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Both automobiles were then driven to the intersection of Indiana and Potomac Streets in St. Louis. The stolen car, the previously mentioned Ford, was then driven to the scene of the crime, and the store was entered by both men.

RAY proceeded to a small office located in the front of the store, where he pointed the automatic pistol he was carrying at the man in the office, commanding him to open the safe. OWENS remained close to the front door where he acted as a look-out and, according to OWENS, left his revolver in his coat pocket. OWENS stated after RAY failed to get the man in the office to open the safe, he pointed the automatic pistol at a woman cashier, ordered her to step aside, and then reached into the open cash drawer, removing an unknown sum of currency. Both men then left the store and departed in the stolen Ford automobile.

A switch was thereafter made and both men then drove to RAY's home in OWENS' 1958 Plymouth.

Upon arrival, they proceeded to the bathroom of RAY's home where OWENS returned RAY's revolver and RAY gave OWENS \$60.00 in six \$10.00 bills, which constituted OWENS' share of the money taken in the robbery. OWENS then left RAY's residence and proceeded to his automobile where he was placed under arrest.

RAY, when interviewed, refused to make any statement, but OWENS later viewed RAY and positively identified him as the man who had accompanied him to the Kroger Store and assisted him in the commission of the hold-up.

Both individuals were thereafter charged with robbery with a deadly weapon and operating an automobile without the owner's consent. An additional charge of resisting arrest was placed against RAY.

The St. Louis Police Department, Bureau of Records, had no information on JAMES EARL RAY, but the report reflects

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that RAY acknowledged a 1951 robbery at Chicago, Illinois, for which he was sentenced to twenty-one months in the Pontiac Reformatory and a 1955 arrest for transportation of forged documents, for which he received a sentence of thirty-four months to the Federal Penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth.

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HRD: amb

RE: RESIDENCE, 2023 PARK AVENUE

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI:

The following investigation was conducted by SA
JOHN O. TRETHEWEY, JR. on May 7, 1968:

Mr. EDMOND HATTON, 2023 Park Avenue, advised he had purchased the building at that address in August of 1960. He has never seen JAMES EARL RAY and was not aware of his existence until recent publicity.

He stated Mr. E. C. COWLEY who lives in an upstairs room at that address was living in the building at the time RAY was arrested there in 1959. A Miss JONES, present address unknown, also resided in the building at that time. The building was previously owned by a Mrs. G. MC LAUGHLIN who still resides in the St. Louis area but whose exact address was unknown to him.

Mr. HATTON also owns an apartment building at 2021 Park Avenue. He stated that all present tenants took up residence there subsequent to 1960.

Mr. E. C. COWLEY, Room 8, 2023 Park Avenue, advised he had occupied Room 5 at that address which was adjacent to Room 6 which was occupied by RAY at the time of his 1959 Kroger robbery arrest. Mr. COWLEY had no contact with RAY. RAY had only been in the room for approximately three days at the time of the arrest. Mr. COWLEY recalled that on the morning of RAY's arrest he had observed two young men, one of whom was probably RAY, go into RAY's room just before he left for work that morning at approximately 9:00 a.m. That was the last he ever saw of RAY as he, COWLEY, had been at work at the time of the arrest.

He was unable to recall the identities of any other tenants who had resided there at the time of the arrest except for a Mrs. G. MC LAUGHLIN who was owner of the building at that time and a Miss JONES who currently resides in the neighborhood but whose address is unknown.

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Mr. W. M. HOOD, 2031 Park Avenue, advised he and his wife had witnessed the policemen in the yard at the house next door at the time of RAY's arrest in 1959, although they never saw RAY. He was unable to recall the identities of any other residents of the building at that time. He never saw RAY and had no information concerning him.

Mrs. REUBEN CRAFT, 2015 Park Avenue, advised she had resided in that area for approximately the past four years; that she had never seen subject and never heard of him until recently; and that she had no information concerning him.

The current residence of Miss LORETTA JONES, who formerly resided at 2023 Park, was determined to be 2335 Park Avenue, however, repeated attempts to contact her at that address proved fruitless.

Mrs. G. MC LAUGHLIN, 3020 Hawthorn, advised she had formerly owned the building at 2023 Park Avenue. She said that RAY had resided there less than a week prior to his arrest in 1959, and that she had no prior or subsequent knowledge or information concerning him.

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WHW:bam

RAY'S MEXICO TRIP

The following investigation was conducted at St. Louis, Missouri, by SA WILLIAM H. WARFIELD:

On April 30, 1968, RICHARD H. DIXON, 13000 Woodley Lane, St. Louis, was interviewed at the Federal Paper Stock, 4810 McKisock Street, where he is employed as Vice President.

DIXON advised that he stayed at the Rio Hotel, Puerto Vallarto, Mexico, from October 20 to 22, 1967. He and his wife, GLORIA, flew to Puerto Vallarto from Guadalajara, Mexico, via Mexicana Air Lines. They met friends, Mr. and Mrs. BEN LAPIN of San Francisco, California, at the Rio Hotel. DIXON thinks that he and his wife occupied Room #206.

DIXON viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on FBI Wanted Flyer #442A, dated April 19, 1968. He advised that he does not recall having seen this man at the Rio Hotel. He could furnish no information concerning RAY.

On April 30, 1968, GLORIA L. (Mrs. RICHARD) DIXON, nee BRITTON, 13000 Woodley Lane, St. Louis, was interviewed at 8701 McKenzie Road, Affton, Missouri, where she is employed as a secretary to the Superintendent of Affton Schools.

Mrs. DIXON furnished essentially the same information as her husband. She viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as depicted on FBI Wanted Flyer #442-A. She stated that she doesn't recall having seen RAY at the Rio Hotel during October, 1967, and could furnish no information concerning RAY.

Mrs. DIXON pointed out that she and her husband generally did not eat in the dining room at the Rio Hotel while residing there.

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JAF: amb

RE: LAUNDRY MARKS

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SA
JACK A. FRENCH:

On April 17, 1968, MC CAWLEY SUITS, Assistant Manager, Suits Laundry, 1400 Russell (TO 5-1494), displayed to the agent their two Thermo-seal marking machines, Serial Numbers 32760 and 32759. They utilize the first machine with three digit marks; alternating A through Z for the first character and 1 through 99 consecutively for the last two characters.

The other machine uses three numbers only, 100 through 999. They do not have machine with Serial Number 30979.

On April 17, 1968, a check of 2323 Rutger Street reflected Sunshine Laundry has been out of business for several years and all machinery and furniture in the interior has been removed.

In view of the above neither of these laundries would ever be utilizing the codes "O2B-6", "D2B-6", or "20R-3."

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TLB:bam

RE: TWA AIRLINE CHECK

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS L. BUCKLEY at St. Louis, Missouri, on April 30,
1968:

Mr. RAS NEWSOME, Supervisor, Reservations Sales, Trans World Airlines, Inc., 440 Mansion House Center, Fourth Street and Washington Avenue, caused a search of his company's records to be made regarding TWA flights 489, 529, and 537 which departed Atlanta, Georgia, on April 5, 6, 11, and 12, 1968. This search failed to reveal that any passenger giving a name W. C. HERRON, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON or JAMES WALYOU rode any of these flights. An additional search regarding persons who made reservations and cancelled them was also made for the above names on the above flights without effecting an identification. All of the above flights departed as scheduled except flight 489 on April 11, 1968, which was cancelled because no equipment was available.

Mr. IRVIN STRICKLAND, Supervisor, Reservations Sales, TWA, placed stops for the names JAMES EARL RAY, ERIC STARVO GALT, W. C. HERRON, HARVEY LOWMYER, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYOU, and JOHN WILLARD with all reservations agents employed by TWA at St. Louis, Missouri.

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HCK/ral

Re: HIPPIE ROOMING HOUSES

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On April 25, 1968, Mr. PAUL PICK, formerly employed as Director of the Exit, a so-called Christian coffee house, located in Gaslight Square, St. Louis, Missouri, at Boyle and Olive Streets, now employed as a teacher, University of Missouri at St. Louis, was contacted by SAA HOWARD C. KENNEDY at the YMCA, Fifteenth and Locust Streets, St. Louis, where he was then teaching. He furnished the following information:

He is very well acquainted with many persons frequenting the Gaslight Square area having been employed as Director of the Exit for several years. He resided in that area during the entire time. In his opinion there are no hippie rooming houses located outside the area of McPherson Street between Boyle and Taylor. Almost all of the rooming houses located in that area are at times occupied by hippies. He estimated that there are about 100 "hardcore hippies" living in the St. Louis area, and all of them are located on McPherson Street. There are perhaps several hundred young persons who are generally known as weekend hippies or "plastic hippies", but in his opinion, these persons are attending school as students or employed in industry in this area and are not to be confused with bona fide hippies. Mr. PICK was unable to furnish any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY, whose photograph was exhibited to him as was descriptive information concerning RAY.

The following persons were contacted concerning this matter by Agents identified below on April 26, 1968, in the course of investigation to contact all hippie rooming houses located on McPherson Street, St. Louis, Missouri; none of these individuals, however, furnished any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY whose photograph was exhibited and descriptive information furnished to each of them:

SA LAWRENCE B. CURTIN and SA EDWARD M. MORELAND

4303	McPherson	Mrs. NELSON
4311	"	STEVE CARVER
4323	"	Mrs. CAROLINE VOSS
4333	"	JOE WELSH