

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537



REPORT

of the

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 44-2386
FBI FILE NO. 44-38861
LATENT CASE NO. 91075

April 19, 1968

To: SAC, Atlanta

RE: MURKIN

REFERENCE: Letter 4-15-68

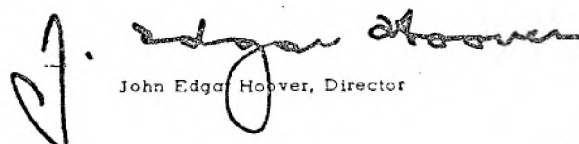
EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Atlanta

SPECIMENS: Portable TV and numerous items from storage
room in Rooming House at 113 Fourteenth Street,
Atlanta, Georgia, Q174 through Q200, and Q203

Six latent fingerprints and one latent impression, which may be a fingerprint, impression of lower joint of a finger, or partial palm print, were developed on map of Mexico, Q194. No other latent impressions of value found or developed.

One of the latent fingerprints on the map is identical with the latent fingerprint previously reported on the rifle, Q2, and with the latent fingerprint previously reported on binoculars, Q14. Other latent prints on the map compared with latent prints previously reported in this case, but no identification effected.

15


John Edgar Hoover, Director

SAC, Atlanta

April 19, 1968

Results of laboratory examination and disposition
of specimens subject of separate report.

This report confirms and supplements Butel of
4-17-68.

AT 44-2386

II. PRESENCE OF SUBJECT IN ATLANTA

AT 44-2386

A. Reinterviews Of Landlord

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 30, 1968

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at his place of employment, The Vista Cafeteria, 1052 Northside Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

At the outset of the interview, GARNER acknowledged that he had been on a prolonged "drunk" since about Friday, April 19, 1968, and was at the time of the interview in the throes of a "terrific hangover." GARNER explained that he has had a continual drinking problem for the past few years in that he has from time to time "gone on drinking sprees" for periods lasting several days in duration.

GARNER at this time acknowledged that he was previously on one of his "drunks" from a period beginning about March 22, 1968 through about March 30, 1968 which included the first week that the man known to him as ERIC S. GALT resided at the rooming house operated by GARNER at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

GARNER said that despite his being in the throes of a "hangover" resulting from his most recent drinking binge, he now felt able to again recount his recollections of his contacts with "GALT". GARNER provided the following information:

GARNER began drinking in his room at 107 - 14th Street about Friday, March 22, 1968. On Sunday afternoon, before darkness (exact time unknown but possibly between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.) the man whom he later knew as ERIC S. GALT appeared at GARNER's door. GARNER said he now believes the door to his room was open, and that he (GARNER) was sitting in a chair in his room in a drunken condition. GARNER recalls that "GALT" inquired regarding obtaining a single room. At the time the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. had been closed for sometime possibly three or four weeks. This rooming house had been closed because it had become "infested with 'hippies'" and the

On 4/29/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SAs JOHN E. OGDEN and
O. RICHARD HAMILTON JEO: hjm Date dictated 4/30/68

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

AT 44-2386

JEO:hjm

2

only way he could get them to move from the rooming house was to close it up. When "GALT" asked for a single room, there was no single room available in the rooming house at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. so he decided to put "GALT" in the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. Accordingly, "GALT" was the first roomer in this rooming house for several weeks.

GARNER now recalls that "GALT" produced a partly consumed quart or fifth size bottle of vodka. This bottle was square in shape but the brand name could not be recalled. He believes he may have had a drink with "GALT" in his (GARNER's) room at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. after which he accompanied "GALT" to the rooming house next door where he showed "GALT" room number 2. When "GALT" stated that the room was quite small, GARNER opened the door connecting with room number 4 which is utilized normally as a storage room and which has no windows. GARNER told "GALT" he could use the connecting room and at this time there was some mention made that "GALT" would put his television set on the desk in room number 4 as well as other articles belonging to "GALT". GARNER recalls that the connecting door is equipped with a hasp and padlock and that he (GARNER) upon unlocking and opening this door, replaced the padlock (unlocked) on the hasp. GARNER said he did not see the television or other items belonging to "GALT" at this time and has no clear recollection of ever seeing any of "GALT's" possession prior to "GALT's" departure from this address.

GARNER also recalls that "GALT" left the partly consumed bottle of vodka with GARNER and that after showing "GALT" to his room, GARNER returned to 107 - 14th Street, N.E. where he continued to drink.

He said the vodka bottle was undoubtedly thrown away in the trash.

GARNER states that he is unable to recall any of the conversations he may have had with "GALT." When specifically asked whether "GALT" had stated how he happened to pick this particular rooming house; where he had come from; whether he had made inquiries about places to eat, laundry and drycleaning facilities or service to his automobile, GARNER said he cannot recall any conversation concerning these or similar matters.

AT 44-2386

JEO:hjm

3

He reiterated that his contact with "GALT" on this occasion is very hazy because of his intoxicated condition.

At this point, GARNER stated that information previously provided to Agents concerning having obtained "GALT's" name at the time of initial contact was probably erroneous because he now recalls that he did not have "GALT" write his name at this time but that this was done a week later on March 31, 1968, when "GALT" paid GARNER for a second week's rent in advance.

GARNER said that he continued his drinking activities on through the week of March 24, 1968 and did not begin to sober up until the following weekend. He cannot clearly recall any of his actions during this week but has a hazy recollection of going to "GALT's" room at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. about Tuesday night and of again having some drinks with "GALT" in this room. He states that he cannot recall any of the conversations with "GALT" at this time and he does not recall observing any of the items that might have been in room number 2. He does not recall why he happened to go to the room but suspected that he may have been "checking the building" and just dropped in to visit with "GALT" when he discovered he was in the room. He believes this was Tuesday night, March 26, 1968, but is not sure of this.

GARNER also stated that sometime during the first week possibly on Wednesday, he recalls walking across the street from his residence to Postal Sub Station C for the purpose of buying some envelopes. He said that he was still in a drunken condition but hazily recalls encountering a young man approximately 20 years of age in front of the Post Office who addressed GARNER by name. This unknown individual asked GARNER a question to the effect "Who was the man I saw you with last night in the white Mustang?" GARNER said this suggested to him that he had possibly gone with "GALT" somewhere in "GALT's" automobile while he (GARNER) was dead drunk but although he has tried to recall such an incident, he cannot recall ever being in "GALT's" car. GARNER was specifically questioned at this point as to whether he has any friends or acquaintances residing in the vicinity of Highland View Street, Ponce de Leon Terrace and Barnett Street, N.E. GARNER said that he did not know anyone in that neighborhood and cannot recall having visited that neighborhood on any occasion in the recent past.

Several efforts were made to encourage GARNER to recall additional information concerning the unknown man who questioned him concerning being in the white Mustang, but he repeatedly stated that he just does not know this person but that it is possibly someone who has been a patron at one of the restaurants which GARNER has operated in the past.

GARNER recalls no further contact with "GALT" until Sunday, March 31, 1968. At this time GARNER had "begun to sober up" and went to the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. to check the rooms. He said he does this frequently to be sure that the "hippies" have not again invaded these premises. On this occasion, he encountered "GALT" in the hall. At this time, "GALT" said "he might as well pay him for another week." GARNER said that he did not enter "GALT's" room at this time but picked up an envelope which was lying on the table in the hall and it was at this time he had "GALT" print his name thereon with the view of transferring the name to his permanent records when GARNER returned to his own room. GARNER said he knows he was paid in cash but does not recall the denomination of the bills or any further conversation with "GALT" at this time.

GARNER said that he remained in a sober condition from March 31 until the beginning of his most recent drinking spree on April 19, 1968. He is, accordingly, sure that he did not see "GALT" again after he was paid on Sunday, March 31, 1968. He said he may have seen "GALT's" automobile parked in the rear of 113 - 14th Street, N.E. at various times during the week, but could not be positive and does not recall any specific dates. He noted that he does not recall ever seeing "GALT's" car parked in the parking lot behind the rooming house when GARNER returned from his restaurant to 14th Street about 4:00 p.m. He said that when and if he saw the car, it is his best recollection that it would have been during the early morning hours when he left to go to the restaurant or possibly late in the evening. He stated he retains the impression that "GALT" left the rooming house sometime in the morning and would not return until quite late in the evening. He conceded that it is possible that the car may have been absent from the rooming house for periods of two or three days while "GALT" was a tenant there.

GARNER related that on Friday, April 5, 1968, he went to his restaurant at 1052 Northside Drive, N.W. about 5:30 in the morning. He remained at that restaurant until about 10:00 a.m. at which time he returned to the rooming houses on 14th Street for the purpose of getting the linen ready to be picked up by an employee of the Atlanta Linen Company which performs the laundry services for GARNER. GARNER stated that when help is available, he usually takes one of the female employees from the restaurant when he goes to the rooming houses on Friday to change the linen. He recalled, however, that on Friday, April 5, 1968, he was "short of help" at the restaurant and, accordingly, went alone to get the linen. He believes he could have arrived at the rooming house between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. at which time the driver for the Atlanta Linen Company was waiting for him. GARNER said he went to all of the occupied rooms and took the linen from the beds. Upon entering room number 2 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., he observed that the bed was made up but from the appearance of the bed it looked as though someone had been lying on top of the spread. He found on top of the bed a note possibly written on a piece of cardboard of the type placed in shirts by the laundry. This note was apparently from "GALT" and although he cannot recall the exact wording, stated something to the effect that "GALT" had to go to Birmingham and would return in about a week to pick up his television and/or property. GARNER said he tossed the note in the waste can in the room and obtained the linen from the bed which he turned over to the employee of the Atlanta Linen Company.

While in the room, he observed that the door connecting room number 2 and the adjacent storage room had been locked but he did not enter the room at this time to determine what property had been left there by "GALT". Sometime later, he did enter the room and noted that a television set was in the room along with miscellaneous items which he cannot specifically recall that were lying on the desk in the room.

GARNER said that he has not received any word or communication from "GALT" concerning the property left there. He cannot recall seeing "GALT" talk to any of the other roomers at either of the rooming houses and knows nothing concerning any of "GALT's" activities while he resided at this address. He is certain that "GALT" did not mention having been referred to this rooming house by anyone and feels that he would have recalled this even though he was in an intoxicated condition during a great portion of the time "GALT" resided there.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/7/68

1

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E.,
Atlanta, was interviewed at his place of business, 1052
Northside Drive, N.W.

GARNER specifically was asked regarding any discussions he may recall with the man whom he knew as ERIC S. GALT concerning drugs and/or narcotics. GARNER replied that he could recall no conversation with "GALT" concerning these matters and can recall nothing to indicate GALT was using drugs or narcotics.

GARNER also was asked specifically whether he recalled any conversation with "GALT" concerning racial matters. GARNER said he cannot recall any such conversation.

GARNER reiterated information previously furnished that the only conversation with GALT was the one on March 31, 1968, at which time he was paid for an additional week's rent. He again stated he is positive he did not encounter "GALT" at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., on Friday, April 5, 1968, when he GARNER, went to that address to remove the dirty linens to be given to the laundry man.

GARNER said PERRY LEE ZACKERY, the cook at Garner's Cafeteria, and another employee at the cafeteria, went to the rooming houses on 14th Street on the afternoon of April 5, 1968, to make up the beds. He cannot recall the identity of the woman who accompanied ZACKERY, but knows only it was a Negro female whom he had picked up to work in the restaurant as a dishwasher. He noted that during the past several weeks, he has had numerous different women working at the restaurant, and cannot specifically recall which one was working on April 5, 1968. He suggested that EDNA JACKSON, who resides at 646 Whitaker Street, might have been the woman who accompanied PERRY ZACKERY to clean the rooming houses on April 5, 1968.

24

On 5/1/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA JOHN E. OGDEN:lcc Date dictated 5/3/68

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 9, 1968

JIMMY GARNER, 107 14th Street, Northeast, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which he was wearing a suit, white shirt, and fore-in-hand tie. He stated this is the best likeness he has seen to date of RAY and stated, "If not him, it's his twin brother."

GARNER stated he has continued to try to recall additional information concerning RAY and his brief stay at 113 14th Street, Northeast; however, he has been unable to recall any additional information.

25

On 5/6/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA ROBERT R. PERRY :bjc Date dictated 5/7/68

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

AT 44-2386

B. Use Of Laundry

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 9, 1968

✓
Mrs. ESTELLE PETERS, Piedmont Laundry, 1168 Peachtree Street, Northeast, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which he is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and fore-in-hand tie. She stated she believes the photograph of RAY in which he was wearing a bowtie is a better likeness, however, stated the more recent photograph in which he is wearing a fore-in-hand tie looks older and the eyes and nose appear very similar.

She stated she has been unable to recall any additional information concerning the individual whom she knew as ERIC S. GALT.

27

On 5/7/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA ROBERT R. PERRY :bjc Date dictated 5/7/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to

AT 44-2386

III. INTERVIEWS OF FORMER JAIL MATES OF THE SUBJECT

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

1

On April 24, 1968, SAs JAMES RICHARD FLICK, ✓ JOSEPH G. SHEA, and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN interviewed LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA, an inmate at the Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia. DOWDA advised he was formerly incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He stated while at the Missouri State Prison, he was acquainted for approximately three years with JAMES EARL RAY, a fellow inmate. DOWDA advised he was released from the Missouri State Prison on December 23, 1966, and JAMES EARL RAY was still incarcerated. He stated he had been the chief cook at the Missouri State Prison and RAY worked as a bread slicer.

DOWDA advised RAY was the type person the other inmates did not "mess with." He described RAY as a "loner" who usually initiated the conversation if he wanted to talk to anyone. He stated that RAY spoke in a mild, low tone and when angry would speak even softer. He stated he had never known RAY to become excited and shout. To his knowledge, he has never known RAY to smoke. He stated RAY had a fair complexion, which was blotchy, having pimples around the lower portion of his face. He stated RAY had a rash on the right side of his head during the entire time he had known RAY and RAY would scratch this rash. He stated this rash was very noticeable due to the type of haircut in the Penitentiary and RAY put some type of salve on this rash. He stated RAY's hair was lightly streaked with gray. He advised the only scar he can recall which RAY had was a large burn scar on his forearm, side unrecalled. He stated this scar was located near the wrist. He stated RAY had dingy teeth.

DOWDA advised RAY always talked about "running around" in St. Louis, Missouri. He normally talked about two girl friends, one of these he had met at the Gaslight

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

2

(a bar) located in either St. Louis or Kansas City. DOWDA stated the other girl was a girl RAY had met around the college at Columbia, Missouri, and it was his impression this girl had worked in a tavern there.

DOWDA advised RAY, while in prison, wore a ring on his left hand which was made at the Penitentiary, having been made from white metal with raised initials. He stated RAY never smiled, but when he smiled, it looked like a smirk. He advised RAY was clean and not sloppy in his dress. He described RAY as an avid reader and considered RAY to be intelligent. He advised RAY participated in softball games as a pitcher and would watch all of the baseball games at the Penitentiary, however, he had never heard RAY speak of professional baseball.

DOWDA stated that some time in 1966, a group of Black Muslims had petitioned for the right to have their own religious services. He stated the Muslims would congregate in groups and that a subsequent search of the Negro prisoners had uncovered a large cache of weapons. DOWDA stated the white prisoners then armed themselves and there was a riot at the prison. DOWDA stated three Negro prisoners were killed. DOWDA stated he would not say RAY had knifed these Negro prisoners, but did say that if RAY had not knifed them, he definitely knew who had killed them.

DOWDA stated RAY definitely was a racist and hated Negroes. He stated RAY had made the statement and firmly believed that all the Negro prisoners inside the Penitentiary should be killed. He stated RAY had on several occasions made the statement that if the price were right, he would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DOWDA stated he does not recall ever hearing anything which would indicate a "contract" was out for the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

3

DOWDA advised he would not be surprised if JAMES EARL RAY was the murderer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, however, he does not believe RAY would have killed KING without being paid for it.

DOWDA stated approximately four months before he, DOWDA, was released RAY had attempted to escape from the Missouri State Prison by going out of the prison behind the ovens in the prison bakery. He stated RAY was apprehended and RAY had broken his arm in this escape attempt. He stated RAY had talked about escaping from the Penitentiary prior to this. DOWDA advised he does not believe RAY returned from maximum security confinement prior to DOWDA's release from prison.

DOWDA stated while in prison, RAY was particularly interested in Western music. He stated he does not recall RAY ever mentioning anything about dancing. He stated that during this period a number of orchestras from the Lake of the Ozarks had played at the State Prison and RAY would never miss these performances. He stated RAY often talked about planning to go to the Lake of the Ozarks when he got out of prison. DOWDA stated he would have no idea who RAY would contact at the Lake of the Ozarks, but stated if he were to look for RAY there, he would first find out who was selling dope and through this person, locate RAY. He stated RAY had talked about being on dope prior to being in the Missouri State Prison. He advised RAY had to have an outside source of income while in prison inasmuch as RAY's dope habit was costing RAY \$35 to \$40 a week for shots and RAY appeared to be well fixed, never wanting for anything.

DOWDA estimated RAY spent \$15 to \$20 a week for personal conveniences. He stated RAY, while in prison,

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

4

used amphetamine, taking the shot in the "main line." He stated RAY would take two to three shots a day. He stated RAY never lacked for money, but had no idea of RAY's source of income. DOWDA stated he is certain RAY was not selling amphetamine to other prisoners, stating he has known RAY to give free amphetamine to prisoners who needed a shot. DOWDA denied that he himself had ever taken any shots, but admitted he has taken pills. DOWDA claimed he and RAY were not engaged in the sale of amphetamine at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA stated that HAROLD SCHAEFER, Guard on the gate in the kitchen of the Missouri State Prison, was very close to JAMES EARL RAY and it was DOWDA's understanding that SCHAEFER was RAY's source of amphetamine. He stated BENJAMIN O. GOODIN was a civilian in charge of the kitchen and he is certain GOODIN was not connected in any way with the bringing of amphetamine into the prison. He stated while GOODIN was friendly with RAY, he understands it was GOODIN who had disclosed RAY's hiding place when RAY had attempted to escape in 1966.

DOWDA advised one NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was RAY's closest friend in the Missouri State Prison and was responsible for bringing RAY into the kitchen. He stated ABBY at this time was chief cook at the prison. He believes ABBY was serving time for breaking into a drug store and he does know that dope was connected with ABBY's offense. He stated ABBY had a detainer on him as he was an escapee from the State of Texas. DOWDA does not know whether or not ABBY is presently in custody but does not believe he is presently in the Missouri State Prison.

He stated RAY had another friend, one DONALD DEAN RIGGER. He stated RIGGER was from California and RIGGER's wife was a psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital, which

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

5

is located north of San Francisco, California.

DOWDA advised that RAY and other inmates that might have DOWDA's address would have a Route 1, Sanford, Florida, address, and would not know that he is presently in Marietta, Georgia. He stated his father, STEVEN C. DOWDA, presently resides at 110 South Chandler Street, Deland, Florida, and that anyone inquiring for him at Sanford, Florida, would be sent to Deland, Florida. DOWDA claims he has not been contacted by RAY and has heard nothing to indicate RAY has attempted to contact him. He stated RAY had talked about traveling over all the United States, but had never mentioned anything which would indicate RAY was associated with anyone in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. DOWDA stated the only other prisoner he knew who was from the State of Georgia, who was an inmate at the Missouri State Prison was one JERRY WHITE from Calhoun, Georgia. He advised WHITE had a Federal detainer against him and believes WHITE is still incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA advised he had made a trip to California in November of 1967, and that he and his wife had spent Thanksgiving Day visiting her uncle, BOB GRAHAM, who resides at Palos Verdes, California. He stated GRAHAM is Regional Manager for IBM in that area. He stated that he and his wife had stopped at Jefferson City and while there, contacted a Missouri State Prison guard, Mr. "PETE" PETRIE. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning RAY and was not aware that RAY had escaped. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning inmates inasmuch as his wife did not know he was a former inmate of the Missouri State Prison. He stated he had stopped in the Kansas City, Missouri, area and attempted to locate PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., who had been in the Missouri State Prison as PAUL ALVIN CARTER. He stated LAIL had been released approximately a year before he had and that they had agreed to attempt to get together

AT 44-2386

JTB:bjc

6

after their release from prison. He stated LAIL worked in the license shop at the Missouri State Prison and although he was acquainted with RAY, he did not believe LAIL was a particularly good friend of RAY. He stated after his return from California, he was contacted by PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR. He stated LAIL owns a home at 34 Barbodos Drive, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach, Florida, Telephone Number 965-4221. He stated LAIL in February of 1968 was out of a job and had come to Marietta, Georgia, looking for employment. He stated LAIL had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and a small baby and had resided with DOWDA for approximately one and one-half weeks, leaving approximately two or three days after DOWDA was arrested, DOWDA having been arrested on March 4, 1968.

DOWDA advised he could recall nothing else concerning RAY which might assist in his location, but in the event he remembered anything additional, he would contact the FBI.

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JAMES RICHARD FLICK on April 25, 1968 at Marietta,
Georgia:

LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the
Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia, where he was incarcerated
and provided the following information regarding JAMES
EARL RAY:

DOWDA advised after the interview with agents
on April 24, 1968, he recalled that he had also been
employed by Liggett Lane (phonetic) Drug Company at Tenth
and Peachtree Streets, Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA advised
he was employed there as the manager in the soda fountain
department. DOWDA advised that he had learned previously
that the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, had been seen in Atlanta
and thought possibly he might have come looking for DOWDA.
DOWDA stated he had no idea whether or not RAY might have
been aware of his employment, but stated there was a possibility
that he may have been. DOWDA continued he had been employed
at Liggett Lane Drug Company around November or December
of 1967. DOWDA stated during that time he worked under
Dr. (First Name Unknown) CHOTAS, who was the General Manager
of Liggett Lane Drug Stores and worked with EDITH (Last
Name Unknown) who became the Manager of the soda fountain
department after DOWDA left their employment. DOWDA advised
if RAY had ever come into the Liggett Lane Drug Store
looking for him these two persons would have been the persons
most likely to have been contacted in this regard.

DOWDA stated he had never received any information
that anyone similar to RAY had been seeking him but stated
that there was a distinct possibility that this may have been
true.

DOWDA further advised sometime after he had been
arrested by agents in Marietta, Georgia, at the Bonanza
Sirloin Pit, he had been advised by persons, who he could
not recall that a long distance phone call had been made to
the Bonanza Sirloin Pit in Marietta around November or

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

2

December, 1967, and was received at that time by either LLOYD JERINGAN or DAN AYERS (Phonetic). DOWDA advised that he was not certain which of these persons received this phone call but was advised that the person who called left no phone number and apparently did not identify himself to the person who received the telephone call. DOWDA advised he had no idea who the phone call may have been from and stated that he never did receive any further information about this call, nor was the call ever completed to him.

DOWDA stated as best he could recall the phone call might have originated in Oklahoma, but stated that neither he nor, as best he could recall, RAY had any mutual friends in that area.

O. A. HEMBREE, 2424 Sewell Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia, advised that LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA had been employed by him as a tractor driver and all around assistant from March 8, 1968 to April 12, 1968. HEMBREE advised that during this time DOWDA had worked satisfactorily for him every day that they could have worked, weather permitting. HEMBREE advised the total duration of this time was approximately five weeks and stated that as best he could recall at no time did DOWDA ever leave this area. HEMBREE continued that on two or three occasions, DOWDA had worked on Saturdays, but had never worked on any Sundays during this time. HEMBREE advised there was no way to specifically determine the exact dates on which DOWDA worked, but provided the following dates on which DOWDA was paid and the amounts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
March 8, 1968	\$50
March 15, 1968	\$65
March 22, 1968	\$25
March 29, 1968	\$42.38

AT 44-2386

JEF:sja

3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
April 5, 1968	\$60
April 21, 1968	\$80.64

HEMBREE stated during this five or six week period, he had made two loans to DOWDA in two checks, one for \$30 and one for \$10. HEMBREE advised that if DOWDA were to have been employed five days per week, his checks would run approximately \$90 to \$115. HEMBREE advised that all of the checks indicate that DOWDA may not have possibly worked all five days of the week, but again stated that this was due to the weather, stating that in rainy-type weather it was impossible for them to work.

HEMBREE stated that DOWDA had been a satisfactory employee while working for him.

AT 44-2386

JTB:lcc

1

On April 29, 1968, LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the Marietta City Jail, Marietta, Georgia, by Special Agents ROBERT B. PERRY, JAMES RICHARD FLICK and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN. DOWDA had been transferred to this jail due to an escape attempt by other prisoners at the Cobb County, Georgia, Jail.

DOWDA advised JAMES EARL RAY had been very close to (First Name Unknown) "PUNCHY" MILLER, an ex-boxer who had worked in the kitchen at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). MILLER had been one of the leaders at the MSP and was removed from the kitchen after the accidental killing by him of another prisoner during a fight. DOWDA stated he had no knowledge that MILLER was engaged in the distribution of amphetamines at the prison. He stated MILLER was released from prison and went to a town located close to the MSP, where he started passing bad checks. BENJAMIN O. GOODIN, Supervisor in the MSP kitchen, tried to retrieve these bad checks, but was unable to do so before MILLER was returned to prison for passing bad checks. DOWDA could not explain why GOODIN should make MILLER's checks good. DOWDA stated GOODIN had been in the U. S. Navy and had served aboard several ships which were sunk. He stated GOODIN reports to the Veterans Administration weekly and is on some kind of drugs, which he believes MILLER obtains by prescription. He advised RAY was not particularly close to LEO BARNETT. He stated LEO BARNETT's mother lives in Flat River, Missouri and has a brother, DARRELL BARNETT, who is in the MSP.

DOWDA advised that in April, 1967, he had taken a trip to Missouri and had gone to Flat River in an effort to locate LEO BARNETT. He stated BARNETT's mother told him LEO was serving time in the penitentiary in Florida. He stated he then returned to Georgia without seeing any of the guards or anyone else in Missouri. He advised on his return trip he had met "DINK" CHUMLEY in a bar in Alabama. He stated CHUMLEY was having trouble with his wife, who had burned all CHUMLEY's clothes and he was enroute to Georgia in an effort to get away from her. He stated CHUMLEY decided to come to Marietta, Georgia, with him, which he did. DOWDA stated the trip to Missouri only took him three days and again denied having contacted anyone else.

AT 44-2386

2

DOWDA stated CHUMLEY stayed in the Atlanta area for several months and then left to go to South Carolina to see a girl friend. He advised CHUMLEY returned from South Carolina and told DOWDA that he had a job and was working somewhere in Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA stated he has no idea concerning the present whereabouts of CHUMLEY.

DOWDA advised that RAY, while in prison, worked as a bread slicer and only earned between \$5 and \$6 per month, but never seemed to want for money. He stated RAY, while in prison, always wore his hair short. He stated RAY only mentioned two girls while in prison and from conversation, DOWDA felt RAY thought more of the girl he had met at Columbia, Missouri, than the girl he had met at the Gaslight.

DOWDA advised NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was one supplier of amphetamines in the MSP. He stated he believed ABBY's source was HAROLD SCHAEFER, a guard at the kitchen gate of the prison. He stated ABBY nearly ran the K Hall and after his transfer to C Hall, ABBY nearly ran it also. He stated ABBY could get his cell door open by guards anytime he wanted.

DOWDA advised the main supplier of amphetamines in MSP was a prisoner whose name he does not now recall. This person was known by two initials and he was serving a long sentence for the fatal shooting of a St. Louis police officer. He advised this person attempted to escape several times and was almost in complete charge of C Hall. He stated he had the run of the prison and had a pass to eat in the officers dining room, which he did most of the time. He was very close to Warden NASH and after NASH's suicide, tried unsuccessfully to get close to Warden SWINSON. He stated after Warden SWINSON took over, one-half pound of amphetamines were found in the trash can of this prisoner's cell. This prisoner had six to eight prisoners pushing the amphetamines for him. He stated he believed this prisoner obtained his drugs through a guard. He described this prisoner as a white male, approximately 32 - 33 years of age; 6' - 6' 1"; 180 pounds; black hair. He stated this prisoner was close to JAMES EARLY RAY, as well as prisoners LEO BARNETT and NEIL ABBY.

DOWDA advised the only prisoners at the MSP whose addresses he had were for PAUL LAIL and LEO BARNETT. He

stated he had not obtained RAY's address, however, he feels RAY has his address in Florida, but would not know if he were in Marietta, Georgia.

DOWDA stated he had taken a trip to California during the Summer of 1965 and on this trip he had spent two or three days with a distant cousin, JACK HOLCOMBE, who resides at San Jose, California. He stated he had also visited a friend of his sister, one BEVERLY WHEELER, who is a nurse in a Los Angeles hospital. He stated it was on this trip that he got in trouble in Missouri and was sentenced to the MSP. DOWDA denied having returned to California the ~~Spring~~ of 1967. He stated that on his trip to California in the Fall of 1967, he had planned to call JEWEL RIGGER, psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital located outside Santa Rosa, but had not made the call. He advised JEWEL RIGGER is the wife of an inmate at the MSP. He stated LLOYD A. BELT, Supervisor in the kitchen at the MSP resides at Henley, Missouri and on the trip to California, in the Fall of 1967, he had visited BELT.

DOWDA advised that within the MSP there are two gangs, one being from St. Louis and the other from Kansas City, Missouri. He stated there was a good deal of friction between these gangs and that RAY associated with the leaders of the St. Louis gang.

DOWDA advised he had talked to his wife concerning the reported visitor to his home at 2:00 A.M. on a morning in the Fall of 1967. He stated his wife claims she has no knowledge of anyone visiting their apartment at this time of the morning. DOWDA stated he has no idea who this person could be. DOWDA stated the resident manager of these apartments must have been mistaken. He stated the manager had not approached his wife concerning any person visiting their apartment at 2:00 A.M. in the morning.

DOWDA advised that during the period he worked at the Lane Liggett Drug Store, located on the corner of Peachtree and 10th Streets, he met many persons he felt were ex-cons, but denied ever being approached concerning source of drugs in this area. DOWDA stated he has no knowledge as to the persons who might be supplying drugs in that area.

AT 44-2386

4

He stated he is certain the druggist at the Lane Liggett Drug Store was not supplying these individuals. He recalled having talked to a man in his late 40s, approximately 5' 10", 150 - 155 pounds, having dark curly hair, with gray streaks, who had visited the restaurant in the drug store and had mentioned owning several rooming houses in the area. He advised he does not recall this person's name and had only the one contact with this individual. DOWDA advised the name JAMES GARNER sounded familiar to him and feels he has heard this name mentioned sometime in the past, possibly when he was employed at the restaurant in the Lane Liggett Drug Store. He advised he does not personally know JAMES GARNER and could furnish no information concerning him.

AT 44-2386

JTB:lcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
JACK T. BEVERSTEIN and JOSEPH G. SHEA.

On April 24, 1968, CARL GENE TAYLOR, also known as "Junior" TAYLOR, 185 W. Dixie Street, Marietta, Georgia, advised that the photo of JAMES EARL RAY did not resemble person known to him as "Red", who had stayed with LEWIE DOWDA a couple of weeks in approximately March, 1968. He stated person known to him as "Red" was a white male, approximately 6', 35 years of age, 185 pounds, and had bright red hair. He advised this person had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and small baby and had resided with the DOWDAs at the Olive Spring Apartments.

TAYLOR advised he had been employed with DOWDA at the Bonanza Steak House in Marietta, Georgia. He advised he had never seen anyone resembling JAMES EARL RAY in the company of DOWDA. He stated during the Fall of 1967, DOWDA and his wife had traveled to California to visit her relatives and at no time did DOWDA ever mention contacting anyone he was acquainted with who could logically have been JAMES EARL RAY.

AT 44-2386

JTB:rjb

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA JACK T. BEVERSTEIN:

On April 25, 1968, EDITH BUSBY, Manager, Soda Fountain, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia, advised LEWIE DOWDA had been employed as Manager of the Soda Fountain from December 23, 1967, to January 23, 1968, at which time DOWDA left, claiming he was going to move to Florida. She stated it is her understanding DOWDA is now employed at the Bonanza Steak House, Marietta, Georgia. BUSBY viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated she had never seen this individual. She advised no one has contacted her concerning the whereabouts of DOWDA.

On April 25, 1968, Dr. TOM CHOTOS, Manager, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, advised photograph of JAMES EARL RAY is unfamiliar to him. He stated no one has ever contacted him for instructions how to contact LEWIE DOWDA.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date May 2, 1968

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, who is confined in the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he did not personally serve time with JAMES EARL RAY in the Menard Prison, Illinois, and the only information he has regarding this is what RAY told him. This information was related to him by RAY while he and RAY were serving time together in the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri, for a six or seven month period.

He stated he never heard RAY say that he had served time in Joliet or Pontiac Prisons, but he felt that if RAY had served time in either one of those places, he would probably have been shipped to Menard Prison for discharge.

CURTIS advised there was a close associate of RAY's serving time in Jackson County with them. He cannot recall the name of this individual, but stated he was convicted as a co-defendant with RAY on the same check charge and from conversation with RAY, this individual was presumably the same person with whom RAY served time in Menard Prison.

CURTIS advised he recalls a third unidentified individual visiting RAY and his co-defendant in Jackson County Jail who seemed very close to both of them, but stated he strongly doubted that the visitor's log maintained at the Jail would reflect the name of this visitor due to irregularities in keeping such logs.

He advised he could not furnish a description of the third man.

CURTIS advised he was confined in the Jefferson County Jail with RAY and his co-defendant from approximately March of 1955 until July of 1955, and that they all subsequently ended up together in Leavenworth Prison.

44

On 4/22/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # Atlanta-44-2386

by SA BERNARD R. BERRY :bjc Date dictated 4/26/68

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

AT 44-2386

BRB:bjc

2

He stated while at Leavenworth Prison, RAY's associate and co-defendant did nothing but lift weights and attempt to improve his physique.

He described this co-defendant as being a white male, age 36, at that time, 5'10" to 6', 180 pounds, and well built.

45 346

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 3, 1968

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, currently incarcerated Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised that he has spent time in prison on two or three occasions with JAMES EARL RAY. CURTIS advised he first became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY in March 1955 at the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri. He stated RAY was incarcerated at the Jackson County Jail on Post Office burglary charges and had just recently been released from prison in Menard, Illinois, prior to his incarceration at Jackson County. CURTIS at the same time was under arrest for armed robbery and bank robbery in the Missouri area. During this period, CURTIS stated he and RAY were cellmates for approximately six to seven months. While cellmates, CURTIS recalled that RAY had a close friend, name unrecalled, who visited him while RAY was at the Jackson County Prison. This friend had been a former cellmate of RAY when RAY was incarcerated at Menard, Illinois. CURTIS never actually saw this man but knew that RAY had several visits from one particular individual. This man kept RAY in spending money while RAY was in Jackson County Jail and in CURTIS' opinion this individual would harbor RAY if RAY were on escape.

CURTIS went on to say that RAY had another close friend, name unrecalled, of Italian descent, apparently a "big man" in the syndicate. This Italian had apparently operated with RAY in the past and both he and RAY had engaged in handling stolen Postal money orders and travelers checks.

After six or seven months as cellmates at Jackson County Jail, RAY was sentenced to three years on the Post Office burglary charges and transferred to Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Two weeks later CURTIS received a 16-year sentence for bank robbery and also was sent to Leavenworth. While confined at Leavenworth together, RAY spoke of no girlfriends and corresponded with none to the best of CURTIS' knowledge. While in Leavenworth, RAY mentioned that he "operated" frequently out of Quincy, Illinois. By "operated", RAY meant "engaged in burglary and payroll jobs."

CURTIS said that while he and RAY were incarcerated they

- 47 -

On 4/21/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jhs Date dictated 4/25/68

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

AT 44-2386

TRH:jhs

2

engaged in crooked poker games and took fellow prisoners for money. In the opinion of CURTIS, RAY was a good poker player and an excellent card handler. During this incarceration RAY mentioned underworld and hoodlum connections, names unrecalled, in Chicago, Detroit, Tampa, and the Tijuana, Mexico area. CURTIS went on to say that after serving seven to eight months with RAY at Leavenworth he was transferred to the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia. CURTIS served six to seven years in the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, and in June 1962 was released but sent back to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, to serve time on armed robbery charges. While in the state penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, CURTIS again was incarcerated with JAMES EARL RAY. On occasions they were in the same cell together in "B" Hall and "C" Hall. They served together from 1962 to 1966. While in "B" and "C" Halls they were together in a three-man cell with a third individual who CURTIS said could verify the following facts but whom CURTIS refused to identify but whom CURTIS refused to identify:

CURTIS stated that during this incarceration President JOHN F. KENNEDY was assassinated and word from the outside filtered into the prison that this was probably a conspiracy. Word came in that KENNEDY had a "bounty" on his head. CURTIS was unable to give further details on the "bounty". He said in 1963-1964 Dr. King's movements became one of the topics of conversation at the state penitentiary. Word got around to the inmates that the "KK of the South" who apparently went to businessmen and had raised approximately a million dollars, had a "bounty" with this money on KING's head. CURTIS was unable to give further details or information regarding "KK of the South".

CURTIS said that from 1962 to 1966 before CURTIS' release RAY mentioned at least a dozen times that had he known about a "bounty" on President KENNEDY's head and had he been out he would have made every effort to collect it. RAY also said approximately a dozen times in the presence of CURTIS "if he got out in time and if KING was still alive he would like to get the 'bounty' on KING". RAY never mentioned whom he would contact to get this "bounty" but CURTIS advised the criminal element knew how to contact such people.

CURTIS went on to say that the above statements concerning KING made by RAY were heard by the third cellmate mentioned above.

AT 44-2386

TRH:jhs

3

In addition CURTIS stated that RAY had a friend in New Orleans, Louisiana (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) COIN (phonetic) who was apparently a "fence". This man was well connected with the hoodlum element, however, was quite old and in the opinion of RAY was in 1955 at least 55 to 60 years of age. In the opinion of CURTIS this individual would definitely harbor RAY. CURTIS knew no close friends or associates of RAY. RAY, allegedly through prison grapevine, had a wife but this was never mentioned by RAY. CURTIS said, however, a few prisoners mentioned family connections. While in prison RAY also mentioned gambling in Los Angeles, California. No specific place in Los Angeles as to the gambling was mentioned. RAY in CURTIS' opinion was a "high liver" when outside and would associate with prostitutes taking one from town to town.

RAY with regard to KING's killing indicated he would make all rules and would in all probability demand the "bounty" money be put in a bank. RAY mentioned three foreign countries, which he had learned about and which CURTIS assumed RAY would go to if out of the United States. These foreign countries were New Zealand, Brazil, and Switzerland. CURTIS was of the opinion that not over three people would be involved in the actual assassination. It would have been well planned with diversionary measures and in the opinion of CURTIS a second individual, not RAY, would have driven the getaway car to Atlanta as a diversionary measure.

CURTIS said he would not testify to the above facts because if he did testify to this information he would fear for his life.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE SPRINGFIELD	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/17/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/14-15/68
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA QUENTIN P. STINSON	TYPED BY SMR
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR	

REFERENCES:

New Orleans airtel to Memphis dated 5/7/68.

- P -

LEADS:SPRINGFIELD DIVISIONAT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Will report results of continuing investigation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED *10* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 2 - Bureau (44-38861)
- 2 - Chicago (44-1114) (INFO)
- ② - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-10673)
- 2 - Springfield (44-561)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-1987-Sub-A-679

SEARCHED INDEXED *h*
SERIALIZED *h* FILED *h*
MAY 20 1968
FBI - MEMPHIS

100 Yard Phil Campbell, Atty General, Shelby Co. Tenn

Dissemination Record of Attached Report *10/16/68* Notations

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

3

- A -
COVER PAGE

SI 44-561

CHICAGO DIVISION

Information copies of this report have been designated for the Chicago Office at the request of the Office of Origin.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA QUENTIN P. STINSON
Date: May 17, 1968

Office: Springfield

Field Office File #: SI 44-561

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

Magistrate ROBERT A. CONEY, Peoria, Illinois, vacationed with wife and twelve year old daughter in New Orleans, Louisiana, December, 1967. They could furnish no information relating to JAMES EARL RAY, FBI No. 405 942G. Mrs. CONEY recalls observing a white late model sports car parked in archway of Provincial Motel, New Orleans, Louisiana, during visit, but she could not accurately describe or identify occupants.

- P -

SI 44-561

DETAILS:

This inquiry was predicated on information received from the New Orleans Office of the FBI reflecting ROBERT A. CONEY, Judge, 311 Fayette Street, Peoria, Illinois, was a registered guest of the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, on December 17, 1967.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

Magistrate ROBERT A. CONEY, Room 402, County Building, Peoria, Illinois, a former United States Commissioner of the Southern District of Illinois, advised he, his wife, and daughter, [REDACTED], vacationed in New Orleans, Louisiana, during December, 1967, and were registered guests of the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, for an eight-day period between December 17 and December 24, 1967. He stated they ate breakfast at the motel dining room but otherwise spent the remainder of the days sight-seeing in New Orleans, Louisiana. He selected the motel, which he described as a very sedate and quiet place, at the suggestion of the Chicago Motor Club, Peoria, Illinois.

Magistrate CONEY observed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405.942G, then stated he could recall nothing relating to this individual.

On 5/14/68 at Peoria, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON/smr Date dictated 5/15/68

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

Miss [REDACTED] age [REDACTED], viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942G. She advised that she could not identify the photographs of RAY as any person she had observed while vacationing in New Orleans, Louisiana, during December, 1967.

Miss [REDACTED] advised she vacationed at New Orleans, Louisiana, between December 17-24, 1967, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT A. CONEY, Peoria, Illinois. The family was registered guests at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, Louisiana, during that period of time. At times during the above visit, she recalled seeing a white sports model automobile that was parked in the archway area of the above motel in the loading and unloading area. She recalled the automobile was parked in the archway area of the motel on three or maybe four occasions and that she had walked around the automobile to cross the archway area to the restaurant portion of the motel. She could not accurately describe the make or model of the automobile and could not accurately describe the adults associated with the automobile. She stated she did recall there were two small children accompanying the adults. She was of the opinion that the children were girls under ten years of age. She advised she did not observe these individuals in any other portion of the motel area.

On 5/15/68 at Peoria, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON/smr Date dictated 5/15/68

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

Mrs. ROBERT A. CONEY, 533 West Forrest Hill Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942G, and she was questioned regarding her observation while a guest at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, New Orleans, Louisiana.

She could not identify the above photographs of RAY as any person she had observed while in the New Orleans, Louisiana, area during December, 1967.

She related her observations while a guest at the above motel between December 17-24, 1967. She recalled seeing a white sports automobile parked at the archway area of the motel which she stated was used for loading and unloading purposes only. She first observed this automobile about the time of her arrival at the motel between 3:00 and 5:00 P.M., Sunday, December 17, 1967.

Mrs. CONEY related this white automobile could have been a Mustang model car. She stated the automobile was definitely an American-made car. She recalled the auto because it was parked in the motel archway area on three or maybe four occasions, and she had to walk around the automobile to cross the archway area to the restaurant. She noted this car was a late model car that appeared to be waxed and extremely clean in appearance.

Mrs. CONEY stated her impressions of the activity in the area are vague; however, she associated three males and two females and two small children with the above automobile. She observed the occupants were neatly dressed in sports clothing and the adults appeared to be between thirty and forty years of age.

The two children appeared to be under ten years of age and she believed both to be girls. The women wore light colored slacks. The men and women both were neat in appearance and attractive. She paid particular attention

On 5/15/68 at Peoria, Illinois File # SI 44-561
by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON/smr Date dictated 5/15/68

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

SI 44-561

to one woman who had her hair wrapped in a peculiar white scarf which came under her chin and tied in the back of her neck.

Mrs. CONEY advised that she had not observed the above individuals in any other area of the motel and that she could not furnish further descriptive information concerning them.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MIAMI	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/17/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/13 - 16/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY DAVID N. JELLISON	TYPED BY VC
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES

New Orleans airtel to Memphis dated 5/7/68.
 Miami teletype to New Orleans dated 5/13/68.
 New Orleans teletype to Miami dated 5/15/68.

- P -

LEADSMIAMIAt Miami, Florida:

Will conduct any additional information upon
 request of the Bureau or the Memphis Office,

- A* -

- COVER PAGE -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED: NONE

Case has been: Pending over one year ☐ Yes ☒ No; Pending prosecution over six months ☐ Yes ☒ No

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE:		
2 - Bureau (44-38861) (RM) ② - Memphis (44-1987) (RM) 2 - Miami (44-1854)		44-1987-Sub-A-678 SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED..... MAY 20 1968 FBI - MEMPHIS <i>[Signature]</i>
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations
Agency	ICC Fred Phil Canale	Atty General Shelby Co., Tenn
Request Recd.		10/1/68 rff w
Date Fwd.		
How Fwd.		
By		

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

Copy to:

Report of: DAVID N. JELLISON
Date: May 17, 1968

Office: Miami, Florida

Field Office File #: 44-1854

Bureau File #: 44-38861

**Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (DECEASED) - VICTIM**

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

Credit and criminal, telephone and city directory checks regarding W. H. RUNGLER, Miami, Fla., negative. No Columns Avenue exists in Miami. Current Fla. license tag 1WW11380 issued to E. G. HOLMAN for use on a 1966 Lincoln Continental coupe. HOLMAN interviewed and states car and tag in his possession on 12/17-19/67, in Miami, Fla. HOLMAN not acquainted with a W. H. RUNGLER and was not in New Orleans 12/17-19/67. Current Fla. license tag 1WW11386 is subscribed to by W. H. RUNZLER, 725 N.E. 24th St., Miami. RUNZLER interviewed and states he was in New Orleans during pertinent period staying at Provincial Motel but was unable to identify photographs of JAMES EARL RAY or recall anything about any of the other guests at the motel.

- P -

DETAILS:

Information was received from the New Orleans Office of the FBI that a W. H. RUNGLER, 2899 Columns Avenue, Miami, Florida, had registered on December 18, 1967, at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

On May 13, 1968, the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater Miami, the Miami Police Department, the Miami Beach Police Department, the Dade County Department of Public Safety and the Miami Municipal Court were reviewed by IC CLIFFORD M. WERNER with regards to a W. H. RUNGLER. These records contain no information identifiable with W. H. RUNGLER.

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

NM 44-1854

Miami telephone directories and Polk city directories checked for W. H. RUNGLER from 1958 to 1968 with negative results.

There is no Columns Avenue in the Greater Miami area.

The Miami Auto Tag Agency advised that 1967-1968 Florida license tag 1WW11380 is issued to E. G. HOLMAN, 1410 West 21st Street, Miami Beach, Florida, for use on a 1966 Lincoln Continental coupe.

EUGENE G. HOLMAN interviewed and advised that tag number 1WW11380 has been in his possession since April, 1967, and has been displayed on his Lincoln Continental coupe since that time. HOLMAN was not in New Orleans from December 17-19, 1967, nor was his automobile or the license tag 1WW11380. HOLMAN knows of no one named RUNGLER.

W. H. RUNZLER was located at the Walston Company, 199 S. E. 1st Street, Miami, Florida, and was interviewed at this location on May 16, 1968. RUNZLER advised that he was in New Orleans from December 17 - 19, 1967, and recalled that he was a guest at the Provincial Motel while staying in New Orleans. RUNZLER was unable to recall anything about any of the other guests staying at the motel at that time.

Upon viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, RUNZLER stated that he recalled seeing no one at the Provincial Motel who resembled these photographs. RUNZLER could recall nothing of the vehicles being driven by other occupants of the motel.

620

1. 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622,

The Los Angeles Register, Los Angeles, California, has recently published a letter mailed to William J. Harrison, 1414 N. 4th St., Los Angeles. The letter was written by a person whose name and address is not disclosed in the article. The letter is dated 1/1/41, and is signed by a correspondent. The letter is as follows:

21

I am enclosing your letter to T. W. ...
... I have ...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...

$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$

44. 12. 1901

Busch is
handling - RB

Boyle RB

Boyle RB
Ronan

Airtel SACs, Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, New Orleans
RE: MURKIN

Seniors of "The Local Swinger" recall that Galt had sent one dollar for a list of swingers and subsequently submitted five letters for transmittal to persons identified on the list by symbol number. No record is maintained that would identify the persons to whom the subject wrote.

Each office receiving this communication should check with postal authorities and other sources which might have information regarding the existence of similar type "swinger" or "lonely hearts" type clubs or organizations in your areas in order to develop any information as to whether Ray, under any of his known aliases, may have contacted any such club and pursue any pertinent information developed. Each office should bear in mind that as a result of investigation conducted in Los Angeles, there was obtained the photograph of subject showing him in business suit, coated, which has been described as an excellent likeness.

Subject armed and dangerous.

F B I

Date: 5/17/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT *Deferred*
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
NEWARK (44-854)

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987) (1P)

MURKIN.

RE WFO TEL TO ME MAY SIXTEEN, LAST; NEWARK REPORT MAY
THIRTEEN LAST.FOR INFO NK, WFO TO LOCATE USPO MONEY ORDERS PAID
LOCKSMITHING INSTITUTE, NEW JERSEY, IN NAME OF ERIC S. GALT,
PLACE AND DATE OF PURCHASE REQUIRED.

NK IS REQUESTED TO REVIEW MICROFILM RECORDS, FIDELITY UNION
TRUST COMPANY, NEWARK, N.J., AND IDENTIFY FROM THE STAMPED
IMPRESSION ON THE TWO POSTAL MONEY ORDERS DESCRIBED ON PAGE TEN
OF RE REPORT, THE PLACE AND DATE OF ISSUANCE. NK WILL THEN
REQUEST WFO TO OBTAIN ORIGINALS OF THESE MONEY ORDERS AND FORWARD
SAME TO FBI LABORATORY REQUESTING HANDWRITING EXAMINATION.
NK WILL ALSO SET FORTH LEAD TO OFFICE COVERING AREA OF PURCHASE
OF MONEY ORDER TO CONDUCT LOGICAL INVESTIGATION, ASCERTAINING
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING PURCHASE, WITH AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY
THE PURCHASER AS BEING RAY.

Airtel

Teletype

AM COPY TO WFO. P. END.

A.M.

1 - WFO (44-703)

A.M. 9:00 PDR:jap

(2)

Spec. Del. *jap*Reg. Approved: *RPJ*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

NK 7:28 P
WA 7:31 P

Per

Registered

5/15/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies and for Memphis and Kansas City 2 copies and 1 copy, respectively, of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER JR. - VICTIM; CR" and dated as above.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau is requested to furnish copies of enclosed LHM to Legat, Bern, Switzerland.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
- ② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) *ye*
- 2 - Kansas City (44-760) (Enc. 1) (AM)
- 1 - WFO

RWD:acd
(8)

AIRTEL

44-1987-Sub E-67

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

May 15, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY,
ALSO KNOWN AS
ERIC STARVO GALT,
F.C. HERRON,
HARRY LOWMYER,
JAMES MC BRIDE,
JAMES O'CONNOR,
JAMES WALTON,
JAMES WALYON,
JAMES WILLARD,
"JED" - FUGITIVE

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester 17

On May 14, 1968, an anonymous male who mentioned that he is a newspaperman telephonically advised the Washington Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, that he recently had a conversation with some people who believed they observed an individual who resembles the published photographs of James Earl Ray. These people believe they observed Ray in Geneva, Switzerland, approximately three weeks ago. The anonymous male stated the people who furnished him this information did not want their identities revealed nor did the caller wish to identify himself.

The anonymous male stated that he had been advised that during a Saturday night approximately three weeks ago his sources were at the Landolt Restaurant, Geneva, Switzerland, where they observed an American male enter with a man and woman who appeared to be Swiss. The American was well dressed and had a Midwestern accent. He had the sharp nose and cleft chin as depicted in the photographs of James Earl Ray. His other physical characteristics matched those of Ray. Although he was well dressed, he was observed to use crude language which was mixed with vulgarities. The woman in the group was a blond, apparently dyed hair, and appeared to be in her forties. She was known to the head waiter of the restaurant and kissed him when she left with the above two men.

44-1987-Sub-G-675