

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 9-25-67)

(Copies to Office ☒ checked)

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
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Date **May 11, 1968**

RE:

MURKIN

☒ For information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Remytel 5/11/68.

**Enclosed is Identification Record on
Carl Murphy, Jr.**

*See Chi tel
5-10-68
no value BH
(1) invest -
Enc. (44-38861) Hae
Bufile
Urfile*

44-1743-1729

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 14 1968	
FBI - [signature]	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740) (P)

DATE: 5/14/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LEE

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: ME

*Check index
only up*

ReBuairtel to Birmingham, 5/7/68, regarding
MARVIN P. LITTRELL.

44-1740-1646

On 5/9/68, MARVIN P. LITTRELL, owner, Littrell Motor Company, Athens, Alabama, which is the Chevrolet-Oldsmobile dealer, furnished the following information concerning referenced communication:

During the latter part of 1962 or the first part of 1963, exact date not recalled, he was attending a Democratic convention in Mobile, Alabama, and at the conclusion of this convention he went to the Mobile Airport for transportation home. To the best of his knowledge, this was before noon on an unrecalled date and he was just about intoxicated, as he had several drinks before leaving the hotel as well as a couple of drinks at the airport. On this occasion to the best of his recollection, he was accompanied by a prosperous farmer from Mount Hope, Alabama, whom he believed to be (FNU) ROBERTSON. While at the Mobile Airport, he and ROBERTSON were having a Coke when he noticed a group of young Negroes, at which time he struck up a conversation with one of these individuals. According to this Negro, some oil company was flying this group to someplace, he believed to have been New York, and during this conversation, as he was about drunk, he asked this individual how he would like to come to work with him at Athens, Alabama, advising that he was an automobile dealer and could use an employee at his establishment. He gave this individual one of his business cards and sometime later, he does not recall the length of the period of time, he received a letter from this individual from New York, requesting money to come to Athens, Alabama, to take this job; however, as well as he recalls, this individual requested more money than it would have taken for this

44-1740-1730

WHL:epg
(3) *epg*



5010-108

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 14 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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

BH 44-1740

trip, and he answered this letter, pointing this fact out, but added that he would arrange a job in his establishment for this individual in the event he could get to Athens, Alabama.

Since the receipt of this letter, he has heard nothing more from this individual nor has he given it any thought since then.

Mr. LITTRELL stated he does not recall mentioning anything about Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, but it is entirely possible that he did make a statement concerning Dr. KING to this individual, since as well as he recalls he had quite a conversation with this young Negro. Mr. LITTRELL further pointed out that in the event he made such statement as alleged, he had no intentions of implying a threat of violence against Dr. KING. He again stated he may have made the statement to the effect that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was creating trouble throughout the South, which in his opinion at that time was a true statement, but had ~~not~~ entertained a thought of instigating violence against Dr. KING.

Mr. LITTRELL advised that he has been an authorized automobile dealer in the City of Athens, Alabama, during the past 29 years. He further advised he could furnish no information concerning the death of Dr. KING, and the only information he has received concerning this incident was what he has seen in the newspapers, television, and heard over radio broadcasts.

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI CHICAGO

2 12 PM URGENT 5/10/68 PAK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA (44-2386), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
JACKSON (157-9586), MEMPHIS (44-1987), MOBILE (157-2627), NEW
ORLEANS (157-10673) AND ST. LOUIS (44-775)
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) P 6P

MURKIN.

PERSON IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS, WHITE,
MALE, BORN [REDACTED] AT BELDEN, MISS., SIX FOOT ONE,
ONE EIGHTYFIVE LBS., DIRTY BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES, CONTACTED CHICAGO
PD, WAS TURNED OVER TO CHICAGO FBI AND EXTENSIVELY INTERVIEWED
EARLY MAY TEN, INSTANT.

PHILLIPS APPEARS EMOTIONALLY BALANCED. HE FREELY
IDENTIFIED AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL MANY OF THE PERSONS MENTIONED
IN REPORT OF SA SAM H. ALLEN, JR., MEMPHIS, APRIL TWO FOUR,
SIXTYTWO, IN CASE "HALL COOPER BOURLAND; ETAL; OOJ," BUFILE
SEVEN TWO DASH ONE THREE NINE ZERO, MEMPHIS SEVEN TWO DASH THREE
THREE, FROM WHICH CHICAGO CONCLUDES HE OBVIOUSLY IS WELL
ACQUAINTED WITH PERSONS HE DISCUSSED.

PHILLIPS SAYS HE RAN RESTAURANT SHANNON, MISSISSIPPI,
UNTIL ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, WHICH WAS REALLY FRONT FOR ILLEGAL

END PAGE ONE

44-1731-1731

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1968	
FBI-BIRMINGHAM	

See Hunt back
sent by Bu
RE/S 5/11/68
on Murphy, Jr.
HR
cc - [unclear]
10-11-68
Pls same
[Signature]

PAGE TWO

WHISKEY SALE. HE PAID FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS MONTHLY TO SHERIFF, ONE HUNDRED TO JUSTICE OF PEACE AND ONE HUNDRED TO CONSTABLE, BUT BUSINESS GOT SO BAD HE HAD TO QUIT BECAUSE COULD NOT PAY PROTECTION.

THE BIGGEST ILLEGAL "BOOZE" OPERATOR IS CARL MURPHY, JR., *81 72 21- no value this case has* (SEE REREP SA ALLEN), WHITE, MALE, BORN LEE COUNTY, MISS., FIVE FOOT TEN, ONE NINETY LBS., DARK BROWN HAIR, HAZEL EYES, RESIDENCE ROUTE ONE, TUPELO, MISS. PHILLIPS HAS KNOWN MURPHY ALL HIS LIFE AND ENGAGED IN "BOOZE" DEALS WITH HIM. AFTER MISSISSIPPI WENT "WET", PHILLIPS WANTED TO SELL ONLY TAXED LIQUOR WHILE MURPHY DEMANDED SALE OF BOTH TAXED LIQUOR AND "MOONSHINE."

PHILLIPS STATES THAT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, CANNOT BETTER FIX DATE, MURPHY TALKED TO HIM AT A SERVICE STATION SOMETIME AFTER "SELMA MARCH" BOOK PUBLISHED, AND OFFERED HIM TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO "HIT KING," WHICH OFFER DECLINED. PHILLIPS KNOWS NO SPECIFIC REASON WHY MURPHY WOULD WANT TO KILL KING, UNLESS FOR MONEY, AS MURPHY WILL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY. IN ADDITION PHILLIPS BELIEVES MURPHY HIGH IN WHITE HATE GROUP, PROBABLY KU KLUX KLAN, AND FRIENDLY WITH IMPERIAL WIZARD SHELTON IN TUSCALUSA, ALABAMA.

ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO GROUP OF LAWYERS IN TUPELO, MISS.,
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

INCLUDING PETE MITCHELL, JOHN SHANDS (WHOSE BROTHER IS CITY JUDGE), AND (FNU) ROGERS, GOT UP A BIG MEETING, HANDED OUT LITERATURE, AND IT WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE AREA THIS WAS ACTUALLY KKK GROUP ALTHOUGH CALLED SOME OTHER UNRECALLED NAME.

PHILLIPS SAID THAT IN ABOUT SIXTYTWO, MURPHY HIRED J.W. RILEY TO KILL JAMES "GRUBBY" GRUBBS, WHO HAD "BOOZE" TERRITORY BUT WOULD NOT BUY FROM MURPHY. RILEY SHOT GRUBBS WITH SHOTGUN, MURPHY WAS PRESENT, AND DAVID SCOTT DROVE CAR. RILEY AND MURPHY WERE INDICTED, RILEY WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO TWELVE YEARS FOR MANSLAUGHTER. RILEY SERVED FOUR YEARS, GOT OUT, AND WAS KILLED BY FBI AGENTS IN SHOOT OUT AFTER HICKORY FLATS, MISS., BR. PHILLIPS SAYS WORD IS THAT MURPHY SET UP RILEY ON BR AND FOR COUNTERFEIT MONEY.

PHILLIPS DOES NOT BELIEVE SCOTT WAS TRIED FOR MURDER AND IN PAST FEW YEARS SCOTT, WHO REMAINS CLOSE TO MURPHY, SUDDENLY OBTAINED FARM, CATTLE AND HOME ABOUT ONE AND ONE - HALF MILES SOUTHWEST OF BELDEN, MISS. PHILLIPS SAYS PERSON JUST DOES NOT BECOME SO AFFLUENT THESE DAYS IN MISSISSIPPI WITHOUT "REAL CROOKED CONTACTS."

PHILLIPS CLAIMS USED TO WORK FOR GRUBBS AND WAS TOLD BY SCOTT BEFORE KILLING TO TAKE OFF FOR ST. LOUIS, AS THEY WERE GOING TO
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

KILL GRUBBS. PHILLIPS CLAIMS THEY "CHASED GRUBBS ALL OVER THE COUNTY" BEFORE KILLING HIM.

MURPHY REPORTEDLY KILLED JOHN OLIVER YOUNGER AND BOBBY PITTMAN EAST OF BELDEN, MISS., AT MURPHY RESIDENCE, ABOUT NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. THEY BROUGHT TRAILER LOAD OF "BOOZE" TO MURPHY AND WHEN ASKED FOR PAY HE KILLED THEM, SHOT HIMSELF IN STOMACH WITH TWENTY TWO CALIBER, CLAIMED SELF DEFENSE AND SHERIFF FRANK CARTER, WHO WAS CROOKED WITH MURPHY, NEVER EVEN INVESTIGATED CRIME.

PHILLIPS CLAIMS MURPHY CAN "GETAWAY WITH NEARLY ANYTHING," ALTHOUGH HAS BEEN TO BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE PRISON, BUT MAKES MORE MONEY IN PRISON THAN OUT. WHENEVER CHARGED ALWAYS TRY TO BRIBE JURY AND GENERALLY DOES, OR NEVER GETS TO JURY THROUGH BRIBES TO POLICE, SHERIFF OR JUDGES.

PHILLIPS VISITED HIS MOTHER, MRS. JETTIE L. KEY, FIVE SEVEN FIVE EAST MAIN ST., BALDWIN, MISS., FROM ABOUT APRIL EIGHTEEN TO TWENTYNINE, LAST, AND TALK AROUND TOWN ABOUT KING SLAYING WAS THAT MURPHY "GOT AWAY WITH ANOTHER ONE." PHILLIPS HAS NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION BUT BELIEVES MURPHY EITHER WAS INVOLVED IN OR KNOWS WHO KILLED KING AND GOT SOME MONEY OUT OF IT. PHILLIPS PERSONALLY FEELS MURPHY AND KKK INVOLVED IN MURKIN.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

MURPHY HAS MANY CONTACTS IN SURROUNDING STATES. DEALS WITH SHELTON IN TUSCALUSA, MAKES FREQUENT LIQUOR BUYING TRIPS TO NEW ORLEANS, AND DEALS IN "BOOZE" WITH EDDIE (LNU) AT CASA NOVA, NIGHT CLUB, CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI. MURPHY HAS MANY TRUCKS ON ROAD AND KEEPS THEM HID IN BARNS. HAS UNTOLD NUMBER PLACES WHERE COULD HIDE FUGITIVE, PARTICULARLY IN UNION COUNTY AND AS SCOTT FARM.

PHILLIPS VOLUNTEERED FOREGOING AS "GOOD CITIZEN." HE HAS NOT ASKED FOR ANYTHING, BUT WHEN SPECIFICALLY QUESTIONED, SAID WOULD RETURN TUPELO AREA TO HELP BUREAU IF HAD JOB AS FRONT. HAS SIXTH GRADE EDUCATION AND APPEARS FAIRLY SHREWD FROM "SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS." SAYS HE IS KNOWN BOOTLEGGER IN MISSISSIPPI, DOES NOT WANT TO CARRY ON THIS TRADE, BUT COULD EASILY "GET INTO THE STREAM OF THINGS AGAIN." BELIEVES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DISCOVER ANYTHING IMPORTANT TO MURKIN AS ANYONE INVOLVED WOULD BE COMPLETELY CLOSED MOUTHED.

CHICAGO IS UNABLE TO REASONABLY ASSESS FOREGOING DATA FOR AUTHENTICITY OR AS TO PROSPECTS IN MURKIN. PHILLIPS DOES NOT KNOW SUBJECT RAY.

UACB, EACH RECEIVING OFFICE WILL CAREFULLY REVIEW FILES FOR ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING CARL MURPHY, JR., WITH VIEW IN MIND
END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

1100-1100
1100-1100
OF DETERMINING HIS PRECISE KKK RELATIONSHIP AND ACTIVITIES,
AS WELL AS SEEKING ANY POSSIBLE CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT RAY,
EITHER THROUGH CONTACTS IN HIS TRAVELS, IMPRISONMENTS OR COMMON
ACQUAINTANCES. ESTABLISH PRECISE TRAVELS AND WHEREABOUTS PAST
SEVERAL MONTHS.

BUREAU REQUESTED TO LOCATE CARL MURPHY, JR. IDENTIFICATION
RECORD AND SUTEL DETAILS OF INCARCERATIONS TO PERMIT LOGICAL
INVESTIGATION IN EFFORT TO DISCOVER CONNECTION WITH RAY.

PHILLIPS HAS PROMISED TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH CHICAGO.
HE WAS FINGERPRINTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED AT CHICAGO. DENIES ANY
PRISON SENTENCE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

JGA

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

FBI BIRMGHAM

4:40PM URGENT 5-14-68 FAS

TO ATLANTA 44-493 AND MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO BUREAU MAY THIRTEEN, SIXTYEIGHT.

RE ELECTRA-DATE CORPORATION.

BILLY SELLERS, PRESIDENT, ELECTRA-DATE CORPORATION, BIRMINGHAM, ALA., ADVISED HIS COMPANY IN OPERATION SINCE FEBRUARY, SIXTYEIGHT, IN ALABAMA, GEORGIA, TENNESSEE AND FLORIDA. SELLERS, THROUGH HIS COMPUTER, CHECKED ALL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND FOUND NONE FOR FOR SUBJECT UNDER TRUE NAME OR ALIASES. DID FIND ONE APPLICATION FOR EVERETT S. RAY, P.O. BOX FOUR TWO THREE ONE, MEMPHIS, TENN., TELEPHONE TWO SEVEN SIX - ONE TWO ONE SEVEN. ACCORDING TO THIS RAY'S APPLICATION, HE IS WHITE MALE, FORTYFOUR, FIVE FT. EIGHT INCHES, ONE THIRTYSIX LBS., MOKES AND DOES NOT DANCE. MEMPHIS IDENTIFY AND ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL.

DATA CONCERNING SUBJECT WAS FED BY SELLERS INTO COMPUTER AND FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS OBTAINED WHICH MIGHT BE IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT:
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1732

PAGE TWO

ONE. HUGH W. BRANNON, RESIDENCE ONE TWO FOUR ELIZABETH ST., N.E. ATLANTA, TELEPHONE SIX EIGHT EIGHT - TWO EIGHT SIX EIGHT, A WHITE MALE, THIRTYEIGHT, FIVE FT. TEN INCHES, ONE SEVENTYFIVE LBS., NON-SMOKER, DRINKS OCCASIONALLY, DANCES AND IS SALESMAN.

TWO. DAVID TOZIER, FOUR THREE ZERO SIX NORTH SHALLOWFORD ROAD, CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA, WHITE MALE, FORTY, SIX FT., ONE EIGHTYFIVE LBS. NON-SMOKER, DRINKS OCCASIONALLY, DANCES.

THREE. JOHN GOLIGHTLY, JR., ONE TWO FOUR STERRETT COURT, APARTMENT TWO SEVEN, HOMEWOOD, ALA., TELEPHONE EIGHT SEVEN NINE - FOUR ZERO FIVE FIVE, WHITE MALE, FORTY, FIVE FT. TEN INCHES, ONE EIGHTY LBS., NON-SMOKER, "GOOD DANCER."

FOUR. GIL QUINTELL, FOUR ONE ZERO - TWENTY SECOND AVENUE, SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, TELEPHONE THREE TWO FOUR - NINE THREE TWO THREE, WHITE MALE, AGE FORTY, FIVE FT. ELEVEN IN., ONE EIGHTYFIVE LBS., NON-SMOKER, DRINKS OCCASIONALLY AND DANCES.

ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM WILL IDENTIFY ABOVE LISTED PERSONS TO ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

BIRMINGHAM ALSO ASCERTAINED THERE ARE POSSIBLY TWO OTHER SUCH TYPE COMPANIES IN OPERATION IN BIRMINGHAM AND THEIR RECORDS ARE
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

BEING CHECKED. ATLANTA ASCERTAIN IF ANY SUCH TYPE DATING COMPANIES
EXIST IN ATLANTA AND CONDUCT SIMILAR TYPE INVESTIGATION.

END

LCS

FBI ATLANTA

DGB

FBI MEMPHIS

F B I

Date: 5/14/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO ATLANTA (44-493) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO BUREAU MAY THIRTEEN, SIXTYEIGHT.

RE ELECTRA-DATE CORPORATION.

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DATA CONCERNING SUBJECT WAS FED BY SELLERS INTO COMPUTER AND
FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS OBTAINED WHICH MIGHT BE IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT:

END PAGE ONE

RMB:nfl
(1)44-1740-1732
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILEDApproved: [Signature]
Special Agent in ChargeSent AT- 4:40 PM
ME - 4:45Per [Signature]

F B I

BH 44-1740

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

ONE. HUGH W. BRANNON, RESIDENCE ONE TWO FOUR ELIZABETH ST., N.E., ATLANTA, TELEPHONE SIX EIGHT EIGHT - TWO EIGHT SIX EIGHT, A WHITE MALE, THIRTYEIGHT, FIVE FT. TEN INCHES, ONE SEVENTYFIVE LBS., NON-SMOKER, DRINKS OCCASIONALLY, DANCES, AND IS SALESMAN.

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ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM WILL IDENTIFY ABOVE LISTED PERSONS TO ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

BIRMINGHAM ALSO ASCERTAINED THERE ARE POSSIBLY TWO OTHER SUCH TYPE COMPANIES IN OPERATION IN BIRMINGHAM AND THEIR RECORDS ARE
END PAGE TWO

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

F B I

BH 44-1740

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE THREE

**BEING CHECKED. ATLANTA ASCERTAIN IF ANY SUCH TYPE DATING COMPANIES
EXIST IN ATLANTA AND CONDUCT SIMILAR TYPE INVESTIGATION.**

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

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 1-67)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
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☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☒ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
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☐ Rome
☐ Santo Domingo
☐ Tokyo

Date May 13, 1968

RE:

MURKIN

☒ For Information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Enclosed for assistance of each office in connection with any laundry checks being made are photographs of laundry marks placed on shirt and bed linen for James Earl Ray while using the name of Eric Starvo Galt in the Los Angeles area.

44-1740-1733

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	
MAY 14 1968	
[Signature]	

Enc. (4)
Bufile (44-38861)
Urfile

5/14/68

Q/L AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)(P)
MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Bureau radiogram, 5/14/68, to all offices suggesting, among other things, that police departments in major cities consider subject RAY as a likely suspect in armed robberies committed during the period 4/23/67 to 4/4/68.

For use of Agent personnel of this office, it is requested that Birmingham be supplied with 50 copies of subject's photograph taken 1/4/66, at Missouri Department of Corrections, #00416. A former inmate of that prison has recently advised that this photograph more closely resembles RAY than others while he knew him.

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)(Info)
- ② - Birmingham

HAS:cap
(6) *cap*

44-1740-1734
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *B* FILED *B*

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ST LOUIS

5 45PM URGENT 5-14-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, MEMPHIS, AND KANSAS CITY
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

RE JOHN PAUL VELANTI ON FIVE FOURTEEN SIXTYEIGHT ADVISED THAT
FOLLOWING PERSONS CAN FURNISH INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE
WAS ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT RAY IN MSP.

ONE. MAJOR POIRY - FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF SECURITY MSP.

TWO. MARION "DITTY" JANSEN - FORMER CLERK-PRISONER MSP AND
NOW ON PAROLE IN KC.

THREE. MSP INMATE (FNU) BAGBY, NM, AGE ABOUT SIXTY DOING
THIRTY YEARS FOR MURDER AND FOR YEARS IN CHARGE OF
MATTRESS FACTORY IN MSP.

KC INTERVIEW THESE INDIVIDUALS RE ASSOCIATION WITH SUBJECT RAY
AND ADVISE BIRMINGHAM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PM

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

@

44-1740-1735

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 14 1968	
FBI-BIRMINGHAM	

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI LOS ANG.

7:40PM URGENT 5-14-68 DPK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987),

BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE MARIE MARTIN.

MARIE MARTIN INTERVIEWED AT LENGTH UPON RETURN FROM VACATION WHICH INCLUDED TRIP THROUGH MIDWESTERN STATES TO YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO. SHE CONFIRMED INFORMATION SHE HAD PROVIDED ON PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING JAMES EARL RAY. SHE ADVISED SUBSEQUENT TO EXCHANGE OF TELEVISION SETS BETWEEN HERSELF AND RAY AND PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE MARCH SEVENTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT, RAY APPEARED IN NEED OF MONEY. SHE ADVISED RAY SAID HE WAS AWAITING MONEY FROM BROTHER, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED. SHE ADVISED IT APPEARED NECESSARY THIS MONEY BE RECEIVED BY RAY IN ORDER TO MAKE HIS SECOND TRIP SOUTH TO OR THROUGH NEW ORLEANS. MARTIN ALSO SAID THAT ON ONE OCCASION RAY SAID SHE REMINDED HIM OF A GIRL IN GUADALAJARA. SHE SAID RAY ALSO ADVISED HE LIVED IN MEXICO SIX YEARS AND ALSO THAT HE HAD USED MARIJUANA ON ONE

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-112

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 14 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

OCCASION IN MEXICO AND DID NOT LIKE THE EFFECTS AND IT DID NOTHING FOR HIM. RAY ALSO SAID HE ATTENDED COCK FIGHTS IN MEXICO AND WAS REPULSED BY THEIR BARBARIC NATURE. SHE REMARKED RAY APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND AND SPEAK SPANISH. SHE SAID SHE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE HERSELF.

MARTIN ADVISED THAT AFTER THE TRIP TO OBTAIN CHILDREN OF RITA STEIN IN NEW ORLEANS, RAY SAID HE HAD VISITED FRIENDS IN INDUSTRIAL CANAL AREA OF CHEF MENTEUR HIGHWAY OF NEW ORLEANS. NO FURTHER IDENTIFICATION OF THESE FRIENDS MADE BY RAY.

MARTIN ADVISED THE PACKAGE SHE GAVE RAY FOR DELIVERY TO HER DAUGHTER IN NEW ORLEANS CONTAINED PHOTOGRAPH RECORDS AS WELL AS CLOTHING. THIS WAS ASKED IN CLARIFICATION OF PREVIOUS STATEMENTS BY MARTIN AND HER DAUGHTER.

INVESTIGATION AT LOS ANGELES HAS ESTABLISHED NO REGULAR BANKING CONNECTIONS, AND RAY LACKED SUFFICIENT IDENTIFICATION OTHER THAN ALABAMA DRIVERS LICENSE TO CASH PERSONAL TYPE CHECKS. IT APPEARS MONEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN SENT RAY THROUGH WESTERN UNION OR SOME SIMILAR FACILITY PERMITTING EASY NEGOTIATION. RAY DEPARTED LOS ANGELES MARCH SEVENTEEN SIXTY EIGHT, AND THIS POSSIBLE FINANCIAL SHORTAGE OCCURRED AFTER THE EXCHANGE OF
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

LA 44-1574

TELEVISION SETS, WHICH MARTIN STATES WAS ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY FOURTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT. THE BUREAU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF EXAMINING WESTERN UNION MONEY ORDERS ISSUED DURING ABOVE PERIOD THROUGH THE MONEY ORDER AUDITOR, MINNEAPOLIS.

MARTIN ADVISED THAT FOR INFORMATION SHE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO LOUIS LOMAX SHE RECEIVED CHECK FOR FIFTY DOLLARS WHICH SHE BELIEVES WAS NO GOOD.

INVESTIGATION LOS ANGELES CONTINUING.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT ATLANTA, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY, NEW ORLEANS, SPRINGFIELD, AND MINNEAPOLIS.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU@

5/11/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
DALLAS
FROM INDIANAPOLIS (44-563)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU AND INDIANAPOLIS AND DALLAS,
MAY EIGHT LAST.

JAMES E. SIMS, TWO TWO THREE FOUR E. MICHIGAN ST., INDIANAPOLIS,
INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED HE SOLD SIXTYFOUR PONTIAC IN HOUSTON,
TEXAS ON APRIL NINETEEN LAST TO A MEXICAN WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT
RECALL.

SIMS ADVISED HAROLD J. THOME WAS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HE PICKED
UP AT BUS STATION IN EL PASO AND AGREED TO TAKE HIM TO WORTHINGTON,
TEXAS IN EXCHANGE FOR GAS. HE SAID THIS WAS ON MARCH NINE
LAST. SIMS SAID THOME USED A UNION SEVENTYSIX CREDIT CARD FOR
GAS PURCHASED. HE CLAIMS THEY STOPPED FOR GAS ABOUT FOUR TIMES.
SIMS SAID THOME MAINLY DISCUSSED POLITICS BUT DID NOT MENTION

① - Birmingham (AM)
1 - Indianapolis
WWK:slr
(4)

1 - Los Angeles (AM)
1 - Memphis (AM)

44-1740-1737

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

PAGE TWO

IP 44-563

ANYTHING CONCERNING NEGROES OR ANY CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS.

SIMS SAID HE TOOK HIS PASSENGER TO THOME'S SON OR SON-IN-LAW'S HOME WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HIGHWAY EIGHTY APPROXIMATELY TEN TO FIFTEEN MILES WEST OF WORTHINGTON, TEXAS. HE DESCRIBES HOUSE AS WHITE OR YELLOW CEMENT BLOCK SITUATED VERY NEAR TO THE BRAZOS RIVER OR A TRIBUTARY OF THIS RIVER. LARGE OVERHEAD BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY EIGHTY CROSSES RIVER AND HOUSE IS NEXT TO BRIDGE.

DALLAS AT FORTH WORTH, WILL DETERMINE IF THOME IS STILL IN WORTHINGTON AREA OR DETERMINE HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS. INTERVIEW THOME IF LOCATED.

BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

THOME

THOME ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

DATE: 5/14/68

FROM : SA LARRY K. SYLVESTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re: SAC Memo to All Agents dated 4/22/68

The following investigation was conducted by SA LARRY K. SYLVESTER in Talladega and St Clair Counties in compliance with referenced memo:

The following individuals were contacted and shown an Identification Order bearing the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY with negative results. An photograph of RAY was left with each proprietor who stated they would immediately contact the FBI in the event anyone bearing a resemblance to RAY should appear:

JAMES E. PERRY, Pell City Cleaners, 2102 1st Ave.,
Pell City, Ala.

MILLARD McCLELLAN, Lincoln, Ala. Cleaners

WILLIAM CONNELL, Connell's Cleaners, 18 Norton, Sylacauga, Ala.

BENTON HURT, Hurt Cleaners, 109 W. 1st, Sylacauga, Ala.

DON LEE, Lee Laundry & Dry Cleaners, 116 N. East, Talladega,
Ala.

JAMES W. HATSPFIELD, Sunbrite Cleaners, 143 N. East St.,
Talladega, Ala.

SAM VENABLE, Venable Cleaners, 118 E. Battle St., Talladega

JOHN N ORMAN, Quality One Hour Laundry & Dry Cleaners,
228 N. Court St., Talladega, Ala.

2- 44-1740



5010-108

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

44-1740-1737
SEARCHED
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FILED
MAY 15 1968
FBI - TALLADEGA
JLS

5/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Bureau airtel to Birmingham dated 5/8/68.

THOMAS H. BROUGHTON, Editor, Master Barber and Beautician Magazine, 219 Greenwich Rd., Charlotte, N. C. (telephone 366-5177), advised he has an 11,000 copy circulation nation-wide and would be glad to publish an article regarding subject JAMES EARL RAY as a public service with no charge to the Bureau. He stated he uses offset printing and the mat provided could not be used but he can use a glossy photo and reproduce the printed matter. He suggested two other publications to reach two additional barbers:

1. Men's Hair Stylists, 16 West 46th St., New York City, New York.
2. Professional Barber, 54 West 46th St., New York City, New York.

No lead is being set out for New York until a decision has been made by the Bureau regarding instant publication.

3 - Bureau
① - Birmingham (Info.)
2 - Memphis
2 - Charlotte
LVD:cg
(8)

44-1740-1738

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

F B I

Date: 5/13/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644) (RUC)
 SUBJECT: MURKIN
 (OO:MEMPHIS)

Re Miami airtel dated 5/6/68.

The Randolph, Mass., List of Persons by Streets listed the following as residents of 15 Almond Drive, Randolph, Mass:

JAMES BUTTE, 20, at home
 JOSEPHINE, 45, waitress

Personnel, Randolph, Mass. PD, on 5/7/68, advised their records contained no information concerning EARL B. SHIELDS.

Mrs. JOSEPHINE BUTTE, 15 Almond Drive, Randolph, Mass., on 5/8/68, advised that EARL B. SHIELDS was a roomer at her residence for about 3 or 4 months during the Spring of 1967. She said SHIELDS was an electrician and worked somewhere on Cape Cod, place unknown. When he left, she did not know where he went nor did she know his current whereabouts.

She described SHIELDS as follows:

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
 - ① - Birmingham (info) (RM)
 - 1 - Kansas City (info) (RM)
 - 2 - Memphis (RM)
 - 2 - Miami (RM)
 - 1 - Milwaukee (info) (RM)
 - 1 - Boston
- RHB:gb
 (11)
- No value*
Has

44-1740-1740

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED <i>UP</i>
MAY 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

Shaw *PM*

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

White male, about 5 feet 11 inches, 170 pounds, receding brown hair, blue eyes, 2 inch scar under right side of nose, age about 38.

A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was exhibited to Mrs. BUTTE and she stated that SHIELDS positively was not RAY and that he did not resemble him.

On 5/10/68, EARL B. SHIELDS telephonically contacted the Boston FBI Office and said that he could be reached at 110 Squantum St., Milton, Mass.

SHIELDS was interviewed on 5/10/68 and advised the following:

He said that he left Pompano Beach, Florida, on 4/2/68 and that he is an electrician. He travelled to Chattanooga, Tennessee, with a fellow worker, EARL HARE, Pompano Beach, Florida, to secure a job with the TVA. He arrived at Chattanooga the same night. Union Hall told him there was no immediate work. He left Chattanooga, Tennessee, on 4/3/68 and went to Hamilton, Ohio, and checked into the Country Club Motel on Route 4 on 4/3/68. He secured work through the Union with Armco Steel Corp., Middletown, Ohio, where he worked for about two weeks.

SHIELDS is staying at the residence of his brother, 110 Squantum Road, Milton, Mass., before departing for New York City, N.Y., to seek employment.

The following is a description of SHIELDS:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
DOB	<input type="text"/>
POB:	Boston, Mass.
Height:	5 feet 10½ inches
Weight:	165 pounds
Hair:	Brown, receding
Eyes:	Blue

BS 157-644

Complexion: Dark, tanned

Scars and Marks: 1 inch scar left jaw;
2 inch scar under right
side of nose

Inasmuch as SHIELDS has accounted for his whereabouts on 4/4/68 and is not identical with JAMES EARL RAY, no further action is contemplated.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

DATE: 5/13/68

FROM : *CHS* SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

OO: ME

Re: Birmingham airtel to Bureau, 5/9/68

Springfield received only one copy of
investigative insert forwarded via reairtel.

Birmingham requested to forward additional
copy of enclosure.

2 - Birmingham (44-1740)
1 - Springfield (44-561)
:vr
(3)



5010-108

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

44-1740 1741

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MAY 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

Snaw

5/15/68
Reinst by
R/K
Has

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC 44-1740

DATE: 5-15-68

FROM : SPC GLENN ROTINBERRY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Answer
At 4:45 A.M. 5-15-68 SPC of the Atlanta called and advised that he had received a call from the Atlanta PD. He advised that the Atlanta PD had just received a call from a woman, who she stated was at a Birmingham bus station and that she was traveling with RAY. She stated that Ray had gone to get some money and at this point ~~when~~ she stated here he comes and then she hung up the phone. This information was given to SAC GAMBLE.



5010-108

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

44-1740-1742

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - ATLANTA	

From *Bo*

5/15/68

TO: SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

FM: SA RALPH N. BUTLER

SUBJ: MURKIN

After receipt of telephone call from SPC ROTENBERRY at 5:00 AM stating an unknown female telephoned the Atlanta PD stating she was traveling with subject JAMES, via bus. She did not state what bus line they were traveling on or any other information. The Atlanta PD called the Atlanta office and they in turn called the Birmingham Office as the unknown female caller reportedly was calling from Birmingham, I immediately proceeded to the Trailways bus station. I checked the station and there were six white people in the station and cafe and no one resembled the subject was noted therein. There were no buses in the station at this time. According to MISS WANDA WILLIAMS, ticket Agent, the last bus left the station at 5:00AM enroute Jackson, Miss.

A check of the Greyhound station reflects a total of 8 white and several colored people. No one at the station resembled the subject in any way. There were no white couples seated together in the station or cafe except one teen age couple. The last bus departed the station at 5:30AM and I checked the passengers on this bus and no one came close the description of the subject boarding the bus. L. E. CANNON ticket agent advised he had a WF on subject and he had not observed anyone resembling subject purchasing a ticket or in the waiting room of the station. He said the only white couple he had noticed in the waiting room this morning was quite young and did not resemble the subject. He said this boy was about 18 years old and about 5'8", brown wavy hair. The agent advised no one got off the incoming or outgoing bus that would resemble the subject, to his knowledge.

RNB:rb

Memo

44-1740-1743

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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MAY 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

Snow *[initials]*

F B I

Date: 5/11/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM SAC, CHICAGO

SUBJECT UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC. (UKA)
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
RM

OO: Birmingham
(Bufile 157-370) (UKA)
(CG file 157-400) (UKA) (P)

MURKIN
(Bufile 44-38861)
(CG file 44-1114) (P)

On 5/9/68, RAYMOND JOSEPH HEALEY, 3815 West Montrose Street, Chicago, Illinois, personally appeared at Chicago FBI Office and furnished the following information.

HEALEY Stated that on 1/22/68, he visited with Governor LESTOR MADDOX at Atlanta, Georgia. He stated MADDOX asked him to attend the Georgia School Board Association Convention on 1/22/68 which was held at the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.

4 - Bureau (RM)
3 - Atlanta (157-193) (RM)
③ - Birmingham (105-722) (RM)
3 - Memphis (105-566) (RM)
2 - Chicago
HMH:svm
(15)

44-1740-1744

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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

CG 44-1114

HEALEY advised that he attended the convention and met one, CALVIN S. CRAIG, who claimed to be the Grand Klege of the UKA. CRAIG advised that he resides at 1009 Byron Drive Southwest, Atlanta Georgia.

HEALEY advised that in conversation with CRAIG, CRAIG stated to HEALEY that they (not otherwise described) were going to execute the mayor and vice mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.

HEALEY also stated that CRAIG bears a strong resemblance to photographs he has seen of JAMES EARL RAY who is presently being sought by the FBI in connection with the assassination of KING. HEALEY advised that CRAIG's physical description would appear similar to the physical description of RAY. He was unable to furnish any additional information relating to the above matters.

HEALEY advised that CRAIG furnished him a card which he claimed would permit HEALEY to join the UKA for \$40 if he would do so by 6/1/68.

Chicago indices contain numerous references to an individual (s) with the name RAYMOND J. HEALEY. Chicago file 65-122 appears to pertain to complainant HEALEY referred to above. CG 65-122 indicates HEALEY furnished information to the FBI which pertained to the German American Bund. HEALEY at that time as well as at the present time is a writer who publishes magazines.

CG indices being reviewed and results will be furnished, if pertinent. Subsequent to indice review Chicago will evaluate and give consideration to reinterviewing HEALEY, for any additional information he may have and also to determine if he has informant potential.

Copies being furnished recipient offices in view of continuing interest in matter set forth above.

CG 44-1114

Since it appears HEALEY may offer informant potential his identity should be protected at this time.

Information relative to the alleged plot against the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Atlanta should be disseminated by Atlanta to appropriate authorities.

Atlanta advise if HEALEY is known to Atlanta sources or the Atlanta Police Department. Atlanta indices should be checked re HEALEY.

Atlanta also requested to conduct appropriate inquiry to determine if information by HEALEY is accurate. Specifically, did HEALEY meet with Governor MADDOX on 1/22/68 and did he attend the Georgia School Board Association Convention which was allegedly held at the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel on 1/22/68.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 15, 1968

JAMES W. BROWN, 305 East Street, Talladega, Alabama, was interviewed at the Rehabilitation Center, Talladega, and furnished the following:

BROWN entered the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, on March 25, 1960, after having been convicted in Kansas City, Missouri, for murder and receiving a twenty-year sentence. He stayed "inside the walls" at Jefferson City until February, 1964, when he was transferred to a branch of the Penitentiary System at Fordland, Missouri.

During his imprisonment, BROWN became acquainted with one JOHNNY VELANTI (phonetic). VELANTI had told BROWN that VELANTI had some relatives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and VELANTI was serving a twenty-year sentence after being convicted in Kansas City, Missouri, for robbery. VELANTI had also claimed to BROWN that when he was arrested by the Kansas City Police Department he, VELANTI, had in his possession the name of a notorious Kansas City gangster, which had been given to VELANTI by a New Orleans friend. VELANTI did not identify either of these two names, but claimed he was questioned "thoroughly" by the Kansas City Police Department about this name VELANTI had in his possession.

BROWN claimed he and VELANTI became good friends during this time and sometime in either November or December, 1963, through VELANTI, BROWN met JAMES EARL RAY, another inmate at the penitentiary. This meeting took place in the prison yard at a time shortly after the assassination of President KENNEDY. At the time of the meeting, RAY was involved in a poker game and VELANTI told BROWN that he, VELANTI, was a personal friend of RAY's, who was doing twenty years for robbery. VELANTI introduced RAY to BROWN as "JAMES RAY" and told BROWN that everyone called him "RAY." Later, at an unrecalled time, VELANTI told BROWN that he, VELANTI, had known "RAY"

On 5/9/68 at Talladega, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss Date dictated 5/14/68

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BH 44-1740

in Atlanta, Georgia, and that they (VELANTI and RAY) had committed a robbery in Atlanta together. BROWN claimed VELANTI had told him that VELANTI and RAY had robbed a oil company about midnight after having watched it for about a week. VELANTI also told BROWN that VELANTI's wife and three children were then, 1963 or early 1964, living in Atlanta and that VELANTI's oldest son had been killed in an automobile accident in early 1964. About that time, early 1964, VELANTI's wife quit writing to him and VELANTI tried to get the Catholic Chaplain to contact his wife in an effort to have her resume writing. BROWN also recalled that VELANTI had told him he was serving a sentence for the robbery of a Kansas City hotel. BROWN and VELANTI had both been in the same jail at Kansas City, Missouri, at the same time but were in different tanks and did not actually meet until they got to prison.

BROWN stated he was present during about three or four conversations between VELANTI and RAY, but that BROWN and RAY never had any detailed conversation of any kind. BROWN recalls in one of these conversations in late 1963 RAY said to VELANTI that he, RAY, was going to escape from the "pen" and that RAY knew a "guy named COOLEY" who could hide RAY where no one could find him. BROWN claimed that RAY also stated that COOLEY would pay \$10,000 to anyone who would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. In other conversations, BROWN recalled RAY talking about tunnelling out of the penitentiary, if he had to, and going to Liberia where RAY claimed he had a brother-in-law living, who was "making good money." BROWN recalls that at another time, in discussing the assassination of President KENNEDY, VELANTI stated he did not believe anyone should kill the President, to which RAY said that he, RAY, would have done it himself if he had had the chance and that KENNEDY "was nothing but a damn Catholic." According to BROWN, RAY often expressed his hatred for Catholics and Negroes.

BROWN also recalls RAY claiming he knew where a cave was located in Virginia, where RAY could hide upon his escape. BROWN believed that one of the prisoners who overheard some of these conversations was "NOONEY EDEN."

BH 44-1740

BROWN claims that VELANTI told BROWN on more than one occasion that RAY had killed three Negroes in the penitentiary with a "shiv" (knife). BROWN claimed he did not know the details concerning these alleged killings.

BROWN believes he once told RAY that he (BROWN) was from Alabama and recalls RAY stating that Birmingham was a good town to steal in and that RAY had once stole a car in Birmingham before he was arrested in Kansas City. BROWN was of the opinion that RAY, at the time he met him, was living in "C" Hall and was working in the license plate plant. BROWN further stated he believed RAY was left-handed, smoked Winston cigarettes, walked pigeon-toed, and had a Zippo lighter with the initials "J.R." scratched on it.

BROWN claims he knows of no lottery or gambling operation conducted by VELANTI in which RAY took an active part.

BROWN stated he would cooperate with the FBI in any way possible and was doing so, not for any reward, but because he felt he should.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/20/68

Mr. PETER CHERPES, Owner, Economy Rooming House, 2806 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, was given two photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT and after carefully studying these photographs for several minutes, stated, "I believe this is ERIC GALT who resided at my rooming house. The photographs bear a very close resemblance to him; however, I can't be sure until I seen him in person."

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740 - 1716
by SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:jbt Date dictated 4/19/68

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 4/20/68

Mr. HERBERT KELLY advised that he is employed as a cook at the Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, and that he was employed at this house during the period August 26, 1967, through October 7, 1967.

Mr. KELLY advised that during this period of time he prepared and served the morning and evening meals and was acquainted with most of the tenants. He said that he did remember a guest by the name of ERIC GALT who resided at the Economy Rooming House and particularly recalled that he occupied Room 14, and was always late for breakfast.

Mr. KELLY was given two photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT and after carefully studying these photographs for several minutes, stated, "I believe these photographs of GALT are identical with the ERIC GALT who resided at this rooming house. These pictures bear a very close resemblance to him."

Mr. KELLY stated that he would not make a positive identification pointing out that he desired to view GALT in person before making such an identification.

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740-1747
by SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:jbt Date dictated 4/19/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date May 15, 1968

Mrs. BEATRICE BRITTON, 1710 Alabama Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, furnished the following:

She is married to THOMAS BRITTON, a former inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. Mrs. BRITTON stated her husband never identified JAMES EARL RAY as a person known to him after or during the time when RAY's photograph and name were appearing frequently on TV and in newspapers and also stated her husband had never commented anything about RAY until about May 3, 1968, when Mrs. BRITTON was first contacted by the FBI in an effort to locate her husband. Her husband then told her that the FBI was seeking him concerning a man he had known in the penitentiary who had carried hot water to the prisoners' cells.

Mrs. BRITTON stated that neither she nor her husband, to her knowledge, has ever received any telephone calls from any unknown men who were attempting to contact her husband and who could be identical with JAMES EARL RAY. She stated she has never been contacted at her residence by anyone resembling RAY who was looking for her husband. She was unable to identify any photograph of RAY as a person ever seen by her at any time.

She stated that from June, 1967, until January, 1968, she and her family had not resided at 1710 Alabama Avenue, Jasper, but had resided in a rural area outside of Jasper. During the same time, however, they had kept the same telephone number they had had prior to moving from 1710 Alabama Avenue. In January, 1968, they moved back into the house at 1710 Alabama Avenue.

On 5/8/68 at Jasper, Alabama File # BH 44-1740 - 1118
by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss Date dictated 5/14/68

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Birmingham (44-1740) (P)

DATE: 5/15/68

FROM : SA ROBERT M. BARRETT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/6/68, DONALD WOODS, AEROMARINE SUPPLY, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that a friend of his, CHARLES T. ROSS, who is employed at STANDARD BRANDS, Inc., had told WOODS that ROSS had received information to the effect that one BILLY FULMER, a fellow employee at Standard Brands, had made a comment that he, FULMER, had previously donated to a fund which was to be used for the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On 5/8/68, CHARLES T. ROSS, 998 Martinwood Lane, telephone 833-0806, a senior clerk in the Accounting Department, Standard Brands, Inc., Birmingham, furnished the following:

On 4/5/68, in the company lounge, while having coffee, the warehouse supervisor, BILLY J. FULMER, made the comment, in connection with the assassination of KING, that at one time FULMER had given some money for the assassination of KING and that the person he had given the money to had told FULMER, "Don't worry, the money will be spent for a good cause." ROSS further stated that FULMER is frequently making racist remarks concerning Negroes.

On 5/13/68, BILLY J. FULMER, Route 4, Box 187, Birmingham, admitted to Special Agents ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER that he had made a statement to the effect he had donated to a fund which was being raised for the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He claimed he had made the statement in a joking manner and in an effort to make conversation while having coffee "with the boys." He stated he had never made such a donation, had no knowledge about any such fund ever actually existing; that he was not a member of the KKK and had no information

RMB:hss

(3)

[Handwritten signature]

44-1740 - 1749

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5010-108

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

[Handwritten signature]

BH 44-1740

whatsoever about the assassination of KING. He admitted that in 1961 he had joined, for a brief time, the White Citizens Council and had attended one meeting at the Jefferson County Courthouse. He stated he was born [redacted] at Empire, Alabama, and had served honorably in the United States Navy. He said he now realizes that he was wrong in making such a statement and vigorously stated to the interviewing Agents that he would never make another similar type statement in the future.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

FROM : Supv. ANDREW M. SMITH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/15/68

At 12:30 p.m., 5/15/68, Supervisor CLEM McGOWAN at the Bureau called with regard to the MURKIN case. He said he had been considering the fact that subject RAY had, in the past, stayed at various places for short periods and would then suddenly leave. He said subject did this at Montreal, Birmingham, in Mexico and in Los Angeles. Subject's habits in this regard give rise to the possibility that he may have committed armed robberies just before his sudden departure from these places.

Mr. McGOWAN said it is possible subject may have committed an armed robbery in Montreal whereby he may have obtained the money he spent at Birmingham. Likewise, there is a possibility that subject may have committed an armed robbery in Birmingham just prior to his departure about 10/3/67.

Mr. McGOWAN wondered whether the SAC had considered the possibility that subject had committed an armed robbery in Birmingham.

I informed Mr. McGOWAN that it was my understanding that this possibility has been thoroughly explored in the Birmingham area without obtaining any information on any robberies in which RAY might be involved.

Then Mr. McGOWAN indicated that it might be ^a good idea to consider expanding our checks of robberies within a one hundred mile radius of Birmingham in an effort to determine whether subject could have been involved in any robberies in the area. Mr. McGOWAN said that while to explore these possibilities would not produce any definite information as to where subject is now, such investigation might be of value in determining a pattern of future operations of RAY and would also serve to explain where he obtained the money he spent prior to the MURKIN.

AMS:rvm
(2)



5010-108

44-1740-1154

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

Previously BH - by Jones at advised by each RA 5/16/68

How

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : EACH SENIOR RA AND ROAD TRIP AGENT

DATE: 5/15/68

FROM : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: ME

Attached is a xerox copy of a memorandum recording a telephone call from Mr. CLEM MC GOWAN of the Bureau, this date.

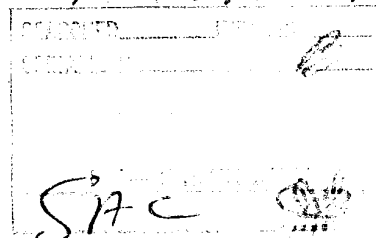
Also quoted below is a Bureau radiogram received 5/14/68, along the same lines.

"In view of fact that subject spent a considerable sum of money from 4/23/67, to 4/4/68, and the source of his money has not been determined, his photograph should be displayed to appropriate witnesses in unsolved bank robberies and bank burglaries in those instances where witnesses are available. You should also consider the requesting of police departments to display photograph of RAY to witnesses in their unsolved robberies."

All bank robbery files have been reviewed which have not been solved, but subject RAY has been eliminated as being a suspect.

Previous contacts with the Birmingham Police Department have been made in line with Mr. MC GOWAN's suggestion as to armed robberies which may have been committed in Birmingham by subject RAY during his stay or just prior to his departure from Birmingham in 1967.

- ② - 44-1740
1 - SRA LANDERS (Anniston)
1 - SRA LEE (Decatur)
1 - SRA BRUNINGA (Florence)
1 - SRA PERRY (Gadsden)
1 - SRA HUMMEL (Huntsville)
1 - SRA WRIGHT (Tuscaloosa)
1 - SA DALY
1 - SA KRESEK
1 - SA SAUCIER
HAS:cap
(11) *cap*



5010-108

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

BH 44-1740

Each Senior Resident Agent is requested to contact major police departments, supplying additional copies of the identification order and wanted fliers, and bring to the attention of the robbery squad the possibility that RAY may have participated in armed robberies in order to secure funds. In this connection, investigation at Birmingham revealed that he was residing in the rooming house on Highland Avenue in Birmingham, 8/26/67, to the date of his departure on 10/7/67. He is known to have returned to Birmingham for two days, 3/29-30/68, when he purchased the murder weapon, paying cash.

In addition to descriptive data in your possession, one former inmate interviewed in the Birmingham Office territory, who was confined in the Missouri State Penitentiary with RAY, stated that he has a definite peculiar walk, described as "slew-footed", ie, with toes pointed outward, (not pigeon-toed), causing heels of shoes to wear on outer edges.

This same former inmate describes the photograph taken in the Missouri Department of Corrections on 1/4/66, as being the best likeness of RAY during the time the inmate was acquainted with him. A supply of these photographs has been requested from the Bureau, and you will be furnished copies.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

ATTENTION:

For your further assistance, there are attached xerox copies of Bureau airtels dated 5/9/68 and 5/10/68.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

FROM : — Supv. ANDREW M. SMITH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/15/68

At 12:30 p.m., 5/15/68, Supervisor CLEM McGOWAN at the Bureau called with regard to the MURKIN case. He said he had been considering the fact that subject RAY had, in the past, stayed at various places for short periods and would then suddenly leave. He said subject did this at Montreal, Birmingham, in Mexico and in Los Angeles. Subject's habits in this regard give rise to the possibility that he may have committed armed robberies just before his sudden departure from these places.

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AMS:rvm
(2)



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: May 10, 1968

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

To: All SACS
LEGATS, Mexico City
Ottawa

File
From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

For your information and investigative assistance, subject James Earl Ray took a bartending course in Los Angeles, California, during the early part of 1968, and prior to his departing Los Angeles, in March of 1968, he made several telephone calls to country clubs in an effort to obtain employment.

This should be borne in mind in covering leads in connection with this and other cases.

Armed and Dangerous.

44-1740

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAY 13 1968	
FBI-BIRMINGHAM	

How

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

F B I

Date: May 9, 1968

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel _____

(Priority)

To: All SACS
LEGATS, Mexico City
Ottawa

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

In order to cover the possibility that subject may have died since commission of the crime, the U. S. Census Bureau and Department of Health, Education and Welfare were contacted and they advised that no central records of unidentified deceased are maintained by those agencies. It was suggested that each state may maintain such a record in their Bureau of Vital Statistics or similar agency.

There is no known Federal law requiring the maintenance of such information; and it is possible that if any record of unidentified dead is maintained, it would only be maintained at local police departments, morgues, medical facilities, or the like.

Each office covering state capitals should check to ascertain if such records are maintained, and if so, should check records for the period from 4-5-68, to date, for any information which might possibly identify subject Ray with unidentified deceased person over that period.

If there is no central record repository maintained in the various states or nationally in the case of Mexico and Canada, you should, in connection with your contacts with law enforcement agencies on this case or other Bureau matters, make appropriate inquiries relative to

44-47-17-10

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

44-47-17-10

Sent Via _____

M

Re: _____

Airtel to All SACS and LEGATS, Mexico City and Ottawa
RE: MURKIN

unidentified dead for the period beginning 4-5-68; and if fingerprints on such dead are maintained, they should be compared with those on the Identification Order on Ray in order to effect identification or nonidentification. This should be handled in the normal course of business and only reasonable investigation should be pursued along these lines.

The Identification Division has placed an appropriate stop on unidentified deceased inquiries it may receive. If feasible, appropriate offices and Legats, Mexico City and Ottawa should place similar stops with appropriate state, local or national agencies in your territories.

Armed and Dangerous.

1

BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
HHW:mas

The following investigation was conducted by SA
HORACE H. WILLIS:

On April 22 and 23, 1968, the marriage and divorce records of Lawrence, Winston, Franklin and Marion Counties were searched for the period April 1967 to the present, and no information was located pertaining to JAMES EARL RAY or any known aliases reportedly used by him.

The divorce records of Lawrence County, Alabama, were furnished by Mr. ERNEST SHELTON, Circuit Court Clerk, Moulton, Alabama, April 22, 1968.

The marriage records of Lawrence County were furnished by Mr. WILLIAM LEE, Probate Judge, April 22, 1968.

The marriage records of Winston County, Alabama, were made available by A. L. WAKEFIELD, Probate Judge, Double Springs, Alabama, April 22, 1968.

The divorce records of Winston County were furnished by Mrs. LOIS BREWER, Register, Double Springs, Alabama, April 22, 1968.

The marriage records of Franklin County, Alabama, were made available by ELIZABETH LUCAS, Probate Office, Russellville, Alabama, April 23, 1968.

The divorce records of Franklin County were furnished by IDA ALEXANDER, Register, Russellville, Alabama, April 23, 1968.

The marriage records of Marion County, Alabama, were made available by JOE HOLLY, Probate Judge, Hamilton, Alabama, April 23, 1968.

The divorce records of Marion County were furnished by PRIDE GANN, Circuit Court Clerk, Hamilton, Alabama, April 23, 1968.

(3)

Memo for file

DB

44-1740-1150

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	