

CLASSIFICATION NO.

44-561

Volume Number 12

Serials 532 575

Department of Justice

VED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

DO NOT DESTROY  
FOR SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS

BUREAU

FBI - CENTRAL RECORDS CENTER

SI - SPRINGFIELD

SI-0044-0001B: SI

Class / Case #	Sub	Vol.	Serial #
0044 561		12	532 575

8/08/449054



RRP000RCAM

TRIBUTIONAL VALUE of  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-58861

DO NOT DESTROY  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/  
PRIVACY ACT MATERIALS

DESTRUCTION DATE 3/27/90-112  
SERIAL 561

See also Nos. 44-58861 and 44-58862

These copies are  
and serials

Robert H. 7-88

FORM 10-31713

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5-17-68

FROM : SA ELIAS WILLIAMS, JR. - P -

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re New York airtel to Director, 4-19-68.

On 5-1-68, SI 1661-R Prob was shown the photograph of the unknown male referred to in captioned airtel. The informant was unable to identify this individuals as anyone he has come in contact with within the minutemen organization.

3 - Springfield (2: 44-561)  
(1: 170-30A)

EW:ras  
(3) *ras*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Rohers*

*44-561-532*



5010-108

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

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

5-17-68

SA ELIAS WILLIAMS, JR. - P -

MURKIN

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(3)

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

44-561-532

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

## REFERENCES:

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

- P -

## LEADS:

SPRINGFIELD DIVISIONAT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Will report results of continuing investigation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (44-38861) 2 - Chicago (44-1114) (INFO) 2 - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - New Orleans (157-10673) ② Springfield (44-561) <i>pmr</i>						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW <i>44-561-533</i> SEARCHED _____ SERIALIZED <i>pmr</i> INDEXED _____ FILED <i>pmr</i> <i>Stinson 205</i>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

- A -

COVER PAGE

SI 44-561

CHICAGO DIVISION

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- B\* -  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

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

Office: Springfield

Field Office File #: SI 44-561

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

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

- P -

SI 44-561

DETAILS:

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

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

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

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

---

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

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

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



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

Miss [REDACTED], age twelve, 533 West Forrest Hill Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI Number 405 942G. She advised that she could not identify the photographs of RAY as any person she had observed while vacationing in New Orleans, Louisiana, during December, 1967.

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

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

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SI 44-561

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

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

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

REFERENCES:

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

- P -

LEADS:SPRINGFIELD DIVISIONAT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Will report results of continuing investigation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
APPROVED <i>10</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (44-38861) 2 - Chicago (44-1114) (INFO) 2 - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - New Orleans (157-10673) ② Springfield (44-561) <i>smr</i>						44-561-533	
						SEARCHED.....	
						SERIALIZED..... <i>smr</i>	
						INDEXED.....	
						FILED..... <i>smr</i>	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency							
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

- A -

COVER PAGE

SI 44-561

CHICAGO DIVISION

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- B\* -  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date: May 17, 1968

Office: Springfield

Field Office File #: SI 44-561

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS

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SI 44-561

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On 5/14/68 at Peoria, IllinoisFile # SI 44-561by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON/smrDate dictated 5/15/68

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SI 44-561

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

DATE: 5/16/68

FROM : SA QUENTIN P. STINSON (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR.

OO: MEMPHIS

Re KC teletype to Bureau dated 5/ 9/68.

On 5/ 9/68, Mrs. DEAN C. AILER, 402 Melbourne Street, Peoria, Illinois, advised that she divorced ROBERT BLOOD approximately four years ago, and his present whereabouts is unknown to her. She advised that it is her opinion that he is residing someplace in California, and has been for the past two years.

5/9)  
On (same date,) BERNICE DUCKAN and ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN, owners of the Jewel Lounge, 106 (rear) -5th Street, Peoria, Illinois, advised that they have owned that tavern for approximately one year. Both are from the state of California. They advised that the Jewel Lounge was formerly known as the m & n Tavern and that the tavern is still commonly referred to as the "Old M & N". They advised that the former owner (1959) called "Rusty" was unknown to them and they could furnish no information concerning her identity or whereabouts.

On 5/10/68, PCI DAVID MITCHELL was contacted regarding the identity of "Rusty". He advised that he recalls this woman as a former bartender of various bars in the Peoria, Illinois area prior to 1960. He said he recalls that she did operate the M & N Bar, Peoria, Illinois, sometime prior to 1960. He advised that he observed this woman approximately two or three months ago at which time she had a small girl approximately age 7 with her. He said she has married, however, he does not know her married name at the present time.

On 5/10/68, LARRY ENNIGER, 1800 North Knoxville, Peoria, Illinois, former tavern operator, advised that "rusty" was widely known in the Peoria, Illinois area inasmuch as during the 1950s she attended bar at two or three different establishments.

He suggested that she might be located through the Beer Barrel Tavern, 1434 Northeast Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois.

②- SI (1: 44-561)  
(1: 137-2805)

QPS:skt  
(2)

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

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAY 16 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Robert*



5010-108

44-561-534

SI 44-561

On 5/13/68, BETTY MEYERS, owner of the Beer Barrel Tavern, suggested "Rusty" whose name she did not know, may be employed at the Piere Marquette Hotel.

On same date, PHIL BUSSMAN, Sales Representative, Piere Marquette Hotel, identified "Rusty" as Mrs. RAY M. TYLER, also known as MELVINA TYLER, 408 Bryan Street, Peoria, Illinois, and 213 Franklin Street, Bartonville, Illinois. He advised that she had been employed as a waitress in the lounge of the hotel for the past six years.

2\*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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(2) - SI (1: 44-561)  
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QPS:skt

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan 44-561-534

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
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MAY 16 1968	
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SI 44-561

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2\*

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI CHICAGO

322PM URGENT 5/17/68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ST. LOUIS (44-775) AND SPRINGFIELD (44-561)  
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 2P

MURKIN.

RE ST. LOUIS TEL TO BUREAU ET AL MAY SIXTEEN LAST.

RE BLACKIE DE CORE (PH). CHICAGO INDICES SEARCHED UNDER  
NUMEROUS VARIATIONS OF SURNAME CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL, NEGATIVE.  
NOT KNOWN TO MEMBERS FBI CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM SQUAD  
CHICAGO NOR TO GAMBLING UNIT, INTELLIGENCE UNIT, CRIMINAL  
INTELLIGENCE UNIT ALL CHICAGO PD, PLUS RECORDS CHECK AT BUREAU  
OF RECORDS AND COMMUNICATIONS CHICAGO PD AND ILLINOIS STATE BOARD  
OF PAROLE NEGATIVE.

SGT. JERRY HARMON, MID, CCSO, ADVISES BLACKIE DE CORE  
UNKNOWN TO HIM BUT THAT ONE BLACKIE DE COOK IS A KNOWN FENCE,  
GAMBLER AND CONFIDANT OF THIEVES IN SOUTHERN COOK COUNTY AREA.  
DE COOK RESIDES MIDLOTHIAN, ILLINOIS, EMPLOYED AT U. S. STEEL,  
SOUTH WORKS, CHICAGO. DESCRIBED AS WMA, AGE FORTY EIGHT TO  
END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

44-561-535



PAGE TWO CG 44-1114

FIFTY TWO, SIX FEET ONE INCH, TWO FORTY POUNDS BLACK HAIR AND  
HAS NO KNOWN ARREST RECORD.

ST. LOUIS RECONTACT OWENS FOR POSSIBILITY DE COOK IDENT  
WITH INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED.

AMCC MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MAL

FBI SPRINGFIELD

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI CHICAGO

322PM URGENT 5/17/68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ST. LOUIS (44-775) AND SPRINGFIELD (44-561)  
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 2P

MURKIN.

*44-561\**

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END PAGE ONE

*(1)*

*44-561-335*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Robert*

PAGE TWO CG 44-1114

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WITH INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED.

AMCC MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MAL

FBI SPRNGFLD

SI 44-561

RLW:skr

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROY LEE WILKERSON, JR. at Springfield, Illinois:

On May 15, 1968, WILLIAM <sup>24</sup>KOFFMAN, Division of Supervision of Paroles, 103 National Guard Armory Building, Springfield, Illinois, advised that his office has a file concerning JAMES LAOMA OWENS and OWENS has been incarcerated at the State Prison in Menard, Illinois, and the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. KAUFFMAN advised that JAMES OWENS has a prison registry number for the State Prison of Menard, Illinois, being 20208. OWENS' registry number for Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, is 69846. KAUFFMAN advised that the only description that he has in his file is as follows:

NAME:	JAMES LAOMA OWENS
RACE:	White
SEX:	Male
FBI NUMBER:	1-397-707
AGE:	27 on March 12, 1947
HEIGHT:	5'2½"
WEIGHT:	129
HAIR:	Charcoal medium
EYES:	Dark Black
COMPLEXION:	Fair
OCCUPATION:	Clerk
CHARACTERISTICS:	Top of head bald.

OWENS was incarcerated at the Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch, Menard, Illinois, having number 20208, received from St. Clair County, Illinois, March 12, 1947, on the crime of robbery.

KAUFFMAN advised that the most current address that his files reveal is an address of 3904 Folsom Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, and this address was current as of August 15, 1965, as a communication sent to OWENS on this date was not returned. KAUFFMAN stated that on August 15, 1965, OWENS was issued a Certificate of Restoration of the Rights of Citizenship. KAUFFMAN stated that JAMES OWENS was discharged on June 27, 1965, at the expiration of his sentence from the State Prison, Menard Branch, Menard

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Arthur*

44-561-536

SI 44-561

RLW:skr

2

Illinois. KOFFMAN advised that he has not had any further communication or correspondence with OWENS since August 15, 1965.

KOFFMAN stated that any additional information needed concerning OWENS could be obtained from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, or the State Penitentiary of Menard, Illinois, and this information at the penitentiaries would be more current than the information that he has, especially information concerning description and background information.

KOFFMAN made available a copy of an FBI arrest record concerning JAMES LAOMA OWENS, FBI number 1397 707, as follows:

C O P Y

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

J. Edgar Hoover, Director

U. S. Department of Justice

The following is a transcript of the record, including the most recently reported data, as shown in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning our number. 1397 707

Contributor of fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or received	Charge	Disposition
PD, St. Louis, Mo.	James Loma Owens #42884	3-6-37	robbery	10-8-37 7 yrs in Mo S. Int. Ref
St. Int Ref., Jefferson City Mo	James L. Owens #2445	10-28-37	robbery 1st 6-27-38 r t same day trans to Mo S. as #51226	7 yrs - escaped
SP, Jefferson City Mo	James L. Owens #51226	7-19-38	robbery 1st (3 chgs)	7 yrs - par by the Governor 8-3-40
OMI Wash DC MID Wash DC	James Loama Owens #—	applicant for position Combustion Engr. Co. Inc. Maine Boiler Division St Louis Mo. 8-15-41		
Capt of the Port New York NY	James Loama Owens #031 -1085614-B	ident card 6-17-43		
SOS War Dept	James Loama Owens #32-ORS	welder 7-17-43		
C.S. Comm., Wash., D.C.	James L. Owens Residence: H.P.D. San Fran. Calif Born: 8-6-14	F.P. 8-17-45 Hunters Point, San Fran Calif	Position: electrical welder, U.S. Naval Drydocks, Hunters Point, Can Fran. Calif	
PD East St. Louis, Ill	James Loama Owens #3769	9-4-46	armed robbery	
SP Menard Ill	James Owens #20208	3-12-47	robbery	1-20 yrs 6-28-52 paroled paroled 7-7-59
PD St. Louis, Mo	James Loma Owens #42884	1-24-48	inquiry	
PD St. Louis Mo	James Loma Owens	8-8-54	sus burg	4-29-55 sent PG on chg to 6 yrs in Mo SP to r concurrently on chg of byrg 2nd d & larc rape passing worthless che 2 chgs larc of auto

FORM 110-A-4M-8-63  
PRINTED AT MENARD

\* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints

C O P Y

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

J. Edgar Hoover, Director

U. S. Department of Justice

PAGE #2

The following is a transcript of the record, including the most recently reported data, as shown in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning our number 1 397 707

Contributor of fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or received	Charge	Disposition
SP Jefferson City Mo	James Loma Owens #69346	5-18-55	burg 2nd & larc obt money & goods b/m of bogus check obt money b/m of a bogus ck (3 chgs)	6 yrs paroled 6-8-57 on chg of bur & larc
SP Menard Ill	James Owens #20208	6-8-57	robb etc	1-20 yrs (par viol)
PD St Louis Mo	James Loma Owens #42884	10-10-59	susp robbery	
<del>PD St Louis Mo</del>				
PD St Louis Mo	James Loma Owens #42884	10-16-59	susp fug Alton Ill-susp rob susp parole viol	
SPen Jefferson City Mo	James Loma Owens #00184	2-5-60	FG: robb 1st means of D & DW	7 yrs.
SPen Menard Ill	James Owens #20208	1-2-63	Pv (robb etc)	1-20 yrs.

SI 44-561

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1

The following individuals in Quincy, Illinois, were recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS on the dates indicated by each name, at which time they could not furnish any information not already furnished concerning this matter:

WALTER TERRY RIFE  
Virginia Hotel  
April 30, 1968

SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER  
Virginia Hotel  
April 25, 1968 and  
April 30, 1968

ART CONNORS  
Virginia Hotel  
April 30, 1968

EARL JACK HILAND  
Sky Ride Inn Tavern  
April 30, 1968

On April 26, 1968, MARGARET ROTH, Assistant Manager, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., 226 North 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised SA ELYON H. DAVIS that FRANK FULLER and wife, MABEL RAY FULLER, resided at 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, as of April 1, 1967. This was the last entry in the file. In 1958, FRANK FULLER was working for Heck Vending Machine Company, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed he was 68 years of age in 1967 and either retired or unemployed. The Credit Bureau did not contain any information as to relatives and the credit of the FULLER family was good.

MABEL RAY FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, was reinterviewed on April 26, 1968, by SA's ELYON H. DAVIS and FRANK J. HABERSHAW.

Mrs. FULLER furnished the following information:

She has received no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY since last being interviewed by the FBI. She has not seen RAY since 1955 when her mother, the grandmother of

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Handwritten signature]*

44-561-537



SI 44-561

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2

JAMES EARL RAY, died. He apparently arrived at the funeral services by himself and left by himself.

She advised that she is the sister of JAMES GERALD RAY, the father of JAMES EARL RAY. She has not seen JAMES GERALD RAY for a number of years and has not had any close contact with her brother JAMES GERALD RAY.

She stated that JAMES EARL RAY served in the United States Army in Germany, near the end of World War II, or after the war and this is the only overseas travel concerning RAY of which she has any knowledge. She stated that she did not consider herself to be the favorite aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that before he entered the service in the middle 1940's, he had lived with the grandmother named MAHER, in Alton, Illinois, and apparently he had worked for some "leather making outfit" in Alton.

Mrs. FULLER advised that all of the children of the RAY family were apparently put out for adoption some time around 1952 and that she personally did not know there had been a RAY child by the name of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

She advised that until the FBI contacted her concerning JAMES EARL RAY, she did not even know that his mother LUCILLE was dead.

She advised that while JAMES EARL RAY was in prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, she had sent him mail on a number of occasions and had on occasion sent him small quantities of money. She stated that he had sent her two or three Christmas cards and this was the only contact she had with him.

Mrs. FULLER advised that apparently she had not been on JAMES EARL RAY's mailing list while in the penitentiary and he had smuggled out through other visitors and inmates Christmas cards to her on two or three occasions. These in turn were mailed to her.

She advised that on each one of these cards, he had signed them "JIMMY".

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

3

She advised that EARL RAY was her brother and that he had died in Buffalo, New York, a number of years ago. She stated that JAMES EARL RAY probably had no knowledge of the death of EARL RAY or the whereabouts of EARL RAY at the time of death.

Mrs. FULLER advised that she and her husband are retired and spend almost all of their time at home. She stated they have very few visitors and she has practically no contact with other members of the RAY family.

She advised that she would cooperate with the FBI in this matter and furnish any information that comes to her attention.

FRANK FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he is the husband of MABEL RAY FULLER and that she is the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he has no contact with members of the RAY family and he had no information concerning the whereabouts, activities or associates of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he will furnish any information concerning any member of this family to the FBI.

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

On April 24, 1968, MARY JAN RIFE and WALTER TERRY RIFE were each recontacted at the Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, and each could furnish no additional information.

On April 25, 1968, State's Attorney, ROBERT J. BIER, Adams County, Quincy, Illinois, advised that during the early 1950's through 1955, Attorney JOHN ENNIS and Attorney JAMES KEEFE, one or the other, represented all of the criminal elements in the Quincy, Illinois, area.

On April 25, 1968, Attorney JOHN ENNIS, 601 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that after a thorough review of his files he could develop no information that he had ever represented JAMES EARL RAY or any member of the RAY family.

On April 25, 1968, JAMES KEEFE, Attorney, WCU Building, Quincy, Illinois, advised that after a check of his files he could find no record of his having represented JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that he did not remember JAMES EARL RAY and he did not know RAY to the best of his knowledge.

KEEFE advised that he had represented an EARL RAY, who possibly was an uncle of JAMES EARL RAY, in September, 1948, when EARL RAY was charged with throwing carbolic acid in his wife's face. His notes indicated that AUDREY RAY, the victim and the wife of EARL RAY, was then living at 403 Cherry Street. Apparently some member of the family resided at 1439 Cherry Street.

Apparently this case was later settled out of court and no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY was in this file.

KEEFE advised that he had also prepresented a JOHN RYAN, also known as JOHN RAY, who apparently was the brother of JAMES EARL RAY, and who was indicted in May, 1953, for burglarizing the Adams Trading Post and theft of a motor vehicle and in a jail break at Adams County, Quincy, Illinois. KEEFE advised that apparently JOHN RAY pled guilty to the larceny of the motor vehicle and was given a five to ten year sentence and the other charges dismissed.

144-561-538

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Signature]*

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

2

KEEFE did not have any notations in this file that would give any leads to possible family contact or associates.

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 21, 1968, EARL JACK HILAND, Operator, Sky Ride Inn Tavern, 236 Front Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER was at one time a brother-in-law of HILAND and that HILAND was in jail at the Adams County Jail, Quincy, Illinois, with LOHMEYER and ROBERT KELLY in 1951 after they were involved in a brawl at the Barn Night Club, Quincy, Illinois. HILAND viewed a number of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that the photographs are vaguely familiar to him as someone he has seen in the past. He stated that he definitely is not an associate of RAY and has never been a close associate of RAY and stated he could not furnish any information concerning RAY, RAY's associates, activities, or whereabouts.

On April 21, 1968, ROBERT KELLY, 1210 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised he was arrested at the Barn Night Club in Quincy, Illinois, with JACK HILAND, HARVEY LOHMEYER and JOHN O'DEAR.

KELLY advised that he is not acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY and did not know anything concerning RAY's family, whereabouts, or activities.

On April 21, 1968, JOHN O'DEAR, Route 6, Quincy, Illinois, advised he had been arrested for causing a riot at the Barn Night Club in Quincy in the early 1950's and that he was arrested with HARVEY LOHMEYER, JACK HILAND and BOB KELLY. He stated that JAMES EARL RAY is not an associate of his. He also advised that he is not acquainted with RAY's relatives and could furnish no information concerning RAY.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

44-561-539

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, MARY JAN RIFE, 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised she is certain her husband, WALTER TERRY RIFE, has no knowledge of the present activities or whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

She stated also that MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of RAY, still resides at the Virginia Hotel and eats almost all of her meals at RIFE's restaurant in the hotel. She stated that MELBA MARIE RYAN has told her on several occasions during the last three or four days that she has no information or knowledge of the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN has been highly emotional during the past few days and she felt that this was due to numerous reporters attempting to interview MELBA MARIE RYAN.

She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN is a mental case and no reliance can be placed on any statement made by MELBA RYAN.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

44-561-540

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Desk Clerk, Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of JAMES EARL RAY, is still residing at that hotel. HARPER advised that very definitely RAY has not contacted anyone at the Virginia Hotel and that complete cooperation will be given the FBI in the matter concerning RAY by individuals connected with the Virginia Hotel. HARPER advised that he is certain WALTER TERRY RIFE has not had any contact with RAY anytime during the past several years.

44-561-541

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>TH</i>	FILED <i>TH</i>
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Signature]*

SI 44-561

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1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 24, 1968, ART CONNORS, whose wife LAURA CONNORS, owns the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois, advised that he had received no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he intends to cooperate in every way with the FBI in this matter and will immediately advise the FBI of anything concerning RAY's whereabouts.

He advised that RAY's sister, MELBA MARIE RYAN, has stated numerous times she has no information as to RAY's whereabouts. He advised that KATHERINE BUSKIRK, now married to CONNORS' brother, WILBUR CONNORS, known as MANNY CONNORS, has told him that she knew nothing concerning RAY other than she was arrested with RAY and WALTER RIFE at Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955. Inasmuch as she was not involved and knew nothing concerning the passing of the stolen money orders, she was released on the same day of the arrest and no charges pressed against her.

CONNORS advised he is certain in his own mind that neither MELBA MARIE RYAN or WALTER TERRY RIFE has any information concerning the whereabouts of RAY.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Handwritten signature]*

44-561-542



SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, JUDSON GREEN, Business Manager, Quincy Clinic, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the records of his office shows that JAMES RAY first visited the Quincy Clinic on August 15, 1938. The records showed he was in the third grade at that time and also the family consisted of two other living children and one that had died of burns. JAMES RAY was listed as the oldest member of the family and his home address at that time was in care of Mrs. JAMES RAY, 315 Cherry Street.

On this first visit, he was attended to by Dr. WHITAKER and at that time suffered from loss of consciousness, sudden onset, both legs withdrawn. He was unconscious for thirty minutes and jerked and twitched with no biting of tongue. He did not soil his clothes and later had no memory of this attack. He had a history of frequent outcries at night. The records showed Dr. WHITAKER had diagnosed this as possible eplipsy, spontaneous in origin and not traumatic. No other symptoms at that time. He was also a persistent bed wetter and seemed to have no control at night.

Later, he was treated on July 3, 1940, by Dr. GUY TURNEY for a small blister right thumb and forefinger caused by a firecracker explosion. On the second day, this wound was cleaned. No other information available concerning any medical treatment. The file contained the following addresses, dates of the addresses not shown; however, the first entry made was on March 4, 1936 and the last on October 29, 1940. The addresses were shown all in Quincy, Illinois, as follows:

412 North Fifth Street

Rural Route 3, 18th Street

212 Spring Street

1258 Hampshire Street

44-561-543

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

2

928 Lind Street

1616 North Second Street

121 South Ninth Street

1517 North Fourth Street

701 $\frac{1}{2}$  North Fifth Street

128 $\frac{1}{2}$  North Fifth Street

1439 Cherry Street

214 Spring Street

315 Cherry Street

413 Vermont Street

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, WALTER TERRY RIFE, 214 Lind Street, was reinterviewed at his place of business, the Virginia Hotel Restaurant, Quincy, Illinois.

RIFE advised that once when he was fingerprinted after his arrest on a possession of stolen postal money orders with JAMES EARL RAY in 1955, he was booked under the name of VERNON ELMO RIFE. He stated that VERNON ELMO RIFE has never been an associate of JAMES EARL RAY and has never been in jail with RAY and this is the reason records in Missouri would show RAY was arrested with VERNON ELMO RIFE instead of WALTER TERRY RIFE.

RIFE advised that when he and JAMES EARL RAY were passing the stolen money orders throughout the United States after their arrest in Hannibal, Missouri, they claimed they had purchased these money orders from a wino named WILLARD J. MC BRIDE. He advised that this information is not correct and they did not purchase the money orders from any WILLARD J. MC BRIDE. He advised that he has never known a WILLARD J. MC BRIDE and that he and RAY obtained the money orders in Adams County, Illinois. He said that the Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois, is located in Adams County, Illinois, and that he did not intend to admit to any burglary but that neither RAY nor RIFE obtained the money orders outside of Adams County.

RIFE advised that during the period of time that he and RAY were passing the money orders, they traveled extensively throughout the United States to towns in Florida, New Orleans, Louisiana, St. Louis, Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, across the United States to California and back to the Quincy, Illinois, Hannibal, Missouri, area, where they were arrested. He stated that there was no particular place that RAY seemed fond of during that trip more than anywhere else and that they traveled from town to town on a spur of the moment deal and no plan or scheme was involved in their travels.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>MM</i>	FILED <i>MM</i>
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*44-561-544*

SI 44-561

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2

He advised that during these travels he and RAY did not contact anyone named COIN and did not contact anyone to his knowledge, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

He advised that they did contact a COHEN in Kansas City, Missouri, and sold COHEN some of the money orders. RIFE was not certain as to the description of COHEN but thought that he would now be an old man. RIFE personally did not know COHEN or anything concerning his whereabouts or activities. He stated that COHEN was a man that they contacted in a tavern and sold him some of the stolen money orders. He stated that they contact COHEN by just asking questions in taverns as to who would buy money orders.

RIFE advised that he knew that JAMES EARL RAY disliked Negroes immensely ; however, he had no idea as to the reason why. He advised that he had never known any incident involving RAY and Negroes.

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

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On April 23, 1968, a search was made by SA ELYON H. DAVIS of the Quincy City Directories and telephone directories for the years from 1950 until the present time. It was determined that the address of 205 Lindwood Avenue, Quincy, Illinois, is a non-existent address and also that the address of 2400 Maine Street, Quincy, Illinois, is a non-existent address. These directories, as well as the Credit Bureau, of Quincy, Quincy, Illinois, did not show any funeral home names George J. Roberts and Son ever existing in Quincy, Illinois. Also, these directories did not show that a NORMAN J. ROBERTS ever lived in Quincy, Illinois.

On April 23, 1968, JERRY POINTS, Adams County Coroner, Quincy, Illinois, advised that there has never been a George J. Roberts and Son Funeral Home in Quincy, Illinois, and during the last 25 years, there has never been any ROBERTS employed as funeral directors in Quincy.

44-561-545

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI CHICAGO

942AM URGENT 5/18/68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, SAN DIEGO (44-387) AND SPRINGFIELD (44-561)  
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 1P

MURKIN, CIVIL RIGHTS.

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL MAY SEVENTEEN LAST.

RE WILLIAM A. MARSHALL.

CONTACT ATTEMPTED WITH INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER (IH) HOME  
OFFICE, MAY SEVENTEEN LAST, NEGATIVE. CONTACT, INSTANT DATE,  
REVEALS ALL OFFICIALS WHO HAVE ACCESS TO PERSONNEL FILES OUT OF  
CITY. CHECK RE MARSHALL WILL BE MADE MAY TWENTY NEXT.

AM COPY SENT MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MAL

FBI SPRNGFLD

44-561-546

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 18 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Robert [signature]*

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI CHICAGO

942AM URGENT 5/18/68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, SAN DIEGO (44-387) AND SPRINGFIELD (44-561)  
FROM CHICAGO (44-1114) 1P

MURKIN, CIVIL RIGHTS.

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL MAY SEVENTEEN LAST.

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CONTACT ATTEMPTED WITH INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER (IH) HOME  
OFFICE, MAY SEVENTEEN LAST, NEGATIVE. CONTACT, INSTANT DATE,  
REVEALS ALL OFFICIALS WHO HAVE ACCESS TO PERSONNEL FILES OUT OF  
CITY. CHECK RE MARSHALL WILL BE MADE MAY TWENTY NEXT.

AM COPY SENT MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MAL

FBI SPRNGFLD

44-561-846

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 18 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Signature]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-561)

FROM : SA JOSEPH F. GIGLIO

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/17/68

WAYNE KAYSER, Clerk, ISP, District 11A, Litchfield, Ill., telephonically advised at 5:40 PM this date that HAROLD HERRON, Bunker Hill, Ill., called the Macoupin County Sheriff Office and advised them that a person similar in description to JAMES EARL RAY was seen by him at the Crystal Bar Tavern, Bunker Hill. He was with two girls and driving a 1968 red Cougar bearing 1968 Arkansas license 8CC834. This individual had left the bar and was now at Bertagnolli's Bar, Bunker Hill. The chief of police, Bunker Hill has this car under surveillance at this time and a deputy from Macoupin County was enroute. NCIC check negative.

At 5:55 PM Chief of Police CHARLES F. BEST, Bunker Hill, Ill. advised that he had checked out this individual personally and was quiet satisfied that this person was not RAY based on his personal description. This individuals name was ROBERT VICE and he worked for Checker Cab Co., Muncie, Indiana. He is from Arkansas and the car in which he was driving was rented from a rental car agency in Conway, Arkansas. He is described as being 6'11" tall weighing approximately 190 lbs., light brown hair, no scar on forehead or palm or cleft in chin.

SA FRANK CORN, ALton RA had been advised not to proceed to Bunker Hill, Ill.

44-561-547

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 18 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Robert*



F B I

Date: 5/17/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR (MAIL) AND SACS, ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO, AND  
SAN FRANCISCO

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) ( 2 PP)

MURKIN.

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE MAY SIXTEEN LAST AND CHICAGO TELETYPE  
MAY SEVENTEEN INSTANT.FOR INFO SAN FRANCISCO, BLACKIE DE CORE ALLEGEDLY ASSOCIATE  
OF RAY. DE CORE SERVED TIME MENARD PRISON, CHESTER, ILLINOIS.

MENARD PRISON RECORDS REFLECT ANDREW WILSON DE CORE, AKA  
DE CORA AND BLACKIE DE CORE, MENARD NUMBER TWO THREE FOUR ONE  
FIVE, RECEIVED MENARD PRISON JUNE FIFTEEN, NINETEEN FIFTYTHREE,  
ON TRANSFER FROM JOLIET, ILLINOIS, PRISON TO SERVE SENTENCE OF  
ONE TO TWENTY YEARS FOR ROBBERY. DE CORE PAROLED JUNE FIFTEEN,  
NINETEEN FIFTYNINE, TO REV. JAMES WINENEGAR, ST. LOUIS RESCUE  
MISSION, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. RETURNED AS PAROLE VIOLATOR TO  
MENARD, JULY NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY. PAROLED JANUARY FIFTEEN,  
NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE, TO BAPTIST RESCUE MISSION, COLLINSVILLE  
AVENUE, EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS. RETURNED TO MENARD AS PAROLE

1 - Springfield  
1 - Bureau (AM)  
1 - Memphis (AM)  
WEL:css  
(3)

ESL lead @ CARPENTER  
Case @ 170617

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INDEXED.....  
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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
44-561-549