

Mr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

MURKIN

*Yellow Tag*  
April 27, 1968

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

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

With respect to the Director's inquiry regarding the variances in description between James Earl Ray and Eric Galt the following is set forth. James Earl Ray who used the alias Eric Starvo Galt has been identified as the subject in the King case. Ray is an escaped convict from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. His description is based on information in the official records of the penitentiary where he was photographed and his description was recorded. He is forty years old having been born March 10, 1928, at Alton, Illinois. This has been verified through official birth records.

It was determined through exhaustive investigation that King's slayer was an individual who had used the names John Willard, Harvey Lowmyer and Eric S. Galt. The description of this individual and information on his past activities were developed through witnesses, some of whom had only fleeting contact with or observation of the subject, resulting in variations in the descriptions furnished. On painstaking reconstruction of the subject's background we secured a photograph which had been taken in connection with his completing a bartending course in California in March, 1968.

In order to afford the most extensive and widespread publicity to the subject to possibly assist in his early location and apprehension, this photograph and description and past activities, as then reported, were released to the general public.

EJM:ven

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CONTINUED - OVER



**Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

Upon identification of Ray as being Galt we were then enabled to furnish more precise description and background information from official records.

The descriptions of the then unknown subject developed in the initial stages of this investigation were based upon extensive interviews of witnesses in varied locations reaching from Tennessee to California. The remarkably close resemblances which we developed and the information elicited which revealed the true extent of the subject's physical description shows that a most commendable job was done by the Agents in their investigative activity.

The Associated Press article had been the subject of a previous memorandum in which it was indicated that Assistant Chief Bill Price of the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, denied making the statements attributed to him and this was submitted to the Director in a letter from Frank Holloman, former Special Agent who is now in charge of the Memphis Police Department.

**ACTION:**

**For information.**

April 25, 1968

Mr. Frank C. Holloman  
Director  
Division of Fire and Police  
128 Adams Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

RETURN TO 4732

Dear Holloman:

It was very thoughtful of you to write on April 22nd regarding the Associated Press news item and to give me your assurances that the statements attributed to a member of your Department are completely without foundation.

My associates and I appreciate the excellent cooperation you and your men have given us, and we look forward to a continuation of the cordial and smooth-working relationship between our organizations.

With warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

1 - Memphis - Enclosures (3)

NOTE: The alleged discrepancies set forth in the Associated Press release of April 22nd enclosed by Mr. Holloman which are attributed by implication to a ranking Memphis police officer have been categorically denied by Assistant Chief Bill Price, according to Mr. Holloman. The General Investigative Division has advised that our relationship with the Memphis Police and with Mr. Holloman have been excellent, especially in connection with the investigation of the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is not believed any useful purpose would be served in taking issue with the Associated Press.  
GEM:mlb (4)

# Ray-Galt Descriptions Vary, Cause Confusion

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A ranking Memphis police officer acknowledges there are "a whole lot of discrepancies" in official descriptions of the man sought as the sniper slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Asst. Chief Bill Price referred to statements that James Earl Ray, 40, an escaped Missouri convict, and Eric Starvo Galt, first sought in connection with King's April 4 assassination in Memphis, are the same person.

"You don't know what to look for," Price said yesterday as officers here and elsewhere continued their investigation of the slaying. The nationwide man-hunt continues.

The FBI issued a conspiracy warrant Wednesday for Galt, then updated its case Friday by saying a fingerprint comparison showed Galt was really Ray.

The naming of Ray in the case caused confusion, primarily be-

cause earlier official statements indicate that Galt and Ray were in different places at the same time.

When Galt was charged as a conspirator in King's death by rifle bullet, the FBI said the man had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964-65. The FBI said later the earlier description should have said Galt reportedly took dancing lessons rather than stating so flatly.

During that time, Ray was in the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City, serving a 20-year sentence for a 1959 supermarket robbery.

The age of the man also was in conflict.

Witnesses who saw a man in a Memphis rooming house from where the fatal bullet was fired estimated his age as in the late 20s. The FBI, in issuing its warrant for Galt, said he had given his birthdate July 20, 1931. That would make him 36. The FBI said Friday Ray is 40.

The personalities of the two men are sometimes at odds. A prison pal described Ray as virtually a nondrinker. The FBI describes Galt as a fancier of beer and vodka.

There were other differences: Galt: neat appearance. Ray: careless appearance.

Galt: Southern accent. Ray: born in Alton, Ill., No Southern accent.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who came to Memphis after King was slain, at first ruled out a conspiracy, but then the FBI issued its warrant for Galt on a conspiracy charge.

Police here have their own investigation of the slaying under way.

One theory within the Memphis department is that Eric Starvo Galt is a myth, painstakingly created by the conspirators as a smoke screen.

"Somebody has muddled the waters," Price said.

## Phone Call On Shooting Is Unverified

A Somerville, Tenn. man has reported overhearing part of a Memphis telephone conversation in which a white man spoke of shooting someone on a balcony a few hours before the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was slain, but sources close to the investigation of the King slaying incident cannot be verified and is believed to be without foundation.

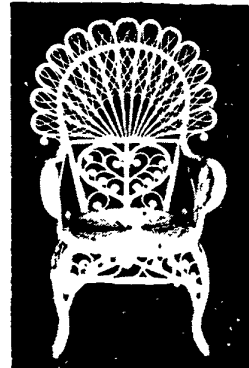
John McFerren, a Negro civil rights worker and owner of a store in Somerville, reported to authorities that he overheard a conversation in a produce

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**April 27, 1968**

**A. Rosen**

**MURKIN**

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**ACTION:**

**For information.**



ME

Mr. DeLoach

April 27, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach	1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malley	1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. McGowan	1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Long	1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. McDonough	1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Mr. Martindale	

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

Ray is known to have checked out of his Los Angeles hotel, 3/17/68, and checked into an Atlanta rooming house, 3/24/68. He delivered a package of clothing in New Orleans for Marie Martin sometime between these two dates at 10:30 p. m. Dale Rodriguez, who received the package in New Orleans, now recalls that it was raining the night the package was delivered. Weather Bureau records show it rained heavily in New Orleans throughout the day and evening of 3/21/68 and in the early morning hours of 3/22/68. No other rainfall was recorded from 3/17/68 to 3/24/68.

Major Bernard J. Peiry, Custodial Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised he has information from the prison grapevine, no source identifiable, that Ray made contact with Walter Nolan, St. Louis, a former inmate, and that Nolan was possibly the brains behind the King murder. Nolan has previously been interviewed and alleged Ray escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary thirty days before the escape was reported. Additional inquiries are being made concerning Nolan.

James Z. Bradley, serving a life sentence at Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that Ray has very small veins making it difficult for him to "main line" his amphetamine shots.

Neal Edgar Aeby, now in a Texas prison, furnished the following information. He knew Ray in Missouri State Prison for five years prior to Ray's escape in April, 1967. Aeby was chief cook and Ray worked for him as a slicer in the bread room. In 1962 Ray attempted to escape but his ladder broke. In 1966 he again attempted to escape but a rope broke and he fractured his arm when he fell. Aeby would not discuss Ray's

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actual escape because he claimed the method used by Ray can still be used by other prisoners. He did say the smart thing to do would be to have a man waiting outside to assist the escapee but he would not state whether or not Ray had assistance.

According to Aeby, Ray liked to tinker and built an air-conditioner for his cell out of various spare parts. He also repaired radios. Ray handled minor narcotics to get cash for commissary items but Aeby never knew Ray to use "hard" narcotics.

Aeby described Ray as very deadly and said he had a nervous breakdown in 1963 or 1964 and developed stomach trouble; consequently, he needed special foods and quit smoking, possibly because of his stomach.

In a Louis Lomax story published 4/25/68, it was stated that Jerri, alleged by Lomax to be a mysterious blonde girl friend of Ray, had been at the Royal Hotel, Milwaukee, using the name Dennis and had mysteriously disappeared.

Dennis has been identified as Dyrell Dennis, a narcotic addict who was confined to a State hospital in California from 5/4/67 to 1/6/68 when she was placed in a half-way house at Vinewood Center. When she failed to maintain required daily contacts, a warrant was issued for her arrest on 3/28/68 but California will not extradite.

Dyrell Dennis has been located at Towne Hotel, Milwaukee. She states she left Los Angeles about two weeks ago by Greyhound Bus to visit her seventeen-year-old son in Milwaukee and will remain in Milwaukee if she can find employment; otherwise, she will return to Los Angeles. Dennis denies any knowledge of the subject. She was registered at the Royal Hotel, Milwaukee, 4/14/68 - 4/21/68. The hotel management suspects she was engaged in prostitution or narcotics activity.

Ray reportedly escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary, 4/23/67, although it has been alleged that he actually escaped thirty days before the escape was reported. Records of the penitentiary show that John Ray, brother of the subject, visited Ray at the prison on 4/22/67. His last prior visit was 11/13/66.



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**RE: MURKIN**

Everett Collier, vice president and editor, Houston "Chronicle," advised that Louis Lomax and Charles Stein arrived in Houston on the afternoon of 4/25/68 and spent five hours searching for the telephone allegedly used by Ray on 12/10/67 when he was en route to New Orleans with Stein. They were accompanied by a "Chronicle" reporter who was to photograph the telephone booth if it was located. The reporter told Collier that Stein was very vague and not sure of the area from which the call was made.

If a further search on 4/26/68 was nonproductive, Lomax and Stein planned to fly to San Antonio, rent a car, and drive back to Houston on Interstate 10 looking for the telephone.

Collier also advised that the North American Newspaper Alliance was trying to get in touch with Lomax for a story about Stein's association with Ray and his trip to New Orleans with him in December, 1967.

Delores Evans was interviewed by our Los Angeles Office and she stated that Martin Luther King, Jr., was "very close and intimate friend." She stated she had known him since November, 1966, he was responsible for saving her marriage and King was a very close friend of her husband and other members of her family. Evans stated that she had no idea regarding anyone who would have wanted to kill King but if any such information comes to her attention, she will advise the FBI at once. Delores Evans praised the FBI for the action it was taking in this matter.

**ACTION:**

**Vigorous investigation is continuing.**



Mr. W. C. Sullivan

4/23/68

*Mo*

J. A. Sizoo

**MURKIN**

Norman Pulin, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) advised this date that a German doctor, Klaus Steer, German Director, Scientific Department, Africa E. Merck Aktiengesellschaft, Karmstadt, Germany, had advised the American Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia that he believed he had seen an individual whom he thought to be Eric Starvo Galt at the Bristol Hotel, Lagos, Nigeria, on the afternoon of 4/23/68. Because he thought the individual looked like Galt he made an effort to get some information concerning him. He found he was registered at the hotel as Joe Musgaque, Room 403, receipt number D52138, account number 66325. The doctor did not know if Musgaque had registered at the hotel as an American. In conversation with Musgaque the doctor learned that Musgaque was employed by the Wilder Oil Company (address unknown) and was en route to Warri Oil Field, Nigeria.

Bufiles contain no references to Joe Musgaque or the Wilder Oil Company.

Mr. Pulin, CIA, was advised that Bufiles contain no references to Joe Musgaque or Wilder Oil Company.

**ACTION:**

None. For information. This is being referred to the General Investigative Division.

JHK:barr (8)

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sizoo
- 1 - Mr. G.C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Kavanagh



OUTSIDE SOURCE

NOV 9 1983

*De*  
Mr. Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Reference is made to your request to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for information pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The CIA has referred 367 documents, consisting of over 10,000 pages, to the FBI for direct response to you. Please be advised that the bulk of this material was processed in FBI files on the assassination for release to the general public in 1977, and is available for review in the FBI Public Reading Room. *61*

If you wish to receive this material it will be necessary to charge duplication fees pursuant to Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 16.9 at the cost of ten cents per page. At this rate it is conceivable that duplication fees for this material will be in excess of \$1,000.

Please advise us if you desire to receive this material. Your patience and understanding in this matter are appreciated.

*190-709-234X*  
Sincerely yours,

*181*  
James K. Hall, Chief  
Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Section  
Records Management Division

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