

BU 44-374

PAGE FOUR

IN LOWER CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS INHABITED PRIMARILY BY
FIRST GENERATION ETHNIC GROUPS INCLUDING CHINESE, PORTUGUESE,
POLISH AND HUNGARIAN NATIONALISTS, WHERE VERY LITTLE
ENGLISH SPOKEN.

AMCC TO KANSAS CITY, BIRMINGHAM AND ATLANTA.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

6-10-68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
MURKIN

ReBUphone call to Birmingham this date.

Referenced Bureau telephone call indicated that an article appeared in a recent Los Angeles newspaper inferring that the FBI in Birmingham had instructed individuals contacted in connection with captioned investigation not to furnish information to any other individuals.

No such instructions were given to persons contacted by Agents of this office; however, ROBERT WOOD, owner of Aeromarine Supply Company, from which company the subject purchased the rifle used in shooting Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, when first contacted stated that he was extremely concerned that if it became known that the subject purchased the gun used in the KING killing from his company, certain elements of the Negro population might burn his place of business. He requested the Bureau not divulge the fact that RAY purchased the gun from his company. When given such assurance, he furnished all available information to this office and has been extremely cooperative in the entire investigation. He was advised that any information he gave this office would be held in confidence with the understanding, of course, that in the event the matter came to trial it would become public knowledge. He said he understood this perfectly. He was also advised that any leak would have to come from him or his employees and if he desired that this information be kept secret, he should not divulge this information. He said he had instructed his employees not to furnish any information regarding the sale of this gun.

3-Bureau
2-Birmingham
JHG:rlg
(5) *reg*

Snow

44-1740-1953

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *MB* FILED _____

BH 44-1740

Indicative of the fact that he was not bound by any instructions from this office, he subsequently furnished information to the press when a direct inquiry was made of him; however, this was only after continual prodding from members of the local press. To the best of our knowledge, he did not furnish any information to out-of-town reporters.

For the information of the Bureau, witnesses in this investigation, namely, CHERPES, owner of the boarding house, and Mr. PAISLEY, from whom RAY purchased a car, both gave information to the press at the inception of this investigation. However, inquiries were so numerous and made at all hours of the day and night that Mr. PAISLEY found it necessary to move his family from his home to the home of relatives and Mr. CHERPES changed his residence to another rooming house which he owned.

6-11-68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
MURKIN

Attached are two copies of an article entitled "The Pursuit and Capture of Ray," which appeared on the editorial page of "The Birmingham News" on 6-11-68.

S. VINCENT TOWNSEND, Vice President and Assistant to Publisher, "The Birmingham News," 2200 - 4th Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, and an SAC Contact of this office, sets the editorial policy and has been extremely cooperative with this office in the past. In view of the excellent editorial written this date, it is recommended that a letter be sent to him from the Director commending him for his recognition of the Bureau in connection with the MURKIN investigation.

The indices of the Birmingham Office contain no derogatory information concerning Mr. TOWNSEND.

3-Bureau (enc. 2)
2-Birmingham
① - 44-1740
1 - 66-1870 (Townsend)

JHG:rlg

(5) *reg*

44-1740-1954
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED *CLB*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC 137-1493

DATE:

FROM : SA RICHARD D. SCHWEIN

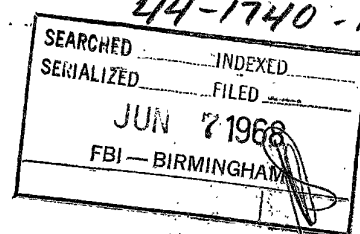
☐ CI ☐ SI ☐ R (Prob)

☒ PCI ☐ PSI ☐ R

SUBJECT: CARL JACOBS - POI

☐

Dates of Contact		
5/17 5/31 6/5/68		
Titles and File #s on which contacted		
44-1740	MURKIN	44-1740
OKEX THURMOND BURGESS-FUG		87-7128
CHARLIE WILL SKINNER-FUG		25-10959
JIMMY BONDS - SSA 1948		25-11073
DALTON JOSEPH KING - FUG		25-11093
Purpose and results of contact		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE <input type="checkbox"/> STATISTIC		
5/17/68: POI has heard no info concerning JAMES EARL RAY.		
6/5/68: POI has not heard of SKINNER, was advised of his fugitive status & description		
6/5/68: POI has no record of JIMMY BONDS working for KELLY. will place stop if he applies		
6/5/68 POI has no record of DALTON JOSEPH KING was furnished photo & will inquire credit & General checks & photo of POI set forth in separate memo.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	Rating EXCELLENT	Coverage CRIMINAL
① 137-1493 1-25-11093 ① 25-10959 ① 44-1740 ① 25-11073		



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

DATE: 6/11/68

FROM : SA RICHARD D. SCHWEIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO:MEMPHIS

Re Atlanta Airtel to Birmingham 6/3/68.

Investigation conducted at Birmingham 6/5/68 established that JERRY MOSELEY is not identical with JAMES EARL RAY. A photo of MOSLEY is being made a part of the 1-A section of this file. Attached as part of this serial is the SO summary of physical and background info re MOSELEY.

In view of the fact that RAY has been apprehended no further action is being taken in this matter.



5010-108

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

44-1740-1956

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 11 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

5

I request permission to be allowed to work at any assigned duties while a prisoner in the Jefferson County Jail.

Date EN 11-30-57 Signature Jerry Mosley 8:00 AM

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL, B'HAM, ALABAMA

I hereby authorize the Sheriff, His Deputies or Jailors to open and inspect any mail or packages received while I am a prisoner of the Jeff. Co. Jail.

Date

Signature Jerry Mosley

Name	Jerry Mosley
Aliases	
Residence	Morris Ala
Crime	PD (PR)
Color	
Age	25
Height	5 Ft 10 in.
Weight	155
Build	med
Hair	blk
Eyes	brn
Complexion	ruddy
Born	Morris Ala
Occupation	Machinist
Date of Arrest	
Signature	

shoe 8
hat -

Marks and Scars

Wife
Ma
Sis
B in L
Sis

Billie Mosley,,same as subj
Mildred Mosley,,same as subj
Daphne Watson,same as subj
Bernard Watson,same as subj
C&lie Daniels,,same as subj
no scars visible

BIRMINGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

830PM URGENT 6-11-68 LCS

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, AND BIRMINGHAM
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, AND MEMPHIS
JUNE TEN LAST.

WHEN JAMES EARL RAY APPREHENDED LONDON, HE HAD IN HIS
POSSESSION THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER LIBERTY CHIEF REVOLVER,
SERIAL NUMBER SEVEN ONE FIVE, MANUFACTURED BY MIROKU FIREARMS
MANUFACTURING CO., JAPAN.

MILA SVOBODA, OWNER, LIBERTY ARMS CO. AND SOLINGER CUTLERY
CO., MONTROSE, CALIF., ADVISED JUNE TEN LAST LIBERTY CHIEF
REVOLVER, SERIAL NUMBER SEVEN ONE FIVE MANUFACTURED BY MIROKU
FIREARMS CO., JAPAN, RECEIVED AT MONTROSE, CALIF., SEPTEMBER
FIFTEEN SIXTYSIX. REVOLVER SENT TO R. TATUM, NEW AND USED
GUNS, ONE ONE EIGHT EDWARDS DRIVE, MABLETON, GA., ON OCT. THREE
SIXTYSIX UNDER INVOICE FROM SOLINGER CUTLERY, MONTROSE,
CALIF. REVOLVER ONLY ITEM IN THAT SHIPMENT. LIBERTY REVOLVERS
MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR LIBERTY ARMS CO. AND THIS GUN DESCRIBED AS
THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER SNUB-NOSE.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1957

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 11 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Barnett
handley

PAGE TWO

ON JUNE ELEVEN SIXTYEIGHT, ROBERT TATUM, ONE ONE EIGHT EDWARDS ST., MABLETON, GA., ADVISED HE PURCHASED THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER REVOLVER, SN SEVEN ONE FIVE JAPANESE MAKE FROM THE SOLINGER CUTLERY CO., MONTROSE, CALIF., FOR FORTY DOLLARS, ON OCTOBER ELEVEN SIXTYSIX. ON DEC THREE SIXTYSIX, HE SOLD THE GUN FOR FIFTY DOLLARS TO WALTER E. SPAIN, TWO NINE ZERO FOUR FORTY SECOND AVE., BIRMINGHAM, ALA. HE OBTAINED SPAIN'S NAME AND ADDRESS FROM A DRIVER'S LICENSE AND DESCRIBED SPAIN AS WHITE MALE, THIRTY TO THIRTYFIVE, WITH BROWN HAIR. ADVISED SPAIN NOT IDENTICAL TO RAY AFTER VIEWING PHOTOS.

BIRMINGHAM INTERVIEW SPAIN AND TRACE OWNERSHIP OF ABOVE MENTIONED REVOLVER.

AM COPY SENT LOS ANGELES.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

June 10, 1968

SAC, Birmingham

RE: FUGITIVE PUBLICITY--CANCELLATION

As you know, JAMES EARL RAY, Identification
Order No. 4182, is no longer being sought by this Bureau.
Make certain that your publicity outlets are promptly notified
of the cancellation.

John Edgar Hoover
Director *JS*

ASKINS

44-1740-1958

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>CEB</i>
JUN 12 1968	
FBI-BIRMINGHAM	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

JAMES W. BROWN, residence 305 East St., Talladega, Alabama, voluntarily furnished the following~~/~~, in addition to that information voluntarily furnished by BROWN to the FBI, 5/9/68:

BROWN was shown numerous photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, along with one photograph of JOHNNY VELANTI, taken 2/10/59. BROWN was unable to identify the photograph of VELANTI, but when advised this was ~~apx~~ a photograph of JOHNNY VELANTI, BROWN Then said he could then identify this as the same person who introduced BROWN to JAMES EARL RAY, while all three were incarcerated in the Missouri state penitentiary. Concerning the photographs of RAY, BROWN could not identify the photographs of RAY taken ^{at} by the Missouri state pen~~i~~tentiary in 1960 or 1966. He did identify the photograph taken of RAY in California at a bartending school, ^{in 1968}. He could not identify the other photograph of RAY taken in California in January or February 1968.

BROWN said that in June 1967, while he was working as a service station attendant⁺ for L. D. VAILS, at a Rebel Gas Station, ^{at Reform, Alabama,} BROWN was contacted by an ex-convict from the Missouri state penitentiary, FNU ALLEN. At the time ALLEN was ⁱⁿ driving a late model ~~19~~ red Mustang. ALLEN said he was going to Tuscaloosa, Ala., from Columbus,

On 5/27/68 at Talladega, Ala. File # 44-1740
by SAS ROBERT M. BARRETT & WILLIAM A. SAUCIER Date dictated 44-1740-1959

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>clb</i>
JUN 12 1968	
FBI and is loaned to FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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.

Memo for file in new appreh.
Has

PAGE TWO 302 JAMES W. BROWN

Georgia, BROWN said that ALLEN was with two persons, who BROWN did not recognize, however, the photo of JAMES EARL RAY, taken in California, in January or February 1968, did resemble the man driving the Mustang. BROWN added that ALLEN did not introduce this driver, and BROWN did not recognize him as JAMES EARL RAY.

BROWN said that ALLEN was in the Missouri penitentiary in 1963, having been convicted in Kennett, Missouri for robbery. According to BROWN, he had seen ALLEN on several occasions in conversations with JAMES EARL RAY, and was positive they knew each other. In 1963 ALLEN lived in the same hall, H/(F Hall,) with RAY.

BROWN claimed that all the information he was furnishing, was about JAMES EARL RAY, and he, BROWN, did not have RAY confused with any other prisoner with a same or similar name. Concerning JOHNNY VELANTI, BROWN claimed he has had not contact whatsoever, with VELANTI, since his release from the penitentiary. BROWN said that at the time VELANTI introduced BROWN to RAY, BROWN was then living in G Hall, VELANTI was in G Hall, and RAY was F Hall. BROWN also recalled overhearing a conversation between RAY and VELANTI, in which VELANTI talked about getting out of prison and going to a small town, located past Mexico City, where he, VELANTI, would stay and where he could get along with the natives. VELANTI named the town, but BROWN could not recall the name.

BROWN said he recalled seeing RAY play basketball in the prison yard on a few occasions, and he saw RAY bet on basketball, football and baseball games, as well as play in a poker game operated by

PAGE THREE

JOHNNIE JOHNSON and JOHNSON's half-brother, BOBBY ASHE. Both were from Kansas City, and BROWN was positive JOHNSON was an associate of RAY, as BROWN had seen them talking together on several occasions, as well as playing poker together.

As best he could recall, BROWN said RAY told BROWN that he, RAY, had been in Birmingham about 1956, and had gone there on several occasions to steal, as "it was a good town to steal in". RAY never furnished any additional information about any contacts or activities in Birmingham. BROWN believed he told RAY that BROWN had a brother named AL BROWN who lived at 609 So. 54th St., Birmingham. RAY mentioned a hotel he stayed at, in Birmingham but ~~RAY also mentioned a couple of night clubs, but did not recall the~~ BROWN could not recall the name of this hotel. BROWN did recall telling RAY that BROWN had worked on river barges and tugboats, on the Warrior River, from 1953 until 1956.

RAY did mention a couple of night clubs in Birmingham, he, RAY, had been to and liked, but BROWN said he could not recall the names of these places, as he, BROWN, had never been in them.

BROWN claimed VELANTI told BROWN about VELANTI running off from an orphan's home at the age of 14, and being "raided" by a Louisiana Sheriff, who took VELANTI into his home. Later VELANTI got involved in the escape of several prisoners being held by that Sheriff. BROWN was of the opinion that because of their close relationship in the penitentiary, RAY and VELANTI would get together, on the outside.

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

510 PM URGENT 6-12-68 CEB

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM JUNE
ELEVEN LAST.

WALTER E. SPAIN, RESIDENCE TWO NINE ZERO FOUR FORTYSECOND ST.,
NORTH, BIRMINGHAM, ALA., STATED TODAY THAT HE AND HIS FATHER, WALTER
LEON SPAIN, PURCHASED A NEW LIBERTY CHIEF SNUB-NOSED THIRTYEIGHT
CALIBER REVOLVER IN DECEMBER, NINETEEN SIXTYSIX, FROM A GUN DEALER
LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE OF ATLANTA, GA., AFTER SEEING GUN DEALER'S
ADVERTISEMENT IN AN ATLANTA PAPER. SOMETIME IN THE SPRING OF
NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, SPAIN GAVE THE REVOLVER TO HIS FATHER IN
PARTIAL PAYMENT OF A DEBT OWED TO THE FATHER, AND THE FATHER, IN
THE FALL OF NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, SOLD THE GUN. SPAIN SAID HE DOES
NOT KNOW NAME OF PURCHASER, AND WAS NOT PRESENT AT TIME OF SALE.
BIRMINGHAM INDICES AND RECORDS OF BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEGATIVE RE WALTER E. SPAIN.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1960

PAGE TWO

WALTER LEON SPAIN, NUMBER THREE GLEN IRIS PARKWAY, BIRMINGHAM, TODAY SAID THAT IN AUGUST NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, HE HAD BEEN CONFINED TO A HUNTSVILLE, ALA. HOSPITAL AND UPON RETURN TO BIRMINGHAM RESIDENCE, WAS IN FINANCIAL STRAITS. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE BEGAN SELLING PERSONAL ITEMS TO MEET OBLIGATIONS, AMONG WHICH WAS THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER LIBFETY SNUB-NOSE REVOLVER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS SON IN THE SPRING OF NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN. HE SOLD THESE ITEMS BY PLACING ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SUNDAY EDITIONS OF "BIRMINGHAM NEWS." ON A SUNDAY HIS ADVERTISEMENT RE ABOVE DESCRIBED REVOLVER, WHICH INCLUDED HIS RESIDENCE PHONE NUMBER, APPEARED IN "BIRMINGHAM NEWS," HE RECEIVED CALL FROM MAN INQUIRING ABOUT GUN AND HOW TO FIND RESIDENCE OF SPAIN. ABOUT HOUR LATER THIS MAN CAME TO SPAIN'S RESIDENCE. THIS MAN SAID HE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR A GUN OF THE TYPE SPAIN WAS OFFERING FOR SALE. HE THEN EXAMINED GUN, ASKED THE PRICE AND WHEN TOLD "SIXTYFIVE DOLLARS," HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE IT. MAN THEN GAVE SPAIN TWO TWENTY DOLLAR BILLS, TWO TEN DOLLAR BILLS AND A FIVE DOLLAR BILL. SPAIN DID NOT GIVE THE BUYER ANY RECEIPT, NOR DID HE OBTAIN FROM THE BUYER ANY INFORMATION AS TO IDENTIFICATION, RESIDENCE OR EMPLOYMENT. THE BUYER LEFT WITH THE GUN IN HIS HAND, AND NOTHING ELSE. SPAIN FURNISHED NEITHER AMMUNITION NOR PAPERS FOR

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

THE GUN.

THE BUYER HAD PARKED HIS CAR ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF SPAIN'S RESIDENCE, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FEET FROM SPAIN'S FRONT DOOR. SPAIN COULD ONLY RECALL THAT THE BUYER WAS DRIVING A LATE MODEL WHITE OR LIGHT COLORED CAR, NO OTHER DESCRIPTION. THE BUYER INDICATED HE WAS FROM THE WESTERN PART OF BIRMINGHAM AND THAT HE WANTED TO KEEP THE GUN AROUND HIS HOUSE. SPAIN DESCRIBED THE BUYER AS A WHITE MALE ABOUT FORTY TO FORTYFIVE YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES OR FIVE FEET NINE INCHES TALL, WEIGHING ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TO ONE HUNDRED SEVENTYFIVE POUNDS, DARK HAIR, SLIGHTLY GRAYING AT THE TEMPLES, HAD LOCAL (ALABAMA) ACCENT, WAS WEARING SPORT SHIRT AND SLACKS, COLORS UNRECALLED, NO GLASSES. SPAIN WAS SHOWN ALL AVAILABLE PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND HE CHOSE THE PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN CALIFORNIA IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT (IN CONTRAST TO BARTENDING SCHOOL GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPH) AS "RESEMBLING THE MAN" WHO BOUGHT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED GUN FROM SPAIN, BUT SPAIN WOULD NOT MAKE A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF RAY AS THE PURCHASER. SPAIN WAS POSITIVE THE GUN WAS SOLD THE SAME DAY ADVERTISEMENT FOR SAME APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

SPAIN SAID HE WAS CONTACTED BY FBI AGENTS ON APRIL SEVEN LAST IN CONNECTION WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION AND SHOWN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF KING'S KILLER. AT THE TIME HE ADVISED AGENTS THE DRAWING REMINDED HIM OF SOMEONE HE MAY HAVE SEEN PREVIOUSLY, BUT WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PERSON. AFTER VIEWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY AND BEING QUESTIONED BY FBI TODAY ABOUT HIS SALE OF THE THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER SNUB-NOSED REVOLVER, SPAIN STATED HE WAS NOW ABLE TO CONNECT THE SALE WITH THE DRAWING IN THAT THE PERSON DEPICTED IN THE DRAWING REMINDED HIM OF THE PERSON TO WHOM HE HAD SOLD THE REVOLVER.

ALL SUNDAY ISSUES OF THE "BIRMINGHAM NEWS" FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, REVIEWED TODAY AND ONLY ONE ADVERTISEMENT FOR A THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER REVOLVER PLACED BY SPAIN LOCATED, THAT BEING IN THE OCTOBER ONE, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, ISSUE.

AT THE TIME GUN WAS SOLD BY SPAIN, RAY WAS IN POSSESSION OF NINETEEN SIXTYSIX WHITE MUSTANG, AND WAS LIVING AT TWO SIX ZERO EIGHT HIGHLAND AVENUE, BIRMINGHAM, WHICH IS TWO AND TWO-TENTHS MILES FROM RESIDENCE OF WALTER LEON SPAIN. IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT SPAIN'S RESIDENCE IS WITHIN HALF MILE OF ONE NINE ZERO SEVEN SOUTH

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE..

ELEVENTH STREET, WHICH IS ADDRESS USED BY RAY, AS HARVEY LOWMEYER,
WHEN PURCHASING RIFLE AT BIRMINGHAM, MARCH TWENTYNINE, NINETEEN
SIXTYSEVEN.

BIRMINGHAM INDICES AND RECORDS BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEGATIVE RE WALTER LEON SPAIN.

AIR MAIL COPY TO ATLANTA.

END

SLB

FBI WASH DC

© ALSO SENT
TSB
FBI-MEMPHIS

F B I

Date: 6/12/68

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

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM JUNE
ELEVEN LAST.

WALTER E. SPAIN, RESIDENCE TWO NINE ZERO FOUR FORTYSECOND ST.,
NORTH, BIRMINGHAM, ALA., STATED TODAY THAT HE AND HIS FATHER, WALTER
LEON SPAIN, PURCHASED A NEW LIBERTY CHIEF SNUB-NOSED THIRTYEIGHT
CALIBER REVOLVER IN DECEMBER, NINETEEN SIXTYSIX, FROM A GUN DEALER
LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE OF ATLANTA, GA., AFTER SEEING GUN DEALER'S
ADVERTISEMENT IN AN ATLANTA PAPER. SOMETIME IN THE SPRING OF
NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, SPAIN GAVE THE REVOLVER TO HIS FATHER IN
PARTIAL PAYMENT OF A DEBT OWED TO THE FATHER, AND THE FATHER, IN
THE FALL OF NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, SOLD THE GUN. SPAIN SAID HE DOES
NOT KNOW NAME OF PURCHASER, AND WAS NOT PRESENT AT TIME OF SALE.
BIRMINGHAM INDICES AND RECORDS OF BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEGATIVE RE WALTER E. SPAIN.

END PAGE ONE

1 - Atlanta (AM)

① - Birmingham

RMB:mfl

(2)

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED ChbApproved: [Signature]
Special Agent in ChargeSent 5:10 PM MPer [Signature]

F B I

BH 44-1740

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

WALTER LEON SPAIN, NUMBER THREE GLEN IRIS PARKWAY, BIRMINGHAM, TODAY SAID THAT IN AUGUST NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, HE HAD BEEN CONFINED TO A HUNTSVILLE, ALA. HOSPITAL AND UPON RETURN TO BIRMINGHAM RESIDENCE, WAS IN FINANCIAL STRAITS. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE BEGAN SELLING PERSONAL ITEMS TO MEET OBLIGATIONS, AMONG WHICH WAS THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER LIBERTY SNUB-NOSE REVOLVER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS SON IN THE SPRING OF NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN. HE SOLD THESE ITEMS BY PLACING ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SUNDAY EDITIONS OF "BIRMINGHAM NEWS." ON A SUNDAY, HIS ADVERTISEMENT RE ABOVE DESCRIBED REVOLVER, WHICH INCLUDED HIS RESIDENCE PHONE NUMBER, APPEARED IN "BIRMINGHAM NEWS," HE RECEIVED CALL FROM MAN INQUIRING ABOUT GUN AND HOW TO FIND RESIDENCE OF SPAIN. ABOUT HOUR LATER THIS MAN CAME TO SPAIN'S RESIDENCE. THIS MAN SAID HE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR A GUN OF THE TYPE SPAIN WAS OFFERING FOR SALE. HE THEN EXAMINED GUN, ASKED THE PRICE AND WHEN TOLD "SIXTYFIVE DOLLARS," HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE IT. MAN THEN GAVE SPAIN TWO TWENTY DOLLAR BILLS, TWO TEN DOLLAR BILLS AND A FIVE DOLLAR BILL. SPAIN DID NOT GIVE THE BUYER ANY RECEIPT, NOR DID HE OBTAIN FROM THE BUYER ANY INFORMATION AS TO IDENTIFICATION, RESIDENCE OR EMPLOYMENT. THE BUYER LEFT WITH THE GUN IN HIS HAND, AND NOTHING ELSE, ~~INCLUDING NO~~ ^{WALTER SPAIN FURNISHED NO} AMMUNITION NOR PAPERS FOR THE GUN.

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

BH 44-1740

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE

THE BUYER HAD PARKED HIS CAR ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF SPAIN'S RESIDENCE, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FEET FROM SPAIN'S FRONT DOOR. SPAIN COULD ONLY RECALL THAT THE BUYER WAS DRIVING A LATE MODEL WHITE OR LIGHT COLORED CAR, NO OTHER DESCRIPTION. THE BUYER INDICATED HE WAS FROM THE WESTERN PART OF BIRMINGHAM AND THAT HE WANTED TO KEEP THE GUN AROUND HIS HOUSE. SPAIN DESCRIBED THE BUYER AS A WHITE MALE ABOUT FORTY TO FORTYFIVE YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES OR FIVE FEET NINE INCHES TALL, WEIGHING ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TO ONE HUNDRED SEVENTYFIVE POUNDS, DARK HAIR, SLIGHTLY GRAYING AT THE TEMPLES, HAD LOCAL (ALABAMA) ACCENT, WAS WEARING SPORT SHIRT AND SLACKS, COLORS UNRECALLED, NO GLASSES. SPAIN WAS SHOWN ALL AVAILABLE PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND HE CHOSE THE PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN CALIFORNIA IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT (IN CONTRAST TO BARTENDING SCHOOL GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPH) AS "RESEMBLING THE MAN" WHO BOUGHT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED GUN FROM SPAIN, BUT SPAIN WOULD NOT MAKE A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF RAY AS THE PURCHASER. SPAIN WAS POSITIVE THE GUN WAS SOLD THE SAME DAY ADVERTISEMENT FOR SAME APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER.

END PAGE THREE

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

F B I

BH 44-1740

Date:

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

PAGE FOUR

(in connection with a neighborhood investigation)
SPAIN SAID HE WAS CONTACTED BY FBI AGENTS ON APRIL SEVEN LAST →
AND SHOWN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF KING'S KILLER. AT THE TIME HE
ADVISED AGENTS THE DRAWING REMINDED HIM OF SOMEONE HE MAY HAVE SEEN
PREVIOUSLY, BUT WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT
THIS PERSON. AFTER VIEWING PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY AND BEING QUESTIONED
BY FBI TODAY ABOUT HIS SALE OF THE THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER SNUB-NOSED
REVOLVER, SPAIN STATED HE WAS NOW ABLE TO CONNECT THE SALE WITH
THE DRAWING IN THAT THE PERSON DEPICTED IN THE DRAWING REMINDED HIM
OF THE PERSON TO WHOM HE HAD SOLD THE REVOLVER.

ALL SUNDAY ISSUES OF THE "BIRMINGHAM NEWS" FOR SEPTEMBER AND
OCTOBER, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, REVIEWED TODAY AND ONLY ONE ADVERTISE-
MENT FOR A THIRTYEIGHT CALIBER REVOLVER PLACED BY SPAIN LOCATED,
THAT BEING IN THE OCTOBER ONE, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, ISSUE.

AT THE TIME GUN WAS SOLD BY SPAIN, RAY WAS IN POSSESSION OF
NINETEEN SIXTYSIX WHITE MUSTANG, AND WAS LIVING AT TWO SIX ZERO
EIGHT HIGHLAND AVENUE, BIRMINGHAM, WHICH IS TWO AND TWO-TENTHS
MILES FROM RESIDENCE OF WALTER LEON SPAIN. IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT
SPAIN'S RESIDENCE IS WITHIN HALF MILE OF ONE NINE ZERO SEVEN SOUTH
END PAGE FOUR

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

F B I

BH 44-1740

Date:

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

PAGE FIVE

ELEVENTH STREET, WHICH IS ADDRESS USED BY RAY, ^{AS} HARVEY LOWMEYER,
WHEN PURCHASING RIFLE AT BIRMINGHAM, MARCH TWENTYNINE, NINETEEN
SIXTYSEVEN.

BIRMINGHAM INDICES AND RECORDS BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEGATIVE RE WALTER LEON SPAIN.

AIR MAIL COPY TO ATLANTA.

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

6/12/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

[Signature] FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN

In view of subject RAY's apprehension, Birmingham is not submitting a report reflecting investigation to locate RAY since report submitted by SA HENRY A. SNOW, Birmingham, 5/20/68. No future report is contemplated unless future action might warrant it.

*R/S that
Memphis advising
in future 20 cc
of any part. inserts
+ 7D 302s would be
sent to Memphis
HSA*

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

HAS:mfl

(6)

mfl

44-1740-1961
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *MC* FILED *MC*

F B I

Date: 6-12-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AM _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, ALBANY
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P
MURKIN

In view of subject's apprehension, any office having outstanding leads or requests for circularization in any publication of any kind should cancel outstanding request now.

A & D.

2 Albany
1 All Continental Offices
1 Memphis

RGJ:BN
(56)

44-1740-1962

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

Approved: R. C. Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

DATE: 6-12-68

FROM : HOMER E. PARKER
SPC

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 10:49 PM, 6-12-68, on instructions received from SA NEIL S. SHANAHAN, I telephoned ASAC JOHN F. MORLEY, Denver Office, and requested that he cancel all stops on JOHN WEBSTER DE SHAZO.

HEP
(2)

ψ-w
That Home
2627 Levenance St
U of So Cal.
Tel- 213-746-8753 (Pay phone)
Bartender Photo (eyes closed) #5

44-1740-1963
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED *CB*

JUN 12 1968

FBI — BIRMINGHAM



5010-108

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U. S. Department of Justice

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