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**HQ - HEADQUARTERS** PART 4 OF 8 WRITTEN ON THE B

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PART 4 OF 8

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Assassination-Martin Luther King, Jr.

- ☒ XEROX 6/28/77. dmf
- ☒ REVIEWED 7/5/77
- ☒ EXCISED & XEROXED *no refiling necessary*
- ☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ COMPLETED

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Search Spreads

### Reward In Dr. King's Death Leaps To \$100,000—Body Taken To Atlanta

By JOHN MEANS

The reward fund for the arrest and conviction of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s murderer grew to \$100,000 yesterday while the search for the assassin spread throughout the nation.

The City Council guaranteed yesterday to underwrite \$50,000 to be added to the \$25,000 offered Thursday by The Commercial Appeal and an additional \$25,000 put up by Scripps-Howard Newspapers for the reward fund.

The body of the 39-year-old civil rights leader left Memphis yesterday morning in a bronze casket and a chartered airliner. The departure came shortly after the arrival of the nation's top law enforcement officer, United States Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who conveyed President Johnson's personal sympathy to Dr. King's widow.

Mr. Clark returned to Washington last night, after announcing the investigation was spreading "several hundred miles from the borders of Tennessee."

Atty. Gen. Clark, in a hastily conference yesterday afternoon, said evidence "indicates a single individual. There is no evidence of a widespread plot."

He said the investigation has already widened to several states, and it "will spread as far as the evidence takes us. It has already spread several hundred miles from the boundaries of Tennessee now."

Though Dr. King's funeral is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in Atlanta, his mourners were making plans to come to Memphis Monday from all parts of the nation, to participate in a protest march in his memory. The march was originally scheduled on behalf of the city's striking sanitation workers, but it took on far greater meaning after Dr. King's assassination on a balcony at the Lorraine Motel in Thursday's twilight.

Federal Judge Bailey Brown, who had issued an order restraining Dr. King's march plans earlier in the week, yesterday agreed to lift the court ban, subject to several restrictions. The line of march from Clayborn Temple to City Hall was spelled out in the order, which allows it between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday. Marchers are limited to ranks of four abreast, in the middle of the street.

Another march wound single-file down Main to City Hall and back to Clayborn Temple yesterday afternoon. It included about 300 sanitation workers and their sympathizers.

It was the second march of the day to City Hall. Earlier, a group of 350 ministers, rabbis and priests, led by the Very Rev. William E. Dimmick, dean of St. Mary's Cathedral (Episcopal) walked from St. Mary's to Mayor Loeb's office to plead with him to end the strike.

The Memphis Ministers Association announced it will sponsor a city memorial service for Dr. King at 2 p.m. Sunday at Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

Church leaders in other parts of the nation responded to the news of Dr. King's death. In Nashville, the executive secretary of the huge Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Porter W. Routh, called on ministers of the entire Conven-

(See Search, Page 8)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 148

COMMERCIAL  
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 4-6-68

Edition: FRANK R. AYLOR

Author:

Editor: FINE

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☒ Being Investigated

# Search Spreading To Several States

(Story Continued From Page 1)

tion to devote Sunday services to prayers for "failure to practice Christian brotherhood." And in Atlanta, the Southern Presbyterian Church's Board of National Ministries voted to send \$5,000 to the sanitation workers "so Martin Luther King will not have died in vain." All pastors of the denomination were asked for additional contributions.

In Nashville, Gov. Buford Ellington stepped into the sanitation workers' strike yesterday, calling it "a major long-range problem that should have been dealt with prior to this time." He suggested a federal mediator be called in and that "both sides move toward immediate and serious negotiations. This prolonged situation has already been marred by two deaths and many injuries. The public interest demands immediate and sincere action from both sides."

He said he was "grateful to the vast majority of citizens of both races for exercising restraint and good judgment in the face of a tragic occurrence."

The other death he referred to was that of a young Negro who was shot by a police officer during violence that broke out last week after Dr. King's first attempt to lead a march through downtown Memphis. Property damage during the looting that followed amounted to half a million dollars, and scores of injuries and arrests followed.

The Tennessee National Guard, which had left Memphis only the day before after an uneasy week, was rushed back Thursday night after the slaying. Lt. Col. James Gill, executive officer of the Guard force, said Thursday night's "sporadic trouble" seemed to be a bit heavier than the troops encountered the week before.

"There seemed to be a little more sniper activity," he said, "but we're just playing the same record on the same song and the same tune as last time, except we've got more people committed this time."

Brig. Gen. Robert W. Akin, the state adjutant general, said in Nashville last night that more than 1,000 additional guardsmen from East Tennessee will be airlifted to Memphis Sunday.

"The troops will be moved to critical areas to add to and relieve troops already committed," General Akin said.

The force, 3,800 men, is about the same, but fewer of them are being held in reserve in bivouac areas, he said.

Support for Monday's march, and for the cause it originally championed, came from many sections of the nation.

In New York, Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, telegraphed NAACP chapters throughout the nation, suggesting that its members join in the memorial observance, observe a two-week mourning period by wearing black arm-bands, and send contributions to the Memphis NAACP chapter for a defense fund for persons arrested in last week's march.

Tommy Powell, president of the 35,000-member Memphis Labor Council, said, "We have called for the mayor to resign. I feel that Henry Loeb is the cause of the national strife we've had in the last 24 hours because of the anti-union and racist attitude. He refuses to let people have basic rights such as union recognition and a dues checkoff."

In Washington, George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, announced a \$20,000 contribution by the union headquarters for the strikers.

Jack Greenberg, director of New York's NAACP Legal Defense Fund, was in Memphis yesterday. "When there's a death in the family, you go," he said in explanation of his presence here.

Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference got a new leader yesterday. His vice president and chief lieutenant, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, quietly took over command of the organization he helped Dr. King found in 1953. It was Dr. Abernathy who was cradling the bleeding head of his leader in his lap when the ambulance arrived at the shooting scene.

The bullet that killed the nation's foremost civil rights leader came from a bathroom in a rooming house at 418½ South Main, a block away, according to fire and police director Frank Holloman. "I can only tell you we are proceeding and will eventually solve the murder," Mr. Holloman said yesterday, but he refused to speculate when a break might come in the nation's most widely publicized murder since the 1963 slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

Evidence in the case, Mr. Clark said, is considerably more than police "usually get in cases like this." But he would not elaborate.

"A number of studies of prints (fingerprints and hand-prints) that may establish the identity" of the sniper are being made by police and FBI agents, with the aid of the FBI Laboratory in Washington.

"There have been several names that have come up... but the names that have been traced are not true names." He also said no evidence indicated participation by the Ku Klux Klan, one of Dr. King's most outspoken enemies.

What was thought to be a major break in the case fizzled out yesterday, as Mr. Holloman announced that questioning of a bald-headed man arrested near the rooming house revealed he had no connection with the assassination.

Threats, apparently by black power militants, against the families of police officers and sheriff's deputies whose names have been mentioned in news stories during the rioting posed another problem yesterday. A spokesman for the Sheriff's office said more than 25 auxiliary deputies are now tied up protecting these families, and asked the city's newspapers to avoid using officers' names except when absolutely necessary.

The murder brought more efforts to end the sanitation strike that brought its victim to Memphis, as well as sympathy for the strikers.

City Councilman Lewis R. Donelson III said yesterday an unnamed Memphis businessman has offered \$25,000 to pay the union dues of the workers for six months, to allow a cooling-off period in the strike.

The proposal drew objections from one councilman, J. O. Patterson Jr., and it was not placed on yesterday's council agenda. But council approval of the move was not thought necessary if it is accepted by Mayor Henry Loeb and the strike leaders.

The council took two actions in connection with the slaying of Dr. King, adopting a resolution of sympathy to be sent to Mrs. King, and agreeing to underwrite a portion of the reward fund, up to \$50,000. Ned Cook, grain broker and longtime friend of Mayor Loeb, told the Council he could raise most of the money from businessmen's contributions if the amount could be guaranteed.

Mrs. King was in Memphis briefly yesterday, but did not leave the American Airlines Electra that brought her here to claim the body of her martyred husband. The plane was placed at her disposal by Senator Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) and dispatched from Nashville. The cost of the chartered aircraft was estimated at \$4,500.

Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division trouble calls "are being screened carefully" in the western part of north and south Memphis — predominantly Negro areas — but "if it is a strict emergency and we can get protection, we'll go in, even if it is a troubled area," said Steve Warren, public relations officer for LGW.

At least two men were being dispatched to every call, regardless of location, and "if it's a routine call, it may be the first of the week before we get to it."

Memphis Transit Authority buses ran on schedule yesterday, but were pulled off the streets after dark. MTA president Frank Ragsdale said 53 buses were damaged in Thursday night's rampage. Most of the damage was listed as broken windows, and there were no reports of injuries to drivers or passengers.

About 100 cases were tried in City Court resulting from Thursday night's disorder, and 9 persons were bound over to the state on charges ranging from turning in a false fire alarm to burglary and looting.

Most of the 806 police calls yesterday were riot-connected, and 240 persons were arrested Thursday night and yesterday, including 11 juveniles and 18 women. Molotov cocktails were responsible for about 75 of the 229 fire calls during the same period.

The Memphis Chamber of Commerce, in a statement of sympathy to Dr. King's family and associates, said the city "will continue to work for still more progress in human relations, and "intensify our own efforts to effect justice and equality and opportunities for all citizens."

But a statement from Jesse H. Turner, president of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP, turned a deaf ear to claims of progress in human relations. Mr. Turner referred to "the inept and racist leadership of our community, nurtured by years of hatred and bigotry within the community," and called on civic leaders to "rectify, rather than pacify, these conditions."

"There are those in the white community who feel that the violent silencing of one civil rights fighter will halt the Negro's progress toward freedom; and there are Negroes who feel that violence will propel us faster toward our goal," Mr. Turner said. "Both groups are wrong."

Date 6/28/77

The following material has been reproduced  
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the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No. Assassination - Martin Luther King

Section 1

Serials \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_

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file on this date:

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**JAMES EARL RAY**  
... claims innocence

# King Slayer Sues, Seeks New Trial

By Albert Gore Jr.

Special to The Washington Post

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 27

—James Earl Ray filed a \$500,000 damage suit against state officials here today, charging that he has been "falsely imprisoned for a crime he didn't commit."

The confessed assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., now serving a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee state prison, also asked the U.S. District Court here to prevent his transfer to a federal penitentiary.

Interviewed through the bars of his tiny cell today, Ray said he was concerned about newspaper reports last week that state officials have asked the U.S. Bureau of Prisons about procedures for transferring him to federal custody.

Ray, 41, typed the rambling 15-page lawsuit himself, claiming at one point that his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, had mishandled vital information that could have been used in his defense. He has repeatedly charged that Foreman coerced him into pleading guilty to the murder of King.

Immediately after his guilty plea in March of 1969, the presiding judge cut off an attempt by Ray to explain why he did not agree with those who said there was no conspiracy surrounding the assassination.

He refused to discuss the crime yesterday but claimed that he would "tell everything" if only he could get a new trial. Last April, a federal judge here turned down his request for a new trial on grounds that Ray had knowingly and voluntarily pleaded guilty.

"If I can't get to court, I'm just going to forget it," he said, adding that he saw no point in giving his version of the events surrounding King's death to the news media because, "I'd still be here.

"It would be libelous anyway. It's different proving something in the newspapers and proving it on the witness stand."

In his lawsuit, Ray charged that he gave two telephone numbers to Foreman, who in turn gave them to another lawyer to investigate. Ray claimed that one of the numbers was traced to a Baton Rouge, La., parish official who was "under the influence of a Teamsters union official."

The other number was traced to a New Orleans man who was "among other things, an agent of a Mideast oriented organization" that Ray believes was concerned about reports that King planned to announce his public support of the "Palestine Arab Cause."

Ray declined to identify the persons he believes the numbers were traced to. Asked if he had ever called the numbers, he said, "I'd rather not go into that."

Foreman told the Associated Press in Houston that he had no knowledge of the telephone numbers. "We did find one number and in checking it out found that it was a New Orleans bar," Foreman said. "I don't know anything about a Baton Rouge number but I believe we did check another New Orleans number and it turned out it had been discontinued."

*Mc Gowan*

**ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

At about 6 p.m., on 4-4-68, while standing on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, Martin Luther King, Jr., was struck in the right side of the face by a single bullet believed to have been fired from a rifle. Minutes after King was shot, a white male was observed to have dropped a bundle on the sidewalk in front of a store near the scene of the crime. Included in the abandoned articles was a rifle with a telescopic sight which was determined to have been purchased on 3/29-30/68, in Birmingham, Alabama. Also found with the rifle were undershorts, a T-shirt, binoculars, a newspaper, an after shave lotion bottle, two unopened beer cans, and a brown and green bedspread.

We established that a person by using the name of Eric S. Galt, who registered at a motel in Memphis, Tennessee, on 4-3-68, was a prime suspect in this case. We also determined that Galt was driving a white Mustang automobile with Alabama license and this vehicle was abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia on 4-5-68.

As a result of checking the fingerprints of 53,000 fugitives, the latent fingerprints found on the rifle and other articles abandoned were determined to be

identical with those of James Earl Ray, who escaped on 4-23-67, from Missouri State Penitentiary.

Through extensive Bureau investigation and through the cooperation of Canadian officials, it was determined that subject Ray was issued a Canadian passport on 4-24-68, using name of Ramon George Sneyd, and departed Toronto, Canada, for London, England, on 5-6-68. Ray was arrested 6-8-68, at London, England, as he was attempting to enplane for Brussels, at which time he was found to be in possession of the Canadian passport in the name of Ramon George Sneyd.

When the subject was arrested, he had on his person approximately \$150 in British currency, and nothing has been located to indicate any other funds are available to him. Investigation thus far does not indicate Ray is involved in a conspiracy.

Extradition proceedings commenced on 6-27-68, at London, England, and these proceedings have been continued until 7-2-68.

At the peak of this investigation 3,075 Field Agents were assigned to this case, Bureau automobiles were driven an estimated 332,849 miles, and it is estimated that more than 30,000 interviews have been conducted.

*John Dine*  
*Bent 7/15*

**JAMES EARL RAY;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS**

Widespread public interest was generated by the FBI civil rights investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in April, 1968. The entire facilities of the FBI were committed to this investigation from the outset and within five days the man then known as Eric S. Galt was developed as a prime suspect. Within another week a photograph of this suspect had been obtained and the Attorney General considered sufficient evidence had been developed to warrant Federal process under a Civil Rights Statute. Three days later, from a check of latent fingerprints against those of white male fugitives for whom "wanted" notices had been placed in the files of the FBI Identification Division, James Earl Ray was determined to be the true identity of Eric S. Galt. At the request of the FBI, Canadian authorities determined that a Canadian passport had been issued to Ray in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, and on June 8, 1968, Ray was arrested by Scotland Yard when he presented the Sneyd passport to travel from London to Brussels. At the conclusion of extradition proceedings, Ray was returned to the United States in the custody of FBI Agents and was turned over to local authorities in Memphis, Tennessee, for state prosecution.

The investigation to identify and locate James Earl Ray is a splendid example of international police cooperation. In addition to the extensive investigation conducted by the FBI in the United States, specific inquiries were made in more than a dozen foreign countries through FBI liaison representatives. The arrest of James Earl Ray was the direct result of vigorous investigation conducted by Canadian and British authorities at the request of the FBI.

On March 10, 1969, in State Court, Memphis, Tennessee, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to charges of murder, and he received a sentence of 99 years. The new attorneys for Ray filed a motion for a new trial, and on May 26, 1969, the judge denied this motion for a new trial.

Attorneys for Ray have petitioned the Tennessee Court of Appeals for Writ of Certiorari to have them review trial record of Ray's conviction. A ruling on this petition may be given on July 15, 1969.

**January 20, 1970**

**Since prosecutive action in this matter has been handled exclusively in State Courts to date, and the Department has not initiated any Federal prosecutive action, you may desire to give consideration to dismissing Federal process on the conspiracy charge under Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code which is still outstanding relative to James Earl Ray.**

**You are requested to advise the Bureau of your determination along these lines at your earliest convenience.**

*G. W. Gunn - handling*

Mr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

MURKIN

January 16, 1970

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malby  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. McDonough  
1 - Mr. Bishop      1 - Mr. Mohr

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Set forth hereunder is the current status of prosecutive action relative to the subject, James Earl Ray who is serving a 99 year sentence for murder in the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee.

STATUS OF STATE PROSECUTION:

On January 8, 1970, the Tennessee State Supreme Court denied a petition by James Earl Ray for a new trial. In handing down the unanimous (four judges sitting) decision, the court noted that Ray had knowingly pleaded guilty in State Criminal Court to the slaying of King, that he had been represented by competent counsel and had waived all rights of appeal in entering his plea.

SAC, Memphis has advised that on January 12, 1970, Jesse Clyde Mason, Assistant State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that the only other appeal recourse that James Earl Ray has in connection with his conviction in the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., is to file a motion under the Tennessee "Post Conviction Relief Act." He stated that attorneys for Ray have not filed such a motion to date; however, he anticipates that such a motion will be filed within the next thirty days. He asserted that there is no time limitation for such a motion to be filed in Ray's behalf; however, the longer that Ray waits to file such a motion hinders his chances of having a successful opinion rendered in his behalf. If such a motion is filed and is declined at the Shelby County Circuit Court level, Ray does have recourse through the Appellate Court and State Supreme Court on this particular issue.

Mason stated that if Ray is unsuccessful in obtaining a new trial under the Tennessee "Post Conviction Relief Act," he then has recourse through the Federal courts by a habeas corpus action claiming that his constitutional rights have been violated in that his plea of guilty to the murder charge was not given voluntarily.

EJM:cs (8)

CONTINUED - OVER

**Memo Rosen to DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

**STATUS OF FEDERAL PROSECUTION:**

Federal process is still outstanding on Ray charging that he and an individual who he alleged to be his brother conspired to interfere with a constitutional rights of Martin Luther King, Jr., namely, the right to travel freely from state to state.

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION:**

It is noted that consideration was previously given to the release of information regarding the Bureau's outstanding handling of this investigation. Ray currently still has possible avenues of appeals in state courts and through the Federal courts and Federal process is still outstanding on the conspiracy charge which the Department previously declined to have dismissed even though it is within their province to do so. Investigation has indicated that Ray acted alone and no evidence of a conspiracy has been developed and, therefore, the Department is not in a position to proceed on the conspiracy charge. However, inasmuch as he never was tried by a jury and has not exhausted the possibility of an appeal in State court and as Federal process is still outstanding, it is felt that the releasing of any information of a possible evidentiary nature should be taken up with the Department prior to making any such release and assuming such a responsibility.

**ACTION:**

For information. Any further appellate action by Ray will be closely followed and you will be kept advised.

*McGowan*

Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

ADDENDUM BY C. D. DE LOACH, 1/15/70:

I agree thoroughly that the Department should be consulted prior to any cooperation being given by the FBI to anyone. However, I believe that our chances for good public relations and solid credit in this particular case are being gradually eroded away by those critics who are constantly harping about the wiretap on Martin Luther King as well as his (King's) criticisms against the FBI. Frankly, considerable aspects of this case are already within the public realm. This includes the Reader's Digest article by Jerry O'Leary as well as hundreds of articles which have appeared in the press and programs on radio and television. Consequently, there is not a great deal more that could be said in a book.

Ray can always launch an appeal. He could actually do so ten to twenty years from now. Therefore, we are always faced with this prospect regardless of the circumstances. I believe that a "reasonable time" has elapsed and the consideration should be given at this time to granting the Reader's Digest request that Jim Bishop be allowed to write a book on this case.

Admittedly, Jim Bishop is somewhat pompous, however, he is cooperative, friendly and perhaps the most thorough, exacting author in this particular category of books. As stated above, however, we should get the views of the Department in writing before proceeding.

CDD:amr  
(7)

Mr. Mohr

9/5/69

J. J. Casper

**JAMES EARL RAY  
IDENTIFICATION MATTER**

In an addendum to a memorandum, same caption, of 9/2/69, Trotter to Mohr, suggesting preparation of an interesting identification write-up on captioned case, the statement is made that "the danger of prejudicing a case by publicity only applies prior to and during the actual trial of the case. Publicity cannot prejudice a case in the appeals stage since this stage is concerned only with matters of law rather than fact." The Director underlined this quoted statement and said: "Have we any legal support of this? H."

Strong support for the referenced statement is found in the records of convictions successfully attacked on the ground of prejudicial publicity. Our review of decisions in such cases, from the Supreme Court on down, reveals that the "prejudicial publicity" attack is confined to jury cases. We have not located a single case in which a conviction has been reversed for prejudicial publicity prior to or during a trial before a judge only, or prior to or during an appeal on the legal merits.

The record of the cases reviewed is consistent with constitutional theory. The Sixth Amendment gives the accused a right to trial by "an impartial jury." As the Supreme Court has said, this is a "requirement that the jury's verdict be based on evidence received in open court, not from outside sources." Sheppard v. Maxwell, 384 U. S. 333 (1966). Publicity that is prejudicial prevents the jury from being impartial.

The current campaign against prejudicial publicity seems directed entirely at the pretrial and trial phases, and to assume a jury trial. The controversy generated has been labeled "Fair Trial v. Free Press." Department of Justice restrictions on news release cover "a criminal offense until the proceeding has been terminated by trial or otherwise," forbids anything which might influence "the outcome of a defendant's trial" and adds that "because of the particular danger of prejudice resulting from statements in the period approaching and during trial,

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Bishop

(1) - Mr. Rosen

DJD:ple

(5)

(CONTINUED - OVER)

Memorandum to Mr. Mohr  
Re: James Earl Ray  
Identification Matter

they ought strenuously to be avoided during that period." 28 Code of Federal Regulations 50.2. The American Bar Association Report on "Fair Trial and Free Press" is directed toward the problem existing in jury trial situations. At one point it suggests that in cases in which publicity may have created a problem an alternative would be for the defendant to waive trial by jury "on the theory that a judge is less likely to be susceptible to outside influences." Page 129. Further, in a published discussion between himself and Clifton Daniel of the New York Times, Justice Reardon (Supreme Court of Massachusetts), principal architect of the American Bar Association Report on "Free Trial and Free Press," said "If you will read our report you will see that we are not holding up the release of information until the case has come through the appellate court... The report proposes the withholding of that information until the conclusion of the trial and the sentence of the defendant." Source: "Fair Trial and Free Press," Rational Debate Seminars, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, D. C.

The decisions and the law review commentaries also assume the publicity problem to exist in jury trial cases only. The single exception that we found is in a Second Circuit Court of Appeals case in which Judge Clark said, in dictum having nothing to do with the decision, that "Chief Judge Lumbard and Judge Friendly authorize me to state that they agree with the writer that the publication by former special prosecutors of accounts and comments regarding this case and the appellants, while this appeal was pending, was improper." U. S. v. Bufalino, 285 F2d 408 (1960) (the Apalachin hoodlum case).

Conviction does not, of course, end all possibility of a jury trial. If the present conviction of Ray should be reversed and remanded by the Supreme Court, Ray could demand a jury trial the second time around. Prior publicity would then most likely become an issue in the case. But this possibility is not confined to the Ray case. It exists in all cases in which we issue interesting case write-ups, for so long as the convict is serving his term.

The legal problem on whether to issue the proposed publicity at this time boils down to speculation on whether Ray will or will not win a new

Memorandum to Mr. Mohr  
Re: James Earl Ray  
Identification Matter

trial. If he does not, there is no legal objection to issuing the publicity at this time. If he does, this publicity will most likely be attacked at the trial as prejudicial.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

"Suggest we go ahead and use  
the proposed Ray write-up.  
JPM 9/8"

*I agree - before this case gets muddled  
up by journalistic ventures & King's  
supporters - is -*

*I think we should  
wait to see whether  
Ray gains a new trial  
↑  
I concur  
H*

ADDENDUM, GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION CLM:cs 9/8/69

James Earl Ray has been contesting the sentence that he received as a result of his plea of guilty. Indications are that he plans to appeal this through the State Supreme Court and perhaps even to the United States Supreme Court in an effort to have the guilty plea set aside and to obtain for himself a trial by jury.

In addition to this there is still outstanding a Federal process charging that "Eric Starvo Galt" and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother conspired to interfere with the constitutional rights of Martin Luther King, Jr. The Department has not as yet authorized the dismissal of such process.

In view of the above facts it is not felt that the Bureau should issue any statements concerning the evidence and/or Ray's involvement in the crime without first obtaining approval from the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and the Tennessee State authorities.

Mr. Mohr

9-2-69

C. L. Trotter

**JAMES EARL RAY  
IDENTIFICATION MATTER**

On 3-10-69 Ray, who had been charged with the murder of Martin Luther King, plead guilty in Tennessee State Court and was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville. In addition, he still has 13 years to serve in Missouri. The judge who sentenced Ray was W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee. Battle is dead, the victim of a heart attack in his chambers on 3-31-69. On 4-7-69 Ray filed a motion for a new trial in Memphis and on 5-26-69 Judge Arthur Faquin dismissed this. On 6-16-69 a "prayer for appeal" was denied by Judge Faquin. On 6-25-69 Ray appealed to the Tennessee State Court of Criminal Appeals for a court review of the trial record and this was denied on 7-15-69. There are no court-imposed restrictions on discussing the evidence in this case.

Some very excellent latent fingerprint identification techniques employed in this case resulted in Ray's identification by the Bureau's Identification Division.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the attached interesting identification be approved for classroom and speech use.

Enc.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- ① - Mr. Rosen

CLT:cay  
(5)

256 3 5 JUL 1969

REC'D 11-11-69

ADDENDUM GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION 9/3/69 JGK:cs

Although Ray's appeal in Tennessee State Court was denied by the court on 7/15/69, the State Prosecuting Attorney previously advised that Ray can continue his appeals by filing petitions for Writs of Habeas Corpus in State Court and if these are unsuccessful, he can do the same in Federal Court. The prosecuting attorney anticipates that Ray will avail himself of such remedies, although there is no current indication as to when he will do so.

In light of this, it is not felt desirable for the Bureau to comment beyond that which is a matter of public record, that is, what has been publicly testified to in open court.

C. L. Trotter to Mr. Mohr memo, 9-2-69 RE: James Earl Ray, Identification Matter

ADDENDUM CRIME RECORDS DIVISION 9-4-69 TEB:hak

Every convicted person has the privilege of filing a Writ of Habeas Corpus while a prisoner. If we allow the possibility of Ray doing so to prevent us from getting out to the public the story of the excellent work done by the FBI in this case, it will never be possible to get it out so long as Ray is serving his life sentence, if the feelings of the General Investigative Division are followed. In addition, it should be born in mind that the danger of prejudicing a case by publicity only applies prior to and during the actual trial of the case. Publicity cannot prejudice a case in the appeals stage since this stage is concerned only with matters of law rather than fact. "Have we any legal support of this? H."

The FBI has done an outstanding job in this case and we should now start letting the public know of this job through items like the attached, through articles, and through cooperating with a good author like Jim Bishop, who has been commissioned by Reader's Digest to prepare a comprehensive book on this case.

"I agree. The longer we refuse cooperation to good sources the greater our loss is from a public relations standpoint. D"

- 2 -  
"I agree with Rosen's Div. 9/4 T"

**JAMES EARL RAY  
INTERESTING IDENTIFICATION**

Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed on April 4, 1968, while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. The unknown killer made good his getaway, but in so doing, left behind evidence that would eventually help lead to his identification, apprehension and imprisonment. Items left behind were a .30-06 Remington rifle with attached Redfield telescopic sight, binoculars, and a blue zipper bag containing clothing and personal articles. These items were found in the vicinity of a rooming house across from the Lorraine Hotel. Investigation determined that subject had rented a room at the rooming house using the name John Willard, and it was from the bathroom in this establishment that the fatal shot was fired. The rifle and other evidence was delivered to the FBI Laboratory and Identification Division by a Special Agent of the Memphis Division.

Several latent prints of value were developed on the items submitted. Two of these latent prints, one on the rifle and one on the binoculars were found to have been made by the same finger, and the position of these prints, as well as the shape and slope of the ridges, indicated the prints were probably from the left thumb.

Thorough investigation developed considerable information relative to the murderer. The rifle had been purchased in Birmingham by an individual using the name Harvey Lowmeyer; the white Mustang believed to be the getaway car was registered to an Eric Starvo Galt; who had spent the night preceeding the murder at the Rebel Motel in Memphis. Galt was further traced to a rooming house in Atlanta where additional evidence was recovered, including a map of Mexico. A latent fingerprint developed thereon was identified with the latent prints on the rifle and binoculars. This identification enabled the FBI fingerprint experts to say that this print, in addition to probably being from the left thumb, was an ulnar loop of 12 ridge counts,

The latent prints developed on the rifle, binoculars, the map, and other evidence had been compared during the eleven days following the murder with approximately 400 suspects, had been searched through all sections of the FBI's single fingerprint file and compared with all outstanding FBI identification orders.

Based on the premise that the latent fingerprint recovered from the rifle, binoculars and map of Mexico was probably from the left thumb and was an ulnar loop of 12 ridge counts, a review of the fingerprint records of the 53,000 fugitives on file was undertaken and it was found that approximately 1900 of these fugitives had ulnar loops of 10 - 14 ridge counts in the left thumb. Comparisons were started and on April 19, 1968, 15 days after the crime, the latent fingerprints were identified with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary where he had been serving time for robbery.

The fingerprint identifications with James Earl Ray triggered an intensive man hunt involving law enforcement officers and investigative personnel, not only in the United States, but also Mexico, Canada, England, and other countries.

The possibility that Ray himself might have been killed was not overlooked and all unknown deceased fingerprint cards received by the FBI were referred to the Latent Fingerprint Section for comparison. One case of this type concerned a body found buried on the beach at Acapulco, Mexico. Fingerprints taken by local authorities from this body were examined in the Latent Fingerprint Section but, because of the condition of the body, were of no value. An examiner from the FBI's Latent Fingerprint Section flew to Mexico and on examining the flesh of the fingers was able to determine that the body was not that of James Earl Ray.

Another phase of the investigation led to Canada, and there, following an exhaustive search of passport applications, it was determined that Ray had obtained a passport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and had taken an airplane flight to London.

Copies of the FBI Identification Order prepared following Ray's identification by latent prints were immediately furnished to Scotland Yard and on June 8, 1969, while attempting to board a flight for Brussels, Belgium, Ray was arrested at London Airport.

Ray was subsequently ordered extradited to Memphis, Tennessee, to stand trial for murder and to Missouri as an escaped felon. On March 10, 1969, Ray plead guilty to King's murder and was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

*Rewrite*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 29, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Long  
1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

## SYNOPSIS:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Clay D. Blair, Jr., a free-lance fiction writer, formerly affiliated with "Time," "Life," and "Saturday Evening Post," advised he is writing a book on the King assassination to be published by Bantam Books. He provided us with a copy of his manuscript and wanted our cooperation. We told him that the FBI would not cooperate in connection with the preparation of the book.

This 377 page manuscript has been reviewed, and it is a rehash of previous accounts of Ray as recorded in the public press. The following exceptions are taken to this manuscript:

1. Author claims there is no evidence anywhere that Ray was a vodka drinker. This is not true.
2. The woman at Atlanta, Georgia, who observed the abandoned white Mustang stated that she called the FBI Office to report this vehicle and our Office referred her to the Atlanta Police Department. This same woman indicates Agents were waking people up at all hours of the night. This is not true.
3. The issuance and retraction of a bulletin on Eric Starvo Galt (one of Ray's aliases) was given wide spread publication, and in view of this, Ray intensified his flight. Our investigation does not disclose justification for this simplification by the author.
4. Regarding a "stake-out" in Atlanta rooming house "the Agents rushed the apartments, cracked open the door." This is not true.

Full facts concerning these statements and actual investigation set forth in details.

**ACTION:** The Crime Records Division should return the attached manuscript to Blair and point out the exceptions to him.

REL:jms  
(7)

DETAILS - PAGE TWO

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

DETAILS:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Clay D. Blair, Jr., a free-lance fiction writer, formerly affiliated with "Time," "Life," and "Saturday Evening Post," advised he is writing a book on the King assassination to be published by Bantam Books. He provided us with a copy of his manuscript and wanted our cooperation. We told him that the FBI would not cooperate in connection with the preparation of the book.

This 377 page manuscript has been reviewed, and it is a rehash of previous accounts of Ray as recorded in the public press. Nothing is contained herein which requires additional investigation by the Bureau. The following exceptions are taken to this manuscript:

1. In our press release in connection with Ray being placed on the ten most wanted fugitives, we stated that Ray was a vodka drinker. The author claims there is no evidence anywhere that Ray was a vodka drinker. We have documentary proof from interviews in Mexico that Ray was a vodka drinker, and he liked the "screwdriver" drink (a drink of vodka and orange juice).

2. On pages 302 and 303 it is indicated that a woman at Atlanta, Georgia, who observed the abandoned white Mustang of Ray stated that she called the FBI Office to report this vehicle and they referred her to the Atlanta Police Department. We have no record indicating that such contact was made with our Atlanta Office by this individual. Our Atlanta Office has advised they do not have any record of an individual contacting them to report the abandoned vehicle of Ray. Atlanta has advised that the information concerning the locating of the vehicle was first reported to the Atlanta Police Department. On page 304 this same woman indicates Agents were waking people up at all hours of the night. This is not true as we interviewed people during the day and in the early evening hours. Our Atlanta Office advises that members of the press in Atlanta were the individuals responsible for waking people at all hours of the night and our Agents positively did not interview people at all hours of the night.

3. On pages 306 and 333 reference is made to the issuance and the retraction of a "bulletin" on Eric Starvo Galt (one of Ray's aliases) by the Miami Office of the FBI on April 12, 1968. The author states this was given wide spread publication

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

and the author speculates that in view of this, Ray intensified his flight. The Bureau on April 10, 1968, instructed our Field Divisions to request local police officials to issue an all-points bulletin regarding the fact that Eric Starvo Galt, supposedly driving a 1966 Mustang, was wanted by the FBI for questioning only. In view of the fact that this Mustang was located by the Atlanta Police Department in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968, in an abandoned condition, we instructed our Field Offices on April 11, 1968, to cancel any all-points bulletins which may have been placed.

It is noted that Ray appeared in Toronto, Canada on April 8, 1968, and stayed there until he departed for London on May 6, 1968. Our investigation does not disclose justification for the implication by the author that Ray intensified his flight based on the issuance and retraction of the all-points bulletin.

4. On page 309 the author states that in connection with a "stake-out" in Atlanta rooming house where Ray allegedly resided "the Agents rushed the apartment, cracked open the door. Galt was gone." This is far from the truth, as we had permission from the landlord at the apartment to enter, and it was done in an orderly manner.

*Murkin*  
*10-10-68*  
*Mr McBowen*

Mr. DeLoach

11/8/68

T. E. Bishop

CLAY D. BLAIR, JR.  
BOOK ON MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATION  
(Bureau file 62-101501)

Jones to Bishop memo 4/15/68 reflects captioned individual, a free-lance fiction writer formerly affiliated with "Time," "Life" and "Saturday Evening Post," advised me on that date that he was initiating a book on the Martin Luther King assassination to be published by Bantam Books. He was interested in seeing if the Bureau would cooperate with him. He was told the Bureau was not in a position to furnish any assistance to him, that it was then too early for the Bureau to think in terms of a book or any other type of published account of the King case, and that no details of the investigation could be discussed until prosecution of the case was concluded.

On 11/8/68 Blair gave me the attached copy of a partially completed manuscript on the King assassination which he said he has written based on accounts published in newspapers and other media, as well as interviews conducted by him personally. He said he is going to attend the trial of the case which begins 11/12/68. The remaining part of the manuscript will be an account of the trial. He said he wished to give this manuscript to the Bureau for its review and would appreciate being advised if there are any "wildly incorrect" references to the FBI or its investigation, as well as any "first-person anecdotes" regarding FBI personnel engaged in the investigation. He was reminded that he had already been informed that the FBI would not cooperate in connection with preparation of the book and for that reason we would be in no position to give him any "first-person anecdotes." He was also told that the manuscript would be returned to him in several weeks. He said the book is to be published by Bantam Books 3 weeks after the trial concludes. This is obviously an attempt to "make a quick buck" on the publicity resulting from the trial. Blair's home address is 11901 Piney Glen Lane, Potomac, Maryland, telephone 299-6325.

RECOMMENDATION: That the General Investigative Division review the manuscript to determine if its account of the FBI investigation into this matter is accurate and properly depicts FBI investigation.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

① - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Jones

TEB:mls (5)

Mr. DeLoach

October 31, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN - *h/c*

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

① - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Sullivan

SYNOPSIS:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

William Bradford Huie, author, has written an article, based upon notes of James Earl Ray for "Look" magazine. The article appears in the November 12, 1968, issue; this issue circulated October 29, 1968. The items essentially discussed in this article are: background of Ray including his incarceration at Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) and his assignment with the U. S. Army in Germany, method of escape from MSP; employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant, Winnetka, Illinois; a partial account of his activities in Montreal, Canada, including consorting with a female employee of the Canadian Government; deal concerning a "joint activity" (not fully described or identified) with an individual by the name of "Raoul," Ray was to transport packages (not further described) between the United States and Canada, however, the possibility exists that the packages could contain contraband, such as narcotics. No specific information in article of a conspiracy, however, inference is given by the author that a conspiracy exists; and an account of Ray robbing a house of prostitution in Montreal. We have been aware of all the information appearing in this article, with the exception of that pertaining to "Raoul" and Ray's alleged holdup of the house of prostitution in Montreal, Canada.

ACTION:

We are requesting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, through Legat, Ottawa to make appropriate inquiry on the information pertaining to "Raoul" and Ray's alleged holdup of the house of prostitution, which had not been previously brought to our attention.

REL:jld/cs/jms

SEE DETAILS PAGE TWO...

Rosen to DeLoach Memo  
RE: MURKIN

DETAILS:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

William Bradford Huie, author, whose books include, "Three Lives for Mississippi" dealing with murder of the three civil rights workers in June of 1964, previously advised us that he entered into a contract with James Earl Ray to write the true account of Ray's activities and background concerning the assassination of King. Huie has been provided with notes from James Earl Ray, through Ray's attorney Arthur B. Hanes, Sr., Birmingham, Alabama.

Huie has written an article based upon the notes of James Earl Ray, for "Look" magazine. This article appears in the November 12, 1968, issue of "Look" magazine and this issue has reached the newsstands for circulation on October 29, 1968.

The items essentially discussed in this article are as follows;

1. Background of James Earl Ray concerning different phases of his incarceration at the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, and his service in the U. S. Army including assignment at Bremerhaven, Germany.

We are aware of this information, in fact it has been established that Ray contracted a venereal disease during his assignment with the military in Germany.

2. Method of escape from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967, which indicates that he scaled the wall and walked out to the street.

The official version from the records of the Missouri State Penitentiary indicates that he effected his escape by hiding in a bread truck. The unofficial version is that Ray did scale the wall and walked out onto the street. We again were aware of the two stories concerning his escape.

DETAILS - CONTINUED

**Memo Rosen to DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

3. Ray was employed by the Indian Trail Restaurant in Winnetka, Illinois, during May and June of 1967.

The owners of this restaurant previously gave us the entire account of his employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant and we, of course, ran out all leads concerning the information they provided to us. Prior to being interviewed, they were contacted by Huie. Nothing of significance was developed out of this information.

4. A partial account of Ray's activities in July and August, 1967, in Montreal, Canada, including consorting with a female employee of the Canadian Government.

We, of course, were aware of some of the activities of Ray while he was in Montreal during this period of time. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provided Legat, Ottawa with this new information on October 25, 1968, based upon an interview with the female employee of the Canadian Government. They are presently endeavoring to confirm all the facts of the information related by her and, of course, we will be kept advised.

5. The article contains an account of an individual by the name of "Raoul." This individual and Ray, according to the article were endeavoring to make some type of deal concerning a "joint activity" for which "Raoul" would pay Ray \$12,000. The specific nature of the "joint activity" is not fully described or identified, but Ray was to transport packages (not further described) between the United States and Canada. The possibility exists that the packages could contain contraband, such as narcotics. No mention is made here of "Raoul" providing Ray with funds which would implicate "Raoul" in a conspiracy in the King assassination, however, Huie infers that a conspiracy exists.

This information is new to us and the article is very sketchy. We are requesting the RCMP to make inquiry concerning this.

6. The article states that Ray robbed a house of prostitution in Montreal, Canada, in the amount of \$800.

We are also requesting the RCMP to provide us with any information relative to this.

The article generally gives the impression that Ray did not like to consort with prostitutes or women generally.

**Memo Rosen to DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

**We know of several instances in which he consorted with prostitutes of the "street type" character.**

**We have been aware of all the information appearing in this article, with the exception of that pertaining to "Raoul" and Ray's alleged holdup of the house of prostitution in Montreal, Canada. We are requesting the RCMP to conduct appropriate inquiries concerning these matters.**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: JAN 15 1971

JL:MG:pg  
DJ 144-72-66

*JL*  
*Kwoc* FROM : Jerris Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Brennan, C.D.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Walters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Soyars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Reference is made to your memorandum of August 19, 1970, concerning author George McMillan's request for information pertaining to James Earl Ray, and other communications transmitting similar requests by Mr. McMillan; and to your memorandum of January 21, 1970, concerning among other things requests received by your Bureau for information pertaining to the Ray case.

While I do not believe it would yet be appropriate to make public the contents of the Ray files, a certain portion of the file has already been made available, in connection with a civil suit brought under the Public Information Act by Harold Weisberg, to Mr. Weisberg and thereafter to other individuals. Those papers consist only of the original documents filed on behalf of the States of Tennessee and Missouri in the extradition proceedings in the British Court.

It is our intention to make these papers available in the future to authors, publishers or members of the public who wish to inspect them and who make appropriate arrangements through this Division.

I am attaching for your information a copy of our letter to Mr. McMillan to this effect.

ENCLOSURE

12 JAN 18 1971

EXP. PROC.

JAN 18 1971

38

cc: J. Edgar Hoover ✓  
Director, FBI

JL:KNO'C:MG:pg  
DJ 144-72-662

JAN 15 1971

Mr. George McMillan  
Coffin Point  
Frogmore, South Carolina 29920

Dear Mr. McMillan:

I am writing in response to your letter of September 28, 1970, to Mr. Leonard, and to your several letters to Mr. Hoover which have been referred to this Division.

Department of Justice files pertaining to James Earl Ray are confidential, since they relate to an official investigation of a possible violation of federal law. Accordingly, we cannot comply with your request for further information based on the FBI's investigation.

I would like to advise you that the documents and exhibits which were filed on behalf of Tennessee and Missouri in the Ray extradition proceedings in the British Court do not come within this rule, and will be made available for your inspection in our offices in Washington at your request. If you wish to inspect these papers, you may make the appropriate arrangements with Miss Monica Gallagher, an attorney in the Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

By: K. WILLIAM O'CONNOR  
Chief, Criminal Section

ENCLOSURE

**JAMES EARL RAY;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS**

Widespread public interest was generated by the FBI civil rights investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in April, 1968. The entire facilities of the FBI were committed to this investigation from the outset and within five days the man then known as Eric S. Galt was developed as a prime suspect. Within another week a photograph of this suspect had been obtained and the Attorney General considered sufficient evidence had been developed to warrant Federal process under a Civil Rights Statute. Three days later, from a check of latent fingerprints against those of white male fugitives for whom "wanted" notices had been placed in the files of the FBI Identification Division, James Earl Ray was determined to be the true identity of Eric S. Galt. At the request of the FBI, Canadian authorities determined that a Canadian passport had been issued to Ray in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, and on June 8, 1968, Ray was arrested by Scotland Yard when he presented the Sneyd passport to travel from London to Brussels. At the conclusion of extradition proceedings, Ray was returned to the United States in the custody of FBI Agents and was turned over to local authorities in Memphis, Tennessee, for state prosecution.

The investigation to identify and locate James Earl Ray is a splendid example of international police cooperation. In addition to the extensive investigation conducted by the FBI in the United States, specific inquiries were made in more than a dozen foreign countries through FBI Liaison representatives. The arrest of James Earl Ray was the direct result of vigorous investigation conducted by Canadian and British authorities at the request of the FBI.

On March 10, 1969, in State Court, Memphis, Tennessee, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to charges of murder, and he received a sentence of 99 years. The new attorneys for Ray filed a motion for a new trial, and on May 26, 1969, the judge denied this motion for a new trial.

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6-25-70

FROM : T. E. Bishop *TEB*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

In memorandum from Bishop to DeLoach of 6-24-70, it was stated that Bill King in the Information Office of the Department of Justice advised Bishop on 6-24-70 that the Department had decided it would not be possible for the Government to successfully defend the civil action by Harold Weisberg against the Department for the release of the documents which Weisberg is seeking to secure from the Department, and copies of these documents were, accordingly, furnished to Weisberg by the Department. King also advised that the Department was going to release these documents to the press at 3:00 p.m. on 6-24-70. The Director has inquired "Did you get a written instruction from Dept confirming conversation King had with you? H".

For the information of the Director, no written notice has been received from the Department to the effect that it had decided that it would not be possible for the Government to successfully defend the civil action by Weisberg against the Department for the release of the documents in question, or that these documents were, therefore, furnished to Weisberg. The first notice that the Bureau had of this action was when King telephoned Bishop at approximately 11:50 a.m. on 6-24-70, at which time King also stated that the Department was releasing copies of these documents to the press at 3:00 p.m. on 6-24-70. King, subsequently, on 6-24-70 furnished Bishop copies of the documents being released.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

TEB:hak (6)

*TEB*

*We must certainly  
 should insist upon  
 written confirmation  
 of such matters.*

*H*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6/24/70

FROM : T. E. Bishop *T.E.B.*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop *T.E.B.* \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

By way of background, on 4/27/70 Assistant Attorney General William Ruckelshaus, Civil Division, Department of Justice, advised the Director that Harold Weisberg, the author of the books "Whitewash I" and "Whitewash II" has filed a civil action against the Department of Justice and Department of State demanding copies of all the papers which were employed in the extradition in the James Earl Ray matter. These documents were used in the extradition proceedings against James Earl Ray in England and were thereafter returned to the State Department and were transferred to the Department of Justice. Included in the documents were a considerable number of affidavits of FBI Agents, affidavits covering fingerprints, ballistics' examinations, etc. Ruckelshaus asked if the release of these documents to Weisberg would in any way prejudice the work of the FBI. It is noted that Weisberg is an author who has been extremely critical of the FBI, the Secret Service and other police agencies in books which he has written about the assassination of President Kennedy.

By memorandum of April 30th the Director advised Ruckelshaus that the determination as to the release of the pertinent documents is within the province of the Department of Justice and the FBI interposes no objection. It was suggested, however, that the Civil Division communicate with the Civil Rights Division of the Department on this matter since Federal process was still outstanding against Ray charging a violation of a Federal Civil Rights Statute.

The Bureau is in possession of a copy of a letter dated May, 1970, from Jerris Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, to Ruckelshaus stating that any release of any information in the files pertaining to the investigation regarding James Earl Ray would be inimicable to the investigation.

Enc.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

(CONTINUED-OVER)

*Memo - Bishop  
to Dir. 6/25/70  
T.E.B. late*

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
Re: Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King  
Current Developments

On 6/24/70 Bill King in the Information Office, Department of Justice, advised that the Department subsequently decided that it would not be possible for the Government to successfully defend the civil action by Weisberg against the Department for the release of the documents in question. Accordingly, copies of these documents were furnished to Weisberg. King advised that in view of the fact that the Department had released the documents to Weisberg the Department did not wish Weisberg to make a profit from his possession of the documents and, accordingly, has decided to make similar copies available to the press and others who might desire them. King stated that the documents to be released consist of approximately 200 pages of copies of affidavits, autopsy reports, affidavits with regard to fingerprint examinations and ballistics tests, and copies of other documents which serve to link Ray with the assassination of Martin Luther King. At Bishop's request King furnished the attached set of the documents being released. King stated that these documents will be released to the press at 3 p.m. on 6/24/70.

The General Investigative Division has been orally advised of the above information.

RECOMMENDATION

None. For information.

*✓* *TEB* *WBS*  
*Did you get a written instruction from Dept. confirming conversation King made with you?*

William D. Ruckelshaus  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

May 7, 1970

*ENP*  
\* Jerris Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Harold Weisberg v. United States  
Department of Justice and United  
States Department of State  
Civil Action No. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Reference is made to your letter of April 27, 1960, and a subsequent memorandum from the Director to you of April 30, 1970.

I concur in the Director's memorandum indicating that the federal process charging violation of a federal civil rights statute is still outstanding against James Earl Ray. The matter continues to be under investigation. In any release of any information the files pertaining to such investigation would, I believe, at this time be inimical to such investigation.

cc: Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

EXP. PROC.  
31 MAY 8 1970

MAY 8 3 12 PM '70

10 MAY 8 1970

REC'D - CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION  
MAY 8 1970

REC'D - CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION  
MAY 8 1970

Assistant Attorney General/  
Civil Division

April 30, 1970

Director, FBI

HAROLD WEISBERG V. UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Reference is made to your letter dated April 27,  
1970.

The determination as to the release of the pertinent documents is within the province of the Department of Justice, and this Bureau interposes no objection. For your information, the Federal process charging violation of a Federal Civil Rights statute is still outstanding against James Earl Ray, and you may desire to communicate with the Civil Rights Division on this matter.

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

EJM:js  
(5)

NOTE: Harold Weisberg, an author who has been critical of the FBI and other Federal and state authorities, has filed suit demanding copies of certain documents utilized in the extradition of James Earl Ray, the murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. These documents include affidavits from FBI personnel relating to fingerprints, ballistics and document examinations, and other aspects of investigation. It is not felt that we have any basis to object; however, the determination as to release of this information is within the Department's province and, since the civil rights process is still outstanding, it is being brought to the Civil Division's attention for consideration.

**GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION**  
**4/28/70**

Harold Weisberg is an author who has been critical of the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies, and other branches of government. He was one of 10 employees fired by State Department during 1947 because loyalty suspected. He was later allowed to resign. Department is aware of his background.

Attached letter from Civil Division advises that Weisberg has filed action demanding copies of papers employed in extradition of James Earl Ray, murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers include affidavits from FBI personnel relating to fingerprints, ballistic and document examinations, and other aspects of investigation. If approved, Civil Division will be advised that we interpose no objection, but suggest matter be referred to Civil Rights Division since Federal process is still outstanding on Ray on the Federal Civil Rights charge.

EJM:js

OK

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

427 5/28  
6/30 APR 27 1970

William D. Ruckelshaus  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

WDR:DJAnderson:par  
145-12-1403

Harold Weisberg v. United States Department of  
Justice and United States Department of State,  
Civil Action No. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Mr. Weisberg, author of Whitewash I and II, has filed the above action demanding copies of all the papers which were employed in the extradition of James Earl Ray. These papers were furnished the State Department, flown to England, presumably used in the extradition proceedings, returned to the State Department, and then transferred to the Department of Justice. Included in the papers are a considerable number of affidavits of F.B.I. agents covering fingerprints, ballistics, etc. A memorandum describing the materials being requested is attached.

Would you kindly advise whether the release of these documents would in any way prejudice the work of the F.B.I. and whether in your judgment their production should be resisted.

Your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated.


Attachment

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Carl Earley  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

FROM : David J. Anderson  
 Attorney, General Litigation Section  
Civil Division

DATE: April 24, 1970

DJAnderson:sf  
145-12-1403

SUBJECT: Harold Weisberg v. United States Department of  
Justice and United States Department of State,  
Civil Action No. 718-70 (U.S.D.C. D. D.C.)

Pursuant to your request, there follows a brief description of each of the documents which is reasonably comprehended by the complaint in the above suit. I have tried to break them down into categories with respect to: I. Material Submitted by the States of Tennessee and Missouri; II. Material From Private Persons Accumulated by the Department of Justice; and III. Material Prepared by the Department of Justice for the Signature of FBI Personnel.

I. Material Submitted by the States  
of Tennessee and Missouri

A. Application for Requisition for International Extradition for James Earl Ray executed by the Governor of the State of Tennessee and directed to the Secretary of State of the United States.

B. Petition for Application for Requisition in International Extradition of James Earl Ray addressed to the Governor of the State of Tennessee by Phil M. Canale, Jr., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial District, State of Tennessee (attaching various other documents described below).

C. Affidavit of Dr. J. T. Francisco, pathologist, attesting to the cause of death of Martin Luther King and attaching autopsy report.

D. Affidavit of Robert V. Wenzler, with exhibits, stating results of survey of area where Martin Luther King was killed.

ENCLOSURE

E. Affidavit of Guy Warren Canipe, Sr., Memphis storekeeper, with exhibits, concerning his finding of a package with the murder weapon in it.

F. Affidavit of Inspector N. E. Zachary, Memphis Police Officer, with exhibits, regarding his on-the-scene investigation immediately following the murder and his discovery of various physical evidence.

G. Affidavit of Captain R. L. Williams, Memphis Police Officer, regarding inspection of Ray's room in boarding house and discovery of physical evidence there.

H. Affidavit of Cordra York, Sr., Memphis sporting goods dealer, regarding identity of binoculars.

I. Affidavit of James D. Hamby, Memphis Police Officer, regarding recovery of bullet from Martin Luther King's body during autopsy.

J. Copy of Tennessee indictment of James Earl Ray for merder of Martin Luther King.

K. Certified copy of death certificate of Martin Luther King.

L. Certified copy of autopsy report on Martin Luther King.

M. Certified copy of sections of Tennessee laws.

N. Certificate of Fred T. Wilkinson, Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, of Missouri criminal record of Ray.

O. Certificate of James H. McAteer, Missouri Clerk of Court, describing record of conviction and sentence of Ray.

P. Certificate of James C. Kirkpatrick, Missouri Secretary of State, setting forth Missouri statutes.

Q. Affidavit of Fred T. Wilkinson, Director of Missouri Department of Corrections, regarding criminal record of Ray and certifying that fingerprints and photographs attached to his prior certification were those of Ray.

II. Material From Private Persons  
Accumulated by the Department  
of Justice

A. Affidavit of Donald F. Wood, gun salesman, Birmingham, Alabama, stating he sold weapon to man in attached photograph (Ray).

B. Affidavit of Charles Quitman Stephens, resident of boarding house from which shot was fired, describing Ray's activities in boarding house.

C. Affidavit of James H. Laue, friend of King, who was also an employee of the Community Relations Service of the Justice Department, who was in the next room from King, describing shot and discovery of King's body.

D. Affidavit of Henrietta Hagemaster, hotel clerk, regarding hotel registration of Ray in Memphis.

E. Affidavit of John Webster DeShazo, customer in Birmingham gun store, identifying attached photograph of Ray as man he saw purchase gun.

F. Affidavit of Tomas Reyes Lau, bartending school operator, identifying attached photograph of Ray as pupil he had under alias of Eric Stavro Galt.

G. Affidavit of Anna Christine Kelly, Memphis hotel clerk, regarding Ray's registration at hotel.

III. Material Prepared by the Department  
of Justice for the Signature of FBI  
Personnel

A. Affidavit of Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, FBI Agent and Photographic Expert, comparing photographs of James Earl Ray under various aliases and identifying him as the same person.

B. Affidavit of George J. Bonebrake, FBI Agent and Fingerprint Expert, comparing fingerprints on murder weapon and binoculars with Ray's fingerprints and identifying them as the same (attaching fingerprint cards as exhibits).

C. Affidavit of Robert A. Frazier, FBI Agent and Ballistics Expert, comparing murder bullet with weapon and establishing that bullet came from that or a similar weapon.

D. Affidavit of Robert G. Jensen, FBI Agent in Memphis, describing weapons and physical evidence turned over to him by Memphis Police.

E. Affidavit of Robert G. Jensen, FBI Agent in Memphis, with exhibits, describing registration card of Eric S. Galt (Ray) at hotel.

F. Affidavit of James H. Mortimer, FBI Agent and Handwriting Specialist, with handwriting exhibits, identifying signature on hotel registration card as same as documents at bartending school.

G. Affidavit of Theodore J. A'Hearn, FBI Agent in Los Angeles, regarding Lau's identification of photographs of Galt (Ray).

**MURKIN  
PROJECTS INSTITUTED**

1. **Passports** - On May 14, 1968, Washington Field has instituted the review of approximately 2,153,000 passports issued to U. S. Citizens since March 1, 1967. It is anticipated that this project will be completed on June 21, 1968. We are reviewing these at the rate of 20,000 per day. Through the Department of State, Rhodesian authorities are checking their records for any information regarding individuals entering the country from April 5, 1968, to the present date. This, of course, is not limited to citizens of the United States but is including Mexican and Canadian individuals. Our Legat in Ottawa advises that the Canadian authorities are checking the issuance of passports from Canada as it is possible that subject obtained a Canadian passport.
2. **Safety Deposit Boxes.** - We are presently checking individuals having access to safety deposit boxes at banks in numerous field divisions. The subject rented a safety deposit box in Birmingham, Alabama, and it is possible that he rented a safety deposit box in a city in which we know he resided. Subject has not been known to utilize checking or savings accounts, and it appears that his business is done strictly with a safety deposit box.
3. **Cash Withdrawals** - We presently have under consideration obtaining the identity of individuals making cash withdrawals in excess of \$10,000 in numerous field divisions. It is possible that subject is involved in a conspiracy and a pay-off resulted therefrom. In order to run this matter out we are checking for all withdrawals in excess of \$10,000.
4. **Drivers' Licenses** - Each division covering state capitals is ascertaining if a drivers license was possibly issued to the subject. We know that subject presently holds a valid drivers license from the State of Alabama under name of Eric S. Galt. The possibility exists that subject by another name other than currently known, obtained a drivers license.
5. **Locksmithing Institutions** - Investigation is underway to determine if subject presently taking a locksmithing course from firms in United States offering same.

In view of fact that subject was interested in a locksmithing course, it is possible that he is taking a course under another name or through another company other than the Locksmithing Institute in Little Falls, New Jersey. We have determined the identity of companies other than the one in Little Falls, New Jersey, and investigation is presently underway at each of these companies.

6. Unsolved Bank Robberies - All divisions have been requested to exhibit photograph of subject Ray to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies. At the present time we do not know the source of subject's funds. The possibility exists that subject is also the subject of an unsolved bank robbery case and this could be his source of funds.

7. Ascertaining long distance telephone calls of certain relatives of subject as well as certain former associates of subject. The possibility exists that subject will endeavor to get in touch with relatives as well as former associates by long distance telephone, and we should be in a position to determine origin of call.

8. Circularization to Salvation Army Centers and other rescue mission centers throughout the United States. These are being circularized as it has been known that subject resided in low type rooming houses, and it is also possible that he may seek aid in these types of missions.

9. Distribution of a circular to more than 14,000 laundry and dry cleaning establishments throughout the United States. Subject, in the past, has utilized the services of dry cleaning laundries extensively, and it is, therefore, possible that he will utilize these services in the future.

10. Determination of magazine or publication which subject Ray habitually read in order to place an ad in such a magazine for possibility of surfacing Ray. The Postal Inspectors are currently reviewing this matter to determine if postal regulations are being complied with in the phrasing of the ad.

11. The State Department is presently sending information regarding Ray's fugitive status to all of their consulates or embassies in the event any inquiry is received by their personnel in a foreign country. The possibility always exists that subject may make an inquiry at a consulate and also may seek aid.

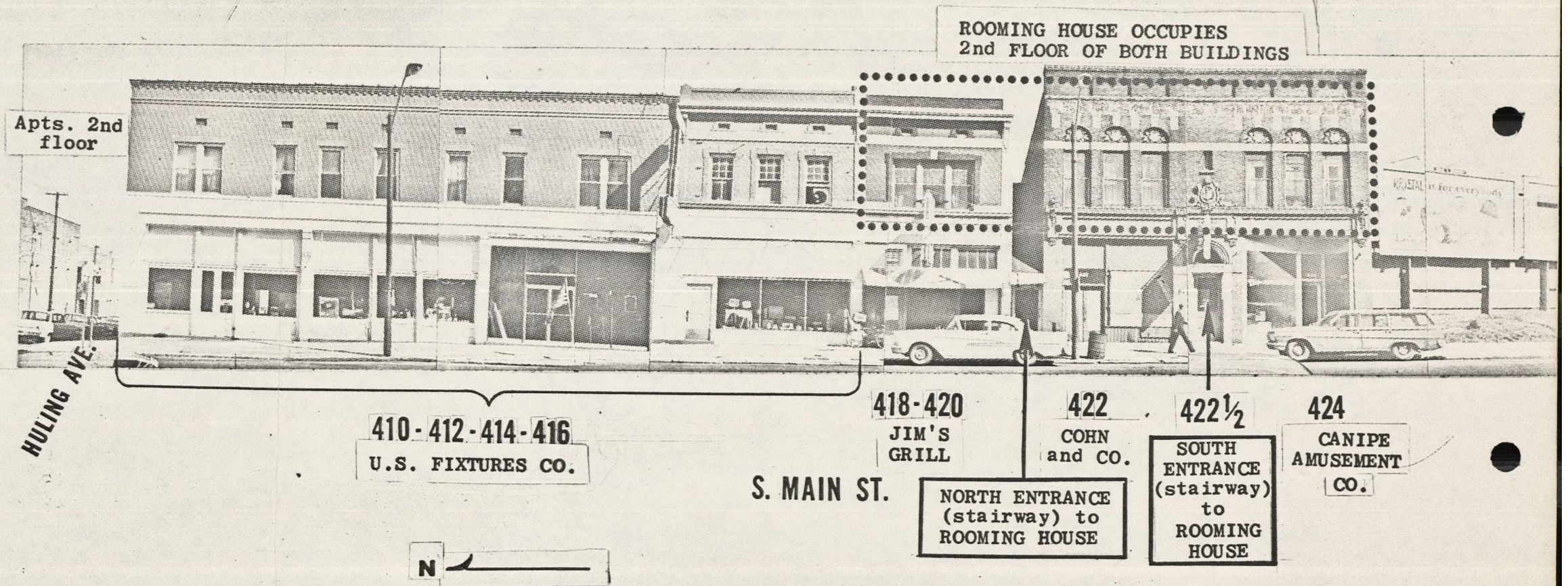
12. All offices covering points of departure from United States, including border points, have been alerted to conduct appropriate checks and place appropriate stops. The subject, in the past, has been known to be in Canada, as well as Mexico; and we should be in a position to determine if he crosses these borders.

13. Circularization of bus companies and other transportation facilities. The subject, if and when he departs areas, could utilize public transportation facilities.

14. We have instructed the field in their daily contacts at country clubs, bar, prostitutes to exhibit Identification Order of subject Ray. The subject, in the past, has consorted with prostitutes, has taken a bartending course and has voiced an interest in working at country clubs. We have instructed our offices to exhibit Identification Order to the above in the event contact has been made by him.

15. Informants are continually being alerted as to any possible whereabouts of subject Ray.

16. Field divisions are continually publicizing the fugitive status of Ray through various news media. In connection with this we have publicized Ray's photograph and information regarding his fugitive status in several publications of various industries.



COMPOSITE PHOTO of  
410-424 S. MAIN ST.