

PAGE TWO OC 44-686 UNCLAS

HART STATED THAT JAMES EARL RAY, A FORMER NEIGHBOR IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE VICINITY OF MISSISSIPPI AND PARK STREETS, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, CAME TO HIS (HART'S) RESIDENCE AT 1921 RUTGER (PH) SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED AND THAT RAY REMAINED AT THE RESIDENCE UNTIL DAYBREAK. HART STATED THAT RAY ASKED THAT A NOTE BE DELIVERED TO HIS BROTHER, JERRY RAY, WHO OWNED A BAR ON BROADWAY IN ST. LOUIS, AND ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DELIVER THAT NOTE, HART STATED, BUT BAR WAS CLOSED. NOTE STATED THAT "THE BLACK SON OF A BITCH WON'T BE F----- ANY MORE WHITE BROADS." NOTE WAS SHORT AND CONSISTED OF ONE HANDWRITTEN PAGE. ?

HART SAID THAT HE HAS MORE INFORMATION BUT WILL NOT DISCLOSE THAT INFORMATION UNTIL HE HAS BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCE OF NO PROSECUTION BY MISSOURI STATE AUTHORITIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT AT THE TIME RAY CAME TO HIS RESIDENCE, HE (HART) KNEW THAT RAY WAS AN ESCAPEE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AND THAT IF HE ADMITTED THAT RAY VISITED HIS RESIDENCE THE NIGHT OF THE KING ASSASSINATION, THAT HE FELT HE COULD BE PROSECUTED FOR HARBORING A STATE FUGITIVE.

PAGE THREE OC 44-686 UNCLAS

HART SAID DAVID SELLERS WAS THE MANAGER OF THE APARTMENT IN WHICH HE RESIDED ON BUTLER STREET IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. HART SAID THAT AT THE TIME OF RAY'S VISIT, HE DID NOT KNOW THAT RAY ASSASSINATED KING AND THAT HE LATER REALIZED WHAT HAPPENED WHEN RAY WAS ARRESTED IN ENGLAND.

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION.- REPORT FOLLOWS FROM OKLAHOMA CITY.

BT



*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Post Office Box 1450  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
November 28, 1978

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

---

On October 12, 1978, Edwin B. Coleman, Sheriff, Alcorn County, Corinth, Mississippi, telephonically contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation advising that on that date, he received a letter from James Earl Ray, postmarked Petros, Tennessee, Zip Code 37845, requesting that the Alcorn County Sheriff's Department furnish any records they may have to indicate that a 1966 Mustang displaying Alabama License B8993, was observed in Alcorn County, Corinth, Mississippi, April 1, 1968. In his letter, Ray claims to have been registered at a Corinth motel on April 1, 1968.

As reflected in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, extensive investigation concerning Eric S. Galt and a 1966 Mustang registered in the Galt name, was conducted subsequent to the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee.

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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.

44-1987-1272  
B. Johnson

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

---

The entire scope of this investigation is a matter of record in the FBI investigative reports.

Since all logical investigation concerning this matter has been concluded, no additional investigative effort in response to Ray's letter is being pursued at this time.

A photocopy of the envelope, letter, and attached diagram is attached hereto.

2\*

ALBORN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

P. O. BOX 1573  
CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI 38834

EDWIN B. COLEMAN, SHERIFF  
TERRY W. DOLES, CHIEF DEPUTY

PHONE (601) 286-5521  
286-5522  
JAIL 286-3952

October 13, 1978

Donald Green  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Ref: Enclosed letter

Dear Don,

On October 12, 1978, I recieved a letter from James Earl Ray requesting that this Department try to locate a motel that he stayed in on April 1, 1968. The motel is supposed to be on Highway 72 in Corinth. I checked with the Southern Motel and they have no record. I also checked with the Corona Plaza. They have no record but the ownership has changed hands several times since 1968 and the present owner is trying to locate the old records.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter and diagram of the location of the motel. Also enclosed is a message from the National Sheriff's Association addressed to Mr. Ray.

Do you think there is any reason why we should check any further into this matter since you checked all the motels in 1968?

If we can be of any assistance to you in the future, please feel free to call on us.

With kindness and best regards,



Edwin B. Coleman, Sheriff

EBC;bet

cc

enc.

3 Y, J-62477  
Petros, Mr. 7245.



Sheriff Edwin E. Coleman  
Alcorn County Sheriff's Dept.  
Corinth, Mississippi... 39234.

Mr. Edwin B. Coleman  
Sheriff, Alcorn County  
Corinth, Mississippi. 38834.

10 October 1978

James E. Ray #65477  
E.M.P.  
Petros, TN.37845.

Dear Sheriff Coleman:

This letter pertains to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr homicide and related matter as follows:

On April 1, 1968, I checked into a Motel in Corinth, Mississippi, and departed the following morning. Until just recently I assumed the authorities knew this consequently I never asked anyone to check into the matter. Now I learn the authorities believe I was else where April 1st.

My reason(s) for this letter is to enquire if your office has a record, through perhaps a routine check of cars registered in Motels on the aforementioned date, of the automobile I was driving. It was a 1966 Mustang registered under the name of Eric S. Galt; Alabama tag no. B 8993.

Also, assuming Motels have to be licensed by the city or county in Mississippi, would either of those Governments require Motels to retain, or furnish them to retain, a list of the Motel Guests ? possibly for tax purposes.

Finally any other information about the above subject from your office would be very much appreciated, such as the 1968 Owner of the Motel I stayed in ( see diagram attached), providing the Diagram can be matched with the Motel.

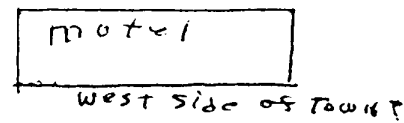
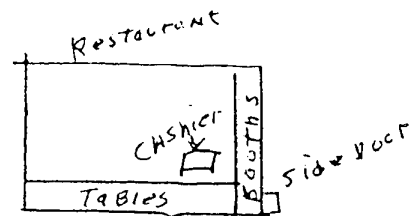
Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James E. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "Ray" at the end.



from Dip.

2. Not sure about restaurant or just how far from Motel. Restaurant EVEN with motel I believe. I had breakfast there



camp ←

Main Highway

DIP IN Highway

→ MEMPHIS TENN.

PASS (APPARENTLY A HIGHWAY

# MESSAGE

# REPLY

TO

James E. Pay #65477  
B.M.P.  
Tetras, Tennessee 37845

DATE

DATE October 3, 1978

Per your recent request the following  
are the current sheriffs in the areas  
which you mentioned:

1. Sheriff Van Ward  
Morgan County Sheriff's Dept.  
Decatur, Alabama 35601

2. Sheriff J. B. Albridge  
Morgan County Sheriff's Dept.  
Decatur, Alabama 35601

3. Sheriff E. B. Coleman  
Morgan County Sheriff's Dept.  
Decatur, Alabama 35601

*[Handwritten signature]*

BY

Form N-730C The Drawing Board, Inc., Box 505, Dallas, Texas 75221

SIGNED

RECIPIENT KEEP THIS COPY, RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/27/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (62-544) (RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM  
CR - CONSPIRACY (B)  
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Jackson teletype to FBIHQ, dated 10/16/78.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of one LHM captioned and dated as above. Two copies of the LHM being furnished to Memphis.

Since no further investigation remains in the Jackson Division, this matter is being RUC'd.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987 SUB M) (Enc. 2) *id*  
1 - Jackson  
DHG/drw  
(5)

44-1987 Sub M-1273

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 28 1978	
FBI - JACKSON	

*B. Johnson*

Approved: *K/24B*Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Memphis

Report of: SA GEORGE R. ZEIGLER  
Date: December 1, 1978

Office: Oklahoma City

Field Office File #: 44-686

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Inmate ROBERT E. HART, inmate number 23747, date of birth [redacted] was interviewed on 11/28/78, at his place of confinement, Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institution, El Reno, Oklahoma. Details with reference to that interview are set forth in report.

- RUC -

Details:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/1/78

1

Inmate ROBERT E. HART, inmate number 23747, date of birth [redacted] was interviewed at his request at the Bureau of Prisons Facility, the Federal Correctional Institution, El Reno, where he is confined. HART advised he is currently serving a two year sentence from St. Louis on a possession of firearms charge with anticipated release June, 1979. He stated he has information with reference to JAMES EARL RAY and that he has previously been approached by congressional committees and the Secret Service and that to date, he has refused to co-operate. He stated that he is soon due for release and it is his desire to now co-operate so that he will not be bothered following release from prison.

HART stated that JAMES EARL RAY, a former neighbor in a neighborhood in vicinity of Mississippi and Park Streets, St. Louis, Missouri, came to his, HART's, residence at 1921 Rutger (phonetic), shortly after midnight the day KING was assassinated, and that RAY remained at the residence until daybreak. HART stated that RAY asked that a note be delivered to his brother, JERRY RAY, who owned a bar on Broadway in St. Louis, and attempt was made to deliver that note, HART stated, but the bar was closed. The note stated that, "The black son-of-a-bitch won't be f----- any more white broads". Note was short and consisted of one handwritten page.

HART said that he has more information, but will not disclose that information until he has been given assurance of no prosecution by Missouri State authorities. He explained that at the time RAY came to his residence, he (HART) knew that RAY was an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary and that if he admitted that RAY visited his residence the night of the KING assassination, that he felt he could be prosecuted for harboring a state fugitive.

Interviewed on 11/28/78 at El Reno, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City  
44-686  
by SA GEORGE R. ZEIGLER:pr Date dictated 11/30/78

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.

2\*

OC 44-686

HART said DAVID SELLERS was the manager of the apartment in which he resided on Rutger Street in St. Louis, Missouri. HART said that at the time of RAY's visit, he did not know that RAY assassinated KING and that he later realized what happened when RAY was arrested in England.

- 3\* -

X

12/1/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEWARK (44-9)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 12/1/78, DANIEL MC MAHON, 84 Sanford Avenue, Belleville, N. J., home telephone number 759-0244, occupation unemployed-disabled, furnished the following information to the Newark Division:

During the Winter of 1964-1965, MC MAHON was employed as a room clerk at the Sheraton-Mc Alpin Hotel, 34th Street and Broadway, Manhattan, New York. During that period, the following individuals registered at the hotel:

RALPH ABERNETHY, SR.  
RALPH ABERNETHY, JR. (his son)  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, SR.

These individuals were frequently guests at the hotel and when in New York, were usually involved in Southern Christian Leadership Conferences (SCLC) activities. On this occasion, during their visit to New York, MC MAHON took care of the SCLC group personally by registering them in suitable rooms and handling all of their needs.

A day or two after the SCLC party registered, a JOHN RAY registered at the front desk and a review of the reservation list reflected that he had made a reservation at the hotel before arriving. RAY, at that time, told MC MAHON that he was connected somehow with the ABERNETHY party. MC MAHON described RAY as a white male American, around 30-40 years of age, large frame, round features, who conveyed the impression to MC MAHON that he was a Southerner. MC MAHON remembers that

2-Bureau  
①-Memphis (Info)  
1-New York (Info)  
2-Newark  
LFR/lap  
(6)

44-1987-1275

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 1 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*W.B. Johnson*



NK 44-0

RAY had a "deep penetrating personality."

ROBERT J. POLICASTRO (PH), Room Clerk, who was also on duty the night RAY registered, can substantiate the fact that JOHN RAY registered at the hotel and indicated that he was connected somehow with the ABERNETHY party. MC MAHON is not aware of POLICASTRO's present whereabouts but speculates that he could be contacted through the New York City Hotel-Motel Association. On that evening, POLICASTRO made a remark to MC MAHON that he felt as if there was something strange regarding JOHN RAY.

Later that winter, MC MAHON took a leave of absence from the hotel and returned around the Summer of 1965, at which time, he discovered POLICASTRO had been drafted in the U. S. Army. MC MAHON advised that based on his brief encounter with JOHN RAY, coupled with the remark of POLICASTRO that there was something strange about RAY, MC MAHON became fearful for his life and around the Autumn of 1965, in Milwaukee, MC MAHON contacted SA JOHN MORAN of the Milwaukee Division, and told MORAN that he was disturbed because he "thought something might happen to him." MC MAHON acknowledged that he had no concrete basis for his apprehension, and during his contact with the Newark Division, was unable to be more specific on the basis for his apparent fear. MC MAHON, at that time, was undergoing some type of emotional turmoil and the only disturbing incident that he could recall was this brief encounter with JOHN RAY.

After reviewing the current publicity surrounding the House Assassination Committee Hearings in Washington, D. C., and the contemplated appearances before the Committee of JAMES EARL RAY's brothers, JERRY RAY and JOHN RAY, MC MAHON telephonically contacted the West Hunter Street Baptist Church, 1040 Gordon Street N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, number 404-758-5563, where RALPH ABERNETHY, SR., is Pastor. Rev. ABERNETHY was not available but MC MAHON furnished the above information to one of ABERNETHY's associates. In addition, MC MAHON followed up the telephone call which was made a few days ago with a letter.

In addition, today, MC MAHON was in telephonic contact with Ms. EMANUEL, Secretary to G. ROBERT BLAKEY, Chief Committee Counsel, House Assassination Committee, Washington, D. C.

MC MAHON added that he has no definite information that the JOHN RAY who registered at the Sheratin-Mc Alpin is in any way related to JAMES EARL RAY but added that he might have xeroxed or made notes of RAY's registration card and buried

NK 44-0

this document in a container on his uncle's property, ALFRED HYDE, Spencertown, New York, who reportedly is a Municipal Judge in the area.

Records of the Belleville, NJPD, revealed no pertinent information re MC MAHON. Newark indices negative regarding MC MAHON.

Newark contemplates no action in this matter, but in view of the House Assassination Committee Hearings, above is being furnished for information of Bureau.

3\*

F B I

Date: 12/6/78

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (44-0)

SUBJECT: *44-1987 Sub M-1276*  
MURKIN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re Newark airtel to Director, 12/1/78.

On 12/4/78, DANIEL MC MAHON, 84 Sanford Avenue, Belleville, NJ, telephonically furnished the following information to the Newark Division.

After observing a picture of JOHN RAY on television, he concluded that the individual registered at the Sheraton-McAlpin Hotel, 34th Street and Broadway, Manhattan, New York, was not JOHN RAY, but may have been his brother, JERRY RAY. He further stated that RAY may have been in the company of one GENE HARRISON, address unknown, whom MC MAHON subsequently worked with at the Cozy Corner Restaurant, 76 West Third St., NY, NY.

The above is being submitted for information. Newark Division contemplates no further action.

2 - Bureau  
① - Memphis (Info)  
1 - New York (Info)  
1 - Newark  
JFM/lh  
(5)

*44-1987 Sub M-1276*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 15 1978	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*B. Johnson*

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
memorandum

DATE: 11/20/78  
REPLY TO: SA ELDON L. BRYANT  
ATTN OF:  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987-Sub M)

On 11/20/78, at approximately 2:15 p.m., SOLOMON JONES, DOB [REDACTED] called from the Shelby County Jail and stated that he was in jail serving one year on embezzlement charges. He advised that someone in his family had contacted him and said that WDIA was carrying a news story from MARK LANE, JAMES EARL RAY's attorney, that JONES was going to testify and free JAMES EARL RAY.

JONES said LANE is not representing him and he has not been contacted by anyone recently in regard to his testimony and he would like to talk to an FBI Agent as soon as possible.

ELB:tjm  
(2)

44-1987-Sub M-1011

B. Johnson



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

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
(REV. 7-76)  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6  
5010-112

12/27/78

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (C)

MURKIN

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

The Sub M section of this file has been maintained in a pending status by the Memphis Office since 1968 to handle leads and other matters arising in this case. At the present time there are no outstanding leads. Therefore, this case will be placed in a closed status. Should further inquiries be received the case will be promptly re-opened and the investigation expeditiously handled.

2 - Bureau  
① - Memphis

BFJ:cjs  
(3)

*BFJ*

*Ed*

*Close  
6  
BFJ*

44-1987-sub M-1278

SEARCHED *Eu*  
SERIALIZED *Eu*  
INDEXED *Eu*

*BFJ*

*DATE 12/27/78*

PLEASE ADDRESS  
CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE COMMISSIONER  
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
OTTAWA, CANADA  
K1A 0R2



HEADQUARTERS  
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

PRIÈRE D'ADRESSER LES  
LETTRES COMME SUIT:

LE COMMISSAIRE  
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA  
OTTAWA, CANADA  
K1A 0R2

YOUR NO. 44-4  
VOTRE N°

OUR NO. 68HQ-791-Q-60  
NOTRE N°

1979-01-19

Mr. Robert L. Moore  
c/o United States Embassy  
100 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Moore:

Re: James Earl RAY  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
- Victim  
Civil Rights - Conspiracy

Further to our letter of June 23, 1975, regarding disposition of exhibits being held by our Force, and your Memphis office reply of July 22, 1975.

It would be appreciated if we could once again cause enquiries to be conducted through the Assistant District Attorney in Memphis to determine if we can now dispose of the exhibits in this case.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

D. Chiarot, Inspector  
Acting Officer in Charge  
Federal Policing Branch

44-1987-Sub M-1279

Index 702

AIRTEL

1/24/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: LEGAT, OTTAWA (44-4)(P)  
MURKIN

Enclosed for Bureau are two copies of RCMP letter dated 1/19/79, which is self-explanatory.

RCMP letter of 6/23/75 referred to in enclosure was forwarded to the Bureau by Ottawa letter 7/9/75.

3 - Bureau (Enc.2)  
(1 - Foreign Liaison)(Direct)  
1 - Ottawa  
RLM:cae  
(4)

44-1987-Sub-M-1279 A

*mse mse*

*Flakey*

Routing Slip  
0-7 (Rev. 5-1-77)

(Copies to Office checked)

TO: SAC:

☐ Albany  
☐ Albuquerque  
☐ Alexandria  
☐ Anchorage  
☐ Atlanta  
☐ Baltimore  
☐ Birmingham  
☐ Boston  
☐ Buffalo  
☐ Butte  
☐ Charlotte  
☐ Chicago  
☐ Cincinnati  
☐ Cleveland  
☐ Columbia  
☐ Dallas  
☐ Denver  
☐ Detroit  
☐ El Paso  
☐ Honolulu  
☐ Houston  
☐ Indianapolis  
☐ Jackson  
☐ Jacksonville  
☐ Kansas City  
☐ Knoxville  
☐ Las Vegas  
☐ Little Rock  
☐ Los Angeles  
☐ Louisville  
☒ Memphis  
☐ Miami  
☐ Milwaukee  
☐ Minneapolis  
☐ Mobile  
☐ Newark  
☐ New Haven  
☐ New Orleans  
☐ New York City  
☐ Norfolk

☐ Oklahoma City  
☐ Omaha  
☐ Philadelphia  
☐ Phoenix  
☐ Pittsburgh  
☐ Portland  
☐ Richmond  
☐ Sacramento  
☐ St. Louis  
☐ Salt Lake City  
☐ San Antonio  
☐ San Diego  
☐ San Francisco  
☐ San Juan  
☐ Savannah  
☐ Seattle  
☐ Springfield  
☐ Tampa  
☐ Washington Field  
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern  
☐ Bonn  
☐ Buenos Aires  
☐ Caracas  
☐ Hong Kong  
☐ London  
☐ Madrid  
☐ Manila  
☐ Mexico City  
☐ Ottawa  
☐ Paris  
☐ Rome  
☐ Tokyo

☐ SAC, New Rochelle (MRA) ☐ ASAC, Rapid City (\*Mini\*) 2/5/79  
(Date)

RE: MURKIN

Retention For appropriate  
☐ For information optional **XX** action ☐ Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.  
☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

Re your letter and LHM, 7/22/75.  
SULHM response based on your contact with office of District Attorney. Conclude LHM with a statement that an inquiry should also be made with the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., relative to the disposition of any exhibits.

44-1987-Sub M-1279B

*msl msl*

Enc.  
Bufile (44-38861)  
Urfile

*F. L. J.*

FBI/DOJ





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dallas, Texas

February 1, 1979

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On January 30, 1979, an anonymous woman caller telephonically furnished the following information to Special Agent Udo H. Specht, FBI, Dallas, Texas:

She stated that an individual by the name of C. H. Wilson, residing at Boyd, Texas, in a brick house on the road between Boyd and Azle, Texas, might have been responsible or somehow involved in the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. She described Wilson as a white male, 6', 180 pounds, 51 years of age, and a pipe welder by trade. Wilson was involved in Ku Klux Klan activities and lived in Greenville, Mississippi in 1968 and prior to that. Prior to the assassination of King, Wilson allegedly stated that he would kill or was going to kill Martin Luther King. Wilson and another man, whom she would not identify, were in Memphis the day King was assassinated. At that time, Wilson owned a relatively new white Ford Mustang bearing Mississippi license plates. After Wilson returned to Greenville, Mississippi, from Memphis, Tennessee, he hid the white Mustang for approximately one month.

The caller stated that Wilson is an alcoholic and was during that time. He was drinking two and three quarts a day. The caller stated that Wilson is mean and capable of murder, especially if he has been drinking.

The caller would not identify the other man who was in Memphis with Wilson until she found out somehow that someone is investigating what she is saying.

On January 30, 1979, a telephone company information operator advised that a C. H. Wilson is listed as residing in Boyd, Texas, telephone number (817)433-5105.

The Dallas, Texas FBI indices to investigatory records did not reflect any information identifiable with C. H. Wilson.

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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.

FBI/DOJ

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/1/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (C) *44-1-111*

SUBJECT: ✓ ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
 (MURKIN)  
 CIVIL RIGHTS

OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies  
 of an LHM dated and captioned as above.

One copy of same is being designated for Memphis  
 and Jackson.

3 - Bureau (Encs - 5)  
 1 - Jackson (Encs - 1) ✓  
 ① - Memphis (Encs - 1) ✓  
 1 - Dallas  
 UHS/mpc  
 (6)

*44-1987-Sub M-1280**nse m**①**① LHM**W* *Flake*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Time)Per \_\_\_\_\_  
FBI/DOJ

Memphis, Tennessee  
February 22, 1979

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

On February 16, 1979, Leland M. McNabb, Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney's Office, 167 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, was contacted by a Special Agent of the FBI regarding exhibits which pertain to the captioned matter.

Mr. McNabb advised he is currently the Assistant District Attorney assigned to this matter and has just filed an answer to a motion for a new trial on behalf of James Earl Ray. Mr. McNabb advised exhibits which pertain to this matter, should be retained in view of the motion for a new trial for James Earl Ray, and in view of the continuing legal questions which are being raised on behalf of Ray as to his original guilty plea in this matter.

An inquiry should also be made with the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., relative to the disposition of exhibits in this matter.

-----  
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-Bureau  
①-Memphis  
JRF:vse  
(6) *ure*

44-1987-Sub m-1281  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED *ure*

xx Airtel

2/22/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau routing slip to Memphis, dated 2/5/79, enclosing Legat, Ottawa airtel to the Bureau, dated 1/24/79.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS-CONSPIRACY"

For the information of the Bureau, the Memphis letter and LHM, dated 7/22/75, mentioned in the referenced Bureau routing slip is not available to the Memphis Office since the entire MURKIN file was transferred from Memphis to the Bureau.

Contact with the District Attorney's Office, Memphis, Tenn., was by SA JAMES R. FLAKE.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

Inquiry with the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. should be made relative to the disposition of exhibits being held by Canadian authorities in this matter.

3-Bureau (Encs. 5)  
(1-Legat, Ottawa 44-4)  
1-Memphis  
JRF:vse  
(4) *vse*

44-1987-Sub M-1280A

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *nee*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *nee*

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN. PAGE- 13

Date: Feb. 11, 1979

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1987

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

## Stokes Says FBI Actions Fueled King Conspiracy

By LEROY WILLIAMS JR.

The FBI's harassment and surveillance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. created a climate which led conspirators to believe they could kill Zoro (code name for King) and get away with it, Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) said yesterday.

Stokes, who was chairman of the House Assassinations Committee, also said a conspiracy hatched in St. Louis could lead to charges against some unnamed individuals if the Justice Department thinks the committee's evidence supports prosecution.

Stokes, who spoke at a breakfast sponsored by Rep. Harold Ford (D-Memphis) at Number One Beale Street Restaurant, said the FBI's actions in connection with King would be detailed in the committee's final report scheduled for release March 31.

"There were 5,000 recordings made of conversations with his wife, the SCLC (the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which King headed), friends and associates he talked with all over the country. This much electronic involvement was never used on anybody else.

"They got so arrogant . . . they discussed that the Negro people would be lost (without King) and decided to push a New York lawyer to lead the lost people after King was discredited . . . They picked out key people in Congress (to hear the tapes) . . . and went to Cardinal Spellman in New York and tried to get him to

get the Pope to cancel an audience King had with the Pope."

The Central Intelligence Agency and other law enforcement agencies also failed to perform their duties properly, he said.

"We found here in Memphis, Tennessee, that your police department had destroyed the surveillance they conducted on them." But he said there was no evidence the police department was involved in King's death.

In a preliminary report last year the committee concluded convicted assassin James Earl Ray did kill King, but said an alleged \$50,000 offer made by two St. Louis businessmen could have provided the motive. Both of the St. Louis men are dead, but Stokes said there were others involved.

"We are not a prosecutorial body. We are not a grand jury. But we are asking the Justice Department to go over all the evidence and decide whether further measures are warranted."

Stokes said he was satisfied with the committee's work, but could not say if it was worth the \$5.3 million effort.

"I don't know. I don't know what the value is on human life. I don't know what the value is on a Nobel Peace Prize winner, a man that is probably the greatest black man to walk on this earth. This nation owes these men (Kennedy and King) the same kind of dignity in death they gave to this nation."

*Only for  
A. R. Jones*

*44-1987 Sub M-100  
12*

*FBI/DOJ*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 4/20/79

PATRICIA HAYS WISMILLER, 1170 Dyer Place, telephone 323-3443, was informed of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the fact she was being contacted in regard to information she had furnished on April 4, 1979, to the Memphis City Police Department regarding the activities of RENFRO TURNER HAYS. WISMILLER furnished the following information:

RENFRO TURNER HAYS is the brother of WISMILLER's father and has been residing at her home with her and her minor son until the evening of April 3, 1979. Due to a fear on her part of HAYS which has developed, she had his belongings removed from her residence with the assistance of a friend, BOB MENENDEZ, employed with the Federal Aviation Administration, telephone 327-3387.

She advised HAYS is employed as a private detective and currently works from the office of BOB GILDER, an attorney, in Southaven, Mississippi. Since approximately the middle of February, 1979, until approximately four nights ago, she has overheard conversations between HAYS, GILDER, SKIP FALLER, ARNO (last name unknown), and MARK (last name unknown) in-  
volving a plan whereby HAYS will confess to the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. In furtherance of this scheme, HAYS will travel to Mexico where he will sign a confession and FALLER, who is from California and produces movies, will make a movie based on the assassination of Dr. KING by HAYS. The confession by HAYS will be needed to establish the truthfulness of the movie. She described this confession as one which is non-binding on HAYS and would not establish legal liability for others involved in the movie for conspiracy.

Once HAYS has signed the confession in Mexico and the movie has been completed, HAYS will then travel to Argentina where he will reside. HAYS has indicated he would reside in Argentina based on his knowledge of the German language which is spoken by many people who live in Argentina and since following his confession, many individuals might seek revenge against him if he remained in the United States. HAYS, for his confession to the murder, would receive an advance payment of money based on anticipated profits from

the movie.

Investigation on 4/4/79 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987 Sub M - 1283  
by SAs JAMES R. FLAKE  
HAROLD L. HAYS/JRF/mgv Date dictated 4/5/79

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.

SKIP FALLER, who resides in California, is currently staying with his father, LOUIS A. FALLER, III, 5073 Whitworth Road, Memphis, and is accompanied by MARK (last name unknown) who has arrived in Memphis from Chicago. She stated the other individual involved in the project is ARNO (last name unknown) who has a Memphis telephone number of 396-1493. She advised her mother, BERTA HAYS, 3360 Rosamond, BOB MENENDEZ, and her minor son have also heard portions of the conversations between GILDER, HAYS, ARNO, FALLER and MARK regarding the proposed movie. She informed HAYS and the others she was going to the police with the information regarding the proposed movie and has been warned by HAYS not to do so and was warned indirectly through her mother that it would not be to her best interest to inform the police of their plans. Based on these warnings, WISMILLER advised she is fearful for her life which is additionally based on beliefs of her own of violence in the background of HAYS including three murders which she believes he committed. She stated two of his former roommates have died and were ruled as suicides; however, she believes HAYS was involved in their deaths. She also advised approximately seven years ago when HAYS was a patient at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Memphis, a female patient died due to suffocation by placing a plastic bag over her head. WISMILLER stated HAYS has described on numerous occasions his discovery of this patient and having pulled the plastic bag from her head; however, WISMILLER believes HAYS was involved in the death of this patient.

HAYS was involved in the investigation of the murder of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING and often laughs and jokes about his having been in the downtown area where the murder occurred. He was additionally driving a white Mustang at the time which had been given to him by WALTER BUFORD, a local Memphis attorney. HAYS has told WISMILLER he confessed to killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING to a local reporter. She advised she thinks HAYS was capable of the murder of KING; however, she does not believe that he did, in fact, kill KING.

ME 44-1987 Sub

3

She bases her belief on his being capable of murder on her belief that he has murdered the two former roommates and the patient at the VA Hospital.

The plan for the production of the movie in Mexico is to begin momentarily and to her knowledge, HAYS is currently residing with WISMILLER's grandmother at 3050 Sinclair, Frayser, Tennessee. She stated she has informed several of her close friends of this information based on her fear and physical health, stating she suffers from a heart condition requiring approximately five medications. She stated she would discuss this matter with any agency which can assist her.

4\*



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 4/20/79

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Investigation on 4/4/79 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44-1987 Sub M - 1283  
by SAs JAMES R. FLAKE  
HAROLD L. HAYS/JRF/mgv Date dictated 4/5/79

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ME 44-1987 Sub

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ME 44-1987 Sub

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Memphis, Tennessee  
April 27, 1979

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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On April 4, 1979, Captain Barry Linville, Homicide Division, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, telephonically informed the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that an individual identifying herself as Patricia Hays Wismiller, 1170 Dyer Place, telephone 323-3443, Memphis, Tennessee, had telephonically contacted the Memphis Police Department and informed them of a scheme whereby her uncle, Renfro Hays, would admit to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and then a movie would be made based on this confession with Hays receiving advance funds from the anticipated profits of this movie.

On April 4, 1979, Patricia Hays Wismiller was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the following is a result of that interview:

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-Bureau  
①-Memphis (44-1987 Sub M)  
JRF/mgv  
(6) *mgv*

SEARCHED *R*

SERIALIZED *mc*

INDEXED *F/6 ne*

FILED *mc*

44-1987 Sub M-1284  
1284

x airtel

4/27/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987 Sub M) (C)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four copies of an LHM dated as above.

The Memphis PD and AG's office at Memphis are aware of the information furnished by WISMILLER and no further action is being taken by the Memphis Office in this matter.

2-Bureau (Enc. 5)  
①-Memphis  
JRF/mgv  
(3) *mgv*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_

SERIALIZED *Wm*

INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_

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*R*  
*L*  
*Flake*  
*44-1987 Sub M-1285*

841 Clifford Davis Federal Building  
167 North Main Street  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
May 7, 1979

Hugh W. Stanton, Jr.  
Attorney General  
157 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

RE: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.;  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Dear Mr. Stanton:

Enclosed is a communication which originated from our Dallas, Texas Office. No additional information has been received by this office regarding the contents of the enclosure.

The enclosure is being furnished for your information. A review of investigatory records for our Dallas Division and for the Memphis Division, revealed no information identifiable with C. H. Wilson.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH H. TRIMBACH  
Special Agent in Charge

1-Addressee  
1-T. Winslow Chapman  
1-Memphis (44-1987 SUB M)

JRF:vse  
(3)

By:

*RHS / JTB*  
Richard H. Blay  
Assistant Special Agent in  
Charge

ENCLOSURE - 1

44-1987-Sub M-1286

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *WAC*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *WAC*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Los Angeles, California

May 11, 1979

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

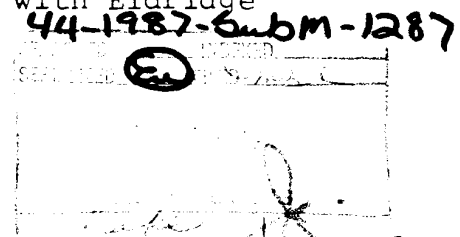
JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On May 2, 1979, a confidential source, whose reliability has not been verified, furnished the following information:

He is presently serving a life sentence for murder in the California Prison System, and is currently incarcerated at the California Mens Colony (CMC), East Facility, San Luis Obispo, California.

During the past year he developed a friendship with another inmate known to him as Gary Lee Kraut, who also uses the last name of Wilkenson. Kraut is a federal prisoner serving a 50 year term for kidnaping. Kraut was transferred to CMC from the Federal Prison in Marion, Illinois. The source developed a friendship with Kraut because they were both serving extremely long sentences for very serious crimes.

During Christmas, 1978, Kraut stated to the source that he was the individual who was actually guilty for shooting Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. Kraut advised that he was married to James Earl Ray's first wife Betty, who currently resides somewhere in Quincy, Illinois. The source does not know Betty's last name, but she is described as a white female, 45 years of age, with reddish hair. Kraut has a son as a result of his marriage to Betty. Kraut advised the source that there was a black male with him, known only as Bobby, who was later killed in a shootout with police in an unknown area. Bobby had some connection with Eldridge Cleaver.



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.

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Kraut further advised the source that while he was in Marion Federal Prison, Marion, Illinois, he had made a jewelry box with a false bottom. This jewelry box had been sent to Betty. In the false bottom of the box were the names of a group of individuals who would carry on the work of Kraut since he was in prison. Kraut advised the source that Dr. Martin Luther King's father was next on the list to be assassinated and that it was just a matter of time. Kraut advised the source that Betty (last name unknown) used to own a bar, whereabouts unknown, and a white male that she knew obtained the rifle with which King was shot. Kraut further advised the source that he shot Dr. Martin Luther King with a rifle, but he did not state what caliber the rifle was. Kraut stayed awake for two days in order to have the chance to shoot King.

Kraut advised the source that he had been offered a chance to testify before the House Assassinations Committee on the death of Martin Luther King, but did not concede to testify. Kraut allegedly knows James Earl Ray and James Earl Ray's brother.

The source advised that in the past four or five months he has had no further friendship with Kraut because they had had a disagreement. The source does not believe that he could re-establish a friendship with Kraut.

On May 4, 1979, a review of the California prison record pertaining to Gary Lee Kraut, also known as Wilkenson, Federal Prison Number 31702-138(H), revealed the following information:

Kraut is serving a 50 year sentence after being convicted of the Federal Kidnaping Statute in the District of New Mexico. He pled guilty on April 22, 1975, and was committed to the U. S. Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, on June 12, 1975. Kraut will be eligible for parole on December 29, 1984, and for mandatory release from his sentence on July 26, 2008.

On April 10, 1978, the State of California in an agreement with the U. S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C., accepted Kraut as a boarder in the California Prison System where he was delivered to the California State Prison located at Chino, California.



JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

The record indicates that Kraut was transferred to the California Prison System as he had testified in a murder trial at Marion Federal Penitentiary in the case of Bobby Gene Garcia, Federal Prison Number 02002-135. Kraut lied on the witness stand, but still helped federal prosecution in the matter, and Garcia was found guilty on December 24, 1976, of killing victim inmate Ralph Cunningham. Garcia was sentenced in U. S. District Court, Benton, Illinois, on March 23, 1978.

The file contained a Federal Bureau of Investigation identification record pertaining to Kraut, a United States Probation Department Presentence Report dated April 30, 1975, and a California Department of Corrections Cumulative Case Summary Legal Status Report dated May 13, 1978, which are attached to this memorandum, and which give background information pertaining to Kraut.

The following descriptive data was obtained from the prison record:

Name	Gary Lee Kraut
Alias	Gary Lee Wilkenson
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Illinois
Height	5'8"
Weight	170
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Skin	Fair
Occupation	Barber
Scars and Marks	Numerous tattoos
Criminal Identification and Investigation Number	A06292368
FBI Number	494 471 D
Federal Prison Number	31702-138(H)
California Prison Number	B92457

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7-18-75 155 LSL

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 494 471 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Quincy Ill	Gary L. Kraut #--	10-8-59	larc of motor veh	10-9-59 ret'd to Chaddock Boys School for disciplin
St Bu Springfield Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #323273	FP 5-11-60	Patient Alton SHosp	
SO Decatur Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #70099	9-17-60	L of auto	
PD Alton Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #9499	8-10-64	rob	rel to Calhoun Co SO
SO Jerseyville Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #1698	8-10-64	strong arm rob	
Calhoun Co SO Hardin Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #1698	8-10-64	strong armed rob	
SF Vandalia Ill	Gary Kraut #66968	8-21-64	1	9 mos Final Dis 4-10-65
Cook Co Jail Chgo Ill	Gary L. Kraut #360087	5-11-65	21-1-38	
PD Chgo Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #102082	5-10-65	criminal tress	disch Nolle on chg of theft
Cook Co Jail Chgo Ill	Gary Kraut #362128	6-18-65	21-2	
PD Chgo Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #102082	6-18-65	auto-theft	
St Hwy Pat Macon Mo	Garry Lee Kraut #B-929	3-7-66	theft over \$50	1 yr Co J1

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

7-18-75 155 LSL

2

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 494 471 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SF Vandalia Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #70568	3-28-66	decept pract	75 das TOT SO Morgan C Jacksonville Ill 5-17-66
PD Quincy Ill	Gary Lee Kraut	10-22-66	Inv decept pract & forg	
SF Vandalia Ill	Gary Lee Kraut #72319	1-6-67	attpt theft	6 mos final discharge 3-30-67
SO Fort Madison Iowa	Gary Lee Kraut #1055	7-19-68	B&E	ret to Ill to answer to a forg chg
PD Quincy Ill	Gary Lee Kraut	12-14-67	1-forgery 2-reckless dr 3-flee to avoid arrest 4-no dr lic	all charges dismissed on motion of State Attorney
PD Quincy Ill	Gary Lee Kraut	7-30-68	Vio of bail bond and forgery	sent 1-5 yrs Ill SPen
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L. Kraut #35305	9-23-68	forg (1) & viol bail bond (1)	1-5 yrs (2cc) 2-11-70 Par Manditorily rel 4-23-7
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L. Kraut #35305	Inquiry 10-10-68		
PD Hannibal Mo	Gary Lee Kraut #61 940	5-9-70	Parole viol (Warrant)	
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L Kraut #35305	5-20-70	forg (1) Viol bail bond	1-5 (2cc)

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1965 O-657-051

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

7-18-75 155 LSL

3

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Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE  
FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE  
WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD New Orleans La	Gary Lee Kraut #150-649	2-20-71	fugitive from Cleveland Miss	
SO Cleveland Miss	Gary Lee Kraut #1005	3-3-71	1) Forgery 2) GL	
SPen Parchman Miss	Gary Kraut #35430	5-27-71	uttering forgery	3 yrs disch on expiration of sent 8-1-73
Cook Co Jail Chgo IL	Gary Kraut 7306223	prt rec 8-6-73	Menard 35305 Viol of Parole	
SPen Joliet IL	Gary Kraut 74848	8-3-73	forgery Bail Jumping	1-5 yrs 1-5 yrs 2cc
SPen Menard Ill	Gary L. Kraut 35305 SID 730 613	9-11-73	forg vio Bail Bond 1-5 yrs (2cc) Adams Co (Jol tr)	
SO Jacksonville Fla	Kenneth Ray Wilkenson 256140 SID 964840	6-11-74	auto theft	
PD Alton Ill	Gary Lee Kraut 9499 SID 730613	11-15-74	Req for poss of firearms no drivers license	5-20-75 both dism
Co Jail Edwardsville IL	Gary Lee Kraut 6923	11-18-74	burg	

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as  
being possibly identical with subject of this record.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

7-18-75 155 LSL

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WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS  
DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM Tampa FL	Gary Lee Kraut 5092-3803-T	1-6-75	kidnapping, D/ New Mexico UFAP/armed robb S/D Illinois	
SO Albuquerque NM	Kenneth Wilkenson 12-5991	3-26-75	kidnapping	TOT Fed
USM Albuquerque NM	Gary Lee Kraut 0310-09949	3-26-75	kidnapping	50 yrs
US Pen Marion IL	Gary Lee Kraut 31702-138	6-12-75	kidnapping	50 yrs

PROBATION FORM 28  
FEB 65

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME KRAUT, Gary Lee  
AKA Kenneth Ray Wilkenson  
ADDRESS ~~305 McClellan~~  
Alton, Illinois

DATE April 30, 1975  
DOCKET NO. 75-27  
OFFENSE Violation 18 USC 1201  
Kidnapping

LEGAL RESIDENCE Illinois

AGE 30 DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED]  
Chester, Illinois

PENALTY Up to Life

SEX Male RACE White

CITIZENSHIP United States

PLEA Guilty, April 22, 1975

EDUCATION 12th Grade

VERDICT

MARITAL STATUS Married

CUSTODY U. S. Marshal

DEPENDENTS 1 (wife)

ASST. U.S. ATTY Don Svet

SOC. SEC. NO. Unknown

DEFENSE COUNSEL Bill Deaton  
Public Defender

FBI NO. 494 471 D

DETAINEES OR CHARGES PENDING

Macoupin County, Illinois - detainer charging Armed Robbery, 12/29/74  
Pasco County, Florida - detainer charging Robbery, 1/14/75

CODEFENDANTS (Disposition)  
Unknown

DISPOSITION

50 years

DATE May 2, 1975

SENTENCING JUDGE Honorable Howard Bratton

SENTENCING JUDGE

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FPI-MI-8-14-73-100H-7593

KRAUT, Gary Lee

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OFFENSE:

Official Version: Prior to the offense, on June 11, 1974, this defendant, using the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkinson, was arrested in Jacksonville, Florida and subsequently sentenced to 90 days in jail for attempted auto theft. Authorities there allege that the defendant broke into a home after his escape on July 29, 1974, and stole the occupant's automobile. Warrants have been issued by the local sheriff's office.

On November 18, 1974, under the name of Gary Lee Kraut, this defendant was arrested for residential burglary in Edwardsville, Illinois. He posted a cash bond and was released. District Attorney Van Dyke is in possession of a letter from Gary Kraut indicating that he had received 55 years in federal prison in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He requested that charges there be dropped and that his bond be returned.

On December 14, 1974, Macoupin County records reveal that this defendant was identified as committing an armed robbery in Shipman, Illinois. \$200, two shotguns, a .22 rifle, credit cards identification, a deputy sheriff's commission and badge belonging to Albert Burnett were taken. An unlawful flight to avoid prosecution was issued by the FBI and a detainer has been lodged with the U. S. Marshal's Office.

Using Burnett's identification, an unknown male then rented a 1975 Ford Mustang at Lambert Field near St. Louis, Missouri in the early morning hours on December 15, 1974.

On this same date at 10:30, an individual posing as a deputy sheriff and driving the same 1975 Ford, took 2 rifles and a pistol from a man whose van had become stuck in the mud. This defendant's picture was identified by all three occupants of the truck as the perpetrator.

On December 17, 1974, 55 year old George Salome was working on his ranch, which was 22 miles south and east of Socorro, New Mexico, when he encountered this defendant and a male traveling companion.

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OFFENSE: (CONT'D)

As they were having car trouble, Mr. Salome volunteered to take them to the nearest phone. Shortly after that, this defendant pulled a gun on Mr. Salome and forced him to drive south.

During the trip, according to the victim, this defendant fired three shots out of the car window. They made a stop in Carrizozo, New Mexico, where the Salome truck was filled with gas. The trio continued to Alamogordo, New Mexico, where they stopped at another service station for gas.

Mr. Salome indicated that he had to use the rest-room and was followed by the defendant. Kraut stated as he closed the rest-room door, "Don't come out as I will kill you". Five minutes later, Salome found the service station dark, the attendant and his kidnapers gone.

According to the Socorro County District Attorney's Office, they have been unable to get Mr. Salome into their office to sign a complaint. They do not feel that there will be a prosecution.

An examination by the New Mexico State Police of the 1975 Ford rented in Illinois and abandoned in New Mexico revealed numerous fingerprints belonging to Gary Lee Kraut.

On December 17, 1975, 62 year old Archie L. Cape was preparing to close his service station when he noticed a pickup as it pulled into the side of the station. Assuming that the occupants were going to use the rest-room, he continued with his duties just prior to closing.

He was suddenly confronted by a white male who was armed. His wallet was taken, as well as 12 to 15 dollar bills in his shirt pocket. As his assailant held the pistol to his left ear, they moved to the office, where the day receipts were taken.



## OFFENSE: (CONT'D)

Using Mr. Cape's 1965 Cadillac, the trio then drove to El Paso, Texas, without incident. Upon their arrival, the third individual rented a room in a local motel, and Mr. Cape was bound and gagged. They removed his watch and left him after turning on the television set so he would have something to look at. When he was able to free himself, he called the local police.

On January 29, 1975, the Cape Cadillac was recovered in El Paso, Texas. Mr. Cape was unable to identify from photographs this defendant as his kidnapper.

Subsequent Activities: Officials believe that subject and a companion purchased a 1963 Corvair in El Paso, Texas, as sales representatives identified a photograph of Kraut, who was using the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson.

On December 19, 1974, the red Corvair was located in Gulf Port, Mississippi, where it had been traded for a 1961 GMC Pickup. The pickup was later traded for a 1966 maroon Oldsmobile 98, all under the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson.

On December 27, 1974, police allege that this defendant and one other attempted an armed robbery in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The robbery was unsuccessful and one subject was killed. A maroon Oldsmobile 98 was used by the second armed robber to make good his escape.

On December 29, 1974, sheriff's officers were involved in a shoot out with a wanted individual who was killed. Investigation revealed that the dead man had been accompanied by Kenneth Ray Wilkenson, who was driving a maroon Oldsmobile. The maroon Oldsmobile described in an earlier Fort Lauderdale armed robbery was located by Pasco County Sheriff's Deputies, and this defendant was arrested on December 30, 1974. He admitted to the arresting officer that he had kidnapped both Salome and Cape in New Mexico.

Subsequent Activities: (Cont'd)

On January 24, 1975, Gary Lee Kraut was indicted and charged with kidnapping. Mr. Kraut attempted to plea under Rule 20 in Florida. Marshal Sharp of the Tampa office advised that the Judge refused to accept the plea because Kraut attempted to bargain with him concerning his place of confinement and his desire to waive the presentence report. Mr. Kraut then had to be forcibly removed from the court room.

On April 14, 1975, after his return to the District of New Mexico, Mr. Kraut, who now used the name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson, entered a plea of guilty to the grand jury indictment in the presence of public defender. Prior to this, a psychiatric examination had found him competent. Sentencing was set before the Honorable Howard Bratton for May 2, 1975.

DEFENDANT'S VERSION OF OFFENSE:

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports that after his release from prison on April 23, 1974, he tried very hard to settle down. Work was a problem, but he was finally able to find a job in November of 1974. Because he lost his job two days later, he became embittered and went on a crime spree, which began with several burglaries in Illinois. He indicated that once this got started, he couldn't stop.

In general, he confirms the official version of the two kidnappings, indicating he was on the Salome ranch in an attempt to avoid a road block near Socorro, New Mexico. He states he did not want to harm Mr. Salome, but found it necessary to use his gun after Mr. Salome insisted on taking him to Socorro to use a phone.

He advises that during the trip, he bought gas for the Salome truck and really didn't want to harm him. He reports that he didn't want to hurt Mr. Cape and even turned on the television set so he could watch it after he left him in the motel room.

He makes no statement concerning the balance of his escapade, except to confirm that he traveled in various cars from Texas to Florida.