

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN
(00: Memphis)

Re Memphis tel to Jackson, 4/13/68.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On April 15, 1968, JN 378-R, who is familiar with the racial situation in Grenada, Miss. area, advised that the name JIMMIE GUEMOOR was unknown to him.

The following investigation was conducted in an effort to ascertain the identity and location of JIMMIE GUEMOOR, 750 Pearl Street, Grenada, Miss. The following individuals were contacted concerning GUEMOOR with negative results on 4/15/68:

Grenada Police Commissioner PAUL MC ELROY;
Captain G. H. LOVORN, Grenada, Miss. PD;
ROY KIMBELL, Grenada Credit Bureau, Grenada, Miss.

② - Memphis
2 - Jackson
GWV/bjk
(4)

Tracking

44-1987-Sub B-321

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Approved: [Signature] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

JN 157-9586

A review of the current City and telephone directories failed to reflect a listing for either 750 Pearl Street or JIMMIE GUEMOOR.

Mrs. GEORGIA B. BOHANNAH, 754 Pearl Street (rear), advised she has lived in the area for approximately twenty years and knows of no one by the name of JIMMIE GUEMOOR. It is noted that there is no address of 750 Pearl Street, Grenada, Miss. Neighborhood inquiry negative regarding GUEMOOR.

Daily efforts were made to contact LEON WILBERT PAUL, SCLC, Field Secretary for the State of Mississippi, who, on 4/23/68, advised that JIMMIE GUEMOOR is not known to him as being active in any civil rights activities in Grenada, nor is he acquainted with anyone by this name in the Grenada, Miss., area. He stated an individual with a similar sounding name is a member of the Evaders at Memphis, Tennessee, and could be located through JAMES PHILLIP, Treasurer, Black Organizing Project, telephone 275-0554, Memphis, Tennessee.

The setting forth of leads in this matter is being left to the discretion of Memphis, the office of origin.

4-24-68

Airtel

To: SAC'S, San Diego
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re San Diego telephone call and teletype 4-18-68.

The remaining unidentified latent fingerprints and the latent impressions in this case are not identical with the fingerprints of Phillip LaBonte, FBI #421070D. No palm prints are available in our Identification Division files for LaBonte.

44-1987-Sub B-320

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

124

FBI

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
 FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)
 MURKIN

The following investigation was conducted on
 4/22/68, by SA THOMAS F. JENKINS:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

LARRY DUNCAN, Estill Hotel, 1018 Broadway,
 furnished the following information:

On either 4/12 or 13/68, DUNCAN observed an
 unknown white male, driving a 1965 Volkswagen, bearing
 Tennessee tag JO-0987, Shelby County. DUNCAN advised that
 he spoke briefly with unidentified male, whom he believed
 resembled a photograph he had seen of ERIC STARVO GALT

DUNCAN described this individual as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Middle 30's
Weight	175 pounds
Height	5'10"
Hair	Short, dark
Build	Medium
Complexion	Dark
Remarks	Man wearing white shirt and smoking cigars.

2 - Memphis
 2 - Kansas City
 TFJ:rd
 (4)

EX 75-259

44-1987-Sub B-319

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

KC 44-760

DUNCAN also believed this individual to be a ham radio operator. DUNCAN related that he saw this individual at 11th and Hereford Streets in Kansas City, Missouri.

LEADS:

MEMPHIS DIVISION

At Memphis, Tennessee

Will contact Tennessee Bureau of Motor Vehicles and determine owner of 1965 Volkswagen, license J0-0987.

F B I

Date: 4-24-68

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

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Reurairtel 4-12-68, submitting the list of active and retired military personnel with automobiles fitting the description of suspect vehicle.

The comparison of the latent fingerprints in this case with the fingerprints of the individuals whose names appear on the submitted list is not being made in view of the identifications effected with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

Submitted list retained.

44-1987-Sub B-318

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

4/24/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, CLEVELAND (44-365)
RE: MURKIN

Re letter from Director, 4/18/68, to Miss SILVIA IRVING, 4035 South Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio (copies furnished Atlanta, Memphis, and Cleveland).

Enclosed for New York for background information are copies of above referenced letter, as well as a copy of letter of Miss SILVIA IRVING to Director, dated 4/15/68, along with attachments to her letter.

On 4/23/68, Mr. KITCH STANLEY, WFLD-TV, Channel 21, 101 West Boulevard Street, Youngstown, Ohio, advised he believed the TV program regarding "The American Alcoholic" was narrated by OMER STANLEY through NBC News, New York City, New York, and he thought it had been televised on Channel 21, on Friday, 4/19/68, from 10:00 PM to 11:00 PM. He had no additional details.

STANLEY suggested NBC News, New York, New York, be contacted for additional details, which would disclose the identity of the Alcoholic Clinic in Atlanta, Georgia.

LEAD

REPLYING

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Atlanta (RM)
2 - Memphis (RM) (Info)
2 - New York (RM) (Info. 2)
2 - Cleveland

MMH/2a
(11)

44-1987-Sub B 317

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Teletype sent to Dir, Atl NY, air mail to Cleveland

Hester *MMH*

NY 100-200

ALBANY, N.Y. 100-200

Will contact NY 100-200 and ascertain identity of
the individual who is in Albany, Georgia, as Albany has
been to identify a person who is known as [REDACTED],
the person in this program and then also check [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in possible [REDACTED] of [REDACTED].

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

TO:

Date 4-23-68

SAC, Springfield

Your inquiry 4-23-68
Re: SI Tel 11:24 A.M.

RE: MURKIN

- ☒ Attached furnished in reply to your inquiry.
- ☐ Attached furnished in compliance with request from
- ☐ Only record available attached.
- ☐ This matter is receiving attention and you will be advised at an early date.
- ☐ Supplementing FBI Laboratory report dated
- ☐ Records FBI #
- ☐ are furnished since there is a possibility that one may pertain to the subject in whom you are interested.
- ☐ Fingerprint files fail to disclose
- ☐ Confirming FBI wire of
- ☐ A wanted notice has not been placed as subject appears to be in custody.
- ☐ When you no longer desire your notice maintained, please advise.
- ☐ If you determine subject to be in custody, please advise so that your notice may be canceled.
- ☐ Subject of your inquiry searched in name indices only. Enclosed record(s) possibly identical. If identical, resubmit request and wanted (or flash) notice will be placed.
- ☐ If it is determined that the subject of this record is not the individual in whom you are interested, please advise.
- ☐ Your communication is returned.
- ☐

☒ Enc. (2) *fm*
☒ Copy to: SAC, Chicago
SAC, Kansas City
SAC, Memphis
SAC, Albany

44-1987-Sub-B-316

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

John Edgar Hoover
Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4-23-68 124 LJP

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 78 626

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Illinois St Ref	Earl Ray #A-2632 ✓	3-27-20	petty larceny	1 yr
PD Quincy Ill	Earl Ray #-- ✓	6-1-21	vag	sent to WH for 134½ das
PD Sacramento Calif	Earl Ray #9782-A ✓	7-3-22	inv	rel 7-5-22
PD Keokuk Iowa	Earl Everett Ray #38 ✓	12-17-22	rape and rob (at Quincy Ill)	taken to Quincy Ill by Sheriff of Adams County
SP Menard Ill	Earl Ray #5786 ✓	2-18-23	rape	1 yr
PD Lincoln Nebr	Earl Ray #1083 ✓	7-14-24	inv stole car in Foul Co Kans robbed 4 homes in Kans and Nebr	turned over to St Sheriff Lincoln Nebr
SP Menard Ill	Earl Ray #6588 ✓	2-11-25	assault to kill	1 to 14 yrs *8 yrs and 3 mos disch
SO Bloomington Ill	Earl Ray #-- ✓	8-23-33	carrying concealed weapon	
SF Vandalia Ill	Earl Ray #B-370 ✓	9-4-33	carrying concealed weapons	6 mos
PD Quincy Ill	James Ryan #-- ✓	3-4-34	grand larceny	\$1000 bond to circuit court
SF Vandalia Ill	Earl Ray #B-1202 ✓	5-25-34	tamp with motor vehicle	6 mos 44-1987-Sub B-315 5

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

16-70382-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4-23-68 124 LJP

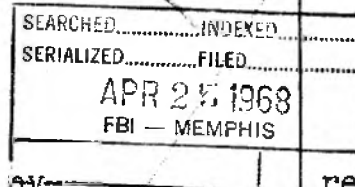
J. Edgar Hoover
Director

-2-

The following FBI record, NUMBER • 78 626

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Alton Ill	Joe Ray #414	2-5-25	not given	
SO Edwardsville Ill	Joe Ray #--	2-9-35	suspect	
PD Peoria Ill	Earl Everette Ray #14439	8-15-41	hold - inv	rel by Capt
Alaska Travel Control Seattle Wash	Earl Everett Ray #B-1289-E	inquiry 6-18-43		
ASF War Dept	Earl Everett Ray #88-MHK-25	Second Cook 6-5-43		
PD Wilmington Del	Earl Everett Ray #DU644238	Laborer 1-29-44		
PD Ft Worth Texas	James Patrick Clancy #EX-64465	11-27-47	inv	rel'd
PD Kans City Mo	Earl E. Ray #62428	7-5-48	Inv unlawful flight to avoid pros	7-8-48 rel to Fed
SO Kans City Mo	Earl Everett Ray #18476	7-7-48	unlawful flight	7-13-48 hold for gov't
USM Kans City Mo	Earl Everette Ray #9819 K C Mo	7-7-48	unlawful flight fr Justice	Pending 7-13-48 ret to USM So Dist Ill Springfield Ill
PD Springfield Ill	Earl E. Ray #10785	7-13-48	unlawful flight	
SP Menard Ill	Earl Ray #21025	10-4-48	aslt to comm mayhem	3-10 yrs 1-3-55 disch exp of sent
PD Kans City Mo	Earl Everett Ray #62428	11-13-55	Inv Operating Veh with No Lic	rel to Mo St Hwy Pat 11-14-55



Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

16-70582-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

4-23-68 124 LJP

1-BU

The following FBI record, NUMBER 78 626, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE
FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE
WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	WANTED BY BUREAU: As Earl Everette Ray, wa, James Ryan, (#14439 PD Peoria Ill) Fug index #20364 Bu file #88-3463, OO. Springfield Ill inf rec 9-8-47 NO LONGER WANTED per Bu memo dated 7-6-48			
THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI				

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

4/23/68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SAC SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)
FROM DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN.

RESAAIRTEL APRIL NINETEEN LAST SUBMITTING
REGISTRATION CARD OF THE TREE MOTEL, AUSTIN, TEXAS, FOR ONE
OF FOUR DONALD D. TANNER CONSIDERED A LOOK-ALIKE FOR
SUBJECT RAY.

DIFFERENCES NOTED INDICATE THE REGISTRATION CARD
WAS NOT EXECUTED BY JAMES EARL RAY, THE SUBJECT IN THIS CASE;
HOWEVER, DIFFERENT STYLES OF HANDWRITING PRECLUDE A
DEFINITE OPINION.

LATENT RESULTS FURNISHED SEPARATELY. COPY BEING
SENT AIRMAIL TO MEMPHIS.

① - Memphis (44-1987) - Airmail

NOTE FOR MEMPHIS: No Laboratory report will be submitted regarding
the results of the examination set out above.

44-1987-Sub B-314

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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4/23/68

AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

Relet of RCMP, Ottawa, dated 4/22/68, re PAUL
TIMBLETT and ROBERT BILLINGS.

JOHN CLARK, Chief of Police, Old Orchard Beach,
Me., advised SA JAMES V. SIBBONS that PAUL A. TIMBLETT and
ROBERT E. BILLINGS, both of Old Orchard Beach, Me., are
members of his PD and were in Quebec on social visit and
both have now returned to Old Orchard Beach, Me.

Bureau is requested to advise RCMP, Ottawa
to discontinue their inquiry concerning these individuals.

3-Bureau (RM)
2-Memphis (44-1987)(RM)
1-Boston

JVG:po*b
(6)

44-1987-Sub B-313

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

12

4/23/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

RE: MURKIN

Re Louisville airtel 4/16/68, enclosing FD-302s incorporating data furnished by Mrs. JASPER WARD and Mrs. NORMA DAVIS, who, together with Rev. A. D. WILLIAMS KING of Louisville, Kentucky, were registered in the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis 4/4/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Atlanta each is one copy of an FD-302 and for Memphis nine copies, recording information furnished on 4/22/68 by Rev. A. D. WILLIAMS KING.

As a matter of information, it might be noted that during the interview Rev. A. D. WILLIAMS KING was very pleasant and indicated that he felt confident that the FBI would be successful in apprehending the murderer of his brother and only hoped that once in custody, sufficient protection will be afforded the individual to insure he lives to stand trial. It was explained to Rev. KING that the matter of the protection of a prisoner would be the responsibility of the prison officials in whose custody the prisoner might be. Rev. KING stated he understood this.

- 3- Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 1- Atlanta (44-2386) (RM) (Enc. 1)
- ②- Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 9) (RM)
- 4- Louisville (2-44-947)
(1-157-259)
(1-157-90)

WIM/dam
(9)

44-1987-Sub B-3124

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

LS 44-947

As noted in re airtel, as of 4/15/68, Rev. A. B. WILLIAMS KING reportedly was in Atlanta, Ga., and was scheduled to return to Louisville late 4/17/68. Telephonic effort by SA WARREN L. WALSH on the morning of 4/18/68 to reach Rev. KING at his home in Louisville were negative. A message was left with his son for Rev. KING to telephonically contact SA WALSH on his return to Louisville.

Later on the morning of 4/18/68, SA WALSH telephonically contacted the Kien Baptist Church in Louisville where Rev. KING is pastor and was advised that Rev. KING had not yet returned to Louisville. At 5:15 p.m. on 4/18/68, SA WALSH telephonically reached Rev. KING's wife at his residence, and she advised that Rev. KING had not yet returned to Louisville, but was expected momentarily. SA WALSH explained to Mrs. KING that he desired to talk with Rev. A. B. WILLIAMS KING because of the report that Rev. KING had been in Memphis, Tenn., at the Lorraine Motel on the date that his brother had been shot. Accordingly, it was felt he might possibly have information of value in connection with instant investigation. Mrs. KING stated she would have her husband promptly contact SA WALSH upon his return to Louisville.

Not having heard from Rev. A. B. WILLIAMS KING as of 10 a.m. 4/22/68, SA WALSH telephonically contacted his home and reached him there. Rev. KING advised he had received the message for him to call SA WALSH, but he had been so busy he had not as yet had the opportunity to set up the appointment. He advised he would be available in the office of his church at noon, 4/22/68, for interview.

ARMED and DANGEROUS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/23/68

Reverend A. D. WILLIAMS KING, 1005 Southwestern Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, pastor of the Zion Baptist Church, 2200 West Walnut Street, Louisville, Kentucky, was interviewed in the office of his church. He furnished the following information:

He is the brother of the late Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Late on the night of April 3, 1968, Reverend A. D. WILLIAMS KING arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, and registered in the Lorraine Motel for the purpose of assisting his brother in connection with the brother's efforts to settle the sanitation strike then in progress in Memphis. He had several contacts with his brother on Thursday, April 4, 1968. During the morning of April 4, 1968, he was in the company of his brother when the brother held a strategy meeting in Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel concerning the action to be taken by his brother and his associates with respect to efforts to obtain a suitable settlement to the sanitation strike. This meeting lasted several hours in the morning.

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, Reverend KING was with his brother and other individuals at the Lorraine Motel for several hours. This was not a business meeting but rather a social gathering. This gathering ended shortly before 6 p.m. April 4, 1968, when the participants had decided to go to dinner. Reverend KING had taken several sleeping pills during the gathering and went to his room and fell asleep. Sometime shortly thereafter, exact time not remembered, he was awakened and told that his brother had been shot and had been taken to a hospital. Reverend KING immediately felt in his own mind that his brother was dead although as yet no announcement of death had been made. For several minutes Rev. KING felt extreme bitterness, but then when he became rational, he reasoned that whoever had done such a deed had to be mentally "sick" and the bitterness left Reverend KING and he remembered a passage

On 4/22/68 at Louisville, Kentucky File # 44-1987-Sub-B-312
Louisville 44-947
 by SA WARREN L. WALSH &
SA CHARLES A. KINCAID WLW/pam Date dictated 4/22/68

This document contains neither recommendations 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.

in the Bible in which JESUS CHRIST, during his agony and death, called upon His heavenly father to:

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

Reverend KING then realized that if his Christian upbringing was what he feels it to be, he had to feel the same way about the shooting of his brother.

Reverend KING further commented that the murder of his brother has only served to make him see more clearly that violence is not the answer to the Negroes' problem.

Reverend KING stated that during the several contacts he had with his brother on April 4, 1968, his brother gave no indication that he had received any information indicating an attempt on his life would be made on that date. On the contrary, his brother seemed to Reverend KING to be overly jubilant in that he, the brother, felt that he was making progress in obtaining a desirable solution for the sanitation strikers in Memphis, Tennessee.

Reverend KING advised that after his arrival in Memphis, Tennessee, late on April 3, 1968, until after the shooting of his brother, he, Reverend KING, had left the Lorraine Motel on only one occasion, that being around noon, April 4, 1968, when he, in the company of Mrs. LUCRETIA WARD of Louisville, Kentucky, who was also staying on that date at the Lorraine Motel, went to a nearby dry cleaning establishment and drugstore to make some purchases. On this occasion, they were gone from the motel but for a short time and Reverend KING observed nothing unusual or indicative of any indication that harm might befall his brother on that date.

Reverend KING further commented that prior to his above visit to Memphis, Tennessee, he had last personally seen his brother in Washington, D.C., in February, 1968, exact date not recalled. However, he frequently telephonically was in contact with his brother and during none of these contacts did his brother indicate to him that any open threat upon his life had been made. However, Reverend KING

LS 44-947

3

commented that he knew his brother lived with the thought in mind that efforts might be made to assassinate him and Reverend KING feels such an effort did occur in Birmingham, Alabama, several years ago, when first Reverend KING's home was dynamited and about 20 minutes later, the motel at which his late brother was then staying was also dynamited.

4/23/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) (P)

MURKIN
OO Memphis

Re Bureau teletype to Albuquerque 4/16/68 and Memphis teletype to Director 4/17/68, instructing that certain offices including Oklahoma City determine identity of all licensed drivers with the birth date of [redacted]

A review of the Oklahoma State Drivers License Bureau reflects 15 white males with birth date [redacted] possessing Oklahoma Drivers License.

In view of the identification of ERIC STARVO GALT as JAMES EARL RAY, no attempt will be made to locate and identify the above 15 individuals UACB.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

1 - Bureau
② - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Oklahoma City
JAG:low
(7)

right
Kill this
lead
to certain
persons

Done
glt

44-1987-Sub B-311

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *glt*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

TO:

Date 4/23/68

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

Your inquiry

PX - teletype
4/22/68

MURKIN. CR.

- ☐ Attached furnished in reply to your inquiry.
☒ Attached furnished in compliance with request from SAC, Phoenix
☐ Only record available attached.
☐ This matter is receiving attention and you will be advised at an early date.
☐ Supplementing FBI Laboratory report dated
☐ Records FBI #
are furnished since there is a possibility that one may pertain to the subject in whom you are interested.
☐ Fingerprint files fail to disclose
☐ Confirming FBI wire of
☐ A wanted notice has not been placed as subject appears to be in custody.
☐ When you no longer desire your notice maintained, please advise.
☐ If you determine subject to be in custody, please advise so that your notice may be canceled.
☐ Subject of your inquiry searched in name indices only. Enclosed record(s) possibly identical. If identical, resubmit request and wanted (or flash) notice will be placed.
☐ If it is determined that the subject of this record is not the individual in whom you are interested, please advise.
☐ Your communication is returned.
☐

☒ Enc. (4)
☒ Copy to: SACs

Phoenix (44-371)
 Little Rock (157-1215)
 Dallas (44-2649)
 Kansas City
 Jacksonville

44-1987-Sub B-310

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED 4	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

John Edgar Hoover
Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1-4

APR 22 1968

Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 751 195 A, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Bossier City La	Richard B. Harrell #136	8-17-49	inv	rel
SO Shreveport La	Richard Burnham Harrell #12215	6-20-51	inv	
PD Winslow Ariz	Richard Burnham Harrell #--	7-9-52 sleeper		rel
SO Flagstaff Ariz	Richard B. Harrell #4839	8-12-53	non-sup of wife	
SO Phoenix Ariz	Richard Bernam Harrell #62349	6-13-54	2 cts GT	7-15-54 6 mos Co Jail
St Board of Pardons and Paroles Phoenix Ariz	R. B. Harrell #18140	1-6-55	failure to prov for wife	1 1/2 yrs to 2 yrs 11-23-55 rel b parole usual rel
SO Flagstaff Ariz	Richard B. Harrell #6311	12-11-55	inv missing person	
PD Selma Calif	Richard Burnham Harrell #14623	7-12-57	C F w/o lic susp rob A	
SO Fresno Calif	Richard Burnham Harrell #56012	7-12-57	Ct. 1-PC 836/211 & Ct. 2-PC 12025 (Robbery)	
SO Silver City NMex	Richard Burnham Harrell #12582	12-24-57	GT	

44-1987-Sub B-309

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The information furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases is for INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

2

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 751 195 A, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Kern Co B of I Bakersfield Calif	R. B. Harrell #108468	8-14-63	No opr's lic in poss; fail to appear (wrrt #77224)	jail 4 das F \$20 on chg of 12951 40508
SO Riverside Calif	R.B. Harrell #A83585	1-20-67	647f PC drk	\$17 F
SO Riverside Calif	R. B. Harrell #A 96769	6-14-67	1-242 PC (Battery) 2-40508 CVC (Fail to appear)	1-10 das susp \$56 Fine 2-\$29 Fine
SO San Luis Obispo Calif	R.B. Harrell #23469	9-10-67	hit & run (property)	60 das susp 2 yrs NLV

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1961-O-615915

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Jackson teletype to Mobile and Atlanta,
1:45 p.m., 4/17/68, concerning 1963
Rambler seen by ROBERT DUVAL ROGERS near
Citronelle, Ala., 4/8/68. ✓

Enclosed herewith are 25 copies of an insert
reflecting investigation conducted 4/18/68, which developed
no pertinent information concerning this car.

② - Memphis (Enc. 25) *gfr*
2 - Mobile
JTB:jh
(4)

44-1987-Sub B-308A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Approved: W. J. H. Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

MO 157-2627

JTB:jh

1

RE: 1963 Rambler with Georgia
license plates seen April
8, 1968, near Citronelle,
Alabama, by ROBERT DUVAL ROGERS

The following investigation was conducted on
April 18, 1968, by Special Agent CHARLES A. BOYLE, JR.:

Mr. J. CHANCELLOR, Route 7, Deer Park, Alabama,
which is located North of Citronelle, Alabama, near the
intersection of Highway 45 and Highway 17, advised that he
could recall no 1963 Rambler speeding through that
community in the area of the intersection of Highway 17
and Highway 45. He stated that any speeding automobile
with an out of state license would have caused considerable
comment in this rural area and he had heard nothing concerning
such a vehicle. CHANCELLOR was unable to identify the
photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT and advised that he had
known of no one by the name of GALT or HARVEY LOWMYER or
JOHN WILLARD.

On the same date the following individuals were
recontacted regarding this 1963 Rambler, in the Citronelle-
Deer Park, Alabama area, and all advised that they could
furnish no information concerning this car or concerning
anyone by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER or
JOHN WILLARD:

JOE SELLERS, Chief of Police, Mt. Vernon, Alabama;
FREEMAN FLOYD, Alabama State Troopers;
BLAKE ODOM, Deer Park, Alabama;
GEORGE DEES, Rural Route, Deer Park, Alabama;
JUDSON SULLIVAN, Sheriff, Washington County,
Chatom, Alabama;
SHERWOOD DEES, Rural Route, Deer Park, Alabama.

44-1987-Sub B-338

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 19 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

198

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reference is made to Miami teletype, 11 p.m.,
4/12/68, concerning a check of Eastern Airlines tickets.

Enclosed herewith are 25 copies of an insert
reflecting investigation concerning W. C. WILLARD, who had a
flight on 4/10/68 from Montgomery, Ala., to Springfield,
Missouri.

② - Memphis (Enc. 25) *ye*
2 - Mobile
JTB:jh
(4)

44-1987-Sub B-307A

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>5</i>
SERIALIZED <i>5</i>	FILED <i>6</i>
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *sp*

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

MO 157-2627

JTB:jh

1

RE: WILBUR C. WILLARD,
Eastern Airlines Flight
April 10, 1968, from
Montgomery, Alabama to
Springfield, Missouri

Eastern Airlines records reflect that ticket number 007-251-271-264, was issued to W. C. WILLARD, Montgomery, Alabama, resident phone 273-7411, for a flight April 10, 1968, 7:15 a.m. to Springfield, Missouri, via Atlanta, Georgia and St. Louis, Missouri.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent GERALD O. GRAYBILL:

On April 13, 1968, it was determined that W. C. WILLARD was Regional Director of the Mid-West National Insurance Company, Montgomery, Alabama, and resides at 5555 South McDonough Street, Apartment 25-B. He was out of town as of that date.

WILBUR C. WILLARD on April 16, 1968, advised that his permanent home address is 405 Lincoln Street, Aurora, Missouri, and he is in Montgomery, Alabama, directing the opening of several new offices for the Mid-West National Insurance Company, which company has its main office in Springfield, Missouri. He said that he left Montgomery, Alabama on April 10, 1968, for Springfield, Missouri by way of Atlanta and St. Louis, and returned to Montgomery on April 15, 1968. His home phone is 263-7411 and business phone in Montgomery is 272-7251.

WILLARD advised that on April 4, 1968, he had been in Sylacauga, Alabama, until late in the afternoon before returning to Montgomery about 8:00 p.m., hearing of the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., after his arrival in Montgomery.

From observation it was determined that WILLARD is about 5'8" tall, and is almost completely bald. He is

44-1987-Sub-B-307

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 11 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

1 *[initials]*

MO 157-2627

2

40 years of age, and his facial features do not resemble the photograph of the suspect ERIC STARVO GALT.

He advised that he could furnish no information concerning ERIC STARVO GALT or JOHN WILLARD.

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

(OO: Memphis)

Re Bureau airtel to all offices dated 4/19/68.

Re: Laundry Marking Machines and Code 20R-3

Enclosed for transmission to the FBI Laboratory are eight Thermo Seal Marking Machine Tapes, yellow in color, bearing code 20R-3.

ROBERT BERMAN, proprietor, Famous Cleaners, 3454 N. W. 7th Avenue, Miami, Florida, advised that his laundry does laundry and dry cleaning for several small cleaning establishments in the Miami, Florida area. He advised that he uses code 20R-3 about once every three weeks for the Royal Palm Cleaners, 4016 Royal Palm Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida. BERMAN believes that a yellow tape probably would have been used at least two or three times since April, 1967.

BERMAN advised that he is checking his records in efforts to determine the exact dates since April, 1967, that code 20R-3 has appeared on yellow tapes for the Royal Palm Cleaners. Thus far, BERMAN has determined this code was used on yellow tape for the Royal Palm Cleaners on September 28, 1967, and October 24, 1967.

- 4 - Bureau (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 2 - Albany (RM)
- 2 - Memphis (RM)
- 1 - Birmingham (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Atlanta (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Miami

DNJ:vc

(11)

44-1987-Sub B-306

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Ranney

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

MM 44-1854

BERMAN advised that he has not replaced any of the type characters in his Thermo-Seal marking machine since he purchased it three years ago. The model number of his machine is H5M4 and the serial number is 32647.

He further advised that approximately three or four months ago the Thermo-Seal tapes changed somewhat and he is now using the new variety. He also stated that he replaces the blades in the machine that cuts the tapes about every three months.

BERMAN made available eight yellow tapes, produced by his machine, bearing code 20R-3, which are being furnished the FBI Laboratory for comparison purposes.

SUSPECT IN THIS CASE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4/23/68

AIRTEL

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, Philadelphia (44-1368)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Newark airtel to Director, 4/15/68; and New York airtel to Director, 4/17/68.

RE: DONALD CAMERON GAULT

Commander GEORGE BURKE, U.S. Naval Air Base, Willow Grove, Pa., advised that DONALD CAMERON GAULT, Serial Number [REDACTED] is an aircraft ordnance chief senior grade. On 3/29/68 GAULT departed on a training mission to the Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, which is located in the vicinity of Cocoa Beach, Fla. GAULT returned with his crew to Willow Grove on 3/31/68.

3 - Bureau (44-38861)
1 - Birmingham (Info)
1 - St. Louis (Info)
② - Memphis (Info)
1 - Miami (Info)
1 - Newark (44-554) (Info)
1 - New York (Info)
1 - Philadelphia (44-1368)

KES:KLS
(10)

44-1987-Sub B-305

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

4/23/68

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re unidentified chauffeur for MARTIN LUTHER KING, who was required to carry over \$200,000.00 in cash in a black bag.

The following information was received by the NYO from HENRY MAC FARLANE, Director of Security, J.C. Penney Corporation and former Special Agent. MAC FARLANE received the information from GEORGE STONE, Corporate Director of J. C. Penney, Inc., who received it from ROBERT F. BENNETT, Washington Representative, Public Relations, J.C. Penney. BENNETT is the son of Senator WALLACE BENNETT of Utah and Senator BENNETT furnished this information to ROBERT F. BENNETT:

ROBERT F. BENNETT stated that on the day before MARTIN LUTHER KING's assassination, his father was attending a testimonial dinner for top industrialists in Chicago, Illinois. At this dinner an executive, not further identified, stated that a man who used to work for him, was the personal chauffeur for KING and this man contacted him for his advice. He stated that KING required

3- Bureau
2- Memphis
2- Washington Field
1- New York

JFB:jmr
(10)

44-1987-Sub B-304

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

NY 44-1609

him to carry over \$200,000.00 in cash in a black bag at all times. This man was concerned about his job as chauffeur inasmuch as he recognized the possibility of being robbed or KING himself being killed for the money.

Washington Field Office at Washington, D.C., will contact ROBERT F. BENNETT, care/of J.C. Penney and interview him in detail regarding the above.

JAMES EARL RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4/22/68

AIRTEL

REGULAR MAIL

TO: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)
FROM: SAC, MILWAUKEE (44-388)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Chicago airtel 4/19/68.

Check with MVD, Madison, Wis., indicated 3 references for the name WILLIAM FERRER, and no references for name WILLIAM FARRERS.

3 listings for FERRER include WILLIAM M. FERRER, DOB [REDACTED] who resides 885W13041 W. Janesville, Hales Corners, Wis. He is described as white male, brown hair, brown eyes, 5 ft. 7 in., 165 lbs.

WILLIAM A. FERRER and WILLIAM G. FERRER were eliminated on basis of their DOB which were respectively [REDACTED].

Credit Bureau of Milwaukee advises WILLIAM M. FERRER has owned address at Hales Corners, Wis. since 1942 and is self-employed owning Farber Mfg. Co., Hales Corners, Wis. since 1948. FERRER's credit is poor as he went bankrupt in 1960. He claims to earn \$12,000 per annum.

Identification Bureau check, Milwaukee PD, lists 3 traffic violations for WILLIAM M. FERRER dated 3/20/56, 8/1/60 and 9/1/63. Chief of Police HAROLD MURLAN, Hales Corners, advised FERRER arrested 2/27/65 for operating with expired driver's license.

In view of traffic violations occurring during period wherein subject JAMES EARL RAY was confined, no further action contemplated in this matter, and FERRER not being interviewed.

2-Chicago Regular Mail
1-Atlanta (info) AM
1-Memphis (info) AM
1-New York (info) AM
1-Milwaukee
WJD:mk
(6)

44-1987-Sub B-303

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 25 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

113

F B I

Date: 4/22/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, COLUMBIA (44-299) (P)

MURKIN
CR

(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Knoxville teletype to Columbia and Memphis,
dated 4/17/68, re 1968 S. C. license D266410, on suspect's
car.

Enclosed for Memphis are 9 copies of investigative
insert entitled "Re Suspect Russell M. Hickey."

It should be noted that SIDNEY B. HARE is a
reliable and discreet FBI contact regarding local matters
in the Saluda area.

In view of the information developed, no further
inquiry re RUSSELL M. HICKEY is being made by the Columbia
Division.

Re airtel set out lead for suspect driving vehicle
bearing 1968 S. C. license D266410.

On 4/17/68, Mrs. MA E YOUNG, Automobile Registration
Section, SCHD, advised above license issued 9/6/68 to RUSSELL
M. HICKEY, Post Office Box 1, Saluda, S. C., for a 1966 Oldsmobile.

② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 9)
1 - Columbia

CEL:jrc
(3)

Mc
Negative

44-1987-Sub B-302A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 23 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

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

CO 44-299

CEL:jrc

1

RE SUSPECT RUSSELL M. HICKEY

The following investigation was conducted by
SA CHARLES E. LOBER at Saluda, South Carolina:

On April 18, 1968, BOYCE TODD, Principal, Saluda High School, Saluda, South Carolina, advised that RUSSELL M. HICKEY is employed by the Saluda County, South Carolina, schools as Band Director. He has been with the school since 1966, and currently holds the same position. Mr. TODD advised that Mr. HICKEY has been on the job every day up until the Easter vacation break which began April 12, 1968.

On April 18, 1968, Mr. SIDNEY B. HARE, Saluda County Treasurer, a long-time resident and merchant of Saluda advised that he has known RUSSELL M. HICKEY since 1959. He noted that HICKEY was band director at the local school from 1959 - 1962. He left for another appointment in Tennessee, and returned to Saluda in 1966 and has lived here since. He said he was a reliable and respected citizen. Mr. HARE was shown photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT and asked if HICKEY resembled the GALT photos. Mr. HARE said it looked nothing like Mr. HICKEY and described HICKEY as a white male, about 35 years old, 5'8", and 170 pounds. He considered HICKEY to be short and stocky.

44-1987-Sub B-302

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
APR 19 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

qjt

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

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

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

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

MURKIN

Enclosed for each Office is one copy of a pre-sentence report prepared regarding JAMES EARL RAY for the U. S. District Court, Western District of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, dated April 26, 1955. This report contains background information regarding JAMES EARL RAY, including his travel through numerous states in connection with the theft and passing of stolen money orders in March, 1955. RIFE located and interviewed Quincy, Illinois.

LEADS

All Offices are requested to review the enclosure thoroughly for the purpose of covering all pertinent leads suggested in the enclosure. This coverage should include, if not already done, a check of all places where the subject is listed as having been incarcerated, all places at which he is believed to have visited in the passing of stolen money orders, and any other investigation, including contact of law enforcement agencies, credit bureaus, public sources, informants and any other logical investigation suggested by the enclosed material which might assist in developing information helpful in locating JAMES EARL RAY at this time.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

44-1987-Sub B-301

3 - Memphis (Enc. 1) *ye*

2 - Chicago (Enc. 1)

2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 1)

2 - Little Rock (Enc. 1)

2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1)

JLK:ak

(25)

2 - Miami (Enc. 1)

2 - New Orleans (Enc. 1)

2 - Omaha (Enc. 1)

2 - St. Louis (Enc. 1)

2 - Springfield (Enc. 1)

2 - Tampa (Enc. 1)

2 - Kansas City

INDEXED	FILED
APR 24 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Hester</i>	

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Docket No. 19148
Judge Charles Whittaker

Kansas City, Missouri
April 26, 1955

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
Presentence Report

Name	James Earl Ray	Citizenship	United States
Address	Transient	Marital Status	Single
Age	27 years (Born <input type="text"/>)	Number of Dependents	None
Sex	Male	Offense	Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order
Race	White		

1. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955, at Kansas City Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-42,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Docket No. 19149 to an Information in one count charging him with forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-42,239,5--. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and this presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Kellerville, Ill. was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, SNs. 7-42,233,535 to 7-42,239-600, inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On 3/8/55 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On 3/21/55, one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-42,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Co., 1206 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-42,239,568 to the Chiafies Office Machine Co., 1410 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later when this money order was ascertained to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who has been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

44-1987-Sub B-300
Hester *[Signature]*

On March 24, 1955, Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Chaffee Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the money order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Co., Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 8, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Co. in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis Missouri from a "Wino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders.

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Ill. have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

Last three digits	Cashed by	Cashed At	Second Endorser	Date of Earliest discernible bank stamp	Amt.
538	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 10	\$50
543	Ray	do	Downs Men's Shop	Mar. 9	55
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	EssRay Art Galler- ies	Mar. 21	75
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	March 21	75
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	75

552	Rife	Memphis, Tenn.	Borg & McCargo	Mar. 11	\$25
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Wright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schneiders	Mar. 21	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear	Mar. 16	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent*	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dines (?) J.C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's St.	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfeifers of Ark.	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Liles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582R	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan Whipple)	Mar. 16	\$50
			(I. Zucker)		
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abrams	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liquors Ins.	Mar. 16	\$50
592	Rife	do	Knox (?) Bar &		
			Luncheonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Cloth.	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn (?)	Mar. 21	\$75

*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

II. PRIOR RECORD:

Defendant's F.B.I. Fingerprint Return No. 306 443 A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California, suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 8 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drinking

in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois, to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

- 4-18-50 Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.-vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.
- 7-23-51 Alton, Illinois Police Department - operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was fined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.
- 5-6-52 Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.
- 8-30-54 Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.
- 3-23-55 Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day.

III. FAMILY HISTORY

Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born [redacted] in Alton, Illinois.

He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948, he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Prior Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954 he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about 49. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other Relatives

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside in Quincy, Illinois.

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1954 he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the 1st through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

None

VIII. HEALTH

Defendant is 5' 10½" tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillectomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

IX. EMPLOYMENT & MILITARY HISTORY

Defendant states that at Alton, Illinois on February 19, 1946, he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He received his basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He was then transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to await transportation to the European Theater of Operations. He states that he left the continental limits of the United States for Germany in July of 1946. Overseas he was attached to the 292nd Military Police Battalion. He admits that he was once AWOL for a period of two days which resulted in a suspended sentence to confinement for period of sixty days. He returned to the United States from Germany in December of 1948 and was, he states, on December 23, 1948 given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Defendant states that his last employment was with an uncle whom he refuses to identify but who resides in Quincy, Illinois. He worked for this uncle as a painter for a period of time in the summer of 1954.

He claims that from August 1951 to May 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. This employment was terminated when he was arrested for robbery, which eventually resulted in a penitentiary sentence.

He states that from July of 1950 to June 1951 he was employed by the Arbey Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. He was discharged from this employment for absenteeism caused by his arrest in Alton, Illinois for vagrancy when visiting in that city.

He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the _____ Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have left this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

From July 1949 to September 1949 defendant states he was employed as a laborer at a wage of \$1.10 per hour by the Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago, Illinois. He quit this job to move to California.

He purports that from May 1944 to December of 1945 he was employed at a wage of 65¢ per hour by the International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois. He indicates he was laid off by this employer in a general reduction of forces and that he then entered the army.

X. RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES:

None

XI. SUMMARY:

This defendant, white male, age 27, no dependents, has entered a plea of guilty to an Information on one count which charges that

he at Kansas City, Missouri on or about March 21, 1955 forged a stolen U. S. Postal Money Order. This Money order was one of sixty-six such orders stolen in a burglary of the U. S. Post Office, Kellerville, Illinois, on March 7, 1955. Defendant categorically denies the burglary of the post office. He states that his companion in the instant offense, Walter T. Rife, whom he met at a bar in Quincy, Illinois suggested that he accompany Rife and cash the money orders which Rife reportedly had purchased from an unknown person. Defendant states that he purchased for \$1 the identification he and Rife used in uttering these stolen orders in various states. When arrested for the instant offense defendant was in possession of thirty-four money orders which had been stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office. He admits the forgery and uttering of fourteen money orders. His companion, Rife, has admitted the forgery and uttering or attempting to utter eighteen of the stolen money orders.

Approximately one year before becoming involved in the instant offense defendant was released from service of a sentence of one to two years for armed robbery in the Illinois State Penitentiary. In August of 1954 he burglarized a cleaning establishment in East Alton, Illinois. Although he admittedly was charged with burglary he apparently has never been before the appropriate court and apparently is not presently wanted on this charge. In 1949 in Los Angeles, California he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to eight months in the county jail. After serving ninety days of this sentence he was released on probation for a period of two years.

Defendant shows absolutely no remorse at this time. He anticipates receiving a substantial sentence for the instant offense. In writer's opinion he is a confirmed criminal and a menace to society when in the free world.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Murray
U. S. Probation Officer

Desk No. 19118
Judge Charles L. Hittaker

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Kansas City, Missouri
April 26, 1958

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME James Earl Ray
ADDRESS Transient
AGE 27 years (Born March 17, 1928)
SEX Male
RACE White

172492-2

CITIZENSHIP United States
MARITAL STATUS Single
NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS None
OFFENSE Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order

I. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955 at Kansas City, Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on a U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-12,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Docket No. 19119 to an information in one count charging him with the forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-12,239,598. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and time presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Belleville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, Serial Nos. 7-12,239,535 to 7-12,239,600 inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On March 8, 1955 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On March 21, 1955 one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-12,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Company, 1276 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-12,239,568 to the Chaffee Office Machine Company, 1417 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later when this money order was ascertained

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[Signature] *RV*

to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who had been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the teller's cage, Illinois Post Office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

On March 24, 1955 Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Office Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the money order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 6, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis, Missouri from a "Wino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders.

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Illinois have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

Last three digits	Cashed by	Cashed at	Second Endorser	Date of earliest discernible back stamp	Am.
538	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 10	\$50
543	Ray	do	Depas Men's Shop	Mar. 11	\$55
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	Backay Art Galleries	Mar. 21	\$75
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	Mar. 21	\$75
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	\$75

552	Rife	Memphis, Tenn.	Borg & McCargo	Mar. 11	\$85
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Bright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schmolders	Mar. 21	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear Shop	Mar. 18	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dinos (?) J. C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's Store	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfisters of Arkansas	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Diles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 15	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan L. Whipple I. Zucker)	Mar. 15	\$50
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abrams	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liquors Inc.	Mar. 15	\$70
592	Rife	do	Knex (?) Bar & Lunchonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Clothing	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn(?)	Mar. 21	\$75

*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

II. PRIOR RECORD:

Defendant's F. B. I. Fingerprint Return No. 306 has A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 : Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California - suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 6 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drinking

ing in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

- 1-18-50 : Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. - vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.
- 7-23-51 : Alton, Illinois Police Department - no operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was fined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.
- 5-6-52 : Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.
- 8-30-54 : Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.
- 3-23-55 : Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day.

III. FAMILY HISTORY:

Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born [redacted] in Alton, Illinois.

He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948 he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Prison Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954 he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about 49. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other relatives

in Quincy, Illinois.

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1953, he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the 1st through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION:

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

None.

VIII. HEALTH:

Defendant is 5' 10 1/2" tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillotomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

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He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the Hoe Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have left this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

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