

KC 44-760

RBA:bjc

1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent ROWEN B. AYERS, on May 15, 1968:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

It was determined that telephone number 636-8510 is the residence of Mr. CARL MILLS, Foreman, Renz Farm, Missouri Department of Corrections.

Mr. MILLS advised Deputy Warden JESS ELLIOTT he recalled the telephone call last fall from TOM BRITTON, a former inmate at the farm who had become friendly with the family. He said this call was in the nature of a "hello" message to see how the MILLS were. He also said he had received a letter from TOM BRITTON which he furnished. This letter was from Rural Route #5, Box 34, Jasper, Alabama and dated July 8, 1967 and was personal in nature and had no information pertinent to this case. It is being retained. Mr. MILLS did not know JAMES EARL RAY.

Photograph and background data regarding JAMES DUANE WRAY were obtained. Background data sheet regarding EVAN DALE UNDERWOOD, #12927 reflects:

KITTY UNDERWOOD	301 School Street, Sikeston, Missouri
ETHEL UNDERWOOD	200 South Frederick, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
PAUL SCOWDEN	Rural Route, Box 126, Waterloo, Illinois
DARRELL UNDERWOOD	200 South Frederick, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

A detainer in favor of the Sheriff's Office of Greene County, Missouri at Springfield was filed June 2, 1967. There is no indication whether UNDERWOOD was released to the detainer. His emergency address was Mrs. KITTY UNDERWOOD, 857 Bingham, Memphis, Tennessee, (which has proven to be a non-existent address). UNDERWOOD was received November 15, 1966 and discharged September 22, 1967. His FBI# 784454C.

44-760-984

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 23 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

200 South Frederick,
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Rural Route, Box 126,
Waterloo, Illinois

200 South Frederick,
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

301 School Street,
Sikeston, Missouri

DARRELL UNDERWOOD

PAUL SCOWLEN

ETHEL UNDERWOOD

KITTY UNDERWOOD

regarding EVAN DALE UNDERWOOD, #1237 reflect:
JAMES DUANE WRAY were obtained. Background data sheet
Photograph and background data regarding

being retained. Mr. Mills did not know JAMES EARL RAY,
and had no information pertinent to this case. It is
Alabama and dated July 8, 1967, and was personal in nature.
This letter was from Rural Route #5, Box 24, Jasper,
received a letter from TOM BRITTON which he furnished.
message to see how the MILLS were. He also said he had
the family. He said this call was in the nature of a "hello"
a former inmate at the farm who had become friendly with
he recalled the telephone call last fall from TOM BRITTON.
Mr. MILLS advised Deputy Warden JESSE ELLIOTT

Kenn Farm, Missouri Department of Corrections.
638-8510 is the residence of Mr. EARL MILLS, Foreman,
It was determined that telephone number

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

Special Agent ROWEN R. AYERS, on May 15, 1968:
The following investigation was conducted by

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RBA:djc
KC 44-760

KC 44-760

2

Mr. DANTON STEELE, Captain of the Guards, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he has been employed "inside the walls" at the penitentiary for 13 years. He said he could not recall VELANTI. He said he knew JAMES EARL RAY, and knew of no relationship between RAY and VELANTI. He said he did not know of any COOLEY organization or similar. He said there are countless small cliques of inmates who have various "rackets" going and cigarettes have always been used as a medium of exchange, in lieu of money, which is not allowed inside the walls. He said RAY is not the type of person who would have killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, and he was not a "leader" of any type in the penitentiary. His claim to fame was his various attempts, finally successful, to escape. He said RAY was never a "walk boy" in J Hall or any other hall. He said the best he could recall was that he either was a maximum security or assigned to food services all the time he was in.

Mr. STEELE said he also has been told the name of the inmate who aided RAY in escaping by putting bread over him in the "bread box". However, he was unable to recall it. He said "it would come to him", and he would immediately advise.

Mr. J. RAYMOND BILLS, Board of Pardons and Paroles, said that MARVIN D. JANSEN, #56900 was arrested February 19, 1968 at Wyandotte, Kansas and bond was set at \$2,500.00. At that time he was living at 9305 State Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas.

ERNEST BAGBY, #31013, B-9, serving double life for murder from Moberly, Missouri, said he came to the penitentiary in 1926 and was released the same year on a seven months to one year sentence. He was returned, on his present sentence, in 1927; paroled October 12, 1944; back on parole violation in 1947. Paroled on November 13, 1956 and returned on February 18, 1957. He said he has been mattress inmate foreman, but is now working as hall tender. He said JOHNNY VELANTI worked under him. He said RAY never did. He knew RAY on sight, but never associated with him and he never saw VELANTI with RAY and knew of no relationship between them.

KC 44-760

3

BAGBY said he has known almost all the Negroes who have been in the penitentiary the past forty years and has associated closely with them. He said he could recall of two incidents involving racial conflict. One was when some Negroes were sent to F Hall to live a few years ago and some of the white inmates assaulted them in a tunnel, killing one. He said the other was when several Negroes started dropping in on the T.V. room where white prisoners were accustomed to gather and a fight started. He said RAY was not involved in either instance and he never heard of any of the Negro inmates making any comments about RAY except, since the murder of Doctor KING to remark they hoped he was caught. He also said he has never heard of any COOLEY organization or similar, and knew of no lotteries as such. He said inmates make bets using cigarettes to pay off. He said these bets usually involve athletic contests.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Albany

DATE: May 20, 1968

JS
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MURKIN
PUBLICITY ON REWARDS OFFERED

Each Special Agent in Charge and Legal Attache is instructed to promptly remind their established cooperative news sources, in a discreet and tactful manner, of the existence of substantial reward money for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King. This money now totals at least \$100,000. The FBI should not, however, be publicized as the source of this reminder.

done
5/23/68
157

While the Bureau's continuing policy is to encourage the public to furnish information to law enforcement authorities as a matter of good citizenship, without expectation of financial reward, it is fully recognized that monetary rewards are often necessary to motivate some individuals. The knowledge of the existence of the substantial rewards available in the Murkin case could possibly prove of value in the solution of this major investigation.

1 - Copies to all Special Agents in Charge and Legats

44-760-985

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1968	
FBI — KANSAS CITY	

Howe *RAH*



5010-108

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

5/22/68

Airtel

To: SACs, Buffalo
Chicago (44-1114)
Kansas City (44-760)
Sacramento

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Subject Ray, under the name of Eric S. Galt, enrolled in a correspondence locksmithing course in July, 1967, and continued correspondence in such course until the end of March, 1968. In view of subject's interest in such training and in view of his background, it is felt that he might endeavor to continue such training through correspondence courses. For your information only, the course in which subject was enrolled was conducted by the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey.

It has been determined that correspondence courses in locksmithing are offered by the following:

KC [Deane Institute
315 Westport Road
Kansas City, Missouri]

Nelson-Hall
325 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

Lockmasters
88 Round Trail Drive
Pittsford, New York

1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

44-760-986

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 24 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Horne RBH

Airtel to SACs, BU, CG, KC, SC
RE: MURKIN

The records of the above named should be reviewed for any applications submitted on or after 4/1/68. The original application or a photographic copy thereof should be submitted to the Bureau for appropriate handwriting and/or typewriting examinations.

In addition, information has been received that a course in locksmithing is offered by the Universal School of Master Locksmithing, 1974 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, California, (P. O. Box 4868). It is reported that this school requires their students to be in residence at the school and does not offer any correspondence courses. Sacramento Office should contact the school and ascertain if correspondence courses are offered. If such are offered, appropriate check should be made of applications received on or after 4/1/68. If correspondence courses are not offered, a check should be made regarding those individuals who are in residence to determine whether or not subject is among such group.

F B I

Date: 5-23-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) P

RE: MURKIN

REBUAIRTEL, 5-16-68, concerning allegation by JOHN EUGENE GAWRON that subject and an unnamed man robbed bank June - July, 1967.

On re-interview late 5-22-68, GAWRON revealed location of bank as Alton, Ill., and identity of unnamed man who robbed same with subject as JIMMIE (LNU). Stated he was visited by JIMMIE nights of 5-13 and 5-14-68.

One JAMES H. CARPENTER, FBI # 230 243 is known to have visited GAWRON on those dates with another individual.

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Chicago (Info)
- 1 - Detroit (Info)
- 1 - Indianapolis (Info)
- 1 - Jackson (Info)
- 1 - Kansas City (Info)
- 1 - Knoxville (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (Info)
- 1 - Milwaukee (Info)
- 1 - Minneapolis (Info)
- 1 - New Orleans (Info)
- 1 - Omaha (Info)
- 1 - Little Rock (Info)
- 1 - Springfield (Info)

HRD:wma
(16)

44-760-987

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 27 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

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

SL: 42-775

SL files disclose BANK OF ALTON, Alton, Ill., was robbed by two unknown subjects on 7-13-67 (Bufile 91-27494) (SIfile 91-3699) (SLfile 91-3877). Description of number two man could fit RAY. Number ~~two~~ man description does not fit CARPENTER, who is 5'8", 140 #, slender build.

St. Louis City Jail records establish ed CARPENTER was in City Jail from 6-5-67 to 3-1-68, and therefore could not have participated in the Alton BR, or met GAWRON during 1967 as alleged.

In view of foregoing, GAWRON is being considered as being of known unreliability.

Subject should STILL be considered as a possible suspect in all unsolved bank and other robberies subsequent to 4-23-67.

Subject A & D.

F B I

Date: 5/23/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) & (26-43489) P

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

UNSUB;
1968 DODGE
VIN LH41D8B323249
1968 GEORGIA LICENSE 1D48283
ITSMV
(OO: ST. LOUIS)

Re St. Louis airtel to Bureau, 5/20/68, under MURKIN caption.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one National Car Rental Agreement # 7044348, signed S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN, dated 4/2/68.

For information of San Francisco, Jacksonville, and Knoxville, captioned 1968 Dodge located abandoned Lambert-St. Louis Municipal Airport, St. Louis, Missouri, on 5/16/68. Captioned Dodge rented in Atlanta on stolen credit cards on 4/2/68, in name of SAMUEL SCHNEIDERMAN, 6535 Noad Road, Richmond, Illinois, which credit cards were taken in an armed robbery in Kansas City, Missouri. Captioned car rented and located during pertinent period of time re investigation re MURKIN, and leads being logically pursued in an attempt to eliminate or identify renter with JAMES EARL RAY.

3-Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM) ①-Kansas City (Info) RM
1-Chicago (Info) RM 3-St. Louis (44-775) (26-32047) RM
1-Memphis RM 2-San Francisco RM
4-Atlanta RM 2-Jacksonville RM
(2-44-2386) (2-26-43489) 2-Knoxville RM
JBR:mcc
(19)

44-260-988

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 27 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

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

AT 44-2386
26-43489

MARGIE CURTIS, 1838 Dunlap Avenue, East Point, Georgia, employed by National Car Rental, Atlanta, Georgia, advised on 5/17/68, she was the individual who rented the 1968 Dodge Dart to S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN on 4/2/68. She described SCHNEIDERMAN as being in his late 30s or early 40s, approximately 5' 7' 8" tall, of small build, weighing approximately 140-145, with dark hair, possibly black. She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and stated from her recollection, did not believe RAY identical to SCHNEIDERMAN, however, photograph of RAY, particularly the hair, did resemble SCHNEIDERMAN.

SCHNEIDERMAN appeared at the National Car Rental Office at the Atlanta Airport at approximately 9:42 am, wearing a business suit and presented 3 Millionaire Club credit cards, 2 in plastic covering, and 1 plain paper card, all in the name of S. SCHNEIDERMAN. She could not recall if SCHNEIDERMAN had luggage, and stated she was sure that he was not accompanied by anyone. She stated she obtained the DL # from SCHNEIDERMAN's Illinois DL, and also listed the Holiday Inn at the Atlanta Airport as SCHNEIDERMAN's place of contact.

DAVE ROGERS, National Car Rental, Atlanta, Georgia Airport, produced National Car Rental System Rental Agreement # 7044348 for this company, Station 070-2, dated 4/2/68, at 9:42 am, indicating one S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN rented car # 701371 with Georgia license 1D98283, which is a Dodge Dart, which rental agreement reflects an address of 6535 North Richmond, Illinois. Also listed on this agreement, DL [REDACTED] from the state of Illinois. The agreement reflects the car will be returned on 5/1/68, and indicates a credit card was used from the Millionaire Club National Limited, Chicago, Illinois, # 96968.

ROGERS stated that a 20% cash discount was given to SCHNEIDERMAN and stated that according to records of this office, their vehicle 701371 is a 1968 Dodge Dart, VIN LH41D8B323249, bearing 1968 Georgia license 1D48283.

ROGERS stated that SCHNEIDERMAN apparently, after obtaining this automobile, later went to the Tallahassee, Florida area, and was staying at the Holiday Inn in Tallahassee, inasmuch as he, ROGERS, had received an inquiry from a Lt. DAVIS of the Tallahassee, Florida PD, who was checking on SCHNEIDERMAN through the Georgia license plate on his car. ROGERS also stated that he later received information that SCHNEIDERMAN was locked out of his room by the Holiday Inn # 2, Knoxville, Tennessee.

AT 44-2386
26-43489

Mrs. PEARL JOHNSON, Bookkeeper, Holiday Inn, Atlanta, Georgia Airport, advised that records of her office failed to reflect a S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN registered in this motel during the later part of March, or later part of April, 1968. Mrs. JOHNSON advised that records of this motel reflect that a guest register card # 44179, in the name of S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN, 2493 Airport Boulevard, San Francisco, California, representing the Equipment Engineering Company, stayed in Room 284 of this motel on 4/28-30/68. SCHNEIDERMAN left owing a bill of \$32.61. Mrs. JOHNSON stated that her records also reflect a check was cashed by this motel in the amount of \$25, signed S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN, dated 4/29/68, check # 134, made out to the Holiday Inn, and drawn on the Portola District Branch of the Bank of America, San Francisco, California, 2485 San Bruno Avenue. This check bears the written notation, "Ill. # [REDACTED] #284, and also EAL # 0-350-868M." She indicated the Illinois # was a DL # for the guest in Room 284, however, she could not explain what the other # was, and stated EAL could be Eastern Airlines.

Mrs. JOHNSON advised that letters were directed to SCHNEIDERMAN at the 2493 Airport Boulevard, San Francisco, California address, which letters were returned and the check was returned from the bank stamped "not sufficient funds".

LEADS:

BUREAU

The Bureau is requested to compare the enclosed evidence and handwriting with the handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY. Will return evidence to Atlanta Division upon completion of examination. Will furnish the Memphis, Atlanta, and St. Louis Offices with results of examination.

SAN FRANCISCO

AT BANK OF AMERICA, PORTOLA BRANCH

Conduct appropriate investigation re checks in name of S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN.

KNOXVILLE,

AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Conduct appropriate investigation at Holiday Inn # 2, re S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN being locked out of his room. Will ascertain if any personal effects of SCHNEIDERMAN obtained by motel, and thereafter check these effects, in addition to identify unsub.

AT 44-2386
26-43489

LEADS: (cont)

JACKSONVILLE

AT TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Contact Lt. DAVIS and Holiday Inn re S. M. SCHNEIDERMAN.

CHICAGO & KANSAS CITY

Information copies directed to these offices in view of outstanding investigation being conducted.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

5/23/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM NEWARK (44-254) (P)

MURKIN:

RE BUREAU TEL TO BIRMINGHAM, FIVE TWENTY-TWO LAST.

CONTACT WITH LOCKSMITHING INSTITUTE (PROTECT) REVEALED
THAT RECORDS CONTAIN NO INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT'S
METHOD OF INITIAL CONTACT. ALTHOUGH THE RECORDS CONTAINED THE
ENVELOPE IN WHICH APPLICATION WAS FIRST SUBMITTED, THERE
WAS NO FURTHER NOTATION AS TO WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED
THEIR AD.

NEWARK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, APRIL FIFTEEN LAST LISTS
THE VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS USED TO ADVERTISE.

MAIL COPIES TO BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY AND
LOS ANGELES, AND MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

1-Memphis (Mail)
1-Birmingham (mail)
1-Chicago (Mail)
1-Kansas City (Mail)
1-Los Angeles (Mail)
HNR/maj
(6)

44-760-989

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 27 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe RMA

F B I

Date: 5/27/68

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

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN

DAILY SUMMARY

MARIAN JANSEN, FORMER MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP) INMATE, INDICTED FOR POSSESSION ILLEGAL DRUGS ON MAY TWENTY-FOUR, LAST, AT KANSAS CITY, COULD FURNISH NO PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT.

A. C. JOHNSON, PAINT CONTRACTOR, MANHATTAN, KS., ASSIGNED TELEPHONE NO. NINE ONE THREE FIVE THREE NINE FOUR THREE ZERO ZERO, ADVISED CALLER FROM TEXAS UNEMPLOYED PAINTER.

MSP INMATES DO NOT REMEMBER RAY OWNING TRANSISTOR RADIO.

MSP COMMISSARY SOLD CHANNEL MASTER TRANSISTOR RADIOS, MODEL SIX FIVE ZERO TWO, FOR NINE DOLLARS SEVENTYFIVE CENTS DURING SIXTYSEVEN. SUBJECT BOUGHT A RADIO AT THE COMMISSARY ON APR. TWENTYONE, SIXTYSEVEN, COSTING NINE DOLLARS SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS. THIS IS REFLECTED ON RAY'S FINANCIAL RECORDS.

RAY ESCAPED APR. 23, 1967.
WHEN RADIOS BOUGHT, THE INMATE'S NUMBER IS ETCHED ON IT.

ETCHING TOOL BEING OBTAINED. COMMISSARY CLOSED THIS DATE.

gah - KANSAS CITY
RBH:gah(1)

Approved: W
Special Agent in Charge

Sent WA 635
ME 651 P M Per WBS

44-760-990

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

COMPLETE DETAILS FROM RECORDS WILL BE OBTAINED WHEN COMMISSARY
REOPENS MAY TWENTYEIGHT, NEXT.

LOCAL LEADS CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. (P)

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE PORTLAND	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/23/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/4/68 - 5/13/68
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY RONALD E. SHERK	TYPED BY abk
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE: Memphis letter to Bureau and Portland, 5/20/68

-P-

ADMINISTRATIVE

Two copies of this report are furnished to the Bureau and three copies to Memphis, in accordance with current instructions in Civil Rights cases. Two copies are furnished to Kansas City.

However, the extra copies of the inserts will be retained by Portland for 30 days, should the Bureau or Memphis request additional copies of this report.

No copies are furnished to other offices since all possible leads have been set out in full by appropriate

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED NONE						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED COPIES MADE: 2-Bureau (44-38861) (AM) 2-Kansas City (44-760) (AM) 3-Memphis (44-1987) (AM) 2-Portland (157-380)						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
						44-760-991	
						SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED MAY 27 1968 FBI - KANSAS CITY	
						Howe RPA	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency							
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

PD 157-380

communication on date of receipt.

LEAD

PORTLAND

AT PORTLAND, OREGON. Continue logical investigation
in this case.

-B*-
COVER PAGE

PD 157-380

ME 44-1987

RES:lbt

1

ADMINISTRATIVE

CONTACTS WITH INFORMANTS

All symbol number criminal informants, all potential criminal informants, and appropriate security and racial informants and sources of the Portland Division have been contacted three times since April 4, 1968.

The first time was immediately after April 4, 1968, when only the name "LOWMEYER" was known. The second time was after arrival of the photographs of "ERIC STARVO GALT" taken at the bartender school in California in 1968. The third time was after identification of "GALT" as JAMES EARL RAY and the arrival of additional photographs of RAY.

All contacts with informants were completely negative as to identification of photographs or any knowledge of the name and all known aliases of JAMES EARL RAY.

Number of criminal informants and potential criminal informants contacted was 124. Number of security and racial sources contacted was 15.

-C*-
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: RONALD E. SHERK
Date: 5/23/68

Office: Portland, Oregon

Field Office File #: 157-380

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
Murder of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING,
April 4, 1968

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO
AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: Investigation to identify person or persons responsible for murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, 4/4/68; or to locate and apprehend JAMES EARL RAY, negative to date, State of Oregon. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

DETAILS:

AT PORTLAND, OREGON, AND THROUGHOUT STATE OF OREGON

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987
RES:jms
1

ERNEST EMIL JOSELLIS - SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

JOSELLIS shot himself, not seriously, on the early morning of April 16, 1968 while seated in his car in the southeast section of Portland. He claimed to Portland Police officers that he had been shot by "Communists" and to have been sent to the United States from East Germany by "Communists" to murder Negro civil rights leaders.

JOSELLIS, who is Portland Police Number 50226-M, was recently released from Dammasch State Mental Hospital, Wilsonville, Oregon, after voluntary commitment and is considered psychotic and dangerous.

Investigation at his place of employment shows he was working the graveyard shift at Columbia Steel and Casting Company from 11:30 p.m., March 30, 1967 to 6:00 a.m., March 31, 1968. He quit his employment at Columbia Steel and Casting Company at noon, April 2, 1968.

His ex-wife, LUCILLE MARCONI, stated to Special Agent RONALD E. SHERK on April 17, 1968, that JOSELLIS has telephoned her or seen her nearly every day since April 2, 1968 and was never out of Portland, Oregon, during April, 1968.

JOSELLIS was under sedation and could not be interviewed April 17, 1968, but Special Agent RONALD E. SHERK observed him in the Portland Sanitarium Hospital, Portland, Oregon. He has a pug nose, very long wavy blond hair, and facial characteristics entirely dissimilar from those of JAMES EARL RAY.

JOSELLIS is considered positively eliminated as a suspect in this case.

PD 157-183

~~ME~~ 44-1987

RES:jms

1

RUTH E. GALT and LOWELL T. GALT - SUSPECTS - ELIMINATED

On April 12, 1968, Mrs. MARITA BUTLER, First National Bank of Oregon, Tillamook Branch, Tillamook, Oregon, telephoned Special Agent in Charge W. B. SOYARS, JR., Portland FBI Office, in response to Portland circular letters to all financial institutions concerning ERIC STARVO GALT. She stated that one RUTH E. GALT had on April 3, 1968, opened a checking account giving the address "house on hill", Oceanside, Oregon. This is a motel.

Subsequently, on the same day, Mrs. BUTLER called again stating that additional checking had been done by the bank and that RUTH E. GALT was married to LOWELL T. GALT who had been employed for 20 years by the U. S. Census Bureau.

In view of the fact that the name GALT has been determined to be an alias of JAMES EARL RAY, no further action will be taken concerning this lead.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987
RES:jms
1

ERICK GAULT - SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY GEORGE F. WICK, PORTLAND, OREGON

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

On March 19, 1968 at about 6:00 p.m., GEORGE F. WICK, a new car salesman for Fred Bauer Chevrolet Company, 1850 N. Lombard Street, Portland, Oregon, telephoned Special Agent in Charge W. B. SOYARS, JR., FBI Portland Office, and stated he had been contacted by an ERICK GAULT on March 11, 1968, concerning the purchase of a used car.

Special Agent RONALD E. SHERK immediately went to the Fred Bauer Chevrolet Company and interviewed Mr. WICK. WICK who is age 62 and apparently a sober and solid citizen, has sold cars in the Portland area for many years. At about 7:30 p.m., March 11, 1968, WICK received a telephone call from a person who wanted to talk to a salesman. The caller stated that his name was ERICK GAULT, that he was passing through town, was calling from a bar and was stopping at a motel on Union Avenue, Portland, Oregon. He said he did not know the name or the address of the motel. He stated he was looking for a 1964 Chevrolet station wagon with air conditioning and had \$1600 in cash. He said he had a Mustang, but did not desire to trade it in as he was going to give it to his brother. WICK told the caller that he thought he knew where he could get such a car and invited the caller to the showroom. WICK then called BOB INMAN, 5406 N. E. Jessup Street, Portland, Oregon, telephone 282-0409; but found that the station wagon INMAN had for sale was a 1963 Ford Country Squire and had no air conditioning.

The individual who called himself ERICK GAULT arrived at the Fred Bauer Chevrolet showroom alone about 8:00 p.m. the same night and said he was not interested in the Ford. He stayed only a short time and said he would contact WICK on the following day. Nothing further was ever seen of GAULT by WICK.

-4-

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987
RES:jms
2

WICK saw the car "GAULT" was driving and thinks it was a light colored Mustang with California plates, but could not be sure about either since he was not planning to take the car in trade.

WICK was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that the above suspect is definitely not identical with RAY. He described the above suspect as follows:

Name	ERICK GAULT
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	28-35 years
Height	5'7" (possible one inch shorter)
Weight	185 pounds (obese with a large paunch)
Eyes	Not noted
Hair	Light brown (receding noticeably at temples)
Complexion	Medium (sunburned or tanned)
Dress	Light sports shirt, open collar, color not noted; plaid sports jacket, varied colors, colors not noted; dark trousers; shoes not noted; sloppy appearance; accent not noted.

WICK is an Oregonian by birth.

Although the description does not fit and RAY's Mustang had already been recovered in Atlanta, Georgia before March 11, 1968, a squad of Agents checked all motels on Union Avenue, Portland, on March 20, 1968, looking for an "ERICK GAULT" registration or an out-of-state Mustang registration on pertinent dates which might fit with the information furnished by WICK. Results were entirely negative.

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ALVIN A. JOHNSON - SUSPECT

On April 23, 1968, GLENDORA SMITH, Postmaster, Grass Valley, Oregon, stated that one ALVIN A. JOHNSON came to her post office seeking to obtain a letter, which he had written from WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA in care of General Delivery to a friend of his. He said the friend was not coming to Grass Valley, Oregon as he had thought and he wanted to get the letter back. She did not give him the letter because of postal regulations. She believed JOHNSON resembled photographs she had seen of JAMES EARL RAY.

Sheriff LEO ROBERTS, Sherman County, Wasco, Oregon, stated on April 23, 1968, that he had at that date stopped an old Chevrolet pickup truck and checked JOHNSON out. Sheriff ROBERTS stated that JOHNSON had proper identification for the vehicle, which bore Washington license GOO-072. The sheriff, who has photographs and identifying data concerning RAY, stated JOHNSON did not resemble RAY in any respect in that he was shorter, lighter, has black-greying hair and definitely hazel eyes.

However, in view of the importance of this matter Seattle was requested by communication dated April 24, 1968, to determine the registered owner of Washington license GOO-072 and if JOHNSON is the registered owner, determine if the vehicle was registered to JOHNSON prior to April, 1967, the month in which RAY escaped from confinement.

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UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY
ARTHUR BROWN, CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA

On April 29, 1968, at approximately 3:10 p.m. ARTHUR BROWN, Post Office Box 1032, Crescent City, California, telephone Crescent City 4163, telephonically contacted the Medford, Oregon FBI Resident Agency and informed SA JAMES J. MULLANEY as follows:

At 2:45 p.m. on April 29, 1968, he was having lunch at Glenn's Bakery and Coffee Shop, 3rd and H Street, Crescent City, California. An individual resembling JAMES EARL RAY sat next to him and drank a cup of coffee and left.

He stated this suspect was wearing a checkered gray sports coat with gray slacks and white shirt. He said the suspect had dark hair and fit the description and appearance of RAY as set forth in the newspapers and on television.

Mr. BROWN stated he was unable to determine what type of vehicle this suspect was driving since he had to pay his bill for his lunch and by the time he did that the man had gone. He stated the suspect appeared very nervous and that he had a side and front view of the man and felt he look just like RAY. The above information was furnished to the San Francisco Office by communication dated April 29, 1968.

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JAMES ALLEN JOHNSTON - SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

On May 13, 1968, Mr. AL JOHNSON, 6341 S.W. Wilbur Street, telephone 244-8456, telephoned SAC WILLIAM B. SOYARS, JR. He stated that he is a retired police officer and works part-time at Alpenrose Dairy, Portland, Oregon.

He stated that sometime last week the dairy hired a new man who JOHNSON thinks resembles photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that this suspect has a large black mustache and fits the general description of RAY.

SAs RONALD E. SHERK and KARL B. MC LEOD went to the Alpenrose Dairy, 6140 Shaddock Road, Portland, Oregon, on May 13, 1968. The new employee with the mustache was determined to be JAMES ALLEN JOHNSTON. JOHNSTON was located and interviewed. He bears a superficial resemblance to photographs of RAY in that his nose is similar; however, he is much younger having been born [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan and is 23 years of age. He has no dimple or cleft in his chin and is six feet tall. He is definitely not identical with RAY. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force and his Air Force serial number is [redacted]

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RES:jms
1

UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY JAMES STANTON LEONARD, EUGENE, OREGON

AT EUGENE, OREGON

On April 16, 1968, JAMES STANTON LEONARD, 1188 Cottonwood Street, Eugene, who is a chemical engineer at Weyerhaeuser Company, Springfield, Oregon, contacted Special Agent JAMES R. JAY at the Eugene, Oregon Resident Agency of the FBI and furnished the following information:

In early April, 1968, Mr. LEONARD was attending an American Chemical Society meeting at San Francisco, California. On the night of April 4, 1968, at approximately 12 midnight, LEONARD stopped at the Extension Twenty One, a tavern on Gary Street.

LEONARD described the tavern as follows:

When you enter, directly facing the bar there are approximately six stools along the front side of the bar. LEONARD sat in the second stool from the left next to the bar. There were two white males seated in the third and fourth stools from the left. The males are described as follows:

Number 1:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Weight	180 pounds (muscular)
Complexion	Very ruddy and weather beaten
Face	hook nose
Age	early 50's
Dress	Leather or corduroy waist length jacket; dirty shirt and pants (color unknown, work-type clothes); work-type cowboy boots (low heel); cowboy hat

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RES:jms
2

Characteristics	East Texas accent; may be missing teeth; ranch-type person and spoke in the idiom of a rancher
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Number 2:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Weight	Approximately 180 pounds
Build	Stocky, muscular
Age	Early 40's
Hair	Black, slightly curly, looked shiny and greasy
Face	Round
Dress	Sports shirt and slacks, color unknown
Characteristics	Louisiana accent; more intelligent looking than Number 1

The pair were apparently slightly drunk and were having an altercation with the bar maid. They talked of putting a shotgun across the bar at the bar maid and wondered what her reaction would be. They further talked of guns in general. The conversation turned to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEONARD overheard Number 1 state "He said he would do it, but I didn't think he would." Number 2 stated, "I didn't think he would do it." The conversation continued.

LEONARD only heard parts of the conversation and at another time, Number 2 stated to Number 1 "Now you are talking like a "cajon". For a time, they spoke in Ranch Spanish.

LEONARD explained this is a type of Spanish utilized by ranch people in Texas who employ Mexicans. It is a form of "pidgeon" Spanish.

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RES:jms

3

LEONARD attempted to engage the pair in conversation without success. LEONARD further stated that the bar was very dark and he could not provide a better description of the two. He does not feel the bar maid knew the pair but would surely remember them as she had a definite argument with them and at one time walked away in anger.

LEONARD stated he is from Texas and is almost certain that they spoke with an East Texas and Louisiana accent respectively.

The above information was furnished to the San Francisco Office by communication dated April 16, 1968.

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RES:cpg

1

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. GLADYS HARRISON, COOS BAY,
OREGON, WHOSE MAIDEN NAME WAS GAULT

By communication dated April 15, 1968, the Sacramento Office stated that they had interviewed a Mr. and Mrs. WESLEY I. GAULT at Salmon River, California, who did not know of any relative by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT. They suggested that WESLEY GAULT's older sister, Mrs. GLADYS HARRISON, whose maiden name was GAULT, be interviewed since she has the names and address of all of their relatives.

AT COOS BAY, OREGON

Mrs. GLADYS HARRISON, 815 Elrod Street, informed SA LE ROY R. ELLIOTT on April 17, 1968, that her maiden name is GAULT (not GALT) and she knows of no family named GALT or any member of her family who may have dropped the "u" from their name. She said she knows no member of her family named ERIC or STARVO.

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RES:cpg

1

CHESTER JOHN LIS - SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

Mr. ROBERT M. HOOKER, a Portland businessman, 1365 Northwest 94th Avenue, came to the Portland Office on April 12, 1968, and suggested as a suspect one CHESTER J. LIS because of his resemblance to the artist's conception then appearing in the newspapers. HOOKER knew LIS in the Army in Korea in 1953. LIS, who was then psychotic and had an extreme hatred of Negroes, went berserk in Korea and in the summer of 1953 was court martialed and allegedly sentenced to twenty years imprisonment in Leavenworth Penitentiary. He is believed to be now at large, but HOOKER has had no contact with him since 1953. LIS was from the State of New Jersey.

HOOKER described LIS as a white male American, age approximately 26 years in 1953, 5'10" to 6'0" tall, light complexion, sandy brown hair, 160 to 170 pounds, wiry build. HOOKER has no other information concerning LIS.

By communication dated April 14, 1968, the FBI Identification Division furnished the FBI Identification Record of one CHESTER JOHN LIS, FBI number 497 555 B, who was convicted of aggravated assault while in the United States Army in 1953 and hence is probably the same CHESTER J. LIS named as a suspect by Mr. HOOKER.

The FBI Identification Record of this individual shows arrests in New Jersey in 1961, 1964, and 1965, and he therefore can not be identical with JAMES EARL RAY who was confined in the Missouri State Penitentiary during those years.

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RES:cpg

1

UNKNOWN SUSPECT IN SAN FRANCISCO REPORTED BY
KENSAL E. VAN HOLDE, CORVALLIS,
OREGON, APRIL 12, 1968

AT CORVALLIS, OREGON

On April 12, 1968, KENSAL E. VAN HOLDE, Professor, Biophysics, Oregon State University, 229 North 32nd Street, stated that at 9:45 AM, April 10, 1968, he left Palo Alto, California, on a commuter bus, company unknown, arriving at the Seventh Street Station, San Francisco, California, at 11:00 AM.

As he was standing in the aisle to leave the bus he observed a man who appeared similar to the pencil drawing of the unknown subject which appeared in newspapers early in this investigation. This suspect occupied a window seat about three seats in front of the long lateral seat on the left side of the bus. The bus stopped several times between Palo Alto and San Francisco, and Mr. VAN HOLDE does not know whether the suspect boarded at Palo Alto or later.

The suspect got off the bus at the Seventh Street Station, San Francisco, California, apparently without luggage or packages and was not seen thereafter by Mr. VAN HOLDE.

Mr. VAN HOLDE knew no one on the bus. He described the suspect as a white male American, age middle or late twenties, 5'8" to 5'10" tall, 130 to 140 pounds, frail build in appearance. Hair lightish brown, but some strands darker, slightly wavy on top, brushed straight back, receding moderately, giving widow's peak appearance, not newly cut, but not long, no sideburns. Eye color unknown. Complexion pinkish. Trace of small reddish mustache. Nose long, slim and slightly turned up. Face thin and delicate looking. Chin fairly long and pointed, but not prominent. Mouth.

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RES:cpg

2

small, petulant, with slightly puffy lower lip. Tattoo on back of right hand, probably diagonal, "Ku Klux Klan" in squared block capitals, 1/4 to 3/8 inches high, usual blue tattoo color. Another complex design tattoo, nature unknown, on right forearm. Wore light weight, light colored sport shirt, not highly patterned; light weight, light tan slacks; light weight, light colored cloth jacket.

The above information was furnished to the San Francisco Office by communication dated April 12, 1968.

By communication dated April 15, 1968, the San Francisco Office advised that CLARENCE HUTCHINSON, 227 St. Charles Avenue, San Francisco, California, who was the driver of the Greyhound Bus which departed Palo Alto, California, at 9:45 AM, April 10, 1968, which is the only transportation company furnishing commuter service between San Francisco and Palo Alto, stated that none of the passengers on this trip resembled the drawing of the unknown subject which appeared in the newspapers insofar as he can recall. He stated that he did not know the identity of any passengers on this trip.

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RES:cpg

1

INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN H. GALT

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

By communication dated April 11, 1968, the Salt Lake City Office requested interview with MARTIN H. GALT, who formerly resided at Kanab, Utah, and left that area approximately four years ago and presently resides at 950 Southwest 21st Avenue, Portland, Oregon. MARTIN H. GALT is said to be an employee of the United States Bureau of Land Management.

MARTIN H. GALT, 950 Southwest 21st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, a retired employee of the United States Bureau of Land Management, was interviewed on April 11, 1968, by SA RONALD E. SHERK. He is over 65 years of age and definitely not identical with the subject. He stated that he is not acquainted with any ERIC STARVO GALT or person of similar name.

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RES:cpg

1

LOOK-ALIKE GREYHOUND BUS PASSENGER FROM SAN
FRANCISCO NORTH ON APRIL 29, 1968

By communications from Sacramento, May 7, 1968, and from Seattle, May 10, 1968, information was received that a woman at Olympia, Washington, stated on May 3, 1968, that she traveled from San Francisco to Olympia, Washington, via Greyhound Bus leaving Gate 22 at San Francisco, California, at 10:20 PM, April 29, 1968. A man, allegedly resembling JAMES EARL RAY entered the bus after waiting at Gate 23 for the Portland bus with several other passengers.

The woman said that this suspect did not proceed beyond Portland, Oregon. She described the suspect as a white male American, 35 to 40 years of age, 5'8" to 5'10" tall, thin build, dark brown hair, in need of a hair cut and hair down back of neck, sprinkled with gray, definite widow's peak in front. He needed shaving and his beard was dark brown with a light brown mustache covering most of his upper lip with a "phony" appearance. His face was thin and tanned with an oily forehead, possibly coated by suntan makeup. He had sky blue eyes with a nose which appeared sharper than on the Identification Order. He wore buckskin colored shirt and pants and a sweater or jacket, with suede type casual shoes. He talked to no one on the bus and sat near the rear.

Portland was requested to interview bus driver THERON E. NAUTA who drove the bus from Redding, California, to Klamath Falls, Oregon, and STANFORD A. GOTTER, who drove the bus from Klamath Falls, Oregon, to Portland, Oregon.

The informant was of the opinion that this look-alike passenger disembarked at Portland, Oregon, and did not proceed north to Olympia on the same bus as the informant.

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RES:cpg

2

AT KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

On May 10, 1968, THERON E. NAUTA, Warden Road, who is a Greyhound Bus Driver, informed SA WILLIAM H. GRAY that he did drive the above bus from Redding, California, to Klamath Falls, Oregon, in the early morning hours of April 30, 1968. He was furnished a description of the unknown man who was observed by the informant on this bus and was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

He was unable to identify the suspect and stated that he has seen no one resembling JAMES EARL RAY riding on that bus or any other bus driven by him.

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

STANFORD A. GOTTER, Route 2, Box 191 B, Hillsboro, Oregon, informed SA RONALD E. SHERK on May 13, 1968, that he did drive the above bus from Klamath Falls, Oregon, to Portland, Oregon, in the early morning hours of April 30, 1968. He was furnished a description of the unknown man observed by the informant on this bus and was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that he is unable to identify the suspect suggested by the informant and does not recognize photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as anyone who rode on that bus or any other bus driven by him.

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ME 44-1987

RES:lbt

1

JOHN KELLY, ALSO KNOWN AS
JIMMY - SUSPECT

On April 5, 1968, Mrs. GEORGIA HARDY, 4746 NE 91st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, furnished the following information, stating that ~~it~~ is of the utmost importance that she remain anonymous.

She has a brother, EDWARD E. O'FALLIN, address unknown in Memphis, Tennessee, telephone #362-1015, who is employed by the City of Memphis Water Department. O'FALLIN's wife's brother, JOHN KELLY, also known as JIMMY, is suspected by Mrs. HARDY as possibly being the assassin because of news reports that the assassin wore a grin.

She described KELLY as follows:

Race	White
Age	About 37
Height	5'8"
Hair	Light Brown
Complexion	Reddish

He is a veteran of the Korean War, a battle hero, fond of guns, "a little simple minded," and always wears a silly grin. KELLY resides with his parents, names and address unknown, in Forest City, Tennessee, and visits O'FALLIN in Memphis.

This information was furnished to the Memphis Office for evaluation by communication dated April 5, 1968.

PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:lbt
1

JOHN WILLIARD - SUSPECT

On April 6, 1968, Mrs. JOHN COCKRELL, 1112 East 20th Street, Eugene, Oregon, telephonically advised the Portland Office that after reading about the KING murder in the newspapers, she was reminded of JOHN WILLIARD that she knew at the University of Missouri during the late 1930's. He went from the University of Missouri to either the University of Arizona or Arizona State to set up a student bible class.

He was convicted of embezzling funds and was sent to Arizona State Penitentiary. She last saw him about 23 years ago in San Francisco, and has heard since that he is still residing there and spending most of his time in flop houses.

She described WILLIARD as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Now 48 or 50 years of age
Height	5'11"
Build	Slender
Hair	Dark
Characteristics	Has silly grin, meticulous dresser, of religious nature, and psycotic

Mrs. COCKRELL has no idea where WILLIARD may be located but states she feels he is capable of instant crime.

This information was furnished to Memphis for evaluation by communication dated April 6, 1968.

PD 157-380

ME 44-1987

RES:lbt

1

UNKNOWN SUSPECT REPORTED BY
JAMES BIGELOW, BILLINGS, MONTANA

By communications dated April 9, 1968 and April 10, 1968, the Butte Office stated that JAMES BIGELOW of Billings, Montana, stated that on April 5, 1968, at approximately 5:50 p.m., he observed an individual at the Portland, Oregon International Airport sitting in the front row of chairs near a telephone booth in the area of some television sets. He felt the individual might be identical with the subject in this case. BIGELOW gave only a general description and did not observe the suspect leave.

On April 12, 1968, SA RONALD E. SHERK contacted a large number of persons at the Portland International Airport and exhibited the photographs which were then available, namely, the ones taken at the bartender school at California in 1968.

After JAMES EARL RAY had been identified as the subject, additional photographs had been reviewed. Results were completely negative on both occasions.

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RES:tme

1

DONALD CHURCHILL SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

On April 11, 1968, information was received that one DONALD CHURCHILL appeared at Nehalem, Oregon, a small town on the Oregon coast, on the night of April 9, 1968, from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. CHURCHILL reportedly was similar in appearance to the sketch of the unknown subject which had appeared in newspapers and talked about the KING murder. CHURCHILL was interviewed on April 11, 1968, by SA FREDERICK A. FLETCHER and stated that he was in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1968, to confer with his attorney, FRED C. SACKS, concerning a divorce. CHURCHILL appeared to be possibly mentally disturbed.

By communication dated April 12, 1968, the Washington Field Office advised that attorney FRED C. SACKS stated DONALD CHURCHILL contacted him personally and by telephone on April 3. and April 4, 1968, and that Holiday Inn records, Washington, D.C., show that CHURCHILL was a guest there April 4, and April 5, 1968. CHURCHILL is considered eliminated as a suspect.

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1

UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY
SAMUEL J. LINDLEY, PORTLAND, OREGON

On April 10, 1968, Mr. SAMUEL J. LINDLEY, 5431 S.E. 41st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, telephoned the Portland Office and stated that at about 12:15 p.m. that date he had seen a person at the Chuck Wagon Cafe at 60th Avenue and S.E. Foster Road, that looked very much like the man we were looking for in the KING case.

SA RALPH P. HIMMELSBACH was immediately dispatched to the Chuck Wagon Cafe where he interviewed the manager and two waitresses, the only employees in the establishment then, and he also interviewed four individuals in adjacent establishments. None of the individuals could recall seeing any person resembling the description of the unknown subject in this case.

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RES:tme

1

UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY
GERALDINE MARIE TANNER

On April 10, 1968, GERALDINE MARIE TANNER, a prostitute then incarcerated in the Portland City Jail, Portland, Oregon, was interviewed by SA WILLIAM A. TENWICK. She made available a copy of a letter which she received from PEARL R. MILLER, also known as KATHY LAWTON, Room 52, London Lodge Motel, Broadway at 7th Street, Oakland, California. In the letter, the following quotation is contained: "I knew whites was going to kill that man," referring to Dr. KING.

This information was furnished on April 10, 1968, to the San Francisco Office.

By communication dated April 12, 1968, the San Francisco Office advised that they had located and interviewed PEARLIE REE MILLER, also known as KATHY LAWTON, who acknowledged that she was the author of the above-mentioned letter, but denied having any knowledge as to the identity of the subject.

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RES:jms
1

PASSPORTS - IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE and INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

In accordance with Bureau instructions issued April 18, 1968, personal contacts were made with the following on April 19, 1968:

Inspector LAWRENCE C. LURMO, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Portland, Oregon, by Special Agent in Charge W. B. SOYARS, JR.

U. S. District Court Clerk DONAL D. SULLIVAN, U. S. District Court, Portland, Oregon, who handles passport matters in Oregon.

All airlines, domestic and overseas at Portland International Airport, Portland, Oregon, including contacts with the Airport Police, car rental agencies, and the two bars at the airport.

Current wanted flyers concerning JAMES EARL RAY were left with all parties contacted. None recalled seeing RAY but promised to immediately contact the Portland FBI Office in the event he appears.

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1

CONTACTS WITH NARCOTIC INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES

In accordance with Bureau instructions on April 22, 1968, a supply of the most recent wanted flyers was shown to the following who promised to contact their informants concerning RAY:

BILL W. FREEMAN, Special Agent in Charge, U. S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, U. S. Courthouse, Portland, Oregon.

Lt. JACK STRUDGEON, Narcotics Bureau, Portland Police Department, Portland, Oregon.

No leads have been received from the above sources to date.

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1

INVESTIGATION IN VICINITY OF ROGUE RIVER, OREGON

By communication dated April 23, 1968, the Kansas City Office advised that JACK FOX LAMPHERE, Warsaw, Missouri, furnished the following information requesting that his identity not be disclosed to persons interviewed:

He stated that while serving sentence in the Missouri State Penitentiary, he became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY. He recalled that RAY frequently mentioned his liking for the Rogue River area of Oregon and got the impression that RAY had lived in that area and possibly had relatives there. He never heard RAY mention any relatives. RAY gave the impression that he was familiar with sawmill work in Oregon and "riding on a chair while sawing logs". LAMPHERE got the impression that Rogue River as referred to by RAY was a town in Oregon. RAY would talk about fishing and mentioned fishing in streams. LAMPHERE believed this to be trout fishing. RAY spoke of logging in a pond in the Rogue River area and spoke of sawmill type work in that area of Oregon of which he was fond.

The Kansas City Office advised that they have no information indicated that RAY has relatives or associates in Oregon.

There is a city named Rogue River in Southwestern Oregon. It has a population of about 700 and is in the center of the logging industry of Southwestern Oregon. A famous fishing river, namely, the Rogue River, runs through the city. There are numerous sawmills in Southwestern Oregon as well as other parts of the state inasmuch as logging is the principal industry in the State of Oregon.

Only small sawmills in this area have a man riding on the saw carriage back and forth as the log is sawed. For nearly the past 20 years, the "sawyer" has not ridden on the saw carriage. The man who rides is known as a "setter" and his job is to fit the "dogs" in the logs. He is given instructions by the "sawyer" by finger signals to set the log for cut (1 inch, 2 inch, 3 inch, 4 inch, etc.) by number

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RES:jms
2

of fingers shown. The "sawyer" remains in a stationary position, operating the controls; he is a highly skilled and highly paid workman, and usually an older, experienced man. Even the job of "setter" is a key job and it is unlikely that RAY, who was only 31 years of age before his most recent incarceration, and who could have had only limited mill experience because of his frequent incarcerations, would have been given any such job in a mill.

All the larger mills have had automated saws for the past 25 years or more, and no one rides back and forth on the saw carriages of such installations.

The majority of the small mills, which would have been using the older type equipment prior to 1960 are so-called "gypo" mills, operate non-union, and frequently go out of business, change ownership, or change location. The chances of finding a small mill in the same location and with the same ownership as in 1960 are slim. This also applies to the chances of finding employment records.

For the above reasons, circularization through union sources will likely prove non-productive. However, should circularization through union sources be desired, it can be accomplished at Portland, Oregon, through the only two unions to which saw mill workers belong, and can be accomplished for the eleven Western states, through addressograph equipment available at Portland, Oregon.

Since many workers do not come to the attention of the unions, even in union plants, and since the majority of the smaller mills are non-union, a more effective method of circularization would be through employment groups including many non-union mills. The names and addresses of these employer groups have been obtained.

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RES:jms

3

By communication dated April 23, 1968, the possibilities for the circularization of the logging industry were furnished to the Bureau, but no reply or authorization for such circularization has been received to date.

On April 23 and 24, 1968, Special Agent JAMES J. MULLANEY conducted an intensive investigation at Rogue River, Oregon and vicinity including contacts with all sawmills logging operations, and lumber workers' labor organizations. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to all persons interviewed. No person recalled seeing RAY or furnished any information concerning RAY.

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INVESTIGATION IN "HIPPIE" COMMUNITIES,
PORTLAND, OREGON

On April 24, 1968, instructions were received from the Bureau that investigation be conducted in all "Hippie" communities.

The only Hippie community in Oregon is a scattered one located primarily on the West Side of Portland, Oregon.

On April 25, 1968, specific assignments were made to seven Special Agents of the Portland Office who have informants or contacts within the Hippie community.

They immediately made extensive contacts throughout the Hippie community on April 25 and April 26, 1968. No persons were located who could furnish any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

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SPANISH LANGUAGE WANTED FLYERS
RE: JAMES EARL RAY

The only concentration of Spanish speaking persons in the State of Oregon is located in Malheur County at the extreme eastern edge of Oregon where large numbers of Mexican and individuals of Mexican nationality are employed in the sugar-beet industry.

On April 23, 1968, SA FRANK DAVIS, who is Resident Agent covering Malheur County, made a wide-spread distribution of the Spanish Language Wanted Flyers concerning JAMES EARL RAY in all the principal Post Offices, City Halls and labor camps in Malheur County.

No leads have arisen as a result of this distribution.