

KC 44-760

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The information included in this report is not the complete results of investigation covered during this period by the Kansas City Office in connection with this matter. It only contains the Wichita Beacon Newspaper articles and investigation requested in referenced communication.

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(COVER PAGE)

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to:

Report of:	RAYMOND B. HOWE	Office:	Kansas City
Date:	12/13/68		
Field Office File No.:	44-760	Bureau File No.:	44-38861
Title:	JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (DECEASED) - VICTIM		

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

Synopsis: FBI Fingerprint Examiner GEORGE BONEBRAKE conducted a week-long seminar to law enforcement officers from the south Central Kansas area at Wichita, Kansas during November, 1968. An article concerning this seminar and BONEBRAKE's activities in the JAMES EARL RAY case appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper September 12, 1968. Also in this newspaper on October 16, 1968, it revealed that JAMES EARL RAY's attorney complained that prosecution witnesses have made public statements concerning his client. Both articles set forth. On October 24, 1968, Judge BATTLE, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, signed a petition requiring Examiner BONEBRAKE appear on December 6, 1968, to show cause why he should not be heard in contempt of court. Interviews with law enforcement officials attending seminar held by BONEBRAKE in Wichita set forth.

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DETAILS:

The following article under the heading "Identifying King Assassin Suspect Explained" appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper, Wichita, Kansas, on September 12, 1968. The article was written by BERNIE WARD, Beacon Staff Writer, and states as follows:

"One man sitting in a Memphis, Tenn., jail cell knows only too well what kind of an expert George Bonebrake is.

"James Earl Ray, awaiting trial as the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King last spring, is in that cell largely through the efforts of Bonebrake.

"Bonebrake, one of the FBI's most respected fingerprint experts, is in Wichita conducting a seminar on fingerprint identification for area law enforcement agencies.

"Following the assassination of Dr. King, Bonebrake led the search through thousands of fingerprints on file at the Washington, D.C., FBI headquarters for the identification of the killer.

"After Ray was arrested earlier this summer in London, England, Bonebrake was the government's star witness in the extradition proceedings that followed. And it was his expert testimony that identified the man being held by Scotland Yard as the fugitive - James Earl Ray.

"During the pause in the seminar here Wednesday, Bonebrake, a quiet, unassuming man, discussed the Ray case and others he has been involved in during his 27 years with the FBI.

"My testimony in the extradition hearing was two-fold," Bonebrake said, "since Ray was refusing to admit his true identity.

"I was able to testify that the latent prints we found in Memphis matched those taken of the man arrested in London, and that the same prints matched those taken of James Earl Ray while he was at the Missouri Penitentiary.

"Therefore," Bonebrake continued, "My testimony tended to implicate him in the murder of Dr. King as well as identify him as the fugitive wanted for escaping from the Missouri prison."

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"Bonebrake picked up a large chart showing side-by-side blow-ups of two fingerprints. 'This one,' he pointed to a blurred photo of a fingerprint, 'is a latent print, or one which was found at a crime scene. The other is an ink print, one taken from a suspect when he was arrested.'

"'When I am called to testify in court, I point out to the jury how the two are identical.'

"'This is what I did in London. I was able to show that the latent prints obtained in Memphis, the ones taken in London and the ones taken of Ray at the Missouri prison were all the same.'

"Bonebrake said FBI agents obtained 'good' latent prints from a rifle believed used to kill Dr. King, from a telescopic sight on the rifle and from a pair of binoculars found at the scene.

"'This was a real break for us,' he said. 'We had several names to go on but we didn't know which one was correct.'

"'Ray had purchased a car under the name of Gault, bought the rifle under another name and registered at the flophouse in Memphis using the name John Willard.'

"Once the latent prints were obtained, he said, an exhaustive comparison search was launched of thousands of prints of known offenders and known fugitives.

"'This way,' Bonebrake added, 'We were able to come up with Ray's name and eventually to identify him in London.'

"Bonebrake said he anticipated going to Memphis to testify on the fingerprint identification during Ray's upcoming trial.

"'There's no doubt in my mind that he (Ray) at least handled the murder weapon,' Bonebrake commented.

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"During the week-long seminar here, Bonebrake is instructing lawmen from several South Central Kansas police and sheriff's departments on the proper identification of latent prints.

"The class is designed to teach officers to go to a crime scene and develop the crime scene or latent prints using various processes.

"Wednesday, the law officers compared latent prints found at a prepared crime scene with those of known offenders and established identifications. Today, they were instructed on the means of preparing that evidence for trial. Friday they will present the evidence during a mock trial"

On October 16, 1968, the following story under the heading "Beacon Story Ignites Ray Trial Controversy" appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper. This article was also written by BERNIE WARD and states as follows:

"A front-page story in the Wichita Beacon on Sept. 12 has become this center of a controversy in Memphis, Tenn., over public statements made by the defense and prosecution in the case of James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"The Beacon story quoted FBI fingerprint expert George Bonebrake, the agent who identified Ray at an extradition hearing in London last summer, as saying: 'There is no doubt in my mind that he(Ray) at least handled the murder weapon.'

"In a story today in the Memphis Tenn., Commercial Appeal, Ray's attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, charged that a court order restricting pre-trial publicity in the case, 'protects the prosecution and only muzzles the defense.'

"Hanes cited specifically The Beacon interview story here with Bonebrake as an example of prosecution witnesses who have made public statements 'convicting my client and we have had no chance to counter them.'

" On Sept. 30, Hanes, private detective Renfro Hays, hired by the defense, and two Memphis reporters, Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press - Scimitar and Charles Edmundson of the Commercial Appeal were cited for contempt of court for trial-related statements made outside of court.

"W. Preston Battle, criminal court judge in Tennessee's Shelby County, issued the contempt citations.

"The contempt findings came after complaints Hanes and Hays had voiced about the unusually strict guard placed on Ray. The two newsmen reported the complaints in their Memphis papers.

"Hanes had complained the strict security surrounding his client had threatened Ray's sanity and called the security measures 'cruel and unusual punishment.'

"Last week, Time Magazine in reporting the conflict between Judge Battle and the four defendants in the contempt action, reported Hanes also had talked to the press about the possibility of Communist conspiracy in the King murder.

"The Time report said that Judge Battle had found no violation of Ray's rights and had described the security precautions as 'reasonable'.

"The judge further stated that out-of-court suggestions that Ray's sanity may be in danger were 'extremely prejudicial and constitute a clear and present danger' to picking an impartial jury and holding a fair trial.

"In issuing the contempt citation Battle found statements by Hanes and Hays and the subsequent news stories by the two reporters were violation of his order prohibiting any prejudicial out-of-court discussions of this case.

"In today's story in the Memphis Commercial Appeal, Hanes referred extensively to the interview here with Bonebrake. The FBI expert was here to conduct a seminar on fingerprint identification for local law enforcement agencies.

"At that time, Bonebrake told a Beacon reporter he had testified at the Ray extradition hearing that "the latent fingerprints we found in Memphis matched those taken of the man arrested in London and that the same prints matched those taken of James Earl Ray while he was at the Missouri penitentiary.

"Therefore, my testimony tended to implicate him in the murder of Dr. King as well as identify him as the fugitive wanted for escaping from the Missouri prison."

"Bonebrake also stated that FBI agents had obtained 'good' latent prints from a rifle believed used to kill Dr. King, from a telescopic sight on the rifle and from a pair of binoculars all found abandoned near the Memphis crime scene.

"In the Commercial Appeal Store, Hanes referred to Bonebrake's statements as an example of how Judge Battle's or limiting pre-trial publicity has different effects on the defense and prosecution.

"He added that any effort at successfully limiting the press would have to be at a nation-wide level.

"A reporter for the Commercial Appeal told The Beacon an attempt had been made to contact Bonebrake but the Washington, D.C., FBI office said the fingerprint expert was out of town and could not be reached.

"The reporter also said Hanes told him he received a copy of The Beacon story in the mail from an unidentified sender, apparently from Wichita.

"Hanes, a Birmingham, Ala., attorney, is in Memphis continuing his investigation of items of evidence the state is expected to introduce when Ray goes to trial Nov. 12.

"The beacon today attempted to contact Hanes at his Memphis motel for comment on his charges against the court but the attorney could not be reached."

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On October 24, 1968, Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, signed a petition requiring that Examiner BONEBRAKE appear before that court on December 6, 1968, to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court. This action was taken in connection with an article appearing in the Wichita, Kansas, Beacon Newspaper concerning a police school conducted by Mr. BONEBRAKE September 9 - 13, 1968, at Wichita, Kansas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/28/68

Major CLYDE BEVIS, Records Division, Wichita, Kansas Police Department, said he had requested the FBI conduct an advanced fingerprint school for the Wichita Police Department with the understanding officers from surrounding law enforcement agencies would be invited. Major BEVIS recalled this school was held at the police academy of the Wichita Police Department during middle of September, 1968.

Major BEVIS said that in the regular course of business he notified members of the news media he encountered at police headquarters of the school being in session and suggested they might like to cover it. He specifically recalled talking to OLLIE THOMPSON, News Director of TV Station KTVH and BERNIE WARD, a reporter for the Wichita Beacon. THOMPSON made no commitment when he would try to cover the school. WARD declared he would appear at the school at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 10, 1968. Major BEVIS commented he arranged to be at the classroom at the time specified by WARD, however, WARD did not appear. On Wednesday, September 11, 1968, BEVIS said he was notified by some member of the training staff of the Wichita Police Department that WARD had appeared at the classroom. BEVIS instructed that Lieutenant JORDON JONES, introduce WARD to Instructor BONEBRAKE and help WARD with any coverage he desired.

BEVIS declared it was his understanding the instruction being provided by Mr. BONEBRAKE was for the benefit of law enforcement officers alone and not available for members of the press or others. He gave specific instructions that members of the press not be invited to attend any of the classroom sessions and he feels confident that had any member of the news media tried to enter the classroom while the instructions were being given he would have been immediately notified.

BEVIS said he had no further contact with the class or members of the press. When the article appeared in the Wichita Beacon on September 12, 1968, he was shocked

On 11/18/68 at Wichita, Kansas

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File #

by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc

11/21/68

Date dictated

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at its contents and without checking the accuracy of the facts expressed his displeasure to WARD on the day after publication. BEVIS observed that WARD was invited to do an article on the school, not on the background of the instructor or the RAY case. WARD'S only comment was, "Well that's news."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/26/68

Lieutenant RALPH E. GREEN, 1017 West 3rd Street, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he is employed by the El Dorado Department of Public Safety and attended an advanced fingerprint school sponsored by the Wichita, Kansas Police Department during the second week of September, 1968. Lieutenant GREEN said the class was taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI, and lasted for one week.

Lieutenant GREEN said the class was for law enforcement officers only and he never observed any reporters or people from the news media in the class room during the class sessions. Lieutenant GREEN said the only time he saw anyone from the news media was a KTVH-TV cameraman, who took some pictures of Mr. BONEBRAKE, but this was during one of their recesses and nothing was said on this occasion regarding the RAY case.

Lieutenant GREEN said he at no time heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with reporters or members of the class during a recess. According to Lieutenant GREEN the only time he did hear Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case was during class and he did recall Mr. BONEBRAKE say that he had testified in England at the extradition proceedings and his testimony was that he had compared the latent fingerprints obtained from evidence in Memphis, Tennessee, with known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY and found they were identical.

Lieutenant GREEN said Mr. BONEBRAKE cautioned the members of the class not to discuss anything regarding the RAY case or information he had furnished during the class.

On 11/19/68 at El Dorado, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA RICHARD L. ECKBERG:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/27/68

Officer LEE M. PADDOCK, JR., 325 West Towanda, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he is employed by the El Dorado Department of Public Safety and attended a one week advanced fingerprint school in Wichita, Kansas during the second week of September, 1968, which was sponsored by the Wichita Police Department and taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI.

PADDOCK said he is quite certain no members of the press, television or radio were permitted to attend the class and the only time he saw anyone connected with the news media in the classroom was during a recess when a television cameraman took some film footage.

PADDOCK said he never was present or never observed Mr. BONEBRAKE talking to newsmen other than the above mentioned television cameraman and never heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with newsmen or members of the class during a recess.

PADDOCK said Mr. BONEBRAKE did speak briefly about the RAY case during the class. He told the class he had testified at the extradition proceedings in England and his testimony concerned the finding of latent fingerprints on a gun in Memphis and the comparison of these latent fingerprints with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, which established that RAY was the person who had been arrested in England and also the person whose fingerprints were found on the gun.

PADDOCK said Mr. BONEBRAKE cautioned the members of the class not to discuss the case outside the classroom and PADDOCK said he did not hear either Mr. BONEBRAKE or any member of the class discuss the case.

On 11/19/68 at El Dorado, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA RICHARD L. ECHBERG:bjc Date dictated 11/20/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/28/68

MORRIS HERRON, Valley Center Police Officer, recalled attending a school on the subject of fingerprints conducted by a Mr. BONEBRAKE, of the FBI, at the Police Academy, Wichita, Kansas, during early part of September, 1968.

HERRON said he was present at every session and did not hear Mr. BONEBRAKE or any member of the class conduct a press conference or have any contact with the press on any subject other than the school itself. Mr. HERRON recalled representatives of the news media being at the school. He thought it was the last day, Friday, September 13, 1968, on the occasion of the graduation of the class members. At this time he observed strangers around the halls of the academy with movie cameras, therefore, concluded they were television cameramen. He did not recognize any of these persons. He could not remember if Mr. BONEBRAKE was present at the school at this time.

HERRON was most emphatic in recalling no members of the press were in the closed meetings of the school wherein Mr. BONEBRAKE instructed on the subject of fingerprints.

At an early date of the school, exact date not recalled, HERRON mentioned some member of the class asked a direct question of BONEBRAKE concerning the use of latent fingerprints in the JAMES EARL RAY case. In response to this question, BONEBRAKE observed he had testified in the hearing of RAY at London, England, earlier in the year that fingerprints were introduced to establish the identity of RAY. BONEBRAKE elaborated on this point to the extent he mentioned he had testified that known prints of RAY from Missouri State Penitentiary were identical with the questioned prints of the suspect in custody of the English authorities.

HERRON recalled BONEBRAKE declined to discuss this case further mentioning something to the effect this was still a pending case and FBI policy did not permit the public disclosure of such information.

On 11/19/68 at Valley Center, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc Date dictated 11/21/68

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HERRON volunteered he had read the article appearing in the Wichita Beacon of about September 12, 1968, and he did not hear BONEBRAKE or a member of the fingerprint class mention such facts to the press.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11/26/68

Date

Officer CHARLES F. STEWART, Department of Public Safety, El Dorado, Kansas, home address, 113 East 5th Street, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he attended an advanced fingerprint school sponsored by the Wichita, Kansas Police Department during the second week of September, 1968. STEWART said the class was taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI and lasted for one week.

STEWART said the class was restricted to members of law enforcement agencies only and he never observed any member of the press, radio or television in the classroom during the time the class was in session. Mr. STEWART said about the next to last day of the class he recalled a television cameraman taking some pictures, but did not hear or observe Mr. BONEBRAKE make any statements on this occasion about the RAY case.

STEWART said he at no time heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with members of the news media or members of the class during recesses. STEWART said the only time he heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case was during class and this was only to illustrate a point in how latent fingerprints could be used to identify an individual with a crime. STEWART said Mr. BONEBRAKE did mention that he had testified in the extradition proceedings in England to identify RAY as the person who was identical with the individual who had been in the penitentiary as JAMES EARL RAY in Missouri and also identical with the person whose fingerprints were found on a weapon found near the crime scene in Memphis, Tennessee.

STEWART said Mr. BONEBRAKE told the class he did not want them to discuss anything he had told them about the RAY case outside the classroom.

11/19/68

El Dorado, Kansas

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On _____ at _____ File # _____

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11/19/68

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KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

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The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Lieutenant JORDAN JONES, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he was in attendance at the school in which Mr. BONEBRAKE lectured. He stated there were no members of the press in the class. He stated that he assisted BONEBRAKE in every way he could and he was the person who introduced a member of the press, whose name he did not recall, to BONEBRAKE. He stated that at this time the class took a break and BONEBRAKE spoke to this member of the press for a very short period of time. JONES stated he could not remember what was discussed. JONES stated he did recall, however, that after he read the newspaper article concerning BONEBRAKE and the RAY case, he wondered how the press agent could have written such a complete article concerning his interview with BONEBRAKE when he had been with him such a short time. JONES stated he was with BONEBRAKE during the breaks in the event he could be of any assistance, and no further press inquiries were made. JONES stated the only other occasion when the news media came was when a local television station took photographs of BONEBRAKE. JONES stated that at no time did he hear BONEBRAKE discuss anything concerning the RAY case with any of the news media. JONES stated that during the class BONEBRAKE told them how the latent prints had been identified with those of RAY and how many elimination prints they had. He stated BONEBRAKE also stated he had testified to the identification of RAY'S prints, but furnished no details.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/26/68

ART STONE, Chief of Security, Wichita State University, advised that while he was a member of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, Wichita, he attended a fingerprint school held in Wichita, which was operated by GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the Identification Division of the FBI. He said the school was held in about September, 1968, and only duly accredited law enforcement officers were in attendance at this school.

STONE said that during one break period in this school he saw a local newspaper reporter being introduced to Mr. BONEBRAKE by an unrecalled member of the Wichita, Kansas Police Department. STONE said he was not certain, but thought this reporter might be BERNIE WARD. He said although he did not hear the entire conversation between this person and BONEBRAKE, he thought he heard this person obtaining background information regarding BONEBRAKE. He said he did not hear any conversation between these two regarding the JAMES EARL RAY case.

STONE did advise that BONEBRAKE did mention the RAY case after receiving an inquiry from someone in the fingerprint class. In this connection he explained to the class how latents and partial latents received from various sources and seemingly unrelated at the time they were obtained later turn out to be related matters and excellent evidence material. BONEBRAKE did mention that he had travelled to London, England in connection with the RAY case to testify that the fingerprints of the man in custody there were identical with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY who had escaped from the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He said he is certain BONEBRAKE only mentioned the RAY case to show some of the conditions a fingerprint man would work under and the necessity of obtaining and maintaining prints.

STONE said the RAY case was only one of many illustrations used by BONEBRAKE for demonstrations in the class, to make a point about a certain phase or item in the training. He said BONEBRAKE did not discuss the RAY case at any length and always cautioned the persons in the class about any further discussion of this matter.

On 11/19/68 at Wichita, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA JAMES F. MILLER:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/26/68

Detective Sergeant DEAN BERG, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, furnished the following information:

He recently attended a fingerprint school in Wichita, Kansas at which time GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI was the instructor. He said no newspaper reporters were in attendance at this school since it was for law enforcement officials only.

He said that on about the third or fourth day of the school he saw an unknown man talking to BONEBRAKE and he was of the opinion this person was a newspaper reporter, however, since he did not know the man he is not certain of this information. He said this conversation took place during a break in the classes and was probably about 10 to 15 minutes in length. BERG said he did not know the text of their conversation.

BERG said BONEBRAKE mentioned the JAMES EARL RAY case in one of the classes and apparently did this to show how important partial and latent prints can be in a case. He said in this conversation BONEBRAKE mentioned that a partial latent print had been obtained in the RAY case and went on to show that what appeared to be unrelated items at the time they are obtained later turn out to be related in some manner. He further advised that BONEBRAKE said he compared the fingerprints of the man in custody in England with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY who had escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary and found they were identical.

BERG advised that BONEBRAKE talked about a number of cases, without mentioning a lot of names, and in each case pointed out how certain items of evidence can become very important to a case. BONEBRAKE would show how latents obtained from various and sometimes unlikely places would be important. BERG said as far as he is concerned BONEBRAKE was an excellent instructor.

On 11/19/68 at Wichita, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA JAMES F. MILLER:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

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The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Detective Sergeant, WARREN MALONE, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he had attended the school given by Mr. BONEBRAKE. He stated to the best of his knowledge, there were no members of the press in this class. He stated he recalled that a member of the press did come to the school and they took a break and so BONEBRAKE could talk with him. He stated he did not hear what they discussed and the interview was no more than ten minutes. MALONE stated he did not know of any further inquiries by the press. He stated that during the class, BONEBRAKE was questioned concerning the RAY case. BONEBRAKE told the class about receiving the weapon for examination and checking fingerprint cards and how they eliminated them and identified the prints as those of RAY. He also told them he had gone to England and testified, but MALONE said he could not remember what BONEBRAKE said he had testified to. MALONE stated that BONEBRAKE told the class that the RAY case was still pending and for them not to discuss it outside the class; the information he furnished them was solely for the classes benefit.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 11/27/68

JAMES D. LAZELLE, Undersheriff, Cowley County Sheriff's Department, was contacted at the Winfield Police Station. He furnished the following information:

He attended each session of an advanced fingerprint school conducted from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968, at the Wichita Police Academy, Wichita, Kansas. The school was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE. This school was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for full-time law enforcement officers of Police and Sheriff's Departments.

The JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned while discussing latent fingerprints, their location and lifting, and their use in testimony to identify an individual. BONEBRAKE stated that he had been able to give testimony as to RAY's identity, based on fingerprints. There were no newsmen present when the RAY case was mentioned.

Newsmen from TV Channel 12, and from The Wichita Beacon, were present on one or two occasions, during recess breaks, for the purpose of obtaining information pertaining to the fingerprint school. He at no time heard the RAY case mentioned while newsmen were present.

On 11/20/68 at Winfield, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA JAMES B. KELLY:ENV Date dictated 11/21/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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11/27/68

Date _____

CECIL JAMES LOWER, 227 Random Road, Sergeant, Arkansas City Police Department, was contacted at the Arkansas City Police Station. He furnished the following information:

He attended an advanced fingerprint school at the Wichita Police Department, Wichita, Kansas, from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968. This school was sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE. He understood that this school was open to law enforcement personnel only.

He recalls that the JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned during the regular class period. It was clearly understood that information pertaining to the RAY case was not to be discussed with anyone outside the class. The RAY case had come up in connection with the locating, lifting, preserving, and presenting findings in testimony, concerning latent fingerprints. BONEBRAKE mentioned having given testimony as to RAY's identity.

Representatives of TV Channel 12, and a photographer that took still pictures were present at the school, during a recess, on one day during the session. He did not know who the still photographer represented, but assumes it was a news media. Moving pictures were taken of class members and a still picture was posed for by BONEBRAKE and a class member, during the break. He does not know of any interview that newsmen had with BONEBRAKE.

The only mention that he heard made of the RAY case during the time the newsmen were present, was when the representative of the Wichita Police Department introduced GEORGE BONEBRAKE to the newsmen. At that time, the man making the introductions stated that GEORGE BONEBRAKE was one of the men who had worked on the RAY case.

11/20/68 Arkansas City, Kansas

KC 44-760

On _____ at _____ File # _____

SA JAMES B. KELLY :ENV

11/21/68

by _____ Date dictated _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 11/27/68

KENNETH MOUSER, 223 E. 11th, Records and Identification Officer, Wellington Police Department, was contacted at his home. He furnished the following information:

He attended each session of an advanced fingerprint school conducted at the Wichita Police Department Academy, Wichita, Kansas, from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968. The school was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was his understanding that the school was conducted for Police and Sheriff's Officers, and was a "closed" school, with no one other than full-time peace officers invited to attend.

On one day during the school, there were representatives from Channel 12 TV, and a photographer from the Wichita Beacon present at the Academy, during a recess, for the purpose of obtaining information pertaining to the fingerprint school. He did not know any of the representatives from the TV station, but he was personally acquainted with the Wichita Beacon reporter, JAMES WAMPLER. WAMPLER had asked him to pose with BONEBRAKE for a photograph as if BONEBRAKE was pointing out points of interest on two enlargements of fingerprints, and he had done so. This photograph was taken in a side office, off of the classroom. He heard no mention made of any specific case, either Bureau or otherwise, during the time that the photographs were being taken. Later that night he had seen his picture on television, over Channel 12.

He at no time observed and was not aware of any newsman having a personal interview with BONEBRAKE.

/The JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned during the fingerprint school while there were no newsmen present. At that time BONEBRAKE pointed out that he had been able to give testimony concerning RAY's identity through the use of fingerprints.

MOUSER recalls having read an article in the Wichita Beacon, giving what were alleged to have been facts of the RAY case, and he had been greatly surprised that any

On 11/19/68 at Wellington, Kansas File # KC44-760

by SA JAMES B. KELLY:ENV Date dictated 11/21/68

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KC 44-760

2

newsman would have been able to obtain as detailed facts
as appeared to be quoted in the article.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11/28/68

Date _____

1

Lieutenant G. W. REED, Police Department, Derby, Kansas, observed he attended a fingerprint school at the Wichita, Kansas Police Academy during early September, 1968. This school was instructed by a Mr. BONEBRAKE, introduced as the foremost latent and single fingerprint expert from FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

In addition REED said he understood from a source unrecalled that BONEBRAKE had recently returned from England where he had offered fingerprint testimony in the JAMES EARL RAY case. REED felt he heard this from some other member of the class, but could not be sure on this point.

In any event he was certain he did not hear it from anyone in the presence of any representative of the news media. On this point Lieutenant REED said he thought a newspaper reporter and television cameraman appeared during the middle of the week at the class room, but, were at no time, present during the closed instruction periods of the school. At best they were in the hall way outside the class or in the classroom during the recess periods.

REED recalled that at the outset of the course a question by some class member was directed to BONEBRAKE concerning the fingerprint testimony in the JAMES EARL RAY case. BONEBRAKE cautioned the class he was not at liberty to discuss this case in detail, but could say he had testified to the identity of RAY based on fingerprint examination at the hearing in London. REED said he had no recollection of additional comments by anyone concerning the RAY case.

On 11/19/68 at Derby, Kansas File # KC 44-760
by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc Date dictated 11/21/68

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Optional Form No. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL SPECIAL AGENTS

DATE: 12/24/68

FROM *LD* SAC (44-760)

NO. 68-179

SUBJECT: MURKIN
COST DATA

Each Agent is requested to submit to SA THOMAS J. CONNOLLY by COB 12/31/68 via routing slip number of hours spent on the MURKIN case in the month of December, broken down as to regular and overtime hours, total mileage estimated or actually driven in Bucars on the case and any unusual or out of the ordinary costs in connection with this case.

cc - 66-232

TJC:B

44-760-1260

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
DEC 26 1968	
FBI — KANSAS CITY	

[Signature]

F B I

Date: 12/24/68

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

TO: ALL SAC's
FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA
(OO: MEMPHIS)
BUFILE 44-38861

Re Memphis airtel to Albany dated 4/19/68, and
Memphis airtel to All SAC's, dated 7/16/68.

Discontinue the monthly submission to the Memphis
Division of the cost data requested in referenced airtels,
since the Bureau has agreed this submission can be discon-
tinued.

2-All SAC's
2-Memphis
HEG:mas
(116)

44-760-1261

SEARCHED <u>aw</u>	INDEXED <u>aw</u>
SERIALIZED <u>aw</u>	FILED <u>aw</u>
DEC 26 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Connelly

Approved: *R. Jensen* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 12/24/68

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

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tinued.

2-All SAC's
2-Memphis
HEG:mas
(116)

44-760-1261

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 26 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Approved: R. Jensen Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Optional Form No. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : ALL SPECIAL AGENTS

DATE: 12/24/68

FROM : SAC (44-760)

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SUBJECT: MURKIN
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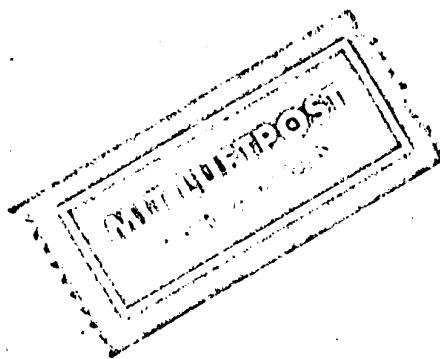
cc - 66-232

TJC:B

44-760-1262

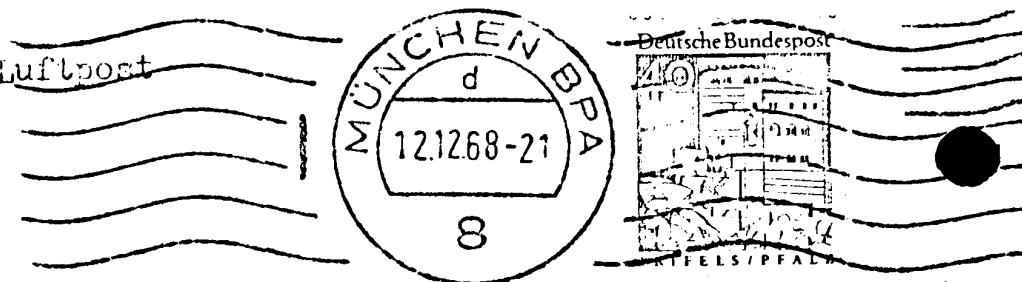
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DEC 26 1968	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

44-760



Drucksache/Luftpost

Warden Harold B. Swenson
Missouri State Penitentiary
Jefferson City, Mo.



U.S.A.

Personal

44-760-1263
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
JAN 9 1969
FBI - KANSAS CITY
[Signature]

"Just published

"\$ 100 a copy
"(one hundred US dollars)

"The Greatest Police Fraud Ever

"T H E J A M E S E A R L R A Y H O A X

"Once again, the world is being fooled, deliberately and grossly, about the true background of a sensational murder and the real identity of the killer. And again - as in the closely related Kennedy Murder Fraud - the deception is wrought by the investigating authorities themselves.

"Everything you have read in the papers about the way James Earl Ray allegedly escaped from prison, how he killed Dr. Martin Luther King, how he was identified as the slayer and how he was finally hunted down as a result of "crack international detective work" is false and fraudulent. The whole story is a hoax concocted by the FBI and executed with the help of other police authorities at home and abroad for the purpose of diverting attention from and shielding the real murderer of Dr. King, whose identity and whereabouts are well-known to the FBI.

"Every aspect of this official fraud is thoroughly explored, and the whole gigantic Swindle is ruthlessly exposed in the present report by

"J O A C H I M J O E S T E N

the first of the Warren Report critics and the only writer who carried his exposure of the Kennedy Murder Fraud through to its bitter end. The report is based on a painstaking private investigation undertaken with the help of devoted friends in the USA, Canada, Britain and other countries concerned. Here are some of its highlights:

"1 - The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was planned by a group of Southern politicians and businessmen affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan, the Minutemen and George Wallace's American Independent Party. Its purpose was to strike fear into the hearts of the black people and to deprive them of effective leadership.

"2 - New Orleans, where the plot to assassinate President John F. Kennedy had been hatched (in part, anyway) was also the focal point of the conspiracy against Dr. King - a glaring fact ignored by the FBI and glossed over in the press, for obvious reasons.

"3 - In the early planning stage - well over a year before Dr. King was shot at Memphis - contact was established between the plotters and James Earl Ray who at the time was still an inmate of the Missouri State Penitentiary. Ray, a convict with a long criminal record, expressed willingness to do any kind of job expected of him for a suitable fee (agreement was reached on the basis of \$ 12,000 to \$ 15,000, according to performance.)

"4 - Ray did not escape from prison, he was surreptitiously let out with the consent of the Warden who went so far as to circulate to police authorities a false set of fingerprints designed to foil any change recapture of the "fugitive."

"5 - Ray was never considered for the sniper's part. After more than 13 years spent in prison, he would have been totally incapable of killing a man, at a distance of 205 feet, with a single well-placed rifle shot. Rather, his role was to be that of a decoy with instructions to plant false evidence, scatter about misleading clues and lay a false trail of flight in order to throw off potential pursuers of the real sniper. Unbeknown to him, of course, Ray had also been picked by the plotters as an ideal fall guy - for there is no more defenseless human being than an escaped convict - after he had given his performance as a decoy. It was the old Oswald story all over again, with slight variations.

"6 - A key element of the stratagem was to create a fictitious double personality shared by Ray and his accomplice, the real sniper. They were men of similar appearance who studiously enhanced their likeness in looks, dress, speech and behavior and carefully coordinated their activities. They drove exactly the same make and model of cars, used the same driver's license (one the original, the other a duplicate) and, in the final stage of their adventure, traveled abroad on two copies of the same false passport.

"7 - Dr. King was not shot from Mrs. Bessie Brewer's flophouse window; instead, the fatal shot came from a Memphis replica of the famous grassy knoll of Dallas.

"8 - After the shooting, Ray and his confederate, the real assassin, took off almost simultaneously in identical white Mustangs, but in different directions. While Ray drove to Atlanta, for his final performance as a decoy, the assassin headed for Milwaukee, for a reunion with his girl friend.

"9 - The two men met again, shortly later, in Toronto where they shed their previous joint personality (Eric Starvo Galt) and adopted a new one (Ramon George Sneyd). With the help of the CIA, which had previously used the good services of Eric S. Galt (the real killer, not Ray) one passport in that name was obtained in Toronto and another shortly later in Lisbon.

"10 - Early in the game, the FBI found out that there were two Eric Starvo Galt and that one of them was the escaped convict James Earl Ray. But when they learned the identity of the other - a veteran CIA operative who had also participated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy - they were appalled. This man was taboo; he enjoyed protection at the highest level. He could not be arrested, much less brought to trial, lest the truth about the Kennedy Murder Fraud come out into the open.

"11 - So the tracks now were further blurred with the active help of the FBI, which gave chase only to Ray while aiding his alter ego, the real assassin, to hide abroad. Fantastic? Maybe, but also the truth.

"12 - The crowning glory of it all, however, was the almost simultaneous arrest of both Sneyds at London Airport on June 8, 1968, the first at 6:30 a.m. by design and the second at 11:15 a.m. by accident, one arriving by plane from Lisbon and the other attempting to leave London on a Brussels-bound plane.

"13 - Now Scotland Yard was in a real quandary, for the last thing the FBI wanted was to have two Sneyds delivered into its hands. So the two police agencies connived to hush up the truth about the double arrest and pretend that only one man - Ray - had been caught.

"14 - Then after a cynically rigged extradition hearing in Bow Street Court, London, the hapless ex-convict was bundled off to the United States to stand trial in Memphis for the murder of Dr. King, although all participants in this macabre police farce are well aware that Ray did not kill the Negro leader.

"15 - Meanwhile, the real assassin had been quietly spirited away to a foreign haven where he is to await his next assignment under the protection of the CIA.

"THE JAMES EARL RAY HOAX is a mimeographed (not printed) report of about 30,000 words which is not intended for general circulation and cannot be given widespread distribution at this time. It is designed for a select clientele of thoughtful and discerning people who care for truth and justice and who can afford to pay a good price for an exclusive report of necessarily limited circulation on a matter of the highest public interest.

"Restrictions

"1 - Orders from book dealers are not wanted and will not be filled unless accompanied by prepayment in full. No trade discount will be allowed.

"2 - No orders can be accepted from any person directly connected with the James Earl Ray trial as judge, juror, public prosecutor, defense attorney, warden etc.

"3 - Except where an order emanates from a library, academic institution, learned society, newspaper, magazine or other news media, the sender must certify that he or she is not connected with the Ray trial in any official capacity.

"4 - No copies will be sold to the three top criminals in the nation, to wit Lyndon B. Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover and Richard Helms, who are jointly responsible for this gigantic hoax, as they were for the Kennedy Murder Fraud, and who have had no qualms about setting in motion another grave miscarriage of justice, equal to the sacrifice of Lee H. Oswald.

"5 - Orders from libraries are welcome and will benefit of a 20% discount on the established price of one hundred dollars a copy.

"Address all orders to:

"Joachim Joesten
87-70 173rd Street
Jamaica 11432
New York City, USA

"No review copies

"No orders 'on approval'

accepted

"Important: If no acknowledgment of your order is received within a reasonable period of time, this may be due to interference by the postal authorities (it has happened before). In that case, send a duplicate order or follow-up letter to Joachim Joesten, c/o Rahim, Munich 13, Griegstr. 13, Germany. All orders emanating from Europe should also be sent to that address, rather than to New York.

"The Writings of Joachim Joesten

"about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy

"A Trade Books

- "The Dark Side of Lyndon B. Johnson
(with a large section about his role in the murder
of his predecessor) 272 pp., cloth \$ 10.00
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London, September 1968
- "How Kennedy Was Killed, 192 pp., paperback \$ 3.50
Peter Dawnay Ltd., London, April 1968
- "The Garrison Enquiry, 158 pp., paperback \$ 3.00
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London, October 1967
- "Marina Oswald (Oswald of the CIA), 165 pp., cloth \$ 5.00
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London, August 1967
- "OSWALD : THE TRUTH, 372 pp., cloth \$ 7.50
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London, July 1967
- "Oswald - Assassin or Fall Guy (rare book - out of \$ 10.00
print) 206 pp., documentary section, cloth, Marzani
& Munsell, Inc., New York, June 1964 and The Merlin Press,
London, Jan. 1965
- "Die Wahrheit uber den Kennedy-Mord (in German) \$ 6.00
366 pp., cloth, Zurich, September 1966
- "La verite sur le cas de Jack Ruby (in French) \$ 5.50
176 pp., paperback (large format), Paris, May 1967
-

"Note: Prices for the above trade books refer to signed copies
which can be obtained only directly from the author

"B Mimeographed Publications, issued by the author himself

- "The Case Against Lyndon B. Johnson (in the Assassination of
President Kennedy) 2 vols. 1967 \$ 30.00
- "The Case Against the Kennedy Claim, May 1968 \$ 15.00

**"The Biggest Lie Ever Told (The Kennedy Murder Fraud -
And How I helped Expose it), four-part series, 1968-69 \$ 20.00**

"TRUTH LETTER, biweekly, \$ 45 a year, \$ 25 six months

"All prices in US dollars

**"Ask for the printed 16-page catalogue "A List of Books by
Joachim Joesten about the Assassination of President Kennedy"
in which the above books and pamphlets are described in
detail.**

**"Addresses: Joachim Joesten, 87-70 173rd Street, Jamaica
11432, New York City; or Joachim Joesten, Munich 13, Griegstr.
13, c/o Rahim, Germany."**

1/8/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: KANSAS CITY (44-760) P
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO ME

Reference report of SA RAYMOND B. HOWE dated 12/13/68 at Kansas City.

Enclosed are copies of a brochure entitled "The James Earl Ray Hoax" and photostats of the envelope it was mailed in.

This brochure was received in the mail of Warden HAROLD B. SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, who in turn forwarded it to SA RAYMOND B. HOWE.

The brochure is reportedly a synopsis of a book written by JOACHIM JOESTEN and is critical of the Bureau. This brochure also lists additional books written by JOESTEN regarding the assassination of President KENNEDY. The original brochure and envelope are being maintained in the Kansas City Office. Copies of brochure are typed inasmuch as the brochure is in light blue mimeograph printing and therefore was not satisfactory for Xeroxing. The envelope was typed in black ink, thus it could be Xeroxed. The envelope was apparently mailed in Germany and the return address listed on the back of the envelope was, "J. Joesten, Munchen 13, Griegstr. 13, b. Rahm".

Contact is being maintained with Warden SWENSON by the Kansas City Office in the event he receives additional information.

3 Bureau (Encs. 6)
2 Memphis (Encs. 4) (44-1987)
2 Kansas City
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(7)
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44-760-1265

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Filed	_____

1/8/69

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3 Bureau (Encs. 6)
2 Memphis (Encs. 4) (44-1987)
2 Kansas City
RBH:clc
(7)

cl *RBH*

44-760-1265

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Filed	_____

STATE OF KANSAS
ROBERT B. DOCKING, Governor



S. H. CROUSE
Warden

Area Code: 913 - Parkview 7-3235

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY
P. O. Box 2
Lansing, Kansas 66043

December 31, 1968

RE: MORTON, Wilbur O.
KSP No. 17326

I interviewed Morton, an inmate of this institution on Tuesday, December 31, 1968 (p.m.). Morton's interview consisted of information concerning the killing of Martin Luther King by suspect (Missouri Penitentiary Escapee, Ray). Morton states to me that he has received his information from numerous conversations he has had with an unnamed inmate of this institution. This inmate X was a friend of Ray's in Jefferson City Penitentiary, as good a friend as Ray had. (As my informant understands Ray did not have many close friends). This inmate X was supposed to have been separated from Ray in the Missouri Penitentiary yard several times by a Custodial Lieutenant by the name of Holt who is now employed at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth as Custodial Officer. As inmate X stated, Ray had an escape record and so did he from Illinois and the institution watched them. My informant stated that Ray stated to inmate X he was figuring on trying to escape and inmate X agreed to go with him. Their play was to saw the bars in I Building basement and some way go through to a water main or sewer outside the walls and during the process of making arrangement, inmate X wanted to know what they were going to do after they got out, where they were going to get money and hole up. Ray didn't tell him at first and later on he told inmate X that they wouldn't have to worry about a thing especially money as they would have a world of money and would be taken care of. Then I understand Ray told inmate X that he was going to kill Martin Luther King and everything was taken care of. Upon learning this, inmate X stated he did not want anything to do with this and then backed out escaping with Ray. Although Ray did not use the method that they were going to use. Inmate X is fairly certain he knows how he escaped. My informant stated that the bars in the basement of I Building are supposed to be cut and water or sewer line is supposed to run along the outside wall, also, a circle band saw blade was supposed to be stolen and that was what was used to saw the bars of basement of I Building. Ray's brother came to visit him just about a week before he escaped. These were just some points to check to see how much truth in the story. My informant stated he would talk to a FBI Agent but doesn't want to be drawn into the deal but will talk to an agent under the pretext of something to do with his federal time, legal action in court or anything to throw off suspicion and wants any information that might point to inmate X to show up from in-

44-760-1266

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JAN 10 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Fletcher

RE: MORTON, Wilbur O.
KSP NO. 17326

Interview on 12-31-68 Cont.

vestigation on the outside as he stated inmate X said the reason he has not said anything before now, was because he was afraid of getting his throat cut. My informant stated he is afraid of something happening to him if information indicated my informant put inmate X on the spot. After talking to informant at some length he doesn't appear to be a psycho but he has some previous time.



S. H. CROUSE
Warden

SHC:hes

SAC (44-760)

1/10/69

SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD

MURKIN

Warden S. H. CROUSE, KSP, Lansing, Ks., furnished the attached self-explanatory memo that he prepared regarding interview with WILBUR O. MORTON. Warden CROUSE stated that he is sure MORTON does not know any other information other than that which he already related to him, however, MORTON could identify "Inmate X". Warden CROUSE stated that he is attempting through prison records to identify "Inmate X." in the event that MORTON is unwilling to identify him. Warden CROUSE stated that on 1/6/69, WILBUR O. MORTON, KSP #17326 was returned to Wichita, Ks. for trial.


LEADS

KANSAS CITY

AT WICHITA, KANSAS

Will interview WILBUR O. MORTON, KSP #17326 care of Sedgwick County Jail for the identify of "Inmate X." Will set forth appropriate lead to have "Inmate X" interviewed re his knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY.

WAW:as
(3)



44-760-1267
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SERIALIZED
JAN 10 1969
Howe RBA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

DATE: 1/10/69

FROM : SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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WAW:as

(3)



5010-108-02

44-760-1267
lead
Fletcher
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SAC (44-760)

1/10/69

SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD

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WAW:as
(3)

AB

44-760-1267

157

1/22/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-
RE: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Re report of SA RAYMOND B. HOWE dated 12/13/68 at Kansas City.

On 1/21/69 DALE POLLACK, 4408 Northeast 45th Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri, telephonically furnished the following information:

He was reading an Associated Press feature story on JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the Kansas City Star, January 19, 1969. In this story it mentioned that RAY spent time in Puerato Vallarta, Mexico. This brought to his attention that an individual by the name of HEINZ MANGER, a former SS officer with the Third Reich during World War II and reportedly a member of an organization called "Odessa" which is reportedly an organization of former SS officers, spent considerable time in Puerato Vallarta, Mexico.

POLLACK advised that he did not know MANGER personally but has been a student of post-war German history and knows that MANGER has been involved in numerous radical movements.

POLLACK further advised that MANGER presented a Mr. and Mrs. KARL RAPP, Leawood, Kansas, a painting while they were visiting in Puerato Vallarta. POLLACK did not

3-Bureau
1-Memphis (44-1987)
2-Kansas City
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give the subject matter of the painting but stated it was signed by HEINZ MANGER. POLLACK did not believe MANGER painted it. POLLACK stated that Mrs. RAPP gave him the painting inasmuch as she knew he was a student of German history. POLLACK advised that his home telephone is GL 3-2191, his business telephone is GL 2-6181 and that he would be glad to cooperate with the FBI in this matter at any time.

Indices of the Kansas City Office negative re POLLACK, MANGER or RAPP.

Kansas City Office will interview Mr. or Mrs. KARL RAPP, Leawood, Kansas, and reinterview DALE POLLACK for any additional information they may have connecting MANGER with JAMES EARL RAY.

1/22/69

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3-Bureau
1-Memphis (44-1987)
2-Kansas City
RBH:jlh
(6)

[Handwritten signature]

44-760-1268

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KC 44-760

give the subject matter of the painting but stated it was signed by HEINZ MANGER. POLLACK did not believe MANGER painted it. POLLACK stated that Mrs. RAPP gave him the painting inasmuch as she knew he was a student of German history. POLLACK advised that his home telephone is GL 3-2191, his business telephone is GL 2-6181 and that he would be glad to cooperate with the FBI in this matter at any time.

Indices of the Kansas City Office negative re POLLACK, MANGER or RAPP.

Kansas City Office will interview Mr. or Mrs. KARL RAPP, Leawood, Kansas, and reinterview DALE POLLACK for any additional information they may have connecting MANGER with JAMES EARL RAY.

1/22/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-
RE: MURKIN

Re report of SA RAYMOND B. HOWE, 12/13/68 at
Kansas City.

Attached hereto is a memo from S. H. CROUSE,
Warden, Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas, dated
12/31/68.

On 1/10/69 Warden CROUSE furnished the attached
self-explanatory memo that he prepared regarding interview
with inmate WILBUR O. MORTON. Warden CROUSE stated that he
was sure that MORTON does not know any additional information
other than that which he already related to him. However,
he felt MORTON may possibly identify "Inmate X". Warden
CROUSE stated he is attempting through prison records, to
identify "Inmate X" in the event that MORTON is unwilling
to identify himself. Warden CROUSE stated that on 1/6/69
WILBUR O. MORTON, KSP #17326, was returned to Wichita, Kansas,
for trial.

The following interview was conducted by SAs
ELMER R. FLETCHER and JAMES B. KELLY:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

WILBUR O. MORTON, presently confined Sedgwick County
Jail, Wichita, Kansas, on a writ from Kansas State Penitentiary

3-Bureau (Enc. 1)
2-Memphis (Enc. 1)
1-Kansas City
RBH:jlh
(6)

44-760-1269

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in connection with a local armed robbery charge, volunteered on 1/14/68 he was previously confined in Missouri State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri, at the same time an inmate -- he declined to name -- was a guest of the State of Missouri. The unidentified inmate, according to MORTON, was very friendly with JAMES EARL RAY, accused killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING. During time MORTON and the unidentified convict were in MSP, MORTON was able to learn from this convict that RAY had planned an escape for some time and confided to the convict that RAY had made arrangements for lots of money after the escape and inferred he would get it in return for killing KING. MORTON acknowledged he had no first hand information concerning the threats of RAY or his plan for escape. He was hesitant to identify his convict friend in MSP claiming he feared for his life if an Agent approached the convict with the allegation MORTON had put the "con" on the spot.

When bluntly asked what MORTON wanted for the information he possessed, he agreed he was interested in a trade, and would reveal the name of the convict who reportedly had first hand information of these pertinent developments if Agent would approach the local judge in Wichita who is about to hear MORTON's charge of Armed Robbery, and arrange to have these charges dismissed. He explained this would preclude his having to return to the pen and thus decrease his chances of being harmed for furnishing information about his buddy.

MORTON was informed his proposal would be reported to Agent's supervisor and if additional facts were desired, he would be contacted.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY:

AT LANSING, KANSAS:

Will maintain contact with Warden S. H. CROUSE to determine if he identifies "Inmate X".

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AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Will follow results of MORTON's prosecution and reinterview him if it is deemed advisable.