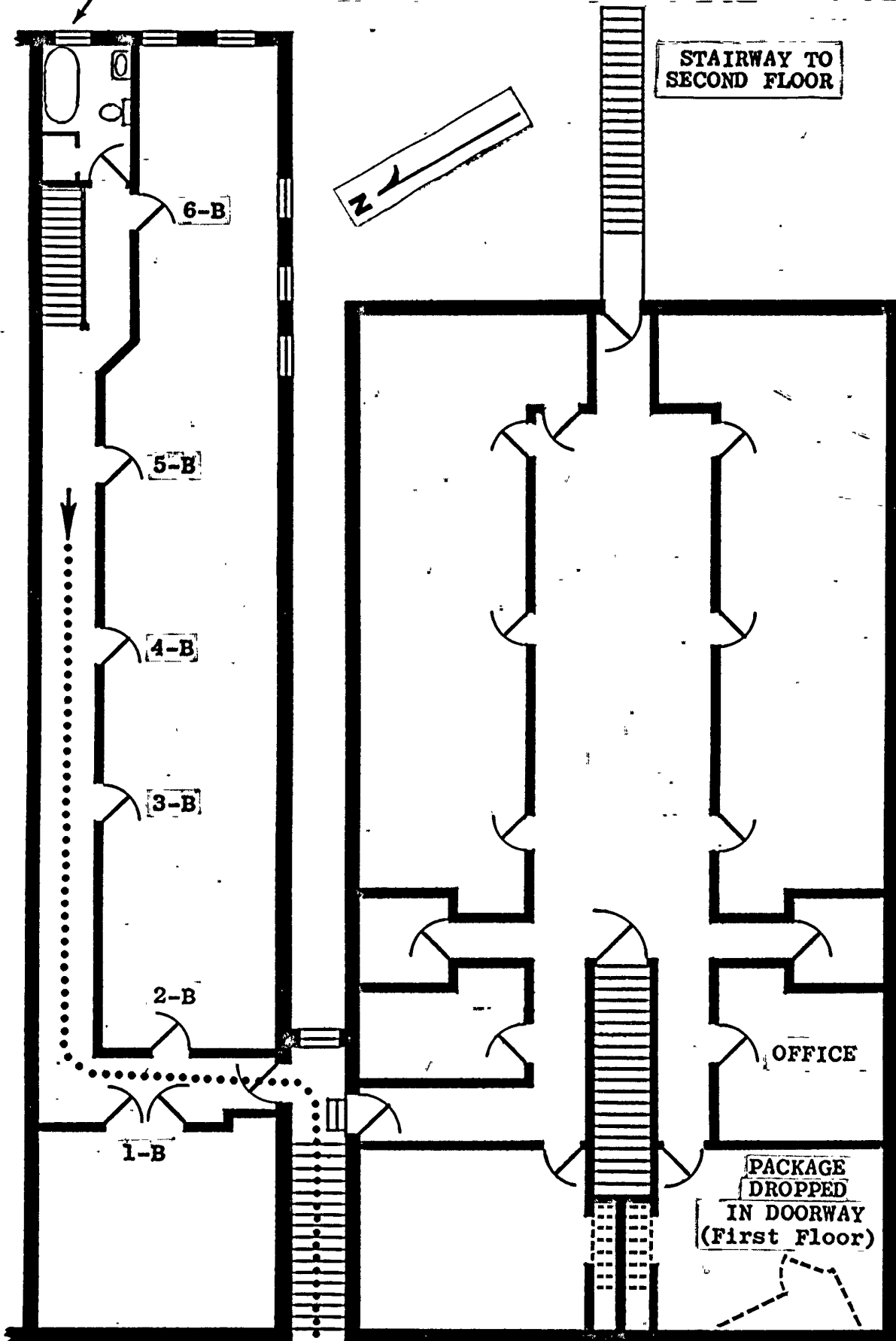


SECOND FLOOR PLAN of ROOMING HOUSE

BATHROOM WINDOW
FROM WHERE
SHOT WAS FIRED



418-420

422

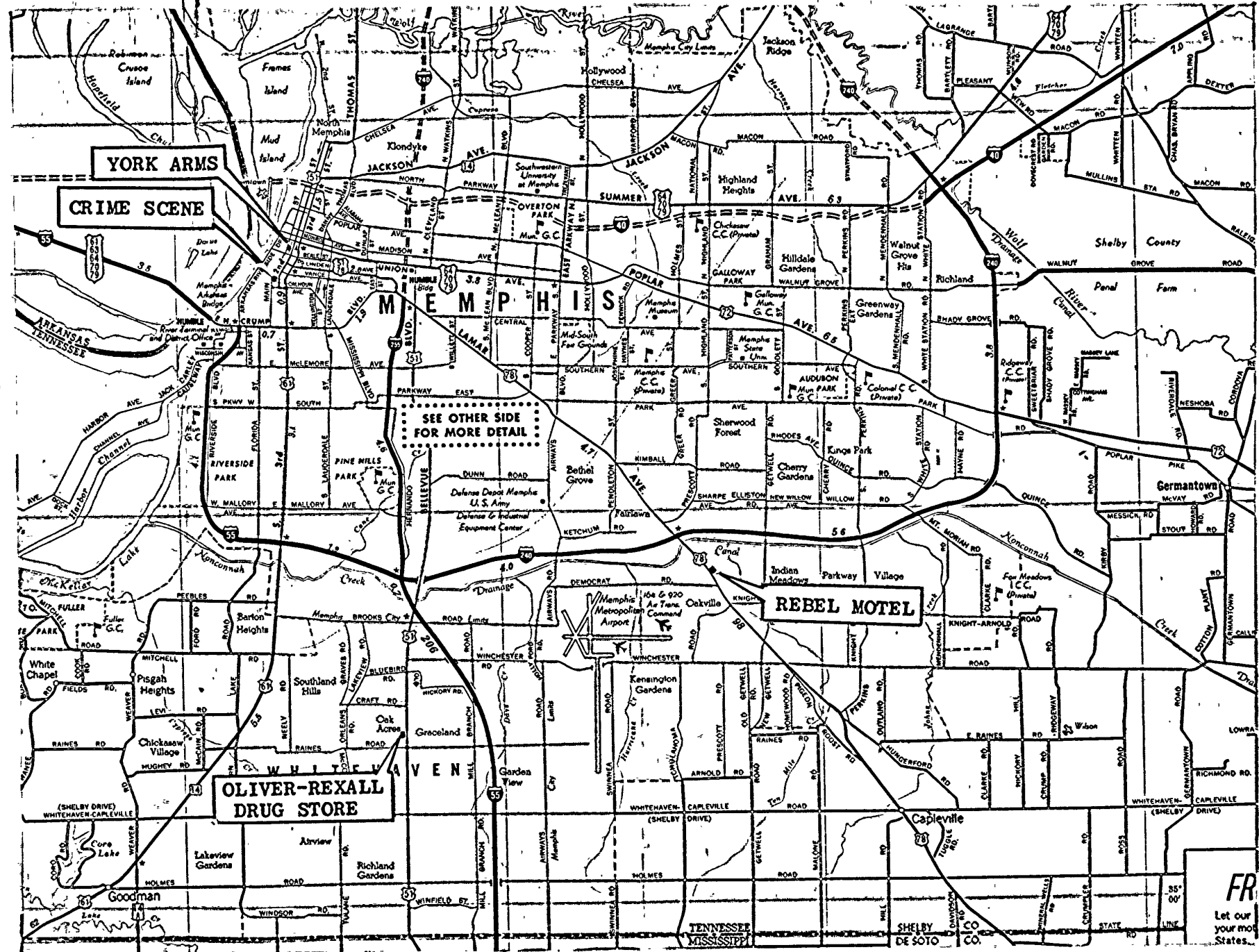
422½

424

NORTH ENTRANCE
(stairway)
TO ROOMING HOUSE

SOUTH ENTRANCE
(stairway)
TO ROOMING HOUSE

S. MAIN ST.



INVESTIGATION OF FATAL SHOOTING
OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING

ORIGIN

At approximately 6 p.m. on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., walked onto the balcony of his room (Room 306) of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, 406 Mulberry Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Moments later, the sound of a single gunshot was heard, and Dr. King fell to the floor of the balcony. A bullet had entered his right cheek near the corner of his mouth and passed through his spinal column.

Officers of the Memphis Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office who were on duty in the area immediately converged on the scene. One of the police cars transmitted a radio message that Martin Luther King had been shot, and additional officers rushed to the area surrounding the Lorraine Motel.

On the evening of April 4, the FBI received a written request from the Assistant Attorney General (Stephen Pollak) in charge of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to

"conduct a full investigation into" the shooting of Dr. King as a possible violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code. (This Federal statute prohibits conspiracies to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States.)

Before 10 p.m., April 4, the Memphis FBI Office was able to telephonically report to Washington Headquarters that Dr. King had been pronounced dead at St. Joseph's Hospital; that a white male had abandoned a rifle and a bag containing personal effects and had fled from the area immediately after the shooting occurred; that the fatal shot had been fired from a rooming house at 422 1/2 South Main Street which overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel; and that arrangements were being made to fly all items of evidence to the FBI Laboratory in Washington.

In anticipation of the arrival of the evidence, the FBI Laboratory, as well as the Identification Division, was alerted to have personnel available so that all necessary examinations could be

conducted immediately. An Agent of the Memphis FBI Office boarded a flight for Washington which left Memphis at approximately 12:30 a.m., April 5. He arrived at the FBI Laboratory with the evidence shortly after 5 a.m.

At 1:05 a.m. on April 5, the Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis FBI Office telephoned to advise that the fatal shot had been fired from a second floor window of the rooming house on Main Street; that the window was slightly more than 200 feet from where Dr. King was standing; and that one John Willard, who had rented a room at the rooming house on the afternoon of April 4, was missing from the area.

The name of John Willard was immediately searched through the files of the Identification Division. There, it was learned that in April, 1958, a man using this name had been arrested on a fugitive warrant by the Memphis Police Department. Following his arrest in Memphis, this John Willard had been released to Mississippi authorities; and in June, 1958, he received three years' probation at Pontotoc, Mississippi, for arson. Before 5 a.m. on

April 5, background and descriptive data regarding this John Willard was furnished by telephone to the Special Agents in Charge of the FBI Offices at Memphis, Tennessee, and Jackson, Mississippi.

RESULTS OF ON-THE-SCENE INTERVIEWS

Among the persons interviewed during the early stages of the investigation was Mrs. Bessie Brewer, resident manager of the rooming house from which the fatal shot had been fired. She said that a white male had arrived at the rooming house between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on April 4; that he rented Room 5-B, paying one week's rent (\$8.50) in advance; that he handed her a \$20 bill and two quarters--and she gave him a \$10 bill and two \$1 bills in change. The man gave his name as John Willard. He was not required to sign a register or to fill out any type of paper in connection with his rental of the room. Mrs. Brewer said that she did not see "John Willard" again after renting him the room. She described him as appearing to be approximately 35 years old, about 5 feet 11 inches tall, having a medium build and presenting a neat appearance.

Interviewing tenants of the rooming house, FBI Agents located two (both of them men) who had seen a man fitting the general description of John Willard dash from the rooming house moments after the fatal shot had been fired. One of these men reported that he was watching television when he heard a sound resembling a gunshot. He opened the door of his room and saw a man who appeared to be about 6 feet tall and in his 30's running down the hall toward the stairs leading to South Main Street. The man was carrying a long object under his arm. It was wrapped in what appeared to be a blanket.

The second male tenant said that he had had a brief look at the man who rented Room B-5 when Mrs. Brewer was showing the room to him. He described him as about 5 feet 10 inches or five feet 11 inches tall, weighing about 165 pounds and being in his 30's. This male tenant was repairing a radio in his kitchen when he heard what sounded like a gunshot coming from the common bathroom shared by several tenants of the rooming house. He opened the door leading to the hallway and saw a man running down the hallway in the direction

of the stairway leading to South Main Street. The man was carrying a large bundle; and it immediately occurred to the tenant that this person was the one whom he had seen at the entrance to Room B-5 with Mrs. Brewer about three hours earlier.

Immediately south of the entrance to the rooming house is an amusement company where a juke box was playing and two customers were sorting through old phonograph records near the front of the store at 6 p.m. on April 4. Shortly after 6 p.m., the two customers, together with the proprietor of the store, heard a "thud" near the front door. One of the customers had been facing the door and knew that the "thud" was caused by a large bundle which was dropped in the entranceway by a white man. The man continued south on South Main Street. Moments later, the customer heard the sound of tires screeching, and he looked outside and saw a white Mustang speed north on Main Street.

This customer had had only a brief look at the white man. He described him as being possibly 30 years old, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing about 165 pounds. The man had dark hair, an average build and presented a neat, clean appearance.

The second customer had looked up after hearing the "thud" and observed a white man walking rapidly in a southerly direction past the store on South Main Street. There was no one else in the area outside the store. Within moments, this customer also heard the screech of tires and saw a white Mustang speed north past the store. He described the white man whom he had seen outside the store immediately after the package was dropped in the entranceway as being possibly 5 feet 8 inches or 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing about 160 pounds.

The proprietor of the amusement company had also looked up when the "thud" sounded and saw a white man on the sidewalk in front of the store. This man walked south on South Main Street. The proprietor stepped out the door in time to see a white car, possibly a compact, pull from the curb south of his store. He described the man as from 25 to 30 years of age "or possibly older." The man had dark hair, was neat and clean in appearance, possibly was between five feet 10 inches and six feet tall, and weighed 175 pounds or more.

RIFLE AND OTHER PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Memphis police officers who arrived at the amusement company found that the following objects had been abandoned in the entranceway by the fleeing man:

- (1) A brown and green herringbone-patterned bedspread inside which were wrapped (a) a cardboard box that originally had contained a Browning Mauser rifle, (b) a Remington Gamemaster rifle, Model 760, on which is mounted a Redfield telescopic sight, and (c) a box containing nine cartridges. In the rifle were an empty ammunition clip and an empty shell casing.
- (2) A blue zippered suitcase measuring approximately twenty inches by 30 inches, which contained, among other items:
 - (a) A road map of Georgia and Alabama, as well as a road map of the United States.
 - (b) A pair of binoculars, together with a sales slip and a paper bag which enabled FBI Agents to determine that the binoculars had been purchased from a Memphis company on April 4, 1968.

- (c) Shaving supplies, including a safety razor in a plastic box bearing a price sticker which indicated that the razor had been purchased in Whitehaven, Tennessee.
- (d) A pocket-size transistor radio.
- (e) Two unopened beer cans bearing state tax information reflecting that they had been purchased in Mississippi.
- (f) Miscellaneous personal grooming items including deodorant, hair dressing, shampoo, brown shoe polish, a hair brush, after-shave lotion, a tooth brush and tooth paste, and the like.

The Memphis Police Department turned these items over to the Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis FBI Office on the night of April 4. An Agent left Memphis at approximately 12:30 a.m. on April 5 on a commercial flight to Washington, D. C., and personally delivered them to the FBI Laboratory shortly after 5 a.m. that day. Also delivered to the Laboratory by this Agent at that time was the bullet which had been removed from Dr. King's body on the night of April 4.

The blue suitcase also contained a pair of men's undershorts and a T-shirt on which laundry markings appeared. After attempting unsuccessfully to trace these laundry markings to laundries in the Memphis area, the Memphis FBI Office sent them to the FBI Laboratory aboard a commercial plane which arrived in Washington at approximately 9:45 p.m. on April 6, 1968.

BINOCULARS TRACED TO MEMPHIS STORE

On April 5, FBI Agents went to a store on South Main Street in Memphis. They were led to this store by two items--(1) a sales slip dated April 4, 1968, in the amount of \$41.55, and (2) a paper bag--bearing the name of the store which were found in the blue zippered suitcase. A salesman at the store remembered the \$41.55 transaction very clearly. A white male who appeared to be about 5 feet 11 inches tall and to weigh about 160 to 175 pounds had entered the store the previous afternoon. He wanted to purchase a pair of binoculars. The pair which he bought had to be taken from the display window in the front of the store. The total sales price of \$41.55 included \$39.95 for the binoculars and \$1.60 tax. The purchaser handed the salesman two \$20 bills, a \$1 bill, 2 quarters and a nickel.

(On April 16, 1968--12 days after this purchase had been made--FBI Agents handed the salesman a group of photographs which included a picture of the individual known as Eric S. Galt made on the occasion of Galt's graduation from a school of bartending in California. After carefully studying the photographs for several minutes, the salesman picked Galt's picture from the group as resembling the man who had bought the binoculars.)

WHITEHAVEN, TENNESSEE, DRUG STORE

On the night of April 4, in Whitehaven (a suburb of Memphis), the FBI interviewed a saleslady of a local drug store who remembered selling a safety razor in a clear plastic container, together with other shaving supplies, to a white man on April 3, 1968. The description which she furnished of this man depicted him as being slightly smaller in size and a few years older than the man who had been seen on April 4 by witnesses in the South Main Street neighborhood of Memphis.

EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY WHITE MUSTANG

Since a white Mustang had sped from the scene immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King, FBI Agents began exploiting various means of identifying this vehicle. One of these

involved a systematic check of motels and other hostelries in Memphis and surrounding areas. On April 8, 1968, at a motel on Lamar Avenue in Memphis, a registration was found for one Eric S. Galt who was driving a Mustang (year and color not listed) with Alabama license number 1-38993--and gave his home address as 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. Galt had arrived at the motel shortly after 7 p.m. on April 3 and checked out sometime prior to 1 p.m. on April 4. One of the motel employees recalled seeing a Mustang with Alabama license plates in front of the room occupied by Eric Galt on the night of April 3-4. He described the Mustang as being white in color. However, no one at the motel could furnish a description of Eric Galt.

Galt's registration card at the motel was sent to the FBI Laboratory for examination; and the FBI Office at Birmingham was telephonically requested to check motor vehicle records concerning the Mustang bearing Alabama license 1-38993.

On the morning of April 9, FBI Agents in Birmingham determined that license #1-38993 had been issued on October 2, 1967, to Eric S. Galt of 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, for a 1966 Mustang. A further check of motor vehicle records disclosed that Galt

had purchased the car from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967.

Located and interviewed on April 9, this citizen recalled that he had placed an ad in a local newspaper offering the Mustang for sale. A man who identified himself as Eric Galt arrived by taxi cab on August 29, 1967, to look at the car. Galt was taken for a test ride in the Mustang but refused to drive it himself, stating that the only driver's license he had was one for the State of Louisiana. He appeared to like everything about the car aside from its white color; and he agreed to meet the car owner at a Birmingham bank the following day and pay him \$1,995 for the vehicle.

When the two men met in front of the bank on the morning of August 30, 1967, Galt produced a bundle of cash totaling \$2,000 consisting mostly of \$20 bills. Galt then drove off with the car; and the man from whom he had purchased it subsequently saw the car parked in front of a rooming house where Galt told him he was staying on the 2600 block of Highland Avenue.

RIFLE TRACED TO BIRMINGHAM STORE

Through the cooperation of the Remington Arms Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the FBI was able to quickly determine that the rifle found abandoned on South Main Street in Memphis had been part of a shipment sent to a Birmingham company early in the Spring of 1966. This company, in turn, had sold the rifle to a local retail store on August 31, 1966.

On the morning of April 5, 1968, FBI Agents learned that the Birmingham store had sold the rifle only a few days before. It had been purchased by a man who used the name of Harvey Lowmyer. He had come to the store on the afternoon of Friday, March 29, 1968, and bought a rifle, a telescopic sight and a box of ammunition. The total price, including tax, was \$248.59; and the man using the name of Lowmyer paid cash.

On Saturday morning, March 30, 1968, this man returned to the Birmingham store to exchange the gun he had purchased the previous day for a Remington Model 760 rifle. He also exchanged the ammunition for a box of 30.06 shells which would fit the new rifle; and the telescopic sight was transferred to the new gun. He explained that he wanted the 30.06 rifle, in place of the one he originally had purchased, because he was going to use it to hunt in Wisconsin. He indicated that he had discussed the matter with his brother before deciding to exchange the gun. ✓

In purchasing the rifle and other equipment at the Birmingham store, the man using the name of Harvey Lowmyer gave an address on South 11th Street as his residence. Agents of the Birmingham FBI Office determined, however, that no one by that name had ever resided there.

(On April 16, 1968, FBI Agents took a group of pictures, including the photograph of Eric Galt which had been obtained at the school of bartending in Los Angeles, to the Birmingham store. One of the employees of the store, as well as a customer who had been in the store on March 29 and had talked to the man who made the \$248.59 purchase, picked Galt's photograph as appearing to be identical with Harvey Lowmyer.)

BIRMINGHAM ROOMING HOUSE

In registering at the motel on Lamar Avenue in Memphis on April 3, 1968, Galt gave as his home address 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham. Two Agents were dispatched to this address on the night of April 8. They discovered that it was a large white rooming house. The manager recalled that a man named Galt had stayed at the

rooming house from approximately the end of August, 1967, until sometime in October, 1967. Subsequently, the manager located receipts reflecting that one Eric S. Galt stayed at the rooming house from August 26 through the first week of October, 1967.

During his six-week stay at the rooming house, Galt had no known employment. He claimed to be on vacation-- stating that he had left a company which made boats in Pascagoula, Mississippi. When he moved from the rooming house in October, 1967, he indicated he had accepted a job on a boat in Mobile, Alabama.

DANCE LESSONS IN BIRMINGHAM

In checking Eric Galt's activities in Birmingham, FBI Agents determined that on September 12, 1967, he signed a contract for dancing lessons with a local dance studio. On four successive Tuesdays ending October 3, 1967, Galt attended group dancing lessons from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at a building on Birmingham's Graymont Avenue.

Personnel of the dance studio recalled that his enthusiasm was much greater than his talent on the dance floor.

Galt also impressed persons acquainted with him in Birmingham as being shy, quiet and a "loner." He had little to say and avoided looking persons in the eye when engaged in conversation. A composite of the descriptions of Galt given by those who knew him in Birmingham indicated that he probably was in his mid-30's; five feet eight inches to five feet ten inches tall; 165 to 175 pounds; and neat in appearance. His eyes were described as blue; his hair, brown; and his complexion, from medium to pale. He was said to be a non-smoker but to indulge in occasional use of alcoholic beverages--preferring beer or vodka.

MUSTANG FOUND IN ATLANTA

Descriptive information regarding Galt's white 1966 Mustang, which had been obtained through Alabama motor vehicle records on April 9, was entered in the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC)--a computerized index of law enforcement information concerning crime and criminals. This produced results on April 11, 1968, when the Atlanta, Georgia, Police Department made inquiry of the NCIC regarding a white 1966 Mustang bearing Alabama license #1-38993 which had been abandoned at an apartment project in that city.

Investigation in the area where the Mustang was discovered indicated that it had been abandoned there on the morning of Friday, April 5, 1968. Two residents of the apartment project had seen a lone white man--one about five feet ten inches tall, weighing approximately 160 pounds, and neatly dressed--park this automobile before 9 a.m. and walk from the parking area.

Examination of the Mustang showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles since being purchased by Galt in Birmingham late in August, 1967. Stickers affixed to the car disclosed that it had been serviced in Los Angeles and Hollywood, California.

ROOMING HOUSE IN NORTHEAST ATLANTA

Immediately after the Mustang was located, the FBI launched an intensive investigation of Galt in the Atlanta area. A check of low class neighborhoods and hostelrys led the Agents to a pair of rooming houses on 14th Street, Northeast, Atlanta. They were operated jointly by the same man, and had recently attracted a "hippie-type" clientele.

Interviewed late on the night of April 14, 1968, this man stated that a man whose last name was Galt had rented a room from him quite recently. He was uncertain of the exact dates--but felt that the man named Galt had come to the rooming house on the afternoon of April 5 and had checked out late on April 9 or early on April 10, 1968. Galt had wanted a single room but settled for a double room after the manager promised he would be moved to a single room as soon as one was available.

The rooming house manager recalled that Galt paid one week's rent (\$10.50) in advance and also put down a deposit on the key. He had no luggage, all his possessions being packed in a box or paper bag. On April 7, 1968, Galt was moved to another room; and soon thereafter, the manager noted that Galt and another new guest at the rooming house (a man employed at a local motel) appeared to be developing a friendship.

On the night of April 9, the man named Galt arrived at the manager's room accompanied by the guest he had befriended. Galt told the manager he had received a telephone call from a friend in Michigan

and that he had decided to go there to find work as a welder. The other guest indicated he planned to accompany Galt to Michigan and would seek a job as a welder's helper. They turned in their keys and were gone by the morning of April 10.

The manager claimed to be unable to recall the first name of Galt; and his name did not appear in the guest book maintained at the rooming house. However, the physical description of this man which was provided by the manager closely matched that of the Eric S. Galt whom the Agents were seeking for questioning.

PEACHTREE STREET LAUNDRY

Scouring the area near the rooming house for additional information regarding "Mr. Galt," the Agents located a laundry on Peachtree Street within brief walking distance of the rooming house, where a man named Eric Galt had had laundry and dry cleaning done. This Eric Galt had taken four undershirts, three pairs of undershorts, one pair of socks, one wash cloth, one pair of trousers, one coat and one necktie to the laundry on the morning of April 1, 1968. He returned on the morning of April 5 to pick them up. The bill totaled \$2.71.

Reinterviewed by the FBI, the rooming house manager recalled that the full name of his recently departed tenant was Eric S. Galt. Furthermore, there had been several inaccuracies in the story he originally told the Agents. It was now his recollection that Galt had come to the rooming

house on the night of March 24, 1968--not April 5, as he previously indicated. The manager stated he next saw Galt on March 31, when another week's rent was due.

The manager also told the Agents that he had entered Galt's room on the morning of April 5 to change the linens and had found a note advising that Galt had gone to Birmingham but would return in about a week.

Galt had not yet returned. His rent had expired during his absence, and the rooming house manager was holding a number of items which he had left behind. These included, among others, a portable television set, a booklet entitled "Your Opportunities in Locksmithing" and a collection of maps of cities and states, as well as one of Mexico. In checking over these items with the manager's consent, the Agents took particular note of the fact that Galt's map collection covered the cities of Birmingham, Atlanta and Los Angeles, as well as the states of the Southwest.

(On April 17, 1968, a group of photographs was displayed to the rooming house manager by Agents of the Atlanta FBI Office. Among these was a copy of the photograph of Eric S. Galt which had

been obtained from the school of bartending which Galt attended in Los Angeles. The manager selected this picture, exclaiming, "If this isn't Galt, it sure looks like him.")

LAUNDRY MARKS LEAD TO LOS ANGELES

The T-shirt and pair of men's undershorts which were found in the blue suitcase that was abandoned on South Main Street in Memphis on April 4 contained laundry marks which FBI Agents determined were made by marking machines manufactured in Syracuse, New York.

Officials of this Syracuse company furnished the names and locations of establishments throughout the United States which were using their machines. One of these was located in Los Angeles, California.

Agents of the Los Angeles FBI Office determined that this marking machine was no longer in the possession of its original purchaser. By April 10, 1968, they had succeeded in tracing it to a laundry and dry cleaning establishment on Los Angeles' Hollywood Boulevard. After viewing a color photograph of the T-shirt and the undershorts which had been found in Memphis, an employee of this laundry identified the T-shirt and undershorts as having been at that

laundry. She based this identification upon the place where the laundry marks were located in the two garments, as well as upon a peculiarity appearing in the first digit of each marking.

A check of the records of this laundry and dry cleaning establishment on April 12, 1968, disclosed that a man named E. Galt had been a regular customer over a period of weeks ending in mid-March, 1968. The manager recalled him as being about six feet tall, weighing approximately 160 pounds, and having short-cut brown hair. His nose was narrow and he appeared to be from 35 to 40 years of age.

LOS ANGELES RESIDENCE LOCATED

A sticker found on the left door post of the white Mustang after it was located in Atlanta on April 11, 1968, disclosed that the car had been serviced by a Ford dealer in Hollywood, California. Records of this Ford dealer reflected that the Mustang had been brought there on the morning of February 22, 1968, by a man who gave his name as Eric S. Galt and gave his address as an apartment building on North Serrano Avenue, Los Angeles.

Investigation at the apartment building disclosed that Eric Galt had rented a bachelor apartment there from mid-November, 1967, to January, 1968. He was quiet, kept to himself, attempted to cultivate no friendships in the apartment building, and was not known to have had any visitors. Galt gave the appearance of being unemployed while residing on North Serrano Avenue; yet, it was costing him more than \$100 a month to maintain this apartment.

On January 21, 1968, Galt moved to a hotel on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. His room cost him \$85 per month. When he left the hotel on March 17, he gave his forwarding address as General Delivery, Main Post Office, Atlanta, Georgia.

In investigating Galt's activities in the Los Angeles area, the FBI determined that he had taken dancing lessons at a dance studio on Pacific Avenue in Long Beach. He had signed a contract on December 14, 1967, for 25 one-hour private lessons and 25 one-hour party or group-technique sessions. The cost of the course was \$499.

Records of the studio showed that Galt took his first lesson there on December 5--nine days before he signed the contract. From that date through February 12, 1968, he appeared at the studio an average of between two and three times a week.

Interviews with employees of the dance studio reflected that Galt had no known employment while a student there. He created the impression of being a "loner" and evasive. At the studio, he had talked of having been to Mexico, of liking to travel, and of desiring to return to sea as a merchant seaman. And in February, 1968, he spoke of enrolling in a bartending school-- with the thought in mind of opening a restaurant.

On April 15, 1968, two FBI Agents called at a school of bartending on Sunset Boulevard. Here, they learned that Eric S. Galt had studied to be a bartender from January 19 through March 2, 1968. He attended classes six hours a day from Monday through Friday. Cost of the course was \$125.

At the time of Galt's graduation from the school, a color photograph of him was made. Beginning April 17, copies of this photograph would be published on the front pages of newspapers and displayed by television stations throughout the United States.

Records of the school showed that Galt claimed he was born July 20, 1931, and that he was five feet 10 inches tall and weighed 175 pounds. When told about a possible job opportunity as a bartender, he informed the director of the school that he was planning to leave town in March, 1968, to visit a brother.

HOTEL BAR ACQUAINTANCES

Investigation also disclosed that the hotel on Hollywood Boulevard had been well-scouted by Galt before he moved there on January 21, 1968. In fact, he had spent sufficient time in the bar adjoining the hotel to become acquainted with one of the waitresses. He was known at the bar as a solemn, quiet-mannered person who usually drank straight vodka but sometimes drank beer.

The waitress with whom he became acquainted had two cousins, Rita and Charles, in Los Angeles. Rita was the mother of two children who were residing with other relatives in New Orleans, Louisiana. On December 14, 1967, Galt agreed to drive Charles to New Orleans to pick up Rita's children. They left the following day and arrived in New Orleans on December 17. Two days later, they started the return trip and arrived back in Los Angeles with the two youngsters on December 21. Galt paid all the expenses.

In New Orleans, FBI Agents located the motel where Galt had stayed. Records of this motel verified that he had been in that city from December 17 to 19, 1967.

FEDERAL COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST GALT

(Copies immediately were made of the color photograph of Eric S. Galt which had been taken on March 2, 1968, at the school of bartending. When witnesses in Memphis and Birmingham saw this photograph on April 16, Galt was identified as undoubtedly being the man who had purchased the rifle with the telescopic sight on March 29-30 and the binoculars on April 4.)

On the morning of April 17, 1968, the Special Agent in Charge of the Birmingham FBI Office appeared before a United States Commissioner in that city and signed a Federal complaint charging that:

"On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ...Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., ...in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama..."

Later that day, Tennessee authorities issued a warrant at Memphis charging Galt with murder; and through public and private sources in that city, rewards totaling \$100,000 were offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in the killing of Dr. King.

TRIP TO MEXICO

A sticker on the rear window of the white Mustang which was found in Atlanta indicated that the car had been driven to Mexico in the Fall of 1967. Through the cooperation of Mexican authorities, it was determined that Galt stayed at a hotel in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, from October 19 to November 6, 1967. From November 7 to November 13, 1967, he stayed at another hotel in that city.

On April 22, 1968, a record was also found reflecting that Eric Starvo Galt of Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, purchased a 30-day automobile insurance policy at 11 a.m. on October 8, 1967, at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico (across the border from Laredo, Texas).

During his stay in Mexico, Galt associated extensively with prostitutes. He reportedly spent a considerable amount of time in bars there, drinking beer during the daytime and mixed drinks at night. In addition, he indicated an interest in marijuana--although no one was located who had seen him using drugs while in Mexico--and he wore dark glasses much of the time.

STAYED IN CANADA IN SUMMER OF 1967

Among the items which Galt had left behind when he moved from the rooming house in Atlanta was a booklet entitled "Your Opportunities in Locksmithing," which bore the printed name and address of a locksmithing school in Little Falls, New Jersey. In checking at this school, the FBI learned that in July, 1967, Eric S. Galt had enrolled for a correspondence course in locksmithing. The address he gave on his enrollment form was an apartment building in Montreal, Canada.

Through the cooperation of Canadian authorities, it was learned that Galt had signed a six-month lease for an apartment in this building on July 19, 1967. The lease was to expire on January 18, 1968, and Galt was to pay rent of \$75 per month.

From Canadian authorities, the FBI further learned that Galt had moved from the Montreal apartment shortly before the Labor Day weekend (weekend which began Saturday, September 2, 1967). With this information, the FBI now could account for Galt's whereabouts almost continuously since the Summer of 1967. Investigation reflected that he had resided:

- (1) In Canada from mid-July through most of August, 1967;
- (2) In Birmingham from the last week of August until early in October, 1967;
- (3) In Mexico from mid-October until mid-November, 1967;
- (4) In Los Angeles from mid-November, 1967, to mid-March, 1968--during which period he made a trip of almost one week's duration from California to New Orleans, Louisiana, and back; and
- (5) From approximately March 24 to early April, 1968, he had used the Atlanta, Georgia, rooming house as his "headquarters" but had made trips to Birmingham, Alabama, late in March and to Memphis, Tennessee, early in April.

FINGERPRINTS IDENTIFIED

From virtually the outset of the investigation, the Agents assigned to this case were convinced that Eric S. Galt was a fictitious name. From past experience, they knew that the FBI Laboratory and the Identification Division in Washington, D. C., could furnish valuable

assistance in helping them determine Galt's true identity. Thus, as the investigation branched out from Memphis, to Birmingham, Atlanta, Los Angeles and other areas, the Agents sent the Laboratory and the Identification Division scores of items of actual or potential evidence--including samples of Galt's handwriting and hand printing, and objects which they felt might contain one or more of his fingerprints.

Three of the items of evidence received at the Identification Division were found to have an identical fingerprint. In the belief that this fingerprint undoubtedly belonged to Galt, and that the name of Eric Galt might be an alias adopted by a prison escapee or other fugitive from justice, Identification Division experts began a systematic and exhaustive project of checking this fingerprint against the fingerprints (in most instances, 10 per fingerprint card) of the 53,000 persons against whom "Wanted Notices" had been posted in the Identification Division's files.

On the morning of April 19, 1968, one of the examiners who was assigned to this project picked up a fingerprint card of James Earl Ray, an habitual offender who had escaped from the State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, in April, 1967. The

examiner's eyes were immediately attracted to the inked impression made by Galt's left thumb. It matched the three identical prints which had been found on important items of evidence--one of them being on the 30.06 rifle that was bought in Birmingham and abandoned in Memphis; the second one being on the binoculars which had been purchased in Memphis and abandoned there at the same time as the rifle; and the third one being on a map that was among the items left by Galt at the rooming house in Atlanta.

ADDED TO "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES"

On April 19, 1968, an FBI Wanted Flyer containing Ray's photograph and description was published for distribution throughout the Nation. And on the following day, he was added to the list of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

From the moment he was identified as Eric Galt, James Earl Ray became the object of a highly intensive, nationwide investigation in which all of the FBI's 58 field offices participated. His picture and description were published by newspapers and magazines, and featured on telecasts, across the United States.

EARLY YEARS IN THE MIDWEST

James Earl Ray was born at Alton, Illinois (a Mississippi River community a few miles north of St. Louis, Missouri), on March 10, 1928. He was the oldest of eight children--five boys and three girls--known to have survived in an underprivileged family. During the 1950's, after the father had deserted the family and began living with another woman, Ray's mother found it necessary to place two of her children--one boy and one girl--for adoption. Another son was to be the victim of an accidental death in the 1960's.

In September, 1935, Ray entered the first grade in Ewing, Missouri (a small community in Lewis County located about 10 miles west of the Mississippi River in northeastern Missouri). He completed the eighth grade there in May, 1943. In later years, he was to claim that he took additional courses which gave him the equivalent of a 10th grade education.

In May, 1944, Ray went to work for a shoe company near St. Louis. He was laid off in December, 1945, when a general reduction in force occurred at the plant.

MILITARY SERVICE IN 1946-48

On February 19, 1946--less than a month before his 18th birthday--he enlisted in the Army at East St. Louis, Illinois. In the Summer of 1946, he was assigned to a quartermaster station in Nurenberg, Germany; and in December, 1946, he was transferred to a military police battalion at Bremerhaven, Germany. Ray's tour of duty in Europe also included assignment to an infantry regiment at Frankfort, Germany, in the Spring of 1948.

While in the Army, Ray was tried and convicted by a special court-martial for being drunk in quarters and breaking arrest. He was sentenced to be confined at hard labor for three months and to forfeit \$45 per month for four months. His military record also shows he was treated for venereal disease.

On December 23, 1948, Ray was given a general discharge as a Private First Class at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, by reason of ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service. He registered for the draft at Quincy, Illinois, in April, 1949, and gave his occupation as a student at a television school. During the Summer of 1949, he claimed he was employed at a rubber company in Chicago; then he left Illinois and traveled to California.

ARREST AND CONVICTION IN LOS ANGELES

In October, 1949, the 21-year-old Ray was arrested in Los Angeles and subsequently was convicted of burglary--for which he served 90 days in the county jail and was placed on two years' probation.

Following his release from jail in Los Angeles in 1950, Ray began riding freight trains back toward Illinois. He was taken off one of these trains at Marion, Iowa, on April 18, 1950, and charged with vagrancy. This resulted in a suspended sentence, and he was released by the Sheriff's office on May 8, 1950, to resume his trip eastward.

The following year, he was arrested by the Alton, Illinois, Police Department for failure to have an operator's license, as well as state and city licenses. This resulted in a fine.

From the late Spring of 1950 until the Spring of 1952, Ray claimed that he spent most of his time in the Chicago area and worked for three different companies there. This is also the period in which he claims to have furthered his education by taking courses giving him the equivalent of 10 years' schooling.

IMPRISONED TWICE IN 1950'S

On May 6, 1952, Ray held up a taxicab driver in Chicago and was wounded in his attempted getaway. Immediately after his arrest, he was taken to the Cook County Hospital to be treated for a gunshot wound on the left forearm and skull lacerations. Convicted of robbery in June, 1952, he was sentenced to serve 1 to 2 years' imprisonment.

Ray served most of this sentence at the State Penitentiary at Pontiac, Illinois. He was released in March, 1954, and claims to have worked as a painter in the vicinity of Quincy, Illinois, for several weeks that summer.

Late in August, 1954, he was arrested for burglary and larceny in connection with an attempt to loot a cleaning establishment at East Alton, Illinois. Then in March, 1955, he joined another hoodlum in a criminal operation which involved the forging and cashing of more than \$1,800 in stolen United States Postal Money Orders.

The money orders had been stolen on March 7, 1955, when a Post Office in Kellerville, Illinois, was burglarized. Ray and his underworld associate began passing them in St. Louis on

March 9; then they moved on to Memphis, Tennessee, and to Tallahassee, St. Petersburg, Tampa and Daytona Beach, Florida. They also cashed stolen money orders in New Orleans, as well as in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, before being arrested by a state highway patrolman at Hannibal, Missouri, on March 23.

Their arrest resulted from the alertness of a Kansas City merchant who had accepted a \$75 money order from Ray's accomplice on March 21, 1955. His suspicions aroused, this merchant obtained a description of the car, including its license number, which the criminal entered outside the store. Later, when the money order was determined to have been stolen, the merchant was able to provide detailed information which led to the apprehension of Ray and his hoodlum associate.

On April 1, 1955, Ray appeared in Federal Court at Kansas City, Missouri, and pleaded guilty to forging a Postal Money Order. He was sentenced to serve three years and nine months in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

(Ray's accomplice also pleaded guilty. He claimed that the money orders had been sold to him for \$20 by a man in Quincy, Illinois.)

On April 5, 1958, Ray was given a conditional release from Leavenworth. He returned to the St. Louis area and worked one day--May 28, 1958--at a country club there. He also is said to have worked for four days at a bakery in St. Louis. Most of Ray's time, however, was spent consorting with underworld characters and planning and carrying out crimes.

(One ex-convict was later to inform the FBI that he associated closely with Ray in the St. Louis area in 1958-59 and participated with him in out-of-town burglaries. Other criminals were to refer to Ray as a "small-time" robber.)

SENTENCED TO MISSOURI STATE PRISON

On October 10, 1959, Ray was arrested for armed robbery in St. Louis after he and an accomplice had held up a grocery store. Sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for this robbery and for operating a motor vehicle without the owner's permission, he was received at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Missouri, on March 17, 1960.

State convict Ray quickly earned the reputation among his fellow inmates of being a "loner" and "close-mouthed." He was said to be taking amphetamines (a stimulant) and barbiturates (a sedative) which were bootlegged to him inside the penitentiary--and some prisoners maintained that he was also selling these drugs to other convicts.

Ray was further said to be operating an unofficial book sales and rental service inside the penitentiary and to be an avid reader of "girlie" publications. His work assignment at the prison was in the bakery where he served as a slicer in the bread room.

During Ray's imprisonment, two members of his family died. The first was his mother, who passed away early in 1961. The second was a brother who was victim of an accidental death.

Two other brothers were Ray's only visitors at the state penitentiary. One visited him nine times between October, 1962, and April, 1967. The other brother visited him on five occasions.

In September, 1966, after he had twice attempted to escape (the first time, a ladder broke under him; and the second time, a rope failed to support him, causing him to fall and injure his arm), Ray was sent to the State Hospital at Fulton, Missouri, for psychiatric examination. He was returned to the penitentiary at Jefferson City in the Fall of 1966, and within six months devised a successful plan of escape.

Although dissenting views exist, the consensus of opinion at the Missouri State Penitentiary is that Ray rode out of the gates on April 23, 1967, concealed in the back of a bread truck. On July 20, 1967, based on information received from the warden of the penitentiary indicating Ray's intent to flee from the State of Missouri, a Federal complaint was filed at Jefferson City charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement for Robbery.

The FBI's investigation to locate escaped convict James Earl Ray led to a series of dead ends. Former associates claimed to have no information concerning his whereabouts, and he was not to be found at his previous haunts. Then, on April 19, 1968, FBI fingerprint experts established that James Earl Ray and Eric Starvo Galt were the same person.

MURDER INDICTMENT AT MEMPHIS

On May 7, 1968, Ray was indicted by a state grand jury at Memphis, Tennessee, for the murder of Dr. King.

The five-foot 10-inch fugitive remains at large. He has brown hair and blue eyes and is said to weigh between 163 and 174 pounds. Former fellow inmates have said, however, that Ray's weight fluctuates considerably--particularly when he has been taking drugs.

Ray is said to be a reluctant conversationalist and to avoid looking other persons "in the eye." Ray has also been described as displaying signs of nervousness and as having a tendency to stammer or stutter occasionally--this trait being most noticeable when he meets someone for the first time.

The FBI has also determined that Ray has sought the companionship of prostitutes and that he may attempt to develop amorous relationships with women by advertising in, or by answering advertisements in, "lonely hearts" type publications.

REV. JAMES BEVEL THREAT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	XEROX <i>tickles Munkie -</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>6/28</i> <i>Rev. James Bevel Threat</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED <i>6/28/77 me</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXCISED & XEROXED <i>6/29/77 Gw</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COMPLETED <i>6/29/77 me</i>

Date: _____

The following material has been reproduced for excising and review at FBIHQ by representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations:.

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file on this date:

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By

RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

Phila was advised by
Telephmecal to Submit
a daily teletype of
efforts to Locate and
Interview Moore

11/28/69

ROOM 2260

R.E. LONG

806
WA 1

354PM

URGENT 1-29-69 MTS

TO DIRECTOR PLAINTEXT

FROM PHILADELPHIA (9-3113) 1P

Bevel
VIA TELETYPE

JAN 29 1969 *mt*

ENCIPHERED

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

UNSUBS; REVEREND JAMES BEVEL - VICTIM; POSSIBLE EXTORTION

REMYTEL JAN. TWENTYEIGHT LAST.

REV. JAMES BEVEL INTERVIEWED THIS DATE. HE ADVISED ON
EITHER JAN. TWENTY OR TWENTYONE LAST HE ALSO HAD SHORT CONVERSATION
WITH MICKEY MC MILLAN, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, AT WHICH TIME
MC MILLAN SAID SOME "CATS" WERE TALKING ABOUT BLOWING UP THE
BUILDING IN WHICH BEVEL AND SCLC ARE LOCATED IN PHILA. AND "CON-
TRACT" WAS OUT ON BEVEL.

CEDRIC MOORE AND BEVEL BOTH STATED INFORMATION RECEIVED BY
WORD OF MOUTH AND NO INTERSTATE TELEPHONE CALL, TELEGRAM, OR
COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH THE MAIL WERE INVOLVED IN RECEIPT OF INFO.

AUSA JOHN R. SUTTON, EDPA., ADVISED OF ABOVE INFO AND STATED
FEDERAL PROSECUTION DECLINED IN VIEW OF FACT ELEMENTS DO NOT
CONSTITUTE FEDERAL VIOLATION.

PHILA. CONDUCTING NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SUBMITTING
CLOSING REPORT. PH PD AWARE OF THREATS.

END.

VC FBI WASH DC

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

*Bevel
T. Chiles*

January 29, 1969

Airtel

① - Mr. Rosen
Attention: R. E. Long
1 - Mr. Glass
1 - Mr. Deakin

To: SAC, Philadelphia (157-2371)

From: Director, FBI (100-448006)

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM
BLACK NATIONALIST - HATE GROUPS
RACIAL INTELLIGENCE
(REUBEN BUTLER)

Reurtel 1/27/69.

Philadelphia should resolve all aspects of possible extortion case before any counterintelligence action is taken in this matter. Upon completion of the extortion case Philadelphia should consider resubmitting its counterintelligence suggestion.

TJD:ekw
(6)

NOTE: Reuben Butler, head of the United Veterans for Freedom, is an agitator, troublemaker, and opportunist in Philadelphia. He is receiving 100% disability for psychiatric reasons from the Veterans Administration. If arrested, he would be recommitted to a mental institution. A confidential source advised he heard Butler threaten James Bevel over Bevel's statement that James Earl Ray, accused murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr., is innocent.

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE TWO

Airtel to SAC, Philadelphia
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, BLACK NATIONALIST-HATE GROUPS,
(REUBEN BUTLER)
100-448006

NOTE CONTINUED:

Bureau has received a telegram, possibly from Cecil Moore, in Philadelphia, saying Bevel has been threatened. Moore is involved in racial activities in Philadelphia. Philadelphia is attempting to locate Bevel and Moore regarding possible extortion case. The extortion case should be resolved before the recommended counterintelligence action is taken. The recommended action consisted of advising local police of the threat and if the threat was from Butler, the local police would attempt to persuade Bevel or Moore to sign a complaint against Butler. This would result in Butler's arrest and his being recommitted to a mental institution. This matter has been coordinated with Division 6.