

File #:

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW
65994 Date: 11-01-2021

Best available image

62-117290

Serial Scope:

EBF - 1103

REGISTRATION CARD

NOTICE TO GUESTS: — This property is privately owned and management reserves right to refuse service to anyone, and will not be responsible for accidents or injury to guests or for loss of money, jewelry or valuables of any kind.

RENTAL PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

NAME Eric S Galt

STREET 2608 Highland ave

CITY Birmingham STATE Alabama

REPRESENTING _____
American Hotel Register Co., 226-232 W. Ontario St., Chicago 10, Ill.

ROOM 34 CAR LICENSE 0-24138993 STATE Ala

ARR. DATE 4-2-68 DEPT. DATE 7-2 NO. IN PARTY 1 CLERK 1 MAKE OF CAR Mustang

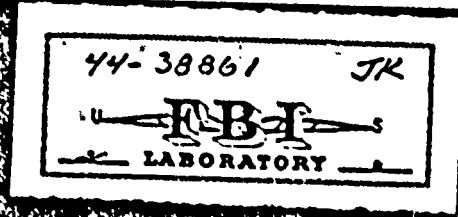
REMARKS _____

THIS IS YOUR RECEIPT

ROOM	RATE	TAX	AMT. PAID	RECEIVED FROM

THANK YOU

McC **Dupratt's New Rebel MOTOR HOTEL**
 PHONE FA 3-7641 3406 LAMAR AVE. MEMPHIS, TENN.



ME 44-1987

REVOLVER FOUND IN POSSESSION OF
JAMES EARL RAY WHEN ARRESTED
JUNE 8, 1968, IN LONDON, ENGLAND

When JAMES EARL RAY was apprehended by members of New Scotland Yard on June 8, 1968, in London, England, he had in his possession a .38 caliber "Liberty Chief" revolver manufactured by Hiroku Firearms Manufacturing Company, a Japanese concern. This revolver has serial number 715.

The National Police Agency of Japan was requested to determine to whom this revolver was shipped by the manufacturer, and the following letter was forthcoming from that agency:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/86 BY SP/ma/cm/ll

ME 44-1987

On June 10, 1968, Mr. MILA SYDOBODA, owner, Liberty Arms Company and Solingen Cutlery Company, Post Office Box 306, Montrose, California, advised that Liberty revolver #715 had been sold to R. TATUM, New and Used Guns, 118 Edwards Drive, Mableton, Georgia, on October 3, 1966, under Invoice No. 13909.

On June 11, 1968, Mr. ROBERT TATUM, 118 Edwards Street, Mableton, Georgia, advised SA JAMES RICHARD FLICK that the Liberty Chief revolver having serial number 715 had been sold by him on December 3, 1966, for \$50.00 to WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904-42nd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

CONFIDENTIAL

NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY

2-1, 2-Chome, Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda ku. Tokyo
Japan

"J-NCB/ 2.9/68"

Mr. Roderick V. Prechtl, Jr.
Legal Attache
American Embassy
Tokyo

I N T E R P O L
NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU

Telegraphic Address:
"INTERPOLJAPAN TOKYO"

TOKYO, June 10, 1968.

Re: Information about a pistol
"Liberty-Chief" No. 715

Dear Sir;

In reply to your telephone request made this morning concerning the captioned matter, we wish to inform you as follows:

1. Destination of this weapon's shipment:
This pistol in question was shipped from the manufacturing company given below on August 3, 1966, and was cleared by our Customs' inspection on August 19, 1966 and was loaded on the "HAVANA-MARU" at "SUMA-PORT" in Hyogo Prefecture for shipment to:
Name of a company : LIBERTY ARMS CORPORATION.
Address: P.O. BOX. 306, MONTROSE, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.
2. Items for your reference:
The name of this weapon's manufacturing company is "KABUSHIKI KAISHA, MIKOKU SEISAKUSHO" (translated in English : MIKOKU MANUFACTURING COMPANY LTD.).
Address: 160, INARI-CHO, KOCHI-CITY, KOCHI PREFECTURE, JAPAN.
Name of the President: IDO Chiyoki.

Trusting the above information is of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

for HEAD, NCB, JAPAN:

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J. Sode

(YOSHITO SODE)
Chief

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 20, 1968

WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904 - 42nd Avenue North,
Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

Sometime in December, 1966, SPAIN went to Atlanta, Georgia, with his father, WALTER LEON SPAIN, so his father could attempt to obtain employment. While in Atlanta, WALTER E. SPAIN saw an advertisement in a newspaper for a .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver, which was being sold by a gun dealer in a small town outside Atlanta, believed to be Mapleton, Georgia. SPAIN, accompanied by his father, went to this gun dealer and bought the gun and SPAIN returned it to his residence in Birmingham, Alabama.

In the Spring of 1967, SPAIN gave the gun to his father in partial payment of a debt he owed to his father. SPAIN was later told by his father that he had sold the gun after placing a want ad for it in a Birmingham newspaper. SPAIN was not present when his father sold the gun and therefore did not see the purchaser.

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss 52 Date dictated 6/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 20, 1968

WALTER LEON SPAIN, #3 Glen Iris Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

In the Spring of 1967, SPAIN's son, WALTER E. SPAIN, gave Mr. SPAIN a .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver, which his son had purchased in late 1966 or early 1967 from a gun dealer near Atlanta, Georgia. His son owed Mr. SPAIN some money and the gun was a partial payment of this debt.

In the Fall of 1967, after having been hospitalized in August, 1967, at Huntsville, Alabama, for an illness and being in need of money to pay bills, Mr. SPAIN sold many personal items by means of placing want ads for these items in the "Birmingham News." Among the items sold was the .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver. Mr. SPAIN recalled he placed an ad for this gun in a Sunday paper, and that same Sunday he received a call from a man who asked about the gun, the price, and the directions to get to SPAIN's residence. The caller said he was in the western section of Birmingham. About an hour after this call, and while SPAIN's wife and daughter were at church, a man came to the front door and said he had called about the gun. He looked at the gun, stated he had been looking for a gun of the same type, and when told again that the price was \$65.00, he gave SPAIN two twenty dollar bills, two ten dollar bills, and a five dollar bill, after saying he would take it. SPAIN did not give the man a receipt for the money, nor did he record his name or see any identification of the man, and he did not obtain any information as to his name. The man left carrying the gun in his hand. SPAIN furnished neither ammunition nor any papers for the gun.

When the man first arrived, SPAIN observed he had parked his car, described by SPAIN only as a late model, white or light-colored, on the street in front of SPAIN's house, a distance of about 150 feet. SPAIN did not pay any further attention to the car. SPAIN did recall the buyer saying he lived in the western section of Birmingham, ~~but he did not mention any specific address or employment.~~

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
 by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss 53 Date dictated 6/14/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date June 20, 1968

All Sunday issues of "The Birmingham News," for the months of September and October, 1967, were reviewed at "The Birmingham News." From this review, it was determined that only one want ad for a .38 caliber revolver was placed by WALTER LEON SPAIN, that being in the October 1, 1968, issue.

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
 by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss 55 Date dictated 6/14/68

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BH 44-1740

The buyer said he wanted the gun to keep around his house. Mr. SPAIN described the buyer as a white male, about forty to forty-five years of age, 5'8" or 5'9" tall, 170 to 175 pounds, dark hair slightly graying at the temples, with a local (Alabama) accent. The man was wearing a sport shirt and slacks, colors unrecalled, and he did not have glasses.

Mr. SPAIN was shown five different photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, and he chose one which had been taken in California during January or February, 1968, as "resembling the man" who bought the revolver; however, Mr. SPAIN would not make a definite identification of the photograph of RAY as the buyer.

Mr. SPAIN recalled he was contacted by FBI Agents on April 7, 1968, and shown an artist's conception of an individual the FBI was attempting to locate. At that time, he advised Agents the drawing reminded him of someone he may have seen previously, but was unable to furnish any other identifying information. After viewing the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and being questioned about the sale of the revolver, SPAIN said he was now able to connect the sale of the revolver with the drawing in that the person depicted in the drawing reminded SPAIN of the person to whom he had sold the revolver.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/14, 15/68

JIMMIE EGLTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted at 10:37 P.M., April 14, 1968, at which time he furnished the following information:

GARNER made available a record book maintained by him concerning persons who rent rooms at both 107 and 113 - 14th Street, N.E., rooming houses operated by him on a lease basis. A review of this record book failed to disclose any registration in the name GALT. It should be noted this book contains only a record of roomers for the period beginning January 1, 1968.

Upon being questioned concerning individuals renting at these addresses who might have checked out prior to the completion of the period for which they had paid, or others who for any reason might not be recorded in this record book, GARNER named, among others, an individual named (First Name Unknown) GALT. On being questioned concerning GALT, he said this individual was first seen by him on the afternoon of April 5, 1968, between the hours of 5:00 and 6:00 P.M. He explained that another roomer, TED C. JONES, who occupies room #1 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., had been sitting in front of this building and was approached by GALT, who inquired concerning the availability of a room. GARNER joined the pair and GALT indicated to GARNER he was interested in obtaining a single, quiet room. Having no such room available, GARNER told GALT he would put him in Room #3, at 107 - 14th Street, which room was a double room and that he would be moved to a single room as soon as one became available. GARNER said he noted GALT was driving a black car, probably a Ford, bearing an out-of-state license plate (state of registration not recalled), and that the car was possibly a 1962 or 1963 model.

GALT accepted this arrangement and paid GARNER while outside the dwelling and he believes he received a \$10 bill and a \$1 bill in payment. The cost of the room was \$10.50 per week and a \$.50 key deposit. During the conversation, GALT indicated he was a welder and originally came from "The Carolinas." He explained that he had a tag for a different state on the Ford because he had been working in another state.

On 4/14, 15/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2366

by SAs JOHN H. CREECH and ROBERT L. BASS JRD:lcc Date dictated 4/16/68

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DATE 2/20/86 BY SP-6/mmk

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At this point GARNER indicated that possibly the tag on the Ford was a Tennessee tag, but he was not at all certain of this.

GARNER described GALT as being a white male, 32 - 35 years of age, 5' 11", 190 pounds, dark brown or black hair worn in a brush cut, blue eyes, medium "outdoor" complexion and having a southern accent. He noted no distinguishing features or characteristics and had no recollection of any ring or other jewelry. His dress was casual, specifically described as a shirt and slacks.

GALT moved into Room #5 at 107 - 14th Street, N.E., where he remained until Sunday, April 7, 1968. On this day GALT was moved to Room #6 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. On this occasion, GARNER observed GALT move his possessions and noted that he had no luggage and all of his possessions were either moved in a paper bag or box.

On April 7, 1968, MARCEL G. ANDERSON, an employee of the Albert Pick Motel, 14th and Spring Streets, N.E., Atlanta, was brought to the rooming house by FRED C. JONES, who is also employed by this hotel. GARNER assigned ANDERSON Room #2 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., and noted that the individual he believed to be GALT and ANDERSON became friendly.

On April 9, 1968, at approximately 9:00 P.M., GALT and ANDERSON came to GARNER's room at 107 - 14th Street, N.E., at which time GALT advised GARNER that both he and ANDERSON were checking out. He said both men appeared to have been drinking. During the conversation, GALT advised he had received a telephone call from a friend in Michigan and had learned that welders were receiving a higher hourly wage there. For this reason, he had decided to go to Michigan to seek work. ANDERSON, who was a motel employee, indicated he was going to Michigan with GALT and hoped to obtain employment as a welder's helper. GARNER recalled he refunded approximately \$17 to ANDERSON, who had paid two weeks in advance on registering on April 7. GALT did not ask for a refund, although he was paid through April 11, but did receive the return of his \$50 deposit for the key.

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AT 44-2386

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Thereafter, GARNER accompanied GALT and ANDERSON to ANDERSON's room where he secured the room keys from both GALT and ANDERSON. At this time he noted several beer bottles in the room and presumed GALT and ANDERSON had been drinking together. GARNER did not actually observe the departure of GALT and ANDERSON, but noted both were gone on the morning of April 10, 1968, as was the previously-described black Ford auto.

GARNER made available the registration for HAROLD G. ANDERSON. This registration does not reflect an address for ANDERSON, but indicates that his father is G. F. ANDERSON, Duluth, Georgia, telephone number 443-4672. GARNER explained that he always attempts to obtain the name and address for a next of kin for his roomers.

GARNER provided the following physical description of HAROLD G. ANDERSON:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	40
Height	5' 9"
Weight	155 - 160 pounds
Hair	Light brown, parted on side
Complexion	Medium
Eyes	Unknown
Distinguishing Characteristics	None noted
Dress	Casual, shirt and slacks

GARNER identified other tenants who resided at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., during the same period that GALT was a roomer there.

GARNER said he was unable to recall GALT's first name, but advised he had observed nail on the hall table of the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., which nail was

addressed to GALT. At this point, GARNER accompanied the interviewing Agents to 113 - 14th Street, N.E., where it was observed that there were two letters and a package on the hall table addressed to ERIC S. or E. GALT. The package was postmarked 4/1/68, and the letters were postmarked 4/9 and 4/10/68. GARNER advised his sister, ROBBIE LEE GARNER, a school teacher who resides in the Dixieland Apartments, 1295 Donnelly Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, had visited him on either Friday or Saturday night, April 12 or 13, 1968. At this time his sister had thumbed through the mail on the table at the 113 - 14th Street address and upon noticing the mail addressed to ERIC GALT, she commented to GARNER that this was the same name as the individual who, according to newspaper publicity, was a suspect in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. GARNER stated that he did not feel there was any likelihood that the GALT who had stayed at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., was identical with this suspect, stating many people have the same name.

GARNER stated that he had neither seen nor heard of GALT prior to April 5, 1968, and that during GALT's stay at his rooming house he saw nothing to indicate that GALT had any connection with any other tenant at this address prior to his arrival there. GARNER was asked whether he had any explanation for the fact that GALT had mail postmarked 4/1/68 addressed to him at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., and according to GARNER, GALT did not arrive at this location until April 5, 1968. GALT said he was unable to explain this, and had no idea how this could occur.

GARNER was also questioned concerning the possibility that GALT or any other roomers had left material with him in storage or for safekeeping. He assured that this was not so. He did report that Rooms #4 and #5 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., both of which it was noted were fastened with hasps and padlocks, were storage rooms. He stated they contained only linens and possibly a few items of no value left behind by roomers.

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With regard to Room #5 at 107 - 14th Street, N.E., GARNER said that this room had not been occupied by anyone since GALT was transferred from this room on April 7, 1968. He noted, however, that the maid, PERRY LEE ZACHERY or her helper, identity unknown, would have changed the sheets in Room #5 after GALT was moved.

With regard to Room #6 at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., this room remained vacant until April 13, 1968, when it was rented to DAVID O'DONNELL, 12 Andover Drive, Syosset, New York. He described O'DONNELL as a very young man who is also employed at the Albert Pick Hotel and who was brought to the rooming house by FRED C. JONES. He said he does not believe this room was made up prior to its being rented to O'DONNELL, but advised he had given O'DONNELL clean sheets so that he could change the linens himself.

GARNER said he did not know of any association between GALT and other roomers at either of the rooming houses except the association with HAROLD G. ANDERSON, as previously described.

In explanation for the failure of the name "GALT" to appear on the rooming house records, GARNER said that he can only explain this by saying he received payment for the room while away from the place where he maintains his records and had inadvertently failed to record the name when he returned to his room.

The interview of GARNER concluded at 1:38 AM, April 15, 1968.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/68

During the interview of JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, he asked the question, "How are you coming on the King murder?" He was then asked by interviewing Agent if he had heard or read much concerning this and he stated he had read quite a bit in the newspapers and seen a lot on television. GARNER then indicated that he knew this was why ye were asking about GALT.

On 4/14, 15/68 Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2326
by SA ROGER L. KEAS:lcc Date dictated 4/16/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 19681

At 2:30 a.m. JIMMIE DELTON GARNER telephonically contacted the Atlanta Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at which time he provided the following information:

Since providing the information concerning ERIC GALT during a personal interview by agents, he has rechecked his records and now believes that the individual whom he knew as GALT actually was registered at the rooming house under the name of WILLIAM LEE, Route 1, Gastonia, North Carolina. GARNER said his records do not reflect the room number to which LEE was assigned but noted that the records do show LEE arrived April 5, 1968, and paid through April 12, 1968. When renting the room, LEE supplied the name Miss BETTY DUTRIMAN, 1652 Waltz Street, Warren, Michigan, as the individual to be notified in case of emergency. GARNER said all information provided during the prior interview was accurate except that he now feels certain that WILLIAM LEE's registration pertains to ERIC GALT.

GARNER was questioned as to how he determined this man's name to be GALT when the registration was in the name of LEE. GARNER was unable to satisfactorily explain this except to say that he feels that he concluded that LEE was GALT when GARNER's sister called his attention to the mail at the rooming house which was directed to ERIC GALT.

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On 4/15/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2836

by SA JOHN S. COOPER :cjm Date dictated 4/16/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 16, 1958

In response to a telephonic request received at 9:31 a.m. from JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, he was interviewed in front of his restaurant located at 1052 Northside Drive, Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia.

GARNER opened the conversation by stating "Lee is not Galt." He then made available the registration records for his rooming house. It was again noted these records do not reflect a registration in the name of GALT. At the same time, GARNER produced an envelope bearing the printed name "Eric S. Galt." GARNER said this name was printed thereon by GALT when GARNER requested his full name. Other handwritten notations thereon were, according to GARNER, prepared by himself.

GARNER stated that subsequent to a prior interview, he had been searching his records and his memory and had now determined that on March 24, 1958, late in the evening, an individual knocked on his apartment door, introduced himself as Mr. GALT, and requested a single room.

He was placed in Room Number 2, 113 14th Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, on noting that the room was small, was offered an adjoining storage room in which to place his surplus belongings. At this point, GALT remarked he would be able to utilize a desk in the storage room for his television set.

GARNER did not see GALT unload his automobile or bring his possessions into the room. He next saw GALT on March 31, 1958, at which time the rent was due and GALT made the statement, "I may as well pay you for another week." This was between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.

On April 5, 1958, GARNER entered the room at approximately 11:00 a.m. to change the linens. At this time, he found a note on the bed written on a piece of cardboard, believed by him to be a laundry shirt backing, which stated in effect "I've had to go to Birmingham. I've left my TV set here and will try to return for it in

On 4/15/58 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

SA ROGER L. KAAS and
 SA JOHN D. COEHL :hjc

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Date dictated 4/16/58

AT 44-2386

RLK:bjc

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about a week." He does not recall whether the note was printed or written and destroyed it by throwing it in the trash immediately.

GARNER described GALT as a white male, 33 to 35 years of age, approximately six feet tall, slender build, black hair, worn very short with possibly a part on the side.

GARNER had previously noted GALT to be utilizing a light colored, possibly white, automobile and on the morning of April 15, 1958, telephonically contacted Mr. HAROLD WATERS, Room Number 1, 107 14th Street, Northeast, as this automobile was parked near WATERS, at which time he asked WATERS generally if he recalled the make of car and WATERS advised him it was a late model Mustang, possibly 1956 or 1957.

GARNER estimated his total contact with GALT on both occasions did not exceed one-half hour. He stated on both occasions GALT was neatly dressed in a dark suit, white shirt, and tie. He characterized him as looking like a preacher.

The inconsistencies in the information previously furnished by GARNER and the foregoing were thoroughly discussed with him and he could attribute it only to "being confused", in that he had erroneously associated the name GALT with the roomer, WILLIAM LEE, about whom he had furnished the information.

At this time, GARNER made available a three page memorandum in his handwriting which chronologically sets forth his association with GALT. The envelope previously referred to, furnished by GARNER, on which GALT wrote his name, also contained the notation "Could do several different kinds of work." This note was prepared by GARNER.

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AT 44-2386

RLK:bjc

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GARNER stated he made this notation during his initial contact with GALT, at which time he asked his usual questions of new roomers about their line of work. He said he inadvertently failed to record the information on the envelope in his permanent records. GARNER added that at the time of renting the room, he received a \$1.00 key deposit from GALT and the key was left with the note on the bed by GALT.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER was interviewed in the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 275 Peachtree Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, after voluntarily accompanying SAs ROGER L. KAAS and HARRY L. LEE from his place of business, 1052 Northside Drive, Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia. At this time, GARNER stated that he was aware of the discrepancies in the information furnished by him but insisted it was due solely to the confusion which existed in his mind in erroneously relating the name GALT with his roomer, WILLIAM LEE.

He stated he had no reason for telling the Agents that he had no items in his possession which belonged to GALT, when, in fact, he was holding a television set, other than the confusion previously referred to.

In determining the individuals in each of the rooming houses operated by him (107 14th Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia) who may have been in a position to observe GALT, he advised that at the time of renting to GALT, there was no other occupant in this building.

He stated he had closed 113 14th Street on February 11, 1968; after the neighborhood hippies attempted to take it over.

He admitted that he had two double rooms vacant at the time GALT applied for a room and that he had previously rented these for the price of a single room, but GALT insisted on a single room, so he decided to open the other rooming house. He admitted it cost him more to do this than he would receive initially in rent, but that he had been planning to open it, as the other house was filling up.

On 4/15/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
 by SA HARRY L. LEE and SA ROGER L. KAAS REX:bjc Date dictated 4/16/68

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AT 44-2386

RLK:bjc

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GALT remained the sole occupant of this building until April 1, 1968, at which time FRED C. JONES was placed in Room Number 1.

In continuing to question GARNER as to why he had denied holding property for GALT, he finally admitted that it had been his policy in the past to retain for 30 days possessions left behind by roomers, then to claim them as his own, and it was his intention to do this with the television set.

GARNER specifically denied that he had previously known GALT, that GALT had been referred to him by anyone, that he had accepted an extra amount of money from GALT for any reason, or that he had any knowledge concerning his present whereabouts.

GARNER stated that he was born and raised in Mississippi, was a member of the Baptist Church, and was "not a Communist." He denied having any knowledge of the John Birch or other right wing organizations, stating he had joined only one organization which name he could not now recall, but described by him as a civic organization.

He reiterated that it had always been his intention to cooperate with the FBI and that he had, in fact, that morning given the address and telephone number of his restaurant to a roomer, Mr. BURGESS, where he could be reached should GALT return for the television set. He stated he did this so he could immediately notify the FBI of GALT's return.

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ADDITIONAL MATERIAL TO BE REFERRED TO

Chicago Field Office File 44-1114-772

FBI WASH. DC.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAR 13 1969

TELETYPE

FBI MEMPHIS

705 PM. URGENT 3-13-69 DND

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATTN: MR. AL ROSEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/11/88 BY SP-6/MS/ML

MURKIN - ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

AT APPROXIMATELY TWO FORTYFIVE PM, INTERVIEW WAS BEGUN WITH JAMES EARL RAY BY SAC, MEMPHIS AT TENNESSEE STATE PRISON. INTERVIEW CONCLUDED AT APPROXIMATELY THREE THIRTYFIVE PM. RAY ON ENTERING ROOM SAID, "YOU'RE THE GUY WHO TESTIFIED. I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU OR ANYBODY FROM THE FBI." RAY WAS ASKED TO SIT DOWN AND WAS TOLD IT WAS POSSIBLE WE HAD THINGS WE COULD TALK ABOUT. RAY SAID, "I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT CASE AS I'VE BEEN MISQUOTED ENOUGH." HE WAS UNABLE TO POINT OUT ANY SPECIFICS WHERE FBI HAD EVER MISQUOTED HIM. HE WAS ALSO TOLD FBI HAD NOT INTERVIEWED HIM SO IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO MISQUOTE HIM. RAY INDICATED HE BETTER GO BACK TO CELL AS SAC WAS ONLY TRYING TO TRICK HIM INTO TALKING ABOUT CASE. HE WAS THEN REMINDED OF HIS GUILTY PLEA IN OPEN COURT AND WAS ASKED IF HE INTENDED TO CHANGE THIS. HE SAID NO.

REC 49 44-38861-562

18 MAR 17 1969

RAY THEN CRITICIZED HIS ATTORNEY ART HANES, SR. HE SAID HANES WAS NOT GOOD ATTORNEY AS HE REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE CASE.

SAC INTERJECTED THAT HIS ATTORNEY HAD HIRED INVESTIGATOR TO

END 56 MAR 21 1969

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

PAGE TWO

WHICH RAY REPLIED, "HE'S NO GOOD EITHER, AND HE ONLY BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE TRIAL." RAY STATED HANES REALLY WASN'T HIS ATTORNEY AS WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE HAD HIRED HANES^S TO GO TO LONDON TO ACT AS ATTORNEY FOR RAY, IN RETURN FOR STORY CONTRACTS. RAY WOULD NOT AMPLIFY ON CONTRACTS BUT DID STATE HE HAD TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS OUT. RAY SAID HE HADN'T RECEIVED ANY MONEY ON ANY OF THESE CONTRACTS YET. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD CONTRACTED WITH PERCY FOREMAN REGARDING POSSIBLE STORY. ALSO SAID PART OF HIS CONTRACT WITH FOREMAN WAS THAT RAY WOULD NOT EMBARRASS FOREMAN IN COURT. WHEN ASKED IF THAT IS WHY HE SAID NO MORE IN COURT WHEN HE ROSE TO MAKE COMMENT, RAY SAID HE WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE..

HE THEN BECAME CRITICAL OF FOREMAN, SAYING HE WOULDN'T INVESTIGATE HIS CASE EITHER. SAID THAT FOREMAN CAME TO HIM WITH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, SAYING "YOUR BEST DEFENSE IS TO PLEAD GUILTY OR YOU'LL GET THE DEATH SENTENCE." RAY INDICATED DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS PAST ATTORNEYS. HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA NOW. HE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THIS ATTORNEY.. (SAC HAD PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH WARDEN LAKE RUSSELL AT PRISON AND WARDEN HAD ADVISED RAY HAD TOLD HIM HE

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO GET J. B. STONER, AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA, TO REPRESENT HIM. (J. B. STONER WELL KNOWN FIGURE IN VARIOUS WHITE HATE GROUPS IN GEORGIA.)

RAY ALSO SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ANY MORE ABOUT ANYTHING, AS HE FELT HIS ATTORNEY WOULD BE ABLE TO REOPEN HIS CASE. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD LETTER PREPARED TO SEND TO SENATOR EASTLAND AND THEN IN ABOUT TWO OR THREE MONTHS HIS CASE WOULD BE CLEARED UP. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT THEN BE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE CASE FULLY.

ADDITIONAL SMALL TALK OCCURRED AND RAY BROUGHT UP FBI TV SERIES. HE WONDERED WHY FBI ALWAYS HAD TO LET THE CRIMINALS DRAW FIRST BEFORE THEY WERE SHOT. HE WAS TOLD THIS IS ONLY CONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS, AS OUR WEAPONS ARE USED ONLY IN SELF DEFENSE. HE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM. HE THEN ASKED IF FBI THOUGHT HE WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIS FINGERPRINTS IN THE AREA WHERE A PUBLIC FIGURE WAS KILLED. HE WAS ASKED IF HE WAS TRYING TO TELL SAC THAT SOMEONE PLANTED HIS PRINTS, AND IF SO HIS STORY WAS GETTING THIN AND SAC WOULD LEAVE. HE THEN RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT NOT EVER HAVING BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

LINEUP AND WAS NOT SURE THAT ANYONE COULD IDENTIFY HIM. HE THEN INDICATED HE HAD READ IN A CANADIAN PAPER THAT ONE CHARLIE STEPHENS COULD PROBABLY ~~CONF~~ IDENTIFY HIM AS HE THOUGHT CHARLIE STEPHENS HAD A GOOD LOOK AT HIM IN ROOMING HOUSE. HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

HE THEN FURTHER CLAIMED THAT NO ONE HAD IDENTIFIED HIM WITH A PHOTOGRAPH UNTIL HE MADE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ON THE WEST COAST. THE ABSURDITY OF THIS STATEMENT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM AS HE KNEW THE STATE HAD SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO COULD IDENTIFY HIM.

HE WAS ASKED IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, SUCH AS HIS TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS. HE SAID NO, THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE GETTING MIXED UP WITH STEIN. HE SAID STEIN WAS ONLY A "HIPPIE." HE WOULD NOT TALK FURTHER ABOUT STEIN.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COVERED WITH RAY INDICATED HE SAID HE NEVER RECEIVED A PROPERTY RECEIPT FROM BUTLER OF SCOTLAND YARD, WHEN ARRESTED THERE. HE SAID THIS RECEIPT MIGHT BE OF VALUE AT SOME FUTURE DATE. HE REFUSED TO CLARIFY THIS.

RAY WOULD NOT AT ANY TIME DISCUSS CONSPIRACY OR ANY ASPECTS OF IT. HE CONTINUOUSLY CLAIMED THIS WOULD BE MATTER FOR HIS
END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

ATTORNEY TO HANDLE AND POSSIBLY SENATOR EASTLAND'S COMMITTEE.
HE ALSO EXPRESSED DISLIKE FOR FORMER ^{ATTORNEY GENERAL} CLARK BECAUSE OF HIS
STATEMENTS BUT WOULD NOT CLARIFY WHAT STATEMENTS. HE DID, HOWEVER,
SAY ABOUT CLARK THAT IF HE WAS SOFT ON CRIME AS THE NEWSPAPERS
SOMETIME REPORTED THIS WAS OKAY.

AT THIS TIME SAC ASKED RAY IF HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO MEET A
PAIR OF ASSOCIATES OF SAC, AGENTS JOE C. HESTER AND ROBERT F. BOYLE.
RAY SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO FBI BECAUSE ALL THEY WANTED TO
DO WAS TRICK HIM. RAY AT CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW SAID HE DID
NOT WANT TO TALK TO ANY OTHER AGENTS AT THIS TIME. HE WAS TOLD
THERE WERE TWO OTHER AGENTS WITH SAC. HE DID MEET THESE TWO AGENTS
JUST PRIOR TO BEING RETURNED TO HIS CELL. HIS PARTING COMMENT
WHEN GOING THROUGH CELL DOOR WAS, "TAKE A GOOD LOOK AS YOU MAY BE
LOOKING FOR ME AGAIN."

SAC TOLD RAY THAT HE WOULD RECONTACT HIM AGAIN TOMORROW
MORNING AND PERHAPS WE COULD AGAIN ENGAGE IN SMALL TALK. RAY
SAID "MAYBE I WILL NOT TALK WITH YOU AGAIN."

ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO SEEK SECOND INTERVIEW IN
A. M. WITH RAY.

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

RAY'S COMMENT ABOUT TAKING A GOOD LOOK WAS SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT TO THE OFFICERS ON DUTY IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY SECTION AND IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POINTED OUT TO WARDEN RUSSELL. IN ADDITION, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH WARDEN RUSSELL, SAC REQUESTED THAT VISIT OF FBI TO TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY SHOULD BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL. WARDEN INDICATED HE WOULD DO SO BUT, OF COURSE, STORY WOULD STILL GET AROUND IN THE PRISON YARD. P.

END

ERT

FBI WASH DC

P

CC-MR. ROSEN

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

At approximately 10:30 a.m. DONALD F. WOOD was contacted at Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, and advised that he is the son of ROBERT E. WOOD, SR., who is the owner of the Aeromarine Supply Company. WOOD was discreetly questioned concerning the sale of a Remington caliber 30.06 rifle, serial number 461476, which Aeromarine had purchased from Wimberley-Thomas in August, 1966. DONALD F. WOOD immediately stated that he had heard the accounts of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING the previous day on the radio and had immediately recalled selling a rifle, as was described in the newspaper as the murder weapon, to an individual about a week before the murder. WOOD immediately searched for and found a sales invoice in his records and indicated that on Saturday, March 30, 1968, he had sold this gun to an individual using the name HARVEY LOWMEYER.

After obtaining both copies of this sales invoice, Mr. WOOD was requested to accompany the interviewing Agent to the Birmingham Office of the FBI, which he agreed to do. Mr. WOOD was transported to the Birmingham Office of the FBI, where he furnished the following signed statement:

"Birmingham, Alabama
April 5, 1968

"I, DONALD F. WOOD, hereby make this statement to Special Agent NEIL P. SHANAHAN who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I reside at 405 Lance Lane, Birmingham, Alabama and subscribe to telephone number 836-4918. I am employed by my father, ROBERT E. WOOD, SR. at the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Ala., as a salesman.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/86 BY SP7 mac/mr

On 4/5/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN:jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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

"On Friday, March 29, 1968, sometime in the early afternoon I had just returned from lunch when I observed Mr. U. L. BAKER, also a salesman, completing the sale of a rifle to an individual unknown to me. Mr. BAKER had just sold this man a Remington, Model 700, Caliber .243 Winchester with a 2x-7x Redfield Scope mounted thereon. Mr. BAKER had made this sale and had also mounted and bore sighted the scope on our machine. This individual also bought one box of 20 rounds of .243 Norma ammunition. He payed cash for this sale. When I first observed this man he was dressed in a dark business suit with a white shirt and tie, as well as I remember. He was approximately 5'8" tall, 150 to 160 pounds and had dark hair. He had a medium complexion and appeared to be a meek individual. This individual had given his name as HARVEY LOWMEYER and stated that he resided at 1907 South 11th Street, Birmingham, Alabama. He also advised that he was 36 years of age.

"This information was not given to me personally by this individual, but I determined it from the bill of sale that was prepared by Mr. BAKER.

"Following the sale this individual left the store carrying the gun in a cardboard box utilized by the Browning Manufacturing Company. This box was used because with the scope mounted the rifle would not fit in the normal Remington box. He also took the empty Remington manufacturer's carton with him when he left.

"It was, as best I recall, either later that afternoon or early the following Saturday morning when this individual called on the telephone and stated that he had had a conversation with his brother and decided that the gun he had purchased was not the gun he wanted and he requested whether he could exchange it for a Remington, Model 760, 30.06 caliber. I advised him that we could make this exchange but that it would cost him an additional \$5.00.

"At approximately 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 30, this same individual returned to the store with the gun he had previously purchased. When he returned the gun he had the gun still in the Browning box. I told him that I would change the scope from the caliber .243 rifle to the Model 760, but that it would take me until approximately 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon and I instructed him to return at 3:00 o'clock and to bring the original Remington box for the caliber .243 weapon with him when he came as I would need a box to store the gun in. I gave him the Model 760 gun and I believe that I left it in the Browning carton. I did not receive the \$5.00 because in exchanging the scope I had to use a Weaver base and rings instead of the Redfield base and rings and this made up the cost difference. I also exchanged the box of .243 caliber ammunition for a box of 30.06 ammunition which I believe was Peters Core Lokt, 150 grain, 20 rounds per box. He left the store carrying the gun in the cardboard box.

"During the course of our dealings on Saturday I asked this individual why he didn't want the caliber .243 gun and I told him that it was a big enough gun to bring down any deer in Alabama. He stated in an offhand manner that he wanted the 30.06 caliber gun because he was going to use it to hunt in Wisconsin.

"At the present time this is all that I can remember concerning the transaction with this individual.

"4/5/68

"I have read this signed statement and accept where I have initiated one correction. I find it to consist of this and two other pages and it is true and correct.

"/s/ DONALD F. WOOD

"/s/ NEIL P. SHANAHAN, Special Agent,
FBI, 4/5/68.

"/s/ MARVIN M. EUBANKS, Special Agent,
FBI, Birmingham, 4/5/68."

926

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BUN
INVOICE NUMBER **2251A**

TO HARVEY LOWMEYER DATE 3/29 1968

ADDRESS 1907 - S. N. H. ST., BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

ORDER NUMBER Acc 31 PHONE WIRE LETTER PICK UP NAME: SALESMAN B
SHIP VIA: TERMS: CASH CHECK

QUANTITY	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NET	TOTAL
1	17E111# 757A	REM MOD. PUMP ACTION RIFLE, CAL.	76.50		
		243 WIN. S.N. 288749	461.476	134.95	
1	2X-7X	REDFIELD SCOPE	91.50	74.60	
1	JR 700	BASE + DIL RINGS	23.90	20.32	
1	Box	243 CAL		4.65	
		<u>Harvey Lowmeyer</u>		234.52	

IF CHECK IS GIVEN IN FULL OR PART PAYMENT FOR THIS INVOICE, TITLE SHALL REMAIN WITH SELLER UNTIL CHECK HAS
CLEARED BANK IN WHICH DRAWN, AT THE OPTION OF THE SELLER.
RECEIVED BY _____ TAX 14.07
TOTAL 248.59
MERCHANDISE CANNOT BE RETURNED FOR CREDIT, REFUND OR EXCHANGE AFTER 10 DAYS FROM SALE DATE.
PURCHASE INVOICE MUST ACCOMPANY ALL RETURNS.

RECORD INVOICE

QUAR PRINTING COMPANY - BIRMINGHAM, ALA. 6-2273497

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 8, 1968

DONALD F. WOOD, residence 405 Lance Lane, Birmingham, the son of the owner of Aeromarine Supply Company, Airport Highway, was asked if he could identify a customer who purchased a gun case for a Varmint model rifle on March 29, 1968. WOOD, after checking his invoices, noted that there was such a sale made on March 29, 1968, but the invoice was made out to "Cash." WOOD recalled, however, that this customer is a regular customer who is a white male, about 25 years old, five feet, ten inches, 170 pounds, long, black hair, whose first name is JOHN. WOOD further recalled that he had sold a Browning pistol to this man about two and one-half years ago. WOOD then checked his records and identified this man as JOHN WEBSTER DeSHAZO, 17 Montevallo Lane, Mountain Brook, Alabama, who purchased a Browning Standard Weight Pistol on December 11, 1965.

Later on April 7, 1968, DON WOOD made available the following weapons which had been identified by JOHN WEBSTER DeSHAZO as having been handled by the person who purchased a rifle and scope sight at the Aeromarine Supply Company on March 29, 1968:

One Browning Safari grade, caliber .243, bolt-action rifle, Serial No. 3700Z5, Stock No. 946A.

One Remington Model 700, heavy barrel, Varmint .243 Winchester, Serial No. 266009, Stock No. 753A.

One Remington Model 788, caliber .30-30, bolt-action rifle, Serial No. 020726, Stock No. 756A.

Mr. WOOD was furnished a receipt for the above weapons.

On 4/7/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT
and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER RMB:mas Date dictated 4/8/68
 by _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 14, 1968

Immediately following the receipt of a package at approximately 12:30 a.m., April 8, 1968, containing three weapons from Special Agent ROBERT M. BARRETT, Special Agent RALPH N. BUTLER hand-carried them aboard a Delta Airlines flight, changing to an Eastern Airlines flight in Atlanta, Georgia, and ultimately accompanied them to Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI Identification Division at approximately 8:00 a.m. on April 8, 1968.

These items, from the time they were delivered to SA BUTLER, did not leave his possession until delivered to Mr. BONEBRAKE.

On 4/8/68 at Birmingham, Alabama -
Washington, D. C. File # BH 44-1740
by SA RALPH N. BUTLER:mas Date dictated 4/11/68

028

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

At approximately 1:00 p.m. on April 5, 1968, Mr. ROBERT E. WOOD, SR., and DONALD F. WOOD accompanied the interviewing Agents to the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, where DONALD F. WOOD made available a Remington Model 700, caliber .243, rifle, which was believed by them to have been handled by the unknown individual who had purchased the Remington Model 760 rifle on March 30, 1968. DONALD F. WOOD also furnished nine boxes of caliber .243 ammunition from their inventory stating that one box of this ammunition was believed to have been handled by the individual who purchased the gun. DONALD F. WOOD also furnished a set of Redfield bases and rings which had been the original bases and rings furnished by the manufacturer of the Redfield scope.

Mr. WOOD was furnished a signed receipt for the above items.

Immediately following the receipt of these items, SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN hand carried them aboard a United Airlines flight, changing to a Delta flight in Atlanta, Georgia, and ultimately accompanied them to Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI Identification Division at approximately 8:00 p.m. same date. These items, from the time they were delivered to SA SHANAHAN, did not leave his possession until delivered to Mr. BONEBRAKE.

On 4/5/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and
NEIL G. MARTIN: NPS/jml Date dictated 4/11/68

029

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/8/68

U. L. BAKER, 1408 Clermont Drive, advised he is an employee of the Aeromarine Supply Company, Airport Highway, Birmingham. In connection with the sale of a gun case for a Varmint model rifle, BAKER said he recalled making such a sale, but could not recall the date nor the name of the customer. He said he could not state that this gun case was sold on the same date that he had sold a rifle and scope sight, which was March 29, 1968. He said the man who bought the gun case was a frequent customer, and described him as a white male, 27 - 28 years old, 5'9", 180 lbs., heavyset, with blond, thinning hair. BAKER identified the other salesman, who would have been behind the counter on March 29, 1968, as the manager of the store, J. HOYT STEPHENS.

In connection with the accent or speech of the person who purchased the rifle and scope sight, BAKER said he believed it was from "this" (Alabama) general area. BAKER said that the man who purchased the rifle had left the store on March 29, 1968, and came back later in the afternoon and picked up the rifle. He was asked if it was possible that the man stayed in the store during this time, and BAKER said he was not sure.

On 4/7/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:RMB:jbt 27 Date dictated 4/8/68

035

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin.
- Comp. Syst.
- Ext. Affairs
- Files & Com.
- Gen. Inv.
- Ident.
- Inspection
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Plan. & Eval.
- Spec. Inv.
- Training
- Legal Coun.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director Sec'y

TO : Mr. Jenkins

DATE: 10-31-74

FROM : J. J. McDermott

SUBJECT: MURKIN (44-3886)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/96 BY SP-1/MLK

Morris Cunningham, Washington representative of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, called Inspector Bowers during the afternoon of 10-30-74 from Memphis, where he is covering the James Earl Ray hearing in Federal District Court. Cunningham said Ray had testified to having sent a letter to Senator James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) shortly after he had been sentenced to prison for the King slaying. Ray allegedly said that he told Senator Eastland in the letter that he personally did not shoot King, but was partially responsible for his death. (News reports, 10-30-74, on the hearing corroborate this and indicated that Ray's letter to Senator Eastland was read into the record.)

Cunningham said he called Senator Eastland at his residence in Mississippi and asked him about this matter. Eastland recalled the letter and said he advised Cunningham about it when it was received, however, Cunningham does not recall this. He said Eastland had told him he had forwarded the letter to the FBI as he does many similar letters he receives from prisoners. Cunningham said Eastland suggested he call Bowers to determine if the FBI could locate the letter and to tell Bowers that he, Eastland, approves furnishing contents of the letter to Cunningham.

Bowers pointed out to Cunningham that we were precluded from doing so under Department regulations. It was pointed out to him, however, that should Senator Eastland desire, a copy of the letter, if located, could be made available to the Senator's office and the Senator could release the letter if he wishes. Cunningham said that should be satisfactory with him. He was told he would be advised as soon as this matter could be checked out. He can be reached through the news room of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, area code 901 526-8811 in Memphis.

This matter was checked with Courtney Pace, Administrative Assistant to Senator Eastland, who indicated he was aware of Cunningham's request.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- CBF:dkg (9)
- 1 - Mr. McDermott
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Bowers

REC-544-38861-5969

NOV 5 1974

CONTINUED - OVER

NOV 15 1974

ENCLOSURE

NOV 12 1974

CSO. CIVIL RIGHTS
SIX

94-8-72

McDermott to Jenkins Memo
Re: MURKIN

He said that should we find the letter in question and furnish a copy to him, he would be glad to handle the matter with Cunningham for the Senator.

Bufiles reflect that Senator Eastland made a copy of Ray's letter available to Inspector Bowers on 3-17-69. Accordingly, a copy of Ray's letter, see attached, has been made available to Courtney Pace on 10-31-74 so that he can handle the matter with Cunningham.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Handwritten signature
355
DP

Handwritten initials
I/BF

Handwritten mark
N

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ERROR OR EXCHANGE

APR 4

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FBI
LABORATORY
Q25

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State Finance Committee

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Atlanta, Georgia 30309

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5-31-65

6-7

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INVOICE NUMBER 2251 A
 DATE 3/29 1968

TO HARVEY LOWMEYER, DATE 3/29
 ADDRESS 1907 - So. 11th St., B. Ham Ala

PHONE WIRE LETTER PICK UP NAME _____
 SHIP VIA: _____

QUANTITY	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	LIST	NET	TOTAL
1	ITEM # 751A 584A	REM. MOD. 760 PUMP ACTION AD. R.A. RIFLE, CAL.			
		243 WIN. S.N. 288719 461476		134.95	
1	2X-7X	REDFIELD SCOPE.	94.50	74.60	
1	JR 700 BASE + D.L. RINGS.		23.90	20.32	
1	Box	243 C.T.G.		4.65	
					234.52

Harvey Lowmeyer

IF CHECK IS GIVEN IN FULL OR PART PAYMENT FOR THIS INVOICE, TITLE SHALL REMAIN WITH SELLER UNTIL CHECK HAS
 CLEARED BANK IN WHICH DRAWN, AT THE OFFICE OF THE SELLER.

RECEIVED BY _____

TAX 14.07
 TOTAL 248.59

AN RETURNED CHECK WILL BE PENALIZED FOR EACH DAY IT IS HELD IN BANK UNTIL PAID TO US FROM SALE DATE
 PURCHASE INVOICE MUST ACCOMPANY ALL RETURNS

LC 107

OFFICE INVOICE

72

Your File No. 44-1987
FBI File No. 44-38861
Latent Case No. 91075

April 24, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G

Latent fingerprint previously reported on the Remington model 760 rifle, serial #461476, Q2; the latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight, serial #A17350, on the rifle, Q2; latent fingerprint on the binoculars, Q14; the latent fingerprint on the newspaper, Q19; the latent fingerprint on the after shave lotion bottle, part of Q24; and the latent fingerprint on the Schlitz beer can, Q53, have all been identified with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray.

REGISTRATION CARD

NOTICE TO GUESTS: -- This property is privately owned and management reserves right to refuse service to anyone, and will not be responsible for accidents or injury to guests or for loss of money, jewelry or valuables of any kind.

RENTAL PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

NAME Eric S. Salt

STREET 2608 Highland Ave

CITY Birmingham STATE Alabama

REPRESENTING _____

ROOM 34 CAR LICENSE 6-14138993 STATE Ala

ARR. DATE 4-3-68 DEPT. DATE 7-2 NO. IN PARTY 1 CLERK MA Stewart MAKE OF CAR _____

REMARKS _____

44-38861 JK



Vic Dupratt's New Rebel MOTOR HOTEL

PHONE FA 3-7641

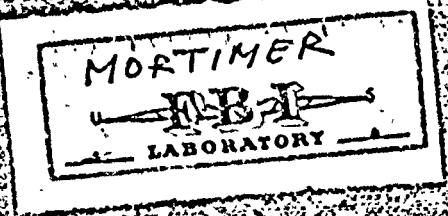
3466 LAMAR AVE.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

ROOM	RATE	DATE	AMT. PAID	RECEIVED FROM

THIS IS YOUR RECEIPT

THANK YOU



REGISTRATION CARD

NOTICE TO GUESTS: — This property is privately owned and management reserves right to refuse service to anyone, and will not be responsible for accidents or injury to guests or for loss of money, jewelry or valuables of any kind.
RENTAL PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

NAME Eric J. Galt
STREET 2608 Highland ave
CITY Birmingham STATE Alabama

REPRESENTING _____
American Hotel Register Co., 226-232 W. Ontario St., Chicago 10, Ill.

ROOM 34 CAR LICENSE 0-24138993 STATE ala
ARR. DATE 4/3/68 DEPT. DATE 7/2 NO. IN PARTY 1 CLERK Mustang MAKE OF CAR

REMARKS

THIS IS YOUR RECEIPT

ROOM	RATE	DATE	AMT. PAID	RECEIVED FROM

THANK YOU

Nic Dupratt's New Rebel MOTOR HOTEL
PHONE FA 3-7641 3466 LAMAR AVE. MEMPHIS, TENN.

BH 44-1740

PURCHASE OF 1966 WHITE MUSTANG TWO-DOOR
BY ERIC S. GALT, 2608 HIGHLAND AVENUE,
FROM OWNER, WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, ON
AUGUST 29 and 30, 1967.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/86 BY [signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/13/68

At 8:30 A.M., the records of the Jefferson County Department of Revenue were examined to determine the registered owner of an automobile bearing 1968 Alabama tag no. 1-38993. These records indicated that this tag was issued on October 2, 1967, to Mr. ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, for a 1966 Mustang, two-door, eight cylinder, Vehicle Identification No. 6T07C190647. This record also indicated that this car bore a previous 1967 Alabama tag no. 1A-88354. A check of the records concerning this number revealed that this number was issued for the same automobile to a Mr. WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, 701 48th Street South, Birmingham, Alabama, who bought this car from Maring Crawford Ford Company, Birmingham, on December 15, 1966. This car had originally been registered by Maring Crawford Ford Company, on March 11, 1966, as having been sold to MELVIN E. HARVEY, 3311 Highland Drive, Birmingham. The record shows the car was transferred from HARVEY's name to PAISLEY on December 15, 1966, and was then transferred from PAISLEY to ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, on August 30, 1967.

On 4/9/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and ROBERT M. BARRETT:NPS:jml:jbt Date dictated 4/11/68

BH 44-1740

PAISLEY recalls GALT mentioned that he worked on a barge line between New Orleans and St. Louis, and that he would work 20 days and then be off 10 days. He recalled GALT saying that he was married, and that his wife was now living "over in Rocky Ridge," referring to an area south of Homewood, Alabama.

PAISLEY described GALT as a white male, age about 32, five feet, ten and one-half inches tall, 160 to 165 pounds, dark brown hair, neat-looking, neat dresser, quiet, accent was not from the Alabama area.

Mr. PAISLEY said he did not believe he could identify GALT if he ever saw him again.

PAISLEY produced a bill of sale for this transaction which shows the car was sold to ERIC GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, telephone 323-9487, for \$1,995 on August 30, 1967.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date April 9, 1968

WILLIAM D. PAISLEY, 701 48th Street South, Birmingham, furnished the following.

On August 29, 1967, a man later identified as ERIC GALT came to the PAISLEY residence in a taxi cab. This man apparently was the same man who had called earlier in the day and talked to PAISLEY's wife about an ad the PAISLEYS had placed in a local newspaper in an effort to sell their 1966 white Mustang. PAISLEY showed the automobile which has a red interior to GALT and offered to let him test-drive the car. GALT refused to drive the car, saying he did not have an Alabama drivers license, but he did have one in Louisiana. PAISLEY then drove GALT around the area, and during this drive picked up PAISLEY's son DAVID. When they returned to the PAISLEY residence, GALT said "I'll take it off your hands." GALT said he did not like the off-white color of the car, but apparently was otherwise satisfied. GALT then suggested that he give PAISLEY some earnest money, and asked if PAISLEY would drive GALT to the downtown area of Birmingham. It was then agreed that they would meet the next day at about 10:00 a.m. at the First National Bank to settle the deal. GALT told PAISLEY that he, GALT, had his bank account at the Birmingham Trust National Bank. GALT asked PAISLEY how he wanted payment for the car, and PAISLEY suggested a cashier's check. GALT said he did not know how to get a cashier's check, and PAISLEY said he would show him how the next day. PAISLEY, accompanied by his son DAVID, then took GALT to First Avenue and North 20th Street, where GALT got out of the car.

The next day PAISLEY received a telephone call from GALT, who said he would meet him at the First National Bank to settle the deal. At about 10:15 a.m., they met in front of the bank, and GALT took \$2,000 cash out of his shirt pocket and gave it to PAISLEY. PAISLEY suggested they go inside the bank and count the money, which they did. PAISLEY deposited the money in the bank, and GALT went with PAISLEY's son to a parking lot where he took possession of the car.

On 4/9/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN
and ROBERT M. BARRETT

RMB:mas

4/9/68

058

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/12/68

WILLIAM DAVID PAISLEY, JR., 701 South 48th Street, Birmingham, on April 9, 1968, furnished the following:

Sometime in late August, 1967, PAISLEY's father had run an ad in the Sunday newspaper in an effort to sell their 1966 white two-door hardtop Mustang with red interior and whitewall tires. They advertised the car as being for sale for \$1,995. A couple of days later, a man later identified as ERIC GALT and PAISLEY's father picked up PAISLEY at the home of one of his friends. PAISLEY's father was driving the car and GALT was riding in the front seat. They drove around the area for awhile and then returned to the PAISLEY residence. GALT did not ask any questions, look at the motor or in the trunk of the car. He said, "I'll be glad to take this car off your hands." He then agreed to give PAISLEY's father a down payment if Mr. PAISLEY would take GALT back to downtown Birmingham. They then agreed to meet the next morning at the First National Bank to settle the deal, because PAISLEY's father has his office in that building and PAISLEY at the time was employed in the First National Bank.

Mr. PAISLEY suggested that GALT obtain a cashier's check. PAISLEY and his father then took GALT to First Avenue North and 20th Street, where he got out of the car. That evening, August 29, 1968, PAISLEY tried to call GALT at the telephone number GALT had left with PAISLEY's father. PAISLEY was unable to talk to GALT as he was not at the number called and PAISLEY learned this number was at a rooming house on Highland Avenue. The next day PAISLEY's father received a telephone call from GALT who said he was six blocks away from the First National Bank building and would meet the PAISLEYS in front of the First National Bank at about 10:15 A.M. They met in front of the bank at 10:15 A.M. and GALT produced \$2,000 in cash, mostly twenties, with some 100-dollar bills. They stepped inside the bank where the money was counted and GALT was given a bill of sale.

On 4/9, 10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and ROBERT M. BARRETT:RMB:mas:jbt Date dictated 4/9, 11/68

PAISLEY then took GALT to the parking lot where the car was parked and showed him how to drive the car. He then gave GALT the keys and GALT drove off.

DAVID PAISLEY recalled that he observed this same car for about six weeks after the sale, parked in front of the rooming house in the 2600 block of Highland Avenue, but that he had not seen this automobile since about the first of October, 1967. He also recalled that on one of these occasions he observed a front bumper tag with a drawing of a Confederate flag thereon.

PAISLEY recalled GALT saying that he worked on a barge on the Mississippi River "out of St. Louis" to New Orleans. He would work a month and then be off for two weeks, and that this was a lonely life. He also said he had saved all his money from his job and would pay cash for the car.

PAISLEY also recalled that GALT was emphatic about not test driving the automobile, and said that his Louisiana license had expired and he had not obtained an Alabama driver's license yet. He also recalled GALT making a statement that he did his banking at the Birmingham Trust National Bank, and "I have my money there."

PAISLEY described GALT as a white male, 5'8"-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". age 32, tall, 145 pounds, dark brown or black hair with a widow's peak and cut short. This person was not a smoker, was very clean-cut, very shy and quiet. He claimed he was divorced and that his wife was presently living on Rocky Ridge or Dolly Ridge Road "over the mountain," referring to an area south of Homewood, Alabama. PAISLEY recalled this person had an accent which was possibly Western, but was definitely not from the Alabama area. PAISLEY also recalled this person saying he was unemployed at that time.

PAISLEY said he could definitely identify this person if he ever saw him again.

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BH 44-1740

On April 10, 1968, DAVID PAISLEY observed an artist's conception of a person who had purchased a rifle at Aeromarine Supply, Birmingham, on March 29, 1968. PAISLEY said this artist's conception did not resemble ERIC GALT.

PAISLEY said his father had told GALT during the transaction that GALT would have to get insurance for the Mustang as the PAISLEYS would cancel their car insurance by calling State Farm Insurance Company that day (August 30, 1967). PAISLEY recalled that GALT did not ask any questions or say anything further about car insurance.

During his contacts with GALT, PAISLEY said he never detected the odor of alcohol on GALT nor did he observe GALT smoke cigarettes. PAISLEY said the ad for the automobile had been run in the "Birmingham News" on Sunday, August 27, 1967 only.

PAISLEY recalled GALT, after inspecting PAISLEY's Mustang, saying that this was the cleanest one that GALT had seen. He also recalled GALT saying, "I've got my money in the Birmingham Trust," and did not refer to the bank as the "BTRB," which is commonly done by natives of Birmingham. In connection with GALT's divorced wife whom GALT claimed was living on Rocky Ridge Road or Dolly Ridge Road, "over the mountain," PAISLEY recalls GALT saying, "Yeah, that's the way it goes."

PAISLEY said the price of \$1,995 for the Mustang was \$300 too much, but this price was never questioned by GALT and this price did not seem to bother GALT in any way. GALT said he had been saving his money and because he worked on a barge he had no place to spend it.

PAISLEY said he could not recall how GALT was dressed on August 29, 1967, but did believe that on August 30, 1967, GALT was wearing a sport coat, a dress shirt, with necktie open at the neck.

Prior to GALT's taking possession of the car on August 30, 1967, PAISLEY's father asked GALT how GALT was going to get his driver's license. GALT replied that he had a friend "over at the rooming house," who would take him to the place where he could obtain a driver's license and change the registration on the car.

4
BH 44-1740

DAVID PAISLEY recalled that during the month to six weeks after the sale he had observed this car parked on numerous occasions in front of the rooming house in the 2600 block of Highland Avenue. He had noted that this car seemed to be out of use, rather than from being driven, and that on the last occasion of observing this car which would have been about the first of October, 1967, the car still had the slick bald tires that had been on it when it was sold.

PAISLEY furnished the following detailed description of the automobile:

1966 white Mustang, two-door hardtop, eight cylinder, 289, four individual red plastic floor mats, push button radio, heater, remote control outside mirror, day-night inside mirror, very clean engine, mileage 20,000 miles, equipped with Autolite battery, four whitewall, bald tires. The spare was in good shape but had a wider whitewall than the tires on the wheels. The seats were medium red in color and the carpeting was maroon or dark red. The body condition of the car was excellent and the muffler was painted shiny silver.

PAISLEY said that he had forgotten to advise on April 9, 1968, that on April 5, 1968, sometime between 1:00 P.M. and 1:30 P.M., while driving east on Fifth Avenue North, in front of the U. S. Post Office, PAISLEY observed a 1966 white Mustang hardtop, which he thought could possibly be the same car he had sold to GALT. He also, at the same time, observed the back of a man getting into this car whose build resembled that of GALT. PAISLEY said he could not be sure that this was the same car and that the individual was GALT as he only had a fleeting glimpse.

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	February 19, 1946		
Sheriff's Office Los Angeles, California	James Earl Ray #B-119908	October 11, 1949	suspicion of burglary	
Police Department Los Angeles, California	James Earl Ray #139648	October 11, 1949	suspicion 459 Penal Code (burglary)	8 months Court Jail suspended 2 years probation served; first 90 days Court Jail; 146 December 30, 1949 Csl2943
Sheriff's Office Clar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	April 18, 1950	vagrancy	
Police Department Ston, Illinois	James Earl Ray #7514	July 23, 1951	no operator's license - no State License - no City License	released to p later
Police Department Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #D90696	May 6, 1952	robbery (Gun)	Grand Jury \$3000
Cook County Jail Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #131165	May 9, 1952	robbery	June 13, 1952 sentenced to penitentiary 1 to 2 years
State Penitentiary Joliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #32419	June 13, 1952	robbery	1 to 2 years
State Penitentiary Joliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #19121	July 7, 1952 in transfer from Joliet	robbery	1 to 2 years March 12, 195 discharged

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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Sheriff's Office Edwardsville, Illinois	James Earl Ray #2640	August 30, 1954	burglary and larceny	
Police Department Hannibal, Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	March 23, 1955	investigation of breaking and entering Post Office	
State Highway Patrol Hacon, Missouri	James Earl Ray #B-3376	March 23, 1955	cashing stolen postal money orders	released to Postal Inspec Kansas City, Missouri March 24, 1955
United States Marshal Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #12018	March 28, 1955	forgery United States Postal Money Order	sentenced to 15 months custody of Attorney Gene
Sheriff's Office Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #29637	March 28, 1955	Forgery - Government	July 7, 1955 3 years and months
United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	July 7, 1955	Post Office Laws Forge Money Orders.	3 years and 9 months May 20 1958 conditio release March 1959 maximum April 5, 1958 conditional release on ch of Post Office forgery Post Office Money Orders
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 10, 1959	suspicion of robbery	

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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 16, 1959	suspicion of robbery stealing and fugitive other authorities	
State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #00416	March 17, 1960 ✓	"TC" operating motor vehicle without permission of owner robbery first "b/m DDW" (2 charges)	20 years 7, 5, concurrent April 23, escaped
State Hospital Number 1 Fulton, Missouri	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	September 8, 1966	Patient	
SO Memphis Tenn ✓	James Earl Ray #39728	7-19-68	murder 1st deg	

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOS
	<p>WANTED: James Earl Ray for escape 4-23-67 (oper H/V w/o perm of owner; robb 1st deg b/m of a D & D/W) (will extradite) Notify Warden SPen Jefferson City Mo inf rec 5-10-67 NO LONGER WANTED per inf rec 7-19-68</p>			

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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
CC: Warden SPen Jefferson City Mo				

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Chatham Co Pol. Savannah Ga	Jerry William Ray #3-6690	7-25-70	agg A	11-24-70 KG

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IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

