

U. S. Department of Justice

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FEDERAL BUREAU**

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
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DECLASSIFICATION

*DO NOT STRIP*  
**INVESTIGATION**

Bureau File Number

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-21-02 BY Spicer/Car

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See also Nos.

Volume Number  
Serials

*44-760*  
*450-3-557*

FBI KAN CITY

FBI MEMPHIS

1154 AM URGENT 4-25-68 MCP

*St Louis*  
TO ~~KANSAS CITY~~, SPRINGFIELD, AND CHICAGO  
FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 1 P.

MURKIN.

THE BUREAU BY TEL APRIL TWENTYFOUR PAST TO MEMPHIS AND  
KANSAS CITY DESIGNATED OO AS MEMPHIS IN ENTIRE MATTER. REQUEST  
MADE OF KANSAS CITY THAT IT SHOULD FORWARD APPROPRIATE COPIES  
ALL COMMUNICATIONS IN ITS FILE TO MEMPHIS. MEMPHIS THEREAFTER  
ILL SUBMIT SUMMARY TO ALL OFFICES SO THAT SUBSEQUENT LOGICAL  
INVESTIGATION MAY BE CONDUCTED.

KANSAS CITY, SPRINGFIELD, AND CHICAGO REQUESTED SUBMIT  
APPROPRIATE DATA CONCERNING RELATIVES INTERVIEWED AND LOCATION  
RELATIVES IN RESPECTIVE DIVISIONS SO THAT MEMPHIS HAS ALL  
PERTINENT INFO FOR ITS SUMMARY.

SUBMIT PROMPTLY.

A & D.

P. END.

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

e

*SAC Memphis said via Telephone  
KC should be St Louis  
but he would desire summary  
of MSP investigation  
RBH*

44-760-450

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*Howe*

FBI KAN CITY

FBI WASH DC

810 PM URGENT 4/25/68 GFH

TO KANSAS CITY

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

REURTEL APRIL TWENTY-FOUR LAST.

BEFORE THE BUREAU CAN MAKE PROPER EVALUATION OF THIS SUGGESTION, YOU SHOULD FURNISH ADDITIONAL DETAILS AS TO HOW WRAY IS TO BE DIRECTED AND CONTROLLED, THE SPECIFIC TARGETS TO BE APPROACHED AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF VALUE IN REACHING A DETERMINATION ON THIS SUGGESTION.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

ENT

FBI KAN CITY

44-760-481

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
APR 25 1968	
FBI — KANSAS CITY	

*[Handwritten signature]*

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

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

TO: BUREAU (44-38861)  
MEMPHIS  
ST. LOUIS

FROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN.

*By Atlanta*  
1 FORMER INMATE, MO. STATE PEN., LOUIS RAYMOND DOWDA *when interviewed*  
ADVISED *James Earl Ray is that* A RACIST AND HAROLD SCHAEFFER, GUARD  
ON KITCHEN GATE SOURCE OF AMPHETAMINE. SCHAEFFER DENIES,  
THIS *But* ADMITS KNOWING RAY AND DOWDA. DOWDA *had* ALSO ADVISED  
THAT CLOSEST FRIEND OF RAY WAS NEAL EDGAR AEBY, *this former*  
*inmate, now who is now probably inmate at Huntsville Texas.*  
*and being interviewed.* PREVIOUSLY INVESTIGATED ~~BY~~ HIS NAME SHOULD ARISE IN  
CONNECTION WITH INTERVIEWS OF OTHER INMATES, *which* DOWDA CLAIMS  
TO BE CLOSE FRIENDS OF RAY. THESE ARE DONALD DEAN RIGGER,  
*Missouri*  
*Fletcher,* ~~WHO WAS~~ MOBERLY, PRISON, NO. ZERO THREE NINE FIVE NINE, *James C*  
*Moberly No 72071 and ERIC LARSON, Moberly No 0877*  
FORMER INMATE, EVERETT WAYNE COX, FURNISHED INFORMATION *to Oklahoma*  
*City office*  
THAT RAY GAVE HIM AN ADDRESS ON THE BACK OF ONE OF THREE  
PHOTOS. ONE WAS PHOTO OF ERIC LARSON, ~~WHO COX STATES~~ WOULD  
BE PERSON MOST LIKELY TO KNOW RAY'S WHEREABOUTS ~~ERIC LARSON~~  
*and was*  
FORMER INMATE, SUPERVISOR, BAKERY, MSP, WHERE RAY ASSIGNED  
AT TIME OF ESCAPE, ~~IS IN MOBERLY PRISON, NO. ZERO EIGHT SEVEN~~

RBA:lib *WJ*Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in ChargeSent *WA 7:30p*  
*ME 7:30p*  
*SL 8:12p* M Per *[Signature]* *end*

44-760-452

F B I

Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

~~SEVEN.~~

LT. WILLIAM R. TURNER, MSP, GUARD, STATES FIRST REPORT OF  
ESCAPE OF RAY ON APRIL TWENTYTHIRD, SIXTYSEVEN, FURNISHED TO  
HIM BY INMATE JAMES C. FLETCHER, ~~WHO IS AT MOBERLY, NO.~~

~~SEVEN TWO ZERO SEVEN ONE.~~

ST. LOUIS, AT MOBERLY, INTERVIEW ABOVE <sup>three at Moberly, Mo.</sup> INMATES, CONCERNING  
THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF RAY, HIS ASSOCIATES AND PARTICULARLY  
HIS WHEREABOUTS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. *Escape propensities*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, (44-38861)  
MEMPHISFROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760)  
MURKIN.

REBUTEL APRIL TWENTYFOUR LAST.

GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON INTERVIEWED MISSOURI STATE PEN.  
RECALLED RAY ONLY AS ASSOCIATE OF RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS AND  
HE MADE THIS CONNECTION BECAUSE OF PUBLICITY CURTIS HAS RECEIVED  
IN NEWSPAPER THIS WEEK. EDMONDSON AND CURTIS WERE IN JAIL  
TOGETHER AT SPRINGFIELD, MO., AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN MSP.

EDMONDSON STATES RAY IS A "HUSTLER" AND ASSOCIATED WITH  
ST. LOUIS INMATES IN MSP, AND APPEARED NORMAL IN ALL ASSO-  
CIATIONS, TRYING TO "MAKE A BUCK" WHERE HE COULD. STATES  
CURTIS IS PATHOLOGICAL LIAR AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN. EDMONDSON  
DENIES ANY CONTACT WITH RAY, EITHER BY HIM OR WIFE, EITHER  
INSIDE OR OUTSIDE PEN.

EDMONDSON STATES HIS WIFE, GINETTE BORMANN, NEE LA FUERTE,  
RESIDES WITH HER PARENTS ONE ONE ZERO SEVEN FIVE BOULEVARD  
PLAZA, MONTREAL, CANADA, AND IS NOT EXPECTED IN JEFFERSON CITY

RBA:lib

**DO NOT DESTROY**Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per [Signature]

44-760-453

F B I

Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

PRIOR TO JUNE SIXTYEIGHT WHEN EDMONDSON HOPES FOR FAVORABLE DECISION, SUPREME COURT, MISSOURI, RE HIS APPEAL. STATES SHE DOES NOT KNOW RAY.

EDMONDSON STATED ALL HOODLUMS ARE FAMILIAR WITH PROCEDURE TO GET CANADIAN PASSPORTS WHICH ARE EASY TO COME BY, SINCE ALL THAT IS REQUIRED TO SECURE SAME IN MONTREAL IS BIRTH CERTIFICATE, BAPTISMAL RECORD, PLUS STATEMENT BY A "GUARANTOR" AND FIVE DOLLARS. SAID MOST BAPTISMAL RECORDS HAVE A SOURCE IN STE. JUSTINE PARRISH AND CONTACT IS MADE TO OBTAIN SAME THROUGH "FLOATERS" IN THE RUE NOTRE DAME AREA AND THERE IS A PIPELINE IN MONTREAL. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY OBTAINED HIS PASSPORT UNDER NAME OF BORMANN BY USING HIS MARRIAGE LICENSE, WIFE'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND STATEMENT BY GUARANTOR SUBMITTING FIVE DOLLARS. SAID IT WAS MAILED TO ONE ONE ZERO SEVEN FIVE, BOULEVARD PLAZA, MONTREAL, MENTIONED ABOVE. STATES HAS HAD NO CONVERSATION WITH ANY INMATE INCLUDING RAY, RE OBTAINING PASSPORTS IN CANADA. STATES THIS IS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

KC 44-760

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EDMONDSON SAID IT COSTS ABOUT FIFTY DOLLARS TO OBTAIN  
FICTITIOUS BAPTISMAL RECORD.

EDMONDSON PREVIOUSLY HAS ADVISED USED NAME OF ALEXANDER  
PETER BORMANN FOR REASON OF ASSUMING CANADIAN GERMAN HERITAGE  
IN CANADA AND NAME BORMANN ALWAYS APPEALED TO HIM.

EDMONDSON SAID IF COMPLETE DETAILS CONCERNING PAPERS  
USED BY RAY WERE FURNISHED TO HIM HE POSSIBLY COULD ESTABLISH  
SOURCE PROVIDING BAPTISMAL RECORDS WERE USED. REFUSED TO  
ELABORATE FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

BUREAU FURNISH COMPLETE INFORMATION RE PAPERS USED BY  
GAULT TO OBTAIN PASSPORT SO EDMONDSON MAY BE FURTHER  
INTERVIEWED.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



FBI KAN CITY

8:54 PM URGENT 4-25-68 OET

TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, DALLAS, OKLAHOMA CITY, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY  
FROM HOUSTON (44-1509) 5P

MURKIN; CR.

RE KC TEL, APR. TWENTY FOUR, LAST.

NEAL EDGAR AEBY INTERVIEWED TODAY AT RAMSEY NO. ONE,  
STATE DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS, TEXAS. AEBY ADVISED THAT HE AND  
RAY IN MISSOURI STATE PEN TOGETHER FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS.  
STATED HE AND RAY HANDLED SOME MINOR NARCOTICS IN PRISON  
IN ORDER TO GET MONEY FOR COMMISSARY ITEMS. AEBY STATES NEVER  
KNOWN RAY TO BE USER OF HARD NARCOTICS.

AEBY ADVISED HE HAD THREE BROTHERS, NAMELY BILL AEBY,  
BOX SIX FOUR, SEGOVILLE, TEXAS, WHO ALSO WAS A FRIEND OF RAY,  
AND WHO ALSO SERVED TIME WITH RAY AT MISSOURI STATE PEN;  
AUBREY AEBY WHO LIVES AT UNKNOWN ADDRESS IN DALLAS, TEX;  
JAMES AEBY, WHO OWNS AND OPERATES A FILLING STATION IN  
DALLAS AND WHO HAS NEVER BEEN ARRESTED.

AEBY ADVISED THAT HE ARRIVED AT RAMSEY NO. ONE ON APRIL  
TWENTYFOUR AFTER HAVING BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM MISSOURI STATE  
PEN TO HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS. AEBY STATES EN ROUTE TO HUNTSVILLE  
END PAGE ONE

44-760-454

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

PAGE TWO

HE WAS LODGED IN JAIL IN OKLAHOMA CITY FOR ONE NIGHT WHERE HE MAILED A POSTCARD TO FRANK GUINAN.

AEBY ADVISED THAT HIS EXWIFE JUDY POSSIBLY RESIDES IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, HOWEVER HE HAS NOT SEEN HER FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND DOES NOT KNOW WHERE SHE COULD BE LOCATED.

AEBY ADVISED THAT RAY HAD VERY FEW FRIENDS IN MISSOURI STATE PEN AND DESCRIBED RAY AS VERY DEADLY. HE SAID THAT RAY WAS NOT A LOUD RABBLE ROUSING TYPE INDIVIDUAL AND NEVER EXPRESSED ANY HATRED FOR THE NEGRO BUT IF ANYONE WRONGED HIM IN ANYWAY RAY WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTRIVE A MEANS TO GET EVEN. AEBY RELATED THAT HE STABBED TWO PERSONS HIMSELF IN MISSOURI STATE PEN HOWEVER WOULD NOT ADMIT KNOWING ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE STABBINGS THAT RAY MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN. AEBY STATED THAT HE WAS A CHIEF COOK IN MISSOURI STATE PEN AND RAY WORKED UNDER HIM AS A SLICER IN THE BREAD ROOM. AEBY ADVISED THAT RAY ON TWO OCCASIONS, ONCE IN NINETEEN SIXTYTWO AND AGAIN IN NINETEEN SIXTYSIX ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE FROM FROM MISSOURI STATE  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

PEN BUT IN EACH CASE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN THAT THE LADDER BROKE THE FIRST TIME AND THE ROPE WHICH HE WAS USING ON THE SECOND OCCASION FAILED TO SUPPORT HIM AND HE FELL AND FRACTURED HIS ARM. AFTER SERVING TIME IN SOLITARY, RAY WAS AGAIN RETURNED TO THE BREAD ROOM.

AEBY ADVISED THAT RAY MENTIONED THAT HE HAD A BROTHER IN ST. LOUIS AND THAT HE, RAY, WAS FROM ST. LOUIS. AEBY ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF RAY'S BROTHER OR WHERE HE COULD BE LOCATED.

REGARDING THE EXCAPE ROUTE UTILIZED BY RAY IN NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, AEBY ADVISED THAT HE WOULD NOT DIVULGE THIS  
ESCAPE ROUTE AS THE ROUTE IS STILL GOOD AND COULD BE USED BY OTHER PRISONERS. AEBY ADVISED THAT HE HATED THE WARDEN AT MISSOURI STATE PEN AND HOPED THAT HE WAS RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE HEAT AS A RESULT OF RAY'S ESCAPE. REGARDING THE ESCAPE OF RAY, AEBY STATED THAT IT WOULD BE THE SMART THING TO DO TO HAVE AN OUTSIDE MAN WAITING TO ASSIST RAY IN LEAVING THE TERRITORY, HOWEVER AEBY WOULD NOT ADMIT THAT HE KNEW OF ANY OUTSIDE MAN UTILIZED BY RAY IN HIS ESCAPE. AEBY  
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

WOULD NOT STATE WHETHER OR NOT RAY HAD ANY INSIDE HELP IN HIS ESCAPE FROM PRISON.

AEBY FURTHER STATED THAT IN SIXTYTHREE OR SIXTYFOUR RAY HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AT MISSOURI STATE PEN AND DEVELOPED A BAD STOMACH, WHICH RESULTED IN HIM NEEDING SPECIAL FOODS. AEBY ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WOULD COOK EGGS FOR RAY WHICH RAY ADORED, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO EAT THE PRISON FARE. HE STATED ALSO THAT WHILE IN MISSOURI STATE PEN, RAY QUIT SMOKING POSSIBLY, BECAUSE OF HIS BAD STOMACH. HE STATED ALSO THAT RAY LIKED TO TINKER WITH MECHANICAL THINGS AND ADVISED RAY EVEN BUILT AN AIR CONDITIONER OUT OF SPARE PARTS FOR HIS JAIL CELL AND ALSO LIKED TO REPAIR RADIOS, PARTS FOR WHICH HE WOULD OBTAIN FROM THE MACHINE SHOP. AEBY FURTHER STATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE RAY WOULD GO TO MEXICO OR LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND STATED HE HOPED THAT RAY WOULD NEVER BE CAUGHT AND WOULD NOT ASSIST IN ANY WAY IN ORDER TO ASSIST IN HIS CAPTURE AND WOULD FURNISH NO OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING RAY.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

LEAD DALLAS, INTERVIEW BILL AEBY, BOX SIX FOUR, SEAGOVILLE, TEXAS, WHO KNOWS RAY AND WAS IN PRISON WITH RAY. WILL INTERVIEW AUBREY AEBY WHO HAS HAD NUMEROUS ARRESTS IN DALLAS, ADDRESS UNKNOWN.

KANSAS CITY, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, WILL CHECK WITH THE MISSOURI STATE PEN, DETERMINE SERIOUSNESS OF RAY'S STOMACH TROUBLE, AND WHETHER HE REQUIRES A SPECIAL DIET.

HOUSTON, WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE JUDY AEBY, EX WIFE OF NEAL AEBY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

ENT

FBI KAN CITY

F B I

Date: 4/26/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) - 1117A  
 MEMPHIS - 1129A  
 CHICAGO - 1133A  
 ST. LOUIS - 1129A

FROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN

RECORDS, MSP, REVEAL FOLLOWING VISITORS TO SUBJECT AT  
 PEN DURING INCARCERATION: MARY MAHER, NINETEEN THIRTEEN  
 HICKORY, ST. LOUIS, MO., WAS ON ELIGIBLE LIST BUT NEVER  
 VISITED SUBJECT AT PEN. BROTHER, JOHN RAY, NINETEEN EIGHTEEN  
 PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO. VISITED SUBJECT AT PEN ON FOLLOWING  
 DATES: OCTOBER SEVENTEEN, SIXTYTWO; JULY SEVEN SIXTYTHREE;  
 NOVEMBER THREE, SIXTYTHREE; NOVEMBER ELEVEN SIXTYTHREE;  
 MAY SIX, SIXTYFIVE; JULY TEN, SIXTYSIX; NOVEMBER THIRTEEN,  
 SIXTYSIX; DECEMBER TWENTY, SIXTYSIX; AND APRIL TWENTYTWO,  
 SIXTYSEVEN. IT IS NOTED SUBJECT ESCAPED APRIL TWENTYTHREE  
 SIXTYSEVEN. BROTHER, JERRY W. RAY, BOX EIGHTYTWO, WHEELING,  
 ILL. VISITED AUGUST TWENTYONE SIXTYTHREE; SEPTEMBER FIFTEEN  
 SIXTYTHREE; MAY SIXTEEN, SIXTYFIVE; JUNE TWENTY, SIXTYFIVE,  
 AND JULY ONE, SIXTYFIVE.

SUBJECT REPORTEDLY ESCAPED BY HIDING IN BREADBOX

RBH:lib

Searched  
 Serialized  
 Indexed  
 Filed

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

44-760-458

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

WHICH WAS BEING DELIVERED BY TRUCK TO ONE OF PRISON DAIRY FARMS CALLED CHURCH FARM, WHICH IS LOCATED IN ISOLATED AREA, EIGHT MILES NORTH OF MAIN PRISON. APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED FIFTY TO THREE HUNDRED PRISONERS WORK AT THIS FARM.

ST. LOUIS AND CHICAGO INTERVIEW VISITORS OF SUBJECT FOR ANY INFORMATION RE SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

#6  
FBI KAN CITY

FBI BALTO

609PM URGENT 4/25/68 WJH

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS  
FROM BALTIMORE (44-669) 2P

MURKIN.

RE BU TEL CALL, APRIL TWENTYFOUR. BA TEL CALL LITTLE  
ROCK, INSTANT DATE.

RE: THREATS MADE AGAINST MARTIN  
LUTHER KING.

CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, FORMER IO FUGITIVE NUMBER FOUR ZERO  
ONE SEVEN IN ITSP, ITSMV, UFAP - PRISON BREAK CASE, OO  
LITTLE ROCK, BUREAU FILES TWO SIX DASH THREE ZERO THREE ZERO  
THREE FIVE AND EIGHT SEVEN DASH EIGHT NINE NINE NINE EIGHT.  
BILLINGS APPREHENDED FEBRUARY EIGHT SIXTYSEVEN, ARKANSAS,  
RECEIVED FIVE YEAR SENTENCES, USDC, LITTLE ROCK, NOVEMBER  
TWENTYONE SIXTYSEVEN, AND TRANSFERRED TO U.S. PENITENTIARY  
LEAVENWORTH, NOVEMBER TWENTYNINE SIXTYSEVEN.

FOR INFO OF BUREAU, LHM'S SUBMITTED BY PHILADELPHIA  
MARCH THIRTYONE SIXTYFIVE, CAPTIONED "ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASS-  
INATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, RM," AND BY BALTIMORE, APRIL TWO  
SIXTYFIVE, CAPTIONED "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM-C" SETTING  
END PAGE ONE

84221-4  
trans  
Leavenworth  
advised  
4/26/68

Springfield 44-760-456

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Mitchell  
Springfield



PAGE TWO

BA (44-669)

OUT INFORMATION RE FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR OFFER TO BILLINGS  
IN MARCH SIXTYFIVE AT COLUMBIA, S.C., BY INDIVIDUALS ONLY  
KNOWN AS JAMES AND EDDIE TO KILL KING, AND BACKGROUND  
INCLUDING MENTAL CONDITION.

COPIES OF ABOVE LHM'S BEING FORWARDED AMSD TO KANSAS  
CITY FOR REINTERVIEW OF BILLINGS PER BUREAU REQUEST.

END

ENT

FBI KAN CITY

Baltimore, Maryland

April 2, 1968

Re: MARTIN LUTHER KING

On March 29, 1968, Maryland State Police, Trooper ROBERT A. THEODORE advised that on evening of March 27, at Howard County, Maryland, he arrested CARLOS LEE BILLINGS on local traffic charge. It was subsequently determined that BILLINGS, FBI Number 36874A, was escapee local authorities for assault and battery from Gettysville, Pennsylvania, and was to be returned to Gettysville, March 30, 1968. Trooper THEODORE advised BILLINGS stated that while at South Carolina, he was in possession of a sub-machine gun and was approached by men who offered \$50,000 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On March 29, 1968, BILLINGS advised FBI Agents that he served in U. S. Army and U. S. Marine Corps (USMC) receiving a "mental" discharge from USMC. He stated, he was injured while in the U. S. Army, was treated in five U. S. Army Hospitals and since then and particularly since being injured while a passenger in Greyhound bus accident February 2, 1965, he has suffered hallucinations and amnesia and cannot understand which of his memories are fact or fantasy. He related that approximately February 20, 1965 at Columbia, South Carolina, he traded a 1965 Buick to "LUTHER" BAKER of Polite (phonetic), South Carolina and received \$100 and a Browning sub-machine gun together with a clip and 40 rounds of ammunition. Approximately March 12, 1965 at Columbia, South Carolina, he met JERRY BAKER, home address c/o IRVING BAKER, Pine Island, Fort Morris, Florida and through BAKER met JAMES (last name unknown) and EDIE (last name unknown) who were in a Lincoln Continental bearing unknown Georgia tag. JAMES and EDIE after determining that he was opposed to the racial demonstrations in the South offered BAKER and BILLINGS \$200 each if they would accompany them to Georgia that night and \$50,000 if they could assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING. BILLINGS stated no details of the plot were discussed

44-760-457

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*Richardson*  
*Mitchell*

Re: MARTIN LUTHER KING

but it was stated KING would be at Southern Christian Leadership Conference at Atlanta, April 9, 1965. BILLINGS stated he told these men he would think the offer over but that night he sold the machine gun to JERRY BARNER for \$390 and left town and has no information re BARNER's subsequent activities.

BILLINGS to support his story of possession of machine gun stated that approximately March 4, 1965, BILLINGS while driving a car was stopped by a Sheriff or Constable near Sanford, North Carolina and pointed the machine gun at this officer forcing him to drop his gun and fled. He stated JUNE TAYLOR at "Lounge" Bar, Lord Street, Columbia, South Carolina may be able to further identify JAMES (last name unknown) and REEHE (last name unknown).

On March 31, 1965, JOSEPH SCHLEST, Deputy, United States Marshal, Baltimore, Maryland, advised that on that date CARLOS LEE BILLINGS had been placed in the custody of THOMAS G. FRANK, County Detective District Attorney's Office, Chester County, West Chester, Pennsylvania and transported to West Chester, Pennsylvania.

"THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER RECOMMENDATIONS  
NOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY  
OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR AGENCY; IT  
AND ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED  
OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY."



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

March 31, 1965

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING

On March 27, 1965, CARLOS LEE BILLINGS was arrested on a local traffic charge in Howard County, Maryland, by the Maryland State Police (MSP). It was subsequently determined that BILLINGS was a fugitive and was wanted in the State of Pennsylvania where he had escaped from the custody of the Sheriff's Office, Chester County, prior to appearing in court on assault and battery charges.

While in custody of the MSP, BILLINGS was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and advised as follows:

On approximately March 12, 1965, at Columbia, South Carolina, BILLINGS met with JERRY BARBER, JAMES (last name unknown) and EDDIE (last name unknown). After determining that BILLINGS was opposed to the racial demonstrations in the South, JAMES and EDDIE offered BILLINGS and BARBER \$400 each if they would accompany them to Georgia and \$50,000 additional if they would assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING.

During the above interview, BILLINGS claimed to have received "mental" discharge from the United States Marine Corps; to have recently been injured in a Greyhound Bus accident; and to suffer hallucinations and amnesia after which he cannot understand which of his memories are fact and which are fantasy.

Philadelphia files indicate CARLOS LEE BILLINGS was born [redacted] at Pennington, Virginia; he is presently

44-760-458

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*[Signature]*  
Mitchell JR

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING

married and his wife OMA and family reside in Toughkenamon (Chester County), Pa. BILLINGS has been sought and arrested by the FBI on numerous occasions for interstate transportation of stolen property, interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicle, theft from interstate shipment, and desertion. BILLINGS was arrested on June 28, 1954, at Toughkenamon, Pa., as a deserter and it was subsequently determined through fingerprint comparison that he had fraudulently enlisted in the Army as CARL E. ROBBINS, JR. He was interviewed at this time and he advised he was unable to recall the fraudulent enlistment and/or the subsequent desertion. He claimed at the time to have been under the care of Dr. LEE PORTER, Wayne, Pa., a psychiatrist, since 1950 and to have suffered severe epileptic "fits" prior to and during that time. During this interview he exhibited U. S. Army discharge dated January 28, 1952, from Camp Pickett, Virginia; U. S. Marine Corps discharge dated May 9, 1953, from Parris Island, South Carolina; and another U. S. Army discharge dated March 11, 1949, place of discharge not indicated. BILLINGS claimed that all the aforementioned discharges were for medical reasons in view of his mental condition.

Philadelphia files reflect numerous references to the fact that BILLINGS is a "mental case" and that he has been "an epileptic" since age five. However, the only concrete medical report available at Philadelphia indicates that on approximately October 13, 1953, BILLINGS was committed by his father, PAUL B. BILLINGS, to Fairmount Farms, Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, a private mental sanitarium.

On October 23, 1953, Dr. LEE K. PORTER, psychiatrist who had treated BILLINGS in the past and who was then his physician, advised Agents of the FBI that BILLINGS suffers from a petite mal form of epilepsy known as "fugue state." PORTER said BILLINGS' condition was precipitated by the taking of alcohol, after which he undergoes periods of confusion and amnesia as long as 30 days, during which time he commits anti-social acts resulting from dual personality.

PORTER advised that when BILLINGS has a seizure, he can be led to anything short of violence. PORTER stated he felt subject's condition is genuine since it would be difficult

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING

to mimic the symptoms as well as mimic the proper reaction to treatment for this mental condition. PORTER advised subject's father paid \$115.00 per week while BILLINGS was being treated at Fairmount Farms; however, he did not think subject's father was shielding BILLINGS since he asked to have his son permanently placed in a State mental institution. The father advised Dr. PORTER that he was tired of making restitution for the many crimes committed by his son. At the time of BILLINGS' last visit to Dr. PORTER on January 11, 1957, he advised that BILLINGS was in a "fair state of mental repair"; however, BILLINGS was in need of "constant psychiatric attention."

Mr. WILLIAM KLAPP, Records Division, Chester County Farms Prison, Pocopson, Pa., in which institution BILLINGS was incarcerated several times, advised on March 30, 1965, that it was generally known that CARLOS BILLINGS was a "mental case"; however, BILLINGS' file at the prison failed to reflect any report of mental examination.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

4/25/68

AIRTEL

REGULAR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Baltimore teletype, 4/25/68.

Enclosed for Kansas City is one copy of LHM dated 4/2/65, Baltimore, Maryland, re MARTIN LUTHER KING and LHM dated 3/31/65, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, re Alleged Plot to Assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On 4/24/68, HUNTER HEGELSON, Division 6, telephonically advised Baltimore that file reviews were being conducted on all threats ever made against MARTIN LUTHER KING, and he referred to Baltimore airtel dated 4/2/65 concerning allegations made by CARLOS LEE BILLINGS of an offer by unknown persons to kill KING for \$50,000.

HEGELSON stated that the Bureau wants all pertinent background developed on BILLINGS and an interview of him conducted as soon as possible with results to the Bureau, Memphis, and other interested offices. If interviewed in the past he must be reinterviewed concerning the above allegation and full details obtained about that statement by him. Investigation must be started on 4/25/68 and given immediate attention plus expeditious handling.

3 - Bureau  
② - Kansas City (Enc. 2) (AMSD)  
2 - Memphis (AIRMAIL)  
1 - Baltimore  
JJC:cls  
(8)

44-760-459

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*Adams*  
*Richardson Mitchell*  
*Spargfeld no lead*

BA 44-669

On 4/25/68, Baltimore telephonically contacted the Little Rock Office and was advised that BILLINGS had been sentenced in USDC, Little Rock, 11/21/67, on a guilty plea to 5 years on one charge and 5 years on 3 other charges to run concurrent. He was transferred on 11/29/67 to the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth.

For information of Kansas City, in connection with the allegation made by BILLINGS, Charlotte by teletype to Bureau, 3/30/65, advised that the Chief Deputy and Secretary of the Sheriff's Office, Sanford, N. C., had no knowledge of any incident near Sanford about 3/4/65 wherein an officer was disarmed by a man with a machine gun or other weapon. Both stated they were sure they would have heard of such an incident in that area.

Savannah by teletype to the Bureau, 3/30/65, furnished the following:

"BUSTER" LEWIS may be identical with DAVID DELANE LEWIS, aka Buster, ITSMV, Bufile 26-237966, FBI #263964c. LEWIS, 4/14/59, in USDC, EDVA, sentenced one year and one day custody USAG to run concurrently with four years sentence he was serving in Federal Reformatory, Petersburg, Va. On 8/5/58, he had been sentenced in USDC, Columbia, S. C., on two counts for violation Section 2312, Title 18, U. S. Code, and received sentence of four years each to run concurrently. No current information in Savannah files concerning him.

JERRY BARBER may be identical to JERRY DON BARBEE, aka JERRY BARBER, FBI #885195B, who is the subject of Savannah file "JERRY DON BARBEE, aka - Fugitive. UFAP - GL," OO: SAVANNAH, Bufile 88-32105, Philadelphia file 88-4908. BARBEE was arrested lower Marion, Pa., and released on \$500 bond, 12/3/64. His present whereabouts are unknown. Philadelphia has photo of BARBEE which was sent by Savannah 12/30/64.

Savannah indices negative on IRVING BARBER and JUNE TAYLOR. It is noted that there is a lounge bar on Lady Street, Columbia, S. C.



FBI KAN CITY

FBI CLEVELAND

447PM URGENT 4-26-68 LJJ

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (MAIL) AND KANSAS CITY  
FROM CLEVELAND (44-565) 2P

MURKIN

ON APRIL TWENTYSIX, INSTANT, ANONYMOUS FEMALE CALLED  
AKRON, OHIO RESIDENT AGENCY AND ADVISED SHE HAS COUSIN NAMED  
EARL K. RAY RESIDING MC PHEARSON, KANSAS. SHE STATED SHE HAS  
NEVER SEEN THIS COUSIN BUT KNOWS HE IS APPROXIMATE AGE OF  
JAMES EARL RAY. SHE STATED SHE KNOWS LITTLE OF HIS ACTIVITIES  
BUT HAS HEARD HE HAS SHADY BACKGROUND.

CALLER ALSO STATED SHE DOES NOT KNOW HER COUSIN'S SPECIFIC  
ADDRESS IN MC PHEARSON OTHER THAN HE MAINTAINS A POST OFFICE  
BOX NUMBER.

CALLER ALSO STATED SHE DOES NOT WANT HER COUSIN TO LEARN  
THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM A RELATIVE.

KANSAS CITY, ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY EARL K. RAY, MC PHEARSON,  
KANSAS, AND DETERMINE IF HE COULD POSSIBLY BE IDENT WITH  
JAMES EARL RAY.

END PAGE ONE

44-760-469

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*Howe* *not*  
*McManis*  
*McManis*

CV 44-565

PAGE TWO

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

*Rec'd 5/2*

4-24-68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

from: CINCINNATI (157-1893) P

JAMES EARL RAY: FUGITIVE: MURKIN. CR.

TODAY LAWRENCE (NMN) LITTLETON, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO SOURCE OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY, ADVISED HE SAW MAN CLOSELY RESEMBLING NEWSPAPER PHOTO OF SUBJECT RAY IN BLUE CAR, MAKE AND MODEL UNKNOWN BEARING CANADIAN TAG SEVEN TWO DASH THREE SIX ZERO ON APRIL TWENTY-THREE LAST PARKED ON INTERSTATE SEVENTY, WEST OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

BUREAU IDENTIFY OWNER CANADIAN TAG THROUGH LEGAT.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, AND KANSAS CITY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

WJR/r1h

1 - Memphis

1 - Birmingham

① - Kansas City

44-760-461

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4/24/68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-3886), MEMPHIS (44-1987) and CHICAGO (44-1114)  
FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374)

MURKIN

RE ALBANY TEL APRIL TWENTYTHREE LAST.

RECORDS OF ~~THE~~ BUFFALO, NEW YORK PD MADE AVAILABLE BY  
WILLIAM J. COLLINS, IN CHARGE OF THE MICRO SECTION, DISCLOSED  
~~THAT~~ ON MAY TWO, NINETEEN FIFTYNINE, PRECINCT NUMBER ONE, ANSWERED  
A CALL WHICH DISCLOSED THAT EARL E. RAY'S BODY WAS FOUND UNDER  
THE RAILROAD BRIDGE AT THE FOOT OF COMMERCIAL STREET, BUFFALO,  
NEW YORK, UNDER THE D L AND W RAILROAD BRIDGE. NO RESCUE SQUAD  
RESPONDED. DR. LEE, EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, PRONOUNCED THE INDIVIDUAL  
DEAD, AND EARL E. RAY'S BODY ~~WAS~~ TAKEN ~~TO THE~~ ERIE COUNTY MORGUE.

NICHOLAS SALINARDO ~~IN~~ CHARGE OF THE MORGUE, MADE AVAILABLE  
RECORDS WHICH DISCLOSED THE BODY ~~WAS~~ BROUGHT TO THE MORGUE BY  
~~THE~~ ROBERTS FUNERAL HOME, AND AFTER LAYING IN THE MORGUE FOR  
TWO DAYS, THE BODY WAS CLAIMED BY MRS. FRANK FULLER, A SISTER,  
RESIDING AT TWO SIX ZERO ONE CHESTNUT, QUINCY, ILLINOIS, CLAIM  
BEING MADE BY TELEGRAM.

- ① - Kansas City (AM)
  - 1 - Albany (44-493) (AM)
  - 1 - Springfield (44-561) (AM)
- EFM:smk  
(4)

44-760-462

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*Howe* *PBJ*

BU 44-374

PAGE TWO

MR. GEORGE ROBERTS, OPERATOR ~~OF THE~~ ROBERTS FUNERAL HOME, TWO FOUR ZERO ZERO MAIN STREET, ADVISED HE TOOK THE BODY TO ERIE COUNTY MORGUE ON MAY TWO, NINETEEN FIFTYNINE, AND HIS COPY OF THE DEATH CERTIFICATE DISCLOSED LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR RAY WAS WESTERN ROAD, ALBANY, NEW YORK, PLACE OF BIRTH QUINCY, ILLINOIS, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED], AGE AT TIME OF DEATH FIFTYFOUR YEARS, ELEVEN MONTHS, TWENTYEIGHT DAYS, OCCUPATION ~~AS~~ STEWARD, PRESENT EMPLOYMENT UNEMPLOYED, MARITAL STATUS DIVORCED, FATHER JAMES RAY, AND MOTHER LILLIAN MATTHEWS. THE PHYSICIAN SIGNING DEATH CERTIFICATE ~~WAS~~ DR. ROCCO DE DOMINIGIS.

MR. ROBERTS STATED ~~THE~~ BODY ~~WAS~~ SHIPPED TO THE DUKES BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, EIGHT TWO THREE BROADWAY, QUINCY, ILLINOIS, ON MAY FOUR, NINETEEN FIFTYNINE, THIS SHIPMENT BEING ORDERED BY MRS. FRANK FULLER, ~~TWO SIX ZERO ONE CHESTNUT STREET~~, QUINCY, *Ill.* BODY ~~WAS~~ <sup>Interred</sup> RETURNED MAY FOUR, NINETEEN FIFTYNINE GREEN MOUNTAIN CEMETERY, QUINCY, ILLINOIS.

A CHECK AT THE BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL, RECORDS BEING CHECKED BY PERSONNEL DIRECTOR, MR. TOM MICHAEL, DISCLOSED

BU 44-374

PAGE THREE

NO RECORD OF RAY EVER BEING EMPLOYED BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL. MISS ELLEN JONES, PERSONAL OFFICE, BUFFALO STATE HOSPITAL, FOREST AVENUE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK, ~~APPROXIMATE RECORDS~~, ADVISED THEY HAVE NO RECORD OF RAY EVER BEING EMPLOYED THERE. ADDRESS OF FOUR SEVEN SIX FRANKLIN NONEXISTENT, AS ROOMING HOUSE THIS ADDRESS TORN DOWN IN NINETEEN SIXTY.

RESULTS OF CREDIT CHECK ON RAY NOT COMPLETE AT THIS TIME, AND INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

AIR MAIL COPIES ~~BEING FORWARDED~~ KANSAS CITY, ALBANY AND SPRINGFIELD.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

P.

4/24/68

TELETYPE

URGENT  
~~IMMEDIATE~~

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) (AIRMAIL)  
LOS ANGELES

FROM: PHOENIX (44-371) (4 P)

MURKIN

FOR INFO LOS ANGELES, DEPUTY SHERIFF RAY STOCK, COCONINO COUNTY SO, FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, RECEIVED PHONE CALL TWO TWENTY AM, APRIL TWENTY, LAST, FROM ANONYMOUS MALE WHO STATED HE HAD DONE STATE TIME WITH RAY, AKA GALT. CALLER ALSO SAID HE HAD DONE FEDERAL TIME AT TEXARKANA, TEXAS, WITH ONE DAVID WILSON, WHO LATER MARRIED FLAGSTAFF GIRL WHOSE BROTHER OR SISTER WAS NAMED HERNANDEZ. CALLER STATED RAY AND WILSON HAD DONE TIME TOGETHER AND THAT DAY OR TWO PRIOR TO ASSASSINATION OF KING, CALLER MET WILSON ABOARD PLANE FROM

- 1 - Bureau (AM)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
- 1 - Little Rock (157-1215) (AM)
- 1 - Dallas (44-2649) (AM)
- ① - Kansas City (AM)
- 1 - Jacksonville (44-769) (AM)
- 1 - Phoenix

EJVL:rs  
(7)

44-760-463

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*Howe*

PAGE TWO  
PX 44-371  
EJVL:rs

PHOENIX TO DETROIT, MICHIGAN, AT WHICH TIME WILSON HAD TICKET TO NASHVILLE, TENN., AND WAS ENROUTE MEMPHIS. CALLER STATED HE HEARD LATER THAT RAY WAS IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME BUT CALLER DID NOT KNOW FOR SURE. CALLER STATED WILSON WANTED TO GET EVEN WITH RAY FOR SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED IN PENITENTIARY, THAT WILSON HATES "NIGGERS" AND THAT WILSON WAS IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA "NOW." CALLER AGREED TO PHONE BACK IN THIRTY MINUTES TO TALK TO FBI AGENT BUT NO CALL RECEIVED.

INVESTIGATION AT FLAGSTAFF IDENTIFIED DAVID L. WILSON, BORN [REDACTED] AT WESTBURN, TENN., SIX FEET THREE, ONE NINETY POUNDS, BLUE EYES, BROWN HAIR, FBI NO. SEVEN TWO NINE TWO FOUR TWO C. ONE XEROX COPY EACH OF PHOENIX TELS TO BUREAU, ET AL, DATED APRIL TWENTYONE AND TWENTYTWO, LAST, CONTAINING RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH WILSON AND HIS WIFE, EDNA WILSON, BEING FURNISHED LOS ANGELES AIRMAIL.

EDNA WILSON, WIFE OF DAVID L. WILSON, LISTENED TO TAPE OF ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL AND STATED SHE HAS HEARD VOICE BEFORE AND BELIEVES SAME POSSIBLY THAT OF HER FORMER HUSBAND,



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PX 44-371  
EJW:rs

RICHARD HARRELL. HARRELL IDENTIFIED AS RICHARD B. HARRELL,  
FBI NUMBER SEVEN FIVE ONE ONE NINE FIVE A AND HIS IDENTIFICATION  
RECORD REFLECTS LAST ARREST SEPTEMBER TEN, LAST, BY SO,  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, NO. TWO THREE FOUR SIX NINE,  
ON CHARGE HIT AND RUN (PROPERTY) WITH DISPOSITION "SIXTY  
DAYS SUSPENDED, TWO YEARS MLV." SECOND LAST ARREST WAS BY  
SO, RIVERSIDE, CAL., THEIR NO. A DASH NINE SIX SEVEN SIX NINE,  
JUNE FOURTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN, FOR BATTERY AND FAILURE TO APPEAR,  
DISPOSITION BEING TEN DAYS SUSPENDED AND FINES OF FIFTYSIX  
DOLLARS AND TWENTYNINE DOLLARS. HE WAS ALSO ARRESTED BY SO,  
RIVERSIDE, UNDER NO. A EIGHT THREE FIVE EIGHT FIVE ON  
JANUARY TWENTY, SIXTYSEVEN, FOR DRUNK, FINED SEVENTEEN DOLLARS.

LOS ANGELES AT SAN LUIS OBISPO AND RIVERSIDE, CAL.,  
INSTITUTE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE HARRELL FOR INTERVIEW RE  
ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO LOS ANGELES, DAVID WILSON WAS IN  
FLORIDA STATE PRISON, RAIFORD, FLA., NOVEMBER TWENTYONE,  
FIFTYEIGHT, TO APRIL SIX, SIXTY, AND EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ONE

PAGE FOUR  
PX 44-371  
EJVL:rs

CLARENCE CLARK AT THAT PRISON DURING THAT PERIOD NEGATIVE.

MEMPHIS, LITTLE ROCK, DALLAS, KANSAS CITY, AND  
JACKSONVILLE ADVISED AIRMAIL. Armed and Dangerous

PENDING.

4/24/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)  
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44-989)

MURKIN.

RE CHICAGO PHONE CALL TO DETROIT APRIL TWENTY THREE LAST.  
EARL VOSS, ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER, WESTERN UNION,  
DETROIT, MICH., MADE AVAILABLE MASTER TAPES OF ALL TELEGRAMS  
TO THE DES PLAINES, ILL., WESTERN UNION OFFICE WHICH COVERS  
WHEELING, ILL., FOR THE PERIOD NINE AM, APRIL TWENTY TWO LAST,  
THROUGH TWO THIRTY PM, APRIL TWENTY THREE LAST. THESE TAPES  
WERE REVIEWED BY SAS OF THE DETROIT OFFICE AND DID NOT  
INCLUDE A TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO JERRY RAY, P. O. BOX TWENTY  
TWO, WHEELING, ILL.

TAPES PRIOR TO NINE AM, APRIL TWENTY TWO LAST, HAVE  
BEEN DESTROYED.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT MEMPHIS AND KANSAS CITY.

1 - Memphis (AM) (RM)  
① - Kansas City (AM) (RM)  
WJH/cmt  
(3)

44-38861-464

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

DATE: 4/25/68

FROM : IC LEONARD L. AYRES

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re SAC memo to All Agents, # 68-44, dated 4/23/68.

A check with the Leavenworth Police Department and Leavenworth County Sheriff's Office, both Leavenworth, Kansas, on 4/24/68, failed to develop information pertaining to suspect JAMES EARL RAY.

DON ROBERTS, Deputy, LVSO, advised that to his knowledge the SO does not have any unsolved burglaries in which latent prints were obtained. He knows of no unsolved Armed Robberies in which UNSUB (s) would meet description of RAY.

Capt. WILLIAM P. JOHNSON, LVPD, advised the PD has no unsolved Armed Robberies in which UNSUB (s) would meet description of RAY. JOHNSON advised the PD does have some unsolved burglaries, however, very few latent prints are available. JOHNSON advised the PD does not have a qualified fingerprint examiner.

It is to be noted both the Leavenworth PD and SO have had a complete turnover in personnel since 4/1/67; Many of the new personnel are untrained and records of both departments are inadequate.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS, ESCAPE PROPENSITIES.

ALL LEADS TO BE COVERED IN 24 HOURS.

KC  
44-760  
LLA/  
(1)



5010-108

44-760-465

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

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

4/24/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SACS CHICAGO  
MINNEAPOLIS  
PHILADELPHIA  
ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

RE WFO TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYFOUR INSTANT.

TODAY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS, WASH., D.C.  
ADVISED JAMES EARL RAY BORN MARCH TEN, TWENTYEIGHT, HAS BEEN  
ASSIGNED VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) CLAIM NUMBER SEVEN SIX  
SIX ONE THREE FOUR ZERO. RE TELETYPE STATED FILE LOCATED  
VA REGIONAL OFFICE, CHICAGO, ILL.. LATER INFORMATION FROM  
VA INDICES FILE IN VA RECORDS AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER,  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. ST. LOUIS REVIEW VA FILE.

CHICAGO ASCERTAIN IF VA REGIONAL OFFICE CHICAGO, ILL.  
HAS ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING RAY.

2-Bureau  
2-Teletype Unit  
1-Memphis (Info) (AM)  
1-Kansas City (Info) (AM)  
2-WFO  
RDA:bap  
(8)

TELETYPE

44-760-466

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*Home* *103*

**WFO 44-703**

**PAGE TWO**

**PHILADELPHIA AND MINNEAPOLIS ATTEMPT TO LOCATE VA  
INSURANCE RECORDS CONCERNING RAY WHO HAS VA INSURANCE POLICY  
NUMBER N ONE NINE EIGHT SIX EIGHT THREE THREE SIX.**

**AIR MAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS AND KANSAS CITY.**

**ARMED AND DANGEROUS.**

**P.**

FBI KAN CITY

FBI TAMPA

425PM URGENT 4-26-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, HOUSTON, AND KANSAS CITY  
FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 2P

MURKIN

BOB FELLOWS, NEWSMAN, WFLA CHANNEL THIRTEEN,  
TAMPA ADVISED THIS DATE HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY  
A SOURCE, WHOSE RELIABILITY IS UNKNOWN, AS TO DESIRING TO  
FIND OUT IF CHANNEL THIRTEEN WAS INTERESTED IN PAYING  
MONEY FOR INTERVIEW WITH A PERSON WHO KNEW JAMES EARL  
RAY, AKA. FELLOWS SAID SOURCE CALLED HOUSTON, TEXAS  
FOR A GEORGE RUSSELL, REPORTELY EMPLOYED IN TRAILER  
SALES. WHEN SOURCE DID NOT GET ANSWER, CALLED (FNU)  
STORZ, SUPPOSEDLY SOURCE'S SISTER, WHO LIVES NEXT  
DOOR TO TRAILER SALES. SOURCE SAID GEORGE RUSSELL  
SERVED TIME IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON AND HAS KNOWN  
RAY SOME YEARS. FELLOWS ADVISED SOURCE HIS  
TV STATION NOT INTERESTED BUT PERHAPS CBS ATLANTA  
MAY BE INTERESTED.  
END PAGE ONE

44-760-468

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*None RBH*  
*ayers RB*  
*Jeff City lead*

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

FELLOWS THEN RECONTACTED SOURCE WHO CALLED HOUSTON TELEPHONE MI THREE THREE THREE FIVE ZERO AND REACHED RUSSELL. FELLOWS ASKED RUSSELL IF HE WOULD TALK TO CBS NEWSMAN ABOUT KNOWLEDGE OF RAY AND RUSSELL SAID, "HELL NO." FELLOWS SAID SOURCE REPORTED RUSSELL TO BE HER BROTHER WHO SERVED TIME IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN UNTIL NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN.

TAMPA OFFICE RECORDS SHOW JUAREZ ROETTGER CALLED TAMPA OFFICE NOVEMBER NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN AND ADVISED BROTHER GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, LIVING IN HOUSTON, MAYBE WANTED BY FBI. TELETYPE SENT BUREAU, ST. LOUIS AND HOUSTON NOVEMBER NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN UNDER HIS NAME AND BUREAU AND ST. LOUIS ADVISED RUSSELL NOT WANTED.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO DETERMINE  
IF RUSSELL SERVED TIME WITH RAY.

HOUSTON INTERVIEW RUSSELL AS FORMER FELLOW PRISONER OF RAY AS FELLOWS DOES NOT DESIRE SOURCE (JUAREZ ROETTGER) BE INVOLVED.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

•



FBI KAN CITY

FBI MIAMI

228 PM URGENT 4/26/68 SHR

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSONVILLE, KANSAS CITY AND  
MEMPHIS

FROM MIAMI 44-1854 /P/ 3 P

MURKIN

44-760-467

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*R. Ayers*

RE ATLANTA TEL TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS  
CITY, SPRINGFIELD, MIAMI, APR. TWO FOUR LAST.

PAUL ALVIN LAIL, THREE FOUR BARBADOS, PALM SPRINGS, FLA., SAID  
HE KNEW RAY FOR THREE YEARS IN MO. STATE PEN BUT HAS NOT SEEN OR HEARD  
FROM RAY SINCE HE GOT OUT A LITTLE OVER TWO YEARS AGO.

LAIL SAID LEWIE "WHITEY" DONDA WORKED WITH RAY IN KITCHEN MO.  
STATE PEN AND WOULD KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT HIM. ALSO NEAL ABBEY WAS  
RAY'S REAL BUDDY AND WOULD REALLY KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT RAY THAN ANYBODY  
ELSE. LAIL SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF ABBEY WAS IN OR OUT OF MO. STATE  
PEN.

/// LAIL ADVISED RAY ASSOCIATED WITH GROUP WHO KILLED NEGROES IN  
MO. STATE PEN BUT DOES NOT KNOW IF RAY WAS IN ON IT OR NOT. HE SAID  
RAY NOT RACIST BUT KNOW HE DID NOT LIKE NEGROES AS MOST OF THE INMATES  
FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT NEGROES.

LAIL ADVISED RAY WOULD BE HARD TO FIND AND FEELS THAT HE WILL  
HAVE A FORTYFIVE AUTOMATIC "STASHED" ON HIM AND WOULD NOT GIVE UP.  
END PAGE ONE

44-18<sup>54</sup>

PAGE TWO

ALSO RAY WOULD NOT HIDE OUT IN COUNTRY BECAUSE HE IS A "CITY BOY"; HOWEVER, DOES NOT FEEL RAY WOULD GO FOR REALLY BIG CITIES BUT A PLACE ABOUT THE SIZE OF HOUSTON, TEXAS.

LAIL ADVISED LEO BARNETT, AN EX-CON FROM MO. STATE PEN AND BELIEVED IN JAIL SOMEWHERE IN FLA., HANDLED DOPE AND KNEW WHERE IT WAS COMING FROM AND WOULD KNOW IF RAY USED DOPE AND WHERE AND HOW HE GOT IT.

LAIL SAID FRED MILLER, A "CUT AND DRY CON" WHO WORKED IN THE TAG PLANT, WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS AND KNEW RAY WELL AND IF HE WOULD TALK HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FURNISH INFO ABOUT RAY. LAIL SAID RAY ASSOCIATED WITH OTHERS AND NOT LONER IN HIS OPINION.

LAIL RECALLED RAY ALWAYS WORE HIS HAIR CUT SHORT "BUTCH CUT" IN SUMMER AND LONG IN WINTER.

LAIL ADVISED HE WILL THINK ABOUT RAY SOME MORE AND IF HE RECALLS ANYTHING WILL NOTIFY THIS OFFICE. LAIL SEEMED COOPERATIVE AND VERY INTERESTED IN REWARD MONEY.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO., ASCERTAIN AT MO. STATE PEN WHEREABOUTS OF FRED MILLER AND INTERVIEW ABOUT RAY OR SET OUT LEADS  
END PAGE TWO

44-1854

PAGE THREE

TO HAVE INTERVIEWED. ALSO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS FORMER INMATE LEO BARNI  
JACKSONVILLE AT TALLAHASSEE, FLA., CONTACT BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS  
AND ASCERTAIN IF A LEO BARNETT, FORMER INMATE MO. STATE PEN, CONFINED  
ANYW HERE IN FLA.

FD THREE ZERO TWO'S BEING FURNISHED KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

*Barnett*

FBI KAN CITY

FBI SAN FRAN

215PM URGENT 4-26-68 MS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) KANSAS CITY (44-760) MEMPHIS (44-1987)

OKLAHOMA CITY

FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) 1P

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TEL APRIL TWENTYFIVE LAST.

RAYMOND OWEN, SEASIDE, CALIF., REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND  
EXHIBITED PHOTOGRAPHS. NOW CLAIMS PHOTOGRAPH OF JAMES EARL RAY  
NOT CLOSE TO PERSON HE KNEW AT WICHITA, KANSAS, AND HOMINY, OKLAHOMA.

KANSAS CITY AND OKLAHOM CITY DISCONTINUE.

JAMES EARL RAY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

e

44-760-469

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 26 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

FBI KAN CITY

FBI OMAHA

3:54 P.M. 4-24-68 URGENT TH

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS, KANSAS CITY 44-760,

ST. LOUIS, AND OKLAHOMA CITY

FROM OMAHA 44-310 5P

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYTHREE LAST.

INVESTIGATION WAVERLY, IOWA, DISCLOSED ROBERT DALE  
PORTER, FBI NUMBER FOUR FIVE NINE ZERO FOUR EIGHT TWO,  
ARRIVED IOWA DECEMBER EIGHT OR NINE LAST FOLLOWING RELEASE  
FROM MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, WHERE  
SENTENCE SERVED ON ROBBERY CHARGE. PORTER DEPARTED  
WAVERLY FEBRUARY TWENTYSIX OR TWENTYSEVEN LAST AND HAS NOT  
BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FAMILY SINCE. PORTER TOOK WATCH AND  
RING FROM HIS MOTHER WHEN HE LEFT WAVERLY.

PORTER ALSO TOOK PERSONALIZED CHECKS OF PARENTS, MR.  
AND MRS. HAROLD PORTER, ONE ZERO THREE AND ONE HALF EAST  
BREMER, WAVERLY, AND HAS PASSED FRAUDULENT CHECKS AT  
DES MOINES, IOWA, AND NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA, IN EARLY MARCH  
NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. PORTER'S FORMER WIFE, MARY PORTER, WAS  
END PAGE ONE

*Waitresses  
Union  
Local  
503  
216a W 12th ST*

*Jeff City check - g*

*4 12 31*

*44-760-470*

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*Hawley*

OM 44-310

PAGE TWO

IN WAVERLY, IOWA, UNTIL MID MARCH, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT, WHEN SHE RETURNED TO KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AREA, PRESENT ADDRESS OR EMPLOYMENT UNKNOWN TO PORTER FAMILY.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, WAVERLY, RECEIVED NO FRAUDULENT CHECKS WRITTEN BY ROBERT DALE PORTER ON PARENTS' ACCOUNT SINCE EARLY MARCH, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. WAVERLY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HAS HAD NO INQUIRY ABOUT PORTER SINCE NINETEEN SIXTYONE, RECORDS SHOW HE HAS ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, POLICE DEPARTMENT NUMBER FIVE SIX TWO TWO NINE.

WAVERLY POLICE DEPARTMENT FILES SHOW PORTER RECEIVED MONEY IN FEBRUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT, FROM MRS. CARMEN RAMAGE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, FOR BUS TICKET WAVERLY TO OKLAHOMA CITY. RAMAGE INTERVIEWED BY OKLAHOMA CITY DETECTIVE A.S. JOHNSON, WHO INFORMED WAVERLY POLICE DEPARTMENT BY LETTER MARCH FOUR LAST THAT PORTER DID NOT ARRIVE OKLAHOMA CITY.

PORTER IS WHITE MALE, BORN DECEMBER SIXTEEN, NINETEEN  
END PAGE TWO

OM 44-310

PAGE THREE

TWENTYEIGHT AT CLARINDA, IOWA, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES,  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY POUNDS, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, TATTOOS  
QUOTE MOM AND DAD END QUOTE ON LEFT FOREARM; QUOTE BOB LOVES  
WINNIE END QUOTE ON RIGHT FOREARM; QUOTE CHERYLE END QUOTE  
ON RIGHT BICEP; ARMY AIR FORCE INSIGNIA ON LEFT UPPER  
ARM. PORTER HAS DAUGHTER VICKI PORTER, AGE TEN OR ELEVEN  
YEARS BY FIRST MARRIAGE, LIVING CALIFORNIA, LOCATION UNKNOWN.

FOR INFORMATION ST. LOUIS AND OKLAHOMA CITY, REFERENCED  
KANSAS CITY TELETYPE STATES JACK FOX LANPHERE, WARSAW  
MISSOURI, FORMER INMATE, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, ADVISED  
A ROBERT DALE PORTER, FBI NUMBER FOUR FIVE NINE ZERO FOUR TWO,  
MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH RAY IN KING MURDER. STATED  
PORTER CALLED HIM APRIL THIRTEEN LAST AT CITY UNION MISSION,  
WARSAW, MISSOURI. LANPHERE BELIEVES PORTER RECENTLY  
PAROLED MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY. PORTER TOLD HIM HE WAS  
IN SERIOUS TROUBLE, HAD TO KEEP MOVING, AND WANTED LANPHERE'S  
HELP. INDICATED WANTED MONEY FROM LANPHERE BUT TOLD PORTER  
END PAGE THREE

OM 44-310

PAGE FOUR

HE DID NOT WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM AND DID NOT WANT TO SEE HIM. PORTER SAID HE WAS STAYING AT OSAGE HOTEL IN WARSAW AND THREATENED LANPHERE THAT WHEN HE RETURNED TO MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FOR SOME VIOLATION PORTER'S FRIENDS WOULD KILL HIM IF HE DID NOT HELP PORTER NOW. LANPHERE ADVISED PORTER KNOWS JAMES RAY VERY WELL. WAS AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FROM NINETEEN SIXTY THROUGH FEBRUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. STATE PORTER IS A WHITE MALE, AGE FORTY, FIVE FEET NINE INCHES, HUNDRED SEVENTYFIVE, CREWCUT HAIR, GRAYING, PRESCRIPTION GREEN TINTED GLASSES. RELATIVES LIVE IN IOWA. PORTER HAS DONE TIME AT FORT MADISON, IOWA PENITENTIARY.

OWNER, OSAGE HOTEL, WARSAW, MISSOURI, ADVISED HER REGISTRATION BOOKS SHOW REGISTRATION FOR ROBERT DALE PORTER, WAVERLY, IOWA, ON APRIL TWELVE, LAST, TOLD HER HE HAD BEEN HITCHHIKING, HAD COME FROM TEXAS, AND WAS EN ROUTE TO IOWA.

END PAGE FOUR



OM 44-310

PAGE FIVE

HE WAS CARRYING ONLY A SMALL DUFFLE BAG.

KANSAS CITY ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW MARY PORTER,  
FORMER WIFE, ROBERT DALE PORTER, REPORTEDLY EMPLOYED AS  
WAITRESS. MARY PORTER'S PAST RESIDENCES OR EMPLOYMENT  
PROBABLY SHOW MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FILES.

*Sheet on  
4/26/68  
negative results  
to locate  
RH*

OKLAHOMA CITY LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BETTY RAMAGE, ADDRESS  
AVAILABLE THROUGH OKLAHOMA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS/

ST. LOUIS CHECK ST. LOUIS POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS.  
ON ROBERT DALE PORTER, NUMBER FIVE SIX TWO TWO NINE, FOR  
ASSOCIATES AND SOURCES WHO MAY KNOW HIS PRESENT LOCATION.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

OF - 10  
U. S. GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL AGENTS

DATE: 4/25/68

FROM: *ASAC* (44-760) P

68-46

RE: MURKIN  
OO ME

Re Atlanta airtel to Director, 4/22/68.

Referenced communication advised that subject JAMES EARLY RAY, aka, was last known to be in Atlanta, Georgia, area on 4/5/68. Intensive investigation by the Atlanta Office to date has not established mode of transportation utilized by RAY after 4/5/68, through checks with transportation companies, car rental agencies, etc.

All offices are requested to check car recoveries in their respective divisions of cars stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 4/4/68 and consider same to have been possible mode of transportation for subject RAY. The same consideration should be given to any cars recovered in the near future that were stolen in the State of Georgia after 4/4/68. In instances where cars were stolen from Georgia and the transporter of same cannot otherwise be accounted for, investigation should be conducted to determine if RAY was person who may have stolen and transported same. This is being brought to attention of all Agents in the event any such stolen cars come to their attention during their investigations.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

① - 44-760

1 - 66-232

RBH:LAC

44-760-471

*Phone leads to  
Zofadka off file*

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*Loew*