

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

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Mr. HARRY SERO, 295 North McNeil, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he is former inmate No. 01903J at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri.

SERO said he first came to Memphis, Tennessee, on about January 13, 1962, at which time he was wanted in Missouri for having violated his parole from the MSP. Upon his arrival in Memphis he went to work as a house remodeler, later working in a Gulf service station at the corner of Jefferson and Lauderdale Streets. SERO took over management of this station in about April 1962 and operated it until November 21, 1962, at which time he left Memphis after having gotten into trouble with the local police for having written some bad checks. SERO said he first went from Memphis to Pennsylvania to visit relatives and continued to run until he finally settled in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and went to work in a Texaco service station.

On February 14, 1964, SERO was arrested in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was returned to the MSP where he was put in "B" block. He remained there from sometime in February 1964 until about June 12, 1964, at which time SERO was turned over on rendition to the State of Tennessee.

During the approximately four months that SERO was in the MSP he became friendly with JAMES EARL RAY. SERO also was acquainted with another inmate, one RAYMOND CURTIS, who has recently talked to newspaper reporters concerning his association with RAY. SERO said he can recall making the statement in the presence of RAY and CURTIS and other inmates that while he, SERO, had been in Memphis some unknown individual had speculated that if MARTIN LUTHER KING had ever attempted an economic boycott in the city of Memphis, it would be worth a large amount of money to Memphis businessmen to have KING killed. SERO said this conversation had actually taken place in his presence in Memphis but it had been mere speculation and had had no basis in fact. He said he later related this conversation to his prisonmates merely to make conversation and had not intended to imply that any person

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On 4/24/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JOE C. HESTER:mnr Date dictated 4/26/68

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or group of persons had or were even contemplating placing a bounty on MARTIN LUTHER KING.

SERO stated that after being returned to Tennessee he was sentenced to three years for uttering forged checks and was incarcerated in the Tennessee State Penitentiary at Ft. Pillow. He said he believes he also related this same speculative conversation to inmates at the Ft. Pillow Prison.

SERO described JAMES EARL RAY as a "hayseed" and a "born loser." He said that to his knowledge RAY had never successfully gotten away with any criminal offense, and it was his belief that RAY had been detected and apprehended following each of his criminal offenses. He said it was his recollection that RAY had a great dislike for Negroes but he cannot recall that he particularly disliked MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said he would not describe RAY as a loner but would simply say he would not know how to make friends or how to mix with other persons. He said that RAY was a regular user of amphetamines in prison but he did not know him to use other narcotics, and he recalled that RAY had mentioned taking narcotic pills prior to being incarcerated.

SERO said that RAY has a deep need for recognition and that he idolizes notorious criminals who are the subjects of wide-spread publicity. He said that when he considers RAY's need for recognition and then considers his dislike for Negroes, it is believable that RAY might have killed MARTIN LUTHER KING for no monetary gain.

He said that RAY had no important criminal connections to his knowledge as criminals of this type would not bother to associate with RAY. He said RAY never talked about his family but did indicate on one occasion that he had friends in Kansas City, Missouri. SERO said he has not heard from RAY since he left MSP, and he has no idea where he might be at present.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/20/68

LAWRENCE CHANCELOE HOWELL, 1888 Denison Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 682-9840, employed at the Federal Aviation Agency, Democrat Road, Memphis, furnished the following information:

HOWELL advised that he resided in Room 23 in a rooming house at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, from approximately September 11, 1967, until October 3, 1967. Mr. HOWELL advised that while in this rooming house, he was not acquainted with any individual named GALT, and when shown artist's conceptions of GALT, he could not recall having seen anyone of a similar appearance at the rooming house.

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On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT W. GOODWIN and
SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK: RF/bbs/wp Date dictated 4/20/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/29/68

LAWRENCE CHANCELOR HOWELL, 1888 Denison Street, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 682-9840, employed at the Federal Aviation Agency, Democrat Road, Memphis, was reinterviewed and furnished the following additional information:

HOWELL advised that he resided in Room 23 in a rooming house at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, from approximately September 11, 1967, until October 3, 1967. Mr. HOWELL advised that while in this rooming house, he was not acquainted with any individual named GALT or JAMES EARL RAY. HOWELL was shown a photograph of RAY, and he stated that he still could not recall having seen anyone of a similar appearance at the rooming house.

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On 4/19/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA ROBERT FITZPATRICK:wp Date dictated 4/25/68

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.

INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS WHO RENTED ROOMS
AT ECONOMY ROOMING HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

The following investigation was conducted by
SA RAYMOND J. MAXWELL on April 12, 1968:

O. L. BLACK, Route 5, Box 227, Andalusia, Alabama, telephone number 222-1508, telephonically advised that he had not been in Birmingham, Alabama, and did not stay at the Economy Rooming House on Highland Avenue; however, it was his wife, Mrs. O. L. BLACK, and his daughter, Mrs. JAMES E. WELDON, who stayed at the rooming house.

BLACK advised that the name of ERIC STARVO GALT means nothing to him, and that to his knowledge, he has never heard of ERIC STARVO GALT, nor has he ever heard of HARVEY LOWMEYER.

Mrs. O. L. BLACK, telephonically advised that during the fall of 1967 she and her daughter, Mrs. JAMES E. WELDON, Route 4, Box 73, Opelika, Alabama, took [REDACTED] baby to Birmingham, Alabama, for medical treatment. While they were in Birmingham, they stayed at the Economy Rooming House on Highland Avenue. She recalls staying in Rooms 18 and 29 during the period of September 17 through September 24, 1967. Mrs. BLACK advised that when she was not at the hospital where [REDACTED] was being treated, she would be resting in her room at the Economy Rooming House and she did not mingle with or associate with other people staying at the rooming house. On occasions, she would talk briefly with other women at the rooming house, but she never engaged in any conversation with any men.

Mrs. BLACK advised that the name of GALT and the name of LOWMEYER are not familiar to her, and she definitely does not remember anyone at the rooming house by the name of GALT or LOWMEYER. She stated that if she saw a picture of GALT, she might be able to state whether she had ever seen this individual at the rooming house, but from a description she could not state whether she saw anyone answering GALT's description at the rooming house.

Mrs. BLACK stated that she would cooperate in any way that she could with the FBI, and if the FBI had any pictures

that they wanted her to look at, she would be glad to look at these pictures in an effort to determine if anyone was at the Economy Rooming House during the period of time when she stayed at the rooming house in September, 1967.

The following investigation was conducted by SA HOWARD R. LINSKOTT on April 13, 1968 at Andalusia, Alabama:

Mrs. O. L. BLACK, Route 5, Box 227, Andalusia, Alabama, was shown the sketch of the suspect ERIC STARVO GALT. Mrs. BLACK advised that she had never seen anyone at the rooming house in Birmingham who resembled the photograph. Mrs. BLACK advised that she resided at the rooming house during the period September 17-24, 1967, at which time she was in Birmingham to see about [REDACTED] who was in the hospital there. Mrs. BLACK advised that the only time she saw any men around the rooming house was in the mornings at breakfast time; however, she stated she had never seen anyone at breakfast who resembled the photograph.

The following investigation was conducted at Opelika, Alabama, by SA ROY H. EVELAND:

On April 12, 1968, JAMES E. WELDON, 23 Dorsey Street, mail address, Route 4, Box 73, Opelika, Alabama, an employee of Ampex Corporation, advised that his wife, SHELLEY WELDON, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. OVIS LEE BLACK, Route 5, Box 227, Andalusia, Alabama, had stayed at the Economy Rooming House, Birmingham, Alabama, for several days during part of 1967. His [REDACTED] was having an operation and his wife would stay at the hospital with [REDACTED] during the nights and sleep at the rooming house during the days. The mother-in-law would stay with the [REDACTED] at the hospital during the days and would sleep at the rooming house at night. He and his wife have been taking [REDACTED] to the Crippled Children's Hospital in Birmingham for five years for corrective operations. He and his wife generally stay at the Economy Rooming House when in Birmingham. He said that if he had been at the Economy Rooming House during September, 1967, it would have been only for an overnight visit. He does not remember anyone at his rooming house by the name of GALT or a similar name and could not place anyone fitting the description as given for suspect ERIC STARVO GALT.

Mrs. JAMES E. (SHELLEY) WELDON, Route 4, Box 73, Opelika, advised on April 12, 1968 that she recalls staying at the Economy Rooming House in Birmingham, Alabama, September 17-24, 1968. She and her mother OVIS LEE BLACK, of Andalusia, Alabama, were there with [REDACTED] who was a patient at the Crippled Children's Hospital in Birmingham. She said she did not recall anyone by the name ERIC STARVO GALT or any similar name at this rooming house and she does not recall anyone there fitting the description as given for suspect GALT.

AT AUBURN, ALABAMA:

On April 12, 1968 it was ascertained that THOMAS D. FRANKLIN was residing at the Phi Theta Tau, 317 S. College Street, Auburn, Alabama, while attending Auburn University. It was ascertained that on that date he was away from Auburn believed to be attending the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

On April 15, 1968, FRANKLIN was contacted on his return to Auburn and advised he had stayed at the Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, for about two weeks during the last part of August and early September, 1967. He advised he was working at the Avondale Mills in North Birmingham under the Co-op Program of Auburn University.

FRANKLIN said that he had seen articles in the newspaper recently, including a sketch of suspect in the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING at Memphis, Tennessee. He said that he did not know anyone by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT, and he does not recall anyone at the Economy Rooming House who looked like the sketch of the suspect which he had seen in the newspaper. He also said he does not recall seeing anyone around the rooming house driving a white Mustang automobile.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/30/68

Lieutenant A. S. ZELINSKI, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he and Lieutenant J. L. HARRISON met Memphis City Engineer ARTHUR C. HOLBROOK, P. E., Tennessee License No. [REDACTED], and a surveying crew at the Lorraine Motel on April 23, 1968, at 8:30 a.m. Certain engineering measurements were subsequently taken.

Lieutenant ZELINSKI advised that an engineer's transit was placed over the spot where Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was shot, the telescope being positioned 59 inches above the balcony floor. This height was based on information contained in the autopsy report of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., which indicated that the missile entered his body at a point 59 inches above the right heel with the head positioned to correspond with the path of the missile. He stated that the point where Dr. KING was standing when shot was indicated to them by Reverend JAMES BEVEL, a representative of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who was staying at the Lorraine Motel.

From this position, two triangles were established with a baseline common to the two triangles established and measured. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy. It was determined that the level distance from the second floor rear bathroom window sill of 422½ South Main Street to the point where Dr. KING was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel was 206.36 feet and the in-line distance from the window sill to the point where Dr. KING was standing was 207.02 feet. The window sill at the rear of 422½ South Main was determined to be 16.63 feet higher than a point 59 inches above the floor of the balcony of the Lorraine Motel at the location Dr. KING was standing when he was shot. The downward angle of the direct in-line distance from the second floor window sill at the rear of 422½ South Main to a point 59 inches above the balcony of the Lorraine Motel at the point where Dr. KING was standing was determined to be 4 degrees 36 minutes 25 seconds.

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On 4/29/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA HOWARD D. TETEN:wp Date dictated 4/30/68

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KC 44-760

RH:tlw

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA RAY HOMESLEY:

Detective KENNETH VILANDER and Captain WAYNE MILLER, Police Department, Raytown, Missouri, were advised that subject mentioned Raytown, Missouri, to a fellow inmate prior to 1966. VILANDER and MILLER advised Wanted Flyers and Identification Orders concerning RAY have been received and the men in the Police Department will be alerted for any information that RAY was ever in Raytown, Missouri, or had any associates here.

44-760-628

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>M</i>	FILED <i>M</i>
MAY 2 1963	
FBI — KANSAS CITY	

Homesley *RH*

BI KAN CITY

BI NEW YORK

5:42 PM URGENT 5/2/68 WPK

TO INDIANAPOLIS AND KANSAS CITY

FROM NEW YORK 44-1609 2P

MURKIN

REGARDING INSURANCE CLAIMS IN NAME OF JAMES RAY.

BERNARD L. HINES, JR., DIRECTOR "THE INDEX SYSTEM" FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING INSURANCE CLAIMS BY INDIVIDUALS NAMED JAMES RAY.

JAMES E. RAY, BOX NINE FIVE, EIGHT ONE SIX NORTH SUMNER, BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS, A SALESMAN, AGE THREE NINE, SUFFERED AN ACCIDENT JANUARY TWO THREE, LAST, WHEREIN A SMALL BONE PUNCTURED THE EAR DRUM SLIGHTLY. CLAIMANT'S PHYSICIAN WAS DOCTOR WILLIAM H. MITCHELL, TWO THREE NINE WEST FIFTH, BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS. THE INSURED WAS THE ADVANCE PRODUCTS COMPANY AND INSURER WAS THE EMPLOYERS MUTUAL CASUALTY COMPANY, TWO FOUR THREE ONE EAST DOUGLAS, WICHITA, KANSAS.

END PAGE ONE

**DO NOT DESTROY -
PENDING LITIGATION**

**DO NOT DESTROY -
PENDING LITIGATION**

44-760-629

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 2 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe RBH
Kelly Jaz
Witchita

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
ATTENTION: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

FROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

MURKIN

RE HOUSTON TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY ONE LAST.

RE DENNIS WADE FONTENNOT, AKA JAMES DENNIS WADE, FBI
NUMBER EIGHT SIX ZERO FOUR EIGHT NINE B.

INFORMATION DEVELOPED THAT RAY HAD AN INMATE OF MISSOURI
STATE PRISON BY THE LAST NAME OF WADE TO BEAT ANOTHER INMATE
BY THE LAST NAME OF GREEN BECAUSE OF NON-PAYMENT FOR
AMPHETAMINE POWDER. MSP RECORDS SHOW DENNIS WADE FONTENNOT,
ALIAS JAMES DENNIS WADE, MSP NUMBER ZERO FOUR FOUR NINE FIVE,
KANSAS CITY, MO. PD NUMBER NINE EIGHT SIX THREE ZERO, SERVED
TIME FROM MARCH SIXTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYTWO TO MAY TWO,
NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. KANSAS CITY, MO. PD RECORDS REVEAL
FONTENNOT WAS LAST ARRESTED IN KANSAS CITY MAY THREE,
NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE, FOR BEING DRUNK, FINED TEN DOLLARS AND

1 - Kansas City
1 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)
1 - SAN Antonio (AM)
RH:lw
(3)

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Approved: KD
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 7²⁰ P M Per AMB

44-760-630

F B I

Date:

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

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

RELEASED MAY FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. NO FURTHER
INFORMATION DEVELOPED IN KANSAS CITY RE FONTENNOT.

RE WILLIAM THOMAS JACOBS, FBI NUMBER TWO FIVE THREE ZERO
~~ONE~~ ~~FOUR~~ ZERO ZERO.

JACOBS WAS NOT LOCATED THROUGH CREDIT, CRIMINAL, AND
A CHECK OF ALL TRUCK DRIVER UNIONS IN KANSAS CITY.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION REQUESTED TO FURNISH KANSAS
CITY WITH ARREST RECORD OF FONTENNOT, FBI NUMBER EIGHT SIX
ZERO FOUR EIGHT NINE B AND THE RECORD OF JACOBS, FBI NUMBER
TWO FIVE THREE ZERO FOUR ZERO ZERO.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS AND SAN ANTONIO.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
MEMPHIS

FROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN.

DAILY SUMMARY.

INFORMATION REGARDING LEE EUGENE WARREN'S ACTIVITIES IN
MO. STATE PENITENTIARY FURNISHED INTERESTED OFFICES. EFFORTS
TO LOCATE (FNU) WADE UNSUCCESSFUL TO DATE. KANSAS CITY TEAMSTER
UNION RECORD NEGATIVE RE TRUCK DRIVER WILLIAM THOMAS JACOBS.

RECOMMENDATION MADE AGAINST USING KANSAS CITY PCI AT
THIS TIME.

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY MSP RE THE STABBING ATTACK ON
THREE NEGRO INMATES JUNE EIGHT, SIXTY FOUR DOES NOT IMPLICATE
SUBJECT. (CONFIDENTIAL). MEMPHIS ADVISED THAT EARL KNIGHT
AND IVAN UNDERWOOD RECENTLY PAROLED TO THAT CITY FROM MSP. IT
WAS DETERMINED THAT THE REASON FOR GERALD GERLT MAKING TRIP TO
TENN. IN MARCH, SIXTY EIGHT WAS TO OBTAIN NURSERY STOCK. THIS
WAS VERIFIED BY EMPLOYMENT RECORDS.

RBH:jlh
(1) *jlh*Approved: *KW*
Special Agent in ChargeWA 8
ME - 8
SentP M Per *AB*

44-760-631

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Priority)

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

INTERVIEWS WITH PRISONERS CONTINUE. LOCAL LEADS BEING
HANDLED ON IMMEDIATE BASIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

P

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI KAN CITY

FBI ST LOUIS

1057PM URGENT 5-2-68 JHH

TO: DIRECTOR MEMPHIS KANSAS CITY CHICAGO

FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN SUMMARY

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ST. LOUIS THIS DATE.

RE GRAPEVINE TAVERN.

LICENSE OBTAINED BY CAROL PEPPER, SUBJECTS SISTER, AS
SOLE OWNER AND OPERATOR, WHEREAS JOHN LARRY RAY, SUBJECTS BROTHER,
WHO HAS CRIMINAL RECORD, HAS EVERY APPEARANCE OF BEING ACTUAL
OPERATOR. ALLOWING EX-CON TO OPERATE IS GROUND FOR LICENSE
REVOCATION UNDER STATE LAW. LEASE IS IN NAME OF CAROL PEPPER,
AND RENT PAID BY HER CHECKS. UTILITIES IN HER NAME. SUPPLIERS
PAID IN CASH ON DELIVERY. JOHN RAY EXECUTED MORTGAGE FOR BEER
COOLER WITH CAROL AS CO SIGNER. FACTS WILL BE DISCUSSED
HYPOTHETICALLY WITH ATU TO DETERMINE IF SUFFICIENT TO CONSTITUTE
VIOLATION OF TITLE TWENTY SIX, SECTION SEVEN TWO ZERO SIX PARAGRAPH
TWO, U. S. CODE. IF SO, WILL BE USED AS LEVER TO OBTAIN COOPERATION
OF BOTH.

TAVERN BEING COVERED BY SOURCES AND SPOT CHECKS IN
CONNECTION WITH COVERAGE OF JOHN RAY. HE HAS NO TELEPHONE AT
RESIDENCE. TOLL CALLS FROM TAVERN BEING COMPILED BY TELEPHONE
COMPANY AT THIS TIME.

END PAGE ONE

44-760-632

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<i>Howe</i>	<i>1234</i>

PAGE TWO

RE JOHN LARRY RAY:

RE INTERVIEWED TODAY. APPEARED COOPERATIVE. SAID BROTHER JERRY ARRIVED NINE THIRTY AM APRIL THIRTY. THEY TALKED WITH CAROL PEPPER OF HARASSMENT BY REPORTERS. JERRY SAID IF IT CONTINUED HE WOULD QUIT JOB. JERRY LEFT FOR CHICAGO ELEVEN AM MAY FIRST. JOHN HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE JERRY OR CAROL CONTACTED OR HEARD FROM SUBJECT SINCE ESCAPE. JERRY SAID IS ONLY MEMBER OF FAMILY WITH STABLE ADDRESS KNOWN TO SUBJECT, WHO HAS NOT MOVED SINCE ESCAPE. ADMITTED SENDING MONEY TO SUBJECT IN PRISON AS SUBJECT HAD DONE SAME FOR HIM. UNABLE TO RECALL SPECIFIC DATES OR AMOUNTS. BELIEVED IF SUBJECT KILLED KING HE WAS EITHER CRAZY OR PAID. IF CRAZY, WOULD NOT CONTACT FAMILY. IF FOR MONEY, WOULD NOT CONTACT AS WOULD NOT NEED HELP, AND WOULD PROBABLY BE KILLED BY PAYER. BELIEVED SUBJECT BECAME NARCOTICS USER IN ARMY AS HAS NOT SEEMED RIGHT SINCE. KNEW OF NO CLOSE FRIENDS OF SUBJECT. NO IDEA OF SUBJECTS WHEREABOUTS. WELCOMED RECONTACT AT ANY TIME.

END PAGE TWO

"PAGE" THREE

RE ALBERT PEPPER AND PEPPER STATIONERY CO.

NO INDICATION OF EXISTENCE OF PEPPER STATIONERY CO.,
TO WHOM SUBJECT ALLEGEDLY SENT MONEY THRU SUBTERFUGE FROM MSP.
ADDRESS GIVEN WAS FORMER RESIDENCE OF ALBERT PEPPER, HUSBAND
OF CAROL PEPPER, SUBJECTS SISTER.

ALBERT PEPPER REINTERVIEWED. NOT ANTAGONISTIC. DENIED
KNOWLEDGE OF RECEIPT OF FUNDS FROM SUBJECT IN MSP OR AT
STATIONERY CO., BUT INDICATED WIFE MIGHT HAVE, AS SHE IS HOME
AND HE IS GONE DURING DAY. NEVER MET SUBJECT. MARRIED CAROL
AFTER SUBJECT IN MSP. DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECTS WHEREABOUTS
OR ANY CONTACT WITH FAMILY. TOLD RUNNING OFF LIFE REPORTER WITH
CUB. REALIZED FBI NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LIFE ARTICLE. AGREED
TO URGE CAROL TO COOPERATE WITH FBI. HE WILLING TO BE RE CON-
TACTED ANY TIME NECESSARY. PEPPER RESIDENCE COVERED BY NEIGHBOR,
SPOT CHECKS AND SA RESIDING IN AREA. PHONE COMPANY COMPILING
TOLL CALLS.

RE JOHN GAWRON.

REINTERVIEWED TODAY. LEARNED AT GRAPEVINE LAST NIGHT OF
JERRY RAY SL VISIT. DENIED TELLING JOHN RAY OF PREVIOUS FBI
CONTACTS. WAS CONVINCED FROM PREVIOUS TALKS WITH JOHN AND CAROL
SUBJECT HAD NOT COME TO SL AFTER ESCAPE. RECALLED SUBJECT
CONTACTED HIM THRU CAROL THREE TIMES WHILE IN MSP WITH REQUEST
HE PURCHASE CASE OF COLD INHALANT, PROBABLY BENZEDRINE.
UNIDENTIFIED MSP GUARD MADE TRIPS TO PICK UP SAME AND STATED
PAID ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH TRIP. GAWRON BELIEVED SUBJECT

PAGE FOUR

BOILED DOWN FOR SALE TO PRISONERS AND ALSO HAD LOAN RACKET IN MSP. WAS FURNISHED COPY OF LIFE AND AGREED TO VISIT CAROL F-- DISCUSSION THIS WEEKEND. JOHN RAY USES GAWRON ADDRESS FOR MAIL. ALL LETTERS RECEIVED TO DATE HAVE BEEN APPARENTLY FROM LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES.

RE JERRY RAYNES, FATHER.

NEIGHBORHOOD SOURCES IN RURAL AREA ADVISED TODAY RAYNES HAD NO VISITORS PAST WEEK. CHECK MADE TO BE SURE JERRY RAY HAD NOT SPENT NIGHT WITH ENROUTE SL.

RE [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

DJB

FBI KAN CITY

TUC

FBI ST LOUIS

FBI JKSN MISS

4:45PM 4-24-68 URGENT SCC

TO DIRECTOR (MAIL) AND ST. LOUIS
FROM JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

RE MOBILE TELEPHONE CALL TO JACKSON.

ROBERT ANDERSON, KREOLE, MISS., TELEPHONICALLY
CONTACTED MOBILE STATING HE HAD INFORMATION RE KING'S
KILLER, BUT WOULD NOT DISCUSS ON TELEPHONE. ANDERSON
WAS LOCATED AT KREOLE, MISS., AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION REQUESTING HIS IDENTITY BE CONCEALED. ONE
BOB BOSSIER (PHONETIC) WHITE MALE, THIRTYFOUR TO THIRTYFIVE,
FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SIXTYFIVE POUNDS,
BROWN HAIR, BUCK TEETH, WORKS FOR JOHN WESLEY ANDERSON,
FIVE ONE FIVE NORTH SEVENTH STREET, DESOTO, MISSOURI, AS
A ROOFER. ACCORDING TO SOURCE BOSSIER MAY BE AN ESCAPEE
FROM STATE OF MICHIGAN ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE. BOSSIER
END PAGE ONE

44-760-633

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Home

PAGE TWO

JN 157-9586

NATIVE OF ST. LOUIS AREA AND HAS DONE TIME AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, IN ILLINOIS AND IN MISSOURI. HE WAS ALSO IN ATLANTA ABOUT NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE. ACCORDING TO SOURCE BOSSIER IS NOT IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY, BUT HIS PAST HISTORY AND PLACES OF CONFINEMENT ARE SIMILAR AND SOURCE BELIEVES BOSSIER MAY HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF RAY.

ST. LOUIS AT DESOTO, MISSOURI, REVIEW INDICES, IDENTIFY BOB BOSSIER (PHONETIC) THROUGH PD RECORDS AND OTHER SOURCES. DETERMINE THROUGH INVESTIGATION IF BOSSIER SERVED TIME WITH SUBJECT RAY AND COULD FURNISH PERTINENT INFORMATION RE RAY AND MURKIN. PROTECT ANDERSON AS SOURCE.

AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED MOBILE AND MEMPHIS, AND DETROIT.

END..

JNH

FBI ST LOUIS

TUX

F B I

Date: 4/30/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) P
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Jackson teletype to Bureau, 4/24/68.

Enclosed for Kansas City and Oklahoma City are copies of re teletype.

On 4/25/68, Mrs. ROBERT BOSHERS, (phonetic BOSSIER), in re teletype, 401 Wine St., DeSoto, Mo., advised her husband ROBERT has deserted her and his whereabouts are unknown. She related that BOSHERS is an alcoholic and has done this in the past. She stated she believes that BOSHERS had stolen some checks from JACK W. ANDERSON and cashed these checks before leaving the DeSoto, Mo., area.

Mrs. BOSHERS stated that she does not believe her husband has any knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY, that if he did she believes he would make some comment in view of the widespread publicity.

3 - Bureau
2 - Detroit
2 - Jackson (157-9586)
2 - Kansas City (Encl. 1) *W*
2 - Memphis
2 - Oklahoma City (Encl. 1)
2 - St. Louis
JEL:bam
(15)

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44-760-633

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe *Robt*
Ayers *Jeff* *W*

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

SL 44-775

She stated he has served time in El Reno Federal Penitentiary, and the Missouri State Penitentiary, but she does not know of any sentence in the State of Michigan, and she does not believe he is wanted in that state.

Chief of Police LLOYD DAVIS, DeSoto, Mo., advised that ROBERT BOSHERS had taken two or three checks from the checkbook of JOHN W. ANDERSON, 515 N. Seventh St., who he was employed by, and two checks have been cashed for over \$100.00 each. He advised he has no warrant at this time for BOSHERS. He advised BOSHERS is a big boozier and to his knowledge has not mentioned anything about being associated with JAMES EARL RAY.

For the information of Jackson it appears your source ROBERT ANDERSON, Kreole, Mississippi, is relative of JOHN WESLEY ANDERSON, DeSoto, Mo., and became aware of BOSHER's theft of checks and wanted BOSHER located so local warrants could be issued for BOSHER.

For the information of Detroit, ascertain through State Penitentiary system and other sources if ROBERT BOSHERS (given as BOSSIER) in re teletype has record in State of Michigan or wanted on him in Michigan.

Kansas City and Oklahoma City Divisions, will review records for ROBERT BOSHERS at Jefferson City, Mo., and El Reno Penitentiary respectively as requested of Detroit Division.

FBI KAN CITY

FBI WASH DC

645PM URGENT 5/2/68 GJM

TO KANSAS CITY BIRMINGHAM NEW ORLEANS MEMPHIS
FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN.

REBUTEL TO BH, ME, KC, SI, AND SL, MAY TWO, INSTANT,
AND BHTEL TO NO, NO CC OTHER OFFICES, MAY TWO INSTANT.

KANSAS CITY, AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY JOHNNY VALENTI WHO WAS REPORTEDLY
INCARCERATED THERE AT THE SAME TIME AS SUBJECT RAY. SET
OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS TO HAVE VALENTI INTERVIEWED WHEN
WHEREABOUTS LOCATED. NEW ORLEANS, HOLD IN ABEYANCE
INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE VALENTI PENDING INFORMATION DEVELOPED
BY KANSAS CITY.

END

CAS

FBI KAN CITY

TU@

44-760-635

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Howe RBH

FBI KAN CITY

BI INDAPOLS

450PM URGENT 5/2/68 JLC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), KANSAS CITY (44-760), MEMPHIS (44-1957)
FROM INDIANAPOLIS (44-563)

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TEL MAY ONE LAST; INDIANAPOLIS TEL MAY
ONE LAST.

LUCILLE DALTON, ONE TWO ONE NINE E. MICHIGAN ST., APT.
EIGHT, WAITRESS MAHOGANY BAR, INDIANAPOLIS, IND., ADVISED
HAD KNOWN PATRICIA STATLER AS A CLOSE FRIEND FOR A NUMBER OF
YEARS. STATLER RECENTLY STAYED WITH HER AT INDIANAPOLIS.

DALTON SAID STATLER WAS IN MAHOGANY BAR APRIL TWENTYSIX
LAST DRINKING. STATLER ASKED DALTON SOMETIME DURING AFTERNOON
IF SHE KNEW A MAN WHO HAD COME INTO THE BAR TO WHICH DALTON
ANSWERED "I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME BUT I KNOW THE FACE AND SO
DO YOU HE HAS BEEN IN HERE A NUMBER OF TIMES BEFORE."

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Horne RBA

AGE TWO

DALTON SAID THAT THE PICTURES OF RAY WERE CERTAINLY NOT IDENTICAL WITH THE INDIVIDUAL. STATLER KNOWN TO DRINK QUITE A BIT AND BE UNDEPENDABLE.

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED ALONG THIS LINE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

RM

FBI KAN CITY

T

Ue

FBI KAN CITY

FBI CHICAGO

451PM URGENT 5/2/68 EOM

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ST. LOUIS (44-775) KANSAS CITY (44-760)
SPRINGFIELD (44-561) AND NEWARK (44-854)
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 3P

MURKIN

RE BUTEL MAY ONE LAST.

RE FULL COVERAGE OF RELATIVES. B. EGGENBERGER, CHIEF
SECURITY OFFICER, ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE (IBT), CHICAGO,
ADVISES TOLL CALL RECORDS ONLY MAINTAINED FOR SIX MONTH PERIOD.
ALSO DUE TO IBT STRIKE DIFFICULTY WILL BE ENCOUNTERED OBTAINING
TOLL CALL RECORDS BUT WILL DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FULL
SECURITY AND BUREAU'S INTEREST WILL BE FULLY PROTECTED. TOLL
CALLS FROM PHONE OF SISTER SUSAN DONIAN BEING OBTAINED. NOTE
THAT POSSIBILITY OF SUBJECT KNOWING HER WHEREABOUTS EXTREMELY
REMOTE.

RE BROTHER JERRY ROY. JERRY TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTS
CASE AGENT DAILY AND IS PHYSICALLY CONTACTED BY ANOTHER AGENT
ON A DAILY BASIS. HIS EMPLOYER AND COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER COM-
pletely cooperative and will advise of any unusual activity
END PAGE ONE

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Howe *Rowe*

A PART OF JERRY. IN ADDITION SECURITY GUARD SERVICE FOR COUNTRY CLUB MAKES HOURLY CHECKS DURING EVENING TO DETERMINE THAT JERRY AT WORK.

AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED JERRY IS MAINTENANCE MAN FOR COUNTRY CLUB FROM ELEVEN PM UNTIL FINISHED NEXT MORNING, THEREBY HAS ACCESS TO FOUR PRIVATE PHONES AND SEVEN PAY PHONES LOCATED ON COUNTRY CLUB PREMISES. THE PAY PHONE IN THE COTTAGE WHERE JERRY RESIDES IS UTILIZED BY ALL OTHER MEMBER OF THE COTTAGE. IN LETTER TO MARJORIE FETTERS, CAMDEN, N.J., JERRY MAKES COMMENT INDICATING THAT PAY PHONE USED DURING CONTACT WITH HER. FEASIBILITY OF CONTINUING CHECKS ON TOLL CALLS FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED PHONES AT COUNTRY CLUB BEING DISCUSSED WITH IBT WHO ARE OF THE OPINION THAT DUE TO NUMBER OF CALLS THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE.

IN THIS REGARD OFFICES RECEIVING THIS TELE FURNISH PHONE NUMBERS OF RELATIVES AND KNOWN ASSOCIATES. NEWARK FURNISH PHONE NUMBER OF MARJORIE FETTERS. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF TELEPHONE COVERAGE EFFECTED.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE CG 44-1114

RE ASSOCIATES AND INDIVIDUALS MAKING FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH RELATIVES. SUSAN DONIAN COOPERATING WITH THIS OFFICE. BOTH SHE AND HUSBAND VERY APPREHENSIVE OF CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT BECOMING KNOWN. ALSO, DUE TO INFORMATION SET FORTH IN "LIFE" MAGAZINE, HUSBAND CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE LOSS OF BUSINESS FROM RESULTING NOTORIETY SINCE HIS CONTACTS ARE ON PERSONAL BASIS. ACCORDINGLY, NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH DONIAN'S ASSOCIATES CHICAGO WILL BE MADE PENDING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION DEVELOPING ANY ASSOCIATION OR POSSIBILITY SUBJECT AWARE OF SUSAN'S LOCATION, UACB.

FROM INTERVIEWS AND INVESTIGATION, JERRY RAY FRIENDLY WITH EMPLOYEES AT COUNTRY CLUB BUT HAS ONLY TWO CLOSE ASSOCIATES, BOTH EMPLOYEES. ONE IS SINGLE AND RESIDES IN SAME COTTAGE AT COUNTRY CLUB. THE OTHER MARRIED RESIDES IN MT. PROSPECT, ILLINOIS. ALSO DURING BRIEF MARRIAGE THIS AREA, JERRY DID NOT DEVELOP ANY ACQUAINTANCES OR ASSOCIATES AMONG EX-WIFE'S FRIENDS OR RELATIVES. AM CC TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

KC 44-780

DORIS DEAN JONES was interviewed at San Diego, and advised she formerly knew a RAY EUGENE WARREN, who would now be 38 years of age, white male, 5' 8", 150 lbs., dark brown wavy hair, blue eyes; numerous tattoos - rose on back of one hand, RAY on one hand, LOVE on fingers of one hand, and a "Pachuco" type cross on one hand.

Mrs. JONES advised RAY EUGENE WARREN, during 1955, was incarcerated at St. Louis City Jail for period of one year prior to being sentenced to 30 years at the State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. Mrs. JONES advised it is her opinion that RAY EUGENE WARREN is not identical with JAMES EARL RAY, as none of the photographs of RAY displayed to her appeared to be identical with RAY EUGENE WARREN.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

DECODED COPY

MAY 2, 1968
URGENT☐ Radio☒ Teletype

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC-S, MEMPHIS AND KANSAS CITY
FROM SAC, ST. LOUIS

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TT, APRIL 29, LAST, REQUESTING KANSAS CITY AND ST.
LOUIS RECOMMENDATIONS RE USE OF KC PCI LAWRENCE E. GRAY.

ST. LOUIS RECOMMENDS AGAINST USE IN ST. LOUIS AREA. EXISTING
SOURCES AND THOSE UNDER DEVELOPMENT IN ST. LOUIS BELIEVED ADEQUATE. (P)

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

17.10.68 copy made for 137-4750

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

October 1, 1964

Subject: Stabbing of colored men - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the morning of October 1, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Ernest Franklin, #07447, an inmate at the Medium Security Prison at Moberly. Franklin is a Negro inmate, age 44, from St. Louis, Missouri, and is one of the subjects who was stabbed in the tunnel at the State Prison in Jefferson City, Missouri, on the evening of June 8, 1964. The subject is presently serving a fifteen year sentence for assault with intent to kill from St. Louis City and was admitted to the prison in September of 1963. Franklin has a fifth grade education and is able to read and write.

2. Franklin gave the following account of happenings at the prison on June 8, 1964:

"On the night of the stabbing, I was walking up the tunnel with Simmons and we had just passed the chaplain's door but had not reached the corner. All of a sudden, several white fellows came around the corner facing us. They all had knives in their hands. They were wearing hoods over their heads and faces. The hoods had holes cut in them for eyes. They started yelling and one fellow stabbed Simmons right in the heart. Simmons fell back against me and then wheeled and went running back toward A Hall. Then four of them had me. One of them stabbed me in the left chest and the knife just missed my heart. The second knife hit me in the lower part of my back on the left side and the blade came on through and out of my right groin. I looked down and saw 3 or 4 inches of the blade sticking out. When the first fellow hit me with the knife in the chest, I started fighting and holding to the knife and that is when I was hit in the back. Then I got stuck twice more in the back. I never did fall to the floor. About that time, these hooded fellows said, 'Let's get out of here.' I did not see Mitchell or Parks get out. I don't know none of the people what cut us. While I was holding the one fellow's knife, I heard one of them say 'Not him, not him.' They was talking about Banks. He is in the clique. I think he knew what was going to happen and knows who the white fellows are. I saw Banks talking to two white fellows down at the recreation yard that evening and it looked like one of them had a knife in his pocket."

2. Franklin stated that he would testify in court, however he still feared for his life, even though he had been transferred to Moberly. Franklin viewed

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Stabbing of colored men - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

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photographs of Chester Eley, William Burke, Richard Laws, Donald Bussmeyer, Walter Douglas, and Robert Burns and readily picked out Burke and Eley as the two white subjects he had observed talking with Banks and he identified Burke as the subject who had the knife in his pocket.

C. C. Maddox

CCM:psc

cc:GRQ -

Colonel Carter

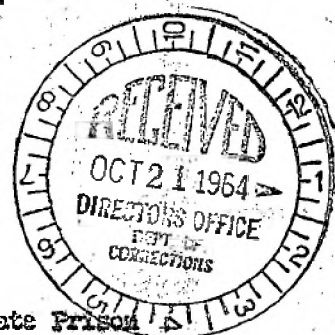
Warden Nash

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

October 19, 1964



From : Sergeant C. C. Maddox

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the morning of October 16, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed six inmates of the Missouri State Prison who were named by witnesses as being suspects in the stabbing of four colored inmates on the evening of June 8, 1964. The suspects interviewed are listed below.

- a. William Harry Burke, #07738, white, male, age 30, from St. Louis, Missouri. He is now serving four years for burglary, larceny, and escape from St. Louis, Missouri, and entered the prison December 6, 1963. He has previously served two years for auto theft from St. Louis in 1952, eight years for burglary, larceny, and escape from Cole County in 1954, two years for destruction of State property, Cole County, in 1959, and two years for burglary and larceny, Cape Girardeau County, in 1961. Burke has a seventh grade education.
- b. Donald Richard Buschmeyer, #71843, white, male, age 28, from St. Louis, Missouri. He is presently serving fourteen years for robbery and assault from St. Louis, Missouri, and entered the prison in 1956. He has also served one year for attempted burglary in Oklahoma in 1954. He has an eighth grade education.
- c. Walter Robert Douglas, #02141, white, male, age 24, from St. Louis, Missouri. He is serving eight years for burglary and stealing from St. Louis County and entered the prison in February of 1961. He is a high school graduate.
- d. Chester Lee Eley, #00846, white, male, age 30, from St. Louis, Missouri. He is now serving nine years for armed robbery from St. Louis and entered the prison June 3, 1960. He also served five years for armed robbery from St. Louis in March, 1957. He served two years in El Reno, Oklahoma (Federal), in 1951 for the Dyer Act and eighteen months in El Reno in 1952 for escape (Federal). He has an eighth grade education.
- e. Richard Allen Laws, #03230, white, male, age 20, from St. Louis, Missouri. The subject is now serving six and one-half years for escape, burglary, and stealing from Cole County and entered the prison in July of 1961. He was sentenced to Boonville for delinquency from St. Louis County in July of 1960 and transferred from Boonville to Alcoa Reformatory in February, 1961. He has a tenth grade education.

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f. Robert E. Burns, #75811, white, male, age 33, from St. Louis, Missouri. He is serving 75 years for robbery from St. Louis City and entered the prison in 1959. He was sentenced to two years in Boonville in 1945 from St. Louis for auto theft. He was sentenced to five years in the Alton Reformatory in 1949 from St. Louis for robbery. He was sentenced to five years in the State Prison in 1954 from St. Louis for robbery and has an eighth grade education.

2. All of the above subjects were interviewed in the office of Major Poiry. All denied any knowledge of the stabbings on the evening of June 8, 1964. All refused the opportunity to take a polygraph examination. Subjects Bussmeyer and Laws became angry when questioned about the stabbings. Several of the above suspects stated that whenever there was trouble inside the walls they were always picked up as suspects.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:psc

cc:GRQ

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

Colonel Carter

Warden Nash

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 25, 1964

C
O
P
Y

Subject: Stabbing of colored men - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison
To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the afternoon of September 24, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed David Joseph McCutcheon #01989-3, an inmate of the Missouri State Prison. McCutcheon is a white male subject, age 46, from Wausau, Wisconsin. He is presently serving a twenty-five year sentence for armed robbery from Jackson County, Missouri, and entered the prison in January, 1961. He has numerous other convictions as follows: car theft in 1936 and served a one to two year sentence in Wisconsin, forgery in 1939 and served a one to two year sentence in Wisconsin, carnal knowledge in 1941 and served a one to three year sentence in Wisconsin, transporting a minor across a state line in 1943 and served eighteen months in Leavenworth, Kansas (Federal), burglary in 1950 and served fifteen years in California. The subject has an eighth grade education and has completed some schooling in the penitentiary beyond the eighth grade. The interview took place in the prison office of Major Poiry from 1:10 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

2. McCutcheon gave the following account of activities in the prison on the evening of June 8, 1964:

"About 6:15 to 6:20 Monday night, June 8, 1964, I was down at the recreation field near the #1 ball diamond where the Playboys and Star Dusters were playing ball. Slick Stidham is manager of the Star Dusters and Bussmeyer is manager of the Playboys. While I was there I was up at the recreation equipment check out room and I observed knives being given out by Sushank to Chester Klay, Billy Burke, Bussmeyer, and Douglas. I also seen Rex Pack with a knife, but I don't know where he got it. I asked Sushank what was up and he said, 'They are going to have a rumble'. I thought it was going to be on the yard. I left the yard about 6:30 p.m. and made my way to the upper recreation area to get away from the trouble and took a speaker box out and set it up for the outside movies. On my way back I looked in through the last window of the tunnel and I saw Bussmeyer stick a knife in a colored man. Bussmeyer was holding a rag up to his face with his left hand and had the knife in his right hand. Bussmeyer came up behind the colored man and stabbed him in the back. He stabbed him up about the shoulders and the colored man spun around and he stuck him in the stomach just under the ribs. Bussmeyer ran down toward F and G Hall and went to the hobby shop. The colored man was staggering down the tunnel toward the opening at the control center. People

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were running every direction and yelling. I saw two other fellows run by with masks or something on their heads. I did not know them".

3. McCutcheon advised the undersigned officer that he would testify in court if necessary, and that the above information was true to the best of his knowledge. He was unable to identify the colored subject he saw stabbed. He stated that he felt the reasons for the stabbing incidents were race hatred, and the fact that some of the prison hot heads felt that the more heat they could bring on the prison would better their chances of moving out the warden.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:rz

cc:GHR

Colonel Carter

Warden Nash

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 24, 1964

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the afternoon of September 22, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Guard Captain Glen F. Troyer, age 54, New Bloomfield, Missouri. Troyer has been an employee at the prison for a number of years and was on duty there on the evening of June 8, 1964, when the stabbings occurred. This interview was held in the prison office of Major Poiry.

2. Captain Troyer gave the following information with reference to the stabbing incident: About 6:45 p.m., June 8, 1964, Troyer was on duty in the Canteen when a group of inmates went through the tunnel toward F and G Hall. After some of the inmates had gone out of sight of Troyer around the corner of the tunnel he heard one man scream and part of the crowd came running back toward the central center past Troyer. Troyer states that one colored subject named Mitchell had been stabbed in the back and as he came running by, Troyer shoved him through the central center gate out of the tunnel. Then another colored subject named Franklin came by. He was bleeding in the front and Troyer shoved him through the central center gate. Troyer stated that he did not know how or when the colored subject Simmons went by him, however, this could have occurred while he was putting one of the other injured subjects through the gate.

3. Troyer stated that he then took a group of white inmates down through the tunnel toward F and G Hall, and that as he rounded the corner he found three small knives on the floor. All of the knives appeared to be clean at that time. He also found two cloth masks near the chapel door and three more knives in the shower room doorway. One was a big knife and was bloody. One was a dagger type knife about six or seven inches long and it was also bloody. The third knife was without blood. Troyer took all of the above items to the central center and turned them in. He further stated that he saw no actual stabbing or cutting but did assist in getting the injured subjects out of the tunnel and then placing the other inmates in their cells in A, F, and G Halls after the incident.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:rz

cc:CHQ

Colonel Carter

Warden Wash

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

44-760-6392

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MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 24, 1964

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the afternoon of September 22, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Joseph Beattie Van Alst #74696, an inmate of the Missouri State Prison. The interview took place in the prison office of Major Poiry. Van Alst is a white male subject, age 39. He is presently serving a twenty-five year sentence for felonious assault. He entered the prison in December, 1958. He has previously served a five year term for robbery first starting in 1953 in the State Prison in McAllister, Oklahoma. Van Alst stated that he had completed the sixth grade and was able to read and write.

2. Van Alst gave the following account of the occurrences at the prison on the evening of June 8, 1964:

"About 6:45 p.m., June 8, 1964, I was in the tunnel between the chapel door and the corner. I saw Bobby Burns and Richard Laws there. They had on white cloth masks up to eye level. They jumped out of the line. Bobby jumped out of the line next to the windows and grabbed this colored boy who was running toward the hall yelling and it looked like he held him and I saw Richard Laws stick a knife in the colored man's back on the lower left side just above the belt. The colored man then ran back toward the tunnel opening yelling, 'Oh, Oh, Oh', and holding his stomach. Laws and Burns stood there a minute. Then I ducked in the shower and saw them take off their masks and then Laws came into the shower without a mask and was carrying a shirt in his hand. About three minutes later I saw Burns and Laws washing their hands in their cells and each had blood on his hands. I don't know what they done with the knife. The knife was shiny and was twelve to fourteen inches long and about an inch and a half wide. It had five or six inches of blood on it when they pulled it out of the colored boy".

3. Van Alst told the undersigned officer that he had observed other subjects in the tunnel wearing masks but could only recognize the ones named above. He stated he did not know the names of the colored subjects who were victims in the stabbings but felt he might be able to identify the one he had observed from photographs. He looked at photographs of Franklin, Parks, Mitchell, and

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Simmons and stated that the one he had observed was either Franklin or Simmons. Van Alst stated that he would testify to the above facts in court as he wanted to see justice done.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:rz

cc:GHQ

Colonel Carter

Warden Nash ✓

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 24, 1964

Subject: Stabbing of colored men - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the morning of September 21, 1964, the undersigned officer contacted Warden E. V. Nash at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri, as per your instructions. Warden Nash stated that the Cole County Prosecuting Attorney and the prison authorities felt that an outside agency should interrogate the subjects and witnesses involved in the stabbing incidents which occurred at the prison on June 8, 1964. Nash indicated that most of these inmates had been interrogated previously by prison officials and that numerous stories had been told.

2. Warden Nash indicated that several inmates claimed to have been witnesses to the stabbings and he furnished the names of eight inmates. He further indicated that information received by the prison authorities indicated that the subjects responsible for the stabbings were Richard Laws #03230, Robert E. Burns #75811, William H. Burke #07738, Chester Lee Eley #00846, Donald Russmeyer #71843, and Walter Douglas #02141.

3. On the morning of September 22, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Leslie Allen Achter #75595 in the office of Major Poiry at the prison. Achter is a white male subject from Charleston, Missouri. He is presently serving a ten year sentence from Mississippi County for assault with intent to do bodily harm with a deadly weapon. He entered the prison on this sentence June, 1959. He previously served a four year term in the prison for burglary and larceny from Mississippi County starting in August, 1955. Achter stated he has no education and was unable to read or write. In interviewing Achter he appeared to be above normal in his thinking and memory and was able to describe in detail the actions he had witnessed on the evening of June 8, 1964. Achter stated that the information he furnished was true and correct to the best of his knowledge and that he was willing to testify in court.

4. Achter gave the following account of occurrences on the evening of June 8, 1964:

"On the evening of June 8, 1964, about 5:15 p.m., I left F Hall where I cell in 127. I went to the ball fields to #3 diamond. I saw Bobby Griffin go to the recreation equipment check out room where he rolled up a bunch of knives in some old underwear and put them under his arm. He got the knives from Suckank and Harry Conns.

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Sushank passed the knives out of the window. Griffin went back to the #1 diamond where he passed the knives out to Tony Eno, Billy Burke, Chester Eley, Billy Hicks, Rex Feck, Lloyd Katcher-side, and Douglas. Bussmeyer was coaching first base and when his team came in to bat he walked over to the check out room and Sushank gave him his knife. It was wrapped up in a dirty rag. He stuck it inside of his jacket and walked back to his team and started coaching first base. A foul tip was hit and it rolled toward Bussmeyer and the wall. He kicked the ball so that it bounced from the wall into his hands, as he could not bend over to pick up the ball on account of the knife stuck inside of his jacket and pants. At that time I saw the middle part of the knife when his jacket gapped opened. About 6:20 p.m. I left and went to #3 diamond to meet my buddy, Billy Joe Davis, and give him some instant coffee.

"While I was talking to Davis and Harold Enloe, Bussmeyer and Douglas came around the back stop and Bussmeyer said, 'Let's see if the god damn warden will put this in the paper', and he named some St. Louis newspaper. Bussmeyer and Douglas took off and left the line and went across the yard to the tunnel opening at the control center. When Davis, Joker Jones, and I went through the tunnel and turned the corner we saw Douglas and Bussmeyer standing with their backs to us and both tying handkerchiefs around their necks. When they turned around facing us they pulled the handkerchiefs up to their eyes. This happened near the door of what used to be the old hobby shop and is now the Protestant Chapel. This was out in the tunnel. Douglas said, 'Hold the line up', but everybody kept coming. He was holding a knife in his left hand about chest high. The knife was about nine inches long, was sharp on each edge, and had a blunt point. I would know the knife if I could see it again. Bussmeyer reached down and picked up a knife with his left hand and turned around facing us and said, 'This is no joke, hold this line up'. This knife had a blunt point with a hole in the center of the blade at the point. It was about two inches wide and eighteen to twenty-four inches long, not counting the handle. It looked like a sword or a corn knife. We all lined up along the outside wall of the tunnel. Davis was right behind me and Joker Jones was behind him and he was yelling, 'Give me room' and shoving around. He shoved Davis and I out of the line and Bussmeyer said, 'Make two lines', so I stepped over and they started making the other line behind me. Bussmeyer had the long knife right in my face. He said, 'O.K., bud, hold it right there and you won't get hurt'. When we formed two lines Bussmeyer said, 'All right, bring them on'. The play started at the back of the line. This one colored fellow ran all the way to the front of the line to about even with the chapel door where he was tripped up by Chester Eley. He flipped as he fell and while he was down Douglas stabbed

September 24, 1964

Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

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at his chest. Bussmeyer said, 'Let me have him', and he kicked his head back and stuck the long knife in the pit of the colored man's stomach, right below his ribs. The colored man was yelling and screaming. When Bussmeyer still had the knife in the colored man's stomach the fellow tried to jerk the mask down and Bussmeyer turned to hide his face. Bussmeyer went on down the tunnel and dumped the knife either in the rest room or the shower and threw his cap in a barrel. The colored man ran out of the tunnel near the control center and fell in the yard at the front of the A Hall where he died. Some of the colored boys that got out called in F Hall and had been there a week or a week and a half. I think this whole thing happened because of race hate."

5. After giving the above information to the undersigned officer, Achter again stated he would testify to these facts of his own free will.

6. As other witnesses in the stabbing incidents are interviewed, information furnished by them will be forwarded in report form.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:re

cc:CHQ

Colonel Carter

Warden Nash ✓

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

October 2, 1964

C

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

O

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

P

1. On the morning of October 2, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Lee Andrew Holt, #07733, an inmate of the Missouri State Prison. The interview was held in the day room at the Church Farm. Holt is a white male, age 42, from St. Louis, Missouri. He is presently serving a three year sentence for burglary from St. Louis City and was admitted to the prison on December 6, 1963. He previously served a seven year sentence for armed robbery and stealing from St. Louis City and was released in March of 1963. Holt has a sixth grade education.

Y

2. Holt gave the following account of occurrences at the prison on the evening of June 8, 1964:

"On Monday evening, June 8, 1964, we had been down in the yard and was going back to F and G halls through the tunnel. I had gone around the corner of the tunnel toward F Hall. Someone yelled "Hold it" and I stopped and looked up and there stood two guys with hoods on and they had clubs. Then I heard this noise behind me and I turned and looked toward the corner. I saw Jerry Barker beating this colored boy. Barker was not wearing a hood or a mask. I saw Bill Burke hit the colored boy with a knife several times. He stuck him in the back 3 or 4 times and then in the front. Burke had a towel or rag over his head but it slipped off while he was cutting and I saw him. I also saw Chester Eley with a mask on and a knife in his hand but I did not see him cut anyone. Burke had a homemade knife about 12 inches long. Eley had a knife that looked like a sword. The colored man broke away and came right by me. He had bloody holes in his back and front. I did not know him but he was an older fellow and had gray in his hair. He ran past me and saw the two men with hoods on that had stopped the line ahead of him so he turned around and came back by me, running and yelling and went around the corner going toward the control center opening. The two guys up front took their hoods off and faded into the crowd. Burke and Eley faded into the crowd and walked toward F and G halls."

3. Holt stated that he would testify in court to the above facts but did not want to do so while he was still an inmate at the prison.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:psc

cc:(27) - Colonel Carter - Warden Nash - Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

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MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 28, 1964

C

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

O

1. On the afternoon of September 28, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Robert William Mitchell #00844, an inmate of the Missouri State Prison. Mitchell is a negro male, age 29, from St. Louis, Missouri. Mitchell entered the prison June 2, 1960, to serve an eight year term for rape and burglary from St. Louis City. He previously served two years in 1958 at Alcazar for armed robbery from St. Louis City. Mitchell has an eleventh grade education. The interview was held in the prison office of Major Peiry.

P

2. Mitchell gave the following account of happenings at the prison on June 8, 1964:

Y

"On Monday evening about 6:45, June 8, 1964, I had been down at the ball game and when we came back from the yard I walked and talked part of the way with Bussemeyer. We talked about the ball game that his team, the Playboys, lost to Ellick Steidham's Star Dusters. When we entered the tunnel I slowed down to wait for Banks, who had stopped at the Commissary. Bussemeyer went on ahead. Banks came out and we started on through the tunnel toward the hobby shop. When we got down close to the chapel door Simmons came running from around the corner and ran past us going toward A Hall. He was yelling, 'Oh Jesus, Oh Jesus'. He was bleeding from the chest and down the front. I did not see anyone hit him. Franklin then came running from around the corner holding his chest with both hands. He was bleeding from the chest. He also went past us coming toward A Hall. Then these fellows with hoods over their heads came around the corner facing us. They all had knives and several of them jumped on me. I got stuck in the upper right arm, the right side, and in the stomach. In the bunch that jumped on me, I recognized Billy Burke and Chester Eley. I recognized Burke from his build and Eley I knew by his shoes. I knew the shoes because I had repaired them in the shoe shop. Both of them had bloody knives in their hands and hoods on their heads. After that I held onto the railing in the tunnel and did not see any more of the action. Parks and Banks brought me out of the tunnel".

3. Mitchell looked at several photographs and readily identified the photographs

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of Burke and Eley. He stated that he was due to be discharged from the prison in November or December, 1964, and would be willing to testify in court if he is out, but would be afraid to testify if he was still an inmate. He stated that his mother, Flora Mitchell, lives at 1709a North Union Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, and he could be reached through her.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:rz

cc:GEE

Colonel Carter

Warden Nash

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 28, 1964

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the afternoon of September 25, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Howard Lawrence Ramsey #08415, an inmate of the Missouri State Prison. Ramsey is a white male, age 34, from St. Louis, Missouri. He is presently serving an eight year sentence for robbery from St. Louis and came to the penitentiary in April, 1964. He has previously served three years at the Training School in Boonville for stealing from St. Francois County in 1944, two years in Alcoa for escape from St. Louis County in 1946, thirty months in Terre Haute, Indiana (Federal) for the Dyer Act in 1951, two years at the Missouri State Penitentiary for burglary from St. Louis County in 1954, thirty months in Leavenworth, Kansas (Federal) for the Dyer Act in 1959, thirty months in Leavenworth, Kansas (Federal) for escape in 1960. The subject received his high school certificate while in prison in Leavenworth, Kansas. The interview took place in the prison office of Major Pairy.

2. Ramsey gave the following account of happenings at the prison on the evening of June 8, 1964:

"I was down at the recreation yard on Monday evening about 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. and I saw Law and Billy Burke go to the check out room where Sushank handed them a bunch of knives out of the back door. The knives were not wrapped up and I got a good look, as I was only about eight or ten steps away. They stuck them under their belts under their shirts and walked down to the ball diamond. I saw Burke give Bussmeyer a big knife that looked like a corn knife. Bussmeyer stuck the knife down the front of his shirt and pants. Bussmeyer was coaching the Playboys ball team. I left the yard and went to the greasy line and ate supper. When I finished eating I went on up to the tunnel and was standing inside the tunnel talking to Eaton. While I was there along came Bussmeyer, Law, Billy Burke, and two others that I did not know. They were at the front of the line. They went on down the tunnel and around the corner out of sight. The rest of the group started coming in and going down the tunnel. Most of them stayed along the left side of the tunnel in two lines. I heard screaming down at the corner of the tunnel and I looked down there and saw two guys with masks or hoods on their heads. They were cutting and stabbing at the colored fellows. I did not know any of the colored men. I saw Bussmeyer draw back and lunge at a colored boy and grab him and then he hit him with that big knife. It looked like he stuck him in the back. The colored man would take a couple

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of steps and fall then get up and make a couple of more steps and fall. He was coming back toward the tunnel opening. Bussmeyer threw the knife out of the window of the tunnel and ran around the corner toward the hobby shop. Bussmeyer was unmasked. I left the tunnel and went to B-20 where I called with Sushank".

3. Ramsey told the undersigned officer that on the following Saturday he was with a group of inmates when Bussmeyer told them that he used the long knife and ran it clear through a colored man. Ramsey further stated that he would testify in court but that he feared for his own life and if he had to testify, he did not want to stay in the "joint". He indicated he would like to transfer to Moberly.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:rz

cc:GM

Colonel Carter

Warden Nash

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 28, 1964

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the morning of September 25, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Robert Charles Banks #00037. Banks is a negro male, age 24, whose home is Slater, Missouri. He was admitted to the penitentiary January 12, 1960, to serve a term of fifteen years for second degree murder from Saline County. In 1958 he served a two year term in the Alcoa Intermediate Reformatory for stealing also from Saline County, Missouri. Banks has completed the eleventh grade and is able to read and write. This interview took place in the prison office of Major Foisy.

2. Banks gave the following account of activities at the State Prison on the evening of June 8, 1964:

"About 6:40 or 6:45 p.m., Monday night, June 8, 1964, we were walking back up to the tunnel opening at the control center. We were coming back from the recreation area. I saw Bobby Burns setting on a keg near the tunnel opening at the control center gate. I was walking along the right side of the tunnel toward F and G Hall. Mitchell, Parks, and I was going to the hobby shop. I was on the right and Parks was about even with me on my left, and Mitchell was about four or five steps behind us. Simmons was going along the left side of the tunnel, about twenty or twenty-five feet behind us. About this time two white guys came from the direction of F and G Hall and rounded the corner facing us. They both had white cloth hoods over their heads and faces. I did not know them. One had two holes for eyes and one had one hole. Both had knives and they were yelling and slashing at inmates, but I did not see them hit anyone. Inmates were running every direction. Someone back toward the tunnel opening yelled, 'I'm going to kill all of you'. I turned and looked back toward the opening. I saw Parks grab his back and right side and I saw Douglas backing away from Parks. He had a bloody knife in his right hand. I thought Parks was struck twice as he was holding his back with both hands. Parks started swinging. I ran between him and Billy Burke. Burke did not have a mark on him but he had a knife that was long and looked like a butcher knife in his right hand. He drew the knife back and took three or four steps toward me and stopped. He looked surprised. Then a guy with a rag over his face grabbed

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me with his left hand and he drew back a knife with his right. I threwed up my hand and knocked the knife away. I also knocked his head and mask back and saw that his upper front teeth were missing. He was blond headed. I don't know this fellow's name, but I see him in the yard occasionally. Before I started running I saw Simmons. He hollered, 'Oh my lord', or 'Oh my god'. He was running toward the tunnel opening. Burke was slashing at Simmons' back with a bloody knife. I saw Chester Eley swinging a bloody knife but I did not see him cut anybody. He was over close to Simmons and Burke. Eley has a habit of wearing a handkerchief around his neck. He had it pulled up into a mask when I saw him with the knife. I knew him by his eyes and hair. Everybody took off running. I came back toward the tunnel opening and helped Mitchell through the control center gate and on to the hospital. I recognized Eley, Douglas, and Burke and could point out the fellow with no front teeth. I do not know who the other two fellows was".

3. Banks stated that the above information was true to the best of his knowledge and that he would testify in court.

C. C. Maddox, Sergeant

CCM:rz

cc:GRR

Colonel Carter

Warden Nash

Prosecuting Attorney, Cole County

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri

September 25, 1964

C

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P

Y

Subject: Stabbing of colored man - June 8, 1964 - Missouri State Prison

To : Commanding Officer, Troop F
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jefferson City, Missouri

1. On the afternoon of September 24, 1964, the undersigned officer interviewed Joe Henry Brunner #08234, an inmate of the Missouri State Prison. The interview was held in the prison office of Major Poiry. Brunner is a white male subject, age 28, from Sioux City, Iowa. He was sentenced to the Missouri State Prison on May, 1959, for a seven year term for burglary and larceny from St. Joseph, Missouri. He was sentenced again in 1964, two years, for escape from Cole County, Missouri. He has other convictions as follows: in 1953 a one year sentence for burglary in the State of Oregon, in 1954 a three year sentence for burglary in the State of Texas, in 1957 a two year sentence for strong arm robbery in the State of Oklahoma. Brunner has a sixth grade education.

2. Brunner gave the following account of his activities and observances on the evening of June 8, 1964:

"At 6:35 p.m., June 8, 1964, Monday evening, we were moving through the tunnel toward F and G Hall coming from the ball field. I was back about mid-way of the group which was in two lines with a few walking in the middle. When I got around the corner, almost to the chapel door, I saw Chester Eley drop out of the line and stand up against the rail. About that time he pulled a pillow case mask with holes for eyes down over his face. I think he took it out of his shirt. He had a knife in his right hand and he yelled, 'Let's get these niggers'. Nothing started until he yelled. This colored boy had just passed Eley and he turned to run back toward the control center. As he got within reach, Eley stuck him in the lower right part of his back about belt high. He missed him the second swipe and cut his shirt. The colored boy ran on toward the corner and fell to the floor on his hands and knees. Eley tried to cut him again but the colored boy got away and ran toward the tunnel opening. Another colored man came running and screaming from F and G Hall down the tunnel toward the control tower and Eley took a swipe at him and missed. Eley had a knife about fourteen inches long with a slender blade. He threw the knife into the shower room just off of the tunnel. About the same time I saw Bruke throw a smaller knife with blood on it in the shower room. I did not know either of the colored boys".

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