

SI 44-561

RCH:skt

1

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

At Edwardsville, Illinois

States Attorney LEON D. SCROGGINS, Madison County Court House, reviewed files maintained in his office and stated that a warrant for neglect and refusal was issued for CECIL RAY on complaint of his wife JUDITH in Madison County Court at Edwardsville. He stated that the information obtained at the time the complaint and warrant were issued disclosed that CECIL RAY was residing in Joliet, Illinois, and accordingly, certified copies of the warrant were forwarded to authorities at Joliet.

He indicated that he had no knowledge of the current whereabouts of CECIL RAY and that nothing in file indicated anything except that he was in Joliet.

SI 44-561

On 5-13-68, Sheriff LEONARD KELLY, Fayette County, Vandalia, advised there are several members of the RAY family in the vicinity and he was seriously doubtful of any connection with the suspect in this case. According to investigation conducted to locate CECIL RAY, all members of the family are not too smart and prone to using alcohol to excess.

In this respect, LARRY RAY, a City of Vandalia employee, was jailed over the weekend of 5/11-12/68 for threatening his wife, but released on \$25.00 bond.

MARION KIRKPATRICK, an employee of the USPO, advised CECIL RAY lived in the same neighborhood, but has not been in Vandalia for at least two years, unless very briefly. No removal could be located at USPO, and no mail received during recent past. Tax and voter's records also negative.

GILBERT RAY, City of Vandalia employee in the street and garbage work, advised 5-14-68, he is an uncle of CECIL RAY and, to his knowledge, he has not heard of JAMES EARL RAY, but possibly CECIL could have known him, since at one time he was at Edwardsville and Alton. There is a brother STANLEY RAY who GILBERT believes is in Vira, Ill., where he works at Crane Packing Co. There is a half brother, RICHARD RISLEY, who lives in Joliet, address unknown. GILBERT RAY advised he had not seen or heard from CECIL RAY in several months and the last he knew he was in Peoria, Illinois, working at a Shite (phoenetic) Service Station, probably the Site brand of independent stations.

LEONARD BOWLES former associate of CECIL RAY advised he had heard nothing from him for two or three years. BOWLES no longer operates a tavern but helps his son-in-law in the tire recapping business. PRESTON PRIOR former associate, also had no recent information of CECIL's whereabouts. ~~SEARCHED~~ INDEXED

SI 44-561

During contact with Sheriff KELLY and Chief DALE SLATER, May 14, 1968, both advised that the entire family of this group "were a little on the stupid side."

- 212* -

5/28/68

Airtel

To: SACs, Dallas (44-2649)
Houston (44-1509)
Memphis (44-1987)
New Orleans (157-10673)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

If not already done, Dallas, Houston, Memphis and New Orleans should check records of access to safety deposit boxes at banks in each of those cities for the month of April, 1968. Any individuals who made entry into such safety deposit boxes in this period should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time the box was rented or on the basis of the renter of the box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

This is being suggested in light of the possibility that subject may have rented such a box and then while fleeing may have made entry for the purpose of withdrawing valuables.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

*Covered
anted sent
4/6/68
[Signature]*

44-1509-426

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI--HOUSTON	
[Signature]	

5/28/68

Airtel

To: SACs, Dallas (44-2649)
Houston (44-1509)
Memphis (44-1987)
New Orleans (157-10673)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

If not already done, Dallas, Houston, Memphis and New Orleans should check records of access to safety deposit boxes at banks in each of those cities for the month of April, 1968. Any individuals who made entry into such safety deposit boxes in this period should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time the box was rented or on the basis of the renter of the box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

This is being suggested in light of the possibility that subject may have rented such a box and then while fleeing may have made entry for the purpose of withdrawing valuables.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

44-1509-456

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI-HOUSTON	

E KR

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

1 - SA
① - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

*Rel Ho Agts
handling
cbl
covered
AIRTEL sent 6/6/68
TW*

44-1509-426-A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

Wes

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)

FROM : SA T.A. STEPHEN-HASSARD

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 6/5/68

Re your memo, 6/3/68.

On 6/4/68 the following persons who have custodial responsibility for the safety deposit boxes in their respective banks advised that they had no logical suspects in instant matter. All noted that due to the small size of their banks they are all acquainted with their safety deposit renters and none fit the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY:

Mrs. ANN BAERD, Secretary,
First State Bank of Clear Lake

Mrs. DANA TAYLOR, Receptionist,
Nassau Bay National Bank

JIM HODGES, Vice-President,
First State Bank of Greens Bayou

Mrs. JOHN L. JOHNSON, New Accounts
and Credit Clerk,
Riverside National Bank

①-Houston
TASH: mkh
(1)

mkh

44-1509-426B

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

Weir

TO:

RYAN

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM:

SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY

(44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

- Citizens State Bank - A. Harrell Blackshear - President
400 MAIN
- Downtown Bank - Hollis L. Walters V.P.
202 MAIN
- International Bank - John W. Hazard. President
1300 TEXAS, AVE

NO Positive information developed

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426c

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

TO: SA Roland A. Baldwin

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Heights State Bank, 3800 Washington

Northside State Bank, 2010 No. Main

Reagan State Bank, 545 W. 19th

Mrs. VIVIAN FURLOW & Mrs. KATHY GARCIA, Clerks in charge of safety deposit boxes, Northside State Bank, 2010 N. Main; Mr. RICHARD H. DIMON, Vice Pres., & Mrs. SHARON PUGH, Clerk in charge of safety deposit boxes, Heights State Bank, 3800 Washington; Mrs. NORA KING & Miss MARGIE COSTANTINO, Clerks in charge of safety deposit boxes, Reagan State Bank, 545 W. 19th; all were contacted concerning information in this case with negative results. A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, the subject, was also exhibited to these people with negative results.

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426D

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

TO: SA F. WILLIAM WHATLEY, JR. DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Airline National Bank of Houston, 5206 Airline
Commercial State Bank, Jensen Dr. & Tidwell Road,
9420 Jensen
Homestead Bank, 10222 Homestead

*The above banks were checked on 6/4/68
with negative results.*

Persons who caused records to be checked:
Charles J. Patronella, V.P. + Cashier - Airline Natl Bank
Carroll C. Simmons, V.P., Commercial State Bank
John Moore, Executive V.P + Cashier, Homestead Bank

44-1509-426E

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>gpl</i>	FILED <i>gpl</i>
JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

Fru

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

TO: SA M. CLAY BLACKMAN DATE: 6/3/68
FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Northeast National Bank <i>8305 E. Houston Rd.</i>	THOMAS L. OAR Vice President
Northline State Bank <i>900 Northline Mall</i>	BERNARD BEAMAN Executive Vice President
Port City State Bank <i>3608 Jensen</i>	NORLENE JOHNSON Vault Custodian

Records of safety deposit boxes in above bank reviewed by officials listed for April 1968 entries. All persons entering during this period known to officials and none considered identical to subject Ray.

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426-F

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

MURKIN

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: *W* SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

- ✓ American Bank and Trust Company
1500 WAUGH DR.
- ✓ Chemical Bank and Trust Company
3201 Kirby DR
- ✓ Lumbermen's National Bank
3403 Richmond AVE

On June 4, 1968, the following persons were contacted re the above and were unable to furnish information of value. No suspects were developed and no identification of RAY was effected.

American Bank and Trust Company
Mrs. BILLIE SMITH, Vault Custodian

Chemical Bank and Trust Company
Mr. DAVID MAROLD, Assistant Cashier

Lumbermen's National Bank
Mrs. BARBARA SESTAK, Vault Custodian

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426-G

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	
<i>BUNCH</i>	<i>Bois</i>

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

✓ Sharpstown State Bank
BRITAIN. JANE FREEMAN

✓ Spring Branch Bank
8800 KATHY

University State Bank
5117 KEVIN

On June 4, 1968, the following persons were contacted re the above and were unable to furnish information of value. No suspects were developed and no identification of RAY was effected.

Sharpstown State Bank
JOY MESSER, Vault Custodian

Spring Branch Bank
Mrs. MARJORIE ANDREW, Vault Custodian

University State Bank
Mrs. LYDIA TYLASKA, Vault Custodian

1 - SA M
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 1 1968
FBI-HOUSTON
Bryant RAB

TO: SA Philip W. Swisher DATE: 6/3/68
FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

1. East End State Bank, 4200 Sealand
2. Harrisburg Bank 1001 Broadway
3. South Main Bank 3001 Main

Miss Roben Johnson, Vault Custodian, South Main Bank

Mr. Davis Armstrong, Cashier, East End State Bank

Mrs. Norma Wendert, Vault Custodian, East End State Bank

Mr. Morris E. Waiter, Jr. Asst. V.P. Harrisburg Bank

Mrs. Velma Washman, Vault Custodian, Harrisburg Bank

All above individuals advised, after a review of their respective files and after viewing photograph of Ray stated no one fitting Ray's description, nor anyone using any of Ray's known aliases rented, or had access to any safety deposit box at their bank at any time.

44-1509-4261

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI-HOUSTON	

TO: SA F. PATRICK CARR, JR. DATE: 6/3/68
FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Bank of Houston

The Fannin Bank

Medical Center National Bank

On 6/4/68, SA F. PATRICK CARR, JR., contacted the following Safety Deposit Sections of the following banks:

JANICE DOAK, Bank of Houston, 5115 Main

JUANITA MORRIS, The Fannin Bank, 1020 Holcombe
HALLIE PATTON, Medical Center National Bank, 6631 Main

None of those contacted, after checking their records and observing the photo of JAMES EARL RAY, aka, could identify RAY as having had access to their safety deposit boxes.

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1506 - 426J

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

MLC

TO: *Sullivan*

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Republic National Bank of Houston

Oak Forest Bank

Long Point National Bank of Houston

On June 4, 1968, the following individuals were contacted in regard to above matter and no positive information was obtained.

Mrs. Kathy Poncio, Safety Deposit Renter, Republic National Bank, 5200 N. Shepherd.

Mrs. H.C. Henson, Statement Teller, Oak Forest Bank, 1120 43rd St.

Mrs. Nancy Lamberth, In Charge of Safety Deposit Boxes, Long Point National Bank, 7807 Long Point Rd.

1 *WTS* SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1506-426K

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>gp</i>	FILED <i>gp</i>
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FBI-HOUSTON	

[Signature]

TO: SA OTTO T. VANDY DATE: 6/3/68
FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

- A. Bank of Alameda, 13300 Alameda Road
- B. Bank of America of Houston, 6056 Bellfort Blvd.
- C. Gulfgate State Bank of Houston

The following people were contacted at the above banks, respectively concerning above matter but met with negative results.

- A. 1. Ernest Jordan, Vice President
- 2. Margie Booker, Sec
- B. 3. Eugene F. Jezek, Cashier -
- 4. Linda Bryant, Sec
- C. 5. VERNON E. BAILEY, Asst Cashier
- 6. NANCY Black, in charge of safe deposit Boxes

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426 L

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI-HOUSTON	

TO: McCalie DATE: 6/3/68
FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Fairbanks State Bank of Houston

Memorial Bank

Pinemont State Bank

On June 4, 1968, the following individuals were contacted in regard to the above and no positive information was obtained. All customers were eliminated from being subject.

James Sells, Cashier, Fairbanks State Bank
13636 Hempstead Hwy.

John Heger, Vice Pres., Memorial Bank,
12538 Memorial Drive.

Walter M. Speegle, Cashier, Pinemont State Bank,
12160 Hempstead Hwy.

1 - SA McCalie
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426M

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

McCalie

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Liberty Bank

Post Oak Bank

River Oaks Bank and Trust Company

On June 4, 1968 the following advised that a review of their safe deposit box records and observation of subject's photo by safe deposit section personnel failed to indicate subject utilized a safe deposit box in their respective banks during April 1968:

Miss LYLES, Safety Deposit Section, Liberty Bank
Mrs. BETTY VICKROY, " " , River Oaks Bank & Trust
SARA HENFY, " " , Post Oak Bank

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1968	
FBI - HOUSTON	

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TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

6-3-68 {

Gulf Coast National Bank, 11310 Chimney Rock
- Mrs. Dian Sustek, Safety Deposit Dept.
Highland Village State Bank, 4030 Westheimer
- Archie W. Benham, Cashier
Mercantile Bank, 8624 Stella Link
- Buddy Kennedy, Asst. Cashier

No record name or aliases

No recognize photo

*No persons in records whose identity
not established for April 68.*

1. - SA
1. - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-4260

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	
Jackson	KJ

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Capital National Bank
1300 Main

Main Bank of Houston
1224 Main

Union National Bank in Houston
1522 Main

On 6/4/68, the following employees of the designated banks were shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and each advised they had never seen him before and that he had not been in the Safety Deposit Division of their banks. These employees have the responsibility of renting deposit boxes to customers of their respective banks and to escort each box-holder into the safety deposit box vault and obtain for him his safety deposit box:

MAIN BANK OF HOUSTON: Mrs. P. H. SHIRLING and Mrs. PATSY BUA;

CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK: CAROLYN CUMMINGS, ELIZABETH TABERS, and BARBARA HOWE;

UNION NATIONAL BANK OF HOUSTON: MARY ALICE

SOBOTIK

Note: All employees employed prior to 4/68.

1 - SA

1 - 44-1509

WTW/cbl

By SA Charles J. Powell

44-1509-426 P

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

First City National Bank

Houston National Bank

Southern National Bank

On June 4, 1968, the following advised review of their safe deposit records, and observation of subject's photograph by safe deposit section personnel fails to indicate subject utilized a safe deposit box in their respective bank during April 1968:

JOHN F. GALLAGER, Ass't Mgr. Safe Deposit, First City Nat.

JAMES W. OWEN, VP & Mgr. " " " " "

DORIS STAHL, Charge of Safe Deposit, Southern National

FANNIE RICHARDSON, Mgr. Safe Deposit, Houston National

1 - SA SCHMIDT
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-426Q

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

Schmidt WTW

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Central National Bank of Houston - 2100 TRAVIS

Fidelity Bank and Trust Company - 1662 MILAN

Houston Bank and Trust - 1801 MAIN

On 6/4/68 the following personnel of banks listed were contacted regarding safety deposit box rental and utilization especially during the month of April, 1968. All personnel advised their records did not reflect the names of James Earl Ray, aka and his photo is not identifiable or similar to anyone utilizing a safety deposit box at these banks:

Mrs Maudine White, Custodian, CNB of HO
E.W. Wilmore, Custodian, Ho Band T.
Melba Daugherty, Custodian, Fidelity B &
Trust.

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WFW/cbl

44-1509-426R

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

W. J.

TO: SA DAVID W. HEDGECOCK DATE: 6/3/68
FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

The Industrial State Bank of Houston
6730 CAPITAL WA1-4153

Northshore National Bank
13301 EAST FREEWAY GL3-7121

Lockwood National Bank of Houston Butterfas
1003 LOCKWOOD OR4-7661

The following investigation was conducted by SA DAVID W. HEDGECOCK on 6/4/68. The listed bank officials caused a check to be made of holders of safe deposit boxes rented since 4/67 and visited in 4/68 without finding indication of subject's identity. Subject's name, aliases and photograph was called to the attention of personnel handling safe deposit box matters with negative results.

Bank officials contacted were:

Mrs. SYBIL MELCER, Head Cashier
Lockwood National Bank
GUY W. STELZIG, Vice President
Industrial State Bank
MARCUS ROGERS, Vice President
Northshore National Bank

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

44-1509-4265

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Bank of Texas
800 Travis
Bank of the Southwest
910 Travis.
Continental Bank

SA T. Donovan

Texas Bldg -
Busk - San Jacinto

On June 8, 1968 a review of the Bank of Texas safety deposit box records failed to indicate that the subject had utilized the bank's safety deposit box. Mr J. I. Curry custodian safety deposit advised after being shown a photo of subject, that he had never observed the subject.

Bank of Southwest - Mr Curtis
Bedger, SA, asst vice president,
refused to allow review of safety
deposit records without subpoena

Continental Bank - Mr Mikeeska supervisor
refused a review of safety deposit records without
subpoena.

44-1509-4267

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1968	
FBI-HOUSTON	

TO:

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM: SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY (44-1509)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

In view of instructions from the Bureau, it is necessary that we check records of access to safety deposit boxes in our city for the month of April, 1968. Individuals who made entry into such boxes should be eliminated as possibly being subject. This can primarily be done on the basis of length of time box rented, or renter of box being known to bank employees. Any questionable eliminations must be run out.

The banks you are to contact are as follows:

Meyerland State Bank — 4939 Beechnut

Western National Bank of Houston — 5433 Westheimer

Texas National Bank of Commerce — 712 MAIN

On 6-4-68 the following individuals at TEXAS BANK OF COMMERCE observed photos of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that a check of their records failed to disclose anyone who might be identical with RAY:

W.H. TRAYNHAM, Asst. VP (in charge of safe-deposit boxes)

Mrs. WILLIE WILBANKS, Counter Attendant.

Mrs. BARBAPA DONAHUE, Counter Attendant.

On 6-5-68 a similar check with the following persons was negative:

MEYERLAND STATE BANK;

Mrs. Bethel Osmand, Officer in Charge - Safe-deposit Boxes.

WESTERN NATIONAL BANK;

1 - SMr. Richard Dyer, Officer in Chg.,

1 - 44-1509-4268 Selma Dawson, Custodian of
WTW/cbl Safe-Deposit Boxes.

44-1509-4268

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Wesley

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The banks you are to contact are as follows:

MacGregor Park National Bank 5730 Calhoun

Republic State Bank, 1155 Edgebrook

South Park National Bank of Houston, 7425 So. Park

- 6/5/68 Republic State Bank, Pres. H. L. MILLIGAN, Mrs. MARGARET WAGNER, Mrs. JOAN HANKS, Mrs. MARGIE ODOM.
- 6/4/68 MacGregor Park National Bank; Robert CAMP, v-Pres., Mrs. ESTELLINE CALVIN, Mrs. SHERRYLL MUSCROVE.
- 6/4/68 South Park National Bank; JOHN McPHAILL, Vice Pres. and Cashier, Mrs. BARBARA MILLS, the assist. Cashier and JAMES S. GARBS V.Pres.

Above individuals contacted by SA G.C. SCHOONOVER, JR. all ~~unable~~ unable to identify photo and no ~~memory~~ record of subject on file in safety box deposits. 44-1509-4260

1 - SA
1 - 44-1509
WTW/cbl

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Per Schoonover

FBI-HOUSTON

FBI SAN FRAN

221PM URGENT 5-29-68 MS

TO HOUSTON (44-1509) KANSAS CITY (44-760) & MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) 3P (P)

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TEL MAY TWO EIGHT LAST.

FILES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE CONTAIN NO INFORMATION IDENTIFI-
FIABLE WITH VINCENT WALKER, LAWRENCE REND, OR LAWRENCE RAND. INVES-
TIGATION CONDUCTED IN THE VICINITY OF FOUR FOUR NINE STEINER STREET
AND TWO FIVE THREE TWO POLK ST., SAN FRANCISCO, REFLECTED THAT THESE
ARE FICTITIOUS ADDRESSES.

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN THE VICINITY OF TWO EIGHT THREE TWO
POLK ST., SAN FRANCISCO, REFLECTED THAT THIS IS THE RESIDENCE OF
MICHAEL A. CONROY.

FILES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE CONTAIN NO INFORMATION IDENTIFI-
FIABLE WITH MICHAEL A. CONROY.

MICHAEL A. CONROY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, UNION CARBIDE CO.,
TWO TWO BATTERY ST., SAN FRANCISCO, ON MAY TWO NINE INSTANT, ADVISED
HE HAS RESIDED AT TWO EIGHT THREE TWO POLK ST., SAN FRANCISCO, SINCE
ONE NINE SIX ONE. HE EXAMINED PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND ADVISED
END PAGE ONE

44-1509-427

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Weller

PAGE TWO

HE DID NOT KNOW THIS INDIVIDUAL BUT HAD SEEN PHOTOS IN LOCAL PAPERS. HE ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW ANYONE BY THE NAME OF VINCENT WALKER, LAWRENCE RAND, OR LAWRENCE REND. HE ADVISED NO ONE BY THESE NAMES HAD RESIDED AT TWO EIGHT THREE TWO POLK STREET TO HIS KNOWLEDGE.

THE RECORDS OF THE METRO CREDIT BUREAU, SAN JOSE, CALIF., COVERING SAN FRANCISCO AND OAKLAND-BERKELEY, WERE RECHECKED AND NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED. THE CREDIT RECORD CHECK OF APRIL FIVE, LAST, REFLECTED THAT LAWRENCE RAND, AKA LON RAND, LAWRENCE WING RAND, WAS EMPLOYED BY THE EMERYVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA. INQUIRY AT THE EMERYVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REFLECTED RAND WAS EMPLOYED BY THE MARIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, MARIN COUNTY, ON APRIL FIVE, LAST, ADVISED LAWRENCE RAND, RESIDENCE TWELVE JOSEPHINE, SAUSALITO, CALIF., IS EMPLOYED IN THE FAIRFAX SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A LIBRARIAN AND WAS AT WORK DURING THE ENTIRE WEEK OF APRIL ONE THROUGH FIVE, LAST.

CREDIT CHECKS REFLECTED THAT ONE VINCENT WALKER, AKA U. VINCENT WALKER HAD RESIDED AT SIX SIX CLEARY ST., SAN FRANCISCO, AND SIX FIVE ZERO FOUR E. FOURTEENTH ST., OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

MRS. THELMA DUNCAN, SIX FIVE ZERO FOUR E. FOURTEENTH ST., OAKLAND, ADVISED THAT VINCENT WALKER IS HER EX-HUSBAND. MRS. DUNCAN ADVISED SHE IS ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OF AGE AND STATED THAT HER HUSBAND, ALSO A NEGRO, AGE FIVE FIVE YEARS, WAS A USED CAR SALESMAN SOME PLACE IN THE BAY AREA. SHE STATED HER MARRIAGE TO VINCENT WALKER WAS DISSOLVED BY ANNULMENT WHEN IT WAS DETERMINED THAT HE WAS MARRIED TO TWO OTHER WOMEN AT THE SAME TIME SHE WAS MARRIED TO HIM.

JAMES EARL RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

JLN

FBI-HOUSTON

X

FBI-HOUSTON

FBI SAN FRAN

221PM URGENT 5-29-68 MS

TO HOUSTON (44-1509) KANSAS CITY (44-760) & MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) 3P (P)

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44-1509-427

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[Handwritten signature]

PAGE TWO

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JAMES EARL RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

JLN

FBI-HOUSTON

X

F B I

Date: 5/29/68

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

(Priority)

ROUTINE

TO: MEMPHIS, SAN FRANCISCO, KANSAS CITY

FROM: HOUSTON (44-1509) 1 page

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TEL MAY TWENTY EIGHT LAST.

ADDRESSES TWO EIGHT THREE TWO AND TWO FIVE THREE TWO
POLK ST. CHECKED AND FOUND TO BE NON-EXISTANT. NO STIENER
ST. AT HOUSTON.

JSW:yk
(1)*ykr**llw*
*llw*Approved: *WPL*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent *10⁴³*
10⁴⁷
10⁴⁹ *PM*Per *AF**44-1509-428*

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI-HOUSTON

10:45 PM CST URGENT 5-29-68 OET

TO MEMPHIS, SAN FRANCISCO, KANSAS CITY

FROM HOUSTON 44-1509 1P

MURKIN

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ADDRESSES TWO EIGHT THREE TWO AND TWO FIVE THREE TWO
POLK ST. CHECKED AND FOUND TO BE NON EXISTANT. NO STIENER
ST. AT HOUSTON.

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

MXG

FBI SF

DJB

FBI KAN CITY

*File
in*

44-1509-458

FBI-HOUSTON

FBI KAN CITY

546PM URGENT 5-29-68 ENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) MEMPHIS (44-1987) HOUSTON (44-1509) AND
SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

FROM KANSAS CITY (44-760) 2P

MURKIN. .

DAILY SUMMARY.

RE MEMPHIS TELS MAY SEVENTEEN AND TWENTY-EIGHT LAST.

NO SUCH ADDRESSES AS TWO EIGHT THREE TWO OR TWO FIVE THREE TWO
POLK OR FOUR FOUR NINE STEINER LOCATED IN KANSAS CITY AREA.

MRS. PAUL F. COLLEY, SIX THREE ZERO ONE POLK, KANSAS CITY
NORTH, MO., ADVISED SHE HAS RESIDED AT THIS ADDRESS FOR ABOUT
EIGHTEEN YEARS AND THE ONLY OTHER RESIDENCE ON THIS STREET IS
NEXT DOOR TO HER AND HAS BEEN OCCUPIED FOR YEARS BY MR. AND MRS.
CLARENCE E. JONES. MRS. COLLEY ADVISED THE NAMES, ALIASES AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF LAWRENCE RAND AND VINCENT WALKER ARE NOT
FAMILIAR TO HER.

END PAGE ONE

*Wm
advised
of*

44-1509-429

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Wm *MS*

PAGE TWO

KANSAS CITY DIRECTORIES SHOW ONE LAWRENCE B. RAND, THREE FIVE ZERO EIGHT ST. JOHN AVE., KANSAS CITY, MO. RAND, UPON INTERVIEW, ADVISED HE IS AGE SIXTY-NINE AND RETIRED AND HAS NOT BEEN TO MEMPHIS, TENN. HE STATED HE DOES NOT KNOW ANOTHER LAWRENCE RAND OR REND AND THE NAME VINCENT WALKER IS NOT FAMILIAR TO HIM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

OET

FBI-HOUSTON

FBI-HOUSTON

FBI KAN CITY

546PM URGENT 5-29-68 ENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) MEMPHIS (44-1987) HOUSTON (44-1509) AND
SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)
FROM KANSAS CITY (44-760) 2P

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44-1509-429

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

OET

FBI-HOUSTON

5/29/68

Airtel

To: SACs, Memphis (44-1987)
Houston (44-1509)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re suspects W. Davis, B. Chidlow, Vincent Walter and Lawrence Rand.

Reference is also made to report of SA James S. Weir dated 5/17/68 at Houston.

Pages three and four of rerep set forth information furnished by Lupy Delao who operated the limousine which transported six persons from the Houston Airport during the early morning of April 5, 1968. According to Delao, three of the men were dropped at the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel, two were dropped at the Rice Hotel and one was dropped at the Downtowner Motel. Investigation was conducted by Houston at the Rice Hotel, as well as neighboring hotels; however, there is no indication of any investigation being conducted at either the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel or the Downtowner Motel. Delao also advised that the two individuals he dropped at the Rice Hotel indicated at first that they intended to be dropped at the Downtowner Motel.

If not already handled, Houston should immediately conduct additional investigation at the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel and the Downtowner Motel, as well as other hotels and motels near those two sites. Determine if any guests checked in following the arrival of Delta Flight 157. If such persons are located and identified, you should set out appropriate leads to interview them if they are no longer

44-1509-430

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Airtel SACs, Memphis and Houston
RE: MURKIN

in Houston. Through the records of Delta Airlines, Houston should also determine other persons who were aboard the flight and attempt to identify, locate and interview.

Memphis, if not already handled, should determine whether or not Walter and Rand had reservations at the William Len Hotel. Also determine the method utilized in paying for their rooms - cash, check or credit card. Determine from car rental agencies in the area of the William Len whether any vehicles were rented during the pertinent period to individuals named Davis, Chidlow, Walter or Rand.

This phase of the investigation is to be given your continued expeditious attention so that it may be resolved at the earliest possible time.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/29/68

Airtel

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Houston (44-1509)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

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