

KC 44-780

PAGE TWO

NUMBERS FOR TWA COACH TICKETS FURNISHED BY NEW YORK
BOTH CONTAIN TEN DIGITS WHICH TWA STATES IS POSSIBLY AN
ERROR INASMUCH AS THEY ONLY HAVE NINE DIGITS ON THEIR
NUMBERS.

EFFORTS CONTINUING AT MSP TO IDENTIFY NOONEY EDEN.
LOCAL LEADS CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

F B I

Date: 5/10/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (P)
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

Preson

Re Kansas City airtel to Bureau dated 5/8/68.

Referenced airtel names seven former inmates of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) who should be contacted to ascertain if they can furnish any information concerning subject RAY. Enclosed with referenced airtel is additional background data obtained from MSP records on 5/6/68, regarding these seven former inmates. A review of this data indicated logical inquiry to locate these individuals should begin with contact of closest relatives and/or residences in other field Office territories as follows:

MICHAEL KEY CLARK is indicated as having a girl friend, ELIZABETH ALEXANDER, residing at 1771 Ellwell, Milipitas, California. Also it is stated that CLARK indicated he would be employed by BUD RAU, 445 Laurel Avenue, Hayward, California.

Regarding JIMMIE LEE HILL, the MSP records show that on 3/5/68, HILL was incarcerated at North Soledad, California.

Regarding JOHN RAY LESTER, he stated he would live at 19250 Hickory, El Verano, California, and his mother is listed as EUNA K. LESTER, 111 Napa Street, Sonoma, California.

San Francisco should attempt to locate each of the above individuals.

- 3 - Bureau
 - 2 - Chicago (Encl 1)
 - 1 - Kansas City (Info) (44-760)
 - ① - Memphis (Info)
 - 2 - San Francisco (Encl 1)
 - 2 - Los Angeles
- FJP/jan
(10)

44-1987-Sub K-16

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Boyle

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

LA 44-1574

GALE FRANKLIN FISHER, listed the following relatives, all residing in the State of Illinois:

Mother	MARVEL FISHER 311 85th Street Aurora, Illinois
Sister	CAROL SMITH 272 Beach Street Aurora, Illinois
Sister	SHIRLEY FOREMAN RFD 1 Box 107 Plainfield, Illinois

The Chicago Division should attempt to locate FISHER.

The Los Angeles Division will institute investigation to locate the remaining three former inmates.

For information of Chicago and San Francisco a copy of referenced airtel with enclosure are attached.

F B I

Date: 5/11/68

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

TO DIRECTOR, ST. LOUIS AND BIRMINGHAM
FROM NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)
MURKIN.

RE ST LOUIS TEL FOUR EIGHTEEN PM INSTANT.
RE: JOHN PAUL VELANTI
INVESTIGATION BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA REVEALS CHANEY
DRIVE HAS BEEN NON-EXISTENT FOR THREE YEARS. CHANEY DRIVE
CONSISTED OF A FEW APARTMENTS WHICH WERE TORN DOWN THREE
YEARS AGO AND REPLACED BY A HOLIDAY INN MOTEL.

GEORGE DEMANT, MANAGER, HOLIDAY INN, BOSSIER CITY,
ADVISED FIVE ELEVEN INSTANT THAT MOTEL HAS ADDRESS OF
HAMILTON ROAD AND NEVER USED CHANEY DRIVE AS AN ADDRESS.
DEMANT SAID HE HAS NEVER HEARD OF BETTYE VELANTI NEE
PRITCHARD.

VIRGIL HUFF, POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE, BOSSIER CITY, ADVISED
FIVE ELEVEN INSTANT HE HAS NO ADDRESS OR FORWARDING ADDRESS
FOR BETTYE VELANTI NEE PRITCHARD.

WILLIAM THORTON, BOSSIER CITY, *44-1987-Sub K-17*
44-1987 *1000*

- ① - Memphis
1 - Kansas city
1 - Atlanta
1 - New Orleans
(4)

JW:olp

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Bayle *BJB*

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

VOL DOOLEY, ADVISED FIVE ELEVEN INSTANT THEIR RECORDS
ARE NEGATIVE ON BETTYE VELANTI NEE PRITCHARD.

CREDIT BUREAU AT SHREVEPORT, LA., WHICH COVERS
BOSSIER CITY IS CLOSED AND WILL NOT BE OPENED UNTIL
MONDAY A.M. A REVIEW OF CURRENT AND PAST CITY, TELEPHONE,
AND CRISS-CROSS DIRECTORIES NEGATIVE ON BETTYE VELANTI
NEE PRITCHARD.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS WILL REINTERVIEW JOHN PAUL
VELANTI FOR IDENTITY AND WHEREABOUTS OF PARENTS OR OTHER
RELATIVES OF HIS EXWIFE BETTYE VELANTI NEE PRITCHARD AND
HAVE THESE RELATIVES INTERVIEWED AS TO HER PRESENT WHERE-
ABOUTS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

FBI MEMPHIS

^FBI ST LOUIS

850PM URGENT 5-13-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN - SUMMARY

RE RAY RELATIVES COVERED BY SL: SOURCES AND SPOT CHECKS DISCLOSED NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY.

RE JAMES EUGENE GAWRON: WILL BE INTERVIEWED ON RECEIPT OF REQUESTED BUREAU CHECK OF SOUTHERN STATE BANK ROBBERIES LATE JUNE JULY SIXTY SEVEN. WILL ALSO BE QUESTIONED RE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF RAY IN VICINITY OF GAWRON RESIDENCE MAY TENTH TO SEVENTEENTH SIXTYSEVEN.

RE EX-CONS JOHN PAUL VELANTI AND JAMES H. CARPENTER GIVING EVERY APPEARANCE OF COOPERATION. SOME DISCRETION REQUIRED IN CONTACTING THEM TO AVOID UNNECESSARY INJURY TO THEM IN EMPLOYMENT OR AMONG PEERS. VELANTI HAS DISCOVERED ANOTHER EX CON WHO HAS DECLINED TO DATE TO ALLOW REVELATION OF HIS IDENTITY TO BUREAU, BUT WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BRIEFLY SEEN RAY IN SL TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING MSP ESCAPE. CARPENTER ALLEGES RAY WALKED OUT OF MSP WITH VISITORS, NOT IN BREAD BOX.

RE JUDGE JOHN C. CASEY: CASEY ADVISED PURSUANT TO BUREAU DIRECTION. WAS THANKED FOR HIS CONCERN FOR BUREAU INTEREST. SL WILL FOLLOW ACTION ON RAY MOTION.

GREATER SL CLEANER - LAUNDERERS CIRCULARIZED, LOCAL LOOK ALIKES BEING RESOLVED. SL INITIAL REPORT IN MAIL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

@

44-1987-Sub K-18

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Hester *QB*
Boyle QB

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KAN CITY

920 AM URGENT 5/14/68 KSW

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, BIRMINGHAM, MEMPHIS 44-1987, ST. LOUIS
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 1P

MURKIN

RECORDS, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP) REVEALED THAT
MELVIN O. GRIDLEY, COWBOY, MSP NO. ZERO TWO FIVE ZERO THREE, WAS
TRANSFERRED TO MOBERLY, MO., ON JULY TEN, LAST. THESE RECORDS
FURTHER REVEALED THAT MILTON ZAVALCOFSKI, BOSTON NO. ZERO ONE
SIX FIVE, ALSO IS AT MOBERLY, MO.

CHESTER SPRATT, NO. ZERO FOUR TWO FIVE EIGHT, INMATE IN
CELL NO. J ONE EIGHT SEVEN, WAS DISCHARGED ON JUNE SIX, LAST, AT
WHICH TIME HE WENT TO WORK ON A FARM OWNED BY GERTRUDE SPURGEON,
EMINENCE, MO.

ST. LOUIS OFFICE INTERVIEW ABOVE THREE INDIVIDUALS FOR ANY
INFO THEY MAY HAVE RE SUBJECT.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P

END

SAB

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub K-19

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Boyle BB
Conan

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (MAIL)
SAC, ALBANY
SAC, KANSAS

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (3 P)

MURKIN

WALTER TERRY RIFE REINTERVIEWED. JOHN DAVID DAILY UNKNOWN TO RIFE. RIFE STATES WILLIARD J. MC BRIDE A FICTITIOUS PERSON FROM WHOM HE AND RAY CLAIMED THEY PURCHASED THE STOLEN MONEY ORDERS FROM KELLERVILLE, ILLINOIS POST OFFICE BURGLARY IN NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE. RIFE USED NAME OF VERNON ELMO RIFE ON FIRST ARREST WHEN FINGERPRINTED. FOR THIS REASON NAME OF VERNON ELMO RIFE COULD BE SHOWN AS ASSOCIATE OF RAY IN JACKSON COUNTY JAIL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WHEN ACTUALLY WAS WALTER RIFE.

RIFE STATED ONLY VISITORS TO JACKSON COUNTY JAIL FOR EITHER HE OR RAY WERE FBI AGENTS WHO INTERVIEWED BOTH CONCERNING A BANK ROBBERY AT HULL, ILLINOIS. RIFE DID NOT KNOW ANY COIN IN NEW ORLEANS AND KNOWS OF NO ASSOCIATE OF RAY IN NEW ORLEANS. RIFE AND RAY MET A WILLIAM COHEN IN KANSAS CITY

- 1 - Bureau (AM)
- 1 - Springfield (44-561)
- ① - Memphis (AM) 1 - Atlanta (AM)
- 1 - Birmingham (AM) 1 - Chicago (AM)
- 1 - New Orleans (AM) 1 - St. Louis (AM)

EHD/mpb

(8)

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(K)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)SI 44-561
PAGE TWO

IN NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE, RE PASSING OF POSTAL MONEY ORDERS.
THIS WAS A MAN FIFTYFIVE TO SIXTY YEARS OF AGE, DARK SKIN,
GRAY HEADED, PROBABLY WOULD BE KNOWN TO KANSAS CITY PD.
RIFE HAS NO BACKGROUND ON THIS INDIVIDUAL.

RIFE STATED RAY WAS PREJUDICE AGAINST NEGROES IN A
GENERAL WAY, HAS NEVER KNOWN RAY TO BELONG TO ANY ORGANIZATION
OR TO MAKE ANY THREAT AGAINST NEGROES.

NO RECORD OF JOHN DAVID DAILY IN QUINCY. NO RECORD OF
GEORGE J. ROBERTS AND SONS UNDERTAKERS IN QUINCY. LINDWOOD
NONEXISTANT STREET IN QUINCY. NO RECORD OF NORMAN J.
ROBERTS IN QUINCY, TWO FOUR ZERO ZERO MAIN NONEXISTANT
IN QUINCY.

SI ONE SIX FIVE SIX - C VERY CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF RIFE,
STATES RIFE DEFINITELY PULLED BURGLARY OF KELLERVILLE
POST OFFICE IN NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE BUT WILL NOT ADMIT TO
BURGLARY.

KANSAS CITY WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE WILLIAM COHEN IN
KANSAS CITY.

ALBANY, AT ALBANY, WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE NORMAN J.

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

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT _____
(Priority)SI 44-561
PAGE THREE

· ROBERTS AND GEORGE J. ROBERTS. P.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT TO MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, NEW ORLEANS,
ATLANTA, CHICAGO, AND ST. LOUIS. P.
END.Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MIAMI

302 PM URGENT 4/26/68 SHR

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSONVILLE, KANSAS CITY AND
MEMPHIS

FROM MIAMI 44-1854 /P/ 3 P

MURKIN

(K)

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Hester

RE ATLANTA TEL TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, KANSAS
CITY, SPRINGFIELD, MIAMI, APR. TWO FOUR LAST.

PAUL ALVIN LAIL, THREE FOUR BARBADOS, PALM SPRINGS, FLA., SAID
HE KNEW RAY FOR THREE YEARS IN MO. STATE PEN BUT HAS NOT SEEN OR HEARD
FROM RAY SINCE HE GOT OUT A LITTLE OVER TWO YEARS AGO.

LAIL SAID LEWIE "WHITEY" DOWDA WORKED WITH RAY IN KITCHEN MO.
STATE PEN AND WOULD KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT HIM. ALSO NEAL ABBEY WAS
RAY'S REAL BUDDY AND WOULD REALLY KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT RAY THAN ANYBODY
ELSE. LAIL SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF ABBEY WAS IN OR OUT OF MO. STATE
PEN.

LAIL ADVISED RAY ASSOCIATED WITH GROUP WHO KILLED NEGROES IN
MO. STATE PEN BUT DOES NOT KNOW IF RAY WAS IN ON IT OR NOT. HE SAID
RAY NOT RACIST BUT KNOWS HE DID NOT LIKE NEGROES AS MOST OF THE INMATES
FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT NEGROES.

44-1987-Sub K-22
44-1987-772

LAIL ADVISED RAY WOULD BE HARD TO FIND AND FEELS THAT HE WILL
HAVE A FORTYFIVE AUTOMATIC "STASHED" ON HIM AND WOULD NOT GIVE UP.

copy in 44-1987-772

44-1854

PAGE TWO

ALSO RAY WOULD NOT HIDE OUT IN COUNTRY BECAUSE HE IS A "CITY BOY"; HOWEVER, DOES NOT FEEL RAY WOULD GO FOR REALLY BIG CITIES BUT A PLACE ABOUT THE SIZE OF HOUSTON, TEXAS. / 7

LAIL ADVISED LEO BARNETT, AN EX-CON FROM MO. STATE PEN AND BELIEVED IN JAIL SOMEWHERE IN FLA., HANDLED DOPE AND KNEW WHERE IT WAS COMING FROM AND WOULD KNOW IF RAY USED DOPE AND WHERE AND HOW HE GOT IT.

LAIL SAID FRED MILLER, A "CUT AND DRY CON" WHO WORKED IN THE TAG PLANT, WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS AND KNEW RAY WELL AND IF HE WOULD TALK HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FURNISH INFO ABOUT RAY. LAIL SAID RAY ASSOCIATED WITH OTHERS AND NOT LONER IN HIS OPINION.

LAIL RECALLED RAY ALWAYS WORE HIS HAIR CUT SHORT "BUTCH CUT" IN SUMMER AND LONG IN WINTER.

LAIL ADVISED HE WILL THINK ABOUT RAY SOME MORE AND IF HE RECALLS ANYTHING WILL NOTIFY THIS OFFICE. LAIL SEEMED COOPERATIVE AND VERY INTERESTED IN REWARD MONEY.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO., ASCERTAIN AT MO. STATE PEN WHEREABOUTS OF FRED MILLER AND INTERVIEW ABOUT RAY OR SET OUT LEADS.
END PAGE TWO

44-1854

PAGE THREE

TO HAVE INTERVIEWED. ALSO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS FORMER INMATE LEO BARNET
JACKSONVILLE AT TALLAHASSEE, FLA., CONTACT BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS
AND ASCERTAIN IF A LEO BARNETT, FORMER INMATE MO. STATE PEN, CONFINED
ANYWHERE IN FLA.

FD THREE ZERO TWO'S BEING FURNISHED KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI BIRMGHAM

10:35AM URGENT 4-26-68 FAS

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC'S MEMPHIS AND MOBILE
FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

MURKIN.

IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE MAY NOW BE RESIDING
IN TERRITORY OF BIRMINGHAM OFFICE ANY FORMER INMATES OF MISSOURI
STATE PRISON WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN SUBJECT, CONTACT HAD WITH U. S.
PROBATION OFFICER, BIRMINGHAM. HE WILL CHECK RECORDS AND ADVISE.
CONTACT HAD ALSO WITH WARREN GASTON, STATE PAROLE AND PROBATION
OFFICER, BIRMINHGAM DISTRICT, WHO IS ALSO CHECKING FILES. HE
SUGGESTED COVERAGE OF ENTIRE STATE OF ALABAMA FOR THIS PURPOSE MAY
BE EFFECTED THROUGH CONTACT WITH L. B. STEPHENS, ALABAMA PAROLE AND
PROBATION EXECUTIVE, STATE OFFICE BUILDING, MONTGOMERY, WHO HAS
FILES ON PAROLEES REFERRED TO HIS OFFICE UNDER AND INTERSTATE COMPACT
AND ARE BROKEN DOWN REFLECTING STATE OF REFERRAL.

MOBILE CONTACT STEPHENS, AND OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION.

END

PARA ONE, LINE TEN, WRD NINE? AN 5@

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Hester	

F B I

Date: **4-26-68**Transmit the following in **PLAIN TEXT**
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **TELETYPE** **URGENT**
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, MIAMI, AND HOUSTON

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN.

RE MIAMI TEL THREE ZERO TWO P.M., APRIL TWENTYSIX.

REFERENCE MIAMI TEL SETS FORTH INFO RECEIVED FROM PAUL ALVIN LAIL, FORMER MISSOURI STATE PEN INMATE. OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH INTERVIEW OF LAIL IS STATEMENT THAT HE FELT RAY MIGHT GO TO PLACE ABOUT SIZE OF HOUSTON, TEXAS. SINCE NEIL ABEY ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN RESIDENT OF HOUSTON AREA, REQUEST MIAMI REINTERVIEW LAIL TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD ANY REASON FOR PICKING OUT CITY SIZE OF HOUSTON, OR IF HE HAS INFO SUGGESTING RAY MAY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ABEY OR ANYONE ELSE IN HOUSTON. AM COPIES TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY.

A & D.

P.

END

RGJ:BN

(4)

CC: 1 - ATLANTA (AM)
1 - BIRMINGHAM (AM)
1 - KANSAS CITY (AM)

copy in 44-1987-776

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

4153P
40 4155P
MM 4159P

Per

[Signature]

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ST LOUIS

516IMMEDIATE 4-26-68 DCJ

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN.

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, ST. LOUIS,
INSTANT DATE.

RECORDS OF MISSOURI TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MEN, MOBERLY,
MISSOURI, FAILED TO INDICATE THAT ERIC LARSON IS NOW, OR HAS
EVER BEEN, IN INMATE OF THIS INSTITUTION. NUMBER ZERO EIGHT
SEVEN SEVEN IS NOT A MOBERLY NUMBER.

INMATE JAMES C. FLETCHER, SEVEN TWO ZERO SEVEN ONE, KNEW
RAY FROM GOING BACK AND FORTH TO THE DINING ROOM TO EAT.
EVERYONE IN THE PENITENTIARY KNEW HIM BY REPUTATION, AS HE
HAD ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE SO MANY TIMES. HE REPORTED RAY BEING
MISSING AT THE TIME OF HIS ESCAPE, APRIL TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYSEVEN,
TO LIEUTENANT BILLY "BOB" TURNER, AFTER HE HAD HEARD IT FROM
OTHER INMATES. THE RUMOR WAS THAT RAY WAS GOING TO GO TO
END PAGE ONE

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44-1987-777

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[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

Copy in 44-1987-777

PAGE TWO

GEORGIA IF HIS ESCAPE WAS SUCCESSFUL. MAJOR B. J. PORTER, PRESENTLY AT THE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY, WOULD KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE INMATES WHO FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION.

INMATE DONALD DEAN RIGGER, NUMBER ZERO THREE NINE FIVE NINE, WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH CAMPBELL, MISSOURI, CONVICTED DECEMBER, FIFTYONE, AND AN INMATE AT JEFFERSON CITY FROM DECEMBER, FIFTYONE THROUGH AUGUST, SIXTYSEVEN, WORKED IN THE KITCHEN AT THE PENITENTIARY WITH RAY. HE ADVISED NO ONE WAS REAL FRIENDLY WITH RAY. RIGGER, BEFORE HIS APPREHENSION, JUMPED BOND AND WAS IN SALTILLO COAHUILA, MEXICO, AND RECEIVED MAIL FROM THERE. RAY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ECONOMY IN MEXICO AND WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE ARMY STRUCTURE. IT WAS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT IF YOU COULD GET INTO THE MEXICAN ARMY THAT YOU WOULD LOSE YOUR IDENTITY. RIGGER ADVISED THAT THE PERSON WHO WAS CLOSEST TO RAY WAS AN INMATE, DONALD JOHNSON, WHO PRESENTLY IS EMPLOYED IN THE BREAD ROOM AT JEFFERSON CITY.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

KANSAS CITY, AT JEFFERSON CITY, RECHECK MSP RECORD
FOR ERIC LARSON TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS. CONTACT MAJOR
B. J. PORTER AND INTERVIEW INMATE DONALD JOHNSON.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER ADVISING MEXICO LEGATS
TO CHECK RECENT ARMY ENLISTMENTS IN MEXICO.

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

P

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KAN CITY

515PM URGENT 4-26-68 ENT

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

FROM KANSAS CITY (44-760) 2P

MURKIN. DAILY SUMMARY.

INFORMATION RECEIVED JIMMY CARPENTER, CLOSE ASSOCIATE, MSP, WITH RAY IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED ST. LOUIS CO. JAIL. ST. LOUIS ADVISED.

FORMER ESCAPEE FROM MSP AND TOP TEN FUGITIVE, GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, INTERVIEWED AT MSP. ADVISED THAT ALL INMATES ARE AWARE HOW EASY IT IS TO GET CANADIAN PASSPORTS IN MONTREAL BY JUST USING SUCH PAPERS AS BIRTH CERTIFICATES. EDMONDSON COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING RAY, OTHER THAN RAY ASSOCIATED WITH INMATES FROM ST. LOUIS AT MSP, AND WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO "MAKE A BUCK".

RECORDS, MSP, REGARDING VISITORS TO SUBJECT DURING HIS INCARCERATION FURNISHED PERTINENT OFFICES.

FBI LABORATORY ADVISED THAT THE "GALT" WRITINGS CONSIDERED TOGETHER WITH SPECIMENS OF RAY'S HANDWRITING OBTAINED FROM MSP, CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN PREPARED BY SAME INDIVIDUAL. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF LIMITED QUESTIONED MATERIAL AND LACK OF
END PAGE ONE

copy in 44-1987-478



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44-1987-478

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Hester

PAGE TWO

COMPARABLE LETTERS AND LETTER COMBINATIONS IT COULD NOT BE DETERMINED WHETHER THE "HARVEY LOWMYER" SIGNATURE ON GUN INVOICE WAS PREPARED BY JAMES E. RAY. NUMEROUS ADDITIONAL HANDWRITING SAMPLES BEING OBTAINED FROM MSP AND BEING FORWARDED TO FBI LABORATORY.

COMPLETE SUMMARY OF PERTINENT INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED KANSAS CITY AREA SINCE GALT WAS IDENTIFIED AS RAY, FURNISHED MEMPHIS AND BUREAU.

NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS FROM LOCAL CITIZENS REGARDING LOOK ALIKES AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONTINUE TO BE RECEIVED AND ARE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

G

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KAN CITY

641PM URGENT 4-26-68 ENT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS
FROM KANSAS CITY (44-760) 3P

MURKIN.

LEO HOLDEN PARKER, MSP, RECEIVED APRIL NINETEEN, SIXTY-EIGHT,
TO SERVE FIFTEEN YEARS, ARMED ROBBERY FIRST, SAID HE WAS RELEASED
ON PAROLE TO DISMAS HOUSE, ST. LOUIS, JUNE ONE, SIXTY-SEVEN, AFTER
SERVING THIRTEEN YEARS FOR MURDER IN ILLINOIS. WAS ARRESTED JULY
EIGHTEEN, SIXTY-SEVEN, FOR HAVING KIDNAPED AND ROBBED NINETEEN
YEAR OLD COUPLE, RITA BROCKELMAN, ONE FIVE ZERO TWO A MONTGOMERY,
AND GEORGE MC QUADE, JR., FOUR SEVEN ZERO EIGHT PLOVER, ST. LOUIS,
MO. CASE INVESTIGATED BY DETECTIVES JOHN LEPPING AND EDWARD ALLERS,
FIFTH DISTRICT, ST. LOUIS PD. PARKER CLAIMS INNOCENT OF CRIME AND
IDENTIFICATION MADE ON TOUCHED PHOTO. STATES NEWSPAPER ARTICLE
JULY TWELVE, SIXTY-SEVEN, ST. CHARLES, MO. DAILY BANNER, REFLECTS
CONFLICTING STATEMENTS BY VICTIMS WITH HIS IDENTIFICATION. STATES
WAS IN ST. LOUIS JAIL FOR TEN MONTHS ON FOURTH FLOOR UNTIL DECEMBER
SIXTY-SEVEN, AND THEREAFTER ON FIRST FLOOR. VICTIMS CLAIM PERSON
WHO KIDNAPED AND ROBBED THEM STATED HAD BROKEN OUT OF PRISON AND
NEEDED A CAR. PARKER INTERVIEWED EVERYBODY HE COULD IN JAIL TO
END PAGE ONE

Copy in 44-1987-782

(K)

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PAGE TWO

FIND OUT WHO WAS OUT OF PRISON AND AMONG PERSONS HE FOUND OUT HAD ESCAPED WAS JAMES RAY. WAS TOLD BY ONE UNRECALLED INMATE THAT AS LATE AS SEPTEMBER, SIXTY-SEVEN, RAY WAS IN ST. LOUIS AND LIVING AND COOKING IN GARAGE, HAD A CAR, WAS PUSHING OR USING NARCOTICS AND MAKING MONEY BY STICK-UPS. REQUESTED ATTORNEY TO GET PHOTOS OF RAY BUT THIS WAS NOT DONE. PARKER SAID THIS WEEK HE OBSERVED VARIOUS PHOTOS OF RAY IN NEWSPAPERS AND NOTED HIS DESCRIPTION IS IDENTICAL TO PARKER'S EXCEPT HE, PARKER, HAS TATTOOS AND BROWN EYES, WHEREAS VICTIMS CLAIM PERSON WHO KIDNAPPED THEM HAD BLUE EYES. PHOTO OF PARKER OBTAINED AND GENERAL APPEARANCE OF RAY AND PARKER IS SAME.

ST. LOUIS, AT ST. CHARLES, MO., AND ST. LOUIS, MO., WILL CONTACT INVESTIGATING OFFICERS AND WITNESSES IN PARKER CASE AND CONDUCT OTHER LOGICAL INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF RAY COULD HAVE BEEN ACTUAL SUBJECT IN PARKER MATTER AND ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH THROUGH CI'S OR PCI'S WHETHER RAY WAS IN ST. LOUIS AREA HIDING OUT IN GARAGE. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

JOHN RAY, BROTHER OF SUBJECT, POSSIBLY COULD HAVE AIDED IN ESCAPE
OF RAY FROM MSP. ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATELY ADVISE IF PHOTOS OF PARKER
AVAILABLE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI DALLAS

650PM URGENT 4/26/68 JDP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND KANSAS CITY
FROM DALLAS (44-2649) 2P

MURKIN. OO-MEMPHIS.

RE KANSAS CITY TEL APRIL TWENTYFOUR LAST AND HOUSTON TEL
APRIL TWENTYFIVE LAST CONCERNING NEAL EDGAR AEBY, REPORTED ASSO-
CIATE OF RAY IN MISSOURI STATE PEN.

U. S. PROBATION OFFICE, DALLAS, REPORTS AUBREY AEBY,
CURRENTLY INMATE USP, LEAVENWORTH. KANSAS CITY INTERVIEW HIM
CONCERNING ANY POSSIBLE ACQUAINTANCE OF RAY THROUGH ASSOCIATION
OF BROTHERS WITH RAY.

JAMES AEBY, DALLAS, ADVISES RAY COMPLETELY UNKNOWN TO HIM
AND HE HAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH HIS THREE BROTHERS FOR MANY YEARS.
JAMES AEBY IS APPARENTLY LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN AND CONFIRMED
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, DALLAS.

BILLY BROWN AEBY, FORMER INMATE MISSOURI STATE PEN, IS
CURRENTLY IN DALLAS AREA ON BOND IN CONNECTION WITH THREE
NARCOTIC CHARGES. IS REPORTED HEROIN USER AND PUSHER. EFFORT
BEING MADE TO LOCATE THIS MAN THROUGH BONDSMAN AND ATTORNEY

END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub K-27
~~44-1987-783~~

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Hester

copy in 44-1987-783

(K)

PAGE TWO

DL 44-2649

WHO APPARENTLY ARE COOPERATIVE TO EFFECT INTERVIEW UNDER
MOST FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. -P-

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MIAMI

8:35PM URGENT 4-26-68 PJL

TO DIRECTOR, HOUSTON, AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN.

RE METEL PM, INSTANT TO DIRECTOR, MIAMI AND HOUSTON RE
INFO RECEIVED FROM PAUL ALVIN LAIL

LAIL REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED ONLY REASON FOR
PICKING HOUSTON WAS SIZE OF CITY AND HIS FAMILIARITY WITH IT.

NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO ABNEY'S WHEREABOUTS.

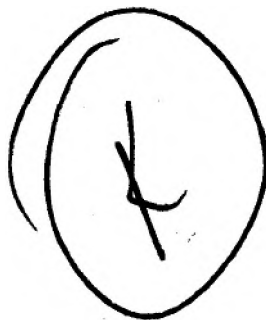
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

P



44-1987-Sub K-28
~~44-1987-787~~

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Copy in 44-1987-787

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ST LOUIS

1022PM URGENT 4-26-68 JLS

TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, CHICAGO, AND SPRINGFIELD
FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN - SUMMARY

JOHN LARRY RAY, BROTHER OF SUBJECT, REINTERVIEWED. MORE COOPERATIVE. ADMITTED VISITING SUBJECT TWO OR THREE TIMES MSP. WAS IMPRISONED IN ILLINOIS PERIOD OF YEARS PRIOR TO SUBJECTS NINETEEN FIFTY NINE ARMED ROBBERY AND DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECTS ACTIVITIES DURING SAME. AGAIN DENIED CONTACT WITH SUBJECT SINCE ESCAPE OR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

BANK ACCOUNTS OF CAROL PEPPER LOCATED. EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD DEVELOPING LIQUOR PERMIT VIOLATION TO SERVE AS LEVER TO FORCE COOPERATION. SUPPLIERS OF GRAPEVINE TAVERN STATE DELIVERIES ARE COD AND PAID IN CASH BY WHO EVER IS ON DUTY. PUBLIC UTILITIES STATE BILLS PAID BY CASH OR MONEY ORDERS, NAME OF REMITTERS NOT YET KNOWN. GMAC RECORDS SHOW JOHN RAY EXECUTED CHATTEL MORTGAGE FOR BEER COOLER WITH CAROL AS CO-SIGNER ON NOTE.

SUBJECT'S EMPLOYMENT ONE DAY MAY TWENTY EIGHT FIFTY EIGHT GLEN ECHO COUNTRY CLUB VERIFIED. ^{USED} ~~USED~~ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER THREE THREE FOUR DASH TWO TWO DASH SIX EIGHT SEVEN SIX. RESIDENCE ONE NINE ONE THREE HICKORY. NOT RECALLED BY EMPLOYEES.

END PAGE ONE

CORR TEXT LINE FIFTEEN WRD AUVJWXR'S SHOULD RD SUBJECT'S,

TEXT LINE SIXTEEN SUED SHOULD RD USED

44-1987-Sub K-29

~~44-1987-793~~

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(K)

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

COMMERICAL BAKERIES UNABLE TO LOCATE RAY EMPLOYMENT TO DATE.

HIPPIE NEIGHBORHOODS NEGATIVE.

MOBERLY MO STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MEN INMATE DONALD DEAN
DRIGGER STATED WHEN HE WAS AT MSP RAY INDICATED INTEREST IN LETTERS
DRIGGER RECEIVED FROM MEXICO AND QUESTIONED REGARDING MEXICAN
ECONOMY AND ARMY STRUCTURE.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/27/68

PAUL ALVIN LAIL was informed of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of this interview.

LAIL advised he is presently living at 34 Barbados Drive, Palm Springs, with his wife BETTY and five month old baby.

LAIL stated he had been an inmate in the Missouri State Penitentiary for three years and while confined there he had met and known JAMES EARL RAY. He stated he was not very close or friendly with RAY but he did eat with him a number of times when he was in the kitchen visiting with his friend, LEWIE "WHITEY" DOWDA. He said he also watched a number of ball games and television programs with RAY.

LAIL described RAY as being a guy who knew his way around but was not one of the wheels or leaders in prison; that RAY was a sharp intelligent guy who hung around with the boys who were always up to something and were in on all of the deals. LAIL advised RAY never seemed to have a lot of money but always seemed to have enough to get whatever he wanted.

LAIL said most of the guys (he cannot recall their names) that he, RAY, was with most of the time were on dope and were peddling it.

LAIL continued by saying that RAY's big buddy was NEAL ABBEY who was a "big wheel" and the guy who ran the prison kitchen with "an iron hand." LAIL stated ABBEY was the guy who got RAY into the kitchen which was a good deal (job).

LAIL advised that LEO BARNETT handled dope and peddled it in the Missouri State Penitentiary and he believes he is now in prison somewhere in Florida. He said that BARNETT would know for certain if RAY had been on dope and where and who he got the dope from.

On 4/26/68 at Palm Springs, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SAs ROBERT W. WISEMAN and
PATRICK A. PHILBIN PAP/kme 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.

44-1987-Sub R-30

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MM 44-1854

2

LAIL further advised that FRED MILLER, "a cut and dried con," who worked in the tag plant of the prison, was one of the leaders and knew RAY well and he might be able to furnish information about him if he would talk to the FBI.

LAIL related that WHITEY DOWDA also knew RAY pretty well and would know more about him than he did since they both worked in the kitchen together for quite a while. He said WHITEY had been living in Marietta, Georgia, and he recently heard that WHITEY is now in jail in Marietta on a robbery charge.

LAIL stated there had been trouble with some of the Negro prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary who were Black Muslims so some of the prisoners decided to teach them a lesson and three or four of the Negro leaders were killed. LAIL stated he did not know if RAY was in on the actual killing, but he was close with the ones that did it and therefore could have been in on the killing or at least he knew who did kill the Negroes.

LAIL would not make any further statements about the killing of the Negroes in the Missouri State Penitentiary and he stated he could not furnish any names or identities but he did say there were ten inmates who were in on the killing of the Negroes.

LAIL said he could not recall RAY saying too much about Negroes and he does not believe from his conversations with RAY that he, RAY, was a racist, however, all of the inmates in the Missouri State Penitentiary did not like the Negroes because of their belligerent attitude and animosity toward the white inmates.

LAIL stated RAY liked to wear his hair short in the summer months and long in the winter. He said RAY used to have a "butch" cut in the summer months.

MM 44-1854

3

LAIL stated from his association with RAY that he felt RAY would have a .45 automatic "stashed" on his person somewhere and he would not give up or be taken without a fight. LAIL said RAY is a "killer" in his opinion and that RAY would not be easy to catch or find. LAIL said RAY is "a city boy" and he does not figure him to be hiding out in the country. However, LAIL stated he would not figure RAY would hide out in a really big city like New York, but would pick one about the size of Houston, Texas.

LAIL said he could not recall RAY telling him or mentioning any place in particular he, RAY, always wanted to go to or visit, but he felt RAY would be in a warm climate rather than a cold one.

LAIL stated he had not been contacted or heard from RAY since he got out of the Missouri State Penitentiary over two years ago and to the best of his knowledge RAY would not know where or how to contact him.

LAIL advised he had visited WHITEY DOWDA in March, 1968, in WHITEY's home in Marietta, Georgia, for a few days. He said that WHITEY is his best friend.

LAIL continued by saying he recognized the name of SCHAFFER and he thinks SCHAFFER was a captain in the prison guard force, but he did not know him and/or if SCHAFFER peddled dope in the pen.

LAIL stated he felt that there was a possibility RAY's escape was engineered by and assisted by outside help but he did not have any knowledge about it. Also he stated just about anything is possible with outside help and money, however, escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary is something else and is just about impossible in his opinion.

NM 44-1854

4

LAIL stated he did not feel badly about MARTIN LUTHER KING getting killed, but he was sorry it happened in Memphis, Tennessee, and he would have rather seen KING killed in some Northern city. LAIL said he is a Southerner and his feelings are Southern.

LAIL stated that he is of course interested in the reward money and he could certainly use it. However, he said he really does not know if he would turn RAY in or not for the reward money if he had the opportunity. LAIL stated he was certain RAY did the killing of KING himself and not involved with anyone else. LAIL stated that he wanted to be honest with the FBI and he would have to think about this a couple of days as to whether or not he would or would not turn RAY in if he knew his possible or current whereabouts.

LAIL stated he really does not know where RAY is and he said that RAY had not contacted him and he had not seen RAY for over two years.

LAIL continued by saying he was a little surprised when he learned from the newspaper and television that RAY had been identified as KING's killer because he always figured RAY as being a guy that would be too smart to leave any clues or evidence around so that the police or the FBI would be able to trace and/or identify him.

LAIL examined the photographs of RAY and said he would never recognize him with the tuxedo and bow tie outfit on and further he said he never saw RAY with his hair long as it is either. However, he said the guy with the bow tie and tuxedo on is RAY.

NM 44-1854

5

LAIL said after thinking it over that he is very interested in the money and if he thinks of anything or comes up with anything concerning RAY, he will contact either Special Agent PATRICK A. PHILBIN or ROBERT W. WISEMAN.

LAIL is a white male, born [REDACTED], Marion, North Carolina, 175 pounds, blue eyes, red hair, medium slender build, 6' 3", wife BETTY, and resides 34 Barbados Drive, Palm Springs, Florida.

4/27/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1834) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Miami teletype to Bureau, Atlanta, Birmingham, Jacksonville, and Kansas City, 4/26/68.

Enclosed herewith are ten copies each of the interview with PAUL ALVIN LAIL for Kansas City and Memphis; one copy each for Atlanta and Birmingham.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Kansas City (Enc 10)
1 - Memphis (Enc 10) *ly*
1 - Atlanta (Info) (Enc 1)
1 - Birmingham (Info) (Enc 1)
1 - Miami
PAT/2
PAP/iam
(1)

(K)

44-1987-Sub K-31
~~44-1987-Sub B-441~~

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APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over stamp]

Copy 44-1987-Sub B-441

DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION AND ASSIGNMENT
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
RECEPTION-DIAGNOSTIC CENTER REPORT

TRANSCRIPT OF SERIAL RECORD

REGISTER NO. W-10980 NAME Tom Britton RACE White
ALIAS TRUE NAME Thomas Britton
BIRTH DATE [REDACTED] BIRTH PLACE Daus, Tenn. AGE 47
HEIGHT 5 FT. 11 IN. WEIGHT 225 LENGTH OF FOOT 11 IN.
BUILD Obese HAIR Brown EYES Brown COMPLEXION Medium
MARKS, SCARS, OR TATTOOS T.B PANAMA, 1938-40 outer left forearm.
SOC. SEC. NO. Unknown SELECT. SERVICE NO. CLASS
MILITARY: BRANCH Army FROM 1938 TO 1944 TYPE OF DISCHARGE Dishonorable
EMERGENCY ADDRESS WIFE: Beatrice Britton TELE. NO. 387 7988
1710 Alabama, Ave., Jasper, Ala.
INTELLIGENCE CLASSIFICATION GRADE ACHIEVEMENT
MARITAL STATUS Married OCCUPATION OR TRADE Carpenter
EDUCATION 12 RELIGION Methodist
FORMER IMPRISONMENT: MO. OTHER 1 NONE
PAROLES OR PROBATION: MO. OTHER 1 NONE

Mother: Minnie Felkins. 209 Winchester, Chattanooga, Tenn.
PRESENT CONVICTION

OFFENSE PG: Uttering a Forged Check; Forgery

COUNTY Greene; Lawrence RECEIVED 10-4-1965

SENTENCE 3 1/2 Years 9-27-1965
2 yrs. Conc.

EXPIRATION DATE: FULL TIME 10-5-1968

F.B.I. NO. 500 803 7

DATE

INSTITUTION

LAST RESIDENCE Jasper, Ala.

RELEASED

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 8 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Heck *OK*

Rel. 4-3-67

44-1987-Sub B-611

DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION AND ASSIGNMENT
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Diagnostic Center Report

Date: 3 Nov 1965

Name: Thomas Britton

Number: W-10980

Sentence: 3½ Yr.

Present Offense: PG: Uttering a Forged Check

County: Greene

Date Received: 4 Oct 1965

Age: 47

FELONY INCARCERATIONS: 22 Aug 1957, SP Nashville, Tenn., Forg., 3 yr., par. 14 Feb 1959.

CRIMINAL HISTORY: Prior to entering the service, the subject was charged with grand larceny in June of 1949 at Jasper, Alabama, with the charge showing no disposition, but evidently was connected with the offense for which he received a dishonorable discharge from the U. S. Army. After he and his wife broke up, he went AWOL, kept going, and finally was charged with desertion, for which he received a 7 year USDB sentence. In 1955, the subject was charged with non support, with no disposition shown. After serving his Tennessee sentence, he was charged with forged check at Springfield, forgery and grand larceny early in 1965 in Alabama and another federal charge later, with none of these charges showing a disposition. After his involvement in the present offense, he went to Alabama and was later extradited to Missouri on the charge of uttering a forged check.

PRESENT OFFENSE: The subject was arrested in September of 1963 at Republic, Missouri after uttering a forged check. After being bound over to the Circuit Court in July of 1964 and while awaiting the next term, the subject jumped bond and was extradited from the state of Alabama to Missouri on the present charge. In September of 1965 he entered a plea of guilty on the charge and received a 3 year 6 months sentence to the Department of Corrections.

Accomplices: None.

Detainers: None presently.

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SOCIAL: This 47-year-old inmate was born at Daus, Tennessee on 15 Sep 1918. He says he has some brothers and sisters but does not know who or where they are. When he was about 7, was placed in the Tennessee Industrial School for Boys, where he finished high school. He was later placed in a foster home, which was unsatisfactory to him, and he ran off and returned to the industrial school. At age 17 he left and when he was 20 he entered the military service. He states that although he doesn't know much about his parents, he learned that his father was killed in an auto accident in 1958 and indicated that he believed that his mother was still living in Tennessee. Since he was about 31 he has been living in Alabama where he was married to his present wife.

MARITAL: He was married the first time while in the military service and after domestic problems he went AWOL at which time he was given discharge and served the disciplinary barracks sentence. He was married the 2nd time in 1947 at Jasper, Alabama where his wife continues to reside and works as a waitress. One son was added to this union and the wife is presently supporting him. His wife reports that the subject supported the family well, although the FBI report shows that he was arrested for non support on 1 occasion.

MILITARY: When the subject was 20 years old in 1938 he entered the U. S. Army and in 1949 received a dishonorable discharge on the basis of desertion. He states that he was reinstated later.

- - continued

W-10980 - Thomas Britton

EDUCATIONAL: The subject states that he completed the 12th grade at the Boys' Training School in Tennessee, and indicated that he made fair grades in school for the most part. His performance on tests would suggest an above average level of intellectual endowment with an average general mental ability shown. A 7.9 SAT battery median with an erratic profile suggests some educational limitations as compared with his 12th grade achievement. He was lower in arithmetic and higher in the reading area.

VOCATIONAL-EMPLOYMENT: The subject states that he has been a finish carpenter most of his life and while in military service was assigned to the carpenter shop. He states that he was doing construction work in the Springfield area at the time of the instant offense, and had lived in that area for about 1 year. His mechanical aptitude is superior which suggests some qualification for vocational employment in this area.

RELIGION: The subject is a baptized member of the Methodist Church, in which he was reared, but states he has not been involved in religious activities more recently.

HEALTH AND HABITS: The subject denies being an alcoholic, but admits that periodically he goes on drinking binges which generally takes him away from home. This evidently was his reason for being in southwestern Missouri at the time of the instant offense. He does not indicate that he was separated from his wife, but he had been away from her for as long as a year. Subject makes no physical complaints and is cleared for a regular duty status. He denies the use of narcotics or ever contracting venereal disease or being hospitalized for a major illness. His wife reports that they enjoy fishing and bowling as a family, but that his drinking disrupted the domestic environment.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Commitment report, FBI report, transcript of serial record, Tennessee State Penitentiary report, wife's questionnaire, medical report, test battery, interview.

EVALUATION OF INMATE: This is a 47-year-old white man from southwestern Missouri serving his 2nd felony incarceration, although he served a disciplinary barracks sentence for desertion while in the military service. He was reared in a boys industrial school in Tennessee where he is said to have received adequate training and developed close relationships with the superintendent of the school, but has evidently had a difficult time in internalizing acceptable social values. He goes on periodic drinking binges, and leaves his home and family, and doesn't work and then gets in trouble with local authority. He adjusted satisfactorily enough to receive a parole from his last incarceration which he was able to successfully complete. He presently has a detainer from Lawrence County on checks, but is expected to adjust to confinement without event. He is interested in working as a carpenter during his present incarceration and is not expected to benefit from a program of training during his incarceration.

ASSIGNMENT: J

RECOMMENDATIONS: Routine supervision with a job assignment in the area of maintenance, woodworking, or carpentry.

GHP:bc

5/7/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Birmingham teletype to Director, 5/3/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Memphis Office is one photograph of TOM BRITTON, MSP #10980 and 3 pages from his penitentiary file containing complete background information regarding him. This is being furnished per request of referenced communication to assist in locating BRITTON in the Birmingham area.

3 - Bureau
2 - Birmingham
② - Memphis (Enc 4)
2 - Kansas City
RBH:WSA
(9)

44-1987-Sub K-33
~~44-1987-Sub B-612~~

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MAY - 8 1968	
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Hester [initials]

(K)

one copy 7 enclosures
fwd Blam 5-8-68

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ST LOUIS

11:20AM URGENT 5-7-68 JJR

TO: DIRECTOR AND SACS, MEMPHIS, LITTLE ROCK,
NEW ORLEANS, CHARLOTTE

FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775) 3P

MURKIN.

(K)

SEARCHED 5 INDEXED 3
SERIALIZED 5 FILED 3
7 1968
FBI - MEMPHIS
Ronan

RE LITTLE ROCK TEL MAY SIX LAST AND ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO
BUREAU, SPRINGFIELD, AND MEMPHIS, APRIL TWENTYNINE LAST.

RE: RUSSELL LEE MARTIN AND CARL BENTON DRAKE.

CARL BENTON DRAKE, SELF-EMPLOYED CONTRACTOR, INTERVIEWED
BY ST. LOUIS APRIL TWENTYNINE LAST. STATED ACQUAINTED WITH RAY AS
FELLOW INMATE MSP NINETEEN SIXTY OR SIXTYONE UNTIL DRAKE
RELEASED SIXTYFIVE. MAIN ASSOCIATION WAS WALKING TOGETHER IN
PRISON YARD. DRAKE FEELS HE WAS AS CLOSE A FRIEND TO RAY AS ANY
OTHER PRISONER. RAY WAS LONER, CLOSE MOUTHED, KEPT OWN COUNCIL,
NEVER DISCUSSED PRISON ESCAPE PLANS. HAD FEW FRIENDS, BUT MIXED
WELL WITH OTHER INMATES, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE. NEVER DISPLAYED
PROPENSITY FOR VIOLENCE OR RACIST SENTIMENTS. NEVER INVOLVED
IN RACIAL DIFFICULTY AT PRISON.

44-1987-Sub K-34

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

OFTEN MENTIONED INABILITY TO COMPLETE SENTENCE, BUT NEVER MENTIONED ESCAPE PLANS OR OUTSIDE CONTACTS. ONLY VISITOR WAS BROTHER, JOHN RAY. MENTIONED HE HAD SERVED TIME IN MENARD PRISON, THAT ANOTHER BROTHER WAS KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT, BUT OTHERWISE DID NOT DISCUSS BACKGROUND.

RAY NOT ADDICTED TO DRUGS, BUT NEARLY ALL INMATES USED ANY DRUGS AVAILABLE.

TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING DRAKE'S RELEASE HE VISITED JOHN RAY AT SUBJECT'S REQUEST. CONVERSATION CONCERNED SUBJECT'S WELFARE AT PRISON.

DRAKE UNAWARE OF SUBJECT'S ESCAPE UNTIL RECENT PUBLICITY. REGARDS SUBJECT AS SMALL TIME ROBBER MENTALLY INCAPABLE OF PLANNING ASSASSINATION WITHOUT INTELLIGENT OUTSIDE GUIDANCE. BELIEVES SUBJECT CAPABLE OF BEING HIRED FOR KILLING AND WOULD NOT BE ALONE IN MATTER. BELIEVES WHOEVER HIRED SUBJECT HAS DISPOSED OF HIM, AS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HIDE WITH HEAT OR AND REWARDS ADVERTISED.

DRAKE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH FBI IN ANY MANNER POSSIBLE SHOULD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING SUBJECT COME

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

SL 77-775

TO HIS ATTENTION.

DRAKE APPEARED FRANK, STRAIGHT FORWARD AND SINCERELY WILLING TO FULLY COOPERATE.

UACB REQUEST WILL BE MADE FOR DRAKE'S TOLL CALLS FROM APRIL FOURTH, AND FOLLOW UP INTERVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED TODAY TO LEARN IF ANY NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT'S WHEREABOUTS HAVE COME TO HIS ATTENTION. MARTIN WILL NOT BE MENTIONED.

LITTLE ROCK IS REQUESTED TO ATTEMPT RESOLUTION OF RELIABILITY, MENTAL CAPACITY, AND REPUTATION FOR VERACITY OF PCI RUSSELL LEE MARTIN.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

END

MC

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI BIRMGHAM

1130 AM URGENT 5-7-68 JGA

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS
FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

(K)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 7 1968	
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Ronan

MURKIN.

THOMAS BRITTON, HALEYVILLE, ALA., ADVISED HE KNEW JAMES EARL RAY WHILE CONFINED TO MISSOURI STATE PRISON. BRITTON STATED RAY WAS "WALK BOY", THAT IS BROUGHT HOT WATER FOR SHAVING, CANDY, ETC. TO PRISONERS IN J BLOCK WHERE BRITTON WAS CONFINED. BRITTON ADVISED FIRST BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH RAY, WHEN RAY NOTICED HE WAS RECEIVING A BIRMINGHAM NEWSPAPER, AND MENTIONED TO HIM THAT HE USED TO LIVE IN BIRMINGHAM AND WOULD ENJOY READING THE PAPER. BRITTON SAVED PAPER FOR RAY THEREAFTER, THUS BECOMING FRIENDS.

BRITTON STATED THAT "COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION" WAS A PROTECTION AND ENFORCER ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATED IN THE PRISON. MEMBERSHIP WAS GAINED BY PAYING TEN DOLLARS MEMBERSHIP FEE. MEMBERS RECEIVED HELP AGAINST OTHER PRISONERS WHEN NEEDED, AND FOR AN ADDITIONAL FEE COULD OBTAIN "SPECIAL FAVORS" IF A PRISONER BECAME

END PAGE ONE

44-1987-Sub K-35

PAGE TWO

INVOLVED IN TROUBLE WITH PRISON AUTHORITIES. FEES WERE PAID TO THE ORGANIZATION TO OBTAIN ANYTHING FROM SIMPLE CONTRABAND, TO HAVING A PRISONER MURDERED. BRITTON STATED HE NEVER HEARD THAT "COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION" EVER OFFERED A REWARD FOR KING'S ASSASSINATION. BRITTON DID NOT KNOW WHO HEADED THE ORGANIZATION OR IF THERE ACTUALLY WAS A MAN NAMED COOLEY WHO RAN IT. HE BELIEVED IT MIGHT HAVE CONSISTED OF FIVE, SIX OR SEVEN MEN.

BRITTON ADVISED RAY TOLD HIM ONCE ABOUT AN ORGANIZATION OUTSIDE THE PRISON CALLED THE "BUSINESS MENS ASSOCIATION" WHICH OFFERED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS "FOR PEOPLE LIKE KING TO BE KILLED." BRITTON STATED THAT RAY ADDED, REFERRING TO KING, "HE'S FIVE YEARS PAST DUE."

BRITTON STATED RAY WAS "MONEY CRAZY" AND ON ONE OCCASION TOLD HIM "ONE OF THESE DAYS IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF A BUNCH OF MONEY." WHEN BRITTON ASKED HIM HOW HE INTENDED TO DO THIS, HE REPLIED, "THERE ARE MORE WAYS OF MAKING MONEY THAN ROBBING BANKS."

BRITTON DESCRIBED RAY AS A CALM PERSON, A "DAYDREAMER," AND A LONER. HE SAID RAY DID NOT TAKE DOPE BUT WAS A HEAVY DRINKER. HE BELIEVED RAY HAD A NORMAL SEX LIFE. BRITTON STATED
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

RAY WAS DEFINITELY "SLOUGH-FOOTED" AND HIS TOES POINTED OUT NOTICEABLY WHEN HE WALKED CAUSING HIS HEELS TO WEAR DOWN ON OUTSIDE EDGES. BRITTON STATED RAY DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH ANY NEGRO PRISONERS AND WOULD GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID THEM. HE NEVER HEARD HIM MAKE ANY VIOLENT REMARKS REGARDING THEM.

BRITTON ADVISED THAT THE ONLY OTHER PERSON RAY MIGHT HAVE BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH IN PRISON WAS A FULL BLOODED INDIAN BARBER IN J BLOCK, WHOSE NAME HE DID NOT RECALL.

PRIOR TO RAY'S ESCAPE, BRITTON STATED HE GAVE RAY HIS ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER IN JASPER, ALA.; HOWEVER, HE DENIES HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY RAY SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON IN MAY, SIXTYSEVEN.

BIRMINGHAM INDICES SHOW BRITTON SUBJECT OF BH EIGHT EIGHT - FOUR TWO SIX AND KC EIGHT EIGHT - SIX THREE SIX SIX, CAPTIONED "THOMAS EDWARD BRITTON, AKA. UFAP - UTTERING A FORGED CHECK."

KANSAS CITY, AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO., ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE INDIAN BARBER WHO WAS IN J BLOCK WHEN RAY INCARCERATED THERE AND INTERVIEW CONCERNING INFORMATION SET OUT ABOVE, HIS ASSOCIATION WITH RAY, AND ANY INFORMATION HE MIGHT HAVE REGARDING

END PAGE THREE

PGE FOUR

HIM. ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION RE EXISTENCE AND OPERATION OF "COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION" OPERATING IN THE PRISON AS ALLEGED BY BRITTON. PROTECT IDENTITY OF BRITTON IN THESE INTERVIEWS AND IN ANY LEADS SET FORTH.

BIRMINGHAM WILL OBTAIN BRITTON'S LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALLS AND REINTERVIEW BRITTON TODAY FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS AS HE APPEARED TO BE RELUCTANT TO FULLY COOPERATE AT TIME OF ORIGINAL INTERVIEW.

BUREAU AND INTERESTED OFFICES WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI LITTLE R

3:38PM URGENT 5-7-68 ACT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ST. LOUIS (44-775), KANSAS CITY
AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM LITTLE ROCK (157-1215) 2P

MURKIN.

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU THIS DATE, AND MYTEL
TO BUREAU AND ST. LOUIS, MAY SIX, NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT.

NO REASON KNOWN FOR RUSSELL LEE MARTIN, PCI, TO FURNISH
ANY FALSE INFORMATION AS SET FORTH IN REFERENCED LITTLE ROCK
TELETYPE. PCI FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING NARCOTICS,
ELYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS, AREA WHICH HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIATED.

PCI ALSO ADVISED THAT HE WAS SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR
WARDEN, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, WHICH INCARCERATED AND
HELPED TO BREAK UP NARCOTIC RING THAT PRISON.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY CONTACT WARDEN AND
DETERMINE FROM HIS ANY INFORMATION HE MAY HAVE REGARDING
PCI'S MENTAL STABILITY, RELIABILITY AND REPUTATION FOR
VERACITY.

MARTIN HAS BEEN INTERVIEWED THREE TIMES REGARDING

END PAGE ONE

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(K)

LR 157-1215

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INFORMATION SET FORTH IN REFERENCED LITTLE ROCK TELETYPE
AND HAS NEITHER ENLARGED NOR DELETED ANY INFORMATION
PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED.

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI BIRMGHAM

158 PM URGENT 5-9-68 JGA

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, KNOXVILLE, MEMPHIS, RICHMOND, MOBILE
FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

MURKIN

REMYTEL, MAY EIGHT, LAST.

BEATRICE BRITTON, WIFE OF THOMAS BRITTON, JASPER,
ALABAMA, INTERVIEWED YESTERDAY AND SAID NO PHONE CALLS EVER
RECEIVED BY HER FROM ANY UNKNOWN MALE ASKING FOR HER HUSBAND,
SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY. ALSO STATES
NO INDIVIDUALS CAME TO HOUSE ASKING FOR HUSBAND.
SHE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY, AND
NEVER SAW ANY WHITE MUSTANGS IN AREA WHERE SHE AND HUSBAND
RESIDE. MRS. BRITTON ADVISED FROM JUNE,
SIXTYSEVEN, THROUGH JAN., SIXTYEIGHT, THEIR FAMILY DID NOT
RESIDE AT ONE SEVEN ONE ZERO ALABAMA AVE., JASPER, ALA., WHICH
IS ADDRESS GIVEN BY THOMAS BRITTON TO RAY, BUT THEY DID MAINTAIN
THE SAME TELEPHONE NUMBER RESIDENCE IN RURAL AREA OUTSIDE
JASPER, ALA. BRITTONS HAD LIVED AT ABOVE ADDRESS
END PAGE ONE

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PRIOR TO JUNE SIXTYSEVEN, AND MOVED BACK FROM RURAL RESIDENCE TO THIS SAME ADDRESS IN JAN., SIXTYEIGHT. DURING ENTIRE PERIOD SINCE HUSBAND'S RELEASE, SHE RECALLS TWO PHONE CALLS FOR HER HUSBAND, BOTH FROM AN UNKNOWN WOMAN, WHO DID NOT IDENTIFY HERSELF. ONE CALL RECEIVED ABOUT CHRISTMAS TIME, LAST, AND SECOND CALL CAME JANUARY, LAST. DURING THIS PERIOD, HER HUSBAND WAS HANGING OUT SOME AT LOCAL BARS IN AREA, DRINKING, AND MRS. BRITTON BELIEVES CALLER WAS SOME WOMAN HER HUSBAND WAS POSSIBLY "PLAYING AROUND" WITH. SHORTLY AFTER THIS TIME, HE CEASED HIS DRINKING AND GOT STEADY EMPLOYMENT. ONLY TIME THOMAS BRITTON MENTIONED SUBJECT RAY WAS AFTER RECENT CONTACT BY FBI, WHEN HE EXPLAINED REASON FOR FBI WANTING TO TALK TO HIM. WIFE STATES BRITTON NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT RAY DURING TIME RAY'S NAME AND PHOTOS WERE BEING SHOWN IN NEWS MEDIA. MRS. BRITTON STATED SHE WILL COOPERATE FULLY AND KEEP BIRMINGHAM ADVISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING HER HUSBAND AND / OR RAY.

GLADYS KEY, KNOWN AS "MOMA HAYWOOD," OPERATOR OF THE LITTLE WARRIOR RIVER CAFE, NOTORIOUS BEER JOINT NEAR DORA, ALA., ADVISED SHE AND EXHUSBAND, C.C. HAYWOOD, FORMERLY JOINTLY OPERATED ANOTHER BEER

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

JOINT, HALF-A-MILE AWAY, KNOWN AS THE RIVERVIEW, FROM JULY, FIFTYEIGHT UNTIL SIXTYFOUR. EXHUSBAND STILL OPERATING SAME PLACE. MRS. KEY UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY PHOTO OF RAY AS PERSON EVER KNOWN TO HAVE FREQUENTED THE RIVERVIEW, EITHER DURING FIFTYEIGHT THROUGH SIXTY, OR HER PLACE, SINCE APRIL, SIXTYSEVEN. STATES HER PLACE OFTEN FREQUENTED BY MEN WHO WORK ON BARGES ON WARRIOR RIVER, WHICH PASSES HER FRONT DOOR. C.C. HAYWOOD NOT LOCATED YESTERDAY, EFFORTS BEING MADE TO INTERVIEW TODAY.

MAMIE MITCHELL, OPERATOR OF ROSE'S PLACE, ROUTE ONE, DORA, ALA., ADVISED SHE HAS HAD THIS PLACE SINCE SIXTYTHREE. IT WAS KNOWN AS JOHNNIE'S PLACE AND PARKER'S PLACE DURING PERIOD FIFTYEIGHT THROUGH SIXTYTHREE, AND AS MAMIE'S PLACE IN SIXTYTHREE, BEFORE BEING NAMED ROSE'S PLACE IN SIXTYFOUR. MITCHELL UNABLE TO IDENTIFY PHOTOS OF RAY AS INDIVIDUAL SEEN BY HER.

NOTING ABOVE, AND INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED ABOUT RAY BY THOMAS BRITTON, IT APPEARS THAT BRITTON'S INFORMATION IS CORRECT, AND THAT FOR RAY TO HAVE IDENTIFIED TO BRITTON, "MOMA HAYWOOD" AND TO HAVE KNOWN ABOUT TAVERN NOW KNOWN AS ROSE'S PLACE, WHICH WAS KNOWN TO RAY BY SOME OTHER UNRECALLED NAME, RAY WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY HAD TO HAVE BEEN IN AREA AND FREQUENTED

END PAGE THREE