

KC 44-760

JAM:jlh

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JAMES A. MITCHELL:

AT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI:

LAWRENCE ALBERT GRIDER

On May 21, 1968, LAWRENCE ALBERT GRIDER was contacted at 1510 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Lyon at which time he stated that he was just released from the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in January of this year after serving 31 months for molesting a minor. He stated that while he was at the prison he did know JAMES EARL RAY on sight and spoke to him whenever their paths crossed. He stated that he never had any intimate conversations with RAY at any time and that he adopted the policy that he was going to do his "time" and not bother about anyone else's problems at the institution. He never conversed with RAY at length about anything and RAY never told him anything about himself. He stated that he has absolutely no information that would be of benefit to the FBI. He commented that he thought that much of the information furnished by inmates at the prison was manufactured and that too much reliance could not be placed upon it.

44-760-1007

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 28 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Mitchell *JA*

KC 44-760

THW:nks

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
THOMAS H. WEAVER:

At Jefferson City, Missouri:

On May 24, 1968, CECIL CLAYTON LILLIBRIDGE, also known as CARL LILLIBRIDGE, who requested that his identity as the source of this information be concealed, and who is presently confined in the Cole County Jail, advised that the only magazine he ever saw JAMES EARL RAY read while in the Missouri State Penitentiary was Time Magazine. He stated that RAY read whatever newspapers were available from other inmates who had them, and he once saw RAY read The National Enquirer, as he recalls the name of the publication, which LILLIBRIDGE described as a tabloid type newspaper. He said that he does not know where RAY obtained the copy of that newspaper, and stated that RAY would obtain Time from unknown inmates in the penitentiary, probably from inmates who had subscriptions to that magazine, and while he was around RAY, he had these magazines weekly. He advised that he never knew RAY to subscribe to any publication. He recalled that RAY mentioned articles he had read in the U. S. News and World Report, but he never saw him read that magazine. LILLIBRIDGE said that he would have no way of knowing what reading preferences RAY had or what other magazines or publications he might read if he had access to them, since reading material is limited as to periodicals in the penitentiary unless one subscribes to them or borrows them from persons who do subscribe. He said that he had some books on the philosophy of NIETZSCHE and KANT in the cell, and RAY would read these because they were available and seemed to be impressed with NIETZSCHE. He added that RAY seemingly was impressed with GEORGE WALLACE, ex-governor of Alabama, and was in favor of his candidacy for president.

44-760-1008

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 28 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

[Handwritten signature]

KC 44-760

RBA:gah

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA ROWEN B. AYERS:

AT COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

On May 23, 1968, Chief PAUL CHEAVENS advised no one has owned a tavern in the colored section by the name of SCHWABE. He said LEONARD SCHWABE, a real estate operator and farmer, died of a heart attack about two months ago and there is no other person by that name in Columbia, Missouri. He noted all of the taverns in the Negro district were closed by injunction over a year ago.

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

The records of the Missouri Department of Health (Vital Statistics) reflected on May 24, 1968, that LEONARD WESLEY SCHWABE died of a heart attack in Boone County, Missouri, on March 22, 1968.

On May 22, 1968, Mr. HARRY LAUF, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that JOHN WILLIAM MEYERS, MSP #03848, was released April 5, 1968, and not a parolee. His mother is LILLIAN MEYERS, 1401 30th Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi; and he had a friend--Mrs. IRENE COLLINS, 5447 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

NATHAN J. MURPHY, MSP #04725, was paroled on July 28, 1964, and discharged from parole on January 4, 1967. The last address was Mr. JOHN A. ZITZEZANICH, 3177A Oregon, St. Louis, Missouri.

On May 22, 1968, Mr. DAVID BRYDON, attorney, to whom a phone call was made by J. D. DAILEY from St. Louis, Missouri, on November 30, 1967, said this call related to his attempting to obtain a parole for THOMAS BEECHER CREWS, MSP #71845, doing life for murder and robbery. He said DAILEY said he was motivated by humanitarian reasons, but he also believed CREWS had stashed some money from a robbery and DAILEY may have hoped to share in that. He said CREWS is still in the penitentiary and is suffering from tuberculosis.

44-760-1009

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Home	RBA

KC 44-760

2

On May 24, 1968, Major BERNARD J. POIRY, Assistant Warden of Custody, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he had no idea whatever regarding the type of literature RAY may have enjoyed while in the penitentiary. He said he would make logical contacts in an attempt to determine this information.

On May 23, 1968, HOWARD J. TURNBULL, Department of Revenue, Jefferson City, Missouri, stated that applications for Missouri operators' licenses throughout Missouri would be made available on May 29, 1968.

F B I

Date: 5/29/68

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

To: SACs, Kansas City (44-760)
St. Louis (44-775)
Springfield (44-561)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReSLtel 5/23/68 to Bureau, Memphis and Springfield re information furnished indicating bank of Alton, Illinois, was the bank which Gawron and Ray had cased.

If not already handled, Springfield should take necessary action to see that following items are covered:

Photographs of Ray should be exhibited to the bank robbery witnesses.

Advise Kansas City of complete description of clothing found and Kansas City will determine whether any items of clothing are possibly prison issued.

Springfield also furnish Kansas City with pertinent identity of laundry marks so that Kansas City can determine if any of these marks were possibly placed on items of clothing at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Springfield should contact local sporting goods stores with respect to the cap which was found which contains a fishing emblem.

If not already handled, have Louisville attempt to identify the Mens' Style Shop, Gray and Wilson, Mayfield, Kentucky, for any information regarding purchaser of the hat.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (for info)

44-760-1010

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Howe *RAA*

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

Airtel SACs, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield
RE: MURKIN

The manufacturer of the sawed-off shotgun should be contacted for any pertinent information that firm may be able to furnish.

The bank robbery file discloses that laundries in Alton, Illinois, have been checked with respect to the laundry marks on the clothing found; however, there is no indication of laundries having been checked in surrounding areas. Be certain this is done.

Springfield request the Laboratory to compare the hair specimens obtained in the bank robbery case to hair specimens obtained in the Murkin case.

Recontact suspects and informants for any information they may have regarding Ray and whether or not he could have been involved in the bank robbery.

Recontact Ray's uncle, William E. Mayher, 118 East Seventh Street, Alton, Illinois, for any information he may have regarding the bank robbery.

All leads are to be given continuous and expeditious attention.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Sutel daily results of investigative activity concerning this bank robbery. Such teletypes are to be submitted under the "MURKIN" caption and are to continue until the issue is fully resolved as to whether Ray was or was not involved in the bank robbery.

11-5

5/28/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Kansas City teletype to the Director, Et Al, 5/21/68, re WILLIAM F. SCHOLL, and Los Angeles airtel to the Director dated 5/10/68 re GALE FISHER.

RE: FELLOW INMATES

On 5/23/68, WILLIAM FRED SCHOLL was located and interviewed at which time he advised that he was not acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY and could not recall any information of value concerning him.

On the same date, GALE FRANKLIN FISHER was located and interviewed and at first advised that he did not recall anyone by the name of JAMES EARL RAY at the Missouri State Penitentiary. After viewing a photograph of the subject, he immediately recognized it as an individual with whom he had worked for several months in the kitchen at Missouri State Penitentiary. FISHER said that he occasionally spoke to RAY and sometime saw him in the exercising yard but he was never close to him in any way and they never discussed any personal things.

FISHER said that he and the subject traveled in different crowds and RAY did not seem to be exceptionally friendly with anyone although he spent most of his time with

3 - Bureau
① - Kansas City (Info) (44-760)
1 - Memphis (Info) (44-1987)
1 - Los Angeles (Info) (44-1574)
1 - San Francisco (Info) (173-65)
HJD: pas
(8)

44-760-1911

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Howe RAY

CG 44-1114

inmates doing lengthier sentences. According to FISHER, RAY was quite friendly with a WARREN RAY, who was not a relation, and who was doing approximately 65 years and must still be in the penitentiary. FISHER said that JIM BRADLEY, a lifer, also was friendly with RAY though he does not know to what extent.

No leads are being set forth to interview BRADLEY since he has already been interviewed, nor WARREN RAY since it appears that WARREN RAY is undoubtedly identical with RAY EUGENE WARREN and information concerning both of these inmates was set forth in Kansas City report of 5/15/68.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/29/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1749) (P)
MURKIN

Ex-convict JAMES W. BROWN reinterviewed at his present residence, Talladega, Ala., and following is synopsis of additional information obtained:

BROWN was shown all available photos of JAMES EARL RAY and picked out photo taken at bartending school as one most resembling RAY. Concerning other photo taken of RAY in California in January or February, 1968, BROWN said this did not resemble RAY, but did strongly resemble a person who came to a gas station where BROWN worked in June, 1967, in Reform, Ala. This person was driving a late-model red Mustang, and was accompanied by two white males, one being an ex-convict from the Missouri State Pen, FNU ALLEN, other unknown to BROWN. BROWN had no conversation with driver of Mustang, but ALLEN, whom BROWN had known in the pen, told BROWN that he and his two friends were going to Tuscaloosa, Ala., from Columbus, Ga. ALLEN had been released from pen few months before BROWN (June, 1965.) BROWN claimed he had seen ALLEN and RAY in conversations in the pen on several occasions and that BROWN was positive that ALLEN and BROWN knew each other.

3 - Bureau
② - Kansas City (44-760)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - St. Louis (44-778)
2 - Birmingham
RMB:mfl
(11)

44-760-7012

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Howe 1/67

cc:ayen

BH 44-1740

BROWN claimed that ALLEN was considered to be a "steel pigeon" inside the pen. ALLEN came from Kennett, Mo., and had been convicted of robbery. BROWN claimed that RAY was living in F Hall when BROWN met him through JOHNNY VELANTI, and that ALLEN also lived in F Hall. (Review of Kansas City report dated 5/15/68 fails to indicate that RAY ever lived in F Hall; however, it is noted that in St. Louis report of 5/10/68, VELANTI claimed that RAY did live in F Hall.)

BROWN claimed the information he was furnishing concerned JAMES EARL RAY and he did not have him confused with any prisoners with similar names such as JAMES RAYNE (as claimed by VELANTI) or JAMES WRAY.

BROWN claimed that VELANTI once said he, VELANTI, could get along in Mexico if he ever got there, and that he, VELANTI, would go to some small town past Mexico City to hide out, if he ever escaped. VELANTI named the town, but BROWN can not recall name. This claim was made in presence of RAY. VELANTI also claimed he had run off from an orphan's home at the age of 14, and was later "taken in" and raised by a Sheriff. VELANTI then became involved in allowing the escape of several prisoners being held by this Sheriff in Louisiana. Because of their close association in the pen, BROWN said it was most likely that RAY and VELANTI would get together outside.

BROWN continued to claim he had no knowledge of any convict organization in the pen, but it appeared to interviewing agents that he was possibly withholding information when pressed on this point. He said there were several poker games operated by certain convicts and that some others took bets on sporting events. One of these was JOHNNIE JOHNSON, who operated a game with his "half-brother" BOBBY ASHE. BROWN claimed he had seen JOHNSON and RAY in several conversations together and that RAY usually always played in the game operated by JOHNSON and ASHE.

BROWN identified one "SLICK" STEPHAM (ph) as a poker game operator who also was used to collect gambling debts inside the pen.

BROWN identified his closest friends in the pen as DONALD COX from St. Louis, who left in 1963 after serving

BN 44-1740

five years on robbery conviction; CORSTEN KELLEY (ph) from St. Louis, who is still confined; CHARLIE LAMSON, from St. Louis, who was released in 1965 after serving assault sentence, and WALTER STRAKEY, who is now believed to be in the Texas State Pen.

LEADS

ST. LOUIS:

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.:

Reinterview JOHNNIE VELANTI, as to his association with RAY, as claimed by BROWN, and as to all background of VELANTI as furnished by BROWN. Obtain further identification of JAMES RAYE and/or JAMES WRAY, from VELANTI. From VELANTI ascertain what hall RAY resided in during VELANTI's association with him. Ascertain if he knew RAY to work as a "walk boy" in any hall; if he knew RAY to participate in poker games, and, if so, who operated the game and if RAY ever bet on any sporting events, and, if so, with whom. Ascertain if VELANTI's wife was injured in the same accident in which VELANTI's oldest child was killed, as claimed by BROWN. Identify place in Mexico where VELANTI claimed he could go to and hide and get along with the people.

Upon identification of FNU ALLEN from Kennett, Mo., will locate and interview ALLEN as to his knowledge of RAY and the identities of the two persons with him in the red Mustang in June, 1967, in Columbus, Ga.

KANSAS CITY:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.:

Will identify the persons identified by BROWN as his closest friends in the pen and set out leads to have them interviewed as to the veracity of BROWN, their knowledge of his association with VELANTI and/or RAY, their knowledge of any convict organization in the pen.

Will ascertain identity of "SLICK" STEPHAN and JOHNNIE JOHNSON and have them located and interviewed as to

BH 44-1740

their knowledge of RAY, his gambling habits, and their association with him, if any. Will determine if JOHNSON and BOBBY ASHE are related.

Will identify JIM ALLEN from Kennett, Mo., and set out lead to have located and interviewed per information furnished by BROWN.

Will review records of BROWN for any information as to his stability, reliability and veracity. Will furnish photos of all persons identified by BROWN, as set out above, to be used in reinterview of BROWN, if deemed appropriate by Birmingham.

5-28-68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) P
RE: MURKIN
OO:ME
RE: FORMER INMATE NATHAN J. MURPHY
Re KC tel, 5-22-68.

On 5-24-68, JOHN A. ZITZ, 3177a Oregon St., SLMO, was contacted at his residence whereupon he advised that his name was ZITZ and not ZITZENZANICH and that he did not remember a man by the name of NATHAN J. MURPHY. He said that he had a couple of former prisoners staying at his place for a short period about three or four years ago but he could not remember their names. He advised that since his wife left him and ran off with an ex-convict he wanted to forget the past. He could offer no additional information.

Several unsuccessful attempts were made on 5-24-68, in an effort to contact the residence of 2836 Eads Ave., SLMO.

On 5-27-68, CHARLES MOSS, mail carrier for the SL Post Office, Benton Rt. #427, SLMO, advised that he has been delivering mail for the past 10 years and that he did not recall the name of NATHAN J. MURPHY or Mrs. MURPHY as residing at 2836 Eads Ave.

He stated that the house located at 2836 Eads Ave. was vacant for approximately 6 to 7 months and that it was purchased approximately 8 to 9 months ago by an elderly man and wife by the last name of BOUDOU (phonetic). He stated that he did not know the man's name but indicated that the wife's first name was TRUDY.

3 - Bureau
① - Kansas City (Info) (44-760)
1 - Memphis
1 - St. Louis
CSD:amb
(6)

44-760-1013

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MAY 29 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Kansas City (44-760)

DATE: May 31, 1968

FROM : Director, FBI (44-38861)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reurairtel 5/20/68 submitting two X-rays and accompanying X-ray reports obtained from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The X-rays which you submitted have been duplicated for use by the Bureau and the original X-rays are returned herewith.

Enclosures (7)

me
See 1B2

44-760-1014

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Horne

returned to MSP 6/10/68



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 5/31/68

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

HAROLD WHITE, FORMER CIVILIAN COOK, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP), IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND AN ALCOHOLIC AND ON INTERVIEW DISCLAIMED ANY ACQUAINTANCE WITH SUBJECT RAY. JAMES R. DIXON, FORMER CAPTAIN OF GUARD AT MSP, HAD NO ADDITIONAL INFO RE SUBJECT RAY AND INDICATED FORMER INMATE NEIL AEBY WOULD HAVE BEEN LOGICAL SOURCE OF AMPHETAMINES FOR SUBJECT RAY. DIXON ACKNOWLEDGED THERE WAS SOME KIND OF ENFORCER ORGANIZATION AMONG INMATES AT MSP, THE CURRENT HEAD OF WHICH HE BELIEVES IS INMATE ROBERT BURNS, WHO WILL BE INTERVIEWED. DIXON IDENTIFIED OTHER INMATES AS CONNECTED WITH THE ENFORCER GROUP AS JAMES Z. BRADLEY, WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN INTERVIEWED IN THIS CASE.

MISSOURI STATE MOTOR VEHICLE BUREAU HAS PROGRAMED AND COMPUTERIZED APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND NEW DRIVERS LICENSE APPLICATIONS SINCE MAR. ONE, LAST, FOR WHITE MALES BETWEEN AGES THIRTY AND FIFTYFIVE. SINCE IMPRACTICAL TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW FIVE THOUSAND MEN, BUREAU APPROVAL IS REQUESTED FOR PROGRAMING

① - KANSAS CITY

RVH: gah (1)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

WA 6 08
ME 6 1/2

Filed

Per

44-760-1015

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

AND SORTING OF NEW APPLICATIONS FOR MEN ^{BORN} ~~BETWEEN AGES OF~~

[REDACTED]

of these unproductive additional years 1929 & 1930 will be added,
ARMED AND DANGEROUS. (P)

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

FBI KAN CITY

FBI OMAHA

4:11 P.M. 5-31-68 URGENT TH

TO KANSAS CITY 44-760

FROM OMAHA 44-310 1P

MURKIN OO: MEMPHIS BUFILE FORTYFOUR DASH THREE EIGHT
EIGHT SIX ONE.

RE KANSAS CITY AIRTEL TO LOUISVILLE DATED MAY TWENTYFOUR
LAST. *ser 982*

THIS DATE AMBROSE MELLON, TWO ONE EIGHT SEVEN TH STREET
AMES, IOWA, ADVISED THAT EMMA JEAN WHIPPLE RESIDES WITH HIM
AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS BUT THAT SHE IS CURRENTLY IN JOPLIN,
MISSOURI, TO ATTEND HER ILL MOTHER, MRS. ETTA MC GINNES, WHO
RESIDES AT TWO ZERO EIGHT NORTH MC COY, JOPLIN, MISSOURI.
WHIPPLE MAY BE STAYING AT HER FORMER RESIDENCE TWO ONE TWO
FOUR DALE, JOPLIN, MISSOURI. *Adale*

HE HAS HEARD WHIPPLE MENTION RENFRO BUT KNOWS NO
INFORMATION REGARDING RENFRO OR ASSOCIATES.

KANSAS CITY AT JOPLIN, MISSOURI, WILL INTERVIEW EMMA JEAN
WHIPPLE AKA MRS. FLOYD WHIPPLE, FOR WHEREABOUTS OF RALPH RENFRO
AND SET OUT LEADS TO HAVE RENFRO INTERVIEWED TO DETERMINE IF
RENFRO DID, IN THE PAST, EMPLOY JAMES EARL RAY AT JOPLIN AND
FOR INFORMATION REGARDING BACKGROUND AND WHEREABOUTS OF RAY.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO LOUISVILLE AND MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

PHM

FBI KAN CITY

44-760-1016

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Hickam
ser 982
Spinahead

6/1/68

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, CINCINNATI
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)
RE: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Re Kansas City airtel to Louisville, 5/24/68; and
Omaha teletype to Kansas City, 5/31/68.

Enclosed for Cincinnati are two copies of referenced
airtel.

On 5/31/68, Mrs. EMMA JEAN WHIPPLE was interviewed by
SA ROBERT E. HICKAM at 208 North McCoy, Joplin, Missouri, and
furnished the following information:

She first met RALPH RENFRO when he came to Joplin
from Louisville, Kentucky, around May, 1966. She started dating
him and he subsequently lived with her at 2124 Adele, Joplin,
until July 4, 1966, when he left for Hamilton, Ohio. She has
not heard from RENFRO since July, 1966; however, he can allegedly
be reached through his brother, telephone #513-892-9267,
brother's name and address in Hamilton unknown. RENFRO reportedly
has a sister, OPEL COBB, residing 1021 South Broadway, Lexington,
Kentucky, telephone #606-255-5132. RENFRO is described as a
white male, 43 to 44 years of age, 5'4", heavy build, reddish
and graying hair.

- 2 - Cincinnati (Encls. 2) (RM)
- 1 - Louisville (INFO) (RM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
- 2 - Kansas City

REH:gah
(7)

KC 44-760

While in Joplin, RENFRO worked for a short time at a filling station, 20th and Main Streets, and also was self-employed in repair of home furnaces and air conditioners. While self-employed, he worked with one individual, a BOB RAY, who at that time resided around the 800 block of Ozark Street, Joplin. RAY described by WHIPPLE as a white male, 45 to 50 years of age, 6', heavyset, gray hair, and as a long-time resident of Joplin.

WHIPPLE was exhibited three separate photographs of subject JAMES EARL RAY and stated she was not acquainted with subject by name, photograph or description. She advised subject not identical to BOB RAY and further noted BOB RAY was the only individual to her knowledge that RENFRO worked with or had working for him in the repair of furnaces and air conditioners at Joplin, Missouri. She knew of no way to contact RENFRO other than through the above two telephone numbers and believed him to be working somewhere around Hamilton, Ohio.

Information copy designated for Louisville Division, who is conducting investigation to locate RENFRO, as requested in referenced airtel.

LEAD

CINCINNATI DIVISION

AT HAMILTON, OHIO

Attempt to locate and interview RALPH RENFRO through telephone number 513-892-9267, as set forth in referenced airtel.

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT JOPLIN, MISSOURI

Attempt to locate and interview BOB RAY, last known to be residing in 800 block Ozark Street.

5/25/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, Indianapolis (44-388)

MURKIN

Re Chicago airtel to Bureau dated 5/23/68.

Investigation Richmond, Indiana through city directory, telephone directory, local post office, Police Department, Sheriff's Office, fails to reveal address of 6834 Road Road, Richmond, Indiana.

Above records fail to reveal name ~~SMITH~~.

LEAD:

KANSAS CITY

At Kansas City, Missouri

Ascertain correct address of ~~SMITH~~ from Police Department records.

ADMINISTRATIVE

2-Bureau
1-Atlanta
1-Chicago
1-Kansas City
1-Memphis

2-St. Louis
2-Indianapolis
TJS/rav

(10)

44-760-1018

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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over stamp]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM : SA ROWEN B. AYERS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 6/3/68, Mr. HARRY LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that PAUL OSBORN BRIDGEMAN, MSP #10134, also known as PAUL JAMES BRIDGEMAN, was received from Jackson County 4/23/65 and was discharged on 1/16/68 (not paroled). His record indicates he was born at Winchester, Indiana on [redacted] and was educated to the 9th grade at Salem, Arkansas. He completed education to the 11th grade at Pontiac, Illinois (probably penitentiary). The file indicates he married a CAROLYN BROKER when he was 18 years of age and she deserted him taking one child. He has had no contact with her since November 1963. His guardian was listed as WAYNE ROTHBERG, 8228 Holmes, Kansas City, Missouri. He had no visitors while in the penitentiary and the only correspondents reflected was WAYNE ROTHBERG.

LEAD

KANSAS CITY

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Will identify and interview WAYNE ROTHBERG, 8228 Holmes, to ascertain whereabouts of BRIDGEMAN so he in turn can be interviewed concerning the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

RBA:MD

(4) *md*

44-760-1919

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Jamesley VSK
K C no lead



5010-108-01

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

F B I

Date: 5/31/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPEURGENT

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
BALTIMORE

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
MURKIN

RELATEL TO BUREAU MAY TWENTYNINE LAST
FOR INFORMATION OF BALTIMORE, LETTER ADDRESSED TO ERIC S.
GALT RECEIVED MAY TWENTYEIGHT LAST BY C. M. HEDGECOTH AT FOUR
ZERO SIX SOUTH SECOND AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA, OPERATOR
OF CONFIDENTIAL MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE. LETTER READ QUOTE
SHOW ME FIRST YOU MEAN BUSINESS UNQUOTE. LETTER SIGNED TOM
WITH INITIALS C AND A AFTER NAME. RETURN ADDRESS SHOWN AS
POST OFFICE BOX SIX FOUR THREE, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA.

KENT ABRAMS ADVISED HE RENTED P O BOX SIX FOUR THREE
ABOUT APRIL ONE LAST FOR FRIEND PLANNING TO OPERATE BUSINESS
TO LOCATE SUITABLE MARRIAGE PARTNERS THROUGH COMPUTER ANALYSIS.
BUSINESS COMPOSED OF FOUR PARTNERS AND KNOWN AS TRANS DASH
COMPUTER ASSOCIATES.

THEODORE FINKELSTEIN, JOSEPH FRIEDMAN, SIMON DESOTO AND
LEWIS A. CLEMY, PARTNERS, TRANS DASH COMPUTER ASSOCIATES ALL

1 - ATLANTA (AM) (INFO)
1 - BIRMINGHAM (AM) (INFO)

① - KANSAS CITY (AM) (INFO)
1 - MEMPHIS (AM) (INFO)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

SERIALIZED

JUN 2 1968

FBI - KANSAS CITY

OBSERVED PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND DENY KNOWING HIM OR
CORRESPONDING WITH HIM. ALL ON OWN INITIATIVE VOLUNTEERED
TO SUBMIT TO POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS CONCERNING THE MATTER.

FINKELSTEIN ADVISED WHEN CHECKING POST OFFICE BOX ON OR
ABOUT MAY TWENTYTWO LAST, IT CONTAINED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO
OWEN D. NEIGHBOUR FROM STUDIO PRESS, COOPER STATION, NEW YORK.
LETTER CONTAINED BROCHURE ADVERTISING NUDE TYPE PHOTOGRAPHS.

POST OFFICE OFFICIALS ADVISE NEIGHBOUR RENTED P O BOX
SIX FOUR THREE FROM NINETEEN SIXTYONE TO MARCH THIRTYONE LAST.
NEIGHBOUR LEFT FORWARDING ADDRESS CARE OF PAUL NEWLIN, FOUR
ONE SEVEN ACADEMY STREET, NEWARK, DELAWARE, UNTIL MAY THIRTY
LAST, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCONTINUE FORWARDING AFTER THAT
DATE.

BALTIMORE INTERVIEW NEIGHBOUR CONCERNING LETTER AND
HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAY. DISPLAY PHOTOS OF RAY. COPIES OF LETTER
AND ENVELOPE BEING FORWARDED BY AIRTEL.

AM COPIES TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5-31-68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, BOSTON
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

ReBuairtel to SI, 5-29-68.

JOHN EUGENE GAWRON. St. Louis, Mo., advised Bureau Agents he and JAMES EARL RAY cased the Bank of Alton, in 1959 and planned to "hold up" in apartment on Fourth Street, Alton, for one week following bank robbery. This bank robbed by two Unsubs 7-13-67.

Subsequent to robbery shotgun and clothing found in vacant lot rear of Fourth Street, as follows:

Stevens Model 94, 12-gauge single-shot, single-barrel, sawed-off shotgun with no serial number.

Man's white Van Heusen Van-Guard shirt.

Man's blue nylon jacket (windbreaker type)

Man's tan pleated trousers

One Hiccock Pioneer belt, size 32, black in color with No. 5121 on inside of belt

One brown cap with fishing emblem on front

2 - Boston
② - Kansas City (44-760)
2 - Louisville
1 - Memphis (44-1987)(Info)
3 - Springfield (2: 44-561)(1: 91-3699)
RCH:blw
(10)

44-760-102

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Je
lead
14

SI 44-561

One gray felt hat, Royal Deluxe Stetson with label on sweatband "Men's Style Shop, Gray & Wilson, Mayfield, Ky."

Shirt bore laundry markings "NU" or "NO", "JOH-U" or "JOH-O" inside collar.

Trousers bore visible laundry markings "44--" and "3107-3," on right front pocket. Also on the right rear pocket "T6276" and "U7703." No other visible or invisible laundry markings were found by FBI Laboratory.

LEADS: BOSTON DIVISION

AT WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Will contact Savage-Stevens Co., to determine if there is known way of tracing the recovered shotgun.

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Will contact Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), furnish description of clothing and laundry markings and determine if either clothing or laundry markings could have originated at MSP.

LOUISVILLE DIVISION

AT MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY

Will contact Gray & Wilson Men's Style Shop regarding Royal Deluxe Stetson hat in effort to identify purchaser or possible alternate distribution of hats.

Because of RAY's involvement in MURKIN, Bureau instructs all leads to check GAWRON's allegations be furnished expeditious, continuous attention and results reported promptly in effort to resolve allegations.

5/31/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM: SAC, ALBANY (44-493) (P)

RE: MURKIN
CR

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau 5/22/68.

RAYMOND ANDREW YOUNG was recontacted 5/29/68, at Docktor's Pet Center, Fairmount Shopping Center, Syracuse, N.Y., and he identified the photograph of LESTER HOWARD PACKETT, FBI #027270A as being the individual he met at the bar in the vicinity of the Clark Hotel on 4/17/68. He stated that he recalled this individual had a southern accent and made some comment about being from Tennessee.

In view of this identification no further investigation being conducted regarding this aspect of case.

2-Los Angeles ARMED AND DANGEROUS

2-Memphis (44-1987)
1-Atlanta (44-2386) (Info)
1-Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
1-Charlotte (Info)
1-Detroit (Info)
1-Kansas City (Info)
1-Knoxville (Info)
1-Las Vegas (Info)
1-Miami (44-1864) (Info)
1-Mobile (Info)
1-Albany
RHR:ad
(14)

44-760-1022

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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Harcourt PBA

6-1-68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, CINCINNATI
FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Kansas City airtel to Louisville, 5-24-68.

Enclosed herewith for information of Cincinnati is one copy of referenced airtel.

Investigation Lexington, Ky. to locate CURTIS RENFRO negative. However, lengthy arrest record located Lexington PD and through records brother-in-law CHARLES BEAGLE and sister, OPAL COBB located. Both advised RALPH RENFRO, brother of COBB and CURTIS RENFRO, formerly employed by Holland Furnace Co. and located in vicinity Joplin, Mo., about 1961 or 1962. Both stated he had a crew but neither could recall name of JAMES EARL RAY as having been mentioned by RALPH RENFRO.

RALPH RENFRO now resides 5367 Dixie Highway, Fairfield, Ohio, phone 893-4058, employed at a local Gulf Oil Co. station.

LEAD:

CINCINNATI

Locate RALPH RENFRO and interview in accordance with lead set out in referenced enclosed airtel.

- 2 - Cincinnati (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
 - ② - Kansas City (44-760)
 - 2 - Louisville
- DIR/ds
(7)

44-760-1023

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 3 1968	
KANSAS CITY	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

F B I

Date: 6/3/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE IMMEDIATE
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI, AND ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, DALLAS,
MEMPHIS, SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS

FROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760)

DAILY SUMMARY

MURKIN

RE BUCALL TO SAC, KANSAS CITY, JUNE TWO, SIXTYEIGHT FURNISHING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: ~~RAYMON~~ ^{May be} GEORGE SNEYD WHOSE PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPH ~~IS PROBABLY~~ THAT OF SUBJECT RAY, OBTAINED A BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PASSPORT ON APR. TWENTYFOUR, SIXTYEIGHT. IN APPLYING FOR PASSPORT HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION: WM, BORN [REDACTED] TORONTO, WEIGHT ONE HUNDRED SIXTYEIGHT, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, RESIDENCE NINE SIXTYEIGHT DUNDAS, TORONTO, CANADA, WHICH IS A CHEAP CHINESE ROOMING HOUSE WHERE SNEYD HAD RESIDED SINCE APR. NINETEEN, SIXTYEIGHT, BUT PROPRIETOR COULD NOT MAKE A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF SNEYD AS RAY FROM PHOTO. FRIEND NAMED IN PASSPORT APPLICATION WAS PAUL BRIDGMAN, ONE ZERO TWO OR ONE ZERO EIGHT OSSINGTON ST., TORONTO, CANADA. PASSPORT APPLICATION WAS OBTAINED THROUGH ~~KINGMAN TRAVEL AGENCY WHICH IS A COUPLE OF BLOCKS FROM~~ ^{FEAR} SNEYD'S ROOMING HOUSE. TRAVEL AGENCY RECORDS INDICATED SNEYD PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO LONDON VIA BOAC AND WOULD RETURN ON MAY TWENTYONE, SIXTYEIGHT. INVESTIGATION IN CANADA HAS FAILED TO LOCATE BRIDGMAN.

RVH:MD
(1) *TMA*WA - 6³⁸ PMAT - 6⁴⁵ PMBA - 6⁵² PMDL - 7⁰⁰ PMSI - 7⁰⁸ PMSent *ME* - 7¹⁵ PMSL - 7²² PMApproved: *147*

Special Agent in Charge

M

Per *LSB*

44-760-1024

F B I

Date:

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

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

PAUL BRIDGMAN MAY BE IDENTICAL TO FORMER FELLOW INMATE OF SUBJECT RAY, PAUL OSBORN BRIDGEMAN, AKA PAUL JAMES BRIDGEMAN, MSP NO. ONE ZERO ONE THREE FOUR, BORN [REDACTED] WINCHESTER, IND., WHO WAS RECEIVED AT MSP FROM JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS CITY, MO., ON APR. TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYFIVE, AND WAS DISCHARGED JAN. SIXTEEN, SIXTYEIGHT, AND WAS NOT ON PAROLE. BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO PRISON LIMITED SECURITY SECTION AT MOBERLY, MO., ON MARCH SEVEN, SIXTYSIX, BRIDGEMAN WORKED IN THE MSP KITCHEN AND COULD HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH SUBJECT RAY. BRIDGEMAN'S FRIEND OR POSSIBLE GUARDIAN WAS SHOWN IN PRISON RECORDS AS WAYNE ROTHBERG, FORMERLY KANSAS CITY, MO., AND IN SIXTYSEVEN RESIDING AT EIGHTYSIX ZERO THREE BEUREGARD ST., DALLAS, TEXAS, WHERE HE WAS EMPLOYED BY ROCO AUTO SUPPLY COMPANY. WARDEN AT MSP DETERMINED THAT ROTHBERG WAS SMUGGLING MONEY TO BRIDGEMAN AND SUSPECTS THAT BOTH ARE HOMOSEXUALS. BRIDGEMAN IN FIFTYSIX INTERVIEWED ^{Confessed in} AND SIGNED STATEMENT TO ^{ITSMV} MSP VIOLATION, ~~KANSAS CITY FIVE TWENTY SIX TWO THREE SEVEN FIVE FIVE~~ USA, KANSAS CITY, MO., DECLINED PROSECUTION IN FAVOR OF STATE PROSECUTION. IN FIFTYSIX BRIDGEMAN IDENTIFIED PARENTS AS JAMES M. AND IRENE BRIDGEMAN, ONE ZERO ONE

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

F B I

Date:

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

KC 44-760

PAGE THREE

EAST WALNUT, BLOOMINGTON, ILL. BRIDGEMAN ARRESTED KANSAS CITY, MO.
PD FEB. EIGHT, SIXTYEIGHT ON DISTURBING THE PEACE CHARGE AND RELEASED
ON TWENTYFIVE DOLLAR BOND SAME DAY. CHARGE DISMISSED FEB. TWELVE,
SIXTYEIGHT. ~~GAVE FICTITIOUS RESIDENCE~~ ^{INCORRECT Address} AND INCORRECT EMPLOYMENT ON
THIS ARREST BUT ^{Claimed parents deceased and} GAVE HIS SISTER AS JANET LOU CAWVEY, LANTON, MO.
PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRIDGEMAN WILL BE FORWARDED TO ABOVE OFFICES JUNE FOUR.
BRIDGEMAN DESCRIBED WM, SIX FEET TALL, ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY POUNDS,
BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES.

DALLAS, INTERVIEW ROTHBERG.

SPRINGFIELD, INTERVIEW JAMES AND IRENE BRIDGEMAN. ^{Living} ~~is not deceased~~

KANSAS CITY INTERVIEWING JANET LOU CAWVEY. ^{and possible}
^{Girl Friend of Bridgeman}
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

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