

CG 44-1114

RJD/laj

2

BRIAN DUFF, 618 Maple, Wilmette, home phone AL 1-3815; business 1701 Central Street, Evanston, Illinois, telephone 864-3322, or 869-5421. (DUFF ran for Illinois State Auditor on Republican ticket - not nominated.)

The following who attended Mr. BARR's party were contacted on April 26, 1968:

BRIAN DUFF stated he had no recollection of any conversation concerning a chauffeur of KING. DUFF gave the following seating arrangements for the persons at this party and this listing goes from left to right:

Senator BENNETT, Mrs. VIRGINIA MC DONALD, Mr. ALLEN MC DONALD, BETH GUYER, BRIAN DUFF, MARA LATSON, CHARLES HOOD, FRANK WOOLLEY, CHARLES BARR and PATRICIA HUTAR.

FRANK WOOLLEY stated he attended the dinner party April 3, 1968, for Senator BENNETT, sat with HOOD on his left and BARR on his right; however, he recalled no conversation concerning Doctor KING's chauffeur.

Mrs. VIRGINIA MC DONALD advised no person ever worked for her or her husband who subsequently worked for KING and she recalled no conversation at the dinner party for Senator BENNETT concerning KING's chauffeur.

Mrs. PATRICIA HUTAR stated she heard no conversation concerning KING's chauffeur at the dinner party for Senator BENNETT; however, at the reception preceding this dinner party she recalls hearing such a conversation as related by HAROLD RAINVILLE, Administrative Assistant to Senator EVERETT DIRKSEN. It was her recollection that this story was related by RAINVILLE concerning KING's driver and money maintained by the driver in a bag.

CG 44-1114

RJD/laj

3

HAROLD E. RAINVILLE, Administrative Assistant to Senator EVERETT DIRKSEN, 219 South Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois, advised as follows:

RALPH KUNSTADTER, Pediatrician, home 900 North Michigan, office 664 North Michigan, office telephone DE 7-4545, Chicago, Illinois, sometime in the past had advised that he at one time employed a man as a chauffeur who subsequently worked for KING as a chauffeur. This man had been required to carry large sums of money in a bag for KING and this man was scared that someone would rob him of this money. This man had been advised by Doctor KUNSTADTER to contact RAINVILLE but this man failed to so contact RAINVILLE.

Doctor RALPH KUNSTADTER, 664 North Michigan, Chicago, Illinois, advised that for several years his family had employed an elderly colored male, KELLY WILLIAMS, as a chauffeur. Approximately 18 months ago this man had been released from his service by KUNSTADTER because of his physical condition which Doctor KUNSTADTER recalled as being syphilis of the brain. Doctor KUNSTADTER stated this person was probably deceased by now as he was over 65 and on Social Security.

Doctor KUNSTADTER stated he later heard this man went to work for KING but he had no recollection of hearing anything to the effect that this man was required to carry over \$200,000 in cash in a black bag at all times for KING.

KUNSTADTER stated that approximately one year or so ago this man had contacted his family and allegedly had some knowledge of threats which had been made against Senator DIRKSEN. Doctor KUNSTADTER accordingly attempted to have WILLIAMS contact Senator DIRKSEN's office concerning this matter.

It is to be noted that in September, 1966, the Chicago Office conducted extensive investigation concerning a similar story concerning a person who allegedly worked for Doctor KING as a chauffeur and who formerly worked for Doctor RALPH KUNSTADTER. This investigation developed the identity of this individual as KELLY WILLIAMS, full details of which were furnished to the Bureau. No further investigation was conducted at that time due to the readily apparent mental problems of WILLIAMS, coupled with the serious doubts which were cast on his veracity.

CG 44-1114

RJD/laj

1

OTHER INVESTIGATION

Re: WILLIAM FERBER or  
WILLIAM FARBERS (Look Alike)

On April 18, 1968, at 3:15 PM, CLARENCE PETERSON, Assistant Vice President, Amalgamated Bank, 111 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, telephonically advised that an unknown white male, strongly resembling the likeness of ERIC GALT, appearing in the April 18 issue of the "Chicago Tribune" appeared at this bank shortly before 12:30 PM and requested to purchase a \$10,000 certificate of deposit (savings) for cash. Mr. PETERSON inquired as to whether the unknown male had an account with Amalgamated and was informed that he did not. Mr. PETERSON then proceeded to make inquiry concerning this unknown male's background whereupon he became reluctant to furnish background information and inquired why it was necessary for him to identify himself. Mr. PETERSON informed the unknown male that it was the bank's policy to have some identifying information and background concerning its new customers whereupon the unknown male produced a driver's license issued by the State of Wisconsin containing the name WILLIAM FERBER or WILLIAM FARBERS. The unknown male explained that he presently resided in another state and that this license was the license issued to him when he resided in Wisconsin.

Mr. PETERSON advised he turned the driver's license over on its reverse side to observe the signature which he found was obscured from view by a card containing the words, "National Association of Ballroom Dancers." Mr. PETERSON advised that before he could examine the driver's license any further, the unknown male grabbed it out of his hands stating he could not see why he had to furnish any information about himself. Mr. PETERSON then stated that before he could obtain a certificate of deposit, he would be required to fill out the necessary savings account forms and furnish specimens of his signature which he, PETERSON furnished to the unknown male. The unknown male informed PETERSON that he would fill out the signature cards at the counter and left PETERSON's desk and proceeded to a counter in the lobby of the bank. PETERSON stated that he left his desk temporarily for only a few seconds to report this incident to his superiors and turned around to see if the

CG 44-1114  
RJD/laj  
2

unknown male had finished executing the cards and returned to his desk whereupon he found that the unknown male had disappeared from the bank. Mr. PETERSON said that he immediately examined all the waste receptacles in the vicinity of the lobby counter where the unknown male was last observed and failed to find the blank savings account signature cards indicating that these blank cards were apparently not left in the bank by the unknown male.

PETERSON said during his lunch hour from 12:30 PM to about 1:30 PM, he was reading the "Chicago Tribune" and observed the photograph of subject GALT appearing therein and immediately felt that it was a strong likeness of the individual who had just attempted to obtain a certificate of deposit at Amalgamated.

PETERSON described this unknown male as follows:

Name	WILLIAM FERBER or WILLIAM FARBERS
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	About 35-40
Height	5'8" or 5'9
Weight	160-170
Complexion	Ruddy
Characteristics	Square jaw, clean shaven
Eyes	Dark
Hair	Brown
Wearing apparel	White shirt, three quarter length tan light weight coat.

Review of Chicago classified and telephone directories failed to locate any listing identifiable with National Association of Ballroom Dancers, however, a copy of the March, 1968, issue of "Ballroom Dance Magazine", published monthly by Dance Magazines, Inc., 268 West 47th Street, New York, New York, discloses numerous advertisements for ballroom dancing throughout the United States, only one of which is possibly identical with National Association of Ballroom Dancers which is "Ballroom Dancers Association, Inc., " 756 7th Avenue, New York, New York.

CG 44-1114

RJD/laj

3

On April 23, 1968, the Milwaukee Division advised that the Motor Vehicle Division, Madison, Wisconsin, has three listings under the name of FERBER. WILLIAM A. FERBER and WILLIAM G. FERBER were eliminated on the basis of their dates of birth, which were, respectively, September 9, 1893 and May 16, 1949.

WILLIAM H. FERBER, date of birth December 11, 1918, was eliminated on the basis that Chief of Police HAROLD PHELAN, Hales Corners, Wisconsin, advised that FERBER was arrested February 27, 1965, for operating with an expired drivers license. FERBER has been self-employed in the above town since 1948.

On April 25, 1968, the New York Division advised that the National Association of Ballroom Dancers is unknown to the officials of Dance Magazine, Inc., and Ballroom Dancers Association. Also there is no organization known to these officials that issues orange membership cards. A review of the subscription list did not indicate any subscriber by the name of FERBER or subject.

CG 44-1114

JSR: jap

1.

RE: LOOK-ALIKE DRIVING BLUE CHEVELLE  
BEARING ALABAMA LICENSE 42-7866

On April 18, 1968, Sergeant SAUTZUS, 9th District, Chicago Police Department, telephonically advised the Chicago Office of the FBI that Mr. SOL LEVIN, 7337 South Shore Drive, Chicago, reported seeing an individual resembling the assassin of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING driving a late model Chevelle bearing Alabama license 42-7866 in the vicinity of 31st Street and South Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois. Upon interview by SA JOSEPH S. REICHART, Mr. LEVIN stated that a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY somewhat resembled the individual he had seen in the Chevelle; however, Mr. LEVIN was not able to describe that individual in any detail. He did say, however, that the individual was accompanied by a blonde woman.

On April 24, 1968, the Birmingham Division advised that 1968 Alabama license 42-7866 was issued to EDGAR F. BORDEN, Moulton, Alabama. Mrs. WALCIE JOHNSON, BORDEN's mother, advised that her son was last known to be residing at 2344 Sacramento, Chicago, but is in the process of moving to an unknown address at San Angelo, Texas.

On same date, the Dallas Division advised that EDGAR FLOYD BORDEN, San Angelo, Texas, was interviewed on same date and he advised that although instant vehicle is still registered in his name, he sold the vehicle to RUSSELL RALPH, 2344 South Sacramento, Chicago, Illinois. Interview with BORDEN determined him not to be identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 25, 1968, an individual identifying himself as RUSSELL MILLER, 1811 South Ashland, Chicago, Illinois, telephonically contacted the Chicago Office of the FBI and said that he had heard from his friend, EDGAR FLOYD BORDEN, that the FBI was looking for the car that he was driving. He advised that he could be contacted at

CG 44-1114

JSR:jap

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the above address on the following date.

On April 26, 1968, investigation to locate RUSSELL MILLER at the above address proved negative; however, individuals residing at that address stated that the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY did not resemble anyone residing at that address.

On April 29, 1968, RUSSELL RALPH, also known as RUSSELL MILLER, was interviewed at his residence, 2344 South Sacramento, first floor, Chicago, Illinois. He advised that he no longer had the car in question but that he was driving it on April 18, 1968, in the vicinity of 31st Street and South Halsted Street in the company of a blonde woman. Further inquiry revealed that RALPH, born July 22, 1944, at Ypsilanti, Michigan, is 6'1" tall, and weighs 210 pounds. A comparison of the scars and marks and fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY with those of RUSSELL RALPH determined that RALPH was not identical to RAY.

CG 44-1114

RJD/laj

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Re: JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE

On April 19, 1968, the Springfield Division advised that information had been received from the Jackson Division that the Pascagoula, Mississippi, Police Department stopped an individual driving a white Corvair bearing 1968 Illinois license DG 3109. He identified himself as above. He was accompanied by another white male whose identity was not determined and MONTAGNE indicated he was a musician and the other person indicated he was a seaman, with both heading for New Orleans.

The officer who stopped the above individuals said that MONTAGNE resembled the photograph of the subject.

Indianapolis Division developed from auto registration records that the above license plate registers to RAYMOND HILLBURN, 6039 North Ridge, Chicago, for a 1956 Dodge. No other registration or drivers license information regarding MONTAGNE.

On April 20, 1968, MARIA HILLBURN, former wife of RAYMOND HILLBURN, 4700 Magnolia Street, Chicago, advised SA JAMES W. SWINFORD that HILLBURN purchased a white Corvair convertible, model unknown, approximately two weeks ago and departed the Chicago area for Alabama on April 5, 1968. She further advised that she had been contacted telephonically by her husband on April 19, 1968, at which time he advised her that he is now residing with LUCILLE HASSEY, 130 Patton Street, Montgomery, Alabama, telephone 265-4836. Mrs. HILLBURN advised that her husband in no way resembles the photograph of the subject, nor is she acquainted with any associate of his who could be identical with the subject. She said that the name of JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE is completely unknown to her.



CG 44-1114

RJD:jap

1.

RE: DALE BAXTER  
ET AL  
GARY, INDIANA

On April 19, 1968, an anonymous male telephonically contacted SA ROBERT J. DOLAN and advised that he wished to furnish information concerning captioned matter. He declined to identify himself but stated the following individuals, all current residents of Gary, Indiana, are reportedly in possession of information concerning this matter:

DALE BAXTER  
Resides 40th and Tyler

SHIRLEE MACKOWIAK  
Resides 40th and Tennessee

JACK WEISSBUCH  
Resides 4160 Broadway

Caller stated above had been bragging they have information concerning the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and know the whereabouts of the suspect presently being sought by the FBI. They also said the FBI does not in fact have the actual weapon utilized by the killer but the whereabouts of such weapon is known to the above trio. Caller declined to furnish additional information and terminated the call.

On April 23, 1968, the Indianapolis Division advised that all of the foregoing individuals had been contacted and denied having any knowledge concerning captioned case nor any knowledge concerning the weapon used in this murder.

CG 44-1114

AFD:jap

1.

RE: TENNESSEE LICENSE BK 1897

On April 19, 1968, Mr. JOHN POWELL, 8655 South Elizabeth, Chicago, Illinois, employment Adolph Levin Company, Incorporated, 5 North Wabash, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at the FBI Office, Chicago, Illinois, at which time he had furnished the following information:

At approximately 8:40 a.m. on April 18, 1968, Mr. POWELL was proceeding to the Chicago Loop area via the northbound lane of the Stevenson Expressway. Mr. POWELL stated that he exited on the Stevenson Expressway and immediately stopped for a red light at which time he noticed a 1962 or 1963 yellow Pontiac Catalina convertible bearing 1963 Shelby County, Tennessee, license BK 1897. He stated that this vehicle was occupied by a white male, believed to be identical with subject JAMES EARL RAY, and a white female. Mr. POWELL stated that the white female was driving the vehicle and when stopped at the red light, the white female got out from the passenger's side of the car and went around the front of the car to assume the driver's seat. POWELL advised that at this time, he was approximately ten feet away from this individual and he described him as follows: white male, height 6'3" (Mr. POWELL stated that subject could have been much taller than this as he was sitting in a car which is low to the ground and subject was on a pavement incline), early 40's, dark complexion, 190 pounds, brown hair, medium build, no outstanding characteristics or scars, wearing brown long-sleeved sweater with gray "V" down the front. Mr. POWELL was furnished two photographs of subject, one taken in 1952 by the Chicago Police Department and one taken in 1962. Mr. POWELL advised that he was positive that the individual in the photograph taken in 1962 was the person whom he saw in the 1962 or 1963 Catalina convertible.

CG 44-1114

RJD:jap

1.

RE: LOOK-ALIKE IN CAR BEARING  
1967 TENNESSEE LICENSE BW 2739

On April 20, 1968, BERNICE THOMAS, 6140 South Dorchester, telephonically advised SA DANIEL M. CRAWFORD that she had observed a man resembling the subject sitting in the back seat of a car bearing 1967 Tennessee license plates BW 2739. She advised that the car was going north on Milwaukee Avenue at Division Street and that she had a good look at this individual. A man and a woman were sitting in the front seat. She said she had observed this car on the afternoon of April 19, 1968, and did not call until this date because she thought that her friend had called yesterday; however, she found out on this date that no one had called.

CG 44-1114

Re: E. M. RAY  
Pascagoula, Mississippi

Mrs. DENORE STEWART, 3538 West Hirsch, Chicago, telephonically advised at 4:20 PM, April 20, 1968, that her son GERALD HULTGREN is living in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Box 195, with an individual named E. M. RAY. RAY is unknown to STEWART as to description or background.

GERALD HULTGREN is described as a white male, born March 5, 1943, 6'3", 170 pounds in 1960, Social Security Number [REDACTED]. He has a background of juvenile trouble and Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle matters. He was turned over to juvenile authorities at Cook County, for prosecution in 1960.

STEWART last heard from her son and RAY telephonically about three weeks ago. These two men were to take a trip to an unknown location. The employment of RAY and HULTGREN was not known to STEWART.

CG 44-1114

RJD:bjo

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Investigation Pure Oil Company, Palatine, Illinois

The Atlanta Division advised on April 25, 1968, that Mr. RANDOLPH B. JONES, Pure Oil Company Dealer, Americus, Georgia, advised he sold gas to an individual on April 16, 1968, who closely resembled 1968 photo of JAMES EARL RAY. Mr. JONES described the car he believed the person to be driving as well as furnishing a physical description of this individual. He also stated that he believed the individual purchased gas on a temporary Pure Oil Credit Card, which he believes expires in August or September, 1968. He also advised that the credit card slips were purchases on April 16, 1968, and had already been forwarded to the Pure Oil Company Retail Department, Palatine, Illinois.

On April 26, 1968, Mr. CLYDE E. PHODES, Accounting Department, Pure Oil Company, Palatine, Illinois, was telephonically contacted by SA RENE J. DUMAINE, at which time he advised that the package of credit card slips mailed in by Mr. JONES on April 17, 1968, would already be in the Balance process, Accounting Department, and would take until at least April 30, 1968, to locate. He said it is possible that he would be able to locate the credit card slips mailed in on April 22, 1968. He requested that he be furnished with the Transmittal Slip number used by JONES in submitting the credit card transactions.

On the same date, Mr. RHODES was furnished with the following transmittal numbers:

4/18/68 - 7-0217999  
7-0218000

4/22/68 - 7-0217997  
7-0217998

The foregoing were obtained from the Atlanta Division in contact with Mr. R. B. JONES. Mr. RHODES advised that he had located all of the credit card slips submitted on April 22, 1968. A review of these slips did not reveal any

CG 44-1114

RJD:bjo

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credit card slips for any transaction on April 16, 1968.

In a continuing review of Pure Oil Company records, in conjunction with Mr. RHODES and THOMAS DAVINI by SA ROBERT F. PEVAHOUSE on April 29 and 30, 1968, located the list of credit card invoices submitted by Mr. JONES on April 18, 1968. Credit card purchase number 0882579109 was made by Lt. Col. WILKERSON, however, the invoice itself could not be located and the address was not yet in file. The charge for credit card number [REDACTED] is another company credit card and the ticket has already been separated elsewhere. No further effort will be made to locate this card in view of the comments made by Mr. JONES. It should be noted that this review did not reveal any purchase made on a temporary Pure Oil Credit Card.

There were purchases made by the following companies:

Americus Utility  
Aladdin Insulators  
Georgia Highway Department  
V. R. Bush Company  
Southern Bell of Georgia  
Simplex Nail  
W. C. Page

The charge for H. O. JONES, JR. was not further checked out since it was in the amount of \$101.43, which could not have been a mere gas purchase.

A review of the credit card slips submitted reveals the following purchases for gasoline on April 16, 1968:

A.U. ARNOLD  
RFD Americus, Georgia

JAMES F. TRAINOR  
P.O. Box 265  
Damasous, Georgia

J. ROY STUDSTILL  
212 Daniel Street  
Americus, Georgia

CG 44-1114

RFS:jap

1.

Re: R. TAYLOR  
OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS

Investigation regarding the above-named individual was initiated upon receipt of a typewritten postcard by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The card was postmarked April 22, 1968, and the Bureau instructed the Chicago Division of the FBI to attempt to locate R. TAYLOR and interview him regarding any information he might have pertinent to this case.

The contents of the postcard are quoted below:

"Dear Sirs,

A lot of us knew J. E. Ray from Fullerton Ave in Chicago. Maybe he did steal cars or armed robbery but he never killed anyone like the Niggers do in riots. We thank him for killing M. King. He was nothing but a trouble maker. If we do see him in Chicago--we will reward him with a couple of thousand dollars--not turn him in. He did us Chicagoans a good turn.

We have an ad in the paper which he will recognize, but you wouldn't the way it is typed out.

We all in Chicago are so happy King is dead (except the Nigger The Liquor business is at an all time high We hope he never gets caught so that if R. Abenathy (King's Succesor starts something he will do the same to him. We love J. E. Ray.

R. Taylor"

The following named individuals in the Oak Lawn, Illinois, area were located through credit and police department checks and through a review of appropriate telephone directories. The first four individuals were interviewed on April 26, 1968, and the fifth individual on April 29, 1968 by SA ROBERT F. SWIERCZ.

CG 44-1114

RFS:jap

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- 1) ROBERT C. TAYLOR  
8725 Stevens Drive  
Oak Lawn, Illinois
- 2) ROBERT R. TAYLOR  
6540 82nd Place  
Oak Lawn, Illinois
- 3) RONALD P. TAYLOR  
7721 Laramie  
Oak Lawn, Illinois
- 4) RUSSELL C. TAYLOR  
6810 Saratoga Drive  
Oak Lawn, Illinois
- 5) ROY G. TAYLOR  
5332 State Road  
Oak Lawn, Illinois

All advised they had not written or mailed the postcard quoted above, nor could they think of anyone who might have done so.



CG 44-1114

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RE: TROY EARLS

Following investigation conducted by SA JEROME F. NOLAN on April 26, 1968, at Rockford, Illinois.

CATHY SHARP, Clerk, Rockford Police Department, advised records reflected TROY HERMAN EARLS was charged with speeding September 20, 1962, age 22, white, male, with residence 1063 West State, Rockford - nothing further reflected.

Mrs. VIOLET NORD, Rockford Credit Bureau, advised records reflected TROY EARLS, 4240 11th Street, Rockford, was placed in file July, 1959, at age 19. Employed Elco Tool Company since November of 1958 which was verified March, 1963. Wife, MARY, employed Barber-Colman Company, and as of March, 1963, had two children. Credit excellent.

The foregoing investigation was based on information furnished by the Omaha Division who advised that on April 23, 1968, GREG J. KIBBLE, Chief of Police, Valley, Nebraska, advised he works part time at the Two Rivers State Recreation Area, south of Venice, Nebraska, and that on April 22, 1968, the Superintendent, RICHARD WOLKOW, had advised as follows:

On April 17, 1968, TROY EARLS, 4240 11th Street, Rockford, Illinois, was registered as an overnight camper; he was driving a camper, make not recorded or recalled, Illinois license B 282390.

After viewing TV and newspaper photographs of him, WOLKOW concluded there was some resemblance between EARLS and JAMES EARL RAY, aka, Fugitive, and recalled that EARLS had inquired of him regarding gun laws in the State of Nebraska.

CG 44-1114

RJD:jap

1.

RE: JOHN H. CARNAHAN (LOOK-ALIKE)

On April 28, 1968, the Milwaukee Division advised that TED WROBLEWSKI, Assistant Park Manager, Interstate State Park, St. Croix, Wisconsin, telephonically advised that he had read an article which set forth that the operator of the Modern Frontier Motel between Mandan and Bismarck, North Dakota, reported a man resembling RAY accompanied by a blonde female and driving a pickup truck registered that motel on April 25, 1968.

In view of this, WROBLEWSKI advised that on April 23, 1968, a white male who gave the name J. CARNAHAN, Skokie, Illinois, accompanied by a blonde female, driving a Ford pickup with camper, Illinois license B 291617, registered at his park.

On the same date, the Springfield Division advised that records, Motor Vehicle Bureau, reveal above license number registered to JAMES MC GOVERN, 10023 West Devon, Rosemont, Illinois, for a 1966 Chevrolet panel truck.

On the same date, Mr. JAMES J. MC GOVERN, above, advised SA ROBERT L. BAKER that he is the owner of a 1966 Chevrolet panel truck bearing 1968 Illinois license B 291617. This vehicle was observed and both license plates were attached. Mr. MC GOVERN could furnish no further information in this matter and was not identical with the subject.

JOHN H. CARNAHAN, 9138 Kilpatrick, Skokie, Illinois, was located and interviewed by SA BAKER. He advised that he and his wife were camping in Wisconsin this weekend and were driving a Ford pickup bearing 1968 Illinois license B 271617 and were hauling a rented camper. CARNAHAN is the owner of Skokie Auto Air Company and is not identical to subject RAY.

CG 44-1114

RJD/laj

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Re: JAMES E. BODKER  
14341 South Avalon  
Dolton, Illinois

On May 1, 1968, the Atlanta Office advised that CHARLES V. TYSON, Manager, Hertz Rental, Albany, Georgia, stated that at 12:15 PM, April 19, 1968, a white male identifying himself as JAMES E. BODKER, rented a 1967 Ford Galaxie, 4-door, hard top, white over blue, Vehicle Identification Number 7A56C207625, bearing 1968 Georgia license 8J5039. This car was to be used in the vicinity of Albany and returned to Albany, Georgia, on April 22, 1968. BODKER gave home address as above and claimed to be manager of Suburban Motors, address not given. He furnished Illinois drivers license number. Vehicle not returned as of May 1, 1968. Description of BODKER fits general description of JAMES EARL RAY. One Hertz employee states BODKER bears close resemblance to 1968 photograph and believes BODKER could be identical to subject.

The following investigation was conducted by SA THOMAS W. PARRISH on May 1, 1968:

The records of the Dolton, Illinois Police Department were reviewed and contained no information identifiable with BODKER.

LARRY MILLAR, 14341 Avalon, Dolton, Illinois, advised that he is the brother-in-law of BODKER who uses the above address as a mailing address but does not reside at the location. He could furnish no information regarding BODKER's present whereabouts. DONNA MILLAR appeared at the above residence and furnished the same information as her husband. She further advised that on the day KING was shot, BODKER and the rest of the family were attending a birthday party for their mother, Mrs. ZELDA BALDUC, 12357 Ashland, Calumet Park, Illinois. Both stated they would have BODKER contact the FBI if they located him. Both were also advised that the auto rented by BODKER was overdue and that he should immediately advise Hertz.

CG 44-1114

RJD/laj

2

Mrs. BALDUC was contacted and verified information given by the MILLARS. She exhibited a photo of BODKER. Comparison of this photo with that of the subject did not appear to indicate any similarity.

On May 2, 1968, BODKER was contacted at the North Side Inn, 125th and Western, Blue Island, Illinois. He bears very little physical resemblance to subject RAY. BODKER exhibited numerous identification to establish his background. Handwriting samples were obtained and appear identical to other signatures going back ten years. He advised that on the evening of the KING murder he was at his mother's home with numerous other guests.

BODKER is presently on parole and has served 5 years, 10 months of a 14-year sentence for voluntary manslaughter; he has also served time for burglary and auto theft. His parole records are maintained with the Illinois State Probation Office. He advised that he returned the Hertz car to their Chicago Office.

CG 44-1114

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Re Look Alike, O'Hare Airport, Chicago, Delta Airlines, 4/9/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
DANIEL R. HUNTINGTON on May 1, 1968:

LOU MYERS, Field Ticket Office Manager, Delta Airlines, O'Hare International Airport, advised that from his records the two ticket agents working the express baggage check in counter where seat selection formerly was located were JOHN WINNICK and PAUL VANA. MYERS said that Delta handles from four to five thousand passengers a day from O'Hare and advised that the seat selection is now handled, and was at that time handled, at each gate. However, if H. ALVIN SHARPE is a frequent Delta Traveler, he would have recalled that this is where seat selection had been for a number of years.

WINNICK interviewed at length, however, he recalled nothing of incident described. He has seen many photographs of subject, and states he cannot recall any person resembling subject.

PAUL VANA recently married, on honeymoon at the Island of Aruba, off the coast of South America, and unavailable until May 8, 1968.

The foregoing investigation was based on information furnished by the New Orleans Division on April 29, 1968, indicating that H. ALVIN SHARP, Educoin Company, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that about 2:00 p.m. he went to the Delta Airlines Ticket Office, O'Hare Airport, and while there, observed a man talking with one of the seat reservation agents. SHARP thought he knew this man and then his attention was further drawn to him by the fact that the passenger said he wanted to go to New Orleans but did not want the flight via Atlanta. SHARP spoke to this man, thinking he was his friend, apologized and then noted that this person remained at the counter and seemed to have a "hassle" with one of the two men at the counter. This conversation apparently continued for thirty minutes. SHARP did not see this person again, states he believes this man was the subject after observing a new picture of RAY. SHARP stated the 1968 photo of RAY does not resemble man at airport.

- 161 -

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Immediately upon identification of the murderer of KING as JAMES EARL RAY, contact was established with the various airlines at O'Hare International Airport, with United States Customs and with airlines having international operations. On April 25, 1968, all airlines at O'Hare Airport as well as the O'Hare Detachment of the Chicago Police Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and United States Public Health were contacted by SA JOHN W. MORAN and SA DANIEL R. HUNTINGTON at which time supervisory personnel were furnished with Identification Orders and wanted flyers of the subject which they agreed to place in a prominent spot and discuss instant matter with their employees. They also advised that they would insure that the FBI was immediately contacted in the event any employee observed a person that resembled the subject.

On April 24, 1968, Mr. CHARLES G. WARD, District Supervisor, Federal Narcotics Bureau, United States Department of Justice, Room 1836, Federal Building, was contacted by SA CLARK A. HULL at which time he was furnished 25 copies of the wanted flyer for JAMES EARL RAY. Mr. WARD advised that all sources of the Narcotics Bureau would be contacted concerning the subject and should any positive information be received about him or his whereabouts, he would immediately notify the FBI.

All ITSMV cases in the Chicago Division have been reviewed from March 23, 1968, to date where the car was stolen in or near Atlanta, Georgia. To date there has been no indication from this review that the subject was responsible for any theft that area based on Chicago information.

Lieutenant EMIL GIESE, Commanding Officer, Identification Division, Chicago Police Department, was contacted by SA RAMON W. STRATTON on April 22, 1968, with the request that the latent fingerprints presently outstanding in the Chicago Police Department unsolved criminal cases be checked against the known prints of JAMES EARL RAY. On April 26, 1968, Lieutenant GIESE advised that he is continuing the program consistent with the available personnel. He said that he had several thousand latents in file and to this time, he has

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eliminated an estimated 200 to 300. He advised that he is aware of the importance of this matter and is personally spending a considerable amount of time when possible eliminating these latents assisted by three latent examiners when available. On May 3, 1968, Lieutenant GIESE advised that he has eliminated about another 300 prints without developing any that could be identical with the subject.

On April 30, 1968, the Chicago Division instituted personal contacts with all of the country clubs within the territory. The contacting Agents reviewed the employment records of the various country clubs for any possibility that the subject could have been employed at the club at any time and if he had been employed since April 23, 1967. These contacts met with negative results; however, a copy of the Identification Order for the subject was left with appropriate personnel who advised that they would check all individuals who applied for employment in the future and would immediately notify the Chicago Division if there appeared to be any individual answering the physical description and photograph of the subject.

The records of the American Bartending School, 334 South Wabash, were reviewed by SA RICHARD G. STILLING and contact has been maintained with Mr. GERALD R. SANTORO, Director, on a continuing basis in the event that the subject might contact the school.

The records of the American Bartending School were reviewed in an effort to find the attendance of JOHN RAY, subject's brother; however, a search of these records going back to 1962 did not develop any information that JOHN RAY had attended.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>5/15/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>4/5/68 - 5/10/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE, I.O. #4182, W.F. #442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA RAYMOND B. HOWE</b>	TYPED BY <b>rmb</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

## REFERENCE:

Memphis report of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 4/30/68.

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## LEAD

KANSAS CITY

AT KANSAS CITY

Will continue efforts to locate JAMES EARL RAY.

Handle all leads immediately.

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

At the outset of this investigation, the Kansas City Division conducted the following extensive investigation concerning

Accomplishments Claimed: None

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: 5 Bureau (44-38861) 5 Memphis (44-1987) 1 Atlanta 1 Birmingham 1 Chicago 1 Houston 1 Jackson 1 Los Angeles 1 New Orleans 1 St. Louis 1 Springfield 2 Kansas City (44-760)		10, 24, 25, 27, 28, 39, 47, 56, 60 SEARCHED <u>KXE</u> INDEXED <u>DP</u> SERIALIZED <u>DP</u> FILED <u>DP</u> MAY 16 1968 FBI - SPRINGFIELD Robert [Signature]
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS Review for lead info & mark for indexing
AGENCY		
REQUEST RECD.		
DATE FWD.		
HOW FWD.		
BY		



KC 44-760

ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMEYER, and JOHN WILLARD with negative results:

All Federal, State, County, and City agencies, this area; all Credit Bureaus and law enforcement agencies, plus Bureau of Vital Statistics, Driver's License and Motor Vehicle Departments for both Missouri and Kansas, Selective Service records for Missouri and Kansas for birth date 7/20/31; all logical residences and rooming houses on Chestnut Street, Kansas City, Missouri; voter registration records; Department of Public Welfare; Liquor Control Board records; Bartenders and Truck Drivers Unions; Marriage and Divorce records; all utility companies; records of Workmen's Compensation, U. S. Department of Labor; financial institutions; all dancing schools and academies; all logical laundry and dry cleaning establishments, this area, contacted.

All Criminal, Racial, Security Informants, and Sources in hippie and drug traffic areas contacted with negative results.

Also, numerous look-alikes have been reported, located, interviewed, and eliminated as possible suspects.

All above information is on file, Kansas City office, however, the negative information not pertinent in this investigation is not being set out in this report.

It is to be noted that JAMES EARL RAY escaped, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, on 4/23/67. Because of this, an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement investigation has been conducted by the Kansas City Office. When information received from the Bureau on 4/19/68 that GALT and RAY were identical, all pertinent information regarding subject was furnished the Bureau and all offices by teletype and information from the UFAC file was included in the Civil Rights case, and it continues to be investigated under that caption.

Extra copies of this report are being furnished office of origin in event of future dissemination.

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The following investigation was conducted by  
IC WILLIAM C. MC DONALD at Jefferson City, Missouri:

On May 1, 1968, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) records were checked for RAY EUGENE WARREN. The following information was obtained:

RAY EUGENE WARREN was received at the MSP on June 9, 1955, to serve a 10 year sentence on charge of robbery first degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon under court case #1941-C. He completed this sentence and began an additional 20 year sentence on July 11, 1961, on charge of robbery first degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon, court case number 1945-C. He was assigned MSP number 69963. WARREN was discharged by commutation of sentence from April 13, 1968. Relatives listed on WARREN's correspondence and visiting list are wife DORIS WARREN, 3330 Sims, St. Anne, Missouri; brother-in-law BILL SCOTT, same address; sister, BETTY WARREN, Route 2, Box 187, Robertson, Missouri. Records reflect that WARREN was visited by his mother and brother, PAUL WARREN, Robertson, Missouri, and brother, SCOTT WARREN, Pomona, California. While WARREN was in the MSP, he was in the following cells:

From November 6, 1959, until January 4, 1960, G70;

From January 4, 1960, until July 1, 1960, G89;

From July 1, 1960, until August 31, 1960, C20;

From August 31, 1960, until October 31, 1960, E80;

October 31, 1960, until January 6, 1961, E33;

January 6, 1961, until March 17, 1961, F96.

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KC 44-760

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Warden HAROLD SWENSON advised confidentially that WARREN had assisted his department in an investigation which had been conducted and that from November, 1965, until after JAMES EARL RAY escaped from the MSP, that WARREN was in solitary confinement being given maximum security for fear of his life. Warden SWENSON continued that if at all possible, WARREN should not be contacted as he is extremely nervous and fearful for his life. However, Warden SWENSON advised that WARREN is to be living with his brother, SCOTT L. WARREN at 17902 Edmond Place, Covina, California.

SINCE WARREN WAS SENTENCED TO THE MSP FOR A TOTAL PERIOD OF 30 YEARS ON CHARGE OF ROBBERY WITH A DANGEROUS AND DEADLY WEAPON AND IS EXTREMELY NERVOUS, HE SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH CAUTION AND POSSIBLY CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

All inmates and former inmates that have furnished information regarding subject requested that their identity be concealed by the Bureau for fear of retaliation from other prisoners because of their furnishing information to law enforcement agencies.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: RAYMOND B. HOWE  
Date: May 15, 1968

Office: KANSAS CITY

Field Office File No.: 44-760

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis:

JAMES EARL RAY reportedly escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) on 4/23/67, where he was serving a twenty-year sentence for Robbery First and Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Permission. It is believed he escaped by hiding in a box delivering bread to a prison farm located approximately five miles from the main prison. Subject's brother, JOHN RAY, St. Louis, Missouri, visited him at the prison on 4/22/67. Interviews with fellow inmates and prison officials reveal subject to be a "loner" and was called the "hide-out guy", because he would stay hidden within the confines of MSP for a matter of days at a time. Subject reportedly used amphetamines and barbiturates while in prison. RAY preferred to cell alone at prison, was very quiet, and made few friends. Reports conflict as to any homosexual activity on his part. One inmate stated he read "girlie" books and even engaged in selling and renting books at MSP. He reportedly was "very tight" with his money and used it mainly to support his drug habit. Reports conflict on his anti-Negro sentiments, however, at one time in U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, he stated he could not live in a dormitory that was integrated. At MSP, RAY always worked in kitchen or bakery. Subject had made previous attempts to escape from MSP, but was unsuccessful. Because of these attempts, he was given a psychiatric evaluation in October, 1966. This revealed he had no physical disease or defects requiring treatment. He was diagnosed as having a sociopathic personality, anti-social type with anxiety and depressive features, but no mental disease or defect within the meaning of the Missouri State Code. GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, former

KC 44-760

escapee from MSP, who was located in Canada and is currently incarcerated at MSP, advised that RAY associated with all the St. Louis inmates at the prison and is familiar with the procedure to get Canadian passports, which are easy to come by in Montreal, Canada. Handwriting samples were obtained from prison records and forwarded to FBI Laboratory, which resolved that the "GALT" writings have been identified as being prepared by JAMES EARL RAY. One former cellmate of subject advised that RAY had told him that he had hidden out on two previous occasions on the outskirts of a town called Campeche, Mexico, and that he smuggled small appliances to that area from Brownsville, Texas. Pertinent information from prison records and interviews concerning other suspects or look-alikes in this matter set forth. IN VIEW OF CRIME FOR WHICH SUBJECT BEING SOUGHT, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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KC 44-760

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
DETAILS REGARDING ESCAPE - - - - -	4
WARRANT OF ARREST - - - - -	17
HANDWRITING SAMPLES - - - - -	18
INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOW INMATES AND OFFICIALS AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MO. - - - - -	21
PENITENTIARY RECORDS - - - - -	70
MISCELLANEOUS - - - - -	131

KC 44-760

DETAILS:

DETAILS REGARDING ESCAPE

On April 22, 1968, Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, furnished the following reports from their office concerning the escape by inmate JAMES EARL RAY, number 00416, on April 23, 1967, to Special Agent ROWEN B. AYERS.

In addition to these reports, Warden SWENSON advised that their records reveal this inmate had a visitor at the prison by the name of JOHN RAY, St. Louis, Missouri, on April 22, 1967. JOHN RAY had visited him eight times prior to this visit. The only two other individuals listed by subject on his visitors' list at Missouri State Penitentiary were MARY MAHER, St. Louis, Missouri, grandmother, and JERRY RAY, St. Louis, Missouri, brother. Records show the grandmother did not make any visits to the prison, and JERRY made five, the last being in 1965.

Department of Corrections  
IN-PR-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 3, 1967

*DJ Steele*  
From: CAPTIAN DANTON STEELE

Subject: INVESTIGATION ESCAPE OF JAMES EARL RAY #00416

Working upon the premise that Inmate James Earl Ray #00416 made good his escape from the institution, Sunday, April 23, 1967, by concealing himself in the Renz Farm bread box and riding out the Sally Port on the Renz Farm truck, I have interviewed all concerned with the Renz Farm bread run and have formed the opinion that Inmate Ray did effect his escape via the Renz Farm bread run and the means of his escape has remained a mystery for ten days because of gross dereliction of duty involving three and possible five prison personnel.

The Renz Farm truck, driven by Guard Officer Alfred Burkhardt came through the Sally Port at approximately 8:00 A.M. to pick up the Renz Farm bread, made the pick up and came back through the Sally Port at approximately 8:16 A.M. When the truck arrived at Renz Farm and was unloaded it was discovered by Mr. Bernard Peschang, civilian cook, that the bread was torn and crushed to the extent that only a few loaves were usable and the rest had to be fed to the chickens. To my knowledge, up until the time of this report, there has been no notification from any Renz Farm source of the condition of the bread delivery of that date to any officer or official of the penitentiary. Mr. Peschang did state to me that after he heard of Inmate Ray's disappearance he did make the remark that "Ray probably came out in the bread box". When asked why he did not report this to someone, Mr. Peschang said he did report it to Officer Burkhardt and to someone in the office. (He could not remember who.) He also said he told Mr. Jim Stone, Civilian Cook, when he came to work the next day.

Mr. Jim Stone, civilian cook at Renz Farm, said he saw the bread the next day and it looked like it "had been shoveled into the box". He said it was not fit for use and was fed to the chickens.

Sergeant John Setser was the officer in charge of Renz Farm, Sunday, April 23, 1967, and he stated that he could not recall Mr. Peschang notifying him of the condition of the bread upon arrival at Renz Farm. (This seems a rather weak statement.)

Guard Officer Ezra Shelden states that he definitely remember checking the Renz Farm bread box and although he did not handle the bread it was neatly stacked almost to the top of the box. (The box holds 60 loaves, Renz Farm ordered 40 loaves, the box should have been two-third full.)

CONCLUSIONS:

Inmate Ray evidently made good his escape via the Renz Farm bread truck. He must have used a false bottom for the bread to be stacked as neatly as Officer Shelden said it was. No one at Renz Farm admits seeing the false bottom. Why should the inmate dispose of the false bottom when the bread was mangled beyond use?



Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 3, 1967

From: <sup>DeS</sup> CAPTAIN DANTON STEELE

Subject: PAGE -2-

Civilian cook Bernard Peschang and whoever else in an official capacity that was aware of the bread delivery are guilty of gross negligence and dereliction of duty and should be appropriately disciplined.

Refer to my report of April 24, 1967, subject inmate James Earl Ray. If inmate Ray did escape via the Renz Farm bread run, then there is a discrepancy in Guard Officer Johnnie Petree's statement that he let him out of the kitchen when the mainline turned out for recreation yard and never saw him again. Guard Officer Petree was on duty at the Kitchen Gate all this time.

SUGGESTION

Officer Alfred Burkhardt is on his regular day off this date and I was unable to contact him. I suggest that he be interviewed in the atmosphere of the Warden's office and acquainted with what we already know. Maybe he can clear this thing up. Someone seems to have been doing some covering up.

cc: Warden  
Mr. Kern  
Capt. Steele  
File

*I Mr. P. or 4267  
Henry Harkins - 04870  
Betty Powell - 13174  
George Jones - 05516*

*Burkhardt - Interview*

*clean in bread delivery to  
Renz Farm*

*From the desk of: William Helgeson  
Sgt. R. Swenson - Warden  
Karl Jones - Kitchen - says he  
saw it out early in lunch  
Betty Powell, friend of Harkins,  
not in it, but knows all  
about it*

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

To: M. J. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE WARDEN-CUSTODY

Date: MAY 4, 1967

From: *D. Steele*  
CAPTAIN DANTON STEELE

Subject: SUPPLEMENT TO ESCAPE INVESTIGATION REPORT OF MAY 3, 1967

Captain Leroy Casey and myself interviewed Guard Officer Alfred Burkhardt this date and obtained his account of the Renz Farm bread run on Sunday, April 23, 1967.

Officer Burkhardt stated that when he reached the Kitchen dock that morning he unloaded his empty bread box and went to the bread room in the main kitchen via the elevator. He checked the Renz Farm box and noted that his bread was loaded, accompanied the inmate who wheeled the box to the loading dock, and watched the box removed from the cart and loaded on the truck by the kitchen inmate and the inside truck driver inmate. Officer Burkhardt stated that he did not observe the inmates straining under any extra load. He then proceeded to the Sally Port and was present when Guard Officer Ezra Sheldon examined the bread box. Officer Burkhardt noted at this time that the bread was still neatly stacked near the top of the box as it was when he left the bread room.

He then proceeded to the Renz Farm, stopping on the way at Mr. Carl Mill's residence to deliver Mr. Mill's bread which was in a separate box. Officer Burkhardt stated that he went to the rear of the truck and inmate Lloyd R. Reno #10970, who rode the cab of the truck with him, got in the back of the truck and handed him Mr. Mill's bread, which he delivered. He did not at this time notice anything amiss in the truck.

When he reached the Administration building he backed up to the Front Door, went to the rear of the truck and watched the Renz Farm kitchen inmates unload the bread. He stated that at this time one of the inmates commented that the bread was sure in a mess. He said that he never looked at the bread or gave it a thought as to why the bread would be messed up but that he did ask the inmate if he thought they would have to go after another load. The inmate assured him that they could use the bread and he dropped the matter.

Officer Burkhardt emphatically states that he never saw the bread after it reached the Renz Farm. Mr. Bernard Peschang never reported the condition of the bread to him, and that he had never heard of the condition of the bread from anyone else. He was asked why it didn't seem strange to him that, after seeing the bread neatly stacked in the Sally Port, it should be in a mess upon arriving at his destination. He said he just never thought anything about it any further than checking as to whether or not he would have to return for more bread.

Captain Leroy Casey, in the course of his investigation of Inmate James Earl Ray's escape, talked to Officer Burkhardt on the telephone Monday, April 24, 1967. Officer Burkhardt, at that time, told Captain Casey that he arrived at the Renz Farm with all the bread he had left the walls with. Later Captain Casey talked with Officer Burkhardt in person and was told by the officer that he actually had not seen the bread after it reached the farm but assumed it was all there because they didn't run out of bread and there were no complaints.

Department of Corrections  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Subject: RAY, James, #00416-J

Date April 24, 1967

To: B.J. POIRY, MAJOR

PAGE III *DE*

CONCLUSIONS:

Guard Officer Johnnie Petree was negligent of his duty in not trying to locate Inmate Ray when he did not report for work at 11:00 A.M. and in not reporting the absence of Inmate Ray to Control Center and to Officer Harold Schaffer who relieved him at 12:00 P.M.

Guard Officer Harold Schaffer was negligent to a lesser extent in not knowing to whom he spoke to over the telephone on a matter as important as a missing inmate, also for not reporting to Control Center, especially since Inmate Ray is well known as being escape prone.

The daily call sheet for the kitchen is made out by Kitchen office inmates and signed by the guard officer on duty. Whether this procedure is directed by civilian cooks is not clear. The call sheet is delivered in the evening (for the next day) by the inmate-first-cook. This call sheet should be directed by and signed by the civilian cook in charge and countersigned by the guard officer. Inmates should be required to honor the call sheet unless cancelled by the civilian cook.

All off duty kitchen and dock workers are allowed to eat their meals in the kitchen. This creates too much traffic and confusion. The Kitchen Gate Officer would be able to better control the traffic if only duty workers were allowed in the kitchen.

The large number of outside people both inmate and civilian allowed inside the walls on weekends is definitely a security risk, especially when the regularly assigned Round Gate and Front Door officers are not on duty. Definite procedures should be set up.

cc: Warden Swenson  
Mr. Elliott, A.W.C.  
file

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/681

On April 21, 1968, Major BERNARD J. POIRY, Custodial Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary, said he has been unable to recall the name of the person who told him about RAY escaping in the bread container from the prison bakery in April of 1967. He said, however, the person who allegedly helped by putting a card board cover over him was not GEORGE OWENS, but GEORGE JONES, who is still in the penitentiary and employed in the bakery. He said there is no doubt in his mind but that RAY escaped via the bread truck.

Major POIRY also said that he received information on April 21, 1967, from the prison "grapevine, no source identifiable, that the talk in the pen is that RAY made contact with WALTER NOLAN, who was released from the penitentiary on a writ, and that probably NOLAN was the "brains" behind the KING murder. He said there was absolutely no information to confirm this report and he has no information that NOLAN and RAY even associated together in the penitentiary.

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On 4/21/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760  
by SA ROWEN B. AYERS : SS Date dictated 4/22/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/681

GEORGE HAROLD JONES, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) #45516, who has been in the MSP since 1957 from St. Louis, Missouri advised he is now head baker at the penitentiary. He said he was working in the bakery with JAMES EARL RAY when the latter escaped in April of 1967, but he has never been contacted in connection therewith. He said he also worked in the bakery when RAY was working in the kitchen. He said they were acquainted for six or seven years. He said he never talked to RAY about his plans to escape and did not know how RAY escaped. He said a man could conceal himself in the bread boxes used in 1967. He said they were wooden boxes about 4 1/2' by 2 1/2'.

He said however if a man concealed himself in one of the boxes the officials of the penitentiary would have known about it as soon as the box was delivered without bread. He said after RAY was missing, the officials continued their search for him for about 12 or 13 days on the theory he had "hid out" as he had done before. He said inmates were forbidden to take sandwiches out of the eating areas because officials thought they might take food to RAY. He said he was making a sandwich one afternoon and a lieutenant asked him what he was going to do with it. He said he was going to take it to RAY, in a kidding manner. The officer said "he knew RAY went over the wall". He did not recall the identity of the officer.

JONES said he did not know RAY's friends. He said he never heard of a RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS. He said RAY is not the type of person who would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said RAY never talked about Negroes or anything else and he believes "they have the wrong guy".

JONES said that he never heard of RAY using drugs and he knew RAY was not a homosexual. He said he could not furnish any information as to the whereabouts of RAY or could he name anyone who could.

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On 4/22/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

SA ROWEN B. AYERS

: ssc

4/23/68

by

Date dictated

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KC 44-760

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent THOMAS H. WEAVER:

AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

On April 23, 1968, Major BERNARD POIRY, Assistant Associate Warden of Custody, Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), advised that a thorough search of the property room at the MSP failed to reveal any personal effects of JAMES EARL RAY left behind after his escape. He said that he usually goes through any personal effects left behind by an escapee for leads, but he cannot recall whether or not he ever saw anything left behind by RAY. He stated that if other inmates know an inmate has escaped, they will strip his cell of anything worthwhile. Major POIRY advised that he will continue to search for any personal property of RAY and will advise if such is located.

On April 29, 1968, Mr. BERNARD PESCHANG, Route 2, a cook at the Renz Prison Farm, Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that he had worked at the kitchen at the MSP in about 1963-64 when RAY was working there pushing a food cart to the hospital. He recalled at the time that RAY was known as the "hide-out guy" from a previous occasion when he hid inside the prison for some time before being found. He recalls that on a Sunday morning, during April, 1967, the bread truck arrived at the Renz farm when PESCHANG was there as the cook, and the bread was "messed up". RAY had hidden out again once while PESCHANG was at the Renz farm, and when he saw the bread box with the "messed up" bread, he thought then, without knowing why, that "JIMMY RAY must be out again". He did not know at the time, he said, that RAY was working in the bread room at the main prison, and he has no idea who might have helped RAY escape on this occasion. When he heard later that RAY had indeed escaped, he recalled the "messed up" bread and notified his superiors at the Renz farm. The bread box used to transport bread in an open truck from the main prison to the farm had contained sufficient bread to be used on the day it was received, but it was a large enough box that a man in a cramped position could have been hidden under some layers of loaves.

KC 44-760

PESCHANG said that he has no idea who RAY's close friends were, and as he recalled, RAY "got along" but was not close to anyone. He knew RAY was unhappy in prison, from working with him at the kitchen at the main prison, and he had heard RAY say that he would "make it to South America" if he ever got out of prison. He said he never heard RAY make any statements to indicate he was unusually prejudiced against Negroes, and he did not seem to be the type to have it "in" for anyone, but was just "for JIMMY RAY". He said that the bread in the bread box on the day RAY reportedly escaped, was turned around and turned over, and not neatly stacked as it usually was on arrival at the farm. He does not believe any incidents at the time occurred which would indicate any guard had anything to do with helping RAY escape, and he could not be certain that RAY got out in the bread box, but it would have been possible.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/29/68

Mr. HAROLD SCHAEFFER, 630 Adams, Jefferson City, Missouri, employed at the Missouri State Penitentiary from 12:00 PM to 8:00 AM as tower watch on Tower 14, formerly gate guard in the Penitentiary Kitchen (and bakery) said he worked on the latter assignment for about two years in the period between 1965 and 1967, and knew JAMES RAY.

He recalled that he went on duty at 11:00 AM on April 23, 1967. He said RAY worked in back of the kitchen as a bread slicer who packed the bread boxes. He worked alone. He said he did not know RAY well. He said RAY would have had to leave the penitentiary, if he escaped in a bread box, sometime before 11:00 AM, as the bread goes to the farms early in the morning, or at least before 11:00 AM. He said the other guard on duty with him was ROBERT HIGGINS who now lives some place in Arizona.

He recalled that about 3:00 PM he was contacted by Warden SWENSON who told him that RAY had escaped and wanted to know what he knew about it. He said he did not know RAY had left, as he had no occasion to check on him. He said he was "bawled out". He said a search continued inside the walls for RAY for several days.

SCHAEFFER said he did not know any associates of RAY, and had no dealings with him. He denied that he had ever furnished RAY with any amphetamine, or any other type of contraband.

He said he has heard very little talk about RAY, either following his escape or since the allegation appeared in the papers that RAY was being sought for the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said he could furnish no information concerning his whereabouts or of anyone who might have such information.

Mr. SCHAEFFER said he knows "WHITEY" DOWDA. He said about eight months ago, DOWDA was in Jefferson City, Missouri with his new wife, and stayed for a couple of nights. He formerly worked in the penitentiary kitchen, and would

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On 4/25/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS:ENV Date dictated 4/26/68

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KC 44-760

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have known RAY, according to Mr. SCHAEFFER. He said he was walking on Capitol Avenue and DOWDA came by and asked him if he wanted a ride to his car. He went with DOWDA and another guard by the name of JOHN PETREKE or PETREE, or similar, to a tavern and a few beers. PETREKE asked DOWDA if he and his wife wanted to stay all night at the PETREKE residence. He did not know if the invitation was accepted. He said DOWDA was on his way to California at the time. He was driving a Volkswagen which he said belonged to his wife. He said he was with DOWDA for about 1½ hours. He said he observed DOWDA at the front gate of the penitentiary talking to the door man, but did not see him go in. He said he did not know how well RAY knew DOWDA.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/27/68

Mr. STEPHAN I. KRAL, Elston, Missouri, Officers' Dining Room Supervisor, Missouri State Penitentiary, formerly guard at Renz Farm, said it was his regular job in 1967 to drive the truck to the main prison for bread five days a week, except weekends. He said the truck leaves Renz Farm about 8:00 a.m., and gets the bread no later than about 8:30 a.m. He said the empty box is taken from Renz Farm and taken to the loading dock. At that place the driver gives the order for bread. The inmates take the empty box on an elevator to the bakery and a box is loaded with the order. It is then brought back to the dock. The driver is supposed to check it to be sure it contains nothing but bread. He said the box was about 4 by 3 feet. He said it holds about 100 loaves of bread and they are packed 15 loaves to each layer. He said he always ran his arm down inside the box to count the layers. He said the truck then goes out to the truck tunnel. There a guard again checked to be sure there was nothing under or around the truck, including the box and under the hood. He, if satisfied, signaled the tower and the exit gate was released and the truck went back to the farm. He said the truck made several stops for lights, intersections, etc., en route and one would have no difficulty getting off the truck. He said the box was large enough to hold a man.

Mr. KRAL said that he heard some talk, after RAY escaped, that some officers had seen RAY "practicing a little yogi", that is, curling up in corners, and similar. He said he presumed he was doing this to see if he could fit in the bread box, but he had no personal information in this regard. He also said he "heard" that Renz Farm had been receiving more bread than requested for two or three days prior to April 23, 1967.

Mr. KRAL said the entire delivery trip from Renz to the Penitentiary and back did not continue until after 9:00 a.m.

He said he did not know what procedures of checking were followed on April 23, 1968, as this was a weekend and both the regular driver and regular tunnel checker were off duty.

On 4/26/68 at Jefferson City, Mo. File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS (lib) Date dictated 4/26/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/27/68

Mr. ALFRED BURKHARDT, 305 Boonville Road, formerly employed by the Missouri State Penitentiary, said he was the relief driver of the "bread truck" for Renz Farm on April 23, 1967. He said he picked up the bread about 8:30 a.m. He noted the box was on the platform (loading dock). He said this was unusual because usually the empty is taken from the truck and the full box returned. He said he recalled it had been there the day before. He said he was supposed to check the box to be sure it contained nothing but bread. He said the box was about 3 by 2-1/2 feet. He said he had heard that someone tried to get into one of these boxes, after RAY's escape, and could not do it with room for bread. He said the box is checked at the dock, and at the tunnel. He said, however, that it was not "probed." He said the check was visual. He said the box was delivered to Renz Farm and he heard no more about it.

However, he "heard" the next day that civilian cook at Renz Farm complained "that the bread had been all messed up." He also "heard" that there was no shortage of bread on April 23, 1968. He said he also "heard" that some of RAY's clothing had been found on the loading dock a week or two after the escape. He said the only thing unusual about this particular trip and perhaps the 22nd, was that the box was on the dock when he arrived there.

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On 4/26/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS (lib) Date dictated 4/26/68

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WARRANT OF ARREST

On April 24, 1968, an amended complaint, as authorized, was filed by Special Agent ROWEN B. AYERS before United States Commissioner W. C. SHELEY at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging JAMES EARL RAY with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement in connection with the commission of a crime of Robbery First, in violation of Title 18, Section 1073, United States Code. Bond returnable was set by the United States Attorney at \$5,000.00 to the United States Commissioner at Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. SHELEY issued a warrant on the above complaint on April 24, 1968, which has been transmitted to the Office of the United States Marshal at Kansas City, Missouri.

HANDWRITING SAMPLES

On April 20, 1968, one copy of a letter in the handwriting of JAMES E. RAY dated October 24, 1966, was furnished to the FBI Laboratory for comparison purposes. The letter was from RAY to Dr. EARL C. KEPLER, Biggs Building, Fulton, Missouri, and was furnished to Special Agent ROWEN B. AYERS by Dr. G. B. PETERSON, State Hospital No. 1, Fulton, Missouri, on April 19, 1968.

On April 27, 1968, thirty-four pages containing purported handwriting and hand printing of JAMES EARL RAY were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory, also for comparison purposes. These items were contained in the Missouri State Penitentiary file of RAY and were furnished to Special Agent ROWEN B. AYERS on April 26, 1968, by Mr. HARRY LAUF, Records Officer, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri.

On May 6, 1968, twenty-two pages of handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY as obtained from the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and one copy of a form dated April 4, 1958, signed by JAMES EARL RAY, obtained from U. S. Probation Officer, Kansas City, Missouri, were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for comparison purposes. The twenty-two pages of handwriting samples were obtained by Special Agent MAX E. RICHARDSON and the form from the U. S. Probation Officer, Kansas City, Missouri, was obtained by Special Agent THOMAS J. CONNOLLY.

REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: April 24, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-561271 JK

Specimens received 4/22/68

K171 Missouri State Penitentiary form dated 10/24/66,  
bearing known handwriting of JAMES E. RAYALSO SUBMITTED: Copies of two-page report of psychiatric  
examination dated 10/24/66

## Result of examination:

The "Galt" writings considered together and specimen K171 can be identified as having been prepared by the same individual.

Because of the limited questioned material and the lack of comparable letters and letter combinations, it could not be determined whether the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature on the Q72 gun invoice was prepared by JAMES E. RAY, K171.

Specimen K171 is being retained.

REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 1, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-561775 JK

Specimens received 4/29/68

K211 Various documents comprising thirty-four pieces of paper bearing purported known handwriting and hand printing of JAMES EARL RAY, obtained from his file at Missouri State Penitentiary

## Result of examination:

It was concluded that the questioned hand printing appearing on items attributed to Eric S. Galt was prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, K171 and K211.

Because of the presence of characteristics which cannot be explained on the basis of the known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, it cannot be definitely determined whether the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature on Q72 was prepared by this individual; however, significant handwriting similarities were noted.

Specimen K211 has been photographed and is temporarily retained.

REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 9, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-562610 JK

Specimens received 5/7/68

K257 Twenty-one sheets of paper and one copy of a form dated 4/4/58, bearing known handwriting and hand printing of JAMES EARL RAY

ALSO SUBMITTED: One "Inmate Request To Staff Member" form for JACK M. RAY, No. 59602

## Result of examination:

The additional known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, represented by K257, does not sufficiently augment the known handwriting of this individual previously received to permit the identification of the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature on Q72 with this individual.

K257 is temporarily retained.



KC 44-760

INTERVIEWS WITH FELLOW INMATES AND OFFICIALS  
AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY,  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/24/681

Mr. BEN GOODIN, Salesman, Schantzmeier Ford, Southwest Blvd., Jefferson City, Missouri, advised that he formerly was chef at the Missouri State Penitentiary and knew JIMMY RAY well, actually being his boss for about six years. He said RAY was a good friend of a blond inmate by the name of DOWDA. He said DOWDA hated Negroes. He said that sometime about a year ago, DOWDA came through Jefferson City driving a Volkswagen. He stopped to see GOODIN and had a female with him he introduced as his wife. He told GOODIN he had a Mustang and his father operated a resort in Florida and he was manager of a chicken fry cafe in either Atlanta, Georgia, or Montgomery, Alabama. He asked GOODIN not to indicate to his wife that he had been in the "pen".

GOODIN said that sometime later DOWDA telephoned him from California, and said that he needed money and asked GOODIN to send him some. He refused, and DOWDA called a second time and GOODIN refused. He said he has not heard from him since.

GOODIN stated that since DOWDA was a "racist" that he might be an accomplice of RAY in the murder of Doctor KING. He also thought that both RAY and DOWDA were mixed up in "peddling dope" in the penitentiary, but he could never prove it. He said DOWDA had a detainer from Florida which was dropped. He said he knew RAY wanted to escape and he "killed" a request by RAY for a transfer to a farm because of this. He said RAY was "strictly a loner" and very quiet. He knew of no personal feelings on the part of RAY in connection with Negroes. He knew of no other close friends RAY may have had.

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On 4/21/68 at Jefferson City, Missouri File # KC 44-760

by SA ROWEN B. AYERS : pe Date dictated 4/23/68

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