

AT 44-2386

III. INTERVIEWS OF FORMER JAIL MATES OF THE SUBJECT

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On April 24, 1968, SAs JAMES RICHARD FLICK, JOSEPH G. SHEA, and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN interviewed LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA, an inmate at the Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia. DOWDA advised he was formerly incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He stated while at the Missouri State Prison, he was acquainted for approximately three years with JAMES EARL RAY, a fellow inmate. DOWDA advised he was released from the Missouri State Prison on December 23, 1966, and JAMES EARL RAY was still incarcerated. He stated he had been the chief cook at the Missouri State Prison and RAY worked as a bread slicer.

DOWDA advised RAY was the type person the other inmates did not "mess with." He described RAY as a "loner" who usually initiated the conversation if he wanted to talk to anyone. He stated that RAY spoke in a mild, low tone and when angry would speak even softer. He stated he had never known RAY to become excited and shout. To his knowledge, he has never known RAY to smoke. He stated RAY had a fair complexion, which was blotchy, having pimples around the lower portion of his face. He stated RAY had a rash on the right side of his head during the entire time he had known RAY and RAY would scratch this rash. He stated this rash was very noticeable due to the type of haircut in the Penitentiary and RAY put some type of salve on this rash. He stated RAY's hair was lightly streaked with gray. He advised the only scar he can recall which RAY had was a large burn scar on his forearm, side unrecalled. He stated this scar was located near the wrist. He stated RAY had dingy teeth.

DOWDA advised RAY always talked about "running around" in St. Louis, Missouri. He normally talked about two girl friends, one of these he had met at the Gaslight

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(a bar) located in either St. Louis or Kansas City. DOWDA stated the other girl was a girl RAY had met around the college at Columbia, Missouri, and it was his impression this girl had worked in a tavern there.

DOWDA advised RAY, while in prison, wore a ring on his left hand which was made at the Penitentiary, having been made from white metal with raised initials. He stated RAY never smiled, but when he smiled, it looked like a smirk. He advised RAY was clean and not sloppy in his dress. He described RAY as an avid reader and considered RAY to be intelligent. He advised RAY participated in softball games as a pitcher and would watch all of the baseball games at the Penitentiary, however, he had never heard RAY speak of professional baseball.

DOWDA stated that some time in 1966, a group of Black Muslims had petitioned for the right to have their own religious services. He stated the Muslims would congregate in groups and that a subsequent search of the Negro prisoners had uncovered a large cache of weapons. DOWDA stated the white prisoners then armed themselves and there was a riot at the prison. DOWDA stated three Negro prisoners were killed. DOWDA stated he would not say RAY had knifed these Negro prisoners, but did say that if RAY had not knifed them, he definitely knew who had killed them.

DOWDA stated RAY definitely was a racist and hated Negroes. He stated RAY had made the statement and firmly believed that all the Negro prisoners inside the Penitentiary should be killed. He stated RAY had on several occasions made the statement that if the price were right, he would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DOWDA stated he does not recall ever hearing anything which would indicate a "contract" was out for the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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DOWDA advised he would not be surprised if JAMES EARL RAY was the murderer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, however, he does not believe RAY would have killed KING without being paid for it.

DOWDA stated approximately four months before he, DOWDA, was released RAY had attempted to escape from the Missouri State Prison by going out of the prison behind the ovens in the prison bakery. He stated RAY was apprehended and RAY had broken his arm in this escape attempt. He stated RAY had talked about escaping from the Penitentiary prior to this. DOWDA advised he does not believe RAY returned from maximum security confinement prior to DOWDA's release from prison.

DOWDA stated while in prison, RAY was particularly interested in Western music. He stated he does not recall RAY ever mentioning anything about dancing. He stated that during this period a number of orchestras from the Lake of the Ozarks had played at the State Prison and RAY would never miss these performances. He stated RAY often talked about planning to go to the Lake of the Ozarks when he got out of prison. DOWDA stated he would have no idea who RAY would contact at the Lake of the Ozarks, but stated if he were to look for RAY there, he would first find out who was selling dope and through this person, locate RAY. He stated RAY had talked about being on dope prior to being in the Missouri State Prison. He advised RAY had to have an outside source of income while in prison inasmuch as RAY's dope habit was costing RAY \$35 to \$40 a week for shots and RAY appeared to be well fixed, never wanting for anything.

DOWDA estimated RAY spent \$15 to \$20 a week for personal conveniences. He stated RAY, while in prison,

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used amphetamine, taking the shot in the "main line." He stated RAY would take two to three shots a day. He stated RAY never lacked for money, but had no idea of RAY's source of income. DOWDA stated he is certain RAY was not selling amphetamine to other prisoners, stating he has known RAY to give free amphetamine to prisoners who needed a shot. DOWDA denied that he himself had ever taken any shots, but admitted he has taken pills. DOWDA claimed he and RAY were not engaged in the sale of amphetamine at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA stated that HAROLD SCHAEFER, Guard on the gate in the kitchen of the Missouri State Prison, was very close to JAMES EARL RAY and it was DOWDA's understanding that SCHAEFER was RAY's source of amphetamine. He stated BENJAMIN O. GOODIN was a civilian in charge of the kitchen and he is certain GOODIN was not connected in any way with the bringing of amphetamine into the prison. He stated while GOODIN was friendly with RAY, he understands it was GOODIN who had disclosed RAY's hiding place when RAY had attempted to escape in 1966.

DOWDA advised one NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was RAY's closest friend in the Missouri State Prison and was responsible for bringing RAY into the kitchen. He stated ABBY at this time was chief cook at the prison. He believes ABBY was serving time for breaking into a drug store and he does know that dope was connected with ABBY's offense. He stated ABBY had a detainer on him as he was an escapee from the State of Texas. DOWDA does not know whether or not ABBY is presently in custody but does not believe he is presently in the Missouri State Prison.

He stated RAY had another friend, one DONALD DEAN RIGGER. He stated RIGGER was from California and RIGGER's wife was a psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital, which

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is located north of San Francisco, California.

DOWDA advised that RAY and other inmates that might have DOWDA's address would have a Route 1, Sanford, Florida, address, and would not know that he is presently in Marietta, Georgia. He stated his father, STEVEN C. DOWDA, presently resides at 110 South Chandler Street, Deland, Florida, and that anyone inquiring for him at Sanford, Florida, would be sent to Deland, Florida. DOWDA claims he has not been contacted by RAY and has heard nothing to indicate RAY has attempted to contact him. He stated RAY had talked about traveling over all the United States, but had never mentioned anything which would indicate RAY was associated with anyone in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. DOWDA stated the only other prisoner he knew who was from the State of Georgia, who was an inmate at the Missouri State Prison was one JERRY WHITE from Calhoun, Georgia. He advised WHITE had a Federal detainer against him and believes WHITE is still incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA advised he had made a trip to California in November of 1967, and that he and his wife had spent Thanksgiving Day visiting her uncle, BOB GRAHAM, who resides at Palos Verdes, California. He stated GRAHAM is Regional Manager for IBM in that area. He stated that he and his wife had stopped at Jefferson City and while there, contacted a Missouri State Prison guard, Mr. "PETE" PETRIE. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning RAY and was not aware that RAY had escaped. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning inmates inasmuch as his wife did not know he was a former inmate of the Missouri State Prison. He stated he had stopped in the Kansas City, Missouri, area and attempted to locate PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., who had been in the Missouri State Prison as PAUL ALVIN CARTER. He stated LAIL had been released approximately a year before he had and that they had agreed to attempt to get together

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after their release from prison. He stated LAIL worked in the license shop at the Missouri State Prison and although he was acquainted with RAY, he did not believe LAIL was a particularly good friend of RAY. He stated after his return from California, he was contacted by PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR. He stated LAIL owns a home at 34 Barbodos Drive, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach, Florida, Telephone Number 965-4221. He stated LAIL in February of 1968 was out of a job and had come to Marietta, Georgia, looking for employment. He stated LAIL had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and a small baby and had resided with DOWDA for approximately one and one-half weeks, leaving approximately two or three days after DOWDA was arrested, DOWDA having been arrested on March 4, 1968.

DOWDA advised he could recall nothing else concerning RAY which might assist in his location, but in the event he remembered anything additional, he would contact the FBI.

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

LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the
Cobb 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

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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 did 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

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<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.

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On April 29, 1968, LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the Marietta City Jail, Marietta, Georgia, by Special Agents ROBERT B. PERRY, JAMES RICHARD FLICK and JACK T. REVERSTEIN. DOWDA had been transferred to this jail due to an escape attempt by other prisoners at the Cobb County, Georgia, Jail.

DOWDA advised JAMES EARL RAY had been very close to (First Name Unknown) "PUNCHY" MILLER, an ex-boxer who had worked in the kitchen at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). MILLER had been one of the leaders at the MSP and was removed from the kitchen after the accidental killing by him of another prisoner during a fight. DOWDA stated he had no knowledge that MILLER was engaged in the distribution of amphetamines at the prison. He stated MILLER was released from prison and went to a town located close to the MSP, where he started passing bad checks. BENJAMIN O. GOODIN, Supervisor in the MSP kitchen, tried to retrieve these bad checks, but was unable to do so before MILLER was returned to prison for passing bad checks. DOWDA could not explain why GOODIN should make MILLER's checks good. DOWDA stated GOODIN had been in the U. S. Navy and had served aboard several ships which were sunk. He stated GOODIN reports to the Veterans Administration weekly and is on some kind of drugs, which he believes MILLER obtains by prescription. He advised RAY was not particularly close to LEO BARNETT. He stated LEO BARNETT's mother lives in Flat River, Missouri and has a brother, DARRELL BARNETT, who is in the MSP.

DOWDA advised that in April, 1967, he had taken a trip to Missouri and had gone to Flat River in an effort to locate LEO BARNETT. He stated BARNETT's mother told him LEO was serving time in the penitentiary in Florida. He stated he then returned to Georgia without seeing any of the guards or anyone else in Missouri. He advised on his return trip he had met "DINK" CHUMLEY in a bar in Alabama. He stated CHUMLEY was having trouble with his wife, who had burned all CHUMLEY's clothes and he was enroute to Georgia in an effort to get away from her. He stated CHUMLEY decided to come to Marietta, Georgia, with him, which he did. DOWDA stated the trip to Missouri only took him three days and again denied having contacted anyone else.

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DOWDA stated CHUMLEY stayed in the Atlanta area for several months and then left to go to South Carolina to see a girl friend. He advised CHUMLEY returned from South Carolina and told DOWDA that he had a job and was working somewhere in Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA stated he has no idea concerning the present whereabouts of CHUMLEY.

DOWDA advised that RAY, while in prison, worked as a bread slicer and only earned between \$5 and \$6 per month, but never seemed to want for money. He stated RAY, while in prison, always wore his hair short. He stated RAY only mentioned two girls while in prison and from conversation, DOWDA felt RAY thought more of the girl he had met at Columbia, Missouri, than the girl he had met at the Gaslight.

DOWDA advised NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was ~~one~~ supplier of amphetamines in the MSP. He stated he believed ABBY's source was HAROLD SCHAEFER, a guard at the kitchen gate of the prison. He stated ABBY nearly ran the K Hall and after his transfer to C Hall, ABBY nearly ran it also. He stated ABBY could get his cell door open by guards anytime he wanted.

DOWDA advised the main supplier of amphetamines in MSP was a prisoner whose name he does not now recall. This person was known by two initials and he was serving a long sentence for the fatal shooting of a St. Louis police officer. He advised this person attempted to escape several times and was almost in complete charge of C Hall. He stated he had the run of the prison and had a pass to eat in the officers dining room, which he did most of the time. He was very close to Warden NASH and after NASH's suicide, tried unsuccessfully to get close to Warden SWINSON. He stated after Warden SWINSON took over, one-half pound of amphetamines were found in the trash can of this prisoner's cell. This prisoner had six to eight prisoners pushing the amphetamines for him. He stated he believed this prisoner obtained his drugs through a guard. He described this prisoner as a white male, approximately 32 - 33 years of age; 6' - 6' 1"; 130 pounds; black hair. He stated this prisoner was close to JAMES EARL RAY, as well as prisoners LEO BARNETT and NEIL ABBY.

DOWDA advised the only prisoners at the MSP whose addresses he had were for PAUL LEE and LEO BARNETT. He

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stated he had not obtained RAY's address, however, he feels RAY has his address in Florida, but would not know if he were in Marietta, Georgia.

DOWDA stated he had taken a trip to California during the Summer of 1965 and on this trip he had spent two or three days with a distant cousin, JACK HOLCOMBE, who resides at San Jose, California. He stated he had also visited a friend of his sister, one BEVERLY WHEELER, who is a nurse in a Los Angeles hospital. He stated it was on this trip that he got in trouble in Missouri and was sentenced to the MSP. DOWDA denied having returned to California the Spring of 1967. He stated that on his trip to California in the Fall of 1967, he had planned to call JEWEL RIGGER, psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital located outside Santa Rosa, but had not made the call. He advised JEWEL RIGGER is the wife of an inmate at the MSP. He stated LLOYD A. BELT, Supervisor in the kitchen at the MSP resides at Henley, Missouri and on the trip to California, in the Fall of 1967, he had visited BELT.

DOWDA advised that within the MSP there are two gangs, one being from St. Louis and the other from Kansas City, Missouri. He stated there was a good deal of friction between these gangs and that RAY associated with the leaders of the St. Louis gang.

DOWDA advised he had talked to his wife concerning the reported visitor to his home at 2:00 A.M. on a morning in the Fall of 1967. He stated his wife claims she has no knowledge of anyone visiting their apartment at this time of the morning. DOWDA stated he has no idea who this person could be. DOWDA stated the resident manager of these apartments must have been mistaken. He stated the manager had not approached his wife concerning any person visiting their apartment at 2:00 A.M. in the morning.

DOWDA advised that during the period he worked at the Lane Liggett Drug Store, located on the corner of Peachtree and 10th Streets, he met many persons he felt were ex-cons, but denied ever being approached concerning source of drugs in this area. DOWDA stated he has no knowledge as to the persons who might be supplying drugs in that area.

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He stated he is certain the druggist at the Lane Liggett Drug Store was not supplying these individuals. He recalled having talked to a man in his late 40s, approximately 5' 10", 150 - 155 pounds, having dark curly hair, with gray streaks, who had visited the restaurant in the drug store and had mentioned owning several rooming houses in the area. He advised he does not recall this person's name and had only the one contact with this individual. DOWDA advised the name JAMES GARNER sounded familiar to him and feels he has heard this name mentioned sometime in the past, possibly when he was employed at the restaurant in the Lane Liggett Drug Store. He advised he does not personally know JAMES GARNER and could furnish no information concerning him.

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The following investigation was conducted by SAs
JACK T. BEVERSTEIN and JOSEPH G. SHEA.

On April 24, 1968, CARL GENE TAYLOR, also known as "Junior" TAYLOR, 185 W. Dixie Street, Marietta, Georgia, advised that the photo of JAMES EARL RAY did not resemble person known to him as "Red", who had stayed with LEWIE DOWDA a couple of weeks in approximately March, 1968. He stated person known to him as "Red" was a white male, approximately 6', 35 years of age, 185 pounds, and had bright red hair. He advised this person had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and small baby and had resided with the DOWDAs at the Olive Spring Apartments.

TAYLOR advised he had been employed with DOWDA at the Bonanza Steak House in Marietta, Georgia. He advised he had never seen anyone resembling JAMES EARL RAY in the company of DOWDA. He stated during the Fall of 1967, DOWDA and his wife had traveled to California to visit her relatives and at no time did DOWDA ever mention contacting anyone he was acquainted with who could logically have been JAMES EARL RAY.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA JACK T. BEVERSTEIN:

On April 25, 1968, EDITH BUSBY, Manager, Soda Fountain, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia, advised LEWIE DOWDA had been employed as Manager of the Soda Fountain from December 23, 1967, to January 23, 1968, at which time DOWDA left, claiming he was going to move to Florida. She stated it is her understanding DOWDA is now employed at the Bonanza Steak House, Marietta, Georgia. BUSBY viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated she had never seen this individual. She advised no one has contacted her concerning the whereabouts of DOWDA.

On April 25, 1968, Dr. TOM CHOTOS, Manager, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, advised photograph of JAMES EARL RAY is unfamiliar to him. He stated no one has ever contacted him for instructions how to contact LEWIE DOWDA.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date May 2, 1968

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, who is confined in the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he did not personally serve time with JAMES EARL RAY in the Menard Prison, Illinois, and the only information he has regarding this is what RAY told him. This information was related to him by RAY while he and RAY were serving time together in the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri, for a six or seven month period.

He stated he never heard RAY say that he had served time in Joliet or Pontiac Prisons, but he felt that if RAY had served time in either one of those places, he would probably have been shipped to Menard Prison for discharge.

CURTIS advised there was a close associate of RAY's serving time in Jackson County with them. He cannot recall the name of this individual, but stated he was convicted as a co-defendant with RAY on the same check charge and from conversation with RAY, this individual was presumably the same person with whom RAY served time in Menard Prison.

CURTIS advised he recalls a third unidentified individual visiting RAY and his co-defendant in Jackson County Jail who seemed very close to both of them, but stated he strongly doubted that the visitor's log maintained at the Jail would reflect the name of this visitor due to irregularities in keeping such logs.

He advised he could not furnish a description of the third man.

CURTIS advised he was confined in the Jefferson County Jail with RAY and his co-defendant from approximately March of 1955 until July of 1955, and that they all subsequently ended up together in Leavenworth Prison.

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On 4/22/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # Atlanta-44-2386

by SA BERNARD R. BERRY :bjc Date dictated 4/26/68

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He stated while at Leavenworth Prison, RAY's associate and co-defendant did nothing but lift weights and attempt to improve his physique.

He described this co-defendant as being a white male, age 36, at that time, 5'10" to 6', 180 pounds, and well built.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 3, 1968

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, currently incarcerated Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised that he has spent time in prison on two or three occasions with JAMES EARL RAY. CURTIS advised he first became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY in March 1955 at the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri. He stated RAY was incarcerated at the Jackson County Jail on Post Office burglary charges and had just recently been released from prison in Menard, Illinois, prior to his incarceration at Jackson County. CURTIS at the same time was under arrest for armed robbery and bank robbery in the Missouri area. During this period, CURTIS stated he and RAY were cellmates for approximately six to seven months. While cellmates, CURTIS recalled that RAY had a close friend, name unrecalled, who visited him while RAY was at the Jackson County Prison. This friend had been a former cellmate of RAY when RAY was incarcerated at Menard, Illinois. CURTIS never actually saw this man but knew that RAY had several visits from one particular individual. This man kept RAY in spending money while RAY was in Jackson County Jail and in CURTIS' opinion this individual would harbor RAY if RAY were on escape.

CURTIS went on to say that RAY had another close friend, name unrecalled, of Italian descent, apparently a "big man" in the syndicate. This Italian had apparently operated with RAY in the past and both he and RAY had engaged in handling stolen Postal money orders and travelers checks.

After six or seven months as cellmates at Jackson County Jail, RAY was sentenced to three years on the Post Office burglary charges and transferred to Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Two weeks later CURTIS received a 16-year sentence for bank robbery and also was sent to Leavenworth. While confined at Leavenworth together, RAY spoke of no girlfriends and corresponded with none to the best of CURTIS' knowledge. While in Leavenworth, RAY mentioned that he "operated" frequently out of Quincy, Illinois. By "operated", RAY meant "engaged in burglary and payroll jobs."

CURTIS said that while he and RAY were incarcerated they

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On 4/21/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jhs Date dictated 4/25/68

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engaged in crooked poker games and took fellow prisoners for money. In the opinion of CURTIS, RAY was a good poker player and an excellent card handler. During this incarceration RAY mentioned underworld and hoodlum connections, names unrecalled, in Chicago, Detroit, Tampa, and the Tijuana, Mexico area. CURTIS went on to say that after serving seven to eight months with RAY at Leavenworth he was transferred to the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia. CURTIS served six to seven years in the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, and in June 1962 was released but sent back to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, to serve time on armed robbery charges. While in the state penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, CURTIS again was incarcerated with JAMES EARL RAY. On occasions they were in the same cell together in "B" Hall and "C" Hall. They served together from 1962 to 1966. While in "B" and "C" Halls they were together in a three-man cell with a third individual whom CURTIS said could verify the following facts but whom CURTIS refused to identify but whom CURTIS refused to identify:

CURTIS stated that during this incarceration President JOHN F. KENNEDY was assassinated and word from the outside filtered into the prison that this was probably a conspiracy. Word came in that KENNEDY had a "bounty" on his head. CURTIS was unable to give further details on the "bounty". He said in 1963-1964 Dr. King's movements became one of the topics of conversation at the state penitentiary. Word got around to the inmates that the "KK of the South" who apparently went to businessmen and had raised approximately a million dollars, had a "bounty" with this money on KING's head. CURTIS was unable to give further details or information regarding "KK of the South".

CURTIS said that from 1962 to 1966 before CURTIS' release RAY mentioned at least a dozen times that had he known about a "bounty" on President KENNEDY's head and had he been out he would have made every effort to collect it. RAY also said approximately a dozen times in the presence of CURTIS "if he got out in time and if KING was still alive he would like to get the 'bounty' on KING". RAY never mentioned whom he would contact to get this "bounty" but CURTIS advised the criminal element knew how to contact such people.

CURTIS went on to say that the above statements concerning KING made by RAY were heard by the third cellmate mentioned above.

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In addition CURTIS stated that RAY had a friend in New Orleans, Louisiana (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) COIN (phonetic) who was apparently a "fence". This man was well connected with the hoodlum element, however, was quite old and in the opinion of RAY was in 1955 at least 55 to 60 years of age. In the opinion of CURTIS this individual would definitely harbor RAY. CURTIS knew no close friends or associates of RAY. RAY, allegedly through prison grapevine, had a wife but this was never mentioned by RAY. CURTIS said, however, a few prisoners mentioned family connections. While in prison RAY also mentioned gambling in Los Angeles, California. No specific place in Los Angeles as to the gambling was mentioned. RAY in CURTIS' opinion was a "high liver" when outside and would associate with prostitutes taking one from town to town.

RAY with regard to KING's killing indicated he would make all rules and would in all probability demand the "bounty" money be put in a bank. RAY mentioned three foreign countries, which he had learned about and which CURTIS assumed RAY would go to if out of the United States. These foreign countries were New Zealand, Brazil, and Switzerland. CURTIS was of the opinion that not over three people would be involved in the actual assassination. It would have been well planned with diversionary measures and in the opinion of CURTIS a second individual, not RAY, would have driven the getaway car to Atlanta as a diversionary measure.

CURTIS said he would not testify to the above facts because if he did testify to this information he would fear for his life.

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