

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696)

DATE: 6/20/69

FROM: *R* SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Knoxville letter to Bureau, 6/10/69.

JERRY RAY has been located and interviewed and has been uncooperative. Knoxville should discontinue efforts to interview JERRY RAY.

2 - Knoxville
1 - Memphis

JCH:jap
(3)



5010-108-01

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

44-696-418

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 23 1969	
FBI - KNOXVILLE	

Thermon

F B I

Date: 7/15/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)
MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM KNOXVILLE (44-696)

MURKIN.

A PETITION FOR CERTIORARI IN CASE OF STATE OF TENN.
VS. JAMES EARL RAY FILED IN COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS AT
KNOXVILLE, TENN., JULY NINE LAST. PETITION HEARD BEFORE
COURT AT KNOXVILLE TODAY AND PETITION FOR CERTIORARI DENIED
AS NOT WELL TAKEN. ~~P. Petition~~ copies of petitions
~~END~~ + order being forwarded. P. end —

JDJ/pjw
(1)Approved: WR
Special Agent in ChargeSent RH 4⁴⁷P MPer h

44-696-419

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

7/29/69

SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (P)

MURKIN

Re Knoxville teletype to Bureau, dated 7/15/69.

As set forth in referenced teletype, a Petition for Certiorari in the case of the State of Tennessee versus JAMES EARL RAY was filed in the Court of Criminal Appeals, Knoxville, Tennessee, 7/9/69. This petition was heard before the court at Knoxville, Tennessee, on 7/15/69, and certiorari was denied as not well taken.

There are enclosed herewith for the Bureau and Memphis one copy each of the following petitions and accompanying papers filed in connection with this appeal, to witt:

- (1) Ancillary Petition For Certiorari
- (2) Petition For Writ of Certiorari
- (3) Defendant's Brief
- (4) Reply To Petition For Certiorari
- (5) Order of the Court Denying Certiorari

2 - Bureau (Encls. 5)
2 - Memphis (Encls. 5)
2 - Knoxville
JDJ/tsw
(6)

9/15 R/S Fleming
9/23 ~ ~ ~

Fleming

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED PC
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

44-696-420

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

9/30/69

SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

MURKIN

Re Knoxville letter to Bureau 7/29/69.

A review of the Knoxville file concerning this subject shows that no investigation remains to be done in the Knoxville Division at the present time.

This file is being placed in a closed status at Knoxville.

2 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Knoxville

JLF:lmh
(5)

Searched _____
Serialized h
Indexed _____
Filed h

44-696-421

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Complaint Is Dismissed

NASHVILLE, Jan. 31 (AP)—A Federal judge Friday dismissed James Earl Ray's complaint that his constitutional rights were violated by maximum security confinement in the Tennessee State Prison here.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge William E. Miller, did, however, give formal approval to a "work plan" designed to give Ray, the admitted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., more exercise and recreation.

Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence for King's slaying, contended in a Dec. 29 hearing before Miller that his rights were being violated and his health impaired by his solitude and idleness.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE KNOXVILLE
NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE: 2

Date: 1-31-70
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILIETT
Title:

Character:
or

Classification:
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

44-696-422

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 2 1970	
FBI - KNOXVILLE	

[Handwritten signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

[illegible]

PETROS, Tenn.—(UPI) — James Earl Ray, after an embittered year at the state penitentiary at Nashville, moved today to the state's maximum security facility at Brushy Mountain here.

"He arrived by car about 6:30 a.m. (EST)" said Wallace Flood, assistant correction commissioner for adult programs.

"He will be housed in a single cell in one of the old blocs," Flood said. "He will get exactly the same treatment as any other prisoner here. And we plan to work out a work program for him, but we don't know just what that will be."

"Actually, I have been in and off here since the 1950s. The Flood did not affect me. I have more of a sense of direction and a sense of purpose than the small, old-time prisoners here. I am a big difference between three thousand inmates and 351."

in Memphis, Richard J. Ryan, one of Ray's attorneys, said:

"If it will accord James Earl Ray more freedom of movement within the prison population, my reaction is one of approval. I have already discussed with James Earl Ray the possibility of a transfer to Brushy Mountain and this is his reaction also.

"Certainly at all times James Earl Ray will abide by the prison rules and regulations pertaining to custodial care of the inmates."

Ray is serving 99 years for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at Memphis, Tenn. April 4, 1968.

On 12/15/68, a Department of Health official in Knoxville, Tennessee, advised that a transfer was made to a department transfer van, and that no unusual security precautions were made.

He was housed at Nashville for about one year, during which time he complained of his confinement, lack of work and overwork, pay, and the general nature of affairs in the trial. He also complained of being in the water complained to state officials that this was not satisfactory.

He was generally kept away from other prisoners in the state penitentiary. Prison officials said that his isolation was aimed at protecting his own safety and life.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 37
Memphis Press-
Scimitar
Memphis, Tennessee

Date: 3-25-70
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: CHARLES SCHNEIDER
Title: MURKIN

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated

44-696-4:3

Brushy Mountain State prison became a maximum security unit for the state last September, and Flood says that plans are being formulated to set up some kind of prison industry at the facility.

At present, there is little available for the prisoners except work in the laundry, and work details in the dining room, the prison library, and doing maintenance work around the prison.

Flood said that a shoe manufacturing industry is being considered for the Petros facility.

U.S. District Court Judge William E. Miller ordered the liberalized work program for Ray after the prisoner complained bitterly about his treatment. He said, among other things, that his treatment constituted cruel and inhuman punishment.

Ray quit the program March 4 and sent a series of blistering letters to state officials complaining of harassment.

Among his duties at the prison were painting the corridors and helping serve other prisoners food.

Ray complained of constant interruptions during his work. Prison officials said they could understand the complaining but that no other prisoners were allowed to be in the corridor when Ray was there.

Ray was transferred to Nashville from Memphis March 11, one day after he pleaded guilty to the King assassination.

3-25-70

AIRTEL

AM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Enclosed for information of the Bureau is newspaper clipping reflecting transfer of JAMES EARL RAY from Tennessee State Penitentiary to the Brushy Mountain Prison at Petros, Tennessee. Petros, Tennessee, is in the Knoxville Division.

2 BUREAU (Enc. 2)
1 KNOXVILLE (Enc. 1)(INFO)
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:EM
(4)

44-696-424

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1970	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Serving As Janitor At Brushy Mountain

PETROS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray spent Friday, the eve of the 2nd anniversary of the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., working as a janitor in Cellblock C of Brushy Mountain State Prison.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in the state's maximum security prison here for the sniper slaying of the civil rights leader in Memphis on April 4 1968.

"He's a caretaker in Cellblock C, which he shares with about 40 other black and white inmates," Warden Lewis Tollett said. "It is janitorial work."

Tollett said Ray, who was brought here March 25 from the main state prison in Nashville, had made a quick adjustment to the routine at Brushy Mountain.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Knoxville
Journal

Knoxville, Tenn

PAGE 7

Date: 4-4-70
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

44-696-425

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 1970	
FBI — KNOXVILLE	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Writ Asks To Free King Case Witness

BOLIVAR, Tenn., July 25 (AP)—A writ of habeas corpus has been filed in Hardeman County Circuit Court, charging that the Shelby County district attorney's office had a witness shuttled off to a mental hospital rather than allow her to testify in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The writ was filed by Charles M. Murphy Jr., a Memphis lawyer, on behalf of Mrs. Grace E. Waldron, also known as Mrs. Grace E. Stephens.

On the night King was slain in Memphis, Mrs. Waldron was a resident of the rooming house where James Earl Ray allegedly fired the shot.

Murphy claims that immediately after the shooting Mrs. Waldron saw a man leave the bathroom, from where the shot came, who did not fit Ray's description.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE KNOXVILLE
NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE: 5

Date: 7-25-70
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLETT
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE
☐ Being Investigated

44-696-426

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

JUL 27 1970
FBI — KNOXVILLE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Has Right to New Trial, Judge Says

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich., July 25 (UPI)—There are sound legal grounds for granting James Earl Ray a new trial in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Tennessee criminal appellate judge said Friday.

Judge Charles Gilbreath of Nashville told a conference of appellate judges that he had "carefully studied" Ray's petition and accompanying briefs, although he had not participated in the court decision on the Ray case.

"I would have granted James Earl Ray the new trial he asked; not because I, like millions of others, would welcome a full judicial airing of the tragedy in Memphis, but, I believe, on sound legal ground," he said.

Denied by High Court

Gilbreath, a candidate for the Tennessee Supreme Court, is a colorful and often controversial figure.

Ray pleaded guilty March 10, 1969, to the King murder in exchange for a 99-year sentence.

In seeking a new trial, Ray maintained he was not adequately represented by attorneys. He said they "coerced" him into pleading guilty.

In a January ruling, the Tennessee Supreme Court denied Ray's request and said he had "made a bargain" and had waived all right of appeal.

Law Called Clear

Ray's appeal was based in part on a letter he wrote to Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, the presiding judge at Ray's Memphis trial.

In the letter, Ray asked for a new trial, but Battle died before he could act on the request. Ray's attorneys said this would automatically provide grounds for a new trial under Tennessee law.

Gilbreath said Tennessee law is "clear and unequivocal" on the point. He emphasized that he felt Ray was guilty in the case and deserved the punishment he received, but he said legally Ray deserved a new trial.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE KNOXVILLE
NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE: 5

Date: 7-25-70
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLETT
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 44-696
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

44-696-427
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUL 27 1970
FBI - KNOXVILLE

Knoxville, Tennessee
December 31, 1970

JAMES EARL RAY, also
known as;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

On December 31, 1970, Warden Lewis S. Tollett, Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, advised James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. is incarcerated at Brushy Mountain State Prison. Warden Tollett stated a Christmas greeting had been sent to Ray addressed to "Mr. James Earl Ray, in care of Federal Prison System, Memphis, Tennessee, United States of America."

Tollett advised this piece of mail had been forwarded to his prison and noted the envelope bore what is believed to be a registry number 4808 from Walton-on-Thames, in Great Britain and was sent by airmail.

Warden Tollett stated the back of the envelope contains a return address:

"Mr. William Paton Caan
ex AF 19873139
White Willows
Cricket Way
Weybridge,
Surrey, Great Britain

Tollett stated the bottom of the envelope on the reverse side contains a message:

"P.S. Colonel Glen Hempleman
has said he will vouch for
my innocence, 437 M.A.W.
Charleston, South Carolina"

4 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
1 - Knoxville
TVR/kcm
(7)

Van Riper

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED C
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

44-675-461

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

Warden Tollett advised the Christmas card contains a printed greeting under which was the following:

"Merry Christmas Mr. Ray
from William Paton Caan
1/2 of the original "Eric
Starvo Galt."

The back of the card contains this message:

"Dear Mr. Ray, I do not
approve of capital punishment.
I believe that I probably did
not shoot the Reverend Martin
Luther King. I would like to
see you recieve a fair, open,
honest, merciful trial. I
believe that my brother Michael
Nowlin Caan probably did not
shoot the Reverend King either.
Yours truly, William Paton Caan."

Warden Tollett stated inside the front cover of the greeting card is the following:

"p.s. I do not like the Klu Klux
Clan. Please to not publizise
this Christmas card. It could
start a race war, then a civil
war, and then World War three.
Cool it Man, I have a lot of
friends. Use your head, turn
around what's in it. Cool it.

-2*-

This document contains neither recommendation nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

F B I

Date: 12/31/70

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

To: Director, FBI (44-38861) ATTENTION:

From: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) ☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
GENERAL INVEST. DIV.Subject: JAMES EARL RAY, aka, ☐ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

CR - CONSPIRACY;

UFAC - ROBBERY (OO: MEMPHIS)

☐ CR ☐ EL ☐ DIH ☐ CRA-64☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF ☐ E☐ BM ☐ BM-Threats ☐ Racial Matters☐ Klan ☐ Organization

Summary of Complaint:

On 12/31/70 Warden LEWIS S. TOLLETT, Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, advised he had received a Christmas card mailed from Walton-on-Thames, GB. This card was addressed to Mr. JAMES EARL RAY, Federal Prison System, Memphis, Tennessee, and contained a greeting and note from WILLIAM PATON CAAN. The card indicated CAAN was "1/2 of the Original Eric Starvo Galt." CAAN noted neither he nor his brother shot the Reverend KING and advised his brother was MICHAEL NOWLIN CAAN.

Warden TOLLETT stated the envelope contained a message that a Colonel GLEN HEMPLEMAN would vouch for his, CAAN's innocence, and HEMPLEMAN's apparent address is 437 M.A.W. Charleston, South Carolina. CAAN further indicated he had a former service number of AF 19873139.

ACTION: UACB:

- ☒ No further action being taken and
- 2 - Bureau ☒ LHM enclosed ☐ Copy furnished to USA
- (Enc. 4) ☒ LHM being submitted
- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) ☐ Report being submitted
- 1 - Knoxville ☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
- TVR/kcm ☐ Limited investigation instituted
- (5)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____