

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.

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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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.

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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 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, 1967, 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.

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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"-8½", 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.

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, 1968). 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 get my money in the Birmingham Trust," and did not refer to the bank as the "BTNB," 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 no tie, 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.

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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 dirty from non-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 clean, 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 definite that this was the same car and that the individual was GALT, as he only had a fleeting glimpse.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 9, 1968

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

On August 29, 1967, Mrs. PAISLEY received a telephone call from a man later identified as ERIC GALT in answer to a newspaper ad the PAISLEYS had run in an effort to sell their 1966 white Mustang. GALT inquired if the car had been sold yet and was told that it had not. He then said he would like to look at it and asked how to get to the PAISLEY residence. He told Mrs. PAISLEY that he was "not familiar with the city." She thought at the time that the caller might be one of her teenage sons' companions who was playing a joke on her, so she asked the caller (GALT) "Do you work?" GALT said "I'm a barger. I'm here looking for a job with Social Security." He then explained to Mrs. PAISLEY that a barger was a person employed on a river barge, and he was working on such a barge between New Orleans and either Memphis and/or St. Louis.

Mrs. PAISLEY later saw GALT when he was dealing with her husband concerning the automobile. She described him as a white male, age about 32, five feet, ten inches tall, 160 pounds, dark brown hair, neat-looking, neat dresser, quiet, ~~and~~ possibly a Texas accent but definitely not northern, eastern or Virginian.

Mrs. PAISLEY said she did not believe she could identify this man if she saw him again.

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Date 4/17/68

MARVIN CONDRAY, Service Manager, O. Z. Hall Ford Company, Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

The O. Z. Hall Ford Motor Company was formerly known as Maring Crawford Ford Company. The policy of the Maring Crawford Ford Company concerning demonstrators was to register the car in Jefferson County, Alabama, in the name of one of the company's salesmen. Mr. CONDRAY said that MELVIN E. HARVEY was formerly a salesman employed by Maring Crawford Ford Company, and HARVEY formerly resided at 3311 Highland Drive, Birmingham, Alabama.

CONDRAV's service records show that a 1966 Ford Mustang was designated on March 11, 1966, as a demonstrator, and was subsequently sold to WILLIAM D. PAISLEY. This car was brought in for repair work on March 9, 1967, at which time the brake light was repaired as was an oil leak and a rattle in the dash. At that time the automobile had 13,164 miles. On April 10, 1967, this automobile was brought in and received a complete brake overhaul. At that time the car had 14,776 miles. This car has Vehicle Identification No. 6T07C-190647.

On 4/16/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/17/68

MELVIN E. HARVEY, 1023 Lakeview Crescent, Birmingham, presently employed as a new car salesman, Adamson Ford Company, Birmingham, furnished the following information:

HARVEY was employed by Maring Crawford Ford Company until May, 1967. He recalled that in March, 1966, he obtained a new 1966 white Ford Mustang, eight cylinder hardtop from the company's new car lot and thereafter this automobile was used as a demonstrator until it was sold sometime in December, 1966. HARVEY at that time was residing at 3311 Highland Drive, and the car was registered in his name. He stated the automobile never left the State of Alabama during the time it was used as a demonstrator. HARVEY said the warranty plate for this automobile was issued in the name of MELVIN E. HARVEY, 3311 Highland Drive, and that the warranty was in effect until March, 1968. He said any claims made through the use of this warranty plate would be sent to the Warranty Department, Ford Motor Company, Detroit, by any authorized dealer where the work was performed. HARVEY said that any new owner of this automobile, while the warranty was in effect, should have had the warranty plate changed to the new owner's name, but that very often this is not done by the customers.

HARVEY said he had no knowledge whatsoever that this car ever went to California, and he knew no one by the name of ANITA CATZWINKEL and/or GINGER DAY.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/17/68

On April 16, 1968, WILLIAM DAVID PAISLEY, JR., 701 South 48th Street, Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

PAISLEY said he had recalled that at the time he sold his 1966 white Ford Mustang to ERIC GALT, on August 30, 1967, he told GALT that the car needed to have the oil changed as soon as possible and that the car needed a tune-up. PAISLEY recalled that the car at the time of sale to GALT had approximately 19,800 miles. He also recalled that the air filter was a factory replacement and that the oil filter was an A/C oil filter that had been purchased from the Texaco station in the Woodlawn area of Birmingham.

On April 17, 1968, WILLIAM DAVID PAISLEY, JR. advised he recalled he purchased this car on or about December 15, 1966. The car at the time had about 9,000 to 9,500 miles and had been used as a demonstrator by the Maring Crawford Ford Company. PAISLEY said the car was never driven by him out of Alabama.

PAISLEY recalled at the time he sold the car to ERIC GALT he also furnished GALT a warranty plate which bore the name of the Maring Crawford salesman, MELVIN E. HARVEY. The car had been registered in HARVEY's name while it was being used as a demonstrator. PAISLEY recalled that the warranty on this automobile was still in effect until March, 1968. He said he had not changed the name on the warranty plate to his own (PAISLEY) as he should have, but had kept the original plate which bore the name, MELVIN E. HARVEY.

PAISLEY said he never drove the automobile to California, and he knew no one by the name of ANITA CATZWINKEL and/or GINGER DAY.

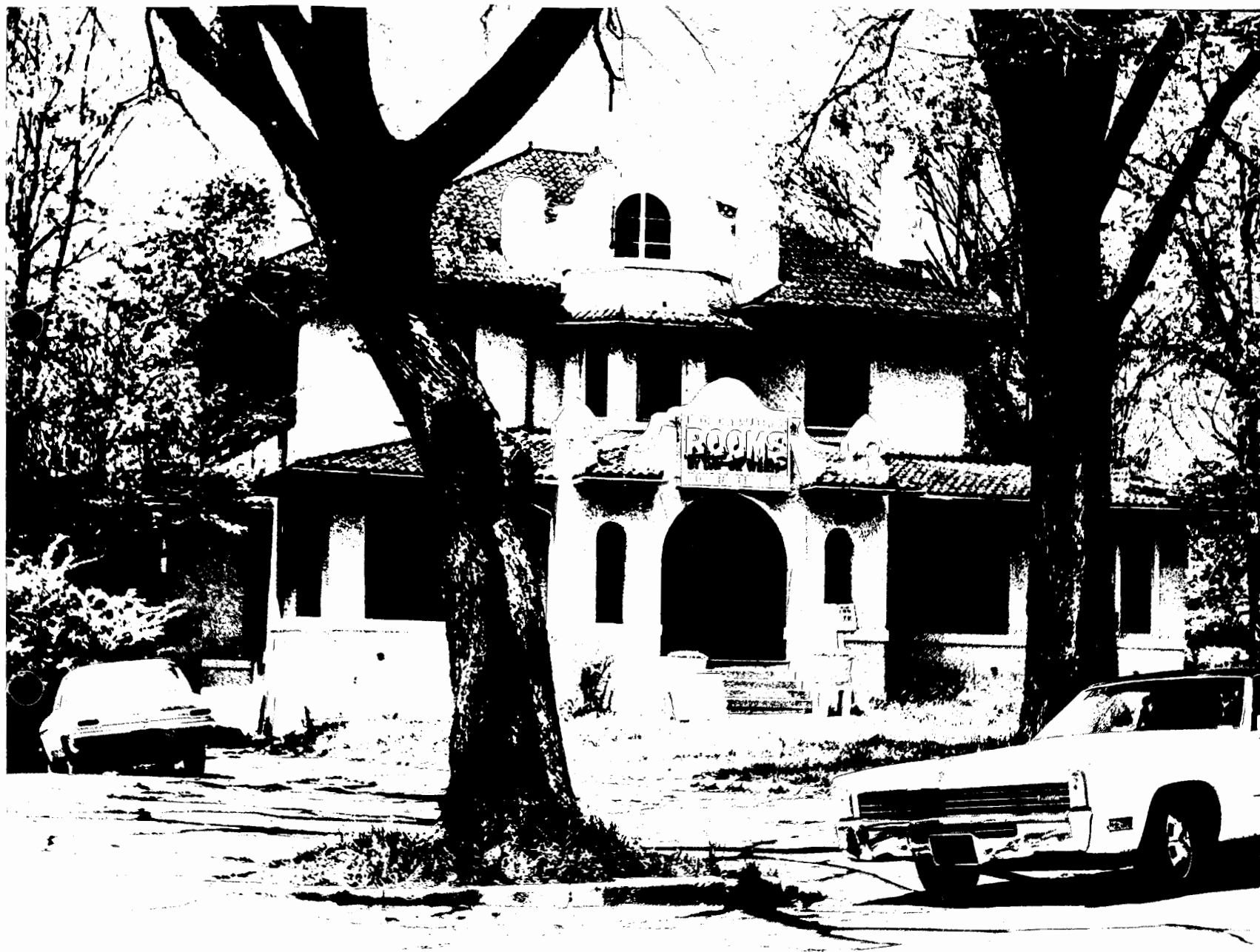
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ROOMING HOUSE, 2608 HIGHLAND AVENUE,
BIRMINGHAM, OPERATED BY PETER CHERPES.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

VIEW OF ECONOMY BOARDING HOUSE OPERATED BY PETER CHERPES

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

VIEW OF ECONOMY BOARDING HOUSE OPERATED BY PETER CHERPES

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

At approximately 8:15 p.m., Mr. PETER CHERPES was contacted at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham. He advised that he is the manager and owner of a business operated at this address known as Economy Rooms, which business occupies the entire large white frame dwelling located at this address.

Mr. CHERPES was asked whether or not he had a tenant named ERIC S. GALT. Mr. CHERPES had immediately stated that a man named GALT had been a tenant at his rooming house for about three months, but has been gone for about five months. CHERPES immediately reviewed a quantity of 3x5 index cards, which he uses as registration cards for his guests, and was unable to locate one in the name ERIC L. GALT, but stated he recalled this individual as a man who occupied Room 14 in the rooming house. He stated this man came around the end of August, 1967, and rented a room, stating he had previously lived and worked in Pascagoula, Mississippi, where he had worked for a manufacturing company that made big boats. CHERPES stated that he believes it was the Ingalls Boat Company. He said that GALT stayed until approximately the end of October, 1967, and left, stating he had a job working on a boat in Mobile, Alabama. CHERPES described GALT as being about 5'10" tall, 170 pounds, and said he remembered him as being a very neat dresser. He advised that GALT stated he was on vacation and did not work anywhere while he stayed at the rooming house.

CHERPES was not able to state initially whether GALT had an automobile, but later said that he thought he did have an automobile and that it was white.

CHERPES advised that shortly after GALT had been living there he received a package in the mail which he (CHERPES) saw because the mailman left it with him. He stated he remembered asking GALT about this package and GALT stated that he was not satisfied with the merchandise and had returned it. ~~CHERPES also advised that he received~~

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a letter addressed to GALT about three or maybe four weeks ago, which he returned to the postman.

CHERPES advised that he remembers GALT's making a telephone call to Mobile, Alabama, to confirm this job he said he had on a boat.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/12/68

Mr. HERBERT KELLY was interviewed at 2608 Highland Avenue and furnished the following information.

Mr. KELLY advised that he has been employed as a cook for Mr. PETER CHERPES for the past several years and was so employed since CHERPES occupied the present house, 2608 Highland Avenue.

After being advised of the nature of the interview, he stated that he remembers ERIC GALT only vaguely. He remembers that he occupied Room 14 for about two months shortly after they first moved into that house. He said that he serves breakfast to the boarders between 6 and 7:30 every morning and that this individual in Room 14 came out of his room at approximately 7:15 or 7:20 after everyone else had finished breakfast and gone to work, had his breakfast and then went back to bed. KELLY advised that he recalls "fussing" at this man several times for waiting so late to have his breakfast.

KELLY stated that he recalled something peculiar about this man in that he paid for room and board each week he was there, except the last week, he only paid for a room and did not take any meals. He said that he recalls this individual stating that the reason he did not have meals was that he did not have any money.

KELLY viewed a composite drawing and stated that it resembled GALT, except that he believed GALT to be thinner in the face than this drawing indicated.

KELLY is described as a Negro male, approximately 50 years old.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date April 11, 1968

Mr. PETER CHERPES, owner and manager of a boarding house located at 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, made available his receipts for all known guests for the months of August, September, October, November and December, 1967.

A review of these receipts disclosed the following information:

1. Receipt dated August 26, 1967, to Mr. ERIC S. GALT -- Room and board from August 26, 1967 through September 1, 1967. The cost of these accommodations was \$22.50, and it is noted on the receipt that ERIC GALT occupied Room #14 at this residence.
2. Receipt dated September 2, 1967, to Mr. ERIC S. GALT -- Room and board from September 2, 1967 through September 9, 1967. The cost of these accommodations was \$22.50, and it is noted on the receipt that ERIC GALT occupied Room #14 at this residence.
3. Receipt dated September 9, 1967, to Mr. ERIC GALT -- Room and board from September 9, 1967 through September 16, 1967. The cost of these accommodations was \$22.50, and it is noted on the receipt that ERIC GALT occupied Room #14 at this residence.
4. Receipt dated September 30, 1967, to Mr. ERIC GALT -- Room only from September 30, 1967 to October 7, 1967. The cost of this accommodation is shown as \$17.50, and further, Mr. GALT occupied Room #14.

Mr. PETER CHERPES advised that he recalls ERIC GALT requesting him to drive him to the Drivers License

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Department, Birmingham, Alabama, in order that he could obtain a current State of Alabama drivers license. He said that he is unable to state positively if he drove ERIC GALT to the drivers license examination station in his automobile or if he drove Mr. GALT's Ford Mustang. He said that he did remain with ERIC GALT while he took his drivers license test and examination, and thereafter he departed.

Mr. CHERPES also recalls that ERIC GALT received a package from Chicago, Illinois, while at his boarding house during the month of September 1967. He said that this package was a box approximately ten inches in height, by 18 inches by 24 inches, weighing approximately 20 pounds. Mr. CHERPES said that ERIC GALT was not happy with the merchandise he received, and that he was returning the box to the sender. He added that the contents of this box is unknown to him.

Mr. CHERPES stated after ERIC GALT departed from the boarding house, a letter was received addressed to ERIC GALT, which he believed was from the same sender as the box. He described this letter as a business-type letter, and he believed it contained a check. CHERPES said that he held the letter for several days, and since ERIC GALT had moved and furnished no forwarding address he returned this letter to the Post Office.

A review of additional guest receipts disclosed a receipt dated October 17, 1967, which shows that Mr. FOREST McCABE paid room rent on Room #14 from October 17, 1967, through October 24, 1967. In this regard, it is noted that ERIC GALT resided in Room #14 during his entire stay at the boarding house.

An additional receipt was located dated October 24, 1967, which shows that rent was paid on Room #14 from October 24, 1967, through October 31, 1967, by Mr. FOREST McCABE.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 14, 1968

Mr. PETER CHERPES, Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, advised that ERIC GALT first came to his rooming house during the last week in August, 1967. He said that ERIC GALT resided in Room 14 during his stay at the rooming house and he was unable to state positively the mode of transportation used by GALT when he first arrived. Mr. CHERPES pointed out that he runs a continuous ad in the Birmingham, Alabama newspapers and more than likely GALT obtained the address of his rooming house from a newspaper. He said that he was unable to recall if GALT telephoned him prior to coming to the rooming house, pointing out that he gets numerous inquiries each day concerning rooms and rates.

Mr. CHERPES said that when ERIC GALT arrived, he had two or three pieces of luggage, was cleanly dressed and said that he previously lived and worked in Pascagoula, Mississippi. He recalled that GALT said he worked for a manufacturing company that made boats and he believed it was the Ingalls Boat Company, Pascagoula, Mississippi. He said that GALT told him he was on vacation and further that he was unemployed during the entire time he stayed at the rooming house.

Mr. CHERPES said that a few days after ERIC GALT arrived, he came to him and asked him if he would go with him to obtain a State of Alabama driver's license inasmuch as he had no driver's license. He said that since GALT was a new tenant, which he desired to keep, he agreed to accompany GALT, which he did, to the driver's license examination station, Birmingham, and waited for GALT while he took his driver's examination and road test. He recalled that GALT had a white recent model Mustang which he drove to and from the driver's license examination station. Mr. CHERPES was unable to recall seeing this white Mustang prior to the day that he accompanied ERIC GALT for his license examination.

Mr. CHERPES said that he recalls that GALT remained to himself most of the time and further recalled that he was always late for breakfast and ate around 10:00 a.m. GALT,

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thereafter, would return to his room and rest and he observed him on occasions leaving during the day. He said that to the best of his recollection GALT would always be on time for the evening dinner, which was served between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. each day.

Mr. CHERPES said that approximately two weeks later a parcel post package was delivered to the rooming house for ERIC GALT from Chicago, Illinois, and that he is unable to recall the sender. He remembered this package being delivered inasmuch as GALT was not at the rooming house when the package arrived and that he kept the package in his room until GALT returned. He said that GALT did not open the package in his presence and that he took it to his room and, therefore, he is unable to state what merchandise was in the box. He described the box as approximately ten inches in height by 18 inches by 24 inches and weighing approximately 25 pounds. He said that a day or so later, GALT said to him that he was not happy with the merchandise he had received and was returning it to the sender. He said that GALT did not ask him for any wrapping paper, nor did he see him leave the rooming house with the box.

Mr. CHERPES said that during the latter part of March, 1968, he received a business-type letter addressed to ERIC GALT at his address. He said that this letter contained what he believed to be a check for Mr. GALT and that it was also from the same company in Chicago, Illinois which had mailed the above described box to GALT. He said that he held this letter for one or two days and, thereafter, marked it "Not here" and returned it to the U. S. Post Office. Mr. CHERPES described the envelope in which the letter or check came as a business-type envelope, thin, blue in color, window-type.

Mr. CHERPES said that to the best of his memory he believed that ERIC GALT left his residence on Thursday or Friday evening. He said that a few days prior to GALT's departure he had a conversation with ERIC GALT, at which time he said to CHERPES that he had a possible job on a boat at Pascagoula, Mississippi. He said that GALT said he had made a telephone call concerning this possible employment and the following day GALT advised CHERPES that he had confirmed this employment and that he would be leaving and was going to Mobile, Alabama. He said GALT told him he had

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no current address which he could leave in order that his mail could be forwarded, but that he would send him a forwarding address, which he failed to do.

Mr. CHERPES pointed out that at no time previous or since has he observed ERIC GALT and, further, he is unable to remember any other correspondence he may have received while at the rooming house.

Mr. CHERPES pointed out that GALT remained to himself most of the time and did not mix with other tenants. He was always neatly dressed in sport-type, as well as business-type, clothes. He said that GALT was approximately 30 to 35 years in age, approximately five feet ten inches in height, weighed from 170 to 175 pounds, had medium brown hair which he combed straight back with no part, fair complexion, and thin build.

Mr. CHERPES said that he was unable to remember if he had ever seen GALT with any other person leaving the rooming house and was unable to say who his acquaintances, associates or any other individuals GALT may have known in Birmingham, Alabama might be. He said that GALT would on occasions watch television in the TV room and that possibly some of the other guests who were there during the same time as GALT may have talked with GALT or be in a position to furnish additional information concerning his activities. Mr. CHERPES said that he knows ERIC GALT and could identify him should he see him again or if he should return to the rooming house.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/13/68

Mr. PETER CHERPES, owner and manager, Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, made available for review his receipts as well as guest registration cards for the months of August, September, October, November and December, 1967.

A review of these receipts and guest cards disclosed the following individuals were at the rooming house during the period August 26, 1967, through October 7, 1967:

1. Mr. D. T. GREEN, 2007 8th Street, South, Decatur, Alabama, employed Rust Engineering Company, occupied room 24 and 27 from August 4, 1967 through February 1, 1968.

2. Mr. HILL HARDY, room 21 and still a guest, having arrived Economy Boarding House July, 1967. Mr. HILL HARDY employed Nifty Paper Company, Birmingham, Alabama.

3. Mr. PERCY STRICKLAND presently occupies room 17 and has resided at this boarding house for several years.

4. Mr. CHARLES JACKSON DAVIS, room 25, and employed Cambridge Tile Manufacturing Company, 3506 4th Avenue, South, Birmingham.

5. FORREST M. COLE, 4018 Gastin or Gastis Circle, Jackson, Mississippi, occupied room 19 and 18 from September 26, 1967, through October 31, 1967.

6. Mr. JULIAN DIFFEY or DIFFERY occupied room 26 from August 25, 1967, to September 1, 1967. He furnished address as 7340 Queenstown Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:gas Date dictated 4/13/68

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7. JAE E. BELL, 2537 Wycliff Drive, Pensacola, Florida, occupied room 26 from September 18, 1967, to September 25, 1967. Notation on registration card indicates Mr. BELL employed Stegall and Company.

8. Mr. O. L. BLACK, Route 5, Box 227, Andalusia, Alabama, telephone 222-1508, occupied rooms 18 and 29 from September 17, 1967, to September 24, 1967.

9. Mr. THOMAS D. FRANKLIN, 110 Arcade Street, Gadsden, Alabama, occupied room 18 from August 31, 1967, to September 14, 1967. Notation on the registration card indicates Mr. FRANKLIN employed Avondale Mills.

10. Mr. LONNIE P. SMITH, no address listed, occupied room 22 from September 2, 1967, to September 9, 1967. Notation of the registration card indicates Mr. SMITH employed Hanover Nursing Home.

11. Mr. BILLY CLEVELAND, Star Route North, Sulligent, Alabama, occupied room 29 from October 2, 1967, to October 12, 1967.

12. Mr. DANIEL LEE SMITH, 708 South 80th Street, Atlanta, Georgia, occupied room 18 from October 5, 1967, to October 18, 1967.

13. Mr. AUSTIN SToudenMIRE, 348 Doster Street, Prattville, Alabama, occupied room 22 from September 20, 1967, to October 11, 1967.

14. Mr. RICHARD ALAN WEBB, 1307 Alexandria Road, Weaver, Alabama, telephone 237-3479, occupied room 28 from August 31, 1967, through October 12, 1967.

15. JAMES E. WELDON, Route 4, Box 73, Opelika, Alabama, telephone 745-7558. No room listed. Was guest in boarding house from September 17, 1967, through September 28, 1967.

16. Mr. GEORGE DWIGHT PARK, JR., 2308-D 6th Avenue, North, and YMCA, Birmingham, occupied rooms 26 and 18 from September 23, 1967, to December 30, 1967.

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17. Mr. LAWRENCE HOWELL occupied room 23 from September 11, 1967, through October 3, 1967. Mr. HOWELL employed Federal Aviation Agency and resides 1888 Dinison, telephone 682-9840, Memphis, Tennessee.

18. Mr. DENNIS GRIFFIN occupied room 11 from August 31, 1967, through September 25, 1967. Employment Alabama Material Company, 2605 7th Avenue, South, Birmingham.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/12/68

Mr. D. T. GREEN, 2608 Highland Avenue, was interviewed at Rust Engineering Company in Birmingham, where he is employed. GREEN advised that his home is in Decatur, Alabama, and that he is only at the boarding house from Monday evening through Friday afternoon after work. He stated that he cannot remember anyone by the name of ERIC S. GALT or anyone fitting GALT's description living at the rooming house in Room 14 or any other room. GREEN advised that he has little association with any of the other tenants at this rooming house since he has a television in his own room, where he spends most of his time when not at work.

At this point in the interview, Mr. GREEN said that he has a severe drinking problem and this also accounts for the amount of time he spends alone in his room. Mr. GREEN advised, after viewing a composite drawing, that this does not resemble anyone he recalls living at the rooming house since he has been there.

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and
ROBERT M. BARRETT: NPS/jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/12/68

Mr. CHARLES JACKSON DAVIS, 2608 Highland Avenue, was interviewed at his place of employment, the Cambridge Tile Manufacturing Company, 3506 Fourth Avenue, South, and, after being advised of the nature of the interview, stated that he does not recall anyone by the name of ERIC S. GALT ever living at CHERPES' rooming house. DAVIS stated that he has been living there since they moved into the new rooming house in July, 1967, and he has occupied Room 25 since that time. He said that he cannot recall anyone who has lived in Room 14 and does not recall anyone who has lived there as owning a Mustang automobile.

DAVIS was shown a composite drawing and stated that it does not remind him of anyone who has lived at this rooming house.

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by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/12/68

Mr. PERCY STRICKLAND, 2608 Highland Avenue, was interviewed at this residence and requested whether or not he remembered an individual by the name of ERIC GALT, who occupied Room 14 from the end of August, 1967, through the middle of October, 1967.

STRICKLAND stated at first that he did not remember anyone by that name, but after conferring briefly with Mr. PETER CHERPES, the landlord, he said that he did remember a young fellow staying in that room for about two months. He advised, however, that he did not know him and does not know anything about his activities while he stayed at this rooming house.

After viewing a composite drawing, STRICKLAND stated that this drawing resembles this individual who stayed in Room 14, although he cannot be certain as he does not remember him that well.

STRICKLAND stated that he cannot remember whether this individual owned an automobile and, if so, what kind or what color it might have been.

On 4/8/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and
WILLIAM A. SAUCIER: NPS/jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

Mr. HILL HARDY was interviewed at the Nifty Paper Company in Birmingham and advised that he is originally from Pensacola, Florida, and has been working for Nifty and living at PETE CHERPES' boarding house for the past four years. He stated that this boarding house was located on 19th Street until July, 1967, when that building was sold, forcing CHERPES to move his boarding house operation to 2608 Highland Avenue.

HARDY advised that he occupies Room 21 and has occupied this room since July, 1967.

When questioned concerning an individual using the name ERIC S. GALT, who occupied Room 14 from August 26, 1967, until October 7, 1967, HARDY advised that the only man he remembers living in that room was an old man. He said he cannot remember anyone by the name of ERIC GALT as living at the rooming house. He also stated, after being advised of GALT's description, that he could not remember anyone with that description living there. He said that he does not recall a white Mustang automobile belonging to anyone living at the rooming house or sitting in the island of the front street in front of this house.

HARDY stated he was sorry he could not be of more help, but that he is a quiet individual himself and stays in his room most of the time and has little or no association with the other tenants at this house.

After viewing an artist's conception shown to him, HARDY advised that it does not resemble anyone he remembers ever living at this boarding house.

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SAs NEIL P. SHANAHAN and
ROBERT M. BARRETT: NPS/jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/11/68

HOLLIS STRICKLIN, General Manager, Yellow Cab Company, 1008 North 19th Street, Birmingham, Alabama, made available the taxicab trip sheets for August 26, 1967.

- (1) Driver RAY JAMES, Taxicab No. 42, made 23 trips, according to his trip sheet. JAMES came on duty at approximately 6 A.M.

Trip #8 reflects one passenger taken from 2909 Highland Avenue to 2600 Highland Avenue, total fare 50 cents.

Trip #14 reflects one passenger taken from 1031 Eighth Avenue, South, to South Highland (exact address not specified), fare \$1.20.

- (2) Driver MILFORD ROUSE, Taxicab No. 37, made 40 trips, according to his trip sheet. ROUSE came on duty at approximately 4 P.M.

Trip #21 reflects one passenger was taken from the "L&N" to South Highland (exact address not specified), fare \$1.

Trip #33 reflects one passenger taken from Trailways to South Highland (exact address not specified), fare 65 cents.

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

by SA JOHN F. JANSEN:jml Date dictated 4/11/68

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DTD:scb

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION, VICINITY 2608
HIGHLAND AVENUE, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA:

The following establishments were contacted by SA DAVID T. DALY on April 10, 1968 and the artist's conception of Unknown Subject was displayed, with negative results:

Mr. GRAY MILLENDRE, owner, Millendore Drugs,
2913 Highland Avenue;

ANDREA E. KEY, manager, Mayfield Cleaners, 2915
Highland Avenue;

ROBERT HARRIS, manager, Highland Racket Club,
Highland Avenue.

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DTD:scb

LAUNDRIES AND CLEANERS,
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA:

In connection with a check of laundries in the Birmingham, Alabama area, Mr. ESCO, Manager of Mayfield Cleaners, was contacted telephonically by SA DAVID T. DALY and he advised that although he used the thermo-sealed machine in marking laundry, laundry mark 2B-6 or 02B-6 had never been used by him and that he had never used a red tape in marking laundry.

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RENTAL OF SAFE DEPOSIT BOX NO. 5517 AT
MAIN OFFICE OF BIRMINGHAM TRUST NATIONAL
BANK, BY ERIC S. GALT ON AUGUST 28, 1967.

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/13/68

The following documents were made available to SA JOHN H. KRESEK by the Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, Alabama:

1. Record of Access to Safe Deposit Box No. 5517 of ERIC S. GALT.
2. Contract for Safe Deposit with ERIC S. GALT.
3. Ledger card (rental record) for Safe Deposit Box No. 5517 in name of ERIC S. GALT.
4. Undated letter from ERIC S. GALT to Birmingham Trust National Bank.

In the event that the above documents are needed for evidence, they may be obtained by execution of a subpoena duces tecum addressed to Mr. C. E. KIRKPATRICK, Vice President, Birmingham Trust National Bank.

On 4/9/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA JOHN H. KRESEK:gas Date dictated 4/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 14, 1968

The following listed documents pertaining to Safe Deposit Box #5517, Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, Alabama, rented under the name of ERIC S. GALT, were hand-delivered by SA JOHN H. KRESEK on April 10, 1968, to Mr. JAMES H. MORTIMER, Document Section, FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C.:

1. Record of Access to Safe Deposit Box #5517 of ERIC S. GALT
2. Contract for Safe Deposit with ERIC S. GALT
3. Ledger card (rental record) for Safe Deposit Box #5517 in the name of ERIC S. GALT
4. Undated letter from ERIC S. GALT to Birmingham Trust National Bank

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama - Washington, D. C. File # BH 44-1740
by SA JOHN H. KRESEK:mas **83** Date dictated 4/12/68

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INCE
EVIDENCE
EVIDENCE

Dear Sir;

Inclosed is Two keys
I rented from you.
am moving to Louisiana so won't
meet them, I my half left
some containers of something
in the box if so just destroy
them. Thanks

Eric S. Galt

Undated letter from Eric S.
Galt to Birmingham Trust
National Bank

The above document obtained from
Charles T. Smith, Auditor, BTNB, Birmingham
Ala. on 4/9/68 by SA John H. Kresch,
FBI, Birmingham.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/13/68

CHARLES T. SMITH, Auditor, Birmingham Trust National Bank (BTNB), advised that since December 13, 1967, Safe Deposit Box No. 5517 has not been rented. He advised that from August 28, 1967, through December 13, 1967, this box had been rented in the name of ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham.

SMITH made available the Safe Deposit Box No. 5517 for examination. In the event the above described box is to be introduced into court, a subpoena duces tecum should be issued to C. E. KIRKPATRICK, Vice President, Birmingham Trust National Bank.

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA ROBERT J. YARNALL:gas Date dictated 4/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/16/68

Mrs. CATHERINE REEDY, Manager, Safe Deposit Box Section, main office, Birmingham Trust National Bank (BTNB), Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following information concerning safe deposit box number 5517.

She advised that a review of the contract for this box reflects that ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue, South, rented this box on August 28, 1967, for a period of one year at an annual rental of \$7. She said that the rental ledger card reflected that GALT surrendered the keys to this box on December 13, 1967, (prior to expiration of his contract) and a notation on the ledger card states he had moved out of town.

Mrs. REEDY advised that she recalls the keys were received from GALT through the mail and that GALT had enclosed a letter saying he was returning the keys as he had moved out of town and that if anything was remaining in the box that the bank was to destroy the items. Mrs. REEDY added that the envelope the letter was received in has been destroyed and she does not recall what postmark the envelope bore.

Mrs. REEDY stated that on December 13, 1967, the box was opened in the presence of bank officials BRUCE BEYER, C. E. KIRKPATRICK, BILLIE BENDER and herself, and the box was found to be empty. She advised that a notation to this effect was made on the record of access to the safe deposit box.

Mrs. REEDY, on examining the contract on this box executed by GALT on August 28, 1967, stated that she is certain she accepted the contract from GALT and, to the best of her recollection, she is certain GALT rented the box on the morning of August 28, 1967, and at that time GALT did not have anything to put into the box, but advised her he would return later in the day to place something in the box. She added that, although normal banking hours are from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., customers do have access to their

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 by SAs ROBERT J. YARNALL and
HENRY A. SNOW: R/Y/jml 88 Date dictated 4/16/68

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safe deposit boxes until 4:00 p.m. She stated that, according to the record of access to GALT's safe deposit box, he had entered the box at 2:32 p.m. on August 28, 1967, and stayed there for a period of seven minutes, having checked out at 2:37 p.m.

Mrs. REEDY advised that each time a customer goes to his box, either she or her assistant will go to the box with the customer to assist the customer in getting the box and the bank employee will then place his initials by the signature of the customer. She added that each time a customer enters the box he will sign the record of access. The record of access will be stamped showing the date and time the customer entered the box and the time the customer leaves.

Mrs. REEDY advised that, according to the record of access, GALT entered the box on dates and times set forth below and that DIANNE BATTLES, an employee of her section, assisted GALT in going to the box:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIMES</u>
August 28, 1967	2:32 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.
September 5, 1967	1:52 p.m. to 1:56 p.m.
September 21, 1967	11:04 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.

Mrs. REEDY advised that on September 28, 1967, her initials appear by GALT's signature, indicating she assisted GALT in going to the box on that date and that GALT was at the box from 10:16 a.m. to 10:19 a.m.

Mrs. REEDY stated that she recalls GALT's name; however, she was unable to recall anything specific concerning him and could not describe him. She is certain she would not be able to recognize him again if she saw him since she had only limited contact with him.

She advised that when GALT opened the account she does not recall any specific conversation with him and, since she did not make any notation on the contract as to where he was employed, she feels he probably told her he was self-employed, or possibly did not give her an answer to this question.

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Mrs. REEDY stated that the only other person in her section who may recall GALT is DIANNE BATTLE, who had been employed in this section until January 17, 1968, when she resigned from the bank.

Mrs. REEDY added that only she and one other employee are assigned to this section and, therefore, there is no one else in the section who would have known GALT.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

DIANNE BATTLE, 2425 Shades Crest Road, Birmingham, Alabama, was interviewed in the office of CHARLES T. SMITH, Auditor, Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, Alabama. Miss BATTLE furnished the following information:

She advised she was a former employee of the Birmingham Trust National Bank (BTNB), having resigned from the bank on January 17, 1968. She advised that while employed at the bank she worked in the Safe Deposit Box Section and was so employed in this section during August and September, 1967. She advised that her immediate supervisor was Mrs. CATHERINE REEDY and that she and Mrs. REEDY were the only employees in this section during the time she was employed with BTNB.

Miss BATTLE then furnished the following information: concerning safe deposit box #5517, rented in the name of ERIC S. GALT, 2608 Highland Avenue South.

Miss BATTLE reviewed a contract executed by GALT dated August 28, 1967, the date GALT rented the box from BTNB, and advised that she did not open this account; that the only person who would have opened the account would have been Mrs. REEDY.

Miss BATTLE advised that when a customer enters a safe deposit box, the time the customer enters the box and the time the customer leaves the box will be stamped and the date the person entered will also appear on the Record of Access to the customer's safe deposit box. She further stated that the customer will place his signature on the Record of Access each time the customer enters the box. In addition, either she or Mrs. REEDY, depending on who assisted the customer in going to the box, will place their initials by the signature of the customer.

After examining the Record of Access to safe deposit box #5517, Miss BATTLE advised that the records show

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
SA ROBERT J. YARNALL and
SA HENRY A. SNOW / RJY:hss **91** ME 44-1987
by _____ Date dictated 4/15/68

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GALT entered the box on four different occasions and that on three occasions she had assisted GALT in going to the box, since her initials appeared by his signature. She stated the records show that GALT had entered the box on the following dates and times as set forth below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
8/28/67	2:32 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.
9/9/67	1:52 p.m. to 1:56 p.m.
9/21/67	11:04 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.
9/28/67	10:16 a.m. to 10:19 a.m.

Miss BATTLE advised that on August 28, 1967, September 5 and 21, 1967, she assisted GALT in going to the box and that on August 28, 1967, Mrs. REEDY assisted GALT in going to the box.

Miss BATTLE advised that she does recall ERIC S. GALT and that to the best of her knowledge he was friendly on each occasion although he was quiet and said very little to her. She stated that one reason she recalls GALT is the fact that when most customers go to their safe deposit box they will take the box to one of the booths located in the Safe Deposit Section and will stay there for ten minutes or longer; however, on each occasion that GALT came to the box he stayed only a few minutes and did not go to any booth. She stated she also recalls that on each occasion he came in he would tell her that she could stay with him since he would only be there a few minutes. She stated, however, that she did not stay with GALT and would return to her desk. Miss BATTLE stated she never observed GALT putting anything in or taking anything out of the box and she never recalls seeing him carrying anything into the safe deposit box section other than one time she does recall he had a small paper bag in his hand.

Miss BATTLE stated that on each occasion GALT came to the bank he was dressed in casual clothes and she did not notice anything unusual about him. She added that on each occasion he came to the bank he was alone and she

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reiterated that he was a very quiet individual and said very little to her, and he never attempted to strike up any conversation with her. Miss BATTLE advised that on December 13, 1967, GALT sent a letter to the bank enclosing the keys to the safe deposit box, wherein he advised the bank that he was now living out of Birmingham and was surrendering his safe deposit box. She advised she made a notation to this effect on the Record of Access to GALT's safe deposit box and that she also put on there that he lives in Baton Rouge. Miss BATTLE advised she does not recall anything specific in the letter indicating that GALT was residing at Baton Rouge, and that she believes she obtained this information from the postmark on the envelope in which the letter was received. She advised that this envelope has been destroyed; however, to the best of her knowledge a copy of the letter would be maintained in GALT's file maintained in the Safe Deposit Box Section.

Miss BATTLE described GALT as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Late 20's or early 30's
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	170 lbs.
Hair:	Brown; cut short
Eyes:	Believed blue; did not wear glasses.
Complexion:	Ruddy
Characteristics:	Very polite, friendly and quiet.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date April 14, 1968

Safe Deposit Box #5517, obtained from CHARLES T. SMITH, Auditor, Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, Alabama, on April 10, 1968, by SA ROBERT J. YARNALL, was hand-delivered by SA YARNALL to Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE, FBI Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, Washington, D. C., on the same date.

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama -
Washington, D. C. File # BH 44-1740
by SA ROBERT J. YARNALL:mas **94** Date dictated 4/12/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 17, 19681

CHARLES T. SMITH, Auditor, Birmingham Trust National Bank, Birmingham, advised that normal banking hours Monday through Thursday are from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M., and on Fridays normal banking hours are 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

He advised that although the bank will normally close at 2:00 P.M., any customer desiring to go to their safe deposit box are permitted to go to their box until 4:00 P.M. He advised that although there is a guard on the door after 2:00 P.M., the guard does not require any identification from a customer, nor does he require a customer to sign any register if the customer desires to go to the safe deposit box. He, therefore, advised that the guard would have no records to determine if ERIC S. GALT had gone to his safe deposit box after normal banking hours on August 28, 1967.

On 4/10/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
by SA'S HENRY A. SNOW & ROBERT J. YARNALL RJY:cap 95 Date dictated 4/15/68

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