

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 11, 1968

BILLY RAY KING was interviewed at the Rock Island, Illinois, Police Department, by ROBERT A. WICKWIRE and CHARLES E. SMITH who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. KING was warned of his rights and he waived them as shown on an executed warning and waiver form.

BILLY RAY KING advised he has resided for ten years at 102 Arlington Street, Lake Providence, Louisiana. He has been employed as a deck hand on different boats in the Mississippi River since he was 18 years of age. He stated for the last three months he has been employed as a deck hand on a towboat for the K.G.W. Towing Company out of Greenville, Mississippi.

He added that he had been injured on his boat approximately twenty days ago and had been treated at the Greenville, Mississippi, General Hospital, but had been recuperating at his home in Lake Providence, Louisiana. He had recovered and arranged to catch his boat, which is the George Weathers, at Quincy, Illinois. His Personnel Director, JERRY WILSON, with the K.G.W. Towing Company in Greenville, Mississippi, had given him an airplane ticket from Greenville, Mississippi, to St. Louis, Missouri, to Quincy, Illinois, for April 5, 1968; however, he determined that all planes were full and was instructed to take a bus to Memphis, Tennessee, to catch a plane to St. Louis. He left his home by Trailway Bus around noon on April 4, 1968 and proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, which is about 175 miles. He arrived in Memphis sometime in the afternoon, probably around 4:00 p.m. While at the Trailway Bus Depot, the riots broke out due to the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He advised that the bus depot was closed. There was no busses allowed to leave or enter and the people in the bus depot were forced to remain in the depot all night long. He advised that the depot was only two or three blocks from the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, where KING was shot. He advised that he knows where this motel is located as he had stayed there on previous occasions. He added that it was general knowledge in all the papers that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was in Memphis and staying at the Lorraine Motel.

On 4-7-68 at Rock Island Illinois File # SI 44-561
by SA CHARLES E. SMITH
SA ROBERT A. WICKWIRE /ras Date dictated 4-9-68

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KING stated that he did not shoot MARTIN LUTHER KING but hastily added even if he had done so, he would not tell. He also stated that MARTIN LUTHER KING got just what he deserved and that the people in the North are getting just what they deserved on this racial problem as they caused the whole thing. When asked if he was a member of the KKK, KING stated that he was not a member but also added even if he was, he would not tell.

KING then stated during the early hours before daybreak, the busses started to move and he was able to take a taxi to the airport. He recalled that the fare was somewhere around \$4.65. When he arrived at the airport, he determined that there was only one plane that he could catch to Quincy, Illinois; however, this plane was full and he was placed on stand by. When the plane left and he could not get on, he then made a long distance telephone call to his boss JERRY WILSON who then told him to catch a bus to St. Louis and a bus to Quincy where he could catch the boat. He advised that he took a cab back to the bus depot where he boarded a Trailway Bus for St. Louis, Missouri. He advised this was early in the morning and arrived in St. Louis sometime around noon. He then caught a bus from St. Louis to Quincy; however, this bus made many different stops and he arrived too late in Quincy to catch the boat. He then took another bus to Rock Island, Illinois, where he now awaiting for the boat which is due to arrive at 12:00 midnight.

KING stated that he owns a 1967 bright blue Mustang which is at his home at Lake Providence, Louisiana. He explained that the papers for this car are in the name of his friend TRAVIS SHEFFIELD, who lives approximately three blocks away on Foster Street. He stated he bought this car from SHEFFIELD and is making the payments but he has not had the papers changed over to his name. The car is at his home. KING also admitted that he owned a .38 pistol and a shotgun which are both at his home.

The following description was obtained from observation and interview:

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Name	BILLY RAY KING
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	St. Joseph, Louisiana
Height	6'1"
Weight	185 pounds
Hair	Dark Brown, Curly
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium to ruddy
Address	102 Arlington Lake Providence, Louisiana
Occupation	Deck Hand, Towboat
Education	Seventh Grade
Marital Status	Single
Employment	K.G.W. Towing Company Greenville, Mississippi
Mother	GERTRUDE FRITH
Arrests	Admits juvenile arrest before the age of 18 for assaulting a Negro police officer in Lake Providence, Louisiana, explaining he beat this officer with a pipe, served nine months in a reform school at Monroe, Louisiana; Admits arrest at the age of 18 for carrying a pistol at Lake Providence, Louisiana, fined \$200.00 and \$37.00 costs and two years probation.

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D. UNKNOWN SUSPECT

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TOM MOSS, Chief of Police, Kankakee, Illinois, advised on April 5, 1968, he received an anonymous telephone call stating that a young white man staying at the West Lane Motel, Marion, Arkansas, had told a female employee of this motel that he was a Chicago police officer and that he was on his way to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. No further information was obtained from the anonymous telephone call.

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E. ALLEN RICHARD THAYER

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The Springfield, Illinois Police Department, on April 8, 1968, advised ALLEN RICHARD THAYER was in custody and that he fits the general description of the individual who shot MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THAYER interviewed this date by Bureau Agents and he advised he could not account for his whereabouts on the pertinent dates as pertained to this case. He did advise, however, that he had been traveling across the United States for several weeks and that to the best of his knowledge he was in Denver, Colorado on the day that he heard that KING had been assassinated. THAYER advised at no time was in in Alabama or Tennessee this year. THAYER and companion were traveling in a 1959 gold Chevrolet.

THAYER is described as:

Height	5' 11"
Weight	155 pounds
Hair	Dark brown combed straight back
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Dark
Tattoo	Skull and crossbones left forearm
Previous arrests	Armed robbery Ontario Canda breaking and entering Hartford, Connecticut
DOB	[REDACTED] Bristol, Connecticut

THAYER advised he knows nothing concerning the murder of KING nor has he any animosities toward KING. The Springfield Police Department filed charges against THAYER for defrauding an innkeeper.

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F. WILLIAM LOHMEYER

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On April 9, 1968, discreet investigation was conducted re WILLIAM LOHMEYER, Route 1, Strawn, Illinois. Information was developed LOHMEYER has been in the Strawn Illinois area, during the pertinent period re captioned matter.

LOHMEYER is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	43
Height	5' 9"
Weight	165
Complexion	Ruddy
Hair	Brown
	Burr cut
Build	Medium - stocky
	round facial features
Occupation	Farmer
	Well respected in community

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G. J. J. TRARES

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JEROME J. TRARES, is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
DOB	[REDACTED]
Height	6'1½"
Weight	230 pounds
Hair	Brown, graying bald, front and top
	4 Sheryl Drive, East St. Louis (Caseyville) Illinois
Employer	U.S. Gypsum salesman of building materials to wholesalers

Was in Memphis, April 2-4, 1968
to contact BILL WOOD at
lumber yard owned by
JOHNSONS, owners,
Holiday Inn Motel Chain
Driving 1968 Green Ford
4 door registered to
U.S. Gypsum

TRARES departed Memphis at 4:00 P.M. April 4, 1968,
arriving at residence 10:30 P.M. the same date after
stop at Cairo, Illinois.

Due to varience in physical and car description and
departure time, he does not appear identical to the
unknown subject.

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H. UNKNOWN SUSPECT

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On April 6, 1968, Mrs. DON SMYTH, 705 West Maple, Champaign, Illinois, telephone 362-3634, telephonically advised that on Thursday, April 4, 1968, while watching the news on channel 15 in Champaign, Illinois, which immediately followed the MIKE DOUGLAS Show, she observed an individual in the crowd at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was making a speech who did not applaud when the others did and looked as though he were a trouble maker.

She commented to her family concerning this person's reactions at that time. Subsequently, on April 6, 1968, she observed an artist drawing of the slayer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. on television, whose description is similar to that of an individual she observed in the news concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING. She said if she could see the news tape re-run of this, she is sure that she could identify the person to whom she is referring. She said she could be contacted at any time for any assistance she might be able to offer in this regard.

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I. ROBERT L. PLUNK

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ROBERT L. PLUNK, white male, age 34, born [REDACTED] 5' 10" tall, 160 pounds, dark brown hair, receding, brown eyes, was a passenger on train number 6 IC Railroad to St. Louis, Missouri, at 5:00 A.M. this date, April 11, 1968. PLUNK briefly interviewed at Carbondale, Illinois, in view of information furnished by train personnel indicating PLUNK resembled artist's sketch of assassin of Dr. KING. PLUNK boarded IC passenger train #10 out of Jacksonville, Florida, at Corinth Mississippi with a round trip ticket to St. Louis. He was with his mother, EULIA PLUNK and resides at RR 2, Michie, Tennessee. PLUNK produced a letter from Veteran's Administration Hospital (VAH) St. Louis, Missouri, addressed to ROBERT L. PLUNK, RR 2, Michie, Tennessee, requesting him to report for physical re disability claim. PLUNK has TB was a Korean war veteran and had prior chest operation for TB at Murphreesboro, Tennessee, VAH. The letter directed PLUNK to report VAH A 139, out patient service, 915 North Grand, St. Louis, Missouri, April 11, 1968. PLUNK claims he does not work due to physical condition. PLUNK obviously in poor physical condition and had difficulty in moving and breathing.

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J. A. J. CONSOLINO

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On April 13, 1968, LEONARD KORMORNY, Manager, Lipsett Steel Products Company, 2520 East 23rd Street, Granite City, Illinois, advised that D. L. PETERSON is actually a D. L. Peterson Leasing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, and the automobiles for Lipsett Steel Products Company are leased through the D. L. Peterson Leasing Company.

He advised that the Lipsett Steel Products Company and the Luria Brothers and Company are the same company, operating out of 2520 East 23rd Street, Granite City, Illinois.

He said A. J. CONSTANTINO was an employee of the Lipsett Steel Products Company and that CONSTANTINO was residing at the Executive Apartments at 10038 Executive Drive North, St. Louis, Missouri, and would not be returning back to the company until April 15, 1968. He further advised that CONSTANTINO was the only employee of the company who took travelling assignments. He advised that he did not have any information concerning the 1968 Illinois license 411809 at the present time.

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K. UNKNOWN SUSPECT, AKA RICHARD GALT

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On this date, April 19, 1968, KENNETH NEWBLE, 1000 North North Street, Peoria, Illinois, telephone number 692-1577, telephonically contacted the Peoria Resident Agency to advise that he had heard a radio broadcast from a Springfield station, Springfield, Illinois, not identified, while driving from Springfield to Peoria on this date. He recalled the commentator said the FBI was trying to locate an individual (FNU) GALT who was a seaman working out of Birmingham, Alabama. He advised that he is a former seaman, and he immediately recalled an individual known to him as RICHARD GALT (phonetic) whom he had sailed with on the SS Hudson of the Victory Transportation Line, New York City in December of 1961 to February of 1962, on a voyage to Spain and return to Port Arthur, Texas. He advised he and this individual known to him as RICHARD GALT were both members of the Seafarers International Union, Mobile, Alabama, whose national office is Brooklyn, New York.

He advised he and another seaman named TOBY DANCY of Mobile Alabama, and also a member of the said union, discussed racial matters and religious matters and politics at length, during the above voyage. He stated there were four Negroes in the crew of approximately 40 men and that he, NEWBLE and DANCY were the only two who associated with GALT (PHONETIC).

He described this individual as follows:

Age	Approximately 40-42 years of age at this time
Height	6'
Weight	165
Build	Thin
	Casual dresser, had excellent knowledge of hand guns and had excellent knowledge of European countries.

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NEWBLS advised that this individual had related that he had studied for the priesthood in Chicago, Ill., during his early years. He also advised that he was an experienced veteran seaman.

NEWBLE was contacted in person by SAs ELIAS WILLIAMS, Jr., and the writer, and he could add no additional information to the above.

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KENNETH NEWBLE, 1817 North North Street, Peoria, Illinois, viewed on April 18, 1968, a composite photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT. He advised this individual is definitely not the crewman which he had reference to aboard the SS Hudson in December, 1961, to February, 1962. He advised there is distinct differences in the hair and facial features. NEWBLE is of the opinion he knew the crewman as RICHARD GALT and cannot offer explanations or suggestions as to which crewman he may have made reference to. He advised he recalls RICHARD SANTAMOUR, also a crewman, who is definitely not identical with the individual he had reference to. Based on NEWBLE's statements, after viewing a composite photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT and in the absence of any recorded crewman named GALT, no further investigation to locate this individual will be conducted.

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L. J. CLOYD DRAKE

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Investigation by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE at Winchester, Illinois, revealed on 4-13-68 that both license plates, CG 8338, are on 1962 white Chevrolet Bel-Aire hardtop. Such is in accordance with records of DMV at Springfield, checked 4-14-68. Car duly registered to CLOYD DRAKE, Winchester, Illinois.

Mrs. DRAKE interviewed. She advised her husband recently passed away and that only she and her husband ever used the auto. She further advised that the car definitely has not been to Chicago and that the plates have not been removed or used on any other auto.

No further investigation being conducted in view of discrepancy in description of auto seen in Chicago and that of DRAKE's auto.

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M. JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE

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Information was received from the Jackson Division, on April 19, 1968, that Pascagoula, Mississippi Police Department stopped an individual driving a white Corvair bearing 1968 Illinois license DG 3109. The driver identified himself as JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE. MONTAGNE was accompanied by another white male whose identity was not determined. MONTAGNE indicated he was a musician and the other person indicated he was a seaman and they were both heading for New Orleans.

The officer who stopped the above individuals said that MONTAGNE resembled the photo of GALT and that after hearing a description of JAMES EARL RAY having a scar in the middle of his forehead he believed that MONTAGNE might be RAY as he recalled MONTAGNE having such a scar. No further description was available on MONTAGNE or the other person.

Auto Registration Section records, Springfield, Illinois, revealed 1968 Illinois license DG 3109 is registered to RAYMOND HILLBURN, 6039 North Ridge, Chicago, Illinois for a 1956 Dodge, Four door, VIN 32233139. Auto registration and drivers license checks re MONTAGNE negative.

Drivers License Section records re HILLBURN describe him as:

Name	RAYMOND MITCHEL HILLBURN
Address	1254 Leland,
Chicago, Illinois	
DOB	██████████
Height	5'-10"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Drivers license #	██████████
	Suspended since 3/10/68

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N. PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY

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Re: PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY
Suspect
Clinton, Illinois

On 4/10/68, Sheriff CLAUDE BARRETT, DeWitt County Sheriff's Office, Clinton, Illinois, advised FBI, Springfield, Illinois, that he had in custody one PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY who had been arrested by the DeWitt County Sheriff's Office authorities at Clinton, Illinois. Subject had been riding a freight train from Springfield, Illinois to Clinton, Illinois, illegally and was arrested on local charges. BARRETT advised that subject resembled JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT.

Subject PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY was fingerprinted by DeWitt County Sheriff's Office and was interviewed by FBI Agents in Clinton, Illinois, at DeWitt County Jail.

During interview, Subject advised that he was in Memphis, Tennessee, on 4/6/68 through 4/12/68. He stated that he had left Chicago, Illinois on the 7th of April by freight train en route to Memphis to sell a pint of his blood for \$15.00. Subject advised that he had traveled throughout the United States by hopping freight trains and he had so done this for the past two years and had worked in many states doing odd jobs. Subject advised that he was in Chicago on 4/1/68 where he worked for Help Unlimited Corporation. Subject advised that while he was in Memphis, Tennessee, he resided at the Mission at London and -2nd Street. Subject advised that he had no information re the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. nor did he know of anyone who might have participated in the killing.

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The following description of the subject was obtained through observation and interview:

NAME:	PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY
RACE:	WHITE
SEX:	MALE
HEIGHT:	5'10"
WEIGHT:	155 LBS.
DOB:	[REDACTED]
HAIR:	BROWN
EYES:	HAZEL
POB:	LEMA, OHIO
SCARS:	NIGHT THREE LEFT HAND

FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION:

5 8 2 U 11
S I Ar

PARENTS:	MR. AND MRS. DONALD BOOTHBY 1124 WEST STREET LEMA, OHIO.
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Subject's parents were contacted telephonically and they advised that the description of BOOTHBY was identical with that of their son and stated that he had left home about two years ago following some family problems.

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O. UNKNOWN SUSPECT, AKA J. CARNAHAN

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On April 29, 1968, Motor Vehicle Bureau, Springfield, Illinois, advised 1968 Illinois license B291617 was issued to JAMES J. MC GOVERN, 10023 West Devon, Rosemont, Illinois for 1966 Chevrolet Fleetside Panel Truck, VIN C2546F163402 Drivers license listed as [REDACTED], Social Security number [REDACTED]

1967 Illinois license B291617 issued to GEORGE WARD, Route 2, D Street, Murphysboro, Illinois, for a 1956 Ford pickup truck, VIN F10V6G25421, drivers license listed as [REDACTED]. This license originally issued for 1954 Ford Pickup in which driver's license listed as [REDACTED]. These are not Illinois drivers license.

Drivers license section, Springfield, advised drivers license number [REDACTED] issued February 14, 1968, to JAMES J. MC GOVERN. This chauffeurs license expires March 7, 1969 and described him as 5' 10", 190 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, DOB [REDACTED] application reflects he is self employed and dba J. J. Mc Govern Motor Service, Rosemont, Illinois.

Drivers license number [REDACTED] issued December 8, 1967 to GEORGE L. WARD, 103 Third Street, Murphysboro, Illinois, and license expires December 8, 1968 and describes him as 5' 11", 190 pounds, brown hair, hazel eyes, DOB [REDACTED]

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P. JAMES E. BODKER

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Illinois Drivers License [REDACTED] issued June 2, 1967 to JAMES E. BODKER, 14341 South Avalon, Dalton, Illinois will expire January 30, 1971 and describes him as male, born [REDACTED] 5' 10", 175 pounds, brown hair, green eyes, occupation - construction laborer. Records reflect license was suspended December 12, 1967 for an accident. It was again suspended in February, 1968 for three moving violations but is presently clear and valid.

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Q. WILLIAM A. MARSHALL

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On May 17, 1968, Mr. WOODROW THOMPSON, Parts Manager, employed 23 years with Rust International, Inc., International Harvester (I-H), Inc., Industrial Tractor, and Equipment Company, 1803 West Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois, advised that there has never been a WILLIAM A. MARSHALL or any employee by the name MARSHALL with the Rust International Company at Bloomington, Illinois. He related there is no other International Harvester Dealer in the Bloomington, Illinois area. THOMPSON further advised that the closest representative for the International Harvester Company is L. C. BARNETT, District Manager, International Harvester Company, 505 Rock Island Road, Peoria, Illinois. Records of credit bureau in Bloomington, Illinois; Police Department, Bloomington, Illinois; Mc Lean County Sheriff's Office, Bloomington, negative. A search of city directory and telephone directory failed reveal any listing for WILLIAM A. MARSHALL or similarity.

Also on May 17, 1968, Mr. L. C. BARNETT, District Manager, I-H, Four Zero Five Rock Island Road, Peoria, Illinois, advised that his office covers the Northern 60 counties for the State of Illinois which includes Bloomington, and his records reflect no one by the name WILLIAM A. MARSHALL as being an employee of his or as being a franchise dealer in his district. BARNETT further advised he knows of no recent employee transfers from his district to the State of California. BARNETT stated that any further checks re MARSHALL should be directed to I-H Home Offices, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

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VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

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A. ROBERT HOOD STRADER

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On this date Mrs. ROBERT STRADER of Lexington, Illinois, telephone 309 365-3143, telephonically contacted the office concerning this matter. Mrs. STRADER, who sounded considerably upset emotionally, advised she expected her husband to return home from Detroit sometime late this afternoon and wanted to know whether or not we would assure that his identity would be protected in regard to any information provided to us concerning the MURKIN case. Mrs. STRADER also asked what kind of protection we could give to her husband who felt his life was in danger.

Mrs. STRADER was advised that any information furnished to this Bureau in confidence would certainly be protected but that we were in no position to physically guard her husband and if he felt his life was in danger this was a matter he should take up with local authorities, however, we were desirous of interviewing him concerning any valuable information he might have in regard to this case and would do so at his convenience upon his arrival. Mrs. STRADER advised she would have her husband contact the office upon his arrival at Lexington, Illinois. She was also furnished the name of the SRA at Bloomington and of the whereabouts of our office there.

Mrs. STRADER stated she and her husband were passing through Memphis at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was slain. Her husband allegedly overheard a conversation among five individuals one of whom he claims resembles the published photograph of RAY, the subject, in this case, in which they talked about the killing. Subsequently, last Sunday night their car was broken into and on Monday he claims he was followed from Lexington to Detroit by a tan Chevrolet, the registration number of which he was unable to obtain. This car contained two individuals whom

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he did not recognize and at a rest stop these men took a shot at him but did not hit him because he "hit the ground". He now fears he is in grave danger for his personal safety because he has information about the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Mrs. STRADER was advised immediately upon her husband's return she should contact this office and we would set up a mutually agreeable time and place during which we could interview her husband concerning this matter.

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MARGRET CARMICHAEL STRADER, wife of ROBERT HOOD STRADER, was contacted at the residence of her father, E. P. CARMICHAEL, Route #1, Lexington, Illinois, on 4/30/68. Mrs. STRADER advised she and her husband were at the CARMICHAEL residence the weekend of 4/20-22/68. She advised that on the night of 4/21/68 or early morning of 4/22/68 her husband was awakened by the dogs barking outside the farm residence which is located up a farm lane one-half mile from the main rural road. She advised her husband and her father, E. P. CARMICHAEL, upon making a search of the outside area, found that the STRADER's 1967 Oldsmobile Delta "W8", cream colored with black vinyl top, had been broken into. Mrs. STRADER advised nothing was missing from the car and no one was located or seen in the area. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband left alone from the CARMICHAEL residence on the morning of 4/22/68 en route Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. STRADER advised that in a short period of time, Mr. STRADER returned to the CARMICHAEL residence. Upon his return,

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STRADER stated he had found a note in the recessed area of the speedometer of his car. (Mrs. STRADER pointed out that the speedometer has been broken; therefore, her husband was not normally attracted to the speedometer). She related this note was made up of words cut from newspapers and pasted on the back of a pocket calendar (unable to describe the calendar). Mrs. STRADER said the note read in substance, "If you go to the police or the FBI you will be killed." Mrs. STRADER advised her husband, after returning with the note, proceeded en route Detroit, Michigan, and after a short period of time had elapsed, he telephonically contacted her, stating he was at the Holiday Inn, Bloomington, Illinois. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband informed her that upon reaching the road one mile north of the CARMICHAEL residence, and Route 66, he saw a 1966 or 1967 Chevrolet, tan in color, no license information, with two men in the car, parked along the road. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her that this car followed him en route Bloomington. However, they did not turn into the Holiday Inn when he did. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband then told her he was proceeding on to Detroit, Michigan,

Mrs. STRADER advised upon discussing above with her parents, her mother, Mrs. E. P. CARMICHAEL, stated she had noticed a late model, tan car, making several trips on the main rural road near the CARMICHAEL residence on the early morning of 4/22/68.

Mrs. STRADER advised that on the night of 4/22/68 her husband telephonically contacted her, but he would not disclose his location as he stated he was afraid to mention his location over the phone. She related her husband told her that he stopped at a rest stop area after leaving Indianapolis, Indiana. Upon leaving his car and walking the direction of the men's restroom, he saw a tan automobile occupied by two men driving very slow. He stated at this time the rider in this automobile fired a shot at him. STRADER told his wife the shot just missed his car and he, STRADER, hit the ground where he laid as if he had been hit. STRADER stated that the tan car disappeared and he has not seen it since.

Mrs. STRADER stated her husband believes this action was due to his being in the men's restroom at the Gulf Truck Stop, Lebanon, Tennessee, on 3/27/68, where he allegedly overheard five men planning to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her that one of the men in the restroom was RAY, whom he recognized after RAY's photograph was published. She stated he further informed her that he would be able to recognize the other men he saw in the restroom. Mrs. STRADER advised she recalls being at the Gulf Truck Stop at Lebanon, Tennessee, on 3/29/68. She stated upon their leaving the truck stop, her husband did not mention to her anything of hearing of the plan to kill KING. She stated she does recall her

husband remarked, "If King goes back to Memphis he will be shot." Mrs. STRADER advised her husband did say he wanted to see STERN of NBC, Washington, D.C, whom he knew but did not know if he desired to see STERN.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband returned to the family residence at Lexington, Illinois, on Friday, 4/26/68, where he stayed until the morning of Saturday, 4/27/68, at which time STRADER and his mother-in-law had an argument over Mrs. STRADER's son by a previous marriage. Mrs. CARMICHAEL told STRADER to leave, which

Mrs. STRADER stated she told her husband she had contacted Mr. DONALD T. SULLIVAN, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Springfield Office of the FBI, and that he, STRADER, should call Mr. SULLIVAN and set up an appointment; that Mr. SULLIVAN had informed her he would make an appointment to meet STRADER at any location or at any time when STRADER was available. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her he was afraid to attempt to meet with FBI Agents, as he felt he was being followed. Mrs. STRADER stated she was unable to convince her husband to make arrangements for a meeting with the FBI. She advised her husband is very much interested in obtaining protection.

Mrs. STRADER advised of some of her husband's activities, which are not concerning the murder of Dr. KING. She advised that she does not know all of her husband's business and that she is sure he has not told her all he knows.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is acquainted with RAYMOND STARNES of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who told STRADER in the summer of 1967 that there were several businessmen in the area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who were taking up a collection to obtain money to have KING assassinated. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is well acquainted in the Baton Rouge and Denham Springs, Louisiana, area. She stated he was, in the summer of 1967, connected with the E.C. Donnell Construction Company of Denham Springs, La., which was doing construction work for the telephone company. She related E. C. DONNELL lives in Dallas, Texas. She related DONNELL had an equipment rental business and while STRADER and DONNELL were attempting to rent the equipment they were trying to gain financing for a recreational park in Louisiana similar to "Six Flags Over Texas." She related that some way they came in contact with a CHARLES and LILLIAN SHAPIRO (ph) of Miami, Florida, who advised they could finance same but were not interested, in a recreational park but would be interested in financing a horse racing track. Mrs. STRADER advised Mr. DONNELL obtained RAYMOND STARNES to help locate his land which could be used as a horse racing park. He also obtained sanction of the sheriff, (FNU) IRWIN and SAM BOSKO, both of Slidell, La; however, "things got out of hand" and an article

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appeared in "Life" magazine and the Governor of Louisiana placed a stop to the entire operation.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is in telephonic contact with her daily but declines to furnish information as to his location over the telephone, as he is very afraid. Mrs. STRADER was advised to inform her husband if he has any information he desires to furnish to the FBI, he can contact any FBI Field Office who will then arrange for an interview with him.

CARL STERN, Washington, D.C., NBC Office, advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that a man (FNU) STRADER, whom he had met on one occasion while covering a story in the South, had, on April 24, 1968, telephoned him from someplace around Toledo, Ohio. STRADER informed him he was en route to the home of his wife's parents in Lexington, Illinois. He then told STERN a "fantastic tale" about him, STRADER, overhearing a conversation on March 29, 1968 in Lebanon, Tennessee, concerning the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Apparently STRADER was of the impression that the people involved in the conversation knew he had overheard them and they had taken his license number. STRADER believed there had been at least one shot fired at him since that time. STRADER informed STERN he had vital information concerning KING's murder and called STERN for advice as to what he should do. STERN advised STRADER to call the Springfield Office of the FBI and they would make arrangements to have someone meet him at his convenience in their territory. According to Mr. STERN, BISHOP stated that STRADER is afraid to approach any office and may desire to have someone meet him at a location other than an office.

The files of the Springfield Office contain the following references to ROBERT STRADER, however, it cannot be determined at this point whether or not they refer to ROBERT HOOD STRADER of Lexington, Illinois.

On November 19, 1965, ROBERT STRADER, 6'1" -2", 175 lbs., employed cutting timber near Edwardsville, Illinois, and in construction work at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, was considered a suspect in the robbery of the Hamel State Bank, Bufile 91-20560, SI file 91-2642.

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In 10-66 prosecution of ROBERT H. STRADER was declined in an ITSMV matter which involved a rental car. ROBERT H. STRADER had represented himself as an employee of General Telephone Co., of Illinois, registering at two motels at Bloomington, Illinois, and had skipped without properly checking out and without paying for his room. STRADER could not be located at that time but was described as a white, male, 35 - 40, 5'10" - 6', 150 lbs., dark brown hair, medium build and medium complexion. He was subject of Sifile 26-29003.

One ROBERT HOOD STRADER was subject of an ITSMV; UFAP - AUTO THEFT case in which Milwaukee was CO, 9/63, Bufile 26-313703, Sifile 26-23403. This individual had a rather extensive arrest record dating back to 11/48 at which time he was AWOL and which involved record of arrest for issuing worthless checks, mail fraud, investigation of forgery, and defrauding an innkeeper. ROBERT H. STRADER, whose FBI No. was given as 244 633 A, was twice a patient at hospitals, one as a patient at the Patton State Hospital concerning which fingerprints were furnished by the State Bureau of Identification, Sacramento, California, on 8-3-60 and subsequently again on 9-21-60, was a patient at Atascadero State Hospital, California. That individual was described as white, male, approximately 6'3", 190 lbs., fair complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair and was considered to have suicidal tendencies.

A check through NCIC on 4-30-68 indicated ROBERT STRADER was not currently wanted.

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B. INVESTIGATION, ELDORADO, ILLINOIS

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JERRY KIMKADE, Principal, Eldorado High School, Eldorado, Illinois, on 4/29/68, made a search of past academic records available at the school. It was determined that in 1943 JAMES DEE RAY also known as Jimmy Ray graduated from the school. He is the son of J. A. RAY of Warsaw, Illinois, and was born on [REDACTED] in Saline County and entered the school 9/1/39 and graduated 5/30/43 with a rank of 105 out of 119. RAY'S year book photograph was examined as to identification with the subject in captioned case. The photo did not appear to be identical.

EMILIA JEAN FOX, nee Choicser, Eldorado Illinois, who is presently secretary to the principal at Eldorado High School stated that JAMES DEE RAY was a school mate of hers. She examined a photo of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that she is certain that the two are not identical. She further advised that she has seen JAMES DEE RAY within the past four years and that there is no question that his looks have not changed to the degree that he might resemble JAMES EARL RAY.

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C? CECIL RAY

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Mrs. FRENCH was contacted at her home on 4/29/68.

She advised that her ex-son-in-law, CECIL RAY, formerly of Vandalia, Illinois, has been to her residence on approximately two occasions within the last five years, accompanied by an individual who resembled JAMES EARL RAY. It is her belief that CECIL RAY referred to this person as JAMES RAY. Mrs. FRENCH was unable to furnish any more specific information as to the times or when the visits were made.

She stated that CECIL RAY was separated from her step-daughter, JUDITH EARLINE RAY, who resides at 1013 Main Street, Highland, Illinois. They have been separated about four years. CECIL RAY is believed to be employed in JOLIET, ILL., as a truck driver for an unidentified Gas and Oil Company and was last seen by Mrs. FRENCH in 1966. CECIL RAY's parents are deceased but he is believed to have a brother who resides in Vandalia, Illinois, name unknown. CECIL RAY was employed as a bartender at one time at an unidentified bar on the main street in Vandalia. MRS. FRENCH had no photograph and could furnish no description of CECIL RAY.

By way of background concerning MRS. FRENCH, her husband EARL FRENCH was beat to death in Effingham, Illinois, in early 1957 and the case has not been solved. Mrs. FRENCH resides alone with her dog and according to Sheriff A. P. DITTER, is an avid beer drinker. Mrs. FRENCH did not appear to have been drinking at the time of the interview. She did refer to the death of her husband on several occasions and mentioned that she knew how
Mrs. KING felt

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JUDITH RAY, 3013 Main Street, Highland, Illinois, was interviewed April 30, 1968, concerning her knowledge of possible association with the subject, JAMES EARL RAY.

JUDITH RAY, stated that her husband, CECIL RAY, is at the present time separated from her although they are not divorced. She stated that there is a state warrant outstanding against her husband, CECIL, issued by the States Attorney's Office at Edwardsville, Illinois, charging her husband with non-support of the 4 children which she has. JUDITH RAY stated that it is her understanding from the States Attorney's Office At Edwardsville, Illinois, that her husband may have recently moved to Wisconsin, in order to escape the warrant outstanding against him in the State of Illinois.

However, she stated that his location, if he has moved to Wisconsin, is unknown to her. She further stated that it is her belief that her husband CECIL RAY has not moved to Wisconsin, but is instead living in Vandalia, Illinois, with some of his relatives. She stated that she has on several occasions contacted relatives of her husband in Vandalia but they have refused to help her locate her husband. She related that it is her belief that the relatives know the location of her husband but refuse to cooperate with her in finding him and they know the warrant will be issued against him.

Mrs. RAY stated that she does not know of any association which her husband may have had with the subject but said he could have associated with him before their marriage in 1953 and may have associated sometime since then with him in Alton, Illinois.

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She stated that approximately 11 years ago, she and her husband resided in a downtown apartment in Alton, Illinois, and they resided there for approximately 3 years. She stated that during their stay in Alton, her husband brought numerous friends home with him to drink in the apartment or play cards and he never identified any of those persons with him. She stated that she never inquired as to their identity and would not be familiar with the name JAMES EARL RAY.

Mrs. RAY stated that her husband is wellknown in the Vandalia, Illinois area in that he was raised in that City. She stated that her husband's relatives all live in Vandalia and they possibly may know the present whereabouts of her husband.

She stated that she is anxious to learn the present whereabouts of her husband and that she will cooperate with the FBI in any way possible in determining his location. She stated that it is her belief if anyone knows his present whereabouts, it will be a member of his family in Vandalia.

It is her belief that his relatives there may be protecting his present address.

She stated that a member of the family most likely to know his address will be GILBERT RAY who lives on Randolph Street, Vandalia, Illinois. She stated that a brother of her husband, LARRY RAY, also resides in Vandalia, Illinois, but his address is unknown.

Another brother, STANLEY RAY resides in Vira, Illinois, and both parents of her husband are deceased.

Mrs. RAY stated that LEONARD BOWLE is a close friend of her husband and may possibly know his present whereabouts. She stated that he is the owner of Metzgers Tavern, Vandalia, Illinois, and the exact address is unknown to her.

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She further stated that PRESTON PRIOR who is the owner of a Mobil Station in Vandalia, which station is located at the junction of the Old Highway and the New Super Highway may possibly know her husband's present whereabouts in that her husband has worked for him from time to time.

Mrs. RAY stated that she knows very little about her husband's associates and that he would be the one to contact concerning them. She further stated that she knew very little of her husband's family background before they were married and there may be some associates at that time that she is unfamiliar with.