

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(1/12/68)

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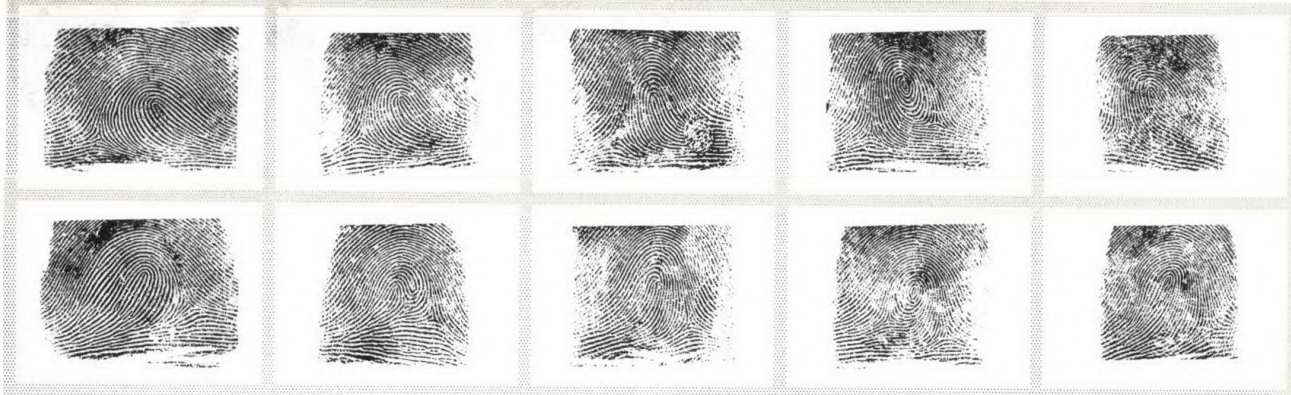
I. O. 4182
4-20-68

**CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY**

**WANTED BY FBI
JAMES EARL RAY**

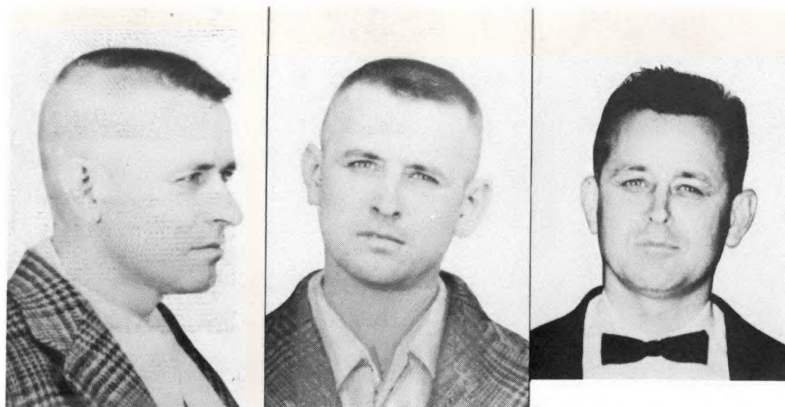
FBI No. 405,942 G
16 M 9 U 000 12
M 4 W 101

ALIASES: Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim"



Photographs taken 1960

Photograph taken 1968
(eyes drawn by artist)



James Ray

DESCRIPTION

AGE: 40, born March 10, 1928, Alton, Illinois
HEIGHT: 5' 10" EYES: blue
WEIGHT: 163 to 174 pounds COMPLEXION: medium
BUILD: medium RACE: white
HAIR: brown, possibly cut short NATIONALITY: American
OCCUPATIONS: baker, color matcher, laborer
SCARS AND MARKS: small scar on center of forehead and small scar on palm of right hand
REMARKS: noticeably protruding left ear; reportedly is a lone wolf; allegedly attended dance instruction school; has reportedly completed course in bartending

CRIMINAL RECORD

Ray has been convicted of burglary, robbery, forging U. S. Postal Money Orders, armed robbery, and operating motor vehicle without owner's consent.

CAUTION

RAY IS SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH A MURDER WHEREIN THE VICTIM WAS SHOT. CONSIDER ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

A Federal warrant was issued on April 17, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, charging Ray as Eric Starvo Galt with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen. (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241). A Federal warrant was also issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging Ray with Interstate Flight to Avoid Confinement for the crime of Robbery (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1073).

**IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE.
TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.**

Identification Order 4182
April 20, 1968

J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

44-150961-23

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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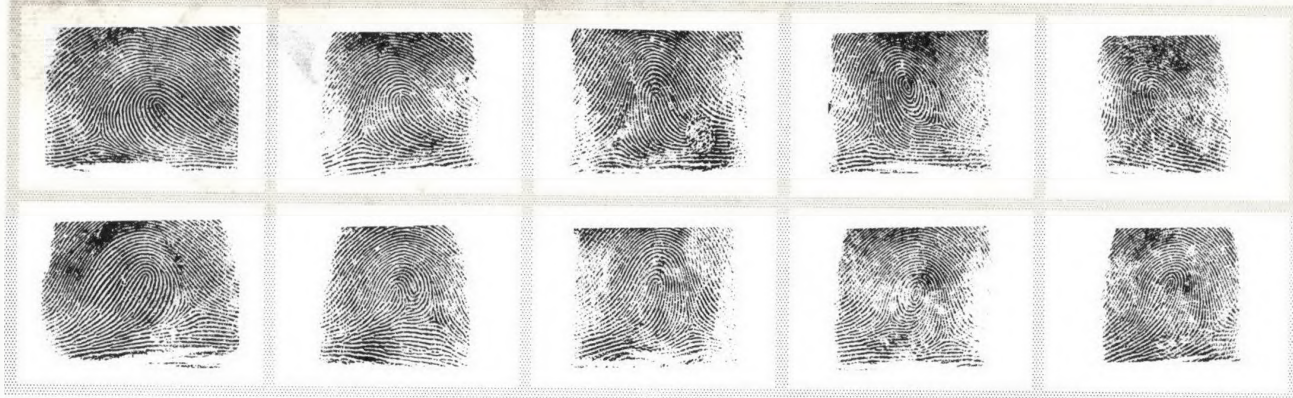
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INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY**

**WANTED BY FBI
JAMES EARL RAY**

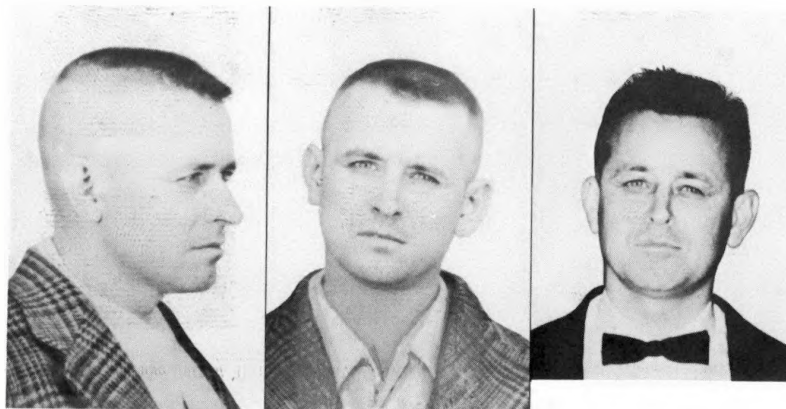
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FBI No. 405,942 G
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M 4 W 101



Photographs taken 1960

Photograph taken 1968
(eyes drawn by artist)



James Ray

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Identification Order 4182
April 20, 1968

J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

44-150961-23

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Galt Is Missouri Prison Escapee

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"THE HOUSTON
CHRONICLE"
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Identity Solved By G-Men

Chronicle News Services

Washington—The FBI today identified Eric Starvo Galt, wanted for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as James Earl Ray, 40, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The FBI said he was identified through a search of fingerprints of the more than 53,000 persons for whom wanted notices are on file.

Serving 20-Year Term

Ray was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City April 23, 1967. He was serving a 20-year sentence for an armed robbery in St. Louis and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's permission.

Ray, who had been at the prison since March 17, 1960, spent some time in September, 1966, in the maximum security ward at the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

A warrant was issued Wednesday for a man identified as Galt in the April 4 sniper slaying of King in Memphis, Tenn.

As Galt, Ray has been the object of a cross-country search which extended into Mexico. He is accused of conspiracy and murder in the assassination of King.

The civil rights leader, who won the 1964 Nobel peace prize, was shot to death from ambush as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel. His assassination was followed by rioting and disorders in dozens of U. S. cities.

Warrant Issued

The FBI, in a warrant issued earlier this week, charged Galt and an "alleged brother" with conspiracy in King's slaying. Memphis officials have sworn out a murder warrant for Galt.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said Ray had a known arrest

Date: 4/19/68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: EVERETTE D. COLLIER

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1509(1)

Submitting Office: HOUSTON

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FBI - HOUSTON	

Convicted Robber Who Escaped Prison Identified in King Case

FROM PAGE 1

record dating back to 1949. Prior to his 1960 conviction in St. Louis, Ray was convicted of burglary in Los Angeles in 1949; armed robbery in Chicago in 1952; and forging United States postal money orders in Missouri in 1955.

He also served time in the Los Angeles County jail in 1949; state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Ill., from 1952 to 1954; and the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., from 1955 to 1958.

Served in Army

The FBI said Ray was an enlisted man in the Army from February 1946 to December 1948, when he was given a general discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

During his time in the Army, Ray received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest.

A drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill., the FBI said he has used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron, James O'Conner, and John Willard.

John Willard was the name used by the man who checked into a Memphis rooming house from which the shot that killed King apparently was fired.

Ray claims to have been born March 10, 1928 in Illinois—but the FBI did not say where. He is about 5-feet-10, weighs 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair and two scars: A small one on the center of his

forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

He has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

The FBI said Ray had been a federal fugitive since July 20, 1967, when an FBI complaint was filed at Jefferson City charging him with unlawfully fleeing from Missouri to avoid confinement.

A man identified as James Earl Ray was sentenced to 20

years in prison on Dec. 17, 1959, in St. Louis circuit court on armed robbery charges, police records show. At the time, Ray was 30 years old and was living in St. Louis.

Charged in Holdup

Ray and another ex-convict, James Owens, were charged with the \$190 robbery of a Kroger store on the St. Louis south side.

A jury in the court of Circuit Judge John Casey deliberated 20 minutes before convicting Ray.

Casey assessed the punishment under the Missouri habitual criminal act. When Ray was being taken to the courtroom by Sheriff's Deputy Earl Riley, he attempted to escape by jumping into a third floor elevator.

Riley handcuffed Ray and brought him to the courtroom.

Ray made three attempts to escape from the state penitentiary. In 1961 he made his first unsuccessful attempt and in 1966 he escaped from his cell but was found hiding in a ventilation shaft.

He escaped for the third time in April of last year after serving seven years of his 20-year term.



UPI Telephoto

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark announced today that the FBI has identified James Earl Ray (left in 1960 photo), an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, as Eric Starvo

Galt (right in 1968 photo), against whom a federal complaint has been filed in connection with the fatal shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

'Galt' an Alias; He's Pen Escapee

FROM POST NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — The elusive Eric Starvo Galt, who is charged with killing Dr Martin Luther King Jr, was identified by the FBI Friday as a 40-year-old drifter and prison escapee named James Earl Ray.

The FBI said Galt's real identity was traced through "a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints" developed in the King case against the fingerprints of more than 53,000 persons for whom wanted notices are on file in the bureau's identification division.

GALT IS only one of the names Ray has used in brushes with the law which began, according to the FBI dossier, when he was 21.

The FBI said he has used the names of James McBride, James Walton, W. O. Herron and James O'Connor, John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer.

He was described as about 5 feet 10, weighing 163 to 174 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair and two scars: a small scar in the center of the forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

At the time King was shot by a sniper in Memphis April 4, Ray was being sought on a jail breaking charge.

THE FBI said he escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, where he was serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery in Saint Louis.

Wednesday, when FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover identified Galt as the man sought for conspiracy in the slaying, he said that Galt had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965. But Friday's FBI announcement said Ray was in prison between 1960 and 1967, when he escaped.

Ray was sentenced to 20 years in 1959, on a charge of armed robbery in Saint Louis Circuit Court. He and another ex-convict, James Owens, were convicted of robbing a Saint Louis supermarket of \$190.

RAY ATTEMPTED to escape from the court room by jumping into an elevator. He made two unsuccessful attempts to escape from the Missouri penitentiary before he succeeded last year.

The discrepancy, federal sources said, arose from an error into the investigation of the background of "Galt."

The FBI handed out two pictures of Ray taken in 1960. In several ways, they matched pictures of Galt taken in 1968.

RAY, WHO is now being sought on a Tennessee murder charge in the King slaying, has an arrest record dating at least to 1949 when he served time in Los Angeles on a burglary charge.

This followed his discharge from the Army. The FBI said

"THE HOUSTON POST"
4/20/68
HOUSTON, TEXAS

44-1509(1) -25

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Continued From Page 1
he served as an enlisted man from February, 1946, to December, 1948, when he received a general discharge for ineptness and lack of adaptability.

His Army record showed a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest, the FBI said.

THE BUREAU'S dossier on Ray indicates he has been a drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill.

He has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

In 1952, according to the FBI, he was convicted in Chicago for armed robbery and served two years in Joliet and Pontia, Ill, state prisons. In 1955, the FBI said, he was convicted of forging U.S. postal money orders in Missouri and was confined to Leavenworth penitentiary until 1958.

Warden Harold Swenson of the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City, said Ray was "an evasive type of person."

"**I DON'T** think anybody either liked him or disliked him," the warden said.

Swenson said Ray had succeeded in escaping from the prison by hiding in a bread truck. He had been working in the prison's food service system.

The FBI said Ray has listed his birth date as March 10, 1928, and his birthplace as Illinois.

The city clerk at Alton, Ill, Paul A. Price, said a James Earl Ray was born there on

March 10, 1928, the son of a laborer.

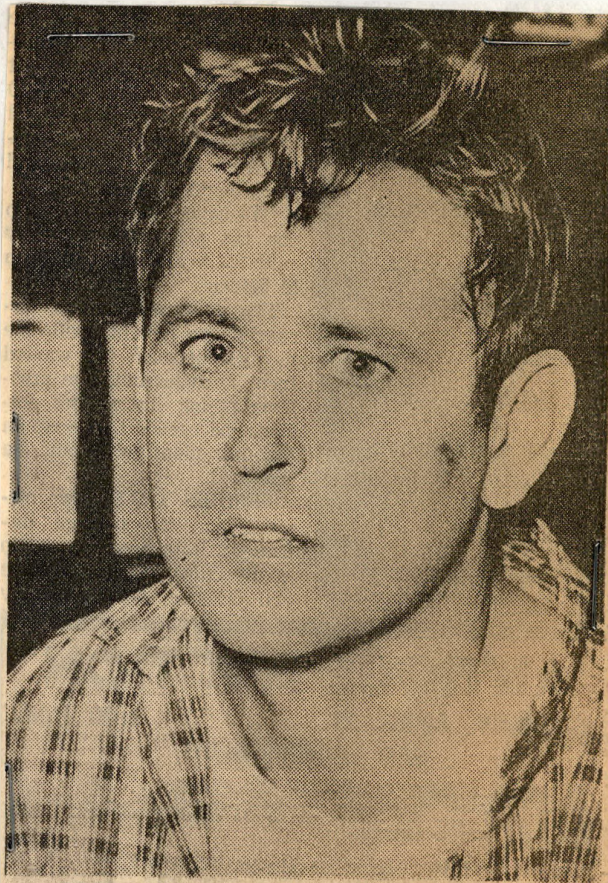
THE PRINCIPAL at Alton Senior High School said his records showed three people named James Ray attended the school during the period the wanted man would have been there.

THE PRISON in Jefferson City, Mo, listed his mother as Mrs Lucille Ryan of Saint Louis. A brother, Jerry W Ray, was reported to live in Wheeling, Ill, and another brother, John Ray in Saint Louis.

The bureau did not say what set of fingerprints in the King case was matched with those of Ray, but it is presumed that prints were found on a rifle dropped near the scene of the killing as well as in the furnished room occupied by the sniper.

The FBI also has reported recovering a white Mustang automobile in Atlanta, Ga, believed to have been used by the killer.

In a warrant obtained by the FBI Wednesday, the fugitive was accused of conspiring with an individual "alleged to be his brother" to "injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr."



JAMES EARL RAY, ALIAS ERIC GALT
40-Year-Old Drifter and Missouri Fugitive

UPI Telephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Descriptions of King Suspect at Variance

Memphis, Tenn. (AP) — A ranking Memphis police officer acknowledges there are "a whole lot of discrepancies" in official descriptions of the man sought as the sniper slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Asst. Chief Bill Price referred to statements that James Earl Ray, 40, an escaped Missouri convict, and Eric Starvo Galt, first sought for King's April 4

assassination in Memphis, are the same person. "You don't know what to look for," Price said Sunday as officers here and elsewhere continued their investigation of the slaying. The nationwide manhunt continues.

The FBI issued a conspiracy warrant Wednesday for Galt, then updated their case Friday by saying a fingerprint comparison showed Galt was really Ray.

The naming of Ray in the case caused confusion, primarily because earlier official statements indicate that Galt and Ray were in different places at the same time.

When Galt was charged as a conspirator in King's death by rifle bullet, the FBI said the man had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964-65. The FBI said later the earlier description should have said Galt reportedly took dancing lessons rather than stating it flatly.

During that time, Ray was in the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City, serving a 20-year sentence for a 1959 supermarket robbery.

The age of the man also was in conflict.

Witnesses who saw a man in a Memphis rooming house from where the fatal bullet was fired

estimated his age as in the late 20s. The FBI, in issuing its warrant for Galt, said he had given his birthdate July 30, 1931. That would make him 36. The FBI said Friday Ray is 40.

The personalities of the two men are sometimes at odds. A prison pal described Ray as virtually a nondrinker. The FBI describes Galt as a fancier of beer and vodka.

There were other differences: Galt: neat appearance. Ray: careless appearance.

Galt: Southern accent. Ray: born in Alton, Ill. No Southern accent.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who came to Memphis after King was slain, at first ruled out a conspiracy, but then the FBI issued its warrant for Galt on a conspiracy charge.

Police here have their own investigation of the slaying under way, and officials say detectives are working hard on the case.

One theory within the Memphis department is that Eric Starvo Galt is a myth, painstakingly created by the conspirators as a smoke screen. "Somebody has muddled the waters," Price said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE"
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Date: 4-22-68

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Author:

Editor: EVERETT D. COLLIER

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Character:

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APR 23 1968	
FBI — HOUSTON	

W.A.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his prompt location. Ray has been the subject of a massive search since the gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel.

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom FBI wanted notices have been posted determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery.

Possessing an arrest record dating back to 1949, Ray has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders.

A 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on March 10, 1928, Ray is approximately 5'10" tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably.

Described as a "loner and "drifter," with a "rural" quality in his speech, Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

44-150961-27

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

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44-150961-27

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI loses some of its shine

The hunt for the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has taken some odd turns, and one of the more unusual ones is the way the Justice Department and its agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have been behaving.

Immediately after the killing Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark exuded optimism about an arrest. "We are very close," he said. A few days later he said he hoped to provide a picture of the suspect. But it was not until a week after the murder that the FBI inadvertently disclosed the name of Eric Starvo Galt.

And so it has gone since April 4. Clark's optimism has faded, and the FBI has seemed almost intent on keeping the public confused.

The FBI's image as the smoothest man-hunting agency was tarnished by the length of time taken to identify the fingerprints of Galt as those of ex-convict James Earl Ray. It was 15 days after the assassination. In question is

whether it really took that long, or whether the FBI was withholding the information.

It was not until Sunday that the FBI put Galt or Ray on its most wanted list. The success of the list in apprehending wanted persons over the years has been good. It is hard to understand why the description and photo of Galt were not released as soon as they were uncovered.

The FBI could never be accused of being loose-lipped, but the most wanted list was a creation of its director, J. Edgar Hoover. He has always been proud of the role it has played in apprehending those unfortunate enough to be listed.

We wonder if the recent policy adopted by the American Bar Assn. against pre-trial publicity has unduly influenced the FBI. If this is the case, the results are plain enough. The public linking of Galt and Ray was made about two weeks after the killing, and no one has yet been apprehended.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE"
HOUSTON, TEXAS

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Editor: EVERETT D. COLLIER

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APR 26 1968	
FBI - HOUSTON	

WAL

3 COPIES SENT TO BUREAU 4/26/68
COPIES IN: 80-188, 80-424
99

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : All Investigative Employees

DATE: April 22, 1968

[Signature]
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE
I.O. #4182; W. F. #442-A
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM
RELEASE DATE: SATURDAY P.M., APRIL 20, 1968

44-1509

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - HOUSTON	

[Signature]

THE CRIMES: Ray escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, on April 23, 1967, while serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's permission. He subsequently allegedly conspired, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, to violate the civil rights of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., shot to death on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel on April 4, 1968.

THE CRIMINAL: A 40-year-old white native of Illinois, who is known as a "loner" and "drifter" and has taken elaborate steps to establish a false identity, Ray has an extensive criminal record, including convictions for burglary, robbery and forging U. S. Postal Money Orders. Outstanding characteristics include a straight narrow nose, straight and even teeth, a noticeably protruding left ear and a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe. He has taken dancing lessons, attended bartending school, enrolled in a correspondence course in locksmithing and traveled widely in a 1966 Mustang recovered in Atlanta, Georgia, a week after Dr. King's murder. Ray likes western and country music, drinks vodka and beer and has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

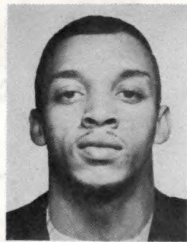
PROCESS: A Federal warrant issued at Jefferson City, Missouri, on July 20, 1967, charges Ray with unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement for robbery. Another Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, as Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen.

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES": Ray is a special addition to the list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." The list as of Saturday p. m., April 20, 1968, was:

John William Clouser	I. O. #3837	Charles Lee Herron	I. O. #4163
Howard Callens Johnson	I. O. #4039	George Edward Wells	I. O. #4175
George Benjamin Williams	I. O. #4072	David Evans	I. O. #4177
Gordon Dale Ervin	I. O. #4087	Franklin Allen Paris	I. O. #4178
Carmen Raymond Gagliardi	I. O. #4101	David Stuart Neff	I. O. #4179
	James Earl Ray	I. O. #4182	

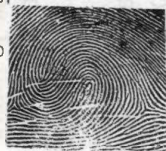
THEY ARE ALL ARMED AND DANGEROUS. If you receive any information, give it at once to your SAC or appropriate supervisor.
PHOTOGRAPHS, FINGERPRINTS AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA OF ALL FUGITIVES ON THE LIST ARE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

44-1509(4)-29



DAVID EVANS, also known as:
"Pee Wee."
N; born 10-11-44; 5'7-5'8"; 140-150 lbs;
med bld; blk hair; brn eyes; lt comp;
ooo - lab, upholsterer. Wanted by FBI
for BANK ROBBERY and UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO
AVOID PROSECUTION (Burglary, Larceny,
and Receiving Stolen Goods).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4177
FBI#-388 901 E
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1966

16 O 29 W IMO 15
I 26 U OOI 13



lt thumb

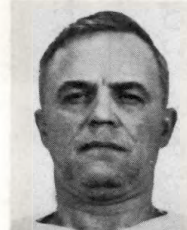


CHARLES LEE HERRON, also known as:
Lee Jones.
N; born 4-21-37 (?); 5'7"-5'8"; 145-
150 lbs; sldr bld; blk hair; brn eyes;
dk comp; ooo - clerk. Wanted by FBI
for UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECU-
TION (Murder; Assault with Intent to
Commit Murder).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4163
FBI#-313 926 G
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: UNKNOWN

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MM
13 O 29 W OOO 10
I 18 U OOI 14



lt thumb

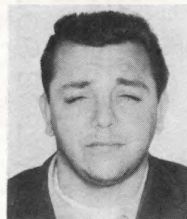


GEORGE EDWARD WELLS, also known as:
George W. Cox, Lloyd Kuczmarski.
W; born 5-14-16; 5'8"; 165-175 lbs;
med bld; brn hair, gr; brn eyes; med
comp; ooo - maintenance worker, painter.
Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO
AVOID PROSECUTION (Armed Robbery);
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN
PROPERTY.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4175
FBI#-1 467 173
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1967

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I 17 U OOO 12



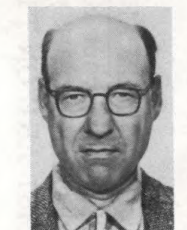
rt ring



CARMEN RAYMOND GAGLIARDI, also known as: 17 M 29 W IOM
Carmelo Raimondo Gagliardi (true name), I 32 W OOI 20
Carmen R. Gagliardi.
W; born 10-1-40; 5'10 1/2"; 185-200 lbs;
hvy bld; blk hair; brn eyes; med comp;
ooo - lab. Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL
FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION (Murder).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4101
FBI#-566 944 D
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1965



lt ring

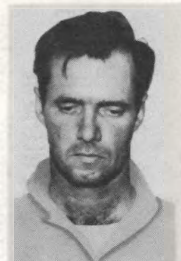


GEORGE BENJAMIN WILLIAMS, 23 M 21 W IMO AMP Ref: 22
also known as: Allen I 31 W OOO 19 31
Benjamin Colby, Ben Jackson,
George Benjamin William.
W; born 6-16-11; 5'6"; 155 lbs;
med bld; brn hair, gr, balding;
bl eyes; rdy comp; rt ring fnger
amp; ooo - constr worker, dairy
worker, mech, miner, pipe fitter.
Wanted by FBI for BANK ROBBERY.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4072
FBI#-497 062
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1965



rt middle

JAMES EARL RAY, also known as:
Eric Starvo Galt; W. C. Herron,
Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride,
John Willard, "Jim."
W; born 3-10-28; 5'10"; 163-174 lbs;
med bld; brn hair, poss cut short; bl
eyes; med comp; ooo - baker, color matcher,
lab. Wanted by FBI for CONSPIRACY TO
INTERFERE WITH A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF
A CITIZEN AND UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT (Robbery).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4182
FBI#-405 942 G
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1968



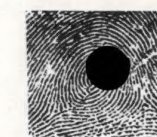
FRANKLIN ALLEN PARIS, also known as:
Franklin Allen Morrison, Al Paris,
Allie Paris, Frank Allen Paris, 11 S 1 U OOO 14 Ref: 9
Franklen Allen Paris. M 1 U OOI 12 1
W; born 1-20-34; 6'2"; 190-210 lbs;
med bld; brn hair; brn eyes; med comp;
ooo - horse trader, horse trainer,
rancher. Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL
FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION (Burglary).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4178
FBI#-595 084 A
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1966



rt ring



HOWARD CALLENS JOHNSON, also known as:
"Dirty Red."
N; born 4-14-16 (?); 5'9"; 160-170
lbs; med bld; blk hair; brn eyes;
med comp, freckled; ooo - brickmason,
carpenter, lab. Wanted by FBI for
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION
(Murder).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4039
FBI#-1 501 726
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1959



lt little



JOHN WILLIAM CLOUSER, also known as:
Jack Clauser, John William Clauser,
Chuck A. Williams.
W; born 3-29-32; 5'9"; 175-200 lbs;
stky bld; blond hair, may be dyed blk;
bl eyes; rdy comp; ooo - clerical
worker, stock clerk. Wanted by FBI
for INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-3837
FBI#-229 125 C
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1963



rt index



GORDON DALE ERVIN, also known as:
Dale Ervin.
W; born 5-30-26; 5'11"-6'0"; 170 lbs;
med bld; brn hair; bl eyes; med comp;
ooo - carpenter, lifeguard, mach shop
worker, locomotive fireman, salesman,
shipyard worker, typist. Wanted by
FBI for UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT (Armed Robbery).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4087
FBI#-290 533 A
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1965



lt index



DAVID STUART NEFF, also known as:
Steven Andrews, Solomon Baker, Steven
Greene, George Medina, David J. Neff, 19 O 17 W IOO 18
David Stewart Neff, Donald O'Brien. L 19 W OOO 16
W; born 12-26-36; 5'8"-5'9"; 190-200 lbs;
hvy bld; brn hair; brn eyes; med comp;
ooo - horse trainer, lab, painter,
plumber, surveyor. Wanted by FBI for
BANK ROBBERY.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4179
FBI#-524 874 D
DATE PHOTO TAKEN: 1965



rt ring

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

MEXICO QUESTIONS U.S. CITIZEN IN KING SLAYING

(Indicate page, name of
paper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

'Resembles' James Ray, Police Say

Police in northwest Mexico say they are questioning a U.S. citizen who they say resembles James Earl Ray, wanted on a charge of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In Baltimore, however, the arrested man's mother said, "There is just no connection. He doesn't even look like him."

Lt. Roberto Fletcher of the Judicial Police Investigation Office in Caborca, Mexico, said the man carried a U.S. passport issued to Daniel David Kennedy. Fletcher said the man denied any connection with King's assassination

and said he was from Baltimore.

Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington said it is checking numerous "rumor stories" on the King assassination, including one involving New Orleans.

LOUIS LOMAX, a newsman for the North American News, paper Alliance, continued to follow Ray's trail between Los Angeles and New Orleans and reported that "it becomes increasingly certain" that a Dec. 16, 1967, phone call Ray made from Houston to New Orleans "will provide the clue" to who paid for the assassination.

In Baltimore, Mrs. Pearl E. Kennedy said an FBI agent told her Mexican authorities were holding her son, Daniel David, because a Mexican police officer said he resembled the man accused of killing the Negro civil rights leader.

"It was impossible for him to do it," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He wouldn't even hurt a fly, let alone kill a human being."

Mrs. Kennedy said her 41-

year-old son left Baltimore March 24 to go to Mexico. "he wanted to take off, that's all"—and that he telephoned her from there on Sunday.

"HE WAS SO HAPPY when he talked to me," said Mrs. Kennedy. "He said people were so friendly to him there, because everything was so peaceful and quiet."

Fletcher said earlier that the man he was holding made a telephone call to Baltimore this week asking that money be sent to him in Caborca.

Agents of the Sonora state police were en route to Ca-

borca to return the man to Hermosillo, the state capital, Fletcher said. He added that FBI agents were on their way to Hermosillo from Arizona but in Phoenix, John Mull, in charge of the FBI in Arizona, said he had heard nothing from Mexican authorities and none of his agents was en route to Hermosillo.

Date: 4-25-68

Edition: RED COMET

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: MURKIN; ERIC
STARVO GALT, JAMES

EARL RAY

Character: RM

or

Classification: 157-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

44-1589(1)-30

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

WELCH

FLETCHER SAID he picked the man up about 6 p. m. yesterday in a cafe in Caborca, about 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz. The officer said he took the man in, because of his similarity to published photographs of Ray.

Fletcher said the man crossed the border at Nogales on April 7 and told him he had walked to Caborca.

Police in Ciudad Victoria detained another man briefly 10 days ago because he fitted the general description of Ray. There have been reports from several other Mexican cities of persons spotting men resembling Ray.

The FBI announced April 17 that it was seeking a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt in connection with King's slaying in Memphis April 4.

TWO DAYS LATER, the bureau said a "systematic and exhaustive search" through its fingerprint files revealed that Galt and Ray, a 40-year-old drifter and prison escapee, are the same man.

Ray fled the Missouri Penitentiary April 23, 1967, while serving the seventh year of a 20-year sentence for robbery and auto theft in St. Louis.

The FBI said Eric Starvo Galt was one of a string of aliases used by Ray in frequent brushes with the law beginning when he was 21 years old, several years after he dropped out of high school in the 10th grade.

RAY WAS described as 5 feet, 10, inches tall, 163 to 174 pounds, with brown hair, blue eyes and small scars on his forehead and right palm. He was said to have a habit of tugging on an ear when nervous. His left ear protrudes slightly further than his right ear.

The FBI said acquaintances of Ray called him a loner, who likes beer and vodka, favors country and Western music and speaks with a rural twang.

In Washington, the FBI said it has been swamped with "rumor stories" in the King-slaying and is checking them out. The agency had been asked about the revela-

tion yesterday that Ray was registered at the Provincial Motel, 1027 Chartres, from Dec. 17 through 19 last year.

LOMAX REPORTED that Ray met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist" at the motel on Dec. 17.

In a new dispatch today from Yuma, Ariz., Lomax reported that the search for the person or persons involved in the assassination has closed in on a mysterious Hollywood blonde who knew Ray better than anyone else and the equally mysterious New Orleans industrialist with whom Ray maintained constant telephone contact.

Although the FBI investigation seems to be stymied, Lomax yesterday wrote, "These facts can be reported as a result of this reporter's efforts".

"JAMES EARL RAY spent considerable time as a resident of the St. Francis hotel along Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles. Each evening at approximately 6 o'clock he entered a public telephone booth in the hotel lobby and made long-distance, pre-paid calls.

"The number of this booth is known and an intensive investigation is under way to discover whom Ray was calling.

"According to people who knew Ray, he had a doodling habit and the walls of the phone booth involved reveal that someone had written 'death before dishonor.' This is a slogan often used by Southerners who resent having lost the Civil War."

The writing on the phone booth wall is surrounded by drawings of swastikas and the Maltese Cross. Yet another doodling on the wall reads "Down with Mexicans, Niggers and Martin Luther Coon."

It is believed that Ray, then known as Galt, made the doodlings.

But this could be certified only when the FBI fingerprint experts match the writing on the wall with that on the back

of a TV set known to have belonged to Ray.

THE MYSTERIOUS blonde friend of Ray has been traced first to Cincinnati and then to Milwaukee. It is certain that Ray purchased her ticket to visit her parents in the Midwest.

It is also certain that she left her parents three weeks ago and moved into a Milwaukee hotel under an assumed name and with a man who said he was her husband. The woman in question is not married.

On April 22, the woman, so far identified only as Jerri, wrote a Los Angeles friend a letter. The letter indicated that Jerri had moved into the motel a few days after King was assassinated and that she planned to return to Los Angeles in two weeks.

The woman is not a suspect in the case. Investigators hope she can give additional details about Ray's activities and contacts.

Lomax is now following Ray's trail from Los Angeles to New Orleans, where Lomax said Ray made contact with a man "who is probably an industrialist and a builder" shortly before last Christmas. Lomax' story continued:

"DURING THE trip Ray made several telephonic efforts to reach his New Orleans contact. The first three efforts resulted in a 'no answer.' On the fourth try, Ray got an answer but the evidence suggests that the party

he wished to contact was not there.

"It is further evident that Ray, during the fourth phone call, made a date to call his contact at 9 o'clock the following evening. This particular call was made from a phone booth near Yuma. At approximately 9 p. m. Dec. 16, Ray contacted his New Orleans ally, from a phone booth in Houston.

"LATE YESTERDAY afternoon, another startling development occurred. The woman known as Jerri, along with her 'husband,' suddenly vanished from the Royal Hotel, 435 Michigan st., Milwaukee.

"Shortly after a long distance call from this reporter, the woman and the man alleged to be her husband suddenly checked out of the motel," Lomax wrote.

"According to the relief clerk who works only on Wednesday, the description of the woman's husband is similar to that of James Earle Ray. This disclosure adds understanding to the FBI press release that they were searching for Ray near the Canadian border which is not too far from Wisconsin.

"Even so, the search for the bankrollers of Ray concentrates on New Orleans and it becomes increasingly certain that Ray's phone call from the phone booth in Houston will provide the clue."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Brother Visited Him Before Escape

BY JACK NELSON

© 1968 The Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

Atlanta—James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, was visited in the Missouri State Prison by his brother, John, a day before escaping the prison last year, according to Warden Harold Swenson.

An FBI complaint filed on April 17 accused Eric Starvo Galt, whom the FBI has since identified as James Earl Ray, of conspiring with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother," to violate Dr. King's civil rights. The complaint did not name the individual.

In a telephone interview Tuesday from the prison at Jefferson City, Warden Swenson said prison records showed it was the eighth time John Ray had visited his brother, who was serving 20 years for robbery.

FBI Won't Comment

News men have been unable to locate John Ray and the FBI refuses to say anything about him.

Memphis police also have accused James Earl Ray, in the name of Galt, with murder.

Warden Swenson said prison records show that Jerry Ray, another of the suspect's brothers, visited him five times. Two known relatives of the suspect have said he has one other living brother, Max, a teen-ager.

Meanwhile, the FBI continued a nationwide search for the suspect, who is believed to have abandoned a white Mustang in Atlanta 12 to 14 hours after the assassination of Dr. King in Memphis on April 4. There is no report of his having been seen since early April 5 when several witnesses here reported seeing a man believed to be Ray park the Mustang and walk off.

Prison records from 1960 listed John and Jerry Ray as residing with their grandmother, Mrs. Mary Maher, at 1913 Hickory St., St. Louis, but an investigation showed they had not lived there for several years.

Believed Migrant

The Los Angeles Times has learned John Ray's school records in Ewing, Mo., show he was born on Feb. 14, 1933. An uncle, William E. Maher of Alton, Ill., told a Times reporter he thought John was a migrant farm worker.

John, who apparently also went by the nickname Jack, has a middle name which Maher said he thought was "William."

However, Warden Swenson said that on an application card for his prison visitor's pass John signed his name "and the middle name looks like 'Larry.'"

Swenson said John visited his brother at the prison once in 1962, three times in 1963, three times in 1966, and once in 1967—on April 22, the day before the escape. He said he did not know the significance of the last visit.

"But we saw no evidence that John had anything to do with the escape," Ray, who worked as a baker in the prison, was believed to have escaped by hiding in a bakery truck.

Swenson said Jerry Ray visited his brother twice in 1963 and three times in 1965. Jerry is believed to be in his mid-20s.

Bounty Reported

Meanwhile, a Georgia convict said Ray once said he would collect a "million-dollar bounty" put up by a mysterious "businessmen's association" for the death of Dr. King, according to a prison friend.

Raymond Curtis, in jail here awaiting an appeal of a murder conviction, said the matter of King first came up shortly after President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

"Well, somebody made a pretty penny on that," Ray told Curtis after hearing of Kennedy's death.

About a week later, in the yard of the Missouri state prison at Jefferson City, a "new man just off the street" told them "the businessmen's association has a million-dollar bounty out for Martin Luther King," Curtis said.

He said Ray smiled and said "If there's a million dollars out on King, I believe if I ever get it I'll collect it."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Att.:

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Title MURKIN

☐ ASAC

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☐ Agent

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RE:

☐ Steno

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ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign Reassign

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials

to

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

Re attached.

SAC ROBERT E. RIGHTMYER

See reverse side

Office New Orleans

Map of Atlanta Linked to Ray

BY JACK NELSON

©1968 Los Angeles Times
Washington Post News Service

Washington—A map of Atlanta with the areas of Dr. Martin Luther King's residence and church circled has been linked to accused assassin James Earl Ray by the FBI.

It was learned Tuesday from an unimpeachable source that the map is part of the FBI's evidence in its civil rights conspiracy case against Ray.

The map tends to support theory by some investigators that Ray stalked Dr. King for some time before fatally shooting him on April 4 as the civil rights leader stood on a balcony outside his Memphis hotel room.

The areas circled included the Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Ave. in a Negro business area on the eastern edge of downtown Atlanta and the area of Dr. King's residence.

Dr. King and his father, The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. served as co-pastors of the church.

Australian police are making a nationwide search for Ray. Canberra police officials said the FBI cabled that it had information indicating Ray might have fled to Australia.

Australian police have also begun an intensive examination of all entry documents filed at points of entry since King's assassination, but officers say nothing positive has turned up yet.

Ray has been the object of a nationwide manhunt since April 17 when the FBI charged him—in a complaint listing him under the alias of Eric Starvo Galt—with conspiring to violate Dr. King's civil rights. Memphis police quickly followed with a murder charge.

Two days after filing the complaint, the FBI announced that fingerprints revealed that Galt actually was Ray, a 40-year-old escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

How the FBI obtained the Atlanta map with its markings is not known. It apparently was either left by Ray as he fled the murder scene or was found in a car he abandoned in Atlanta.

The FBI alleges Ray bought a rifle with telescopic sight in Birmingham on March 29. And Jefferson County (Birmingham) Sheriff Mel Bailey has said the killing probably was planned in Birmingham.

Bailey said there was evidence that Ray was in Birmingham the same time as Dr. King last October and November. "He could have laid in wait on many occasions, waiting for a shot at King," Bailey said.

Federal investigators, however, apparently favor the theory that Ray, who was known to be strangely impulsive, did not plan the killing over that long a period of time.

Although the FBI complaint accused the suspect of conspiring in the assassination with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother," it was learned that the FBI's investigation has turned up little or no evidence that the crime involved more than one person.

The FBI's allegation of a conspiracy apparently rests solely on the statement by a clerk at a Birmingham sporting goods store that Ray, in purchasing a rifle on March 29, mentioned that he and his brother planned to use it.

The weapon, a .30-06 rifle was traced to the store by the FBI after having been dropped by the assassin as he fled a Memphis boarding house from which he had fired the fatal shot.

The FBI apparently has lost all trace of Ray since between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. (EST) April 5—12 to 14 hours after the kill-

ing—when a man was seen abandoning a white Mustang in a public housing project in Atlanta. The car, which matched the description of one which fled the murder scene, was registered in the name of Eric Starvo Galt. Ray began using that alias some time after escaping from prison on April 23, 1967, according to authorities.

A question still bothering the FBI is whether Ray, although he is believed to have acted alone in the actual assassination, might not have been a hired killer. He is believed to have spent \$6000 to \$8000 in cash after his escape and had no known employment during that time. In abandoning his car, he forfeited a vehicle for which he had paid \$2000 cash only seven months earlier.

A leading theory among investigators, however, is that Ray was a Lee Harvey Oswald-type assassin, a loner and loser who brooded over his own low station in life and finally decided on one act of violence that would lift him from obscurity.

The source of his funds remains a puzzle. Could he have been a more successful robber and burglar than his record indicates? Did he live off stolen funds after his escape or did he have cash stashed away from a crime committed before his last imprisonment? The FBI does not pretend to know the answers.

One thing the painstaking FBI investigation has turned up about Ray is that he is more of a racist than was first believed.

Although some prison sources said Ray showed no manifestations of racism, it is now known that he brooded over race problems and had a deep hatred or fear of Negroes. He once rejected a transfer to a prison farm—a coveted move for most convicts—because of the high percentage of Negroes there.

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Brother Wants James Earl Ray To Surrender

CHICAGO — (UPI) — The brother of James Earl Ray, the man sought by the FBI in the slaying of Dr Martin Lu-



JERRY RAY
Wanted Man's Brother

ther King Jr, has called for Ray to surrender, the Chicago Sun-Times reported Thursday.

In an interview, the newspaper reported Jerry Ray, 32, as saying:

"IF HE is still alive I urge him to surrender himself to the FBI or contact someone in the family and ask them to make surrender arrangements.

"If he's still alive the FBI is going to get him, you can be sure of that."

The newspaper said Jerry Ray was a maintenance man at a golf club in one of Chicago's northern suburbs.

James Earl Ray, 40, has been the object of a search throughout the nation and in Mexico since April 19 when

the FBI identified him as the mysterious Eric Starvo Galt, wanted in the April 4 slaying of King at Memphis.

THE FBI said James Earl Ray was identified through fingerprints. Ray escaped from the Missouri State 1967.

In discussing his brother, Jerry Ray said the family feared James might be dead. Jerry was also quoted as saying his brother was "never a man of violence," but might have been "used" as part of a conspiracy.

Jerry Ray told the Sun-Times it seemed apparent from news dispatches that his brother had come into some money.

"BUYING Mustangs, taking dancing lessons, taking trips to Mexico. Look at the mileage he put on his car. You don't get that kind of money from sticking up grocery stores, and my brother wasn't the kind to stick up currency exchanges," Jerry was quoted.

If his brother surrendered, Jerry was quoted, and informed on others in "this razzle dazzle conspiracy," the brother might "get a break from authorities."

To support his contention that James was not violent, Jerry was quoted by the newspaper as saying, "Check his record. Of all the trouble he's been in he never fired a gun or pistol-whipped anyone, or slapped anyone around. That wasn't his style."

WASHINGTON — Prison records show James Earl Ray, charged with murdering Dr Martin Luther King Jr, was considered a model prisoner while in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

By the time Ray was released on April 5, 1958, he had earned — in addition to time off for good behavior — an extra 45 days early release for meritorious conduct.

He served two years and nine months of a three-year, nine-month sentence imposed by a Kansas City federal court for forging postal money orders.

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FBI Releases 2 Ray Pictures; One Called 'Good Likeness'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The FBI distributed two more photographs Tuesday of the man accused in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King — one of them "an extremely good likeness."

Both were snapshots of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, an escaped convict accused of shooting King to death in Memphis April 4.

THE "EXTREMELY good likeness" is a candid photograph of Ray in a business suit and tie and shows almost his full face, taken in late January or early February somewhere in California.

The other, which the FBI said was taken last November somewhere in Mexico, shows him wearing sun glasses and what appears to be a white sports shirt. The FBI said Ray is known to wear sun glasses frequently.

The two new photographs — the FBI refused to say where or how they were obtained — will be displayed throughout the country along with three other pictures of Ray which now appear on FBI's wanted posters.

ONE OF THE earlier photo-

graphs was taken when Ray was graduated from bartending school in Los Angeles early this year. His eyes were closed when the shutter snapped, but they were sketched in by an FBI artist. The picture shows him wearing a white shirt and black bow tie.

The other two photographs were made when Ray entered the Missouri State Prison in 1960 to serve a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Ray, who escaped from prison April 23, 1967, by hiding in a truck, is wanted by the FBI for illegal flight to avoid prosecution in Tennessee in King's slaying.

THE CIVIL rights leader was shot to death on a motel balcony, apparently by a rifleman 200 feet away in a rooming house bathroom.

Thirteen days later the FBI announced it had issued a warrant for Galt, but after checking some 53,000 fingerprints, the FBI said two days afterward that Galt and Ray were the same man.

Ray was added to the FBI's list of 10 most-wanted criminals April 20. There have been reports of the search extending to various foreign countries, including Australia, and authorities along the U.S. borders have been alerted to watch for him.

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RAY STILL SOUGHT; FBI RELEASES 2 PICTURES OF ESCAPEE
Shot in Sun Glasses Believed Made in Mexico; Business Suit, in California

—AP Wirephoto

Clark Believes King Slaying Suspect Alive, Acted Alone

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Atty Gen Ramsey Clark expressed the belief Sunday that escaped convict James Earl Ray, accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King, remains alive. He said he was "very optimistic" that Ray would be captured.

Clark said he found no evidence to support theories that Ray had been hired by conspirators to kill King and then himself was killed. "We have no evidence to believe that he is not still alive," he said.

"I BELIEVE we will find him," Clark said. Citing the "massive manhunt" under way for Ray, he said, "It is awfully difficult for an individual, and particularly an individual about whom so much is known, to remain at large in the United States under these circumstances."

Interviewed on television, Clark also said the investigation was still operating on the assumption that King's killer was not the agent of conspirators.

"OUR EVIDENCE indicates a man acting alone," he said. "This does not negate other

theories. It would be impossible to rule out a conspiracy of the right or the left or the middle or any other type of conspiracy. But at this time, our evidence is that this man was acting alone."

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WANTED BY THE FBI



JAMES EARL RAY, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W.C. Herron and James O'Conner.

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee, sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Top Ten" list to insure widespread dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to speed his location.

Ray has been intensively sought since the murder of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices were posted, determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias of Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful flight to avoid confinement for robbery. His long criminal record also includes convictions for burglary and forging U.S. Postal Money Orders.

A white American, born in Alton, Illinois, on March 10, 1928, Ray is 5'10" tall, weighs 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably. Known as a "loner" and "drifter," Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

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5/13/68
LA GRANGE, TEXAS

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Ray's Brother Wants to Forget Him

© 1968 The Los Angeles Times-
Washington Post News Service

St. Louis—"I'm not interested in my brother at all. Not at all. I never want to see him again."

The words are harsh, bitter, disappointed, and spoken by John Larry Ray, 37-year-old brother of James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

John Larry refused to discuss in detail his brother or anything touching on the April 4 assassination in Memphis.

A Loner

Moody, and somewhat of a loner, he and his sister, Mrs. Carol Ann Peper, 27, live quietly in St. Louis seeking anonymity from the publicity which has surrounded the family since

their lives came under public scrutiny.

As the member of the family closest to James Earl, John Larry has been the only one not publicly accounted for since the assassination. Like all other members of the family, however, he has been questioned at length by the FBI.

He owns a one-truck delivery service here and helps run a South Side neighborhood tavern, the Grape Vine, which is leased by his sister.

Hates Brother

"Few of his friends here even know John is the brother of James Earl," said a close acquaintance. "He doesn't talk about what happened but he said after the assassination that he

hated his brother for what he had done."

The acquaintance also said John Larry Ray was shocked by the identification of James Earl as the suspected assassin. "He has tried to make something of himself despite his poor family background and maybe he knows how James Earl ended up a convict. Larry's a nice guy."

John Larry lives on the city's South Side, not far from the streets and sidewalks where the Ray children matured.

Father Alive

Contrary to published reports, the father, George Ray, is still alive and there are some indications he may be living in or near St. Louis.

Ray talked briefly about his

brother but refused to go into any detail.

"I don't have any comment. I'm not implicated in this in any way. The FBI has been here to talk to me. They've talked to my sister. She's sick and tired of it all and so am I," he said.

"I could sell my story for \$15,000 or \$20,000 to magazines or television if I wanted to. But I don't want to do that and I don't have any intention of doing it. I don't want to talk about it. That's all there is to it," he added.

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WANTED BY THE FBI



JAMES EARL RAY, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner.

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Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.

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[Signature]

King Probe Taking Sensational Turn?

By PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation's massive probe of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King is taking a possibly sensational turn.

With James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin, apparently either outside the U.S. or now dead, FBI agents have increased their surveillance of several American communists known to have been closely associated with King, including one who wrote speeches for him in the past.

This new development was triggered by evidence gathered by the more than 1000 agents who have worked on the mysterious King shooting and by several "tips" and letters sent to the FBI.

Speech Discrepancy

One of the most interesting of these "tips" came from an alert TV viewer and concerns the now famous "Mountain Top" speech King made on April 3, the night before his slaying, showing a premonition of his impending death.

"If the speech was truly made in Memphis on April 3 as reported," the letter pointed out, "then how can one account for King stating his age as 36 (instead of 39) and why does he speak of demonstrating in Alabama twice during the speech?"

After checking out the time and location of King's final speech, several of the crack FBI agents assigned to the case decided to begin seeking answers to a number of their own questions, including:

Question

"If King had personally written that speech, why would he make mistakes like those contained in it—especially the one involving his age?"

"If the speech was written by someone other than King, who was the author and when was it written?"

The answers to these questions are considered highly important to the investigation, since, if another person was concerned in the preparation of that speech, the writer might be able to shed new light on it—especially those mistakes.

Also, if King had received help with the speech, the passages dealing with the civil rights leader's premonition of death would probably have been fully discussed. King's request to the Detroit police department for protection when he visited that city a few weeks before his death indicated he feared for his life then.

Red Speech Writer

Information gathered by the

FBI on King, prior to his assassination, showed that a secret member of the Communist Party's executive committee was one of King's closest advisers and speech writers.

This ghost writer for King prepared many of his most famous speeches, according to testimony given by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover during a closed door meeting of a House Appropriations subcommittee.

Since Ray during his trips prior to King's assassination visited the same city in which this ghost writer lives, the FBI is now investigating to determine if the two met covertly.

Recent evidence gathered by FBI agents in one of the most massive probes in the nation's history has forced serious investigation of these possibilities:

Alternatives

That somebody close to King or within his own organization tipped off his assassin as to the civil rights leader's routine on the day of his slaying.

That Ray was hired directly by certain black nationalists who paid him with money made available by foreign sources.

That an international communist "assassin squad" was involved in the slaying.

Because of Ray's mysterious trips to Mexico and Canada shortly before the assassination, the entire U.S. intelligence operation, ranging from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Defense Intelligence Agency, has been pressed into the hunt for King's killer.

One CIA report indicates that Ray, who is linked to the murder weapon by fingerprints and ballistic data, may have visited Cuba during his Mexican trip, according to information furnished by a Mexican airline official.

Irony

The FBI assumption is that, if there was a conspiracy to kill King, those involved made arrangements to spirit their hired killer out of the U.S. to Cuba via either Mexico or Canada.

Probably the greatest irony of the probe of King's assassination is that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, one of the civil rights leader's severest critics when he was alive, is doing everything in his power to solve the case.

On the other hand, King's closest aides in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference are showing little or no interest in whether the killer is found.

When Rev. Ralph Abernathy,

King's successor as president of the SCLC, presented a series of demands to Attorney General Ramsey Clark for the "Poor People's" campaign none of these called for more intensive effort to solve King's assassination.

According to persons who attended the meeting, nothing was said about King's death or the FBI investigation, although a number of the poor in "Resurrection City" had urged Abernathy to press for a more vigorous probe.

Congressional supporters of Hoover say there are a number of compelling reasons for Abernathy's silence. Most important of these is King's instruction to key aides of his Southern Christian Leadership Conference not long before his death that no verbal attacks were to be made against Hoover or the FBI for fear of counter action by the FBI director.

The last time King blasted Hoover and the FBI publicly these lawmakers pointed out, the FBI director called the Negro leader the "most notorious liar" that he had ever known — a statement Hoover has never retracted.

At the time, the King-Hoover exchange resulted in a White House arranged meeting at which the veteran FBI director did most of the talking.

"THE HOUSTON TRIBUNE"

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Blunt Warning

According to an unpublished account given to House Appropriations subcommittee members, Hoover frankly told King that if King ever repeated his unfounded charges against the FBI, everything he knew about King would be made public.

After that blunt warning, King refrained from ever re-

peating his attack against either Hoover or the FBI. Rev. Abernathy, who accompanied King to Washington for that meeting with Hoover, adopted that same policy.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Diligent FBI work pays off

A tragic week in American history offers at least one note of triumph—the arrest in London of the escaped Missouri convict who is wanted for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

This brings to a partial end one of the most massive manhunts in this nation's history. That the suspect, James Earl Ray, who was armed at the time, was arrested unharmed and without violence is a tribute to the excellent work performed by the FBI, the Canadian Mounted Police, Canada's passport officials and London's Scotland Yard.

Indeed, it was beginning to look like Ray's trail had grown cold and that he had made good his escape despite the highly visible evidence he left at the scene of the crime and despite the international police net which was out to catch him. The search reached into

Mexico, Canada, Portugal and Great Britain plus many other countries. Much credit should be given to the Mounted Police which examined more than 300,000 passport photographs before they found Ray's. And, of course, main credit should go to the FBI for another superb investigative job.

His capture by no means solves the mystery of the assassination. Ray himself remains in a London jail awaiting extradition to the United States for trial on one or all of the three charges pending against him. His motive—if he proves to be the killer—remains to be established; also the existence of any accomplices or the existence of a conspiracy against the slain civil rights leader. Evidence also suggests this assassination case may involve others who hired King's assailant to do the brutal deed.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Brother Wants Foreman

The brother of James Earl Ray, charged in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said today he has been trying to contact Houston lawyer Percy Foreman. John Larry Ray, 35, said he wants Foreman to defend his brother, who was arrested in London last week.

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Brother Says He Wants Percy Foreman To Defend Ray

James Earl Ray's brother said Friday in Saint Louis that he has been trying to talk to Houston lawyer Percy Foreman to ask him to defend his brother.

Foreman said his office did receive a call Thursday from a man in Saint Louis, who claimed to be John Larry Ray, a brother of the suspect in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

FOREMAN SAID he was out of town Thursday and had not yet returned the call, so he didn't know yet if the caller was actually Ray's 35-year-old brother.

"I just wouldn't take employment from anyone else other than the person I am representing," Foreman said. Ray, 40, sought in a number

of countries for two months, was arrested a week ago at London airport.

"If I were representing James Ray, if someone hired me to represent him, if someone paid me to represent him," said Foreman, "I would be in England in 24 hours."

LAWYERS FOR Ray and the United States are expected to meet Monday to set a date for a hearing on a U.S. request to return him to Tennessee to face murder charges.

However, U.S. Embassy sources said action would be taken during the week end.

Ray will appear in court Tuesday on charges of illegally carrying a loaded .38 caliber pistol and two false Ca-

nadian passports under the names of Ramon George Sneyd when he was arrested at Heathrow Airport last Saturday.

"IN MY considered and limited opinion," Foreman said, "the early part of the criminal trial is the most crucial part . . . between the time of the arrest and the time of arraignment, because

under the law, the basis under which extradition is granted can very easily control the case.

"He needs a lawyer in England."

Foreman said he had received more than 20 letters from people all over the country asking him to represent Ray.

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6-15-68
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Foreman Hasn't Been Asked To Defend Ray

Percy Foreman, Houston defense lawyer, said Saturday he has not been asked to represent James Earl Ray and probably couldn't take the case if he is asked.

Ray, accused in the slaying of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, was arrested a week ago in London and is in a Scotland Yard jail awaiting extradition to the United States.

Foreman's office received a phone call Thursday from

Saint Louis, Mo, the home of the suspect's brother, John Larry Ray. But Foreman said Saturday the call came from a reporter.

"This thing wouldn't just be a case, it would be a career," Foreman said. "I don't see how I could even get into it and still do justice to my other clients; but I would listen to them if they called me.

"I'm not looking for business," he said.

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Who's prejudicing the public?

A committee of eight lawyers at Memphis, Tenn., has been investigating a possible violation of a criminal court judge's order limiting publicity in the case of James Earl Ray, who is charged with murder in connection with the death of Dr. Martin Luther King.

This situation serves as a typical example of how newspapers often are charged with creating pretrial prejudice when it is the lawyers themselves who are to blame. The press was made such a target in the recent Reardon Committee report which was adopted by the American Bar Assn.

Arthur J. Hanes, who is acting as defense counsel for Ray, Sunday called a news conference to publicly charge that Ray's rights were being violated in the Shelby County jail. Hanes enlarged on that subject by claiming that his client is the target of an international Communist conspiracy. Hanes also claimed that he and his family had been threatened, but did not say by whom.

Hanes' action came after Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle had issued an order forbidding attorneys, officers, witnesses, or anyone else giving interviews "prejudicial to a fair trial by an impartial jury."

Hanes is critical of tight security measures surrounding Ray. He said constant closed circuit television sur-

veillance was detrimental to his client's health.

That criticism seems to us incongruous in view of Hanes' charge that "there are forces at work in this country that do not want to see this man tried, and they will use any means, in my judgment, to see that neither he nor I appear in the courtroom." If that is true, the strict security measures to protect Ray should be reassuring to his attorney, rather than a subject of his criticism.

It appears that the objection to strict security was used merely to make public the allegation of a Communist conspiracy. It should be noted that the attorney said he was withholding details of the conspiracy plot until Ray's trial, Nov. 12.

Why make the conspiracy charge public but withhold details to support the charge?

The Ray case appears to be following a similar pattern of tactics used by District Attorney Jim Garrison in the Clay Shaw case which is another example of the Reardon Report fallacy.

It will be interesting to learn whether or not the Memphis committee recommends contempt proceedings in its findings and if the press will be charged with publishing news "prejudicial to a fair trial by an impartial jury," when Ray's trial opens.

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44-1509(6)-445

Percy Unable To Find Aide In Memphis

Chicago Daily News-Sun-Times Service

Memphis — Percy Foreman, James Earl Ray's Texas attorney, said he has been unable to find an acceptable local lawyer to assist in the defense of the accused killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I'm having difficulty getting an attorney I want because the outstanding attorneys of the community have disqualified themselves," Foreman said.

Foreman said he talked to four lawyers who are members of a special seven-man committee named by Criminal Courts Judge W. Preston Battle to keep an eye on news coverage of the trial.

He refused to name the attorneys he talked to and declined to speculate on whether he might seek a change of venue for the trial.

However, if Foreman can show he has been unable to obtain a local lawyer of his choice because the best ones have been active in the case, it could be grounds for a shift.

Foreman also revealed that he has been unable to find a key prosecution witness, Charles Q. Stevens. Stevens allegedly identified Ray as the man he saw emerge from a rooming house bathroom from which police believe the shot was fired.

"I understand he's guarded around the clock by six city policemen," said Foreman.

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W. E. A. [Signature]

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PERCY FOREMAN!

'It's Not That I'm Vain, Proud or Egotistical. I Just Don't Have Anything to Be Modest About'

The Great Voice, pitched in a righteous fury, lashed the memory of the slain man as a tyrant, a wife-beater, a monster who had poisoned little puppy dogs and strangled a parakeet.

A spell-bound jury and a courtroom of spectators, mostly lawyers studying the master's style, marveled at the Jehovah-like wrath, the superb rhetoric from the bull throat of the orator.

Now the Voice throbbed with sympathy for the widow so unjustly accused of killing her husband.

Thirty minutes later the widow, a barmaid named Ethel Mae Simpson — she had fired six .45 slugs into her husband — walked out of the Houston courtroom a free woman.

So, once again (was it for the 1000th time? "I don't keep records," he says), Percy Eugene Foreman, age 66, six feet 4 inches tall, 255 pounds, had prevailed.

Never a Bore

He has been described as another Clarence Darrow, a shyster, a legal Robin Hood, and an insatiable publicity seeker. He may be all that, but he's much more: a multimillionaire, a nonpareil extrovert with a yard-wide ego. He can be incredibly rude and incredibly tender or charming, always flamboyant, never a bore.

Foreman, who has thrust himself again into the spotlight of national attention by taking over the defense of James Earl Ray, accused slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King, says glibly:

"I don't pretend to be the greatest lawyer who ever lived or even the greatest lawyer today, but on the other hand I don't deny it."

Once, needled by an adversary for his supreme egotism, Foreman retorted: "It's not that I'm vain, proud or egotistical. I just don't have anything to be modest about."

Strip away the layers of arrogance from the man, says a critic — admirer, "and you'll find a monumental sneer for the whole human race."

Foreman loves to play God, says the same critic — admirer, "And he laughs at man's foibles, his fears and anxieties."

His Other Side

To hosts of others Foreman is a kind, benevolent genius who gives his time and talents to represent them without fee.

To Gregory Ayala, a busboy, "Mr. Foreman is the greatest man alive. He came to the city jail at midnight to bail me out. The law thought I was kiddin' when I told them Mr. Foreman was my lawyer. Me, a Mexican busboy. So I ask Mr. Foreman how much I owed him after he got me off. And he says 'I don't owe him nothin' and he give me \$10 for cab fare home.'"

Working without a fee, Foreman won acquittal for four Texas policemen accused of brutally beating a federal prisoner. A grateful Peace Officers Assn. of Texas gave Foreman a diamond-studded wrist watch at a testimonial dinner.

Less than three months later he lost his title as the White Knight for peace officers. It happened in the early 1950s in San Angelo, after he won freedom for Diego Carlino, who had been accused of the gangland slaying of a Houston gambler.

Attacked by Officers

Minutes after the jury acquitted his client, a Texas Ranger and a sheriff attacked Foreman with their fists in a hallway near the judge's chambers.

Foreman had accused the two lawmen of torturing his client to confess to the killing. Sheriff C. V. Kern said at the time: "Foreman called me everything from a Russian investigator to a Gestapo agent. It's the same old story. He puts the officers on trial."

One juror remarked after Foreman was attacked: "If we had not been convinced already that the defendant was innocent, this certainly would have convinced us."

On his return to the Shamrock Hotel in Houston where he was living at the time, Foreman met the press. Setting aside crutches, he sagged wearily into an overstuffed chair. Bandages striped his face. In sign language he indicated he couldn't talk through his battered lips.

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Father, Forgive Them

What did the Great Man have to say of his treatment at the hands of the sheriff and the Ranger? Foreman, picking up a pen and a yellow legal pad, wrote quickly in a bold hand: "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do."

Those were the days, before the tons of national publicity on the Candy Mossler-Melvin Powers murder trial in Miami, when he was more readily available for a price-less quote.

Not that he still isn't today, but the demands on his time have made him less accessible. However, he remains the darling of the press.

The years haven't robbed him of his greatest appeal, an unfettered, natural flamboyance. As he has done for years he still wears his tailored black suits with a rumpled, potato-sack look.

The pants pockets are tailored for specific depth, almost to the knees to contain the rolls of currency he carries. The deep pockets, he explains, minimize the chance of money falling out.

Fathomless Eyes

The massive, jowled face is as flexible as a baby's. Only the gray-green, fathomless eyes remain the same. Too



Chronicle Photo

ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN ADDRESSES A JURY "My Clients Want Freedom, Not Justice," He Says

long ago they were programmed to detect the greed, deceit, malice or hate in the human race.

During his 45-year career as an attorney he has lost one client to the executioner: a drive-in operator named Steve Mitchell who shot and killed his wife.

"He deserved to die," Foreman has said.

The prosecutor who sent Mitchell to the chair and sullied the Foreman record was the late A. C. Winborn, a bald little man with bags under his eyes and a great gift for oratory and tears that could stir a jury to emotional frenzy.

"How can you face your wife and little children tonight if you free this monster to prey on society?" Winborn would ask a jury.

Spurgeon Bell, a chief justice of the First Court of Civil Appeals, recalls he was an as-

sistant district attorney in the early 50s when Winborn hung the black mark on Foreman's trial record.

He Learned a Lot

"I helped prosecute the Mitchell case with Winborn," says Bell, "and Percy knew he had met the master. There's no doubt in my mind that Percy learned a helluva lot from the late Mr. Winborn."

The courtroom theatrics of Foreman, born in a log cabin in Polk County, are legion. In his defense of Nago Alaniz, on trial for the murder of a South Texas attorney, Foreman told the jury:

"If you find my client guilty, don't send him to the prison. He's an attorney and a prison record will ruin his life. Send him to the electric chair."

After the jury acquitted Alaniz, a courtroom observer asked Foreman:

"My God! How could you

tell the jury to send your client to the chair?"

"I could afford to be brave," Foreman smiled, "There were only 17 reversible errors made by the state."

His Home Life

He lives with his wife, Marguerita, a former ballerina and actress, and their 10-year-old daughter, also named Marguerita, in a \$50,000 home once owned by a former client who ran afoul of the law.

Without shame, Foreman says, "it was the best home my client (Irwin Blum) had at the time."

He claims "no compunction in charging a client all the traffic will bear. The laborer is worthy of his home. And that's Scripture."

Foreman, whose worth is estimated at \$6 million, set a \$200,000 fee to defend Melvin Lane Powers, the pitted-faced co-defendant in the Jacques Mossler murder trial.

Mrs. Candace Mossler, the sexy, socialite grandmother and co-defendant, had put up \$46,000 worth of her gems as a retainer fee for her nephew's defense. Powers himself signed over to Foreman about 5 acres valued at about \$400,000, in the wealthy Southwest Houston area.

Before his trial in Miami, Powers filed a pauper's oath. Foreman told a Florida judge at the time: "I think your honor should take judicial knowledge of the fact that having employed me, Mr. Powers is unquestionably an indigent man."

His Legal Strategy

Foreman's pattern of legal strategy to free Powers (and Candy Mossler rode the slipstream of the Powers acquittal) was on his tried-and-true technique he long ago perfected: tedious pre-trial preparation and daring attacks on the veracity of state's witnesses and the character of the slain Jacques Mossler.

His functional guideline as a crime attorney, he has often said, is predicated on the

principle "my clients want freedom, not justice."

On the phone one day he told a man seeking his legal services:

"I don't care if you're innocent or guilty. I just want to know if you're in trouble. If you are, you need the best lawyer in the nation. And I'm the best."

To an irate divorcee who charged into his office with a pistol in her hand, he said: "Honey you don't want to shoot me because I'm the only man in the world who could get you off a murder charge."

His Divorce Cases

His reputation as a defense attorney rests on his record of acquittals for accused killers ("All my clients are innocent."), however, he's the undisputed king of the divorce courts in Houston.

"I started handling divorces wholesale in 1938," he says. "Since then I've handled more divorces than any living lawyer in the world — the world, mind you, not just the United States. During one World War II year I handled 250 cases and I'm still going strong."

He turns down 19 out of 20 women seeking divorces, he says, "because they ought not to get a divorce. It's just not economically feasible for them."

Too many women are unrealistic, he says, "they just don't realize that they aren't forever young, beautiful, lithe. They don't see the crows feet crawling over their faces. They can't anticipate or see a fading of their physical charms."

The Legend Grows

The Foreman legend has grown, certainly because of great intellect and skill, and also because of his ability to attract publicity.

For instance, Foreman is generally credited with obtaining a \$6.5 million settlement for Mrs. Cecil Blaffer

Hudson, who had sued her husband for divorce.

Another attorney, the highly respected J. Edwin Smith, had worked three years preparing the contested settlement for trial. At almost the very last moment Mrs. Hudson dismissed Smith and hired Foreman to represent her. Smith later sued and collected \$175,000 for his legal services.

However, at the settlement it was Foreman posing with Mrs. Hudson for the news pictures.

Foreman has been the object of adulation, praise, scorn, vilification and curses. During a recent CBS Television show illustrating the style of Foreman in a courtroom, he heard himself described as a "no good bastard."

A Scream in Court

On another occasion a grief-stricken widow screamed at him in a court room after he had successfully defended her husband's accused killer:

"You may be a big successful lawyer," cried Mrs. Katherine Ainsworth, "but you set a killer free. He killed my husband and he should have been punished. There's no justice."

For once the big man seemed checkmated. No wise retort. No cutting quip. He simply said: "All right, lady. If that's all you have to say, goodbye."

Her final outcry was: "Go to hell, Mr. Foreman."

The situation was too basic, pat: You never argue with a distraught woman.

Now, in the winter of his life, Foreman has hinted at retirement. However, better than anyone else, he knows he won't quit. There's the James Earl Ray case and the whole world will be watching him.

Too long ago the sweet wine of fame infiltrated his bloodstream. And there's no known cure for an incurable superstar hooked on the needle of glamour and success.

Foreman Sued By King Death Private Eye

Memphis, Tenn (AP) — A private investigator who until two months ago was employed in gathering evidence for the defense of James Earl Ray has filed a \$250,000 damage suit against Percy Foreman, Ray's new chief counsel.

Renfro Hays charged in the U. S. District Court suit that Foreman, a Houston attorney, made "false and defamatory statements" concerning Hays' work and caused him "pain and mental anguish."

Hays had worked on the case with Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., the attorney fired Dec. 10 by Ray, who is charged in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Foreman said after taking the Ray case he was requested by an attorney representing Hays to pay \$9456.84 for work Hays had done on the case.

Foreman said he said Dec. 18 in court that Hays' investigative report is "in my opinion, not worth much."

Foreman said the filing of the lawsuit will enable him to take Hays' deposition and find out what he knows about the killing of King.

"I can now do this without having to ante up \$9456.84," he said. "I appreciate his co-operation."

Ray is scheduled to go on trial March 3 in Memphis.

*James Earl Ray - 44-1509
Percy Foreman - many refs.
Renfro Hays*

"THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE"
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Murder Case Kept Alive

The arrangement by which James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of Dr Martin Luther King Jr and accepted a 99-year prison term may have been a satisfactory disposition of the legal case for everyone directly involved. But the lack of a full-dress trial practically assured that the case will be kept alive indefinitely. There always will be speculation. There always will be questions about what the truth was. There always will be doubt that Ray acted alone, and there always will be suspicion that there was a conspiracy of some kind.

Far from being a "coverup," as has been charged, the decision not to hold a full trial was the best way to assure that the murder of the civil rights leader will not be soon forgotten.

RAY HIMSELF MADE this even more certain when he stood up in court and said that he did not agree with the theory that there was no conspiracy. He certainly was in a position to know.

It could have been that he was simply trying to make the official record conform with the story he told for publication while in prison, that a blond Latin man he knew only as "Raoul" was involved. No proof has been found that this man ever existed except in Ray's imagination. Ray could have meant by his statement in court that he cannot prove that others were associated with him.

There is not the slightest reason for doubting the word of those involved in investigation and prosecution of the case that there is, at this time, no evidence to indicate that there was a conspiracy. As the judge in the case put it, there is no evidence that there was a conspiracy and no evidence that there was not one.

He added: If there was a conspiracy, no

member of such a conspiracy can ever live in peace or lie down to pleasant dreams because there is no statute of limitations . . ."

DISPOSITION OF THE case against Ray does not foreclose action against anyone else if evidence should be found at some time in the future that someone else was involved in the murder. There no longer is any reason, except possibly fear, why Ray himself should not assist in future investigations of the slaying and in bringing to justice any other persons who might have had a part in the assassination.

Many people simply find it hard to believe that he acted alone. Among the many unanswered questions in the case is that of motivation. The Memphis district attorney, Phil M. Canale, expressed the belief that Ray was moved by a personal hatred of Negroes. He believes that this feeling was strong enough to cause Ray to do what he did.

But others who know Ray well personally said that the murder of Dr King was completely "out of character" for Ray. They said that Ray was not a racist, that he was not political-minded and that he was not a killer by temperament or inclination.

ALL OF WHICH CAUSED one person who knew him personally to say: "If he was motivated by anything, it would be money."

One of his brothers said: "If my brother did kill King, he did it for a lot of money."

The offenses in his previous criminal record were all related to money. And his travels after the assassination indicate that he spent at least \$10,000 as a fugitive.

As matters stand, the book has not been closed on the King assassination case by any means, no matter how much some people would like to see it erased from the public's memory as soon as possible.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hints Of Conspiracy In King Case Probed

By PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON - The Federal Bureau of Investigation is probing dark new hints of a conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The unannounced FBI inquiry was ordered by Director J. Edgar Hoover after Sen. James Eastland, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, turned over a letter he received from James Earl Ray, the convicted King slayer.

In the two-page hand written communication drafted in his prison cell, Ray suggested a conspiracy in King's death by alleging that others in addition to himself were involved.

Significantly, Ray did not try to deny his

own participation in the assassination of King, who was slain last year in Memphis as he left his motel room.

While he gave no specific details in his letter to Sen. Eastland, Ray clearly indicated that he was ready to talk if certain conditions for his safety could be agreed upon.

In privately discussing Ray's surprise letter with other members of his subcommittee, Sen. Eastland reported that he decided to turn it over to the FBI after his staff investigators were unable to make any breakthrough in the case.

In addition to requesting the FBI to quiz Ray about the content of the letter, Sen. Eastland also suggested the G-men might
(See King Case, Page 2)

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want to ask the admitted slayer of King the following questions.

How did you know that King was going to be in the Loraine Motel on the day of the slaying?

How did you know the location of King's room?

How did you know King would come out on the balcony where he was shot?

How did you know exactly where to go to get a room from which to fire the fatal shot?

Sen. Eastland also wants Hoover to check on Ry's eyesight to determine if it was good enough to have permitted him to fire the fatal shot.

What effect the new FBI inquiry will have on Ry's request for a new trial is conjecture.

Ry's letter, however, has given the FBI the reason they need for questioning the convicted assassin on several aspects of the mystery shrouded case.

For example, the FBI would like to determine if Ray had ever had any direct or indirect contacts with persons close to King including one of his long-time advisers and speech writers.

Top Secret Communist

His "ghost," known to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as one of the top secret communists in the country, was the chief architect of the "Poor People's Campaign" that King was to have led in the nation's capital only days after he was assassinated.

Still incomplete is an FBI investigation of Ry's contacts made in New Orleans before King's assassination and after Ray had escaped from prison.

As reported in this column late in March, Sen. Eastland has taken the position that someone inside the motel had to finger King for the assassin.

Since Hoover knows more about the unpublished activities of the late Dr. King and his associates, Sen. Eastland believes he is in the best position of anyone in the country to determine if others were involved in the slaying.

King Wiretap OK'd By RFK-Tolson

WASHINGTON — (P) — The FBI claimed Wednesday the late Robert F. Kennedy authorized it to eavesdrop on telephone conversations of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It said the wiretap "was specifically approved in advance in writing" by Kennedy, then the attorney general.

Clyde A. Tolson, the FBI's associate director, made the assertion in attempting to repudiate newspaper reports that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover acted on his own in permitting King's phone to be tapped.

IN DEFENDING Hoover, however, Tolson revived a 1966 controversy over whether Kennedy approved the use of electronic snooping devices while he headed the Justice Department.

At that time, Hoover said Kennedy did. Kennedy, then a New York senator, said he did not. Both men eventually allowed the dispute to drop.

The latest wiretap dispute also recalled Hoover's attack

on King in 1964 as the "most notorious liar in the country." That attack came about the time the device was installed on the civil rights leader's Atlanta home.

With both Kennedy and King now dead, Hoover left to Tolson, his close associate for 34 years, the task of answering the new round of criticism.

IN A LETTER to columnist Carl T. Rowan, the Number 2 FBI official denounced an article published Sunday in which Rowan accused Hoover of flouting the law by allowing King's phone to be tapped. Rowan suggested Hoover ought to resign.

In reply, Tolson called the article "malicious" and "scurrilous" and added:

"For your information, the wiretap on Martin Luther King Jr. was specifically approved in advance in writing by the late attorney general of the United States, Mr. Robert F. Kennedy. This device was strictly in the field of internal security and, therefore, was within the provisions laid down by the then President of the United States."

THE KING wiretap was brought to light earlier this month during a Houston federal court hearing on whether former heavyweight champion Cassius Clay's conviction for refusing induction into the armed forces was tainted by illegally obtained evidence.

Robert A. Nichols, a special FBI agent, told of supervising the tap on King's phone, and logs of a conversation between King and Clay were introduced into the court record.

The Justice Department would not comment on Tolson's statement.

But two weeks ago, a spokesman said Hoover was "accurate in every respect" when he told Congress the attorney general authorizes all FBI wiretaps in advance and in writing.

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JUN 19 1969	
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"THE HOUSTON POST"

6/19/69

HOUSTON, TEXAS

By Ex-Attorneys General on Wiretap

Hoover Accused of 'False' Statements

BY RONALD J. OSTROW

©1969 Los Angeles Times-
Washington Post News Service

Washington — Two former attorneys general have accused J. Edgar Hoover of making "false" and "deceptive" statements after the FBI director was quoted as saying Robert Kennedy initiated a wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King.

Nicholas D. Katzenbach and Ramsey Clark spoke out Thursday after Hoover said Kennedy not only authorized but proposed the tap because of reports King was associating with a lawyer with Communist connections.

Katzenbach, asked about Hoover's statement, said: "To say or imply that this tap was the original conception of Robert Kennedy — that he was the moving force in this situation — or that he had any doubts as to Dr. King's integrity or loyalty is false."

Clark, also asked for his reaction, said it was deceptive for Hoover to portray the FBI as "a reluctant eavesdropper of Dr. King." He added:

"Mr. Hoover repeatedly requested me to authorize FBI wiretaps on Dr. King while I was attorney general. The last of these requests, none of which was granted, came two days before the murder of Dr. King."

When asked about the controversy, President Nixon said Hoover enjoys "my complete confidence," and added:

"I checked personally into the matter as to whether or not that surveillance had been conducted by him and the FBI, by themselves, or whether it had been, as is supposed to be the case, always approved by the attorney general."

"I found that it had always been approved by the attorney general, as Mr. Hoover testified in 1964 and 1965."

In the published interview,

Hoover said he had memoranda showing Kennedy was concerned over reports Dr. King was associating with a New York lawyer with Communist connections and prevailed on a reluctant FBI to tap Dr. King's phones. Hoover was quoted as saying the FBI was reluctant to tap the Negro leader's phone because of possible political repercussions.

Commenting on this allegation, Katzenbach said: "Truth is seldom found in selective and partial disclosures of this type."

Katzenbach declined to amplify on this part of his statement, suggesting that Hoover picked and chose among documents to support

his claim that Kennedy was the moving force behind the surveillance.

"What has been revealed is unfair to Sen. Kennedy and Dr. King and by no standards that I know constant with the integrity and sense of justice heretofore shown by Mr. Hoover in the administration of American justice," Katzenbach stated.

Katzenbach served as deputy attorney general under Kennedy and succeeded him in the top post when Kennedy resigned to run for the Senate.

The first official acknowledgement that Dr. King had been wiretapped came June 4 in a hearing in Houston on an appeal by ex-heavyweight

boxing champion Muhammad Ali from his conviction for refusing to be drafted.

While admitting that Ali's conversation with Dr. King had been monitored on Dr. King's Atlanta home phone, the government resisted answering questions as to who authorized the tap and how long it lasted.

Hoover said he advised Kennedy Oct. 7, 1963, that it was technically feasible to wiretap Dr. King's telephone at the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta and at an unnamed New York City address. But at the Houston hearing, the agent spoke only of a tap on Dr. King's home telephone.

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"THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE"

6/20/69

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Percy Foreman Denies Charge By Ray of Mishandling the Case

Houston attorney Percy Foreman, former counsel to James Earl Ray, confessed slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., says Ray's accusations about mishandling his case are false.

Ray on Thursday filed a \$500,000 damage suit against the State of Tennessee, in which he accused Foreman of neglecting to investigate evidence that Ray claims was crucial to the case.

In the suit, Ray said he gave Foreman the telephone numbers of two Louisiana men, from New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and asked Foreman to investigate them after Ray was indicted.

Foreman gave the information to Z. T. Osborne, a Nashville attorney now dead, and asked him to investigate, the suit said.

Foreman says, however, that he has never heard of Osborne, and never hired any lawyer to investigate any aspect of the Ray case. Foreman says he wanted the late John Hooker, "the best trial lawyer in Tennessee," to handle the Ray case. But, Foreman says, Ray refused because Hooker was admired by blacks.

"That tells you what kind of guy Ray was," Foreman says. Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to assassinating King, but later said he was coerced into



PERCY FOREMAN



JAMES EARL RAY

confessing. He denied he killed the black civil rights leader, but has named no other possible suspect.

King was killed in Memphis in 1968 as he stood on a motel balcony.

In the petition filed in U.S. District Court in Nashville, Ray does not identify the telephone numbers nor does he

say what connection they might have, if any, with the slaying of King.

The suit says: "Mr. Osborne reported the resident listed under the Baton Rouge phone number was a parish (county) official under the influence of a Teamsters Union official in the Baton Rouge area; that the resident listed under the

Officials of the U.S. Department of Justice say the transfer will be made for security reasons. Mark Luttrell, Tennessee commissioner of corrections, requested the transfer. U.S. Bureau of Prisons officials say the transfer is possible, even though Ray has not been convicted of a federal crime, under terms of an agreement that the federal government has with several states, whereby the states pay the federal government for a prisoner's care.

New Orleans area was, among other things, an agent of a Mideast-oriented organization disturbed because Dr. Martin Luther King's reported forthcoming, before his death, public support of the Palestine Arab cause."

This statement, Foreman says, is the product of Ray's "disordered mind."

Foreman says the only telephone numbers in the Ray case that he knew about were two he got from a "hanger-on" of Ray's in New Orleans. One of the numbers had been disconnected, the other was that of a bar that Ray had frequented in New Orleans, Foreman says.

Ray's present attorney, Bernard Fensterwald of Washington, D.C., said he was unaware of the suit being filed in Nashville.

The suit was the latest in a series of legal moves in federal court. Earlier, Ray unsuccessfully sought a retrial and an overturning of his sentence.

The most recent suit also seeks a temporary injunction restraining Tennessee officials from transferring Ray to a federal mental institution in Springfield, Mo.

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