

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/17/68

Reverend BILLY MAX WUELLNER, Bethel Community Church, 21st and Military Avenue, Baxter Springs, Kansas, voluntarily appeared at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and furnished the following information:

On Wednesday, April 3, 1968, at approximately 2:30 PM, he attended a church board meeting at the Blue Castle Restaurant in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Around 1:45 PM, he was sitting in his church office, and LYNN RAY CLEVELAND walked into his office, unannounced, stating he wanted to rest and play the piano. He also requested a prayer session and during their brief conversation, CLEVELAND indicated he had been in a mental institution. He stated he was en route to Springfield, Missouri to contact a friend. CLEVELAND was observed to be hitchhiking and was not accompanied by anyone.

He indicated he had been on the road for approximately five days, and Reverend WUELLNER observed CLEVELAND did not have any luggage, however, was carrying a dark color tweed top-coat. He left the church office shortly before 2:30 PM, indicating he was hitchhiking to Springfield, Missouri. Reverend WUELLNER advised he could furnish no further information except to state this was the only time he had observed CLEVELAND, and further noted CLEVELAND could play the piano quite well.

Reverend WUELLNER personally confronted CLEVELAND at the City Jail in Joplin, Missouri on the night of April 9, 1968, and positively identified CLEVELAND as being the individual referred to above. He conversed with CLEVELAND, and stated there was absolutely no doubt in his mind whatever as to CLEVELAND being the individual referred to above; nor was there any doubt in his mind as to the fact he left the church shortly before 2:30 PM on April 3, 1968, as he, Reverend WUELLNER went directly from the church to his board meeting at the Blue Castle Restaurant.

Reverend WUELLNER added he could furnish no additional information and knew of no background data regarding CLEVELAND.

On 4/9/68 at Joplin, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA ROBERT E. HICKAM:ENV Date dictated 4/13/68

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On April 10, 1968, fingerprints and palm prints were obtained from LYNN RAY CLEVELAND at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and retained as possible evidence.

While being printed, it was observed that CLEVELAND was very near sighted, having to squint and move his eyes close to a sheet of paper to read any normal printing or handwriting.

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1

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A review of the personal property in the possession of LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, when arrested by the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, revealed he had the following items on his person.

1. One five-cent piece.
2. One black billfold, containing the following items:
 - a. Receipt #2925 from One-Hour Martinizing, 1838 N. Glenstone, Springfield, Missouri, with notation "Promised Friday, 9:00 AM".
 - b. Small religious pamphlet, entitled "Is There Any Hope?"; bearing stamp "Southern Avenue Baptist Church, 3084 Southern Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee" "Dial-A-Devotion 323-2653". This pamphlet published by Faith, Prayer and Tract League, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
 - d. Library card #72 18575 in the name of LYNN R. CLEVELAND, 1870 N. Broadway, for the Public Libraries of Springfield and Greene County, Missouri.
 - e. Card bearing the printed notation Kirkwood Hotel, Kirkwood 22, Missouri, and the hand printed telephone number TH1-9791.
 - f. Identification card, First Assembly of God, 528 E. Main, Norman, Oklahoma, Reverend B. R. BRUMMETT, Pastor.
 - g. Identification card, Central Presbyterian Church, 20th and Arch Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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- h. Identification card, GEORGE BRITTAIN, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Grants, New Mexico.
- i. Slip of paper containing the names LARRY HAYNES, RICHARD OLIVER, Missionary Pastor, 49 E. 15th Street.
- j. Slip of paper containing the name JERRY C. MURPHY, 806 N.W. 45th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.
- k. Identification card, American National Red Cross, St. Louis, bi-State Chapter, 212 E. Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri. This card contains the name ROSEMARY GAEBLER, Service To Military Families, printed in the lower left corner of the face of the card. The reverse side of this card contains the handwriting, Travelers Aid, Greyhound Bus Depot, 809 N. Broadway.
- l. Identification card, Haley Motor Company, Inc., 3rd and Marquette, N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico. The hand-printed name GLEN SKIPWORTH appears on face of card.
- m. Social Security Application card in the name LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, Social Security Number [REDACTED] The card issued on January 2, 1968 for twenty-one days. Under the address of Social Security Office is address 907 Walnut (no city), telephone #FR4-2263.
- n. One key, bearing numbers 806 and 074233.
- o. Slip of paper containing the hand printed name BILL WILLIAMS, LA 1-5341, Dallas; and the name Rev. CLYDE BOX, Brookhollow Bapt., DeSoto, Texas.

- p. Slip of paper containing printed name and handwritten name ROBERT BECKS - Baptist.
- q. Slip of paper containing the hand printed name Reverend PAB MYERS, Box 253, Courtland, Alabama.
- r. Identification card, Mills Hotel, 442 N. Union Avenue, Ozark, Alabama, showing Mr. and Mrs. E. E. TIDWELL as managers.
- s. Weekly Gold Pass #11656, for the week of January 22 through 28, 1968, transit Bi-State System, good for free transportation service in Missouri-Illinois central fare area.
- t. Identification card, Calvary Temple Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, S. H. ROBINSON, Pastor.
- u. Guest card on Good Shepherd Refuge, 601 2nd Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico. This card is stamped December 18, 1967, and notes one LYNN R. CLEVELAND, St. Louis, Missouri, occupied bed #1-4 on December 4, 1967. The name Brother "EDWARDS" appears on the face of this card.
- v. Identification card Northvale Baptist Church, Durand Avenue, Harrison, Arkansas, J. A. KUHN, Pastor.
- w. Identification card, Dr. WILLIAM C. REED, Podiatrist, Suite 1405-A, The Stevens Building, 17 N. State, Chicago 2, Illinois.
- x. Guest card, Good Shepherd Refuge, 601 2nd Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico, showing LYNN R. CLEVELAND occupied bed #13, on November 21, 1967. The name Brother "GREGORY" appears on the face of this card.

KC 44-760

4

A Thermofax record was made of the front and reverse sides of all above items, copies of which have been retained.

3. Three pamphlets on the Shepherd of the Hills Farm, Branson, Missouri (no dates or notations thereon).
4. One Standard Service Station map of the United States and Eastern United States (no notations, addresses or dates thereon).
5. CLEVELAND, when arrested, was wearing blue pants, short sleeved white shirt, brown loafers, black socks, one blue suit coat (did not match pants), one blue tie, one dark color tweed coat, and a belt. All clothing was old and well worn.
6. One gold color safety razor, found in pocket of coat.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

4/17/68

Date

Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, furnished the following information:

One LYNN RAY CLEVELAND was arrested by officers of the Joplin Police Department on April 9, 1968, and booked in the City Jail on charge of "Hold for Investigation - Homicide Other Cities". He advised the basis for the arrest was the fact some woman had observed CLEVELAND hitchhiking and felt he resembled the artist's conception of the slayer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., which recently appeared in the local newspaper.

Captain FLENNER advised there was no other information and no evidence linking CLEVELAND with the slaying of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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1

Date 4/17/68

Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, furnished the following information:

On April 10, 1968, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND appeared in Municipal Court, Joplin, and pled guilty to a charge of Vagrancy. On April 10, 1968, CLEVELAND was sentenced to three days in the City Jail.

On April 10, 1968, one Reverend KEN RAGSDALE, Bolivar, Missouri, telephonically contacted Captain FLENNER and stated he recalled serving dinner to CLEVELAND on April 5, 1968 at approximately 3:30 PM at Bolivar, Missouri. Reverend RAGSDALE telephonically contacted the Police Department due to news accounts pertaining to the arrest of CLEVELAND. Captain FLENNER advised he did not secure any additional information from Reverend RAGSDALE, however, it was his opinion CLEVELAND had appeared in Bolivar, Missouri without funds, and sought assistance through the local ministers at Bolivar, Missouri.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

LYNN RAY CLEVELAND was contacted at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and prior to being interviewed, was advised of his rights as indicated on a duly executed warning and waiver form. He stated he had no objection to orally answering questions, and he was told he was being questioned due to the fact an individual had reported him as resembling an artist's conception of the assassin of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., the artist's conception having recently appeared in a local newspaper.

CLEVELAND was questioned in the presence of Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and furnished the following information:

CLEVELAND stated he did not shoot the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., nor had he been in Memphis, Tennessee or Birmingham, Alabama at any time during the past two weeks. He stated he was not aware that Reverend KING had been murdered until two or three days after the incident, when he recalled someone talking about it. He advised he could furnish no information whatsoever as to the murder.

As to his exact whereabouts on April 4, 1968, he advised he was a traveling Baptist minister and evangelistic singer, and did not maintain any permanent residence. He advised he was unemployed and knew of no way to verify his whereabouts at any time unless some minister recalled being in contact with him on a certain date. He noted that for the past two to three weeks he had been intermittently at Springfield, Missouri, and when arrested by the Joplin, Police Department, on April 9, 1968, was hitchhiking from Springfield, Missouri to Tulsa, Oklahoma. He recalled he spent the night of April 8, 1968, sleeping in a truck at the Queen City Truck Stop in Springfield, Missouri. Efforts were made to trace his whereabouts, and when he could not furnish any definite information as to times, dates and places, he admitted having formerly been an inmate at the Terrill State Hospital, Terrill, Texas, on three different occasions in 1965 and 1966. He stated he entered the hospital because of "nerves".

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While he could not, in any way be exact, he vaguely recalled having left Springfield, Missouri during the latter part of March, 1968, and hitchhiked West. He noted, since he did not have any money, he normally contacted ministers at any town he was in, volunteering his services as a Baptist minister, and further noted he was an evangelistic singer and could play the piano at revival meetings. He stated this is the way he secured his food and enough money to live on.

On or about March 28, 1968, he recalled being in Kingman, Arizona, and in contact with individuals at the Assembly of God church. He believes he left Kingman, Arizona on or about March 28, 1968, hitchhiking back to Springfield, Missouri, and estimates arrival in Springfield, Missouri on or about April 4, 1968. After arriving in Springfield, he stated, to the best of his recollection, he spent the night at Hoff's Hotel on Olive Street in Springfield, Missouri. He stated the night before was spent at the Church Rectory somewhere in Oklahoma, exact location unrecalled.

When questioned as to the pamphlet in his possession, entitled "Is There Any Hope?" which bears the stamped address of The Southern Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, he advised he recalled having been in Memphis, Tennessee about one month ago and believed he stayed over-night at the bus station. He stated he was only passing through the area hitchhiking as he does continually, but believed he was in contact with a Catholic priest who bought him some breakfast at Memphis, Tennessee. He could not recall the name of the priest and knew of no one in Memphis who could verify this information. He noted he may have hitchhiked through Birmingham, Alabama a month or so ago, but did not stay overnight there and could furnish no information concerning anyone he might have contacted, or any place he might have stayed in Birmingham, Alabama.

CLEVELAND noted he had been in Springfield, Missouri more than any place else during the past several weeks, and while in Springfield, normally stayed at the YMCA, a small hotel across from the YMCA, the Midway Hotel, Calvary Mission, Hoff's Hotel, and the State Hotel. He could think of no other

locations other than the Queen City Truck Stop, where he might have stayed in Springfield, Missouri. As to individuals with whom he was acquainted in Springfield, who might be able to furnish information pertaining to him, he furnished the following:

Reverend BARCLAY,
Northwest Baptist Church,
Springfield, Missouri;

Reverend TOM GEARS,
Pythian Street Baptist Church,
Springfield, Missouri;

RICHARD RUBLE,
1871 N. Broadway,
Springfield, Missouri.

CLEVELAND stated he presently had no room rented in Springfield, Missouri, and reiterated since he traveled continually, he had no way to positively establish his whereabouts on any given day.

As to prior arrests, he admitted having been arrested at Springfield, Missouri two or three weeks ago on a charge of investigation, and at Creve Coeur, Missouri, approximately one year ago; this also being on an investigation charge. He stated both arrests were because he had no personal identification on his person, or in his possession. As pertains to his having no identification, he stated his identification was stolen from him several months ago. He observed he also lost his glasses several months ago, and noted he is extremely near sighted.

CLEVELAND advised he left his home in Palmer, Texas in 1956 or 1957, and had not returned to Palmer, Texas at any time during the past year. He advised during the past year he had continually been on the road and the only place he had lived more than a few days at a time was at St. Louis Missouri where he resided at 2337 Whitmore Place, and was acquainted with one JIM FISHBACK who resided at that address. He stated he had not been in St. Louis, Missouri during the past month, and therefore no one in that area could furnish any information as to his whereabouts on a given date during the past two weeks.

KC 44-760

4

CLEVELAND advised he recalled leaving a suitcase at the Greyhound Bus Station in Springfield, Missouri about one month ago, and doubted if the suitcase was still there. He noted this contained personal clothing and he knew of no other clothing he had stored at any location.

The following description of CLEVELAND was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LYNN RAY CLEVELAND
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	8/5/34
Place of birth	Palmer, Texas
Height	5'11½"
Weight	155 pounds
Build	Slender
Hair	Brown (receding and thin)(long sideburns)
Eyes	Blue
Scars and marks	1½ inch horizontal scar, right upper arm; 3 inch scar inside left forearm.
(permanent)	
Home Address	701 Main Street, Palmer, Texas
Parents	Mr. and Mrs. GARLAND FRANCIS CLEVELAND, 701 Main Street, Palmer, Texas.
Education	Claims lacked three months receiving BA Degree at Baylor University, Waco, Texas
Occupation	Baptist minister and evangelistic singer
Marital status	Single
Military Service	None
Miscellaneous	Claims formerly confined at Terrill State Hospital, Terrill, Texas during 1965 and 1966.

After furnishing the above information, and being unable to furnish any definite information as to his whereabouts on any given date during the past two weeks, CLEVELAND was contacted by Reverend BILLY MAX WUELLNER, Baxter, Springs, Kansas, who identified CLEVELAND as having been at his church at 2:30 PM on April 3, 1968. When Reverend WUELLNER related the incidents to CLEVELAND, he was able to recall same, and recalled that he left Baxter Springs, Kansas, hitchhiking to Springfield, Missouri. His memory refreshed, he recalled he arrived in Springfield on the night of April 3, 1968, where he obtained \$20 at the Western Union Office, this money having been there approximately four or five days. The money was sent to him at his request from his father in Palmer, Texas. He noted he apparently left Springfield, Missouri prior to the money arriving there, and further recalled after he received the \$20, he stayed the night of April 3, 1968 at the State Hotel. To the best of his recollection, he stayed in Springfield, Missouri the next day and more than likely would have been in contact with RICHARD RUBLE, 1871 N. Broadway..

To the best of his recollection, he stayed the night of April 4, 1968 at the Hoff's Hotel. As to his whereabouts on March 29, 1968 and March 30, 1968, he could only state he was probably hitchhiking from Kingman, Arizona to Springfield, Missouri.

CLEVELAND's attention was called to the One-Hour Martinizing receipt in his possession which bore the notation "Promised Friday, 9:00 AM", and he was able to recall that he had some clothing at that establishment and he felt certain he would have placed the clothing there the day before, on a Thursday, April 4, 1968.

CLEVELAND was questioned as to the key in his possession when arrested and he stated, to the best of his knowledge, this possibly was a key to a locker at the Greyhound Bus Station, Springfield, Missouri, where he placed his clothing over a month ago. He noted he attempted to obtain the clothing from the locker, but the key no longer would fit the locker. He felt this was because the locker had been sealed due to the fact he had kept the key longer than the time allowed.

KC 44-760

6

Based upon above information, CLEVELAND stated he feels certain he would have been in Springfield, Missouri on April 4, 1968. He advised he would definitely state he was not in Memphis, Tennessee on that date, and that he had not been in Memphis, Tennessee or Birmingham, Alabama for at least one month. He observed that after his memory had been refreshed as to where he was, at a given time, that he was able to recall his actions immediately after leaving Baxter Springs, Kansas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

Mr. and Mrs. GARLAND CLEVELAND, 701 Main Street, Palmer, Texas, arrived at the Joplin, Missouri Police Department to assume custody of their son, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND.

Mr. CLEVELAND, who stated he had been manager of the Barron Brick Company, Palmer, Texas, for the past 32 years, furnished the following information:

His son, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, was born on August 5, 1934 at Palmer, Texas. His son is an ordained Baptist minister, having been ordained at Palmer, Texas. Approximately seven or eight years ago LYNN RAY CLEVELAND suffered a nervous break-down and lacked only three months graduating from Baylor University. After suffering the nervous break-down, his son lost his church, and began a rather unstable existence with no permanent employment. He was placed in the Terrill State Hospital, Terrill, Texas, on three different occasions, during 1965 and 1966 due to his break-down and general mental condition. During the first part of 1967, his son walked away from the hospital and for the past year had been away from home, and apparently traveling over the country with no permanent residence or employment. He noted his son had not been in Palmer, Texas for the past year, and they in no way could verify his whereabouts on any given day during the past two weeks. He stated his son had never been known to carry a gun, and was considered completely harmless.

Mr. CLEVELAND noted the last word they had from their son was on or about March 26, 1968, when they received a Western Union Telegram from him requesting \$20 be sent to him at 1871 N. Broadway, Springfield, Missouri in care of RICHARD RUBLE. They sent this \$20 on March 29, 1968, from Ennis, Texas and had not seen or heard from LYNN RAY CLEVELAND since receiving the telegram. They advised this was not unusual as this was the only time they had contact with their son, that being when he needed money, and would either send them a telegram or telephone them, requesting same.

Mr. CLEVELAND stated their son had never been married, nor had he ever been in the Military Service.

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KC 44-760

2

Mr. CLEVELAND advised he was extremely upset, due to the publicity the arrest of his son had received. He stated he had already contacted an attorney and planned on suing the responsible persons for the news releases which had indicated that his son had been arrested as a suspect in the slaying of the Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CLEVELAND was advised that his son was not in Federal custody, had not been arrested by the FBI, nor had any comment been made by the FBI at Joplin, Missouri, to any news media whatever.

Mr. CLEVELAND was interviewed in the presence of ADRIAN MEACHAM, Chief of Police, Joplin, Missouri.

On the evening of April 10, 1968, LYNN RAY CLEVELAND was released in custody of his father, GARLAND CLEVELAND for travel back to Palmer, Texas.

Mr. CLEVELAND advised that if it was necessary to contact his son in the future, contact could be made through him at Palmer, Texas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/17/68

Officer D. A. MC AFEE, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, furnished the following information:

At 4:24 PM, on April 9, 1968, he was instructed by the Police Dispatcher to contact one VIRGINIA UHLER, Corral Motel, 3040 E. 7th Street, for information concerning a hitchhiker. He requested the description of the hitchhiker, and en route to the Corral Motel, observed a hitchhiker at 18th and Range Line. He checked this individual for information as to his identity and ascertained he was one LYNN R. CLEVELAND. He left the individual on the highway and proceeded to the Corral Motel, and contacted VIRGINIA UHLER, Manager of the motel.

Mrs. UHLER stated LYNN R. CLEVELAND had walked into the motel office and inquired as to directions to Tulsa, Oklahoma. While he was in the motel office, she had the television on, at which time a broadcast was being made of the MARTIN LUTHER KING funeral procession. CLEVELAND inquired as to whether or not it was the MARTIN LUTHER KING funeral, and according to UHLER, CLEVELAND appeared to be very interested in the television broadcast. After CLEVELAND departed, she telephonically contacted the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, as she felt CLEVELAND resembled an artist's conception of the individual who was being sought for the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She observed this artist's conception was recently published in the Joplin Globe Newspaper.

Due to the fact MC AFEE had not observed the artist's conception in the newspaper, he requested assistance to further check out the hitchhiker, and was assisted by officer B. W. FORNEY.

Officers FORNEY and MC AFEE arrested LYNN RAY CLEVELAND while he was hitchhiking at 31st and Range Line, and at the time of arrest, all that CLEVELAND had in his possession for identification was a library card on a Springfield, Missouri library. He also had a torn Social Security application card which was barely legible, showing Social Security Number [REDACTED]. CLEVELAND stated he was en route to Tulsa,

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KC 44-760

2

Oklahoma from Springfield, Missouri, and had been traveling around in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. Found in his possession was one piece of religious material with the address, Memphis, Tennessee stamped on the back, which he stated he obtained from a bus station. At the time of arrest, CLEVELAND was carrying a top-coat, sports coat, and had a tie in his pocket.

It was observed CLEVELAND fit the description of the artist's conception which had appeared in the Joplin Globe, and he was therefore taken to the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, and booked on a charge of "Hold for Investigation - Homicide other cities".

At time of arrest, CLEVELAND had only five cents in his possession, and a billfold containing numerous cards from various churches.

When booked at the City Jail, CLEVELAND furnished the following information:

Name	LYNN RAY CLEVELAND
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	33 years
Date of birth	8/9/34
Place of birth	Palmer, Texas
Height	5'11½"
Weight	157 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Build	Slender
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	Musician
Father,	G. T. CLEVELAND
	Box 9263,
	Palmer, Texas
Marital status	Single
Address	2387 Witmore Place,
	St. Louis, Missouri

KC 44-760

3

CLEVELAND was booked in at the City Jail at 4:50 PM, to be questioned further by Detective Captain WALTER FLENNER.

Officer MC AFEE noted that neither he nor Officer FORNEY had any information whatever linking CLEVELAND with the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., other than the fact CLEVELAND resembled the artist's conception of KING's assassin as set forth above.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/18/681

Mrs. VIRGINIA E. UHLER, Owner and Manager, Corral Motel, 3040 East 7th Street, furnished the following information:

On the evening of April 9, 1968, an unknown individual, later identified as LYNN RAY CLEVELAND, walked in to her motel office and requested directions to the Tulsa, Oklahoma Turnpike. She furnished him the directions, and he then asked a question pertaining to the program that was on the television set in the motel office. She recalled at the time there was a program concerning the funeral procession of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and CLEVELAND inquired if the program was about KING's funeral. She then recalled CLEVELAND making some sort of comment that not only KING, but BILLY GRAHAM, should devote more of their time toward other things than their own religious purposes. She stated she could not directly quote him, but felt he meant that no one should become wrapped up in their own thoughts to the exclusion of all other matters.

She stated CLEVELAND was alone, did not ask for any handouts, and she did not observe him carrying any luggage.

Mrs. UHLER advised he stayed in the motel office less than ten minutes and when he left the motel, she telephonically contacted the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, as she felt CLEVELAND resembled the artist's conception of KING's slayer which recently appeared in the local newspaper. She advised she had absolutely no reason at all to suspect CLEVELAND other than the fact he resembled the artist's conception, and he made no comment whatever indicating he had been in Memphis, Tennessee, or any comment even remotely indicating he was connected with the murder of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mrs. UHLER advised she did recall CLEVELAND mentioning he was hitchhiking. This was the only time she had ever observed this person who was later identified as LYNN RAY CLEVELAND.

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On April 23, 1968, FRANCIS MURPHY, Sheriff, Laclede County, Lebanon, Missouri, advised his records reflect DAVID L. WILSON was booked into the jail on August 5, 1967, by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and released August 12, 1967. WILSON is described in the record as a white male, age 35 years, height 6'3", brown hair, blue eyes, medium complexion, residence - Dade City, Florida.

On April 23, 1968, records of the Magistrate Court, Laclede County, Lebanon, Missouri, revealed WILSON appeared there on August 7, 1967, and pled guilty to charge of driving intoxicated. He was fined \$100.00 and \$14.20 costs. His residence was listed as 1001 Lock St., Dade City, Florida, and he had Florida driver's license G172074 and was driving a Willis Shaw truck from Springdale, Arkansas.

On April 23, 1968, Sheriff FRANCIS MURPHY, Deputies VIRGIL DAVIS and RALPH WATKINS, along with Missouri State Highway Patrol Officers Sergeant CLAUDE ARNOLD, JIM MORELAND, GLENN WILSON, and S.I. DAVID were exhibited a photo of subject, but none could give any information concerning him or make any identification.

Sheriff MURPHY advised there are only two taverns in Lebanon, Missouri--City Tavern and Mary's Tavern.

On April 23, 1968, LOUISE MUSSELMAN, City Tavern, 120 $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Commercial, and MARY SPARKS, Mary's Tavern, 107 North Madison, both Lebanon, Missouri, observed photos of subject and stated they were unable to recall him as ever being a patron in their respective taverns. Both said he is not a regular or occasional customer and they were unable to give any additional information.

44-1509-385

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 16 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
May 9, 1966

Dear Sirs:

There is a new bartender here on the Island whose resemblance to the commercial drawing first released in Memphis is very similar. This man goes by the name of Ben Page. However, he is not very tall - less than 6 feet. He looks Italian -

I am not signing my name because I am afraid I would lose my job if I became involved.

There is also a ^{new} coloured ~~cook~~ ^{waiter} who brags about being an expert in shooting long distance scope shooting at the same place. These people may be innocent so I will not sign my name.

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
May 9, 1968

Dear Sirs:

There is a new bartender here on the Island whose resemblance to the commercial drawing first released in Memphis is very similar. This man goes by the name of Ben Raze. However, he is not very tall - less than 6 feet. He looks Italian -

I am not signing my name because I am afraid I would lose my job if I became involved. There is also a ^{new} waiter ~~cook~~ who hangs about being an expert in shooting long distance scope shooting at the same place. These people may be innocent so I will not sign my name -

FBI

Date: 5-15-68

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

To: SAC, Houston

✓ From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

RE: Ben Raye.

Enclosed for Houston are two copies of an anonymous letter dated 5-9-68 at Port Aransas, Texas, postmarked 5-14-68 at Durham, North Carolina. One copy is enclosed for Memphis.

Houston, immediately conduct investigation to identify Ben Raye.

Armed and dangerous.

Enc. (2)

1 - Memphis (info) (Enc.)

*Harris advised
5/16/68*

per 396

44-1509-7386

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - HOUSTON	

W. H. H.

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

5-15-68

Airtel

To: SAC, Houston
From: Director, FBI
MURKIN

RE: Ben Raye.

Enclosed for Houston are two copies of an anonymous letter dated 5-9-68 at Port Aransas, Texas, postmarked 5-14-68 at Durham, North Carolina. One copy is enclosed for Memphis.

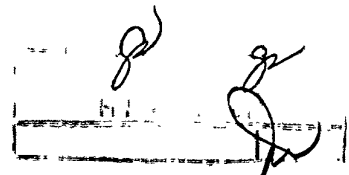
Houston, immediately conduct investigation to identify Ben Raye.

Armed and dangerous.

Enc. (2)

1 - Memphis (info) (Enc.)

44-1507-384



5/15/68

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Wilshire Book Company.

Re Houston airtel to the Bureau dated 5/11/68.

On 5/15/68, GERARD DORR RAY was eliminated as being identical with subject JAMES EARL RAY. While in Washington, GERARD DORR RAY resided at 327 First Avenue East, Pacific, Washington. His wife is BARBARA JEAN RAY and she received a magazine through Wilshire Book Company under the name B.J. RAY.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2- Memphis
1- Houston (INFO)
1- Seattle (INFO)
1- New York (44-1609)

JFS:jrf
(6)

See lead

44-1509 -387
2
W...
[Signature]

5/17/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReAttel 5/16/68.

E. D. ELLIOTT, Westinghouse Electric, 5455 Port Arthur Road, Beaumont, Texas, was interviewed on 5/16/68 and unable to furnish any information re JAMES EARL RAY. ELLIOTT recalled his stay at Provincial Motel, 12/19/67, but was unable to recall seeing anyone who resembled the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that were shown to him.

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
1 - New Orleans
1 - Houston

JSW:yk
(7)

Kid

82
82
44-1509-388

FBI-HOUSTON

FBI MEMPHIS

33X 350PM URGENT 5-17-68 SAB

TO HOUSTON, KANSAS CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO
FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 1P
MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO BUREAU ENTITLED "UNSUB, AKA JOHN
WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CR," DATED APRIL
FIVE LAST CONCERNING VINCENT WALKER AND LAWRENCE RAND OR REND.

ALTHOUGH IT IS BELIEVED THAT NEITHER WALKER NOR RAND
IS IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT RAY, THE POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS
THAT WALKER AND RAND MAY HAVE BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH SUBJECT;
HEREFORE, THE BUREAU DESIRES THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS BE
PROPERLY IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED RE ANY CONNECTION THEY
MAY HAVE WITH THIS MATTER.

RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL
INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH BUREAU'S REQUEST.

IN ADDITION, HOUSTON SHOULD CHECK CAR RENTAL AGENCIES
IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF WALKER OR RAND RENTED AUTOMOBILE
IN HOUSTON ON THEIR ARRIVAL ON APRIL FIVE LAST.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

END.

LME

FBI-HOUSTON

Mansley *M*

44-1509-389

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - HOUSTON	

Wetzel
Stuenkel

FBI-HOUSTON

FBI MEMPHIS

33X 350PM URGENT 5-17-68 SAB

TO HOUSTON, KANSAS CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO
FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 1P

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO BUREAU ENTITLED "UNSUB, AKA JOHN
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IN HOUSTON ON THEIR ARRIVAL ON APRIL FIVE LAST.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

END.

LME

FBI-HOUSTON

44-1589-389

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - HOUSTON	

[Handwritten signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE HOUSTON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/17/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/5 - 5/14/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE, I.O. # 4182, W.F. # 442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JAMES S. WEIR	TYPED BY SJM
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE: Buairtel, 5/7/68.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Since the inception of this investigation, all investigative leads developed by Houston have been set forth upon receipt. The leads are not being restated in this report.

LEAD:

HOUSTON

AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

Will continue investigation and set forth leads upon receipt.

Accomplishments Claimed: None

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (44-38861) (2) - Houston (44-1509) SEE COVER PAGE B	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">44-1509-390</div> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Searched _____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serialized <u>g</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indexed <u>g</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filed <u>g</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Searched _____		Serialized <u>g</u>		Indexed <u>g</u>		Filed <u>g</u>																							
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HO 44-1509

COPIES

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- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Atlanta (Info) (44-2386)
- 1 - Birmingham (Info) (44-1740)
- 1 - Chicago (Info) (44-1114)
- 1 - Jackson (Info)
- 1 - Kansas City (Info) (44-760)
- 1 - Los Angeles (Info) (44-1574)
- 1 - New Orleans (Info) (157-10673)
- 1 - St. Louis (Info)
- 1 - Springfield (Info)
- ② - Houston (44-1509)

B*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JAMES S. WEIR
Date: May 17, 1968

Office: Houston, Texas

Field Office File #: 44-1509

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY,
TOP TEN FUGITIVE;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(DECEASED) - VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION -
ROBBERY

Synopsis:

Two white males using names W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW departed Memphis 1:47 AM, 4/5/68 via Delta Flight 157 non-stop to Houston. Prior to flight departure two white males taken to Memphis Municipal Airport by taxi from William Len Hotel, Memphis and subsequently identified from hotel records as VINCENT WALKER, San Francisco and LAWRENCE RAND (or REND), Kansas City, Kansas. Delta Airlines hostesses, limousine driver and logical hotel inquiries unable to identify DAVIS or CHIDLAW. Elimination of look-alikes set forth. Name of JOHN WILLARD located in records for Itaska Dance Studio, League City, Texas. Manager recalls WILLARD at studio in April, 1967 taking four weekly lessons. Telephone company records reflect 969 telephone calls from pay phones along I.S. 10, Houston Division, 12/15-17/67. NEAL AEBY, former inmate Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) with subject stated subject worked in Bread Room, MSP, as slicer; subject because of stomach trouble quit smoking and partial to egg diet. Houston Bartending School, labor unions, ship departures, credit, criminal, street and telephone directories negative for subject. SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

DETAILS:

HO 44-1509

This investigation is predicated on the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, April 4, 1968 at Memphis, Tennessee.

On April 5, 1968 at approximately 12:05 AM, J.W. FARRIS, a Yellow Cab Company driver, Memphis, Tennessee, advised the FBI that he made a pickup of a white male at the William Len Hotel. FARRIS was directed to go in the first instance to West Memphis, Arkansas. Shortly thereafter he was re-directed by his passenger to drive to the Memphis Municipal Airport. Upon arriving at the airport, FARRIS was told by his passenger to wait while the passenger checked flight departure schedules. According to FARRIS, this passenger also made an inspection of the inside and immediate area outside the airport terminal. FARRIS then was directed by his passenger to return to the William Len Hotel and there to wait for the passenger. Shortly thereafter the passenger returned accompanied by another white male and FARRIS was directed to take them to the Memphis Municipal Airport.

Investigation by the FBI determined the following:

Records of the William Len Hotel revealed that a VINCENT WALKER, 449 Steiner Street, San Francisco and a LAWRENCE RAND, or REND, 2532 Polk, Kansas City, Kansas, checked into that hotel at 2:38 PM, April 4, 1968 and checked out at approximately 12:10 AM, April 5, 1968.

Investigation by the FBI has determined that WALKER and RAND, or REND, were identical to the individuals that Yellow Cab Driver J.W. FARRIS transported to the Memphis Municipal Airport.

Inquiry at Delta Airlines, Memphis, determined that two individuals utilizing the names W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW departed Memphis at 1:47 AM, April 5, 1968 via Delta Airlines enroute, Houston, Texas. These individuals had no reservations for that flight.

Mr. GLEN PARNEILL, Reservations Manager, Delta Airlines, Houston, Texas on April 5, 1968 advised that the names of W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW had been computered into Delta Airlines records at 1:55 PM, April 4, 1968 which indicates their tickets were purchased shortly before that time and they were booked as a party of two. They traveled on Flight 157 non-stop, Memphis to Houston.

HO 44-1509

They departed Memphis at 1:30 AM, April 5, 1968 and arrived at 2:50 AM, April 5, 1968. Their names were added to the manifest and no addresses were listed.

On April 5, 1968 Miss SUSAN KRAUSE, one of two stewardesses aboard Delta Flight No. 157, Memphis to Houston, referred to above, advised as follows. She stated that her flight was late in arriving at Memphis. She had gone to the operations division to pick up forms and upon her return to the plane she went about her normal business. Miss KRAUSE advised that the names of passengers aboard the plane are not taken and the only thing she looks for is the envelope of the passenger that contains the ticket showing the passenger's class of travel. Because of the late hour of the departure of the flight from Memphis, the lights inside the cabin were turned down for the convenience of the majority of the passengers and she was not able to get a close look at anyone and was unable to recall the passengers W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW.

On April 5, 1968, VICKIE MC LUCAS, Delta stewardess for Delta Flight 157, Memphis to Houston, Texas, referred to above, advised as follows: While Flight 157 was at the Memphis Airport several passengers came aboard and the lights were turned down low for the convenience of other passengers; consequently, she did not pay any specific attention to any of the passengers coming aboard. Miss LUCAS advised that she was unable to recall passengers named W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW as members of the passenger list, Flight 157, Memphis to Houston, April 5, 1968.

On April 8, 1968 JIM HAYDEN, Limousine Service, which service handles the Houston Municipal Airport, advised that his records disclose LUPY DELAO who is currently working for Delta Airlines at the Houston Municipal Airport was on duty at the airport when the Delta Flight arrived at 2:50 AM and his records disclosed that DELAO had six persons whom he transported in his limousine to downtown Houston, which persons presumably were from the Delta flight mentioned above.

LUPY DELAO, 1815 Louis, telephone CA 8-6119 advised that he did in fact transport passengers from the Delta flight which arrived at 2:50 AM and he recalled that there were six adult white males who requested transportation in his limousine. He stated he dropped three of the men at the Sheraton Lincoln Hotel in downtown Houston, two of the men were dropped at

the Rice Hotel in downtown Houston and one man was dropped at the Downtowner Motel in Houston, Texas. DELAO advised that the two men he dropped at the Rice Hotel indicated at first that they intended to be dropped at the Downtowner Motel however when getting in the vicinity of the Rice Hotel changed their minds and asked to be dropped off at the Rice Hotel. DELAO stated that these two men had very little luggage and each one carried only a small handbag. DELAO stated he could not furnish any descriptive data regarding the two men he dropped off at the Rice Hotel and did not in fact know if they actually stayed at the Rice Hotel or one of the other hotels in the area. DELAO stated that he would have arrived at the Rice Hotel at approximately 3:30 AM as this is the amount of time it normally takes to drive to the Rice Hotel from the airport via the route he took.

On April 8, 1968, Mr. JOHNNY RAGLEY, Credit Manager, Rice Hotel, personally checked all available logical records in an effort to identify two individuals who may have checked in the Rice Hotel approximately 3:30 AM on April 5, 1968. Further all available records were checked for the following names:

JOHN WILLIARD
VINCENT WALKER
LAWRENCE RAND or REND
W. DAVIS
B. CHIDLAW

No records were located which could possibly be identified with the two individuals possibly identical with the suspects who reportedly flew from Memphis to Houston, Texas on the morning of April 5, 1968.

Similar record checks were made at the Milby Hotel which is located across the street from the Rice Hotel and at the Downtowner Motel also in the vicinity of the Rice Hotel and the results of the checks were negative.

Records of the Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Credit Bureau and Houston street and telephone directories checked for any information for the above listed individuals were negative.

I. INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY LAUNDRY TAG MARK 02B-6

On April 10, 1968 HORACE F. KUHLEMAN, owner, Kuhleman Machinery Company, 2210 Taft, advised that the following laundry and cleaning concerns utilized the thermo seal marking machine which is manufactured by the Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York. KUHLEMAN has the exclusive franchise for the thermo seal marking machine for the territory of southeast and south Texas. It has been determined through KUHLEMAN that his distributorship area is inclusive of the Houston Division. Companies are:

Pilgrim Cleaning and Laundry, Galveston, Texas
Hi-hat Cleaners, Houston, Texas
Pilgrim Cleaners, Homestead Road, Houston
Pilgrim Cleaners, Baytown, Texas
Fame Cleaners, Pasadena, Texas
Wilkins Laundry, Conroe, Texas
Monarch Laundry, Houston

Mr. KUHLEMAN telephoned each of the above concerns and determined from the owner the type of laundry tag used.

KUHLEMAN's inquiry resolved the pertinent fact that none of the above cleaning or laundry establishments utilized the "dash" preceding the last digit six.

II. PERSONS CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE SUSPECTS BUT ELIMINATED THROUGH INVESTIGATION

1. WILLIAM LEO BEIER

Beaumont, Texas Police Department No. 23655

Inspector SNELL, Beaumont Police Department, on April 9, 1968 advised that BEIER was arrested on April 8, 1968 for investigation. BEIER had no identification and claimed he was an ex-convict from the State of Washington.

The Identification Division, FBI, advised that fingerprints of WILLIAM LEO BEIER, FBI No. 271131D are not identical with latent fingerprints developed in this investigation.

2. JAMES HERMAN SILVER

Information was received by the FBI, Houston, Texas that SILVER had been imprisoned at Leavenworth Penitentiary and that he has a strong dislike for Negroes and had visited Memphis in the past several times. He was described as an expert shot. On April 10, 1968 his whereabouts were unknown.

On April 10, 1968 a comparison of SILVER's fingerprints by the Identification Division, FBI, determined that his prints were not identical with those developed in this investigation and was eliminated as a suspect.

3. DONNIE LEON HARDEN

Information furnished by the Dallas Division, FBI, made DONNIE LEON HARDEN a possible suspect in this investigation.

Investigation by the FBI at Jackson, Mississippi determined that DONNIE LEON HARDEN, an employee of the Ingalls Ship Yard, Pascagoula, Mississippi, was at work on his job at that ship yard on April 4, 1968. He worked an hourly shift from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

4. CLAUDE CHESTER MC CLAREN, JR.

Mexican Police, Mexico City, Mexico, furnished the following information: CLAUDE CHESTER MC CLAREN, JR., US Passport [REDACTED] arrived in Mexico City from Tegucigalpa, Honduras April 8, 1968. He was enroute Houston, Texas. Airport police noticed a close resemblance of MC CLAREN to sketches of the suspect killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On April 19, 1968 CLAUDE C. MC CLAREN, JR. was interviewed at Commodore Cove, Shreveport, Texas, where he was employed as a heavy equipment operator. He furnished the following information:

He is working with his brother, CARL MC CLAREN on a construction job at Commodore Cove, Freeport building beach type homes. Their employer is the Drexel Industry located at 1500 Bank of the Southwest Building, Houston, Texas, and JAKE CLEGG is associated with this company. He presently resides at 119 Jolley Boat Lane, Commodore Cove, Freeport, Texas and his permanent address is 5405 Wichita Street, Ft. Worth, Texas which is the home of his sister, JUSTINE PRESTON. For the past two years, he has worked in Honduras returning to the U.S. in December, 1967 and lived in Ft. Worth for awhile. He began his employment at Freeport sometime around March 27, 1968. He went to Honduras on March 30, 1968 leaving Houston, Texas via National Airlines and from New Orleans, Louisiana flew to Honduras via Sahsa

HO 44-1509

Airlines. He remained at the Hotel Bolivar, San Pedro Sula, Honduras from March 30, 1968 to April 7, 1968 at which time he flew from Honduras to Mexico City, Mexico via Tan Airlines and from Mexico City to Houston, Texas via Pan American arriving in Houston April 7, 1968 thus was in Honduras from March 30, 1968 to April 7, 1968.

The following description of CLAUDE CHESTINE MC CLAREN, JR. was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	September 12, 1936
Place of birth	Ft. Worth, Texas
Height	5'9"
Weight	145 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Marital status	Single
Complexion	Tanned
Military service	U.S. Navy, August, 1954 - September, 1958
Serial No.	451-57-24

It was noted from observation that MC CLAREN does not resemble the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT.

5. JOHN A. GAULT

On April 12, 1968 the Miami Office of the FBI after reviewing records of Eastern Airlines determined that a JOHN A. GAULT employed by Associated Pipeline Contractors, Houston, Texas, had departed Greensboro, North Carolina on Eastern Flight 621 on April 9, 1968 destined for Atlanta, Georgia. He departed Atlanta, Georgia on Flight 341 on April 9, 1968 and traveled to Houston, Texas. GAULT was interviewed at Houston, Texas and it was determined that he is 24 years old and is in fact employed by Associated Pipeline Contractors and he in no way resembles JAMES EARL RAY, also known as.

6. DON TURNER

Information furnished by the Conroe Police Department, Conroe, Texas was the basis for investigation of DON TURNER. Mr. KEN ANDREWS, Springville, New York, advised the Conroe Police Department that on April 13, 1968 while driving from Conroe to California, he picked up a person furnishing the name DON TANNER at Benson, Arizona. TANNER was dressed in an Army uniform. Because of TANNER's statements ANDREWS became suspicious of him. - 7 -

Information furnished by the Los Angeles Office determined that TANNER was eliminated on the basis of information furnished by SHIRLEY KAHN who stated that DONALD TANNER was a friend and associate of her son and that TANNER was not identical with JAMES EARL RAY, also known as.

7. HENRY RICHARD GILES

Information furnished to the FBI determined that GILES had been under observation at Vera Cruz, Mexico in mid-April, 1968. He had been seeking information concerning travel to Cuba and had come to Mexico by the coast having entered Mexico at Tampico. He represented himself as being an employee of Braselton Construction Company, Corpus Christi, Texas.

On April 20, 1968, BILLY BRASELTON, Braselton Construction Company, Corpus Christi, Texas confirmed that HENRY ROBERT GILES is an employee of that company. He was not aware of GILES' visit to Mexico or Cuba. GILES upon interview April 20, 1968 advised he left Corpus Christi on April 16, 1968 by Trans-Texas Airways and traveled to Vera Cruz, Mexico. He departed Vera Cruz on April 17, 1968 by bus traveling to Mexico City. He returned to Corpus Christi, April 18, 1968 via Braniff Airlines. He denied making any inquiries while in Mexico regarding travel to Cuba. He was born August 6, 1918 at Corpus Christi.

8. G.L. GALLAGHER
5505 Briar Drive, Houston, Texas

Information received by the FBI at Miami, Florida alleged that G.L. GALLAGHER, a visitor at the C Ranch Hotel, Miami, April 23, 1968 resembled a photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as.

On April 23, 1968 SHIRLEY MAYON, Domestic, residence of G.L. GALLAGHER, 5505 Briar Drive, Houston, advised that Mr. and Mrs. GALLAGHER are presently in Florida on a vacation. GALLAGHER is an executive with an oil company at Houston, Texas.

9. Driver of Auto Bearing Louisiana License
25E930

An anonymous call received by the Dallas Division claimed that the driver of the above described automobile bore a strong resemblance to ERIC STARVO GALT. A check of Louisiana license records, Baton Rouge, Louisiana reflected that the above mentioned Louisiana license checked out to a car leased to Texas Services, Inc., Alexandria, Louisiana. Inquiry at Alexandria, Louisiana, determined that Texas -8 -

Services is a licensee of Hertz Rent-A-Car, Alexandria, Louisiana. Inquiry at Hertz Rent-A-Car determined that the aforementioned automobile had been turned back to the Hertz Main Office at Brian, Texas, approximately three months ago.

Inquiry at Hertz Rent-A-Car, Brian, Texas on April 24, 1968 revealed that the aforementioned automobile bearing 1968 Louisiana license 25E930 is maintained by Capps Car Rental, 3717 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas.

10. TOM ROSELL

Information furnished by the FBI, San Francisco Office, made TOM ROSELL a possible suspect. A Miss TRUDIE WALMARK, San Francisco, California stated she had attended a study group at the First Baptist Church, Market and Octavia Streets on April 22, 1968. While at that meeting she met a man named TOM ROSELL who stated he came from Beaumont, Texas. It was her opinion that ROSELL closely resembled photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 24, 1968 inquiry made at 405 Threadneedle Street, Beaumont, Texas determined that TOM ROSELL is a resident at that address. ROSELL's mother stated that her son was enroute to San Francisco and was probably in that city by now. She stated that her son is employed as a barber at Beaumont, Texas. Beaumont street and telephone directories confirm that ROSELL is a barber with residence at 405 Threadneedle Street, Beaumont.

11. GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH

Information furnished the San Francisco Office of the FBI was as follows:

Deputy Sheriff ANGEL STICKE GAULT regarding passengers who left Nuevo Laredo on April 6, 1968 enroute to Monterrey, Mexico made SMITH a possible suspect. SMITH was described as age 22, a British subject studying at Rice University, Houston, Texas.

On April 29, 1968 Mrs. ATKINSON, Secretary, Office of the Dean of Men, Rice University, advised GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH is an Abraham scholar and a British exchange student studying economics at Rice University. Rice University

records reflected that SMITH was at Rice University until on April 4, 1968 departing Houston April 5, 1968 over Easter vacation for the purpose of making a mountain climbing trip to Mexico.

On May 4, 1968 photographs of GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH were sent to San Antonio for the purpose of eliminating SMITH as a suspect.

12. EARL RAY,
RAY EARL
WARREN RAY
RAY WARREN

On April 29, 1968, A.E. BROWN, Hampshire, Texas, advised that his ex-wife presently resides at 170707 Jamiaca Boulevard, Spring Valley, California adding she had received a letter in 1960 from a person who was then incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. BROWN was not sure of the name of the person who had written to his then wife but he seemed to recall it as EARL RAY or any of the following: RAY EARL, WARREN RAY or RAY WARREN. In the letter received by his wife was a photograph which BROWN claimed closely resembled that of the 1960 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, suspect in this investigation. BROWN's former wife, DORIS DEAN JONES was interviewed at San Diego on April 29, 1968. She stated that she formerly knew a RAY EUGENE WARREN who during 1954 or 1955 had been incarcerated at St. Louis City Jail for a period of one year prior to being sentenced to a 30 years sentence at State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. She stated that in her opinion RAY EUGENE WARREN was not identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

13. CHARLES RAY JOHNSON

Information received by the FBI at Tampa, Florida made CHARLES RAY JOHNSON a possible suspect. JOHNSON had been described in information furnished to the Tampa Office as being employed by Heart of America Shows, a traveling carnival.

On May 1, 1968 the following investigation was conducted at Houston:

V.E. BROWN, Business Manager, Ted Corey, Owner and P.L. PATTERSON, Concessions Owner, all with Heart of America Shows advised that they could find no record for a CHARLES

RAY JOHNSON as an employee with that show. They advised that Heart of America has no other branch shows on the road. They further advised that they had been operating in the State of Texas for the past month. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY displayed to them were not identified as being similar with any show personnel.

14. JAMES W. HAMMONS

Information received by the FBI, Pittsburgh, is as follows. A Mr. KELVIN PLYER, Gulf Service Station, operator, Bartow, West Virginia, stated that on April 22, 1968 two white males driving a 1961 or 1962 white Chevrolet Impala, Louisiana license unknown, purchased gas and tires at PLYER's service station using Gulf Credit Card No. [REDACTED]. The purchaser signed the purchase slip in the name JAMES HAMMONS. On May 2, 1968 PLYER concluded after reading in the newspaper descriptive data concerning JAMES EARL RAY that HAMMONS might possibly have been RAY.

On May 8, 1968 JIM ABSHIER, Agent in Charge, Security Division, Gulf Oil Corporation, Houston, Texas advised as follows: Gulf Credit Card No. [REDACTED] is issued to a JAMES W. HAMMONS, Route 1, Antier, Oklahoma. On April 22, 1968 HAMMONS made a purchase at Bartow, West Virginia for an automobile, Louisiana license 9H067.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

1. JAMES STEDMAN

On April 11, 1968, NORVIL WILSON, construction superintendent, Houston, advised that the previous day he had overheard JAMES STEDMAN stated that he, STEDMAN, had an idea who killed MARTIN LUTHER KING but he hoped he was wrong.

STEDMAN is employed by the T.R.Waldrop Company, air conditioning contractors who are sub-contracting on an apartment project, Houston. Waldrop records reflect STEDMAN was born January 31, 1937 and was employed by Waldrop since February 27, 1968. He came to Houston from Memphis, driving a 1962 Chevrolet station wagon, Tennessee license KN 3666, Shelby County with wife listed as BETTY. STEDMAN is a diabetic.

On April 12, 1968 STEDMAN was interviewed on his job, when tactfully approached for any information or observation about the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING he replied he,

his family and friends in Memphis were capable of committing the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING but he had no idea or information regarding the murder. When confronted with the alleged statements he made he stated he may have been shooting off his mouth but still contended he had no information. When pressed for identities of possible suspects he became antagonistic and stated he wanted to talk to an attorney if agents persisted in questioning him.

At the outset when agents identified themselves STEDMAN thought the inquiry regarding him was due to arrears on car payments to a finance company. With this in mind, STEDMAN was advised of the reward for information identifying the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING. STEDMAN quickly advised he was not a stoolie.

STEDMAN denied Klan affiliation.

As a result of interview. STEDMAN became extremely upset and belligerent and indicated that he now had reason to get a permit to buy a gun in order to kill anyone who might give him trouble.

2. Investigation at Dancing Schools, Houston Division

On April 18, 1968 Mrs. ITASKA WEINSTEIN, 5503 Yacht Club Drive, Dickinson, Texas, operator of the Itaska Dance Studio, Highway 3, League City, Texas, furnished the following information. Mrs. ITASKA WEINSTEIN had been contacted on April 16, 1967 regarding any information she might have in her records indicating that ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as, might have been a student at her dance studio.

On April 18, 1968 Mrs. WEINSTEIN stated that she had researched her records and located a 3 x 5 card bearing the name of JOHN WILLARD, no address or description. She stated that the card had been completed by herself and merely shows that a man named JOHN WILLARD appeared for four dancing lessons, three lessons being on a Wednesday and one on a Friday, month and date not indicated. Mrs. WEINSTEIN does recall that these lessons for JOHN WILLARD were given before her annual recital which is held in May, and to the best of her recollection this person took the dancing lessons during April, 1967. She stated she has no other record pertaining to a JOHN WILLARD and was unable to locate any record which could contain his signature or handwriting.

Her overall impression of JOHN WILLARD as best

she can recall was that he was not neat, lacking in personality and was an extremely poor dancer. She recalls him as being quiet and difficult to teach because he had poor balance. No one else at her studio at the present time would know him. She stated that it was possible that SHIRLEY CARROLL formerly a bookkeeper for Mrs. WEINSTEIN at the studio might have had contacts with JOHN WILLARD when he came for lessons and may have conversed with him. She stated that SHIRLEY CARROLL resides at an address in care of J.L. HOECK, Patton Road, Box 81A, Forest Hill, Maryland. Mrs. WEINSTEIN was shown photographs of ERIC GALT, also known as James Earl Ray, and she commented that the photograph of GALT with his eyes closed most closely resembled the JOHN WILLARD that she vaguely recalls. She stated the eyes drawn into the photograph do not resemble those of the man who took lessons from her. In addition the hair of the JOHN WILLARD that she knew was not as dark as that in the photograph and his complexion was olive, not fair.

During their very limited conversations WILLARD stated he worked "at NASA" and did not get off from work until 5:30 PM. He also stated that he was called back to work on overtime on occasion. She stated that he did not appear to be a highly educated man, definitely not the "engineering type". WILLARD had remarked to Mrs. WEINSTEIN that he went from work to his apartment or room, took a shower, changed clothes and then came for his dancing lesson. She recalled that he usually wore a white shirt and dark pants but on one or two occasions wore a suit. At no time did Mrs. WEINSTEIN observe a badge or identification tag with WILLARD's photograph on it as do all employees working at NASA possess. WILLARD had stated to Mrs. WEINSTEIN that he owned a record player and he once borrowed one of her records. He had mentioned that he had bought a record of Fred Astaire Dance Instructions which he said he purchased at the NASA Bay Shopping Center, Webster, Texas. Mrs. WEINSTEIN recalled that she told JOHN WILLARD that she would not dance with him while teaching him ballroom dancing as it was against her policy. On at least two occasions JOHN WILLARD brought with him a woman who acted as his partner while he took lessons. This woman was described as name "LOU", age in her 40s and definitely older than JOHN WILLARD, height 5'4", average build, dressed in ordinary cotton dresses, not slacks, with hair being dark with a reddish cast and had a poor personality. To the recollection of Mrs. WEINSTEIN, WILLARD's dancing partner supposedly worked as a waitress, cafe or establishment unknown.

According to Mrs. WEINSTEIN, WILLARD told her that he, after having taken this woman to a lesson or two, would not be able to bring her back with him because she worked too late and she wanted him to pick her up after work. Mrs. WEINSTEIN although not ever seeing WILLARD drive a car was confident that he had one but she was unable to describe it other than to say it must have been an older car. Although she is not certain she thinks that perhaps on the last time that she gave him a lesson WILLARD told her he was going to "visit his mother". She can recall no further information regarding JOHN WILLARD. Mrs. WEINSTEIN further furnished the following descriptive data concerning JOHN WILLARD:

Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	Approximately 5'9" - 10"
Age	In his 30s
Hair	Brown, ordinary cut, combed straight back
Eyes	Gray or brown, definitely not blue, and did not wear glasses
Build	Stocky, but not fat or heavy
Complexion	Olive
Teeth	Cannot recall
Carriage	Posture not good, slouched and not that of a well groomed man
Speech	Average, no accent
Jewelry	May have worn ring and wrist-watch
Shoes	Black, round toed, not alligator; feet of average size
Habits	Cannot remember if he smoked; does not remember habit of pulling ear
Dress	When wearing slacks, wore belt and slacks much too long, dragging on floor, belt worn low
Miscellaneous	Did not seem clean or well educated

On April 19, 1968 Special Agents LEON F. BROWN and HENRY L. WILLIAMS contacted the following employees and proprietors of restaurants and bars on Old Galveston Road north from Webster to South Houston:

CECIL RAMSEY, Goliad Bar
7722 Old Galveston Road

HO 44-1509

Mrs. W. MULDER, Mulder's Courts,
7806 Old Galveston Road

Mrs. BEATRICE PAIGE, Ellington Motel
7822 Old Galveston Road

RICHARD GALIMBO, WW Rance Bar,
9002 Old Galveston Road

BARBARA FRENCH, Eunice's
9136 Old Galveston Road

NELSON BLAND, Singing Wheel,
603 N. Commerce (Webster)

JEAN BRADFORD, Five B's Cafe,
16516 Old Galveston Road

JIMMY STUBBS, Lone Star Beer Salesman,
Pasadena

NELL KAMPER, Coconut Grove Lounge
9322 Old Galveston Road

Shangri-La Inn, NINA ESPEANSE
9410 Old Galveston Road

S.L. HARLOW, Hollywood Inn
10638 Old Galveston Road

FAYE ETZEL, Roy's Tune-Up,
10010 Old Galveston Road

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
TIMOTHY DONOVAN and KENNETH B. JACKSON on April 19, 1968:

Mr. M.L. CASSIDY, Proprietor, League City Bar,
Old Galveston Road, League City, Texas, advised he had not
known of a female named "LOU" working at this bar in recent
years and that photographs of ERIC GALT was unfamiliar to
him.

MARGARET MOORE, Manager, Diamond Apartments, 628
Highway 3; Mariner Apartments, 1100 E. Main; Todd-Diamond
Duplexes, 7th and Danna Streets, all League City, Texas,
advised after viewing photograph and description of ERIC
GALT that GALT was unknown to her.

Mrs. JULIUS LOOSTER, Hacienda Cafe, 3817 Highway 3, Dickinson, Texas, advised one LUCILLE G. MERKA who was more commonly referred to as "LU" worked as a waitress at this cafe for about two months, terminating about September 4, 1965. LU was a white female, age about 40-43, 5'6", dark hair, slender build. She was married to one LUM HOLLAN or HALLAN of Dickinson for awhile prior to her death from cancer in a hospital about one and one half to two years ago in Beaumont, Texas. Mrs. LOOSTER was unable to identify photograph of ERIC GALT as anyone she had known or seen before.

The following persons were contacted in efforts to locate and/or identify the unknown waitress described only as first name "LOU". Each of these persons reviewed subject's Wanted Flyer and each advised they could offer no information concerning "LOU" or subject.

L.B. WRIGHT, owner, Flintlock Inn,
810 Nasa Boulevard

ELIANE HUDSON, Manager, Monterrey House,
914 NASA Boulevard

D.W. ROBINSON, Manager
BETTY COPELAND, Berger Town Restaurant
No. 2, 918 NASA Boulevard

RAYMOND E. HANKAMER, JR., Manager,
Holiday Inn Motel, 1300 NASA Boulevard

LESLIE C. BARCLAY, Manager, Sveden House
Restaurant, Nassau Bay Shopping Village

BARRY FLEISHCHMANN, Manager, Nassau Bay
Hotel, 1622 NASA Boulevard

On April 19, 1968, Mrs. LOUISE CASEY, Waitress, Nassau Bay Hotel, 1622 NASA Boulevard was interviewed at the hotel. Mrs. CASEY furnished the following information concerning herself:

Mrs. CASEY advised that she was born LOUISE ANETTE BOLEENO, October 19, 1928 at Buffalo, New York. The following physical description was noted:

Height	4'11"
Weight	100 lbs.
Eyes	Green
Hair	Blond with reddish tint

Mrs. CASEY advised that she has been employed by the Nassau Bay Hotel as a waitress since May, 1965 and at no time has she dated anyone. Mrs. CASEY advised she has been married to RICHARD CASEY for 19 years and has a 17 year old son. She advised that subject's name and photograph were completely unfamiliar to her, with the exception of recent press coverage and that at no time has she ever taken dancing lessons. Mrs. CASEY advised she currently resides at 98 Bayou Lane, Kamah, Texas, and that her husband RICHARD is employed as an engineer by Link, Temple and Vault, contractors at the Manned Spacecraft Center. Mrs. CASEY advised that during the spring and summer of 1967 she was employed full-time working evenings in the Club Seville at the Nassau Bay Hotel. Mrs. CASEY advised she has never been arrested and that the only time she has ever been fingerprinted was in 1951 or 1952 when she was employed as a part-time clerk at the Post Office in Buffalo, New York, during the Christmas season. She advised subsequently she and her husband have resided at Columbus, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland; Granada Hills, California; and League City, Texas, prior to her present residence. She advised she and her husband moved to League City in February, 1965 and while at League City lived at the Diamond Apartments, 613 Texas Highway No. 3. Mrs. CASEY advised the only other waitress in the area that she knows whose first name could be LOU is Mrs. LOUISE WALLACE who is also employed as a waitress at the Nassau Bay Hotel.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs FRANK M. IVEY and DAVID W. HEDGECOCK:

On April 19, 1968 BARRY FLEISCHMANN, Manager, Nassau Bay Hotel, 1622 NASA Boulevard, advised that he employs two waitresses whose first name is "LOU". He advised that Mrs. LOUISE CASEY is employed as a waitress in the hotel restaurant and Mrs. LOUISE WALLACE is employed in the hotel coffee shop.

Mrs. LOUISE CASEY was interviewed on April 19, 1968 and it was determined she is not identical with the (LOU) (Last Name Unknown) previously determined in this case. Mrs. LOUISE WALLACE was on a day off on April 19, 1968 and efforts to locate her at her home, 1410 Farm-Market Road 518, Kemah, Texas met with negative results.

the following investigation was conducted in this case at Dickinson, Texas by SA HOLLIS Q. BOONE and SA M. CLAY BLACKMAN on April 19, 1968:

HO 44-1509

Attempts to locate a waitress by the name of LOU (Last Name Unknown) were negative and photograph of subject was shown to all persons interviewed also with negative results. In the course of this investigation the following persons were contacted:

FRED GRIEGER, Deputy Sheriff,
Galveston County Sheriff's Office

ROBERT BRUCE, Galveston County Sheriff's
Office

MARY WILD, Mary's Cafe

CARLO EMMETT, T&C Night Club and Motel

LAVON BOOTH, Colonial Rooms
All 1967 room receipts were reviewed

E.R. COOK, owner, rooming house,
4401 Gore

Mrs. PRESTON G. NORTHRUP, Northrup Trailer
Park, Highway 517

LUCILLE GRAHAM, Railroad Cafe

Mrs. JACKIE ROSS, Railroad Cafe

Four Seasons Beauty Salon, TINA VAN HOY

FRANK BOSTICK, Bostick Restaurant,
Texas City, Texas

LINDA SKEPTER, Pete's Cafe
LaMarque, Texas

Closed accounts, Security Savings and Loan and Miss VIRGINIA WEIGELT, Citizens State Bank, were checked for possible accounts of subject with negative results.

On April 23, 1968 BARRY FLEISHMAN, Resident Manager, Nassau Bay Hotel advised as follows:

Mrs. WALLACE has been employed by that hotel as a waitress for an extended period. She was not at work April 23, 1968. He described her as being in her middle or late 40s, married and has seven children. Her husband is an invalid. Mrs. WALLACE is definitely not a "swinger" but on the contrary, is a quiet, stable and refined person