

approached the allegations of a conspiracy with skepticism (which I doubt), but that he is now largely persuaded there was one. He declines (for the moment) to identify his sources, with three unimportant exceptions, beyond saying that they include four or five petty racketeers in Memphis, New Orleans, and elsewhere and one well placed protege of Carlos ~~Marcellos~~ in New Orleans.

no loc
He comes to us, he says, primarily to assist in ascertaining the truth, but also with the expectation or hope that we will feed investigative results back to him. If that is not possible, he would like to be given the story first or, failing that, no later than anyone else. He has been spending most of his time on this since the assassination, but can not go much farther because some his sources have begun to ask for the kind of money or protection that he is unable to provide.

Colif Charlie ~~Stein~~, a petty racketeer connected with organized crime, contacted James Earl Ray in Los Angeles and told him that there were people in New Orleans whom he ought to talk to. Whether Stein happened upon Ray or sought him out knowing that he needed money and was an escaped prisoner is not known, but Ray was told that the people he ought to talk to would help him with money and his fugitive status.

Tenn
Ray's contacts in New Orleans were with Mafia-Cosa Nostra representatives who referred him to Frank ~~Leberto~~ (or ~~Liberto~~), a Memphis racketeer and lieutenant of Carlos ~~Marcellos~~, the Southern Mafia chieftan in New Orleans. Leberto owns or works at the Scott Street Produce Market where John ~~McFerron~~ of Somerville allegedly overheard a man speaking on the ~~telephone~~ say, on or about the day of the assassination: "Shoot him on the balcony, shoot him anywhere; and go to New Orleans for your money, don't come back here."

According to Sartor's informants, the Cosa Nostra agreed to "broker" or to arrange the assassination, for an amount somewhat in excess of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000), after they were contacted in the Northeast (New Jersey or Pennsylvania), by representatives of "Forever White", an elite organization of wealthy

segregationists with officers or subgroups in seven Southern states. The Mafia's (which Sartor used interchangeably with Cosa Nostra throughout the interview) interest was less the money than the investment-type opportunity presented, i.e., to get in a position to extract (or extort) governmental or other favors from some well placed Southern white persons, including the KKK and White Citizens Councils. Quitman, Mississippi, was said by Sartor to be a possible base of "Forever White's" operations.

Claude ~~X~~Cockrell, allegedly a Memphis ^{Tenn.} segregationist, extortionist, narcotics pusher, and petty racketeer, may have been a contact between the Mafia and "Forever White." In any event, he is thought to have gone to Miami, Florida, between April 14 and 24, 1968, where he may have picked up money to be delivered to Philadelphia or New Jersey. Cockrell also may have been instrumental in getting Ray out of Memphis after the assassination either by truck (according to Sartor's New Orleans informants) or in Cockrell's private plane, which is said to use a private landing strip at Millington and which is piloted by one Joe ~~X~~Schafer. ^{Tenn.}

^{U4} According to Sartor, Joe ~~X~~Cacameci (ph.) and Larry ~~X~~Mann (aka. Larry ~~X~~Manning and Larry ~~X~~Max), two professional killers, are also involved. Joe Cacameci allegedly met James Earl Ray at a Lion Service Station in Memphis the day of or the night before the shooting. Larry Mann has been saying that he works for Frank Leberto and is responsible for "getting" James Earl Ray. According to one of Sartor's New Orleans informants, James Earl Ray was seen at, or stayed at, the Pontotoc Hotel in Memphis approximately three days before the shooting.

The original plan was that Ray would be arrested immediately after the shooting, tried, and acquitted. There was a change, however, perhaps as late as an hour before the shooting, due to a mix-up involving the money. Either the Mafia wanted him at large until the balance of the price was paid or, more likely, says Sartor, the money was still in the North and the shares of those in

Memphis (Leberto and others) had not been paid, and it was they who wanted Ray at large as a lever on higher-ups in the rackets.

In any event, Sartor's informants claim that Ray's escape from Memphis was engineered with the connivance of several Memphis police officers who knew of the plot. After the money problem was resolved, Ray deliberately permitted himself to be arrested in London with the understanding that he will be acquitted in Memphis. However, another story has it that he will be killed in a holocaust which will endanger a large number of lives.

Two aspects of the foregoing information persuade Sartor of its accuracy. First, he has received identical fragments of information independently from different sources. Secondly, several of his sources in Memphis and New Orleans have told him that agents of Bureau and non-Bureau Justice Department representatives, including a man named (FNU) Voight, have interviewed them about the assassination.

Sartor took me to meet Pat Lyons who, according to Sartor, is a petty gambler with sources of information close to Frank Leberto. In my presence, Lyons repeated to Sartor that, according to "Ernie" (Lyons did not give a last name), Ray met Joe Cacameci at a Lion Service Station on the night before or the day of the shooting. Lyons expressed concern for the safety of his wife and children; I did not comment or ask him any questions. He also said that the "talk" was that Ray would be acquitted.

Sartor says that his informants will probably be willing to talk to us, but that they will ask for money, immunity, or protection or all three. Because Sartor wants us to contact his principal informants through him, he declined to identify any contacts except Lyons, Rev. Carl Basinger and Memphis policeman E. E. Redditt, below.

An additional, apparently unrelated, piece of information furnished by Sartor was that a little Negro

boy allegedly heard a shot and saw a man jump up from the bushes behind the rooming house (below the window area from which the shot is thought to have been fired) and run off. According to Sartor, the little boy has been identified and interviewed by Bureau agents and the Memphis Police Department.

II

During our first conversation, on June 12, 1968, Sartor gave me the following fragments of allegations and information:

1. Shortly after the killing, a bartender overheard some Memphis policemen say that there had been a "slip-up," and that the assassination was originally scheduled to take place after the march for which Dr. King had returned to Memphis. When I asked Sartor about this in August, he said that one of his New Orleans informants had also referred to a similar change in plans.

2. A minister, identified by Sartor in August as Rev. Carl ~~Basinger~~ ^{Tenn}, 1617 E. Moreland, Memphis, was advised by a ranking officer in the Memphis Police Department (captain or above) not to go near Dr. King because something was going to happen to him.

3. According to former Mayor Ingram (although my notes are not clear as to whether Sartor got this directly from him), a civilian was seen lying in the back of a police car immediately after the shooting, and near Mulberry or Huling he got out of the police car, into another car, and was driven away. Sartor had nothing further on this in August.

4. John McFerren, the Negro civil rights activist from Somerville, Tennessee, overheard part of a telephone conversation at the Scott Street Produce Market in which the speaker allegedly made the comments noted above. Shortly thereafter, McFerren was visited,

for no apparent reason, by a man named Powers from New Orleans. Sartor had nothing further on this in August.

5. An unidentified Negro policeman was moved from his assignment at the Fire Station (and Police Tactical Unit Station) at about 5:00 p.m. on the day of the assassination. According to Sartor, the Dispatcher told the policeman to move two or three times during the afternoon, but he did not do so until explicitly advised to that effect by a superior. In August, Sartor identified the policeman as E. E. Redditt and said that Redditt had broken off an interview with Sartor after starting to discuss his move from the station.

6. Two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them has reportedly told friends that, two or three days before Dr. King was shot, a telescope or binoculars were set up on a tripod in the fire station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. In August, Sartor said that one fireman left the Department or was suspended shortly after the shooting, and that he has been unable to locate either of them. He did not have their names.

7. ^{Tenn.} ~~Memphis~~ Chief of Detectives, W. P. Houston, called the Lorraine Motel in the early afternoon of April 4 and spoke to a maid named Delores (LNU). He ~~inquired about stationing detectives there, and the~~ maid said that the manager would call back. He did not; nor did Houston. Sartor says that former Mayor Ingram provided this information.

Sartor was unable during either interview to relate the foregoing allegations to his conspiracy theory, but he says that some of it, and other information possessed by former Mayor Ingram concerning corruption in the Police Department, suggest that a number of officers may have known of or participated in the conspiracy--because they were bribed or feared exposure.

I told Sartor that I would report his information to my superiors.

FBI

Date: 7/29/68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re: CB (Citizens Band) Radio Transmission
Memphis, Tennessee, during evening of
April 4, 1968, concerning chase of
white Mustang alleged to have been
involved in the shooting of MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., on that date.

Enclosed herewith is one copy each of the following
which relate to referenced matter:

- 1) Investigative report of the Memphis PD *we*
- 2) Investigative insert by SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON
- 3) FD 302 of interview of Inspector N. E. ZACHARY, Memphis PD, 5/17/68
- 4) FD 302 of interview of W. EUGENE SMITH, 4/10/68, Memphis
- 5) FD 302 of interview of EDWARD L. MONTEDONICO, SR., 7/15-17/68, Memphis
- 6) FD 302 of interview of EDWARD L. MONTEDONICO, JR., 7/17/68, Memphis

Airtel..... ③ - Bureau (Encs. 6)
Teletype..... 2 - Memphis
HEG:mnr

A. S. D. 79 AUG 28 1968

Spec. Del.....

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

ME 44-1987

The enclosures refer to investigation conducted relative to referenced matter as it appeared to refer to captioned matter.

The Bureau's attention is directed to the fact the FCC does not have an office in the Memphis area; however, an official of the Memphis PD did contact a representative of the FCC at Atlanta, Ga., to report this incident. No inquiry has been received by the Memphis PD or this office from FCC relative to this referenced incident and therefore it appears FCC is not interested in a CB radio transmission of this type.

Concerning the possibility of interviewing other individuals contacted by the Memphis PD during its investigation of this matter, it is pointed out no attempt was made to interview these individuals due to the investigation conducted by the Memphis PD and due to the lack of evidence indicating anyone other than EDWARD LE MASTER MONTEDONICO, JR., was responsible for this radio transmission.

EDWARD LE MASTER MONTEDONICO, JR., was interviewed as indicated on the enclosed FD 302. He indicated during the interview that he had a great deal of experience in CB radio transmissions and in the operation of these units. He commented several times that anyone with a knowledge of CB radios could disguise their voice and transmission so as to go on broadcasting without being identified. He also said that there is no way for anyone, including FCC, to identify the sender of a transmission such as the one mentioned above unless the guilty individual made the admission that he or she was the individual that made the broadcast.

It is also noted that others during this investigation expressed the same opinion that it is impossible to identify the individual making a broadcast of this type unless the guilty person admitted doing same.

It was determined also that there are numerous individuals in the Memphis area operating CB radios illegally and/or without being properly licensed. It was further determined that numerous individuals broadcast using "skip" identification, which is illegal, but which is known only to the sender and

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receiver. There are also numerous licensed CB radio operators in the Memphis area and it was suggested that there are possibly an equal number that are not licensed and, therefore, it would be virtually impossible to interview each and every individual either having a CB unit or having access to one.

Various individuals commented during this investigation that no one gets too excited about illegal broadcasts since the FCC generally levies a fine of up to \$50 and possibly lifting the license for 3 to 6 months if a person is guilty according to the FCC of making a broadcast of this type. Therefore, no one does much about these illegal transmissions since the punishment is this light. It was expressed that the greatest fear of CB operators is the bad name they receive when incidents of this nature are made public.

In light of the above, UACB no further investigation is being conducted concerning referenced matter.

9/29/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 9/20/76.

A review of the indices and files of the Memphis Office revealed that Memphis files contained the following information concerning EDWARD REDDITT:

Memphis serial 157-1868-5 is a memorandum dated 5/19/69 captioned "MEMPHIS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING, INC.; RM." Attached to this memorandum is a letter written by Lt. R. J. TURNER, Memphis PD, to Inspector G. H. PROCTOR, Community Relations Bureau, Memphis PD, dated 3/18/69 captioned "MEMPHIS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR AT PARIS, TENN., 3/16/69." According to this letter, approximately 52 persons representing various organizations in the Memphis area participated in the seminar at which the principal topic discussed was racial affairs and methods to improve race relations in the city of Memphis. Det. ED REDDITT of the Memphis PD participated in this seminar. An LHM prepared by the Memphis Office captioned "MANPOWER EDUCATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL TRAINING CORPORATION, MEMPHIS, TENN.; RM," dated 8/1/69 referred to this seminar; however, Det. REDDITT's name was not mentioned in this LHM. The Bureau was furnished 11 copies of this LHM, and copies were disseminated to the U. S. Attorney, Memphis, U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, and regional offices of military intelligence.

② - Bureau
1 - Memphis
BFJ:mrp
(3)

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Memphis serial 157-1067-491 is a newspaper clipping taken from the 10/14/68 issue of the Memphis Press-Scimitar, a daily newspaper published in Memphis, Tenn. This article is captioned "Police Center Getting Aid from Ex-Adversaries: Invaders," by BARNES CARR. This article refers to Det. E. E. REDDITT, who was placed in charge of a Community Relations office operated by the Memphis PD in an attempt by the PD to improve slum conditions at the grass-roots level in Memphis. No dissemination has been made by the Memphis Office regarding this information.

Memphis serial 157-2106-1 is a newspaper article entitled "Black Caucus on Community, Police Relations Formed," which was published 6/10/69 in the "Washington Afro American." According to this article, a national black caucus on police-community relations was organized to assist in implementing the Kerner Commission report. It was established during the 15th annual Police-Community Relations Institute at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., in 5/69. EDWARD REDDITT of Memphis, Tenn., was one of 15 conveners of this caucus. The Memphis Office has not disseminated this information.

Memphis serial 62-1637-33 is a newspaper clipping entitled "'Cancerous' Campus Violence Assailed," which appeared in the 5/2/69 issue of the Memphis Press-Scimitar. According to this article, LEON JAWORSKI, a Houston attorney and former member of the President's Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence was the principal speaker at a Law Day dinner of the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association at Memphis, Tenn., on 5/1/69. At this dinner Warrant Officer EDWARD REDDITT of the Memphis PD was presented the annual Liberty Bell Award for contributions he had made as director of the Police Service Center in Memphis. This information has not been disseminated by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-284-416 is a memorandum to the SAC dated 8/26/68 captioned "DESEGREGATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITIES, MEMPHIS, TENN." Attached to this memorandum is a letter dated 8/7/68 captioned "BELLEVUE AND MC LEMORE SHOPPING COMPLEX," which was prepared

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by Det. BEN J. WHITNEY and Det. E. E. REDDITT, Community Relations Bureau, Memphis PD, for W. E. ROUTT, Assistant Chief, Planning, Research, Inspections and Training Bureaus, Memphis PD. This letter sets forth information regarding the PD's Community Relations Bureau and the interest therein by representatives of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission and Community Relations specialists of the U. S. Department of Justice. Information is set forth regarding Det. E. E. REDDITT's explanation to these representatives of the work of the Memphis PD's Police Youth Program. No dissemination of this information was made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-556-781 is a newspaper article entitled "Community and Generation Gap Bridged by Police Relations Unit," by CHARLES RAIDEN which was published in the 8/10/68 issue of The Commercial Appeal, a daily newspaper published in Memphis, Tenn. This article contains information regarding the Memphis PD's Community Relations Bureau and the Bureau's program called the Police Youth Program. Det. E. E. REDDITT, Assistant Director of the Community Relations Bureau, was interviewed and furnished background information and examples of the work being conducted by the Community Relations Bureau through the Police Youth Program. No dissemination of this information has been made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-556-912 is a newspaper article entitled "Police Open Service Office 'to Let People Know Us'" by KAY PITTMAN BLACK, which was published in the Memphis Press-Scimitar on 10/3/68. This article contains information regarding the opening of the first Memphis PD Service Office in the South Memphis area. According to this article, Lt. REDDITT was praised by Police Director FRANK HOLLOMAN as the driving force behind police service offices. The Memphis Office has made no dissemination of this information.

Memphis serial 157-1168-Sub 109 is a newspaper article entitled "'Helping Hand' Wins Applause for Policeman," which appeared in the 5/2/69 issue of The Commercial Appeal. According to this article, Warrant Officer EDWARD ESTES REDDITT, Supervisor of the Police Service Center, was presented the annual Liberty Bell Award by the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association on 5/1/69. This award is

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made to the person who has done the most to promote respect for law and order during the past year. No dissemination of this information has been made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-1168-Sub 90 is a newspaper article entitled "It's Nearer: Day Care Center for Mothers Now on Welfare," by KAY PITTMAN BLACK, which was published 2/21/69 in the Memphis Press-Scimitar. According to this article, ED REDDITT, a warrant officer in charge of the Police Service Center in Memphis, has been active in efforts to obtain funds and a location for a day care center for mothers who are on welfare. He had obtained the services of two dentists and was seeking donations for funds to provide food and other items needed in connection with this promotion. No dissemination of this information has been made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 44-1987-Sub E-1090 is a memorandum prepared by Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY for Mr. POLLAK on 9/17/68 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, SUBJECT; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., VICTIM; CONSPIRACY AGAINST RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS." On page six of this memorandum Mr. FLANNERY reported that in 8/68 BILL SARTOR identified E. E. REDDITT as the Negro policeman who was removed from his assignment at the fire station located near the Lorraine Motel at about 5:00 P.M. on the day that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was assassinated. This page also contains a paragraph regarding two Negro firemen who were removed from the station a day or two before Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was assassinated. The names of these firemen are not listed in this memorandum. This memorandum was furnished to the Memphis Office as an enclosure to Bureau airtel dated 9/26/68 captioned "MURKIN." This memorandum has not been disseminated by the Memphis Office; however, as instructed by the Bureau the contents of it were evaluated and two LHM's were prepared by the Memphis Office based on the evaluation. One of these LHM's was prepared on 11/5/68 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY." This memorandum does not contain any information regarding EDWARD REDDITT, W. B. RICHMOND, or FLOYD NEWSUM. A second LHM under the same caption was prepared on 11/21/68 and

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contains information regarding REDDITT, RICHMOND, and NEWSUM. Information regarding REDDITT is set forth on pages 30, 31, and 32. Information regarding FLOYD NEWSUM is set forth on page 31. Information regarding W. B. RICHMOND is set forth on page 30. The information regarding REDDITT, RICHMOND, and NEWSUM set forth in this LHM was furnished by Inspector G. P. TINES, Intelligence Unit, Memphis PD. On 11/18/68, REDDITT and RICHMOND, both police officers, were assigned to Memphis Fire Station, Engine House No. 2, located at Butler and Main Streets, Memphis, approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders" a Memphis black power group, a number of whom were rooming at the Lorraine Motel. Prior to the time that REDDITT and RICHMOND were physically placed in the fire station, a Negro fireman named FLOYD E. NEWSUM was transferred because he had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitation workers in Memphis in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. On 4/4/68, Det. REDDITT was removed from his assignment at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House No. 2, leaving RICHMOND at his post. REDDITT was removed due to the receipt of a telephone call on 4/4/68 by PHILIP MANUEL, Chief Investigator for Sen. MC CLELLAN's Senate investigating committee, Washington, D. C., reporting that information had been received by that committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis PD was to be killed. Due to REDDITT's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in Memphis in February and March, 1968, REDDITT had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector TINES, believing that the telephone call received by the MC CLELLAN committee, was another threat directed against REDDITT, ordered REDDITT's removal from his post at Engine House No. 2 for REDDITT's protection.

A review of the indices and files of the Memphis Office revealed no information identifiable with Police Officer W. B. RICHMOND or Fireman FLOYD NEWSUM other than that set forth in this LHM.

A review of the indices and informant files revealed no additional information regarding threats against REDDITT.

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A review of the indices and informant files of the Memphis Office revealed no information that FBI informants had told the Memphis PD that REDDITT had shown some sympathy for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's cause by encouraging striking garbage workers, who were being supported by KING's non-violent marches, to stay away from work.

A copy of the LHM prepared by the Memphis Office on 11/21/68 referred to above was furnished to PHIL M. CANALE, JR., who was then State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tenn., on 1/21/69. No further dissemination of this memorandum has been made by the Memphis Office.

The Memphis Office is not preparing an LHM containing results of a review of the indices and files because pertinent information regarding EDWARD REDDITT, W. B. RICHMOND, and FLOYD NEWSUM has already been reported in a form suitable for dissemination, namely Memphis LHM dated 11/21/68 referred to above. This LHM incorporates all information available to the Memphis Office regarding RICHMOND and NEWSUM and the remaining information set forth in Memphis files regarding REDDITT involves his activities with the Memphis PD in their community relations program.

Airtel

9/20/76

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

① - Mr. Helterhoff

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed are two copies of a "Newsday" article dated 2/15/76, and two copies of a "Washington Post" article dated 9/18/76.

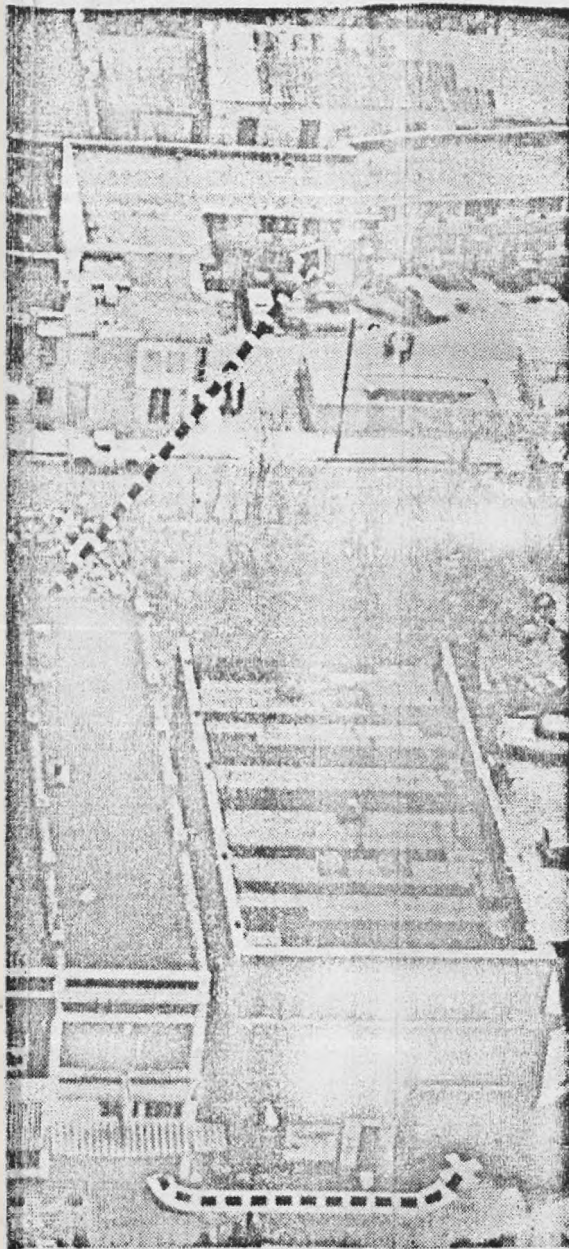
Memphis review the enclosed articles and promptly advise from a review of your indices and files, what, if any, information is contained therein concerning Edward Redditt, W. B. Richmond, and Floyd Newsum, including what dissemination made of any such information. Also advise if any information is contained in your files concerning this reported threat against Redditt and the reported information that "informers" had told the Memphis Police Department that Redditt had shown some sympathy for King's cause, etc.

Sulhm results.

Enclosures - 4

HNH:mlr (4)

NOTE: By J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum dated 2/18/76, a summary of the "Newsday" article was set forth including that our files at FBIHQ and at ME contain no information relative to this article. This article was furnished to the USDJ pointing out we were conducting no investigation re this article unless specifically requested by the Department. The Department made no subsequent request. The "Washington Post" article contains some of the same information previously set forth in the "Newsday" article and also mentions that a Floyd Newsum reportedly was transferred from the fire station. No identifiable information located on Newsum in Bufiles. This instructs ME to advise if any information contained in files re these articles.



An aerial view of the assassination scene

Cop Was Removed Before King Slaying

By Les Payne

Copyright 1974, Newsday Inc.

Hours before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in Memphis in 1968, the city's top law-enforcement official, in the presence of men he identified as federal agents, removed one of two detectives assigned to watch the civil rights leader from his post. Authorities said the removal was part of an emergency plan to protect the detective's life.

Ed Redditt, the detective who was removed from his post, had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life while he was at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The plan, which was never implemented, involved the sealing off of a four-block area around the motel.

Police did not assign a replacement for Redditt. But they did leave the detective's partner on duty.

From interviews and published stories, Newsday has learned that Redditt and his partner, both members of the Memphis police intelligence unit, watched King and his staffers at the Lorraine through binoculars from the fire station across the street. The two-man unit earlier had provided security for King and his party, and they continued to keep the police department informed of their movements and their visitors. Redditt and his partner, W. B. Richmond, who are both black, had withdrawn from what would have been their normal position with the King party because their presence, following recent riots in Memphis, had angered young local blacks.

The police were particularly concerned about a violence-prone black group called the Invaders, who, though they were friendly with the nonviolent King and his associates, had led an outbreak of violence and looting a week earlier. Newsday recently disclosed that some of the leaders of the Invaders were FBI informants and had touched off the violence that was directly responsible for King's return to Memphis the day before his assassination.

On April 4, the day King was shot, four armed members of the Invaders, who had been providing se-

curity for King and his staff in the Lorraine Motel, were seen leaving the motel—for unexplained reasons—just before 6 PM, minutes before King was shot. Although King himself never agreed to have the Invaders stand guard, some of his aides had agreed to their presence. One of the invaders standing guard was an undercover Memphis police detective who provided information for the police and the FBI.

After Redditt was removed from duty, he was told at a meeting in police headquarters that the U.S. Secret Service had learned of a "contract" on his life. Redditt protested, saying that he wanted to return to his post, but the city's then-public safety director, Frank Holloman, insisted on the officer's removal. En route home with a police guard, Redditt heard on the car radio that King had been shot by an assassin.

Three days later, the round-the-clock guard watching Redditt was removed and he was allowed to return to work. The police department never offered any further explanation of the "contract" on his life. About a week before King was killed, sources said, FBI informers had told the Memphis Police Department that Redditt had shown some sympathy for King's cause by encouraging striking garbage workers—who were being supported by King's nonviolent marches—to stay away from work. Redditt's partner on the King surveillance team was considered more loyal to the department, sources said. The partner remained at his post and reportedly was looking at King through binoculars when the civil rights leaders were shot.

The entire Redditt affair is another in a chain of curious circumstances surrounding King in the days and hours prior to his assassination.

Recent disclosures that the FBI conducted extensive surveillance of King have prompted several governmental inquiries. The Senate Intelligence Committee said its investigation uncovered no evidence that implicated the FBI in King's murder or a cover-up. However, the committee chairman, Frank Church (D-Idaho), has called for a federal special prosecutor to

—Continued on Page 15

Cop Was Removed Before King Death

—Continued from Page 7

investigate the assassination to resolve "many unanswered questions," including whether a bureau "vendetta" against King was related to his murder. The Department of Justice is reviewing the FBI's file on King and will soon make recommendations to Attorney General Edward Levi.

Redditt and the officials identified by Newsday's sources as having been present at the April 4 meeting at which Redditt was told of the "contract" on his life have refused to discuss the meeting.

Holloman acknowledged the report of a threat. "I did receive a report that there was a threat on Officer Redditt's life. Where it came from, I can't say."

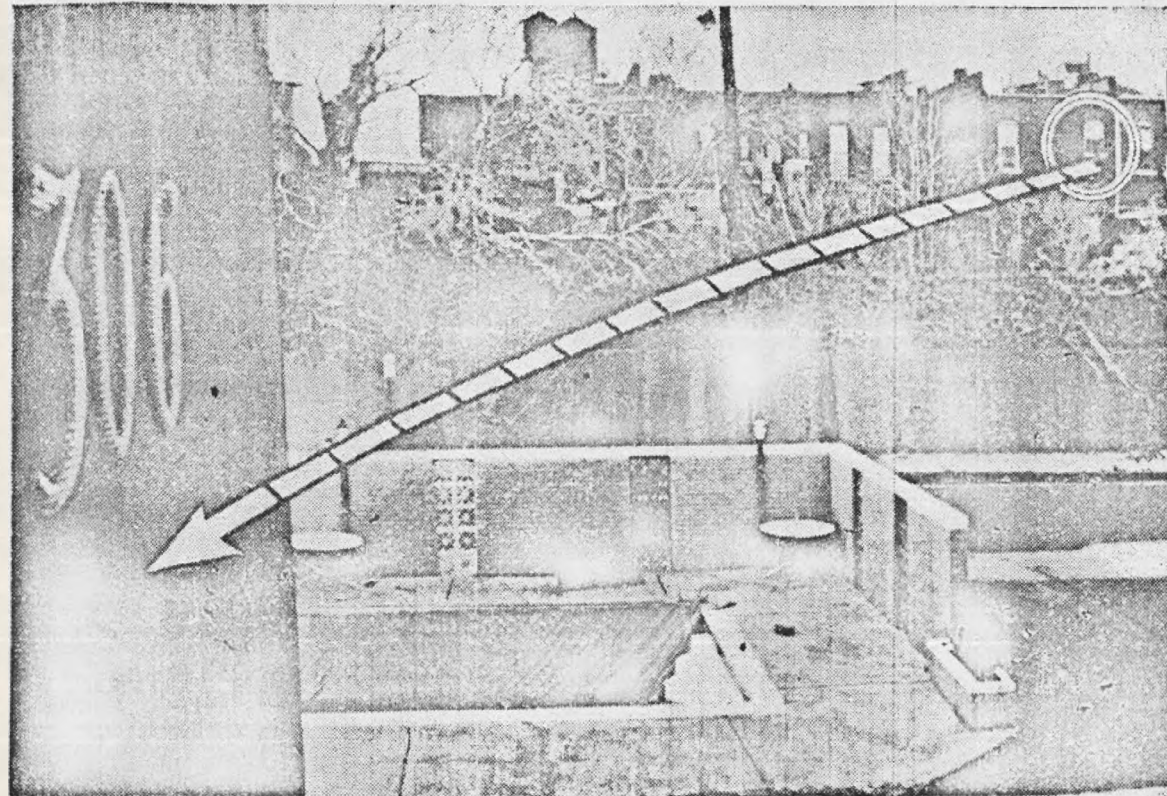
Asked about the April 4 meeting with Redditt in the presence of a man identified by Holloman as a U.S. Secret Service agent and other federal authorities, Holloman said haltingly, "... I don't recall. Even if I did I don't think I would say."

An official of the U.S. Secret Service said he checked the agency's records and found no indication that an agent had been sent to Memphis at that time.

At the police headquarters meeting, Holloman, according to sources, introduced Redditt to a "Secret Service agent down from Washington, D.C.," a man about six feet tall and weighing about 220 pounds. A Mississippi highway patrolman, Holloman said, had overheard someone threatening to go to Memphis to kill Redditt. The threat allegedly had been relayed to the U.S. Secret Service and the agent had flown down to deliver the message to the Memphis police and Redditt.

The man identified as the Secret Service agent verified Holloman's account, sources said. Also present, according to sources, were the Memphis police chief, an FBI liaison agent, two military intelligence officers, an official from the sheriff's office, a National Guard official and a representative of the Tennessee state highway patrol.

The Memphis police chief at the time, James C. MacDonald, now the chief administrator of the city's Juvenile Court, could not be reached by telephone despite numerous attempts. In reply to a letter requesting information about the Redditt affair, MacDonald wrote: "I have been out of law enforcement for seven years. I have no comment to make about your letter ..."



A view from the hotel balcony on which King was standing when he was struck by a shot, apparently fired from circled window.

Redditt protested that he wanted to return to his post, the sources said, but he was ordered not to do so. Holloman told him he would be provided with 24-hour protection at a local hotel under an assumed name. Redditt refused the hotel offer because his mother-in-law, who was living in his home, was ill and could not be moved. Holloman insisted that a 24-hour police guard be posted at Redditt's home.

For the two days following the assassination, Redditt asked to return to work. Each request was denied.

On the third day, a Sunday, he returned to work without further explanation.

Redditt's assassination contingency plan, according to sources, called for the entire four-block area around King's motel to be sealed off by patrol cars if someone tried to kill King. All streets were to be closely watched in case of an assassination attempt. Redditt is known to believe that if his plan had been in effect it would have been impossible for a lone assassin, suspected of shooting from the flophouse across the street, to have escaped.

NEWSDAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1976

UPI Photo

Washington Post
September 18, 1976

House Votes 280-65 to Probe Kennedy, King Assassinations

By Mary Russell
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House created a select committee yesterday to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 12-member committee, established on a 280-to-65 vote, will be headed by Rep. Thomas Downing (D-Va.) for the remainder of this Congress. Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) said. Downing, however, is retiring, and Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), with Downing a prime sponsor of the committee, is expected to become chairman in the new session next January.

Downing said he would ask for \$250,000 to get the committee started and hire staff, but Rep. Frank Thompson (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Administration Committee which must authorize the funds, indicated yesterday he might be reluctant to approve that amount.

Because the select committee expires at the end of this year and will have to be re-established by the House next year, it should wait until then for funding, Thompson said.

Downing said the committee would not hold public hearings before the Nov. 2 elections, to avoid charges of capitalizing politically on the investigation, but he said it might hold some closed hearings "in order to preserve testimony."

Reasons for looking again at the 1963 Kennedy assassination, he said,

are revelations by the congressional intelligence committees that information about CIA attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro was withheld from the Warren commission, the murder of two Mafia members enlisted by the CIA to help assassinate Castro, and the destruction of notes on Kennedy's autopsy and a note by assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to a member of the FBI.

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren investigated the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas and concluded that Oswald acted alone.

But Downing said yesterday, "I am convinced there was a conspiracy involved. I do not know the identity of the conspirators or their motives. That should be investigated in depth."

Downing promised "to engage in no witch-hunts" and "not blame those who may have made mistakes in the original investigation."

Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.) called the planned investigation a waste of taxpayers' money to satisfy "the melodramatic desire of the morbid to create an incident."

Though Downing and Gonzalez set out more than a year ago to create the committee, they were going nowhere until they received a push from members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who felt they had received "new information" in the 1968 killing of Martin Luther King Jr. that called for a new investigation.

D.C. Del. Walter Fauntroy and Rep. Yvonne Burke (D-Calif.) confirmed that the information came from writer and TV producer Abby Mann, who is working on a documentary on King's death, and from writer Mark Lane, one of the first to doubt the Warren Commission conclusions.

Reportedly the information has been known since 1968 but never investigated by the FBI.

It deals with the removal of King's black security chief from his side shortly before he was killed in Memphis, and the sudden transfer of two black firemen from the firehouse across the street from the motel where King was staying and was shot.

Edward Redditt, in charge of security for King, was ordered to go home about 4 p.m. on the day of King's death, because of a reported attempt on the life of Redditt's family.

The order was attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank C. Holloman, who had worked for the FBI for 25 years, part of the time in the office of the late Director J. Edgar Hoover, who had tapped King's phone and ordered surveillance of the civil rights leader.

Floyd Newsum, one of the black firemen abruptly transferred from the fire station across from the motel, said he had attended a King rally in Memphis and, though he publicly told of the transfer at the time, says he was never interviewed by the FBI.

22

RAY, JAMES EARL

☒ XEROX 6/27/77 dmf.

☒ REVIEWED 6/28/77 mer

☒ EXCISED & XEROXED 6/29/77 Hjm

☐ OTHER _____

☒ COMPLETED 6/29/77 mer



Date 6/27/77

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File No. James Earl Ray

Section 1

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file on this date:

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RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

JAMES EARL RAY

Relatives:

Mother: Lucille Mary Ray, nee Maher (Lucille Ryan)
died 1/61, St. Louis

Father: Jerry Raynes, Center, Missouri Telephone number
AM 7-3467

Brother: John Larry Ray, 1900 A Cherokee, St. Louis,
Missouri No telephone Operates Grapevine Tavern,
1982 Arsenal, St. Louis Telephone number PR 6-9417

Brother: Jerry William Ray, Chicago, Illinois

Brother: Frank Delano Ryan died 1963

Sister: Carol Pepper (Mrs. Albert Pepper), 2025 Belleview
St. Louis, Missouri Telephone number 645-2948
Owns Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal, St. Louis
Telephone number PR 6-9417

Sister: Melba Ryan, Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois
Telephone number 223-0403

Ray's SSN [redacted]
Glenn Echo Pounding Club
ST. LOUIS
May 28, 1958
Page 106 of St. Louis Report 5/10/68

Sister: Susan Donian (Mrs. Michael Donian), 3414 Bryn Mawr, Chicago, Illinois Telephone number 588-1410

Uncle: William E. Mayher, 118 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois

Uncle: Earl E. Ray, died May 2, 1959, Buffalo, New York

Stepmother: Ruby Carpenter, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois Telephone number 223-9465

Aunt: Mrs. Frank (Mable) Fuller, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois Telephone number 222-7412

Maternal and Paternal Grandparents deceased

Friend: Walter Terry Rife, Quincy, Illinois Arrested with subject in March of 1955

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FRIENDS

Charles J. Stein, 5666 Franklin Avenue

Rita Stein (sister of Charles J. Stein), 5666 Franklin Avenue

Marie Martin, Room 201, St. Francis Hotel, 5533 Hollywood Boulevard

Jerome Wallis Vernon, 1246 Woodbury Court, Upland, California

EMPLOYMENTS

Summer of 1954 worked with uncle in Quincy, Illinois

8/51 - 5/52 Borg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois

7/50 - 6/51 Arbey Corporation, Chicago, Illinois

4/50 - 7/50 Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois

7/49 - 9/49 Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago

5/44 - 12/45 International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois

FELLOW PRISONERS

Thomas Britton, Jasper, Alabama

Joseph Elmer Austin, accomplice of subject A/R 1959

Kenneth Lee Wade, Missouri State Penitentiary 1958 - 1965

David Don McFarlin

Michael Key Clark

Jimmy Lee Hill

Gale Franklin Fisher

John Ray Lester

Lawrence Albert Grider

Fellow Prisoners (Cont'd)

Charles Amos Stewart

Robert Dale Porter

Carmen Ramage

John Richard Keller, Mesa, Arizona

Lewie Raymond Dowda, Marietta, Georgia

Leo Barnett, Flat River, Mo.

Billy Miles

Billy Brown Aeby, Dallas, Texas

George William Russell, Houston, Texas

Rich Reno

Paul Alvin Lail, Palm Springs, Florida

Fred Miller

Neal Edgar Aeby, Texas Penitentiary

Everett Wayne Cox, Oklahoma City

Smiley Genovese

(FNU) Cole

Eric Larson

Fellow Prisoners (Cont'd)

Russell Lee Martin

William Henry Holland

Mancel Vernon Payne

Cecil Clayton Lillibridge

Raymond Curtis, Atlanta, Georgia

John Paul Velanti, St. Louis, Missouri

James Brown, Birmingham, Alabama

James H. Carpenter

Columbus Jones

Charles R. Mashborn

John Eugene Gawron

Hilliard Allen Sanders, Wood River, Illinois

Melvin Oliver Gridley

Milton Zavalcofski

Carl Benton Drake

James David Dailey

Walter Ellsworth Nolan

Fellow Prisoners (Cont'd)

John Edward Johnson

James D. Wallace

James Duane Wray

Roman Sage

Carl Graig

Gene Barnes

Melvin O. Gridley

William Earless Miller

James Curtis Woods

Bernard Teschany

Buddy Batchelder

James Hugh Carpenter

James C. Fletcher

Robert Lynn Powell

James Edward Richardson

Donald Dean Rigger

James R. Russell

LISTING OF RAY'S WHEREABOUTS

3/10/28 Born Alton, Illinois

1928 - 1946 Resided in Alton, Illinois *and Ewing, Mo.*

2/19/46 - 12/23/48 United States Army, Quincy, Illinois
Chicago, Illinois (6 mos.)

10/11/49 Suspicion of burglary 12/30/49 sentenced to
8 months. Served 90 days - released on probation
Los Angeles, California

4/19/50 80 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - vagrancy; released and
instructed to leave town

4/50 - 5/52 Chicago, Illinois

5/6/52 - 3/12/54 Chicago, Illinois - robbery; 6/13/52
sentenced term of 1 to 2 years (minimum
expiration)

Summer of 1954 Quincy, Illinois

8/30/54 80 Edwardville, Illinois - burglary and larceny

3/23/55 - 4/5/58 Arrested by State Highway Patrol, Macon,
Missouri Released to Post Inspector, -
Cashing stolen money order; U. S. Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas

10/10/59 St. Louis Police Department

3/17/60 - 4/23/67 State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri,
20 years - robbery, operating motor vehicle
without owners consent

Escape

FBI WASH DC*

FBI KAN CITY

644PM IMMEDIATE 4-19-68 ENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND ALL SACS and LEGATS, MEX. CITY, C. O. M.

ALL SACS EXCEPT KANSAS CITY, ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN

VIA WASHINGTON

FROM KANSAS CITY (44-760) 5P

MURKIN. CC: MEMPHIS.

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA. EARL JAMES RAY, W. C. HERRON, EARL JAMES, JAMES MC EILE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JIM - FUGITIVE; LEAD - ROBBERY FIRST, BUFILE 88-41730. CO: KANSAS CITY, KC FILE 88-9449; DETERMINED TODAY BY BUREAU TO BE IDENTICAL WITH ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM FEDERAL COMPLAINT FILED APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST IN CONNECTION WITH FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

JAMES EARL RAY, INMATE, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., ESCAPED PEN APRIL TWO THREE, SIXTY-SEVEN. INVESTIGATION INDICATED RAY CONCEALED HIMSELF IN A BREAD BOX AND ESCAPED FROM TRUCK MAKING DELIVERY TO AN AUXILIARY FARM. RAY WAS SERVING TWENTY YEARS ON CHARGE OF ARMED ROBBERY - FIRST DEGREE AND FOR OPERATING A VEHICLE WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT. ON JULY TWENTY, SIXTY-SEVEN, END PAGE ONE

Thompson - Mc Gowan

PAGE TWO

FEDERAL COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY AUSA WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY, MO., FILED BEFORE USC, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., CHARGING RAY WITH VIOLATION TITLE EIGHTEEN, SECTION ONE ZERO SEVEN THREE, USC. WARRANT ISSUED.

INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS, AND KANSAS CITY OFFICES IN UNPRODUCTIVE EFFORT TO LOCATE THIS FUGITIVE. KANSAS CITY IS INSTITUTING A FULL AND COMPLETE REINVESTIGATION IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND DATA, RELATIVES, AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECT, WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN HIS LOCATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ON MARCH SEVEN, FIFTY-FIVE, BURGLARIZED THE U. S. POST OFFICE AT KELLERVILLE, ILL., AND STOLE SIXTY-SIX BLANK U. S. POSTAL MONEY ORDERS WHICH THEY PASSED DURING MARCH, FIFTY-FIVE, IN NUMEROUS STATES, WITH THE RESULT THAT BOTH WERE SENTENCED IN U.S.D.C., KANSAS CITY, MO., ON JULY ONE, FIFTY-FIVE, TO USP, LEAVENWORTH,

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

KANSAS. SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A LONER AND RIFE APPARENTLY IS ONE OF HIS FEW CLOSE ASSOCIATES, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATES IN MURDER OF DR. KING, AND INVESTIGATION ALSO INSTITUTED IN KANSAS CITY AIRTEL TO SPRINGFIELD MARCH ELEVEN LAST TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFO RE RIFE AND TO LOCATE HIM FOR INTERVIEW. THIS INVESTIGATION SHOULD ALSO BE RECOVERED AND EXPEDITED TODAY, IT BEING NOTED RIFE AND RAY HAVE BACKGROUND HISTORY IN THE QUINCY, ILL., AREA.

PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ARE BEING FORWARDED AMSD TO BUREAU AND ALL OFFICES.

FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTION OF JAMES EARL RAY AS FURNISHED BY FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION UNDER FBI NO. THREE ZERO SIX FOUR FOUR THREE. A: WHITE MALE, DOB MARCH TEN, TWENTY-EIGHT OR TWENTY-NINE, AT DECATUR, QUINCY OR ALTON, ILL.; APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET TEN; ONE SEVEN FOUR LBS., IN SEPTEMBER SIXTY-SIX; RUDDY COMPLEXION; BLUE EYES; BROWN HAIR; MEDIUM BUILD; OCCUPATIONS LABORER AND BAKER; SCARS AND MARKS--SMALL SCAR ON CENTER OF FOREHEAD AND SCAR IN PALM OF RIGHT HAND. ADDRESSES--ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH SIXTY⁷; TWO ZERO ONE FIVE PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO., OCTOBER FIFTY-NINE; QUINCY, ILL., JULY FIFTY-FIVE, MARCH FIFTY-FIVE, AND APRIL FIFTY; HOTEL QUINCY, QUINCY, END PAGE THREE

* This should be; not 7.
per SAC Ricely. RE
HHS

PAGE FOUR

ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE; VICTOR HOTEL, QUINCY, ILL., MARCH FIFTY-FIVE;
EIGHT FIVE THREE WEST FULLERTON, CHICAGO, ILL., MAY FIFTY-TWO; EIGHT
ZERO FIVE ALBY STREET, ALTON, ILL., JULY FIFTY-ONE. FPC--SIXTEEN,
M OVER M, NINE OVER FOUR, U OVER W, OOO OVER IOI, TWELVE, REF NINE
OVER TWELVE. NCIC FPC--ONE SIX ONE THREE ONE ONE ZERO ZERO ONE TWO
ONE TWO I I ONE TWO I I ONE SEVEN. MILITARY RECORD--JAMES EARL RAY,
SN [REDACTED], ENLISTED U. S. ARMY FEBRUARY
FORTY-SIX, AT EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL., AND SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY UNTIL
DECEMBER TWENTY-THREE, FORTY-EIGHT, AT WHICH TIME GIVEN GENERAL
DISCHARGE AS PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AT CAMP KILMER, N. J., BY REASON
OF INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. RECORDS
ALSO INDICATE HE RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR GONORRHEA AND SYPHILIS WHILE
A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY.

FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF WALTER TERRY RIFE, FBI NO.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

FOUR FIVE FIVE EIGHT SEVEN SIX SIX, AS OBTAINED FROM FILES OF USP,
LEAVENWORTH: WHITE MALE, AGE FORTY-FOUR, DOB APRIL NINETEEN,
TWENTY-FOUR, FIVE FEET NINE AND ONE HALF, ONE SIX ONE LBS., BROWN
HAIR, EYES BLUE GRAY.

KANSAS CITY IS SETTING OUT ALL PERTINENT LEADS TODAY BY
TELETYPE AND TELEPHONE FOLLOWED UP BY TELETYPE CONFIRMATION.
ALL LEADS MUST BE COVERED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITH BUREAU,
KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS BEING KEPT ADVISED BY APPROPRIATE
COMMUNICATION OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

SUGGEST BUREAU MAKE IMMEDIATE COMPARISON OF ANY LATENT
FINGERPRINTS DEVELOPED DURING KING INVESTIGATION WITH THOSE
OF WALTER TERRY RIFE TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT ANCHORAGE, HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN.

SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY
WEAPON, HAS BEEN CONFINED IN STATE HOSPITAL, FULTON, MO., IN
SIXTY-SIX, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

=P=

END

LCC

FBI WASH DC*

RELAY ??? YES GOT IT RELAY LCC

FBI WASH DC

CLR

2-17-68

DEAR MISS:

I AM ANSWERING YOUR LISTING IN THE LOCAL SWINGER
SINCE I THINK I SHARE MOST^{of} YOUR INTEREST, WITH
EMPHASIS ON FRENCH CULT. AND SWING SESSIONS.

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM MEXICO AFTER FIVE YRS.
AND THE FEW FEMALES I HAVE MET DON'T GO FOR THE
SWING PARTIES AND IT TAKES TWO TO SWING.

THE SAME ROUTINE GETS BORING, DON'T YOU THINK.

WILL CLOSE UNTIL I HEAR FROM YOU.

5-11-1701B 36YRS.

Eric S. Galt

SINCERELY

ERIC S. GALT

5533-HOLLYWOOD BLVD.

HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

90028.

PH. 464-1131.

EVIDENCE

Eric

18
5

S
29
1007

SINGLE MALE CAUC. 36 YRS. 5-11-170LB, DIGS FR. CULT.
DESIRE'S DISCREET MEETING WITH PASSIONATE MARRIED
FEMALE FOR MUTUAL ENJOYMENT, AND/OR FEMALE FOR SWING SESSIONS
APT. FURN. WILL EX. PHOTO.

WRITE

ERIC S. 406-So. 2nd. ALHAMBRA. 91802.

UNCLASSIFIED
ADD

(RETURN NAME AND ADDRESS, ERIC S. GALT. SAME AS ABOVE)
INCLOSED IS M.O. FOR \$4.25, RUN ADD UNDER 31 UNIT. SYS

TH

Eric

Ray
Long

18
J

S
29
1007
SINGLE MALE CAUC. 36 YRS. 5-11-170LB, DIGS PR. CULT.
DESIRE'S DISCREET MEETING WITH PASSIONATE MARRIED
FEMALE FOR MUTUAL ENJOYMENT, AND/OR FEMALE FOR SWING SESSIONS
APT. FURN. WILL EX. PHOTO.

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AND THE FEW FEMALES I HAVE MET DON'T GO FOR THE
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THE SAME ROUTINE GETS BORING, DON'T YOU THINK.
WILL CLOSE UNTIL I HERE FROM YOU.
5-11-1701B.36YRS.

Eric S. Galt

SINCERELY
ERIC S. GALT
5533-HOLLYWOOD BLVD.
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.
90028.
PH.4641131.

EVIDENCE

Docket No. 19148

Judge Charles E. Whittaker

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Kansas City, Missouri

April 26, 1955

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME	James Earl Ray	CITIZENSHIP	United States
ADDRESS	Transient	MARITAL STATUS	Single
AGE	27 years (Born March 10, 1928)	NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS	None
SEX	Male	OFFENSE	Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order
RACE	White		

I. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955 at Kansas City, Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on a U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-42,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Docket No. 19149 to an Information in one count charging him with the forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-42,239,568. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and this presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, Serial Nos. 7-42,239,535 to 7-42,239,600 inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On March 8, 1955 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On March 21, 1955 one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-42,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Company, 1206 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-42,239,568 to the Chaffee Office Machine Company, 1410 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later when this money order was ascertained

ENCLOSURE

FPI-LK-9550-25M-7337

to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who has been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

On March 24, 1955 Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Chaffee Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the money order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 8, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis, Missouri from a "Wino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders.

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Illinois have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

<u>Last three digits</u>	<u>Cashed by</u>	<u>Cashed at</u>	<u>Second Endorser</u>	<u>Date of earliest discernible bank stamp</u>	<u>Amt.</u>
538	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 10	\$50
543	Ray	do	Downs Men's Shop	Mar. 9	\$55
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	EssRay Art Galleries	Mar. 21	\$75
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	Mar. 21	\$75
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	\$75

Total known forged money orders, including
two uttered at Kansas City, Missouri -
\$1,805.

R. H. J.

552	Rife	Memphis, Tenn.	Borg & McCargo	Mar. 11	\$25
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Wright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schneiders	Mar. 21 ?	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear Shop	Mar. 18	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent*	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dinos (?) J. C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's Store	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfeifers of Arkansas	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Biles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan O. Whipple I. Zucker)	Mar. 16	\$50
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abrams	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liquors Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
592	Rife	do	Knox (?) Bar & Luncheonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Clothing	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn(?)	Mar. 21	\$75

*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

II. PRIOR RECORD:

Defendant's F. B. I. Fingerprint Return No. 306 443 A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 : Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California - suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 8 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drunk.

ing in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

4-18-50 : Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. - vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.

7-23-51 : Alton, Illinois Police Department - no operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was ined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.

5-6-52 ✓ : Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.
*Held up taxicab driver
1 to 2 yrs all*

8-30-54 ✓ : Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.
*Burglary
E Alton*

3-23-55 : Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day.

III. FAMILY HISTORY:

Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born March 10, 1928 in Alton, Illinois.

He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948 he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Prior Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954, he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

49. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other relatives

in Quincy, Illinois.

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1954, he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the 1st through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION:

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

None.

VIII. HEALTH:

Defendant is 5' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillectomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

IX. EMPLOYMENT AND MILITARY HISTORY:

Defendant states that at Alton, Illinois on February 19, 1946 he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He received his basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He was then transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to await transportation to the European Theater of Operations. He states that he left the continental limits of the United States for Germany in July of 1946. Overseas he was attached to the 382nd Military Police Battalion. He admits that he was once AWOL for a period of two days which resulted in a suspended sentence to confinement for period of sixty days. He returned to the United States from Germany in December of 1948 and was, he states, on December 23, 1948 given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Defendant states that his last employment was with an uncle whom he refuses to identify but who resides in Quincy, Illinois. He worked for this uncle as a painter for a period of time in the summer of 1954.

He claims that from August 1951 to May 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. This employment was terminated when he was arrested for robbery, which eventually resulted in a penitentiary sentence.

He states that from July of 1950 to June 1951 he was employed by the Arbey Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. He was discharged from this employment for absenteeism caused by his arrest in Alton, Illinois for vagrancy when visiting in that city.

He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have left this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

From July 1949 to September 1949 defendant states he was employed as a laborer at a wage of \$1.10 per hour by the Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago, Illinois. He quit this job to move to California.

He purports that from May 1944 to December of 1945 he was employed at a wage of 65¢ per hour by the International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois. He indicates he was laid off by this employer in a general reduction of forces and that he then entered the army.

X. RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES:

None.

XI. SUMMARY:

This defendant, white male, age 27, no dependents, has entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he at Kansas City, Missouri

on or about March 21, 1955 forged a stolen U. S. Postal Money Order. This money order was one of sixty-six such orders stolen in a burglary of the U. S. Post Office, Kellerville, Illinois on March 7, 1955. Defendant emphatically denies the burglary of the post office. He states that his companion in the instant offense, Walter T. Rife, whom he met at a bar in Quincy, Illinois, suggested that he accompany Rife and cash the money orders which Rife reportedly had purchased from an unknown person. Defendant states that he purchased for \$1 the identification he and Rife used in uttering these stolen orders in various states. When arrested for the instant offense defendant was in possession of thirty-four money orders which had been stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office. He admits the forgery and uttering of fourteen money orders. His companion, Rife, has admitted the forgery and uttering or attempting to utter eighteen of the stolen money orders.

Approximately one year before becoming involved in the instant offense defendant was released from service of a sentence of one to two years for armed robbery in the Illinois State Penitentiary. In August of 1954 he burglarized a cleaning establishment in East Alton, Illinois. Although he admittedly was charged with burglary he apparently has never been before the appropriate court and apparently is not presently wanted on this charge. In 1949 in Los Angeles, California he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to eight months in the county jail. After serving ninety days of this sentence he was released on probation for a period of two years.

Defendant shows absolutely no remorse at this time. He anticipates receiving a substantial sentence for the instant offense. In writer's opinion he is a confirmed criminal and a menace to society when in the free world.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Murray
Edward B. Murray
U. S. Probation Officer

EBM:lo

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN KANSAS CITY	DATE 2/23/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/8/67 - 2/19/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE		REPORT MADE BY SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH	TYPED BY gah
		CHARACTER OF CASE UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST <i>2-28-68</i>	

REFERENCE: Kansas City report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 12/29/67.

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LEADS:

CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS (INFO)

One copy of this report is submitted for the information of Chicago, Springfield and St. Louis, all of whom have current investigation outstanding to locate the subject or are expected to be requested to conduct additional investigation in the future.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						none	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
1 - Bureau (88-41730) (RM)						REC-35		
1 - Chicago (INFO) (RM)						EX-100		
1 - Springfield (88-5361) (INFO) RM						10 FEB 26 1968		
1 - St. Louis (INFO) (RM)								
2 - Kansas City (88-9449)								
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency						FUG. SUP STAT. SECT.		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

66 MAR 1 1968

KC 88-9449

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

Reinterview supervisory employees of the subject and fellow inmates of the subject at the Missouri State Prison for any possible additional information they may be able to furnish regarding the subject's escape and his possible destination, associates and friends.

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

1. At the Federal Records Center, review the U. S. Penitentiary file of WALTER TERRY RIFE, USP #72497-L, an associate of the subject, for any background or other information which might assist in the location of the subject.

2. Continue contact of informants, employment agencies and other logical sources of information in an effort to locate the subject.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On 11/29/67, SA ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE, of the Chicago Office, made inquiry at the U. S. Post Office, Wheeling, Illinois, with negative results in an effort to develop information regarding the subject.

On 2/7/68, Mr. A. E. FIFZHOUSE, Manager, Missouri State Employment Service, 1411 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri, whose files are confidential, checked for the name of the subject with negative results.

INFORMANTS:

The following were contacted on the dates indicated by Special Agent JOSEPH L. KISSIAH with negative results to develop information regarding the subject:

PCI HENRY C. McFAD, on 12/23, 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/7/68.

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KC 88-9449

PCI HELEN GRAYSON, on 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/8/68.

PCI JAMES COLEMAN BOYD, on 12/26/67; 1/19/68 and 2/5/68.

PCI JOE F. ROSS, on 12/29/67; 1/19 and 30/68, and 2/19/68.

KC 473-C, on 1/3, 18 and 29/68.

KC 601-C, on 1/8/68.

PCI J. W. JONES, on 1/8 and 1/31/68.

C*

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH Office: KANSAS CITY
Date: February 23, 1968
Field Office File #: KC 88-9449 Bureau File #: 88-41730
Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY FIRST

Synopsis: Investigation by Springfield and St. Louis Offices in effort to locate relatives and associates of subject unproductive. Chicago Office has located JERRY RAY, Northbrook, Ill., subject's brother, who described subject as drifter and has no knowledge of present whereabouts. Other relatives identified. Additional investigation Missouri State Penitentiary, and Kansas City, Mo., set out. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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DETAILS:

By communication dated December 21, 1967, the St. Louis Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Missouri:

A check of the St. Louis City Directory reflected no address listed for 1135 South Tenth Street. A visual inspection of the area revealed no residence addresses on the west or odd-numbered side of the 1000 block of South Tenth Street. The highest odd-numbered address in this block was 1133, which is a business establishment which was built a few years ago.

KC 88-9449

An inspection of the St. Louis City Directories and St. Louis Telephone Directory listed a LUCILLE RYAN, 4992 Lansdowne, an employee of the Land Clearance and Housing Authority, who was determined not to be identical with any relative of subject RAY.

Also listed was a Mrs. LUCILLE RYAN, 8747 New Hampshire, who also advised upon interview she was not a relative of subject JAMES EARL RAY.

By communication dated December 29, 1967, the Chicago Office advised as follows:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE:

On November 29, 1967, Chief MARVIN HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised a check of his records failed to reveal any record for subject or JERRY RAY.

On December 12, 1967, Mrs. RUTH MEYER, Palatine, Illinois, Credit Bureau, which maintains listings in Wheeling, Illinois, advised a check of their records failed to reveal any information concerning subject or JERRY RAY.

On December 18, 1967, Chief HORCHER, Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, advised he had been unable to locate any additional information concerning a JERRY RAY, however, he will continue to make inquiries to determine if he can locate JERRY RAY.

By communication dated January 4, 1968, the Springfield Office advised as follows: