

SL: 44-775

MR. BEZDEK stated he would have forgotten the entire matter had not he recently received a call from RUBY CARPENTER in which she stated she was attempting to get in touch with RAYNES and wanted to know if he had any info as to his whereabouts. MR. BEZDEK stated he did not have such information.

6-12-68

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, SPRINGFIELD  
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) P  
RE: MURKIN  
REURTEL, 5-3-68.

It was indicated that SL telephone number ME 1-7777 had been called on 3-4-68, by RUBY CARPENTER, step-mother of subject, from Quincy, Ill.

SL coverage of relatives also disclosed this number was called by subject's father, JERRY RAYNES.

SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON determined from MR. T. E. UMPHRES, Area Security Supervisor, SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO., SLMO, (PROTECT), that ME 1-7777 is issued to RAY BEZDEK doing business as RAY's SPORTING GOODS, 284 Lemay Ferry, SLMO.

On 6-7-68, RAY BEZDEK, 284 Lemay Ferry, SLMO, advised SA JOSEPH A. DUBJAK that he was unable to recognize the photo of subject as being anyone known to him and that the names JAMES EARL RAY, and aliases used by subject, were likewise unfamiliar to him.

The names JERRY RAYNES and RUBY CARPENTER did have a familiar ring and after some consideration he recalled that in connection with an automobile license application and title transfer service, which he operates in conjunction with his sporting goods business, he was contacted in either Oct. or Nov. 1967, by one JERRY RAYNES who desired to transfer the title of two automobiles to RUBY CARPENTER of Quincy, Ill. The transfer necessarily went through the Mo. State Motor Vehicle Office, Jefferson City and some problems arose in connection therewith which occasioned this receipt of several calls from both RAYNES and CARPENTER. He was of the opinion that RAYNES was the only individual who had ever appeared at his store and he was unable to recall ever having seen CARPENTER.

2 - Springfield  
1 - St. Louis  
HRD:wma  
(3)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*[Signature]*

44-561-672

SL: 44-775

MR. BEZDEK stated he would have forgotten the entire matter had not he recently received a call from RUBY CARPENTER in which she stated she was attempting to get in touch with RAYNES and wanted to know if he had any info as to his whereabouts. MR. BEZDEK stated he did not have such information.

F B I

Date: 6/13/68

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

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

MURKIN; RM

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU DATED JUNE TWELVE LAST.  
CANVASS OF LAUNDRIES AND DRY CLEANERS, ALTON AND VICINITY  
COMPLETED. NO IDENTIFICATION MADE JAMES EARL RAY OR ASSOCIATES.  
SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR - C AND SI ONE FIVE FIVE TWO - C RECONTACTED  
STATED NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED INDICATING RAY OBSERVED ALTON  
OR VICINITY BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY, NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN.

COPIES MAILED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

- 1 - Springfield (44-561)  
1 - Chicago (44-1114) (RM) (AM)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM) (AM)  
1 - St. Louis (44-775) (RM) (AM)

RCH/tlp

(4)

44-561-673

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

Approved: TC  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 5<sup>47</sup> P M Per ck

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

547 PM 6/13/68 URGENT CEK

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

MURKIN, RM

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU DATED JUNE TWELVE LAST.

CANVASS OF LAUNDRIES AND DRY CLEANERS, ALTON AND VICINITY  
COMPLETED. NO IDENTIFICATION MADE JAMES EARL RAY OR ASSOCIATES.  
SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR - C AND SI ONE FIVE FIVE TWO - C RECONTACTED  
STATED NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED INDICATING RAY OBSERVED ALTON  
OR VICINITY BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN.

COPIES MAILED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

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

44-361-673

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 23, 1968

RUBY SMITH CARPENTER was reinterviewed at her home, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, after she telephonically contacted SA DAVIS and requested to be reinterviewed by him.

Mrs. CARPENTER furnished to SA DAVIS the following written statement which she stated she had written to give as exact account as possible of her knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY. The statement was on both sides of a white piece of paper and read as follows.

"Mr. Elyon Davis - Since you were here the last time I have thought of some things I would like to make clear, things I did not think of at first. First I know nothing of the whereabouts of James Earl Ray. I have seen him perhaps 6 times, the last in 1958 I believe. 2nd I know nothing about any unlawful acts of any of the Ray, Rayns, Ryan family. The only one of the family I have been closely associated with is the father, James Gerald Ray, who was my husband for about 3 years. We were divorced the 9th of December 1963. 3rd I have always lived an honest and lawabiding life. I have worked hard and supported myself entirely for 16 years and have helped others a great deal besides. Everything I have or ever had has been from honest and respectful work. No one has ever given me anything except my father, who left me some money at his death. 4th I would not accept anything obtained dishonestly if it were offered to me, which was not.

"I have seen many errors printed about the family. The headlines of the Herald Whig stating Ray's father has long local criminal record. An article in Chicago Daily News by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson stating the children were adopted by various persons. None of the children were adopted unless [REDACTED] They also stated James Earl Ray was the product of a broken home. How could he be when he was 24 years old when the father left the home, and had been living away from home several years prior.

On 5/20/68 at Quincy, Illinois File # SI 44-561 -674  
by SA ELYON H. DAVIS /smr Date dictated 5/22/68

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.

SI 44-561

"This statement is written by me and is true and sincere.

"/s/ Ruby Smith Carpenter

"May 15, 1968"

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that her former husband, JAMES GERALD RAY, is still residing in Center, Missouri, under the name of JERRY RAYNS, and that he had his phone changed to an unlisted phone in order that he would not be bothered by crank calls. She stated that she is in contact occasionally with MELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of JAMES EARL RAY, and with Mrs. FRANK FULLER, the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that all members of the family tell her that they have no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts and will cooperate in the location of RAY.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she could not furnish any further information other than that previously furnished to the FBI.

-74-

6/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, Boston (157-644)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

Re Springfield airtel, 5/31/68; and Bureau  
airtel to Springfield, 5/29/68. *To Boston,*

On 6/12/68, ALFRED KWEISON, Shipping Manager, Savage Arms, Inc., Westfield, Massachusetts, advised SA THOMAS P. SULLIVAN the Stevens Model 94, 12 gauge, single barrel shotgun manufactured by that firm is one produced in great volume. As indicated in referenced airtel, no serial numbers are marked on the weapon and he said there is no way in which a recovered gun can be traced.

He discussed the problem with officials and engineers at the plant and it was their conclusion a recovered shotgun might be examined by the plant and a determination made that it was in fact one of their manufacture. However, there is no recording made of the component parts or assembly markings which might appear, and he said, regardless of the importance of a given inquiry, it was not possible to say when or to whom a gun was shipped.

3 - Bureau  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)  
1 - Boston  
TPS/sat  
(7)

44-561-675

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 15 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

EM

6/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, Boston (157-644)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

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3 - Bureau  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)  
1 - Boston  
TFS/sat  
(7)

44-561-675

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 15 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Roberts  
Hamer  
RHS

SI 44-561

TMS/ssj

1

On May 23, 1968, JAMES DRAKE, Modesta, Illinois, advised that he had been incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary for a period covering February, 1961, to November, 1963. He advised that during this time he had met and talked with on several occasions JAMES EARL RAY but that this was only for a short period of time on each occasion when they would be out in the yard working, as the two of them were in different cell blocks. DRAKE advised that when he read in the paper that JAMES EARL RAY was the main subject in this case, that he was extremely surprised. DRAKE in his minimum association with RAY did not think that RAY would be the type to do this sort of thing as RAY never gave any indication of a vicious nature. When questioned concerning any racial incidents which may have taken place at the Missouri State Penitentiary, DRAKE advised he does not recall any during his time there.

DRAKE advised that during the times that he had talked with RAY that their talk was mainly "small talk" and RAY never really mentioned his family with the exception that he had once mentioned that he had a sister during the course of a conversation but gave no further details. DRAKE firmly emphasized that he has absolutely no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY's present location or whereabouts. He further advised that should he come into possession of any information, he would definitely cooperate with the FBI and inform them immediately. He advised that he is currently about to be taken off probation and he did not want to do anything to stop this.

44-561-676

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 15 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

EM

F B I

Date: 6/17/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. 1)

MURKIN

RE SITEL TO BUREAU JUNE FOURTEEN, LAST.

BANKS IN GREATER ALTON AREA CONVAISED AND INFORMATION SOLICITED CONCERNING NEW ACCOUNTS OPENED SUBSEQUENT TO JULY THIRTEEN, LAST, WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINE IF RAY POSSIBLY DEPOSITED MONEYS OR FUNDS IN ANY ALTON AREA BANK SUBSEQUENT TO ROBBERY THE BANK OF ALTON. PHOTOS OF RAY AND ASSOCIATES DISPLAYED TO THOSE BANKS CONTACTED TODAY WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

INSTRUCTIONS SENT NEIGHBORING OFFICES WITH REGARD TO SURVEY OF LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS.

AM COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

- 1 - Springfield (44-561)
- 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
- 1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)

RCH:mpb  
(4) *mpb*

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

*Post*  
*Handwritten initials*

Approved: *ENS* Sent 4:52/P M Per *2 L*  
Special Agent in Charge

*44-561-677*

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

452PM URGENT 6-17-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. 1)

MURKIN

RE SITEL TO BUREAU JUNE FOURTEEN, LAST.

BANKS IN GREATER ALTON AREA CONVAISED AND INFORMATION  
SOLICITED CONCERNING NEW ACCOUNTS OPENED SUBSEQUENT TO JULY  
THIRTEEN, LAST, WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINE IF RAY POSSIBLY DEPOSITED  
MONEYS OR FUNDS IN ANY ALTON AREA BANK SUBSEQUENT  
TO ROBBERY THE BANK OF ALTON. PHOTOS OF RAY AND ASSOCIATES  
DISPLAYED TO THOSE BANKS CONTACTED TODAY WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

INSTRUCTIONS SENT NEIGHBORING OFFICES WITH REGARD  
TO SURVEY OF LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS.

AM COPIES SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

END

?CAB

FBI WASH DC

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

44-561-677

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-561)

FROM : SAC

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 6-17-68

Section Chief CLEMENT MC GOWAN, 12:15 p.m., June 14, 1968, telephonically contacted me and advised that inquiry concerning laundry marks at laundry and dry cleaning establishments with regard to the clothing obtained in the Alton Bank Robbery should be expanded to cover, particularly St. Louis and neighboring offices.

Mr. MC GOWAN again emphasized that it is most important to determine the source of funds in possession of JAMES EARL RAY.

Above information telephonically furnished to SA HAINES, same date.

TC:VLS  
1

*Leads set out  
by airtel 6/17/68.  
R*

44-561-678

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

① Haines  
② Roberts



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 6/17/68

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

TO: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Springfield 6/14/68.

On instruction of the Bureau, receiving offices are instructed to canvass laundry and dry cleaning establishments and display photos of JAMES EARL RAY and associates to determine if they are known in contacted establishments and establish laundry and dry cleaning marks assigned to them. Furnish results of contact to the Springfield and Memphis Divisions.

- 2 - Chicago (44-1114)
- 2 - St. Louis (44-775)
- 2 - Indianapolis
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- ② - Springfield (44-561)

RCR:mpb

(10) *mpb*

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 6/17/68

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

TO: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Springfield 6/14/68.

On instruction of the Bureau, receiving offices are instructed to canvass laundry and dry cleaning establishments and display photos of JAMES EARL RAY and associates to determine if they are known in contacted establishments and establish laundry and dry cleaning marks assigned to them. Furnish results of contact to the Springfield and Memphis Divisions.

- 2 - Chicago (44-1114)
- 2 - St. Louis (44-775)
- 2 - Indianapolis
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Springfield (44-561)

RCH:mpb

(10) *mpb*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *W. H. H.*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *W. H. H.*

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

*44-561-679*

F B I

Date: 6/18/68

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

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL JUNE SEVENTEEN LAST AND LOUISVILLE  
AIRTEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWELVE LAST.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY DISPLAYED TO CURRENT AND FORMER  
OWNERS MEN'S STYLE SHOP, MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY, WITH NEGATIVE  
RESULTS.

CANVASS OF BANKS ALTON AND VICINITY CONTINUING IN EFFORT  
TO LOCATE ANY ACCOUNTS POSSIBLY UTILIZED BY RAY. RESULTS  
OF THESE CONTACTS AND DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AT AREA BANKS  
UNPRODUCTIVE TO DATE.

COPIES MAILED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

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

SEARCHED.....  
SERIALIZED..... *ssj*  
INDEXED.....  
FILED..... *ssj*

44-561-680

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 2:07 P. M.

Per *[Signature]*

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

207ND

PM URGENT 6-18-68 JLS

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

MURKIN

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL JUNE SEVENTEEN LAST AND LOUISVILLE  
AIRTEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWELVE LAST.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY DISPLAYED TO CURRENT AND FORMER  
OWNERS MEN'S STYLE SHOP, MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY, WITH NEGATIVE  
RESULTS.

CANVASS OF BANKS ALTON AND VICINITY CONTINUING IN EFFORT  
TO LOCATE ANY ACCOUNTS POSSIBLY UTILIZED BY RAY. RESULTS  
OF THESE CONTACTS AND DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AT AREA BANKS  
INPRODUCTIVE TO DATE.

COPIES MAILED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

END

JTM

FBI WASH DC

P

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

44-361-688

F B I

Date: 6/18/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
(ATTN: NCIC)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (91-0) -P-

SUBJECT: JOHN MASON  
POSSIBLE BR

Re Springfield airtel to Director dated 5/27/68.

CAROLYN WOOD, clerk, Citizens Savings and Loan,  
East Alton, Illinois, advised on 6/14/68 the captioned  
individual made a \$1700 deposit into his account and  
furnished their company with his Social Security number  
[REDACTED]

The serial numbers are as follows all of which are  
Federal Reserve Notes:

\$100 dollar bills

	Federal Reserve Notes	Series	1950
G01254623A			1950D
D03579305A			1950D
H04209423A			1950D
G11136332A			1934C
H01687865A			1950A
H00368365A			1934G
HC4883576A			1950D
H00687490A			1934D
L14003352A			1950E
H00394236A			1950
J00005300			1963A

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (INFO)
- 1 - St. Louis (INFO)
- ④ - Springfield (1:91-0)
- (1:91-3699) (1:91-3992)
- ④ 44-561)

FEC/jac  
(9) *jac*

SEARCHED.....*Def*  
SERIALIZED.....*Def*  
INDEXED.....*Def*  
FILED.....*Def*

*44-561-681*

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

SI 91-0

H02740223A  
K01943263A

1950B

\$50 dollar bills

H03370805A  
I00375144A  
D01096294A

1950D  
1950  
1928J

\$20 dollar bills

H03665370A  
G96342770D  
I31507280A  
J09054190A  
G25056374C  
G51989693C  
H03342724A  
G20032765A  
E06292681A  
A00598749A  
H69571619A  
J20819072A

1963  
1950B  
1950C  
1963A  
1950C  
1950C  
1963A  
1963A  
1963A  
1963  
1950C  
1963A

\$10 dollar bills

H59817187B

1950D

LEAD

NCIC

Compare these serial numbers with bait money entered into NCIC taken in bank robberies and burglaries. Reply should be expedited in view of the fact that money is being held by loan company awaiting your reply.

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

416PM URGENT 6/19/68 MAL

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

MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE EIGHTEEN LAST, BOSTON AIRTEL  
TO BUREAU JUNE THIRTEEN LAST, AND ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO SI  
JUNE THIRTEEN LAST.

BOSTON ADVISES CONTACT WITH SAVAGE ARMS, INC., DISCLOSED  
THERE IS NO WAY TO TRACE WEAPON SIMILAR TO ONE RECOVERED  
AFTER BANK OF ALTON ROBBERY.

ST. LOUIS ADVISED JOHN EUGENE GAWRON HAS REPEATEDLY  
DENIED ANY CONTACT WITH JAMES EARL RAY SUBSEQUENT TO HIS  
ESCAPE FROM MSP, BUT ST. LOUIS CONTEMPLATES REINTERVIEW OF  
GAWRON IN VIEW RAY'S APPREHENSION.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C ADVISED TODAY HE DEVELOPED  
INFORMATION RICHARD CONVINGTON, SUSPECT IN BANK OF ALTON  
ROBBERY, HARBORED UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL AT HIS RESIDENCE ON  
FOURTH STREET, ALTON, FOR APPROXIMATELY SEVEN DAYS JULY,  
SIXTYSEVEN; LATER ALLEGED TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO BURN CLOTHING  
END PAGE

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

44-361-682

PAGE TWO

AND DISPOSE OF UNIDENTIFIED WEAPON. INFORMANT INSTRUCTED  
TO FOLLOW UP INFORMATION VIGOROUSLY AND REPORT RESULTS  
PROMPTLY.

COPIES MAILED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

END

JTM

FBI WASH DC

F B I

Date: 6/19/68

PLAINTEXT

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN

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TO BUREAU JUNE THIRTEEN LAST, AND ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO SI  
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ESCAPE FROM MSP, BUT ST. LOUIS CONTEMPLATES REINTERVIEW OF  
GAWRON IN VIEW RAY'S APPREHENSION.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C ADVISED TODAY HE DEVELOPED  
INFORMATION RICHARD COVINGTON, SUSPECT IN BANK OF ALTON  
ROBBERY, HARBORED UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL AT HIS RESIDENCE ON  
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SIXTYSEVEN; LATER ALLEGED TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO BURN CLOTHING

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

(4)

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

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

Sent 4:16 PM

44-561-682  
Per \_\_\_\_\_

F B I

Date:

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

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

**SI 44-561**

**PAGE TWO**

**AND DISPOSE OF UNIDENTIFIED WEAPON. INFORMANT INSTRUCTED  
TO FOLLOW UP INFORMATION VIGOROUSLY AND REPORT RESULTS  
PROMPTLY.**

**COPIES MAILED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.**

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

6-20-68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

ReSIairtel, 6-17-68.

Enclosed for Chicago and Indianapolis are two copies each of Springfield airtel to Boston dated 5-31-68 setting forth physical evidence recovered re the Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois, bank robbery, 7-13-67, to aid in canvassing of laundry and dry cleaning establishments.

2 - Chicago (44-1114)(Enc.-2)  
2 - Indianapolis (Enc.-2)  
2 - Springfield (1: 44-561)  
(1: 91-3699)

WR:blw  
(6)

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

*Relats*

44-561-682

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

530 PM 6/21/68 URGENT CEK

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

MURKIN.

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTY LAST.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C TO DATE UNABLE TO VERIFY  
RESIDENCE HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON AT FOURTH STREET ALTON  
ABOUT TIME OF BR AT BANK OF ALTON. INFORMANT CONTINUING  
INQUIRY INSTANT MATTER.

HAZEL DREW, MOTHER OF CAROLYN WYATT, STATES CAROLYN  
NOT IN ALTON AT THIS TIME. DUE TO RETURN EARLY NEXT WEEK.  
WILL BE INTERVIEWED AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

MAIL COPY TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, AND ST. LOUIS.

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

44-561-684  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED *Am*  
INDEXED  
FILED

*Roberts*

*WJ*  
*llg*

F B I

Date: 6/21/68

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

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTY LAST.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C TO DATE UNABLE TO VERIFY  
RESIDENCE HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON AT FOURTH STREET ALTON  
ABOUT TIME OF BR AT BANK OF ALTON. INFORMANT CONTINUING  
INQUIRY INSTANT MATTER.

HAZEL DREW, MOTHER OF CAROLYN WYATT, STATES CAROLYN  
NOT IN ALTON AT THIS TIME. DUE TO RETURN EARLY NEXT WEEK.  
WILL BE INTERVIEWED AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

MAIL COPY TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, AND ST. LOUIS.

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

(4)  
*ssj*

44-561-684  
SEARCHED.....  
SERIALIZED *PM*  
INDEXED.....  
FILED *PM*

Approved: *jc* Sent 5<sup>30</sup> P M Per *ck*  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 6/20/68

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

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

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE NINETEEN LAST.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C ADVISED TODAY THAT WOMAN WHO SAW UNKNOWN MAN AT APARTMENT OF HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON IS CAROLYN WYATT. WYATT HAS BEEN VICTIM OF WSTA CASE INVESTIGATED BY SI DIVISION. EFFORTS TO LOCATE WYATT TO DATE UNSUCCESSFUL.

COVINGTON DESCRIBED WMA, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, ONE SIX ZERO POUNDS, BROWN HAIR AND BLUE EYES, AGE THIRTY. COVINGTON MEETS DESCRIPTION OF SHOTGUN MAN IN ROBBERY, THE BANK OF ALTON.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING INTO THIS ASPECT AND SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C WORKING FULL TIME TO DEVELOP INFORMATION.

COPIES MAILED TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, ST. LOUIS.

- ① - Springfield (44-561)  
1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)

RCH/smr

(4)

44-561-685  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED PM  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED PM

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

6 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>P</sub>

M

Per

ch

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

611 PM 6/20/68 URGENT CEK

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE NINETEEN LAST.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C ADVISED TODAY THAT WOMAN WHO SAW UNKNOWN MAN AT APARTMENT OF HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON IS CAROLYN WYATT. WYATT HAS BEEN VICTIM OF WSTA CASE INVESTIGATED BY SI DIVISION. EFFORTS TO LOCATE WYATT TO DATE UNSUCCESSFUL.

COVINGTON DESCRIBED WMA, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, ONE SIX ZERO POUNDS, BROWN HAIR AND BLUE EYES, AGE THIRTY. COVINGTON MEETS DESCRIPTION OF SHOTGUN MAN IN ROBBERY, BANK OF ALTON.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING INTO THIS ASPECT AND SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C WORKING FULL TIME TO DEVELOP INFORMATION.

COPIES MAILED TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, ST. LOUIS.

END

BGM

FBI WASH DC

44-561-685  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED PM  
INDEXED  
FILED PM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-561)

DATE: 6/19/68

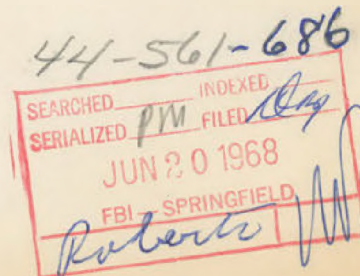
FROM : SA C. R. CHEATHAM

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

Re SI teletype to Bu 5/9/68

On 5/13/68 Mrs. J. M. MYRICK, Owner of Caseyville Nursing Home, advised that JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN is unknown to her and she cannot recall ever receiving any correspondence from him. Mrs. MYRICK stated that AUSTIN may have written a letter asking that she be a sponsor and seeking employment, that several persons in penal institutions have done so in the past. She stated that she has not acted as a sponsor or given employment to such persons.

1 - (44-561)  
crc:



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 6/24/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP. 1)

MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYONE, LAST.

HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON ARRESTED DURING PAST WEEKEND IN  
POSSESSION OF STOLEN CUB CADET TRACTOR. INCARCERATED MACOUPIN  
COUNTY JAIL. WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR - C REPORTS NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS  
ON INQUIRIES BUT CONTINUING EFFORTS.

CAROLYN WYATT HAS NOT RETURNED ALTON TO DATE.

AM COPIES FURNISHED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

① Springfield (44-561)  
1 - Chicago (44-1114) (AM)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)  
1 - St. Louis (44-775) (AM)  
RCH:mpb

(4) mpb

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

44-561-687

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

Sent 4:01 P M

Per [Signature]

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

401PM URGENT 6-24-68 DMJ

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (PP.1)

MURKIN

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYONE, LAST.

HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON ARRESTED DURING PAST WEEKEND IN  
POSSESSION OF STOLEN CUB CADET TRACTOR. INCARCERATED MACOUPIN  
COUNTY JAIL. WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR - C REPORTS NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS  
ON INQUIRIES BUT CONTINUING EFFORTS.

CAROLYN WYATT HAS NOT RETURNED ALTON TO DATE.

AM COPIES FURNISHED CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS. P.

END

EXJ

FBI WASH DC

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

44-561-687

F B I

Date: 6/25/68

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

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYFOUR LAST.

CAROLYN WYATT INTERVIEWED. STATES SHE KNOWS HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON; THAT HE IS ASSOCIATE OF FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW JOHN MC CLINTOCK, ALSO SUSPECT IN BR; THAT SHE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH HIM AND NOT AWARE HE EVER LIVED FOURTH STREET, ALTON. PHOTOS JAMES EARL RAY DISPLAYED WITHOUT EFFECTING IDENTIFICATION.

MACOUPIN COUNTY SHERIFF ELVIN SAWYER ADVISED COVINGTON HAS NOT BEEN ARRESTED TO DATE BUT NECESSARY PAPERS BEING ISSUED FOR ARREST ON THEFT CHARGES. SHERIFF WILL ADVISE IF AND WHEN COVINGTON IN CUSTODY THAT COUNTY IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT BE INTERVIEWED BY BUAGENTS.

MAIL COPY SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

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

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

Approved: IC  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 5:25 M Per [Signature]

44-561-688

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

P523PM URGENT 6-25-68 DJK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 1P

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYFOUR LAST.

CAROLYN WYATT INTERVIEWED. STATES SHE KNOWS HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON; THAT HE IS ASSOCIATE OF FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW JOHN MC CLINTOCK, ALSO SUSPECT IN BR; THAT SHE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH HIM AND NOT AWARE HE EVER LIVED FOURTH STREET, ALTON. PHOTOS JAMES EARL RAY DISPLAYED WITHOUT EFFECTING IDENTIFICATION.

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MAIL COPY SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

END

JTM

FBI WASH DC

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

44-561-688

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-561) DATE: 6-26-68

FROM : SAC

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtel, 6-17-68, which instructed offices to canvass laundry and drycleaning establishments and display photos of JAMES EARL RAY and RAY's associates to determine if they are known in contacted establishments and establish laundry and drycleaning marks assigned to them.

I telephonically contacted Assistant Director IVAN CONRAD to determine if when the evidence obtained in the Alton Bank Robbery was submitted to the Laboratory for comparison with physical evidence found in the MURKIN case in Memphis had they photographed the laundry marks appearing in the trouser pockets right rear and right front and the laundry marks in the collar of the shirt. Mr. CONRAD advised he would determine if this had been done and advise Springfield. He also stated that if photographs of the laundry markings had not been made that it could be done if Springfield would re-submit the pertinent items.

The purpose in determining this is to consider having the laundry marks reproduced on paper with an explanatory text which could be disseminated to laundry and drycleaning establishments in Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Memphis and Springfield Divisions. The recipients of the letter would be instructed to advise the pertinent FBI office if the laundry marking is identical with that particular establishment or if the recipients know something about the identity of the marking. Upon receiving such advice photographs of RAY and his associates could be displayed to that particular establishment in an effort to determine if the laundry or drycleaning marks were assigned to RAY or any of his associates.

Upon advice from Mr. CONRAD, we should prepare a text to include on the paper reproduction of the laundry marks and request the Bureau to duplicate them in quantity. It would be necessary to determine from each of the above offices the number which would be needed in each division for complete dissemination.

TC:VLS  
2

*Mr. Conrad  
advised 6/26/68  
FBI lab. had not  
photographed laundry  
marks. SI should  
attempt to photo  
if not successful  
to get for  
HSC —*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 26 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Robert's*

*44-561-689*

FILE (44-561)

6-26-68

SAC

MURKIN

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TC:VLS  
2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 26 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

TC

44-561-689

FBI SPRINGFIELD

FBI WASH DC

530PM URGENT 6/26/68 CAP  
TO SPRINGFIELD 44-561  
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYFIVE  
LAST.

IN VIEW OF FACT COVINGTON CONSIDERED A SUSPECT  
IN ALTON BANK ROBBERY, YOU SHOULD INSTITUTE YOUR OWN  
EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HIM. YOU ARE REMINDED  
THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THIS BANK ROBBERY MUST BE IMMEDIATELY  
INVESTIGATED TO DETERMINE IF SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY IS  
IMPLICATED. KEEP BUREAU FULLY ADVISED OF PERTINENT  
DEVELOPMENTS. AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

RND

KXE

FBI SPRINGFIELD

P

*Haines advised  
4:58 pm 6/26/68  
TC*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 26 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Haines* *Ret*

44-561-690

FBI SPRNGFLD

FBI WASH DC

530PM URGENT 6/26/68 CAB  
TO SPRINGFIELD 44-561  
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYFIVE  
LAST.

IN VIEW OF FACT COVINGTON CONSIDERED A SUSPECT  
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THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THIS BANK ROBBERY MUST BE IMMEDIATELY  
INVESTIGATED TO DETERMINE IF SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY IS  
IMPLICATED. KEEP BUREAU FULLY ADVISED OF PERTINENT  
DEVELOPMENTS. AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

KXE

FBI SPRNGFLD

P

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 26 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

TC

44-561-690

F B I

Date: 6/26/68

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

RE SI TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYFIVE LAST.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR DASH C TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH PERSONS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO VERIFY RESIDENCE OF HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON ON FOURTH STREET, ALTON, JULY, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN. STATED HE IS CERTAIN COVINGTON LIVED THERE AND CONTINUING EFFORTS TO VERIFY.

COVINGTON NOT YET ARRESTED BY MACOUPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

MAIL COPY SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

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

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

Approved: IC  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 535 M Per SSJ

44-561-691

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

525PM URGENT 6-26-68 DJK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 1P

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL TO BUREAU JUNE TWENTYFIVE LAST.

ST ONE SIX ONE FOUR - C TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED HE HAS BEEN  
UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH PERSONS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO VERIFY  
RESIDENCE OF HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON ON FOURTH STREET, ALTON,  
JULY, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN. STATED HE IS CERTAIN COVINGTON LIVED  
THERE AND CONTINUING EFFORTS TO VERIFY.

COVINGTON NOT YET ARRESTED BY MACOUPIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE.

MAIL COPY SENT CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND ST. LOUIS.

END

JTM

FBI WASH DC

K

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

44-561-691

F B I

Date: 6/26/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtel to Chicago dated  
6/17/68.

Being transmitted under separate cover by registered mail are the following items of clothing previously submitted by Springfield under caption, "Unsubs (2); The Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois, 7/13/67"; Springfield file 91-3699, Bufile 91-27506.

Man's Van Heusen Vanguard shirt,  
Item Q3 (PC-A1071 JV).

Man's brown trousers, Item Q6  
(PC-A1071 JV).

The above-named shirt bears laundry marks in collar; the trousers bear laundry marks on right front and rear pockets.

The laboratory is requested to photograph these laundry marks for suitable reproduction in circular letter, the preparation of which is being requested of the Mechanical Section by this airtel, and the text of which is set out below.

The above-described evidence is being submitted and the preparation of circular letter requested, in order to fully explore laundry and dry cleaning marks on the

3 - Bureau (44-38861)  
1 - Package (RM)  
1 - Chicago (44-1114) (Info)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)  
1 - St. Louis (44-775) (Info)

1 - Indianapolis (44- ) (Info)  
2 - Springfield (44-561) (Info)  
RCH:jah  
(10)  
jah

INDEXED  
FILED

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

SI 44-561

submitted items, since allegations have been made by JOSEPH EUGENE GAWRON, St. Louis, Missouri, which indicate JAMES EARL RAY cased The Bank of Alton in 1959 and may have been involved in bank robbery at that bank July 13, 1967. The Bureau is vitally interested in ascertaining source of RAY's funds since his escape from MSP, April, 1967.

The Mechanical Section is requested to prepare, upon receipt of photographic facsimiles from the Photographic Section, the following circular letter:

"To all Laundries and Dry Cleaning Establishments

On July 13, 1967, two unknown males, wearing stocking masks, robbed The Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois, at gunpoint and obtained over \$27,000. Investigation of this crime led to the recovery of a white Van Heusen Vanguard shirt and a pair of tan trousers among other items.

The shirt bears laundry marks and the trousers dry cleaning symbols, facsimiles of which appear below. The laundry marks appear on the shirt collar, the dry cleaning symbols appear on the front and rear pockets on the right side of the trousers.

(Facsimile photos inserted at this point)

If, after review of the above facsimiles, you feel you have information which would be of assistance to the Bureau, please call the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which is in the front page of your telephone directory."

Offices receiving information copies of this airtel are instructed to hold leads requested in referenced airtel in abeyance pending receipt of above circular letter.

The Laboratory is requested to send direct to Chicago 1800 copies, to Indianapolis 1800 copies, and to St. Louis 700 copies of the prepared circular letter.

SI 44-561

The Laboratory is requested to return submitted items upon completion of requested action.

F B I

Date: 6/26/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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Man's Van Heusen Vanguard shirt,  
Item Q3 (PC-A1071 JV).

Man's brown trousers, Item Q6  
(PC-A1071 JV).

2 XEROX  
COPIES MADE  
7-18  
DATE INITIALS

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1 - Package (RM)  
1 - Chicago (44-1114) (Info)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)  
1 - St. Louis (44-775) (Info)

1 - Indianapolis (44- ) (Info)  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
RCH:jah  
(10)

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

ONE XEROX  
COPY MADE  
6/27  
DATE

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

SI 44-561

submitted items, since allegations have been made by JOSEPH EUGENE GAWRON, St. Louis, Missouri, which indicate JAMES EARL RAY cased The Bank of Alton in 1959 and may have been involved in bank robbery at that bank July 13, 1967. The Bureau is vitally interested in ascertaining source of RAY's funds since his escape from MSP, April, 1967.

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(Facsimile photos inserted at this point)

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Offices receiving information copies of this airtel are instructed to hold leads requested in referenced airtel in abeyance pending receipt of above circular letter.

The Laboratory is requested to send direct to Chicago 1800 copies, to Indianapolis 1800 copies, and to St. Louis 700 copies of the prepared circular letter.

SI 44-561

The Laboratory is requested to return submitted items upon completion of requested action.

F B I

Date: 6/25/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

For information of Chicago and Springfield, on 5/17/68, the Los Angeles Times had contact with one BOB (LNU), who said he had information concerning what actually had taken place in connection with the death of Dr. KING. The following is a summary of the allegations made by BOB:

1. The day before the shooting, RAY was picked up in Athens, Alabama, and was taken to Memphis.

2. He registered in a rooming house. Another man registered as SAMUEL LEWIS. LEWIS was supposed to be the backup man and kill KING at the rally that night if RAY missed his chance on the balcony.

3. After shooting KING, RAY walked two or three blocks to the getaway car, accompanied by a girl and a guy. The car was a new blue Buick, with Alabama license plates. The first digits of the license are believed to be one four. The car was owned and driven by EDDIE WILBURN of Huntsville, Alabama. It is equipped with a police radio. The second man stayed overnight and then took an early bus to Knoxville.

- 3 - Bureau - By Special Agent
- 2 - Chicago - By Special Agent
- ② - Springfield - By Special Agent
- 1 - Los Angeles

FGK/gja  
 (8)

44-561-693

as marked

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 27 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*MVB lead*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

*Car @ Robert*

*expedite*

LA 44-1574

4. RAY, two girls and a child were driven from Memphis by WILBURN in the blue Buick. They went to Kansas City and the trip took six and one half hours. The girls, the child, and WILBURN are all from Huntsville, Alabama.

5. In Kansas City, RAY stayed overnight at a home, described as a small gray, shingled, one bedroom house about three miles from central Kansas City.

6. At dusk the next day, 4/5/68, RAY was flown to Belle Glade, Florida in a private plane. The plane took off from a private field, also used as a training field for the military. RAY arrived early 4/6/68.

7. The plane in which RAY was flown is owned by a WILLIAM PIERCE, a wealthy man who owns or operates an airport in Belle Glade, and once owned a contracting company in Cuba. It is not known if PIERCE flew the plane. PIERCE also owns a motel in Belle Glade and cottages in nearby Okeechobee, or maybe on nearby Lake Okeechobee. PIERCE is said to be a Klu Klux Klan member.

8. RAY is believed to have stayed in the motel or in a cottage. He may still be there or in Cuba.

9. On 4/11/68 RAY boarded a yacht, probably a charter boat in Key West, Florida. The boat was owned by BEN THOMPSON. A ~~BEN THOMPSON~~ of Miami owns three fishing boats.

10. PIERCE often flies his own private plane to New Orleans and is supposed to know District Attorney JIM GARRISON.

11. PIERCE and WILBURN are said to be related.

12. WILBURN is possibly a Veterans of Foreign Wars club member in Huntsville, Alabama.

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13. The rifle was supposedly left in the furnace of a Memphis rooming house, and is believed still there. This is believed to refer the rifle of the backup man.

14. RAY is now wearing bifocals.

15. The white Mustang belonging to RAY was not in Memphis on the day of the KING slaying, and he did not escape in it. Presumably it never left Georgia in April.

16. On the day of the killing, 4/4/68, RAY made a telephone call from Memphis to Belle Glade and it is believed to have been made from a bus station.

17. In the weeks before the killing, RAY stayed somewhere in Belle Glade, Florida.

18. WILBURN is supposed to have been paid off in Reno. The night before the killing when somebody hit a keno ticket for \$25,000 in Cal-Neva Lodge, which was rigged to pass the money. The rigging was done with the knowledge of ~~CHARLIE CATE~~, 6880 Pebble Beach Drive, Reno, California, who runs a shift at the Cal-Neva. ~~JACK STRUGIS~~ of St. Louis, who formerly worked in a bar on Second Street, Reno, Nevada, came into a lot of money and allegedly was a contact in this operation also.

19. RAY stayed in the Clark Hotel, Room 700, on 4/17-18/68.

20. ~~LAMONT WHITE~~, who works for Western Union, Los Angeles, sent money to Louisiana and bought two pistols. The pistols really went to ~~FRANK BRICKLEY~~ of Chatanocga, Tennessee, who was formerly in prison with RAY. BRICKLEY is allegedly in Los Angeles.

21. HAROLD's Cafe, 555 South Main Street, Los Angeles is a "queer" bar where RAY formerly worked and a guy named CONNIE, who works there, allegedly knows RAY.

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22. WILLIE SHEA, who once worked the Top Rail Bar, Seventh and Alvarado Streets, Los Angeles, was allegedly formerly married to RAY. SHEA is from St. Louis and now lives in North Hollywood, California. SHEA's mother lives in Compton, California. SHEA is married and now lives at 812 South Westlake Avenue, Los Angeles, with a man who owns a bar. SHEA is blond, about 38 years of age.

23. A telephone credit card supposedly used by RAY was issued to Ridell Catering, U. S. Rubber Company, Detroit, either in the name of FNU RIDELL or ROBERT BRICKELY. RIDELL reportedly lives in Harper Woods, Michigan, ~~Calis~~ on credit card reportedly made from Memphis to Belle Glade.

24. SAMUEL LEWIS, the second man in the rooming house, was discharged in 1963 from the penitentiary at Milan, Michigan, and previously served time in Chillicothe and Terre Haute. The Los Angeles Times reported the Warden at Milan had no record of LEWIS.

25. LEWIS took a bus from Knoxville to Los Angeles on 4/7/68, and travelled en route through Memphis and El Paso.

26. The house in Kansas City is described as follows: It is located off a main street starting from downtown Kansas City, Missouri, direction unknown, and from the main street a smaller street goes to the left, which street has a Western Union building located on it and goes off from the main street in the form of a steep hill. Two or three miles up the hill on the left are located nice looking apartments, brownish in color, where students from some school live, and just prior to this on the right is the location of a moving company, name unknown, and a grocery store is located in the vicinity of the moving company on the same side. About two blocks beyond the grocery store there is a narrow street with ramshackle houses on one side and vacant lots on the other. Turning right on this street, the third house on the left would be the correct house involved, which is occupied by an individual who sells beer and booze after hours and

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hides guys out. The house is described as one bedroom, no garage, dirt driveway, single story, and has a large freezer in the living room.

The information contained above has been checked out and investigation to date has failed to substantiate any of the above allegations. The Los Angeles Times has declined to further identify the source of their information; however, investigation indicates it is probably LESTER EDWARD PACKETT, FBI No. 827-170A. ODELA A. PACKETT, his estranged wife, advised that she believes LESTER has probably returned to Chicago, where he was living earlier this year.

The Bureau has instructed that reasonable effort be expended to locate LESTER EDWARD PACKETT and resolve the above allegations.

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: Will conduct credit and arrest checks, and other reasonable investigation to attempt to locate and interview PACKETT concerning the above allegations.

SPRINGFIELD

AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS: Will examine records of Illinois State Department of Motor Vehicles for any record of automobile drivers license issued to LESTER EDWARD PACKETT; or any current automobile which may be registered to him which would aid in locating him.