

King, Martin Luther

Mopen

X-39    Said to have been object of assassination  
plot, March 1965, Columbia, S. C.

Knight, Earl  
#65078

Mo Pen

SA Ayers

X1-5

Did not know Ray, Cooley's  
organization, or of King bounty.

Kral, Stephen I.  
dining room supervisor

Mo Penn

SA Ayers

X-15

Drove prison truck except on weekends  
Described procedures. Had heard that  
Ray practiced some Yoga as prelude to  
escape in box.

Lail, Paul Alvin

MoPen

SA Wisenan

XVIII-1 Knew Ray at MSP. Ray hung around "big" men in prison. Peddled dope. Dowda and Aeby were friends of Ray's. May have been involved in Negro killings in prison. Thinks Ray did it alone, and hiding out in a city.

Lillibridge, Carl

Mo Penn

X-50

Said by inmate Hurtt to have been  
Ray's cellmate. After return  
from Fulton Hospital.

Lillibridge, Cecil Clayton  
a/k/a Carl Lillibridge  
#67755

Mo Penn SA Weaves

X-56

Ray's cellmate. Ray's maximum ambition was to make "score" of \$20,000 - \$30,000 and hide-out in Mexico at favorable exchange rate. Ray mentioned previous trips to Mexico following 2 or 3 armed robberies. Ray spoke of Campeche Bay near Yucatan Peninsula; spoke of living with peasants in 3-room shack near Campeche; spoke of Torreon or Torrejon

Ray was frugal.

Ray did not like Negroes in general.

Once referred to King as " Martin Luther Coon," but had no particular feeling toward King. Ray read enthusiastically, especially weekly news magazines, and would outspokenly react to H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael, as well as to some publicity King received.

Lillibridge does not know of bounty on King. Ray may have speculated that money would be available for deaths of Brown or Carmichael. Ray told about getting into a fight with a Negro on a prison work crew.

Ray was hypochondriac, taking 6 or 7 pills/day. Ray believed to have been selling amphetamines.

Ray spoke of smuggling appliances into Mexico through Campeche Bay from Brownsville, Texas, on boats. Ray often mentioned Mateo Lopez Garcia as

Mateo Garcia Lopez as running a small smuggling operation, as living near Campeche, and as speaking English.

Ray not known to speak Spanish.

Ray mentioned a brother in St. Louis. Either the brother or a person who participated with Ray in some robberies accompanied Ray on some Mexico trips.

Ray had been to Mexico City, regarded it as tourish trap, said he could not afford to stay there.

Ray's only reference to prior jobs was as bartender, possibly in Peoria, Illinois, or some other southern Illinois town. Ray never mentioned Oregon or Canada.



Ray never mentioned escape plans.

Ray mentioned "fire dance" by Negro boys in Acapulco.

Ray once had Kenny Hurt or Hurtt send a money order in order to hide some money he had received from illegal prison activities. Sent to Stationery in St. Louis.

Lopez, Mateo Garcia  
as Garcia, Mateo Lopez

Mo Penn

X-57

Ray often mentioned him to  
cellmate as running small smuggling  
operation and living near Campeche,  
Mexico.

Menard, Richard L.  
#A830686

Mo Pen SA Humphreys

X1-13

Knew Ray 1961-65 at MSP. Did not know Ray to be race-minded. Ray's closest friend at MSP was Carl Drake who was connected with Ray in drug sale, as were Jim Bradley and Bobby Ashe. Recalls Ray's speak of brother in St. Louis who was connected with drug supply. Says Ray was a pusher.

Miles, Billy Edward  
#02185

Mo Penn

SA Ayers

X-23

Knew Ray. Ray had no close friends but did associate with Carl Drake, ex-con. Ray not homosexual, drug-user, gambler. Ray liked baseball. Miles and Ray made some money by selling paperback books to inmates.

Ray talked to Negroes but did not associate with them, showed no animosity toward Negroes.

Miles did not know Curtis.

Nunn, Howard  
#68889

Mo Penn

SA Weaves

X-52

Lived on K-hall while Ray was  
there.

Does not know about Ray's escape,  
bounty on King, Orr, McClellan,  
Cooley's organization.

Out or ORR, FNU)

Mo Pen

X-137

Buckley says he rec'd information from him on Ray's escape.

Owens, James Loama

MoPen

Committed robbery with Ray 10/10/59  
in Missouri.

(Extradition Affidavit of Wilkinson)

Owens, James L.

Mo Pen

X1-8  
X1-16

Seen entering St. Louis bank with  
Ray, Summer 1967. Seen trying to  
get Mo. drivers license 1966.



Parker, Leo Harold  
#15254

Mopen

SA Ayers

X-45     Thinks that Ray committed one kidnapping offense for which Parker was convicted, because of close resemblance between them. Victims said kidnapper was an escapee with blue eyes.

Has been told, source unrecalled, that Ray had been in St. Louis all summer, had a car, and was using dope, was living in a garage, and was responsible for several robberies.

Pepper, (FNU)

Mopen

X-49     Could be the name of the man to whom inmate  
Hurtt sent a Money Order for Ray in 1966.

Peschang, Bernard  
cook

Mo Penn

SA Ayers

X-11

Worked with Ray 1963-64 in kitchen.  
Thinks Ray escaped in bread box.

Ray known as the "hide-out guy"  
because he hid in prisone once. Ray  
"got along" but not close to anyone.  
Ray once said he'd go to South America.  
Not unusually prejudiced against Negroes.  
Does not think a guard helped Ray escape.

Pesehang, Bernard  
cook

Mo Penn

X - 5

Discovered crushed bread, which  
may be connected with Ray's escape  
Reported to Burkhardt.

Poiry, B. S.  
major

Mo Penn

SA Weaves

X-50

No knowledge of Cooley's  
organization.

Poiry, Bernard  
major

Mo Penn

SA Weaver

X-11      No personal effects were found to have  
             been left by Ray. Prisms probably  
             stripped cell, as is their practice.

Poiry, Bernard J.  
major

Mo Penn

SA Ayers

X-9

Says George Jones helped Ray escape.  
Has heard that Walter Nolan may be the  
"brains" behind King's murder.

Powell, Bob  
inmate

Mo Penn

X-60

Said by inmate Block to have been  
Ray's friend and to have helped Ray escape.  
Described. Asked Ray to beat up a girl,  
Frankie Barbara (ph), Doe Run, Mo.,  
because she stopped writing to Powell.



Pruett, Ray  
# 2195

Mo Penn SA Ayers

X-23

Knew Ray well in prison. Knows of no ill feelings toward Negroes, drug habits, or abnormal sexual habits. Ray is quiet, always interested in escape, never said anything bad bout anyone, conservative spends, did not gamble. He said Ray's main interest was baseball. (of. New Orleans dances.) Does not believe Ray killed King.

Rife, Walter

MoPen

SA Davis

XIX-98      Last saw Ray in 1957 when Rife released from Leavenworth. Arrested with Ray in 1955 for stolen money orders. He and Ray had traveled around U.S. together to N.O. California, Kansas City, Florida.

First met Ray in 1942. Ray stole goods, stick-ups, roll drunks.

Ray disliked ~~MM~~ Negroes a lot.

Rife, Walter Terry

Mo Pen

X-140

Leavenworth file.

Entered 7/7/55-conditional release 9/27/57

Rose, Orlan Eugene  
#73723

Mopen

SA Ayers

X-28      Knew Ray in Kansas City, Mo., jail, Leavenworth, and Mopen. Described Ray as quiet, a loner, not a homosexual or gambler, tight with money, liked baseball, took drugs.

Said Ray didn't ~~know~~ like his mother because she left him and lived with ex-con.

Did not know Raymond Lewis Curtis.

Rose, Orlan Eugene  
#73723

Mo Penn

X-29

Gave article about Ray to warden 4/22/68 to publish. About his association with Ray. Says met Ray in Kansas City, Mo. jail where Ray was held on forgery charge. Ray refused to escape. Ray liked baseball, worked as painter before arrest, lived in Pickwick Hotel, neat dresser. Ray had changed when they met at Mo Pen. Ray said he was framed by cops, thought about escape.

Ruddell, William R.  
Postal Inspector, Kansas City, Mo.

Mo Penn

SA Benbrook

X-142            Thinks Ray and Rife were cashing money orders,  
not fencing.

Russell, J. R.  
inmate

Mo Penn

X-60

Said by inmate Block to have seen  
Ray's friend and to have helped him  
escape. Described.

Schaeffer, Harold  
guard

Mo Penn

SA Ayers

X-13

Was on duty with Robert Higgins  
furnished Ray with drugs. Says  
Ray knew "whitey" Dowda, who formerly  
worked in kitchen. Schaeffer had beer  
with Dowda and another guard once.  
Dowda was going to California in VW.

Said Ray would had to have escaped  
before 11 a.m.



Schaeffer, Harold

Mo Pen

XVI-D-32      Dowda says above, a guard at kitchen gate,  
was friend of Ray's, and source for dope.

-39      pushed ~~xx~~ drugs.

Schaffer, Harold  
guard

Mo Penn

X-8

Said to have been negligent in  
Ray escape.

Schoaf, Willie (or Show) (ph)

MoPen

XI-39

SAid by inmate Wade to have sent drugs  
to MSP after parole in 1964 or 1965.

Sero, Harry

Missouri Penn

SA Hester

VI-112

Inmate at Missouri State Penitentiary and knew James Earl Ray and Raymond Curtis. Sero recalls saying, in presence of Ray and Curtis, that someone in Memphis had speculated that, if King attempted economic boycott there, it would be worth a lot to businessmen to have King killed. Sero said the conversation was pure speculation.

Sero described Ray as a "hayseed," "a born loser." Said Ray had never gotten away with a criminal offense. Seems to recall Ray disliked Negroes. Would not describe Ray as a loner but as unable to make friends or mix socially. Ray was regular user of amphetamines in prison. Said Ray had great need for recognition and idolizes notorious criminals. Sero says it is believable that Ray might have

---

killed King without pay.

Said Ray has no important criminal connections; Ray never spoke of family; Ray once indicated he had friends in Kansas City, Missouri.

Sero has not heard from Ray since he left MSP.

Steele, Danton  
captain

Mo Pen

SA Ayers

X1-19

Knew Ray. Ray was never a "walk boy" on J hall. Did not know a Velanti or Cooley's organization.

Says Ray was not a leader, not type to kill King.

Steele, Danton  
Captain

Mopen

X-37    Reported that Homer Bell caught Ray taking  
prohibited items into hospital June 1965.

Steele, Dalton  
Captain

Mopen

SA Weaver

X-38     Vaguely recalls Ray. Cannot give further information on Ray's being caught while taking items into hospital.



Stout, (FNU)

Mopen

X-37    Reported by inmate to have smuggled dope to Ray. Later transferred to prison farm and fired for smuggling in a watch. Wife operates beauty shop in Jefferson City.

Stout, John L.  
Former Guard

Mopen

SA Weaver

X-37 Knew Ray as a loner. Stout transferred to farm about 1966. Has not heard from Ray or Neal Abey since then. Denied smuggling.

Stout, John  
inmate

Mo Pen

X1-7

Said not to have supplied Ray  
with drugs.

Stout, John Lewis  
Guard

Mopen

X-37    Resigned 3/4/66. 812 E. High Street,  
Jefferson City, Mo.

Swenson, Harold  
Warden

Mo Penn

SA Weaves

X-50

No knowledge of Cooley's  
Organization.

Swenson, Warden

Mo Penn

X-13      "Bawled out" a guard after Ray's escape.

Turner, Wm.  
a/k/a Billy Bob  
guard

Mo Penn SA Ayers

X-65

First Negro officer to have general jurisdiction over prison yard, and, hence, was resented. Knew "Jimmy" Ray; quite; got along well with Negro prisoners but did not associate with them. Ray operated a magazine-rental service for which he received money or cigarettes. Ray not known to be drug user or to have abnormal sex problems.

Turner does not believe, Ray would kill Negroes and does not believe he

killed King. Turner said the first published sketch of assassin looked more like Aeby than Ray.

Ray was seen associating, with Neal Aeby, a cellmate of Frank Joseph Guinan. Aeby was type to kill Negroes. Aeby had disease. Turner once recommended harsh punishment for Aeby; Ray may have resented harsh recommendation. On day of Ray's escape, J.C. Fletcher, an inmate, reported to Turner that there had been an escape.

Black Muslims is only "hate" group in prison.



Turner could not recall seeing Ray with Jimmy Carpenter, does not recall Raymond Lewis Curtis.

Jimmy Bradley may have known Ray. Bradley was successful in prison rackets.

Turner had not heard of King bounty.

Valenti, Johnny

Mo Pen

XVII- 16

J. Brown says above was friend of Ray. From Baton Rouge. Talked of Mexico a lot.

- 18

Brown says above heard remark of Ray's that he would kill King and get \$10,000.

- 19

Brown says above knew Ray and introduced him to Brown. Said robbed a Oil Company, in Atlanta with Ray. Ray said killing King comment to Valenti: Gambled with Ray.