

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE

SI 44-561

DID NOT RESEMBLE RAYS HOWEVER HIS VIEW WAS OBSTRUCTED BECAUSE OF DARKNESS.

REVEREND STEWART MENTIONED THAT LAWRENCE REH, A LOCAL NEWS PAPER REPORTER IS A MEMBER OF HIS CHURCH AND ALSO A SUPERVISOR AT TEEN CENTER HOWEVER REH WAS NOT PRESENT ON MAY TWENTYEIGHT SIXTYEIGHT BUT OBTAINED THE INFORMATION AND WROTE STORY THIS DATE WHICH WAS ALSO RELEASED TO A.P. BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT NEWS WORTHY ITEM.

REVEREND STEWART AND GADDIS WERE THOROUGHLY INTERVIEWED AND NUMEROUS DISCREPANCIES NOTED.

ABOVE FOR INFORMATION BUREAU IN VIEW OF CURRENT AP ITEM THIS MATTER.

END

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

946 PM 5/31/68 URGENT CEK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN, CR.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TWO ZERO WEST PRAIRIE,
STREET DECATUR, ILLINOIS, SPONSORS A TEEN CENTER EVERY TUESDAY
NIGHT TILL TEN P.M. FOR POOR UNDER PRIVILEGED YOUTH IN DECATUR
WHICH CROWD CONSISTS LARGELY OF NEGRO YOUTH. REVEREND GORDON
STEWART, ASSISTANT PASTOR ADVISED MAY TWENTYNINE AND THIRTY
ONE LAST THAT SHORTLY AFTER TEN P.M. MAY TWENTYEIGHT SIXTYEIGHT
AN INDIVIDUAL APPEARED AT THE CHURCH AND ENTERED INTO CONVERSATION
WITH A FEW SUPERVISORS, INDIVIDUAL APPEARED DRUNK OR ON
DOPE, HE STATED HE CONVERSED WITH THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE
FOLLOWING DAY AFTER DISCUSSING THE INCIDENT WITH ONE OF THE
SUPERVISORS AND VIEWING PHOTOS IN LIFE MAGAZINE THEY FELT THIS
INDIVIDUAL BORE SOME RESEMBLANCE TO JAMES EARL RAY. REVEREND
STEWART LOOKED AT NUMEROUS PHOTOS AND FAILED TO MAKE IDENTIFICATION
HE MAINTAINED HE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE PERSON BEING
RAY AND COULD ONLY SAY THAT THE ARTIST DRAWING OF THE EYES IN
THE WANTED FLYER PHOTO WAS THE ONLY RESEMBLANCE BUT COULD IN
END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

EM

44-561-60

PAGE TWO

NO WAY IDENTIFY RAY FROM TWO RECENT PHOTOS. STEWART FURTHER STATED THE PHOTO OF RAY WITH EYES CLOSED WHICH IS SIMILIAR TO THE PHOTO IN WANTED FLYER WITH EYES DRAWN BY ARTIST IN NO WAY RESEMBLED PERSON HE SAW.

REVEREND STEWART MENTIONED THE SUPERVISOR WAS NORMAN GADDIS WHO PORTRAYS HIMSELF AS AN AMATEUR ARTIST. GADDIS FAILED TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY RAY IN CONTACT WITH GADDIS ON MAY TWENTYNINE AND THIRTY FIRST SIXTYEIGHT. HE MENTIONED INDIVIDUAL NOT DRUNK HOWEVER HE COULD NOT FURNISH POSITIVE INFORMATION MAINTAINING HE ONLY NOTED THE EYES WHICH WERE DISTINCTIVE AS IN THE WANTED FLYER OF RAY BUT DIFFERED FROM THE EYES OF THE INDIVIDUAL HE HAD SEEN. GADDIS COULD NOT IDENTIFY THE TWO RECENT PHOTOS OF RAY SHOWN TO HIM ALONG WITH OTHER PHOTOS.

GADDIS DURING INTERVIEW STRESSED THE FACT HE IS AMATEUR ARTIST AND ALWAYS HAS HAD DIFFICULTY WITH REPRUDUCING EYES. HE STATED HE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THE PERSONS EYES AND DID NOT NOTICE OTHER FACIAL FEATURES EXCEPT THE PERSONS HAIRLINE WHICH

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

DID NOT RESEMBLE RAYS HOWEVER HIS VIEW WAS OBSTRUCTED BECAUSE
OF DARKNESS.

REVEREND STEWART MENTIONED THAT LAWRENCE REH, A LOCAL NEWS
PAPER REPORTER IS A MEMBER OF HIS CHURCH AND ALSO A SUPERVISOR
AT TEEN CENTER HOWEVER REH WAS NOT PRESENT ON MAY TWENTYEIGHT
SIXTYEIGHT BUT OBTAINED THE INFORMATION AND WROTE STORY THIS
DATE WHICH WAS ALSO RELEASED TO AP BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT
NEWS WORTHY ITEM.

REVEREND STEWART AND GADDIS WERE THOROUGHLY INTERVIEWED
AND NUMEROUS DISCREPANCIES NOTED.

ABOVE FOR INFORMATION BUREAU IN VIEW OF CURRENT AP ITEM
THIS MATTER.

END

SVW

FBI WASH DC

F B I

Date: 6/1/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, LOS ANGELES
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (P)
MURKIN

REFERENCE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO BUREAU FIVE THIRTYONE LAST.
MABLE FULLER STATES SUBJECT HAS NO COUSIN NAMED FRANCES E.
RAY AND SHE KNOWS NO ONE RESIDING IN HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA.
FULLER STATES SUBJECT HAD TWO UNCLES, NOW DECEASED, AND NO
CHILDREN BY EITHER UNCLE.

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

P.

END

① - Springfield (44-561)
lcc: Sac, Chicago (AM)
Sac, Memphis (AM)
Sac, St. Louis (AM)

44-561-611
SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

MWO:DM

Approved: (4) [Signature] Sent [Signature] M Per [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

1047AM URGENT 6-1-68 KJF

TO DIRECTOR AND LOS ANGELES
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN

REFERENCE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO BUREAU FIVE THIRTYONE LAST.

MABLE FULLER STATES SUBJECT HAS NO COUSIN NAMED FRANCES E.
RAY AND SHE KNOWS NO ONE RESIDING IN HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA.
FULLER STATES SUBJECT HAD TWO UNCLES, NOW DECEASED, AND NO
CHILDREN BY EITHER UNCLE.

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

P.

END.

?? LLD

FBI WASH DC

NJZ

FBI LOS ANG.

44-561-611

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

F B I

Date: 6/1/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (P)
MURKIN

REFERENCE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU, FIVE THIRTYONE SIXTYEIGHT.

LAWRENCE BUNDY, SUPERVISOR, TEEN CENTER, DECATUR, ILLINOIS, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STATED HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO APPEARED AT THE CHURCH ON THE NIGHT OF FIVE TWENTYEIGHT LAST WHEN THE TEEN CENTER GROUP WAS LEAVING AND HE NOTICED THE PERSON APPEARED DRUNK AND WAS UNABLE TO TALK DISTINCTLY. THIS PERSON WAS SEARCHING FOR WORDS AND HIS MIND APPEARED TO GO ADrift. BUNDY NOTED HE GAVE HIS NAME AS STEVE REYNOLDS AND HE FIRST STATED "I AM NOT IMPORTANT" AND KEPT COMMENTING THAT THE GROUP WAS DOING A FINE JOB. THIS PERSON MENTIONED THAT HE WAS FROM PEORIA. BUNDY STATED THIS INDIVIDUAL KEPT BATTING HIS EYES. BUNDY MENTIONED THAT IT WAS DARK AND HAD BEEN RAINING. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE PERSON COME OR LEAVE AND AFTER VIEWING NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY HE STATED THE PERSON WAS DEFINITELY NOT RAY.

① - Springfield (44-561)
lcc:Sac, Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
Sac, Chicago (AM)

RFB:DM
(3)

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

JAMES SMITH, SUPERVISOR, TEEN CENTER, STATED HE DID NOT SEE THE PERSON PARK HIS CAR, HOWEVER, HE NOTICED THE CAR WHICH APPEARED TO BE A FOUR DOOR FORD OR PLYMOUTH, WHITE OR LIGHT TAN IN COLOR WHICH WAS NOT A COMPACT OR A BIG MODEL CAR. HE MENTIONED THAT THIS PERSON WAS APPARENTLY PASSING AND SAW ALL THE YOUTHS AROUND THE CHURCH AND DECIDED TO STOP AND SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON FOR HE LEFT THE CAR MOTOR RUNNING WITH THE HEADLIGHTS ON. THE CAR WAS PARKED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CHURCH. SMITH STATED THE PERSON INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO SMITH WHICH ^ANAME HE DOES NOT RECALL. HOWEVER, IT DID NOT APPEAR TO SOUND THE SAME AS THE NAME HE PREVIOUSLY GAVE WHICH NAME HE DOES NOT RECALL. HE STATED THE PERSON APPEARED DRUNK OR WAS ON DOPE AND HE DID NOT TALK DISTINCTLY. THIS PERSON COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT THIS GROUP WAS DOING A FINE JOB. THEN AT ONE TIME IN THE CONVERSATION HE MENTIONED HE WAS FROM PEORIA. SMITH MAINTAINS HE COULD NOT TELL THE FEATURES OF THE PERSON FOR IT WAS DARK WHERE THEY WERE ALL STANDING AND IT HAD BEEN RAINING. THIS PERSON STOOD AROUND FOR APPROXIMATELY

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE

FIVE OR TEN MINUTES, THEN WENT BACK TO HIS CAR AND LEFT AT A MODERATE SPEED. SMITH ADVISED AFTER VIEWING NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY THAT HE COULD ^{IN NO WAY} ~~NOT POSITIVELY~~ IDENTIFY THIS PERSON AS RAY.

JOE J. SLAW, SUPERVISOR, DID NOT SEE THE PERSON UNTIL HE NOTED HIM STANDING WITH A GROUP OF SUPERVISORS. HOWEVER HE SAW THE CAR PARKED ACROSS THE STREET AND NOTED THE MOTOR WAS RUNNING AND THE LIGHTS WERE ON. THIS CAR APPEARED TO BE A LIGHT BLUE TWO DOOR FORD, PLYMOUTH OR DODGE. SLAW STATED HE THOUGHT THE PERSON WAS DRUNK HOWEVER HE COULD NOT SMELL LIQUOR. THE OTHER SUPERVISORS KIDDED THIS PERSON AND SUPERVISOR SMITH MENTIONED THE GUY WAS ON DOPE FOR HE APPEARED TO FEEL NO PAIN. SLAW MENTIONED THAT HE THOUGHT HE HEARD THIS PERSON GIVE HIS NAME AS STEVERINO AND ALSO HEARD HIM SAY THIS IS A NICE GROUP. SLAW STATED THAT HE FELT THE PERSON WAS DRUNK AND SAW THE GATHERING SO STOPPED BY TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON AND HE (SLAW) PAID NO PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HIM. HE STATED THE PERSON DID NOT LOOK LIKE THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY.

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE FOUR

JOSEPH G. BLACK, SUPERVISOR, STATED HE WAS NEVER CLOSER TO THE PERSON THAN FIFTEEN FEET AND IT WAS DARK SO HE COULD NOT TELL WHAT THE PERSON LOOKED LIKE. HE HEARD THE PERSON SAY "WELL I GOT TO GO", AND TOOK OFF ACROSS THE STREET. BLACK STATED THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE NOTED THE CAR ACROSS THE STREET WITH THE MOTOR RUNNING AND LIGHTS ON. THIS CAR APPEARED TO BE LIGHT BLUE IN COLOR, MAKE AND MODEL UNKNOWN. BLACK STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF TEEN CENTER THE CHURCH IS OPERATING NUMEROUS PEOPLE STOP BY TO OBSERVE AND THE GROUP HAS ALSO HAD SEVERAL INCIDENTS OCCUR WHEN THE GROUP WAS BREAKING UP AND BECAUSE OF THIS THE SUPERVISORS ARE ALWAYS ON EDGE. BLACK VIEWED PHOTOGRAPHS OF REY BUT STATED HE COULD MAKE NO IDENTIFICATION FOR HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY.

REV. M. HARRIS OF DECATUR AREA COUNSEL OF CHURCHES AND SUPERVISOR STATED HE COULD NOT FURNISH ANY ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION IN THIS MATTER FOR HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY. THE CAR DRIVEN BY THE INDIVIDUAL WAS DESCRIBED AS A LATE MODEL CHRYSLER PRODUCT, RAMBLER, PLYMDUTH, DODGE OR FORD, TWO DOOR

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE FIVE

OR FOUR DOOR, COLOR WHITE, TAN, LIGHT BLUE OR GREEN, SPORTS CAR FASTBACK OR SMALL MODEL BUT NOT COMPACT. NO ONE OBSERVED LICENSE PLATE.

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION OF THIS INDIVIDUAL IS AS FOLLOWS:
WHITE MALE, LATE TWENTIES TO FORTY, FIVE FEET SIX TO SIX FEET ONE INCH, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY TO NINETY LBS., WELL BUILT, ROUND FULL FACE, DISTINCTIVE SMALL LARGE WIDE LAZY EYES, DARK HAIR WITH RECEDING HAIRLINE, COMBED BACK, HANGING TO A POINT IN FRONT, THICK, WELL GROOMED, SPEECH SLURRED, NO SCARS OR MARKS NOTED, EARS NOT OBSERVED, DIMPLE IN CHIN NOT NOTED. HE WAS WEARING DARK TOPCOAT OVER CHECKERED OR GRAY SUIT, NO HAT, LONG TIE.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED AFTER VIEWING RECENT PHOTOS OF RAY STATED THEY DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS IDENTICAL WITH RAY AND AS A RESULT OF THESE INTERVIEWS AND CONTRADICTING INFORMATION RECEIVED NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS CONTEMPLATED BY THIS OFFICE. OF THIS INDIVIDUAL,

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

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE SIX

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT MEMPHIS AND CHICAGO FOR
INFORMATION.

P. A + O

END

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

200PM URGENT 6-1-68 KJF

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 5P.

MURKIN

REFERENCE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU, FIVE THIRTYONE SIXTYEIGHT.

LAWRENCE BUNDY, SUPERVISOR, TEEN CENTER, DECATUR, ILLINOIS, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STATED HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO APPEARED AT THE CHURCH ON THE NIGHT OF FIVE TWENTYEIGHT LAST WHEN THE TEEN CENTER GROUP WAS LEAVING AND HE NOTICED THE PERSON APPEARED DRUNK AND WAS UNABLE TO TALK DISTINCLY. THIS PERSON WAS SEARCHING FOR WORDS AND HIS MIND APPEARED TO GO ADRIFT. BUNDY NOTED HE GAVE HIS NAME AS STEVE REYNOLDS AND HE FIRST STATED "I AM NOT IMPORTANT" AND KEPT COMMENTING THAT THE GROUP WAS DOING A FINE JOB. THIS PERSON MENTIONED THAT HE WAS FROM PEORIA. BUNDY STATED THIS INDIVIDUAL KEPT BATTING HIS EYES. BUNDY MENTIONED THAT IT WAS DARK AND HAD BEEN RAINING. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT SEE THER PERSON COME OR LEAVE AND AFTER VIEWING NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY HE STATED THE PERSON WAS DEFINITELY NOT RAY.

END PAGE ONE.

44-561-612

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED *ML*
INDEXED
FILED *ML*

PAGE TWO

JAMES SMITH, SUPERVISOR, TEEN CENTER, STATED HE DID NOT SEE THE PERSON PARK HIS CAR, HOWEVER, HE NOTICED THE CAR WHICH APPEARED TO BE A FOUR DOOR FORD OR PLYMOUTH, WHITE OR LIGHT TAN IN COLOR WHICH WAS NOT A COMPACT OR A BIG MODEL CAR. HE MENTIONED THAT THIS PERSON WAS APPARENTLY PASSING AND SAW ALL THE YOUTHS AROUND THE CHURCH AND DECIDED TO STOP AND SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON FOR HE LEFT THE CAR MOTOR RUNNING WITH THE HEADLIGHTS ON. THE CAR WAS PARKED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CHURCH. SMITH STATED THE PERSON INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO SMITH WHIC A NAME HE DOES NOT RECALL. HOWEVER, IT DID NOT APPEAR TO SOUND THE SAME AS THE NAME HE PREVIOUSLY GAVE WHICH NAME HE DOES NOT RECALL. HE STATED THE PERSON APPEARED DRUNK OR WAS ON DOPE AND HE DID NOT TALK DISTINCTLY. THIS PERSON COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT THIS GROUP WAS DOING A FINE JOB. THEN AT ONE TIME IN THE CONVERSATION HE MENTIONED HE WAS FROM PEORIA. SMITH MAINTAINS HE COULD NOT TELL THE FEATURES OF THE PERSON FOR IT WAS DARK WHERE THEY WERE ALL STANDING AND IT HAD BEEN RAINING. THIS PERSON STOOD AROUND FOR APPROXIMATELY

END PAGE 2

PAGE THREE

FIVE OR TEN MINUTES, THEN WENT BACK TO HIS CAR AND LEFT AT A MODERATE SPEED. SMITH ADVISED AFTER VIEWING NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY THAT HE COULD IN NO WAY IDENTIFY THIS PERSON AS RAY.

JOE J. SLAW, SUPERVISOR, DID NOT SEE THE PERSON UNTIL HE NOTED HIM STANDING WITH A GROUP OF SUPERVISORS. HOWEVER HE SAW THE CAR PARKED ACROSS THE STREET AND NOTED THE MOTOR WAS RUNNING AND THE LIGHTS WERE ON. THIS CAR APPEARED TO BE A LIGHT BLUE TWO DOOR FORD, PLYMOUTH OR DODGE. SLAW STATED HE THOUGHT THE PERSON WAS DRUNK HOWEVER HE COULD NOT SMELL LIQUOR. THE OTHER SUPERVISORS KIDDED THIS PERSON AND SUPERVISOR SMITH MENTIONED THE GUY WAS ON DOPE FOR HE APPEARED TO FEEL NO PAIN. SLAW MENTIONED THAT HE THOUGHT HE HEARD THIS PERSON GIVE HIS NAME AS STEVERINO AND ALSO HEARD HIM SAY THIS IS A NICE GOURP. SLAW STATED THAT HE FELT THE PERSON WAS DRUNK AND SAW THE GATHERING SO STOPPED BY TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON AND HE (SLAW) PAID NO PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HIM. HE STATED THE PERSON DID NOT LOOK LIKE THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

JOSEPH G. BLACK, SUPERVISOR, STATED HE WAS NEVER CLOSE TO THE PERSON THAN FIFTEEN FEET AND IT WAS DARK SO HE COULD NOT TELL WHAT THE PERSON LOOKED LIKE. HE HEARD THE PERSON SAY "WELL I GOT TO GO", AND TOOK OFF ACROSS THE STREET. BLACK STATED THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE NOTED THE CAR ACROSS THE STREET WITH THE MOTOR RUNNING AND LIGHTS ON. THIS CAR APPEARED TO BE LIGHT BLUE IN COLOR, MAKE AND MODEL UNKNOWN. BLACK STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF TEEN CENTER THE CHURCH IS OPERATING NUMEROUS PEOPLE STOP BY TO OBSERVE AND THE WOUP HAS ALSO HAD SEVERAL INCIDENTS OCCUR WHEN THE GROUP WAS BREAKING UP AND BECAUSE OF THIS THE SUPERVISORS ARE ALWAYS ON EDGE. BLACK VIEWED PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY BUT STATED HE COULD MAKE NO IDENTIFICATION FOR HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY.

REV. M. HARRIS OF DECATUR AREA COUNSEL OF CHURCHES AND SUPERVISOR STATED HE COULD NOT FURNISH ANY ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION IN THIS MATTER FOR HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY. THE CAR DRIVEN BY THE INDIVIDUAL WAS DESCRIBED AS A LATE MODE CHRYSLER PRODUCT, RAMBLER, PLYMOUTH, DODGE OR FORD, TWO DOOR

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

OR FOUR DOOR, COLOR WHITE, TAN, LIGHT BLUE OR GREEN, SPORTS CAR FASTBACK OR SMALL MODEL BUT NOT COMPACT. NO ONE OBSERVED LICENSE PLATE.

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION OF THIS INDIVIDUAL IS AS FOLLOWS: WHITE MALE, LATE TWENTIES TO FORTY, FIVE FEET SIX TO SIX FEET ONE INCH, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY TO NINETY LBS., WELL BUILT, ROUND FULL FACE, DISTINCTIVE SMALL LARGE WIDE LAZY EYES, DARK HAIR WITH RECEDING HAIRLINE, COMBED BACK, HANGING TO A POINT IN FRONT, THICK, WELL GROOMED, SPEECH SLURRED, NO SCARS OR MARKS NOTED, EARS NOT OBSERVED, DIMPLE IN CHIN NOT NOTED. HE WAS WEARING DARK TOPCOAT OVER CHECKERED OR GARY SUIT, NO HAT, LONG TIE.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED AFTER VIEWING RECENT PHOTOS OF RAY STATED THEY DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS IDENTICAL WITH RAY AND AS A RESULT OF THESE INTERVIEWS AND CONTRADICTING INFORMATION RECEIVED NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS CONTEMPLATED BY THIS OFFICE OF THIS INDIVIDUAL.

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT MEMPHIS AND CHICAGO FOR
INFORMATION

P. A AND D

END.

?

GFH

FBI WASH DC

SI 44-561

JLM:slk

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JOSEPH L. MC KINSTRAY:

The following dancing schools in the Belleville, Illinois, Resident Agency territory were contacted April 15, 1968, and no record identifiable with ERIC STARVO GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, or JOHN WILLARD was located:

Adams School of the Dance, 119 East First Street, O'Fallon, Illinois, BEVERLY ADAMS;

Mary Louise Dance Studio, 103 North Main and 8900 State Street, East St. Louis, Illinois, EDDIE GROMACKI;

Marion M. Green School of Dance, 1321 North Church Street and 4829 West Main Street, Belleville, Illinois, MARION M. GREEN;

Boyer's Dance Studio, YMCA Building, Belleville, Illinois, ALICE BOYER;

SELMA H. KISSELL Dancing School, 103 North Tenth Street, Belleville, Illinois, SELMA KISSELL.

44-561-613

MM MM

Robert W.

SI 44-561

2

Mrs. SCHAFFER, Cashier, Belleville Police Department,
Belleville, Illinois.

RALPH CATZ, Jailer, East St. Louis Police Department,
East St. Louis.

Lieutenant W. JOHNSON, Detective Bureau, Lebanon
Police Department, Lebanon, Illinois.

Officer DAWSON, Lebanon Police Department, Lebanon.

SI 44-561

LWG:tlp

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA LARRY W. GREEN on April 9-10, 1968 concerning the location and development of background information on ERIC STAVO GALT:

The contacts made resulted in negative information of benefit to this case.

Contacts made include:

Bank of Belleville, Belleville, Illinois, Mrs. GANNON, Accounting Department.

Bank of Edgemont, 8900 State Street, Belleville.

Mr. MILLER, Accountant, First National Bank of Belleville, Belleville.

CATHY MC DONALD, Secretary to President, Belleville National Bank, Belleville.

Mr. BRIDGES, Bookkeeping Department, St. Clair National Bank, Belleville.

MARY LANG, Accounting Department, Lincoln Trails State Bank, Fairview Heights, Illinois.

JANE BROCKMAN, Bookkeeping Department, Illinois State Trust, East St. Louis, Illinois.

Mr. STUMP, Vice-President, First National Bank of East St. Louis, East St. Louis.

Mrs. SCHUSTER, Secretary to President, Union National Bank of East St. Louis, East St. Louis.

Mr. NEWMAN, Bookkeeper, National Stockyards, National Bank, East St. Louis.

Mr. DISKEY, Accountant, First National Lebanon, Lebanon, Illinois.

44-561-614

MM MM

Hobert WR

SI 44-561

BEC/jac

1

The following persons contacted April 9 through April 11, 1968, advised SA BERNARD E. CURRIGAN that they could provide no information regarding ERIC STARVO GALT:

Mrs. ESTELLE PEPPER, cashier, Bank of Mascoutah, Mascoutah, Illinois.

Mr. DAVE LEMBKE, bookkeeper, First National Bank of Mascoutah, Mascoutah, Illinois.

Mr. IVAN DE HART, secretary - manager, Mascoutah Savings and Loan, Mascoutah, Illinois.

Sergeant BRADY, United States Air Force, USAF, base locator, Building 743, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Mr. A. M. BECKWITH, bookkeeper, Equity Savings Association, 320 Missouri, East St. Louis, Illinois.

Mr. BOB CROSS, assistant controller, State Savings and Loan Association, East St. Louis, Illinois.

HOWARD R. MC ALLISTER, night chief of police, Lebanon, Illinois.

DON DUDECK, bookkeeper, New Athens Savings and Loan Association, 111 North Van Buren, New Athens, Illinois.

JOAN ACKER, bookkeeper, First National Bank, O'Fallon, Illinois.

WANDA SETZEKORN, clerk, O'Fallon Finance Company, 400 South Lincoln, O'Fallon, Illinois.

Miss RUTH SCHAEFER, teller, First National Bank of Lebanon, Lebanon, Illinois.

Mr. JIM HOFER, bookkeeper, Citizens Savings and Loan Association, 100 East Washington, Belleville.

Mr. CLAUDE TIEMANN, bookkeeper, First National Savings and Loan Association, 121 South Illinois, Belleville.

44-561-615

Robert

SI 44-561

BEC/jac

2

Mr. WILLARD PETERSON, bookkeeper, Greater Belleville Savings and Loan Association, 10 East Washington, Belleville.

Mr. HAROLD HALL, bookkeeper, Midwest Home Savings and Loan Association, 101 North High, Belleville.

Mrs. CAROL HALL, part-time clerk, Security Savings Association, 5110 West Main, Belleville, Illinois.

MARLA WORTHAM, bookkeeper, American National Bank, Nameoki and Schling Road, Granite City, Illinois.

SANDY INNES, bookkeeper, First National Bank, 20th and Edison, Granite City.

RICHARD DAWDY, assistant cashier, Granite City Trust and Savings Bank, 1909 Edison, Granite City, Illinois.

SHARON JACKSON, bookkeeper, First National Bank, 600 Madison, Madison, Illinois.

Sergeant PATTON, NCOIC, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

GEORGE PENCE, Alumni Office, Mc Kendree College, Lebanon, Illinois.

Dr. MARY P. STECK, registrar, Mc Kendree College, Lebanon, Illinois.

On April 10, 1968, DON HUTCHINGS, patrolman, Columbia, Illinois Police Department, advised that he had no record of arrest on a HARVEY LOWMEYER or any other LOWMEYER or name similar to LOWMEYER.

SI 44-561

MWO:mpb

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA
MACK W. OLIVER, Jr.

At Quincy, Illinois

A check of the Quincy telephone directory reflects that FRANK and MABLE FULLER are subscribers to Quincy telephone number 222-7142. A check of the Quincy telephone directory also reflects that subscriber to Quincy telephone number 223-9465 is RUBY CARPENTER.

A check of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company (protect identity) of Quincy confirmed the subscribers of the above two listed telephone numbers.

MABLE FULLER is subject's aunt. RUBY CARPENTER is the former wife of subject's father. EULLER ANN CARPENTER have been interviewed and appeared to be cooperative.

Both have close family ties and it would appear that the calls in St. Louis teletype dated May 16, 1968, would not necessarily indicate subject's present whereabouts.

In order that this investigative technique not be revealed, FULLER and CARPENTER will not be interviewed at this time.

44-561-616

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Robert [signature]

SI 44-561

FJH:mpb

1

At Bloomington, Illinois

A review of the Bloomington, Illinois City Directory by SA ARTHUR LEE WOODS determined that telephone number 452-4852 was listed to a DARRELL DAWSON, 1219 West Hovey, Normal, Illinois.

The following investigation was conducted by SA FRANK J. HABERSHAW on May 16, 1968:

At Normal, Illinois

DARRELL DAWSON, Trailer Number 30, Oasis Mobile Court, 1219 West Hovey, advised that his telephone number is area code 309-452-4852.

Mr. DAWSON was questioned regarding a long distance telephone call placed December 16, 1967 from Beaumont, Texas, to his number at Normal, Illinois. Mr. DAWSON advised that his wife's daughter and son-in-law by her first marriage, Mr. and Mrs. KENNETH PANTLENGER, 4730 Kenneth Avenue, Apartment 2, Beaumont, Texas, had placed several calls to their residence during the Christmas season of 1967. He advised that the PANTLENGERS have resided in Beaumont, Texas, for approximately four years, and it was his belief that the telephone call made on December 16, 1967, from Beaumont, Texas, telephone number 835-9435, would have been one of the calls made by the PANTLENGERS.

Mr. DAWSON advised that he was not familiar with any person by the name of JAMES EARL RAY also known as ERIC STARVO GAULT.

44-561-617

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Robert [Signature]

SI 44-561

EHD/jac

1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

Neighborhood

On April 19, 1968, Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, advised that the area in the vicinity of 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, was a district in the 1940s and the 1950s that contained numerous houses of prostitution. Captain HUNSAKER advised that the last house of prostitution was closed in Quincy, Illinois in 1962 and that the complexion in the area of Second and Spring Streets has changed radically. He advised that many of the old houses of prostitution have been torn down and new homes built.

On April 19, 1968, the following individuals who reside in the vicinity of 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, and who operate businesses in that vicinity each viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. Each advised that JAMES EARL RAY was completely unfamiliar to him and each advised that he could not furnish any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY, his mother LUCILLE RYAN, his father JAMES GERALD RAY, aka Jimmie Ray, Gerry Ray, Gerry Ryan, or Gerry Rayns or Gerry Raynes. Also, each of the following could not furnish any information concerning relatives of JAMES EARL RAY:

VERNON TOURNEAR, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois.

JOHN R. TAYLOR, manager, Dohrn Transfer Company, 203 Spring Street.

SAM RINELLA, manager, MRS Beverage Company, 206 Spring Street.

HAZEL VAN VELKINLING, 222 Spring Street.

CHARLES HEIBBREDER, Heibbreder's Construction Company, 215 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois.

On April 20, 1968, the following individuals who reside in the vicinity of 1439 Locust Street, Quincy, Illinois, each advised that the address of 1439 Locust Street, Quincy, Illinois, is a non-existent address and there has never been a house at an address of 1439 Locust Street.

44-561-618

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 23 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Robert

SI 44-561

EHD/jac

2

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to the following individuals and each advised that they had never heard of anyone in that area by the name of JAMES EARL RAY:

EARL HUDSON, 1436 Locust Street, Quincy, Illinois.
Mrs. LARY BAILEY, 1428 Locust Street.
MARY ELZIA, 1500 Locust Street.

On April 20, 1968, the following individuals who reside in the vicinity of where the street address of 439 Cherry Street would be located, advise that 439 Cherry Street is a non-existent address and that there has never been a house at that address. Each also advised that there has never been any house located at any 400 Cherry Street Address:

ALBERT THOMPSON, 529 Cherry Street,
RONNIE EAST, 537 Cherry Street.

On April 20, 1968, the following individuals who reside in the area of 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that he is unfamiliar to them. Each advised that there are no RAYs presently residing in the vicinity of 1439 Cherry Street:

JOHN CUPP, 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.
Mrs. DAVID AYERS, 1507 Cherry Street.
HERBERT HUMMEL, 1411 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.
KENNETH HILL, 1409 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.

KENNETH HILL further advised that at one time the house at 1439 Cherry Street did contain a RAY family, however, the RAYs who were very old and who resided at that house are presently dead.

On April 21, 1968, SCOTT KELLEY, 1132 Monroe Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he had resided at the Victor Hotel, 129 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, in 1955. He advised that after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that the face of RAY is familiar and that it is possible

Robert

SI 44-561

EHD/jac

3

that RAY did reside at the Victor Hotel during the same period of time that KELLEY would have resided there. He stated however that the Victor Hotel would be considered more or less a flop house and that the owner of the hotel had closed the hotel doors around 1960. He stated that it was his understanding that the former owner of the hotel VICTOR MITRY is now deceased.

SI 44-561

JCW:blw

1

The following investigation was conducted
by SA JIMMIE C. WHITAKER on May 28, 1968:

Mr. LEROY BAKER, age 53, R. R. #2, Equality, Illinois,
advised that the name WALTER ELSWORTH NOLAN was unknown to him.

Mrs. BAKER, advised that this name is unfamiliar
to her.

Mr. and Mrs. BAKER viewed a photograph of JAMES
EARL RAY and advised that this individual is unknown to them.

The BAKER's telephone number was observed to be
275-4478, Area Code 618.

Mr. BAKER advised that all of his neighbors have
telephones and that they are on a party line. He further
advised that no one has ever made a telephone call from
his telephone other than members of his family, to the
best of his knowledge.

44-561-619
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
JUN 3 1968
FBI - MEMPHIS
Hahed [signature]

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois, on April 29, 1968:

Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER, Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, advised that there are no latent fingerprints on file at his Detective Bureau or Identification Division. He advised that in any matters in the future until JAMES EARL RAY is apprehended all latent fingerprints obtained in any matter will be compared with those of JAMES EARL RAY.

Sergeant CECIL THORNHILL, Identification Officer, Adams County Sheriff's Office, advised that there are no latent fingerprints on file at his department at the present time that have not been identified. He advised that in the future any latent prints obtained until JAMES EARL RAY is apprehended will be compared with those of RAY.

44-561-620

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Robert [Signature]

SI 44-561

EHD:ras

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois, concerning ROBERT J. FRYE:

Mrs. ROBERT OSHLER, 623 North Fourth Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that MARIE MITCHELL has resided for a number of months at 625½ North Fourth Street. She stated that MARIE MITCHELL is employed as a waitress at the Lincoln Douglas Hotel. She also advised that MARIE MITCHELL, over the period of the months, had had several men residing with her at 625½ North Fourth Street. She viewed several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that RAY is not identical with any of the individuals who resided at that address. She advised that ROBERT J. FRYE is unknown to her personally and she has no idea as to whether the individual residing with MARIE MITCHELL was named ROBERT J. FRYE.

On April 29, 1968, MARIE MITCHELL, Manager, Hotel Lincoln Douglas Coffee Shop, Hotel Lincoln Douglas, Quincy, Illinois, advised that she is acquainted with ROBERT J. FRYE and that he had visited her at her address, 625½ North Fourth Street, for several weeks prior to April 29, 1968. She stated that he definitely is not identical with JAMES EARL RAY and that FRYE is the twin brother of PAUL FRYE who is the Business Manager for the Laborers Union at Quincy, Illinois. She advised that ROBERT J. FRYE is a nondescript who travels from town to town without holding a job for any period of time. She advised that she has known him for a number of years and that he definitely could not be identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 29, 1968, PAUL FRYE, Business Agent, Laborers Union, Quincy, Illinois, advised that ROBERT J. FRYE is his twin brother. He advised that ROBERT J. FRYE could in no way be mistaken for JAMES EARL RAY. He also advised that his brother is a heavy drinker and travels from place to place and that he knows his brother had been an acquaintance of MARIE MITCHELL recently in Quincy, Illinois.

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
MAY 1 1968
FBI - QUINCY
Robert J. Frye

44-561-621

5-31-68

SAC, (157-692)
(157-693)
(157-694)

SA CHARLES R. WOOD, JR.

LIASON WITH GROUPS SPONSORING INTEGRATION
RACIAL MATTERS

Current contacts with sources for which copies above are designated reveal no significant changes in the possibility of racial oriented problems in the Centralia area.

Dr. PERCY MAY (157-693) last contacted 5-31-68
LEWIS A. BAIN (157-692) last contacted by telephone
5-31-68, recuperating from symptoms suggesting
heart attack.
WILLIAM H. WALKER (157-694) last contacted 5-31-68.

These sources had no information of value in the following
investigative matters:

POCAM - RM
SI 157-855

DEMCON - RM
SI 157-791

MURKIN - OR
SI 44-561

GRW
1 - 157-692
1 - 157-693
1 - 157-694
1 - 157-855
1 - 157-791
1 - 44-561
1 - 157-298
1 - 157-183
(8)

Em

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

44-561-672

5/31/68

AIRTEL

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

UNSUBS (2);
The Bank of Alton,
Alton, Illinois,
7/13/67;
BR

Re Springfield airtel to the Director, Attention FBI Laboratory, dated 5/28/68, captioned as above, and Laboratory letter to Memphis dated 4/17/68 concerning examination PC-A5498-RX.

Being submitted under separate cover by AMSD Registered Mail are the following hairs and fibers identified in referenced Laboratory communication:

Q 29 and 30
Q 38 (2 slides)
Q 46
Q 26 (2 slides)
Q 24
Q 15 (4 slides)
Q 1 (2 slides)
Q 13 (2 slides)
Q 2

4 - Bureau (3 - 44-38861)
(1 - 91-27494)
(1 - Package) (AMSD) (RM)
(2) - Springfield
1 - 44-561
1 - 91-3699
2 - Memphis
TOR:jap
(8)

Airtel _____
Teletype _____
A.M. _____
A.M.S.D. _____
Spec. Del. _____
Reg. Mail _____
Registered _____

44-561-623

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 3 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Robert [Signature]

ME 44-1987

The slides listed on the previous page are contained on a total of 12 slide cartons which were obtained in connection with the MURKIN case.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the above submitted evidence with the items submitted in referenced Springfield airtel to determine if there is any similarity or identification between the two cases.

Upon completion of the examination, the Laboratory is requested to return the submitted items to the Memphis Division that they may be returned to the State Attorney General's Office for retention as evidence.

F B I

Date: 6-3-68

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

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

MURKIN, CR.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU MAY THIRTY ONE, LAST.

RESIDENCES TWELVE HUNDRED BLOCK FOURTH STREET, ALTON,
ILLINOIS, CANVASSED; PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND
ASSOCIATED DISPLAYED WITHOUT EFFECTING IDENTIFICATION.

INFORMANTS ALTON RA RECONTACTED AND CAN PROVIDE NO INFORMA-
TION INDICATING RAY IN ALTON, JULY, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN.
INFORMANT INSTRUCTED INITIATE DISCREET INQUIRY IN THIS REGARD.
SUSPECTS JOHN MC CLINTOCK AND WILLIE LEE CONTACTED; STATE
THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF RAY AND DENY ANY CONTACT BY HIM.

CHICAGO
AIRMAIL COPY SENT ST. LOUIS, AND MEMPHIS FOR INFORMATION.

1 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM) 1 - Chicago (AM)
1 - St. Louis (44-775)(AM)
② - Springfield (1: 44-561)(1: 91-3699)
RCH:blw
(5)

44-561-624
SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

Approved: C/D

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11:53P MPer [Signature]

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

353PM URGENT 6/3/68 MAL

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-

MURKIN, CR.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU MAY THIRTY ONE, LAST,
RESIDENCES TWELVE HUNDRED BLOCK FOURTH STREET, ALTON,
ILLINOIS, CANVASSED; PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND
ASSOCIATED DISPLAYED WITHOUT EFFECTING IDENTIFICATION.
INFORMANTS ALTON RA RECONTACTED AND CAN PROVIDE NO INFORMA-
TION INDICATING RAY IN ALTON, JULY, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN.
INFORMANT INSTRUCTED INITIATE DISCREET INQUIRY IN THIS REGARD.
SUSPECTS JOHN MC CLINTOCK AND WILLIE LEE CONTACTED; STATE
THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF RAY AND DENY AND CONTACT BY HIM.

AIRMAIL COPY SENT ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO MEMPHIS FOR INFORMATION.

END

SVW

FBI WASH DC

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

44-561-624

6/4/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -
SUBJECT: MURKIN -
COST DATA

Re Springfield airtel to Memphis 5/2/68.

The following are the cost data figures re this matter for the Springfield Division from 5/1/68 through 5/31/68.

HOURS

A. Special Agents

Regular Hours	852
VOT Hours	<u>63</u>
Total	915

B. Clerical Employees

Regular Hours	220
OT Hours	<u>8</u>
Total	228

MILEAGE

AGENTS ON CASE

Total: 2,300

56

Out-of-Ordinary Costs

\$250.00 - photographic work

2 - Memphis (44-1987)
② - Springfield (44-561)
WR/smr
(4) *pmr*

TC
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED *MT*
INDEXED
FILED *MT*

*Info. furnished SA H. Gilfe
Memphis via telephone 11:25
6/4/68 TC*

44-561-625

6/4/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -
SUBJECT: MURKIN -
COST DATA

Re Springfield airtel to Memphis 5/2/68.

The following are the cost data figures re this matter for the Springfield Division from 5/1/68 through 5/31/68.

HOURS

A. Special Agents

Regular Hours	852
VOT Hours	<u>63</u>
Total	915

B. Clerical Employees

Regular Hours	220
OT Hours	<u>8</u>
Total	228

MILEAGE

Total: 2,300

AGENTS ON CASE

56

Out-of-Ordinary Costs

\$250.00 - photographic work

2 - Memphis (44-1987)
② - Springfield (44-561)

WR/smr

(4)

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

44-561-625

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-561)

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM : ASAC SULLIVAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

SA RAYMOND F. BERNEKING, Decatur RA, on 5/31/68 telephonically alerted office to possible press inquiry re JAMES EARL RAY, who is widely sought as a fugitive in above case. BERNEKING advised that on Tuesday night, 5/28/68, a Presbyterian Church at Decatur, Ill., held a street dance for the underprivileged children, mainly Negroes, in the Decatur area. According to Information furnished him by Rev. GORDON C. STEWART, Assistant Pastor of the church, an unknown individual driving past the street dance stopped his car, left the lights on and walked over to observe the social function. He spoke to a few of the adults in attendance, observing that they were doing a wonderful thing in conducting the social activity for the Negro children. Rev. STEWART, curious as to his identity, asked the individual his name, and he was told it was "STEVERINO". The unknown individual was also observed by another individual other than Rev. STEWART, although neither could get a good look at him because it was 10 PM at night, dark, and the individual stood in the shadow cast by a tree between him and a dark blue street light, of the flouriscent type.

This matter was immediately reported to the Decatur Office but on Wednesday, the Rev. STEWART contacted SA BERNEKING and stated he and his associates had talked over the stranger who had visited the street dance and had decided he bore some faint resemblance to published photographs of JAMES EARLY RAY. Reverent STEWART observed several photographs in the Decatur RA made of JAMES EARL RAY at various stages in his career but could not identify him by face outline or hairline and only found that the individual seen by him had eyes which resembled the eyes drawn on RAY's bartender photograph by a Bureau artist. Rev. STEWART gave SA BERNEKING the name of one of the individuals who had the most contact with the unknown man, and SA BERNEKING was able to contact this individual telephonically on Wednesday night but could not arrange for an interview with him prior to Friday, 5/31/68, because the individual had other commitments.

SA BERNEKING stated he was confident from his interview personally of Rev. STEWART and telephonically with the other



2 - 44-561
DTS:vr
(2)

44-561-626
ASAC *[Signature]*

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

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>me</i>	FILED <i>rpm</i>
JUN 3 - 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

[Signature]

SI 44-561

individual that our fugitive was not in Decatur. However a member of Rev. STEWART's church is a reporter for the local Decatur newspaper, is aware of the information furnished by STEWART to the FBI, and has made inquiries as to whether or not RAY was in town. SA BERNEKING has contacted the editor of the Decatur Herald, explaining this matter to him indicating that it appears to be merely one of numerous investigative leads which we receive in this case from well-meaning individuals, which result in a blind alley. The editor observed to SA BERNEKING that the activities of the unknown individual were such as to make it highly questionable that he was, in fact, JAMES EARL RAY, and he saw no news value in this matter.

Subsequently, the office at Springfield was contacted by JOHN KANGILASKI, a reporter on the Chicago Daily News, Area Code 312 321-2121, which is the extension of the City Desk. KANGILASKI, who advised he was formerly in Cincinnati where he was acquainted with former SAC ED MASON, advised two Associated Press (AP) urgent releases had been made from Decatur to the effect that a minister and another individual had viewed photographs of a person who appeared at a street dance Tuesday night and felt the individual resembled RAY. He wondered if there was any substance to this and was advised we could not comment on that matter. He was thanked for his interest, however, and it was explained in general terms the manner in which Wanted Flyers and Identification Orders result in calls being made to Bureau offices on look-a-likes and persons bearing some resemblance. He advised he was well aware of this from prior contacts with the Bureau, and understood our position completely. Mr. KANGILASKI advised that according to the AP wire releases, allegedly several residents of Decatur have told authorities that they saw the man who resembled pictures of RAY on Tuesday night.

SA BERNEKING again contacted and advised AP representative had also contacted the Decatur PD, which had refused to comment on this matter. SA BERNEKING stated he was in the process of interviewing the second individual who saw the man; and in view of this circumstance, more additional current photographs of RAY have been dispatched to SA BERNEKING to help in eliminating the individual.

Mr. JAMES BLAND, Crime Records, SOG, was contacted and alerted to the above and advised when this matter had been resolved, a communication would be submitted. Mr. BLAND appreciated the notification since under the circumstances he felt the Bureau could well receive a press inquiry in this matter.

SAC (44-561)

6/3/68

ASAC SULLIVAN

MURKIN

SA RAYMOND F. BERNEKING, Decatur RA, on 5/31/68 telephonically alerted office to possible press inquiry re JAMES EARL RAY, who is widely sought as a fugitive in above case. BERNEKING advised that on Tuesday night, 5/28/68, a Presbyterian Church at Decatur, Ill., held a street dance for the underprivileged children, mainly Negroes, in the Decatur area. According to Information furnished him by Rev. GORDON C. STEWART, Assistant Pastor of the church, an unknown individual driving past the street dance stopped his car, left the lights on and walked over to observe the social function. He spoke to a few of the adults in attendance, observing that they were doing a wonderful thing in conducting the social activity for the Negro children. Rev. STEWART, curious as to his identity, asked the individual his name, and he was told it was "STEVERINO". The unknown individual was also observed by another individual other than Rev. STEWART, although neither could get a good look at him because it was 10 PM at night, dark, and the individual stood in the shadow cast by a tree between him and a dark blue street light, of the flouriscent type.

This matter was immediately reported to the Decatur Office but on Wednesday, the Rev. STEWART contacted SA BERNEKING and stated he and his associates had talked over the stranger who had visited the street dance and had decided he bore some faint resemblance to published photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. Reverent STEWART observed several photographs in the Decatur RA made of JAMES EARL RAY at various stages in his career but could not identify him by face outline or hairline and only found that the individual seen by him had eyes which resembled the eyes drawn on RAY's bartender photograph by a Bureau artist. Rev. STEWART gave SA BERNEKING the name of one of the individuals who had the most contact with the unknown man, and SA BERNEKING was able to contact this individual telephonically on Wednesday night but could not arrange for an interview with him prior to Friday, 5/31/68, because the individual had other commitments.

SA BERNEKING stated he was confident from his interview personally of Rev. STEWART and telephonically with the other

2 - 44-561
DTS:vr
(2)

44-561-626

SERIALIZED	1111
JUN 3 - 1968	
FBI - SP	
TC	

SI 44-561

individual that our fugitive was not in Decatur. However a member of Rev. STEWART's church is a reporter for the local Decatur newspaper, is aware of the information furnished by STEWART to the FBI, and has made inquiries as to whether or not RAY was in town. SA BERNEKING has contacted the editor of the Decatur Herald, explaining this matter to him indicating that it appears to be merely one of numerous investigative leads which we receive in this case from well-meaning individuals, which result in a blind alley. The editor observed to SA BERNEKING that the activities of the unknown individual were such as to make it highly questionable that he was, in fact, JAMES EARL RAY, and he saw no news value in this matter.

Subsequently, the office at Springfield was contacted by JOHN KANGILASKI, a reporter on the Chicago Daily News, Area Code 312 321-2121, which is the extension of the City Desk. KANGILASKI, who advised he was formerly in Cincinnati where he was acquainted with former SAC ED MASON, advised two Associated Press (AP) urgent releases had been made from Decatur to the effect that a minister and another individual had viewed photographs of a person who appeared at a street dance Tuesday night and felt the individual resembled RAY. He wondered if there was any substance to this and was advised we could not comment on that matter. He was thanked for his interest, however, and it was explained in general terms the manner in which Wanted Flyers and Identification Orders result in calls being made to Bureau offices on look-a-likes and persons bearing some resemblance. He advised he was well aware of this from prior contacts with the Bureau, and understood our position completely. Mr. KANGILASKI advised that according to the AP wire releases, allegedly several residents of Decatur have told authorities that they saw the man who resembled pictures of RAY on Tuesday night.

SA BERNEKING again contacted and advised AP representative had also contacted the Decatur PD, which had refused to comment on this matter. SA BERNEKING stated he was in the process of interviewing the second individual who saw the man; and in view of this circumstance, more additional current photographs of RAY have been dispatched to SA BERNEKING to help in eliminating the individual.

Mr. JAMES BLAND, Crime Records, SOG, was contacted and alerted to the above and advised when this matter had been resolved, a communication would be submitted. Mr. BLAND appreciated the notification since under the circumstances he felt the Bureau could well receive a press inquiry in this matter.

F B I

Date: 6/4/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN, CR.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE THREE LAST.

WILLIAM MEIER, UNCLE OF JAMES EARL RAY, ALTON, RECONTACTED,
STATES NONE OF FAMILY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND DOES
NOT KNOW JOHN EUGENE GAWRON.

IRIS STUART, ALTON, OBSERVED TWO MEN CROSSING BROWN
STREET, ALTON, ON JULY THIRTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN,
SHORTLY AFTER BANK OF ALTON ROBBED. BELIEVES SHE COULD
IDENTIFY EITHER BUT FAILED TO EFFECT IDENTIFICATION FROM
PHOTOS OF RAY AND ASSOCIATES.

OFFICERS AND FORMER OFFICERS, ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT,
WHO KNEW RAY INDICATE THEY FEEL IT WOULD HAVE COME TO THEIR
ATTENTION HAD HE RETURNED TO ALTON ANYTIME IN NINETEEN
SIXTY SEVEN BECAUSE ROBBERY WARRANT OUTSTANDING FOR HIM FOR
ROBBERY WEGENER'S FOODLINER, ALTON, IN NINETEEN FIFTY NINE.

① - Springfield (44-561)
1 - Chicago (44-1114)
1 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - St. Louis (44-775)
RCH/smr
(4)

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

Approved: C. J. [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent WA 9:38 P MPer [Signature]

44-561-627

F B I

Date: _____

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

Via _____
(Priority)

SI 44-561

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS
FOR INFORMATION.

P.

- 2 -

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

438PM URGENT 6/4/68 MAL

TO DIRECTOR, (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN, CR.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE THREE LAST.

WILLIAM MAHER, UNCLE OF JAMES EARL RAY, ALTON, RECONTACTED,
STATES NONE OF FAMILY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND DOES
NOT KNOW JOHN EUGENE GAWRON.

IRIS STUART, ALTON, OBSERVED TWO MEN CROSSING BROWN
STREET, ALTON, ON JULY THIRTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN,
SHORTLY AFTER BAND OF ALTON ROBBED. BELIEVES SHE COULD
IDENT EITHER BUT FAILED TO EFFECT IDENTIFICATION FROM
PHOTOS OF RAY AND ASSOCIATES.

OFFICERS AND FORMER OFFICERS, ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT,
WHO KNEW RAY INDICATE THEY FEEL IT WOULD HAVE COME TO THEIR
ATTENTION HAD HE RETURNED TO ALTON ANYTIME IN NINETEEN
SIXTY SEVEN BECAUSE ROBBERY WARRANT OUTSTANDING FOR HIM FOR
ROBBERY WEGENER'S FOODLINER, ALTON, IN NINETEEN FIFTY NINE.
END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

44-561-627

PAGE TWO

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS
FOR INFORMATION.

P.

END

NAU

FBI WASH DC

FBI MINNAPLS

FBI SPRNGFLD

921

PM URGENT 6-4-68 DJK

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY AND MINNEAPOLIS
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 2PP

MURKIN.

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE JUNE THREE, LAST, AND DALLAS
TELETYPE JUNE FOUR, INSTANT.

ON JUNE FOUR, INSTANT, CARL SLAYBACK, SHERIFF, MC LEAN COUNTY,
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS, ADVISED THAT PAUL OSSBORN BRIDGEMAN'S PARENTS
ARE DECEASED AND STATED AFTER CHECK OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS WITH
THE CREDIT BUREAU OF BLOOMINGTON THAT HIS FATHER, JAMES M. AND
MOTHER, IRENE BRIDGEMAN, WERE DIVORCED AND ON AUGUST EIGHTEEN,
NINETEEN SIXTY-TWO, JAMES M. BRIDGEMAN SHOT AND KILLED HIS WIFE,
IRENE BRIDGEMAN, AND THEN SHOT HIMSELF AT DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

SHERIFF SLAYBACK FURTHER ADVISED THAT PAUL BRIDGEMAN'S
FORMER MOTHER-IN-LAW, MARGIE BRICKER, RESIDES AT ONE NINE THREE
SUNNYSIDE COURT, BLOOMINGTON, AND THAT HIS FORMER WIFE, CAROLYN,
RESIDES BLOOMINGTON AND ON CONTACT THIS DATE ADVISED THAT SHE HAS
NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM BRIDGEMAN FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR YEARS.

END PAGE ONE

① - Springfield (44-561)

1 - Memphis (AM)

1 - Dallas (AM)

LFD:skrdjk

(3)

Approved TC

Sent

44-561-628
SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED ME
INDEXED.....
FILED ME
MP-9²¹
WA-9²³
KC-9³⁰

M Per OK

PAGE TWO

SHERIFF SLAYBACK ADVISED THAT WHEN BRIDGEMAN WAS LIVING IN BLOOMINGTON HIS CHILD WAS MADE A WARD OF THE COURT AND THAT HE, THE SHERIFF, WAS PROBATION OFFICER AT THE TIME, AND TOOK THE CHILD FROM THEM AND THE CHILD WAS PUT IN CUSTODY OF MRS. HOWARD DANIELS.

MRS. DANIELS INFORMED SHERIFF SLAYBACK DATE THAT BRIDGEMAN CONTACTED HER APPROXIMATELY THREE OR FOUR WEEKS AGO AND STATED THAT HE WAS IN KANSAS CITY, WAS REMARRIED. HE ALSO STATED THAT HIS WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME WAS STARR AND THAT HER FATHER IS A MANAGER OF A MOTEL OR HOTEL IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA; HOWEVER, MRS. DANIELS STATED SHE DID NOT RECALL WHICH.

KANSAS CITY ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY FATHER-IN-LAW OF BRIDGEMAN, HIS LAST NAME MAY BE (FNU) STARR, OPERATING A MOTEL OR HOTEL IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA AND INTERVIEW REGARDING BRIDGEMAN.

AIRMAIL COPIES MEMPHIS AND DALLAS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P.

END

RLT

FBI MINNAPLS

FBI MINNAPLS

FBI SPRNGFLD

921

PM URGENT 6-4-68 DJK
TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY AND MINNEAPOLIS
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 2PP

MURKIN.

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE JUNE THREE, LAST, AND DALLAS
TELETYPE JUNE FOUR, INSTANT.

ON JUNE FOUR, INSTANT, CARL SLAYBACK, SHERIFF, MC LEAN COUNTY,
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS, ADVISED THAT PAUL OSBORN BRIDGEMAN'S PARENTS
ARE DECEASED AND STATED AFTER CHECK OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS WITH
THE CREDIT BUREAU OF BLOOMINGTON THAT HIS FATHER, JAMES M. AND
MOTHER, IRENE BRIDGEMAN, WERE DIVORCED AND ON AUGUST EIGHTEEN,
NINETEEN SIXTY-TWO, JAMES M. BRIDGEMAN SHOT AND KILLED HIS WIFE,
IRENE BRIDGEMAN, AND THEN SHOT HIMSELF AT DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

SHERIFF SLAYBACK FURTHER ADVISED THAT PAUL BRIDGEMAN'S
FORMER MOTHER-IN-LAW, MARGIE BRICKER, RESIDES AT ONE NINE THREE
SUNNYSIDE COURT, BLOOMINGTON, AND THAT HIS FORMER WIFE, CAROLYN,
RESIDES BLOOMINGTON AND ON CONTACT THIS DATE ADVISED THAT SHE HAS
NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM BRIDGEMAN FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR YEARS.
END PAGE ONE

44-561-62A
SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
INDEXED.....
FILED.....

PAGE TWO

SHERIFF SLAYBACK ADVISED THAT WHEN BRIDGEMAN WAS LIVING IN BLOOMINGTON HIS CHILD WAS MADE A WARD OF THE COURT AND THAT HE, THE SHERIFF, WAS PROBATION OFFICER AT THE TIME, AND TOOK THE CHILD FROM THEM AND THE CHILD WAS PUT IN CUSTODY OF MRS. HOWARD DANIELS.

MRS. DANIELS INFORMED SHERIFF SLAYBACK DATE THAT BRIDGEMAN CONTACTED HER APPROXIMATELY THREE OR FOUR WEEKS AGO AND STATED THAT HE WAS IN KANSAS CITY, WAS REMARRIED. HE ALSO STATED THAT HIS WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME WAS STARR AND THAT HER FATHER IS A MANAGER OF A MOTEL OR HOTEL IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA; HOWEVER, MRS. DANIELS STATED SHE DID NOT RECALL WHICH.

KANSAS CITY ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY FATHER-IN-LAW OF BRIDGEMAN, HIS LAST NAME MAY BE (FNU) STARR, OPERATING A MOTEL OR HOTEL IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA AND INTERVIEW REGARDING BRIDGEMAN.

AIRMAIL COPIES MEMPHIS AND DALLAS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P.

END

RLT

FBI MINNAPLS

END

LLD

FBI WASH DC

END

DJB

FBI KAN CITY