

NO 157-10673

KJH:med

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BILL KILEEN, Manager, Marian's Bar, 615 Iberville, was contacted and subject's photograph displayed. KILEEN advised photographs of RAY unknown to him, and he is certain this person had never been observed by him either at his own bar or at any of the other bars he frequents on Iberville Street.

DANA BARGER, who frequents on a regular basis Wanda's Seven Seas Bar, and who is currently employed at Handy-Dandy Labor Agency, and who has been known to SA HARRIGAN for two years, advised after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that he is certain he has never observed this person at Wanda's Seven Seas Bar.

CHARLES TAYLOR, also known as Cookie, who frequents Wanda's Seven Seas Bar on a daily basis and who resides at 803 St. Charles and who also has been known to SA HARRIGAN for over a year, advised after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that he is certain he had never observed RAY at either Wanda's Seven Seas Bar or at any of the other bars he frequents in the 600 block of Iberville Street.

Detective LARRY VIGUERIE, Robbery Detail, New Orleans Police Department, advised that he can recall no incident involving several arrests at Wanda's Seven Seas Bar in December, 1967. He advised he would discuss the matter with other detectives, and if any persons contacted could recall the incident he would immediately advise the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Detective VIGUERIE further advised that the New Orleans Police Department maintains on a daily basis a master list of all complaints received and arrests made in the New Orleans area. This list would contain the address at which an arrest was made or from which a complaint was received, the date this occurred, and the New Orleans police item regarding the incident. He advised that these usually number several hundred each day, and for the month of December, 1967 would total approximately five thousand. He advised he would have one of his detectives check this list for any arrests made during December, 1967 at Wanda's Seven Seas Bar.

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KJH:med

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Detective GENE EISENMANN, Robbery Detail, New Orleans Police Department, advised that a check by him of the master list of all complaints and arrests made by the New Orleans Police Department during December, 1967 showed that on Sunday, December 17, 1967, at 9:53 PM, four persons had been arrested for fighting outside Wanda's Seven Seas Bar, 608 Iberville. This information was listed under Item #12 544-67. Detective EISENMANN further advised that the arrest involved three white males and one Negro male who were all released the same day on bond. None of the arrested persons were photographed or fingerprinted.

A check of records at the Record Room, New Orleans Police Department, under Item #L 12 554-67, showed that the following persons were arrested on December 17, 1963, at 9:53 PM outside of Wanda's Seven Seas Bar, 608 Iberville:

ROBERT TRILLET

White male

Born [REDACTED]

At Springvalley, Illinois

New Orleans Address--2511 Almonster Street

RONALD TAPLETTE

Negro male

Born [REDACTED]

At New Orleans, Louisiana

New Orleans Address--1930 Andry Street

THOMAS LEE LEWIS

White male

Born [REDACTED]

At New York City

New Orleans Address--2919 Elysian Fields

WILLART NETTERVILLE

White male

Born [REDACTED]

At Baton Rouge, Louisiana

New Orleans Address--1711 Jackson Avenue.

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It was also noted under this item number that the arresting officers were Patrolmen PAUL FLEMING and RONNIE CAMPBELL.

PAUL FLEMING, Patrolman, New Orleans Police Department, advised that he recalls making an arrest in mid December, 1967 outside Wanda's Seven Seas Bar. He advised that a fight occurred between a white and Negro male outside the bar and that two other white males attempted to interfere. All these persons were arrested and charged with fighting, and in addition one of the white men was charged with firing a pen gun and resisting arrest. FLEMING viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY but with negative results. However, he advised he is certain none of the persons arrested by him on that date was RAY or even resembled him.

RONNIE CAMPBELL, Tactical Unit, New Orleans Police Department, advised that he recalls making an arrest in December, 1967 involving three white males and one Negro male who were charged with fighting outside of Wanda's Seven Seas Bar. He advised that he could not specifically recall what these persons looked like and after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY stated he is fairly certain none of the persons resembled RAY. He also advised that he regularly works in the area of town where Wanda's Seven Seas Bar is located and is certain he has never observed RAY in that part of town.

Detective JAMES MILLER and Detective EUGENE FIELDS, New Orleans Police Department, who work in the French Quarter area of New Orleans, and have several reliable sources in bars located in the 600 block of Iberville Street, were contacted and furnished their observations on available photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. Both these detectives advised subject's photographs were unknown to them and they stated they would make discreet inquiry regarding RAY among their sources on Iberville Street and that if any positive information developed indicating RAY at any time had been to any of these places they would immediately contact SA HARRIGAN.

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NO 157-10673 -epk

Re: Investigation Concerning
ROBERT HOOD STRADER, who Alleged
KING Assassination Plot in Baton
Rouge, Louisiana, area in
Summer of 1967

On May 6, 1968, information was received from the Springfield Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that ROBERT HOOD STRADER, of Lexington, Illinois, alleged that he had previously been informed during the Summer of 1967, by RAYMOND STARNES, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that a group of businessmen in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, area had taken up a collection to obtain money to have KING assassinated.

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157-10673-sub 2-335-

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NO 157-10673
EJC:jah

The following investigation was conducted by
SA EDWARD J. CARNEY, JR.

~~RAYMOND HENRY STARNES~~ was interviewed at his residence, King David Apartments, Apartment F, 2816 David Drive, Metairie, Louisiana, on May 9, 1968. STARNES, who stated his business address is Suite 120, Courtland Plaza, 3900 Veterans Highway, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, advised as follows:

STARNES is a native of Denham Springs, Louisiana, and is currently associated in a business partnership with EARNEST C. DONNELL, Owner of the Earnest C. Donnell Construction Company, at Denham Springs, Louisiana. Denham Springs is located nine miles distant from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

STARNES is well acquainted in Denham Springs and knows nearly all of the businessmen in that community, including those who are reportedly members of the Ku Klux Klan and who are considered to be strong segregationists.

STARNES was in Denham Springs in the Summer of 1967, at which time there was considerable racial strife taking place, including marches by Negro groups and opposition being presented to these marches by those individuals with strong segregation beliefs. STARNES stated that he himself is a liberal in his view towards Negroes and that he did not participate in any of the activities that took place in Denham Springs in the Summer of 1967. He stated, however, that he did frequently converse with individuals whom he considered to be members of the Ku Klux Klan, these persons having been individuals that he grew up with in Denham Springs.

STARNES stated that at no time during this period did any information come to his attention that there were businessmen in Denham Springs, Louisiana, or in Baton Rouge,

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EJC:jah

Louisiana, who were taking up a collection to obtain money to have MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., assassinated. STARNs does not recall of having heard the name of KING even mentioned during the Summer of 1967, nor does he recall any information which would indicate there was a plot to kill any particular Negro or any individual of any race for that matter.

STARNs is against violence and if any information such as a plot to kill anyone had come to his attention, he would promptly notify an appropriate law enforcement agency.

During the Fall of 1967, STARNs recalls that an individual subsequently known to him as ROBERT STRADER appeared at the Earnest C. Donnell Construction Company in Denham Springs making claims to EARNEST DONNELL that he could obtain considerable financing from a SHAPIRO family in Miami, Florida. DONNELL became interested in STRADER's proposition and ordered STARNs to accompany STRADER to Miami, Florida, which he did and at which time he and STRADER met with a Mr. and Mrs. SHAPIRO. It developed, however, that STRADER did not previously know the SHAPIRO family and further that STRADER actually had no contacts or was not in a position to obtain financing for the Donnell Construction Company.

It was during the trip to Miami, Florida, that STARNs realized that STRADER had an apparent mental problem. STARNs recalled that while staying in motels in Florida, STRADER at times became most irrational and envisioned that he was being followed by Federal Agents.

After the Florida trip, STRADER continued to hang around the Donnell Company in Denham Springs, Louisiana, at which time STRADER's wife was also present. In STARNs' opinion, STRADER's wife is also an irrational person.

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On one occasion, STRADER, who was doing some work for the Donnell Company, took STARN'S personally owned vehicle with the permission of STARN'S on a business trip. STRADER's wife accompanied STRADER on this trip and they did not return as scheduled. The vehicle was subsequently located in Mississippi in an abandoned position. Also at this same time, STARN'S and ~~EARNEST DONNELL~~ discovered that STRADER had stolen some property from the company, such as a portable electric typewriter, a brief case full of valuable engineering fittings, a telephone credit card and other miscellaneous items. Also taken from the STARN'S vehicle was a .38 Police Special Revolver which was a sentimental keepsake which had been given to STARN'S by his father.

The theft of these items was reported to law enforcement agencies but DONNELL subsequently decided not to press charges. The revolver has never been recovered by STARN'S and he does not presently know its whereabouts.

STARN'S heard from some unrecalled source several months ago that STRADER either was or is presently confined to a mental institution. He has not seen STRADER since late Fall of 1967.

STRADER was a braggart by nature, frequently announced his animosity towards Negroes but was never known to STARN'S to have specifically mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING or any other particular Negro. STRADER frequently bragged that he had contacts with the underworld but never specifically mentioned anyone by name.

STARN'S concluded that he is at a loss to explain why it is alleged that he possessed information concerning a plot to raise money to kill MARTIN KING. He stated that he wanted to cooperate fully with the FBI, which agency he admires considerably and that if any further recollection

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EJC:jah

concerning the Summer of 1967 in Denham Springs came to him, he would promptly advise the New Orleans Office.

STARNS described STRADER as a white male, six feet two inches tall, 36 years of age and possessing blonde wavy hair. During the Summer of 1967, STARNS personally owned a 1967 Oldsmobile, white over black, bearing Texas license KLX or K LW 491.

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NO 157-10673
JDH:njc

CHARLES JOSEPH STEIN
ARREST RECORD

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES D. HILL at Gretna, Louisiana:

On May 2, 1968, Mr. MICHAEL KNOWLES, Cadet, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO), Ident Bureau, advised that a review of his records reflect that CHARLES JOSEPH STEIN was arrested on July 21, 1961, for possession of stolen property. STEIN, at the time of his arrest, gave an address of 4101 Stephen Girard Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. KNOWLES advised that STEIN is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	New Orleans, Louisiana
Height	Six feet
Weight	223 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Fair
Occupation	listed occupation as booking agent.

KNOWLES advised that on the bottom of the arrest sheet there is a notation which states "Lieutenant Vicknair arrested above subject upon word from Lieutenant Roy Jacobs that this subject will be charged with possession of stolen property and held for investigation of burglary."

KNOWLES advised that no disposition is shown for this arrest.

On May 2, 1968, Lieutenant BILL SMITH, Records Division, JPSO, advised that his records failed to reflect that these charges against STEIN were ever filed with the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office. Lieutenant SMITH stated that in all probability this arrest was based upon a New Orleans Police Department arrest, and that his department did not conduct any investigation into this matter.

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157-10673-sub 2-337

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/2/681

MARIE LEE, 2001 Claire Avenue, telephonically contacted the New Orleans Office of the FBI and advised she wished to point out to the FBI that she did not say most of the things which appeared in the newspaper articles on April 25 and 26, 1968. She stated she did not know anything about MARIE MARTIN, CHARLES STEIN and RITA STEIN being requested to register for GEORGE WALLACE on the California Presidential Primary Ballot and further stated she could not recall the exact date STEIN was in New Orleans. Therefore, it would have been impossible for her to furnish these dates to the newspaper. She also stated she did not characterize GALT as a big spender because she did not know him.

Mrs. LEE said she was making the telephone call to set the record straight concerning her exact knowledge of STEIN's trip and to advise that the newspaper had distorted and added to her story.

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On 4/29/68 at Gretna, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673-sub 2-338
by SA THOMAS E. DuHADWAY :epk Date dictated 4/30/68

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NO 157-10673:med

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The following investigation was conducted by SA PATRICK J. DENTE at New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 10, 1968:

Mr. ROLAND CHIARA, apartment house owner, 716 Governor Nichols, advised that Mr. ARCHIE A. CASBARIAN no longer resides at this address but can be located at the Royal Orleans Hotel where he is employed as Assistant General Manager.

Mr. ARCHIE A. CASBARIAN, Assistant General Manager, Royal Orleans Hotel, advised that he recalls spending the night of December 19, 1967, at the Provincial Motel on Chartres Street. Mr. CASBARIAN advised that he checked into the motel late at night, spent a few hours, and checked out early the next morning and does not recall talking to anyone during his stay. He advised that he does not recollect observing JAMES EARL RAY at the motel during the night of December 19, 1967. Mr. CASBARIAN further stated that he could furnish no information whatsoever regarding the subject at the Provincial Motel.

On the same date the following individuals advised that a search of the files of their respective agencies revealed no record identifiable with one JOE PARISH:

B. T. KAYLOR
New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau

Cadet PATRICK J. HARRIGAN
Record Section
New Orleans Police Department

Mrs. ALICE DORAN
Bureau of Identification
New Orleans Police Department

The following investigation was conducted at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, on May 10, 1968:

Deputy P. AULO, Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office, advised that he knows of no individual residing in the Belle Chasse area with the name of JOE PARISH.

A review of the Southern Bell Telephone Directory for New Orleans, Louisiana, and the 1968 Polks Directory for New Orleans Suburb revealed no listing for a JOE PARISH.

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157-10673-sub 2-339

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 14, 19681

EVELYN REVERTIGA, owner, Provincial Motel Cafe, 1024 Chartres Street, was contacted concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that she was working at the cafe during the period December 17 to 19, 1967 but that she could not recall any guests named ERIC GALT. She advised that she does not generally get to know the guests personally.

She was shown various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY at which time she advised that she did not recognize the photograph as resembling anyone she had seen in person or served in the cafe.

On 5/14/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673-sub 2-340
by SA PAUL C. HENSEL:pch Date dictated 5/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 14, 19681

~~YVONNE RILEY~~, waitress, Provincial Motel Cafe, 1024 Chartres Street, was contacted concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that she was working at the cafe during the period December 17 to 19, 1967 but that she could not recall anyone using the name ERIC GALT.

She was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY at which time she advised that she did not recognize this individual as anyone she had seen at the cafe or anywhere else other than in the newspapers.

On 5/14/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673-⁸ sub 2-341
by SA PAUL C. HENSEL:pch Date dictated 5/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 14, 19681

~~BEVERLY WILLIAMS~~, waitress, Provincial Motel Cafe, 1024 Chartres Street, was contacted concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that she was working at the cafe during the period December 17 to 19, 1967 but that she could not recall anyone using the name ERIC GALT.

She was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY at which time she advised that she did not recognize this individual as anyone she had seen at the cafe or anywhere else other than in the newspapers.

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On 5/14/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673-sub 2-342
by SA PAUL C. HENSEL -pch Date dictated 5/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 14, 19681

~~GLORIA YOUNG~~, waitress, Provincial Motel Cafe, 1024 Chartres Street, was contacted concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that she was working at the cafe during the period December 17 to 19, 1967 but that she could not recall anyone using the name ERIC GALT.

She was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY at which time she advised that she did not recognize this individual as anyone she had seen at the cafe or anywhere else other than in the newspapers.

On 5/14/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673 sub 2-343
by SA PAUL C. HENSEL:pch Date dictated 5/14/68

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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NO 157-10673 - kat

RAY CHARLES STEIN, Jr. and his mother Mrs. MARIE STEIN MC LEOD, 3426 Peoples Avenue, were interviewed in the New Orleans Office, on April 26, 1968, by SA PHILLIP M. KING.

STEIN advised that he recalls last seeing his father on the Sunday, approximately one week before Christmas, 1967. He stated at this time he went to his aunt's residence, MARIE STEIN LEE, in the 1400 block of Burgundy Street. The only conversation he can recall having with his father concerning his trip from California, was that he asked his father how he arrived here and he was informed that he "got a ride." He further recalls at this time his father stating that he would be here for one or two days at most. STEIN stated that the name of ERIC or GALT was never mentioned by his father to him, nor any other information concerning the individual who drove his father to New Orleans. He stated he next saw his father at the same address on the afternoon of the following day. On this occasion STEIN stated there was no conversation by his father concerning the identity or any comments about the individual who brought his father to New Orleans. He does recall his father stating that he thought he would return to Los Angeles the following day.

STEIN resides with his mother and has so resided since he was seven months old.

Mrs. MARIE STEIN MC LEOD stated that she and her former husband, CHARLES STEIN, SR., have been separated since CHARLES STEIN, JR. was seven months old, and that the son does not see the father normally more than once a year at most.

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157-10673-sub 2-344

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NO 157-10673
CWD-vhl

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent CHARLES W. DRAPER, at New Orleans, on April 25, 1968:

MASON SPONG, Quality Courts Motel East, 13548 Chef Menteur Highway, made available all registration cards for the motel since its opening (note cards not filed in alphabetic order). These cards were reviewed for the name of JAMES EARLE RAY, and known aliases, with negative results. SPONG advised there were no skips from the motel during the months of March and April.

157-10673-sub 2-345-

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NO 157-10673
CWD-vhl

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent CHARLES W. DRAPER, at New Orleans, Louisiana,
on April 25, 1968:

JOSEPH RAGEN, Hollywood Motel, 7323 Chef Menteur
Highway, telephone number 242-3942, advised guest registra-
tion records from March 1, 1968 to April 24, 1968, are in
the possession of the owner of the motel, Mr. A. LANASA,
who lives somewhere on Gentilly Boulevard.

RAGEN made available records regarding guest
registered on April 25, 1968, and these records were
reviewed for the name of JAMES EARLE RAY, and known
aliases, with negative results. RAGEN advised there
were no skips from the motel in March and April.

157-10673-sub 2-346

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NO 157-10673
CWD-vhl

MAYNARD GARRETT, ~~Monte Carlo Motel~~, 5061 Chef
Mentour Highway, made available registration cards for
guest for the months of March and April and these records
were checked for the name of JAMES EARLE RAY, and known
aliases. This check met with negative results. GARRETT
advised there were no skips from the motel during the
months of March and April.

157-10673-sub 2-347

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NO 157-10673
TMS - smd

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent TERRY M. SCOTT at New Orleans, Louisiana,
on April 29, 1968:

Mr. ROBERT POWERS, Manager, Power's Junction
Motel, Highway 90 at Highway 11, advised that after thirty
days he destroys all registration cards but advised he has
reviewed his registration cards for the month of April
and cannot locate the name JAMES EARL RAY or ERIC STARVO
GALT or any of his aliases.

157-10673-sub 2-348

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NO 157-10673:epk

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WILLIAM B. WOOD on May 1, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana:

The following individuals were contacted at their respective motels, at which time they furnished guest registration records for their motels. All records reviewed were negative regarding the name JAMES EARL RAY of any of RAY's known aliases.

Mrs. ~~EDWARD~~ P. MUNSON, Manager,
~~Lamothe House~~
~~621 Esplanade~~

CATHERINE BRITT, Secretary
~~Bienville House Motor Hotel~~
320 Decatur Street

Mr. NORMAN MARKS
~~Prince Conti Motor Hotel~~
~~830 Conti Street~~

Mrs. M. ORY, Desk Clerk
~~Place d'Armes Motor Hotel~~
~~625 St. Ann Street~~

CATHERINE BRITT, Secretary, ~~Bienville House~~ Motor Hotel, 320 Decatur, advised that the ~~Place d'Napoleon Motor Hotel~~, 300 Decatur, had been closed since approximately one month before Mardi Gras, 1968.

157-10673 sub 2-349

1
NO 157-10673 :epk

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent KEITH D. COY on May 6, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana:

MINNIE SERIO, Plaza Motel, 3610 Tulane Avenue, made available registration cards for that motel from March 15, 1968, through April 30, 1968. These records were reviewed and failed to reflect the names of JAMES EARL RAY and ERIC STARVO GALT.

157-10673-sub 2-350

AS 2-5

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NO 157-10673 -epk

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JOHN E. McDANIELS on May 2, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana:

The following persons made available the records of their establishments for the period from March 17, 1968, to March 24, 1968. These records were searched for registrations in the names of JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC S. GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER and JOHN WILLARD with negative results.

LARRY CHOPPIN, Manager
~~Chateau Motor Hotel~~
~~1001 Chartres Street~~

Mrs. NATHANAL L. FELTON, Manager
~~Felton House~~
~~1133 Chartres Street~~

JUNIUS UNDERWOOD, Manager
~~French Quarter Maisonnets~~
~~1130 Chartres Street~~

JOHN THORNTON, Manager
~~Le Richelieu Apartment Hotel~~
~~1234 Chartres Street~~

Mrs. RUBJ STOLL, Acting Manager, ~~Royal Chartres Guest House~~, 508 Chartres Street, advised she was unable to locate her records for the month of March, 1968. She will attempt to locate the records and make them available on May 3, 1968.

157-10673-sub 2-351

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NO 157-10673
WBW/cam

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent WILLIAM B. WOOD at New Orleans, Louisiana
on May 3, 1968:

The following individuals furnished records of
their respective establishments which were reviewed with
negative results for the name JAMES EARL RAY or any of
RAY'S known aliases:

Mrs. A. ABADIE
Bookkeeper
Tamanaca Downtown Motel

~~VIRGINIA PENNINGTON
Desk Clerk
Thunderbird Motel,
1910 Tulane Avenue~~

EDWINA KEMP
Bookkeeper
Ramada Inn,
2222 Tulane Avenue

SARA HELLMANN
Desk Clerk
Le Petit Motel,
2836 Tulane Avenue

157-10673-sub 2-352

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NO 157-10673
KDC:nmb

The following investigation was conducted by
SA KEITH D. COY on May 3, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana:

The following motel and hotel registers were checked
for the names of JAMES EARL RAY and ERIC STARVO GALT for the
period March 15 through April 30, 1968, with negative results:

~~Carib Motel~~, 4025 Tulane Avenue,
LOUIS E. VILLAFUERTE, Assistant Manager;

~~Crescent Motel~~, 3522 Tulane Avenue,
OLGA CULP, Manager;

~~The DeVille~~, 3800 Tulane Avenue,
MONTE BLACKMAN, Manager;

~~Fontainebleau Motor Hotel~~, 4040 Tulane Avenue,
EDWIN CANTIN, Comptroller.

The ~~Bonaparte Motor Hotel~~, 3900 Tulane Avenue,
was observed, and is presently under construction, and has
never housed any occupants.

LOUIS LACORIX, ~~Plaza Motel~~, 3610 Tulane Avenue,
advised that he did not have access to records for March.
LACORIX further advised that SAM SERIO, owner of the Plaza
Motel, has these in his possession, and could be contacted
before 10:30 a.m. on May 7, 1968.

157-10673-sub 2-353

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NO 157-10673
CKJ:cjm

The following hotel records were reviewed by SA CHARLES K. JOHNSON with negative results on May 1, 1968, for registrations in the name of JAMES EARL RAY and his known aliases:

~~The Royal Orleans,~~
~~Mr. ROGER BRODMANN~~
~~621 St. Louis Street~~

~~The Savoy Hotel~~
~~Mr. EARNEST SCHOLES~~
~~114 Royal Street~~

~~The Corn Stalk Motel~~
~~Mrs. NOBLE~~
~~915 Royal Street~~

~~The NINE-O-Five~~
~~J. MORRIS~~
~~905 Royal Street~~

The Chateau Louisianne located at 205 Royal Street, is now the site of the Alright Parking Garage, 205 Royal Street and does not rent rooms to the public and has not done so for a considerable period of time.

157-10673-out 2-354

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NO 157-10673 :epk

The following investigations were conducted by Special Agent TERRY M. SCOTT in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 25, 1968:

Mrs. LESLIE C. HARVEY, Manager, Powers Junction Motel, Highway 90 and Highway 11, advised her son-in-law, ROBERT POWERS, owns the motel and surrounding businesses and has all of the motel registration cards. Mrs. HARVEY advised her son-in-law cannot be contacted until possibly the next day, April 26, 1968.

Mr. LLOYD B. KENDRICK, Proprietor of the Magnolia Tourist Court, Route 6, Box 312, Chef Menteur Highway, made available his tourist court registration cards for the dates March 8, 1968, through April 25, 1968. A search of these registration cards for JAMES EARL RAY and his aliases was negative.

Mr. LESTER HANSCH, Manager, Congress Inn, 13001 Chef Menteur Highway, made available his motel registration cards for the months of March and April, 1968, in the following alphabetical groups:

"G" for ERIC STARVO GALT
"L" for HARVEY LOWMYER
"R" for JAMES EARL RAY and
"W" for JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON and JOHN WILLARD

The above were reviewed with negative results.

Mr. RICHARD J. PATIN, Proprietor of the Buena Vista Motel, 7531 Chef Menteur Highway, made available motel registration cards for the months of March and April, 1968, which were reviewed for the name of JAMES EARL RAY or any of his aliases, with negative results.

Mr. C. J. ALBERTS, SR., Proprietor of the Carmen-D Motel, 6201 Chef Menteur Highway, made available motel registration cards for the months of March and April, 1968, which were reviewed for the name JAMES EARL RAY or any of his aliases, with negative results.

157-10673-sub 2-355

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NO 157-10673
RGH/ush

On April 25, 1968, and April 26, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana, the following individuals furnished the registration records which were personally reviewed by SA RONALD G. HINKLE for the names JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC STARVO GALT, and all known aliases, with negative results:

J. N. VICKNAIR
Owner, Avalon Motel
4450 Chef Menteur Highway

TED BELOTE
Night clerk - Rustic Lodge
4950 Chef Menteur Highway

JUDY DALTON
Night manager - Glen Rose Motel
7930 Chef Menteur Highway

SAM LOPICCOLA - Top Motel
7418 Chef Menteur Highway

JULES BISTES - Bistes Apartments
Owner
Bistes Apartments
8310 Chef Menteur Highway

EUGENE C. THORNHILL
Accountant
Weber's Motel
9300 Chef Menteur Highway

Mrs. JOHN SLAVICH
Owner
Royal Palm Motel
7800 Chef Menteur Highway

A. V. LANASA
Hollywood Motel
7323 Chef Menteur Highway

157-10673-sub 2-356

NO 157-10673-mah

The following persons made available the registration records for their motels or lodging places for review by SA CHARLES K. JOHNSON on April 25, 1968:

JUDY POSEY, Night Clerk
Parks Plaza Motel
4460 Chef Menteur Highway

RANDY WESTERFIELD, Night Clerk
Sands Motel
4480 Chef Menteur Highway

On April 26, 1968 -

Mrs. JAMES RIZZUTO
Del Mar Motel
8542 Chef Menteur Highway

H. R. BROOKS, Owner
Eastview Apartments
9000 Chef Menteur Highway

The motel records were reviewed with negative results for a registration for JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC S. GALT, and other known aliases for the period from March 15, 1968, to April 25, 1968.

157-10673-sub 2-357

NO 157-10673:emh

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA KEITH D. COY at New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 25, 1968:

The following motels' registration cards were checked from March 15, 1968 to April 25, 1968, for the names JAMES EARL RAY and ERIC STARVO GALT along with aliases used by RAY with negative results:

Howard Johnson Motor Lodge
4200 Old Gentilly Highway
W. T. CHILDS, Manager

NASA Motor Lodge
4940 Chef Menteur Highway
E. E. "PETE" CURTIS

Riviera Motel
6042 Chef Menteur Highway
WILLIAM B. CANAL

Arden's Motel
6318 Chef Menteur Highway
DRUCILLA SISK

De Lux Motel
7400 Chef Menteur Highway
SAM GUCCIONE

Jack's Motor Court
7700 Chef Menteur Highway
FRANK LOPICCOLO

New Orleans East Travel Lodge
5035 Chef Menteur Highway
STUART LANGE

157-10673-sub 2-358

1
NO 157-10673-daf

The following investigation was conducted by SA PATRICK J. DENTE at New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 23, 1968:

Mr. PATRICK CONNELLY, Front Office Manager, Roosevelt Hotel, advised there is no room 1102 in the hotel. He further stated that a review of the hotel's registration cards from January to the present revealed no registration for a DICK DIXON or JAMES EARL RAY or any of his known aliases. A photograph of the subject was exhibited to Mr. CONNELLY and the registration clerks on duty, with negative results.

Mr. NOEL NEQUIN, Bartender, Dave's Cafe, 116 University, advised that he works each day, Monday through Sunday, except on Wednesdays. Mr. NEQUIN was shown photographs of the subject, whom he could not identify as any individual he had observed in his establishment, nor is he familiar with any individual named DICK DIXON.

BERNARD WOHL, Owner, Wohl Apartments, 2111 St. Charles Avenue, advised there is no individual by the name DICK DIXON either residing or employed at the Wohl Apartments. Mr. WOHL was exhibited photographs of the subject which he could not identify as ever having seen in or about the Wohl Apartments.

157-10673-sub 2-359

1
NO 157-10673 -epk

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JOHN E. McDANIELS on May 3, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana:

Mrs. RUBY STOLL, Acting Manager, Royal Chartres Guest House, 508 Chartres Street, furnished her registration records for the period March 17-24, 1968. No registration for JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC S. GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER or JOHN WILLARD was located.

157-10673-sub 2-360

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T57-10673
KDC:kbz

The following investigation was conducted by
SA KEITH D. COY on May 1, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana;

The following hotels and motels were contacted
in regard to the names ERIC STARVO GALT and JAMES EARL RAY.
Their registers were checked for these names from March 15,
1968, until April 26, 1968, with negative results.

Bourbon Orleans Hotel,
717 Orleans Street,
N. P. AUCOIN,
Assistant Manager;

Hotel Maison de Villa,
727 Toulouse,
WILLES OTTO,
Owner;

Kentucky Hotel,
235 Dauphine,
DAVID W. VOLTIN,
-

Maison de L Apartments,
929 Dumaine,
DIANA ROGERS,
Assistant Manager;

Silver Dollar Hotel,
609 Iberville,
JULIA WAINWRIGHT,
-

Vieux Carre Motor Lodge,
920 North Rampart,
CHERYL SPOHN,
Assistant Secretary to the Manager.

157-10673-sub 2-361

1
NO 157-10673 -epk

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent DANIEL P. McLAUGHLIN on May 3, 1968 at New Orleans,
Louisiana:

The following persons made available records
showing registrants at their respective hotel or motel for the
period March 17, through 24, 1968. A check of these records
showed no one registering in the name of ERIC STARVO GALT,
JAMES EARL RAY, JOHN WILLARD or HARVEY LOWMEYER.

JENNIE LOSCH, Assistant Manager,
~~Conchetta Motel~~
~~2620 Tulane Avenue~~

LOUISE BRANDON, Manager
~~Best Western and Eastern Patio Motel~~
~~2820 Tulane Avenue~~

L. E. THOMAS, Manager
~~Capri Motel~~
~~2424 Tulane Avenue~~

N. J. SCOFIELD, Manager
~~Hotel Scofield~~
~~3005 Tulane Avenue~~

157-10673-sub 2-362

1
NO 157-10673
DPM:jah

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DANIEL P. MC LAUGHLIN at New Orleans, Louisiana, on
May 1, 1968:

The following persons were contacted at their
respective places of employment and made available their
hotel registration records for the period March 17 through
March 24, 1968. Examination of these records showed no one
named JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC S. GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER or
JOHN WILLARD registered at the hotels during that period.

JOHN AVON, Manager, Ritz Hotel, 619 Canal Street,
New Orleans, Louisiana

ANDREW CROCCHIOLO, Manager, Lafitte Guest House,
1003 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana

PHALA ADAMS, Manager, Bourbon Apartment Hotel,
500 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana

AL PATE, Manager, Downtowner Motor Hotel, 541
Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana

157-10673-sub 2-363

NO 157-10673

WFK:med

1

SUSPECT: JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE

On April 26, 1968, BEN MALONE, former operator of the Music Box Lounge, which is now closed, advised that JOSEPH (whose last name MALONE did not know) worked as a part time bartender and clean-up man at the Music Box Lounge.

MALONE stated that he did not know JOE's last name, however, stated that he was a "wino" and worked for MALONE for about seven months with the exception of three days when he traveled to Alabama in connection with some sort of family problem. MALONE stated that JOSEPH (last name unknown) left New Orleans on April 16, 1968, and returned on April 18, 1968. MALONE stated that JOSEPH hitchhiked both ways and was brought back to the Music Box Lounge in New Orleans by RAY HILBURN in HILBURN's white Corvair.

MALONE stated that with the exception of the three days that he was in Alabama JOE had been in the Music Box Bar every day for the past seven months or more. In addition, MALONE stated that in his opinion there was no resemblance between JAMES EARL RAY and JOE.

Attempt to develop JOSEPH's last name through State unemployment offices in New Orleans were negative.

157-10673-sub 2-364

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 23, 1968

1

MARIO ORTIZ, Station Manager, Tenneco Grocery Station, 2701 Tulane Avenue, telephone number 822-9555, furnished the following information:

ORTIZ stated that on April 21, 1968, at approximately 7:00 AM, he was in his store and was standing by the safe when an unknown white male, driving a 1965 or 1966 Plymouth Baracuda, brown in color, fast back, bearing an unknown Alabama license, parked in front of the store. ORTIZ stated that this unknown white male was alone in the car and stayed in the car in front of the store for approximately 25 minutes. ORTIZ said that the reason he kept watching this individual was that he was contemplating taking money out of the safe, and he was suspicious of this unknown white male's parking in front of the store for such a long period of time. ORTIZ said that, while this unknown white male was parked in front of the store, he kept his head bent over, and it was hard to see what he really looked like. ORTIZ said that, after approximately 25 minutes, this unknown white male drove off in the Plymouth.

ORTIZ said that approximately an hour later this same unknown white male returned to the Tenneco Grocery Station, and this time he was driving a 1960 or 1961 red Dodge pickup truck, one-half or three-quarter ton, which bore an unknown Alabama license. ORTIZ said, at this time, this unknown white male entered the grocery station, and he was observed to be wearing some type of a work uniform with the shirt blue in color. ORTIZ speculated that this unknown white male might have been some type of air-conditioning worker. ORTIZ said that this unknown white male appeared to be "wandering," and he had a wrinkled forehead. ORTIZ said this unknown white male purchased a beer costing a quarter and that the unknown white male mentioned that he had driven to New Orleans from Alabama, and ORTIZ thought the unknown white male said he was from Birmingham.

On 4/23/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673 sub 2-365
by SA JOHN E. DECKER - smd Date dictated 4/23/68

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NO 157-10673

JED - smd

ORTIZ described this individual as a white male, pale-looking, 40 to 45 years old, normal length dark hair, 170 pounds, and had some type of marking or tattoo on his arm, but exactly what is not known.

ORTIZ advised that he had a newspaper which contained JAMES EARL RAY's picture in it and that he looked at the photograph while this unknown white male was in the grocery station. ORTIZ stated that this unknown white male looked like the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY published in the newspaper. ORTIZ was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, and ORTIZ stated that the unknown white male that was in his grocery station looked like the photograph taken of RAY in 1968 with his eyes closed.

ORTIZ stated that, after this unknown white male purchased the beer, he drove off, and it appeared to ORTIZ that the unknown white male was heading for the Canal Street area. ORTIZ stated that he would immediately contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office if this individual should appear at his station again.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 23, 1968

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CLARENCE TRIPPLETT, 1206 Burdette Street, furnished the following information:

TRIPPLETT advised that on April 9, 1968, at approximately 10:00 AM, he appeared in the New Orleans Criminal Court, Section G, on a theft and possession charge. TRIPPLETT said that, while waiting to go into court, a white male, name unknown, with short hair, short and stout build, asked him for a cigarette. TRIPPLETT said he obliged and took very little interest in this white male at the time but did notice that he had on a blue levi jacket. TRIPPLETT said that he could not describe this white male's pants or shirt. TRIPPLETT said that, when the picture of JAMES EARL RAY was published in the newspaper, he at that time reflected that RAY looked like the white male that he had given a cigarette to in Criminal Court.

TRIPPLETT was shown Identification Order 4182 of JAMES EARL RAY, and TRIPPLETT stated that the photographs taken of RAY in 1960 with the close-cut hair look like the individual that he had spoken to in Criminal Court. TRIPPLETT advised that this white male had only asked him for a cigarette and, therefore, he did not know this individual's name or any other information concerning him. TRIPPLETT stated that he had his hearing in Criminal Court before this unknown white male went to his arraignment and, therefore, he (TRIPPLETT) has no knowledge of what happened to this white male. TRIPPLETT advised he has not seen this white male since that time.

TRIPPLETT advised that he can be reached at home telephone number 865-1819 and is employed at Sutton's, 823 Canal Street, from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, six days a week.

TRIPPLETT said that he could not recall the name of the judge that was presiding in Section G, Criminal Court, on April 9, 1968.

On 4/23/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673 sub 2-366
by SA JOHN E. DECKER - smd Date dictated 4/23/68

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NO 157-10673

DBH:pd

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA DONALD E. HEEB and SA RONALD G. HINKLE at New Orleans,
Louisiana:

On April 23, 1968, Mr. OSCAR F. SCHMITT, Manager,
Deckbar Service Station, 1801 Jefferson Highway, advised
that there is no tavern or lounge by the name of the Deck
Bar nor any bars which are referred to as such. Upon
viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER HARRY RIFE,
SCHMITT advised that he had never seen either of these
individual before.

157-10673-sub 2-367

1
NO 157-10673
JAW/cam

MURKIN

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Mr. VIRGIL HUFF, (Protect Identity), Post Office employee, Bossier City, Louisiana, advised on May 11, 1968, he has no address or forwarding address for BETTYE VELANTI or BETTYE PRITCHARD.

157-10673-sub 2-368

I
NO 157-10673
JAW/cam

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agents RONALD W. BEINNER and JAMES A. WOOTEN:

AT BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA

Re: JOHN PAUL VELANTI -
JAMES W. BROWN

Mr. WILLIAM THORNTON, Bossier City Police Department, Bossier City, Louisiana, advised on May 11, 1968, Chaney Drive has been non-existent for the past three years. He said Chaney Drive consisted of a few apartments which were torn down three years ago and replaced by a Holiday Inn Motel.

Mr. GEORGE DEMANT, Manager, Holiday Inn, Bossier City, Louisiana, advised on May 11, 1968 that motel has the address of Hamilton Road and has never used Chaney Drive as an address. DEMANT said he has never heard of BETTYE VELANTI or BETTYE PRITCHARD.

WILLIAM THORNTON, Police Department, Bossier City, and Deputy Sheriff VOL DOOLEY, advised on May 11, 1968 their records are negative on BETTYE VELANTI or BETTYE PRITCHARD.

A review of current and past city, telephone and crisscross directories at Bossier City, Louisiana was negative on the names BETTYE VELANTI and BETTYE PRITCHARD.

157-10673-sub 2-369

1
NO 157-10673 -epk

The following investigation was conducted at New Orleans, Louisiana, by Special Agent KEVIN J. HARRIGAN, unless otherwise indicated:

On May 4, 1968, Mrs. ~~MORITZ~~ FROSH, Apartment F, 3501 Dante Street, telephone 488-8915, advised Special Agent HARRIGAN that she was highly suspicious of a person possibly hiding out in Apartment D at 3501 Dante. She advised that the person who rented this apartment was a bartender, whose name and place of employment was unknown, but she stated on a few occasions during the past few weeks, she observed another man coming and leaving the Apartment D, and his general description matched that of JAMES EARL RAY.

Mrs. FROSH further advised that the occupant of Apartment D drove a 1965 black Chevrolet, license unknown, which vehicle was presently parked near the apartment.

Special Agent HARRIGAN observed a 1965 Chevrolet bearing Louisiana license 290B600, parked at 3501 Dante. A subsequent check with the License Bureau determined the registered owner to be JOSEPH KELLY DOMINO, 5316 Wilton Drive, New Orleans.

Mrs. FROSH described the person resembling RAY who had been seen by her coming and leaving Apartment D, 3501 Dante, as a white male, 5' 10" tall, 160 pounds, about 28 to 30 years old, well-dressed in a business suit and dark sunglasses. She further advised this person had been seen by her on the last few nights leaving Apartment D shortly after dark, at about 8:00 p.m.

On May 6, 1968, a check with the New Orleans Credit Bureau contained a listing for a JOSEPH KELLY DOMINO, residing at 5316 Wilton. The date of the credit report was 1965 and his occupation was listed as bartender and waiter.

157-10673-sub 2-370

On May 6, 1968, Lieutenant FRED SOULE, Vice Squad, New Orleans Police Department, advised that JOSEPH KELLY DOMINO was the son of SAM DOMINO, a reported LaCosa Nostra figure in the New Orleans area. He described DOMINO as a white male, approximately 40 years old, 175 pounds, who was presently working as a bartender at the Top Of The Mart, International Trade Mart Building, New Orleans. SOULE advised he had heard that DOMINO reportedly associated with various underworld figures, notably Italians, and had been involved in various New Orleans Police Department investigations for vice and narcotics investigations.

On May 6, 1968, Detective BRADY, Narcotics Squad, New Orleans Police Department, advised that their files showed that a JOSEPH KELLY DOMINO, New Orleans Police Department Number 54 452, had been the subject of some New Orleans Police Department investigations regarding alleged narcotics activities; however, he advised information in this regard had never been verified and they presently had no active investigation regarding DOMINO.

On May 6, 1968, Special Agents KEVIN J. HARRIGAN and EDWARD J. CARNEY, JR., maintained a surveillance of Apartment D, 3501 Dante, from the apartment of Mrs. FROSH, Apartment F, 3501 Dante. It should be noted that Mrs. FROSH's apartment is adjacent to that of the apartment rented by JOSEPH KELLY DOMINO, thus affording excellent observation. This surveillance was maintained from approximately 7:00 p.m., until 10:00 p.m., and no activity whatsoever was noted. Bureau Agents could hear the telephone ring eleven times during this period of time in Apartment D, but no activity was noted.

Mrs. FROSH advised on May 6, 1968, that the bartender who rented Apartment D, was observed leaving that apartment by her early that morning, but had not yet returned. She stated that she had remained home in her apartment all day and had not observed the person resembling JAMES EARL RAY at any time during the day, or for the past several days.

On May 7, 1968, Special Agents KEVIN J. HARRIGAN and NEIL E. PRICE maintained a surveillance of Apartment D, 3501 Dante, again from the Apartment of Mrs. FROSH. This surveillance was maintained from approximately 7:00 p.m., until 9:30 p.m.; however, no activity was observed at Apartment D and no one was observed entering or leaving this apartment.

On May 7, 1968, Mrs. FROSH was reinterviewed regarding the person resembling JAMES EARL RAY that she had allegedly observed entering and leaving Apartment D at 3501 Dante. She stated she has not observed this person for the past several days, but felt from physical description of RAY that this might possibly be RAY. From several photographs she selected the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in California in January, 1968, as generally resembling the person she had in mind.

Mrs. FROSH advised she is a widow and remains at home practically all the time. She stated in the event she observes this person either enter or leave Apartment D, she would immediately contact the FBI.

It should be noted that contact was made with Agents of the New Orleans Office who handle Top Hoodlum investigations and they advise that JOSEPH KELLY DOMINO, son of SAM DOMINO, would probably be completely uncooperative due to his alleged underworld connections. In view of this, it was felt it would be better not to contact DOMINO at the present time and wait for Mrs. FROSH to advise when she again observed the person resembling RAY.

1
NO 157-10673
SCL/ush

The following investigation was conducted by SA STANLEY C. LOS, JR., in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 26, 1968, in an effort to obtain a list of the identities and locations of rooming houses in the New Orleans area:

HELEN HILLMAN, Supervisor, Control and Delinquent Unit, Occupational Licenses Administration, Bureau of the Treasury, New Orleans Department of Revenue, New Orleans City Hall, advised that to her knowledge no list of rooming houses exists in her Department. The rooming house permits were mixed in with all of the other Occupational Permits, and a list would entail going through more than 20,000 permits individually. Nothing is filed separately, and all of the files are either in numerical or alphabetical order.

HILLMAN also advised that the New Orleans Health Department did not maintain a list of rooming houses. HILLMAN could make no suggestion where such a list would be obtained.

TIMOTHY A. DRISCOLL, JR., Chief Supervisor, State of Louisiana, Fire Marshal's Office, Louisiana State Office Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that his office did not maintain a list of rooming houses. The Fire Marshal's Office kept records only of buildings which they have inspected and this included very few rooming houses. He added that they do keep records of hotels, motel and some rooming houses which they have inspected; however, all three are filed together, and to get a list of rooming houses would involve going through the entire file which, according to DRISCOLL's estimate, would take weeks. Even then, the list would not be at all comprehensive.

DRISCOLL suggested that the interviewing Agent contact the Fire Prevention Unit of the New Orleans Fire Department.

VAL W. KIENZ, Assistant Director, Fire Prevention Unit, New Orleans Fire Department, City Hall, New Orleans, advised that his Unit did not have a list of rooming houses in the New Orleans area. All the lists in this Department were kept by street number. KIENZ could make no suggestion as to where such a list could be obtained.

JAMES ELLERBUSCH, Supervisor, Department of Safety and Permits, advised that his Department did not have a list of rooming houses in the New Orleans area. He added that it would take months to look through his files, and this would only give a list of rooming houses erected since 1945. ELLERBUSCH could not make any suggestions as to where such a list could be obtained.

157-10673-Sub 2-371

1
NO 157-10673
WFK/cam

GEORGE VICKMAN, Mail Carrier, United States Post Office, International Trade Mart, Room 247, Number 2 Canal Street, advised Special Agent WILLIAM F. KUSCH on April 18, 1968 that photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT did not resemble anyone he recalled ever having seen.

VICKMAN made available his change of address books, which covered the period February, 1966 to date. These record books were examined by Special Agent KUSCH and nothing of significance was noted therein.

157-10673-sub 2-372

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/681
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In the presence of Foreman, GEORGE B. LAUDUN, United States Post Office, Carondelet Street, Sub Station B, Special Agent THOMAS E. DU HADWAY personally reviewed the change of address books of all postal carriers servicing Napoleon Avenue. No change of address notations for JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY LOWMEYER, or ERIC STARVO GALT, or any variations of these names were found.

On 4/15/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673 sub 2-373
by SA THOMAS E. DU HADWAY - kmt Date dictated 4/16/68

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NO 157-10673
WFK/ush

On April 24, 1968, SAs WILLIAM F. KUSCH and WILLIAM B. WOOD contacted BEN MALONE at the Music Box Bar, 1936 Canal Street, New Orleans. MALONE stated that he had been running the Music Box Bar for about a month. He stated that the Music Box had formerly been run by one "CHUCK" METHVIN, whom he stated he has not seen since Monday, April 22, 1968. MALONE stated he knew of no bartender working at the Music Box Bar having the name of JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE; however, he stated up until last Sunday, April 21, 1968, one BILL MILLER had worked at the Music Box and MALONE stated that MILLER was sometimes called "JOE."

On April 25, 1968, WILLIAM MILLER of the Center Hotel on Canal Street, New Orleans, advised SA KUSCH that he was working at the Music Box Bar up until Sunday, April 21, 1968. He stated, however, that no one called him "JOE," and he was unable to suggest who JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE might be. MILLER stated he was discharged honorably from the Navy on May 20, 1946, and had NSN 9289585.

It should be noted that MILLER bore no resemblance to JAMES EARL RAY.

MILLER examined the photograph of RAY and stated RAY resembled an individual that played in a two-man band at the Music Box Bar in July, 1967. He stated he had no additional information about this individual, as he could not recall his name but stated he had been hired by "CHUCK" METHVIN, previously mentioned.

MILLER stated that he thought that METHVIN was currently residing at Ponchatoula, Louisiana, which is about sixty miles from New Orleans on Route 60.

157-10673-sub 2-374

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/2/68

1

Mr. H. ALVIN SHARPE, President, The Educoin Company, 940 Perdido Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, furnished the following information:

He was in Chicago, Illinois, on April 9, 1968. At approximately 2:00 P.M. on that date, he went to the Delta Airlines ticket counter at the O'Hare Airport. He explained that he had a return trip ticket to New Orleans, on Delta Airlines and went to the ticket agent to discuss the possibility of changing his ticket to Eastern Airlines so that he could return to New Orleans, by way of Lexington, Kentucky, where he desired to stop for a day. He stated that while discussing this matter with one of the Delta Ticket Agents, he observed a man talking with one of the seat reservation agents for Delta Airlines. This seat reservation agent is located to the left of the ticket agents as one faces these agents. He continued that he thought the man he observed talking to the seat reservation agent was ARTHUR DARDEN, a Marine Engineer, who resides in New Orleans. He stated his attention was drawn to the man when he over heard the man say that he wanted to go to New Orleans. He recalled the man stated that he did not want to go on the flight that took him by way of Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. SHARPE stated he walked toward the man speaking to him, thinking that he was DARDEN. In speaking he asked this man "What are you doing in Chicago?". The man did not respond, but had a blank look whereupon Mr. SHARPE stated he realized that this man was not DARDEN. He advised that he also realized at that point that the man was shorter in stature than DARDEN. He, therefore, apologized explaining that he thought that he was someone he knew.

Mr. SHARPE stated that this person remained at

On 4/29/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 157-10673 sub 2 375
by SA LESTER G. DAVIS - kmt Date dictated 5/2/68

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