIS, Vice-President, Vicksburg Mid
River Service, Inc. advised on 7/5/68, that (FNU) WILLETT
owned a houseboat known as the "Nell Willie", a diesel-
powered ship capable of travel on the Mississippi. (FNU)
WILLETT was described as an elderly man who was crippled
and used a cane. He and his wife, whose name is believed
to be NELL, took vacation trips on his houseboat approximately
twice a year, securing the services of a Mississippi River
pilot to operate the boat for them. (FNU) WILLETT is believed
to have died approximately two years ago. He is believed
to have been a resident of the State of Arkansas and
to have docked his houseboat at the Greenville, Miss. Yacht
Club.

WILLIE SMITH, a Negro male employee of the Greenville,
Miss. Yacht Club, advised on 7/5/68, that the correct name
of the houseboat is the "Nell Willis" and that it was owned
by a (FNU) WILLIS, who died about two or three years ago.
NELL WILLIS, wife of (FNU) WILLIS, is still living and

3-Bureau (RM) (2) Little Rock (Enc. 1) *ms*
2-Memphis (Enc. 1)
2-Jackson
JGW/jrs (9)

Approved: _____

Special Agent

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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residing in or around Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Following the death of Mr. WILLIS, the houseboat was sold to SONNY (LNU), a member of the Memphis, Tenn. Yacht Club, who is believed to be a Mississippi River pilot.

WILLIE SMITH advised that Mr. WILLIS was always considerate of Negroes and gave no indication of anti-Negro sentiments.

UACB the following leads will be covered:

LEADS:

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT PINE BLUFF, ARK.

Will locate and interview NELL WILLIS in order to substantiate information set out in enclosed teletype.

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will attempt to locate and interview SONNY (LNU) in order to either prove or disprove the information contained in enclosed teletype.

7/11/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, LITTLE ROCK (157-1215) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN ✓

157-10673

Re Atlanta teletype, 7/3/68; Jackson airtel
to Bureau, 7/5/68.

RE: RAYMOND CURTIS
INTERVIEWS IN COUNTY JAIL
AT DALTON, GEORGIA

Enclosed herewith for New Orleans Office is
a copy of re Atlanta teletype, 7/3/68, and Jackson airtel
to Bureau, 7/5/68.

On 7/9/68, Mr. T. C. BARNETT, Postmaster,
Altheimer, Arkansas, furnished SA GEORGE A. BARROW, JR.,
the following information:

Mr. CHARLES WILLIE was a well-respected, well-
known, wealthy plantation owner who formerly owned and
operated a plantation in the area of Wabbaseka and
Altheimer, Arkansas. Mr. WILLIE's home and main plantation
is located near Wabbaseka and had a mailing address of
Wabbaseka, Arkansas. Mr. CHARLES WILLIE was formerly
President of the Altheimer First National Bank. Mr. WILLIE
died approximately three years ago. Mrs. CHARLES WILLIE
was named NELL and they owned a houseboat which Mr. BARNETT
believes was known as "Nell Willie" and which houseboat

3 - Bureau
② - New Orleans (Enc. 2)
1 - Memphis (Info.)
1 - Jackson (Info.)
2 - Little Rock
GAB/jhb
(9)

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Leif
and
Mary P. →
about

LR 157-1215

was kept somewhere on the Mississippi River. Mr. BARNETT believed the boat possibly was docked in the area of Greenville, Mississippi.

NELL WILLIE, widow of Mr. CHARLES WILLIE, married J. BURNETT of Monroe, Louisiana, and is now known as Mrs. J. BURNETT. Mrs. NELL BURNETT and Mr. J. BURNETT spend the majority of their time in the area of Monroe, Louisiana, but also reside some on the bayou farm at Wabbaseka, Arkansas, when they are in this area. Mr. J. BURNETT is believed to have been in the real estate business in Monroe, Louisiana. Mrs. NELL BURNETT and Mr. BURNETT are not in the area of Altheimer and Wabbaseka, Arkansas, at this time.

Mr. H. J. CANNON, Cashier-Vice President, First National Bank of Altheimer, advised SA GEORGE A. BARRON, JR., on 7/9/68 that Mr. CHARLES WILLIE was a well-respected plantation owner and was formerly President of the Altheimer First National Bank, Altheimer, Arkansas, and has now been deceased about three years. He verified the information that Mr. CHARLES WILLIE's widow, NELL, had married Mr. J. BURNETT of Monroe, Louisiana, and that they spent a large amount of their time in Monroe. He advised that the BURNETTS are not in the Altheimer-Wabbaseka area and he did not know when they would return to this area.

Mr. JOHN HENRY JOHNSON, Wabbaseka, Arkansas, furnished the following information to SA BARRON on 7/9/68:

He checks on and takes care of the house and grounds at the bayou farm, Wabbaseka, Arkansas, for Mrs. J. BURNETT. Mrs. J. BURNETT and her husband are presently on a trip in Georgia and the Carolinas, and Mr. JOHNSON has no idea as to when they may return. He advised they may return to Monroe, Louisiana, before returning to Wabbaseka, Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. J. BURNETT reside as much in Monroe, Louisiana, as they do in Wabbaseka, Arkansas. Mr. JOHNSON furnished the telephone

LR 157-1215

number 387-0214, Area Code 318, as the telephone number in Monroe, Louisiana, where he reaches Mr. and Mrs. J. BURNETT when they are in Monroe, Louisiana. He further advised that Mrs. J. BURNETT had a cousin, JIM RHODES, and that JIM RHODES possibly could furnish information as to when Mr. and Mrs. BURNETT would be returning to either Monroe or Wabbaseka and could furnish information as how Mrs. BURNETT could be contacted. JIM RHODES's telephone number is Monroe telephone number 325-0429.

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

At Monroe, Louisiana. Will contact Mr. JIM RHODES, telephone 325-0429, a cousin of Mrs. J. BURNETT (NELL BURNETT, former widow of Mr. CHARLES WILLIE), and determine when Mrs. J. BURNETT will be returning either to Monroe, Louisiana, or Wabbaseka, Arkansas, and at which location she will first be available for interview by an FBI Agent.

2. Will attempt to locate Mrs. J. BURNETT through Monroe, Louisiana, telephone number 387-0214, and interview her in accordance with lead set forth in referenced Jackson teletype to Director, 7/5/68, to substantiate information set out in Atlanta teletype to Director and Jackson of 7/3/68.

1. Mrs. J. BURNETT will not be available for interview at Monroe, Louisiana, will so advise Little Rock when Mrs. BURNETT is expected to be in Wabbaseka, Arkansas.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

**Memphis, Tennessee
July 13, 1968**

**RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT -
ROBBERY**

On July 8, 1968, Mr. J. W. Crowler, Manager, Memphis Yacht Club, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that the Nell Willey is a 55-foot, steel-hull, diesel-powered house boat that is owned by Mr. A. D. Cartwright, Jr., the owner of Cartwright Nurseries, Collierville, Tennessee. Mr. Crowler stated the Nell Willey was purchased by Mr. Cartwright several years ago, and that prior to being owned by Mr. Cartwright, this boat was docked at Greenville, Mississippi.

On July 12, 1968, Mr. Marion Looney, Secretary, Cartwright Nurseries, Collierville, Tennessee, advised that Mr. A. D. Cartwright, Jr., is out of the city and unavailable for interview. Mr. Looney said that Mr. Cartwright purchased the Nell Willey from Mrs. C. C. Willey, Altimer, Arkansas, about three years ago, and at the time of purchase this boat was docked at Monroe, Louisiana. Mr. Looney said that for the past three years this boat has been docked at the Memphis Yacht Club and is used only to entertain customers. He said there is no regular crew and that the boat is operated by Mr. Cartwright and his sons. He also stated that this boat seldom goes more than 10 miles in either direction from the Memphis Yacht Club and has not been used for lengthy trips on the Mississippi River.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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7/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-33861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau and listed offices are copies of an LHM concerning investigation occasioned by information furnished by RAYMOND CURTIS, prisoner in the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia.

Little Rock and New Orleans should continue efforts to locate and interview Mrs. NELL WILLIE, the widow of Mr. CHARLES WILLIE, now married to Mr. J. BURNETT, of Monroe, Louisiana. The results of your investigation in this regard should be furnished to the Bureau by LHM.

3-Bureau (Encs. 4)
2-Jackson (Enc. 1)
2-Little Rock (Enc. 1)
2-New Orleans (Enc. 1)
2-Memphis
JCH:wp
(11)

157-10673-1157

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FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

F B I

Date: 7/16/68

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

TO: ALL SACs

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

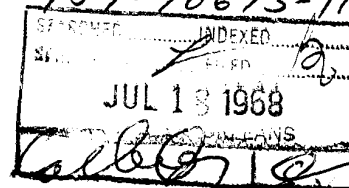
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 7/9/68.

The Bureau has requested that all divisions continue to submit monthly cost data until further notice.

In view of the above, all divisions are requested to comply with the Bureau's instructions, including offices who have negative cost data to report.

2 - ALL OFFICES
2 - Memphis
RFB:jap
(4)



Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

THIS VOLUME COMPLETE. SEE NEXT VOLUME.