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INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

44-38861

**ST. LOUIS RPT. DO NOT DESTROY
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CLASSIFICATION NO.

44

1740

Serials

Volume Number

1863 ONLY

15

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE ST. LOUIS | OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS | DATE 5/10/68 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/5 - 5/10/68 |
| TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE, I. O. 4182; W. F. 442-A; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM | | REPORT MADE BY HAROLD R. DOBSON | TYPED BY jtc |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY | |

~~REFERENCE:~~

REFERENCE: Memphis reports of SA JOE C. HESTER dated
4/17/68 and 4/30/68.

STATUS: - P -

LEAD:

ST. LOUIS DIVISION

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Will continue efforts to locate subject.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - NONE

Case pending over one year - no; Pending prosecution over six months-no.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|----------|---------|-----------------------|-------|------------|--|
| APPROVED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW | | | | | | | |
| COPIES MADE: 5 - Bureau (44-38861) 5 - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - Atlanta (44-2386) 2 - Springfield 2 - Chicago (44-1114) ① - Birmingham (44-1740) 1 - Kansas City (44-760) 1 - New Orleans 1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) 3 - St. Louis (44-775) | | 44-1740-1863 | | | | | | | |
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| FBI - BIRMINGHAM | | | | | | | | | |

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HRD:pjh

ADMINISTRATIVE

IDENTIFICATION OF SUBJECT'S FATHER:

The following was an attempt to identify one JERRY RAY, believed to be the father of subject, who was supposed to reside on a farm near Hannibal, Missouri, and to be on social security.

Mr. WYATT MILLER, Manager, Regional Social Security Office, Hannibal, Missouri, advised SA JAMES A. DUFFEY on April 19, 1968, a check of his records failed to disclose any individual named JERRY RAY receiving social security payments in the Hannibal area or actually in the State of Missouri.

On the same date, Mrs. LUCILLE WOOLSEY, Supervisor, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Hannibal, Missouri, advised SA DUFFEY that a JERRY RAYNES of Center, Missouri, is a subscriber to telephone number AM 7-3467.

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HRD:paw

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RAY Relatives: JERRY RAYNES, Father

AT CLARENCE, MISSOURI

Mr. WILBURN MANFORD, Postmaster, Clarence, Missouri, advised SA JAMES A. DUFFEY on April 25, 1968, he was never acquainted with any person named JAMES GERALD RAY or JERRY RAYNES, and that he could find no reference to any individual by those names in the Post Office records.

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SL: 44-775
SJP:wma

ADMINISTRATIVE: AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
RE: - RAY RELATIVE

On April 23, 1968, MR. ERNEST GLAZIER (protect identity), Security Office, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, advised SA S. J. PETERSON that a check of additional toll calls made from telephone of ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER (MI) 645-2948, 2025 Bellview, Brentwood, Mo., indicates the following calls were made:

| <u>DATE:</u> | <u>TO:</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 4-8-68 | 635-6831, Jefferson City, Mo. |
| 4-8-68 | 267-3467, Center, Mo. |
| 4-13-68 | 267-3467, Center, Mo. |
| 4-18-68. | 267-3467, Center, Mo. |

It is to be noted that the above Center, Missouri telephone number is that of JERRY RAYNES, the father of CAROL PEPPER. CAROL PEPPER is the sister of JAMES EARL RAY.

Kansas City has advised the above Jefferson City number is assigned to all offices of the Mo. State Dept. of Revenue.

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SJP:wma

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE: - RAY RELATIVES
RAY ASSOCIATES

On April 24, 1968, MR. T. EDWARD UMPHERS, Security Supervisor, SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO., (protect identity), advised SA S. J. PETERSON that there is no telephone listed on unlisted for JOHN LARRY RAY of 1900a Cherokee St., St. Louis, Mo.

He said that the toll call tickets for April 22, 1968, from Portageville, Mo., were missed by his Department. No information is currently available for that date. This information will eventually be on tape after it is programed into the computer billing operation.

The only toll calls that are identifiable with the four telephones in Portageville are as follows for April 23, 1968:

1. Call made at 8:00 P. M., from 379-9577 (La Fonts Cafe, Highway 61-62) to 314 MA 8-3401. The call was for two minutes.
2. Call made at 4:00 P. M., from 379-9595 (pay telephone at LaFonce Sinclair Service Station) Portageville, Missouri, to 314-FA 8-9990. The call was for eleven minutes.

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HRD:amb

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE: HARVEY LOHMEYER, PALMYRA, MISSOURI

The following concerns investigation conducted by SA JAMES A. DUFFEY in an effort to locate one HARVEY LOHMEYER and wife, LENORA, who resided near Palmyra, Missouri, 1956 to 1958:

AT PALMYRA, MISSOURI:

Mr. CORBIN JACOBS, Postmaster, advised his records show an undated forwarding order for LENORA LOHMEYER from Route 1, Palmyra, Missouri, to 1448 Vesper Street, Hannibal, Missouri. He stated there was no forwarding order for HARVEY LOHMEYER and to his knowledge HARVEY LOHMEYER has not resided in Palmyra, Missouri, since 1958. He was of the opinion that HARVEY LOHMEYER had at one time been employed by the Snow Sawmill in Palmyra.

AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI:

Mr. CECIL SCHWARTZ, Postmaster, advised on April 9, 1968, he had no record for a forwarding order or any other action taken in behalf of any individual named HARVEY or LENORA LOHMEYER. He was not acquainted with any individuals by those names.

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SL 44-775
HCJ:amb

RE: TELEPHONE BOOTH, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA HARRY C. JUNG at St. Louis, Missouri:

On May 9, 1968, Mrs. LONELLE HENAGER, 8668 Moran Place, St. Johns, Missouri, (telephone 423-2348) who is employed at Solar Die Company, 1436 Kingsland Avenue, University City, Missouri, (telephone PA 5-1290) advised that she last heard from her brother, A. F. COOK, JR., better known as "BUD", on her birthday, February 22, 1968, when he telephonically contacted her. He indicated he was calling from a bar in Los Angeles, California, and said he was some sort of a manager at an automobile agency, possibly Oldsmobile. He sounded as though he had been drinking at the time.

Mrs. HENAGER said that she did not know his current address or employment. She suggested contact with his last wife, CATHY, who in 1965, resided 1651 Rutford Street, Covina, California, telephone 213-966-6119.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

The source of information concerning the various bank accounts of RAY relatives at the Manufacturers Bank, St. Louis, Missouri, is Mr. HARLEY E. SCHWERING, Senior Vice President, Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company, 1731 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone 621-1230.

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JDD:klr

Re: ASSOCIATES OF THE RAY FAMILY

The following investigation was conducted by Investigative Clerk JOHN D. DYER, JR.:

On May 2, 1968, a review of the records at the Veterans Administration Regional Office, St. Louis, Missouri, disclosed JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, United States Marine Corps serial number 73896, Veterans Administration claim number C-1545802, filed a disability claim due to weak ankles resulting in flat feet on May 23, 1923, place not shown. This claim was denied since this condition had existed prior to his Marine Corps service.

GAWRON subsequently filed a claim on September 13, 1930, at the Veterans Administration Regional Office, San Francisco, California, due to chronic otitis media. This claim was allowed and his condition was held to be disabling to a degree of 19 per cent, effective October 28, 1930.

GAWRON's disability was subsequently rated on January 4, 1965, and the degree of disability was held to be 40 per cent, effective January 5, 1965, and his monthly pension was shown as \$100.00. The file indicated GAWRON is presently receiving his pension checks at 1807 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63104.

United States Marine Corps medical records for GAWRON, contained in his Veterans Administration claim file, showed he received treatment for otitis media on April 20, 1917, while stationed on the USS MICHIGAN, and for pes planus, on April 21, 1917, while stationed on the USS SOLACE.

GAWRON's claim file also indicated he was incarcerated at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, in March, 1923; the Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois, in March of 1954; and the Illinois State Prison, Menard, Illinois, in November of 1958.

GAWRON was hospitalized at the Cochran Veterans Administration Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, from October 28, 1960, to January 3, 1961, and received the following diagnoses:

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"1) Arteriosclerotic heart disease, normal sized heart, with multiple VPC's, functional class IV on admission and functional class on discharge II, and congestive heart failure - treated - improved. 2) Infarction of the myocardium, secondary to coronary atherosclerosis - treated - improved. 3) Obstructive emphysema, mild - treated - improved.

He was discharged from the above hospital with maximum hospital benefits on digitalis, doriden, and phenobarbital.

GAWRON was subsequently seen in the out-patient clinic at the above Veterans Administration Hospital, on February 17, 1961, and received a diagnosis of chronic bronchitis with emphysema. Hospitalization was not recommended.

The following background information was contained in GAWRON's Veterans Administration claim file:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Date of Birth | |
| Place of Birth | Chicago, Illinois |
| Addresses | December of 1965 to present: 1807 South Eleventh Street St. Louis, Missouri 63104; 1965: 1809 South Eleventh Street St. Louis, Missouri 63104; 1963 to 1964: 1713 Lafayette St. Louis, Missouri 63104. November of 1964: Odd jobs, gardening, janitor work, Manpower, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri |
| Employment | |
| Social Security Number | |
| Marital Status | Single. |

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On May 2, 1968, a review of the records of the St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department disclosed the following arrest for JACK EUGENE GAWRON, St. Louis Police Department number 110 106:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Charge</u> | <u>Disposition</u> |
|--------------|---|--|
| June 2, 1967 | burglary and stealing | November 1, 1967, Six months City Workhouse |
| | fugitive - Cook County, Illinois (parole violator) | Notified. |

The records of the St. Louis Police Department disclosed the following descriptive and background data concerning GAWRON:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sex | Male |
| Race | White |
| Date of Birth | |
| Place of Birth | Chicago, Illinois |
| Height | 5'8" |
| Weight | 172 pounds |
| Hair | Gray |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Build | Medium |
| Complexion | Ruddy |
| Tattoos | Marine insignia on right forearm; "JACK" on left forearm. |
| Fingerprint Classification | 18 0 32W IOI 14 1 20W OMI 1 |
| Marital Status | Single |
| Occupation | Retired |
| Address | June of 1967: 1807 South Eleventh Street St. Louis, Missouri. |

The records of the St. Louis Police Department failed to contain an FBI Identification Record for GAWRON, inasmuch as the FBI Identification Division returned GAWRON's fingerprint card since it was unclassifiable.

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On May 2, 1968, Mrs. CHARLOTTE HEINTZ, Supervisor of Files, Commercial Credit Rating Company, St. Louis, Missouri, advised their records failed to contain any information identifiable with JOHN EUGENE GAWRON or JACK EUGENE GAWRON.

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SL 44-775
GTJ/ral

Re: RAY - ASSOCIATES

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

A review on May 2, 1968, by IC GEORGE T. JENKINS of the Marine Corps records on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, indicated JOHN GAWRON (also shown as JOHN EUGENE GAWRON), Service Number 73 896, enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps on May 6, 1916, and entered on active duty at the Marine Base Port Royal, South Carolina. He was accepted for enlistment at Chicago, Illinois, on April 28, 1916. He was honorably discharged on May 24, 1917, as a Private at Norfolk, Virginia, by reason of physical disability, diagnosed as "Pes Planus".

He received a Commanding Officer punishment on January 19, 1917, for sleeping on post and was sentenced three days confinement on bread and water.

The following descriptive and background information is contained in the Marine Corps records for GAWRON:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Date of Birth | |
| Place of Birth | Chicago, Illinois |
| Height | 5 feet 5½ inches to 66½ inches |
| Weight | 140 pounds |
| Race | White |
| Hair | Light brown |
| Eyes | Hazel - Brown |
| Scars and Marks | Left ring and right little fingers slightly deformed; "Blue" scar 1/8 inch, left eyebrow |
| Education | Not shown |
| Civilian Occupation | Fireman |
| Addresses | 2232 Coblentz Street Chicago, Illinois (5/16) 2042 Homer Street Chicago, Illinois (5/17) Box 7 Leavenworth, Kansas (2/23) |

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GTJ/ral

Addresses (Cont'd)

4042 Homer Street
Chicago, Illinois (10/30)
Box 15335
Represa, California (8/30)
1900 Collins Street
Joliet, Illinois (4/36)
(confined in State Prison
at Joliet, #489 F)
Box 711, Menard, Illinois
(Illinois State Penitentiary,
Menard, Illinois, #25261,
July 1956 and February 1963)

Parents

MICHAEL and FLORENCE GAWRON
2135 Cortland Street
Chicago, Illinois (6/19)

Awards

Expeditionary Medal for
service in Cuba in 1917
(Old) Available upon request.

Photograph

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

PCI JOHN EUGENE GAWRON, 1807 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri, was contacted April 29 and May 1, 1968, by SAs EARL E. BROWN and ALBERT J. RUSHING at which time he confidentially furnished the following information concerning his own personal background and particularly concerning his association in the past with subject JAMES EARL RAY and the latter's family.

GAWRON, who is 70 years of age, resides alone on the first floor at the above address and is the caretaker of the four family building at the front of 1805 - 1807 South 11th Street as well as a four family building at the rear of the same addresses. He has no telephone. As caretaker he is employed by DAVID O. BORNEMANN, Real Estate Department, Tower Grove Bank and Trust Company, St. Louis, and he receives only very small amounts in payment for his service as caretaker. His principal income is derived from a pension he receives as a disabled veteran of World War I from the Veterans Administration in the amount of \$104 per month and monthly Social Security benefits in the amount of \$55 per month.

GAWRON was born [redacted] at Chicago, Illinois. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps during World War I and although he cannot recall his service number he does recall that with the Veterans Administration he has C number 1-545-802. He was honorably discharged from military service during World War I as a result of having been wounded in the leg by shrapnel at which time he also incurred a hearing disability as a result of which he normally wears a hearing aid.

GAWRON has spent about 45 years of his life in penal institutions. He served time in the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, in the 1920's as a result of possession of counterfeit money in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1934 GAWRON was sentenced at Chicago, Illinois, in State Court to a term of one year to life in the Illinois State Penitentiary on charges of burglary. He was first confined for several years in the penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois, and

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was later confined in the penitentiary at Statesville, Illinois, until he was paroled in 1954 to a Soldier's Home in Quincy, Illinois.

While at Quincy, Illinois, he was under no restrictions and became acquainted at a tavern in Quincy with LUCILLE RYAN. He thereafter became well acquainted with her and learned that she had been married but was separated from her husband, JERRY RAYNES (phonetic). LUCILLE had a daughter named CAROL who was then living with her; a son JERRY who was living with her then; a son JIMMY (JAMES EARL RAY) who was then serving a Federal sentence in the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; a daughter MELBA, who was then in a mental hospital at Jacksonville, Illinois, and who more recently has been reportedly residing in a hospital at Quincy, Illinois, receiving welfare subsistence; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; a son JOHN ("JACK") who was then serving a sentence in the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard, Illinois.

GAWRON stated he had always been somewhat confused by the various surnames used by LUCILLE RYAN and her family. He did not know the origin of the name RYAN, the spelling of the name RAYNES or why some or all of LUCILLE's children have apparently used the name RAY. So far as GAWRON was aware, LUCILLE RYAN was never married except to JERRY RAYNES.

In 1956, GAWRON was allegedly involved in a burglary at Quincy, Illinois, and in a robbery at LaGrange, Missouri, as a result of which his parole was revoked and he was returned in 1956 to the Illinois State Penitentiary being thereafter confined to the penitentiary facilities at Menard, Illinois.

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In 1959 GAWRON escaped from the penitentiary at Menard and thereafter went temporarily on his own initiative to a Veterans Administration Hospital in Wisconsin. After a few days there, however, he left the hospital and came to St. Louis, Missouri. Upon arrival at St. Louis he went to the home of LUCILLE RYAN at 1913 Hickory. LUCILLE's mother, MARY MAHER, was at that time operating a rooming house at that address and LUCILLE was living with her mother. GAWRON was aware that LUCILLE was residing there with her mother because he had kept in contact with her while he was in the penitentiary. After GAWRON came to St. Louis he resided with LUCILLE at 1913 Hickory. During that period of time none of LUCILLE's children were actually residing with her there but JIMMY, JERRY, and CAROL were all living in St. Louis and came to LUCILLE's home from time to time. Also, LUCILLE's son JOHN was released from the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard sometime in about 1959 and he thereafter resided with his mother, LUCILLE, on Hickory Street.

During a period of several months in 1959 GAWRON was closely associated with JIMMY (JAMES EARL RAY) who resided at various places in South St. Louis. GAWRON taught JIMMY to be a burglar and they went together on a number of burglaries which GAWRON estimates at 12 burglaries. All of these were committed outside St. Louis in the northern part of Missouri, in Iowa, and in Illinois. Among other things which GAWRON taught JIMMY he taught him to always wear gloves on any kind of a job and JIMMY always seemed to be most meticulous in this regard; GAWRON would be surprised if JIMMY would now go on any kind of a job without wearing gloves and at the risk of leaving fingerprints. GAWRON is a safe man who is proficient in peeling, punching, or blowing safes. He and JIMMY burglarized various business establishments, such as supermarkets, appliance stores, and furniture stores. They never took any merchandise or other items except cash. The largest amount GAWRON recalls them ever getting in a burglary was about \$6000, which they split equally.

During this same period of time while they were committing burglaries GAWRON and JIMMY spent a great deal of time together and the place in St. Louis which they most frequented was a tavern then known as Ruby's Bar and later

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known as The Haven Bar. It was located on Lafayette just west of 18th Street on the north side of Lafayette. One of the places where JIMMY had a room during this period was on Lafayette near Mississippi and he also had a room for a time on Park Avenue near Mississippi. During this period GAWRON learned that JIMMY generally drank Laurel Springs Bourbon whiskey which he usually mixed with sweet soda and he did not drink beer or smoke. He could drink large quantities of bourbon without noticeable affect. JIMMY was never known to GAWRON to pull any job alone. GAWRON recalls that JIMMY did not appear to have any particular girlfriend and in fact JIMMY seemed to be extremely bashful when he first met any girl. He had a tendency to lisp or stutter in his speech and this characteristic was most noticeable when he was meeting a girl for the first time. When JIMMY wanted a girl GAWRON usually found some girl for him and introduced them and on such occasions JIMMY's relationship with the girl was usually only brief and temporary and was at some second or third rate hotel room.

During the period GAWRON and JIMMY were pulling burglaries after each JIMMY would usually leave town presumably to spend the money. GAWRON believes that he occasionally went to the vicinity of Springfield or Peoria, Illinois, and believes that on one occasion he went to Terre Haute, Indiana. He said that while JIMMY dresses extremely well when he has money and buys expensive clothes and likes good food and steaks he always chooses a second or third rate hotel or cheap rooming house in which to live. He always keeps his money with him and never uses a bank.

During the later part of their association GAWRON became aware that JIMMY was pulling some armed robberies. He never knew JIMMY to commit any robberies alone but always had a partner. On the day before the Kroger Store robbery, for which JIMMY and JAMES OWENS were arrested which resulted in subject being sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary from which he escaped in April 1967, subject had approached GAWRON regarding an armed robbery in the East St. Louis, Illinois, area. GAWRON, OWENS, and subject cased this place and GAWRON declined to participate because of the danger involved. Subject indicated to GAWRON that he was going to pull the job anyway. On the following day GAWRON said that he went to see subject to see how he had made out on the robbery and noticed

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OWENS' car in front of the rooming house on Park Avenue where subject was living, together with a number of St. Louis Police Department officers. GAWRON inquired of the officers as to what was going on and was told that the subject had been arrested for the robbery of a Kroger Store. GAWRON said that he was greatly concerned because he feared the police would process OWENS' car and find GAWRON's prints as he had been in that car the day before on the contemplated East St. Louis robbery.

After the arrest of subject in 1959 following the Kroger Store robbery GAWRON visited the subject a couple of times in the St. Louis City Jail while subject was awaiting trial and transfer to the Missouri State Penitentiary. This was the last time GAWRON has ever seen the subject.

At a later time, possibly in the latter part of 1960, GAWRON moved out of the rooming house at 1913 Hickory where he had been living in a relationship of man and wife with LUCILLE RYAN. His moving resulted from the fact that he was not getting along well with LUCILLE's mother, who operated the rooming house. GAWRON moved to another rooming house operated by Grandma Pinky, at about 1109 Mississippi Avenue. LUCILLE thereafter spent most of her time with him at the latter address until she became ill and GAWRON arranged for her to be admitted to the St. Louis City Hospital. LUCILLE RYAN died in the St. Louis City Hospital in January 1961. GAWRON has understood that LUCILLE's mother, MARY MAHER, continued to reside in the St. Louis area for a time until she also died a year or two later.

In 1961 GAWRON had become acquainted with ALBERT PEPPER, who later married subject's sister CAROL. GAWRON and PEPPER, together with JOHN RAY, were arrested at Louisiana, Missouri, in 1961 for suspicion of burglary. They were then taken to Troy, Missouri, and GAWRON believes that PEPPER and JOHN RAY thereafter received sentences of 10 days in jail at Bowling Green, Missouri, in Pike County. GAWRON, however, because he was on parole, was not prosecuted but his parole was revoked and he was returned to the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard. It is GAWRON's recollection that although ALBERT PEPPER later married subject's sister CAROL the subject was not acquainted with ALBERT PEPPER at any time before the subject was arrested and sentenced to the penitentiary in 1959.


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GAWRON was again released from the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard on parole on April 12, 1963, and he then returned to St. Louis where he has subsequently resided continuously and where he has had frequent contact and close association with ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER and with JOHN RAY. GAWRON first resided at 1809 South 11th Street for about one and one half years and thereafter moved to 1807 South 11th Street, his current address. During the past several years GAWRON has also been on friendly terms with JERRY "EGG" RAY, subject's brother, and is aware that JERRY has been employed at a country club in the vicinity of Chicago. JERRY RAY, particularly on occasions of annual vacations, has occasionally visited St. Louis and stops by to pay GAWRON frequent visits when he is in St. Louis. All of subject's family refer to GAWRON as "UNCLE JACK" although he actually has no family relationship with them. Although he resided as man and wife with LUCILLE RYAN she never had any children by him.

At the time of GAWRON's release from the penitentiary in 1963 CAROL was already married to ALBERT PEPPER and they later resided in the 700 block of Shenandoah Avenue on the south side of the street. They continued to reside there until a few months ago when they moved to their present residence in Maplewood, Missouri, where they are buying a house. CAROL and ALBERT PEPPER have two young sons, the oldest of which is



A few months ago GAWRON learned from CAROL PEPPER that she was going to acquire and operate a tavern on Arsenal Street in St. Louis. CAROL told GAWRON she was going to give the address 1805 South 11th Street (the same building where GAWRON resides) as her address since she must give an address in the City of St. Louis in connection with her application for a liquor license. She told GAWRON that if investigators inquired of him he should tell the investigators that she had lived there for a few years. In accordance with CAROL's instructions, GAWRON did, therefore, tell investigators when they came to see him that CAROL and ALBERT PEPPER had lived for five years at 1805 South 11th Street. GAWRON is aware

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that JOHN RAY is active in the operation of the tavern, which is known as the Grapevine Tavern, but it is GAWRON's impression and understanding that this tavern is actually CAROL's, although she is apparently at the tavern only infrequently. GAWRON himself has occasionally visited the tavern and on one or two occasions has seen CAROL there in the evening. On other occasions he has seen JOHN RAY at the tavern and JOHN appears to be managing and operating it.

GAWRON denied that he has had any contact with subject or any correspondence with him since he visited subject in the St. Louis City Jail in 1959. On two or three occasions GAWRON did go to the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City and attempted to visit subject but was not admitted to the penitentiary. On one of those occasions he went with JERRY RAY, who did visit the subject. On another occasion he went with ALBERT PEPPER, who did not try to visit the subject in the penitentiary but merely drove GAWRON to Jefferson City and the latter was denied admittance to the penitentiary to visit the subject. GAWRON believes that he may also have gone to the penitentiary on one occasion with JOHN RAY, who visited the subject; but, on this occasion as well as the other two occasions, GAWRON himself was not admitted to the penitentiary. GAWRON states he presumes that since he was not on subject's visitors list there would be no record at Jefferson City of his attempts to visit subject.

GAWRON stated that after subject's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April 1967 he was surprised that subject had not contacted him as he thought he and the subject had been very friendly and close and it hurt him that subject did not get in touch with him. GAWRON said that after the escape he inquired on one occasion of JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER as to the subject and JOHN RAY told him that subject was not in Missouri and that the subject would not come to Missouri because he might be caught because he was too well known. GAWRON stated that as far as he knows subject has not been in St. Louis since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary. When asked where he thought the subject might be he said he believed the subject might be in Europe and that his basis for this thought was that he recalled that prior to going to the penitentiary the subject had once

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remarked that he would like to go to Spain. GAWRON pointed out that on that date (May 1, 1968) there was press speculation that subject might be in Australia. He said he felt subject would not go there as it would be a trap; but, subject had served overseas in the Army, liked Spain, and if necessary from Spain would have escape outlets in Italy and France.

GAWRON knows of nothing in subject's background which would suggest a motive for his wanting to kill a Negro leader such as MARTIN LUTHER KING and he was never aware that subject had any particular difficulties with Negroes or dislike for Negroes as he had associated with a great many of them during his prison career. GAWRON said that the only possibility which he had been able to think of was that someone might have offered subject a large amount of money for killing KING but he had no person or groups of people in mind who might conceivably have done so.

Other than the comment by JOHN RAY, previously referred to, to the effect that subject was not in Missouri, GAWRON has received no definite indications from anyone in subject's family that the family have been in contact with the subject. He said that CAROL PEPPER seems to be the member of the subject's family who keeps in contact with them and keeps them together.

GAWRON stated that he has never visited CAROL since she moved to Maplewood but that about every two weeks, usually on a weekend, she and her husband drop by and visit him for a brief period. They seem to be concerned for his welfare and check to make sure he needs nothing. He stated that he feels perfectly free to ask CAROL for money and would not hesitate to ask her for \$50 but at the same time would feel obligated to repay it in the near future.

He stated that he sees JOHN occasionally when GAWRON visits the Grapevine Tavern and also has a close relationship with JOHN. He stated he would not feel obligated to repay a loan to JOHN. He regards the brother JERRY, whom

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he calls EGG, as "goofy". He said that after his release from Menard he was aware that LUCILLE's husband, JERRY RAYNES, was in the St. Louis area and now has a farm somewhere north of St. Louis in Missouri.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON was again contacted by SAs EARL E. BROWN and ALBERT J. RUSHING on May 2, 1968, at which time he furnished the following additional information:

At about 10:00 p.m. on the night of May 1, 1968, GAWRON went to the Grape Vine Tavern on Arsenal Street, St. Louis. He found that JOHN RAY was not there at that time. CLARENCE HAYNES who is employed at the Grape Vine Tavern as a "swamper" and bouncer told GAWRON that RAY was out somewhere with a girl. GAWRON engaged in conversation with HAYNES at the tavern. HAYNES told GAWRON that JERRY RAY had been there at the tavern during the day on April 30, 1968, JERRY having apparently driven to St. Louis from Chicago. On the evening of April 30, 1968, according to what HAYNES told GAWRON, JERRY was drinking heavily at the Grape Vine Tavern and got drunk as a result of which after the tavern was closed in the early morning hours of May 1, HAYNES had to help JOHN RAY carry JERRY outside and JOHN then drove JERRY to JOHN's residence.

From what HAYNES told GAWRON the latter understood that JERRY then left St. Louis on the morning of May 1, 1968, to return to the Chicago area.

While GAWRON was still at the Grape Vine Tavern on the night of May 1, 1968, JOHN RAY returned to the tavern about midnight with a young girl referred to by GAWRON as a "chippie." JOHN and this girl sat down at a table in the tavern with GAWRON, HAYNES and a couple of other girls who were present in the tavern. There was no opportunity for JOHN RAY and GAWRON to converse privately and JOHN made no mention about JERRY RAY having been in St. Louis. After the tavern was closed on the night of May 1, 1968, JOHN RAY took GAWRON home in JOHN's car but again there was no opportunity for private conversation inasmuch as HAYNES and HAYNES' wife, RUBY, (who serves as a part time bar maid at the Grape Vine Tavern) a fellow named JAY (last name unknown)

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and a girl who was with JAY were all in the car and JOHN, after taking GAWRON home was going to drive HAYNES and his, HAYNES, wife home also. GAWRON understands that HAYNES and his wife, RUBY, live somewhere on the north side of St. Louis possibly around 18th Street and St. Louis Avenue.

GAWRON said he did not ascertain any reason why JERRY RAY had come to St. Louis from Chicago but that he felt it must be "something special" particularly since JERRY RAY had not looked up GAWRON or come by to see him. GAWRON indicated he felt hurt because JERRY RAY had not looked him up and he could not understand this unusual procedure and therefore, felt that JERRY RAY's presence in St. Louis was "something special". He could not suggest any specific reason however, as to why JERRY RAY had come to St. Louis.

At the time of making contact with GAWRON at his residence on this occasion of May 2, 1968, interviewing agents observed that outside his residence, in addition to his own mailbox, there is a mailbox of JOHN RAY. Inquiry was made of GAWRON in this regard. He explained that JOHN RAY has been receiving mail at GAWRON's residence for approximately one year although RAY has not been residing there. GAWRON understood that this was because JOHN RAY has been moving around a great deal occupying rooms at various addresses, none of which were known to GAWRON. GAWRON does not know where JOHN RAY has a room at the present time but has an impression it is somewhere near the Grape Vine Tavern. Prior to about a year ago when JOHN RAY started receiving mail at GAWRON's residence, JOHN was running a rooming house at an address on California Avenue and GAWRON assumes that JOHN RAY during that time receiving his mail at his own residence. GAWRON has observed that the mail he has received for JOHN RAY has only been mail of a business nature and none of it has apparently been mail of a personal nature. GAWRON feels sure from his observation of mail received there for JOHN RAY, that none of it could possibly have been from the subject. At the time of this contact with GAWRON on May 2, 1968, he exhibited a piece of mail re-

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cently received there for JOHN RAY consisting of a bank statement from the Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company.

GAWRON denied that he had at this time told anyone, including JOHN RAY, that he, GAWRON, had been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this investigation. He stated, however, that on the night of May 1, 1968, while at the Grape Vine Tavern he did have one very brief opportunity to exchange a private word with JOHN RAY at which time JOHN told him that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had contacted JOHN and arranged to see JOHN on the following day, May 2, 1968.

Information was received from Kansas City by teletype to the effect that while at the Missouri State Penitentiary the subject had sent a small sum of money to the PEPPER Stationery Company, 712 Shenandoah Avenue. GAWRON was questioned as to whether ALBERT PEPPER ever was employed by or ran a stationery company, and he stated PEPPER did not. GAWRON was questioned as to his knowledge as to whether subject ever trafficked in drugs or barbiturates while at the State Penitentiary and he stated that the subject did and it was his understanding the subject also had a loan shark business there. JOHN GAWRON was questioned as to how subject got the money he earned out of the penitentiary and he stated he did not know. He denied that any of the RAY relatives who visited the penitentiary were given money by RAY on the occasion of the visits pointing out that the visitors were always closely guarded and if they were caught receiving anything from the subject not only would their visitors privileges have been revoked but they could be prosecuted. When asked how he knew RAY had a drug racket going he stated that on three different occasions he made purchases of inhalers which are used for colds at subject's request. He stated that these requests would have been sent by the subject to CAROL PEPPER who in turn would relay the request to GAWRON. He stated that on each of these occasions, he purchased a gross of these inhalers (probably benzedrine) and thereafter, on the three separate occasions he would be contacted by a guard from the prison at Jefferson City who would pick up the inhalers and

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take them back to RAY at the prison. The guard once remarked to GAWRON that each trip was worth a "C note" to the guard.

GAWRON reiterated his previous assertions to the effect that on the basis of his conversations with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER he was convinced that subject had not come to St. Louis at any time after the subject's escape. He reiterated also that he had brought the matter of the subject's possible whereabouts up with JOHN and CAROL on only one occasion and they had remarked to the effect that he was not in Missouri. Later, however, during the same interview on May 2, 1968, GAWRON said that he now remembered additional conversations he had with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER in this regard. GAWRON thereupon furnished the following information:

On June 2, 1967, GAWRON was arrested in St. Louis by the St. Louis Police Department on a burglary charge. Following his arrest he remained in the St. Louis City Jail until about June 23 or 24, 1967, when he was released on a \$2500 bond which was signed for by Father ZIMMERMAN, the director of Dismas House (a halfway house for ex-convicts in St. Louis). At a later date in October, 1967, GAWRON was sentenced to a term of six months on probation on this burglary charge in the Court of Judge BUDER in St. Louis.

After GAWRON's release from the St. Louis City Jail under bond on June 23 or 24, 1967, he was at the residence of ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER on Shenandoah Avenue, and it was at that time in a conversation with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER that JOHN RAY made the comments previously referred to to the effect that the subject was not in Missouri and would not come to Missouri because he was well known in Missouri and might be caught.

On another occasion, a few days or possibly a week or so later, GAWRON was again talking with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER at the PEPPER residence and he again inquired of them about the subject. At that time JOHN RAY told GAWRON that the subject was in Omaha and that he was doing

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well and making good money. GAWRON believes he recalls that JOHN RAY also made some mention of the fact that subject was working as some sort of a salesman but GAWRON said he is uncertain in his recollection regarding that specific mention.

On a third occasion which was at least a few days and possibly a week or so later, GAWRON again had a conversation with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER at the PEPPER residence. GAWRON recalls that on this occasion ALBERT PEPPER was also present at the residence but was in the kitchen eating his supper and was not in the same room where JOHN, CAROL and GAWRON were talking. On this occasion GAWRON again asked about the subject at which time JOHN RAY told him that the subject was now in Los Angeles. According to GAWRON there was no additional information whatever furnished him by either JOHN RAY or CAROL PEPPER on this occasion to explain the subject's presence in Los Angeles or what he was doing there.

GAWRON disclaimed any knowledge on his part as to how JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER would have come into possession of the information which was furnished GAWRON on the occasions described above. He said he did not know whether they had been in direct communication with the subject and did not know whether the subject might have communicated with them or anyone else by mail, telephone or otherwise.

Inquiry was made of GAWRON as to why he had not earlier furnished the information indicating the subject's presence in Omaha and Los Angeles. He said that in view of his age his memory is not always too good and things come back to him slowly sometimes after he has thought about them. He said that this information has just now come back to his memory and he denied that he had remembered this information earlier but had withheld it.

GAWRON stated that he would endeavor to make contact with JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER during the following days and during the weekend of May 4, 1968, and he suggested that

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the interviewing agents should recontact him on Monday, May 6, 1968, for any additional information he might be able to obtain from JOHN RAY and CAROL PEPPER.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
EARL E. BROWN and HARRY C. JUNG at St. Louis, Missouri:

On the morning of May 4, 1968, JACK GAWRON was located at his apartment at 1805 South 11th and driven to Tower Grove Park where he furnished the following information:

On Thursday, May 2, 1968, ALBERT and CAROL PEPPER together with their two children stopped by his apartment sometime around 8:00 p.m. They stayed for only about a half-hour. During their visit he showed them the "Life" magazine containing the article on the subject. CAROL stated that she had already read it and CAROL appeared to be very angry at the article and all reporters. She did not express any resentment against her brother, JERRY RAY, who was quoted so extensively in that article. GAWRON said that he did not ask any questions concerning subject's whereabouts and that no information in this respect was obtained by him during the course of this visit.

GAWRON said that on the morning of Friday, May 3, 1968, he obtained the first edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch which contained an article indicating that JERRY RAY had been so pestered by newspaper reporters he had given up his job at the country club and had disappeared.

He said that on the afternoon of May 3, 1968, he took a bus to the Grapevine Tavern to talk to subject's brother, JOHN RAY. GAWRON arrived at the tavern at about 4:00 p.m. and JOHN RAY was not there but shortly thereafter drove up in his car. GAWRON left the tavern and joined JOHN RAY in JOHN's car and observed that JOHN had in the car the "Life" magazine and the Post-Dispatch which reported JERRY's disappearance. GAWRON said he told JOHN RAY he had made the trip to make sure JOHN had seen the "Life" magazine and Post-Dispatch articles and commented to JOHN that he or CAROL could expect a visit from JERRY now that JERRY has disappeared. JOHN RAY said he thought JERRY would not come to St. Louis but would be in Tennessee. No further statements were made by JOHN RAY according to JACK GAWRON of interest and at about 5:00 p.m. JOHN RAY drove GAWRON to GAWRON's apartment as RAY

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was due to pick up a barmaid at 5:00 p.m. Prior to dropping him off JOHN RAY and GAWRON stopped at Union Station to get copies of the Chicago Tribune to see if there was any further information about the subject and JERRY RAY in the Chicago Tribune.

GAWRON explained that although JOHN RAY did not elaborate GAWRON knew what JOHN RAY meant when he said JERRY would be in Tennessee. According to GAWRON, JERRY RAY married a girl from the vicinity of Arlington Heights, Illinois, by whom he had at least one child. They were divorced and JOHN RAY later re-married but lived with his second wife only a short time. GAWRON never met JERRY RAY's first wife and does not know her name but understands that she and JERRY's child now live with her parents on a farm somewhere in the vicinity of Nashville, Tennessee, and according to GAWRON, JOHN RAY meant that JERRY RAY, after his disappearance, would be staying for a few days at least with his first wife.

GAWRON said after seeing JOHN on Friday, May 3, 1968, he attempted to call CAROL PEPPER to inquire if she had seen the story about JERRY's disappearance and was told that CAROL's telephone number had been changed and he was unable to get the new number from the operator.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON was recontacted on May 6, 1968, by SAs ALBERT J. RUSHING and EARL E. BROWN and stated he had furnished wrong information as to JERRY RAY's whereabouts when contacted on May 4, 1968, by SAs HARRY C. JUNG and EARL E. BROWN. He stated that JOHN RAY had told him JERRY probably would go to the vicinity of Nashville, Tennessee, but he learned later on Saturday, May 4, 1968, that JERRY RAY was in St. Louis. He said that on Saturday afternoon, May 4, 1968, CAROL PEPPER, her husband, and two children stopped at his house around four or five in the afternoon. They stayed for about a half hour. CAROL gave GAWRON her new telephone number but GAWRON could not locate it. He said he did not ask CAROL anything about subject's whereabouts, and learned of nothing of interest to this investigation. Later Saturday night GAWRON went to the Grape Vine Tavern and learned from JOHN RAY that JERRY was in St. Louis and had been at the tavern to visit JOHN. JOHN said JERRY was staying at a hotel downtown and had gone there to get some sleep. GAWRON said JOHN did not tell him what hotel JERRY was staying at nor how long he would stay.

GAWRON said that on the morning of May 6, 1968, he reported to his probation officer on Big Bend Boulevard at which time he was finally discharged from parole (being served by transfer from the State of Illinois) thereafter, he went to CAROL PEPPER's house. She was there with her youngest child and he learned that she is not teaching as he had thought and has not been employed since she moved to Bellevue Avenue.

GAWRON learned from CAROL PEPPER she was aware of JERRY RAY being in the St. Louis area and CAROL commented to GAWRON that JERRY was now visiting at their father's farm. GAWRON also believed CAROL mentioned to him that JERRY RAY had stayed over night at the father's farm but GAWRON was uncertain as to whether she was referring to the night of May 4, 1968, or the night of Sunday, May 5, 1968. GAWRON stated that he did not learn from CAROL the reason for JERRY's

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having come to the St. Louis area. He also did not ascertain in this visit with CAROL any further information indicating whether or not CAROL knew anything regarding the subject.

GAWRON was asked as to whether he told JOHN RAY or CAROL PEPPER about his having been interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and said that he had. He said that he did not give them the names of the agents who had contacted him and from the conversation he had with them they concluded that different agents were contacting the PEPPERS, JOHN RAY and GAWRON. He said he left them with the idea that he had talked very little with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and had furnished them no information of value. He said he did not feel that his having revealed to CAROL PEPPER and JOHN RAY the fact that he had been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation would cause them to mistrust him and withhold from him any pertinent information concerning the subject. He said that he has no immediate plans to recontact either JOHN or CAROL as he does not wish to arouse their suspicion by too frequent contact.

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RE: INFORMANT CHECKS

The various confidential informants and sources, some of whom are familiar with some phases of criminal activities, others of whom are familiar with some phases of subversive activities, others of whom are familiar with some phases of hate groups, and others who are familiar with some aspects of racial conditions, within the territory covered by the St. Louis Division, advised between April 5 and 9, 1968, that no information has come to their attention concerning the identity of the killer of KING, or regarding any plans on the part of any individual or group known to them to cause KING's death.

Between April 18 and 22, 1968, they advised persons named ERIC STARVO GALT or KARL GALT were unknown to them.

Between April 22 and 24, 1968, they advised they had no knowledge or information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

They have been alerted to immediately report any information coming to their attention regarding this case and are being contacted on a continuing bases.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

LOOK-ALIKES

The last section instant report concerns investigations of persons bearing physical resemblance to subject originating in other divisions and resolved by St. Louis or originating in St. Louis and referred to other divisions for resolution. They are included to enable the Bureau and office of origin to connect and correlate with investigation conducted by other divisions concerning the same individual.

The results of St. Louis investigation in regard to look-alikes which both originated and were resolved in St. Louis, are not included in this report and unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau, will not be included in future reports as to do so would impose an unnecessary burden on Bureau and Memphis indices in regard to matters which actually have no pertinence to instant investigation. Memoranda concerning the origination of such investigations, investigation conducted and the resolutions thereof, appear in the St. Louis file and are indexed.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

FAMILY COVERAGE

Neighborhood sources have been developed regarding JERRY RAYNES, father, Center, Missouri, CAROL PEPPER, sister, 2025 Belleview, Maplewood, Missouri, and JOHN LARRY RAY, brother, both of his residence, 1900a Cherokee, and that his business, the Grape Vine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal, all St. Louis, Missouri, and spot checks of these locations are periodically made to determine movements and contacts of these relatives.

Neighborhood sources have been developed concerning WALTER E. NOLAN, ex-convict, former close associate of RAY in prison, and JAMES DAVID DAILEY, alleged harborer.

The St. Louis Telephone Company has been requested to furnish toll call information from phones utilized by these individuals on a continuing basis. Records in most instances are not maintained longer than six months.

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

Report of: SA HAROLD R. DOBSON
Date: May 10, 1968

Office: ST. LOUIS

Field Office File #: SL 44-775

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY,
IDENTIFICATION ORDER 4182; WANTED FLYER 442-A;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: Destination of Browning .243 caliber rifle #4744Z5 was Aeromarine Supply Co., Birmingham, Ala. HARVEY LOWMYER checks and Memphis motel checks unproductive. Army record for JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, Atlanta rooming house, set out. Checks for ERIC STARVO GALT, KARL GALT, and JEROME WALLIS VERNON, and investigation to locate unproductive. Address 2515 Lafayette non-existent. Unknown to St. Louis GALT family. Army and Air Force records for JEROME WALLIS VERNON set out. JAMES EARL RAY attended school as JIMMIE RAYNS, Ewing, Mo., 1935-1943. Employed International Shoe Co., Wood River, Ill., 1944-1945. Enlisted U. S. Army, 1946, SN [REDACTED]. General discharge, 12/23/48. Foreign duty stations set out. Filed VA claim for educational allowance, 1949. Arrested Hannibal, Mo., uttering forged money orders, 3/23/55. Conditional release, 4/5/58. Learned baker's trade, Leavenworth. Employed one day, 1958, as cook. Unable to determine any other employment. Unknown at St. Louis Gaslight bar. Unknown to St. Louis Mexico vacationers, 10/67. Various checks to locate unproductive. WALTER ELLSWORTH NOLAN, close associate MSP, alleged escape 30 days earlier than listed and that RAY regards convicts as potential stool pigeons and would not contact. Other fellow prisoners deny contact after escape or knowledge of present whereabouts. Allegation received JAMES DAVID DAILEY harbored after escape and may be harboring on farm in Missouri boot heel. DAILEY harbored another escapee but denied knowing RAY. Investigation thus far has failed to connect DAILEY with RAY or locate land owned or controlled by DAILEY. RAY's father, JERRY RAYNES, located Center, Mo. Mother died 1961; brother, FRANKLIN, 1963. Sister, CAROL PEPPER, resides 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Mo.; brother, JOHN LARRY RAY, 1900a Cherokee, St. Louis. Brother, JERRY RAY, Chicago, has visited

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St. Louis relatives since case began. Above living relatives have denied knowledge or information of whereabouts or contacts since escape. CAROL PEPPER currently uncooperative. She and JOHN engaged in ownership and operation, respectively, of Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal, St. Louis, Mo., since mid-December, 1967, in violation of state liquor control requirements as JOHN is convicted felon. Previous threats to KING by DELANO ELMER WALKER and BENNY K. PINKSTON resolved. IN VIEW OF THE CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT IS BEING SOUGHT HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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