

December 4, 1968

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

Re Bureau airtel to SI 11/21/68.

ANDE YAKSTIS, Reporter "Alton Evening Telegraph", Alton, Illinois, advised that that newspaper, which is a daily evening newspaper published at Alton, Illinois, has attempted to interview HENRY STUMM, who resides with his brother GUSTAV STUMM at 2703 North Street, Alton, Illinois.

YAKSTIS stated that STUMM was congenial and cooperative when interviewed as long as the conversation was in generalities. He stated that when JAMES EARL RAY was brought into the conversation STUMM refused to discuss the matter and refused to acknowledge that he ever knew JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that STUMM appeared to be highly nervous when JAMES EARL RAY's name was mentioned and he had subsequently learned that several reporters and writers had attempted to talk with him concerning JAMES EARL RAY and that STUMM had provided no information whatsoever concerning him.

YAKSTIS stated that HENRY STUMM is now retired and can be reached at 2703 North Street in Alton.

UACB STUMM will be interviewed at 2703 North Street, Alton, to determine if he will cooperate in furnishing any information available to him concerning

3 - Bureau (44-38861)  
② - Springfield (44-561)  
RCH/eas  
(5) *lis*

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

*ES*

*Hanner R*

44-561-807

SI 44-561

JAMES EARL RAY and his activities in the Alton, Illinois area circa 1943-45. The interview will be conducted by a mature agent and the Bureau will be promptly advised of results of the interview.

December 4, 1968

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3 - Bureau (44-38861)  
② - Springfield (44-561)  
BCH/eas  
(5) *200*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *WJB*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *lmj*

44-561-809

SI 44-561

JAMES EARL RAY and his activities in the Alton, Illinois area circa 1943-45. The interview will be conducted by a mature agent and the Bureau will be promptly advised of results of the interview.

12/5/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

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

Re Springfield airtel to Memphis dated 11/7/68.

The following are the cost data figures re this matter for the Springfield Division from 11/1/68 to 11/30/68:

HOURS

A. Special Agents

Regular Hours	25
VOT Hours	<u>9</u>
Total	34

B. Clerical Employees

Regular Hours	11
Overtime Hours	<u>2</u>
Total	13

MILEAGE

Total 250

AGENTS ON CASE

Total 8

OUT-OF-ORDINARY COSTS

None

None

2-Memphis (44-1987)  
2-Springfield (44-561)  
WR:lmh  
(4) *lmh*

*DM*

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED  
44-561-208

12/5/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
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2-Memphis (44-1987)  
②-Springfield (44-561)

WR:lmh

(4) *lmh*

*EWA*

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED *10/10*  
INDEXED  
FILED *10/10*

44-561-200

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-561)

DATE: 12/6/68

FROM : SA ARTHUR LEE WOODS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

PAUL HOWARD, temporarily residing Room 224, Rogers Hotel, Bloomington, Illinois, a known pimp, gambler and alleged burglary set-up, who is acquainted with the writer, contacted SA WOODS on 12/5/68.

HOWARD advised that he desired to furnish information as he believes he is "mixed up with something he did not realize was as big as it is". He related that on or about 11/26/68 in the bar at the Rogers Hotel, Bloomington, Ill., he engaged in conversation with an individual known to him as ROBERT H. STRADER, alleged owner of Prototype Specialty Company, 2745 South Holt Rd., Post Office Box 41004, Indianapolis, Indiana. He related STRADER stated that his wife, MARGARET STRADER, is a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital, Bloomington, Ill., anticipating childbirth. HOWARD advised Mrs. STRADER has since given birth and is allegedly ready for release from this hospital. He stated STRADER at present is attempting to obtain an apartment where he can house his family.

HOWARD advised since his original contact with STRADER he has been with him constantly to date. HOWARD related STRADER has told him that he was in a truck stop at Memphis, Tennessee prior to the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, and while in a rest room at this truck stop, heard some individuals planning the assassination of KING. HOWARD states STRADER informed him that the assassination was taking place by these individuals, who were allegedly paid \$1,500,000. The contributors of the \$1,500,000 were alleged to be noted businessmen from the Southern states and "Cuba money". HOWARD states STRADER further told him that he, STRADER, was approached to kill KING himself.

HOWARD advised STRADER told him that the FBI was fully familiar with his story but that they did not believe him. He stated that he, STRADER, was well acquainted with numerous FBI Agents throughout the United States, and that the Federal agents were protecting him and are constantly alert as to his whereabouts. He stated that his contact with the FBI came further through a correspondent (FNU) STERN, of Washington, D.C.

HOWARD stated that STRADER speaks frequently of being personally acquainted with Agent SULLIVAN in charge of

44-561-809

INDEXED
DEC 10 1968
FBI - SPRINGFIELD

DA



5010-108

44-561  
ALW

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

the Springfield Office of the FBI and Agent ART WOODS of Bloomington, Illinois. HOWARD states that according to STRADER, he has talked on numerous occasions with these two Agents, who are familiar with his knowledge in this matter. HOWARD related that STRADER went into detail concerning an event which allegedly happened recently when he left his wife's parents' residence, name unknown, in Lexington, Illinois, en route Detroit, Michigan, whereas STRADER took the blacktop roads and noted he was being followed by a brown Chevrolet. He proceeded to the Holiday Inn at Bloomington, Illinois, where he climbed to the balcony rails so he could observe the area and then telephonically contacted his wife. According to HOWARD, STRADER then proceeded to Indianapolis, Indiana, and inside the State of Indiana at a roadside rest area, he stopped and this car allegedly appeared, and the occupant took a shot at him, STRADER. He fell to the ground and posed as dead.

HOWARD advised that STRADER continually talks of this matter. He has furnished so much detail that he, HOWARD, is confused. He stated STRADER is allegedly in the process of selling his story concerning the KING murder to the Chicago "Daily News" for allegedly \$2,500,000. HOWARD related that according to STRADER, he has an appointment with a reporter of the "Chicago Daily News", JOHN LINDSTROM (phonetic), at an unrecalled motel at Lafayette, Indiana, on 12/7/68. HOWARD states STRADER told him that the FBI is fully aware he is going to sell his story. STRADER stated he did not care who gets the story, the newspaper of KING's defense, whichever would pay the most.

HOWARD advised STRADER frequently talks concerning a (FNU) DONNELLEY who owns a construction company in Denham, Louisiana, with whom STRADER was allegedly associated. Also of ~~xxx~~ one CHARLES SHAPIRO (phonetic) of Miami, Florida, who is a large financier of a race track in the Miami area. States SHAPIRO allegedly obtained his money from contacts in Cuba.

HOWARD advised that along the afternoon of 12/4/68 STRADER asked him to go to the Veterans Hospital at Danville, Illinois, where he, STRADER, was allegedly a patient and is on a temporary leave to report back on or about 12/26/68. The purpose of this trip to Danville was to pick up alleged checks which were to be mailed to him at the hospital. He stated upon arrival at Danville, STRADER entered the hospital. He, HOWARD, did not. STRADER returned and stated the checks were not there.



HOWARD advised STRADER then stated they must proceed to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he an appointment with his attorney at 8:30 AM on 12/5/68. HOWARD stated they drove to Indianapolis, Ind. and spent the night driving in the Indianapolis and Martinsville, Indiana areas. He advised he arrived in Indianapolis at the attorney's office at 8:30 AM and was in the attorney's office from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM on 12/5/68. HOWARD advised that STRADER's attorney is DONALD FOLEY, who has office in the Merchants Bank Building at Indianapolis, office phone 639-5454, home phone 257-5044. He related that while in the attorney's office during this above-designated period of time, STRADER made four or five disc recordings on both sides relating all of his knowledge of the incident involving MARTIN LUTHER KING. HOWARD stated that STRADER referred to an Agent of the FBI of the Indianapolis Office. Stated he would be in contact with this Agent on 12/6/68 concerning the information furnished by STRADER. HOWARD advised he is unable to recall the agent's name but stated it was a German name and as he recalls the latter part of the Agent's last name was "BERG".

HOWARD advised during the course of STRADER making these disc recordings, he inserted HOWARD's name on several occasions. He advised that HOWARD told FOLEY he knew nothing concerning this matter and FOLEY was allegedly concerned as to why HOWARD was present. He stated he told the attorney he merely came along with STRADER for company, at STRADER's request. He stated he informed the attorney he knew nothing whatsoever concerning this and had only known STRADER for a short period of time. HOWARD stated during this contact, STRADER signed a contract with the attorney, whereas at such time he receives the royalties from his story, he, STRADER, would pay the attorney \$25 per hour for his time, plus expenses. He further stated that the attorney had him, HOWARD, sign a contract whereas he, HOWARD, should he receive any royalties, would pay a similar amount to the attorney. HOWARD stated he was at a loss and signed his name but then did not know why.

HOWARD advised that on one occasion the attorney walked out of the room and STRADER stated to him that he wanted HOWARD to tell the attorney that there was a contract out on him, STRADER, in Louisiana. HOWARD stated he refused. He advised STRADER later told him that he, HOWARD, "blew the deal". The reason he wanted HOWARD to state there was a contract on him, STRADER, was to make the newspapers more interested to pay more money.

HOWARD advised he is very much concerned about this

SI 44-561

matter and feels that he has gotten himself into a position where he does not belong and stated he is furnishing this information for whatever value it may be. He further advised if he can furnish any additional information or if any further information is needed, which he can obtain, he is available.

F B I

Date: December 5, 1968

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)TO: SACs, Springfield (44-561)  
Chicago (44-1114)

✓ FROM: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReSIairtel to Bureau dated 11/29/68.

The LHM enclosed to referenced communication states that 1967 Illinois license LM 5942 was issued on June 5, 1967, to John Larry Rayns, 507 Chestnut, Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, for a 1959 Chrysler, two-door, VIN M531108240, which was purchased used on June 5, 1967, from George Seymour Heller, 7102 North Sheridan Road Chicago, Illinois. Certificate of Title #B1178475 was issued on June 6, 1967, to Rayns for his vehicle with no lien.

According to your LHM, the Illinois license LM 5942 was transferred to Rayns on August 8, 1967, for a 1962 Plymouth, this Plymouth purchased from Bundy Oldsmobile, East St. Louis, Illinois, on July 14, 1967. The application for transfer of license plates indicates that the 1959 Chrysler to be sold at a later date.

Springfield should search the title of the above-mentioned 1959 Chrysler to determine the ultimate disposition of this vehicle, and if applicable have the person who purchased the vehicle from Ray (used name of Rayns) interviewed for full details.

Chicago, if not already done, will interview George Seymour Heller regarding his selling of the 1959 Chrysler to Ray as Rayns.

1 - Memphis

44-561-810

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
DEC 11 1968  
FBI - SPRINGFIELD  
Roberts

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

12-6-68

AIRTEL

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

Re Springfield airtel to Director, 5-1-68, and Indianapolis airtel to Director, 10-17-68.

On December 5 and 6, 1968, PAUL HOWARD, temporarily residing Room 224, Rogers Hotel, Bloomington, Illinois, an unsavory individual with alleged underworld connections, contacted a representative of the Springfield Office.

HOWARD advised that since casually meeting ROBERT HOOD STRADER in a bar he has associated with him constantly from November 26, 1968, to the present. He identified STRADER as the owner of the Prototype Specialty Company, 2745 South Holt Road, P. O. Box 41004, Indianapolis, Indiana, whose wife, MARGARET STRADER, was currently confined to St. Joseph Hospital, Bloomington, Illinois, where she has given birth to a child.

As noted in referenced communications, STRADER, who apparently has a history of mental illness, has alleged he had information concerning the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. HOWARD related the story as furnished him by STRADER with events in the order as set forth in referenced airtels. STRADER alleged to HOWARD that the FBI was fully familiar with his story; that he is well acquainted with numerous agents throughout the United States and that "federal agents" were protecting him and are constantly alert to his whereabouts. According to

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)(Info.)
- 1 - Indianapolis (44-563)(Info.)
- 1 - Chicago (44-1114)(Info.)
- ① - Springfield

DTS:VLS  
(7)

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

1 - Robert [Signature]  
2 - AL Woods [Signature]  
44-561-811

SI 44-561

HOWARD, STRADER continually discusses the MARTIN LUTHER KING killing and has furnished so much alleged detail in this matter that he has HOWARD thoroughly confused. STRADER allegedly is in the process of selling his story concerning the KING slaying to the "Chicago Daily News" for \$2,500,000 and he has an appointment with JOHN LINDSTROM on December 7, 1968, at a motel in Lafayette, Indiana, concerning his story. STRADER allegedly stated whoever will pay the most for his story will get it.

HOWARD advised he and STRADER travelled to the office of STRADER's attorney, DONALD FOLEY, of the Merchants Bank Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, where between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., December 5, 1968, STRADER made four or five disk recordings utilizing both sides of the recording disks in which he related all of his alleged facts concerning the KING slaying. FOLEY then allegedly contacted or was to contact an agent of the Indianapolis Office.

Incidental to their trip to Indianapolis, Indiana, STRADER and HOWARD travelled to the Veterans Administration Hospital, Danville, Illinois, where STRADER is allegedly a patient on temporary leave due to report back on December 26, 1968. The purpose of the visit was to pick up checks mailed to STRADER at the hospital but after entering the hospital STRADER returned to HOWARD and stated the checks had not come.

In view of past information concerning STRADER, no action is recommended. Additional information furnished by HOWARD in this matter will be furnished the Bureau and interested offices upon its receipt.

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44-561-810

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 7 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

EO  
[Signature]

F B I

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FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Roberts*

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12-6-68

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DTS:VLS  
(7)

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

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SI 44-561

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12/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtels to Bureau dated 11/26 and 11/29/68, Bureau airtels to Springfield and Chicago dated 11/25 and 12/5/68, and Memphis airtel to Bureau dated 12/6/68.

Re 1959 Chrysler Purchased  
By Subject at Chicago

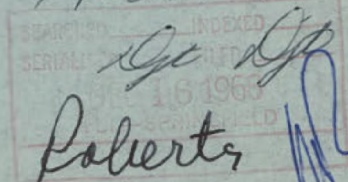
Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are three copies of an FD-302 interview of GEORGE SKYMOUR HELLER, setting forth information concerning the subject's purchase of a 1959 Chrysler in June, 1967, at Chicago, Illinois. Enclosed for the Memphis Division are 15 copies of the same FD-302. Enclosed for the St. Louis and Springfield Divisions are one copy each of same FD-302.

The investigation conducted to locate GEORGE SKYMOUR HELLER for interview is not being set forth in the interest of brevity and economy.

It is noted that HELLER advised that the manager of the Sunoco Gas Station, Lunt and Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, was present at time of sale and also observed JAMES EARL RAY. On 12/13/68, Mr. JENS JANSEN, Partner, aforementioned Sunoco Station, advised that MAURICE GIVANT, previous owner for six years, had left the station in about August, 1968, and has not been heard of since. JANSEN advised that the gas stations report to the Sun Oil Company

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 15)
- ① - Springfield (44-561) (Info) (Enc. 1) *leh*
- 1 - St. Louis (44-773) (Info) (Enc. 1)
- 2 - Chicago

RJD/jab  
(9)



CG 44-1114

phone ES 8-5877. He further advised that numerous collection agencies, as well as the City of Chicago and the Illinois State Department of Revenue, have been to the gas station attempting to locate GIVANT. He said that the only information he knows of concerning GIVANT's whereabouts is that he supposedly is in California to avoid paying the Illinois state taxes wanted by the Department of Revenue. In view of this, no further attempt is being made to locate GIVANT for interview since it does not appear that he could add any additional information not obtained from HELLER, UACB.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date December 13, 1968

GEORGE SEYMOUR HELLER, 1337 West Fargo, Chicago, Illinois, phone 262-4854, was interviewed at his place of employment, the Bernard Harwich branch of the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago, 3003 West Touhy, Chicago, Illinois, phone RO 1-9100, where he is employed as a social group worker. Mr. HELLER advised that some time in the summer of 1967, he ran an ad in the "Chicago Tribune" for the sale of a 1959 Chrysler, green over white. He said that the manager of the Sunoco Station, Lunt and Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, named MAURICE (LNU), acted as his agent. After the ad had been run in the paper, he received a call from MAURICE (LNU), telling him that a party had called about the car and would be at the gas station. HELLER went to the gas station and waited for the purchaser to arrive. He first observed the purchaser alone walking into the gas station. This individual was dressed in a green jacket, dressed almost as in a government issued fatigue jacket and green pants. He was neat and clean and had no unusual characteristics. Mr. HELLER was exhibited a group of nine photographs, three of which were photographs taken at different times of JAMES EARL RAY. Mr. HELLER picked out photo number 00416 dated January 4, 1966, and stated that this photograph would be the closest resemblance to the purchaser of his car; however, he could not state definitely that the individual represented by this photograph was identical to the purchaser. He also advised that he has seen numerous photographs of JAMES EARL RAY in the news media and has never once associated him with the purchaser of his Chrysler. He was shown additional photographs of RAY and stated that he could not say that RAY was identical to the purchaser.

He said that his overall impression of RAY was that he was "lanky" and of the "hillbilly type". He commented that RAY was extremely quiet and said no more than a dozen words during their conversation, which was completely about the Chrysler. RAY made no comment as to his residence, employment, or any other matters of a personal nature. RAY also made no comment concerning the reason for the purchase of the car and in fact seemed to have very little interest

On 12/13/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114  
 by SA RENE J. DUMAINE Date dictated 12/13/68

*Robert*  
44-541-813

at HELLER's comments concerning the vehicle. RAY made no mention of utilizing the car for a long trip and asked no questions as to the roadability of the car. He appeared to be purchasing it merely for transportation. RAY also did not argue about the price and paid in cash the \$200, which was HELLER's asking price. HELLER further related that there was nothing unusual about the money, that he did not believe it was new currency, and he could not recall the specific denominations of the bills.

HELLER advised that the only thing that stuck in his mind concerning RAY was that he was very quiet. HELLER took the Illinois license plates off of the car and RAY drove it away. HELLER had no further contact with him.

12/19/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

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

Re Bureau airtel to Springfield and Chicago dated  
12/5/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and ten (10)  
copies of a self-explanatory LHM regarding 1959 Chrysler two-  
door, VIN M531108240. Also enclosed for Chicago and Memphis  
are two (2) copies each of this LHM.

3-Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 11)  
2-Chicago (44-1114) (Enc. 2)  
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
②-Springfield (44-561)

WR:lmh

(9) *lmh*



SEARCHED.....  
SERIALIZED *dyt*  
INDEXED.....  
FILED *dyt*

*44-561-814*

12/19/68

AIRTEL

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2-Chicago (44-1114) (Enc. 2)  
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
2-Springfield (44-561)

WR:lmh

(9) *lmh*

*W*

44-561-814  
SEARCHED.....  
SERIALIZED *gyp*  
INDEXED.....  
FILED *gyp*

Springfield, Illinois  
December 19, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

---

Mr. James Tabor, Supervisor, Auto Registration Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, advised on November 27, 1968, that a check of records reflect that 1967 Illinois license LM-5942 was issued June 5, 1967, to John Larry Rayns, 507 Chestnut, Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, for a 1959 Chrysler, two-door, VIN M531108240, which was purchased used June 5, 1967, from George Seymour Heller, 7102 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois. Certificate of Title Number B1178475 issued June 6, 1967, to Rayns for this vehicle with no lien. On August 8, 1967, above-mentioned 1967 Illinois license transferred to Rayns for a 1962 Plymouth, four-door, VIN 2921165934, which was purchased used July 14, 1967, from Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., 711 Illinois Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. The application for this transfer reflects that above-mentioned 1959 Chrysler to be sold later. Certificate of Title Number B1604563 issued August 8, 1967, to Rayns for instant Plymouth with no lien.

On December 18, 1968, Tabor advised that a check of "Motor Files" and "Title Surrender Files" regarding Certificate of Title Number B1178475, for the above 1959 Chrysler, reflected no disposition of this automobile after its purchase by Rayns from Heller.

SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III/lmh  
(17) *lmh*

*EW*

SEARCHED	.....
SERIALIZED	<i>dyb</i>
INDEXED	.....
FILED	<i>dyb</i>

44-561-815



Springfield, Illinois  
December 19, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

---

Mr. James Tabor, Supervisor, Auto Registration Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, advised on November 27, 1968, that a check of records reflect that 1967 Illinois license LM-5942 was issued June 5, 1967, to John Larry Rayns, 507 Chestnut, Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, for a 1959 Chrysler, two-door, VIN M531108240, which was purchased used June 5, 1967, from George Seymour Heller, 7102 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois. Certificate of Title Number B1178475 issued June 6, 1967, to Rayns for this vehicle with no lien. On August 8, 1967, above-mentioned 1967 Illinois license transferred to Rayns for a 1962 Plymouth, four-door, VIN 2921165934, which was purchased used July 14, 1967, from Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., 711 Illinois Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. The application for this transfer reflects that above-mentioned 1959 Chrysler to be sold later. Certificate of Title Number B1604663 issued August 8, 1967, to Rayns for instant Plymouth with no lien.

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SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III/lmh  
(17) *lmh*

*EM*

44-561-815

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____ <i>lgt</i>
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____ <i>lgt</i>

FBI

Date: 12/21/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: ALL SAC's  
FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA  
(OO: MEMPHIS)  
BUFILE 44-38861

Re Memphis airtel to Albany dated 4/19/68, and  
Memphis airtel to All SAC's, dated 7/16/68.

Discontinue the monthly submission to the Memphis  
Division of the cost data requested in referenced airtels,  
since the Bureau has agreed this submission can be discon-  
tinued.

2-All SAC's  
2-Memphis  
HEG:mas  
(116)

44-561-816

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 27 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Roberts*

Approved: *R. Jensen* Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 12/24/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: ALL SAC's  
FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA  
(OO: MEMPHIS)  
BUFILE 44-38861

Re Memphis airtel to Albany dated 4/19/68, and  
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tinued.

2-All SAC's  
2-Memphis  
HEG:mas  
(116)

44-561-816

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 27 1968	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Em*

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

F B I

Date: **1-7-69**Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)**To: SAC, Springfield (44-561)**✓ **From: Director, FBI (44-38861)****MURKIN****Re Springfield airtel to Bureau dated 12-4-69.****If not already done, submit LHM suitable for dissemination the results of interview with Henry Stumm.****1 - Memphis (44-1987) (info)**

*R/s out to Bureau  
1/7/69 That effort to  
locate Stumm negative  
& H.H.M. will be  
upon interview.  
TC  
1/7/69*

44-561-810

Sent Via \_\_\_\_\_ M Per *Haines* *Ret.*

1-7-69

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Springfield (44-561)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

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If not already done, submit LHM suitable for dissemination the results of interview with Henry Stumm.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (info)

44-561-817

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

Springfield, Illinois  
January 10, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY

Henry Stumm, 2703 North Street, Alton, Illinois, was interviewed on January 8, 1969 by Special Agents Donald E. Stukey, II and Robert C. Haines.

Mr. Stumm stated that he worked at the Leather Tannery in Hartford, Illinois operated by the Brown Shoe Company of St. Louis, Missouri for close to thirty years. He stated that during that period of time he met a great many employees, however, he does not specifically recall ever having met James Earl Ray. He stated that he had been contacted by newspapers and magazine writers as well as novelists who are interested in developing information concerning James Earl Ray, however, he stated that he has not entertained them nor does he intend to entertain them in any way. He stated that their contacts with him and allegations made by them concerning his association with James Earl Ray have upset him to the point where he is close to a nervous breakdown. He stated that in order to preclude any further physical upset to him, he has engaged an attorney whom he identified as Ralph Smith of Alton, Illinois, to represent him in any matters arising from this case.

Mr. Stumm stated that two separate allegations have been made to his knowledge concerning his acquaintance or alleged acquaintance with James Earl Ray. He said that some of the news media contacting him have suggested that he, Stumm, during World War II, was sympathetic to Germany and constantly preached Nazi philosophy and further suggested that he gave James Earl Ray a copy of Adolph Hitler's book, Mein Kampf. He also stated that another suggestion to him was that he had met frequently in a cafe in Alton with James Earl Ray and had discussed Nazi philosophy "in a hushed manner".

Mr. Stumm stated that both of these allegations were completely false; that he has never owned a copy of Mein Kampf and that he never frequented any cafe in Alton.

He went on to say that during the period of time he worked at the tannery in Hartford, Illinois, he went back and

SA ROBERT C. HAINES/BLH  
(10)

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

44-561-818

**JAMES EARL RAY**

---

forth to work with Ted Fensterman and Albert Kolk, both of whom lived in his neighborhood in Alton. He said that he has never owned or driven a motor vehicle and does not know how to drive a motor vehicle. He said, however, that both Fensterman and Kolk did drive and alternated driving their cars to work. He said they were kind enough to drive him with them and it was their routine to come straight home after work.

Mr. Stumm concluded by stating that he entered the United States from Germany in 1928 and became a citizen in 1936. He said that he is proud to be an American citizen and has always maintained a pro-American attitude with regard to politics. He stated that his work record and his neighbors would vouch for him in this regard.

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

\*

-2-

Springfield, Illinois  
January 10, 1969

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SA ROBERT C. HAINES/BLH  
(10)

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *ll*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *ll*

44-561-818



**JAMES EARL RAY**

---

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1/10/69

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

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

RE: SI airtel to Bureau 12/4/68.  
Buairtel to SI dated 1/7/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are the original and six copies of LHM and for Memphis one copy of LHM reflecting interview of HENRY STUMM at Alton, Illinois.

Prior efforts to contact STUMM during December, 1968 were unproductive.

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861) (enc. 7)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (enc. 1)
- 2 - Springfield (44-561)

RCH:BLH  
(7)

*blb*

*Post  
Pending  
TC*

SEARCHED *ll*  
SERIALIZED *ll*  
INDEXED *ll*  
FILED *ll*

44-561-819



1/10/69

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

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

RE: SI airtel to Bureau 12/4/68.  
Buairtel to SI dated 1/7/69.

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3 - Bureau (44-38861) (enc. 7)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (enc. 1)  
2 - Springfield (44-561)

RCH:BLH

(7)

*Blh*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *OK*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *OK*

*TC*

44-561-819

SAC (44-561)

1/17/69

ASAC SULLIVAN

MURKIN

On the evening of 1/15/69 Supv. BILL TILLER who handles racial matters in Indianapolis Office, telephonically contacted Springfield Division. TILLER made reference to prior correspondence from this office concerning ROBERT H. STRADER who had, as you will recall, contacted a CBS White House correspondent shortly after the MARTIN LUTHER KING slaying and claimed to have seen a group of men who conspired to conduct this assassination. ROBERT H. STRADER's contact with CBS prompted a telephone call from Inspector TOM BISHOP of Crime Records Division. Since that time there has been various correspondence concerning STRADER, who is at least mentally unbalanced and a fly-by-night type of unsuccessful promoter.

SA TILLER advised STRADER's attorney had contacted the Indianapolis Office on 1/15/69 and related the following:

STRADER's wife contacted the attorney and advised him that STRADER has again left her and during his absence, an unknown individual stopped at her residence, advised her that both she and STRADER had factual knowledge concerning the KING slaying and that they would be taken care of. The attorney desired to know whether or not FBI protection was available for Mrs. STRADER, who resides at Apartment 7, 1220 East Fairchild, Danville, Illinois. SA TILLER advised that the attorney was told there was no FBI protection available. SA TILLER stated a definite impression was received that the attorney feels that STRADER has a story which can be marketed for a lot of money. He stated there would be no written confirmation of his telephone call.

SA JOE A. COPELAND was alerted to the above situation at the Danville RA on the evening of 1/15/69 and SA ARTHUR LEE WOODS was apprised of the facts on the morning of 1/16/69. They were instructed in the event they were contacted by Mrs. STRADER to simply take whatever information she has in a courteous way but that she should be advised no FBI protection is available.

SA WOODS is of the impression STRADER himself may have returned to the VA Hospital at Danville, Ill. [REDACTED]

3 - 44-561

DFS:vr

(3)

44-561-820

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 17 1969	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*Copeland*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO *tc*: SAC (44-561)

DATE: 1/17/69

FROM *AS*: ASAC SULLIVAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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3 - 44-561

DTS:vr

(3)

44-561-820

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 17 1969	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

*AWoods*



5010-108

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

SAC (44-561)

1/17/69

ASAC SULLIVAN

MURKIN

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3 - 44-561  
DTS:vr  
(3)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 17 1969	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

44-561-820



DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

2/27/69

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -

MURKIN

RE Springfield airtel and LHM 1/10/69.

On 2/24/69 HENRY STUMM, Alton, Illinois, was recontacted as a matter of course re any possible press inquiries in recent weeks, and he advised there have been none. He reiterated his former position on this matter and stated that he will refer all such inquiries to his attorney.

2 - Bureau (44-38861)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987)  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
WR/sar  
(5)  
*pmv*

*Fast  
Pending  
TC*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *Djt*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *Djt*  
44-561-821



DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

2/27/69

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) - P -

MURKIN

RE Springfield airtel and LHM 1/10/69.

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2 - Bureau (44-38861)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987)  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
WE/sar  
(5)  
*pmv*

44-561-821  
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED *Op*

INDEXED

FILED *Rj*



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-561)

DATE: 2/27/69

FROM : SA ROBERT C. HAINES

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 2/27/69, Chief WILLIAM H. PETERSEN, NA, Alton PD, made available a Xerox copy of a letter received by the Alton PD from JACK W. BALLEEN, Contract Manager, Bantam Books, Inc., 271 Madison Avenue, NYC.

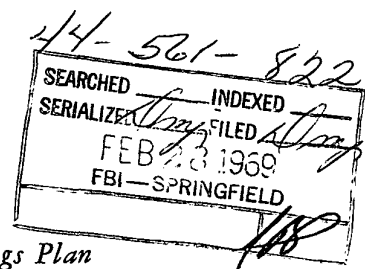
The latter is self explanatory, and as Chief PETERSEN indicated on the letter, no acknowledgement will be made by the Alton PD.






5010-108

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

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY



**BANTAM BOOKS INC., 271 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • CABLE ADDRESS: BANTAMBOOK • TELEPHONE 212 MU 9-3500**  
PUBLISHERS OF BANTAM BOOKS AND MANY SPECIAL BANTAM IMPRINTS INCLUDING • CLASSICS • MATRIX EDITIONS • MINIBOOKS • MODERN CLASSICS  
AND PATHFINDER EDITIONS • SUBSIDIARIES: BANTAM BOOKS OF CANADA, LTD. • BANTAM BOOKS, LTD (LONDON) • TRANSWORLD PUBLISHERS, LTD (LONDON)

February 24, 1969

Police Department  
Alton, Illinois

Re: JAMES GERALD RAY

Gentlemen:

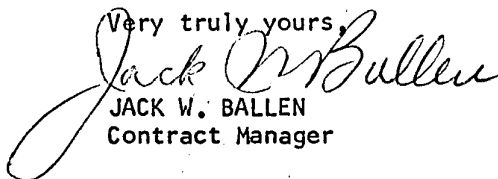
In conducting certain research into the background of JAMES EARL RAY, who is awaiting trial for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, it has come to our attention that the above subject, who is the father of the defendant, was arrested in your city on or about February 5, 1935 for the crime of forgery.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could search your files and furnish me with whatever facts and circumstances concerning this arrest, as well as the disposition thereof.

Any cost or charges for this service will be paid for by Bantam Books, Inc., upon receipt of your bill therefor.

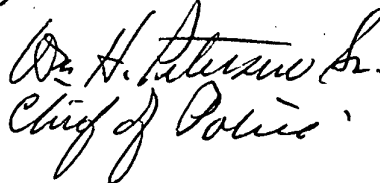
Many thanks in advance for your courtesy in this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
JACK W. BALLEEN  
Contract Manager

2/27/69

Placed in file of James Earl Ray.  
No answer to be made.

  
Dr. H. Peterson Sr.  
Chief of Police

3/26/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtel to Bureau 12/6/68.

On 3/25/69, DAVE BAIRD, Reporter for the newspaper "Commercial News", Danville, Illinois, advised that on 3/24/69, he was telephonically contacted by ROBERT H. STRADER, 1220 East Fairchild Street, Apartment 7, Danville, Illinois, and STRADER related that he had vital information concerning the assassination of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING. STRADER told BAIRD that prior to KING's death he was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was approached by unknown individuals and these individuals attempted to hire STRADER to murder Doctor KING. STRADER said he refused the offer and related that since that date he had been followed and several attempts have been made on his life. STRADER told BAIRD that if the "Commercial News" newspaper was interested in his story that arrangements could be made through STRADER's attorney, DONALD FOLEY, Indianapolis, Indiana, for payment for this story. STRADER requested BAIRD to meet him in the near future, however, BAIRD said he felt that STRADER was a "nut" and he doubted if any action would be taken by this newspaper.

As noted in referenced communication, as well as other communications to the Bureau, STRADER has alleged he had information concerning the assassination of KING. In view of past information concerning STRADER, no action is recommended regarding contact with STRADER or his wife, MARGARET CARMICHAEL STRADER.

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
- 1 - Indianapolis (44-563) (Info)
- 1 - Chicago (44-1114) (Info)
- ① - Springfield (44-561)

JAC/ssj

(7)

44-561-823  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *lyt*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_

*Robert* *WR*

F B I

Date: 3/26/69

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via

~~AIRTEL~~~~AIR MAIL~~

(Priority)

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

On March 26, 1969, DON DOWNEY appeared at the Quincy, Illinois, Resident Agency Office, and advised that he is a reporter for Time magazine. DOWNEY began to ask questions concerning the facts in the JAMES EARL RAY case. He was advised that no comment would be made concerning this matter.

DOWNEY advised he is writing an article to prove or disprove the information contained in Huie's article that appeared in Look magazine. He stated that he has interviewed the two brothers of RAY.

No information of any type was furnished to DOWNEY.

3 - Bureau (44-38861)  
2 - Springfield (44-561)  
EHD:skr  
(5)

44-561-824-  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_

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

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

6:14

M

Per

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

6:16 PM DEFERRED 3-26-69 AEF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -P-

MURKIN.

ON MARCH TWENTYSIX, SIXTYNINE, DON DOWNEY APPEARED AT THE QUINCY, ILLINOIS, RESIDENT AGENCY OFFICE, AND ADVISED THAT HE IS A REPORTER FOR THE TIME MAGAZINE. DOWNEY BEGAN TO ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FACTS IN THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE. HE WAS ADVISED THAT NO COMMENT WOULD BE MADE CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

DOWNEY ADVISED HE IS WRITING AN ARTICLE TO PROVE OR DISPROVE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN HUIE'S ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN LOOK MAGAZINE. HE STATED THAT HE HAS INTERVIEWED THE TWO BROTHERS OF RAY.

NO INFORMATION OF ANY TYPE WAS FURNISHED TO DOWNEY.

END

CKG

FBI WASH DC

X

44-561-824  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *lit*  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED *Djt*



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/25/69

Mrs. BERRY (SHIRLEY) SMITH, daughter of the owner of Nite-Fall Motel, Highway 45 South, Corinth, Mississippi, made available the motel registration records for the period March 29, 1968, to April 3, 1968. The records reveal the names of guests as follows:

HASSELL HALL  
Luxora, Arkansas  
Arkansas license 351, Dodge

C. P. PRATT  
Atlanta, Georgia

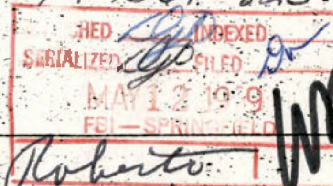
Mr. and Mrs. ROY STREMMEL  
Route 1  
Beardstown, Illinois  
Illinois license 173-595, Dodge

ROBERT WILSON  
508 West Armitage  
Marion, Illinois  
Illinois license HN947, Chevrolet

Mr. and Mrs. MANUEL BOLMAN  
106 Fairview  
Alton, Illinois  
Illinois license JV9306, Rambler Station Wagon

FORREST MULLIN  
Gosport, Indiana

RONNIE FLANAGAN  
19 Webb Street  
Hammond, Indiana



On 4/21/69 at Corinth, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA DONALD H. GREENE /bdb Date dictated 4/24/69

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V. E. SELLERS and wife  
General Delivery  
Greene, Iowa

EARL MEYER  
1302 8th Street  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

F. ANDERSON  
23 Arthur Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
(cement contractor)

J. L. BEAN  
1200 Church Street  
West Point, Mississippi

PAUL E. GRANTHAM  
3291 Bienville Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi  
(U.S. Geological Survey)

L. McGIBANY  
St. Louis, Missouri

JAMES FERGUSON  
Caruthersville, Missouri

HAROLD HUDGINS  
810 Beckwith Avenue  
Caruthersville, Missouri

JAMES E. CAGLE  
Route 1, Box 1374  
Caruthersville, Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. AL JORANDBY  
Grafton, North Dakota



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JAMES E. POTTS  
Memphis, Tennessee

ROBERT M. LINDBERG  
521 Turett Street  
Halls, Tennessee  
Tennessee license IF4413, Ford

WILLIAM R. HAMMETT  
Big Sandy, Tennessee

L. P. DEAN  
3rd and Decatur  
Richmond, Virginia  
Virginia license 555



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/24/69

HOWARD STARNES, Manager, Illinois Motel, Highway 45 North, Corinth, Mississippi, made available the motel registration records for the period March 29, 1968, through April 3, 1968. The following individuals were registered during this period:

A. D. ASHCRAFT  
1603 Freeman Avenue, Southwest  
Decatur, Alabama

W. L. LEDBETTER  
104 5th Avenue  
Decatur, Alabama

LEON V. MEADOWS  
505 South Conception  
Mobile, Alabama

L. GARRISON  
1005 Danville Road, Southwest  
Decatur, Alabama

TERRY JOHNSON  
2821 Forest Home  
Jonestown, Arkansas

GEORGE RUNSHANG (?)  
521 North Breyon  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
Arkansas license ABD-050

Mr. and Mrs. WAYNE ABO  
Box 2063  
Panama City, Florida

44-361-826

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 12 1969	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Roberto HZ

On 4/18/69 at Corinth, Mississippi File # Jackson 157-9586

by SA FRANCIS G. HONAN Date dictated 4/24/69  
SA JOHN S. CASTLES FGH/bdb

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JN 157-9586

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JAKE STAHL  
4621 25th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida

JAMES A. HAYWOOD  
Jacksonville, Florida  
Florida license 2WW2700

JAMES STANCEILL  
3734 Peachtree Road, Northeast  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Georgia license 1-A-2856

GEORGE DOERNER  
620 East 52nd Street  
Savannah, Georgia

ROBERT KOMMERS  
1255 North Sandberg  
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. and Mrs. GLEN DELP  
2100 East Monroe  
Springfield, Illinois

CHARLES CLAXTON  
229 South Walnut  
Litchfield, Illinois

Mr. and Mrs. CHRIS KNUDSEN  
New Holland, Illinois  
Illinois license 322-733

JIMMY W. FAULKNER  
776 Sharon  
Park City (Chicago), Illinois  
Illinois license LB 3491

HAROLD ROSTER  
309½ East Carter  
Kokomo, Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. ED SMILEY  
Route 1  
Kalkaska, Michigan

60-2077-4 I will not deny

LOGAN CO.

Search