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She advised that she has been in frequent contact with JAMES GERALD RAY since their separation in 1963 and that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the daughter of JAMES GERALD RAY also lives in Quincy and she occasionally is in contact with MELBA. She advised however that she has not been in contact with MELBA since Christmas, 1967 until 4/19/68 when MELBA called her to talk to her concerning JAMES EARL RAY and RAY being charged concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised also on that date she had telephonically contacted JAMES GERALD RAY and at that time the father had stated that he hoped his son, JAMES EARL RAY was caught as soon as possible so that this thing would end. She advised that she is certain that JAMES GERALD RAY does not know of the whereabouts of his son JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that at the present time, JAMES GERALD RAY was using the name of GERRY RAYNES.

She advised that of the entire RAY family, she considers JACK RAY or JACK RINE to be closer to JAMES EARL RAY than any of the remainder of the family. She stated that the only time that JAMES EARL RAY ever lived with JAMES GERALD RAY and herself was sometime around 1959 when he worked as a baker in St. Louis. She stated that during this period of time, he also resided with his mother and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. She advised that during this period of time, she and JAMES GERALD RAY were living on 1727 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

She advised that JAMES EARL RAY is supposed to have learned the trade of a baker in prison and that he worked at one of the bakeries in St. Louis around 1959. She had no idea as to the name of the bakery or the exact location. She stated that he also had his own apartment while in St. Louis as well as living with both his mother and his father. She stated that she had not seen him since he went to prison around 1960 and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since she and the subject's father moved to Clarence, Missouri on 8/1/61.

She advised that the subject's father JAMES GERALD RAY was an excellent car salesman and did quite well as a car salesman for a used car lot in St. Louis. Since 1961, however, he has worked on a farm, first, the one

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owned by her at Clarence, Missouri and afterwards on a farm at Center, Missouri.

She advised that he has never married and she does not know of any close girlfriends of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that she did not know of the identity of any girlfriends.

RUBY CARPENTER stated that she is certain that JAMES EARL RAY does not know of her present whereabouts. She stated that she is presently employed babysitting and doing housework for various individuals in Quincy and that in the event she learns something concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts, she will immediately notify the FBI.

The Harboring Statute was explained by SA DAVIS to RUBY CARPENTER.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 1, 1968, GARY SHELTON, 404 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, age 16, advised that RUBY CARPENTER is employed at his home as a babysitter and housekeeper during the daytime for the nine SHELTON minor children. After viewing a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, SHELTON advised that this individual had never been to his house to his knowledge and he has never heard RUBY CARPENTER mention JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he would immediately notify SA DAVIS of any information coming to his attention concerning any visitors to the home of RUBY CARPENTER and concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 3, 1968, RUBY CARPENTER, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was re-interviewed at her home and furnished the following information:

She has had no contact with anyone who has any information concerning the whereabouts or activities of JAMES EARL RAY since last being contacted by the FBI.

She advised that definitely JAMES EARL RAY had lived with RUBY CARPENTER and her former husband, JAMES GERALD RAYNES who was commonly known as JERRY RAYNES or JERRY RAYNS in St. Louis, Missouri, sometime around 1959 or 1960. Also, during this period of time, JAMES EARL RAY had resided with his mother, LUCILE RYAN and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER, in St. Louis. This was shortly before he was sent to prison to the Missouri State Penitentiary in either 1959 or 1960.

Sometime during the period of time while JAMES EARL RAY was in St. Louis, Missouri, around 1959 or 1960 he definitely made a trip to Mexico. She had no idea as to the location of the town in Mexico that he visited; however, she remembered hearing him speak of his trip into Mexico.

She advised that on the previous day, May 2, 1968, Mrs. FRANK FULLER, 601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, had visited in RUBY CARPENTER's home. Mrs. MABEL FULLER, at that time, had advised that she had heard nothing concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts and she stated that Mrs. FULLER did not know anything concerning the activities of RAY. She stated that Mrs. FULLER has always been very defensive concerning her relatives and that Mrs. FULLER stated that she did not believe her nephew, JAMES EARL RAY, committed any crime or was involved in any way in the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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RUBY CARPENTER advised that she had not recently talked to MELBA MARIE RYAN but that when last contacted by MELBA RYAN approximately one week before, MELBA had no information concerning the activities of JAMES EARL RAY, and had no information concerning his whereabouts. RUBY CARPENTER stated she doubted very much that JAMES EARL RAY would ever contact MELBA RYAN.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that she felt that her former husband, JERRY RAYNES, has had his phone disconnected inasmuch as she had tried several times during the past few days to call JERRY RAYNES at Center, Missouri. She stated that he has been "very jumpy" concerning JAMES EARL RAY and that she feels this is the reason that RAYNES had his phone disconnected. She stated that she is tempted to call RAYNES and was told that the phone was disconnected; however, she stated that a telephone strike was in existence and the possibility was that the calls did not go through.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she had no idea as to the present whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY's brother JERRY RAY or JERRY RYAN who is supposed to have disappeared from the Chicago area. She advised that sometime around April 25, 1968, JERRY RAY had called her from Chicago, Illinois, and asked her to speak to a Life magazine reporter. At that time, JERRY RAY had indicated that he wished his brother would surrender to the FBI.

She advised that she has not been contacted by CAROL PEPPER in any way and has no idea as to CAROL's present address. She also stated she had no information concerning the present whereabouts or address of JAMES EARL RAY's sister SUSAN; however, she did think SUSAN was in Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she personally has very few visitors and every Monday through Friday she leaves her home at approximately 6:30 a.m. and walks to 404 Oak Street • in Quincy, Illinois, where she is employed by the Child Welfare Department of the State of Illinois, as a babysitter and housekeeper in the daytime for the HOMER SHELTON family. She advised

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that HOMER SHELTON has nine minor children and that HOMER SHELTON's wife died in March, 1968, and she has been employed as a housekeeper for him since that time. She usually returns home in the afternoon sometime between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. after HOMER SHELTON returns home from work. She stated that HOMER SHELTON is employed at Moorman's Manufacturing Company.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that she did not feel that JAMES EARL RAY would have any information as to her present location. She again expressed the desire to aid the FBI in the apprehension of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that she would furnish any information that came to her attention concerning RAY's whereabouts or activities.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that her son JEROME CARPENTER is still in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, for the crime of murder and she does not feel that he would have any information concerning the whereabouts of activities of JAMES EARL RAY.

On May 3, 1968, HOMER SHELTON, 404 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and advised that RUBY CARPENTER is employed on a daily basis as a babysitter and housekeeper for his children at that address while he is working. SHELTON advised that he has nine minor children and three are not in school and that his wife died in March, 1968. He stated he has no information concerning any visitors who may have visited RUBY CARPENTER during the daytime at his home. He stated that she has never mentioned JAMES EARL RAY to him and after viewing photographs of RAY, advised that RAY has never been to his home and that he has never seen JAMES EARL RAY. SHELTON advised that he would notify the FBI of any information he learns concerning anyone contacting RUBY CARPENTER or any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

On May 1, 1968, Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, advised that he resides at 606 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois. He advised that RUBY CARPENTER who resides at 630 North Sixth Street is a neighbor of Sergeant HANSON. HANSON advised that he would notify the FBI of any visitors to or from the CARPENTER residence. Sergeant HANSON advised that Miss CARPENTER does not have many visitors and only goes to and from work each day after which time she seems to reside at her home by herself and she has very little contact with her neighbors.

On May 10, 1968 and May 13, 1968, Sergeant HANSON advised that he has not observed any visitors to the RUBY CARPENTER home since last being contacted by SA DAVIS.

Spot surveillances on a daily basis were conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER at the residence of 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, for the period of May 1, 1968 through May 10, 1968. During this period of time, no visitors were observed entering or leaving the RUBY CARPENTER home at that address.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 23, 1968

RUBY SMITH CARPENTER was reinterviewed at her home, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, after she telephonically contacted SA DAVIS and requested to be reinterviewed by him.

Mrs. CARPENTER furnished to SA DAVIS the following written statement which she stated she had written to give as exact account as possible of her knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY. The statement was on both sides of a white piece of paper and read as follows.

"Mr. Elyon Davis - Since you were here the last time I have thought of some things I would like to make clear, things I did not think of at first. First I know nothing of the whereabouts of James Earl Ray. I have seen him perhaps 6 times, the last in 1958 I believe. 2nd I know nothing about any unlawful acts of any of the Ray, Rayns, Ryan family. The only one of the family I have been closely associated with is the father, James Gerald Ray, who was my husband for about 3 years. We were divorced the 9th of December 1963. 3rd I have always lived an honest and lawabiding life. I have worked hard and supported myself entirely for 16 years and have helped others a great deal besides. Everything I have or ever had has been from honest and respectful work. No one has ever given me anything except my father, who left me some money at his death. 4th I would not accept anything obtained dishonestly if it were offered to me, which was not.

"I have seen many errors printed about the family. The headlines of the Herald Whig stating Ray's father has long local criminal record. An article in Chicago Daily News by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson stating the children were adopted by various persons. None of the children were adopted [REDACTED] They also stated James Earl Ray was the product of a broken home. How could he be when he was 24 years old when the father left the home, and had been living away from home several years prior.

On 5/20/68 at Quincy, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA ELYON H. DAVIS /smr Date dictated 5/22/68

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.

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"This statement is written by me and is true and sincere.

"/s/ Ruby Smith Carpenter

"May 15, 1968"

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that her former husband, JAMES GERALD RAY, is still residing in Center, Missouri, under the name of JERRY RAYNS, and that he had his phone changed to an unlisted phone in order that he would not be bothered by crank calls. She stated that she is in contact occasionally with MELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of JAMES EARL RAY, and with Mrs. FRANK FULLER, the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that all members of the family tell her that they have no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts and will cooperate in the location of RAY.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she could not furnish any further information other than that previously furnished to the FBI.

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H. EARL EVERETT RAY

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On April 22, 1968, BILL KAUFMAN, Illinois State Board of Probation and Parole, advised of the following re captioned individual subject's uncle:

EARL RAY, also known as Earl Everett Ray, James Ryan, James Mc Carthy, James Patrick Clancy, Joe Roe, White, male, date of birth, [redacted], place of birth, Quincy, Illinois, and as of 1949, 5' 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in height, 178 pounds, dark gray hair, light blue eyes, wife - AUDREY, divorced 1950, last known address, 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, criminal record dateing back to 1916, Menard, Illinois State Prison Numbers 6588 and 21025. Incarcerated at Menard 1925 to 1933 (assault to kill) and 1948 to 1955 (assault to mayhem - threw acid in wife's face), no FBI number available.

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On 4/22/68 Chief RAY WELSH, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, made available the records of the Quincy Police Department of EARL EVERETT RAY.

The files showed that EARL EVERETT RAY is holder of Peoria, Illinois PD #14439 and that on 8/23/43 EARL RAY, 1401 Cherry Street, was arrested for throwing acid in the face of his wife, Mrs. EARL RAY. This case was later closed and no prosecution was involved.

The file showed that EARL RAY was 43 years of age in 1943. On 8/25/47 EARL RAY was wanted by the Quincy PD on an assault to kill charge. This apparently also involved his wife. On 9/10/48 the files contain information that EARL RAY and his wife were involved in a fight and that her sister, DORIS, was a witness. At that time Mrs. RAY moved to 1403 Cherry Street and her sister was DORIS GODMAN, 645 College Street.

On 7/24/55 EARL RAY was arrested for the assault of YVONNE MC GINBERG, 415 York Street, Quincy, Illinois.

On 8/59 EARL RAY was arrested for assault and battery and the victims were AUDREY RAY, wife, and LEONA FERGUSON. This occurred at 1403 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, after he had hit AUDREY RAY in the mouth and LEONA FERGUSON in the stomach. At that time EARL RAY was living at 1415 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.

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AT GALESBURG, ILLINOIS:

On April 26, 1968, Mr. C. D. IREY, Special Agent, C B & Q Railroad, stated that a review of the employment files listed a file on EARL EVERETT RAY, subject's uncle, 164 South Academy Street, Galesburg, Illinois. He showed a previous address of 128 North 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois and listed LOUISA RAY as his Mother. The file indicated that he worked for the railroad for the period November 4, 1944, to November 17, 1944, 13 days. He listed former employment of April, 1934 to June, 1944 with Sunset Amusement Company, Excelsior Springs, Missouri and C B & Q Railroad, Omaha, Nebraska, and W. A. COLE, a fellow employee, does not recall RAY.

Name checks at the Galesburg, Police Department, Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Credit Bureau failed to develop any information. The former residence area of 164 South Academy is now a cemetery.

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I. WILLIAM and MILDRED MAHER

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WILLIAM E. MAHER, Uncle of JAMES EARL RAY, was located at 712 Brown Street, Alton, Illinois April 22, 1968. He stated prior to RAY's entry into the Army, he worked at a shoe tannery, Hartford, Illinois, where he became associated with individual who had pro-Nazi leanings and RAY became anti-Negro and anti-Jewish as a result. In military service, RAY was in Germany where opinion crystalized.

MAHER stated he last saw RAY 10 or 12 years ago and to his knowledge, RAY has not been in Alton since 1959 when he was involved in an armed robbery. He stated he could suggest no one in the Alton area acquainted with RAY or to whom RAY might turn for help.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

WILLIAM and MILDRED MAHER, 712 Brown Street, Alton, Illinois advised they are the uncle and aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. They have advised that RAY has not been in contact with them for 10 or 12 years; that they do not believe he will contact them since they had a falling out when they last were together and that if RAY does contact them, or they think or anything that might be pertinent regarding him, they would get in touch with the FBI promptly.

With regard to other relatives of RAY, Mr. and Mrs. MAHER advised as follows:

Mrs. MARY MAHER,  
Grandmother,  
deceased

LUCILLE RYAN,  
Mother  
Deceased.

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA FRANK E. CORN, SR. and SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

AT ALTON, ILLINOIS:

From May 2, through May 14, 1968, physical surveillance of the residence of WILLIAM MAHER, 712 Brown Street, was instituted on a daily basis at varying times of the day and evening hours.

No unusual activity was noted during these surveillances.



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J. Mrs. FRANK (MABLE) FULLER

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On April 20, 1968, Mrs. MABLE FULLER, nee Ray, Paternal Aunt of Subject, Quinty, Illinois, stated very little contact with any member of family. No information regarding subject's whereabouts of or background. She last heard that SUSAN, subject's sister, in Chicago and married. Uncle, WILLIAM MAHER, an advertising service man and paint contractor as of 1960, believed either deceased or in San Francisco, California. WILLIAM MAHER, was born [REDACTED] and has FBI # 768642.

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The following individuals in Quincy, Illinois, were recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS on the dates indicated by each name, at which time they could not furnish any information not already furnished concerning this matter:

WALTER TERRY RIFE  
Virginia Hotel  
April 30, 1968

SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER  
Virginia Hotel  
April 25, 1968 and  
April 30, 1968

ART CONNORS  
Virginia Hotel  
April 30, 1968

EARL JACK HILAND  
Sky Ride Inn Tavern  
April 30, 1968

On April 26, 1968, MARGARET ROTH, Assistant Manager, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., 226 North 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised SA ELYON H. DAVIS that FRANK FULLER and wife, MABEL RAY FULLER, resided at 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, as of April 1, 1967. This was the last entry in the file. In 1958, FRANK FULLER was working for Heck Vending Machine Company, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed he was 68 years of age in 1967 and either retired or unemployed. The Credit Bureau did not contain any information as to relatives and the credit of the FULLER family was good.

MABEL RAY FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, was reinterviewed on April 26, 1968, by SA's ELYON H. DAVIS and FRANK J. HABERSHAW.

Mrs. FULLER furnished the following information:

She has received no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY since last being interviewed by the FBI. She has not seen RAY since 1955 when her mother, the grandmother of

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JAMES EARL RAY, died. He apparently arrived at the funeral services by himself and left by himself.

She advised that she is the sister of JAMES GERALD RAY, the father of JAMES EARL RAY. She has not seen JAMES GERALD RAY for a number of years and has not had any close contact with her brother JAMES GERALD RAY.

She stated that JAMES EARL RAY served in the United States Army in Germany, near the end of World War II, or after the war and this is the only overseas travel concerning RAY of which she has any knowledge. She stated that she did not consider herself to be the favorite aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that before he entered the service in the middle 1940's, he had lived with the grandmother named MAHER, in Alton, Illinois, and apparently he had worked for some "leather making outfit" in Alton.

Mrs. FULLER advised that all of the children of the RAY family were apparently put out for adoption some time around 1952 and that she personally did not know there had been a RAY child by the name of [REDACTED].

She advised that until the FBI contacted her concerning JAMES EARL RAY, she did not even know that his mother LUCILLE was dead.

She advised that while JAMES EARL RAY was in prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, she had sent him mail on a number of occasions and had on occasion sent him small quantities of money. She stated that he had sent her two or three Christmas cards and this was the only contact she had with him.

Mrs. FULLER advised that apparently she had not been on JAMES EARL RAY's mailing list while in the penitentiary and he had smuggled out through other visitors and inmates Christmas cards to her on two or three occasions. These in turn were mailed to her.

She advised that on each one of these cards, he had signed them "JIMMY".

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She advised that EARL RAY was her brother and that he had died in Buffalo, New York, a number of years ago. She stated that JAMES EARL RAY probably had no knowledge of the death of EARL RAY or the whereabouts of EARL RAY at the time of death.

Mrs. FULLER advised that she and her husband are retired and spend almost all of their time at home. She stated they have very few visitors and she has practically no contact with other members of the RAY family.

She advised that she would cooperate with the FBI in this matter and furnish any information that comes to her attention.

FRANK FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he is the husband of MABEL RAY FULLER and that she is the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he has no contact with members of the RAY family and he had no information concerning the whereabouts, activities or associates of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he will furnish any information concerning any member of this family to the FBI.

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

ELMER BECKMAN, 2505 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the FRANK FULLER family resides at 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois and that the family solely consists of FRANK FULLER and his wife MABEL FULLER. BECKMAN advised that he, after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, had never seen this individual at the FULLER's house and he would immediately advise the FBI of any information concerning the activities of the FRANK FULLER family. He advised that FRANK FULLER is retired and that he and his wife spend almost all of their time at their own home. Occasionally, FRANK FULLER might work at a tavern in Quincy, Illinois, if a bartender could not be found a tavern on some given date.

ELMER BECKMAN was contacted concerning the activities at the FRANK FULLER house on May 1, 1968, May 6, 1968, and May 9, 1968, and on each occasion, BECKMAN advised that there had been no visitors to the FULLER house during that period of time.

Surveillances were conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER on the residence at 2601 Chestnut Street on a spot basis daily from May 1, 1968 to May 10, 1968. In this period of time, no activity was observed at the FULLER home and no visitors were observed at the FULLER home.

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IV. ASSOCIATES OF JAMES EARL RAY

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A. WALTER TERRY RIFE

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA LARRY W. GREEN:

The following correspondents were shown in WALTER  
T. RIFE's correspondence file #31326 at Menard Prison,  
Menard, Illinois:

Frequent letters to his wife, JAN RIFE, 1508  
North Autumn, Peoria, Illinois; )prostitute)

Mother-in-law, Mrs. FRANK (JULIA) OWEN, 1508  
North Autumn Lane, Peoria, Illinois;

Other Miscellaneous Correspondence:

U.S. Disciplinary Barrack  
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas;

GEORGE GINOS  
Hillsboro, Illinois, June 19, 1964;

LEON SUTHERLAND,  
First National Bank Building,  
Peoria, Illinois,  
July 7, 1964;

HAROLD MASON,  
527 South Adams,  
Peoria, Illinois,  
July 13, 1965

Peoria County Bar Association,  
Box 209,  
Peoria, Illinois,  
July 17, 1964;

CECIL MC CRACKEN,  
Greenville, Illinois  
Circuit Court Clerk,  
December 10, 1964;

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Bond County State's Attorney  
December 15, 1964;

JAMES BAILEY (rejob);  
Pekin, Illinois  
RR 2,  
November 3, 1965;

JOHN F. GRADY,  
9 North County Street,  
Waukegan, Illinois  
April 25, 1966;

LAST ADDRESS: (May 19, 1966) paroled to FRANK OWENS,  
1508 Peoria  
(assumed 1508 North Autumn)

PREVIOUS INCARCERATION: Joliet Prison  
April 16, 1959,  
No. 22-674

BROTHER: FRED RIFE,  
Lanark, Illinois;

SISTER: BETTY VOSS  
227 Truman  
Lanark, Illinois;

FRIEND: LINDA NIEDERS  
General Delivery  
Christopher, Illinois;

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The following agencies at Harrisburg, Illinois, were checked with negative results concerning possible location of MONAN LEE CRAWFORD and DARLENE CRAWFORD, sister and niece, respectively, of WALTER TERRY RIFE (associate of subject JAMES EARL RAY).

Postmaster  
BILL MELTON,  
Harrisburg, Illinois;

Sheriff CLIFTON JONES  
Saline County Sheriff's Office;

Officer PAT ATKINSON,  
Harrisburg, Illinois, Police Department;

ROY LANE,  
Former trooper,  
Illinois State Police;

RAY JOHNSON,  
Operator  
Little Ray's Bar-B-Que  
Route 45;

VERNA STINSON  
Saline County Credit Bureau

It is to be noted that all of the above persons remembered the CRAWFORDS but all advised the CRAWFORDS moved away during 1955 or 1956 and they have no knowledge of forwarding address or their present location.

On 4-20-68, WALTER TERRY RIFE was re-interviewed at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN.

RIFE furnished the following information:

RIFE advised that he had had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, since he last saw RAY in the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1957.

RIFE advised that the best he could remember concerning RAY that RAY had had close associates or relatives at one time in the Alton, Illinois, area. He stated that he felt that RAY had at one time hung out around taverns owned by TERRY TWEET in the Alton area.

RIFE advised that he knew that RAY had at one time close contact with some fence in Peoria, Illinois, to whom RAY sold stolen items. By this he stated that he meant that RAY was a thief and would steal anything during the period of time he knew RAY from the late 1940s until 1955 and this included household items, groups of burglaries of business establishments and such like and that RAY would get rid of hot items through a fence in Peoria. RIFE advised that he had no idea as to the identity of this fence.

RIFE stated that he (RIFE) had lived in the Peoria, Illinois, area until 1967 when RIFE moved to the home of his brother LONNIE RIFE at Baylis, Illinois. RIFE then in 2-68 had taken over the operation of the restaurant at the Virginia Hotel and had been operating this restaurant since that time.

RIFE again reiterated that any of the individuals who lived or worked at the Virginia Hotel could verify the fact that he had been at the Virginia Hotel for the period 3-27-68 through 4-4-68. He stated also that since he and his wife operated the restaurant together and since his wife

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had had a baby in 2-68, it had been necessary for him to work long hours and to also be at home on a regular basis to take care of the RIFE's three other children.

He again stated that members of the Quincy Police Force could verify that RIFE had been in Quincy on a daily basis inasmuch as the police checked the Virginia Hotel every night.

RIFE advised that he would be available for interviews by the FBI at any time and that in the event that he was not working or at his home 214 Lynn Street, Quincy, Illinois, SAMUEL EDNA HARPER, a Clerk at the Virginia Hotel, would know of his exact whereabouts, and RIFE could be reached in a short period of time.

RIFE advised that he could not remember anyone in the Quincy area who was close to the subject and could not think of anyone who might have any information concerning RAY.

RIFE advised that he did not feel that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of the subject, has had any contact with RAY and he certainly is aware of the fact that MELBA MARIE RYAN has had serious mental problems and that any information that she would furnish could not be relied on.

The following investigation was conducted by SA'S ELYON H. DAVIS AND THOMAS M. SCHOENHOFER on 4-19-68:

Trooper EARL MC FEETERS, Illinois State Police, Hull, Illinois, advised that he has since 3-18-68 seen LONNIE RIFE and WALTER RIFE almost on a daily basis. He advised that until recently, WALTER RIFE had lived at the home of LONNIE RIFE; however, WALTER RIFE is now working at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois, operating the restaurant in that Hotel. MC FEETERS advised that he does not believe either RIFE has made any long trips from the Quincy, Illinois, area or has been gone from Quincy, Ill., for any extended period of time during the past month.

On 4-19-68, Detectives DON CAPPS and HAROLD LAMB, Quincy, Ill., PD, advised that they are night detectives for that PD. Each advised that as a usual thing on their night routines they pass the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second St., Quincy, Ill. They advised that they cannot state for certain on any exact date that WALTER RIFE was at the Virginia Hotel; however, they have seen him there practically every night operating the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel. Each advised that RIFE certainly could not have been gone for any extended period of time from Quincy without their knowing of this and that RIFE was certainly not gone for several days at any time.

On 4-19-68, MARY JAN RIFE, home address 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at her place of employment, the restaurant at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. She advised that she is married to WALTER TERRY RIFE and that her husband has been in Quincy, Illinois, for every day since February, 1968. She stated that her husband certainly was not gone any day from 3-27-68 through 4-4-68. She advised that he was working each day at the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel operated by her husband. She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY,

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FBI # 306 443 A, made on 3-17-60. She advised that she had never seen this individual in her life and had never heard her husband speak concerning this individual. MARY JAN RIFE advised that she has been married to WALTER TERRY RIFE since 1961 and that during that period of time JAMES EARL RAY has never contacted him for any reason. She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel and that shortly before being interviewed she had learned that MELBA MARIE RYAN was supposed to be the sister of the individual charged with the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised this was the first time she had ever heard of JAMES EARL RAY and did not know that RAY was a brother to MELBA MARIE RYAN.

She also advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN is a mental case and has been in Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, on numerous occasions.

On 4-19-68, SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Desk Clerk, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, advised that WALTER TERRY RIFE operates the restaurant in the Hotel. HARPER advised that WALTER TERRY RIFE had been working every day at the restaurant since 2-68 when he took over the operation of the restaurant. He advised that RIFE's wife had given birth to a child in 2-68 and that during the period of time that RIFE's wife was in the hospital, he had operated the restaurant practically without any help and had worked from 15 to 18 hours a day. HARPER advised that RIFE has not been gone from Quincy, Ill., for any one-day period since taking over the operation of the restaurant.

A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was exhibited to HARPER. HARPER advised that this individual was unknown to him and stated he had never seen RAY to his recollection during his life.

HARPER advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel; however, he had never heard her mention JAMES EARL RAY and did not know that this was the brother of MELBA MARIE RYAN until that date. HARPER advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN had resided at the Virginia Hotel since 12-67 and he is certain that RAY has not visited the Virginia Hotel during that period of time.

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On 4-19-68, attempts were made to interview MELBA MARIE RYAN; however, she was in a hysterical state and it was impossible to conduct an interview on that date. She advised that she would be available for an interview on 4-20-68 and that she was willing to consent to an interview with the FBI. She did stated during a short period of time an interview was attempted to be conducted that she had no idea as to the whereabouts of her brother JAMES EARL RAY.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date MAY 1, 1968

On April 19, 1968, WALTER TERRY RIFE, home address 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of business, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. Before the interview, RIFE was advised of his rights by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and a Waiver of Rights Form was read to RIFE. RIFE advised he would not sign the Waiver of Rights Form but that he was willing to discuss anything with FBI Agents.

RIFE furnished the following information:

RIFE advised that he last saw JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, in 1957 when WALTER TERRY RIFE was released from the United States Prison at Leavenworth, Kansas.

RIFE advised that he had been arrested in 1955 with JAMES EARL RAY at Hannibal, Missouri, and both had been charged with the possession of stolen money orders from a Post Office. He advised that these had been taken from a Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois, in a burglary and that he and JAMES EARL RAY had then traveled throughout the United States cashing these postal money orders. He advised that they had traveled to New Orleans, Florida, Kansas City and California, cashing the stolen money orders before being arrested at Hannibal, Missouri.

Both were then sentenced to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

RIFE advised that he had seen JAMES EARL RAY almost on a daily basis at the penitentiary at Leavenworth from 1955 until RIFE was released from the penitentiary in 1957. RIFE later learned that RAY was not released from the penitentiary at Leavenworth until 1958. He stated that he had not been in contact with RAY since that date and had no knowledge of RAY's activities other than he had heard that RAY was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early 1960's. He had no idea as to the charge concerning RAY at that time; however, he thought it was some type of armed robbery.

On 4-19-68 at Quincy, Illinois File # SI 44-561  
by SA THOMAS M. SCHOENHOEFER  
SA ELYON H. DAVIS /ras Date dictated 4-25-68

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money and he knew that during that time that RAY broke into houses and stole money or goods he could sell. RAY also pulled stick-ups with a gun and that RAY committed burglaries in which safes were involved. RIFE advised that he does not want to talk about any particular job that he might have been involved in with RAY. He stated that RAY would also roll drunks to obtain money and would obtain money any way that a thief could obtain money. He stated that RAY was a roamer and a loaner and did not seem to have any close friends.

RIFE felt that in the event that JAMES EARL RAY ever returns to the Quincy, Illinois, area, RAY will contact RIFE. RIFE stated, however, that he has no knowledge that RAY has returned to Quincy since 1955 and does not believe RAY has returned to Quincy or he would have known something concerning the return of RAY.

RIFE advised that he would not hide JAMES EARL RAY and would immediately notify the FBI of any information he receives concerning RAY's whereabouts.

RIFE advised that he personally knew nothing concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in Memphis, Tennessee and that he most certainly himself was not in the Memphis area during the period of March 27, 1968 through April 4, 1968. He advised that this could be verified from all people connected with the Virginia Hotel as well as members of the Police Department of Quincy, Illinois. He stated that night policemen cruise by his restaurant at the Virginia Hotel practically every hour of each night and that the night detectives and also patrolman LARRY COLLINS could verify that he had not left the Quincy, Illinois, area.

RIFE advised that he knew that JAMES EARL RAY's uncle EARL RAY had moved to California from the Quincy, Illinois, area ten to fifteen years before and that he thought the uncle had died with a heart attack. He knew that somewhere he had understood that EARL RAY was dead.

RIFE advised that he could furnish no information concerning possible contacts of JAMES EARL RAY.

The Harboring Statute was explained to RIFE by SA ELYON H. DAVIS.

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RIFE advised that he first met JAMES EARL RAY around 1942 when apparently RAY and his family moved to Quincy, Illinois, from some small town in Missouri. He stated that RAY had close connections in Quincy and that during the period of time that he had known RAY, RAY had resided with his Uncle, EARL RAY, in Quincy and at the time he and RAY were arrested in Hannibla, Missouri, RAY was living at the Victor Hotel on North Sixth Street in Quincy, Illinois. He advised that the Victor Hotel has been closed for many years and that he understands the operator of the Victor Hotel is now deceased.

RIFE advised that he had never heard RAY mention his father or talk very much concerning his relatives and RIFE advised that he did not know that MELBA RYAN, who resides at the Virginia Hotel was RAY's sister until learning on that date that RAY was charged with the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RIFE advised that when he and RAY were apprehended in Hannibal, Missouri, they were accompanied by KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK. He advised that he is certain that RAY had never met BUSKIRK until the date of their arrest in Hannibal and that he (RIFE) had picked up BUSKIRK in a tavern in Quincy and took her to Hannibal on a date. He advised that BUSKIRK is presently married to WILBUR CONNORS in Quincy, Illinois.

RIFE stated that he remembered distinctly that BUSKIRK and RAY did not know each other until he introduced them on the date the three were arrested in Hannibal. He stated that BUSKIRK was not actually arrested but was released and that she had nothing to do with the passing of the stolen postal money orders.

RIFE advised that he had never visited in the RAY home in Quincy, Illinois, and had no idea as to the address of RAY's people or the number of relatives that RAY had in Quincy. He stated that he and RAY as a normal thing, did not actually run around together but would meet each other in taverns at which time they would talk and decide to do something together.

RIFE advised that during the period of time that he had known JAMES EARL RAY, RAY had been "a thief". He stated that RAY would do anything during that period of time to make

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, MARY JAN RIFE, 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised she is certain her husband, WALTER TERRY RIFE, has no knowledge of the present activities or whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

She stated also that MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of RAY, still resides at the Virginia Hotel and eats almost all of her meals at RIFE's restaurant in the hotel. She stated that MELBA MARIE RYAN has told her on several occasions during the last three or four days that she has no information or knowledge of the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN has been highly emotional during the past few days and she felt that this was due to numerous reporters attempting to interview MELBA MARIE RYAN.

She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN is a mental case and no reliance can be placed on any statement made by MELBA RYAN.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, WALTER TERRY RIFE, 214 Lind Street, was reinterviewed at his place of business, the Virginia Hotel Restaurant, Quincy, Illinois.

RIFE advised that once when he was fingerprinted after his arrest on a possession of stolen postal money orders with JAMES EARL RAY in 1955, he was booked under the name of VERNON ELMO RIFE. He stated that VERNON ELMO RIFE has never been an associate of JAMES EARL RAY and has never been in jail with RAY and this is the reason records in Missouri would show RAY was arrested with VERNON ELMO RIFE instead of WALTER TERRY RIFE.

RIFE advised that when he and JAMES EARL RAY were passing the stolen money orders throughout the United States after their arrest in Hannibal, Missouri, they claimed they had purchased these money orders from a wino named WILLARD J. MC BRIDE. He advised that this information is not correct and they did not purchase the money orders from any WILLARD J. MC BRIDE. He advised that he has never known a WILLARD J. MC BRIDE and that he and RAY obtained the money orders in Adams County, Illinois. He said that the Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois, is located in Adams County, Illinois, and that he did not intend to admit to any burglary but that neither RAY nor RIFE obtained the money orders outside of Adams County.

RIFE advised that during the period of time that he and RAY were passing the money orders, they traveled extensively throughout the United States to towns in Florida, New Orleans, Louisiana, St. Louis, Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, across the United States to California and back to the Quincy, Illinois, Hannibal, Missouri, area, where they were arrested. He stated that there was no particular place that RAY seemed fond of during that trip more than anywhere else and that they traveled from town to town on a spur of the moment deal and no plan or scheme was involved in their travels.

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He advised that during these travels he and RAY did not contact anyone named COIN and did not contact anyone to his knowledge, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

He advised that they did contact a COHEN in Kansas City, Missouri, and sold COHEN some of the money orders. RIFE was not certain as to the description of COHEN but thought that he would now be an old man. RIFE personally did not know COHEN or anything concerning his whereabouts or activities. He stated that COHEN was a man that they contacted in a tavern and sold him some of the stolen money orders. He stated that they contact COHEN by just asking questions in taverns as to who would buy money orders.

RIFE advised that he knew that JAMES EARL RAY disliked Negroes immensely ; however, he had no idea as to the reason why. He advised that he had never known any incident involving RAY and Negroes.

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The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

WALTER TERRY RIFE, operator, Virginia Restaurant, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was recontacted on April 30, 1968, May 3, 1968, May 10, 1968, and May 13, 1968, and on each date advised that he could furnish no additional information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. He also advised on those dates that definitely JAMES EARL RAY has not contacted MELBA MARIE RYAN at the Virginia Hotel.

SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, desk clerk, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS on April 25, 1968, April 30, 1968, May 3, 1968, and May 9, 1968, and on each date advised that he could furnish no additional information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. On each date, he advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN, RAY's sister, still resides at the Virginia Hotel and that the restaurant of the Virginia Hotel is operated by WALTER TERRY RIFE.

On May 3, 1968 and May 9, 1968, ART CONNORS whose wife owns the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was recontacted on each date and advised that he had no information concerning the whereabouts or activities of JAMES EARL RAY not previously furnished.

On May 9, 1968, ART CONNORS, Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, advised that to his knowledge, no telephone calls have been charged to the Virginia Hotel that were made by MELBA MARIE RYAN. He advised that he remembers his wife placing a call or else accepting a telephone call in April, 1967 from his son Sergeant ARTHUR A. CONNORS, JR. who is stationed in New Jersey and was coming home to visit his parents before being transferred to Vietnam. CONNORS advised that his son Sergeant ARTHUR A. CONNORS, JR. was presently at the CONNORS home, Rural Route 5, Quincy, Illinois.

On May 9, 1968, Sergeant ARTHUR A. CONNORS, JR. Rural Route 5, Quincy, Illinois, advised SA ELYON H. DAVIS that he placed a collect telephone call to the Virginia Hotel from Long Branch, New Jersey on April 9, 1968. He

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advised that this was of a personal nature to his mother concerning his transfer to Vietnam.

Sergeant CONNORS advised that the name JAMES EARL RAY is completely unfamiliar to him and that he could not recognize any photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as anyone he had ever seen.



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B. JOSEPH ELMER "BLACKIE" AUSTIN

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The following investigation was conducted by SA EDWARD A. CARPENTER, at the Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary, on April 26, 1968:

A record was located for JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN who has FBI #821733 whose date of birth is [REDACTED], and who originally was received at the Menard Branch, on December 21, 1925, and he remained at the penitentiary until July 22, 1949, when he was released and was returned to the penitentiary on December 22, 1950, where he remained until April 8, 1954, when he was released on parole and again returned to the penitentiary on February 8, 1955, where he remained until April 27, 1956, when he was again released on parole and then returned to the penitentiary on September 17, 1957, where he remained until May 7, 1959, when he was again released on parole until September 23, 1959, when he was returned until his ultimate discharge on February 23, 1965.

According to penitentiary records, AUSTIN when he was dismissed from Menard went to St. Leonard's House located at 2100 West Warren Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and he received a final parole on discharge on July 11, 1967, through the Parole Office located at 160 North LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois.

According to the records, AUSTIN at one time, was transferred to the state penitentiary at Joliet, from August 2, 1934, until August 15, 1936, when he was returned from Menard. According to the records, AUSTIN used the names JAMES FREELEY, SHARKEY AUSTIN and BLACKKEY.

AUSTIN was originally received on a 25-year sentence for murder and a 10 to life sentence for armed robbery from Morgan County, Illinois. According to the records, AUSTIN has a nephew by the name of RALPH whose full name is RALPH TANNEHILL, 1432 - 4th Street, Madison, Illinois, a niece, Mrs. JOE REESE, 316 North Hoosier, Brazil, Indiana; a brother, CHARLES, residing in Waverly, Illinois; a brother, BERT, residing in Springfield, Illinois.

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AUSTIN is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
DOB	
Height	5' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight	129 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Dark
Hair	Gray
Occupation	Farmer
	Has cut scar on center of forehead

A review of his correspondence file reflects correspondence with Mrs. DOROTHY SEYMOUR, at Franklin, Illinois, a sister;

ROBERT REED, a case worker from St. Leonard House, 2100 Warren Avenue, Chicago, Illinois;

Father DOUGLAS WOLFE,  
St. Leonards House,

Attorney J. EDWARD JONES  
1432 West Harrison Street,  
Chicago, Illinois;

A. A. Farris Company, Inc.  
122 West Lincoln Avenue  
Goshen, Indiana

St. Anthony's Inn Inc.  
29 South LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. GEARD LETTMAN  
Warren Clinic  
2449 West Washington Boulevard,  
Chicago, Illinois

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Mr. and Mrs. MYRICK  
Caseyville Nursing Home  
Caseyville, Illinois;

A. B. ROBERTSON  
2011 Road Street,  
Madison, Illinois

Waukegan Rescue Mission  
Waukegan, Illinois

Friend WILLIE MAE MORGAN  
Waverly, Illinois;

MYRTLE COOK  
Acme Hotel  
St. Louis, Missouri

Cousin GERTRUDE WALLING  
904 Lind Street,  
Quincy, Illinois

No other information of value noted in file  
for AUSTIN.

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On May 9, 1968, AUSTIN's brother, CHARLES, was located and interviewed at Waverly, Illinois and advised he was in receipt of a letter, dated May 7, 1968, from AUSTIN with a return address of 2023 Warren Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois. CHARLES AUSTIN was not sure if his brother was employed or not.

CHARLES AUSTIN was interviewed re subject RAY and shown photographs of RAY but advised he was not acquainted with the subject nor had he ever heard his brother mention the subject.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON D. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois, on May 10, 1968:

GERTRUDE WALLING, 1120 College Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that she formerly resided at 904 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois. She advised that when she lived on Lind Street she occasionally rented rooms in her home and sometime around 1956 she rented a room to JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN. She advised that she remembered AUSTIN'S date of birth to be 1898 inasmuch as her year of birth was the same and that was the only person she had ever lived in a house with who was born the same year as her. She stated that AUSTIN when he came to Quincy, Illinois, came to Quincy through some contact with a Catholic priest in either Quincy or Chicago. She advised that AUSTIN had been in the Illinois State Penitentiary and came to Quincy in an effort to obtain a job and that apparently this unknown Catholic priest had obtained AUSTIN a job in Quincy. However, AUSTIN lived at her home less than one month when he left and she heard shortly thereafter that he had been arrested and was returned to prison. She stated that she could not remember the name of the town in which he was arrested and had not seen AUSTIN since 1956. She stated as far as she knew AUSTIN did not have any relatives or associates in Quincy, Illinois, and that AUSTIN was not related to her. He simply lived in her home for a period of less than one month and that was as a border.

She advised that she did not know JAMES EARL RAY and had never known AUSTIN to speak concerning RAY under RAY'S true name or known aliases.

She stated that she is certain JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN was not a Quincy resident and that he knew nothing concerning Quincy at the time he moved to Quincy.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to GERTRUDE WALLING and she advised that she had never seen this individual before.

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On May 10, 1968, ELIZABETH ROTH, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., 528 North Fifth Street, advised that her file contains very little information concerning JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN other than a newspaper clipping which showed that JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN, age 59; had been arrested on August 4, 1957, in Robertson County, Tennessee, with JOHN GEWIN SCROGGINS, age 38, and a DORRIS CALVIN MEACHAM of Elkton, Kentucky. The three had been arrested for the alleged kidnapping of a Guthrie, Kentucky, motel clerk and had allegedly taken him across the state line into Robertson County, Tennessee, where they robbed him of \$139.00 and set him free. The trio was stopped for speeding near Ashland City, Tennessee, and the \$139.00 believed stolen from the Guthrie, Kentucky, motel clerk was found scattered along the highway near the scene of arrest.

AUSTIN was then committed to the Central State Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, after Government attorneys said they believed he might not be mentally capable of advising with council.

The article showed that AUSTIN came to Quincy, Illinois, in April, 1956, and previous to that he had been sent back to prison three times for violation of parole and had spent three months in a tuberculosis sanitarium in Jacksonville, Illinois.

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C. MILTON DEAN "BUCKY" BATCHELDER

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On April 25, 1968, investigation at Springfield, Illinois, revealed MILTON DEAN BATCHELDER, also known as Bucky, FBI #548 312 B, white male, dob [REDACTED], at Quincy, Illinois, was the individual to whom a Hannibal, Missouri, policeman sold a car from RAY and forwarded the proceeds to. Checks at Menard State Prison, Menard, Illinois revealed BATCHELDER was transferred to Joliet Brancy, Illinois State Penitentiary on September 7, 1966.

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D. PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR.

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