

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/23/68

LARRY MC GRATH, bartender, The Blue Dolphin, Foot of Marina, San Leandro, California, advised that at approximately 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM on April 15, 1968, two men came into the bar. He did not know their names. (One of the men was subsequently identified as DALE C. ALLEN).

MC GRATH has seen ALLEN on approximately three previous occasions in company of one HAL NICHOLS and he believes ALLEN works for NICHOLS. He believes he has also seen the other man with NICHOLS on a prior occasion and believes he also works for NICHOLS.

MC GRATH said that there is a lot of horseplay in the bar. MC GRATH had just been looking at a newspaper sketch of ERIC STARVO GALT, and noted that ALLEN bore a striking resemblance to this sketch.

Kiddingly, he asked ALLEN, "How did you get out of Memphis?" To his surprise, ALLEN replied something to the effect, "That was no trouble, but I'm a hell of a good shot."

MC GRATH formed the opinion that this could be ERIC STARVO GALT, and got in contact with Secret Service Agent LARRY NEWMAN when he was able to locate him. He said that KATHY SHEETS, a waitress, was present and heard the above conversation.

MC GRATH admitted that there is considerable kidding between employees of the Blue Dolphin and HAL NICHOLS and his employees, since all of the latter appear to be supporters of GEORGE WALLACE and are generally believed by the restaurant employees to have anti-Negro sentiments.

He described ALLEN as appearing about 26, but believed to be 30 to 32; white, male, American, 5'10", 170, light brown hair combed back, but believed to be parted and definitely not short or crew cut.

He examined artist conception drawings apparently made from recollection of Memphis and Birmingham witnesses. He

On 4/16/68 at San Leandro, California

by SAs RICHARD J. MC MULLEN and
WILLIAM HUTTON, JR.:mb

Date dictated 4/17/68

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

44-1987-Sub E-453K

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2

SF 173-65

WH:mb

said that ALLEN does not resemble either of the drawings, but of the two said that the one from Memphis more closely resembles ALLEN. He noted ALLEN's hair is not cut in the manner depicted in the drawing.

MC GRATH advised that ALLEN was at that time in the dining room of the Blue Dolphin having dinner with a friend, name unknown, who he believes is also associated with HAL NICHOLS.

1
SF 173-65
WH:mb

SAs WILLIAM HUTTON, JR. and RICHARD J. MC MULLEN were able to closely observe ALLEN, and describe him as white, male, American, about 35 years, 5'11", 150-160 pounds, very light brown hair, combed straight back; medium complexion; modern and expensive dress, including white turtleneck shirt.

It was observed by Agents that ALLEN's companion paid for dinner using a promotional card, number 18292, issued by the Blue Dolphin. WILLIAM PELUSO, owner, Blue Dolphin, advised this card was issued to JAMES F. REID, 2738 Marina Boulevard, San Leandro.

GUSSIE KIMBALL, Manager of Marina Haven Apartments, 2738 Marina Boulevard, San Leandro, advised on April 17, 1968, that DALE C. ALLEN and JAMES F. REID moved into an apartment here on October 10, 1967. ALLEN has previously worked as salesman for Montgomery Ward Company, Oakland, but at time of rental was connected with Golden West Associates, 345 Estudillo, San Leandro. REID worked for Diamond Fence Company (HAL NICHOLS).

ALLEN had previous address at 336 Corbett, San Francisco, telephone 626-2373. He has a relative FERN PRAFLAKIS, telephone LY 3-4230, city not stated. He drives a late model cream over red Pontiac, a sport model.

ALLEN reportedly took another job and moved to Los Angeles, leaving here between April 1 and 10, 1968. She has not seen him since.

REID still lives here.

Mrs. KIMBALL said that neither artist drawing of ERIC STARVO GALT resembles ALLEN. She described ALLEN as white, male, American, 35, 5', 170-185 pounds, thin build, light brown hair.

Mrs. KIMBALL also advised that Mr. REID had requested that his "boss", IVARS STRAEDINS, who is connected with Diamond Fence Company, be allowed to move into REID's apartment, and has commenced to do so.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester *1968*

44-1987-Sub E-453J

F B I

Date: 5/3/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re San Francisco teletype to the Director, 5/2/68.

SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS, aka Hal Nichols

For information of offices not previously having information concerning NICHOLS, he is considered possible suspect and co-conspirator because of an alleged offer to an informant to furnish airline tickets and untraceable weapon if the informant would travel to unspecified place to kill certain designated Negro leaders including MARTIN LUTHER KING.

The reliability and credibility of the informant is unknown but is considered subject to doubt because of discrepancies of his stories, and because of information received from other sources.

NICHOLS has been extremely active in affairs of the American Independent Party in California, promoting GEORGE WALLACE for president.

AGENTS IN INTERVIEWS SHOULD EXERCISE DISCRETION AND CAUTION TO PREVENT ANY FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE FBI IS CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF THE AIP.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - Birmingham (Info.) (AM)(RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (AM)(RM)
- 2 - Knoxville (AM)(RM)
- ② - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)(RM)
- 2 - Mobile (AM)(RM)
- 2 - Sacramento (AM)(RM)
- 4 - San Francisco

WH: emg

(18)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

44-1987-Sub E-453I

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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Hester

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Per _____

HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS, commonly known as HAL NICHOLS, was interviewed at his apartment, #33 Los Palmas Apartments, 15375 Tropic Court, San Leandro, California. After proper identification, he was advised that investigation was being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning a violation of Federal Law in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Further, that an allegation had been received that Mr. NICHOLS might have information pertinent to this matter on the basis of remarks NICHOLS is reported to have made concerning such matters in the presence of others.

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he has no information concerning the murder, and except for his personal opinion as to who might be responsible, has no specific information concerning the murder. He said he had absolutely no objection to discussion of the matter.

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he is extremely active in the political field at the present time and in the recent past. He is a member of an eight man board in charge of promoting candidates for the American Independent Party (AIP) in California, and particularly in behalf of the candidacy of former Governor GEORGE WALLACE of Alabama for President. He stated that most persons not familiar with the AIP program and objectives, seem to assume that those favoring AIP are what is sometimes termed "negro-baiters." He denied that this is true, and said that from the view point of promoting the AIP, the murder of Dr. KING under such circumstances was a set back to the AIP who might have favored their principles.

He said that no one knowledgeable in affairs of the AIP would have caused or participated in a situation or action such as this in that it would be certain to make a "Martyr" of Dr. KING, which would hurt the AIP.

However, since persons generally seem to associate AIP members with "negro-baiters," he is frequently "kidded" along such lines by certain persons with whom he regularly comes into contact.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

He said that in recent months he has regularly frequented the Blue Dolphin, a San Leandro restaurant, and in fact assisted in arranging a couple of luncheons there in honor of WALLACE. Therefore, he has become acquainted with the owner of the Blue Dolphin, BILL PELUSO, and with many of the employees, including the bartenders.

When he goes to the cafe, he frequently goes to the bar and the bartenders frequently "kid" him concerning some current event involving Negroes or the AIP. This has been going on for several months, and everything said has been in jest.

However, he speculated that some person hearing such conversation might misinterpret the conversation, and draw a conclusion which would not be warranted.

In connection with Dr. KING's murder, he recalls such a conversation in the bar of the Blue Dolphin either the same night Dr. KING was killed, or possibly the evening after that.

As he recalled he had been driving on the Nimitz Freeway in Oakland, about 5:00 pm the night of the murder, April 4, 1968, when he first heard the announcement on the car radio.

When next visiting the Blue Dolphin, he recalled one of the employees greeting him with the comment "Well, I see you got him," or some similar comment. He believed he replied that "It wasn't me."

The next comment dealt with "How did you get back from Memphis so soon?"

As he recalled, he made some facetious remark such as "There's planes leaving every hour."

He again stated that the above conversation was strictly in the nature of "kidding," and except for the actual specific subject matter, was very similar to other comments made at the same place on numerous occasions.

He believed that these comments could have been misconstrued by someone who heard them, if the listener did not understand the circumstances or attached some literal interpretation to the remarks.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS said that he had no objection to furnishing his whereabouts on March 29,30, 1968 and April 4, 1968, and to furnishing independent substantiation if he could.

Relative to the date April 4, 1968, Mr. NICHOLS said that he could definitely establish his whereabouts on that date. He stated that he left the Bay Area in his own car sometime between 7:00 and 9:00 am, drove to Berkeley, California, where he picked up a real estate dealer named CYRIL STEVENSON, Jr., telephone 524-2392. They then proceeded to Oroville, California, to look at some real estate which they were considering for investment purposes.

He recalled that they visited a savings and loan association in Oroville, but does not recall the name of it, although Mr. STEVENSON would probably know. To the best of his recollection, they returned to the Bay Area about 5:00 pm. He dropped Mr. STEVENSON off at his car in Berkeley, and proceeded out the Nimitz Freeway toward San Leandro. It was at this time that he first heard of the killing of Dr. KING on his car radio.

In further support of his whereabouts, Mr. NICHOLS said that when in San Leandro he frequently charges his gasoline at a Douglas Service Station on Marina Blvd. When traveling, he pays cash. He does not use a credit card. Whether charged to his account, or when paying cash, he usually obtains a purchase ticket. He throws these tickets in the glove compartment of his Cadillac where they are available if needed for his business records.

He located in his glove compartment the following charge tickets which he said recorded purchases at Douglas Service Station, Marina Blvd., San Leandro, both dated April 4, 1968:

Ticket #B 036026 dated 4/4/68 recording purchase of \$5.00 of gasoline.

Ticket #B 36186 recording purchase of \$4.55 of gasoline.

Mr. NICHOLS said that undoubtedly he had put gas in the car in the morning when leaving for Oroville, and had put in gas upon his return that evening.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

A search of the available tickets failed to record any purchase of gasoline in the Oroville area, although Mr. NICHOLS believed they must have purchased gasoline. He does not recall, but thought that perhaps Mr. STEVENSON had paid for some gasoline in the area.

Relative to his whereabouts on March 29,30, 1968, Mr. NICHOLD said that he does not recall specifically where he was. He stated that he tries to go to his home in Southern California every other weekend to visit his wife and 2 1/2 year old son. By consulting a calendar, he determined that this would have been the weekend when he normally visited his wife.

When he makes this trip, he normally leaves on Saturday morning, which in this instance would have been March 30, 1968. He sometimes drives and sometimes flies via Air California from Oakland, California Airport to Orange County Airport.

He searched his available gasoline tickets and could locate no record of purchases on March 29 or 30, 1968. This indicated to him that if he had visited his home in Southern California that weekend he had probably gone by air.

Mr. NICHOLS was asked if he could establish his whereabouts on March 29 & 30, 1968 through other records. He said that his business records probably would not show such information, with the exception of his appointment book, which might give him a clue as to where he had been. He contacted his secretary and ascertained there were no notations in his appointment book for those dates.

He said that he has discontinued the use of a checking account due to several civil suits having been filed against him, so he could not establish his whereabouts by cancelled checks.

He does not use credit cards, whether for gasoline or airline travel. He examined numerous airline ticket folders which he found in his apartment. He said he makes no particular effort to save these. He found some undated and none for the pertinent dates. There were no copies of tickets.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he makes numerous long distance telephone calls, business, personal and political in nature. He makes them from his business phone, 483-3151, and from the phone in his apartment, 483-1270.

He said his telephone bill for the period contains record of numerous long distance telephone calls which could definitely establish that he was in San Leandro on March 29, 1968 and probably on March 30, 1968. He furnished the following concerning these records:

March 29, 1968

- 10:13 am Telephone call to 714 774 2969, Anaheim, California where he talked to an ex-business associate RUSSELL TOWNSEND.
- 4:34 pm Telephone call to 714 871 2950, Fullerton, California, where he talked to JIM TOWNSEND, brother of above RUSSELL TOWNSEND.
- 3:49 pm Telephone call to 805 831 5379, where he talked to Mr. MAYALL, State Chairman of the Committee directing AIP campaign in California. He believes this telephone number is no longer in use, but Mr. MAYALL can be reached through 871 6283 in Bakersfield, which Mr. NICHOLS believes is the home telephone of Mr. MAYALL.

Collect telephone call, person to person, received by him from AL STANLEY, who was calling from telephone 553 4530 in Oroville, California. Mr. STANLEY does not have a telephone, so location of above phone is unknown to him. STANLEY can be located through the M&K Hancock Service Station in Oroville.

March 30, 1968

His telephone records reflect that at 12:11 pm, a call was placed from his office to 916 725 2908, Roseville, California. He noted that this is the telephone number of his employee, CHUCK SULLIVAN, who works in San Leandro but returns to his home in Roseville on Friday evening for the weekend.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS does not specifically recall making this call, and in reality it could have been made by any company employee. However, he sometimes handles Saturday business at the office so SULLIVAN can go home on Friday, and it is most likely that he is the one who made the call.

Since this is the last recorded call on Saturday, March 30, 1968, and since he is quite certain he visited his wife in Southern California on that weekend, he feels that shortly after this call he went to the Oakland Airport and got a flight to Orange County Airport.

He said he would have flown Air California Air Lines and since they make their reservations by name, this line should have a record of his having made such a trip.

He also volunteered information on a trip he had made back East. He said his mother-in-law, JEANNETTE CRITTENDEN, 502 Lee Circle, Johnson City, Tennessee, died about two to three weeks prior to March 1, 1968. His wife had naturally gone back for the funeral. His wife remained there for two or three weeks after the funeral to clear up details of the death and the estate.

Mr. NICHOLS said that he desired to visit his wife's relatives and to bring his wife back to California. He decided to drive his car back to Johnson City, and because of his interest in activities of the AIP, he decided to stop and confer with leaders of that party in Montgomery, Alabama.

He said that en route to Johnson City, he stopped in Montgomery on the night of February 27, 1968, at which time he stayed at the Holiday Inn, Midtown. Next day he drove to Johnson City, where he stayed a few days at 502 Lee Circle.

On March 3, 1968, accompanied by his wife and small son, he was again in Montgomery en route to California. At this time, he stayed at the Town House Motel.

He next has record of a cash receipt from Cotton's Truck Stop, Las Cruces, New Mexico on March 5, 1968, which he said was for the purchase of gasoline on his return trip to California.

SF 173-65
WH:ay

Mr. NICHOLS advised that he was born [redacted] Aberdeen, Washington. He has been in California most of the time since 1945. He attended high school at Golden Gate Academy, which was at that time in Berkeley, California, but which moved to some hill area near Oakland. He is not sure it is still in operation. He graduated in 1947.

During the school year 1950-51 he attended La Sierra College in Riverside, California.

From 1951 to 1953 he was in the U.S. Marine Corps under MSN 1206458. Since 1953, he has worked as a salesman, principally in California, but actually traveling in numerous states.

He is married and his wife lives in Southern California. He said he is reluctant to furnish her specific address because he feels that reprisals against his wife and child are very possible because of his political activities in behalf of AIP should her address become generally known.

He said that he established a business in Sacramento, California in July, 1967, known as Certified Wire Service. This business is still in operation but he intends to dissolve it as it is losing money.

He came to San Leandro in December, 1967, and established his present business known as Diamond Fence Co., 14494 Wickes Blvd., San Leandro.

He is active in experimenting with gold dredging combined with skin diving, and spends some weekends in the Sierra stream areas searching for gold, or conducting experiments along those lines.

He also had interest in speculative investment in businesses in the Oroville area, which are in a depressed state due to departure of the workmen engaged in building the now completed Oroville Dam. He believed such property could be purchased cheaply and held until business picks up, insuring an excellent profit. He has abandoned this idea, at least temporarily.

SF 173-65

WH:ay

He said that he has no photo of himself at the present time due to theft of his billfold, with the exception of the photo on his driver's license, California [REDACTED]

He said he has been arrested, but not since he was in the US Marine Corps.

He is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Date of birth	[REDACTED]
Place of birth	Aberdeen, Washington
Height	5' 8"
Weight	220
Hair	reddish blond
Eyes	Grey-green
Build	Obese
Complexion	Light
Teeth	even & smoke stained

Mr. NICHOLS volunteered that should further information or clarification be desired, he would be pleased to attempt to furnish such information.

SF 173-65

WH: cmg

LEADS:

KNOXVILLE

AT JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE: Verify death of JEANNETTE CRITTENDEN about February, 1968, and conduct investigation to establish presence of NICHOLS in that city from about February 28, 1968 to March 3, 1968.

LOS ANGELES

AT ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA: Locate RUSSELL TOWNSEND through telephone number 714 774 2969, a business associate of NICHOLS to verify telephone call he received from NICHOLS 3/29/68.

AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA: Locate JIM TOWNSEND, brother of RUSSELL TOWNSEND, to verify telephone call he received from NICHOLS 3/29/68.

MOBILE

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA: 1) Will check registration of Holiday Motel, Midtown, to verify presence of NICHOLS in that city 2/27/68. (He drives 1967 Cadillac convertible, white canvas over light blue, California license UPD 482).

2) Will verify that NICHOLS and his wife stayed at Town House Motel night of 3/3/68.

SACRAMENTO

AT OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Will locate AL STANLEY through M&K Hancock Service Station to verify that STANLEY placed collect person to person call to NICHOLS in San Leandro on 3/29/68, and talked to him.

SAN FRANCISCO

AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: Will interview realtor CYRIL STEVENSON, Jr., telephone number 524-2392, to verify he took a trip with NICHOLS to Oroville on 3/29/68.

SF 173-65
WH: cmg

AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA: At Oakland Airport, ascertain if NICHOLS made trip to Orange County Airport on 3/30/68.

AT SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA: Verify gas charges of NICHOLS at Douglas Station, Marina Boulevard, on 4/4/68, and any record of charges on 3/29,30/68.

5/1/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Investigation conducted to date by the San Francisco Division to locate JAMES EARL RAY, ~~aka~~ ERIC STARVO GALT ~~aka~~, has not produced any information regarding his whereabouts.

The check of laundry marks has been completed. Samples of pertinent laundry marks were furnished to the FBI Laboratory who advised submitted specimens were not identical with questioned laundry marks.

Investigation at financial institutions, dancing schools, laundries, license checks, motor vehicles, voter registration, credit, and other public records has not provided an identification of RAY under the GALT or LOWMEYER/LOWMYER names.

Investigation of people with the name GALT has not provided any information regarding RAY.

Record checks at law enforcement agencies have not disclosed any current record of RAY, aka.

San Francisco is presently conducting investigation regarding HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS suspect as conspirator. The Bureau and Memphis will be immediately advised of the results of interview which has been authorized by the Bureau.

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)(RM)
1 - San Francisco
MTG/sms #11
(6)

44-1987-Sub E-453H

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 3 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle BJS

SF 173-65
MTG/sms

This investigation is being closely supervised, leads are on an expedite basis (24 hours), and the Bureau and Memphis will be immediately advised by telephone/teletype of developments.

FBI MEMPHIS

HOLD FOR 2 MSGS

FBI SAN FRAN

529PM URGENT 5-2-68 MS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) 2P

MURKIN

RE: SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS.

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL APRIL THIRTY LAST.

NICHOLS INTERVIEWED THIS DATE BY BUAGENTS. HE DENIED ANY
IMPLICATION OR INVOLVEMENT IN ANY PLAN TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING.

NICHOLS WAS AFFABLE AND COOPERATIVE AND VOLUNTARILY FURNISHED
INFORMATION FROM PERSONAL RECORDS AND BUSINESS RECORDS WHICH STRONGLY
TEND TO ESTABLISH HIS PRESENCE IN SAN LEANDRO, CALIF., ON MARCH TWO
EIGHT AND TWO NINE, LAST, AND APRIL FOUR, LAST. ALSO FURNISHED INFOR-
MATION WHICH INDICATED HIS PROBABLE WHEREABOUTS IN SAN LEANDRO ON
MARCH THREE ZERO, LAST.

INFO FURNISHED BY NICHOLS AS TO WHEREABOUTS IS OF SUCH NATURE
THAT HIS WHEREABOUTS CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH
ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION.

NICHOLS VOLUNTARILY ADVISED THAT ON ABOUT MARCH ONE, LAST, HE
MADE AUTOMOBILE TRIP TO JOHNSON CITY, TENN., IN CONNECTION WITH
END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub E-453G

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY - 2 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB

PAGE TWO

DEATH OF HIS WIFE'S MOTHER. ENROUTE TO TENNESSEE HE STAYED-ON FEBRUARY TWO SEVEN, LAST, IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., AND ON RETURN TRIP ON MARCH THREE, LAST, HE AGAIN STAYED IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., FOR PURPOSE OF CONTACTING OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY.

COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW OF NICHOLS WILL BE FURNISHED BY SUMMARY AIRTEL WHICH WILL SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS TO CONFIRM HIS WHEREABOUTS AND SUCH OTHER INVESTIGATION AS APPEARS PERTINENT RELATIVE TO HIS TRIP TO TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

HOLD FOR 2 MSGS

FBI SAN FRAN

529PM URGENT 5-2-68 MS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) 2P

MURKIN

RE: SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS.

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL APRIL THIRTY LAST.

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NICHOLS WAS AFFABLE AND COOPERATIVE AND VOLUNTARILY FURNISHED INFORMATION FROM PERSONAL RECORDS AND BUSINESS RECORDS WHICH STRONGLY TEND TO ESTABLISH HIS PRESENCE IN SAN LEANDRO, CALIF., ON MARCH TWO EIGHT AND TWO NINE, LAST, AND APRIL FOUR, LAST. ALSO FURNISHED INFORMATION WHICH INDICATED HIS PROBABLE WHEREABOUTS IN SAN LEANDRO ON MARCH THREE ZERO, LAST.

INFO FURNISHED BY NICHOLS AS TO WHEREABOUTS IS OF SUCH NATURE THAT HIS WHEREABOUTS CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION.

NICHOLS VOLUNTARILY ADVISED THAT ON ABOUT MARCH ONE, LAST, HE MADE AUTOMOBILE TRIP TO JOHNSON CITY, TENN., IN CONNECTION WITH
END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub E-4536

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY - 2 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

121

PAGE TWO

DEATH OF HIS WIFE'S MOTHER. ENROUTE TO TENNESSEE HE STAYED ON FEBRUARY TWO SEVEN, LAST, IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., AND ON RETURN TRIP ON MARCH THREE, LAST, HE AGAIN STAYED IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., FOR PURPOSE OF CONTACTING OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY.

COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW OF NICHOLS WILL BE FURNISHED BY SUMMARY AIRTEL WHICH WILL SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS TO CONFIRM HIS WHEREABOUTS AND SUCH OTHER INVESTIGATION AS APPEARS PERTINENT RELATIVE TO HIS TRIP TO TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SAN FRAN

243PM URGENT 4/30/68 NJM

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) & MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) (P) 1P

MURKIN

*Sub E-453
-453D
453E*

RE: SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS.

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL, APRIL TWO NINE, LAST.

INVESTIGATION REFLECTS NICHOLS FAILED TO RETURN TO HIS APARTMENT ON APRIL TWENTY-NINE LAST. INQUIRY AT HIS PLACE OF BUSINESS ON THIS DATE WITHOUT IDENTIFYING AGENTS, ASCERTAINED THAT HE IS OUT OF TOWN AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN LATE WEDNESDAY NEXT. NICHOLS WILL BE INTERVIEWED THURSDAY NEXT.

SUBJECT A&D.

END

BKS

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-453E

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 30 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SAN FRAN

445PM URGENT 4-29-68 KLJ

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) & MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

MURKIN

RE: SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL, APRIL TWO FOUR, LAST.

INVESTIGATION AT SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA, LOCATED FOUR
BANK ACCOUNTS, TWO OF WHICH WERE PERSONAL AND TWO OF WHICH WERE
BUSINESS ACCOUNTS, OF HAROLD NICHOLS AND THE DIAMOND FENCE COMPANY,
HOWEVER, EXAMINATION OF AVAILABLE CANCELLED CHECKS FAILED TO ESTABLISH
NICHOLS' WHEREABOUTS ON THE THREE PERTINENT DATES. INVESTIGATION TO
LOCATE NICHOLS FOR INTERVIEW THIS DATE HAS BEEN NEGATIVE AS OF TWO
P.M., HOWEVER, HIS AUTOMOBILE IS PARKED AT HIS APARTMENT HOUSE SO
IT IS ASSUMED HE IS IN OR WILL SHORTLY RETURN TO THIS AREA.

NO ONE HAS BEEN HOME AT HIS APARTMENT AND HE HAS NOT BEEN
OBSERVED AT HIS BUSINESS.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING TO LOCATE NICHOLS FOR INTERVIEW IN
IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

SUBJECT ARMED & DANGEROUS

ENDTSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-453E
Boyle

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SAN FRAN

223PM URGENT 4/24/68 NJM

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) (P) 1P

MURKIN

RE SAN FRANCISCO TELS, APRIL SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN, LAST.

RE: SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS.

SAN FRANCISCO TELS REPORTED INVESTIGATION HAS PLACED NICHOLS IN SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA, ON MARCH TWO EIGHT, LAST, AND APRIL TWO AND THREE, LAST. FURTHER INVESTIGATION ON THE THREE SPECIFIC DATES IN QUESTION HAVE TO DATE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE, INVESTIGATION PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED IN EFFORT TO LOCATE BANK ACCOUNT FOR NICHOLS IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS ON THE THREE SPECIFIC DATES. IF THIS OR OTHER LOGICAL INVESTIGATION IS UNPRODUCTIVE, IT IS BELIEVED DIRECT INTERVIEW OF NICHOLS AND POSSIBLY HIS ASSOCIATES WILL BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS ON THE DATES IN QUESTION, AND ALSO HIS POSSIBLE CONNECTION AS CO-CONSPIRATOR IN THIS CASE. UACB, NICHOLS WILL BE INTERVIEWED ON APRIL TWO NINE, NEXT, IF PRESENT INVESTIGATION UNPRODUCTIVE. SUBJECT A & D.

ENDTSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-453D

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 24 1968	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB

4/18/68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (MEMPH)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

MURKIN, OO: MEMPHIS.

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL APRIL SEVENTEEN LAST AND SAN FRANCISCO LETTERS TO DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY TWENTY-SEVEN AND APRIL TWELVE LAST, EACH ENCLOSING LHM ENTITLED HAROLD EDWARDS NICHOLS, AKA - THREAT AGAINST PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES.

INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN EFFORTS TO ASCERTAIN THE WHEREABOUTS ON MARCH TWENTY-NINE AND THIRTY LAST AND ON APRIL ^{FOUR} ~~ELEVEN~~ LAST OF HAROLD EDWARDS NICHOLS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS HAL NICHOLS.

REFERENCED SAN FRANCISCO TEL REFLECTS THAT APARTMENT HOUSE MANAGER WHERE NICHOLS RESIDES, CAN PLACE NICHOLS IN SAN LEANDRO ON APRIL TWO AND THREE LAST. LHM ON APRIL

- 1 - BUREAU (MAIL)
- ② - MEMPHIS (AIRMAIL)
- 1 - BIRMINGHAM (INFO.) (AIRMAIL)
- 1 - SAN FRANCISCO

WEH/dkc
(5)

44-1987-Sub E-453C

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 20 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hearney

py Bureau advise Registrar

E

SF 173-65

PAGE TWO

TWELVE LAST REFLECTS THAT LAWRENCE P. JONES, SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO, AND BERNARD P. HUGHS, INSPECTOR, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, ALAMEDA COUNTY, OAKLAND, INTERVIEWED NICHOLS IN SAN LEANDRO ON MARCH TWENTY-EIGHT LAST. ALSO THE SERVICE OF CERTAIN LEGAL PAPERS WERE MADE ON NICHOLS ON APRIL TWO LAST.

IN ADDITION, EMPLOYEES OF THE BLUE DOLPHIN RESTAURANT IN SAN LEANDRO HAVE ADVISED THAT NICHOLS HAS PATRONIZED THIS RESTAURANT TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK FOR THE PAST THREE OR FOUR MONTHS, HOWEVER, SPECIFIC DATES ARE NOT KNOWN.

IT APPEARS THAT DIRECT INTERVIEW OF NICHOLS OR HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES, MOSTLY EMPLOYEES, WILL BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE HIS EXACT WHEREABOUTS ON THE THREE CRITICAL DATES.

AS THE BUREAU HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY ADVISED, NICHOLS IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH SPONSORED AND PROMOTED PLACING

SF 173-65

PAGE THREE

GEORGE WALLACE ON THE CALIFORNIA PRIMARY BALLOT FOR PRESIDENT AND IS APPARENTLY EXTREMELY ACTIVE EVEN BY HIS OWN ADMISSION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN BEHALF OF GEORGE WALLACE AND THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY (AIP).

INTERVIEW OF NICHOLS WOULD NECESSARILY INVOLVE THE SUGGESTION THAT IT WAS CONNECTED WITH THE MURDER OF DOCTOR KING. SINCE THE AIP IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE ANTI-NEGRO AND IS SEEKING SUPPORT FROM PERSONS OF SIMILAR BELIEF, SUCH INTERVIEW WOULD NECESSARILY PROVIDE NICHOLS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN ENORMOUS PUBLICITY IN BEHALF OF THE AIP AND TO AROUSE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY SHOULD HE UNSCRUPULOUSLY AND FALSELY CLAIM THAT SUCH INTERVIEW BY THE FBI WAS IN CURTAILMENT OR HARASSMENT OF THE LEGITIMATE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE AIP.

SINCE INTERVIEW OF NICHOLS OR HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES WILL APPARENTLY BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH HIS WHEREABOUTS ON THE THREE PERTINENT DATES, AND WILL BE NECESSARY IN EFFORTS TO DETERMINE IF HE MAY BE A CONSPIRATOR ~~RE: 173-65~~

PAGE FOUR

EFFORTS CONTINUING TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW NICHOLS;
HOWEVER, SHOULD BUREAU BE IN POSSESSION OF INFORMATION WHICH
WOULD MAKE INTERVIEW UNDESIRABLE OR UNNECESSARY OR IF SUCH
INFORMATION IS RECEIVED BY BUREAU, REQUEST SAN FRANCISCO BE
IMMEDIATELY ADVISED. //

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

637PM URGENT 4-18-68 BGM

TO SAN FRANCISCO 173-65 MEMPHIS 44-1987
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

44-1987-Sub E-453
RESFTEL APRIL SEVENTEEN, LAST.

RE SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS.

BE CERTAIN TO RESOLVE IDENTITIES OF JAMES R. REID,
AN ASSOCIATE OF DALE C. ALLEN, AS WELL AS ALLEN'S RELATIVE,
FERN PRAFLANKIS, LISTED ON PAGE FOUR OF RETEL. YOU SHOULD
ALSO ESTABLISH IDENTITY OF REID'S "BOSS" IVARS STRAZDINS
LISTED ON PAGE FIVE OF RETEL.

ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION, NO RECORD COULD
BE LOCATED IN BUFILES RE ALLEN, REID, PRAFLANKIS OR
STRAZDINS. IDENT RECORDS WILL BE CHECKED WHEN MORE COMPLETE
IDENTIFYING INFORMATION FURNISHED.

END AND ACK FOR TWO

CAF FOR TWO MSGS

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-453B

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 18 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kearney

X

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SAN FRAN

10:37 PM PST URGENT 4/17/68 WEH

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) /8P/

MURKIN.

REBUTEL TO MEMPHIS AND SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL SIXTEEN LAST.

RE-- SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARDS NICHOLS, AKA.

AT TWELVE TEN A. M., APRIL SIXTEEN, LAST, AGENT LARRY NEWMAN,
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE, SAN FRANCISCO, ADVISED SA HANNES
K. WATZLAWEK, NIGHT SUPERVISOR, THAT NEWMAN HAD JUST RECEIVED A TELE-
PHONE CALL FROM LARRY MC GRATH, TWO SIX SIX ZERO THREE GADING ROAD,
HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA, TELEPHONE SEVEN EIGHT TWO DASH FOUR EIGHT NINE
EIGHT. MC GRATH IS A BARTENDER AT THE BLUE DOLPHIN, A SAN LEANDRO,
CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT, AND WORKED UNTIL ABOUT EIGHT P.M., APRIL FIFTEEN,
LAST. MC GRATH ADVISED NEWMAN THAT ON THAT EVENING A MAN CAME INTO THE
BAR WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS PROBABLY IDENTICAL WITH THE PERSON KNOWN AS
ERIC STARVO GALT. MC GRATH DESCRIBED THE PERSON AS A WMA, FIVE FEET
SEVEN INCHES, ONE SIX ZERO POUNDS, SANDY HAIR, TWENTYFIVE TO THIRTY
YEARS OF AGE. HE WAS WITH ANOTHER WMA, SIX FEET ONE INCH, TWO TWO ZERO
POUNDS. MC GRATH SAID HE HAD SEEN A DRAWING OF GALT IN THE NEWSPAPER
AND BELIEVED THIS MAN TO BEAR A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE.

MC GRATH FURTHER STATED HE HAD SEEN THIS PERSON AND THE OTHER MAN
IN COMPANY OF HAROLD EDWARDS NICHOLS ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION.
END OF PAGE ONE.

44-1987-Sub-E-453A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 18 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kearney

pg 2, 4, 5, 7

PAGE TWO.

SF 173 - 65.

MC GRATH SAID THAT THE MAN IN QUESTION CAME TO THE BAR AT THE BLUE DOLPHIN AND MC GRATH SAID, "YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR PICTURE," MEANING THE DRAWING IN THE NEWSPAPER AND THE MAN REPLIED, "YEH, BUT I AM A HELL - OF A GOOD SHOT." MC GRATH SAID THAT KATHY SHEETS, A WAITRESS AT THE BAR WAS NEARBY AND OVERHEARD THESE REMARKS.

EFFORTS BY BUREAU AGENTS TO LOCATE MC GRATH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ABOVE TELEPHONE CALL WERE NEGATIVE. MC GRATH WAS NOT AT HIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT AND HAD NOT RETURNED TO HIS HOME AS LATE AS TWO TEN A.M.

MC GRATH WAS TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED AT EIGHT THIRTY A.M., APRIL SIXTEEN, LAST, AND ADVISED HE HAD TO ATTEND A UNION MEETING AND WOULD STOP AT THE HAYWARD RESIDENT AGENCY AFTER THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY TEN THIRTY A.M. AT ELEVEN FIFTEEN A.M., MC GRATH TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED HE HAD TO GO TO WORK AT NOON AND WOULD NOT HAVE TIME TO COME TO THE HAYWARD RESIDENT AGENCY. AN APPOINTMENT WAS MADE TO MEET HIM AT HIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, THE BLUE DOLPHIN, A FIRST-CLASS SAN LEANDRO RESTAURANT, WHEN HE FINISHED WORK AT EIGHT P. M.

SAS RICHARD J. MC MULLEN AND WILLIAM HUTTON, JR. MET MC GRATH AT THE BLUE DOLPHIN. IN THE INTERVIEW, HE RELATED THE ABOVE INCIDENT, BUT THIS VERSION WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN THAT SET OUT ABOVE. HE SAID THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY SEVEN TO SEVEN THIRTY P.M., APRIL FIFTEEN LAST. IT IS [✓]NOTED THE MAN HE REFERRED TO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS DALE C. ALLEN AND HE WILL BE REFERRED TO AS ALLEN ALTHOUGH MC GRATH DID NOT KNOW HIS NAME AT THAT TIME. HE SAID HE HAS SEEN ALLEN ON APPROXIMATELY THREE PREVIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE COMPANY OF HAL NICHOLS AND HE BELIEVES ALLEN WORKS FOR NICHOLS. HE BELIEVES HE HAS SEEN THE

END OF PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE.

SF 173 - 65.

OTHER MAN WITH NICHOLS ON A PRIOR OCCASION AND BELIEVES HE ALSO WORKS FOR NICHOLS. MC GRATH SAID THERE IS A LOT OF HORSEPLAY IN THE BAR AT THE BLUE DOLPHIN. MC GRATH HAD JUST BEEN LOOKING AT A NEWSPAPER SKETCH OF ERIC STARVO GALT AND NOTED THAT ALLEN BORE A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THIS.

IN JEST HE ASKED ALLEN, "HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF MEMPHIS?" TO HIS SURPRISE, ALLEN REPLIED SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT, "THAT WAS NO TROUBLE, BUT I AM A HELL OF A GOOD SHOT."

MC GRATH FORMED THE OPINION THAT ALLEN COULD BE IDENTICAL WITH ERIC STARVO GALT AND GOT IN CONTACT WITH SECRET SERVICE AGENT LARRY NEWMAN WHEN HE WAS ABLE TO LOCATE HIM AFTER WORK. HE SAID THAT KATHY SHEETS, A WAITRESS, WAS PRESENT AND HEARD THE ABOVE CONVERSATION.

MC GRATH ADVISED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE KIDDING BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BLUE DOLPHIN AND HAL NICHOLS AND HIS EMPLOYEES SINCE ALL OF THE LATTER APPEARED TO BE SUPPORTERS OF GEORGE WALLACE AND ARE GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE ANTI-NEGRO. HE DESCRIBED ALLEN AS APPEARING TWO SIX YEARS OF AGE BUT BELIEVED HIM TO BE THIRTY TO THIRTYTWO YEARS, WMA, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES TALL, ONE SEVEN ZERO POUNDS, LIGHT BROWN HAIR, COMBED BACK BUT BELIEVED TO BE PARTED AND DEFINITELY NOT SHORT OR CREW CUT.

HE EXAMINED ARTIST CONCEPTION DRAWINGS MADE FROM RECOLLECTION OF MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM WITNESSES AS FURNISHED BY THE BUREAU. HE SAID ALLEN DID NOT RESEMBLE EITHER DRAWING BUT OF THE TWO SAID THAT THE ONE FROM MEMPHIS MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLES ALLEN. HE NOTED ALLEN'S HAIR IS NOT CUP IN THE MANNER DEPICTED IN THE DRAWINGS. MC GRATH ADVISED THAT ALLEN WAS AT THAT TIME IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE BLUE DOLPHIN HAVING DINNER WITH A FRIEND, NAME UNKNOWN. INTERVIEWING AGENTS WERE ABLE TO CLOSELY OBSERVE ALLEN AND DESCRIBED HIM AS WMA, ABOUT

END OF PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR.

SF 173 - 65.

THREE FIVE YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES TALL, ONE FIVE ZERO TO ONE SIX ZERO POUNDS, VERY LIGHT BROWN HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK, MEDIUM COMPLEXION, MODERN AND EXPENSIVE CLOTHING, INCLUDING WHITE TURTLENECK SHIRT. IT WAS OBSERVED BY AGENTS THAT ALLEN'S COMPANION PAID FOR THE DINNER WITH A PROMOTIONAL COURTESY CARD, NUMBER ONE EIGHT TWO NINE TWO, ISSUED BY THE BLUE DOLPHIN.

WILLIAM PELUSO^D, OWNER, BLUE DOLPHIN ADVISED THIS CARD WAS ISSUED TO JAMES F. REID, TWO SEVEN THREE SIX MARINA BOULEVARD, SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA.

GUSSIE KIMBALL^D, MANAGER OF MARINA HAVEN APARTMENTS, TWO SEVEN THREE SIX MARINA BOULEVARD (SAN LEANDRO, ADVISED ON APRIL SEVENTEEN, INSTANT, THAT DALE C* ALLEN AND JAMES F. REID MOVED INTO AN APARTMENT HERE ON OCTOBER TEN LAST. ALLEN HAD PREVIOUSLY WORKED AS A SALESMAN FOR MONTGOMERY WARD COMPANY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, AND AT TIME OF RENTAL WAS CONNECTED WITH GOLDEN WEST ASSOCIATES, THREE FOUR FIVE ESTUDILLO, SAN LEANDRO. REID WORKED FOR DIAMOND FENCE COMPANY WHICH IS OPERATED BY HAL NICHOLS.

ALLEN HAD PREVIOUS ADDRESS OF THREE THREE SIX CORBETT STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, TELEPHONE SIX TWO SIX DASH TWO EIGHT SEVEN NINE. HE HAS A RELATIVE, FERN PRAFLANKIS, TELEPHONE LY THREE DASH FOUR TWO THREE ZERO, CITY NOT STATED. HE DRIVES A LATE MODEL CREAM OVER RED PONTIAC, A SPORTS MODEL. ALLEN REPORTEDLY TOOK ANOTHER JOB WITH AN UNKNOWN COMPANY AND MOVED TO LOS ANGELES, LEAVING HERE BETWEEN APRIL ONE AND TEN, END OF PAGE FOUR.

PAGE FIVE.

SF 173 - 65.

LAST. SHE HAS NOT SEEN HIM SINCE. REID STILL LIVES HERE. MRS. KIMBALL SAID THAT NEITHER ARTIST DRAWING OF ERIC STARVO GALT RESEMBLES ALLEN. SHE DESCRIBED ALLEN AS WMA, THREE SIX YEARS OF AGE, SIX FEET TALL, ONE SEVEN ZERO TO ONE EIGHT FIVE POUNDS, THIN BUILD, LIGHT BROWN HAIR.

MRS. KIMBALL ALSO ADVISED THAT MR. REID HAD REQUESTED THAT HIS "BOSS" IVARS STRAZDINS, WHO IS CONNECTED WITH THE DIAMOND FENCE COMPANY, BE ALLOWED TO MOVE INTO REID'S APARTMENT AND HAS COMMENCED TO DO SO.

KATHY SHEETS, ONE SIX FOUR FIVE ONE HUNDRED SIXTYFIFTH AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA, A WAITRESS AT THE BLUE DOLPHIN, ADVISED THAT SHE IS ACQUAINTED WITH HAL NICHOLS AND SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS WHO COME TO THE RESTAURANT WITH HIM. THEY HAVE BEEN COMING THERE TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE TO EMPLOYEES OF THE RESTAURANT THAT ALL OF THESE PERSONS ARE EXTREMELY ARDENT SUPPORTERS OF GEORGE WALLACE FOR PRESIDENT AND IT IS ASSUMED BY EMPLOYEES THAT ALL OF THEM HAVE STRONG ANTI-NEGRO SENTIMENTS SINCE IT IS THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE RESTAURANT THAT GEORGE WALLACE IS ANTI-NEGRO. SHE KNOWS AS ASSOCIATES OF NICHOLS ONE CHUCK SULLIVAN, DALE ALLEN, AND JAMES REID AND THERE ARE OTHERS WHOSE NAMES SHE COULD NOT RECALL. SHE SAID THAT OVER THE MONTHS THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BAR HAVE BEEN KIDDING AND JOKING WITH NICHOLS AND HIS FRIENDS CONCERNING NEGROES. NICHOLS AND HIS ASSOCIATES GENERALLY DENY ANTI-NEGRO SENTIMENTS BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS IS JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR POSITION IN SUPPORT OF WALLACE AND PROBABLY NOT THEIR TRUE SENTIMENTS.

END OF PAGE FIVE.

PAGE SIX.

SF 173 - 65.

SHE SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING THE BARTENDERS AND NICHOLS' GROUP WERE MAKING JOKES WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS "BAD" JOKES IN THAT THEY WERE CRUDE RATHER THAN FUNNY CONCERNING KING'S DEATH. SHE NOTED LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR DR. KING FROM THE NICHOLS GROUP. SHE WAS OFF WORK ON THE DAY OF THE KILLING, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND DOES NOT RECALL ANY OF THE NICHOLS GROUP VISITING THE RESTAURANT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY.

SHE SPECIFICALLY RECALLS A CONVERSATION AT APPROXIMATELY SEVEN P.M., APRIL FIFTEEN, LAST. CHUCK SULLIVAN AND DALE ALLEN ENTERED THE BAR. SHE HEARD BOB BENNETT, ONE OF THE BARTENDERS WHO HAD APPARENTLY BEEN LOOKING AT A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ALLEGED KILLER IN THE NEWSPAPER SAY TO DALE ALLEN, "THERE HE IS. LOOKS JUST LIKE THE PICTURE." DALE REPLIED, "I DID NOT THINK ANYONE WOULD RECOGNIZE ME."

SHE DOES NOT RECALL LARRY MC GRATH PARTICIPATING IN THIS CONVERSATION BUT BELIEVES THAT HE WAS ON DUTY AT THE BAR AND COULD HAVE OVERHEARD IT. SHE BELIEVED THE CONVERSATION TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL KIDDING WHICH HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR MONTHS AND ATTACHED NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO IT. SHE SAID THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM WHAT WAS SAID OR THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS SAID TO INDICATE THAT THE CONVERSATION WAS IN ANY WAY SERIOUS OR SIGNIFICANT.

SHE VIEWED TWO ARTIST DRAWINGS OF ERIC STARVO GALT AND SAID THAT NEITHER RESEMBLES ALLEN WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE MEMPHIS DRAWING SHOWED A CREASE IN THE NOSE BETWEEN THE EYES WHICH LOOKS SOMETHING LIKE ALLEN, BUT SAID IT IS DEFINITELY NOT A LIKENESS DRAWING.

END OF PAGE SIX.

PAGE SEVEN.

SF 173 - 65.

CLARA HENRY, MANAGER, LOS PALMAS APARTMENTS, ONE FIVE THREE SEVEN FIVE TROPIC COURT, SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA, ADVISED THAT HAL NICHOLS OCCUPIED APARTMENT THREE THREE FROM FEBRUARY TWO TWO, LAST, TO PRESENT. HE PREVIOUSLY LIVED IN THE NIMITZ MOTEL, SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA. HE DROVE A LATE MODEL CADILLAC. SHE POINTED OUT THAT APARTMENT THREE THREE IS LOCATED IN A SECLUDED CORNER OF THE COMPLEX WITH A PARKING AREA TO THE REAR WHICH IS WELL CONCEALED FROM THE VIEW OF MOST OF THE TENANTS. NICHOLS COULD, THEREFORE, COME AND GO AS HE PLEASED AND PROBABLY NOT BE SEEN AND SHE COULD NOT STATE WHERE HE MAY HAVE BEEN ON MARCH TWO NINE OR THREE ZERO, LAST, OR APRIL FOUR. SHE REPORTED FROM HER RECORDS THAT HE PAID HIS RENT ON APRIL THREE, LAST AND SHE RECALLED SEEING HIM AT THE APARTMENT HOUSE THE DAY BEFORE. SHE SAID THAT APARTMENT THREE THREE HAD BEEN OCCUPIED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO NICHOLS BY ONE CAROLYN SUTTON WHO WAS EMPLOYED AS A SECRETARY FOR NICHOLS. SUTTON QUIT AND MOVED TO THE PORTLAND OR SEATTLE AREA. THE ONLY ADDRESS SHE HAS FOR HER IS THAT OF HER FATHER, M.C. SUTTON, POST OFFICE BOX SIX FIVE, SAN ANDREAS, CALIFORNIA.

IN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE RELIABILITY OF LARRY MC GRATH, JOE MEDeiros, BUSINESS AGENT, CULINARY AND BARTENDERS UNION, HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA, ADVISED THAT LARRY MC GRATH WAS A MEMBER OF THIS UNION SINCE ONE NINE SIX THREE. HE SAID MC GRATH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO HOLD A STEADY JOB DURING THIS PERIOD HAVING HAD TEN TO TWELVE DIFFERENT JOBS DURING THAT TIME. HE TERMED MC GRATH AS A PERSON WHO CONSISTENTLY SEEKS RECOGNITION.

END OF PAGE SEVEN.

PAGE EIGHT.

SF 173 - 65.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING DALE ALLEN AND PARTICULARLY TO LOCATE A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM WHICH MAY BE SHOWN TO WITNESSES.

CHECKS MADE AT THE RESIDENCE AND THE PLACE OF BUSINESS OF NICHOLS HAVE FAILED TO LOCATE HIM OR HIS CAR.

INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION RE THE WHEREABOUTS OF NICHOLS ON PERTINENT DATES.

OTHER STATIONS NOTIFIED SEPARATELY.

END.

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

X

FBI MEMPHIS

RPT PLS

FBI WASH DC

215PM URGENT 4/17/68 WPK

TO SAN FRANCISCO AND MEMPHIS

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

REBUTEL APRIL SIXTEEN, LAST.

RE SUSPECT HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION LOCATED FINGERPRINT RECORD -
FOR NICHOLS BORN [REDACTED] AT ABERDEEN,
WASHINGTON, MARINE CORPS SERIAL NUMBER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT INDIVIDUAL ARRESTED BY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, ON SUSPICION OF GRAND THEFT, AUTO,
JUNE TWENTYTHREE, FIFTYTWO. LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS
CASE NOT IDENTICAL WITH THAT INDIVIDUAL.

END

CNF

FBI MEMPHIS



44-1987-Sub E-453

F B I

Date: **4/18/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **A I R T E L** _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Charlotte teletype to Bureau, Birmingham,
Mobile, and Memphis dated 4/17/68.

There are being furnished Memphis herewith an
original and eight copies of an insert concerning Unknown
Suspect and Alabama License 52-25871.

By referenced teletype the Mobile Office was
instructed to determine to whom license issued and determine
whereabouts of registered owner on pertinent dates in this
case.

② - Memphis (44-1987) (Encls. ^W 2)
2 - Charlotte (44-1365)

CFW:cst
(4)

44-1987-Sub E-452C

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

Hearney

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

CE 44-1365

ME 44-1987

CFW/cst

1

RE: UNKNOWN SUSPECT
ALABAMA LICENSE 52-25871 ✓

On April 16, 1968, WILLIAM D. BROOKS, Chief of Police, Gaston Rural Police Department, Gastonia, North Carolina, telephonically advised the Charlotte Office of the FBI that JOSEPH SAMUEL MEADOWS, who operates a used car lot at Bessemer City, North Carolina, had information concerning the KING assassination.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA EMANUEL R. JOHNSON:

AT BESSEMER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

On April 16, 1968, JOSEPH SAMUEL MEADOWS advised that in the late afternoon of April 15, 1968, he was driving north on Interstate Highway 85 in South Carolina with his wife when a white Mustang passed him heading in the same direction doing about 95 miles per hour. He said he observed a red and white license plate on the car and having read in the newspaper that the FBI was looking for a white Mustang with Alabama license, he gave chase. The Mustang turned off Interstate Highway 85 onto White Horse Road near Greenville, South Carolina, at which time he observed the license number which was Alabama License 52-25871. The driver, who was alone, was observed to be 35 to 40 years old, 160 to 170 pounds, sandy brown hair, with heavy eyebrows. He was wearing a tan or beige sports shirt and had on no hat and did not wear glasses.

He advised that later on April 15, 1968, his wife observed a drawing of the assassin and commented that this was the man they had seen in the Mustang earlier that date.

44-1987-Sub E-452B

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kearney

4/17/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: BIRMINGHAM (44-3740)

FROM: MOBILE (157-2627)

MURKIN

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE TO BUREAU, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE AND
MEMPHIS TWO ZERO ONE P.M., FOUR SEVENTEEN SIXTYEIGHT.

THE LICENSE NUMBER REFERRED TO IN RE TEL, ALABAMA LICENSE
FIVE TWO - TWO FIVE EIGHT SEVEN ONE ^{✓ 44-1987 Sub-E-452p2} IS FOR MORGAN COUNTY COVERED

BY BIRMINGHAM DIVISION. LEAD SET FORTH FOR MOBILE AT DMV SHOULD
BE HANDLED BY BIRMINGHAM IN MORGAN COUNTY. P

① - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
1 - Mobile
(2) JTB:mb

44-1987-Sub-E-452A

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

Kearney

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI CHARLT

205 PM URGENT 4-17-68 BSH

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) BIRMINGHAM(44-1740)

MOBILE, AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM CHARLOTTE (44-1365) 2P

MURKIN

*INDEX
pg 2*

ON APRIL SIXTEEN LAST, WILLIAM DAWSON BROOKS, COP,
GASTON RURAL POLICE, GASTONIA, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT
JOSEPH SAMUEL MEADOWS, WHO OPERATES A USED CAR LOT IN BESSEMER
CITY, NC, HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE KING ASSASSINATION.

ON APRIL SIXTEEN LAST, MEADOWS ADVISED ON LATE AFTERNOON
OF APRIL FIFTEEN LAST, HE WAS DRIVING NORTH ON INTERSTATE
EIGHTYFIVE IN SC WITH HIS WIFE WHEN A WHITE MUSTANG PASSED
HIM DOING ABOUT NINETYFIVE MILES PER HOUR. HE OBSERVED A
RED AND WHITE LICENSE PLATE ON THE CAR AND HAVING READ IN THE
NEWSPAPER THAT FBI WAS LOOKING FOR WHITE MUSTANG WITH ALABAMA
LICENSE, HE GAVE CHASE. THE MUSTANG TURNED OFF INTERSTATE
EIGHTYFIVE ON WHITE HORSE ROAD NEAR GREENVILLE, S.C., AT WHICH
TIME MEADOWS OBTAINED THE LICENSE NUMBER, WHICH WAS ALABAMA

44-1987-Sub E-453

END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kearney

CE 44-1365

PAGE TWO

LICENSE FIVE TWO DASH TWO FIVE EIGHT SEVEN ONE, ^D✓ THE DRIVER, WHO WAS ALONE, WAS OBSERVED TO BE THIRTYFIVE TO FORTY YEARS, ONE SIXTY TO ONE SEVENTY POUNDS, SANDY BROWN HAIR, TAN OR BEIGE SPORT SHIRT, NO HAT, NO GLASSES, HEAVY EYEBROWS.

LATER ON APRIL FIFTEEN, LAST HIS WIFE OBSERVED A DRAWING OF ASSASSIN AND COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS MAN THEY HAD SEEN IN MUSTANG.

MOBILE, AT DMV, DETERMINE TO WHOM LICENSE ISSUED AND DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF REGISTERED OWNER ON PERTINENT DATES IN THIS CASE.

P.

END.

CNF

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KNOXVLE

12-55 PM URGENT 4-17-68 CKH

TO: COLUMBIA

MEMPHIS

FROM: KNOXVILLE (44-696) 2 P

MURKIN, OO: MEMPHIS.

MR. ✓ AND MRS. ✓ CARL M. BANISTER, ROUTE THREE,
CLINTON, TENNESSEE, WHO REQUESTED IDENTITY BE
PROTECTED ADVISED THAT ON APRIL FIFTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT,
WHILE ENROUTE FROM KNOXVILLE TO CHEROKEE, NORTH
CAROLINA, THEY PASSED A NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN OR SIXTY
EIGHT DARK BROWN PONTIAC SEDAN THREE OR FOUR TIMES AS
THIS VEHICLE WAS DRIVING ONLY ABOUT THIRTY MILES PER
HOUR. THIS VEHICLE PASSED THEM WHEN THEY STOPPED TO
LOOK AT SCENIC SPOTS. MR. AND MRS. BANISTER ADVISED THAT
ON THE NORTH CAROLINA SIDE OF NEWFOUND GAP IN SMOKY
MOUNTAINS, THEY STOPPED FOR A PICNIC LUNCH AND THIS
VEHICLE WAS PRESENT WITH THE DRIVER APPEARING TO BE
RESTING. AFTER ENGAGING HIM IN CONVERSATION, THEY BELIEVED
HIM TO BE VERY TIRED AND SOMEWHAT EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED
AND NOTED HE DID NOT APPEAR ANXIOUS TO TALK. IN CONVERSATION
THIS INDIVIDUAL STATED HE RESIDED FORTY FIVE MILES WEST
END PAGE ONE

*INDEX
pg 2
pg 2*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Clarny

44-1987-Sub-E-451

PAGE TWO

KX 44-695

OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA AND STATED HE HAD NOT BEEN IN SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THREE DAYS, ALTHOUGH HE ALSO MADE STATEMENTS HE WAS JUST GOING TO SOUTH CAROLINA.. THE BANISTERS DESCRIBED SUBJECT AS WM, THIRTY FIVE TO THIRTY SEVEN, FIVE FEET, ELEVEN INCHES TO SIX FEET, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE POUNDS, POSSIBLY HAD DARK HAIR, ALTHOUGH WORE HAT, SHARP FACE, LONG NOSE AND SUNKEN CHEEKS AND WARING DARK SUIT WITH WHITE SHIRT AND DARK TIE, DRESSED VERY NEATLY.

MRS. BANISTER COPIED LICENSE NUMBER AS NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT SOUTH CAROLINA LICENSE D TWO SIX SIX FOUR ONE ZERO.

MR. AND MRS. BANISTER STATE SKETCH APPEARING IN KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL PAPER BY MEMPHIS COMMERICAL APPEAL NEWSPAPER ARTIST RESEMBLED THIS SUSPECT AND AFTER OBSERVING BUREAU SKETCH OF SUBJECT FROM BIRMINGHAM BELIEVE SKETCH STRONGLY RESEMBLED THIS SUSPECT.

COLUMBIA IDENTIFY REGISTERED OWNER OF NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN SOUTH CAROLINA LICENSE D TWO SIX SIX FOUR ONE ZERO AS SUSPECT.

END

SAB

FBI MEMPHIS

TU

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI CHICAGO

1223PM URGENT 4/17/68 JLS

TO MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 1P

MURKIN.

ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY, LONG DISTANCE OPERATOR, ADVISED THAT ON APRIL FIFTEEN LAST, HAD OVERHEARD CONVERSATION OF A WHITE MALE TALKING TO PERSON IN MEMPHIS ASKING FOR PERSON NAMED BILL. CALLER STATED WAS BILL'S DRIVER, WOULD NOT LEAVE NAME, INSTRUCTED OTHER PARTY TO ADVISE BILL THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOLEDO, OHIO, AND FOR BILL NOT TO DIVULGE HIS LOCATION SHOULD HE BE CONTACTED BY ANYONE LOOKING FOR HIM. MEMPHIS TELEPHONE NUMBER CALLED WAS SIX EIGHT THREE - ZERO EIGHT FOUR ZERO. PNO CHICAGO NUMBER OBTAINED. MEMPHIS PROTECT IBT IDENTITY. OBTAIN IDENTITY OF SUBSCRIBER TO ABOVE NUMBER, INTERVIEW BILL RE CALLER'S IDENTITY AND SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS FOR INTERVIEW AND IDENTIFICATION.

AM COPY TO CLEVELAND.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END AND ACK FOR 2 MSGS PLS

ME PGD

FBI MEMPHIS

X

44-1987-Sub-E-450

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kearney

Have this checked right away

Thor Zach Clark
1196 Wells
Serge Thropel Mfg Co

FBI MEMPHIS

HOLD FOR 2 MSGS PLS

FBI CHICAGO

1220PM URGENT 4/17/68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION
AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 2P

MURKIN.

RE THOMAS GEORGE MISIAG.

CI, CHICAGO DIVISION, FURNISHED MISIAG AS A SUSPECT AS
STRONGLY RESEMBLING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION WHICH APPEARED IN
VARIOUS LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, CHICAGO, FOR KILLER OF KING.

MISIAG SUBJECT CHICAGO FILE NUMBER ONE FIFTY SEVEN - SIX
ZERO FOUR. SUSPECT ASSOCIATED WITH CHICAGO CHAPTER OF NATIONAL
STATES RIGHTS PARTY AS WELL AS MINUTEMAN - PATRIOTIC PARTY.
SUSPECT KNOWN TO POSSESS FIREARMS.

SUSPECT ARRESTED BLUE ISLAND, ILLINOIS PD, APRIL NINE LAST
CHARGE UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPON AND DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, BORN
[REDACTED] PLACE OF BIRTH CHICAGO, BLOND HAIR,
HAZEL EYES, HEIGHT FIVE FEET TEN INCHES, WEIGHT ONE FIFTY EIGHT,
BUILD MEDIUM, SCARS AND MARKS, FOUR INCH SCAR LEFT HIP AND LEFT
THIGH. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]

END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kearney

44-1987 Sub E-449

PAGE TWO CG 44-1114

[REDACTED] AT TIME SUBJECT ARRESTED, WAS CARRYING SIGN
READING TO THE EFFECT "KING IS DEAD AND I AM GLAD". MISIAG
PRINTED BY BLUE ISLAND, HOWEVER, NO PD NUMBER ASSIGNED BUT
PRINTS FURNISHED BUREAU.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IDENTIFICATION DIVISION REQUESTED TO
COMPARE SUSPECT'S PRINTS WITH UNIDENTIFIED LATENTS.

END AND HOLD

FBI MEMPHIS

File - Serial Charge Out
FD-5 (Rev. 12-1-60)

File 44-1987-SUB-E Date _____

Class.

Case No.

Last Serial

☐ Pending

☐ Closed

Serial No.

Description of Serial

Date
Charged

SERIAL 448 made 414C

Employee

RECHARGE

Date _____

To _____ From _____

Date charged

Employee

Location

4/18/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669) (P)
MURKIN

ReBate1 to Bureau, 4/18/68.

Re: Dance School Project
Suspect - AARON ISAAC LOFTON

Enclosed herewith are copies of the following documents concerning AARON ISAAC LOFTON as mentioned in referenced Baltimore teletype:

1. Statement of Personal History (DD Form 398) dated 2/26/55
2. Army Report of Investigation dated 4/27/55

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2) *nm*
② - Memphis (Enc. 2) (44-1987)
2 - Atlanta (Enc. 2)
2 - Jackson (Enc. 2)
1 - Baltimore

JEB:wjj
(10)

eliminated

44-1987-Sub E-447C

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

IR