

FBI ATLANTA

FBI BALTO

415PM DEFERRED 5-4-68 RJW

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND ATLANTA (44-2386)
FROM BALTIMORE (44-669)

MURKIN.

RE PHOENIX TEL TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA AND BA., FIVE THREE SIXTYEIGHT.
ON FIVE FOUR SIXTYEIGHT MARY JACOBS, SIX ONE ZERO DUMBARTON,
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ADVISED HOWARD EDWARD TACKETT NOT IDENTICAL WITH
RAY. JACOBS ADVISED TACKETT MOVED DURING OCTOBER SIXTYSEVEN AFTER
SUFFERING A BROKEN LEG. SHE STATED THAT THE NAME RONALD ALLEN WOODS
UNFAMILIAR TO HER.

END

GGB

FBI ATLANTA

P

44-2386-1653

18

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 4 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

Hughes

PM URGENT 5-4-68 ARK

TO DIRECTOR, (ATTN: ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR DELOACH)
FROM ATLANTA (44-2386)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ATLANTA FIVE FOUR SIXTYEIGHT.
CLIM DAVENPORT, SIX FOUR ONE KENNESAW AVE., N.E., ATLANTA,
GA., INTERVIEWED THIS DATE ADVISED MONDAY FOUR TWENTYNINE
SIXTYEIGHT, UNKNOWN MASONIC MEMBER FROM JACKSON, GA. WHO REFUSED
TO IDENTIFY SELF TO DAVENPORT, CONTACTED DAVENPORT IN ATLANTA
AND CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED HAD GONE TO FRANK MILLER GROCERY STORE,
THIRD STREET, JACKSON, GA., AFTER REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING
WAS KILLED AND MILLER VERY UPSET. THIS MAN SAID BUTCH MILLER,
FRANK MILLER'S SON, HAD IN PAST SHOT INTO HOME OF CIVIL RIGHTS
WORKER. HE STATED FRANK MILLER REPORTEDLY SENT BUTCH MILLER TO
CALIFORNIA AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS KILLED.

DAVENPORT SAID MAN TOLD HIM HE HAD NO INFORMATION
BUTCH MILLER HAD A WHITE MUSTANG OR THAT BUTCH MILLER HAD
ABANDONED A WHITE MUSTANG IN ATLANTA BUT WAS PERSONAL BELIEF

END PAGE ONE

JTB/ARK

TREAT AS ORIGINAL

Approved: Supv. Harding
Special Agent in Charge
Sent 7:00PM M
For CRB

44-2386-1654

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

NOT BASED ON ANY FACT THAT BUTCH MILLER MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH LEAVING THE WHITE MUSTANG IN ATLANTA AS BUTCH MILLER LIVED IN GEORGIA.

DAVENPORT ADVISED WOULD MAKE EFFORT TO LEARN IDENTITY OF MAN FROM JACKSON AND IF SUCCESSFUL WOULD FURNISH IDENTITY TO FBI. WHEN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED HE WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

MAX POLK, JACKSON PD, JACKSON, GA., ADVISED FRANK MILLER OPERATES FRANKS SELF SERVICE GROCERY, DEMPSEY ST., JACKSON, GEORGIA. MILLER'S SON IS BUTCH MILLER WHO ENTERED THE U.S.

AIR FORCE THREE FIVE SIXTYEIGHT AND HAS BEEN STATIONED AT AMARILLO, TEXAS SINCE THAT TIME. POLK ADVISED BUTCH MILLER HAS HAD NO LEAVE SINCE BEING IN AIR FORCE AND PARENTS VISITED HIM IN AMARILLO, TEXAS COUPLE WEEKS AGO. POLK STATED

BUTCH MILLER OWNS GTX PLYMOUTH AUTO. HE HAS NEVER HEARD BUTCH MILLER'S NAME CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH SHOOTING INTO ANYONES HOME.

ATLANTA INDICES NEGATIVE CONCERNING BUTCH MILLER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

FBI ATLANTA

746 PM URGENT 5-4-68 ARK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MIAMI (44-1854), MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM AND
JACKSONVILLE.

FROM ATLANTA (44-2386) 2P

MURKIN

RE MIAMI TEL MAY THREE CONCERNING LETTER RECEIVED BY
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE ON FOUR TWENTYNINE FROM HAZEL V. PEACOCK,
OKEECHOBEE, FLA.

BOTH EMPLOYERS OF CARPENTER AND SMITH POSITIVELY CONFIRM
THAT THEY WERE AT WORK IN GRAY, GEORGIA APRIL FOUR LAST.

SMITH'S EMPLOYER, LEE WILLIAMS-NURSERY, ADVISED SMITH TOLD
HIM ON APRIL FIVE OR SIX LAST THAT CARPENTER HAD PLAYED JOKES ON
GIRL FRIEND IN OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA. STATED CARPENTER SAID HE AND
SMITH HAD KILLED DR. KING AND NEEDED TO BE PUT UP AND HIDDEN
OUT. WILLIAMS ADVISES HE REPRIMANDED SMITH STATING THAT THIS KIND OF
JOKING STATEMENTS WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE.

SMITH INTERVIEWED. CONFIRMED JOKE PHONE CALL AND ALSO
THAT CARPENTER HAS BEEN TELLING GIRL FRIEND HAZEL PEACOCK HORROR
STORIES AND ALL IS FALSE ABOUT SECRET ORGANIZATION, MURDERS, ETC.
SMITH REPRIMANDED BY AGENTS AND APOLOGIZED AND PROMISED TO DISASSOCIATE
SELF FROM CARPENTER. CARPENTER IS SHACKED UP WITH INIDENTIFIED
END PAGE ONE

44-2386-1655

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

FEMALE MACON, GEORGIA, NOT TO RETURN TO GRAY, GEORGIA UNTIL MAY

SIX SIXTYEIGHT. CARPENTER WILL BE CONTACTED.

END.

TXN

FBI JACKSVLE

@ HEP

FBI BIRMINGHAM

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

RML

FI FBI MIAMI

LLD

FBI WASH DC

FBI ATLANTA

813 PM URGENT 5-4-68 ARK

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS CITY
FROM ATLANTA (44-2386) (P) 1P

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION MAY FOUR INSTANT.

NUMEROUS LOOK-ALIKE COMPLAINTS CONTINUE TO BE RECEIVED AND
ARE THOROUGHLY CHECKED OUT.

INTERVIEW OF TAXI DRIVERS IN CONNECTION WITH EXPANDED
TAXI CAB CHECK CONTINUING. NO PERTINENT INFORMATION RECEIVED.

EXPANDED AIRLINES CHECK CONTINUING AND NEGATIVE TO DATE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

ENT

FBI KAN CITYMO

REF

FBI LOS N ANG.

HEP

FBI BIRMMHAM

TSJ

FBI MEMHIS

LCC

FBI WASH DC

44-2386 -1656

AT 44-2386

RDR:bjc

1

During a neighborhood investigation which was conducted in the vicinity of the intersection of Highland View and Ponce de Leon Terrace at Barnett Street, all persons residing in each dwelling were interviewed and shown the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, alias ERIC STARVO GALT, in an effort to develop any information relating to the subject's activities in that area. All persons residing on the following streets between the addresses listed were contacted by SAs RICHARD D. RACKLEFF and JAMES R. RIORDAN and each was unable to furnish any pertinent information concerning the subject's whereabouts or activities.

Drewry Street
903 through 1040 Drewry Street

St. Charles Avenue
866 through 748 St. Charles Avenue

Bonaventure Street
729 through 788 Bonaventure Street

Virginia Avenue
1016 through 1136 Virginia Avenue

Crestridge Drive, Northeast
749 through 839 Crestridge Drive

44-2386-1657

Rackliff *R*

AT 44-2386
RDR:bjc
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
RICHARD D. RACKLEFF on April 23, 1968:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The following persons were contacted at their respective agencies and were shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT. Other employees of these respective agencies were also shown photographs of RAY in an effort to effect an identification. The records of each agency were checked as well as the overdue list without locating a rental contract under the name of JAMES EARL RAY or any of the following aliases:

Eric Starvo Galt
W. C. Herron
Harvey Lowmyer
James McBride
James O'Conner
James Walton
James Walyon
John Willard

The persons interviewed are listed as follows:

SUE JONES
Hertz Rental Agency
Atlanta International Airport

ANN WALLS
National Car Rental Agency
Atlanta International Airport

JIM WALKER
Avis Rental Agency
Atlanta International Airport

44-2386-1658

Rackliff R.

AT 44-2386

RDR:bjc

2

ED PARRISH
Thrifty Rent-A-Car
951 Virginia Avenue

CAROL GRIFFITH
Econ-O-Car
1215 Virginia Avenue

MARY DELANO
Budget Rent-A-Car
1219 Virginia Avenue

GLEN STONEBARGER
Americar
1359 Virginia Avenue

JIMMY DUKE
Airways Rent-A-Car and
Continental Rent-A-Car
Holiday Inn Motel
Virginia Avenue

CAROL MITCHELL
Cherokee Air Taxi Charter Service
Atlanta International Airport

CAROL MITCHELL, supra, was also contacted and the records of her office were reviewed for a possible airplane charter under the above name and aliases of the subject with negative results. Miss MITCHELL also viewed a photograph of RAY and was unable to identify RAY as anyone having chartered an airplane through the Cherokee Air Taxi Charter Service.

AT 44-2386

RDR:sja

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA RICHARD D. RACKLEFF at Atlanta, Georgia on April 24,
1968:

The persons listed below reviewed the records
of their respective agencies in an effort to locate an
automobile rented to JAMES EARL RAY, alias ERIC STARVO
GALT; W. C. HERRON, HARVEY LOWMYER, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES
O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, and JOHN WILLARD.
Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to the employees
of each agency and each was unable to furnish any information
concerning RAY's whereabouts.

Those persons contacted are as follows:

TOM DANCE, Dance Hertz Rental Agency, 2174 North
Druid Hills Road, NE

BETTY OWEN, Avis Rental Agency, Executive Park
Motel, 1447 Northeast Expressway

Investigation at the Toco Hills Shopping Center
in an effort to locate a National Rental Agency in that
area, determined that the National Rental Agency was formerly
operated by Toco Hills Gulf Service Station and is no longer
in business.

44-2386-1655

Rackliff

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

2

December, 1967, and was received at that time by either LLOYD JERINGAN or DAN AYERS (Phonetic). DOWDA advised that he was not certain which of these persons received this phone call but was advised that the person who called left no phone number and apparently did not identify himself to the person who received the telephone call. DOWDA advised he had no idea who the phone call may have been from and stated that he never ~~ed~~ receive any further information about this call, nor was the call ever completed to him.

DOWDA stated as best he could recall the phone call might have originated in Oklahoma, but stated that neither he nor, as best he could recall, RAY had any mutual friends in that area.

O. A. HEMBREE, 2424 Sewell Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia, advised that LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA had been employed by him as a tractor driver and all around assistant from March 8, 1968 to April 12, 1968. HEMBREE advised that during this time DOWDA had worked satisfactorily for him every day that they could have worked, weather permitting. HEMBREE advised the total duration of this time was approximately five weeks and stated that as best he could recall at no time did DOWDA ever leave this area. HEMBREE continued that on two or three occasions, DOWDA had worked on Saturdays, but had never worked on any Sundays during this time. HEMBREE advised there was no way to specifically determine the exact dates on which DOWDA worked, but provided the following dates on which DOWDA was paid and the amounts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
March 8, 1968	\$50
March 15, 1968	\$65
March 22, 1968	\$25
March 29, 1968	\$42.38

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
April 5, 1968	\$60
April 21, 1968	\$80.64

HEMBREE stated during this five or six week period, he had made two loans to DOWDA in two checks, one for \$30 and one for \$10. HEMBREE advised that if DOWDA were to have been employed five days per week, his checks would run approximately \$90 to \$115. HEMBREE advised that all of the checks indicate that DOWDA may not have possibly worked all five days of the week, but again stated that this was due to the weather, stating that in rainy-type weather it was impossible for them to work.

HEMBREE stated that DOWDA had been a satisfactory employee while working for him.

Atlanta leads are being handled by SA JACK T. BEVERSTEIN.

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JAMES RICHARD FLICK on April 25, 1968 at Marietta,
Georgia:

LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the
Osb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia, where he was incarcerated
and provided the following information regarding JAMES
EARL RAY:

DOWDA advised after the interview with agents
on April 24, 1968, he recalled that he had also been
employed by Liggett Lane (phonetic) Drug Company at Tenth
and Peachtree Streets, Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA advised
he was employed there as the manager in the soda fountain
department. DOWDA advised that he had learned previously
that the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, had been seen in Atlanta
and thought possibly he might have come looking for DOWDA.
DOWDA stated he had no idea whether or not RAY might have
been aware of his employment, but stated there was a possibility
that he may have been. DOWDA continued he had been employed
at Liggett Lane Drug Company around November or December
of 1967. DOWDA stated during that time he worked under
Dr. (First Name Unknown) CHOTAS, who was the General Manager
of Liggett Lane Drug Stores and worked with EDITH (Last
Name Unknown) who became the Manager of the soda fountain
department after DOWDA left their employment. DOWDA advised
if RAY had ever come into the Liggett Lane Drug Store
looking for him these two persons would have been the persons
most likely to have been contacted in this regard.

DOWDA stated he had never received any information
that anyone **similar** to RAY had been seeking him but stated
that there was a distinct possibility that this may have been
true.

DOWDA further advised sometime after he had been
arrested by agents in Marietta, Georgia, at the Bonanza
Sirloin Pit, he had been advised by persons, who he could
not recall that a long distance phone call had been made to
the Bonanza Sirloin Pit in Marietta around November or

44-2386 -1660

SEARCHED
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AT 44-2386

CFR:swo

1

The following investigation was conducted on April 23, 1968, in Atlanta, Georgia, by SA CHARLES F. ROESNER:

It was physically determined that Decatur Street-Dekalb Avenue from the Decatur City Limits to downtown had no new or used automobile dealers located thereon.

The following used car dealers were contacted on Memorial Drive in a check reaching from downtown Atlanta to the Decatur, Georgia city limits. Each of the individuals contacted relative to this matter was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and provided with a list of the following names to check through his sales receipts from March 24 through April 6, 1968: ERIC STARVO GALT, W. C. HERRON, HARVEY LOWMYER, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JOHN WILLARD:

Don Pair Motors, Inc., 1156 Memorial Drive, S.E.,
GENE LOVERN, manager

C&S Motor Company, 1119 Memorial Drive, JOHN L.
HARPER, Sales Manager

Jerwin Motors, 1076 Memorial Drive, TOM DENSON,
Salesman, CHARLIE HALL, Sales Manager

Lucky Star Motors, 551 Memorial Drive, Mr. J.C.
HOGAN, owner and manager

Standard Motors, 1096 Memorial Drive, Mr. JERRY
GREENWAY, owner

Each of the individuals above checked his sales records from the listed dates and advised that none of the above aliases nor the name JAMES EARL RAY appeared on any of the sales receipts. Each of these individuals further replied that the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as pictured on Wanted Flyer 442-A, were not familiar to him.

44-2386-166
H.B.
Roesner CFR

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-2386)

FROM : IC JAMES L. MARTIN (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/6/68

A review of the Fulton County Traffic Court records reflected that a City of Atlanta Arrest Ticket was issued on 1/22/68 to one JAMES E. RAY, 3968 Wascanna Rd., S.E., Atlanta, Ga., Alabama Driver's License # 1522898, employed by Canada Dry Co., described as W/M, DOB [REDACTED] RAY was charged with illegally parking a Ford truck bearing 67 Ga. tag 1 PE 2810 in a drive way at 430 Seminole at 12:00 AM.

A review of the Georgia State Patrol driver license records failed to locate any information re above individual. ✓

1910 Murphy SW

2-Atlanta
JLM

Lead

44-2386-1662

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MAY 6 1968	
FBI - ATLANTA	

Perry



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 19, 1968

1

JAMES P. RIORDAN, permanent address 97 Ward Street, Wallingford, Connecticut, presently residing in Room 316, Hotel Frances, furnished the following information:

He moved into Room 8 at 107 14th Street, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, on March 17, 1968, and stayed there until April 1, 1968. He did not become acquainted with any other person at that address nor was he aware that anyone lived at 113 14th Street, N. E. It was his impression this building had just been painted and was vacant. He viewed a photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT and could effect no identification.

RIORDAN recalled that after he had been living at 107 14th Street, N. E., for approximately one week, he started seeing a white Mustang parked under a tree at the rear of 113 14th Street, N. E. He saw this car almost daily until he departed the premises on April 1, 1968. He could not recall specifically whether he saw this vehicle on March 30, 1968, or not. At that time, he was driving an automobile himself and was parking it at the rear of 107 14th Street, N. E., and noted that the white Mustang was most frequently parked under a tree behind 113 14th Street, N. E. He was surprised at this because birds used this tree and any vehicle parked under it would have numerous bird droppings on the roof of the car. He parked his car there on one occasion and the top was covered with droppings. He did not notice the license tag of this car nor did he ever see anyone getting in or out of the car. There was no particular reason to notice the interior of the vehicle and other than being able to state that it was a white Mustang, he could furnish no information.

Since the publicity concerning GALT has hit the papers and he realized that he had been probably living in the same

On 4/19/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386 -1663
by SA MARION E. CHEEK *me* :rjb Date dictated 4/19/68

AT 44-2386

MEC:rjb

2

vicinity with GALT, he has attempted to determine through cryptography what GALT's real identity is. In this regard, he stated that he was in the U. S. Air Force and worked in cryptography. He dropped the name of "STARVO" since, in his opinion, it is an unlikely name and formed a combination of the remaining letters, and came up with the name of CARL GEIST. He noticed in Atlanta newspapers that CARL GEIST is a Minister in Atlanta.

In addition to the above, RIORDAN pointed out that while living in the 14th Street and Peachtree Street, N. E., area, the only bars in that immediate area were Mike's Bar and the Redwood Lounge, both located in the 1000 block of Peachtree. He himself frequented these bars on a daily basis since he is a beer drinker and never saw anyone resembling GALT in these two bars.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date May 2, 1968

JAMES W. WINDOM, who is employed by the East Point Heating and Air Conditioning Company, 1728 Connally Drive, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

He said that while he does not have extensive formal education, he considers himself an air conditioning engineer and is capable of installation and maintenance of such equipment. He said that he is a native to this area and was for many years employed as a salesman by Chrysler Airtemp in Atlanta. Beginning in August of 1967, he began his present employment with East Point Heating and Air Conditioning Company when the owner suffered a severe heart attack. WINDOM said he is presently overseeing the installation of heating and air conditioning equipment in a new fire station being built at the Atlanta Airport Extension. He said he definitely was in this area and was working during the first week of April, 1968.

WINDOM said he could not identify photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as anyone he has ever met or ever known. He said he is definitely not a racist and has no sympathy for whoever killed MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said if he had any information concerning such killing he would certainly volunteer it immediately.

WINDOM said that during his activities as a salesman and as a supervisor, he has probably incurred the ill will of various people. He stated, however, he did not know who would attempt to connect him with the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING and he did not know of anyone who has ever referred to him as "Big Bad Windom".

He furnished the following descriptive information: JAMES W. WINDOM, 783 Essie Street, Southeast, Atlanta, Georgia, white male, born [redacted] at Atlanta in Baptist Hospital, 6' tall, 170 pounds, short gray hair, hazel eyes.

It is noted that WINDOM does not bear a resemblance to the photographs of RAY and SA DONALD F. TACKITT determined that his fingerprints do not match those of RAY.

On 5/1/68 at East Point, Georgia File # AT 44-2386-1664
by SA DONALD F. TACKITT and
SA ROBERT K. LEWIS REL:SWO Date dictated 5/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date May 2, 1968

CHARLES V. TYSON, Manager, Hertz Rental Agency, Albany, Georgia, furnished the following information:

On April 19, 1968, he received a telephone call from an unidentified male who claimed to be calling from Cordele, Georgia, asking if he would have a car at the Albany Airport for JAMES E. BODKER. The caller stated BODKER had a credit card.

Mr. TYSON was not present when this individual showed up to rent a car, but learned from two of his employees, WILLIAM YEOMAN, and DOTTIE OLIVER, that at 12:15 p.m. on April 19, 1968, a white male identifying himself as JAMES E. BODKER rented a 1967 Ford Galaxie, four-door hardtop, white over blue, Vehicle Identification Number 7A56C207625, bearing 1968 Georgia License 8J5039. The car was to be returned at Albany, Georgia, on April 22, 1968, and was to be used in the vicinity of Albany, Georgia. BODKER used a Shell Oil Credit Card, [REDACTED] in renting the car. He gave his home address as 14341 South Avalon, Dolton, Illinois, and claimed to be manager of Suburban Motors, address not given. He gave Illinois Driver's License Number D32644533030.

The vehicle has not been returned as yet and TYSON has made numerous telephone calls to locate either the car or BODKER. No warrant has been taken as yet. He checked with Shell Oil Company at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was told the credit card issued to BODKER had never been used before and was one of a promotional group mailed to college seniors. The description given by his employees placed BODKER beyond the college age. Since Dolton, Illinois, is a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, TYSON obtained the telephone number of Suburban Motors in Chicago, Number 312-344-6600, and called them on April 29, 1968, and April 30, 1968, but received no satisfaction. He talked with a Mr. [REDACTED], who claimed to be manager of Suburban Motors. [REDACTED] furnished virtually no information

On 5/1/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386-165
by SA MARION E. CASEY Date dictated 5/1/68

AT 44-2386

MEC:bjc

2

except to say BODKER was a part-time employee and was not there.

Mr. TYSON made available the Hertz Rental Contract with BODKER, and requested that it be returned to him after it had served its purpose.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date May 2, 1968

WILLIAM YEOMAN, an employee of Hertz Rental Agency, Albany, Georgia, furnished the following information:

He was present on April 19, 1968, when DOTTIE OLIVER rented an automobile to a white male claiming to be JAMES E. BODKER. He only viewed this individual for approximately fifteen seconds and described him as a white male, about 30 years of age, 5'11", 165 pounds, dark brown wavy hair, slightly reddish tint combed back, dark complexion, slender build, neatly dressed wearing open neck sport shirt and dark slacks. He viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that the individual he saw on April 19, 1968, as JAMES E. BODKER bears a close resemblance to the 1968 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and a close resemblance to the head-on 1960 photograph of RAY.

YEOMAN stated he could not be positive concerning the 1960 profile photograph of RAY. In Mr. YEOMAN's opinion, the individual claiming to be BODKER could possibly be identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

On 5/1/68 at Albany, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386 -1666
by SA MARION E. CHEEK :bjc Date dictated 5/1/68


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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC ATLANTA (44-2386)

DATE: 5-2-68

FROM :  SA Hugh Robinson Jr.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re SAC, ATLANTA Memo dated 4-30-68.

The following law enforcement agencies were contacted by SA Robinson concerning the maintenance of unidentified latent fingerprint records for comparison purposes as set forth in referenced memo.

Cherokee County Sheriff's Office
Canton, Ga.

Alpharetta PD
Alpharetta, Ga.

Roswell PD
Roswell, Ga.

Woodstock PD
Woodstock, Ga.

Acworth PD
Acworth, Ga.

None of the above agencies maintained such records which precluded any such comparison.

1 - 44-2386
(HR)

44-2386-1667

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5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date: . 5/2/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-33861)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
RE: MURKIN

OO: Memphis

Re Atlanta airtel to Bureau, 4/25/68; and
San Diego airtel to Bureau, 4/30/68.

RE LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA:

On 5/2/68, Mr. ROBERT E. GRAHAM, an employee of IBM, 16005 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, California, was interviewed by SA GEORGE E. AIKEN, JR.

Mr. GRAHAM stated that his brother's daughter was the wife of LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA, who is currently incarcerated in the Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia, and was interviewed regarding association with JAMES EARL RAY by Buagents on 4/24/68.

Mr. GRAHAM stated that LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA arrived at his residence at 5419 Diversity Drive, Palos Verdes, California, the day prior to Thanksgiving, 1967. This

3 - Bureau
1 - Memphis (info)
② - Atlanta
2 - Los Angeles

GEA/pjc
(8)

44-2386-1668

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FBI - ATLANTA	

Benjamin

Shen

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

LA 44-1574

visit lasted until the day after Thanksgiving, 1967, at which time DOWDA, driving his wife's Volkswagen, bearing Georgia license plates, departed with his wife en route to Monterey, California.

Mr. GRAHAM stated that approximately one and a half days later, DOWDA and his wife returned to the GRAHAMs' residence claiming he had lost his wallet in Monterey and was without funds. GRAHAM advised that he gave DOWDA sufficient funds to drive back to Atlanta, Georgia.

GRAHAM, after consulting a 1967 calendar, recalled that DOWDA arrived at his residence on 11/22/67, and stayed through a portion of the day 11/24/67. He left en route to Monterey on that date and returned to Los Angeles from Monterey approximately 11/26/67.

DOWDA should be reinterviewed about his activities during the period of time when he left Los Angeles, California, allegedly going to Monterey, California.

GRAHAM advised that he would consult with his wife on the evening of 5/2/68, and would be available for reinterview on 5/3/68.

Los Angeles will reinterview GRAHAM 5/3/68, and will advise results.

LEAD

ATLANTA

AT MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Reinterview LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA, an inmate at the Cobb County Jail, concerning his alleged trip from Los Angeles, California, to Monterey, California, and the facts surrounding the loss of his wallet while in Monterey, California.

5/2/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

(OO: Memphis)

Re Atlanta teletype to the Bureau dated 4/30/68,
and Kansas City teletype to the Bureau dated 5/1/68.

Enclosed for the FBI Laboratory are two boat
rental agreements between Crafts Limited, Inc., Ft.
Lauderdale, Florida, and MICHEL ST. PIERRE dated 9/2-3/67,
bearing renter signature, MICHEL ST. PIERRE. Also enclosed
are three Shell credit card invoices in payment of above
contract plus gas and oil, also bearing signature of MICHEL
ST. PIERRE.

The FBI Laboratory is requested to determine
if these items contain any latent fingerprints identifiable
with those of JAMES EARL RAY. Thereafter it is requested
the handwriting comparisons be performed to determine if
the signatures of MICHEL ST. PIERRE on enclosed items were
written by JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4 - Bureau (Enc. 5) (AMRM)
① - Atlanta (44-2386) (Info) (RM)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (RM)
1 - Kansas City (44-760) (Info) (RM)
2 - Miami
DNJ:vc
(9)

44-2386-1669

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - ATLANTA	

5/2/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE CARS STOLEN FROM STATE OF GEORGIA

Re Atlanta airtel dated 4/22/68, and
San Antonio airtel dated 4/24/68.

On 4/23/68, BRYAN CLARK, National Auto
Theft Bureau (NATB), Dallas, Texas, advised SA
MANNING C. CLEMENTS that a check of his records
reflects that no cars have been recovered in Texas
since 4/4/68, which were stolen in Georgia which
were insured by the insurance companies supporting
NATB.

The 26 files of the Dallas Office which
have been opened since 4/4/68, were reviewed with
negative results concerning cars recovered which
were stolen in Georgia since 4/4/68.

3 - Bureau
2 - Atlanta (44-2386)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Dallas
WBH:jmh
(8)

44-2386-1670

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - ATLANTA	

Reynolds

5/4/68

PLAIN

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987),
SACRAMENTO, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO
FROM: LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TEL MAY THREE LAST AND BUTEL TO LOS ANGELES
AND MEMPHIS, MAY FOUR INSTANT.

RE: LOCAL SWINGER CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

INFORMATION IN REFERENCED BUTEL CONCERNING LAB REPORT ON
LETTER TO LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWSPAPER WAS FURNISHED TO
DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT HOUGHTON, LAPD, IN MAY FOUR INSTANT.

FIVE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES MAINTAINED BY
ABOVE CLUB WERE CONTACTED THIS DATE AND NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED
CONCERNING SUBJECT RAY. ATTEMPTS CONTINUING TO CONTACT ALL
SUCH PERSONS. REMAINING PERSONS HAVE OLD, MOVED WITH NO
FORWARDING, OR FICTITIOUS ADDRESSES.

BIRMINGHAM AND ATLANTA ADVISED AIR MAIL.

1 - Birmingham (AM)
① - Atlanta (AM)
44-1574
RJS/llg
(3)

44-2386167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

5/4/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-752) -P-
RE: MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype to Director dated 5/3/68.

Referenced communication requesting Kansas City to advise Atlanta of identities of all recent releases from Missouri State Penitentiary from Atlanta area. These records reveal that the only releases from Atlanta since 4/1/67 is a JOHNNY VELANTI who is now reportedly residing St. Louis, Missouri, area. St. Louis has been advised by teletype.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3-Bureau
②-Atlanta
2-Memphis
2-Kansas City
RBH:jlh
(2)

44-2386-1672

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

Ferry

5/3/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED R.R.R.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) (ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles telephone call to Bureau today.

Enclosed herewith in a cellophane envelope is a type-written letter captioned "Dear Editor" and ending "JAMES RAY; an envelope attached addressed to the "Editor in Chief, the Los Angeles Times Newspaper, Los Angeles, California"; and a Los Angeles Police Department original record card in the name of JAMES E. RAY, which card bears his description, prints and samples taken on 10/11/49 of his handwriting.

The letter was received from Deputy Chief of Police ROBERT HOUGHTON, Los Angeles Police Department, by SAC WESLEY G. GRAPP and Supervisor WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN on 5/3/68. HOUGHTON advised that he had received the letter from JERRY COHEN, a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, who had brought the letter to Deputy Chief HOUGHTON in the hopes of being able to determine if it had any authenticity. Deputy Chief HOUGHTON advised that he desired to make this available to the FBI for examination, and also that COHEN had requested of him that COHEN be advised if the letter is authentic or the work of some prankster. Deputy Chief HOUGHTON has advised COHEN that he has turned the letter over to the FBI.

The Bureau is requested to compare the signature on the enclosed letter with all known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY

4 - Bureau (Encs. - 3) (AM-RM) (RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (AM)
① - Atlanta (44-2386) (AM)
2 - Los Angeles
(9)
WJH:CH

44-2386-1673

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - ATLANTA	

[Handwritten signature]

LA 44-1574

in an effort to determine whether or not this is an authentic letter. Also, the Bureau is requested to conduct a latent fingerprint examination for fingerprints of RAY. In addition, a typewriter examination should be conducted, as well as a comparison of the contents, spelling, spacing, typing ability, etc., to determine if RAY is the author. The Bureau is also requested to examine and advise of any data pertaining to the paper and the envelope and to conduct all other possible examinations to develop the fullest amount of information.

The letter has been touched by Deputy Chief HOUGHTON, whose prints should be on record; JERRY COHEN, staff writer, Los Angeles Times; JACK GOULDING, Assistant City Editor, and one MIKE STRAZER (or STRAUZER), also of the Los Angeles Times; and their female secretary. Of the male individuals involved, it is believed that they have all served in the military.

The original police card is to be returned to Los Angeles for return to the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Bureau is requested to advise Los Angeles of results.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

DATE: 5/3/68

FROM : SA CARL E. CLAIBORNE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Rememo of SA CHARLES S. HARDING dated 4/25/68, regarding contact of Klan and Racial informants, display of the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and interview re knowledge of a so-called "bounty" or "contract" for the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The writer has contacted all 18 Klan informants assigned to him and displayed photos of RAY with negative results. Each of the informants have also been interviewed regarding any knowledge of a so-called "contract" or "bounty", for the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. None of the informants could furnish any information.

②-Atlanta
CEC/bjc
(2) *[Signature]*

44-2386-167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - ATLANTA	

[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) DATE: 5/3/68

FROM : SA RAYMOND J. MICHEL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 4/25/68, attempt to contact a Mrs. OGLESBY at 1898 Jonesboro Road, Southeast, Atlanta, Georgia, met with negative results. The house was vacant and a padlock was on the front door.

ADMINISTRATIVE

On 4/25/68, Mr. W. L. LANE (Protect Identity), Clerk, U. S. Post Office, Lakewood Station, 1590 Jonesboro Road, Southeast, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that their records did not contain an address change for an OGLESBY at 1898 Jonesboro Road; however, if the person had just moved a change of address may have not been submitted at that time.

On 4/30/68, Mr. W. L. LANE (Protect Identity), advised that no change of address had been received for an OGLESBY at 1898 Jonesboro Road. He also stated that the route carrier, Mr. J. W. DALLAS (Protect Identity), advised LANE that he does not recall delivering any mail to an OGLESBY at 1898 Jonesboro Road, Southeast, and he has carried the same route for five years.

Due to the above-mentioned information concerning one Mrs. OGLESBY, no further investigation is being conducted unless additional information is received by the Atlanta Office concerning this matter.

②-Atlanta
RJM:bjc
(2) *[Signature]*

44-2386-1675

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - ATLANTA	

[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) DATE: 5/3/68

FROM : SA CARL E. CLAIBORNE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 2/23/68, AT 1398-R advised SA O. RICHARD HAMILTON that JESSE MC COLLUM, local leader of Minutemen, had stated that he wanted to go to his property near Dacula, Georgia, to locate suitable places to bury guns, ammunition, and food supplies for further use.

SA HAMILTON and the writer checked real estate records at the Gwinnett County Court House in Lawrenceville, Georgia, and located records pertaining to the property owned by MC COLLUM. This property was purchased from D. V. ARCHER in March of 1967, and the deed was made to JESSE MC COLLUM, JR. The property was described as 44 acres lying on Franklin Circle Road and Whitley Road in the Harbins Community about six or seven miles Southeast of Dacula, Georgia.

A few days later the writer and SA HAMILTON were successful in locating this property and the following is a description of directions to the property.

From the traffic light in Dacula, Georgia, turn right off of Highway 29 onto the Monroe Highway. Go about five or six miles to the Harbins Community and turn left on Franklin Circle Road. Franklin Circle Road leaves Monroe Highway and returns to it about four or five miles further down the road. The property is located at the intersection of Whitley Road and Franklin Circle Road and consists of 44 acres, practically all of which is wooded. The roads leading into the property are all dirt roads and the area is very isolated. There

⑥ Atlanta (244-2386) (1-157-273 (Minutemen)
(1-170-288A (AT 1398-R) (1-157-1872 (JESSE MC COLLUM)
(1-157-848 (Acquisition of Firearms)

CEC:bjc
(6)

put/bjc

44-2386-1515

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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is only one house within a half miles of the property. The property itself contains an old farmhouse with the windows boarded up, a well house, a smoke house, a pig pen, and two or three other small out buildings.

There are two neighbors to this property. The nearest neighbor is ROY LAMAR DAVIS, who lives about one half mile north of the property and the other neighbor is D. V. ARCHER, the man who sold the property to MC COLLUM, who has a farm directly across the road, however, ARCHER's home is on Monroe Highway, where Franklin Circle Road turns off, a distance about a mile.

Efforts to locate ROY LAMAR DAVIS were negative even though three separate efforts were made. It was later learned that he works at Lockheed Aircraft in Marietta, Georgia, and his wife works at Walton Clothing Company in Loganville, Georgia.

On 5/1/68, D. V. ARCHER was located at the Dacula Elementary and High School in Dacula, Georgia. He is a school teacher, employed by the Gwinnett County Board of Education; however, he does not teach at the same school every day. He teaches at various schools. ARCHER stated that JESSE MC COLLUM, SR. very seldom came out to the farm, however, JESSE MC COLLUM, JR. comes out quite often.

ARCHER was shown a photograph of ROBERT BOLIVAR DEPUGH, National leader of the Minutemen, and also a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, however, he said that he had not noticed either of these men around the MC COLLUM farm. He was asked whether he had noticed anything suspicious around the farm recently which might indicate the presence of human beings. He stated that on Sunday, 4/28/68, he visited his farm, which is directly across the road from the old farmhouse on the MC COLLUM place, and went over to the old house and noticed that

AT 44-2386

someone had broken the cover to the well. He explained that the well had previously had a wooden cover on it which was nailed down so that no one could get into the well. He said this cover had been broken off. He also added that he had noticed buzzards circling over a part of the MC COLLUM place near the old farmhouse and he thought both of these items were quite unusual. He added that he had noticed several cars going up the road into the MC COLLUM place late at night during the recent weeks.

On the afternoon of 5/1/68, SA HAMILTON, the writer, SA RICHARD H. DAVIS, and ASAC JACK KEITH visited the MC COLLUM farm and walked over any part that seemed capable of concealing a human being. It was obvious that no humans had been into the area in some time, however, there were plenty of dog tracks and the tracks of wild animals.

It was noted that on the back part of MC COLLUM's farm, there is a huge ravine which is heavily wooded and has a stream running through it. During a search of likely hiding places, which consumed about two to three hours, there was no evidence found of any human use of the area.

5/4/68

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 1P

MURKIN.

ALTHOUGH NO EVIDENCE ESTABLISHED TO DATE TO INDICATE JAMES EARL RAY MAY BE DEAD, MEMPHIS SUGGESTS BUREAU MAKE CONTACT WITH CENSUS BUREAU. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THE CENSUS BUREAU IN ITS RECORDS MAY HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING UNCLAIMED DECEASED. IT IS RECOGNIZED BUREAU WILL HAVE ALREADY PLACED STOPS IN IDENTIFICATION FILES FOR UNKNOWN DEAD WHICH VARIOUS PD'S WILL MAKE INQUIRY REGARDING. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF CENSUS BUREAU MAINTAINS ANY SUCH RECORDS BUT POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SUCH RECORDS MIGHT COME IN FROM RURAL AREAS DIRECTLY FROM CORONERS WHERE THERE MAY NOT BE ADEQUATE PD'S.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING, MEMPHIS DIVISION. ALL MATERIAL BEING REVIEWED FOR PERTINENT LEADS.

AIR MAIL COPIES, BIRMINGHAM AND ATLANTA. P.

END

RQJ:ME
(3)

1 - ATLANTA (AM)
1 - BIRMINGHAM (AM)

Airtel.....
Teletype.....
A. M.....
A. M. S. D.....
Spec. Del.....
Reg. Mail.....
Registered.....

44-2386-167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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NW

AT 44-2386

MEC:bjc

1

RE: NEIGHBORHOOD OF 14TH STREET, N. E.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA MARION E. CHEEK on April 19, 1968, at Atlanta, Georgia:

Mrs. SHIRLEY KROON, Manager, Pennant Restaurant,
163 14th Street, Northeast, furnished the following
information:

She is the Manager of the Restaurant and on
the night of April 17, 1968, at about 10:30 p.m. observed
a white male, approximately 5'10" tall, 165 pounds, brown
hair, brush cut, dressed in blue trousers and dark green
short sleeved sports shirt, buttoned at the neck, in the
restaurant drinking a cup of coffee. At that time she
had neither observed an artist's sketch of GALT nor had
she heard the news releases concerning his identification.
Later that evening she saw the 11:00 news on television
and observed GALT's photograph. She is positive the
individual who was in the Restaurant at about 10:30 p.m.
was identical with GALT. She called Deputy Sheriff
JAMES FACUETT, who told her to call the FBI. She advised
she contacted the Atlanta Office of the FBI and an Agent
was supposed to see her the next day, however, she was
away from her place of business the next day and does
not know if an Agent contacted her or not.

After seeing GALT's photograph on television,
she telephoned RUTH HOLMAN, a waitress at the Restaurant,
and asked her if the individual was still there and was
told he had left. HOLMAN is unavailable except during the
evening hours. KROON displayed GALT's photograph to RUTH
CHAPPELL, the other waitress on duty, who could not effect
an identification.

h h
Check C

AT 44-2386

MEC:bjc

2

LINDA BROWN, Receptionist, Security Development Company, 235 14th Street, Northeast, and whose home address is 239 14th Street, Northeast, viewed the photograph of GALT and stated she is positive she has seen him on several occasions within the past month at the Piedmont Grill located just around the corner from 14th Street on Piedmont. She and her boy friend drink beer at the Piedmont Grill and this tavern is frequented by residents of that neighborhood. They have a jukebox and play a lot of "hillbilly" music in this tavern. She could not be specific as to the dates she saw GALT nor could she describe his dress or companions, if any.

The following residents on 14th Street viewed GALT's photograph with negative results:

BRENDA TANKERSLEY
Apartment 1
181 14th Street

JOHN ANDERSON
Apartment 6
181 14th Street

LEONARD BROGDON
Apartment 10
181 14th Street

LOIS CROOK
Apartment 12
181 14th Street

No one was located in Apartments 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, or 11, 181 14th Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia. It is noted that this entire building is occupied by "hippies."

AT 44-2386

MEC:bjc

3

EDGAR ORR, Apartment 4, Resident Manager at 209 14th Street, Northeast, viewed GALT's photograph and could not effect an identification.

Dr. GROVER HALL, who also has his office at 209 14th Street, Northeast, could not identify GALT. All other residents of this building were unavailable.

Miss LUCILLE VAUGHN and DAVID PEMP, 239 14th Street, Northeast, could not effect an identification of GALT.

MAYBELL CHASTAIN, Waitress at the Piedmont Grill, 14th and Piedmont, viewed GALT's photograph and could not effect an identification. She works from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and her husband is the owner. The waitresses during the evening hours are MARIE and JERRI; she did not know their last names.

FBI ATLANTA

FBI ALBANY

11:52 AM URGENT 5/6/68 PXS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA , MIAMI (44-1854)
FROM ALBANY (44-493) 1P

MURKIN

RE MIAMI TEL TO BUREAU MAY TWO LAST.

RE MICHEL ST. PIERRE.

ALBANY ASCERTAINED SUBSCRIBER TO TELEPHONE FIVE ONE FOUR
DASH SIX SIX THREE DASH TWO TWO EIGHT EIGHT IS M. ST. PIERRE,
TWO TWO THREE FOUR PRUDENTIAL ST., VINONT, QUEBEC, A SUBURB
OF MONTREAL.

LEGAT, OTTAWA, ADVISED RCMP CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION RE
ST. PIERRE WHO ALLEGEDLY LOST CREDIT CARDS AUGUST ONE LAST.
QUEBEC PROVINCIAL POLICE, MONTREAL, STATE CLAUDE DAOUST IS
LEADING CAR THIEF IN MONTREAL, AND PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.
INFO RECEIVED FROM MIAMI THAT DAOUST INTERVIEWED PALM BEACH
COUNTY JAIL, WEST PALM BEACH, FLA., FEBRUARY TWENTYNINE LAST
BUT TIME OF RELEASE THEREFROM NOT INDICATED.

RCMP WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION REQUESTED RETEL. MAIL COPY
MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

LCS

FBI ATLANTA

44-2386-1679

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 6 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

Reynolds

Louisville, Ky
Apr - 30th - 1968

F. B. I. Office
Atlanta, Ga.

44-2386-1680

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 - 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

Gentlemen:

Have you ever seen
a more striking resemblance
than between pictures ① and
②. For more than between ① and
③. Doesn't it strike you as odd
an acknowledged Ku Klux
leader, deserts the clan to work
for negroes, except to divert
suspicion from him self?

He left a car in Atlanta, no
one has seen him since. Look
at the long nose the hair line
the silly smile. Suppose you
check his record. I don't want
to do any one in injustice,
if they are innocent, I
apologize. I am very sincerely

in this. Doesnt this occur to
you. I would appreciate
a reply.

Sincerely

(Mrs) Louis Benson
3127- Meadow Lark Rd
Louisville, Ky.
40213

①

THE C

Suit Could U.S. Pr

By WALTER PIN

Los Angeles Times-Washington

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors, like the stars in the sky, soon begin to fall on Alabama.

Charges of price-rigging and kickbacks in asphalt sales are being reviewed by the department and Bureau of Public Works, it was learned.

The charges are in a civil suit against Alabama Finance Inc. and more Trammell, who was aide to former Gov. George Wallace, along with state Purchasing Agent Howard White and 24 asphalt dealers. Apprehensive state officials virtually halted all purchases since April 4, when the suit against Waugh Asphalt Co. in federal court in Montgomery.

'Wallace People Worried

"The Wallace people are worried about the suit," confided an occupant of one of Alabama's offices. "They're checking the contracts back to last October."

There is persistent talk of a court settlement between Waugh. If it were to go to court, it would open up a potentially embarrassing testimony on Wallace's organization financing. "For alone I except a settlement," said one Alabama politician.

Trammell has branded the suit "false, untrue and ridiculous."

At issue in Alabama's assault is whether administrators have conspired with a major state's asphalt suppliers to rig prices and kickbacks in the \$7-million-a-year market, fix prices and kickbacks in asphalt sales, and kickbacks in asphalt sales, and kickbacks in asphalt sales.

A preliminary study by the Public Roads indicates that money figured in the purchases being questioned in the civil suit. The bureau plans to send an investigator into the state to conduct a purchasing practices.

The suit names 24 companies, the majority of Alabama's asphalt dealers as co-conspirators. There are dealers who sold to the state.



Associated Press

**GRAND DRAGON CALVIN CRAIG
Resigns from Klan**

Klan Leader Resigns to Work On Voter Project

By RABUN MATTHEWS

ATLANTA (UPI) — Calvin Craig, grand dragon of the Georgia United Klans of America, Inc., announced yesterday his resignation from the Klan to help build a nation where "black men and white men can stand shoulder to shoulder in a united America."

The oldest Ku Klux Klan grand dragon in office, Craig, 39, said he plans to devote his energies to voter registration work in Atlanta. A group headed by Craig has registered between 500 and 700 voters weekly since January, he said.

Remember

conspiracy to kill Dr.

MEMPHIS (UPI)—The sniper believed to have gunned down Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wore a "silly smile" and registered under the name of "John Willard," police and FBI agents were told yesterday.

The description was given by Bessie Brewer, 44, the landlady of the house from where the bullet was fired that killed King as he stood on a motel balcony some 200 feet away.

Mrs. Brewer told newsmen she checked

her tenant's room. The shooting, he

Three other people they saw the sniper.

A tenant of the building, who said his wife, Grace, shot.

"It was still in my room," he said. "I saw this shot. I saw a sandy-haired man down the stairs with his arm wrapped

"He was about 40 years old, a war veteran said

Repeatedly

Stephens said he heard some one shouting to get into the

"He kept pointing into the bathroom. It was being heard by Stephens said.

Stephens said he went into the bathroom apartment 4. He, after the shooting.

Another man, who lives in another room of the house, said he saw the man as he was walking

"One of them got out of the window. He believed the man was a Puerto Rican

Artist's sketch of

King slaying suspect



a new tenant in apartment 5 of the rundown dwelling about 3:30 p.m. Thursday that fit a description of King's assailant given out earlier by police.

"He paid his \$8.50 week's rent in cash, in a \$20 bill and two quarters, and registered under the name of John Willard," Mrs. Brewer said.

"He had a silly smile," she said. "I'll never forget that smile."

'Willard' Had No Luggage

Mrs. Brewer said her tenant had no luggage. Both she and her husband, Frank, 46, confirmed that they heard the man believed fired from a communal bathroom that killed King.

Mrs. Brewer said the last she saw of

Post Office Box 1682
Atlanta, Georgia 30301
May 6, 1968

Mrs. Louise Benson
3127 Meadow Lark Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40213

Dear Mrs. Benson:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 30, 1968, and the newspaper clippings which you enclosed. I appreciate your observations and you can rest assured your letter will be made a matter of record.

Very truly yours,

FRANK V. HITE
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee
① - Atlanta (44-2386)
CSH:jlh
(2)

jlh

CM

44-2386-1681

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/1/68

Mr. DONALD PARNELL, Credit Department, Shell Oil Company, advised he had no record of a credit card in the name of HAROLD J. THOME, but would check company records in Oklahoma to determine if such card existed. He stated it would take him two or three days to obtain the information for review.

44-2386-1012On 5/1/68 at Los Angeles, Californiaby SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/dlp

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
Date dictated <u>5/1/68</u>	

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/1/68

Mr. STEPHEN HILL, Union Oil Company Credit Department, advised that as their account in the name of HAROLD J. THOME had been let out for collection, the collection agency would have the most recent charges, and the only credit purchased they would have on microfilm would be of purchases made prior to the time it was turned over to the collection agency.

44-2386-1683

On 5/1/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 44-1574
by SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/dlp Date dictated 5/1/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/1/68

PAUL ZANDER, Collection Manager, Union Bank, Ventura and Sepulveda Boulevards, stated he had accomplished the recovery of the 1966 Buick, purchased by HAROLD J. THOME, in Atlanta, Georgia. He stated the car had been repossessed by the Auto Recovery Bureau, 2680 Gordon Road, Southwest, Atlanta, on January 15, 1968. He stated this agency would have the residence and employment of THOME on file as of that date. ZANDER understood THOME, who has been confined in Camarillo State Hospital, had become a hippie type, and before leaving Los Angeles, had lived with a group of hippies on a farm called the "hog farm" near Tujunga, California. He stated his investigation had established THOME had travelled about the United States between June, 1967 and January, 1968 for an unknown reason. He said THOME had Union Oil and Shell Oil credit cards which he had used in his travels, and the Union Oil Company had turned their account over to the U. S. Credit Bureau, Los Angeles, for collection. He knew nothing of the Shell Oil account.

He stated the interest of the Union Bank was terminated when the Buick was recovered.

On 5/1/68 at Sherman Oaks, California File # Los Angeles 44-1574
 by SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/dlp Date dictated 5/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/1/68

Mr. JOSEPH POWERS, Secretary-Treasurer, Barnett Buick Company, 500 South San Fernando Road, advised the automobile they had sold HAROLD J. THOME had been financed through the Union Bank of Los Angeles and they had been looking for THOME. He stated the Union Bank should have details on the purchase of the car.

44-2386-1665

On 5/1/68 at Burbank, California File # Los Angeles 44-1574
by SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/dlp Date dictated 5/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/1/68

STEVEN THOME, 355 West Acacia, Glendale, son of HAROLD JAMES THOME, was telephonically contacted to determine the whereabouts of his father, who had attempted to have an audience with MARTIN LUTHER KING in Atlanta, Georgia in November, 1967, for an unknown reason. He stated his father left Los Angeles, California, sometime in late 1967 and his whereabouts have been unknown since that time. He stated his father had called him long distance collect on two occasions since Christmas, 1967. However, he did not know the origin of the calls and would advise this office when he received his telephone bill indicating the charges. THOME stated his father was alienated from his son TIM THOME and from his former wife, and would not contact either of them. He refused to furnish the current address or telephone number of his mother stating she knew nothing concerning HAROLD THOME's whereabouts and he did not want her to be interviewed. THOME suggested contacting the Barnett Buick Company, who had sold his father a 1966 Buick, as he knew they were looking for his father.

On 4/29/68 at Los Angeles, Californiaby SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/dlp

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 5/1/68

Mr. WILLIAM REYNOLDS, U. S. Credit Bureau, 125 South Vermont Avenue, advised they were handling the collection on the Union Oil Company credit card of HAROLD J. THOME. Mr. REYNOLDS had charged cards indicating THOME had purchased gasoline in the following cities on the following dates:

October 11, 1967	Bouse, Arizona
October 22, 1967	Hightown, New Jersey
November 1, 1967	Atlanta, Georgia
November 6, 1967	Decatur, Georgia
March 8 or 9, 1968	Van Horn, Texas

The gasoline was purchased in Van Horn for an automobile bearing California license KDT 654, which Mr. REYNOLDS said was registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles in California to JAMES E. SIMS, 254 1/8 Coronado, Number 40, Los Angeles. Mr. REYNOLDS stated older gasoline charges would be in the possession of Union Oil Company.

44-2386-1687

On 5/1/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 44-1574
 by SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/dlp Date dictated MAY 4 5 1968
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