

F B I

Date:

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

LA 44-1574

PAGE TWO

WIFE CONSIDERS THOME ALCOHOLIC IN ADDITION TO MENTAL PROBLEMS.

SECRET SERVICE, LOS ANGELES, ADVISED SEPTEMBER LAST THOME INVESTIGATED FOR WRITING LETTER TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON STATING HE WAS "IN GRAVE DANGER", AND OPPOSING WAR IN VIETNAM. THOME INCARCERATED TWICE CAMARILLO STATE HOSPITAL [REDACTED]. THOME ARRESTED MARCH, NINETEEN SIXTY SIX FOR THREATENING NEIGHBOR WITH GUN AND IN JUNE SIXTY SEVEN FOR DRUNK DRIVING, WHEN HE HAD UNLOADED SHOTGUN IN CAR.

SON, STEPHEN J. THOME, GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA, STATED APRIL TWENTY NINE LAST FATHER HAD BEEN TRAVELING THROUGHOUT UNITED STATES SINCE LATE SIXTY SEVEN. PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN, BUT FATHER HAD CALLED HIM COLLECT IN MARCH OR APRIL FROM UNKNOWN LOCATION.

THOME ADVISED MAY EIGHT INSTANT THAT FATHER WOULD HAVE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ASSASSINATION AS VERY SYMPATHETIC TO NEGRO CAUSE.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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

LA 44-1574

PAGE THREE

INVESTIGATION ESTABLISHED THOME WAS IN ATLANTA JANUARY FIFTEEN LAST. CREDIT INVESTIGATOR ADVISED THOME BOUGHT GASOLINE ON UNION OIL CREDIT CARD MARCH EIGHT OR NINE LAST FOR NINETEEN SIXTY FOUR PONTIAC, CALIFORNIA LICENSE KDT SIX FIVE FOUR, REGISTERED TO JAMES E. SIMS, TWO FIVE FOUR AND ONE EIGHTH CORONADO STREET, LOS ANGELES.

MISS KAREN VANDERFORD, AT CORONADO STREET ADDRESS, ADVISED MAY SEVEN LAST SIMS HER STEPFATHER, WHO HAD BEEN IN TEXAS, AND HAD SOLD PONTIAC POSSIBLY IN HOUSTON. SIMS AND WIFE RESIDING FOR TWO WEEKS AT TWO TWO THREE FOUR EAST MICHIGAN, NUMBER THREE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

RECORDS, PACIFIC TELEPHONE COMPANY, REFLECTED MAY SEVEN LAST PUBLIC TELEPHONE COLLECT CALL TO STEPHEN THOME ON APRIL TWELVE LAST FROM ARLINGTON, TEXAS.

INDIANAPOLIS INTERVIEW MR. AND MRS. SIMS, DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS PONTIAC SOLD IN TEXAS AND IF THEY KNOW THOME.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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

LA 44-1574

PAGE FOUR

FURNISH RESULTS LOS ANGELES AND APPROPRIATE TEXAS OFFICE  
TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW THOME.

DALLAS CHECK CREDIT, CRIMINAL AND GENERAL DELIVERY  
AT ARLINGTON TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW THOME.

THOME ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIR MAIL.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

5/9/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND  
SAC LOS ANGELES

FROM: SAC DALLAS (44-2649)

MURKIN.

REBUTEL TO LOS ANGELES, APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST; AND LOS  
ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU, MAY ONE LAST.

RE: HAROLD J. THOME

FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION MADE TODAY:

CREDIT CHECKS ARLINGTON AND FORT WORTH, TEXAS, NEGATIVE.  
CRIMINAL CHECKS AT ARLINGTON AND FORT WORTH PDS AND SO, FORT  
WORTH, NEGATIVE.

POSTMASTER R. G. DEWS (PROTECT), ARLINGTON, TEXAS, STATES  
NO RECORD GENERAL DELIVERY FOR HAROLD J. THOME AND POSTMASTER  
HAS ALERTED ALL HIS CLERKS FOR ANY MAIL THAT MIGHT BE RECEIVED  
BY THOME. IF SUCH MAIL RECEIVED, DEWS WILL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY  
FORT WORTH RA.

MEMPHIS ADVISED AM. P

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
1 - Dallas  
BTC/jc  
(2)

44-1987-Sub E-752C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle 155

5/11/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
DALLAS  
FROM INDIANAPOLIS (44-563)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU AND INDIANAPOLIS AND DALLAS,  
MAY EIGHT LAST.

*Sub E-752 8 p3*  
JAMES E. SIMS, TWO TWO THREE FOUR E. MICHIGAN ST., INDIANAPOLIS,  
INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED HE SOLD SIXTYFOUR PONTIAC IN HOUSTON,  
TEXAS ON APRIL NINETEEN LAST TO A MEXICAN WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT  
RECALL.

*Sub E-752*  
SIMS ADVISED HAROLD J. THOME WAS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HE PICKED  
UP AT BUS STATION IN EL PASO AND AGREED TO TAKE HIM TO WORTHINGTON,  
TEXAS IN EXCHANGE FOR GAS. HE SAID THIS WAS ON MARCH NINE  
LAST. SIMS SAID THOME USED A UNION SEVENTYSIX CREDIT CARD FOR  
GAS PURCHASED. HE CLAIMS THEY STOPPED FOR GAS ABOUT FOUR TIMES.  
SIMS SAID THOME MAINLY DISCUSSED POLITICS BUT DID NOT MENTION

1 - Birmingham (AM)  
1 - Indianapolis  
WWK:slr  
(4)

1 - Los Angeles (AM)  
1 - Memphis (AM)

*44-1987-Sub E-752D*

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>4</i>
SERIALIZED <i>4</i>	FILED <i>5</i>
MAY 14 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle* *1613*

PAGE TWO

IP 44-563

ANYTHING CONCERNING NEGROES OR ANY CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS.

SIMS SAID HE TOOK HIS PASSENGER TO THOME'S SON OR SON-IN-LAW'S HOME WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HIGHWAY EIGHTY APPROXIMATELY TEN TO FIFTEEN MILES WEST OF WORTHINGTON, TEXAS. HE DESCRIBES HOUSE AS WHITE OR YELLOW CEMENT BLOCK SITUATED VERY NEAR TO THE BRAZOS RIVER OR A TRIBUTARY OF THIS RIVER. LARGE OVERHEAD BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY EIGHTY CROSSES RIVER AND HOUSE IS NEXT TO BRIDGE.

DALLAS AT FORTH WORTH, WILL DETERMINE IF THOME IS STILL IN WORTHINGTON AREA OR DETERMINE HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS. INTERVIEW THOME IF LOCATED.

BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

THOME ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: HAROLD J. THOME - SUSPECT

Re Indianapolis teletype dated 5/11/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs  
ROBERT E. KLANITER and ROBERT D. MADLAND:

AT WEATHERFORD, TEXAS:

ELMER T. JOHNSON, mailing address Route 1, Mansap,  
Texas, owner of the River Ranch Cafe, located next to the  
Brazos River Bridge, 15 miles west of Weatherford, Texas,  
on U. S. Highway 80, furnished the following information.

JOHNSON advised that HAROLD J. THOME, under Social  
Security Number [redacted], was first employed by him as a  
dishwasher during the week of February 16, 1968, and remained  
for about two weeks, at which time he left stating that  
"Jesus had called him". THOME left by hitchhiking.

JOHNSON was next contacted by THOME via long-  
distance telephone call (prepaid) stating that he was in  
El Paso and this was about three days prior to March 9, 1968,  
wanting to return to his job on the evening of March 9, 1968.  
THOME again called stating he was in Abilene, Texas, en route  
and advised that he would arrive about midnight and asked  
JOHNSON to leave the door open to a small apartment at the  
rear of the cafe. JOHNSON stated that he did not see THOME  
arrive but that THOME did arrive shortly after midnight and  
told him he had hitchhiked, and had been visiting a daughter  
in Tucson, Arizona, since he had left in February, 1968.

3 - Bureau  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) (Info)

2 - Dallas  
RDM/agl  
(8)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - DALLAS	

*Boyle* *190*

44-1987-Sub E-752E



JOHNSON said that THOME remained at the cafe, working as a dishwasher until March 30, 1968, at which time JOHNSON said he had to let THOME go because he was "bothering" the customers. JOHNSON said he considered THOME to be a religious agitator and fanatic. JOHNSON said THOME stated "Buddhism is the true religion". JOHNSON said THOME spoke on and of many subjects and topics. JOHNSON said further THOME told him he was in complete sympathy with MARTIN LUTHER KING and "felt he was following the right path". JOHNSON said THOME called all Negroes "brother". JOHNSON said further that THOME told him one time that if he could vote that he would vote for GEORGE WALLACE for president. JOHNSON said further that THOME wanted to "overthrow the government" because he felt "the people were being lied to and cheated" and said "we are not getting our fair share". JOHNSON said he considered THOME to be "mentally unbalanced" and a person who drank very heavily while he was employed by him.

JOHNSON advised that to his knowledge THOME had no associates, friends or relatives in this area. JOHNSON said prior to his first employment in February, 1968, that he did not know or had never seen THOME. JOHNSON said further that while THOME was employed this last time that he made three long-distance calls, which two calls were made on 3/25 and 26/68, to Dallas, Texas, and a call on 3/29/68, to an unrecalled place. JOHNSON said THOME had paid for the call but that the calling numbers were not known to him. JOHNSON, at this time as he had not misplaced his telephone bill.

JOHNSON stated that THOME was arrested one time during his stay with him and that was by the Sheriff's Office at Mineral Wells, Texas. JOHNSON said THOME left this Saturday about noon on March 31, 1968, hitchhiking and that he has had no contact or heard from THOME since that time.

JOHNSON said during the period of time THOME was here, that he received no telephone calls nor visitors. JOHNSON said he had no other background information concerning this individual whatsoever, and knows no person who would have information as to his whereabouts.

AT MINERAL WELLS, TEXAS:



BL 44-2649

On May 12, 1968, GILBERT SOMMERFELD, Sheriff, Palo Pinto County, advised that under Mineral Wells PD #14622 that HAROLD JAMES THOME was arrested by him at 12:25 AM on March 28, 1968, near the river bridge west of Mineral Wells. Sheriff SOMMERFELD said this arrest occurred after a cab driver reported to him a passenger stated he was going to jump in the river after being taken to the river bridge. Sheriff SOMMERFELD stated that he proceeded to the west river bridge and found THOME lying drunk in the grass near the bridge. He said he took THOME to the Mineral Wells Jail and booked him for investigation. Sheriff SOMMERFELD stated that he released THOME the following morning without charges as he felt this person had a mental disturbance. Sheriff SOMMERFELD said that THOME had no weapons on him at the time of his arrest but that he was carrying a briefcase full of religious literature and verses.

Sheriff SOMMERFELD said that THOME told him that he did not know any person in this area, except his employer at the River Ranch Cafe, and had no relatives in the area. THOME said that he was from California. Sheriff SOMMERFELD described THOME as follows:

Race	white
Sex	male
Year of birth	
Height	5'10"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	gray
Eyes	Blue
Residence	10520 Hill Haven, Tujunga, California

Dallas Division investigation continuing to determine identity of telephone numbers called by THOME from River Ranch Cafe.

5/23/68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND SAC DALLAS (44-2649)  
FROM SAC LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN.

*Sub E-752*  
RE LOS ANGELES TEL TO DIRECTOR AND DALLAS MAY EIGHT LAST,  
INDIANAPOLIS TEL TO DIRECTOR AND DALLAS MAY ELEVEN LAST.

ON MAY TWENTY THREE INSTANT STEPHEN THOME, SON OF HAROLD J. THOME, ADVISED FAMILY HAD NO RELATIVES IN TEXAS TO HIS BEST KNOWLEDGE. THOME FURTHER ADVISED FATHER HAD CALLED HIM MONDAY NIGHT FROM UNKNOWN LOCATION, PAYING FOR CALL. SON TOLD FATHER FBI WANTED TO TALK TO HIM AND URGED FATHER CONTACT FBI. FATHER REFUSED, STATING HE FELT FBI WOULD KILL HIM. SON STATED THIS INDICATED FATHER'S DISTURBED MENTAL CONDITION. SAID FATHER INTENSELY INTERESTED WORLD PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD. HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION RE WHEREABOUTS OF FATHER.

THOME ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

JAMES EARL RAY ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
1 - Los Angeles  
LDJ:CM  
(2)

*44-1987-Sub E-752F*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>b</i>
MAY 27 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Signature]*

F B I

Date: 6/3/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE PLAINTEXT DEF.  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND SAC DALLAS (44-2469)  
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND DALLAS MAY TWENTY THREE LAST, CONCERNING HAROLD J. THOME.

THOME TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SUPERVISOR ROBERT H. MATHESON, JR., LOS ANGELES OFFICE, INSTANT DATE AT TWO FORTY ONE P.M., APPARENTLY CALLING LONG DISTANCE. CALLED STATED FBI TO INTERVIEW HIM CONCERNING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KING AND SAID HE TALKED TO KING CONCERNING THE BIBLE. HE STATED AT ~~THE~~ TIME KING WAS KILLED HE WAS AT THE ARLINGTON MASONIC HOME, REFUSED TO GIVE ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER, STATED "GOOD NIGHT SIR" AND HUNG UP.

MR. LEE SHALCK, MASONIC BOARD OF RELIEF, LOS ANGELES, ADVISED MASONIC HOME FOR AGED LOCATED IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS, SUPERVISED BY DR. C. S. WOODWARD.

44-1574  
 LDJ:sle  
 (1)

44-1987-Sub-E-752B

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 5 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Boyle RB

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

LA 44-1574

PAGE TWO

DALLAS AT ARLINGTON, WILL CONTACT OFFICIALS, ARLINGTON  
MASONIC HOME, DETERMINE IF THOME ~~was~~ AT ~~the~~ HOME AT TIME OF  
MURKIN AND ADVISE BUREAU AND LOS ANGELES.

*Memphis advised AM.*

April 26, 1968

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, NORFOLK  
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REFLECTED IN THE BUREAU  
FILES ON KING:

IT WAS REPORTED THAT JOHN FRANCIS SMALLWOOD OF SUFFOLK,  
VIRGINIA, HAD REPORTED THREE WHITE MEN FROM TYNER, NORTH  
CAROLINA, HAD OFFERED HIM A SHOTGUN AND RIFLE TO SHOOT KING  
WHEN HE SPOKE AT SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA, ON JUNE TWENTYEIGHT,  
NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE. AT THE TIME THIS INFORMATION WAS  
RECEIVED, IT WAS INDICATED THAT SMALLWOOD WAS CONSIDERED  
INTELLIGENT AND FAIRLY DEPENDABLE.

ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT,  
YOU SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF SMALLWOOD  
OR ANY OF THE THREE PERSONS WHO ALLEGEDLY CONTACTED HIM  
MIGHT BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

② - SAC, MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-753

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle BB

4/29/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (MAIL), JACKSONVILLE, AND NORFOLK  
FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO NORFOLK, APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST,  
BUREAU TELETYPE TO ALL SACS APRIL TWENTYSIX, LAST, AND NORFOLK  
TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND CHARLOTTE APRIL TWENTYSEVEN LAST.

RE: JOHN FRANCIS SMALLWOOD *Sub E-753*  
*44-1987-316*

REBUTEL TO NORFOLK ADVISED REVIEW OF BUFILE ON KING  
REVEALED IT WAS REPORTED THAT JOHN FRANCIS SMALLWOOD, SUFFOLK,  
VA., HAD REPORTED THREE WHITE MEN FROM TYNER, NC, OFFERED HIM  
SHOTGUN AND RIFLE TO SHOOT KING WHEN HE SPOKE AT SUFFOLK, VA.,  
ON JUNE TWENTYEIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. AT TIME THIS  
INFORMATION RECEIVED, IT WAS INDICATED SMALLWOOD WAS CONSIDERED  
INTELLIGENT AND VERY DEPENDABLE. BUREAU ADVISED ALTHOUGH RAY  
HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS ASSAILANT INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE  
CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE IF SMALLWOOD OR ANY OF THE THREE PERSONS  
WHO CONTACTED HIM SHOULD BE <sup>IMPLICATED</sup> ~~REFLECTED~~ AS CONSPIRATORS.

1 - Bureau (MAIL)  
① - Memphis (AM)  
1 - Charlotte  
MKG:lrf  
(3)

*44-1987-Sub E-753A*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle B.B.*

PAGE TWO

ON APRIL TWENTYSEVEN, IT WAS DETERMINED AT SUFFOLK, VA., THAT SMALLWOOD AND FAMILY LEFT AREA IN SIXTYFOUR AND RETURNED TO WIFE'S RELATIVES IN CARE OF HERBERT MODLIN, ROUTE ONE, TYNER, NC.

CE FILE ONE FIVE SEVEN DASH THREE NINE SIX REFLECTS HORACE WILLARD MODLIN, SELDON BASS, AND IONAS HENDRICKS, AKA. MAC, AS CHOWAN COUNTY, NC, RESIDENTS, CONFIDENTIALLY IDENTIFIED BY SMALLWOOD IN SIXTYTHREE AS PERSONS WHO OFFERED HIM SHOTGUN AND RIFLE TO SHOOT KING AT SUFFOLK, VA., IN SIXTYTHREE.

ON APRIL TWENTYSEVEN, SHERIFF M. EARL GOODWIN, CHOWAN COUNTY, EDENTON, NC, ADVISED THREE WHITE MALES MENTIONED ABOVE STILL RESIDENTS OF CHOWAN COUNTY AND BELIEVED TO BE IN AREA DURING MARCH TWENTYNINE LAST THROUGH APRIL FOUR LAST. GOODWIN ADVISED HE WOULD CONTACT CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES RE BASS AND HENDRICKS AND VERIFY ABOVE.

ON APRIL TWENTYEIGHT, LAST, HERBERT MODLIN, ROUTE ONE, TYNER, NC, ADVISED SMALLWOOD MARRIED TO HIS SISTER AND BOTH RESIDE ONE ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO WAKE FOREST ROAD (HIGHLAND SECTION), JACKSONVILLE, FLA., AND EMPLOYED AT THE SOUTHSIDE SHIPYARD, JACKSONVILLE. MODLIN ADVISED SMALLWOOD HAS RESIDED IN JACKSONVILLE ABOUT FIVE YEARS.



PAGE THREE

ON APRIL TWENTYEIGHT, HORACE MODLIN, BROTHER OF HERBERT MODLIN AND WIFE OF SMALLWOOD, CONTACTED AT RESIDENCE OF HERBERT. MODLIN ADVISED EMPLOYED LIPTON TEA CO., SUFFOLK, VA.,

ON APRIL TWENTYNINE, SHERIFF EARL GOODWIN ADVISED IONAS HENDRICKS IS FARMER IN TYNER, NC, AND SELDON BASS IS SELFEMPLOYED CARPENTER FROM ROCKY HOCK SECTION OF CHOWAN COUNTY, NC.

GOODWIN SAID HIS SOURCE DETERMINED THAT BOTH HENDRICKS AND BASS WERE IN CHOWAN COUNTY DURING PERTINENT PERIOD. HE SAID HENDRICKS, PARTICULARLY, HAD PLANTING RESPONSIBILITIES AND UNABLE TO LEAVE FARM DURING THIS TIME.

JACKSONVILLE AT JACKSONVILLE , VERIFY EMPLOYMENT OF SMALLWOOD AT SOUTHSIDE SHIPYARD DURING PERTINENT PERIOD OR OTHERWISE ELIMINATE HIM AS CO-CONSPIRATOR.

NORFOLK, AT SUFFOLK, VA., VERIFY EMPLOYMENT OF HORACE MODLIN AT LIPTON TEA COMPANY, SUFFOLK, VA., DURING PERTINENT PERIOD TO ELIMINATE HIM AS CO-CONSPIRATOR.

AM COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END.

F B I

Date: 5/3/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NORFOLK (44-268)(P)

MURKIN

RE: SUSPECT JOHN FRANCIS SMALLWOOD

Re Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 4/29/68

On 4/30/68, Mrs. MYRA DODD, Personnel Manager, Lipton Tea Company, Holland Road, Suffolk, Virginia, was contacted by SA JOHN B. MCNABB regarding HORACE WILLARD MODLIN. She stated that MODLIN has been employed at their plant since 6/2/64, in the Production Department. She further advised that MODLIN, according to company records, has been present for work on every work day during March and April, 1968.

3- Bureau  
1- Charlotte (44-1365)(info)  
1- Jacksonville (info)  
①- Memphis (44-1987)(info)  
1- Norfolk  
DGF:dmb

(7)

44-1987-Sub E-458B

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

*Boyle* *5/13*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

PLAINTEXT

4-24-68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SAC MIAMI

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN.

THE MAIN FILE ON KING CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING THREAT:

MIAMI AIRTEL TO THE DIRECTOR SEPTEMBER NINE SIXTYEIX ADVISED THAT MM ONE ONE FOUR FIVE - R (PROB) HAD ADVISED THAT JAMES WHITE, A BARBER, OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, HAD ALLEGEDLY INQUIRED OF AN OFFICIAL OF THE UKA, KKK, HOW MUCH MONKY THE KLAVERN WOULD PAY TO KILL KING. WHITE REPORTEDLY APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KLAVERN BUT WAS REJECTED.

ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF WHITE OR ANY OTHERS CONNECTED WITH THE ABOVE KLAVERN MIGHT BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

① MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-254

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle BB

PLAINTEXT

4-26-68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS LOS ANGELES  
MIAMI

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING THREATS WERE NOTED IN THE KING FILE:

REFERENCE IS MADE TO LOS ANGELES FILE ONE HUNDRED -  
FIVE SEVEN TWO TWO NINE AND ARTICLE DATED TWO TWENTYNEX  
SIXTYFIVE FROM THE "HERALD EXAMINER" WHICH REFERS TO HEAVY  
SECURITY PRECAUTIONS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS A RESULT OF  
ALLEGED THREATS ON KING'S LIFE. THE ARTICLE REFERS TO  
KEITH D. GILBERT, TWENTYSEVEN, FOUR ONE NINE WESTERN AVENUE,  
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA, AND STATES GILBERT IS KNOWN AS A RACIST  
AND INVOLVED IN THEFT OF DYNAMITE WHICH WAS FOUND IN HIS  
APARTMENT ALONG WITH MINUTEMAN LITERATURE. AN LHM DATED  
THREE TWO SIXTYFIVE, AT LOS ANGELES, REFERS TO ONE KEITH  
DWAYNE GILBERT, RELATING TO INCIDENT WHERE GILBERT SHOT AT  
NEGROES IN A CAR AND WAS ARRESTED BY LOS ANGELES POLICE

② - MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-755

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle B.P.



TELETYPE TO SACS LOS ANGELES  
MIAMI

RE: MURKIN

DEPARTMENT NINE EIGHTEEN SIXTYFOUR. THE LHM ALSO REFERS TO ONE GEORGE WILLARD REPORTEDLY UNDER PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

BY AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR THREE FIVE SIXTYFIVE ENTITLED "RICHARD COTTON, RM, MINUTEMEN, INFORMATION CONCERNING - IS" (MM ONE FIVE SEVEN - ONE TWO SIX EIGHT) REFERS TO ONE GILBERT, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD DYNAMITE TO BE USED ON KING. ONE EARL LINDER, TWO FIVE TWO ONE NORTHWEST TWENTY THIRD STREET, MIAMI, ON THREE FIVE SIXTYFIVE, REPORTEDLY TOLD MIAMI SIX ZERO SEVEN-R THAT "THEY" WOULD NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN AND NEXT TIME SUGGEST USE OF A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE ON KING.

ON THREE TWENTYSEIX SIXTYFIVE, LOS ANGELES OFFICE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT ONE WILLIAM HOWARD JAMISON, ONE ZERO ONE THREE THREE SAN ANTONIO STREET, SOUTH GATE, CALIFORNIA, A FORMER JOHN BIRCHER, ALLEGEDLY SAID "I AM GOING TO GET MARTIN LUTHER KING, HE IS MINE." JAMISON REPORTEDLY HAD ADMITTED BOMBING THE PROGRESSIVE BOOKSHOP IN LOS ANGELES.

ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF THE ABOVE MIGHT BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS.

- 2 -

4/29/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN

REBUTEL FOUR TWENTYSIX LAST.

RETEL CONCERNED THREATS NOTED IN KING FILE BY  
EARL LINDER AND ONE GILBERT, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED.

*Sub E 755*

IRA DAVID HAWTHORNE, JR. (FORMER MM ONE ZERO EIGHT  
ONE B), WHO RESIDES DIRECTLY BEHIND EARL LINDER IN MIAMI,  
WAS CONTACTED FOUR TWENTYSIX LAST AND THIS DATE. HE  
ADVISED HE HAS ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH LINDER WHO HAS  
NOT EXPRESSED ANY UNUSUAL INTEREST IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF  
KING'S DEATH. HE SAID LINDER HAS NOT TAKEN ANY RECENT  
EXTENDED TRIPS FROM THE MIAMI AREA AND THERE HAS BEEN NO

- ① - Memphis (AM)
- ③ - Miami (1 - 44-1854)  
(1 - 170-1)  
(1 - 170-64)

JCM:sl  
(4)

*44-1987-Sub E-755A*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 30 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle BB*



MM 44-1854

PAGE TWO

UNUSUAL ACTIVITY AROUND LINDER'S HOME. HE SAID LINDER'S MAIN INTEREST PRESENTLY SEEMS TO CENTER AROUND A "CONSERVATIVE CHURCH GROUP" FROM SOUTH CAROLINA. HE SAID LINDER IS GETTING OLD, NOT IN GOOD HEALTH, AND APPEARS TO HAVE SOME FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND THEREFORE HIS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN LIMITED.

WILLIAM SOMERSETT (FORMER MM SIX ZERO SEVEN - R)

ADVISED THIS DATE HE HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH LINDER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HE SAID HE HAS HAD CONTACT WITH SOME MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCES. HE SAID HE HAS HEARD OF NOTHING TO SHOW LINDER HAS ANY PARTICULAR INTEREST IN OR KNOWLEDGE OF KING'S DEATH. HE KNEW NOTHING OF LINDER'S PRESENT INTERESTS OR ACTIVITIES.

SOMERSETT COULD NOT RECALL DETAILS OF INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED CONCERNING ONE GILBERT. HE SAID

MOI 44-1854

PAGE THREE

HE WAS SURE HE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM CONCERNING THIS INDIVIDUAL AND HE WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH FURTHER INFORMATION AT THIS TIME.

BOTH INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED ABOVE ADVISED THEY WOULD REMAIN ALERT FOR POSSIBLE INFORMATION INDICATING LINDER'S CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED MATTER.

~~END.~~

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END.

4/30/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-700) P  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: WILLIAM HOWARD JANISON

Re Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, 4/26/68.

Mrs. FRANCES STOKER JANISON, 483 Paseo, Kansas City, Missouri, advised she has been legally separated from her husband, WILLIAM HOWARD JANISON, for about three years. She stated he has been extremely religious since getting out of prison, and in her opinion is "nervous", but would not harm anyone. She said JANISON was in Kansas City, Kansas, at the time of KING's murder residing at 908 Ohio, Kansas City, Kansas, but left about a week later for California.

Mrs. JANISON said she had a letter from her husband on 4/29/68 in which he indicated he was an Evangelist for Gospel Wings, 1948 Clinton, Los Angeles, California. She does not know of any threatening statements made by JANISON regarding MARTIN LUTHER KING, but stated he might have made such statements while he was a member of the John Birch Society. She stated he has not been associated with this organization since getting out of prison.

LEAD

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Will locate and interview WILLIAM HOWARD JANISON at Gospel Wings, 1948 Clinton, Los Angeles, California.

3 Bureau  
2 Los Angeles (44-1574)  
② Memphis (44-1987)  
2 Kansas City  
RM:haw  
(4)

44-1987-Sub E-755P2

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayle BV



April 26, 1968

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, KNOXVILLE  
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
MURKIN, OO: MEMPHIS

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE MAIN FILE  
ON KING:

ON THREE THIRTY, SIXTY-FIVE, JACK WILLIAM BROWN, IMPERIAL  
WIZARD, DIXIE KLAN, WAS INTERVIEWED BY SAs HERBERT C. MAYS  
AND JAMES H. RIKE AT CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE. AT THAT TIME  
BROWN STATED HE WAS SURPRISED KING HAD NOT BEEN KILLED IN  
ALABAMA TO DATE. HE SAID IF KING EVER CAME TO THE CHATTANOOGA  
AREA AND DID THE SAME THINGS HE WAS DOING IN ALABAMA, SOMEONE  
WOULD KILL HIM. HE DID NOT COMMENT AS TO WHO WOULD KILL KING.  
ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT, YOU  
SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF BROWN MIGHT BE  
IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS

2 - SAC, MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-756

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Boyle* *BB*

4/29/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (P)  
RE: MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis

Re Bureau teletype to Knoxville 4/26/68.

10/4/65. JACK WILLIAM BROWN, Bufile 157-888, died

*Jack - Sub B-67  
E-756*

3 - Bureau  
① - Memphis (44-1987) (Info.)  
2 - Knoxville  
GCW:lmh  
(6)

*44-1987-Sub E-756A*

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*173*

April 22, 1968  
111 W. Lawrence Ave  
Eff. Ill. 62401

Dear Sir:

My step-son-in-law is  
named Cecil Ray. He was raised  
to the best of my knowledge in  
Vandalia community. Do not know  
much about his background, but know  
enough that he was raised in carefree  
manner and comes from the type  
family, "You dare me I dare you".  
Separated from wife and children Highland.  
Last known address to me was in Joliet,  
working for gas and oil filling station.  
Driving large truck on long hauls out  
of town. Just to-day, friend said  
Cecil has been making visits back to  
Vandalia recently. His wife and  
family live in Highland. 44-1987-Sub E-754  
In the past Cecil referred to a  
James Ray, cousin to my deceased  
husband and I. Meant nothing to me

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

at times:  
 several years ago, Earl Ray's father  
 was found killed on Highway South  
 of Danville, Ill. Ray and three  
 months ago, my husband was attacked and  
 died two days later by hand-to-hand  
 fight. If you know something, but could be  
 possible.  
 Any writing in perhaps you would  
 wish to check out back Ray in  
 just or around Danville, Earl Ray's  
 father has a brother in police. I feel it  
 my duty to help in any small way if  
 you wish. Ray is accused to  
 brought to justice. There are a few  
 or other about a very numerous  
 Ray relations around Danville.  
 Also indicated they have relations  
 somewhere around or in Danville.  
 Sincerely,  
 Mrs. Albert J. French,  
 711 W. Lawrence Ave.  
 E.H. Ill. 62401



4-26-68

Airtel

To: SACs, Chicago  
Springfield

From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Re Mrs. Alberta L. French, Effingham, Illinois.

Enclosed for Springfield and Chicago are two copies of a letter from Mrs. French dated 4-22-68. One copy is enclosed for Memphis.

Springfield, immediately interview Mrs. French for any additional information she can furnish regarding the whereabouts of Cecil Ray, and thereafter set out appropriate lead so he may be interviewed.

Cecil Ray should be thoroughly interviewed with respect to whether or not he is related to the subject, James Earl Ray or is any way acquainted with him.

① - Memphis

*here rec mgn*

44-1987-Sub E-757A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

*Bayle* *BP*

4/27/68

TELETYPE URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)  
FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE, APRIL TWENTYFIVE, SIXTYEIGHT.  
LEMUEL HARRY, FORMER STATE PAROLE OFFICER, BELLEVILLE,  
ILLINOIS, FIFTYONE TO FIFTYTHREE, CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BROWN  
SHOE COMPANY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, RECALLED LINDA RAY, A  
GERMAN WAR BRIDE, FORMERLY WORKED UNDER HIS SUPERVISION AT  
WOHL SHOE COMPANY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS  
AGO.

HARRY DOES NOT RECALL JOHN RAY AS A PAROLE UNDER HIS  
SUPERVISION OR AS HUSBAND OF LINDA, IN VIEW OF ASSOCIATION  
MORE THAN FOURTEEN YEARS AGO.

JAMES EARL RAY UNKNOWN TO HARRY.

AIRMAIL COPY BEING FORWARDED TO MEMPHIS.

P.

1 - ST. LOUIS  
1 - Memphis (AM)  
WCJ:jfb  
(2)

44-1987-Sub E-758

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle BJB

FBI TAMPA

FBI NEWARK

1145

URGENT 4/27/68 PAC

TO TAMPA AND SAVANNAH

FROM NEWARK (44-854) (P)

MURKIN

RE SAVANNAH TEL TO JACKSONVILLE, APRIL TWENTY SIX, LAST.

RE JACKSONVILLE AND NK TELS, APRIL TWENTY SIX, LAST.

FOR INFO TAMPA, A NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN OR SIXTY EIGHT

BROWN PLYMOUTH, STATION WAGON, BEARING FLA LICENSE THREE

E FIVE SIX FOUR THREE SEEN BY MAN IN SAVANNAH, GA., APRIL

TWENTY SIX, LAST, BEING DRIVEN BY MAN DESCRIBED AS

RESEMBLING SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY. JACKSONVILLE LEARNED

LICENSE THREE E FIVE SIX FOUR THREE REGISTERED TO HENRY

ERWIN, JR., IN C/O OF AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC.,

ONE ONE MAPLE AVE., PENNSAUKEN, N.J., FOR CAR HAVING

P TWO FIVE TWO TWO SIX SEVEN SIX ZERO EIGHT.

R. RUTTER, SERVICE DEPARTMENT, MGS., AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS,

PENNSAUKEN, SAID COMPANY RECORDS SHOW FLA. LICENSE THREE E

FIVE SIX FOUR THREE ON A NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH

TWO DOOR SEDAN WITH VIN SAME AS ABOVE. THAT CAR FORMERLY

END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub E-859

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayle RB

157-3231

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 27 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

PAGE TWO

LEASED BY AUTOMOTIVE TO HENRY B. ERWIN, JR., EMPLOYED BY  
OAKITE PRODUCTS, INC., ERWIN RESIDES THREE ZERO NINE BEN  
AVON DR., TEMPLE TERRACE, FLA. IN DECEMBER, NINETEEN SIXTY  
SEVEN ERWIN RETURNED CAR TO AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS IN EXCHANGE  
FOR A NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT YELLOW FORD TWO DOOR HARDTOP  
BEARING FLA. LICENSE THREE E FOUR NINE SEVEN THREE FOUR.  
ON JANUARY EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, INSTANT NINETEEN  
SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH SOLD BY AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS TO C AND R  
AUTO SALES, FOUR THREE ONE SIX FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA, FLA.  
ROTTER UNABLE TO FIND RECORD OF FLORIDA LICENSE THREE E  
FIVE SIX FOUR THREE EVER BEING ON CAR OTHER THAN DESCRIBED  
NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH SEDAN.

TAMPA AT TAMPA, FLA., WILL DETERMINE AT C AND R  
AUTO SALES PRESENT OWNER OF INSTANT NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE  
PLYMOUTH. SET FORTH LEAD TO HAVE OWNER INTERVIEWED TO  
DETERMINE WHO HAS FLORIDA LICENSE THREE E FIVE SIX FOUR  
THREE. THEREAFTER, CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

TO DETERMINE IF THIS MAN IS IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CND

FBI TAMPA

X

4/27/68

PLAIN

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC NEWARK (44-854)  
FROM: SAC TAMPA (157-3231) (P)  
MURKIN, CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE NEWARK TEL APR. TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT.

ON APR. TWENTYSEVEN INSTANT, J. RALPH CAMERO, OWNER,  
C & R AUTO SALES, FOUR THREE ONE SIX FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA,  
ADVISED DID NOT PURCHASE SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH FURY FROM AUTOMOTIVE  
RENTALS, INC., AND EXHIBITED RECORDS FOR CARS PURCHASED FROM  
DEC. ONE LAST AND NO RECORD LOCATED OF INSTANT PLYMOUTH.

HENRY ERWIN, JR., THREE ZERO NINE BEN AVON DR., TEMPLE  
TERRACE, FLA., ADVISED AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC., PURCHASED  
A SIXTYEIGHT GALAXIE FIVE HUNDRED WHICH HE PICKED UP AT  
BILL CURRIE FORD, INC., FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA, FLA. IN DEC.  
SIXTYSEVEN. STATES HE TURNED OVER THE SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH  
STATION WAGON TO BILL CURRIE FORD AT TIME HE PICKED UP NEW  
VEHICLE. STATED AT TIME HE OFFERED TO BUY INSTANT STATION

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM) (Enc. 1)  
1 - Savannah (AM)  
1 - Tampa  
JJG:nh  
(3)

44-1987-Sub E-759A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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NEW YORK	

Bayle RB

(157-3231)

(PAGE TWO)

WAGON FROM CURRIE FORD FOR ONE THOUS DOL BUT WAS LATER INFORMED SAME WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS INSTANT VEHICLE HAD BEEN SOLD FOR ELEVEN HUND DOL.

STEVE KOVACH, SALES MGR, CURRIE FORD, ADVISED SIXTYEIGHT GALAXIE FIVE HUNDRED, ID NO. EIGHT N FIVE EIGHT ONE ONE ONE FOUR THREE FOUR HANDLED UNDER BILL CURRIE FORD, INC. SERVICE ORDER NO. TWO SEVEN SEVEN FIVE FOUR, DATED DEC. EIGHTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN, FOR RICE AND HOLMAN SALES AND SERVICE, UNION AVE. AND MOORESTOWN PIKE, PENNSAUKEN, N.J. STATES RECORDS REVEAL INSTANT GALAXIE TURNED OVER TO HENRY ERWIN AND THAT HE LEFT A SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH FURY, ID NO. P TWO FIVE TWO TWO SIX SEVEN SIX ZERO EIGHT, HOWEVER RECORDS DO NOT SHOW DISPOSITION OF INSTANT VEHICLE. STATES THIS IS NORMAL PROCEDURE IN HANDLING OF FLEET AUTOS FOR OTHER DEALERS. STATES HE BELIEVES HE RECALLS INSTANT PLYMOUTH STATION WAGON AND THAT SAME WAS SOLD TO A DEALER FROM GA., BUT HAS NO RECORD TO VERIFY SAME. STATES THAT RICE AND HOLMAN WOULD HAVE TO HAVE RECORD OF INSTANT PLYMOUTH TO



(157-3231)

(PAGE THREE)

COMPLETE SALES TRANSACTION WITH AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC.

JIM CORBETT, FLEET SALES MGR., BILL CURRIE, FORD,  
TAMPA, UNABLE TO BE LOCATED TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE HAS  
ANY RECOLLECTION OF INSTANT VEHICLE OR NOT.

NEWARK DIV AT PENNSAUKEN, N.J. WILL CONTACT RICE AND  
HOLMAN SALES AND SERVICE, TO ASCERTAIN FROM WHOM THEY  
RECEIVED REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SIXTYFIVE  
PLYMOUTH TURNED IN BY ERWIN.

IF RICE AND HOLMAN UNABLE TO FURNISH FROM WHOM PAYMENT  
RECEIVED, THEN AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC. SHOULD BE RECONTACTED  
FOR SOURCE OF PAYMENT ON INSTANT PLYMOUTH.

AIRMAIL COPIES BEING FURNISHED SAVANNAH AND MEMPHIS  
AND ALSO COPY OF RE NEWARK TELETYPE BEING FURNISHED MEMPHIS.

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND JACKSONVILLE (44-769)  
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN.

RE NEWARK TEL TO TAMPA AND SAVANNAH APRIL TWENTYSEVEN LAST,  
AND NEWARK TEL TO TAMPA APRIL TWENTY NINE LAST.

RE: NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN OR NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT BROWN PLYMOUTH  
BEARING FLORIDA LICENSE THREE E FIVE SIX FOUR THREE SEEN  
BY MAN IN SAVANNAH, GA., APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST BEING DRIVEN  
BY MAN DESCRIBED AS RESEMBLING JAMES EARL RAY.

AFTER EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY TAMPA OFFICE TO TRACE VEHICLE  
ON MAY TWO INSTANT, MISS. ANN LIBERTY, SECRETARY AT JIMMY SPEARS  
CENTRAL FLORIDA AUTO AUCTION, AKA. ORLANDO AUTO AUCTION, ORLANDO,  
FLA., ADVISED NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH, VIN F TWO FIVE TWO  
TWO SIX SEVEN SIX NAUGHT EIGHT WAS SOLD JANUARY SIXTEEN, SIXTY  
EIGHT TO WADE PHILLIPS, PHILLIPS BROTHERS, PALATKA, FLA. AUCTION  
AT ORLANDO HAD NO RECORD OF ANY FLORIDA LICENSE TAG ON VEHICLE.

JACKSONVILLE AT PALATKA DETERMINE FROM PHILLIPS BROTHERS TO  
WHOM SOLD CAR AND CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE  
OWNER AND IF THIS MAN IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO BH, NH, (ME) AND SV.  
ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Ser

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 4 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<u>[Signature]</u> 1013	

4/27/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO LOUISVILLE (44-947)  
FROM CLEVELAND (44-565)  
MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE LOUISVILLE TEL TO CLEVELAND, APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST.

ON APRIL TWENTYSEVEN INSTANT, MR. DUTCH FOLK, DUTCH FOLK, INC., THREE SEVEN ZERO W. MARKET ST., AKRON, OHIO, AGENT FOR VEHICLES TRANSPORTATION, MAIN OFFICE, NYC, ADVISED SIXTYEIGHT FORD GALAXIE, VIN EIGHT W FIVE SIX F ONE THREE EIGHT THREE NINE ONE, WAS LEASED FROM VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION BY SANDOZ PHARMACEUTICALS, DIVISION OF SANDOZ, INC. OF NEW JERSEY, RT. TEN, HANOVER, NEW JERSEY. AT TIME LEASE WAS SIGNED, SANDOZ PHARMACEUTICALS REQUESTED VEHICLE BE DELIVERED DIRECT TO MR. JAMES LITTY, THREE SEVEN FIVE ZERO RAMONA DRIVE, PADUCHA, KENTUCKY, THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN THAT AREA. CAR DELIVERED BY FOLK AGENCY TO PADUCHA ADDRESS END OF JAN. SIXTYEIGHT.

LOUISVILLE HANDLE.

AIRMAIL COPY FURNISHED MEMPHIS.

END.  
RGP/mls  
(2)

1 - Memphis (AM)

44-1987-Sub E-768

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI LOUISVLE

11:44 AM 4-29-68 URGENT BAW  
TO MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM LOUISVILLE (44-947) 1P

MURKIN, CR, OO: MEMPHIS.

RE LOUISVILLE TEL APR. TWENTYSIX LAST AND MEMPHIS TEL  
APR. TWENTYSEVEN LAST.

RECORDS, MU, PADUCAH, KY., REVEAL LAST CONTACT WITH GEORGE  
E. WILSON ON AUG. TWENTYNINE, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, AND GAVE  
ADDRESS OF ONE THREE SIX THREE WHITE WATER RD., MEMPHIS. WILSON'S  
EMPLOYMENT UNKNOWN.

INDIVIDUAL RESEMBLING SUBJECT SEEN AT HARRISON'S RESTAURANT,  
METROPOLIS, ILL. APR. TWENTY-FIVE LAST. DETERMINED TO BE JAMES  
LITTY, SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR SANDOZ PHARMACEUTICAL WHO WAS  
ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND SANDOZ REGIONAL MANAGER, JAMES SHAMAHAN,  
ST. LOUIS, MO. LITTY RESIDES PADUCAH, KY.

AM COPY SENT SPRINGFIELD. P. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

TU

44-1987-Sub E-761

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayle GB

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) -P-

FROM : SA HARLEY E. GYLFE

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

DATE: 6/7/68

RE: GEORGE EDWARD WILSON - SUSPECT

Re IP tel to ME, 4/17/68 and memo from SA GYLFE to SAC, ME, 4/29/68.

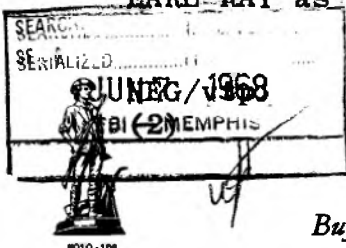
Referenced teletype concerns a letter received in Indianapolis indicating that ED WILSON of Memphis, Tenn., previously worked in Excelsior, Minnesota, returned to Memphis two years ago and presently works on a ship on the Mississippi River. The day of KING's death a JEROME JOHNSON of Excelsior, and a former partner of ED WILSON was overheard telling his mother "I'll bet ED did that."

GEORGE EDWARD WILSON, 1363 Whitewater Road, Memphis, Tennessee, personally appeared at the Memphis Office on 5/28/68. He advised that he works on the Mississippi River as a deck hand and returned to Memphis on 5/26/68. He stated he has been employed mainly by the Union Barge Lines out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during the past few years. Mr. WILSON said he has been employed on the Mississippi River and some other inland waterways for about the last twelve years.

He explained he works generally for 30 or 40 days before he has about an equal amount of time off.

Mr. WILSON said he was not working on 4/4/68, but was visiting a friend in Memphis when he heard that MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. had been murdered. He said since the curfew was instituted on 4/4/68, he had difficulty returning to his residence and decided on 4/5/68 to visit a friend in Jackson, Tennessee. He said he returned to Memphis on 4/8/68 and shortly thereafter went to work.

Mr. WILSON said he had seen photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as published in the local papers. He said he does



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

ME 44-1987

not recall ever meeting anyone on any of the boats in the Mississippi River that resembled photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

Mr. WILSON advised he has no knowledge whatsoever concerning the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. other than the information he has obtained by reading various newspapers and magazines.

Mr. WILSON furnished the following description of himself:

Name	EDWARD GEORGE WILSON
Also Known As	ED WILSON
Address	1363 Whitewater Road Memphis, Tennessee
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of birth	Humphrey, Arkansas
Height	5'10"
Weight	165
Hair	Blond with a slight wave
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Fair with light freckles
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Deck hand
Employer	Union Barge Lines Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Inasmuch as WILSON's physical description is not similar to that of JAMES EARL RAY and he does not resemble JAMES EARL RAY's photographs in any way, no further investigation is being conducted in the Memphis Division concerning GEORGE EDWARD WILSON.

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI-HOUSTON

1159AM URGENT 4-29-68 LX3

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND SAN DIEGO  
FROM HOUSTON (44-1509) 2P

MURKIN; CR.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

*Boyle BB*

RE SUSPECT, EARL RAY, RAY EARL, WARREN RAY,  
RAY WARREN.

ON TODAY, A. E. "KIT" BROWN, GEN.  
DEL., HAMPSHIRE, TEX. ADVISED EX-WIFE'S NAME IS DORIS  
DEAN JONES NEE SCHULTZ, AKA., DORIS DEAN BROWN AND PRESENTLY  
RESIDES ONE ZERO SEVEN ZERO SEVEN JAMIACA BLVD., SPACE  
TWO FOUR SIX, SWEETWATER LODGE, SPRING VALLEY, CALIF.  
BROWN ADVISED BASIS FOR DIVORCE FROM WIFE IN ONE NINE SIX  
ZERO WAS FINDING LETTER IN WIFE'S PURSE FROM AN EARL RAY OR  
RAY EARL OR WARREN RAY OR RAY WARREN WHO AT TIME WAS IN STATE  
PRISON AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO. IN LETTER WAS PHOTO AND BROWN  
STATES WITH EXCEPTION OF HAVING MORE HAIR IT CLOSELY  
RESEMBLED THE NINETEEN SIXTY PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY. WIFE  
WHEN CONFRONTED SAID PERSON WRITING LETTER WAS IN JAIL ON  
ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE BUT WAS FRAMED AND IF HE EVER NEEDED HELP  
SHE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM. BROWN KNEW LITTLE ABOUT WIFE'S  
END PAGE ONE

*44-1987-Sub E-762*



PAGE TWO

HO 44-1509

FAST BEFORE MARRIAGE IN NINETEEN FIFTY NINE BUT DID KNOW  
SHE WAS EMPLOYED AS WAITRESS IN ST. LOUIS, MO. FROM NINETEEN  
FIFTY SIX TO NINETEEN FIFTY EIGHT. WIFE LAST IN AREA  
APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AGO FOR FUNERAL OF HUSBAND WILLIAM  
L. JONES WHO WAS IN U. S. NAVY.

LEAD: SAN DIEGO AT SPRING VALLEY, CALIF. INTERVIEW  
DORIS DEAN JONES TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF PERSON REFERRED  
TO BY HUSBAND. BROWN REQUESTS SOURCE OF INFO NOT BE DISCLOSED  
TO WIFE.

END

SAB

FBI MEMPHIS

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4/29/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
SAC, KANSAS CITY  
SAC, ST. LOUIS  
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (44-387)

MURKIN.

REFERENCE HOUSTON TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND  
SAN DIEGO APRIL TWENTY NINE, CURRENT. *Sub E - 762*

RE SUSPECT EARL RAY, RAY EARL, WARREN RAY, AND RAY  
WARREN.

REFERENCED TELETYPE AS FOLLOWS:

"ON TODAY, A. E. "KIT" BROWN, GEN. DEL., HAMPSHIRE,  
TEX. ADVISED EX-WIFE'S NAME IS DORIS DEAN JONES NEE SCHULTZ,  
AKA., DORIS DEAN BROWN AND PRESENTLY RESIDES ONE ZERO SEVEN  
ZERO SEVEN JAMIACA BLVD., SPACE TWO FOUR SIX, SWEETWATER LODGE,  
SPRING VALLEY, CALIF. BROWN ADVISED BASIS FOR DIVORCE FROM  
WIFE IN ONE NINE SIX ZERO WAS FINDING LETTER IN WIFE'S PURSE

44-387

- 1 - Memphis (AM)
- 1 - Houston

AWO:ejt  
(3)

*44-1987-Sub E-762A*

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*Boyle RB*

SD 44-387

PAGE TWO

FROM AN EARL RAY OR RAY EARL OR WARREN RAY OR RAY WARREN WHO AT TIME WAS IN STATE PRISON AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO. IN LETTER WAS PHOTO AND BROWN STATES WITH EXCEPTION OF HAVING MORE HAIR IT CLOSELY RESEMBLED THE NINETEEN SIXTY PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY. WIFE WHEN CONFRONTED SAID PERSON WRITING LETTER WAS IN JAIL ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE BUT WAS FRAMED AND IF HE EVER NEEDED HELP SHE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM. BROWN KNEW LITTLE ABOUT WIFE'S PAST BEFORE MARRIAGE IN NINETEEN FIFTY NINE BUT DID KNOW SHE WAS EMPLOYED AS WAITRESS IN ST. LOUIS, MO. FROM NINETEEN FIFTY SIX TO NINETEEN FIFTY EIGHT. WIFE LAST IN AREA APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AGO FOR FUNERAL OF HUSBAND WILLIAM L. JONES WHO WAS IN U. S. NAVY."

"LEAD: SAN DIEGO AT SPRING VALLEY, CALIF. INTERVIEW DORIS DEAN JONES TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF PERSON REFERRED TO BY HUSBAND. BROWN REQUESTS SOURCE OF INFO NOT BE DISCLOSED TO WIFE."

SD 44-387

PAGE THREE

DORIS DEAN JONES INTERVIEWED AT SAN DIEGO. ADVISED SHE FORMERLY KNEW A RAY EUGENE WARREN WHO WOULD NOW BE THIRTY EIGHT TO THIRTY NINE YEARS OF AGE, WHITE MALE, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY POUNDS, DARK BROWN WAVY HAIR, BLUE EYES AND HAS NUMEROUS TATTOOS, INCLUDING TATTOO OF ROSE ON BACK OF ONE HAND; "RAY" ON ONE HAND; THE WORD "LOVE" ON THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND; AND A "PACHUCO" TYPE CROSS ON RIGHT HAND.

MRS. JONES ADVISED RAY EUGENE WARREN DURING NINETEEN FIFTY FOUR OR NINETEEN FIFTY FIVE INCARCERATED AT ST. LOUIS CITY JAIL FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR PRIOR TO BEING SENTENCED TO A THIRTY YEAR SENTENCE AT STATE PRISON, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI. MRS. JONES ADVISED IT IS HER OPINION THAT RAY EUGENE WARREN IS NOT IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY AS NONE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY DISPLAYED TO HER APPEARED TO BE IDENTICAL WITH RAY EUGENE WARREN.

ST. LOUIS. CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AT CITY JAIL TO FURTHER IDENTIFY AND ELIMINATE RAY EUGENE WARREN.

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PAGE FOUR

KANSAS CITY. AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, CONDUCT  
APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION STATE PRISON, JEFFERSON CITY,  
MISSOURI, REGARDING RAY EUGENE WARREN TO ELIMINATE.

AIRMAIL COPY SENT TO MEMPHIS AND HOUSTON.

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI PHOENIX

513 PM URGENT 4/29/68 DLN

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987), KANSAS CITY (44-760),

EL PASO

FROM PHOENIX (44-371) 1P

MURKIN.

RE KANSAS CITY TEL TO BUREAU, ET AL, APRIL TWENTYNINE,  
INSTANT.

FCI, FLORENCE, ARIZONA, PHASED OUT JUNE, NINETEEN-  
SIXTYSEVEN RECORDS SENT TO FCI, BOX ONE THOUSAND, LA TUNA,  
ANTHONY, NEW MEXICO - TEXAS.

EL PASO CHECK RECORDS AT LA TUNA FOR J. R. KELLER.  
LEAVENWORTH PRISON NO. SEVEN TWO SIX ONE FOUR DASH L, AS  
HE WAS REPORTEDLY ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT AT LEAVENWORTH.

INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE KELLER AT PRESENT  
TIME. NO RECORD OF KELLER EXISTS AT FCI, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

PENDING.

ENDTSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI MEMPHIS

1-52 PM 5-1-68 URGENT JPM

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) & SAC'S DENVER, LOS ANGELES & MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM EL PASO (157-186) "P"

MURKIN.

RE J. R. KELLER, REPORTED ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT RAY AT LEAVEN-  
WORTH.

RE PHOENIX TEL, APRIL TWENTY-NINE, LAST, WHICH STATES:

FCI, FLORENCE, ARIZONA, PHASED OUT JUNE, NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN  
RECORDS SENT TO FCI, BOX ONE THOUSAND, LA TUNA, ANTHONY, NEW MEXICO,  
TEXAS.

EL PASO CHECK RECORDS AT LA TUNA FOR J. R. KELLER, LEAVENWORTH  
PRISON NO. SEVEN TWO SIX ONE FOUR DASH L, AS HE WAS REPORTEDLY  
ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT AT LEAVENWORTH.

INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE KELLER AT PRESENT TIME.  
NO RECORD OF KELLER EXISTS AT FCI, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

W. R. BEASLEY, SUPERVISOR, LA TUNA, FCI, ANTHONY, TEXAS, ADVISED  
APRIL THIRTY, LAST, THAT TWO INDIVIDUALS BY NAME OF JOHN R.  
KELLER HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM FLORENCE IN PAST AND DID NOT KNOW  
WHICH ONE WAS IDENTICAL WITH J. R. KELLER WITH ABOVE-MENTIONED  
END PAGE ONE

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Boyle RB