

FBI KAN CITY

FBI MINNAPLS

151 PM 6-14-68 URGENT BLE

TO DIRECTOR

KANSAS CITY

MEMPHIS

OMAHA

FROM MINNEAPOLIS (157-450) 4P

MURKIN

RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL JUNE SEVEN, LAST, AND MEMPHIS TEL
JUNE THIRTEEN LAST. 44-760-1044
1028 p2
1019
Paul Osborn Bridgeman
26-23755

PAUL BRIDGEMAN, FORMER INMATE, MSP, JEFFERSON CITY,
MISSOURI, REINTERVIEWED AND ADVISED HE SAW JAMES EARL RAY AT
FORTRESS BAR, KANSAS CITY, APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AFTER
HIS DISCHARGE FROM MSP, JANUARY SIXTEEN, LAST. HE ADVISED
AT TIME HE WAS LIVING AT FIVE FOUR THREE EIGHT SKYLINE DRIVE,
MISSION, KANSAS, (ROE VILLAGE). HE ADVISED A MIKE HEAD,
DESCRIBED AS MALE, WHITE, FIVE FEET NINE INCHES, ONE SIX ZERO
POUNDS, SANDY BUSHY HAIR, WHO WORKS FOR HIS FATHER IN SMALL
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, WAS IN BAR AT TIME AND SAW BEVERLY HILL,
AND WANTED TO KNOW WHO SHE WAS.

*Not much of
value*

87-20715

BRIDGEMAN STATES EMPHATICALLY HE DOES NOT KNOW BEVERLY

END PAGE ONE

44-760-1118

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe *R*

MP 157-450

PAGE TWO

137-3851
91-4111

HILL BUT HAS SEEN HER AROUND KANSAS CITY AND BELIEVES HER TO BE A PROSTITUTE. HE STATED SHE MAY BE SISTER TO BUSTER HILL WHO WAS IN MSP AND WAS RELEASED ABOUT SAME TIME RAY ESCAPED. BRIDGEMAN ADVISED HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON ON TUESDAY AND RATHBERG VISITED HIM IN KANSAS CITY WITH BRIDGEMAN'S SON THE NINETEENTH, TWENTIETH, AND TWENTY-FIRST OF JANUARY. HE NEXT SAW RATHBERG IN OKLAHOMA CITY WHERE THEY STAYED AT DOWN TOWNER MOTEL. HE RECALLS FIRST TIME HE SAW RATHBERG IN OKLAHOMA CITY WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AFTER HE SAW RAY IN KANSAS CITY. BRIDGEMAN ADVISED PRIOR TO BEVERLY HILL ARRIVING AT FORTRESS, BARMAID, KNOWN TO HIM ONLY AS JOYCE, RECEIVED CALL FROM UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE ASKING IF BRIDGEMAN WAS AT BAR. JOYCE TOLD CALLER THAT BRIDGEMAN WAS THERE AND THEN ASKED BRIDGEMAN IF IT WAS ALL RIGHT. BRIDGEMAN ADVISED HE TOLD HER IT WAS OK AND APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES LATER, BEVERLY HILL SHOWED UP.

AS POINTED OUT IN REFERENCED MINNEAPOLIS TEL, BRIDGEMAN INSISTS THIS WAS LLST AND ONLY TIME HE SAW RAY SINCE RAY'S ESCAPE MSP.

BRIDGEMAN CERTAIN VEHICLE RAY WAS IN WAS LIGHT BLUE T BIRD AND BELIEVES IT TO BE ABOUT NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE T BIRD.

END PAGE TWO

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PAGE THREE

HE IS ALSO CERTAIN LICENSE PLATES WERE WHITE WITH RED LETTERS AND BELIEVES CAR TO BE LICENSED IN IOWA.

BRIDGEMAN ADVISED IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH RAY, RAY MENTIONED HE WAS "HOT" AND ASKED FOR MONEY. BRIDGEMAN ADVISED HE KNEW RAY HAD ESCAPED AND, THEREFORE, GAVE HIM THIRTY OR THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS.

BRIDGEMAN EMPHATICALLY DENIED SEEING RAY IN OKLAHOMA WHEN HE HAD PLENTY OF MONEY AND EMPHATICALLY DENIED TELLING ANYONE HE HAD SEEN RAY IN ANY PLACE OTHER THAN KANSAS CITY AS STATED ABOVE.

AS TO BEVERLY HILL, HE BELIEVES AT ONE TIME SHE DID WORK AT COLONY INN, KANSAS CITY, BUT IS NOT CERTAIN. AS TO BUSTER HILL, HE DOES KNOW HE WORKED AS BARTENDER IN JEWEL BOX, KANSAS CITY, AT ONE TIME.

JOYCE DESCRIBED AS A "LITTLE RED-HEADED GIRL".

BRIDGEMAN SUGGESTED POSSIBLE OTHER CONTACTS OF RAY IN KANSAS CITY WOULD BE ONE JIMMY DEWESSE WHO CELLED WITH RAY IN C HALL WHILE RAY AT MSP, AND CARL SPERO WHO KNEW RAY AT MSP. BRIDGEMAN BELIEVES BOTH OF ABOVE RELEASED FROM MSP PRIOR TO RAY'S VISIT TO KANSAS CITY IN FEBRUARY.

END PAGE THREE

MP 157-450

PAGE FOUR

KANSAS CITY, CONDUCT INDICATED INVESTIGATION TO VERIFY
OR REFUTE BRIDGEMAN'S STORY.

MEMPHIS, CONSIDER ADVISING OTHER FFICE TO COVER LEADS
SET OUT IN MINNEAPOLIS TEL JUNE SEVEN, LAST.

END

PLG

FBI KAN CITY

@

F B I

Date: 6/14/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR
MEMPHIS
MINNEAPOLIS

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

MURKIN

RE MINNEAPOLIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, INSTANT DATE.

KANSAS CITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY, KANSAS CITY MO. PD,
AND KANSAS CITY LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FAILED TO REVEAL ANY
RECORD IN THE NAME OF BEVERLY HILL. JAMES DUARDI, OWNER,
AND KAY HAMMOND, BARMAID, OLD FORTRESS TAVERN, KANSAS CITY,
ADVISED THEY DID NOT KNOW ANY PERSON IDENTICAL TO PHOTOGRAPH
OF JAMES EARL RAY.

RECORDS, KANSAS CITY, MO. PD, REVEALED THAT PAUL
BRIDGEMAN WAS ARRESTED FEBRUARY EIGHT LAST AT EIGHTYFIFTH
AND TROOST STS., KANSAS CITY, FOR DISTURBING THE PEACE BY
FIGHTING IN THE OLD FORTRESS TAVERN AT THAT ADDRESS.

① - Kansas City
1 - Dallas (AM)
RBH:lw
(2)

44-760-1119

Approved: (H)
Special Agent in Charge

Sent wa 4-50 p.m.
me 4-53 p.m. M Per Jmh

F B I

Date: _____

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

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE AND IN VIEW OF THE INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN MEMPHIS TELETYPE DATED JUNE SEVEN LAST AND
DALLAS TELETYPE DATED JUNE SIX LAST, NO ADDITIONAL
INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED IN THIS MATTER UNLESS
ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY BY OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

DATE: 6/14/68

FROM : SA RAYMOND B. HOWE P

SUBJECT: MURKIN

A "Vibro-Graver" Model V-73, manufactured by Burgess Vibrocrafters, Inc., obtained on 5/29/68, from Mr. CLARENCE R. LUCKE, Storekeeper, Inmate Canteen, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, along with a "Channel Master" radio case bearing samples of the numbering of personnel at the Inmate Canteen who would have placed the inmate numbers on transistor radios purchased at the Inmate Canteen at the time JAMES EARL RAY purchased his transistor radio at the canteen.

These were obtained by SA WEAVER and are being maintained in 1B3 and not being forwarded to Bureau at this time as all evidence obtained by Memphis Police Department has been returned to them.

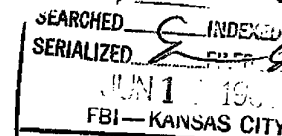
The radio case has samples of numbering by Mr. LUCKE in the space on the back of the case marked #1 and with LUCKE's initials; by inmate AL PHASON, #10499, in the area marked #2 and with PHASON's initials; by inmate GUS LYONS, #01696, in the area marked #3 and with LYONS's initials. All the above were using a new electric engraver to enscribe the numbers "00416" on the case. Mr. TOM ROBERTS, civilian employee of the Inmate Canteen, used the "Vibro-Graver" furnished by Mr. LUCKE on the top of the case in the area marked #4 and with ROBERTS' initials, and on 5/30/68, Mr. PATRICK RACKERS, former supervisor at the Inmate Canteen used the "Vibro-Graver" obtained from LUCKE to engrave the top of the case in the area marked #5, and with his initials.

The "Vibro-Graver" obtained from LUCKE was identified by him as the only one in use at the Inmate Canteen since he started work there in July 1966, and he said the bit is the one which has been in use in the engraver since July 1966.

RBH: WSA
(2) *W*



5010-108-01



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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KANSAS CITY	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 6/14/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/16/68 - 6/12/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE, I.O. #4182, U.F. #442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY RAYMOND B. HOWE	TYPED BY rmb
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE:

Kansas City report of SA RAYMOND B. HOWE dated 5/15/68.

- P -

LEAD

KANSAS CITY

AT KANSAS CITY

Will continue efforts to account for subject's activities and whereabouts during period from April 23, 1967, to June 8, 1968, with emphasis on determining his escape route to Canada, his source of funds, and his repository for keeping funds, and how he gained knowledge of necessary documents needed to obtain Canadian passport.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					None	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

5 Bureau (44-38861)

5 Memphis (44-1987)

2 Kansas City (44-760)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-760-1121
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Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

KC 44-760

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Extensive investigation has continued in this matter, however, all obviously non-pertinent information is being left out of this report. These include checks of Kansas and Missouri Departments of Motor Vehicles records, investigation at lower-class rooming houses and cleaning establishments, Kansas and Missouri Bureaus of Vital Statistics, numerous look-alikes that have been reported and eliminated as possible suspects, and all negative information furnished by informants.

Extra copies of this report are being furnished Office of Origin in the event of future dissemination.

Subject's complete file from the Missouri State Penitentiary was Xeroxed and forwarded by the Kansas City Office to the FBI, Washington, D.C., in order that it could be better evaluated for leads in this matter since it contained numerous technical, medical, and psychological terms.

Also, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, made a complete search of various medical and dental records and the only X-Rays he could obtain for the subject were of his sinus cavities. These were obtained and also forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for identification purposes. Warden SWENSON stated that the prison dentist, Dr. RICHARD SKAIN, had assured him that the sinus X-Ray was as good, if not better, than the average dental X-Ray for determination of dental identification.

The Channel Master transistor radio located near the Memphis rooming house by the Memphis Police Department bore scratchings that appeared to be 00416. The Missouri State Penitentiary's inmate canteen sells such radios, and at the time they do, the inmate's number is etched on the radio with a Vibro-Graver, model V-73, manufactured by Burgess Vibrocrafters, Inc. RAY's MSP number is 00416, and he bought a radio from the canteen on 4/21/67. The above Vibro-Graver is the one that would have been used to make this engraving. It was obtained by SA THOMAS H. WEAVER on 5/29/68 from Mr. CLARENCE R. LUCKE, Storekeeper, Inmate Canteen, MSP, along with transistor radio case bearing samples of the numbering of personnel at the inmate canteen who would have placed the inmate numbers on the transistor radio purchased on 4/21/67.

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This Vibro-Graver is being maintained in the 1B3 Section of this file in the Kansas City Office. It is not being forwarded to the Laboratory at this time for comparison purposes inasmuch as the original transistor has been returned to the Memphis Police Department. The Vibro-Graver and numbering samples are being maintained in the event they are needed in the future for evidentiary purposes.

All inmates and former inmates furnishing information regarding subject fear retaliation from other prisoners because of their furnishing information to law enforcement agencies. In view of this, discretion should be used in the dissemination of any information included in this report.

C
COVER PAGE

KC 44-760

THW:MD

1

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

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

On May 15, 1968, CECIL CLAYTON LILLIBRIDGE, also known as CARL LILLIBRIDGE, who requested that his identity as the source of this information be concealed, was contacted at the Cole County Jail, and he furnished the following information:

He knew JAMES EARL RAY for quite some time before RAY was moved into his cell at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). He had had some minor dealings with RAY in poker. RAY himself played very little poker, but he would lend money to inmates who did play poker at the "3 for 2" rate requiring \$3 to be repaid for every \$2 loaned. RAY was "too tight" to play poker, and even when he loaned money at the exorbitant interest rates he required some kind of collateral. If RAY was a "walk man" in the MSP, having reference to an inmate whose duties called for his moving freely around the cell block, then RAY would have been a carrier for the usual prison lotteries dealing with numbers and parlays over ball game scores, in which cigarettes were bet, and the "walk man" would deliver the numbers slips and the winners' cigarettes, and would be paid a percentage by the inmate who ran the lottery through this association, but the "walk man" would perform the service strictly for his commission and would not necessarily be "close" to the person running the lottery, but would be selected because he had access to other inmates' cells. He has no information that RAY was ever a "walk man" or ever engaged in lotteries as described above.

In his conversations with RAY he learned that RAY was more interested in Mexico than in Canada. In speaking of places to go to "cool off" or "hide out", he suggested to RAY that it would be easier for a white American to hide out in Canada than in Mexico, since his skin color and language would be the same as the natives, but RAY had spent some time in Mexico and apparently liked the area and he expressed very little interest in Canada.

D

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He and RAY discussed a newspaper article which was published at about the time they celled together in which an Italian criminal's escape to Italy from the U. S. was apparently accomplished through his obtaining a Canadian passport, and it was suggested and RAY was apparently aware of the custom of the Episcopal Church and Church of England and its branches in Canada of keeping baptismal records and records of birth for years, which records would be easily accessible to anyone wanting to assume a new identity. They discussed how one could go to a medium-sized Canadian city, find records of birth through an open, easily accessible church, for an individual about one's own age, verify through local inquiry or source material that some such person is deceased, then write to the Provincial capital of that province requesting a copy of the birth certificate for that person, thereby securing documentary evidence of a new identity to use in securing a Canadian passport. RAY did not express a great deal of interest in this process and made no mention of planning to use such a technique to escape or change his identity. He did not say anything about any plans to go to Canada or to Mexico and thereby to a third country, and he never mentioned any interest in Rhodesia or other country with a view of flight there in hopes of avoiding extradition. RAY did say that he had considered Australia as a place to go to avoid apprehension for a wanted person, but indicated that he had dismissed Australia as a refuge because of the sparse population and the lack of tourists. RAY told him that he had written to Queensland, apparently before 1962, to some Government agency inquiring about the type of employment available there for foreigners, but his conversation indicated he had no interest in Australia at that point.

Most of RAY'S conversation revolved around Mexico when speaking of places to go after "pulling some job". He made no mention of narcotics smuggling to Mexico, and he did not say how he planned to obtain the "big haul" he wanted to make in order to "retire", other than that he might happen onto a large supermarket with a lot of money on hand which he could rob. He did not mention any specific supermarket or area of the country in this regard. From his conversation, he felt that RAY had actual experience in and knowledge of

E

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smuggling small appliances into the Campeche Bay area of Mexico for resale. He mentioned that there were some dollars to be made in this racket with a very small investment required. RAY'S associate MATEO LOPEZ GARCIA or MATEO GARCIA LOPEZ or some similar name previously described by LILLIBRIDGE as described by RAY was a real person, and LILLIBRIDGE remembered the name he gave because it was similar to the name of a "wet back" he had known previously in prison.

RAY spoke of the possibility of obtaining colored contact lenses to wear to change the color of his eyes in avoiding detection. RAY did not say where he would try to obtain contact lenses or that he had actually ever tried to obtain them or that he had ever worn contact lenses. RAY'S eyes as LILLIBRIDGE recalls them are a faded, pale blue, or "sky blue", and he would want to darken the appearance of his eyes in changing his appearance. He told LILLIBRIDGE how he had experimented in the past on portions of his skin covered by his clothing with staining his skin a darker color using some kind of "walnut dye". He had apparently tried the dye out of curiosity to see how long the stain would last, and he told LILLIBRIDGE that the dye would "just have to wear off". As to changing his appearance, LILLIBRIDGE feels it is significant to note that RAY'S weight would vary greatly from month to month. RAY would go through periods of weight-lifting, strictly for the exercise, and he would occasionally become concerned over his weight from a health standpoint and would lose weight quickly. RAY was not a competitive weightlifter and would probably not seek out a gymnasium to practice weightlifting, but he was concerned over a heart problem he imagined that he had, and he wanted the exercise to strengthen his heart. He mentioned that he knew it would be easy to obtain a fictitious Social Security card simply by filling in a form in any name, state that he had been self-employed, and he would be mailed a new Social Security card. He did not mention any problem with regard to obtaining a driver's license under an assumed name.

RAY told LILLIBRIDGE about a shack he rented on the outskirts of Campeche, Mexico, and how he had considered the possibility of buying the shack instead of paying rent. Money and not paying more for anything than necessary was of constant concern to RAY. He told LILLIBRIDGE of the difficulty in

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Mexico for a foreigner to own any property. He told of the practice of "Rentista Papers" through which a foreigner by paying a fee could receive permission from the Mexican Government to own a small business in Mexico or purchase property on a small scale in Mexico. He mentioned how it was an effort to have anything done by local Government officials in Mexico since everyone moved so slowly, and how in order to obtain "Rentista Papers" one would apparently have to pay two or three persons "under the table" a few pesos in order to get the papers through the Government red tape, and from his conversation, it appeared that RAY never was in Mexico long enough to wait out the process of obtaining "Rentista Papers".

G

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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.

H

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KC 44-760

RBH:IKC

1

On May 10, 1968, Warden H. SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that inmate CECIL LILLIBREDGE had the following cell assignments:

January 9, 1954	B-102
September 24, 1957	B-111
November 12, 1958	G-63
March 24, 1959	(J Hall)
August 26, 1960	B-97
October 21, 1960	J-176
April 21, 1962	J-143
March 9, 1963	C-108
April 28, 1965	C-17
November 2, 1967	C-120

It is to be noted that the subject in this matter was also assigned cell C-17 from November 17, 1966, to January 18, 1967.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: **RAYMOND B. HOWE**
Date: **June 14, 1968**

Office: KANSAS CITY

Field Office File #: **44-760**

Bureau File #: 44-36861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(DECEASED) - VICTIM

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

Synopsis:

Inmates and officials at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) unable to furnish any information regarding "Cooley Organization" or gang inside MSP. Inmate JAMES D. WALLACE, MSP #75682, advised he saw RAY and "fall partner" JAMES L. OWENS in Jefferson - Gravois Bank, St. Louis, Mo., during summer, 1967. Inmates unable to furnish any information regarding "bounty" on Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MSP Warden advised RAY received \$2.00 per month official pay at the prison. Additional information set forth regarding RAY's escape from MSP in bread box. Foreman, MSP Prison Farm, admitted receiving letter and phone call from prior inmate TOM BRITTON. Investigation failed to determine any pertinent information regarding type of magazines or newspapers read by RAY at MSP. FBI Laboratory unable to identify handwriting on 176 applications to the Belsaw Locksmithing Institute, Kansas City, Missouri, for months April and May, 1968, with known samples of RAY's handwriting. Interviews conducted in effort to locate PAUL O. BRIDGEMAN, MSP #10134, set forth. Attorney PHILLIP BAKER, Independence, Missouri, advised that in January of 1963 he was appointed to represent RAY in his application for Writ of Habeas Corpus. This hearing was unsuccessful. BAKER received letter from JERRY RAY and a money order from fellow inmate, MSP, for \$100.00 to cover RAY's legal fees, which were \$50.00. BAKER in turn returned a check for \$50.00 to RAY at MSP. Attorney DAVID BRYDON, Jefferson City, Missouri, advised ex-MSP inmate J. D. DAILEY contacted him in attempt to obtain parole for inmate THOMAS

END

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EC 44-700

CREWS, because CREWS was reportedly suffering from tuberculosis. HAY purchased radio at MSP inmate canteen on 4/21/67. He paid \$9.75 for this radio. Channel Master Transistor Radios, Model 6802, are sold by the canteen and are the only radios ever selling for \$9.75. When radio purchased, inmate's number is etched on it at the canteen and a "slip" is given to the Treasurer's Office. No Serial Numbers maintained on the radios sold by the canteen.

- P -

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

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EC 44-760

DETAILS:

- I. INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOW INMATES
AND OFFICIALS AT MISSOURI STATE
PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY,
MISSOURI

KC 44-760

RBA:ss

1

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

On May 6, 1968, EARL KNIGHT, MSP 65078, serving life for murder from New Madrid, Missouri, said he did not know JAMES EARL RAY. He said he was at Fordland (honor camp) on April 3, 1967. He said he came to the penitentiary in August of 1951 and was out on July 11, 1967, by escape. He said he never heard of a bounty for the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING and never heard of any time of a mutual organization for protection, profit or otherwise. He said he had never heard of the COOLEY gang or anyone by the name of COOLEY.

On May 6, 1968, MAJOR BERNARD J. POIRY, Assistant Warden in charge of Security, said that the person who escaped by using a uniform and going out the gate was MERLE RAY WINFORD, number 10177. He was apprehended in Kansas City, Missouri, the next day. He said JIMMY Z. BRADLEY also attempted to escape by using a ladder and a uniform. He did not get away from the walls. He also said that the only person who had ammunition in his pockets was a "TEX" HARRIS and another inmate by the name of HAWKINS. He said he also traced some ammunition to the shop where BRADLEY worked, but could not "pin" them on him. He said RAY was never involved in any of these matters.

MAJOR POIRY said he had no information regarding any COOLEY or COOLEY gang, but would attempt to develop information in this regard through his inmate contacts.

On May 14, 1968, MAJOR POIRY further advised he has developed no information in regards this alleged organization or group.

KC 44-760

RBA:tlw

1

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

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On May 14, 1968, Mr. HARRY LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), advised there have been 20 persons by the name of COOLEY in the MSP over the years. None are in any of the branches of the prison at this time. The last COOLEY to be released was JESSIE J. COOLEY, JR., MSP #11653, who was released on August 26, 1967. He was received on February 17, 1966, and transferred to the Alcoa Reformatory on March 22, 1967. He said intense inquiry among inmates and custodial personnel has failed to reveal anyone, regardless of the period of their incarceration or employment, who has ever heard of a "COOLEY organization" or similar in the MSP.

Mr. LAUF further stated there have been no brothers in the Penitentiary by the names of JAMES and LARRY RAYE. He said, however, that JAMES DUANE WRAY, #06720, who is still in the MSP, is the brother of LAWRENCE EUGENE WRAY, MSP #14014, who is on parole. He has previously been contacted in connection with this case.

On May 14, 1968, JAMES DUANE WRAY, #06720, H Hall for his safety, was contacted. He said he did not know JAMES EARL RAY except by reputation and may have seen him. He said he is the brother of LAWRENCE EUGENE WRAY. He said he has lived in practically every hall in the MSP since he arrived in April of 1963. He said he does not know of any organization of inmates as such, and has never heard of anyone by the name of COOLEY or COOLEY's Organization or similar.

On May 14, 1968, Mr. HARRY LAUF said prison records reflect there were three brothers in the MSP by the name of MENARD. These were RAYMOND OWEN MENARD, FBI #4 718 227,

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out on January 23, 1963, MSP #69079; RICHARD LAWRENCE MENARD, MSP #63823 and #68550, FBI 4 496 848, out June 16, 1965; and LOUIS GENE MENARD, MSP #67431, FBI 517 988 A, out April 3, 1967. All three have listed their address as care of their mother, HAZEL MENARD, 2104 South 8th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The record of THOMAS BRITTON, FBI #5 008 037, indicates he used the alias of WILLIAM RAY in 1949, according to Mr. LAUF.

On May 14, 1968, RAYMOND PRUITT, Clerk, inmate, was recontacted. He was questioned further about the existence of the COOLEY gang, organization, or COOLIE, etc. He said he has been in the Penitentiary for 12 years and there is no organization as such and he never heard of the COOLEY gang, or similar.

On May 14, 1968, JIMMY Z. BRADLEY, MSP #71844, who said he did not desire that some of the information he furnished be attributed to him, said that he has been in the Penitentiary since 1956 and has been involved in every "racket" there is in the Penitentiary and also has attempted to escape and has helped others. He said he never heard of COOLEY or COOLEY's gang or organization or similar. He has never heard of a bounty on MARTIN LUTHER KING. He never heard of RAY using any type of uniform to effect an escape although he did. He never heard of RAY having any ammunition in his pockets on the grounds although "TEX" MORRIS, probably not known to RAY, did. He said JOHN STOUT had nothing to do with furnishing amphetamines to RAY, and he would not disclose who did. He said STOUT was fired two years before RAY escaped, and had nothing to do with it. He indicated STOUT may have been fired for some dealings with him (BRADLEY). BRADLEY said that recently, since the appearance of an article about RAY in "Life Magazine", the C Hall tender named JIMMY WALLACE (phonetic), told him that he had seen RAY last summer in St. Louis with "two other ex-cons". He said he did not know the details or the names of the "ex-cons". He said WALLACE probably would be willing to furnish the information he has and in this regard he did not desire his name to be used.

BRADLEY said he has not developed any other information which might aid in locating RAY.

On May 14, 1968, JAMES D. WALLACE, MSP #75682, born in [redacted], said he is the clerk of C Hall. He said he "fell" from St. Louis in 1959 for Armed Robbery and other charges. He was paroled in 1965 and was returned for violation by reason of drunk driving on March 11, 1968.

He said he was raised with JAMES L. OWENS, the "fall partner" of JAMES EARL RAY. He said he knew OWENS in the Penitentiary and saw him on three or four occasions in St. Louis, Missouri, while he was out. He said he recalled that he was C Hall tender when RAY tried to go over the walls and his ladder or rope or something broke about 1966. He said he was not a good friend of RAY's in the Penitentiary and knew him only to speak with him. He said he saw RAY in St. Louis sometime during the summer of 1967. He said it was probably the early part of the summer. He said RAY was with OWENS. He was just coming out of the Jefferson-Gravois Bank, located at the same address. RAY and OWENS were just entering the bank. He stopped and said to them that he was glad he got his money out before they got in. He said RAY laughed and said that "they were putting in". He said his wife was waiting in a car at the curb and he did not stop to talk and he went on out and drove off.

He said he had no way to fix the date. He said he reflected, at the time, that RAY must have escaped because he knew he had attempted to escape and had been "set back" on parole and he had too much time to have been released.

He said he saw OWENS on other occasions. He recalled that in 1966 he went to take a Missouri State Driver's license examination. OWENS was there and they got to talking about the Penitentiary and the examiner made OWENS leave because he apparently thought he was getting answers to the questions. He said the people at the examining station mentioned that OWENS had been there before and caused them some trouble.

WALLACE said that RAY had the reputation of being the type of person who served his time without comment and did not "mess" in the affairs of other people. He said he did not think that RAY would kill anyone as he is just not the type. He also said he has never heard of any organization in the Penitentiary and has never heard the name of COOLEY used in connection with any type of business or "racket" inside the walls and he did not know anyone by that name.

He said that inmates have over the years used cigarettes as medium of exchange in lieu of money and they make "parlay" bets on baseball games, horse races and other types of contests similar to bets made with money outside. He said he knew of no "lottery" as such involving cigarettes, but he said this might exist. He said there are "cliques" of prisoners who connive together for various reasons, and who become close associates, but there is no wide-spread organization and never has been to his knowledge. He said he certainly would be in position to know about it if there was and would have no hesitation in saying so if such existed.

On May 14, 1968, Major BERNARD POIRY, MSP Custodial Staff, in charge of security for the past 25 years, said he has been unable to develop information regarding the identity of "Dago" or of any organization such as the COOLEY gang or similar.

On May 14, 1968, Mr. HARVEY MILLER, Guard, inside, said he has worked inmates inside of the walls on maintenance for the past 23 years. He said he knew JAMES EARL RAY on sight, but not otherwise. He said he never heard of COOLEY or any organization of that type. He could not identify "Dago".

On May 14, 1968, BRADLEY, mentioned above, said DAGO could be JOHN PAUL SPIKA, who is in the Penitentiary. However, he does not have any scar resembling a bullet wound in the face, but he does have the nickname of "Dago". He said he has known other inmates called "Dago", but he could not otherwise identify them and could not recall any with a scar as described.

On May 14, 1968, BERCIA LEE BARBARICK, MSP #12587, born [redacted] said he was admitted to the MSP in 1959. He was in until 1965; released and returned on a murder charge in 1966. He said he knew RAY on sight, but that is all and he knew nothing of his habits, associates or escape. He said a guard told him that some "kid" had seen RAY last summer sleeping on a hill near Jefferson City with a "long beard". He also said that there is an organization in the MSP which wanted KING killed. He said it was not the "COOLEY organization", of which he had never heard, but the KKK. He said he did not hear any mention of this before Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was murdered and he could not identify anyone who has mentioned it since.

He said he had heard nothing concerning any bounty and knew of no lotteries.

On May 14, 1968, Mr. MC CORMICK WILSON, City Judge and Attorney, said he was appointed to represent JAMES EARL RAY in connection with an attempted escape by RAY in 1966. He said he talked to him at the Penitentiary and once in court. He said he also arranged to have him examined at State Hospital #1. He said he received no fees of any sort and was relieved on the case because he was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General. He said WILLIAM QUIGG completed the case.

On May 14, 1968, WILLIAM QUIGG, Central Missouri Trust Company, said he represented RAY by appointment of the court. He said he received no fees of any sort, and knew nothing about him, his background, associates, or whereabouts.

On May 14, 1968, Mr. W. C. SHELEY said that JAMES EARL RAY was represented in connection with a writ of habeas corpus case in January of 1963 by PHILLIP LEE BAKER.

On May 14, 1968, Mr. WADE BAKER, no kin, Secretary, Missouri Bar Association, Jefferson City, Missouri, said that PHILLIP LEE BAKER is an attorney and lives at 214 South Spring, Independence, Missouri.

KC 44-760

THW:mlb

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

At Jefferson City, Missouri

On May 13, 1968, GENE BARNES, Missouri Department of Corrections #72271, advised that during about 1965 and 1966, he celled in the same hall in the Missouri State Penitentiary, where BARNES is currently confined, with JAMES EARL RAY. He said that he spoke with RAY, but did not consider himself to be a close friend of RAY, and he could suggest no inmates who were close to RAY. BARNES stated he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) in 1959 in a guard's uniform, but this was before RAY came to the MSP, and he does not believe RAY knew about his escape. He said that RAY never mentioned to him any "bounty" on Dr. KING, and he heard no rumors about the existence of such a "bounty" discussed in the MSP. He stated that none of his conversation with RAY gave him any indication as to RAY's feelings about persons of other races, and he recalls that RAY also talked with Negro inmates while in the MSP. He advised that he knew RAY tried to escape previously, and he heard about his escape in April 1967. He assumed that RAY went out of the prison in a bread box from the prison bakery, but he never heard who helped him and has no information from anyone who knew specifically that RAY did escape in a bread box. He said RAY never attempted an escape in a prison guard's uniform to his knowledge. He stated that RAY did not tell him of any plan to escape and never discussed with him any plans of what he would do if he did get out of the prison. He said that RAY possibly was a user of amphetamine, but he has no information that he sold amphetamine. He stated that in his conversation with RAY, no mention was made of contacts or plans RAY had on the outside, and they merely discussed prison gossip and matters going on in the penitentiary. He said he never heard of "Cooley's Organization" and never heard RAY mention such an organization, which he doubts exists. He stated RAY stayed to himself and minded his own business while in the MSP. He advised that any "walk man" who would move freely about the cell block, such as RAY was for a time, briefly, would be the logical inmate to handle "numbers" for lottery on cigarettes, but he does not know that RAY acted for anyone in a "numbers lottery," and if

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he did he would not necessarily be close to anyone running the lottery, but merely available. He said that "Dago" is not known to him, and he never knew an inmate named EDWARD McCLELLAN. He advised that he never heard any talk among inmates about a "Business Man's Organization" which offered money for killing certain individuals. He said RAY never mentioned family or outside friends to him, and he has no information as to where RAY may have gone on escaping from the MSP. He stated RAY never mentioned escape routes out of the country to him and never mentioned Canada, Mexico, or Australia to him.

KC 44-760

RLH:pe

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA ROY L. HUMPHREYS, JR.:

At Leavenworth, Kansas

On May 17, 1968, Inmate RICHARD L. MENARD, USP #A83068L, advised he is serving a 15 year sentence for bank robbery from St. Louis. He said he began serving his sentence in May, 1966.

MENARD said he knew JAMES EARL RAY from about 1961 to 1965 when both were inmates at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri. He said RAY was still in the MSP when he was released. He said he knew RAY as a good friend, but did not cell with him or work in the same place with him.

MENARD said he did not have any conversations with RAY concerning escape or what RAY would do if he did escape. He said to his knowledge, RAY did not plan or consider escape.

MENARD said he did not know RAY to be race minded and said he was surprised that RAY would consider killing for racial reasons.

MENARD said RAY's closest friend at the MSP was CARL DRAKE, who is presently released and residing at 2634 St. Vincent, St. Louis, Missouri.

RAY talked about having a brother in St. Louis and apparently this brother was connected in some way with the supplying of drugs to RAY. DRAKE was connected closely with RAY in the supplying of drugs in the MSP. Two other inmates were also connected with this business, JIM BRADLEY of St. Louis, Missouri and BOBBY ASHE of Kansas City.

MENARD said it was hard to estimate what RAY's take per month on the drug sales was, but it would probably run an average of \$200.00 per month. Some months it might be nothing and others it might run up to \$1,000.00. He said this would depend on the source of supply and ability of suppliers to get drugs into the penitentiary.

KC 44-760

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He said inmates were able to obtain money for drugs by having guards bring in money to them for a percentage.

MENARD said he preferred not to discuss details of the drug supply as he did not see how this could be connected to the whereabouts of RAY. He said he would co-operate fully in the location of RAY, but did not wish to become involved in any investigation of the non-narcotic drug trade at the MSP, as such, for obvious reasons.

He stated that should the information he furnished be of value in the location of RAY, he would appreciate it if the fact he had co-operated be made a matter of record in his file for parole consideration and for consideration of any agencies holding detainers against him.

MENARD said he would be alert for information he could learn from inmates at the USP at Leavenworth, which would relate to the whereabouts of RAY and would contact the FBI through Penitentiary personnel, if he was successful in learning information of value.

KC 44-760
ME 44-1987

RE: CARL M. CRAIG

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

AT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI:

On May 17, 1968, CARL M. CRAIG, inmate, County Jail, advised he was just released from the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri, May 1, 1968, and had been there since October 29, 1965, serving a five-year sentence from Greene County for burglary. He celled in K Hall and worked in the Main Dining Room. RAY celled in either J or K. He did not cell with him and was not close to him. He never talked to him at length at any time and the only time he saw him was at sick call. RAY always complained of stomach trouble. He knows nothing about his friends or what he might have talked about to others at the prison. He is aware that many of the inmates would come forth with some "manufactured" information about him in the hope of gaining a parole. Many of them would say anything if they thought it would help their own case.

KC 44-760

RBA:MD

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ROWEN B. AYERS on May 17, 1968:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Mr. HAROLD SWENSON, Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that in Food Services, RAY received \$2.00 per month official pay. He said in industries the pay might run as high as \$12.00.

Mr. M. J. STEWART, Treasurer, said the ledger sheets of RAY'S account reflected all items received and disbursed by him together with the sources of each. The first column "cash credit" indicates the amount received from the state. He said there was nothing unusual about RAY'S account. He said checks can be drawn up to \$20.00 for the commissary. Any amounts sent out over \$20.00 require approval by the warden. The check is usually sent with a letter stating the purpose of the payment outgoing, he said.

JAMES WALLACE, previously interviewed, was upset about being recontacted. He said he should have not furnished any information in the first place as he did not want to get involved. He said, after calming down, that he was raised in South St. Louis and OWENS used to "hang around" that area a great deal and he met him there and associated with OWENS until he went to Illinois to prison. He said there was not any doubt in his mind about having seen OWENS and RAY together in St. Louis at the bank, and it would have had to be in the summer of 1967. He said his wife was with him. She is BETTY WALLACE, 1031 Lynch, St. Louis, Missouri. He now recalled that they parked the car in the parking lot and both walked into the bank so she should have seen OWENS and RAY. He said they maintained a joint checking account in the bank and his wife had a savings account in the bank (Jefferson-Gravois). He could not fix the date.

The records of the Identification Division, searched by HARRY LAUF, reflected a CHARLES MARTIN WALLER, #68389, served a sentence of 50 years. No WALTERS was found with this sort of sentence.

J. RAYMOND BILLS, Board of Pardons and Paroles, stated that WALLER was paroled on June 13, 1967, and resides at 204 East Lindenwood Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri. His parole officer is WILLIAM LEWIS, Kansas City, Missouri.

RONALD WESTBERG, Missouri State Penitentiary, #71859, said he knew RAY well. He said he was working in Food Services in the vegetable room when RAY escaped and he knew all about it. He said another inmate was going to escape in the bread box, but he and RAY decided, since RAY had more time, that RAY would go. He said the other inmate gave RAY some money and some clothing he had acquired to make the escape, and RAY went with the cooperation of the other inmate covering him and "for him". WESTBERG said under no circumstances would he divulge the identity of this other inmate since he is a good friend of his and still in the prison. He said there was no conspiracy and no mention had ever been made of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and he doubts that RAY had anything to do with that murder. He said it was a case of law enforcement attempting to get a "scapegoat".

ED WEATHERS, Missouri State Penitentiary #76239, assigned to the hospital, said he was out of the penitentiary from June of 1966 to August of 1967 when he was returned for parole violation. He said he knew RAY to talk to him, but knew nothing of his escape and could furnish no information concerning his whereabouts. He said he has heard of a lot of cliques in the penitentiary that make bets, handle amphetamines, etc., but he knew of no organization called ~~C~~ or similar and had never heard of any bounty on Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised he could locate no record of FRANK BICKLEY, in or out of the penitentiary.

Sgt. DORSEY ARNOLD, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Jefferson City, Missouri, advised no record for FRANK BICKLEY could be located.

On May 18, 1968, Assistant Warden JESS ELLIOTT, Missouri State Penitentiary, and JAMES R. DOYLE, Identification, advised they could locate no FRANK BRICKLEY as ever having been in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

KC 44-760

RBA:bjc

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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.
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.

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.

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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.

KC 44-760

JAM:jlh

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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 1510½ 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.

KC 44-760

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent BOWEN B. AYERS:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

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 HAY may have
enjoyed while in the penitentiary. He said he would make
logical contacts in an attempt to determine this information.

KC 44-760

TJC:ak

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The following investigation was conducted by SAs THOMAS J. CONNOLLY, and RAY HOMESLEY at Kansas City, Kansas, on May 24, 1968:

MARTIN MARION JANSEN, 717 Miami, was interviewed at the 813 Club, 813 Osage, Kansas City, Kansas, and advised he was in prison for 24½ years and is now on parole. He advised most of this time was served at Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, but he was at the Prison Farm at Moberly, Missouri from June, 1966 until his parole in June, 1967.

JANSEN was shown the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in the Fall of 1967 in a business suit with the cleft on the chin and he stated the face is familiar, but he cannot recall anything specific about the man. He stated he does recall two brothers by the name of LARRY and JIMMY WRAY, and an inmate by the name of (first name unknown) RHEA, serving time while he, JANSEN, was in Missouri State Penitentiary.

JANSEN stated he cannot recall anything at all regarding JAMES EARL RAY and therefore could furnish no pertinent information.

KC 44-760

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On June 4, 1968, JAMES STIDHAM, register #65993, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), who advised he has been an inmate at the MSP for 17 years, advised he does not know JAMES EARL RAY and has never heard of him. He stated he has no information regarding RAY, gambling in the MSP, or anything else about which the FBI might desire to question him.

On June 4, 1968, ROBERT BURNS, register #73811, an inmate at the MSP, advised he would have nothing to say regarding JAMES EARL RAY, any possible inmate organization, or anything else pertaining to present or former inmates or inmates' activities at the MSP. He said he would not say whether or not he ever heard of JAMES EARL RAY.

EC 44-760

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On June 4, 1968, Captain DONALD WYBICK, Administrative Assistant to the Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that inmates on discharge from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) are given new clothing to wear. He said this clothing includes an elastic, stretch-type belt, and the new clothing would bear no laundry marks. He stated that inmate clothing is laundered in the prison laundry, but this clothing is prison garb not taken out by the inmates on discharge from the MSP.

KC 44-760

RBA:mlb

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

On May 31, 1968, HAROLD WHITE, 624 Lafayette Street, said he did not know RAY. He noted he has not been at the penitentiary since July 24, 1965. He said he worked for about four months in the main kitchen, but spent most of his time in the cold storage room.

WHITE was "slightly intoxicated" and was not fully aware of what the purpose of the interview was. He is a Negro.

On May 31, 1968, JAMES R. DICKSON, formerly Inside Captain at the Missouri State Penitentiary, advised he resigned on May 28, 1964. He is running the Jeffersonian, a night club, at 1009 W. Dunklin Street. He resides at 217 Center Street.

DICKSON said he recalls RAY and recalls when he "hid out." He said RAY was the type of person who did not give anyone any trouble. He said if RAY had amphetamines they came from NEAL AEBY. He said AEBY was a "big supplier." He said he had never heard of RAY either using or selling amphetamines, and he did not know his contacts. He said there are a few "big shot" convicts who are in various rackets inside. He said the leader is ROBERT BURNS, serving 75 years, from St. Louis. He said BURNS has some type of organization to give "protection" to inmates both inside and outside of the penitentiary. He said he never heard this organization referred to as "Cooley" or similar. He said he knew this because he would get rumors that such and such convict was "in trouble" for not paying bills or for some other reason. He would call BURNS to his office and explain to him what he wanted done. BURNS would not admit to anything, but within a short time the "heat" would be taken off the inmate about whom the conversation had taken place. He said this applied to ex-convicts putting pressure on relatives outside the penitentiary, like making phone calls to threaten them if such and such did not take place. He said he also understood this "organization" would guarantee the inmates that if they got into trouble inside the walls, an attorney would be obtained for them by this group.

He said another of the "wheels" is JIMMY V. BRADLEY who is serving life, and was one of the known peddlers of amphetamines and other contraband. He said other names and

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incidents might occur to him, and he would advise. He said his information is that most of the contraband in the penitentiary was coming from Kansas City and the State of California.

Mr. DICKSON said no one has contacted him about RAY and no attempt has been made by RAY to contact him. He said he might "run into" some inmate with good contacts in the St. Louis and East St. Louis, Illinois areas who might, for a price, be able to develop information concerning the most logical whereabouts of RAY. He said he personally believes RAY is dead.

KC 44-760

WCM:mlb

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The following investigation was conducted by
IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD at Jefferson City, Missouri:

On May 29, 1968, Mr. JOSEPH R. KEENE, Mail Room,
State Department of Corrections, Missouri State Penitentiary,
(MSP) advised that he had talked with members of the mail
room and is unable to furnish any information re magazines
or newspapers subscribed to by JAMES EARL RAY, MSP #00416.

KC 44-760

RBA:gah

1

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

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

On May 27, 1968, Major B. J. POIRY, Assistant Warden in Charge of Custody, said he had been unable to determine any particular reading item which was of interest to RAY.

On May 27, 1968, Mr. JOE KEENE, Mail Room, said no magazines or similar publications were received for RAY after his escape, and he had no information regarding his reading habits. He did recall he received legal papers frequently for him.

On May 27, 1968, FRANK HAYNES, #07844, said he was out of the penitentiary at Moberly when RAY escaped. He said he knew RAY and had worked with him in the kitchen. He said he had no idea where RAY is or where he intended to go or how he escaped.

On May 27, 1968, Captain D. STEELE said he recalled now that the person who helped RAY escape, and covered him with bread, according to information he developed after the escape, was GEORGE JONES, Missouri State Penitentiary #05516.

JONES was reinterviewed on May 27, 1968. He was definitely antagonistic on this occasion in contrast to the first interview. He said he would furnish no information if he had it, and was not sorry to see MARTIN LUTHER KING killed, and would do nothing to aid in the capture of RAY.

On May 27, 1968, Captain DONALD WYRICK said he had determined from one of his inmate informants that the person who aided in the escape of RAY was DONALD RAY JOHNSON, #10987.

JOHNSON was recontacted and again denied being actually implicated in the covering of RAY or transporting the bread box to the landing, knowing RAY to be in it. He said he did not know if RAY had a radio when he escaped or not.

KC 44-760

THW:rmb

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The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On May 9, 1968, a review of the files of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) as furnished by Mrs. HELEN BACON and BOB LOOTEN, Classifications Office, failed to reveal any inmate of the MSP named ORR who was on the Trash Detail during the time JAMES EARL RAY was in the MSP.

On May 10, 1968, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, MSP, advised Investigative Clerk WILLIAM C. MC DONALD that "COWBOY", an inmate, would be MELVIN OLIVER GRIDLEY, #02503.

On May 10, 1968, a review of the records of the MSP as furnished by HARRY LAUF, Records Office, revealed that GRIDLEY, #02503, was transferred from the MSP on July 10, 1967, to the Missouri Training Center for Men at Moberly, Missouri.

On May 10, 1968, Major B. J. POIRY, Assistant Associate Warden of Custody, MSP, advised that an inmate with the nickname "BOSTON" would be MSP inmate #01658.

On May 10, 1968, HARRY LAUF, Records Office, MSP, advised that MILTON ZAVALCOFSKI, #01658, received November 10, 1960, on a 20-year sentence from Laclede County for Robbery was transferred to Moberly on April 8, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

5/20/68

Date

CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, inmate, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, was advised of the identity of JAMES A. MITCHELL as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was told the purpose of the interview was to clarify certain statements he had made on April 26, 1968. He was furnished a warning and waiver form which he read and executed. He then furnished the following oral information:

He has stayed at the Canal Bank Inn, Westwego, Louisiana, on more than one occasion. The first time he stayed there in 1965 with BEN BLACKWELL, the brother of JOHNNIE BLACKWELL, he had mentioned previously. They stayed for about three months and this was before he had met BARBER, the soldier from Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, and who was supposed to have access to a machine gun. BEN BLACKWELL worked for Mac's Well Service, Harvey, Louisiana, during the time they stayed together at the Canal Bank Inn. BILLINGS stated that he worked for the Noble Drilling Company during this time and this company was located in New Orleans.

He returned to the Canal Bank Inn later in the year 1965, but he does not recall when and it was this time that BARBER accompanied him. He stayed here because he knew the owner from the previous stay with BLACKWELL. He called the owner NORRIS and on his first stay he did give him a \$165.00 worthless check drawn on the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, Westwego, Louisiana. This was in payment for a poker debt in a game held at a club called "On The Hill". This club was also owned by NORRIS, last name unknown.

He was mistaken when he previously indicated that it was the owner of the Canal Bank Inn who knew about the machine gun. The man BARBER was to contact was in New Orleans. He was to meet him at Guy's International Bar in New Orleans. This place is operated by a woman, name

5/17/68

Springfield, Missouri

KC 44-760

On

at

File #

SA JAMES A. MITCHELL:bjc

5/18/68

by

Date dictated

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KC 44-760

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unknown, the wife of GUY, who died. The last name of the man BARBER was to meet was FURIES or FERRIES (phonetic). He was supposed to have an airplane which he kept at a small airport in New Orleans, Louisiana. Beechcraft airplanes are sold at this same airport. He never did meet this man and apparently neither did BARBER. He recalled checking into the Canal Bank Inn on a Friday and leaving the following Monday. He took BARBER to Guy's International Bar soon after they arrived on Friday and he never returned to the Canal Bank Inn. He then decided he did not contact the man or he knew nothing about access to a machine gun in the first place.

He never told NORRIS he was from Carolina, but BLACKWELL did tell him he was from Columbia, South Carolina, which was correct. He admitted his memory is not the best but since this happened in 1965 he cannot recall specific details.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

5/28/68

1

Date

CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, inmate, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, was advised of the identity of JAMES A. MITCHELL as a Special Agent of the FBI. He was informed that the purpose of the interview concerned information received from NORRIS CARMERDELLE to the effect that BILLINGS resided in Apartment 6, 315 Laurossini Street, which apartment was rented by ENIS HEAD, who is from Tennessee. BILLINGS occupied this apartment, according to CARMERDELLE, from May to December, 1965. CARMERDELLE had no information about HEAD. BILLINGS was furnished a Warning and Waiver Form which he read and executed and furnished the following oral information:

He has never heard of a man named ENIS HEAD and he never lived with him in Apartment 6, 315 Laurossini Street, which is the Canal Bank Inn. He stated that he and BEN BLACKWELL moved into the apartment and took it over from two other men who had stayed in the apartment but left to work off shore. In June, 1965, BLACKWELL paid the rent to CARMERDELLE and it was about this time that he, BILLINGS, left and returned to Columbia, South Carolina. In Columbia he stayed with JUNE TAYLOR for about one month. He then returned to New Orleans and stayed at a motel, name unrecalled, located on Chef Menteur Highway under his true name. He stayed at this motel for about 1 to 1 1/2 months and spent his time gambling at Slidell, Louisiana, which is 20 miles from New Orleans. He went by and visited BLACKWELL at the Canal Bank Inn and he still occupied Apartment 6 but he had someone else living with him who was not there at the time he left. BLACKWELL at this time was going with a woman by the name of DORIS (last name unknown) who had a home in Westwego, Louisiana. She had a 17 year old daughter and 5 other children. Her husband, name unknown, had been killed in the oil fields. He said she was an attractive woman for her age which he judged to be about 35. BLACKWELL met her at the Canal Bank Inn and her identity would be known to CARMERDELLE. He believes that this woman did work as a cocktail waitress at the Jung Hotel in New Orleans.

After this BILLINGS stated he went to Dallas, Texas and lived in Irving, Texas. He lived at 1627 Cooper Street in Irving with a female he did not desire to name. He stated at the time he was employed by the Shedd Bardish Foods, Inc.

On 5/20/68 at Springfield, Missouri File # KC 44-760
by SA JAMES A. MITCHELL : SSC Date dictated 5/22/68

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