

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 9, 1968

JIMMY GARNER, 107 14th Street, Northeast, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which he was wearing a suit, white shirt, and fore-in-hand tie. He stated this is the best likeness he has seen to date of RAY and stated, "If not him, it's his twin brother."

GARNER stated he has continued to try to recall additional information concerning RAY and his brief stay at 113 14th Street, Northeast; however, he has been unable to recall any additional information.

25

On 5/6/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA ROBERT R. PERRY :bjc Date dictated 5/7/68

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AT 44-2386

B. Use Of Laundry

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 9, 1968

Mrs. ESTELLE PETERS, Piedmont Laundry, 1168 Peachtree Street, Northeast, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which he is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and fore-in-hand tie. She stated she believes the photograph of RAY in which he was wearing a bowtie is a better likeness, however, stated the more recent photograph in which he is wearing a fore-in-hand tie looks older and the eyes and nose appear very similar.

She stated she has been unable to recall any additional information concerning the individual whom she knew as ERIC S. GALT.

27

On 5/7/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA ROBERT R. PERRY :bjc Date dictated 5/7/68

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AT 44-2386

III. INTERVIEWS OF FORMER JAIL MATES OF THE SUBJECT

On April 24, 1968, SAs JAMES RICHARD FLICK, JOSEPH G. SHEA, and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN interviewed LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA, an inmate at the Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia. DOWDA advised he was formerly incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He stated while at the Missouri State Prison, he was acquainted for approximately three years with JAMES EARL RAY, a fellow inmate. DOWDA advised he was released from the Missouri State Prison on December 23, 1966, and JAMES EARL RAY was still incarcerated. He stated he had been the chief cook at the Missouri State Prison and RAY worked as a bread slicer.

DOWDA advised RAY was the type person the other inmates did not "mess with." He described RAY as a "loner" who usually initiated the conversation if he wanted to talk to anyone. He stated that RAY spoke in a mild, low tone and when angry would speak even softer. He stated he had never known RAY to become excited and shout. To his knowledge, he has never known RAY to smoke. He stated RAY had a fair complexion, which was blotchy, having pimples around the lower portion of his face. He stated RAY had a rash on the right side of his head during the entire time he had known RAY and RAY would scratch this rash. He stated this rash was very noticeable due to the type of haircut in the Penitentiary and RAY put some type of salve on this rash. He stated RAY's hair was lightly streaked with gray. He advised the only scar he can recall which RAY had was a large burn scar on his forearm, side unrecalled. He stated this scar was located near the wrist. He stated RAY had dingy teeth.

DOWDA advised RAY always talked about "running around" in St. Louis, Missouri. He normally talked about two girl friends, one of these he had met at the Gaslight

(a bar) located in either St. Louis or Kansas City. DOWDA stated the other girl was a girl RAY had met around the college at Columbia, Missouri, and it was his impression this girl had worked in a tavern there.

DOWDA advised RAY, while in prison, wore a ring on his left hand which was made at the Penitentiary, having been made from white metal with raised initials. He stated RAY never smiled, but when he smiled, it looked like a smirk. He advised RAY was clean and not sloppy in his dress. He described RAY as an avid reader and considered RAY to be intelligent. He advised RAY participated in softball games as a pitcher and would watch all of the baseball games at the Penitentiary, however, he had never heard RAY speak of professional baseball.

DOWDA stated that some time in 1966, a group of Black Muslims had petitioned for the right to have their own religious services. He stated the Muslims would congregate in groups and that a subsequent search of the Negro prisoners had uncovered a large cache of weapons. DOWDA stated the white prisoners then armed themselves and there was a riot at the prison. DOWDA stated three Negro prisoners were killed. DOWDA stated he would not say RAY had knifed these Negro prisoners, but did say that if RAY had not knifed them, he definitely knew who had killed them.

DOWDA stated RAY definitely was a racist and hated Negroes. He stated RAY had made the statement and firmly believed that all the Negro prisoners inside the Penitentiary should be killed. He stated RAY had on several occasions made the statement that if the price were right, he would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DOWDA stated he does not recall ever hearing anything which would indicate a "contract" was out for the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

AT 44-2386

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3

DOWDA advised he would not be surprised if JAMES EARL RAY was the murderer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, however, he does not believe RAY would have killed KING without being paid for it.

DOWDA stated approximately four months before he, DOWDA, was released RAY had attempted to escape from the Missouri State Prison by going out of the prison behind the ovens in the prison bakery. He stated RAY was apprehended and RAY had broken his arm in this escape attempt. He stated RAY had talked about escaping from the Penitentiary prior to this. DOWDA advised he does not believe RAY returned from maximum security confinement prior to DOWDA's release from prison.

DOWDA stated while in prison, RAY was particularly interested in Western music. He stated he does not recall RAY ever mentioning anything about dancing. He stated that during this period a number of orchestras from the Lake of the Ozarks had played at the State Prison and RAY would never miss these performances. He stated RAY often talked about planning to go to the Lake of the Ozarks when he got out of prison. DOWDA stated he would have no idea who RAY would contact at the Lake of the Ozarks, but stated if he were to look for RAY there, he would first find out who was selling dope and through this person, locate RAY. He stated RAY had talked about being on dope prior to being in the Missouri State Prison. He advised RAY had to have an outside source of income while in prison inasmuch as RAY's dope habit was costing RAY \$35 to \$40 a week for shots and RAY appeared to be well fixed, never wanting for anything.

DOWDA estimated RAY spent \$15 to \$20 a week for personal conveniences. He stated RAY, while in prison,

used amphetamine, taking the shot in the "main line." He stated RAY would take two to three shots a day. He stated RAY never lacked for money, but had no idea of RAY's source of income. DOWDA stated he is certain RAY was not selling amphetamine to other prisoners, stating he has known RAY to give free amphetamine to prisoners who needed a shot. DOWDA denied that he himself had ever taken any shots, but admitted he has taken pills. DOWDA claimed he and RAY were not engaged in the sale of amphetamine at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA stated that HAROLD SCHAEFER, Guard on the gate in the kitchen of the Missouri State Prison, was very close to JAMES EARL RAY and it was DOWDA's understanding that SCHAEFER was RAY's source of amphetamine. He stated BENJAMIN O. GOODIN was a civilian in charge of the kitchen and he is certain GOODIN was not connected in any way with the bringing of amphetamine into the prison. He stated while GOODIN was friendly with RAY, he understands it was GOODIN who had disclosed RAY's hiding place when RAY had attempted to escape in 1966.

DOWDA advised one NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was RAY's closest friend in the Missouri State Prison and was responsible for bringing RAY into the kitchen. He stated ABBY at this time was chief cook at the prison. He believes ABBY was serving time for breaking into a drug store and he does know that dope was connected with ABBY's offense. He stated ABBY had a detainer on him as he was an escapee from the State of Texas. DOWDA does not know whether or not ABBY is presently in custody but does not believe he is presently in the Missouri State Prison.

He stated RAY had another friend, one DONALD DEAN RIGGER. He stated RIGGER was from California and RIGGER's wife was a psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital, which

is located north of San Francisco, California.

DOWDA advised that RAY and other inmates that might have DOWDA's address would have a Route 1, Sanford, Florida, address, and would not know that he is presently in Marietta, Georgia. He stated his father, STEVEN C. DOWDA, presently resides at 110 South Chandler Street, Deland, Florida, and that anyone inquiring for him at Sanford, Florida, would be sent to Deland, Florida. DOWDA claims he has not been contacted by RAY and has heard nothing to indicate RAY has attempted to contact him. He stated RAY had talked about traveling over all the United States, but had never mentioned anything which would indicate RAY was associated with anyone in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. DOWDA stated the only other prisoner he knew who was from the State of Georgia, who was an inmate at the Missouri State Prison was one JERRY WHITE from Calhoun, Georgia. He advised WHITE had a Federal detainer against him and believes WHITE is still incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison.

DOWDA advised he had made a trip to California in November of 1967, and that he and his wife had spent Thanksgiving Day visiting her uncle, BOB GRAHAM, who resides at Palos Verdes, California. He stated GRAHAM is Regional Manager for IBM in that area. He stated that he and his wife had stopped at Jefferson City and while there, contacted a Missouri State Prison guard, Mr. "PETE" PETRIE. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning RAY and was not aware that RAY had escaped. He stated he had not made any inquiry concerning inmates inasmuch as his wife did not know he was a former inmate of the Missouri State Prison. He stated he had stopped in the Kansas City, Missouri, area and attempted to locate PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., who had been in the Missouri State Prison as PAUL ALVIN CARTER. He stated LAIL had been released approximately a year before he had and that they had agreed to attempt to get together

AT 44-2386

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6

after their release from prison. He stated LAIL worked in the license shop at the Missouri State Prison and although he was acquainted with RAY, he did not believe LAIL was a particularly good friend of RAY. He stated after his return from California, he was contacted by PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR. He stated LAIL owns a home at 34 Barbodos Drive, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach, Florida, Telephone Number 965-4221. He stated LAIL in February of 1968 was out of a job and had come to Marietta, Georgia, looking for employment. He stated LAIL had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and a small baby and had resided with DOWDA for approximately one and one-half weeks, leaving approximately two or three days after DOWDA was arrested, DOWDA having been arrested on March 4, 1968.

DOWDA advised he could recall nothing else concerning RAY which might assist in his location, but in the event he remembered anything additional, he would contact the FBI.

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA JAMES RICHARD FLICK on April 25, 1968 at Marietta,
Georgia:

LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the
Cobb County Jail, Marietta, Georgia, where he was incarcerated
and provided the following information regarding JAMES
EARL RAY:

DOWDA advised after the interview with agents
on April 24, 1968, he recalled that he had also been
employed by Liggett Lane (phonetic) Drug Company at Tenth
and Peachtree Streets, Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA advised
he was employed there as the manager in the soda fountain
department. DOWDA advised that he had learned previously
that the subject, JAMES EARL RAY, had been seen in Atlanta
and thought possibly he might have come looking for DOWDA.
DOWDA stated he had no idea whether or not RAY might have
been aware of his employment, but stated there was a possibility
that he may have been. DOWDA continued he had been employed
at Liggett Lane Drug Company around November or December
of 1967. DOWDA stated during that time he worked under
Dr. (First Name Unknown) CHOTAS, who was the General Manager
of Liggett Lane Drug Stores and worked with EDITH (Last
Name Unknown) who became the Manager of the soda fountain
department after DOWDA left their employment. DOWDA advised
if RAY had ever come into the Liggett Lane Drug Store
looking for him these two persons would have been the persons
most likely to have been contacted in this regard.

DOWDA stated he had never received any information
that anyone **similar** to RAY had been seeking him but stated
that there was a distinct possibility that this may have been
true.

DOWDA further advised sometime after he had been
arrested by agents in Marietta, Georgia, at the Bonanza
Sirloin Pit, he had been advised by persons, who he could
not recall that a long distance phone call had been made to
the Bonanza Sirloin Pit in Marietta around November or

December, 1967, and was received at that time by either LLOYD JERINGAN or DAN AYERS (Phonetic). DOWDA advised that he was not certain which of these persons received this phone call but was advised that the person who called left no phone number and apparently did not identify himself to the person who received the telephone call. DOWDA advised he had no idea who the phone call may have been from and stated that he never ~~did~~ receive any further information about this call, nor was the call ever completed to him.

DOWDA stated as best he could recall the phone call might have originated in Oklahoma, but stated that neither he nor, as best he could recall, RAY had any mutual friends in that area.

O. A. HEMBREE, 2424 Sewell Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia, advised that LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA had been employed by him as a tractor driver and all around assistant from March 8, 1968 to April 12, 1968. HEMBREE advised that during this time DOWDA had worked satisfactorily for him every day that they could have worked, weather permitting. HEMBREE advised the total duration of this time was approximately five weeks and stated that as best he could recall at no time did DOWDA ever leave this area. HEMBREE continued that on two or three occasions, DOWDA had worked on Saturdays, but had never worked on any Sundays during this time. HEMBREE advised there was no way to specifically determine the exact dates on which DOWDA worked, but provided the following dates on which DOWDA was paid and the amounts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
March 8, 1968	\$50
March 15, 1968	\$65
March 22, 1968	\$25
March 29, 1968	\$42.38

AT 44-2386

JRF:sja

3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Check</u>
April 5, 1968	\$60
April 21, 1968	\$80.64

HEMBREE stated during this five or six week period, he had made two loans to DOWDA in two checks, one for \$30 and one for \$10. HEMBREE advised that if DOWDA were to have been employed five days per week, his checks would run approximately \$90 to \$115. HEMBREE advised that all of the checks indicate that DOWDA may not have possibly worked all five days of the week, but again stated that this was due to the weather, stating that in rainy-type weather it was impossible for them to work.

HEMBREE stated that DOWDA had been a satisfactory employee while working for him.

On April 29, 1968, LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA was interviewed at the Marietta City Jail, Marietta, Georgia, by Special Agents ROBERT B. PERRY, JAMES RICHARD FLICK and JACK T. BEVERSTEIN. DOWDA had been transferred to this jail due to an escape attempt by other prisoners at the Cobb County, Georgia, Jail.

DOWDA advised JAMES EARL RAY had been very close to (First Name Unknown) "PUNCHY" MILLER, an ex-boxer who had worked in the kitchen at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). MILLER had been one of the leaders at the MSP and was removed from the kitchen after the accidental killing by him of another prisoner during a fight. DOWDA stated he had no knowledge that MILLER was engaged in the distribution of amphetamines at the prison. He stated MILLER was released from prison and went to a town located close to the MSP, where he started passing bad checks. BENJAMIN O. GOODIN, Supervisor in the MSP kitchen, tried to retrieve these bad checks, but was unable to do so before MILLER was returned to prison for passing bad checks. DOWDA could not explain why GOODIN should make MILLER's checks good. DOWDA stated GOODIN had been in the U. S. Navy and had served aboard several ships which were sunk. He stated GOODIN reports to the Veterans Administration weekly and is on some kind of drugs, which he believes MILLER obtains by prescription. He advised RAY was not particularly close to LEO BARNETT. He stated LEO BARNETT's mother lives in Flat River, Missouri and has a brother, DARRELL BARNETT, who is in the MSP.

DOWDA advised that in April, 1967, he had taken a trip to Missouri and had gone to Flat River in an effort to locate LEO BARNETT. He stated BARNETT's mother told him LEO was serving time in the penitentiary in Florida. He stated he then returned to Georgia without seeing any of the guards or anyone else in Missouri. He advised on his return trip he had met "DINK" CHUMLEY in a bar in Alabama. He stated CHUMLEY was having trouble with his wife, who had burned all CHUMLEY's clothes and he was enroute to Georgia in an effort to get away from her. He stated CHUMLEY decided to come to Marietta, Georgia, with him, which he did. DOWDA stated the trip to Missouri only took him three days and again denied having contacted anyone else.

DOWDA stated CHUMLEY stayed in the Atlanta area for several months and then left to go to South Carolina to see a girl friend. He advised CHUMLEY returned from South Carolina and told DOWDA that he had a job and was working somewhere in Atlanta, Georgia. DOWDA stated he has no idea concerning the present whereabouts of CHUMLEY.

DOWDA advised that RAY, while in prison, worked as a bread slicer and only earned between \$5 and \$6 per month, but never seemed to want for money. He stated RAY, while in prison, always wore his hair short. He stated RAY only mentioned two girls while in prison and from conversation, DOWDA felt RAY thought more of the girl he had met at Columbia, Missouri, than the girl he had met at the Gaslight.

DOWDA advised NEIL ABBY (phonetic) was ~~one~~ supplier of amphetamines in the MSP. He stated he believed ABBY's source was HAROLD SCHAEFER, a guard at the kitchen gate of the prison. He stated ABBY nearly ran the K Hall and after his transfer to C Hall, ABBY nearly ran it also. He stated ABBY could get his cell door open by guards anytime he wanted.

DOWDA advised the main supplier of amphetamines in MSP was a prisoner whose name he does not now recall. This person was known by two initials and he was serving a long sentence for the fatal shooting of a St. Louis police officer. He advised this person attempted to escape several times and was almost in complete charge of C Hall. He stated he had the run of the prison and had a pass to eat in the officers dining room, which he did most of the time. He was very close to Warden NASH and after NASH's suicide, tried unsuccessfully to get close to Warden SWINSON. He stated after Warden SWINSON took over, one-half pound of amphetamines were found in the trash can of this prisoner's cell. This prisoner had six to eight prisoners pushing the amphetamines for him. He stated he believed this prisoner obtained his drugs through a guard. He described this prisoner as a white male, approximately 32 - 33 years of age; 6' - 6' 1"; 180 pounds; black hair. He stated this prisoner was close to JAMES EARLY RAY, as well as prisoners LEO BARNETT and NEIL ABBY.

DOWDA advised the only prisoners at the MSP whose addresses he had were for PAUL LAIL and LEO BARNETT. He

stated he had not obtained RAY's address, however, he feels RAY has his address in Florida, but would not know if he were in Marietta, Georgia.

DOWDA stated he had taken a trip to California during the Summer of 1965 and on this trip he had spent two or three days with a distant cousin, JACK HOLCOMBE, who resides at San Jose, California. He stated he had also visited a friend of his sister, one BEVERLY WHEELER, who is a nurse in a Los Angeles hospital. He stated it was on this trip that he got in trouble in Missouri and was sentenced to the MSP. DOWDA denied having returned to California the ~~Spring~~ of 1967. He stated that on his trip to California in the Fall of 1967, he had planned to call JEWEL RIGGER, psychiatrist at the Napa State Hospital located outside Santa Rosa, but had not made the call. He advised JEWEL RIGGER is the wife of an inmate at the MSP. He stated LLOYD A. BELT, Supervisor in the kitchen at the MSP resides at Henley, Missouri and on the trip to California, in the Fall of 1967, he had visited BELT.

DOWDA advised that within the MSP there are two gangs, one being from St. Louis and the other from Kansas City, Missouri. He stated there was a good deal of friction between these gangs and that RAY associated with the leaders of the St. Louis gang.

DOWDA advised he had talked to his wife concerning the reported visitor to his home at 2:00 A.M. on a morning in the Fall of 1967. He stated his wife claims she has no knowledge of anyone visiting their apartment at this time of the morning. DOWDA stated he has no idea who this person could be. DOWDA stated the resident manager of these apartments must have been mistaken. He stated the manager had not approached his wife concerning any person visiting their apartment at 2:00 A.M. in the morning.

DOWDA advised that during the period he worked at the Lane Liggett Drug Store, located on the corner of Peachtree and 10th Streets, he met many persons he felt were ex-cons, but denied ever being approached concerning source of drugs in this area. DOWDA stated he has no knowledge as to the persons who might be supplying drugs in that area.

AT 44-2386

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The following investigation was conducted by SAs
JACK T. BEVERSTEIN and JOSEPH G. SHEA.

On April 24, 1968, CARL GENE TAYLOR, also known as "Junior" TAYLOR, 185 W. Dixie Street, Marietta, Georgia, advised that the photo of JAMES EARL RAY did not resemble person known to him as "Red", who had stayed with LEWIE DOWDA a couple of weeks in approximately March, 1968. He stated person known to him as "Red" was a white male, approximately 6', 35 years of age, 185 pounds, and had bright red hair. He advised this person had come to Marietta, Georgia, with his wife and small baby and had resided with the DOWDAs at the Olive Spring Apartments.

TAYLOR advised he had been employed with DOWDA at the Bonanza Steak House in Marietta, Georgia. He advised he had never seen anyone resembling JAMES EARL RAY in the company of DOWDA. He stated during the Fall of 1967, DOWDA and his wife had traveled to California to visit her relatives and at no time did DOWDA ever mention contacting anyone he was acquainted with who could logically have been JAMES EARL RAY.

AT 44-2386

JTB:rjb

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The following investigation was conducted by SA JACK T. BEVERSTEIN:

On April 25, 1968, EDITH BUSBY, Manager, Soda Fountain, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia, advised LEWIE DOWDA had been employed as Manager of the Soda Fountain from December 23, 1967, to January 23, 1968, at which time DOWDA left, claiming he was going to move to Florida. She stated it is her understanding DOWDA is now employed at the Bonanza Steak House, Marietta, Georgia. BUSBY viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated she had never seen this individual. She advised no one has contacted her concerning the whereabouts of DOWDA.

On April 25, 1968, Dr. TOM CHOTOS, Manager, Lane-Liggett Drugstore, 10th and Peachtree Street, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, advised photograph of JAMES EARL RAY is unfamiliar to him. He stated no one has ever contacted him for instructions how to contact LEWIE DOWDA.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 2, 1968

1

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, who is confined in the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he did not personally serve time with JAMES EARL RAY in the Menard Prison, Illinois, and the only information he has regarding this is what RAY told him. This information was related to him by RAY while he and RAY were serving time together in the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri, for a six or seven month period.

He stated he never heard RAY say that he had served time in Joliet or Pontiac Prisons, but he felt that if RAY had served time in either one of those places, he would probably have been shipped to Menard Prison for discharge.

CURTIS advised there was a close associate of RAY's serving time in Jackson County with them. He cannot recall the name of this individual, but stated he was convicted as a co-defendant with RAY on the same check charge and from conversation with RAY, this individual was presumably the same person with whom RAY served time in Menard Prison.

CURTIS advised he recalls a third unidentified individual visiting RAY and his co-defendant in Jackson County Jail who seemed very close to both of them, but stated he strongly doubted that the visitor's log maintained at the Jail would reflect the name of this visitor due to irregularities in keeping such logs.

He advised he could not furnish a description of the third man.

CURTIS advised he was confined in the Jefferson County Jail with RAY and his co-defendant from approximately March of 1955 until July of 1955, and that they all subsequently ended up together in Leavenworth Prison.

44

On 4/22/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # Atlanta-44-2386

by SA BERNARD R. BERRY :bjc Date dictated 4/26/68

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AT 44-2386

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He stated while at Leavenworth Prison, RAY's associate and co-defendant did nothing but lift weights and attempt to improve his physique.

He described this co-defendant as being a white male, age 36, at that time, 5'10" to 6', 180 pounds, and well built.

45 + 46

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 3, 1968

RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, currently incarcerated Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised that he has spent time in prison on two or three occasions with JAMES EARL RAY. CURTIS advised he first became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY in March 1955 at the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri. He stated RAY was incarcerated at the Jackson County Jail on Post Office burglary charges and had just recently been released from prison in Menard, Illinois, prior to his incarceration at Jackson County. CURTIS at the same time was under arrest for armed robbery and bank robbery in the Missouri area. During this period, CURTIS stated he and RAY were cellmates for approximately six to seven months. While cellmates, CURTIS recalled that RAY had a close friend, name unrecalled, who visited him while RAY was at the Jackson County Prison. This friend had been a former cellmate of RAY when RAY was incarcerated at Menard, Illinois. CURTIS never actually saw this man but knew that RAY had several visits from one particular individual. This man kept RAY in spending money while RAY was in Jackson County Jail and in CURTIS' opinion this individual would harbor RAY if RAY were on escape.

CURTIS went on to say that RAY had another close friend, name unrecalled, of Italian descent, apparently a "big man" in the syndicate. This Italian had apparently operated with RAY in the past and both he and RAY had engaged in handling stolen Postal money orders and travelers checks.

After six or seven months as cellmates at Jackson County Jail, RAY was sentenced to three years on the Post Office burglary charges and transferred to Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Two weeks later CURTIS received a 16-year sentence for bank robbery and also was sent to Leavenworth. While confined at Leavenworth together, RAY spoke of no girlfriends and corresponded with none to the best of CURTIS' knowledge. While in Leavenworth, RAY mentioned that he "operated" frequently out of Quincy, Illinois. By "operated", RAY meant "engaged in burglary and payroll jobs."

CURTIS said that while he and RAY were incarcerated they

- 47 -

On 4/21/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jhs Date dictated 4/25/68

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engaged in crooked poker games and took fellow prisoners for money. In the opinion of CURTIS, RAY was a good poker player and an excellent card handler. During this incarceration RAY mentioned underworld and hoodlum connections, names unrecalled, in Chicago, Detroit, Tampa, and the Tijuana, Mexico area. CURTIS went on to say that after serving seven to eight months with RAY at Leavenworth he was transferred to the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia. CURTIS served six to seven years in the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, and in June 1962 was released but sent back to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, to serve time on armed robbery charges. While in the state penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, CURTIS again was incarcerated with JAMES EARL RAY. On occasions they were in the same cell together in "B" Hall and "C" Hall. They served together from 1962 to 1966. While in "B" and "C" Halls they were together in a three-man cell with a third individual who CURTIS said could verify the following facts but whom CURTIS refused to identify but whom CURTIS refused to identify:

CURTIS stated that during this incarceration President JOHN F. KENNEDY was assassinated and word from the outside filtered into the prison that this was probably a conspiracy. Word came in that KENNEDY had a "bounty" on his head. CURTIS was unable to give further details on the "bounty". He said in 1963-1964 Dr. King's movements became one of the topics of conversation at the state penitentiary. Word got around to the inmates that the "KK of the South" who apparently went to businessmen and had raised approximately a million dollars, had a "bounty" with this money on KING's head. CURTIS was unable to give further details or information regarding "KK of the South".

CURTIS said that from 1962 to 1966 before CURTIS' release RAY mentioned at least a dozen times that had he known about a "bounty" on President KENNEDY's head and had he been out he would have made every effort to collect it. RAY also said approximately a dozen times in the presence of CURTIS "if he got out in time and if KING was still alive he would like to get the 'bounty' on KING". RAY never mentioned whom he would contact to get this "bounty" but CURTIS advised the criminal element knew how to contact such people.

CURTIS went on to say that the above statements concerning KING made by RAY were heard by the third cellmate mentioned above.

In addition CURTIS stated that RAY had a friend in New Orleans, Louisiana (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) COIN (phonetic) who was apparently a "fence". This man was well connected with the hoodlum element, however, was quite old and in the opinion of RAY was in 1955 at least 55 to 60 years of age. In the opinion of CURTIS this individual would definitely harbor RAY. CURTIS knew no close friends or associates of RAY. RAY, allegedly through prison grapevine, had a wife but this was never mentioned by RAY. CURTIS said, however, a few prisoners mentioned family connections. While in prison RAY also mentioned gambling in Los Angeles, California. No specific place in Los Angeles as to the gambling was mentioned. RAY in CURTIS' opinion was a "high liver" when outside and would associate with prostitutes taking one from town to town.

RAY with regard to KING's killing indicated he would make all rules and would in all probability demand the "bounty" money be put in a bank. RAY mentioned three foreign countries, which he had learned about and which CURTIS assumed RAY would go to if out of the United States. These foreign countries were New Zealand, Brazil, and Switzerland. CURTIS was of the opinion that not over three people would be involved in the actual assassination. It would have been well planned with diversionary measures and in the opinion of CURTIS a second individual, not RAY, would have driven the getaway car to Atlanta as a diversionary measure.

CURTIS said he would not testify to the above facts because if he did testify to this information he would fear for his life.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE HOUSTON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 5/17/68	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/5 - 5/14/68
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE, I.O. # 4182, W.F. # 442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JAMES S. WEIR	TYPED BY SJM
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE: Buairtel, 5/7/68.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Since the inception of this investigation, all investigative leads developed by Houston have been set forth upon receipt. The leads are not being restated in this report.

LEAD:

HOUSTON

AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

Will continue investigation and set forth leads upon receipt.

Accomplishments Claimed: None

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (44-38861) 2 - Houston (44-1509) SEE COVER PAGE B <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 150px; height: 80px; margin: 10px auto; text-align: center; line-height: 80px;"> <i>St Louis</i> </div>	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive; margin-bottom: 10px;">44-775-683</div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>SEARCHED.....</td> <td>INDEXED.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SERIALIZED.....</td> <td>FILED.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> MAY 22 1968 FBI - SAINT LOUIS </td> </tr> </table>	SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....	SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....	MAY 22 1968 FBI - SAINT LOUIS	
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MAY 22 1968 FBI - SAINT LOUIS							
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HO 44-1509

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B*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JAMES S. WEIR
Date: May 17, 1968

Office: Houston, Texas

Field Office File #: 44-1509

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY,
TOP TEN FUGITIVE;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
(DECEASED) - VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION -
ROBBERY

Synopsis:

Two white males using names W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW departed Memphis 1:47 AM, 4/5/68 via Delta Flight 157 non-stop to Houston. Prior to flight departure two white males taken to Memphis Municipal Airport by taxi from William Len Hotel, Memphis and subsequently identified from hotel records as VINCENT WALKER, San Francisco and LAWRENCE RAND (or REND), Kansas City, Kansas. Delta Airlines hostesses, limousine driver and logical hotel inquiries unable to identify DAVIS or CHIDLAW. Elimination of look-alikes set forth. Name of JOHN WILLARD located in records for Itaska Dance Studio, League City, Texas. Manager recalls WILLARD at studio in April, 1967 taking four weekly lessons. Telephone company records reflect 969 telephone calls from pay phones along I.S. 10, Houston Division, 12/15-17/67. NEAL REBY, former inmate Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) with subject stated subject worked in Bread Room, MSP, as slicer; subject because of stomach trouble quit smoking and partial to egg diet. Houston Bartending School, labor unions, ship departures, credit, criminal, street and telephone directories negative for subject. SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- P -

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated on the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, April 4, 1968 at Memphis, Tennessee.

On April 5, 1968 at approximately 12:05 AM, J.W. FARRIS, a Yellow Cab Company driver, Memphis, Tennessee, advised the FBI that he made a pickup of a white male at the William Len Hotel. FARRIS was directed to go in the first instance to West Memphis, Arkansas. Shortly thereafter he was re-directed by his passenger to drive to the Memphis Municipal Airport. Upon arriving at the airport, FARRIS was told by his passenger to wait while the passenger checked flight departure schedules. According to FARRIS, this passenger also made an inspection of the inside and immediate area outside the airport terminal. FARRIS then was directed by his passenger to return to the William Len Hotel and there to wait for the passenger. Shortly thereafter the passenger returned accompanied by another white male and FARRIS was directed to take them to the Memphis Municipal Airport.

Investigation by the FBI determined the following:

Records of the William Len Hotel revealed that a VINCENT WALKER, 449 Steiner Street, San Francisco and a LAWRENCE RAND, or REND, 2532 Polk, Kansas City, Kansas, checked into that hotel at 2:38 PM, April 4, 1968 and checked out at approximately 12:10 AM, April 5, 1968.

Investigation by the FBI has determined that WALKER and RAND, or REND, were identical to the individuals that Yellow Cab Driver J.W. FARRIS transported to the Memphis Municipal Airport.

Inquiry at Delta Airlines, Memphis, determined that two individuals utilizing the names W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW departed Memphis at 1:47 AM, April 5, 1968 via Delta Airlines enroute, Houston, Texas. These individuals had no reservations for that flight.

Mr. GLEN PARNELL, Reservations Manager, Delta Airlines, Houston, Texas on April 5, 1968 advised that the names of W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW had been computered into Delta Airlines records at 1:55 PM, April 4, 1968 which indicates their tickets were purchased shortly before that time and they were booked as a party of two. They traveled on Flight 157 non-stop, Memphis to Houston.

They departed Memphis at 1:30 AM, April 5, 1968 and arrived at 2:50 AM, April 5, 1968. Their names were added to the manifest and no addresses were listed.

On April 5, 1968 Miss SUSAN KRAUSE, one of two stewardesses aboard Delta Flight No. 157, Memphis to Houston, referred to above, advised as follows. She stated that her flight was late in arriving at Memphis. She had gone to the operations division to pick up forms and upon her return to the plane she went about her normal business. Miss KRAUSE advised that the names of passengers aboard the plane are not taken and the only thing she looks for is the envelope of the passenger that contains the ticket showing the passenger's class of travel. Because of the late hour of the departure of the flight from Memphis, the lights inside the cabin were turned down for the convenience of the majority of the passengers and she was not able to get a close look at anyone and was unable to recall the passengers W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW.

On April 5, 1968, VICKIE MC LUCAS, Delta stewardess for Delta Flight 157, Memphis to Houston, Texas, referred to above, advised as follows: While Flight 157 was at the Memphis Airport several passengers came aboard and the lights were turned down low for the convenience of other passengers; consequently, she did not pay any specific attention to any of the passengers coming aboard. Miss LUCAS advised that she was unable to recall passengers named W. DAVIS and B. CHIDLAW as members of the passenger list, Flight 157, Memphis to Houston, April 5, 1968.

On April 8, 1968 JIM HAYDEN, Limousine Service, which service handles the Houston Municipal Airport, advised that his records disclose LUPY DELAO who is currently working for Delta Airlines at the Houston Municipal Airport was on duty at the airport when the Delta Flight arrived at 2:50 AM and his records disclosed that DELAO had six persons whom he transported in his limousine to downtown Houston, which persons presumably were from the Delta flight mentioned above.

LUPY DELAO, 1815 Louis, telephone CA 8-6119 advised that he did in fact transport passengers from the Delta flight which arrived at 2:50 AM and he recalled that there were six adult white males who requested transportation in his limousine. He stated he dropped three of the men at the Sheraton Lincoln Hotel in downtown Houston, two of the men were dropped at

the Rice Hotel in downtown Houston and one man was dropped at the Downtowner Motel in Houston, Texas. DELAO advised that the two men he dropped at the Rice Hotel indicated at first that they intended to be dropped at the Downtowner Motel however when getting in the vicinity of the Rice Hotel changed their minds and asked to be dropped off at the Rice Hotel. DELAO stated that these two men had very little luggage and each one carried only a small handbag. DELAO stated he could not furnish any descriptive data regarding the two men he dropped off at the Rice Hotel and did not in fact know if they actually stayed at the Rice Hotel or one of the other hotels in the area. DELAO stated that he would have arrived at the Rice Hotel at approximately 3:30 AM as this is the amount of time it normally takes to drive to the Rice Hotel from the airport via the route he took.

On April 8, 1968, Mr. JOHNNY RAGLEY, Credit Manager, Rice Hotel, personally checked all available logical records in an effort to identify two individuals who may have checked in the Rice Hotel approximately 3:30 AM on April 5, 1968. Further all available records were checked for the following names:

JOHN WILLIARD
VINCENT WALKER
LAWRENCE RAND or REND
W. DAVIS
B. CHIDLAW

No records were located which could possibly be identified with the two individuals possibly identical with the suspects who reportedly flew from Memphis to Houston, Texas on the morning of April 5, 1968.

Similar record checks were made at the Milby Hotel which is located across the street from the Rice Hotel and at the Downtowner Motel also in the vicinity of the Rice Hotel and the results of the checks were negative.

Records of the Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Credit Bureau and Houston street and telephone directories checked for any information for the above listed individuals were negative.

I. INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY LAUNDRY TAG MARK O2B-6

On April 10, 1968 HORACE F. KUHLEMAN, owner, Kuhleman Machinery Company, 2210 Taft, advised that the following laundry and cleaning concerns utilized the thermo seal marking machine which is manufactured by the Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York. KUHLEMAN has the exclusive franchise for the thermo seal marking machine for the territory of southeast and south Texas. It has been determined through KUHLEMAN that his distributorship area is inclusive of the Houston Division. Companies are:

Pilgrim Cleaning and Laundry, Galveston, Texas
Hi-hat Cleaners, Houston, Texas
Pilgrim Cleaners, Homestead Road, Houston
Pilgrim Cleaners, Baytown, Texas
Fame Cleaners, Pasadena, Texas
Wilkins Laundry, Conroe, Texas
Monarch Laundry, Houston

Mr. KUHLEMAN telephoned each of the above concerns and determined from the owner the type of laundry tag used.

KUHLEMAN's inquiry resolved the pertinent fact that none of the above cleaning or laundry establishments utilized the "dash" preceding the last digit six.

II. PERSONS CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE SUSPECTS BUT ELIMINATED THROUGH INVESTIGATION

1. WILLIAM LEO BEIER

Beaumont, Texas Police Department No. 23655

Inspector SNELL, Beaumont Police Department, on April 9, 1968 advised that BEIER was arrested on April 8, 1968 for investigation. BEIER had no identification and claimed he was an ex-convict from the State of Washington.

The Identification Division, FBI, advised that fingerprints of WILLIAM LEO BEIER, FBI No. 271131D are not identical with latent fingerprints developed in this investigation.

2. JAMES HERMAN SILVER

Information was received by the FBI, Houston, Texas that SILVER had been imprisoned at Leavenworth Penitentiary and that he has a strong dislike for Negroes and had visited Memphis in the past several times. He was described as an expert shot. On April 10, 1968 his whereabouts were unknown.

On April 10, 1968 a comparison of SILVER's fingerprints by the Identification Division, FBI, determined that his prints were not identical with those developed in this investigation and was eliminated as a suspect.

3. DONNIE LEON HARDEN

Information furnished by the Dallas Division, FBI, made DONNIE LEON HARDEN a possible suspect in this investigation.

Investigation by the FBI at Jackson, Mississippi determined that DONNIE LEON HARDEN, an employee of the Ingalls Ship Yard, Pascagoula, Mississippi, was at work on his job at that ship yard on April 4, 1968. He worked an hourly shift from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

4. CLAUDE CHESTER MC CLAREN, JR.

Mexican Police, Mexico City, Mexico, furnished the following information: CLAUDE CHESTER MC CLAREN, JR., US Passport [REDACTED] arrived in Mexico City from Tegucigalpa, Honduras April 8, 1968. He was enroute Houston, Texas. Airport police noticed a close resemblance of MC CLAREN to sketches of the suspect killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On April 19, 1968 CLAUDE C. MC CLAREN, JR. was interviewed at Commodore Cove, Shreveport, Texas, where he was employed as a heavy equipment operator. He furnished the following information:

He is working with his brother, CARL MC CLAREN on a construction job at Commodore Cove, Freeport building beach type homes. Their employer is the Drexel Industry located at 1500 Bank of the Southwest Building, Houston, Texas, and JAKE CLEGG is associated with this company. He presently resides at 119 Jolley Boat Lane, Commodore Cove, Freeport, Texas and his permanent address is 5405 Wichita Street, Ft. Worth, Texas which is the home of his sister, JUSTINE PRESTON. For the past two years, he has worked in Honduras returning to the U.S. in December, 1967 and lived in Ft. Worth for awhile. He began his employment at Freeport sometime around March 27, 1968. He went to Honduras on March 30, 1968 leaving Houston, Texas via National Airlines and from New Orleans, Louisiana flew to Honduras via Sahsa

The following description of CLAUDE CHESTINE MC CLAREN, JR. was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Ft. Worth, Texas
Height	5'9"
Weight	145 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Marital status	Single
Complexion	Tanned
Military service	U.S. Navy, August, 1954 - September, 1958
Serial No.	

It was noted from observation that MC CLAREN does not resemble the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT.

5. JOHN A. GAULT

On April 12, 1968 the Miami Office of the FBI after reviewing records of Eastern Airlines determined that a JOHN A. GAULT employed by Associated Pipeline Contractors, Houston, Texas, had departed Greensboro, North Carolina on Eastern Flight 621 on April 9, 1968 destined for Atlanta, Georgia. He departed Atlanta, Georgia on Flight 341 on April 9, 1968 and traveled to Houston, Texas. GAULT was interviewed at Houston, Texas and it was determined that he is 24 years old and is in fact employed by Associated Pipeline Contractors and he in no way resembles JAMES EARL RAY, also known as.

6. DON TURNER

Information furnished by the Conroe Police Department, Conroe, Texas was the basis for investigation of DON TURNER. Mr. KEN ANDREWS, Springville, New York, advised the Conroe Police Department that on April 13, 1968 while driving from Conroe to California, he picked up a person furnishing the name DON TANNER at Benson, Arizona. TANNER was dressed in an Army uniform. Because of TANNER's statements ANDREWS became suspicious of him. - 7 -

Information furnished by the Los Angeles Office determined that TANNER was eliminated on the basis of information furnished by SHIRLEY KAHN who stated that DONALD TANNER was a friend and associate of her son and that TANNER was not identical with JAMES EARL RAY, also known as.

7. HENRY RICHARD GILES

Information furnished to the FBI determined that -- GILES had been under observation at Vera Cruz, Mexico in mid-April, 1968. He had been seeking information concerning travel to Cuba and had come to Mexico by the coast having entered Mexico at Tampico. He represented himself as being an employee of Braselton Construction Company, Corpus Christi, Texas.

On April 20, 1968, BILLY BRASELTON, Braselton Construction Company, Corpus Christi, Texas confirmed that HENRY ROBERT GILES is an employee of that company. He was not aware of GILES' visit to Mexico or Cuba. GILES upon interview April 20, 1968 advised he left Corpus Christi on April 16, 1968 by Trans-Texas Airways and traveled to Vera Cruz, Mexico. He departed Vera Cruz on April 17, 1968 by bus traveling to Mexico City. He returned to Corpus Christi, April 18, 1968 via Braniff Airlines. He denied making any inquiries while in Mexico regarding travel to Cuba. He was born [redacted] at Corpus Christi.

8. G.L. GALLAGHER
5505 Briar Drive, Houston, Texas

Information received by the FBI at Miami, Florida alleged that G.L. GALLAGHER, a visitor at the C Ranch Hotel, Miami, April 23, 1968 resembled a photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as.

On April 23, 1968 SHIRLEY MAYON, Domestic, residence of G.L. GALLAGHER, 5505 Briar Drive, Houston, advised that Mr. and Mrs. GALLAGHER are presently in Florida on a vacation. GALLAGHER is an executive with an oil company at Houston, Texas.

9. Driver of Auto Bearing Louisiana License
25E930

An anonymous call received by the Dallas Division claimed that the driver of the above described automobile bore a strong resemblance to ERIC STARVO GALT. A check of Louisiana license records, Baton Rouge, Louisiana reflected that the above mentioned Louisiana license checked out to a car leased to Texas Services, Inc., Alexandria, Louisiana. Inquiry at Alexandria, Louisiana, determined that Texas -8 -

Services is a licensee of Hertz Rent-A-Car, Alexandria, Louisiana. Inquiry at Hertz Rent-A-Car determined that the aforementioned automobile had been turned back to the Hertz Main Office at Brian, Texas, approximately three months ago.

Inquiry at Hertz Rent-A-Car, Brian, Texas on April 24, 1968 revealed that the aforementioned automobile bearing 1968 Louisiana license 25E930 is maintained by Capps Car Rental, 3717 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas.

10. TOM ROSELL

Information furnished by the FBI, San Francisco Office, made TOM ROSELL a possible suspect. A Miss TRUDIE WALMARK, San Francisco, California stated she had attended a study group at the First Baptist Church, Market and Octavia Streets on April 22, 1968. While at that meeting she met a man named TOM ROSELL who stated he came from Beaumont, Texas. It was her opinion that ROSELL closely resembled photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 24, 1968 inquiry made at 405 Threadneedle Street, Beaumont, Texas determined that TOM ROSELL is a resident at that address. ROSELL's mother stated that her son was enroute to San Francisco and was probably in that city by now. She stated that her son is employed as a barber at Beaumont, Texas. Beaumont street and telephone directories confirm that ROSELL is a barber with residence at 405 Threadneedle Street, Beaumont.

11. GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH

Information furnished the San Francisco Office of the FBI was as follows:

Deputy Sheriff ANGEL STICKE GAULT regarding passengers who left Nuevo Laredo on April 6, 1968 enroute to Monterrey, Mexico made SMITH a possible suspect. SMITH was described as age 22, a British subject studying at Rice University, Houston, Texas.

On April 29, 1968 Mrs. ATKINSON, Secretary, Office of the Dean of Men, Rice University, advised GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH is an Abraham scholar and a British exchange student studying economics at Rice University. Rice University

records reflected that SMITH was at Rice University until on April 4, 1968 departing Houston April 5, 1968 over Easter vacation for the purpose of making a mountain climbing trip to Mexico.

On May 4, 1968 photographs of GRAHAM ROBERT SMITH were sent to San Antonio for the purpose of eliminating SMITH as a suspect.

12. EARL RAY,
RAY EARL
WARREN RAY
RAY WARREN

On April 29, 1968, A.E. BROWN, Hampshire, Texas, advised that his ex-wife presently resides at 170707 Jamiaca Boulevard, Spring Valley, California adding she had received a letter in 1960 from a person who was then incarcerated at the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. BROWN was not sure of the name of the person who had written to his then wife but he seemed to recall it as EARL RAY or any of the following: RAY EARL, WARREN RAY or RAY WARREN. In the letter received by his wife was a photograph which BROWN claimed closely resembled that of the 1960 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, suspect in this investigation. BROWN's former wife, DORIS DEAN JONES was interviewed at San Diego on April 29, 1968. She stated that she formerly knew a RAY EUGENE WARREN who during 1954 or 1955 had been incarcerated at St. Louis City Jail for a period of one year prior to being sentenced to a 30 years sentence at State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. She stated that in her opinion RAY EUGENE WARREN was not identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

13. CHARLES RAY JOHNSON

Information received by the FBI at Tampa, Florida made CHARLES RAY JOHNSON a possible suspect. JOHNSON had been described in information furnished to the Tampa Office as being employed by Heart of America Shows, a traveling carnival.

On May 1, 1968 the following investigation was conducted at Houston:

V.E. BROWN, Business Manager, Ted Corey, Owner and P.L. PATTERSON, Concessions Owner, all with Heart of America Shows advised that they could find no record for a CHARLES

RAY JOHNSON as an employee with that show. They advised that Heart of America has no other branch shows on the road. They further advised that they had been operating in the State of Texas for the past month. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY displayed to them were not identified as being similar with any show personnel.

14. JAMES W. HAMMONS

Information received by the FBI, Pittsburgh, is as follows. A Mr. KELVIN PLYER, Gulf Service Station, operator, Bartow, West Virginia, stated that on April 22, 1968 two white males driving a 1961 or 1962 white Chevrolet Impala, Louisiana license unknown, purchased gas and tires at PLYER's service station using Gulf Credit Card No. [REDACTED]. The purchaser signed the purchase slip in the name JAMES HAMMONS. On May 2, 1968 PLYER concluded after reading in the newspaper descriptive data concerning JAMES EARL RAY that HAMMONS might possibly have been RAY.

On May 8, 1968 JIM ABSHIER, Agent in Charge, Security Division, Gulf Oil Corporation, Houston, Texas advised as follows: Gulf Credit Card No. [REDACTED] is issued to a JAMES W. HAMMONS, Route 1, Antler, Oklahoma. On April 22, 1968 HAMMONS made a purchase at Bartow, West Virginia for an automobile, Louisiana license 9H067.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

1. JAMES STEDMAN

On April 11, 1968, NORVIL WILSON, construction superintendent, Houston, advised that the previous day he had overheard JAMES STEDMAN stated that he, STEDMAN, had an idea who killed MARTIN LUTHER KING but he hoped he was wrong.

STEDMAN is employed by the T.R.Waldrop Company, air conditioning contractors who are sub-contracting on an apartment project. Houston. Waldrop records reflect STEDMAN was born [REDACTED] and was employed by Waldrop since February 27, 1968. He came to Houston from Memphis, driving a 1962 Chevrolet station wagon, Tennessee license KN 3666, Shelby County with wife listed as BETTY. STEDMAN is a diabetic.

On April 12, 1968 STEDMAN was interviewed on his job. when tactfully approached for any information or observation about the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING he replied he,

his family and friends in Memphis were capable of committing the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING but he had no idea or information regarding the murder. When confronted with the alleged statements he made he stated he may have been shooting off his mouth but still contended he had no information. When pressed for identities of possible suspects he became antagonistic and stated he wanted to talk to an attorney if agents persisted in questioning him.

At the outset when agents identified themselves STEDMAN thought the inquiry regarding him was due to arrears on car payments to a finance company. With this in mind, STEDMAN was advised of the reward for information identifying the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING. STEDMAN quickly advised he was not a stoolie.

STEDMAN denied Klan affiliation.

As a result of interview. STEDMAN became extremely upset and belligerent and indicated that he now had reason to get a permit to buy a gun in order to kill anyone who might give him trouble.

2. Investigation at Dancing Schools, Houston Division

On April 18, 1968 Mrs. ITASKA WEINSTEIN, 5503 Yacht Club Drive, Dickinson, Texas, operator of the Itaska Dance Studio, Highway 3, League City, Texas, furnished the following information. Mrs. ITASKA WEINSTEIN had been contacted on April 16, 1967 regarding any information she might have in her records indicating that ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as, might have been a student at her dance studio.

On April 18, 1968 Mrs. WEINSTEIN stated that she had researched her records and located a 3 x 5 card bearing the name of JOHN WILLARD, no address or description. She stated that the card had been completed by herself and merely shows that a man named JOHN WILLARD appeared for four dancing lessons, three lessons being on a Wednesday and one on a Friday, month and date not indicated. Mrs. WEINSTEIN does recall that these lessons for JOHN WILLARD were given before her annual recital which is held in May, and to the best of her recollection this person took the dancing lessons during April, 1967. She stated she has no other record pertaining to a JOHN WILLARD and was unable to locate any record which could contain his signature or handwriting.

Her overall impression of JOHN WILLARD as best

she can recall was that he was not neat, lacking in personality and was an extremely poor dancer. She recalls him as being quiet and difficult to teach because he had poor balance. No one else at her studio at the present time would know him. She stated that it was possible that SHIRLEY CARROLL formerly a bookkeeper for Mrs. WEINSTEIN at the studio might have had contacts with JOHN WILLARD when he came for lessons and may have conversed with him. She stated that SHIRLEY CARROLL resides at an address in care of J.L. HOECK, Patton Road, Box 81A, Forest Hill, Maryland. Mrs. WEINSTEIN was shown photographs of ERIC GALT, also known as James Earl Ray, and she commented that the photograph of GALT with his eyes closed most closely resembled the JOHN WILLARD that she vaguely recalls. She stated the eyes drawn into the photograph do not resemble those of the man who took lessons from her. In addition the hair of the JOHN WILLARD that she knew was not as dark as that in the photograph and his complexion was olive, not fair.

During their very limited conversations WILLARD stated he worked "at NASA" and did not get off from work until 5:30 PM. He also stated that he was called back to work on overtime on occasion. She stated that he did not appear to be a highly educated man, definitely not the "engineering type". WILLARD had remarked to Mrs. WEINSTEIN that he went from work to his apartment or room, took a shower, changed clothes and then came for his dancing lesson. She recalled that he usually wore a white shirt and dark pants but on one or two occasions wore a suit. At no time did Mrs. WEINSTEIN observe a badge or identification tag with WILLARD's photograph on it as do all employees working at NASA possess. WILLARD had stated to Mrs. WEINSTEIN that he owned a record player and he once borrowed one of her records. He had mentioned that he had bought a record of Fred Astaire Dance Instructions which he said he purchased at the NASA Bay Shopping Center, Webster, Texas. Mrs. WEINSTEIN recalled that she told JOHN WILLARD that she would not dance with him while teaching him ballroom dancing as it was against her policy. On at least two occasions JOHN WILLARD brought with him a woman who acted as his partner while he took lessons. This woman was described as name "LOU", age in her 40s and definitely older than JOHN WILLARD, height 5'4", average build, dressed in ordinary cotton dresses, not slacks, with hair being dark with a reddish cast and had a poor personality. To the recollection of Mrs. WEINSTEIN, WILLARD's dancing partner supposedly worked as a waitress, cafe or establishment unknown.

According to Mrs. WEINSTEIN, WILLARD told her that he, after having taken this woman to a lesson or two, would not be able to bring her back with him because she worked too late and she wanted him to pick her up after work. Mrs. WEINSTEIN although not ever seeing WILLARD drive a car was confident that he had one but she was unable to describe it other than to say it must have been an older car. Although she is not certain she thinks that perhaps on the last time that she gave him a lesson WILLARD told her he was going to "visit his mother". She can recall no further information regarding JOHN WILLARD. Mrs. WEINSTEIN further furnished the following descriptive data concerning JOHN WILLARD:

Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	Approximately 5'9" - 10"
Age	In his 30s
Hair	Brown, ordinary cut, combed straight back
Eyes	Gray or brown, definitely not blue, and did not wear glasses
Build	Stocky, but not fat or heavy
Complexion	Olive
Teeth	Cannot recall
Carriage	Posture not good, slouched and not that of a well groomed man
Speech	Average, no accent
Jewelry	May have worn ring and wrist-watch
Shoes	Black, round toed, not alligator; feet of average size
Habits	Cannot remember if he smoked; does not remember habit of pulling ear
Dress	When wearing slacks, wore belt and slacks much too long, dragging on floor, belt worn low
Miscellaneous	Did not seem clean or well educated

On April 19, 1968 Special Agents LEON F. BROWN and HENRY L. WILLIAMS contacted the following employees and proprietors of restaurants and bars on Old Galveston Road north from Webster to South Houston:

CECIL RAMSEY, Goliad Bar
7722 Old Galveston Road

Mrs. W. MULDER, Mulder's Courts,
7806 Old Galveston Road

Mrs. BEATRICE PAIGE, Ellington Motel
7822 Old Galveston Road

RICHARD GALIMBO, WW Rance Bar,
9002 Old Galveston Road

BARBARA FRENCH, Eunice's
9136 Old Galveston Road

NELSON BLAND, Singing Wheel,
603 N. Commerce (Webster)

JEAN BRADFORD, Five B's Cafe,
16516 Old Galveston Road

JIMMY STUBBS, Lone Star Beer Salesman,
Pasadena

NELL KAMPER, Coconut Grove Lounge
9322 Old Galveston Road

Shangri-La Inn, NINA ESPEANSE
9410 Old Galveston Road

S.L. HARLOW, Hollywood Inn
10638 Old Galveston Road

FAYE ETZEL, Roy's Tune-Up,
10010 Old Galveston Road

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
TIMOTHY DONOVAN and KENNETH B. JACKSON on April 19, 1968:

Mr. M.L. CASSIDY, Proprietor, League City Bar,
Old Galveston Road, League City, Texas, advised he had not
known of a female named "LOU" working at this bar in recent
years and that photographs of ERIC GALT was unfamiliar to
him.

MARGARET MOORE, Manager, Diamond Apartments, 628
Highway 3; Mariner Apartments, 1100 E. Main; Todd-Diamond
Duplexes, 7th and Danna Streets, all League City, Texas,
advised after viewing photograph and description of ERIC
GALT that GALT was unknown to her.

Mrs. JULIUS LOOSIER, Hacienda Cafe, 3817 Highway 3, Dickinson, Texas, advised one LUCILLE G. MERKA who was more commonly referred to as "LU" worked as a waitress at this cafe for about two months, terminating about September 4, 1965. LU was a white female, age about 40-43, 5'6", dark hair, slender build. She was married to one LUM HOLLAN or HALLAN of Dickinson for awhile prior to her death from cancer in a hospital about one and one half to two years ago in Beaumont, Texas. Mrs. LOOSIER was unable to identify photograph of ERIC GALT as anyone she had known or seen before.

The following persons were contacted in efforts to locate and/or identify the unknown waitress described only as first name "LOU". Each of these persons reviewed subject's Wanted Flyer and each advised they could offer no information concerning "LOU" or subject.

L.B. WRIGHT, owner, Flintlock Inn,
810 Nasa Boulevard

ELIANE HUDSON, Manager, Monterrey House,
914 NASA Boulevard

D.W. ROBINSON, Manager
BETTY COPELAND, Berger Town Restaurant
No. 2, 918 NASA Boulevard

RAYMOND E. HANKAMER, JR., Manager,
Holiday Inn Motel, 1300 NASA Boulevard

LESLEY C. BARCLAY, Manager, Sveden House
Restaurant, Nassau Bay Shopping Village

BARRY FLEISHCHMANN, Manager, Nassau Bay
Hotel, 1622 NASA Boulevard

On April 19, 1968, Mrs. LOUISE CASEY, Waitress, Nassau Bay Hotel, 1622 NASA Boulevard was interviewed at the hotel. Mrs. CASEY furnished the following information concerning herself:

Mrs. CASEY advised that she was born LOUISE ANETTE BOLEENO, [redacted] at Buffalo, New York. The following physical description was noted:

Height	4'11"
Weight	100 lbs.
Eyes	Green
Hair	Blond with reddish tint

Mrs. CASEY advised that she has been employed by the Nassau Bay Hotel as a waitress since May, 1965 and at no time has she dated anyone. Mrs. CASEY advised she has been married to RICHARD CASEY for 19 years and has a 17 year old son. She advised that subject's name and photograph were completely unfamiliar to her, with the exception of recent press coverage and that at no time has she ever taken dancing lessons. Mrs. CASEY advised she currently resides at 98 Bayou Lane, Kamah, Texas, and that her husband RICHARD is employed as an engineer by Link, Temple and Vault, contractors at the Manned Spacecraft Center. Mrs. CASEY advised that during the spring and summer of 1967 she was employed full-time working evenings in the Club Seville at the Nassau Bay Hotel. Mrs. CASEY advised she has never been arrested and that the only time she has ever been fingerprinted was in 1951 or 1952 when she was employed as a part-time clerk at the Post Office in Buffalo, New York, during the Christmas season. She advised subsequently she and her husband have resided at Columbus, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland; Granada Hills, California; and League City, Texas, prior to her present residence. She advised she and her husband moved to League City in February, 1965 and while at League City lived at the Diamond Apartments, 613 Texas Highway No. 3. Mrs. CASEY advised the only other waitress in the area that she knows whose first name could be LOU is Mrs. LOUISE WALLACE who is also employed as a waitress at the Nassau Bay Hotel.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs FRANK M. IVEY and DAVID W. HEDGEcock:

On April 19, 1968 BARRY FLEISCHMANN, Manager, Nassau Bay Hotel, 1622 NASA Boulevard, advised that he employs two waitresses whose first name is "LOU". He advised that Mrs. LOUISE CASEY is employed as a waitress in the hotel restaurant and Mrs. LOUISE WALLACE is employed in the hotel coffee shop.

Mrs. LOUISE CASEY was interviewed on April 19, 1968 and it was determined she is not identical with the (LOU) (Last Name Unknown) previously determined in this case. Mrs. LOUISE WALLACE was on a day off on April 19, 1968 and efforts to locate her at her home, 1410 Farm-Market Road 518, Kemah, Texas met with negative results.

the following investigation was conducted in this case at Dickinson, Texas by SA HOLLIS Q. BOONE and SA M. CLAY BLACKMAN on April 19, 1968:

Attempts to locate a waitress by the name of LOU (Last Name Unknown) were negative and photograph of subject was shown to all persons interviewed also with negative results. In the course of this investigation the following persons were contacted:

FRED GRIEGER, Deputy Sheriff,
Galveston County Sheriff's Office

ROBERT BRUCE, Galveston County Sheriff's
Office

MARY WILD, Mary's Cafe

CARLO EMMETT, T&C Night Club and Motel

LAVON BOOTH, Colonial Rooms
All 1967 room receipts were reviewed

E.R. COOK, owner, rooming house,
4401 Gore

Mrs. PRESTON G. NORTHRUP, Northup Trailer
Park, Highway 517

LUCILLE GRAHAM, Railroad Cafe

Mrs. JACKIE ROSS, Railroad Cafe

Four Seasons Beauty Salon, TINA VAN HOY

FRANK BOSTICK, Bostick Restaurant,
Texas City, Texas

LINDA SKEPTER, Pete's Cafe
LaMarque, Texas

Closed accounts, Security Savings and Loan and Miss VIRGINIA WEIGELT, Citizens State Bank, were checked for possible accounts of subject with negative results.

On April 23, 1968 BARRY FLEISHMAN, Resident Manager, Nassau Bay Hotel advised as follows:

Mrs. WALLACE has been employed by that hotel as a waitress for an extended period. She was not at work April 23, 1968. He described her as being in her middle or late 40s, married and has seven children. Her husband is an invalid. Mrs. WALLACE is definitely not a "swinger" but on the contrary, is a quiet, stable and refined person

who is a dedicated housewife and mother with outside employment to support her family. She is not the type who would be interested in or have the time for extra marital affairs in view of her heavy responsibilities as housewife to an invalid and mother of seven children.

On April 19, 1968 the following individuals were interviewed by SA PHILIP W. SWISHER and SA OTTO VAN RY, and were exhibited photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as. All individuals interviewed advised after viewing photographs of RAY they had never seen him.

LOU KENNEDY, 1805 Wesley, Houston, Texas, employed as a waitress at Denny's Restaurant, 3137 Southwest Freeway. White female, 5'2", medium build. hair brown with reddish tint, date of birth [redacted] place of birth Dickens County, Texas.

LOU RAWZA, 5209 Clay, employed as a secretary for E.O. Henson Company, 5209 Clay, Houston, Texas. Previous employment at Astoria Lounge, 1106 St. Emanuel, Houston. White female, 5'5", complexion medium. build medium, eyes brown, hair brown, date of birth [redacted] place of birth Silorm Springs, Arkansas.

Mrs. ADA CAMARON, Manager, Larabee Apartments,
1914 Larabee Road

ALICE ENTEGERMEIR, Assistant Manager
King Kastle Restaurant, 5114 Nasa Road

R.L. FARMER, Manager, Ebb Tide Apartments,
4521 Nasa Road

J.F. PASCHALL, Manager, Dobbs House
Restaurant, 1311 Nasa Road

The following investigation was conducted by SAs JOHN LEONARD RYAN and GEORGE T. SULLIVAN on April 19, 1968 on Nasa Highway 1. All bars, restaurants, and cafeterias on Nasa No. 1 were contacted to determine if the proprietors or employees of these establishments knew a waitress by the name of LOU, who is described as a white female, age 40, 5'4", brown hair with red tint. The following individuals were also contacted to determine if they had ever seen the individual known as ERIC STARVO GALT or JOHN WILLARD or LOWMYER. These individuals were unable to furnish any positive information.

LEON DYER
JAMES H. ROSSER, proprietor
1705 Second Street
Seabrook, Texas

Paul's Cafeteria
1913 NASA #1
ELLEN PERRY, Waitress
PAUL HAYES, Manager

Lake Side Seafood
6031 NASA #1
P.C. LARRYBEE, Proprietor

The Lake House
5500 NASA #1
Mrs. HAROLD LEHMAN, Assistant Manager

Clear Lake Motel
5222 Nasa #1
H.W. WHITE, Manager

Eric Restaurant
5014 NASA #1
ERIC WILLIAMS and JAMES BOLDS, proprietors

Pier 7 Diner
4525 NASA #1
EVELYN SMITH, Manager

The Landing Apartments
4420 NASA Road #1
ED RAY, Manager

Port of Call Apartments
#1 Porifito Strip
MARION PETERS, Manager

Ramada Inn Restaurant
NASA Road #1
V.LITTLE, Manager
DIANA HANDS, Bookkeeper

On April 19, 1968 the following persons were contacted at their respective establishments by SAs WILLIAM G. MORRISSEY and JOHN MICHAEL MC CABE in Seabrook, Texas with negative results. Wanted Flyer 442 dated April 17, 1968 was exhibited to these individuals and they were

questioned regarding subject's possible whereabouts in Seabrook during April, 1967 and their knowledge of a waitress named "LOU" who allegedly is from the Texas Gulf Coast area.

C.J. ESHLEMAN
1309 Todville Road

B.A. HEIMANN
1618 Todville Road

R.A. MILLER
1705 Todville Road

HARRY FRIEDMAN
1901 Todville Road
Spaceway Apartments

B.L. GUNDERSON
1921 Todville Road

ALICE JACKSON
Bayview Apartments, Incorporated.
1822 Todville Road

Todville Apartments
905 Todville Road
RICHARD E. PEACOCK

Wes Nuecke's Bar
618 Todville Road

J.S. FOVILE
519 Todville Road

RACHEL MC DOWELL's Restaurant
Box 342-906 Todville Road

LEON DYER's Bar
313 Todville Road

JOSEPH HACK's Beer Lounge
~~112 11th Street~~

LEO MASTERS
Pier 8 Market
104 Houston Street

Regatta Inn
Highway 146
PHILLIP LONG

OSCAR SCHWARTZ
Crossroads Coffee House
1011 Meyer Street

A.L. WILCOX
Chief, Seabrook Police Department

RALPH ANGELINO
Fox and Hounds Club
Highway 146

On April 19, 1968 the following persons were contacted at their respective establishments by SAs WILLIAM G. MORRISSEY and JOHN MICHAEL MC CABE in Kemah, Texas with negative results:

R.B. OLIVER
Constable, Kemah, Texas, Precinct 7
6th Street and Harris Street

BEN BLACKLEDGE, Mayor of Kemah
Rocket Lounge, 610 2nd Street
Bradford Apartments, 610 3rd Street

TIM HOMER
JIMMIE WALKER's Edgewater Inn

JAMES COOPER
Key Largo Restaurant

WESLEY VAN COURT
Clear Creek Inn
606 3rd Street

SYLVIA D. Motel
Texas Avenue
L.E. MARTIN

DONALD FRY
Don's Place
312 Texas

DON COURTS
406 Texas

HAZEL CONTLIN
Chatterbox
401 Texas

Kemah Motel
503 Kipp
EDNA OLIVER

SAM ATLEDGE
Halls Lounge
701 Highway 146

STEVE ROBINSON
Robinson's Restaurant

Del Mar Lounge
601 2nd Street
JAMES BREWSTER

Moonshot Cafe
605 2nd Street
I.P. DICKSON

Cabana Motel
Kipp Street
MARY CEDAR

Pirate's Cove
609 2nd Street
JACK CAMPBELL
LOUIS WILSON

On April 26, 1968 information from the Baltimore Office, FBI, set forth results of the interview of SHIRLEY CARROLL who in 1967 had been employed by Itaska Dance Studio as a bookkeeper, League City, Texas. Miss CARROLL stated that she did not recognize photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, also known as, as being anyone whom she had ever met and specifically not anyone that she could associate with a person named JOHN WILLARD or in any way with a person who attended the Itaska Dance Studio at League City, Texas. She further stated that the name JOHN WILLARD was not familiar to her. She stated that she vaguely recalled an individual who appeared bashful and quite backward who had taken lessons at the Itaska Dance Studio but this individual was not a person named JOHN WILLARD and the person that she vaguely recalls does not in any way resemble ERIC STARVO GALT, also known as JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 19, 1968 STEVE GERON, Manager, Home Entertainment, Inc. (record shop), 18091 Upper Bay Road, Nassau Bay, was exhibited photo and description of JAMES EARL

RAY. He was unable to identify this photo. He searched his records under the name and aliases of RAY and was unable to locate any record under these names. GERON explained that he had been manager only since January, 1968. Previous manager was DAVID WEINBRENER, now with Sterling Electronics.

On April 19, 1968, DAVID WEINBRENER, Salesman, Sterling Electronics, 4201 Southwest Freeway, was exhibited photo and description of subject and stated he could not identify this individual as having been a patron of Home Entertainment, Inc. during the time he was manager. WEINBRENER stated Home Entertainment, Inc. opened for business in Nassau Bay about June 7, 1967 under his management. He remained there as manager until the latter part of 1967.

Mrs. NORMA DRESZER, Clerk, and Mrs. JOYCE MURPHY, Owner, Melody Lane Music Shop, Clear Lake City Shopping Center, on April 19, 1968 were exhibited photo and description of subject and were unable to identify as a patron of this store. Name and aliases searched against records with negative results.

The following investigation was conducted by SA
PENROD W. HARRIS:

AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

On April 16, 1968 HENRY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Manager, Arthur Murray School of Dancing, 809 N. Shoreline, advised this school of dancing was closed for some months, and reopened in December, 1967. He was unable to locate any record of a person attending this school under the surname GALT, LOWMEYER, LOWMYER or WILLARD.

On April 16, 1968 DAVE HOSKINS, operator, Dave Hoskins Dancing School, 4415 Gollihar, advised he has had no persons taking dancing lessons from him in the past four years, having surname GALT, LOWMEYER, LOWMYER or WILLARD.

It is noted the above two dancing schools are the only schools in Corpus Christi at which ballroom dancing is taught.

The following dance studios were contacted in Houston, Texas, by SA TIMOTHY J. DONOVAN on April 15, 1967, in an effort to determine if ERIC STARVO GALT had ever been on record as attending these schools:

1. Academy of Flamenco,
5134 Richmond
Mrs. BETTY GILBERSON --

2. Vivian King Adams School
5238 Palm Center,
Mrs. VIVIAN KING ADAMS
3. Alexander Joy School
3102 Beechamp
Mrs. EVA MILLER
4. Allegro Ballet of Houston
ELLA MAE HORN
2707 Saye Road
5. Pat Herring Alston Dance Studio
3804 Broadway
PAT HERRING ALSTON
6. Dance City U.S.A.
5134 Richmond
Mrs. BETTY GILBERSON
7. Mary Jo Dance Studio
1734 West 34th Street
MARY JO CARIVELLA
8. McDowell
420 Little York Road
BILLY MC DOWELL
9. Twin Dance Studio
907 East Southmore
MARY MC COWAN
10. Westbury Dance Studio
10903 Chimney Rock
KAREN MAINERD
11. Eleanor Eason Studiok
824 Wakefield
Mrs. EMONONE
12. Herzog Studio
7909 Hillcroft
Miss KERRY
13. Linkwood School of Ballet
8827 Timberside
Mrs. LUISA
14. London International
5134 Richmond
BETTY GILBERSON