

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND JACKSONVILLE (44-769)
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN.

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED AL
FILED _____

RE NEWARK TEL TO TAMPA AND SAVANNAH APRIL TWENTYSEVEN LAST,
AND NEWARK TEL TO TAMPA APRIL TWENTY NINE LAST.

RE: NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN OR NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT BROWN PLYMOUTH
BEARING FLORIDA LICENSE THREE E FIVE SIX FOUR THREE SEEN
BY MAN IN SAVANNAH, GA., APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST BEING DRIVEN
BY MAN DESCRIBED AS RESEMBLING JAMES EARL RAY.

AFTER EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY TAMPA OFFICE TO TRACE VEHICLE
ON MAY TWO INSTANT, MISS. ANN LIBERTY, SECRETARY AT JIMMY SPEARS
CENTRAL FLORIDA AUTO AUCTION, AKA. ORLANDO AUTO AUCTION, ORLANDO,
FLA., ADVISED NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH, VIN P TWO FIVE TWO
TWO SIX SEVEN SIX NAUGHT EIGHT WAS SOLD JANUARY SIXTEEN, SIXTY
EIGHT TO WADE PHILLIPS, PHILLIPS BROTHERS, PALATKA, FLA. AUCTION
AT ORLANDO HAD NO RECORD OF ANY FLORIDA LICENSE TAG ON VEHICLE.

JACKSONVILLE AT PALATKA DETERMINE FROM PHILLIPS BROTHERS TO
WHOM SOLD CAR AND CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE
OWNER AND IF THIS MAN IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO BH, NK, ME AND SV.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 744-WJA 72-UK M Per [Signature]

157-3231-336A

FBI TAMPA

736PM URGENT 5/2/68 MJR

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND JACKSONVILLE (44-769)
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN.

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AIRMAIL COPIES TO BH, NK, ME AND SV.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CJA

FBI JACKSVLE

TKS
GJM

FBI WASH DC

SEARCHED
INDEXED
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FILED

Wash copy destroyed

157-3231-336A

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 5/1/68

FROM : SA JOHN J. GAFFNEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Newark teletype to Tampa, 4/29/68.

On 5/1/68, OSCAR BONIS (PROTECT IDENTITY), vice president, Broadway National Bank of Tampa, made available for examination their copy of collection notice #39114, dated 1/11/68 for collection of \$1,000. for Automotive Rentals, Inc., Pennsauken, N.J. for a 1965 Plymouth Fury, II. This collection ~~notice~~ notice shows that this amount was paid by C & R Motors on 1/12/68 in the total amount of \$1,001.25.

On 5/1/68, J. RALPH CAMERO, owner of C & R Motors, N. Florida Ave., Tampa was recontacted. He advised after review of all of his records that this firm did purchase this vehicle from Automotive Rentals, Inc., receiving possession of the vehicle on 1/4/68 and that their records further show this vehicle was sold for \$979. on 1/9/68, at the Auto Auction at Orlando, Florida. He stated he does not know who purchased it from the auto auction but that the records of the auction would reveal to whom the vehicle was sold.

LEAD: AT ORLANDO, FLA.

Will contact official of the auto auction to determine to whom this 1965 Plymouth ~~Fury~~ Fury II, was sold. This vehicle has VIN #P252267608 and bears 1967-68 Florida license 3E-5643.

*5/1/68 - S/H Leads checked at Orlando
Auto Auction - negative. Suggested review of
C & R.*

XXXXXXXXXXXX

2 - Tampa
JJG;jjg
(2)

file of 157-3231 - Ser. 336B
[Signature]



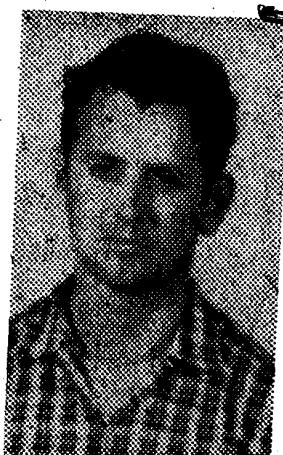
5010-108

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



1954



1959



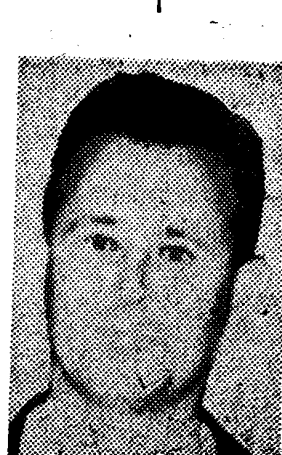
1960



1960



1966



1968

ate.)

Six Faces Of Suspected Assassin

James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, who is being sought in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Memphis April 4, is a man described as a loner. His physical appearance is subject to change, as these police and prison photos from 1954 to 1968 attest. The most current information

available on Ray's description is: Height 5 feet 10; weight 163 to 174 pounds; brown hair; blue eyes. He has a small scar on his forehead and right palm. His left ear protrudes farther than his right ear does. White male about 40.

AP Wirephotos

PAGE 10-A
ST. PETERSBURG EVENING
INDEPENDENT, ST.
PETERSBURG, FLA.

Date: 4/24/68
Edition: LOCAL
Author:
Editor: ROBERT M. STIFF
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 157-3231
Submitting Office: TAMPA

☐ Being Investigated

157-3231-337

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SA DAVID BRUMBLE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/26/68 GEORGE WOODRUFF, 802 Roser Park Dr. So., St. Petersburg, made complaint to St. Petersburg PD that RAY had been residing at an apartment at that address for past three days. PD surrounded the house and notified FBI. Woodruff is a known chronic complainant with severe mental problem (subject of 44 cases Tampa Division) has furnished false information several times in past. Individual he stated as look-a-like positively identifies not to be Ray and is WILLIAM EDGAR VAN FOSSAN, w/m, DOB [REDACTED], New Brighton, Penna., FBI # 57653 G. Van Fossan eliminated as suspect by landlady who identified PD photo and fact that he is 6'4" and weighs 225 lbs.

DAB/as



5010-108

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

157-3231-338

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, (157-3231)

DATE: 4/27/68

FROM : SA ROBERT W. KNIGHT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 3:40 PM, this date, Mrs. THELMA DINGMAN, 1118 Sunset Point Rd., Clearwater, Fla., telephonically advised that she had a roomer that might be identical with RAY. She said his name is EDMONDSON (FNU); that he is in his 40's; slender; 110-120 lbs.; medium height; and drives a white car make unknown.

Supr. BELANGER advised at 4:30 PM, and he assigned SA RUTLAND to handle. SA RUTLAND was notified at 4:40 PM.

RWK:rwk
(2)

157-3231-339

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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APR 27 1968	
FBI — TAMPA	



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-3231)

DATE: 4/28/68

FROM : SA JOHN J. RUTLAND

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re: FNU EDMONDSON
Suspect

On 4/27/68, Mrs. THELMA DINGMAN, 1118 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater, Florida, telephonically contacted the Tampa Office and advised that captioned individual considered a suspect in the KING murder.

Mrs. DINGMAN was contacted at her residence on 4/27/68, and advised as follows:

On 4/26/68, an individual driving a white convertible appeared at her home in answer to an advertisement of an apartment for rent. He was told that another party had first refusal but that he should call on 4/27/68. This individual said he could not pay \$75.00 rental and agreement finalized at \$60.00 monthly.

On 4/27/68, this individual again called and was told that he could have the apartment after which he came to the residence, went directly to the apartment and commenced unloading his clothing and effects. Mrs. DINGMAN went out to collect rent at which time he said that he did not have the money for the rent and would not be paid until the following Friday. He was then denied the apartment but left his clothing with intention to return with rental money on 4/28/68.

Mrs. DINGMAN said that this individual did not walk with a limp but had crutches in his car. He told her that he worked for the government. She said that she observed letters in his personal effects after his departure dated 1965 and 1966, bearing address FNU EDMONDSON.

Mrs. DINGMAN on being displayed photographs of subject RAY said that her eyesight is extremely poor and that she would not be able to recognize RAY or anyone else if seen.

She said that only reason to feel that this individual might be involved in KING murder was that he drove a white car, acted strangely, and attempted to occupy apartment without paying rental.

It is to be noted that Mrs. DINGMAN is 72 years of age, appears senile, and admitted that she would like for FBI to check on this individual as she would like to know more about him before he became a tenant.

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

In view of above no further investigation being conducted.



J. J. 100

157-3231-340

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

MELVIN LEMONS, Secretary to the Director, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, advised CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, FBI # 368794A, is at the Medical Center for psychiatric treatment with the long-term goal of an eventual return to the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

He stated on April 2, 1968, the Medical Center directed a letter to the U. S. Probation Office at Little Rock, Arkansas, stating that although BILLINGS now appears to be competent, several months ago he was too psychiatrically disturbed to participate in any court here. A plan is to examine him again in a month to determine whether or not he is competent to participate in legal proceedings.

LEMONS stated that while BILLINGS was at the Medical Center on a previous occasion a psychiatric report prepared April 17, 1967, by Dr. ANDREW F. GUSCHWAN, M.D., Staff Psychiatrist, contained the following diagnosis:

"Schizophrenic Reaction, chronic undifferentiated type, sociopathic personality disturbance, anti-social type, migraine headaches, with possible brain damage."

On 4/26/68 at Springfield, Missouri

by SA JAMES A. MITCHELL - LAC

File #

Date dictated

157-3231-341

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FBI - TAMPA	

4/26/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

1

CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, inmate, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, was advised of the identity of JAMES A. MITCHELL as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was told the purpose of the interview concerned a report he had made sometime ago to the FBI that he had been offered \$50,000. to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING by two individuals identified only as JAMES and EDDIE. This took place in Columbia, South Carolina, in about March, 1965. He was furnished a warning and waiver form, which he read and executed. He then furnished the following oral information:

In early 1965, in Columbia, South Carolina, he met a soldier stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, who was to be discharged within a few days. His name was JIM or GLENN BARBER, but he is not sure of the first name or the spelling of the last name. He had just returned from Panama, and he believes he held the rank of Corporal. BARBER had marijuana and pep pills in his possession and was a very convincing talker. BARBER had met a female in Columbia named JOHNNIE BLACKWELL. She worked as a waitress at a lounge he believes was called the "Downtown," located near Chubby's Steak House in Columbia. She was from a little town twenty miles south of Columbia, name unknown. BLACKWELL roomed with a girl named JUNE TAYLOR, somewhere on Bull Street in Columbia. Both girls were prostitutes, and BILLINGS lived part of the time with TAYLOR. TAYLOR worked at a night club there called the "Red Rooster."

BLACKWELL had met two men known as JAMES and EDDIE and had filled a prostitution date with JAMES for \$50. The initial meeting took place in some club, name unknown, located near Chubby's Steak House, possibly the "Downtown." BLACKWELL told JIM she had to leave because she had a date with a soldier from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, named BARBER. JAMES asked her to ask BARBER if he could get ahold of any weapons, whereupon she told him BARBER had a machine gun.

On 4/26/68 at Springfield, Missouri

by SA JAMES A. MITCHELL - LAC

File #

Date dictated 4/26/68

157-3231-342

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KC 44-760	
FBI - TAMPA	

KC 44-760

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JAMES expressed an interest in buying it from BARBER and told her to pass this on to him, which she agreed to do. The prostitution date was filled in a motel in town, name unknown.

The following night, at the V.F.W., he, JAMES, EDDY and BARBER met. TAYLOR and BLACKWELL were present, as well as two other girls who worked at the "Red Rooster," but this was their night off. He does not recall their names. This was the first time he had met JAMES and EDDY. The men went outside and BARBER gave them each a stick of marijuana which he had brought back from Panama. They all sat in JAMES's white 1964-65 Lincoln Continental and smoked marijuana. The Lincoln had a Tennessee license plate beginning with the number 2, which designates Memphis. JAMES was always smoking big cigars and wore a large diamond ring. He understood JAMES has money in Mississippi and Tennessee. He owns land in Clarksdale, Mississippi, has a big car lot in Memphis and a night club. In the old days he was a bootlegger. JAMES despises the Negro race and, particularly, any with Communist leanings.

While in the car, JAMES told BARBER he understood he had a .50-caliber machine gun and BARBER said he did. JAMES asked if he wanted to sell it and he said, "Yes." Either JAMES or EDDIE asked where the machine gun was and how long it would take to get it. BARBER said three days because it was in Westwego, Louisiana, in care of a friend who ran a night club, The Canal Bank Inn. He never heard this man's name. JAMES or EDDIE asked BARBER if he had any ammunition for it, and he said he had a whole belt. One of the men then offered him a thousand dollars for the machine gun.

They all met again the next night at the largest drive-in restaurant in Columbia, name unrecalled. JAMES or EDDIE asked him if he had ever used the machine gun before, and he said he used one while in military service. It was agreed that BILLINGS would take BARBER to Westwego, Louisiana, which is on the west bank of New Orleans, to get the machine gun. They were to meet JAMES and EDDIE on a certain unrecalled date in Columbia and collect \$1,000. for the machine gun. The meet was to be at some unrecalled motel. BILLINGS stated he has trouble remembering things that happened this long ago.

KC 44-760

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He drove BARBER to get the machine gun at the Canal Bank Inn, and BARBER contacted some man outside of his presence who reportedly told him the weapon had not arrived. He and BARBER stayed in an apartment house at the rear of the Canal Bank Inn for two days waiting for the weapon to arrive, but it never did. He became irritated with BARBER and then felt BARBER never had such a weapon. BILLINGS returned alone to Columbia, South Carolina, and he understood BARBER was going to his home in Fort Myers, Florida. BARBER's parents reportedly lived in and operated a trailer park at Fort Myers. BILLINGS stated that at the time all this was going on he had and was driving a 1959 Chevrolet convertible, maroon in color, bearing a Maryland Temporary Tag. He bought the car under his true name from Luby's Chevrolet in Baltimore, Maryland.

Upon his return to Columbia he met with JAMES and EDDIE and informed them he did not get the weapon. He was told the plan was for him and BARBER to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING for \$50,000. \$5,000. was to be in advance, with the remaining \$45,000. to be paid to them in Greenville, South Carolina. JAMES said KING had to be "wiped out" because J. EDGAR HOOVER had reported KING to be a confirmed Communist and the most notorious liar of our day. The killing was to take place along a scheduled march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. The machine gun was to be placed in the back of a paneled truck and driven to a spot on the Selma-to-Montgomery route. When the front line of marchers, including Dr. KING, approached the spot, the rear doors of the truck would be opened and the marchers machine-gunned. The truck was to come from some other state and purchased legally in the name of a deceased person. They would then drive the paneled truck away from the line of march to a country road where a passenger car would be parked. The truck would be abandoned and then they would travel into Montgomery, Alabama, by a devious back-roads route. They would then travel to Greenville, South Carolina, where they would meet JAMES and EDDIE. JAMES would tell them how to get to Sydney, Australia, via Mexico, on a freighter.

JAMES has a friend who formerly lived in Mississippi but now has a sheep ranch in Broken Bow, Australia. This man would help set them up in a bar or some other type of legitimate business.

KC 44-760

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When he told JAMES and EDDIE that BARBER could not produce the machine gun, they said the plan had been dropped because MARTIN LUTHER KING announced he was not going to participate in the march.

He described JAMES as white male American, age 40; 5 feet, 10 inches; 210 pounds; blue eyes; brown hair, graying on the sides. JAMES lives on a farm eight miles from Memphis, in Mississippi.

EDDIE described as white male American; 6 feet, 1 inch; 180 pounds; brown hair; age 38, good dresser, residence Memphis, Tennessee.

BARBER described white male American, 22; 5 feet, 8 inches; 170 pounds; black hair; husky build, and good looking. He believes BARBER a psychiatric case and believes this was the reason he was discharged from the military.

He has seen JAMES and EDDIE since the above incident; however, he is not going to say more unless the Government dismisses an Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle charge against him. He has two detainers against him, and one is a State detainer. The federal detainer is from U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, and this detainer prevents him from making parole. He is eligible for parole on his current 5-year sentence in September 1968. He might get a parole to a State detainer, but parole would not be favorably acted upon with a federal detainer on file. If this detainer were removed he would furnish the full names of JAMES and EDDIE and where they could be located, in addition to subsequent contacts he has had with these men. He was told that no promises of any kind could be made in this regard.

A photograph of JAMES EARLY RAY, FBI # 308443A, taken at the Missouri Department of Corrections, Jefferson City, Missouri, on March 17, 1960, was shown to BILLINGS. and he stated that he does not know this individual either by name or photograph.

BILLINGS admitted he was at the Medical Center for psychiatric treatment. He has a writ in federal court under the provisions of Title 18, Section 2255, U. S. Code,

KC 44-760

5

trying to get his original Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle conviction set aside on the grounds he was incompetent at the time. He was at the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, but was recently transferred to the Medical Center because he has been seeing a red man with a green coat and alligator shoes. This red man is responsible for all his troubles. He is not visible to him now, but he does see him when he is alone, but not since he arrived here in February 1968.

The following is a description of BILLINGS as obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Height	6'
Weight	190 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Born	[redacted], in North Carolina (no town)
FBI #	368794A
Wife	OMA BILLINGS Box 214, Toughkenamon, Pennsylvania
Mother	VIRGINIA BILLINGS
Father	P. B. BILLINGS (Address same as above)

FBI

Date: 4/27/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P
 SUBJECT: MURKIN
 (OO Memphis)

Re Baltimore teletype to Bureau dated 4/25/68.

Enclosed herewith for Bureau and all receiving offices are two (2) copies each of FD-302s concerning CARLOS LEE BILLINGS.

Referenced communication reveals CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, former IO Fugitive No. 4017, in ITSP prison break case, Office of Origin Little Rock, received an offer from JAMES (LNU) and EDDIE (LNU) of \$50,000. to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING in March of 1965.

The FD-302s concern interview with CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, who is currently an inmate at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, and a psychiatric evaluation of BILLINGS.

LEADS:

COLUMBIA:

AT COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA:

Attempt to locate and interview JOHNNIE BLACKWELL and JUNE TAYLOR to confirm story and further identify individuals named by BILLINGS.

3-Bureau (Enc. 2)
 2-Memphis (Enc. 2)
 2-Baltimore (Enc. 2)
 2-New Orleans (Enc. 2)
 2-Tampa (Enc. 2)
 2-Columbia (Enc. 2)

2-Kansas City

RBH/rl
 (15)

157-3231-343

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

[Handwritten signature]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
 Special Agent in Charge

KC 44-760

TAMPA:

AT FT. MYERS, FLORIDA:

Attempt to locate and interview BARBER's parents operating trailer park in 1965.

NEW ORLEANS:

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA:

Conduct investigation at Canal Bank Inn to confirm story or further identify individuals.

MEMPHIS:

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:

Attempt to identify JAMES (LNU), owner of large parking lot that area.

5/3/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)
MURKIN
(OO:MEMPHIS)

Re Kansas City airtel, 4/27/68, enclosing FD 302a concerning CARLOS LEE BILLINGS.

Re airtel requested Tampa to locate and interview parents of JIM or GLENN BARBER, who were reportedly operating trailer park in Ft. Myers, Fla., in 1965.

The following contacts were made by SA A. LEWIS BARNETT in the Ft. Myers, Fla., area on May 2 and 3, 1968, in an effort to locate a family by the name of BARBER who operated a trailer park in Ft. Myers, in 1965, or to locate a record of JIM or GLENN BARBER. All contacts were negative:

PAM PETTIT, Lee County Zoning Board, Lee County Courthouse

KILLEN PARABEE, Lee County Tax Collector's Office, Lee County Courthouse. (It is noted that Mrs. PARABEE advised that a family by the name of BARBER had never obtained a permit to operate a trailer park in Lee County.)

Mr. PAUL CALDWELL, Lee County Clerk's Office, Land Records, Lee County Courthouse

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
2 - Kansas City (44-760)
2 - Tampa
ALB:ev
(9) *Ar*

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Barnett *ALB*

157-3231-343A

TP 157-3231

**Mrs. RUTH BAUCON, Lee County Clerk's Office,
Land-Lease Agreements, Lee County Courthouse**

**Mrs. RUTH WERTZ, Better Business Division,
Ft. Myers-Lee County Chamber of Commerce**

**MAY WISE, Caloosa Trailer Park, 1200 N.
Tamiami Trail, North, Ft. Myers, Fla.**

**ALBERT MUSTEDT, Hidden Cove Trailer Park,
2961 Frierson St., Ft. Myers.**

**Mrs. M. WELCH, Palm 'N Pine Trailer Town,
1016 Superior, Ft. Myers**

**Mr. WILLIAM SONNENBERG, Sun-N-Pan Trailer
Park, Rt. 80, Ft. Myers, Fla.**

**Mrs. GLADYS COON, Ft. Myers Trailer Park
and Supply, 311 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers**

**BYRON TENNISON, Secretary and Treasurer,
Florida Mobile Home Association, 311
Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers. (Mr. TENNISON
advised that his organization keeps records of all major
trailer parks and, in his capacity as Manager of the
Ft. Myers Trailer Park and Supply Co., for the last 12
years, he has become familiar with all trailer parks in
the area of Ft. Myers. He stated he feels that had a
family by the name of BARKER operated a trailer park
for any length of time in the Ft. Myers area, he would
know about it. He stated he cannot associate the name
of BARKER with any trailer park operation in Lee County.)**

**HENRY WRIGHT, Identification Officer, Lee
County SO**

SHELLY DENKO, Records Clerk, Ft. Myers PD

CAROL BARRY, Lee County Credit Bureau.

**The Ft. Myers telephone and city directories
shows no listing under the name of GLENN or JAMES BARKER
nor a Barber Trailer Park.**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3232)

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SPC AL L. SMITH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 6:58 PM this date Mr. PHILLIP LEESE, 610 Key Road, Titusville, Fla., telephone 267-6225 telephonically advised that he observed an individual in Titusville 4/22/68 which he believes could possibly have been GALT. LEESE advised he observed this individual hitchhiking on US Hwy 1, South carrying an attache case and dressed in slacks, white shirt with long tie. Leese stated that he is an amateur artist and he has made an adjusted sketch from the photo as published in the newspaper and he feels that the individual he observed could be considered to be a 50 - 60% chance of being identical as far as physical appearance is concerned.

SA Hagy, acting for Supervisor Belanger, assigned SA B. Ryan, Cocoa RA, lead to contact Leese and determine what information can be developed from Leese and thereafter submit results to Tampa. SA Ryan so advised.

Submitted for information.

als.
(2)

*4/29/68
SA Ryan adv.
info. developed
re: MURKIN
memo.
M*

157-3231-344

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

#4 1/5



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

DATE: 5/10/68

FROM : SA BARRY WILLIAM RYAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Rememo of Clerk AL SMITH dated 4/26/68.

On 4/26/68, Mr. PHILLIP LEESE, 610 Key Rd., Titusville, Fla., was contacted re captioned matter and he furnished the following information:

He advised that on 4/22/68 he was traveling south on U.S.Hwy. #1 in Titusville, Fla., and hitchhiking at the corner of Julia St. and U. S. #1 in Titusville as a W/M with bushy hair who seemed to have very similar characteristics to an individual whom he believed to be wanted. He stated that all that week he had this individual on his mind and, on 4/26/68, he looked through some old newspapers and saw the photograph of JAMES RAY. He stated that he saw this individual hiking at approximately 5:00 p.m., on 4/22/68. This individual fit the approximate description of RAY, aka Galt, had fresh clothing, an attache case, and a thin mustache.

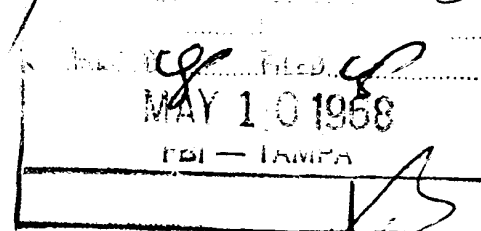
LEESE advised that he is an amateur artist and that the newspaper photograph taken out of the paper was touched up by him and he believed the individual he saw hitchhiking was very similar to the touched-up photograph which he sketched from the newspaper. (This photograph has been entered in the 1A section of this file.)

LEESE advised that the individual he saw was a W/M, 5'8", 175-180 lbs., approximately 36, slightly round-shouldered; dark brown thick hair, moderately heavy sideburns; carrying an attache case, grey or blue, approximately 3" thick. This individual was wearing a thin mustache and had a striking modern-type tie, yellow in design. He advised that his touching up on the above-mentioned photograph constituted the following:

Softened eye-tone (eyes too prominent on photograph in newspaper)



1 - Tampa
BWR:bb
(1)



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

TP 157-3231

lowered right eyelid slightly

added hair to sides (to make it fuller)

added thin mustache

The following individuals were contacted with negative results in attempt to identify the hitchhiker whom LEESE saw in the vicinity of Julia and U.S.#1 in Titusville:

JERRY F. TIERESE
208 Julia St.

JOE SIMMONS
Standard Shoe Repair
210 Julia St.

ERNEST GILLIAM, JR.
305 Julia St.

Mr. BOB HATMAKER, owner of United Repossessions Car Lot, corner of Julia Street and U.S. #1 in Titusville, was contacted regarding the above. HATMAKER, as were the other individuals, was shown a photograph, supra, furnished by LEESE, and advised that the individual looked very familiar to him. HATMAKER consulted with his employee, D. R. PHILLIPS, and PHILLIPS also viewed the photograph. After several minutes of discussion, it was definitely agreed that the individual in this photograph is a very good resemblance to an individual who hitchhikes from the same corner (Julia and U.S. #1) on at least one or two occasions every week. HATMAKER and PHILLIPS advised that this person is somewhat of a mental problem and is believed to have the first name, GEORGE (LNU). HATMAKER and PHILLIPS stated that this individual does have a pencil-thin mustache, fits the general description above and, on two or three different occasions, came into the United Repossessions Car Lot and attempted to purchase a repossessed car. When this person's credit was checked, it was determined he had extremely poor credit.

Neither HATMAKER nor PHILLIPS could remember this individual's true name, but advised that he can be observed at this location once or twice a week around 5:00 hitchhiking south on U.S. #1. HATMAKER presumed

TP 157-3231

that this individual lived in the immediate area as he, HATMAKER, has seen this individual on numerous occasions. HATMAKER also presumed that this individual who was hitchhiking was perhaps going to work at this time.

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
AND ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)

MURKIN

OO: Memphis

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of photograph of subject JAMES EARL RAY, which was taken 1/4/66 at Missouri State Penitentiary.

Two copies of above-mentioned photograph are enclosed for each of the Continental Offices.

This additional photograph is being furnished, inasmuch as resemblance is quite different from previous photographs furnished, and it may be helpful in aiding sources to identify subject.

Also, it is to be noted that WALTER TERRY RIFE has been located and interviewed in this matter.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3-Bureau (Enc. 4)

2-Each Continental Office (Enc. 2 each) *Tampa*

2-Kansas City

RBH:lib

(113)

157-3231-345

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 27 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

[Handwritten signature]

Approved: [Signature] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his prompt location. Ray has been the subject of a massive search since the gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel.

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom FBI wanted notices have been posted determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery.

Possessing an arrest record dating back to 1949, Ray has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders.

A 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [redacted], Ray is approximately 5'10" tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably.

Described as a "loner and "drifter," with a "rural" quality in his speech, Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

157-3231-346
[Handwritten signature]





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 1968

✓ 157-3231
JAMES EARL RAY, also known as
Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard, James McBride, James
Walton, W. C. Herron and James
O'Conner

FUGITIVE

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his earliest possible location.

Ray has been the subject of a massive and intensive search since the brutal gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. One rifle bullet, believed fired from the window of a nearby rooming house, felled the victim.

157-3231-347
J. Edgar Hoover
[Signature]

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices have been posted in the FBI's Identification Division, succeeded in determining that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery, based on a Federal warrant issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri. He had been confined at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in March, 1960, with a 20-year sentence following conviction for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In September, 1966, while serving the sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri. He was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary since April 23, 1967.

Ray, who has an arrest record dating back to 1949 and has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders, has also been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail, the Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, State Prisons and the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

He served in the Army between February, 1946, and December, 1948, received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest and was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Ray is a 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [REDACTED]. He is approximately 5'10" inches tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair which he has worn cut short. He has a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand. He has been described as having a straight, narrow nose and straight and even teeth and to have a nervous habit of occasionally tugging at an ear lobe. His left ear protrudes noticeably.

Acquaintances describe him as a "loner" and "drifter" whose language and diction reflect a "rural" quality and indicate he has had limited education.

He is reportedly a fan of western and country music, drinks vodka and beer, dresses neatly and claims past employment as a merchant seaman and cook on Mississippi River vessels. He is known to have worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

He is known as an avid dancer who has taken dancing lessons. He also completed a course at a school of bartending in the Los Angeles area early in 1968.

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories.

4/29/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

(OO: Memphis)

Re Tampa teletype to Bureau dated 4/24/68.

Re: Suspect resembling subject JAMES EARL RAY
on PAA Flight 439 from Miami to St. Croix,
Virgin Islands, 4/8/68

Pan American Airlines records indicate that Seat 7F
on Flight 439 from Miami to St. Croix, Virgin Islands, on
4/8/68, was occupied by EARL NULI, 1308 N. W. 19th Street,
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Investigation at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, has
determined that he is not identical with subject JAMES EARL
RAY.

Seat 9F on Flight 439 was not occupied.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info) (RM)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (RM)
2 - Tampa (RM)
1 - Miami
RMJ:vc
(8)

157-3231-348

SEARCHED <u>5</u>	INDEXED <u>5</u>
SERIALIZED <u>5</u>	FILED <u>5</u>
APR 30 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (137-1613)
~~XXXXXXXX~~

FROM : SA JOHN R. BRETT

SUBJECT: TP 318-PC

DATE: 4/30/68

☒ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)
☐ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R
☐

Dates of Contact 4/25/68

Titles and File #s on which contacted

SHERMAN CHADWICK KAMINSKY
MURKIN

166-296

157-3231

Purpose and results of contact

☒ NEGATIVE
☐ POSITIVE
☐ STATISTIC

Informant does not know anything about either
of the above fugitives. (Case Agents advised by RS)

Informant has been in New York on business but
furnished nothing of current interest ~~XX~~ in the hoodlum field.
He advised he has moved his boat over to the Tampa Yacht Club
because of the lack of space at his docks right now.

☐ Informant certified that he has
furnished all information obtained
by him since last contact.

Rating
fair

Coverage
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
same
MAY 1 1968
FBI - TAMPA

1122-3231

157-3231-350

FBI LOS ANG.

10:27PM URGENT 4-29-68 DPK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BALTIMORE, CHARLOTTE, DALLAS, DETROIT,
LAS VEGAS, LITTLE ROCK, LOUISVILLE, MIAMI, MINNEAPOLIS,
NEW HAVEN, OKLAHOMA CITY, PHILADELPHIA, SACRAMENTO, ST. LOUIS,
SAN FRANCISCO, TAMPA, AND WASHINGTON FIELD
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

REMYTEL TO BUREAU APRIL TWENTY SIX LAST.

RE: TELEPHONE BOOTHS, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES.

JAMES EARL RAY RESIDED IN HOLLYWOOD AREA, LOS ANGELES,
FROM NOVEMBER NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN, THROUGH
MARCH SEVENTEEN LAST, APPROXIMATELY. NOVEMBER NINETEEN
UNTIL APPROXIMATELY JANUARY TWENTY RESIDED NEAR ST.
FRANCIS HOTEL AND JANUARY TWENTY ONE TO MARCH SEVENTEEN
RESIDED THERE. TOLL NUMBERS FROM TELEPHONE BOOTHS AT THE
HOTEL ARE BEING ANALYZED FOR ANY POSSIBLE CALLS BY SUBJECT
WHILE IN LOS ANGELES AREA.

FOLLOWING NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN
CALLED FROM THE TELEPHONE BOOTHS LOCATED IN THE ST.
FRANCIS HOTEL.

END PAGE ONE

4:15 PM
Montegar adv.
Salvatore adv.

Bradenston
and

157-3231-351

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Montegar

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

BALTIMORE

FEBRUARY ELEVEN, SIXTY EIGHT, OXON HILL, MARYLAND,
TEN ZERO THREE AM, SIX THREE ZERO DASH THREE ONE EIGHT TWO.

CHARLOTTE

FEBRUARY FIFTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, PEMBROKE, NORTH CAROLINA,
SEVEN FIFTY THREE PM, FIVE TWO ONE DASH FOUR SIX EIGHT NINE.

MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA,
NINE THIRTEEN AM, SEVEN THREE FIVE DASH FOUR TWO ZERO NINE.

DALLAS

MARCH TWELVE, SIXTY EIGHT, FORT WORTH, SIX ELEVEN PM, NINE
TWO FOUR DASH NINE THREE ZERO NINE.

DETROIT

FEBRUARY TWENTY NINE, SIXTY EIGHT, ST. INGACE, MICHIGAN,
TIME NOT KNOWN, SIX FOUR THREE DASH ONE TWO EIGHT SEVEN.

LAS VEGAS

DECEMBER TWENTY THREE, SIXTY SEVEN, LAS VEGAS, THREE TWENTY
EIGHT PM, SEVEN THREE FIVE DASH NINE SEVEN ONE THREE.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

LA 44-1574

LITTLE ROCK

FEBRUARY SIXTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, LITTLE ROCK, ONE FORTY SEVEN PM, SIX SIX FOUR DASH ONE FOUR SEVEN EIGHT. TICKET REFLECTS THIS COLLECT CALL TO MRS. VERA D. AND KEN STURGIS, EIGHT ZERO TWO WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, LITTLE ROCK.

LOUISVILLE

JANUARY TWELVE, SIXTY EIGHT, STURGIS, NINE TWELVE PM, THREE THREE THREE DASH TWO SEVEN TWO EIGHT.

MIAMI

FEBRUARY FIFTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, FORT LAUDERDALE, ELEVEN FORTY EIGHT AM, FIVE SIX FOUR DASH TWO THREE SEVEN ONE.

FEBRUARY SIXTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, FORT LAUDERDALE, TWELVE NINETEEN PM, FIVE SIX FOUR DASH TWO THREE SEVEN ONE.

MINNEAPOLIS

JANUARY TWENTY ONE, SIXTY EIGHT, MINNEAPOLIS, ONE THIRTY FOUR AM, EIGHT SIX SIX DASH FOUR FOUR THREE NINE.

NEW HAVEN

FEBRUARY TWENTY, SIXTY EIGHT, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT, FIVE ELEVEN PM, EIGHT FOUR SEVEN DASH NINE ZERO FIVE TWO.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

LA 44-1574

FEBRUARY TWENTY SIX, SIXTY EIGHT, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT,
ELEVEN EIGHTEEN PM, THREE THREE SIX DASH FOUR NINE FOUR SEVEN.

OKLAHOMA CITY

FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, MIDWEST CITY, ONE TWENTY
ONE PM, SEVEN THREE SEVEN DASH FIVE EIGHT SEVEN SIX.

PHILADELPHIA

JANUARY THREE, SIXTY EIGHT, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,
SEVEN THIRTY SEVEN PM, TWO FOUR SEVEN DASH TWO ZERO TWO SEVEN.

DECEMBER TWELVE, SIXTY SEVEN, SHARON HILL, PENNSYLVANIA,
EIGHT SIXTEEN PM, FIVE EIGHT SIX DASH TWO ZERO SIX ZERO.

SACRAMENTO

DECEMBER EIGHTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, SACRAMENTO, SIX ZERO
SEVEN PM, NINE TWO FIVE DASH EIGHT FOUR ZERO THREE.

DECEMBER TWENTY, SIXTY EIGHT, SACRAMENTO, TEN ZERO
FIVE PM, NINE TWO FIVE DASH EIGHT FOUR ZERO THREE.

ST. LOUIS

MARCH TEN, SIXTY EIGHT, KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI, TEN FORTY
EIGHT AM, SEVEN EIGHT ONE DASH EIGHT SEVEN SEVEN SIX.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

LA 44-1574

SAN FRANCISCO

FEBRUARY NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA,
EIGHT TEN PM, TWO FIVE TWO DASH FOUR SEVEN ONE THREE.
TICKET REFLECTS PERSON TO PERSON CALL TO LENORE WIDEN, NINE
FOUR THREE BRENTWOOD.

FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, SAUSALITO, TWO FORTY
THREE PM, THREE THREE TWO DASH FIVE FIVE NINE TWO.

FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, SAUSALITO, SEVEN TWENTY
THREE PM, THREE THREE TWO DASH FIVE FIVE NINE TWO.

FEBRUARY NINETEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, SAUSALITO, THREE FORTY
THREE PM, THREE THREE TWO DASH FIVE FIVE NINE TWO.

FEBRUARY NINETEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, REDWOOD CITY, SEVEN TWENTY
NINE PM, THREE SIX FIVE DASH NINE SEVEN SIX THREE.

FEBRUARY NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, REDWOOD CITY, EIGHT ZERO
TWO PM, THREE SIX FIVE DASH NINE SEVEN SIX THREE.

FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, REDWOOD CITY, SEVEN
THIRTY TWO PM, THREE SIX NINE DASH EIGHT THREE SEVEN ZERO.

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

LA 44-1574

FEBRUARY NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, REDWOOD CITY, SEVEN ZERO ONE PM, THREE SIX NINE DASH EIGHT THREE SEVEN ZERO.

FEBRUARY TWENTY, SIXTY EIGHT, REDWOOD CITY, FOUR ZERO THREE PM, THREE SIX NINE DASH EIGHT THREE SEVEN ZERO.

FEBRUARY TWENTY SIX, SIXTY EIGHT, REDWOOD CITY, NINE ZERO THREE PM, THREE SIX NINE DASH EIGHT THREE SEVEN ZERO.

FEBRUARY TWENTY SIX, SIXTY EIGHT REDWOOD CITY, NINE SEVENTEEN PM, THREE SIX NINE DASH EIGHT SEVEN ZERO.

FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, MILL VALLEY, SEVEN TWENTY FIVE PM, THREE EIGHT EIGHT DASH SEVEN ZERO FOUR FOUR.

FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, MILL VALLEY, SIX THIRTY FOUR PM, THREE EIGHT EIGHT DASH SEVEN ZERO FOUR FOUR.

DECEMBER ELEVEN, SIXTY SEVEN, SAN FRANCISCO, TWELVE TWENTY NINE PM, THREE SIX TWO DASH SIX ONE SIX ZERO.

DECEMBER TWELVE, SIXTY SEVEN, SAN FRANCISCO, ONE FIFTY SEVEN PM, THREE SIX TWO DASH SIX ONE SIX ZERO.

FEBRUARY TWENTY, SIXTY EIGHT, REDWOOD CITY, EIGHT FIFTY THREE PM, THREE SIX NINE DASH EIGHT THREE SEVEN ZERO.

END PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN

LA 44-1574

TAMPA

DECEMBER THIRTY ONE, SIXTY SEVEN, BRADENTON, FLORIDA,
SIX TWELVE, PM, SEVEN FOUR SIX DASH FOUR FIVE EIGHT FOUR.

DECEMBER TWENTY FIVE, SIXTY SEVEN, TAMPA, EIGHT THIRTEEN
AM, EIGHT THREE FOUR DASH FIVE EIGHT ZERO ONE. TICKET
REFLECTS RECEIVER OF CALL GEORGE LAVERNOY, FOUR SEVEN ZERO
ONE SAN JOSE STREET.

WASHINGTON FIELD

MARCH TWO, SIXTY EIGHT, WASHINGTON, D.C., SEVEN FIFTY ONE
PM, THREE THREE SEVEN DASH FIVE THREE ONE FIVE.

EACH OFFICE SHOULD ESTABLISH IDENTITY OF SUBSCRIBER AND
IDENTITY OF CALLER AND ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE GAINED
CONCERNING RAY IF HE MADE ANY OF THESE CALLS.

AIR MAIL COPIES FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

END.

MJR

FBI TAMPA

TUP

5/1/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231-351A)

MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

Re: TELEPHONE BOOKS, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL

ReLatel, 4/29/68.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DONALD G. MONTGOMERY at Sarasota, Fla.:

on 5/1/68, RICHARD FLETCHER (PROTECT), Manager,
General Telephone Co., advised telephone #746-4584 was
issued to R. F. DAVIS, Arcadia Rd., Bradenton, Fla., in
April, 1959, and DAVIS has maintained this number ever
since.

Records, Manatee Credit Bureau, Bradenton,
reflect REGINALD F. DAVIS, Rt. 2, Box 282-C, and wife
SALLY H., have been known to that bureau since 1958. DAVIS
is retired from Hagan and Sons Dairy in Bradenton and his
wife SALLY is employed at Sharp's Drugs in Bradenton and
they have three children. He maintained a satisfactory
credit rating.

Records, Manatee Co. SO and Bradenton PD, checked
5/1/68, reflect no identifiable record for DAVIS.

3 - Bureau
2 - Los Angeles (44-1574)
2 - Tampa
SJS:ej
(7)

Labadie *SSW*

REC

157-3231-351A

TP 157-3231

REGINALD F. and SALLY DAVIS were interviewed 5/1/68 and advised they know no one in California other than SALLY DAVIS' sister, RUTH MONTGOMERY, who resided at 5555 Hollywood Blvd., Apt. 116, Hollywood, Calif. until recently. Mrs. DAVIS remembered that RUTH telephoned her on New Years Eve, 12/31/67. It was nothing more than a social call.

Mrs. MONTGOMERY moved recently to 441 Melrose or Melrose Way West, Long Beach, California.

AT TAMPA, FLA.

GEORGE E. DUVERNOY, 4701 San Jose St., Tampa, advised SA STEPHEN J. LABADIE on 5/1/68, that his wife's daughter, Miss MARYLENE HANSON, 1729 No. Wilton Place, Apt. 15, Hollywood, California, no telephone, called her mother 12/25/67. JAMES EARL RAY unknown to DUVERNOY. Mrs. DUVERNOY presently visiting daughter at above address.

LEAD

LOS ANGELES DIVISION

AT HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

Interview MARYLENE HANSON, above address, re possibility saw RAY vicinity hotel.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/9/68

FROM : SA William A. Keller

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE HARVEY LOWMEYER

On 4/9/68, the following agencies advised
that a review of their files disclosed no record
under the surname of LOWMEYER or LOWMYER:

CARMEN PEREZ, Hillsborough County Voter Registration

MARY G. CACCIATORE, Hillsborough County Driver's License

Bureau

Betty Close, Tampa Credit Bureau

Charles Howe, Mgr., NATIONAL Association of Creditmen

Evelyn Goelitz, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Sue Leckey, Tampa Police Department.

(i)
WAK



5010-108

157- 3231- 352

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

RJK

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/27/68

EFFIE SILVERS, Laundry Manager, Oak Park Cleaners,
3210 East Broadway, Tampa, Florida, advised that the following
Thermo-Seal machines were used at the plant:

#1	serial	31689
#2	serial	31693
#3	serial	31781
#4	serial	32140

She stated that a review of her records since
January 1, 1967, failed to reflect that the sequence of
numbers and letters 20R-3 has ever been used on yellow tape
since that date.

Mrs. SILVERS made available sample laundry tapes
by the four Thermo-Seal machines used at the plant.

On 4/25/68 at Tampa, Fla. File # TP 157-3231 - 353
by SA DENNIS R. DICKSON:DRD/nh Date dictated 4/26/68

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.

F B I

Date:

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI. (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM, ⁽⁴⁴⁻¹⁷⁸⁰⁾ Houston
AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE 4/28/68.
FOR INFORMATION Houston Retel as follows:

"JIM SPARKS, EMPLOYEE OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, TEMPORARILY RESIDING AT TWO HUNDRED ELEVENTH STREET, ROBINWOOD, ALABAMA ADVISED ON APRIL TWENTY EIGHT, INSTANT, ONE CHARLES RAY JOHNSON, A CONCESSIONAIRE MAN WITH HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS, FAIRGROUNDS, TAMPA, FLORIDA BEARS RESEMBLANCE TO SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY. SPARKS ADVISED SAW JOHNSON AT TAMPA THREE DAYS AGO. TAMPA ATTEMPT LOCATE CHARLES RAY JOHNSON TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT RAY."

BEN ELLISON, SECRETARY, ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, FAIRGROUND ADVISED APRIL TWENTY NINE, INSTANT, NO HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS, TAMPA, NO CONCESSIONAIRE MAN known named Charles Ray Johnson, and subject RAY's photos exhibited negative.

TP 24C advised April twenty nine, Heart of America Shows have not been in Tampa, that it is small fly by night outfit, and Billboard Magazine

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 7-19
759
803 P M

Per A3

SJZ.

157-3231-354

F B I

Date:

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

Heart of America to open on April 27, 1968 at
Houston, Texas. Sparks, Johnson and subject RAY
all unknown to source. SOURCE is ON FIREGROUND DAILY.

Houston attempt locate Charles Ray Johnson through
Heart of America show ~~and~~ to determine if identical
with subject RAY.

Armed and Dangerous.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

749 PM URGENT 4/29/68 ALS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM, HOUSTON, AND MAMPHIS
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN; CR. OO: ME.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE FOUR TWENTYEIGHT SIXTYEIGHT.

FOR INFORMATION HOUSTON RETEL AS FOLLOWS:

"JIM SPARKS, EMPLOYEE OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, TEMPR-
RARILY RESIDING AT TWO HUNDRED ELEVENTH STREET, ROBINWOOD,
ALABAMA ADVISED ON APRIL TWENTY EIGHT, INSTANT, ONE CHARLES RAY
JOHNSON, A CONCESSIONARIEMAN WITH HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS, FAIR-
GROUNDS, TAMPA, FLORIDA BEARS RESEMBLANCE TO SUBJECT JAMES EARL
RAY. SPARKS ADVISED SAW JOHNSON AT TAMPA THREE DAYS AGO.
TAMPA ATTEMPT LOCATE CHARLES RAY JOHNSON TO DETERMINE IF
IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT RAY."

BEN ELLISON, SECRETARY, ROYAL AMERICAL SHOWS, FAIRGROUND
ADVISED APRIL TWENTY NINE, INSTANT, NO HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS,
TAMPA, NO CONCESSIONAIREMAN KNOWN NAMED CHARLES RAY JOHNSON,
AND SUBJECT RAY PHOTOS EXHIBITED NEGATIVE.

END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231)

TP TWO FOUR C ADVISED APRIL TWENTY NINE, HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS HAVE NOT BEEN IN TAMPA, THAT IT IS SMALL BLY BY NIGHT OUT-FIT, AND BILLBOARD MAGAZINE SHOWS HEART OF AMERICA TO EOPEN APRIL TWENTY SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT AT HOUSTON, TEXAS. SPARKS, JOHNSON, AND SUBJECT RAY ALL UNKNOWN TO SOURCE. SOURCE IS ON FAIRGROUND DAILY.

HOUSTON ATTEMPT LOCATE CHARLES RAY JOHNSON THROUGH HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAB

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GDM - FBI, Birmingham
OET - FBI, Houston
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FBI TAMPA

FBI BIRMGHAM

859PM URGENT 4-28-68 HEP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), TAMPA (157-3231), MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) 1P

MURKIN

JIM SPARKS, EMPLOYEE OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, TEMPORARILY
RESIDING AT TWO HUNDRED ELEVENTH STREET, ROBINWOOD, ALABAMA, ADVISED
ON APRIL TWENTYEIGHT INSTANT, ONE CHARLES RAY JOHNSON, A
CONCESSIONAIREMAN WITH HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS, FAIRGROUNDS, TAMPA,
FLORIDA, BEARS RESEMBLANCE TO SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY. SPARKS
ADVISED SAW JOHNSON AT TAMPA THREE DAYS AGO.

TAMPA ATTEMPT LOCATE CHARLES RAY JOHNSON TO DETERMINE IF
IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

ALS

FBI TAMPA

X

*4/29
TP 24 C
4/27/68 Heart of America Shows, small fly by night outfit.
scheduled at Houston Tex.
Sparks Johnson & him
show was not here at all.*

157-3231-355

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[Signature]

4/30/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) P

MURKIN

CR

OO:ME

RE: ROBERT DONALD WEIR

Re Tampa teletype to Mobile dated 4/23/68 and Mobile teletype to Tampa dated 4/25/68, airmail copies to Memphis.

Attempts to contact WEIR on 4/26 and 4/29/68 at his residence, his employment and his mother-in-law's residence were negative.

Neighbors advise that WEIR returned from Alabama on 4/25/68 and is still driving 1968 tan Chevrolet convertible. Rumor is that WEIR is several months in arrears on the rent for the bar he is renting and is under the impression that the FBI is attempting to contact him regarding this rent. WEIR has not re-opened his bar upon his return from Alabama and neighbor is of opinion that WEIR is attempting to avoid FBI because of his financial situation and has left town again.

Since wife previously advised that WEIR was in Montgomery, Ala. driving 1968 tan Chevrolet and neighbors subsequently advised that WEIR returned from Alabama driving instant

- 2 - Memphis
- 2 - Mobile
- 2 - Jacksonville
- 2 - Tampa

BRD:ad

(8) *ad*

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vehicle, it is presumed that WEIR was driver of instant vehicle in Montgomery, Ala. on 4/23/68. It is further noted that neighbor advised WEIR is not identical to photograph of JAMES EARL RAY.

No further efforts being made to locate WEIR in view of above.

4/30/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

MURKIN

ALFRED T. LANG, Clerk, Charlotte County Court-house, Punta Gorda, Florida, advised SA ERNEST J. KIRSTEIN, JR., on 4/24/68, that he was a Clerk at the Duval County Court Office, Jacksonville, Florida, from 1958, to June 1966. While in Jacksonville, he became acquainted with the RAY brothers, JAMES RAY, ROBERT RAY, (FNU) RAY, a fourth brother who was drowned four to five years ago, and a fifth brother (FNU) RAY.

LANG was exhibited I. O. of JAMES EARL RAY and he advised JAMES RAY of Jacksonville favored JAMES EARL RAY. LANG stated that JAMES RAY of Jacksonville was white; male; thirty-five to forty years of age; 5'10"; 125 lbs.; with dark hair. LANG was not certain this individual was, in fact, the same as JAMES EARL RAY.

LANG advised the RAY brothers were married, that they had formerly been connected with a volunteer fire department, the Oakwood Community Volunteer Fire Department, and subsequently an audit of such records determined some falseness and the Department was disbanded. Mr. LANG said

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Birmingham (44-1740) (RM)
2 - Jacksonville (44-769) (RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
② - Tampa
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the signature on the I.O. of JAMES EARL RAY was similar to signature of JAMES RAY of Jacksonville. He said the RAY family in Jacksonville originally came to Jacksonville from St. Louis, Missouri. He said he has not seen nor heard any more about the JAMES RAY family of Jacksonville since he departed in June 1966.

LEAD

JACKSONVILLE OFFICE

AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Conduct appropriate investigation of JAMES RAY family of Jacksonville and determine whether or not identical to JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

FBI TAMPA

FBI-HOUSTON

906AM URGENT 5-1-68 JLN

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM, MEMPHIS, TAMPA
FROM HOUSTON (44-1509) 1P

MURKIN.

RE TAMPA TEL APR. TWENTYNINE LAST.

RE LOOK-A-LIKE, CHARLES RAY JOHNSON.

V.E. BROWN, BUSINESS MANAGER, TED COREY, OWNER AND
P.L. PATTERSON, CONCESSIONS OWNER, HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS,
ADVISED NO RECORD OF CHARLES RAY JOHNSON WITH SHOW. SHOW
WITH NO OTHER BRANCHES HAS BEEN IN TEXAS PAST MONTH. PHOTOS
OF JAMES EARL RAY NOT IDENTIFIABLE WITH SHOW PERSONNEL. RETEL
STATES CHARLES RAY JOHNSON SEEN AT TAMPA LAST WEEKEND.

BIRMINGHAM RECONTACT JIM SPARKS AND DETERMINE EXACT
LOCATION IN TAMPA WHERE JOHNSON LAST OBSERVED.

END

BLW

FBI TAMPA

X

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Labadie

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/30/68

FROM : SA JAMES B. HAFLEY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On this date I contacted Captain JAMES C. BROWN, Identification Division, Orlando PD, and Lieutenant DICK OVERMAN, Identification Division, Orange County SO, regarding the above case.

Both stated that ~~their~~ respective offices will immediately compare JAMES EARL RAY's fingerprints with latent fingerprints on all unsolved crimes in their offices from 4/23/67 to date, and will immediately advise the writer in the event any positive information is developed.

JBH/

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