

REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 10, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-562676 JK

Specimens received 5/8/68

Photocopies of documents obtained from Alabama State Department of Public Safety, Montgomery, Alabama, comprising the known handwriting of eleven individuals, further described as follows:

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Kc258	WILLIAM ELMER JOHNSON
Kc259	FRANK GARRETT PERRY
Kc260	JAMES PRESTON RIDDICK
Kc261	ROBERT CLIFTON SMITH
Kc262	FONTAINE STORM
Kc263	R. W. KERR
Kc264	CLYDE JUSTIN HILL
Kc265	WINFORD PRESTON GILMORE
Kc266	PAUL EDGAR GOODPASTER, JR.
Kc267	LEE EMERSON BELLAMY
Kc268	ROGER DAVID BROUSSARD

## Result of examination:

Nothing of particular significance was noted from such comparisons as could be made between the writings on Kc258 through Kc268 when compared with the known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, whose known handwriting appears on specimens K171, K211 and K257.

The submitted items have been retained.

44-1740-1689

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*[Signature]*





**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 10, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-562676 JK**

Examination requested by: **Mobile**

Reference: **Airtel 5/6/68**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

*See Mo. airtel 5-6-68*

- Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**  
**1 - Mobile (157-2627) Enclosure (Lab report)**  
**1 - Atlanta (44-2386) Enclosure (Lab report)**  
**1 - Birmingham (44-1740) Enclosure (Lab report)**

*Snow - Hra*  
**ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE**

44-1740-1690

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Washington, D. C. 20537

**REPORT**

of the

**IDENTIFICATION DIVISION**

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 44-1609  
FBI FILE NO. 44-38861  
LATENT CASE NO. 91075

May 10, 1968

TO: SAC, New York

RE: MURKIN

REFERENCE: Airtel 5-4-68  
EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: New York  
SPECIMENS: One coupon for Modern Photo Bookstore, Q326  
Letter dated 9-26-67, Q327

This report confirms and supplements Bureau airtel 5-8-68.

One latent fingerprint of value was developed on the coupon. No latent impressions of value developed on the letter. See the attached page for the result of comparison conducted. Result of laboratory examination and disposition of specimens separate.

2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
1 - Birmingham (44-1740)  
1 - Knoxville

44-1740-1691  
J. Edgar Hoover, Director

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THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



Your File No. 44-1609  
FBI File No. 44-38861  
Latent Case No. 91075

May 10, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G

The latent print developed on the Modern Photo Bookstore coupon, which bears the name and address "Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama," Q326, is identical with the left thumbprint of James Earl Ray.

The coupon is being returned under separate cover.

**REPORT  
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**Date: **May 13, 1968**Re: **MURKIN  
CR**FBI File No. **44-38861**Lab. No. **D-562677 JK**Specimens received **5/8/68**

**Q326** Coupon of Modern Photo Bookstore bearing the hand printed name and address "ERIC S. GALT 2608 HIGHLAND AVE. BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35205"

**Q327** Sheet of ruled paper bearing handwritten and hand printed message dated 9/26/67, beginning "I recently order..." signed "Eric S. Galt"

**ALSO SUBMITTED:** Typewritten letter dated April 29, 1968, to ERIC S. GALT from Modern Photo Bookstore

**Result of examination:**

It was concluded that the questioned writings appearing on Q326 and Q327 were prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, whose known handwriting and hand printing appear on specimens K171, K211 and K257.

The submitted evidence has been retained.

44-1740-1692

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 13, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-562677 JK**

Examination requested by: **New York**

Reference: **Airtel 5/4/68**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**The results of the fingerprint examination will be  
furnished to you separately.**

**DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE  
PAGE(S) INFORMATION IN  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**1 - New York (44-1609) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**① - Birmingham (44-1740) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**1 - Knoxville (44-696) Enclosure (Lab report)**

*44-1740-1693*

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*[Signature]*

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

FROM : SA COLEMAN D. GEARY, III

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/11/68

At 4:30pm, Officer IRA DEMPSEY, PD, LEEDS, ALABAMA, telephonically advised that a White Male, Born, April 14, 1927, 5'10" 150lbs., dirty looking by the name of JAMES O'BARR of Rt. #1, 00 Odenville, Alabama, walked into the PD drunk and said that he shot MARTIN LUTHER KING and he was going to turn himself in.

Dempsey said that he would hold O'BARR for 4 hours on the drunk charge. He said that O'BARR resembled RAY, and he was furnishing the info for whatever value it might be to this investigation.

LEAD: BH AT LEEDS: Immediately interview OBARR for any info of value to this investigation.

*Handled &  
memo in Detroit*

44-1740-1694

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<i>Schwein</i>	<i>BN</i>



5010-108

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



Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 4-28-67)

Date 5/9/68

To:

☒ Director (44-38861)(RM) FILE SF 173-65

Att.:

☒ SAC MEMPHIS (44-1987)(RM) Title MURKIN, CR OO: Memphis

☐ ASAC LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (RM) (INFO)

☐ Supv. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Agent \_\_\_\_\_

☐ SE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ IC \_\_\_\_\_

☐ CC \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Steno \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

RE: Los Angeles teletype

5/8/68 re, "The Local Swinger"

☐ Rotor #: \_\_\_\_\_

### ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign \_\_\_\_\_ Reassign \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Post ☐ Recharge ☐ Return

☐ Send to \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Type

Enclosed for the information of Memphis and Birmingham are <sup>two</sup> one copy each of SF teletype to Bureau dated 5/9/68 reflecting interview with JOE RAY, Sausalito, Calif.

(1) ENCL  
Air Mail  
Registered  
See reverse side

SAC CHARLES W. BATES

Office SAN FRANCISCO

FBI WASH DC

FBI SAN FRAN

354 PM DEFERRED 5/9/68 VLT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TEL FIVE EIGHT LAST.

RE: LOCAL SWINGER CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

JOE RAY, THREE ZERO FIVE GATE FIVE ROAD, SAUSALITO, CALIF.,  
ADVISED THIS DATE THAT HE COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION RE SUBJECT  
OF THIS CASE. ALSO DENIED EVER WRITING TO REFERENCED CLUB.

JOE RAY STATED HE WAS BORN EIGHT TWENTYTHREE SIXTEEN AT SWEET-  
WATER, TEXAS AND HAS OPERATED AN AUTO BODY SHOP AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS  
WITH RESIDENCE IN BACK FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS. THIS SHOP HAS LARGE  
SIGN "JOE RAY'S BODY SHOP" DISPLAYED ON PREMISES, AND THE ABOVE ADDRESS  
IS LOCATED NEAR LARGE "HIPPIE" COMMUNITY IN SAUSALITO.

JOE RAY ADVISED HE IS MARRIED, HAS LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR THE PAST  
TWENTYFIVE YEARS, AND HAS NO CONTACT WITH NEARBY "HIPPIES." HE COULD  
FURNISH NO INFORMATION RE IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY HAVE UTILIZED  
HIS NAME.

PHOTOGRAPH OF JAMES EARL RAY DISPLAYED TO JOE RAY AND SUBJECT  
UNKNOWN TO HIM.

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION RE JOE RAY AT SAN FRANCISCO.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

END

LCC

SMS

FBI WASH DC

FBI LOS ANG.

44-1740-1695

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*[Signature]*



REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 8, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-562332 JK

Specimens received 5/4/68

- Q312 White envelope postmarked "Los Angeles May 1 1968 PM" addressed to "Editor in chief The Los Angeles Times Newspaper Los Angeles, California"
- Q313 Accompanying one-page typewritten letter beginning "Dear Editor, By the time..." ending "...never kill again." signed "James Ray"
- K252 Los Angeles, California, Police Department Booking Card bearing known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY

## Result of examination:

The typewritten impressions on Q312 and Q313 are not identical with the typewritten impressions appearing on items previously received in this matter in the name Eric S. Galt.

Although significant handwriting differences were noted between the "James Ray" signature on Q313 when compared with the available known signatures of James Earl Ray, because a portion of the questioned signature is overwritten and because of the limited nature of the questioned writing involved, a definite opinion could not be reached as to whether the questioned signature on Q313 was prepared by Ray.

No watermarks, indented writing or other identifying features were noted on Q312 and Q313 which might indicate their immediate source.

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44-1740-1696

Specimens Q312 and Q313 were searched in the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. Photographs will be added to this file for future reference.

The spelling, ~~p~~punctuation and typing habits of the individual who prepared Q312 and Q313 were found at variance with similar aspects of typewritten material previously received in the name Eric S. Galt and also in the known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY.

The submitted evidence has been photographed and is returned herewith.

Page 2  
D-562332 JK





FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 8, 1968

Re: MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 44-38861  
Lab. No. D-562322 JK

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Reference: Airtel 5/3/68

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the latent fingerprint examination.

This report confirms and supplements Bureau teletype to Los Angeles and Memphis dated 5/4/68.

DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE  
PAGE(S) INFORMATION IN  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

2 - Los Angeles Enclosures (5) (Q312, Q313, K252, 2 Lab report)  
(44-1574)

1 - Atlanta (44-2386) Enclosure (Lab report)

① - Birmingham (44-1740) Enclosure (Lab report)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

44-1740-1697

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5/7/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
RM  
OO: TAMPA

Re Bureau airtel to Jacksonville and Tampa dated May 2, 1968. Tampa airtel to Bureau dated May 2, 1968. Jacksonville airtel to Bureau and Tampa dated May 3, 1968.

Check of auto registration and drivers license at Orlando, Florida, identified owner of Florida license 7W 15 as DR. JOHN EDWARD CREWS, a physician and surgeon, being a white male, born December 30, 1913. His office is located at 1230 Hillcrest Avenue and his residence 640 Manor Road, Maitland, Florida. Attempts to interview him on instant vehicle negative.

On May 7, 1968 DUDLEY F. TRASEK, VSPO,

3- Bureau (44-38861) (RM)  
1- Birmingham (44-1740) (info) (RM)  
1- Memphis (44-1987) (info) (RM)  
1- Jacksonville (44-769) (info) (RM)  
2- Tampa (157-3231)  
GWT/lb  
(8)

44-1740-1698

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*[Handwritten signature]*



TP 157-3231

Maitland, Florida, stated he is personally acquainted with DOCTOR CREWS and advised that he looks even older than his 54 years of age. TRASEK viewed wanted flier 442A and stated DOCTOR CREWS is definitely not identifiable with JAMES EARL RAY.

No further action being taken concerning DOCTOR CREWS.

SUBJECT IS ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 5-8-68

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

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 PITTSBURGH

FROM TAMPA 157-3231

MURKIN

ONE C.C. BENNETT, TAMPA FLA TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED TAMPA OFFICE TODAY TO STATE A BAR ACQUAINTANCE OF PAST COUPLE DAYS GREATLY RESEMBLES PHOTOGRAPH OF JAMES EARL RAY. THIS UNKNOWN WHITE MALE TOLD BENNETT HE WAS STAYING AT INTERNATIONAL INN, TAMPA AND BENNETT FURNISHED TAMPA OFFICE LICENSE NUMBER OF RENTAL CAR DRIVEN BY UNKNOWN MALE, SAID TO BE TRAVELING WITH TWO OTHER MALES.

INVESTIGATION REVEALS RENTAL CAR TURNED IN FIVE:ZERO THREE PM TODAY AT AVIS RENT-A-CAR AGENCY TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPOORT BY MAN UNDER N NAME DONALD JAMES MACDONALD, THREE FIVE THREE ONE FLEMING AVE, PITTSBURGH, PA., WHO EXHIBITED PA. DRIVERS LIC # ZERO NINE SIX ZERO SEVEN EIGHT SIX FIVE, TEXACO CREDIT CARD #ONE NINE FOUR ONE NINE FIVE SIX FOUR EIGHT TWO AND ESSO CREDIT CARD #THREE THREE FOUR TWO TWO TWO SIX SEVEN NINE SIX.

LORETTA BREHM, AVIS EMPLOYEE AT AIRPORT, HANDLED CAR CHECK IN STATES MACDONALD W/M FIVE FT. TEN INCHES, IN MID THIRTIES, WITH

END PAGE ONE

(B H)

GRM/ROB

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

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

Per \_\_\_\_\_

44-1740-1699

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PAGE TWO

VERY THICK DARK HAIR, MEDIUM LENGTH, GOOD SUN TAN, PAID CASH FOR CAR RENTAL, WAS WITH TWO OTHER MEN AT TIME OF CHECKOUT, ASSUMED TO BE PREPARING TO TAKE FLIGHT OUT OF TAMPA. CAR RENTED AT ELEVEN THIRTYFOUR AM FIVE-FIVE-SIXTYEIGHT AT AIRPORT ACCORDING TO RECORDS.

INVIEWING PHOTOGRPHS OF RAY, BREHM SAID MACDONALD RESEMBLES PHOTOGRAPH ON EXTREME RIGHT OF THE THREE SHOWN ON IO NUMBER FOUR ONE EIGHT TWO, BUT DOES NOT RESEMBLE PHOTOGRAPH RAY TAKEN TWO-SIXTYEIGHT IN CALIFORNIA, STATES MACDONALD LOOKED YOUNGER THAN THIS PHOTOGRAPH TO BEST OF HER RECOLLECTION.

INVESTIGATION INTERNATIONAL INN REVEALS NO CHECKOUT OF ANYONE BY NAME MACDONALD ON FIVE-EIGHT-SIXTYEIGHT.

PITTSBURGH DETERMINE IF ONE DONALD JAMES MACDONALD RESIDES THREE FIVE THREE ONE FLEMING AVE, PITTSBURGH AND WHETER OR NOT IDENTICAL RAY.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO RH- 44-1740 AND ME 44-1987

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

WRJ-

FBI PITTSBGH

•

F B I

Date: 5/9/68

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

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

Re Bureau airtel to Los Angeles dated 4/24/68;  
and Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 4/30/68 (ALMENA  
LOMAX - complainant).

On 5/9/68, after several unsuccessful attempts,  
Mrs. LOMAX was telephonically contacted and stated she had  
been so busy she had not found time to list the subscribers  
to the "Tuskegee Tribune" whom she believed to be white.  
She stated she would copy them on this date if she found  
time, prior to leaving for Berkeley, California, and would  
mail them to this office. Mrs. LOMAX declined the offer  
of an agent to come to her residence or copy the list for  
her.

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Info)
- ① - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
- 2 - Los Angeles

LDJ/jan  
(7)

44-1740-1700

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*[Signature]*

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



F B I

Date: 5/9/68

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

TO: SAC, ATLANTA

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

In connection with investigation conducted to date in instant case, the Memphis Office has prepared a listing of pertinent dates, activity, and residences as known to Memphis concerning subject JAMES EARL RAY. This information may be subject to amplification as additional information becomes known.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Place</u>
4/23/67	Escape	Missouri State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri
7/18/67	Harkay Apts., \$450 lease, 7/18/67 - 1/18/68 H. ROTHMAN, owner, \$75 per month. GALT skipped out.	Montreal, Canada
7/26/67	Canadian Postal Money Order	Montreal, Canada
8/26/67	2608 Highland Avenue (Rented room.)	Birmingham, Alabama
8/28/67	Birmingham Trust Nat'l Bank (Rented safety deposit box.)	Birmingham, Alabama

## ALL COPIES AIRMAIL:

2 ATLANTA	2 LOS ANGELES
2 BIRMINGHAM	2 MIAMI
2 CHICAGO	2 MOBILE
2 DALLAS	2 NEW ORLEANS
2 JACKSON	2 SPRINGFIELD
2 KANSAS CITY	2 ST. LOUIS

RGJ:BN

(24)

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

44-1740-1701

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ME 44-1987

<u>Date</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Place</u>
3/29-30/67	Bought Mustang from WILLIAM D. PAISLEY	Birmingham
1/12/67	Continental Dance Club Studio Aka. Friendship Club	Birmingham
10/3/67	Photographic Equipment to Galt (Per records Superior Bulk Film Co., Chicago)	Birmingham
10/4/67	Operator rooming house (P. CHERPES) signed for package for GALT	Birmingham
10/5/67	GALT typed letter from Birmingham Highland Avenue address returning camera to Chicago	Birmingham
10/7/67	Approximate departure	Birmingham
10/18/67	Letter from Film Company (above) returned to Chicago from Birmingham address	--
10/19 - 11/16/67	Room 212 Motel Rio, Morelos 86	Puerto Villarta Jalisco, Mexico
10/22/67	Superior Bulk Film Co., Chicago records show typed letter from GALT asking refund be sent Hotel Rio, Puerto Villarta, Jalisco, Mexico	
11/7-13/67	Hotel "Tropicana" (Rm. 417)	Puerto Villarta
11/17/67 - 1/18/68	1535 North Serrano (Apt. 6)	Los Angeles, Calif.
11/20/67	Records Chicago Film Co. (above) show GALT asked refund be sent 1535 North Serrano	Los Angeles, Calif.



ME 44-1987

12/17-19/67	Provincial Motel (GALT)	New Orleans, La.
1/2 - 3/17/68	St. Francis Hotel 5533 North Hollywood Boulevard	Los Angeles
12/1 - 2/12/68	National Dance Studios	Los Angeles
1/1/68 - 3/2/68	International School of Bar- tendering	Los Angeles
3/24/68	113 14th St. N. E. (Rooming House) GALT last seen by landlord approximately 3/31/68	Atlanta, Georgia
3/29-30/68	Purchase of Weapon (HARVEY LOWMEYER), Aero-Marine Supply	Birmingham
4/1/68	Piedmont Laundry (GALT) No starch in clothes	Atlanta
4/3/68	Rebel Motel (ERIC S. GALT) Departed prior to 1 PM, 4/4/68	Memphis
4/4/68	Rooming House (JOHN WILLARD) South Main St., in about 3 PM	Memphis
4/5/68	Last seen A.M. of 4/5/68, Piedmont Laundry, parking Mustang	Atlanta

F B I

Date: 5/9/68

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

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

Re Bureau airtel to Los Angeles 5/7/68.

Re BETTY SPARKS - Complainant

For information Birmingham referenced Bureau airtel included a letter from BETTY SPARKS, Fontana, California, in which she stated that an old man, who has second sight, told her the man who killed Dr. KING was still in Memphis, Tennessee, within three blocks of the murder cite, that his name is HAYES, and that he had a slight limp in his right leg.

BETTY SPARKS, 13128 Whittram Avenue, Fontana, California, advised SA JACK E. DE VANE, 5/9/68, that within three or four days after Dr. KING was murdered she had attended a second hand auction at Chino, California. While there, she met an old man, identity, address, and present location unknown, who told her in conversation regarding the KING murder that he had had a vision shortly thereafter and in his vision saw the man within three blocks of the place of the murder. Further the nam had a slight limp in his right leg and was going by the name of HAYES.

Mrs. SPARKS stated she had not reported this until 5/1/68, when she had directed a letter to the Bureau setting forth these facts. She said that she would have no way of identifying the old man, whom she had talked with, whom she described as being approximately 80 years of and quite feeble.

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Memphis (Info)
- ① - Birmingham (Info)
- 2 - Los Angeles

JEDV/jan  
(6)

44-1740-1702

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



F B I

Date: 5/9/68

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

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

Re Bureau airtel to Los Angeles 5/7/68.

Re KENNETH R. MC BANE - Complainant

Mr. KENNETH R. MC BANE, 641 Galen Drive, La Habra, California, advised SA's FREDERICK L. BIGGERS and FRANCIS J. O'HARA on 5/9/68, that he is an employee of the U.S. Government, being a clerk at the U.S. Post Office, La Habra, California. He stated that on the morning of 4/10/68, at approximately 9:00 or 9:30 a.m., he was having some work done on his automobile in the Texaco Station at the corner of Central Avenue and Beach Boulevard in La Habra, California. While there a young man driving a very old Chevrolet, possibly a 1952 or 1953 model, two-door sedan, parked his automobile near the service station on Highway 39 heading north. He got out of the car and walked to the service station and asked for the keys to the rest room. He was in the rest room approximately one minute, hung the keys of a nail inside the service station, walked back to his car, and left. Mr. MC BANE stated that this car was in very poor condition and that he had difficulty starting it.

MC BANE described this individual as being approximately 34 years of age; 6'2"; 160 pounds; brown hair, cut very short in a crew type cut; very palid complexion; and as wearing a dark pullover sweater with tight pants and boots. Mr. MC BANE stated that this individual was also wearing a cap very low on his forehead, appeared to be fervid, and to be very dangerous.

2 - Bureau  
2 - Memphis  
② - Birmingham  
2 - Los Angeles  
FLB/jan  
(8)

44-1740-1703

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
MAY 11 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*[Signature]*

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

LA 44-1574

MC BANE stated that he saw a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in the local newspaper and chose the one that was taken in 1960 as being the one that looked like the individual he had seen. MC BANE stated that although he is 65 years of age, he has a very sharp mind and a photographic memory and a special talent for recognizing people from photographs.

MC BANE was shown wanted flyer 442-A and upon examining it closely stated that he was not sure that the person he had seen in fact did resemble the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1960.



5/9/68

Airtel

To: SAC's Los Angeles (44-1574) - Enc. (3)  
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Los Angeles airtel of 5/2/68, submitting a sheet of paper bearing typewritten message dated 2/17/68, Q315, and a type-written advertisement, Q316.

Three latent fingerprints of value were developed on Q315. No latent impressions of value developed on Q316. The three latent fingerprints on Q315 are not identical with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G, or with the latent fingerprints previously reported in this case.

Q315, Q316, and a copy of the 2/2/68 issue of the "Los Angeles Free Press," which was also submitted, are enclosed to Los Angeles.

Laboratory reporting separate.

Disposition of a photograph of Eric S. Galt, which was also submitted, separate.

1 - Atlanta (44-2386)  
1 - Birmingham (44-1740)

44-1740-1704

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MAY 11 1968	
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*[Handwritten initials]*

5/9/68

Airtel

To: SAC's, Buffalo (44-374) - Enclosures (2)  
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Buffalo airtel 4/29/68, submitting an envelope, Q304, addressed to Mrs. Mary Grooms, and accompanying sheet of paper, Q305, for examination.

One latent fingerprint of value was developed on the envelope. No latent prints of value developed on Q305. The latent fingerprint on the envelope is not identical with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G, or with the latent fingerprints previously reported in this case.

Q304 and Q305 enclosed to Buffalo.

Laboratory reporting separately.

- ① - Birmingham (44-1740)
- 1 - Kansas City
- 1 - Detroit

44-1740-1705

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
MAY 11 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*Jal*



F B I

Date: May 8, 1968

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

To: All SACS and LEGATS

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

In connection with the captioned case there has been speculation that James Earl Ray concocted the alias of Eric Starvo Galt by combining the names of characters from books by Ian Fleming and from a book "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand. This speculation is based on the fact that in the James Bond books by Ian Fleming there is a character named Ernst Stavro Blofield and in "Atlas Shrugged" there is a character named John Galt, as well as one named Eric Starnes. Ernst Stavro Blofield is a formidable person, John Galt is a "social drop out" and Eric Starnes is described in the book as a "whiner" from a low-class family.

In view of the above and in order that Agents handling this investigation can be alert to the possibility of Ray's utilizing an alias based on characters in Fleming's books, there is set out as an attachment to this airtel a list of various characters in those books for your assistance.

Enclosure

44-1740-1706

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FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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

See 1A Section for  
Encl.

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ST LOUIS

630PM URGENT 5-12-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS, AND NEW  
ORLEANS.

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

RE NO TEL TO BU AND SL TEL TO BU, BOTH MAY ELEVEN LAST.

RE JOHN PAUL VELANTI - JAMES W. BROWN

VELANTI REINTERVIEWED TODAY. NOW RECALLS ONE JIMMY RAYE  
(PHONETIC) WM, TWENTY-SEVEN, SIX FOOT ONE, ONE FIFTY LBS, LEFT  
HANDED GAMBLER AND BASKET BALL PLAYER WHO WAS INVOLVED WITH VELANTI  
IN GAMBLING AT MSP. RAYE STILL AT MSP ACCORDING TO VELANTI. RAYE  
HAD OLDER BROTHER, LARRY RAYE, FORMER INMATE MSP. BELIEVES JIMMY  
RAYE CONFUSED WITH SUBJECT RAY BY JAMES W. BROWN.

BELANTI ADVISES WIFE, BETTYE PITTARD, AKA PRITCHARD, PETERSON,  
(PROBABLY MAIDEN NAME) AND VELANTI, EMPLOYED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS  
KEY PUNCH OPERATOR FOR LOUISIANA - ARKANSAS RAILROAD AT BOTH  
SHREVEPORT AND ATLANTA. PARENTS AND REALTIVES BELIEVED TO RESIDE  
ATLANTA. BETTYE MEMBER OF DOWNTOWN BRANCH ALCOHOLICS ANNONYMOUS  
CLUB, SHREVEPORT, LA. MAY HAVE BEEN AA MEMBER IN ATLANTA.

FRIEND OF VELANTI, JAMES, "JIMMY" H. CARPENTER, FORMER MSP  
INMATE, ZERO ONE SEVEN SIX ONE ADVISES SUBJECT RAY WELL KNOWN TO  
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1707

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*JKS*



PAGE TWO

44-775

HIM MSP. CARPENTER RELEASED ON PAROLE FROM MSP FIVE ONE SIXTY-SEVEN. SAW SUBJECT RAY ON SOUTH ELEVENTH ST., SLMO ON THREE OCCASSIONS BETWEEN MAY TEN AND SEVENTEENTH, SIXTYSEVEN. SUBJECT RAY POORLY DRESSED, WEARING MUSTACHE. BORROWED TEN DOLLARS FROM CARPENTER. STATED HE NEEDED GUN TO MAKE A SCORE SO HE COULD LEAVE ST. LOUIS. CARPENTER GOT IMPRESSION RAY WAS THEN GOING TO ILLINOIS.

CARPENTER RECALLS INMATE MSP KNOWN AS (FNU) COOLEY (PH) DESCRIBES AS WM, FORTY-FIVE YEARS OLD AT PRESENT, SIX FEET, ONE FIFTY LBS, SLENDER, BLACK HAIR, WALKS WITH LIMP. IN MSP ON TWO OCCASSIONS. LAST RELEASED PRIOR TO NINETEEN SIXTY WHEN SUBJECT RAY ENTERED MSP. THIS PERSON TRIED TO BE AN INTELLECTUAL. READ SCIENCE AND SEX BOOKS CONTINUALLY. WORKED IN KITCHEN MSP.

ATLANTA ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE WIFE OF VELANTI, BETTYE PITTARD, AND INTERVIEW REGARDING ANY ASSOCIATION OF VELANTI WITH SUBJECT RAY. VERIFY AND FIX DATE OF ALLEDGED ROBBERY OR BURGLARY OF ATLANTA OIL COMPANY BY RAY AND VELANTI.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY WILL ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY JIMMY RAYE (PH) MENTIONED BY VELANTI AS PERSON PROBABLY REFERRED TO BY JAMES A. BROWN OF BIRMINGHAM.

ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY COOLEY AS DESCRIBED.

NEW ORLEANS AT SHREVEPORT WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BETTYE PITTARD, RE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SUBJECT RAY AND BELANTI.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P.

END

HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

F B I

Date: 5/11/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN

Re Chicago tel May 10, 1968, re CARL MURPHY, JR.

Information furnished to Chicago Office by  
ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS, is set out in Memphis file 92-554,  
Jackson file 92-11, Bureau file 62-9-33, captioned "CRIME  
CONDITIONS IN MISSISSIPPI (NORTHERN JUDICIAL DISTRICT)".

The information concerning the alleged offer  
by CARL MURPHY, JR., to ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS, to do KING  
in, for \$2,500, is being investigated.

CARL MURPHY, JR., was a PCI of the Jackson  
Division through 1965, at which time he was discontinued  
as a PCI due to lack of information being furnished,  
(Jackson file 137-246).

3 - Bureau  
1 - Atlanta (Info)  
① - Birmingham (Info)  
1 - Chicago (Info)  
1 - Memphis (Info)  
1 - St. Louis (Info)  
2 - Jackson  
JLP/bjk  
(10)

44-1740-1708

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MAY 13 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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



5/11/68  
PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND CHICAGO (44-1114)  
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY TEN, LAST, CONCERNING  
ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS.

RECORDS MEMPHIS OFFICE REVEAL THAT IN OCTOBER,  
FIFTY EIGHT, MEMPHIS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION  
CONCERNING ROBERT WAYNE PHILLIPS, IDENTICAL WITH  
PHILLIPS MENTIONED RETEL, ON ITSMV AND ITSP CHARGES.  
AGAIN IN FEBRUARY, SIXTY, MEMPHIS CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION  
RE PHILLIPS ON ITSMV CHARGES. NO ITSMV VIOLATIONS  
WERE SUBSTANTIATED AND NO PROSECUTION RE ITSP INVESTIGATION  
WARRANTED DUE TO TRUE NAME VARIETY OF CHECKS CASHED  
BY PHILLIPS.

RECORDS AVAILABLE MEMPHIS FAILED TO REFLECT ANY  
KKK ACTIVITY ON PART OF KARL MURPHY, JR., FBI NO.  
FIVE FOUR THREE ONE SIX SEVEN B. IN ADDITION TO

Airtel

Teletype

A.M.

A.M.S.D.

Spec. Del.

Reg. Mail

Registered

1-Atlanta (44-2386) (AM)  
1-Birmingham (44-1740) (AM)  
1-Jackson (157-9686) (AM)  
1-Mobile (157-2627) (AM)  
1-New Orleans (157-10673) (AM)  
1-St. Louis (44-775) (AM)

RFB:PEH  
(7)

44-1740-1709

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ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

THE INFORMATION DEVELOPED RE MURPHY IN THE CASE  
ENTITLED "HALL COOPER BOURLAND; ET AL; OOJ; OO: ME,"  
MEMPHIS RECORDS REFLECT CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION RE  
MURPHY'S ILLEGAL LIQUOR ACTIVITY IN LEE COUNTY, MISS.  
NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED RE MURPHY'S ACTIVITIES BY  
THE MEMPHIS DIVISION SUBSEQUENT TO JACKSON BEING  
MADE A DIVISION. ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSON,  
MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS ADVISED BY AM. ARMED  
AND DANGEROUS. P. END.



5/10/68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

MURKIN

DAILY SUMMARY

RECORDS BELSAW LOCKSMITH SCHOOL, KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI, CONTAIN NO RECORD IN THE NAME OF THE SUBJECT.

REVIEW OF MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP)  
RECORDS REVEAL COWBOY TO BE MELVIN O. GRIDLEY, MSP  
# ZERO TWO FIVE ZERO THREE. ALSO A CHESTER SPRATT,  
MSP # ZERO FOUR TWO FIVE EIGHT WAS IN CELL J DISCHARGED  
JUNE SIX SIXTYSEVEN. INMATE CARL CRAIG, MSP # ONE ONE  
ONE TWO SEVEN DISCHARGED MAY ONE LAST. EFFORTS TO  
LOCATE AND INTERVIEW THESE INDIVIDUALS UNDERWAY.

RECORDS TRANS WORLD AIRLINES, (TWA) KANSAS CITY  
TICKET # FOUR ZERO FOUR ZERO ONE TWO NINE SIX FOUR ISSUED  
TO RALPH BEAL, THREE TEN ONE-HALF HARRISON, DAVENPORT, IA.  
FLIGHT WAS FROM ATLANTA TO CHICAGO TO MOLINE, ILL.

1 - Memphis  
① - Birmingham  
1 - Chicago (AM)  
1 - New York (AM)  
RBH:WSA  
(5)

44-1740-1710

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*[Signature]*

KC 44-760

PAGE TWO

NUMBERS FOR TWA COACH TICKETS FURNISHED BY NEW YORK  
BOTH CONTAIN TEN DIGITS WHICH TWA STATES IS POSSIBLY AN  
ERROR INASMUCH AS THEY ONLY HAVE NINE DIGITS ON THEIR  
NUMBERS.

EFFORTS COTINUING AT MSP TO IDENTIFY NOONEY EDEN.  
LOCAL LEADS CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P



5/10/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (P)

MURKIN  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Birmingham tel 5/9/68 to Bureau, Kansas City, Memphis and Mobile.

Re BEATRICE BRITTON, wife of THOMAS BRITTON, Jasper, Alabama. Current Chattanooga Telephone Directory (September 1967) lists Chattanooga telephone number 266-1408 in name ARLIE DOWNEY, 203 Winchester St., Chattanooga, Tenn.

On May 10, 1968, Mrs. ALICE DOBBS, Electric Power Board, Chattanooga, Tenn., advised records of that office reflect P. ARLIE DOWNEY secured service in 1937. Application contains no background information. His address for 1945 to 1965 was 203 Winchester St. Service disconnected, no forwarding address. January 3, 1966, Power Board Service, 203 Winchester Street, lists name WILLIAM M. FELKINS and continues service this address. In January 1966 FELKINS employed as used car dealer for BENNIE WICK, Stringer St. FELKINS wife listed as MINNIE, same address, niece - Mrs. E. J. WEBBER, 201 Winchester St., and sister - Mrs. W. F. MINTON, no number listed, Winchester St., both Chattanooga, Tenn. No other information appeared re FELKINS.

- 3 - Bureau
- ② - Birmingham (44-1740)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Knoxville

GCW/bgc  
(9)

44-1740-1711

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*Kresch* *JHK*  
*mfg*



KX 44-696

On May 10, 1968, Mrs. MARGARET NANCE, Chattanooga Credit Bureau, advised files of that office reflect Mrs. ARLIE (JENNIE B) DOWNEY, last known address, 302 Winchester St., Chattanooga, Tenn. (1961), widow of ARLIE DOWNEY, who died December 17, 1958.

Credit Bureau files last report re WILLIAM MARSHALL FELKINS dated September, 1955. At that date wife listed as MINNIE, both resided 209 Winchester St., Chattanooga, Tenn. Known to files from 1940 to date of report. Employed 1953 to date of report by KEEFE Plumbing Co., Chattanooga, Tenn. Previously married to LILLIE MAE FELKINS. Unsatisfactory credit rating. Files describe FELKINS as white male, about 55 to 60 years of age. Divorce petitions filed by LILLIE MAE FELKINS vs. WILLIAM MARSHALL FELKINS September 12, 1952, and August 13, 1954. Divorce petitions filed by MINNIE HENRY FELKINS vs. WILLIAM MARSHALL FELKINS October 27, 1945, and February 21, 1949. It should be noted that 1967 Chattanooga City Directory lists MARSHALL FELKINS, wife MINNIE H. FELKINS, reside 203 Winchester St., Chattanooga, Tenn. No employment listed for either.

Newspaper clippings appearing in Credit Bureau files report arrest April 27, 1949, for MINNIE FELKINS, 801 West Sixth St., rear, Chattanooga, Tenn., for possession of illegal whiskey. Newspaper clipping appeared same file dated March 29, 1951, listed arrest of MARSHALL FELKINS, then 34 years of age, residence 446 Manufacturers Road, Chattanooga, Tenn., in connection with the death of ULES LANDRESS, same address. FELKINS first arrested for felonious assault for striking LANDRESS on head with stick of stove wood. After LANDRESS died following day, charge changed to murder.

May 10, 1968, TAGNER BAILER, Director, Identification Division, Chattanooga Police Department, advised MINNIE FELKINS, Chattanooga PD No. 16218, white female, DOB April 8, 1902, POB Daus, Tenn., 5'1", 241 lbs., wife of WILLIAM MARSHALL FELKINS, same address, arrested 4/25/59, charge of possession of unstamped whiskey. This charge dismissed Chattanooga City Court April 27, 1959. Chattanooga PD unable to locate arrest record for WILLIAM MARSHALL FELKINS. Note Chattanooga PD files reorganized 2 to 3 years ago and not uncommon to be unable to locate particular file even though arrest known to have occurred.



KX 44-696

On May 10, 1968, Mrs. EDNA CAMP, Hamilton County Criminal Court Clerk's Office, Chattanooga, Tenn., advised files of that office reflect charges against WILLIAM MARSHALL FELKINS presented to Hamilton County Grand Jury 4/24/51 on charge of murder. Grand Jury returned no bill.

Chattanooga City Directories 1961 and 1964 through 1966 do not list any record for WILLIAM MARSHALL FELKINS or MINNIE FELKINS. Chattanooga City Directories 1962-63 list MARSHALL FELKINS, wife MINNIE, reside 209 Winchester St., Chattanooga, Tenn. No employment listed for either.

203 Winchester St., Chattanooga, is neighborhood of extremely low income white residents of buildings which are severely deteriorated. Limited anonymous inquiry on 5/10/68 in neighborhood failed to locate anyone who knew identity of residents at 203 Winchester St. or who had resided in the neighborhood in excess of two months.

BENNIE WICK, 107 Peerless Ave., North Chattanooga, formerly Stringer St., operates small used car lot, mostly junked automobiles. WICK has questionable reputation and not advisable to contact if desired to be kept confidential.

Anonymous inquiry was made by Special Agent on 5/10/68 at residence at 203 Winchester St. Inquiry was made re DOWNEY family, in whose name telephone is listed, and also specifically concerning a THOMAS DOWNEY who recently was involved in an automobile accident and currently resides 215 Winchester St.

Mrs. WILLIAM MARSHALL (MINNIE) FELKINS, 203 Winchester St., Chattanooga, advised the house at this residence is the property of Mrs. ARLIE DOWNEY, a widow who has no children. Mrs. DOWNEY was reported to have suffered a stroke some two years ago and was left with some mental damage. She is currently residing with her sister at another address in Chattanooga.

Mr. and Mrs. FELKINS are reported to have resided at 203 Winchester St. for the past two years. They maintain the telephone at this address under the name of ARLIE DOWNEY (deceased). FELKINS formerly employed by BENNIE WICK, used car dealer, but due to extremely poor health has not been employed in any capacity for the past 18 months or more.



KX 44-696

FELKINS was at residence at time of anonymous inquiry. He appeared extremely feeble, made no comment, and possibly senile.

Knoxville indices re all above-listed DOWNEYS and FELKINS negative. No additional inquiry being made re FELKINS pending Bureau, Memphis or Birmingham request.



5/9/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)  
MURKIN  
CR

Re Houston airtel to Director, 5/3/68.

Re: Public Telephones on Interstate 10 -  
Houston Division

Calling No. 769-9103, Vidor, Texas, to Tampa,  
Fla., 813-229-1414, on 12/17/67.

At Tampa, Florida

H. K. RUTHERFORD, Security Division, General  
Telephone Company (Protect), advised records showed tele-  
phone number 229-1414 in home of DEDRA RODGERS, 1237 Burden  
Court, Tampa, installed November 2, 1967.

Mrs. MINNIE JUDGE, 1237 Burden Court, advised  
May 8, 1968, Miss DEDRA RODGERS is her daughter and  
phones at their residence in her name. Advised no telephone  
call ever received at her residence from Texas; that she  
was home all day Sunday, December 17, 1967, and could posi-  
tively state no one received a call. Photos JAMES EARL RAY

3 - Bureau (RM)  
① - Birmingham (44-1740) (RM)  
2 - Houston (44-1509) (RM)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987)  
2 - Tampa  
SJL:lp  
(10)

44-1740-1712

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*[Signature]*



TP 157-3231

exhibited and subject RAY unknown to her.

Miss DEDRA RODGERS, 1237 Burden Court, advised May 8, 1968, she was at her residence with her mother on Sunday, December 17, 1967, and could positively state no one received a call from Texas. Photos RAY exhibited to her and RAY unknown.

H. K. RUTHERFORD, as above, advised May 8, 1968, old Criss-Cross Directory checked negatively for prior subscriber and telephone company cannot tell who previous subscriber was.

It is noted JUDGE and RODGERS are Negroes and reside in entirely Negro project.

No further investigation being conducted by Tampa and Houston may desire to recheck numbers.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Birmingham (44-1740) (P)

DATE: 5/13/68

FROM : SA ROBERT J. YARNALL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo of SA CLARENCE E. WRIGHT, 4-13-68.

On 4/16/68, JANE BOZEMAN, Return Item Unit, First National Bank of Birmingham, advised that she resides at 2620 Highland Avenue, Apt. D, Birmingham, Alabama.

Inasmuch as she resided in the vicinity of 2608 Highland Avenue, which is the address where JAMES EARL RAY, aka Eric S. Galt, resided, she was questioned concerning RAY. She advised that GALT was unknown to her. She advised she knew of no one residing at 2608 Highland Avenue. When exhibited a photograph of GALT, she advised she had never seen him in her neighborhood. She further stated that she does not recall seeing a white Mustang in the neighborhood during August through October, 1967.

During the course of the interview, Miss BOZEMAN advised that L. G. RAINEY, Route One, Fayette, Alabama, is a very close friend of her family and that she does visit them or telephone them on occasions.

RJY:hss

(3)  
*hss*

44-1740-1713

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FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

*[Signature]*



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740) (P)

DATE: May 13, 1968

FROM : Charles E. Nelson, Jr.

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Article from TIME magazine regarding Truman Capote's  
theory about the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

## OPINION

### The Assassination

#### According to Capote

On the rare occasions when writer Truman Capote agrees to submit to a television interview, it is usually because he has something that he wants to say. Last week, when he appeared (for the first time) on Johnny Carson's *Tonight* show, he wasted little time in

getting to the point. "I have a theory," announced the author of *In Cold Blood*, "about the murder of Martin Luther King."

So, of course, does almost everybody else, but Capote's credentials make him worth listening to—wild though his theory may be. The FBI, he says, is looking for the wrong man. James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, was indeed in on the assassination plot—which Capote believes was carried out by "leftists, not rightists," for political gain. Ray did not, however, kill Martin Luther King. "I have studied his record very carefully, and in my experience with interviewing what I call homicidal minds [Capote has talked at length with 100 murderers in the past nine years], he's simply a man not capable of this particular kind of very calculated and cruel and exact and precise kind of crime."

~~In Capote's reconstruction of the~~ crime, in fact, Ray's only function was to throw the FBI off the assassin's trail, first by assuming the name of Eric Starvo Galt ("My theory is that there are two Eric Starvo Galts"), and finally by planting his fingerprints on the gun that was later to be used for killing King. "This was a setup," Capote believes. "The central factor of what happens is that, after the assassination, this assassin rushes out of the rooming house, and what does he do? He does a very amazing, unusual thing. He takes a suitcase and very carefully props it up in front of a store. And in this suitcase there is a shotgun, very carefully left. And what is on it is Mr. James Earl Ray's fingerprints."

And where was Ray at the time? "Dead." Capote believes he was killed "and disposed of" at least ten days before the assassination. "He didn't quite understand," said Capote with a grimace, "what his part in the plot was going to be."

44-1740-1714

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FBI — BIRMINGHAM	



5010-108

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



FBI MOBILE

FBI PHILA

531PM 5-10-68 URGENT ERA

TO SACS MEMPHIS 44-1987, MOBILE AND NORFOLK  
FROM SAC PHILADELPHIA 44-1368

MURKIN

RE SUSPECT UNSUB; AKA ROBERT L. MOORE.

ON MAY TWO LAST CONTACT WITH HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY,  
BALA-CYNWYD, PA, REFLECTS ESSO CREDIT CARD NUMBER THREE FIVE FOUR -  
SEVEN THREE THREE - EIGHT NINE TWO - FIVE ISSUED ROBERT L. MOORE,  
ONE NINE ONE SIX KING HENRY COURT, APT. ONE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, IN  
JULY SIXTYFOUR.

INSTANT CREDIT CARD HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED LOST OR STOLEN; HOW-  
EVER, CREDIT CARD LISTED ON REWARD FLYER HAS CURRENT DELINQUENT  
CHARGES OF APPROX SEVENTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS WITHIN LAST EIGHTEEN  
MONTHS.

HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING NOTED THAT MAIL SENT TO INSTANT ADDRESS  
HAS NOT BEEN RETURNED.

NORFOLK LOCATE AND INTERVIEW MOORE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TEB

FBI MOBILE

CL

44-1740-1715

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
MAY 13 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

*[Signature]*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1968	
FBI — MOBILE	

F B I

Date: 5/13/68

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

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA, MEMPHIS (44-1987), KANSAS CITY AND  
ST. LOUIS (44-775)  
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN. CR. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELS TO BUREAU, MAY SEVEN, EIGHT AND TEN, LAST,  
AND ST. LOUIS TELS TO BUREAU, MAY TEN, ELEVEN AND TWELVE, LAST.

KANSAS CITY IS REQUESTED TO EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION REQUESTED AT  
MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY IN RE BIRMINGHAM TELS, IN ORDER THAT INFO  
FROM EX-CONVICTS BEING OBTAINED BY ST. LOUIS, BIRMINGHAM AND ATLANTA,  
MAY BE PROPERLY EVALUATED. KANSAS CITY IS REQUESTED TO SUTEL  
SPECIFICALLY INFORMATION DEVELOPED RE "COOLEY ORGANIZATION" AND/OR  
ANY PRISONER NAMED COOLEY; ALL INFO DEVELOPED RE PRISONERS NAMED  
CRAIG AND "BOSTON" AS IDENTIFIED BY EX-CONVICT THOMAS BRITTON; ALL  
INFO DEVELOPED RE ANY LOTTERIES OPERATED BY JOHN PAUL VELANTI AND HIS  
ITALIAN PARTNER FROM ST. LOUIS WHO HAS GUNSHOT WOUND IN FACE. KANSAS  
CITY ALSO SUTEL WHETHER SUBJECT RAY WAS EVER A "WALK BOY" IN "J HALL"  
NOVEMBER, SIXTYSIX, THROUGH APRIL, SIXTYSEVEN, AND WHETHER RAY EVER

END PAGE ONE.

RMB:epg

(1) *epg*Approved: *[Signature]*

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Sent

*wa 123  
at 130  
me 146  
KC 155  
se 211 pm*

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44-1740-1716



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PAGE TWO

EMPLOYED IN LICENSE PLATE FACTORY, MSP, SIXTYTHREE OR SIXTYFOUR. KANSAS CITY WILL ASCERTAIN IF THERE WAS EVER A PRISONER NAMED JIMMY RAYE AS DESCRIBED BY VELANTI AND IF SO, FURNISH BIRMINGHAM AND RECEIVING OFFICES BACKGROUND AND PHOTO. KANSAS CITY ASCERTAIN EXACT DATES OF INCARCERATION FOR VELANTI, NOTING IN RE ST. LOUIS TEL, MAY TEN, LAST, VELANTI CLAIMED HE WAS IN MSP, FEBRUARY THIRTEEN, FIFTY, UNTIL PAROLED MARCH, SIXTYSEVEN, AND WAS SERVING TWENTY YEAR SENTENCE FOR "NINETEEN FIFTYNINE" ARMED ROBBERY. KANSAS CITY ALSO ASCERTAIN IDENTITIES OF RESIDENCE HALLS AT MSP AND DATES OF RESIDENCE DURING THEIR IMPRISONMENT FOR SUBJECT RAY, AND VELANTI, THOMAS BRITTON, JAMES BROWN AND JAMES H. CARPENTER. ASCERTAIN IF RAY AND VELANTI EVER LIVED IN SAME RESIDENCE HALL AT SAME TIME AT MSP.

KANSAS CITY ALSO SUTEL RESULTS OF INQUIRY AT KANSAS CITY PD RE ARREST OF VELANTI.

FROM INFO AVAILABLE, BIRMINGHAM AS RECEIVED FROM EX-CONVICTS AND THAT DEVELOPED BY ST. LOUIS AS RECEIVED FROM EX-CONVICTS CARPENTER, AND VELANTI, IT APPEARS CARPENTER AND VELANTI POSSIBLY BOTH IN POSSESSION OF ADDITIONAL NECESSARY INFO RE RAY AND THEY SHOULD BE REINTERVIEWED IMMEDIATELY. ST. LOUIS ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FROM CARPENTER

END PAGE TWO.

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PAGE THREE

HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ALL OF RAY'S ACTIVITIES DURING TIME CARPENTER KNEW RAY IN MSP. NOTING CARPENTER CLAIMS HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH BOTH VELANTI AND RAY, ASCERTAIN IF VELANTI AND RAY WERE ASSOCIATED. DETERMINE IF CARPENTER KNOWS A "JIMMY RAYE" AS DESCRIBED BY VELANTI. ASCERTAIN CARPENTER'S KNOWLEDGE OF (FNU) CRAIG, "COOLEY ORGANIZATION" (OR ANY OTHER PRISONER ORGANIZATION WHICH OPERATED AS PROTECTIVE RACKET FOR PRISONERS), PRISONER NAMED "BOSTON" AND ANY LOTTERIES OPERATED IN MSP. ASCERTAIN WHERE RAY WAS LIVING AND HANGING OUT IN ST. LOUIS, MAY TEN THROUGH SEVENTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN, WHILE HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH CARPENTER. DETERMINE HOW OFTEN CARPENTER HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH VELANTI IN ST. LOUIS SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM MSP AND DETAILS OF THESE CONTACTS, SPECIFICALLY IF CARPENTER EVER ADVISED VELANTI THAT CARPENTER HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH RAY IN MAY, SIXTYSEVEN. ST. LOUIS CIRCULARIZE WITH IO OF RAY LAUNDRIES AND CLEANERS IN AREA WHERE CARPENTER SAW RAY IN MAY, SIXTYSEVEN.

FROM VELANTI, OBTAIN COMPLETE BACKGROUND RE EACH OF HIS WIVES INCLUDING PAST AND PRESENT RESIDENCES. ASCERTAIN IDENTITY OF PRISONER WITH WHOM VELANTI HAD FIGHT OVER KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. IT IS NOTED BOTH EX-CONVICTS BRITTON AND BROWN STATE VELANTI AND RAY ACQUAINTED

END PAGE THREE.

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(Priority)

PAGE FOUR

WITH EACH OTHER WHEREAS VELANTI DENIES THIS ASSOCIATION. *Ascertain* ASCERTAIN  
*Velanti* FROM ~~VELANTI~~ ALL TELEPHONES AVAILABLE TO HIM AND THEREAFTER OBTAIN  
TOLL CALLS CHARGED TO THESE TELEPHONES FOR PAST SIX MONTH PERIOD.

ASCERTAIN FROM ST. LOUIS PD ANY ROBBERIES COMMITTED IN MAY OR  
JUNE, SIXTYSEVEN, WHICH COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY RAY,  
NOTING HIS CONTACT WITH CARPENTER.

ST. LOUIS AND KANSAS CITY ARE NOW IN POSSESSION OF RESULTS OF  
ALL INTERVIEWS TO DATE BY BIRMINGHAM OF BROWN AND BRITTON AND THESE  
SHOULD BE USED DURING REINTERVIEWS OF VELANTI AND CARPENTER AND  
PRISON RECORD CHECKS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END AND ACK PLS.

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Date: 5/13/68

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(Priority)

TO NORFOLK  
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN.

RE NORFOLK TEL TO MOBILE, AND MOBILE TEL TO BIRMINGHAM,  
BOTH MAY TEN, LAST.

SARA BELL, PROBATE CLERK, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ALA., ADVISED  
SIXTY EIGHT ALA. LICENSE FIVE NINE - FOUR ZERO SIX FIVE ISSUED  
TO DON PITTS, ASHVILLE, ALA., FOR SIXTY OLDSMOBILE, FOUR-DOOR,  
EIGHTY EIGHT, MOTOR NO. ZERO SIX SEVEN M FOUR TWO FIVE ONE ONE,  
AND PURCHASED MARCH NINE, LAST, AT ASHVILLE, ALA. PITTS OR  
ROBERT L. MOORE UNKNOWN TO BELL. INVESTIGATION AT ASHVILLE,  
ALA., REVEALED LICENSE ISSUED BY SHIRLEY SATTERFIELD, TAX ASSES-  
SOR, ST. CLAIR CO., ALA. SATTERFIELD ADVISED HE IS PERSONALLY  
ACQUAINTED WITH DONALD E. PITTS, AND THAT PITTS HAD TELEPHONI-  
CALLY CONTACTED HIM ON MARCH NINE, LAST, REQUESTING THAT A  
SIXTY EIGHT ALA. LICENSE BE ISSUED TO PITTS FOR A SIXTY OLDSMO-  
BILE HE HAD PURCHASED FROM ROBERT L. MOORE. SATTERFIELD

1 - Memphis (AM)  
1 - Philadelphia (AM)  
LKS:jbt  
(3)

44-1740-1717  
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Date:

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PAGE TWO

STATED HE ISSUED THIS LICENSE TO PITTS AND MAILED TAG TO UNRECALLED ADDRESS IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. SATTERFIELD ADVISED THAT PITTS HAD FORMERLY RESIDED IN ODENVILLE, ALA. VICINITY AND HAD MOVED TO VIRGINIA BEACH APPROXIMATELY SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS AGO. PITTS DESCRIBED WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY FIVE FT. NINE, BLOND CURLY HAIR, BLUE EYES, EARLY THIRTIES, AND THOUGHT TO BE CONSTRUCTION WORKER. SATTEEFIELD PROVIDED NAME MRS. GARLAND FORTSON, ODENVILLE, ALA., AS INDIVIDUAL WHO COULD POSSIBLY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

MRS. FORTSON ADVISED SHE WAS CLOSE FRIEND OF MRS. HELEN PITTS, FORMER WIFE OF DON PITTS AND THAT PITTS AND HIS EX-WIFE BOTH CURRENTLY RESIDE IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. FORTSON PROVIDED FORMER ADDRESS OF PITTS AS TWO NINE ZERO FIVE SHORE AVE., VIRGINIA BEACH, BUT STATED SHE THOUGHT PITTS HAD SINCE MOVED. PITTS' EX-WIFE, HELEN (MARRIED NAME UNKNOWN), CURRENTLY RESIDES ONE NINE ZERO ONE ATLANTIC AVE., VIRGINIA BEACH. PITTS EMPLOYED IN ALUMINUM SIDING BUSINESS AND FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH KIM CONKLIN (PH) IN THIS BUSINESS.

NORFOLK IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW PITTS.

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PAGE THREE

AIR MAIL COPIES MEMPHIS AND PHILADELPHIA.

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FBI NORFOLK

FBI BIRMGHAM

2 55 PM URGENT 5-13-68 JGA

TO NORFOLK

FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

MURKIN

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END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1717