

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FIELD OFFICE FILE  
FOIPA PROCESSED

FEDERAL BUREAU

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

of

FOIPA REQUEST

Do Not Destroy Prior to 4/12/99

Serial 910

(190-ME-44259)

INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-31-01 BY SP/LS/15/02

Bureau File Number 44-38861

See Next Section

"DO NOT DESTROY:  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES"

See also Nos.

SEE VOL 1  
FOR LITIGATION

4

X DO NOT DESTROY  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

See Next  
Section  
4-4-68

Investigation after arrest  
44-1987 Sub M

Volume Number  
Serials

837-923

8

4/26/74

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P\*)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Bureau telephone call 4/26/74.

The Memphis Office has not at any time made available information concerning this case to WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, GEROLD FRANK, GEORGE MC MILLAN, or to any other unauthorized persons.

2-Bureau  
1-Memphis  
JCH/mah  
(3)

44-1987-Sub M 837

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *mp*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *mp*

NR002 BS PLAIN

10:45AM URGENT 4-29-74 DAO

TO: BUREAU 44-38861

MEMPHIS

FROM: BOSTON 157-644 P

MURKIN

RE BOSTON TT DATED APRIL 27, 1974 (INCORRECTLY  
DATED APRIL 29, 1974).

ON APRIL 29, 1974, GEORGE MC MILLAN, TWELVE  
HILLIARD STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, WAS  
RECONTACTED IN EFFORT TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW. MC MILLAN  
STATED HE HAS DECIDED TO CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY PRIOR  
TO INTERVIEW AND WISHES TO HAVE ATTORNEY PRESENT IF  
INTERVIEWED. HE STATED HE WOULD CONTACT BOSTON OFFICE  
IN A FEW DAYS.

BOSTON WILL KEEP BUREAU ADVISED.

END

FBI ME CLR JSD

44-1987 Sub m 651

44-1987 Sub m 838

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - MEMPHIS	
HESTER	

⓪

4/26/74

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P\*)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Bureau telephone call 4/26/74.

The Memphis Office has not at any time made available information concerning this case to WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, GEROLD FRANK, GEORGE MC MILLAN, or to any other unauthorized persons.

2-Bureau  
1-Memphis  
JCH/mah  
(3)

44-1987-Sub M 837

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED mp  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED mp

NR007 BS PLAIN

5:05 PM NITEL 5-1-74 DAO

TO : DIRECTOR 44-38861

MEMPHIS

FROM : BOSTON 157-644 P

MURKIN

RE BOSTON IT DATED APRIL 29, 1974.

ON APRIL 29, 1974, GEORGE MC MILLAN RECONTACTED THE BOSTON OFFICE AND ADVISED HE WAS WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED ON MAY 2, 1974, IN THE PRESENCE OF AND IN THE OFFICE OF HIS ATTORNEY JOHN T. WILLIAMS OF HAUSSERMAN DAVISON AND SHATTUCK, FIFTEEN STATE STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

ON APRIL 30, 1974, MC MILLAN CONTACTED THE BOSTON OFFICE AND CANCELLED APPOINTMENT. HE STATED HE WAS WILLING TO HAVE ATTORNEY WILLIAMS INTERVIEWED IN HIS BEHALF BUT DID NOT WISH TO BE PRESENT HIMSELF. HE STATED HE WAS LEAVING THE BOSTON AREA IMMEDIATELY TO SPEND THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN TENNESSEE. HE VOLUNTARED THAT HE HAD NOT REVIEWED ANY FBI FILES AND HAD ONLY HEARSAY KNOWLEDGE OF ~~SUBJECT~~ **SUCH**

END PAGE ONE

44-1987 Sub m 837

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 1 1974	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

HESTER

BS 157-644

PAGE TWO

REVIEW BY OTHER AUTHORS.

ON APRIL 30, 1974, JOHN T. WILLIAMS STATED HE HAD LAST TALKED WITH MC MILLAN A FEW HOURS EARLIER AND AT THAT TIME MC MILLAN WAS WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED PERSONALLY. WILLIAMS STATED HE KNOWS ONLY THAT MC MILLAN DID NOT REVIEW FBI FILES. HE STATED HE WOULD CONTACT BOSTON OFFICE CONCERNING POSSIBLE INTERVIEW AFTER CONFERRING WITH MC MILLAN UPON MC MILLAN'S RETURN FROM TENNESSEE.

BOSTON WILL ARRANGE INTERVIEW WITH MC MILLAN IF POSSIBLE AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED.

END

PLS NOTE CORRECTION PAGE ONE LAST WORD SHOULD BE SUCH NOT SUBJECT  
GA PLS

KJW

FBIME CLR

Z

NR014 BS PLAIN

12:60P URGENT MAY 8, 1974 DAD

TO : DIRECTOR 44-38861

MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM : BOSTON 157-644

MURKIN.

RE BOSTON NITEL MAY 1, 1974.

ATTORNEY JOHN T. WILLIAMS TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED

DURING AM OF THIS DATE THAT HIS CLIENT GEORGE MCMILLAN WILL BE IN  
BOSTON, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974, AND AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW IN WILLIAMS'  
OFFICE 3:15 PM THAT DATE.

BOSTON DIVISION ARRANGED TO INTERVIEW MCMILLAN AT THAT  
TIME, AND WILL SUTEL SUMMARY OF RESULTS, FOLLOWED BY LHM.

END.

!78 .3 :04

'0:

FBI ME CLR

JLC

44-1987-Sub m 890

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 8 1974	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester dlt

NR 024 BS PLAIN

11:55 PM NITEL MAY 10, 1974 JWH

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM BOSTON (157-644)

*Henry  
Hailo*

MURKIN

RE BOSTON NITEL TO BUREAU, 5/8/74.

GEORGE MC MILLAN INTERVIEWED THIS DATE IN  
OFFICE OF HIS ATTORNEY, JOHN T. WILLIAMS, OF FIRM  
HAUSSERMAN, DAVIDSON AND SHATTUCK, 1 BOSTON PLACE,  
BOSTON, IN PRESENCE OF WILLIAMS.

MC MILLAN ADVISED HE HAS NEVER SEEN OR HAD  
ACCESS TO ANY FBI FILES OR PORTIONS THEREOF, CONCERNING  
THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE OR ANY OTHER CASE. ALSO  
STATED THAT NO FBI PERSONNEL ANYWHERE EVER INDICATED THEY  
WOULD MAKE SUCH AVAILABLE TO HIM.

MC MILLAN FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE TENNESSEE  
STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN MEMPHIS HAD IN ITS  
END PAGE ONE

44-1987 Sub m 841

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1974	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
HESTER	



BS 157-644

PAGE TWO

POSSESSION WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS FBI FILES IN ORDER TO  
CONDUCT ITS PROSECTUTION OF RAY AND HE HEARD RUMORS  
FROM SOURCE , NOW UNRECALLED , THAT THOSE FILES WERE MADE  
AVAILABLE TO AUTHORS GERALD FRANK AND WILLIAM HUIE BY STATE  
OR COUNTY PERSONNEL. AS A RESULT OF THESE RUMORS ,  
MC MILLAN FELT THE FILE WOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM.  
WHEN ASKED IF ANY TENNESSEE STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIAL  
OR PERSONNEL EVER OFFERED TO MAKE THE FBI FILES  
AVAILABLE TO HIM , MC MILLAN REPLIED BY SAYING HE REFUSES  
TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

LHM WILL BE SUBMITTED.

END

KJW

FBIME CLR

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P\*) *mp*

DATE: 5/14/74

FROM : SA JOE C. HESTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/13/74, Mr. JOHN CARLISLE, Chief Investigator, Shelby County Attorney General's Office, Memphis, advised that the subject RAY's hearing to be held before USDJ MCRAE is being handled by Mr. HENRY HAILE who is in the State Attorney General's Office at Nashville, Tenn. He said he believes this hearing will be concerned only with determining whether or not RAY had been given competent legal advice at the time he pleaded guilty to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Mr. CARLISLE advised that the written material given to his office by the FBI is still locked up in his office and that no one has access to this material. He could not recall ever having been contacted by GEORGE MC MILLAN, but he stated he is certain that no one has had an opportunity to furnish MC MILLAN any information from FBI reports.

JCH:  
(1)

44-1987 Sub M 842

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
MAY 14 1974	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*CR*



5010-108

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

F B I

Transmit in \_\_\_\_\_ Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)

5/14/74

(Date)

✓ To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

**MURKIN**

ReBStel 5/10/74.

If not already done, the Memphis Office should contact appropriate current and former Tennessee State authorities to ascertain if they have any information that FBI files previously in possession of state authorities were made available to Frank and Huie or anyone else by state or county personnel.

1 - Boston (INFO) (157-644)

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44-1987 Sub M 843  
mp mp  
HESTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Boston, Massachusetts

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

May 15, 1974

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

George McMillan, 12 Billiard Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, telephonically advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Boston, Massachusetts, on April 27, 1974, that he is an author of material on James Earl Ray; however, he declined to be interviewed. He said that James Earl Ray's attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., habitually makes wild accusations and he, McMillan, did not feel any response was warranted. McMillan noted he has written letters to "Jack," described by him as being John Larry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray. McMillan said he had a second reason for not wishing to be interviewed, stating that correspondence between himself and John Larry Ray concerned a suit in Federal Court by McMillan to gain access to John Larry Ray, currently an inmate at Federal Prison, Marion, Illinois. This suit is presently on appeal to the United States Supreme Court, according to McMillan.

Two hours later on the same date, April 27, 1974, McMillan telephonically requested he be contacted on April 29, 1974, to arrange for interview.

On April 29, 1974, McMillan was telephonically contacted by a representative of the FBI. McMillan stated he had decided to consult with an attorney prior to interview and desired to have an attorney present if interviewed. He said he would contact the Boston Division of the FBI in several days.

44-1987 Sub m 844

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1974	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

HESTER

**JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

On April 29, 1974, McMillan telephonically advised he was willing to be interviewed May 2, 1974, in the presence and in the office of his attorney, John T. Williams, of the Boston law firm of Hausserman, Davison and Shattuck.

On April 30, 1970, McMillan telephonically cancelled his appointment. He stated he was willing to have Attorney Williams interviewed in his behalf, but he did not wish to be present himself. He said he was leaving the Boston area immediately to spend three or four days in Tennessee. He volunteered that he had not reviewed any FBI files and had only hearsay knowledge of any such review by other authors.

On April 30, 1974, Attorney John T. Williams telephonically advised he had talked with McMillan several hours earlier, at which time McMillan was willing to be interviewed personally. Williams stated he knows only that McMillan did not review FBI files. He added he would contact the Boston Division of the FBI concerning possible interview, after conferring with McMillan upon McMillan's return from Tennessee.

On May 8, 1974, Attorney Williams telephonically advised that his client, George McMillan, would be in Boston on May 10, 1974, and available for interview in Williams' office on that date.

On May 10, 1974, George McMillan was interviewed by Special Agents Kenneth L. Hansen and John N. Ouellette in the office of his attorney, John T. Williams, of the firm Hausserman, Davison and Shattuck, 1 Boston Place, Boston, in the presence of Williams.

McMillan advised he has never seen or had access to any FBI files, or portions thereof, concerning the James Earl Ray case or any other case. He said no FBI personnel, anywhere, ever indicated they would make such material available to him. He recalled he once visited the office of former FBI Assistant Director Tom Bishop at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C., to request material for his book on James Earl Ray; however, Mr. Bishop, who was then handling press relations, told McMillan he could not give him anything regarding that case.

McMillan further advised that the Tennessee State Attorney-General's Office in Memphis was in possession of what was commonly referred to as "FBI files" in order to

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

conduct its prosecution of James Earl Ray. McMillan said he heard rumors from sources in Memphis, whose identity he does not recall, that those files were made available to authors Gerold Frank and William Huie by either state or county officials or personnel. McMillan added these were merely rumors of unknown origin and he possessed no specific information as to whether either Frank or Huie had access to the files.

McMillan stated the aforementioned rumors led him to believe he could have the FBI files made available to him. McMillan was asked if any state or local official or personnel in Tennessee ever offered to make the FBI files available to him. McMillan replied by saying that he refuses to answer that question.

McMillan went on to relate he has been attempting to compile material regarding James Earl Ray in order to determine a personal motive for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., so as to disprove theories that a conspiracy may have been involved. He said he was previously retained by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and Time Magazine, Inc., to conduct a study of Lee Harvey Oswald in connection with the assassination of former United States President John F. Kennedy and that study led him to the conclusion Oswald acted on his own and there was no conspiracy involved.

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.

5/15/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Boston nitel 5/10/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM concerning interview of author GEORGE MC MILLAN in connection with captioned matter. Two copies are enclosed for Memphis Division.

The representative of the FBI with whom MC MILLAN and his attorney were in telephonic contact on 4/27, 29, and 30/4 is SA ROGER J. CORKE.

Inasmuch as there are no further leads outstanding in the Boston Division, this matter is hereby being RUC'd.

*jk*  
2-Bureau (Encs. 5) (RM)  
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Encs. 2) (RM)  
1-Boston  
JNO:cms  
(5)

44-1987 Sub-m 845

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1974	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Wester*

5/17/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)(P\*)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Buairtel, 5/14/74.

On 5/13/74, Mr. JOHN CARLISLE, Chief Investigator, Shelby County Attorney General's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, advised SA JOE C. HESTER that all of the documents turned over to that office by the FBI continue to be locked up with the evidence in that case. He said that access to this material is extremely limited and that no one has made anything available to any of the various authors who have written books about this case.

Mr. CARLISLE noted that the various pleadings in this case contain a great deal of information concerning the evidence, and he feels certain that many outsiders have reviewed these court records which are public records.

2-Bureau  
2-Memphis  
JCH:bc  
(4)

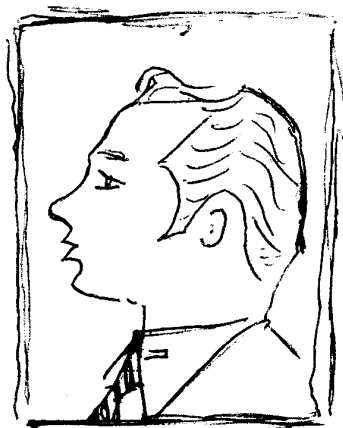
*JCH*

*JCH*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *mp*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
44-1987 Sub-m 846



44-1987-~~847~~ <sup>sub m</sup> 847  
my my  
JLB



5 7 74

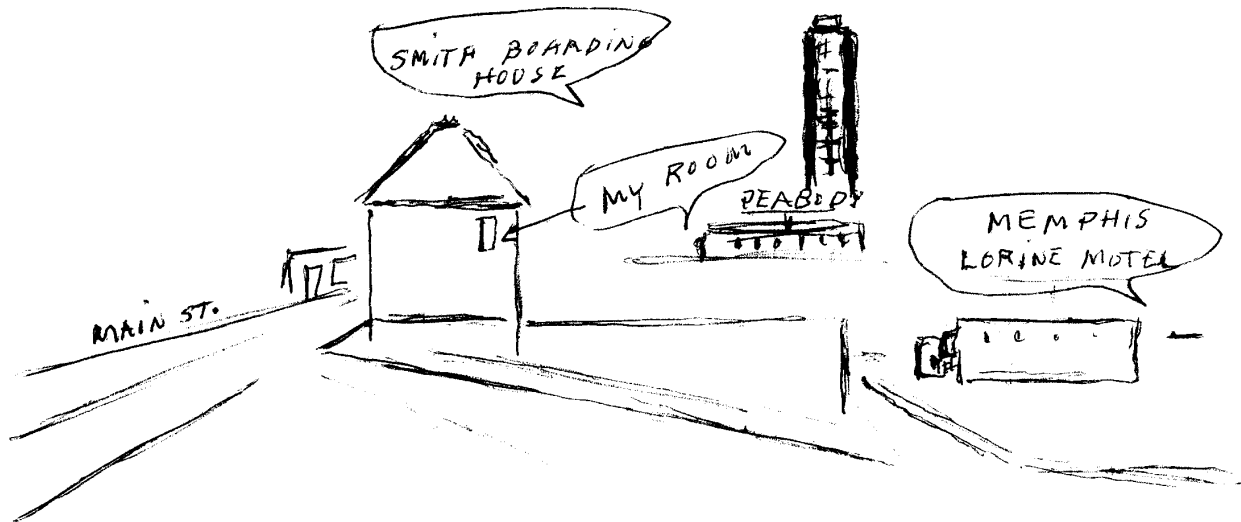
Dear Sir

I was arrested by  
memphis Deputy for auto  
theif 1948

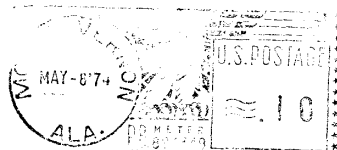
Also I wish to confession  
the killing of martin Luther  
King.

Sincerely,

Alan Bullew

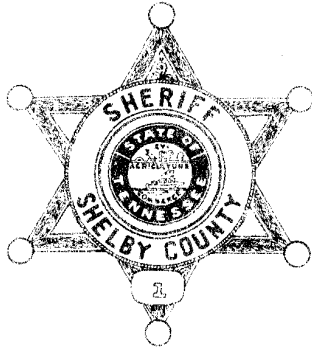


John Ballew  
Sourcy Hosp.  
mt. Vernon, Ala.



~~BOFI~~

~~Identification Bureau  
Shelby County Jail  
Memphis, Tenn.~~



# Shelby County Sheriff's Department

ROY C. NIXON, SHERIFF

GERALD P. PROCTOR, CHIEF DEPUTY

May 17, 1974


Mr. Joe Hester  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Office Building  
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a letter addressed to the Identification Bureau of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office concerning the Martin Luther King case, same being the letter we discussed over the phone on May 17, 1974.

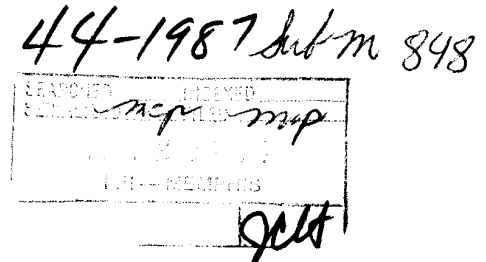
If this department can assist you in any manner, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

  
Sgt. J. W. Hall  
General Investigative Bureau

cc: File

JWH/tj



5/20/74

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MOBILE

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for Mobile are two copies each of a letter dated 5/4/74 from GLEN BALLEW; a diagram enclosed in the letter; and the envelope bearing BALLEW's return address.

You will note that in the enclosed letter BALLEW confesses to the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

LEAD:

MOBILE OFFICE

AT MT. VERNON, ALA.

Identify GLEN BALLEW and determine his mental stability, it being noted his return address is a hospital, the name of which is illegible.

2-Mobile (Encs. 6)  
2-Memphis  
JCH:bc  
(4)

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_

INDEXED *mkp*

FILED \_\_\_\_\_

FILED *mkp*

44-1987 Sub-712-848

*JCH*

*John JCH*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
May 25, 1974

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

On May 24, 1974, District Attorney General Hugh Stanton, Jr., Memphis, Tennessee, confidentially advised that he had been approached by Mr. Robert Livingston who is one of the attorneys for James Earl Ray. Mr. Livingston insisted that Mr. Stanton not inform the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the story that Livingston was to tell Stanton, claiming that his life was in great danger. The story related by Livingston to Stanton is as follows:

During late March, 1974, Livingston was telephonically contacted at Memphis by a man who identified himself as Cliff Andrews, Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada. Andrews told Livingston that he and two others were responsible for the murder of King and that all would testify, provided they were granted total immunity from prosecution. Andrews indicated either on this occasion or later that he and his two friends had been hired by three Memphis businessmen and by a fourth man from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to murder King. They were to receive \$250,000 for the murder, but due to circumstances not explained by Livingston, they were never paid.

Shortly after receiving this phone call, Andrews came to Memphis and was met by Livingston at the airport. According to Livingston, Andrews searched Livingston's car and later his office and made a big production of being certain that his conversation was not being taped. According to Livingston, Andrews kept one hand in his coat at all times as though he were wearing a shoulder holster.

5 - Bureau  
② - Memphis  
JCH:plc  
(7) *plc*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_

SERIALIZED *mp*

INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_

FILED *mp*

44-1987 *24m* 850

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM

Livingston described Andrews as being a large, middle aged white male who spoke with a strong French accent. Andrews had brown hair with streaks of gray and was described by Livingston as being very distinguished looking.

Andrews left Memphis following his discussion with Livingston and returned several days later at which time Livingston and Andrews traveled to Nashville where James Earl Ray is incarcerated in the Tennessee State Prison. Andrews waited in the car while Livingston went in and told Ray that he had someone who wished to see him. Ray claimed not to know Andrews and refused to see him. Livingston is convinced that Ray recognized his description of Andrews and that Ray was afraid to talk with him. Andrews and Livingston separated and arrangements were made for them to meet again in Chicago on April 16, 1974. Ray's other attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, was to be present at this meeting. Livingston received no further confirmation but was later contacted by Andrews, and Livingston and Fensterwald met with Andrews at Detroit on April 20, 1974. A woman named Margaret was accompanying Andrews and he introduced her as his wife. Andrews told Fensterwald and Livingston that his two confederates were also present in the Holiday Inn motel, and that they were watching him. He again made his offer to furnish full details of the conspiracy including the identity of the actual killer, provided they could be granted immunity. Livingston and Fensterwald left Detroit with a promise that they would attempt to secure such immunity from the District Attorney General at Memphis, Tennessee. It was for this reason that Livingston has had several meetings with the District Attorney General Hugh Stanton, Jr.

Mr. Stanton stated he is convinced that Livingston is sincere and that Livingston actually believes that there was some sort of conspiracy to murder King, and that Ray was not King's killer. Mr. Stanton said that he believes Livingston is being "conned" by Andrews but he does give Livingston credit for believing that Andrews is what he says he is.



JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM

Mr. Stanton stated he does not want Livingston to know that he has discussed this matter with the FBI and he does not want the FBI to take any action to identify Andrews. He said he feels the only way to resolve this is to have Andrews come to his office with his two confederates. He does not believe that this will ever happen but he does not want to do anything that Livingston could later use to say that he had discouraged or scared off Andrews and his two friends.

Mr. Stanton has told Livingston that he will meet with Andrews but it will be under Mr. Stanton's terms and that the state of Tennessee will not advance any travel funds to bring Andrews and his friends to Memphis. He said that Livingston is disturbed that the state will not provide funds for their travel, and Mr. Stanton believes Andrews may be attempting to swindle Livingston.

In view of Mr. Stanton's request, no investigation is being conducted by the Memphis Office. Mr. Stanton has agreed to keep the FBI informed of any contact which he might have with the alleged conspirators.

5/25/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P\*)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of newspaper articles which appeared in the 5/24/74 edition of "The Memphis Press-Scimitar" and in the 5/25/74 edition of the "Commercial Appeal" both of which are daily newspapers published in Memphis, Tenn. Also enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four copies of LHM dated 5/25/74 concerning this matter.

2 - Bureau (Enc.9)  
2 - Memphis  
JCH:plc  
(4) *plc*

44-1987 Sub m 851

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_

SERIALIZED *mp*

INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_

FILED *mp*

*14*

5/25/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P\*)  
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OO: MEMPHIS

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2 - Bureau (Enc.9)  
2 - Memphis  
JCH:plc  
(4) *plc*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *mp*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *mp*  
*Hester* *plc*  
44-1987 Sub m 851

6/4/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P\*)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

For Savannah's information, JAMES EARL RAY is to be afforded an evidentiary hearing in the USDC, WDT, Memphis, to determine whether or not he was properly represented by Attorney PERCY FOREMAN at the time that RAY pleaded guilty in State Court to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. RAY is being represented by Attorneys BERNARD FENSTERWALD, WDC, and ROBERT LIVINGSTON of Memphis. The State's case is being handled by HENRY HAILE of the Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tenn.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON has recently made statements to the news media that he has been in touch with a man who claims that he and two others are responsible for the murder of KING and that RAY was an innocent "fall guy" who was used by the real killers. According to LIVINGSTON, these three men will testify if granted immunity and will name the four men who hired them to kill KING. LIVINGSTON appears to believe this story and has confidentially advised the District Attorney General at Memphis of two meetings had by him with one of the three men. One such meeting was at Memphis during late March, 1974, and the other meeting was in Detroit on 4/20/74. At the Detroit meeting this individual, using the name CLIFF ANDREWS, was accompanied by his wife who used the name MARGARET.

On 6/3/74, Mr. HENRY HAILE advised SA JOE C. HESTER that GEORGE McMILLAN, an author writing a book about KING's murder, has told HAILE that he believes LIVINGSTON's contact is one RAYMOND CURTIS who escaped from the Georgia State Prison at Reidsville, Ga., about 6 months ago.

2 - Bureau  
2 - Savannah  
2 - Memphis  
JCH:jap  
(6)

*jap*

*Curtis*

*HESTER*

*mp*  
*mp*

44-1987-Sub-m 852

ME 44-1987

LIVINGSTON has described CLIFF ANDREWS as a middle aged white male having a large frame, brown hair streaked with gray, and as being very distinguished looking. ANDREWS also spoke with a French accent and claimed to be a resident of Canada. McMILLAN has apparently been in contact with RAYMOND CURTIS and states he fits this general description. McMILLAN also told HAILE that CURTIS claimed to have information regarding the KING murder but, in fact, he did not.

LEADS:

SAVANNAH DIVISION

AT REIDSVILLE, GEORGIA Will promptly furnish Memphis copies of the best available photograph of CURTIS plus any psychiatric evaluation documents available from prison or parole files.

Will furnish all available information concerning his criminal background with particular emphasis on whether or not he has ever been involved in any confidence schemes.

Will furnish details regarding any State or Federal process outstanding against CURTIS.

PLEASE EXPEDITE.

Friday - May 24, 1974 ---

Channel 5, - "Stanley Seigel Talk Show" ---

ROBERT LIVINGSTON: Interview

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SEIGEL: This was taped yesterday at the Tennessee State Prison, May 23, 1974. His name is Robert Livingston, and here is his assessment as to who, in fact, did kill Dr. Martin Luther King.

Q. All right, sir. You are going to defend James Earl Ray if he goes to trial?

A. Yes, that's true. We have the matter in the U. S. Supreme Court right now. I say we do - the State of Tennessee does. They filed their petition for writ of certiorari and when the case is tried in Shelby County Tennessee on its merits, well, the present plan is - there are three lawyers involved and the understanding with Mr. Ray is that I will be the lead counsel and serve in the actual trial because the other two lawyers who are from Washington D. C. have never tried a case inside the state of Tennessee and I have had twenty years experience in this field.

Q. You are telling us that you have significant information

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to give the impression that James Earl Ray did not pull the trigger on the rifle that killed Dr. Martin Luther King?

A. Mr. Ray is willing to take a polygraph test to that effect and answer that question, "did you actually pull the trigger on the rifle that killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?" He says he did not. We have information during the past ninety days that is sufficient to convince us that he was the "fall guy", he was "set up" and he was "sucked in" by a group of highly trained professionals.

Q. You also have information that would identify the man who did do it, is that what you are telling us?

A. We have strong suspicions in that direction.

Q. Is he a famous man?

A. Well, no, he is not a famous man and ... well, some of his ... from many of his escapades, it is a wonder he hasn't become a famous man, but he is not widely known.

Q. Is he living in the United States?

A. We have reason to believe that he is. Now, he is famous to the F.B.I. I will go that far.

Q. The man that killed Dr. Martin Luther King, then, is living in the United States?

A. It is my impression that he is, yes.

Q. How did you get that information?

A. Well, we were contacted by certain individuals that had information pertaining to this case and we met with those individuals and they divulged what information that they had, to us, and through investigations and talking to various and sundry people around the country we have come to these conclusions.

Q. For what purpose did he do it?

A. For what purpose did the man kill King? The guy who actually pulled the trigger?

Q. Yes, sir.

A. For money, for money - a substantial sum of money. He had no feelings one way or the other toward Dr. King. He is a hired killer. He done his thing, and Dr. King was doing his thing. He had no qualms with Dr. King.... no interest in Dr. King's stand on any matter or philosophy. He did it for money, a substantial sum of money.

Q. How much money?

A. I would say about \$250,000.00 - is the figure reputed to us.

Q. Was he paid that money?



A. It is my understanding that he got \$100,000.00 of it.

Q. Can you tell us something about the man - was he a white man, a black man, a rich man, a poor man?

A. From the information that we have, he is a white man.

Q. And what does he do, is he a member of the Mafia, for example?

A. No, no ties with the Mafia.

Q. Does he have any political ties at all?

A. No political ties whatever.

Q. He is a hired mercenary?

A. He is a professional killer.

Q. You say the F.B.I. know this man? Know who he is?

A. They know this man and uh,.... yes, they know this man. They have not yet, as of our knowledge, connected him up with this particular case, but he is known to the FBI.

Q. So, they don't know that he did do this?

A. They don't know it yet.

Q. Well, when are you going to blow the whistle on this man?

A. We may never.

Q. Why not?

A. Well, because of this. We are fighting a legal battle involving Mr. Ray, at the present time, and if we can

win in the courtrooms on the legality of this matter,  
very likely this will never be revealed ... it very  
likely will never be revealed.

Q. In other words, James Earl Ray might get out based on  
the evidentiary hearing and then the killer would still  
be at large?

A. That is entirely possible ... entirely possible.

Q. Have you talked to the killer?

A. No, I haven't.

Q. Why did this man tip you off - the person that tipped  
you off about the killer?

A. Seeking immunity....for the, for the man that committed  
the offense.

Q. I don't understand what you mean. Was he in trouble  
too, though?

A. Immunity from prosecution.

Q. He's in trouble himself, the tipster is in trouble, too?

A. Professional ... professional criminals.

Q. Have you told anybody about this yet?

A. I told Bernard Fensterwald in Washington, D.C. I told  
you here today. That's it.

Q. Are you willing to take a polygraph test to establish  
the truth of this story?

A. Why, of course I would. I would take a polygraph test.

Q. So you believe there was some conspiracy?

A. Oh, most assuredly. I believe there was a conspiracy.

Q. Well, speculate on the motive?

A. Motive? Well, hate .. hate for Dr. King, and his stand and his position, and his philosophy. Just sheer hate, nothing more, nothing else.

Q. But the man who killed him himself had no hate, he was just a ....

A. No feelings.

Q. He was just as a hired gun.

A. No feelings whatever. Would have no more feeling than shooting a dog. No argument, no quarrels with Dr. King, just a gun for hire.

Q. Well, then, how did Mr. Ray get involved in this, how did he become the fall guy?

A. He was set up and sucked in by a group of highly trained professionals.

Q. Well, how do they operate, Mr. Livingston?

A. Well, they bring people in and they give them certain assignments under the guise that they are doing one thing when, in effect, they are in reality doing something else, and not realizing the full extent of their action.

Q. Well, let's suppose, for example, that I am James Earl Ray, the man now convicted for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. How do they get to me. How did this come about?

A. Well, the information that we have, it was decided by a group of individuals that Dr. King had to go, and these professionals were contacted to carry out the job. They needed a fall guy and Ray had just escaped from the Missouri State Prison in Missouri, Jefferson City, Mo. and he was singled out as being a person to qualify to be set up and inticed into this. Ray admits that he was at 422-1/2 South Main, on April 4th, 1968, the day that Dr. King was killed, but he was told that he was going there for the purpose of showing this rifle to a professional gun runner and then if this gun runner liked this rifle then they were going to get into the gun-running business, and Ray went there, he admits he was there , but he was under the impression that he was there for the purpose of getting into the gun-running business between here and Latin America ... that he was not there for the purpose of killing Dr. King, he had no knowledge that Dr. King was going to be killed, he admits that he

there for the purpose of engaging in illegal activities but that he had no knowledge that King was going to be killed and did not know that King had been killed until he had reached Renada, Mississippi, some seventy-five miles south of Memphis.

Q. Well, why were his fingerprints on the gun?

A. His fingerprints were on the gun because the people had set him up ... had sent him into the store in Birmingham to buy the rifle, he handled the rifle continuously because he was told that that was the rifle that was going to be shown to this professional gunman

Q. What do you mean was going to be shown ... do you mean like a rifle that was to be given, or something?

A. Exhibited ... exhibited to this man.

Q. For what purpose?

A. To see if that was the type of rifle he wanted and if it was the type of rifle that he wanted then they were going to get into the business of supplying this particular type of rifle to this particular individual to carry them down into the Latin American country... It was to be used in Revolutions.

Q. So he was a gun-runner, then, James Earl Ray?

- A. He was trying to get in it, he thought ... he was not a gun runner, he had never been a gun runner, but he was led to believe by these professionals that they were going to get into the gun running business.
- Q. Well, then why did he run away to England ... I mean, if his offense was relatively minor, why did he escape?
- A. Why wouldn't anybody run ... they found a rifle with his fingerprints on it. He had handled the rifle ... he admits he had handled the rifle, but ....
- Q. But you said that he didn't know about the killing until afterwards?
- A. Until after it had been committed.
- Q. And then he realized that his fingerprints were on the gun?
- A. Why, he had to know it.
- Q. Well, didn't he surrender the gun to these men?
- A. No, he didn't surrender the gun there. The gun was found in front of Canipe's Amusement Store in Memphis on South Main Street. It was thrown down. And we say it was not thrown down by James Earl Ray.

*Good*

6/5/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P\*)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
(OO Memphis)

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of a transcript of a television interview given by RAY's attorney, ROBERT LIVINGSTON, at Nashville, Tenn., on 5/24/74. This transcript was furnished to SA JOE C. HESTER by Assistant District Attorney General HENRY HAILE of Nashville, Tenn.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 2)  
1 - Memphis  
JCH:mrp  
(3)

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44-1987-Sub M 854

1)

## The Things Of Ramond Curtis's Life

At the age of 14. In Dalton Georgia.  
I was put in jail for my first for time for:  
stilling pecans. And again for stilling  
fish hooks out of the 5+10 store at the  
age of 14 or 14½. At the age of 15 I  
ran away from home and went to  
Atlanta Georgia. After about three  
~~month~~ months in Atlanta I was  
put ~~ing~~ in jail for stilling a man  
coat. I was given six mo. probation  
and given a bus ~~train~~ ticket back  
to Dalton Ga. I went back to  
school after a few weeks. I ran away  
again and went to Chattanooga Tenn.  
where again I was caught and put in  
jail for stilling. They gave me 30 days  
in the chain gang. After about two weeks  
of it my mother came and got me and  
took me back home to Dalton Georgia.  
After a month or so I got on a freight  
train and went to Nashville Tenn. 44-1987 Sub M 855  
And again I was caught for stilling ~~my~~  
apples from a store. Two weeks later  
my mother came and got me and carried ~~me~~  
back home to Dalton Ga.

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(2)

And I got in jail again in Dalton for stilling copper ~~wire~~ and selling it. So again my mother got me out. So at the age of about 16 I ran <sup>away</sup> again. But this time I hoboed a freight going south and I made it to Savannah where I was caught and given 30 days in the chingang for hoboing. I did the 30 days and hoboed a train to Jacksonville Florida. I started working around the produce market loading trucks. That is where I learn't the taste of beer & wine. So after hanging around there and taking the money out of the drunk's pockets after they passed out. Other words rolling the drunks. After about a month of it I hoboed on to Tampa Florida. There I hung around the beer joints on sidewalk rolling drunks. Until one day I got drunk and put in jail. I was given 15 days on the chingang. After a day or two I escaped & went to Key West Florida. Again I got in jail for drunk. So they found out I was escaped from Tampa and sent me back. They gave me 15 more days for escaping. So after I did my time. I worked around the fishing boats for three or four months then I hoboed on to New Orleans. Where I hung around the bars rolling drunks. After about two months I was put in jail again for drunk and fighting.

And given 30 days on the chingang. So after about a week of it I escaped again. I hopped to El Paso Texas. Where I was put in jail for hoboining. After about a week they told me to get out of town so I ~~hopped~~ hopped a freight to Los Angeles Calif. I went to work at an amusement park by day and rolled drunk at night. So after about a month or so of it I hopped a freight and went to San Francisco Calif. There I hung around sidewalk and rolled drunk again. So I joined up with a circus there and went to Seattle Washington. I met this boy in Seattle and quit the circus. So me and the boy stole a car and went to Montana. Drove the car to Montana and ~~stole it~~ ~~stole it~~ ditched it. And hooked a ride with a truck to Reno Nevada. We ~~stole~~ rolled a man about half drunk and he called the law on us. My butt got caught but I got away. I went back to L.A. and on down to San Diego and over to Old Mexico. There I got caught and the police ran me back over the border. I ~~met~~ met up with a trucker and got a ride back to New Orleans. There I went to work on a sea going boat. After about two weeks of it it pulled in to New York where I quit. There I met up with this boy where we would hang around the hotels and ~~steal~~ robbed

The room's when the people went out for dinner  
so after about a month of that which I didn't  
get caught I went back to Dalton Georgia. So  
after about 4 or 5 months I left home again and  
joined up with a carnival. I ~~stayed~~ stayed  
with it about 90 days till we reached Chicago Ill.  
There I stayed on West Madison St. Where I  
started rolling drunk again and there were more  
drunk than any one man could roll. When I  
met this boy we started robbing Hotels & Apart-  
ments again while people were at work. So after  
about 4 or 5 months of that I got caught for  
burglary. And while I was in jail awaiting  
trial I got a letter from my mother stating  
I was to report to the induction center for  
the Army in Atlanta July the 29<sup>th</sup> 1944.  
So I ~~showed~~ showed the letter to the judge  
and he put me on the bus to Atlanta Ga.  
So I went in the Army and they sent me to  
Fort Bragg N.C. So after about 2 months Army  
I got drunk and went A.W.O.L. and came to  
Dalton Ga. After about 10 days they came and got  
me and put me in the grade guard house 30 days  
extra duty & shipped <sup>me</sup> to Camp Croft S.C. to take  
basic training. So after about 5 or 6 weeks I got  
drunk and went A.W.O.L. again and went back  
to Dalton Georgia.

(5)

About 3 or 4 weeks later they came and got me again and took me back to camp and gave me 6 months in the guard house. After I finished my training they ~~shipped~~ shipped me to camp near Alabama for Tank training. After about two mo. me and my buddy went in to town on pass we got drunk and met two men and robbed them of their money and their car next day they caught us and took us back to camp and put us in the guard ~~house~~ house. Before they tried us we escaped and made it to New York City. There we rolled drunk to get by on the law got after us and I got away and my partner got caught. I hoboed on to Chicago from there on to Los Angeles Calif. There I rolled drunk and robbed to get by on for about 2 months until I got caught. The State of Calif. gave me a year. At the end of the year the Army came and got me and took me to Fort Ord Calif. There they gave me a year for A.W.O.L. and I did my year and was discharged then came back to Dalton Ga. August 1947. After a mo. I ~~for~~ left home and went to Chicago. I got back on rolling drunk After a month of that I got a job driving a truck on the ~~high~~ south side of Chicago. That is where I met my wife and we got married in 1948.

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(6)

I worked driving this truck for about a year. One day my boss left his ~~wallet~~ wallet laying on his desk with quite a bit of money in it and I got it and he never knew where it went. After a ~~month~~ month more I quit and went to work driving a bus. There I met this man we went to robbing taverns & liquor stores. We would ~~rob~~ rob from 1 to 3 a night. We robbed over a 100 taverns & liquor stores on the South side of Chicago. Robbing by night & driving a bus by day was a little too much so I quit driving the bus and went to robbing full time. So we moved out to Moline & Blue Island Elgin-Rockford and the towns surrounding Chicago robbing payrolls & taverns and any thing that look good. So we came back in to Chicago back in Great robbing the bookies they couldn't call the law because we were breaking the law themselves. So we moved out to Calumet City. It was owned by the syndicate all the beer joints - liquor stores - nightclubs bookies joints were owned and run by the syndicate. So we started robbing them. Until we heard the syndicate were so hot after us we had to move out. Because if the syndicate had caught us we wouldn't have went to no jail. So we started driving to Saint Louis Missouri once a week. There we would rob 2 or 3 liquor stores & beer joints on the North side.

While the law was checking them out we would ~~would~~ be on the south side robbing 2 or 3 more. Then we would cross the river to East Saint Louis. Then the next morning we would drive back to Chicago and never get caught. One week we went to ~~Quincy~~ Quincy Ill. which ~~is~~ a mother town run by the syndicate. We robbed a bookie joint owned by the syndicate. The syndicate got so hot on us it took us five days to ~~get out of town~~ to find a way out of town. But we made it back to Chicago. (This happened between 1948-1954) We robbed so many we had to find us a new territory to keep from robbing the same place the 2 or 3rd time. I owned my own home at Oaklawn Ill. so we started driving up into Wisconsin over in to Iowa and I bought a farm in Indiana where we robbed in Gary - Hammond - Valproso - LaPorte - San Paul - Indianapolis - so we decided the banks would be better. So we started robbing banks. We robbed a bank in Cuckoo Indiana and got a pretty good little bundle there. So we went down to Fairview Missouri and robbed one there and went back to Chicago and we robbed a big jewelry store on the North side of Chicago.

(8)

So on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1955 we went to South West City Missouri right on the border of Kansas - Oklahoma - Arkansas. So we robbed the South West City Bank. And we got \$56,000. Went back to Chicago the F.B.I were waiting on me when I got there. The Federal <sup>took</sup> ~~sent~~ me to Kansas City Missouri to await trial. There I met James Earl Ray we were in the same ~~cell~~ all together for about 6 months. He was tried and gave 3 years for forgery ~~and~~ and I was gave 17 years for bank robbery we were sent to Leavenworth ~~Penitentiary~~ Penitentiary and we were good friends there also. After about 6 months ~~we~~ <sup>was</sup> transferred to Atlanta Federal ~~Penitentiary~~ Penitentiary. There I stayed until 1962 about 7 to 7½ years. There you couldn't get any beer wine or liquor so when you were down in ~~the~~ the dumps or depressed you could swap cigarettes for pop pills or some other kind of dope. So in the mean time I ~~had~~ filed a suit on the ~~state~~ robbery charge the state of Missouri rode on me. So they tried me and gave ten years. So after about 7½ I made parole to the state of Missouri in 1962 which is a hell hole. I didn't think there was a place on earth existed like it. Dope day

Murder is a common every day activity in the Missouri Penitentiary. So when I got there I met my old pal James Earl Ray he was there also doing 20 years for robbery. Then me and him became close buddies again. There I fell back on the pep pills a close again in order to put with what was going on there. And hoping & praying every day that I would see the day I would get out again. For I couldn't ~~have~~ have been no closer to hell than I was there. So after about 3 years I talked the warden in to sending me out to one of the state farms. ~~But there it was like a~~ After I had been locked up so long that out there on the farm I was like a dog that been chained up <sup>and</sup> had been turned loose for the first time. You could get liquor out there so one night I got drunk and I took off for (Georgia). Within 3 days I was back inside the prison walls and they gave me 10 more years for running. So I went back to the pep pills and walking the yard with my friends. So I did another year and made peroll back to Dalton Georgia.



(10)

After I got back to Dalton in 1966 I went to work with my brother selling cars. I was doing good. Then drinking came back to my family. Only after about 6 months of freedom I was accused and charged with murder. Although I am not guilty I was found guilty and given a life sentence. I have been sitting in jail two years waiting on the supreme court. I have been doing nothing but thinking of my life and what I have done to it. As with the things I have done justice has caught up with me even ~~I am innocent of the charge~~ ~~that I am in here for~~ though I am innocent of the murder charge against me. Thinking about it the funniest part is I am in the same cell now for murder I was first put in at the age of 14 for stealing jeans 29 years ago.

You had better look out.  
For if you go there once  
You can go there twice.

6/12/74

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (44-1768) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN - 44-1987, 157 116 34

Re ME airtel to Bureau 6/4/74.

Enclosed for Atlanta is one copy of reairtel.

Enclosed for Memphis is one photograph of RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS and a copy of an autobiography written by CURTIS for his parole officer in approximately 1970.

44-1987-Sub G-671 p.12, 21, 60  
On 6/11/74, L. L. MC GREGOR, Records Custodian, Georgia State Prison, Reidsville, Ga., advised that RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS was convicted of Murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in Whitfield Co., Ga., on 7/26/67. CURTIS was transferred to Ware County Correctional Institution, Waycross, Ga., on 4/1/71. MC GREGOR stated that he has no records of CURTIS other than the index card.

Review of Savannah file 88-6573, reveals that CURTIS escaped from Ware County Correctional Institution in 1972, and was the subject of a UFAC matter.

MACB, Atlanta designated Office of Origin in this case.

LEAD:

ATLANTA

Furnish Memphis all pertinent information with regard to CURTIS, AT 88-13285. Pay particular attention to information requested by Memphis in re airtel.

2-Bureau  
2-Atlanta (Enc. 1)  
2-Memphis (Encs. 2) *com*  
2-Savannah

CBC/hja  
(6)

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*Hester* *gll*