

MM 44-1854

3

Father

**BRYANT WILLIAM BOWLES,
Ridge Apartments,
Buckhead Ridge,
Okeechobee, Florida**

MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA WELDON L. KENNEDY at Marathon, Florida, on May 18, 1968.

DAVID DAY, Deputy, Monroe County Sheriff's Office Sub-station, Monroe County, Florida, advised that RONALD K. PIERCE, age approximately 45 years old, is an indigent lobster fisherman who is married and has five children and to supplement his fishing income he works part time as an automobile mechanic.

DAY further advised that PIERCE is a long time resident of Marathon, Florida, who seldom, if ever, leaves the Florida Keys. As far as DAY knows, PIERCE does not hold a pilot's license, has no interests in flying, and does not own a plane. PIERCE has had no affiliation in Cuba.

44-1987-Sub E-91542

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FBI — MEMPHIS	

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MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

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The following investigation was conducted by SA PATRICK A. PHILBIN on May 18, 1968, in Belle Glade, Florida.

Chief of Police CHARLES GOODLETT (NA), Belle Glade Police Department, advised that he has known WILLIAM L. PIERCE for about 35 years. He said that PIERCE used to own PIERCE's Quaters which was a sort of "flop house" for migrant farm workers. However, he advised PIERCE lost the business about six months ago for non-payment of taxes.

Chief GOODLETT further advised that PIERCE used to have an interest in cattle, farm land and a "Ramey" machine he invented that wove hemp into cloth. He continued by saying the PIERCE had made a lot of money years ago but had lost it by making bad investments over the years.

Chief GOODLETT stated he was very well acquainted with BILL PIERCE and he is not a racist or a bigot.

Chief GOODLETT advised PIERCE is presently working for the True-Flow Welding Company and lives in Pahokee, Florida.

The records of the True-Flow Welding Company showed that WILLIAM PIERCE was at work on April 4, 5 and 6, 1968.

44-1987-Sub E-9857N

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

MM 44-1854

DNJ/pmg

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT W. WISEMAN at Boca Raton, Florida, relative to identifying the unknown individual at the Texaco station located at U.S. #1 and Palm Aire Street, in Boca Raton who was the recipient of a business card from Mr. H. D. BRINKER.

Physical inspection of the Boca Raton area developed that there is no Palm Aire Street, however there is a Sunoco station located at the intersection of Highway #1 and Royal Palm Road, which appears to be the logical location of instant service station. Mr. BERNARD IRELAND, Jr., co-owner of instant service station advised that beginning March 7, 1968, and for a period of three weeks he employed one DALE WHITMAN, whom he described as in his early twenties, very personable and an excellent public relations man with customers. WHITMAN was dissatisfied with his employment and was interested in bettering himself and left voluntarily to secure employment elsewhere with an unknown uniform company in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Subsequent investigations identified DALE WHITMAN's mother as Mrs. GORDON YOST, who resides in a trailer lot #35, Tropic Gardens Trailer Park, S. Federal Highway, Delray Beach, Florida, which is just north of the Boca Raton City limits. Mrs. YOST interviewed on May 21, 1968, stated that her son DALE WHITMAN is an only child of a previous marriage and his father is deceased. She stated that during approximately the middle of February, 1968, her son phoned her from Chicago, Illinois, stating that his wife had left him and that divorce action by her had been instituted. As a result he came here to this area and resided with her and her second husband up until May 7, 1968. She stated that he was very dissatisfied with the employment opportunities here in South Florida, and had worked for a while at the Sunoco station in Boca Raton, left there and worked for an unknown uniform company in Fort Lauderdale, as a truck driver and on the afternoon of May 7, 1968, came home saying that he was going up north to seek better employment, and that he would contact her at some later

44-1987-Sub E-925AAA

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[Signature]

date when he got settled and left. She advised that she has had no contact with him since and has no idea of his current whereabouts but is of the opinion that he would not go back to Chicago because of his unhappy situation and divorce action. Mrs. YOST continued saying that prior to coming to Florida, she and her son DALE resided for many years in the Warren, Ohio area and that she has two brothers in Warren, Ohio, now who her son might contact. She stated that one brother or uncle of DALE WHITMAN is BYRD JAY LANE, who resides at 1594 Kuszmaul Avenue in Warren, Ohio, and that the other brother ROBERT LANE also is in Warren, Ohio, address unknown, but his address will be known to BYRD. She added further that she has another brother named NOAH LANE who resides at an unknown address in Columbus, Ohio, and his address also will be known to BYRD. BYRD JAY LANE and ROBERT LANE are both employed by General Motors Corporation in Warren, Ohio. The employment of NOAH LANE in Columbus, Ohio is not known to her.

Mrs. YOST continued saying that her son DALE took most of his personal effects with him upon departure including any correspondence, notes and similar items. She stated that after he departed she did find some notes with telephone numbers on them and business cards which she threw away in the trash without reading and had no knowledge of their contents believing that they were of no value to her son or he would not have left them. Mrs. YOST is unfamiliar with the name of H. D. BRINKER or H. ROBERTSON BRINKER or the Riddle Factory Catering Company of Detroit, Michigan. She does not recall her son mentioning anything about this, but added that she does know that he was interested in bettering himself and was making every effort possible while in this area to get better employment than the two that he did have. Mrs. YOST did divulge in the conversation that her son DALE WHITMAN at age 18 had enlisted in the U.S. Navy and shortly thereafter while being stationed in Bainbridge, Maryland, was involved with the Federal Government concerning a car theft for which he had a two year probationary sentence. She explained this is the reason why she was initially reluctant to discuss her son's whereabouts or possible whereabouts with the interviewing agent.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/30/68

DAVID LARSEN and JOHN D. KENDALL who identified themselves as reporters from the "Los Angeles Times" newspaper to SAs DAVID N. JELLISON and JOHN F. HANLON, Jr., appeared at the Miami Office of the FBI at 6:50 PM, May 17, 1968. They stated that their editor was in contact with the Los Angeles Office of the FBI as were "Los Angeles Times" reporters in several other cities in the United States.

They stated in effect that a source who they declined to identify had sold the "Los Angeles Times" some information regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. They further stated that a man named WILLIAM PIERCE of Belle Glade, Florida, might be involved in the assassination as was a BEN THOMPSON of South Florida.

Specifically they stated that WILLIAM PIERCE flew JAMES EARL RAY in a private plane from St. Louis, Missouri to Belle Glade, Florida, on April 5, 1968, and BEN THOMPSON then took RAY out to sea in a boat on April 11, 1968.

They stated that their own investigation had determined that there was a WILLIAM LINCOLN PIERCE residing in Miami and a WILLIAM L. PIERCE residing in Belle Glade, Florida. They stated further that they had determined there was a BEN THOMPSON who owned three boats and who was associated with East Coast Fisheries, Miami, Florida.

At the conclusion of the interview, KENDALL and LARSEN stated that they desired to be furnished with up-to-the-minute information from the FBI Office in Miami. They were informed by SA JELLISON that no promises could be made in that regard at which time LARSEN stated "Should we be frozen out of any up-to-the-minute information, we will crucify you."

It was then restated that no promises would be made.

On 5/17/68 at Miami, Florida

by SAs DAVID N. JELLISON and JOHN F. HANLON/DNJ:pmg

44-1987-Sub E-985BBB

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JUN 4 1968	
FBI File # Miami 44-1854	

Hester

Date dictated 5/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

Date 5/20/68

Mr. **BENJAMIN LARNARD THOMPSON, JR.**, 12801 East Randall Park Drive, after being informed of the identity of the interviewing Agents, voluntarily furnished the following information:

In March, 1967, he commenced working for Aerodex, Miami. Prior to that time, he earned his living through commercial fishing off the Florida Keys.

For a number of years he worked for East Coast Fisheries, Miami. In this regard, he would operate boats mortgaged through PETER SCHWARTZ who was one of the owners of East Coast Fisheries. Four or five years ago, he operated a 38 foot fishing boat named the "Virginia Lee" on which SCHWARTZ held the mortgage. He returned this boat to SCHWARTZ about a year later and switched the mortgage to a 48 foot fishing boat named the "Miss Gayle," on which SCHWARTZ also held the mortgage. Approximately two and one-half or three years ago, he and SCHWARTZ had financial differences, and he left the employment of East Coast Fisheries.

Following this incident, he went in partnerships with LOUIS LOBER, Miami, and purchased a 28 foot fishing vessel, which had no name. He and LOBER fished commercially until on or about August 1, 1966, at which time he sold his equity in this boat to LOBER and got out of the fishing business entirely.

Most of his fishing was accomplished from Bakers Haulover (Miami) in the north to Elliott Key in the south. His fishing interests were in lobsters.

Approximately four years ago, he was arrested by the British Government for fishing for lobsters in Bahamian waters. He had been carrying on this activity for approximately ten weeks before he was caught. British authorities kept him in jail overnight and the following day he was fined \$27 and allowed to leave Nassau with his boat with the promise of not fishing in Bahamian waters again. He recalls

On 5/18/68 at Miami, Florida
by SAs GAY R. SHAHAN and
THOMAS H. STOY:THS/vc

44-1987-Sub-E-925000

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44-1854

5/18/68

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MM 44-1854

2.

that there was quite a bit of newspaper publicity for a period of five days during this incident.

With regard to his former partner, LOUIS LOBER, he spoke with LOBER about four months ago. At that time LOBER still had the boat and was fishing. He noted the reason he sold his interest in the boat to LOBER, as mentioned above, was the fact he could not make a living any longer in fishing. LOBER, whom he described as being around 37 years old, recently had an operation on his throat for the removal of a growth from his "voice box." As far as he knows, LOBER has never been arrested and in fact, both he and LOBER went to school together in Miami and he considers LOBER to be of good character and reputation.

With regard to his personal whereabouts during the period from April 3 - 12, 1968, since January, 1968, he has worked at Aerodex, Miami, on a shift in which he leaves home around 2:15 p.m. and returns around 12:30 a.m. On April 3, 4, and 5, 1968, he was working at Aerodex on the above mentioned shift. On April 6 and 7, 1968, a weekend, he remained home and did not leave Miami or Dade County, Florida. From April 7 - 12, 1968, he worked at Aerodex on the above described shift.

He has never left the State of Florida with the exception of going to New York City once when he was in high school.

He has never been in the State of Alabama and he has never heard of the names EDDIE WILBURN, SAMUEL LEWIS, WILLIAM PIERCE or BOB BRINKLEY. He does not know anyone from Huntsville or Athens, Alabama and he has never been in nor does he know anyone that drives an automobile with a police radio.

He has never been in Belle Glade or Okeechobee, Florida, and he does not know anyone that owns a motel, hotel, cottages or owns an airplane.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

5/29/68

Date

LELAND CLIFFORD PEARCE, Owner, Buckhead Ridge Subdivision, Okeechobee, Florida, was advised of the identity of the interviewer as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and of his rights as contained in an executed waiver of rights form. Upon signing the form PEARCE furnished the following information:

He was in the cattle business in Cuba in 1956 and 1957 and upon leaving Cuba he came to Okeechobee, Florida where he developed the Buckhead Ridge Subdivision, of which he is the sole owner. He is no longer in the cattle business and devotes all of his time to the developing of the subdivision and selling lots. He does not own any buildings or cottages on the property. For eighteen years, prior to going to Cuba, he was in the cattle business in Belle Glade, Florida. While in Belle Glade he became acquainted with WILLIAM PIERCE, who also went to Cuba in the 1950's to promote a middle east fiber called "Raine". He did not associate with WILLIAM PIERCE and in fact only spoke to him about a half a dozen times. He does not know what line of business WILLIAM PIERCE is in now nor does he know how he could be located.

He is not now nor has he ever been a member of the Ku Klux Klan nor is he sympathetic to their cause. He does not know the following individuals; BOB and WILLIAM BRICKLEY, BEN THOMPSON, EDDIE WILBURN nor JIM GARRISON, although he has read about JIM GARRISON in the paper. He did not do any building while in Cuba nor did he believe WILLIAM PIERCE did any building while in Cuba. He has never been to Kansas City, Kansas or Kansas City, Missouri, and in fact the only places he has been outside of the State of Florida are New Orleans for a cattle auction in the early 1950's, New York City, Washington, D.C., Thomasville, Georgia and Cuba. He does not own a plane nor does he do any flying.

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On 5/18/68 at Okeechobee, Florida File # 44-1987-SUB E-925000

by SA RONALD TODD/dmc Date dictated 5/23/68

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

He did not kill MARTIN LUTHER KING nor does he know who did nor does he know who might have been involved in the murder of KING. There is a member of the local Ku Klux Klan, JOHN THOMAS BOWLES, who was capable of participating in the murder of KING. BOWLES has a strong hatred for Negroes and was recently tried in Martin County, Florida for beating up a school superintendent because of his efforts in integrating the schools. BOWLES owns a small two passenger Cub airplane that he keeps on Hog Island which is next to Buckhead Ridge. It is an open field without any lighting facilities. Deputy CURTIS WRIGHT, Glades County Sheriff's Office, had asked PEARCE to keep an eye on the airplane, particularly if the Klan was planning anything, so that BOWLES' whereabouts could be accounted for. He recalls that on the evening of the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING he made it a point to check the airplane and noted that it was gone. The next morning, around seven AM, while on his way to Oksechobee for coffee he noted that the plane was there; however, when he returned approximately an hour later the plane was gone. It was either the day following the death of KING, April 5, 1968, or the next day, April 6, 1968, that the airplane was gone and stayed gone for about two or three days. He had been told by BOWLES' girl friend, MARY KNIGHT, a barmaid at the Fin and Feather Bar in Buckhead Ridge that BOWLES had gone to Tampa to get his teeth fixed. BOWLES' wife, GERALDINE, is presently seeking a divorce although he believes they are still living together. He sold BOWLES a couple of lots in Buckhead Ridge and BOWLES built a home on one and his brother-in-law, CHARLES P. GRIZZAFFE, built the Ridge Apartments on the other lot. There are about sixteen units in the apartment. GRIZZAFFE is a businessman who lives in Tampa, Florida. BOWLES and his wife, GERALDINE, manage the apartments for GRIZZAFFE.

NM 44-1854

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He has never been a member of the Ku Klux Klan and does not know anyone who is or was a member of the Klan.

There are no other BEN THOMPSONs who are fishermen in the Miami-Key West, Florida area as far as he knows, noting his father, BEN THOMPSON, SR. died in November, 1967, while residing at 4220 N. W. 23rd Avenue, Miami. His father gave up full time fishing in 1954 when he had heart trouble. Prior to that, in 1952, his father sold his boat. From 1952 to November, 1967, his father was semi-retired and only fished occasionally. When his father was much younger, he worked on a wrecking tug and at times, went to Cuba on this tug. However, his father did not own any business in Cuba. He has never been to Cuba himself and he has never had any interests in Cuba.

During the time he was a commercial fisherman, he has had a great many individual deck hands, however, to his knowledge, none of these individuals had ever served any time in a prison or penitentiary.

He has a relative named RONNY PIERCE who is about 35 years of age and who is a fisherman living in Marathon, Florida. As far as he knows, RONNY has never been in any trouble.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to him and he felt the photographs showing RAY by himself, with the picture of RAY with sunglasses, looked familiar, however, he could not be sure of this identification. Possibly he may have seen photographs of RAY in the newspapers or on television.

He emphatically denied being involved in this matter in any manner or under any circumstances. It is a complete mystery to him if or why his name would be used in this matter. If someone is using his name on this regard, then the identity of this individual is unknown to him.

The following descriptive data was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	BENJAMIN LARNARD THOMPSON, JR.
Sex	Male
Race	White

NH 44-1854

4.

Date of birth	
Place of birth	Key West, Florida
Height	5'8"
Weight	140 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Medium
Marital Status	Married

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/29/68

JOHN THOMAS BOWLES, 607 Buckhead Ridge, Okeechee, Florida, was advised of the identity of the interviewer as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and of his rights as contained in unexecuted waiver of rights form. BOWLES stated that although he did not desire to sign a waiver of rights form he would be willing to answer any questions. He then furnished the following information:

He and his wife, **GERALDINE**, manage the Ridge Apartments in Buckhead Ridge. About four or five days a week he works as a guide for fishing parties on Lake Okeechee. He owns a small yellow J-3 Cub airplane that he keeps on Hog Island, which is next to Buckhead Ridge.

On April 4, 1968, he was in Tampa, Florida, at the dental lab of **EDWARD H. CALLAHAN** located on Armenia Avenue. He had flown there early that morning from Okeechee, Florida, for a 10:00 AM appointment. To the best of his recollection he was in the lab until about 2:00 PM. After leaving the lab he returned to Okeechee, Florida, and that evening he went to the Fin and Feather Bar in Buckhead Ridge and it was while he was at the bar he learned that **MARTIN LUTHER KING** had been murdered. He made one or two trips to Tampa during the week prior to April 4, 1968, and then made one or two trips following April 4, 1968 to Tampa within the period of about a week. Each trip was for the purpose of having work done on his teeth at the Callahan Dental Lab. Prior to each trip he would telephone his brother-in-law, **CHARLES GRIZZAFFE**, owner of Ridge Apartments in Buckhead Ridge, who maintains an office about five miles from the Vandenberg Airport in Tampa, to have his son meet him at the airport and drive him to the dental lab. He had purchased gasoline from the airport and they should be able to furnish tickets reflecting the dates of the purchases. On occasion he would take his wife with him, and on one occasion he recalls she had gone to Tampa by car with her sister-in-law, Mrs. **CHARLES GRIZZAFFE**, and then returned with him by plane the following day.

On 5/18/68 at Okeechobee, Florida

by SA RONALD TODD/dmc

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He added that he is a former member of the Ku Klux Klan in Okesechopee, and even though he did not feel any remorse at the time of KING's death, he did not have any participation in it, nor does he know who might have. He does not know a WILLIAM PIERCE.

He stated that the reason he is able to recall the events of April 4, 1968, is because he associates the events with the news of the death of KING. He said he is unable to recall specifically what he was doing the week before or the week after April 4, 1968, other than he knows he had made four or five trips to Tampa during that period to have his teeth fixed. He commented that his airplane holds approximately 13 gallons of gasoline and he does not attempt to fly any farther than Tampa, Florida.

The following description of BOWLES was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Kinsville, Florida
Height	Six feet
Weight	175 pounds
Hair	Red and thinning
Eyes	Hazel
Social Security Number	
Sister	NADINE FERRING, Greenville Drive, Atlanta, Georgia
Brother	BRYANT WILLIAM BOWLES, JR., Huntsville Penitentiary, Kountz, Texas, serving life sentence for murder of brother-in-law, EARL HARVEY

MM 44-1854

3

The following description of PEARCE was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Fort Bassinger, Florida
Height	Six feet
Weight	260 pounds
Hair	Light brown, balding
Eyes	Green
Military	None
Wife	MILDRED
Children	Mrs. JIM LINDSAY, U. S. Air Force, Macon, Georgia; LELAND SIDNEY PEARCE, Northwestern Mutual, Jacksonville, Florida; CLIFFORD PEARCE, age 15, living with parents.
Education	Attended University of Florida, 1934 through 1936
Occupation	Land developer and sole owner of Buckhead Ridge Subdivision
Arrests	None

DNJ/pmg
44-1854

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The following investigation was conducted by SA WELDON L. KENNEDY at Marathon, Florida, on May 20, 1968.

RONALD K. PIERCE, Sr., also known as "RED" PIERCE was interviewed and stated that he was born on [redacted] at Battlecreek, Michigan. He is 5'11" tall, weighs 205 pounds, has brown eyes and red hair. PIERCE advised he operates a small fishing boat and fishes for a living. No one else ever uses his boat.

PIERCE advised he last left the Florida Keys in 1957. PIERCE often works as an automobile mechanic to obtain extra money. PIERCE has no relatives by the name of WILLIAM PIERCE, does not know how to fly, has no plane and owns no interest in any land or airports.

PIERCE is married, has five children and knows no one by the name of SAM LEWIS, EDDIE WILBURN or JIM GARRISON.

PIERCE is related to BEN THOMPSON who he used to fish with several years ago and who he has not seen for over a year.

44-1987-SUB-E-985FF

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Hester

F B I

Date: **6/5/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** _____
(Priority)**TO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)****FROM: MIAMI (44-1854) (P)****MURKIN
CR**

Re investigation concerning information
furnished by "Los Angeles Times" reporters.

Enclosed for the Memphis Division are 15
copies of 4 separate FD-302s and 15 copies of 7
separate investigative inserts for possible inclusion
in a report.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

985
mg
3 - Memphis (Enc 165) (RM)
1 - Miami
DNJ/pmg
(8)

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44-1987-Sub-C-485666

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Approved: *7hr* _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

6/11/68

PLAIN

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN.

RE LOS ANGELES TELS, MAY SEVENTEEN, EIGHTEEN, TWENTY-TWO,
AND THIRTY-NINE LAST.

BUREAU HAS INSTITUTED REASONABLE EFFORT BE EXPENDED TO
LOCATE LESTER EDWARD PACKETT AND RESOLVE ALLEGATIONS
FURNISHED LOS ANGELES TIMES. EFFORTS TO LOCATE PACKETT LOS
ANGELES NEGATIVE. PACKETT HAS FOLLOWING RELATIVES: MOTHER,
CALLIE PACKETT, LAST KNOWN ADDRESS ONE ONE ZERO WRIGHT STREET,
SWEETWATER, TENNESSEE; BROTHER, FRED PACKETT, SWEETWATER;
SISTER, CALLIE MAE HAMILTON, THREE TWO FOUR ZERO SUNSET DRIVE,
KNOXVILLE.

KNOXVILLE CONTACT RELATIVES TO DETERMINE LESTER'S PRESENT
ADDRESS.

1 - MEMPHIS

44-1574
PJK:vjh
(2)

44-1987-Sub-E-985HHH

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

LA 44-1574

PAGE TWO

LEAMONT WHITE, WESTERN UNION EMPLOYEE, ADVISED TODAY FRANK BRICKLEY WAS IN LOS ANGELES FROM WEDNESDAY, JUNE FIVE LAST, THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE NINE LAST, LOOKING FOR "BOB", WHO WHITE HAS IDENTIFIED AS IDENTICAL TO LESTER EDWARD PACKETT. WHITE REPORTS BRICKLEY'S SEARCH NEGATIVE.

- 2 -

6/13/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696)
MURKIN

Re Los Angeles teletype dated 6/12/68.

Referenced teletype advises the Bureau has instructed reasonable efforts be expanded to locate LESTER EDWARD PACKETT.

On 6/12/68, Mrs. CALLIE CATHEY, 1110 Wright Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee, advised she was formerly married to LESTER PACKETT, who is deceased, and that LESTER EDWARD PACKETT is her son. She advised she last actually saw PACKETT approximately four years ago but has not seen him since that time. She did, however, receive a birthday card from him during March, 1968 and is of the opinion that the envelope containing the birthday card was postmarked Chicago, Illinois. She further stated PACKETT telephoned her during February, 1968 indicating that he was in the State of Illinois.

Mrs. CATHEY described her son as a drifter and that she has no idea as to his present whereabouts except as indicated above. She stated that another son, ARANTS HUBERT PACKETT, had been employed as a cook in a restaurant in Chattanooga, Tennessee up until three weeks ago. At that time he telephoned her and indicated that he was going North inasmuch as he is not receiving as much pay at the restaurant as had been promised him. She has no idea as to the whereabouts of ARANTS HUBERT PACKETT.

2 - Los Angeles
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Knoxville
PJL, JLF/clf
(6)

E 985

44-1987-Sub E-985 III

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[Handwritten signature]

KX 44-696

Mrs. CATHEY described LESTER EDWARD PACKETT in the following manner: white male; date of birth - [redacted] at Monroe County, Tennessee; height - 6'; weight 170 pounds; medium build; dark brown hair; blue eyes; has served in U. S. Army.

On 6/13/68, Mrs. CLARENCE T. HAMILTON, JR., Route 6, Knoxville, Tennessee, advised that LESTER EDWARD PACKETT was her brother. The last time she heard from PACKETT was several months ago when he telephonically contacted her from someplace in California. Mrs. HAMILTON said PACKETT telephonically contacts her from time to time, however, she has not seen him for a long time and she has no idea where he might be at the present time. According to Mrs. HAMILTON, PACKETT travels from place to place, and as far as she knows he has no regular employment of any kind. In the event she hears of his whereabouts, she will immediately advise the FBI.

F B I

Date: 6/29/68

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

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

Re Los Angeles airtel to Director dated 6/25/68.

The following investigation was conducted by
IC JOSEPH D. HAMMITT:

Mr. JAMES TABOR, Supervisor, Auto Registration
Section, Secretary of State, Springfield, Illinois, advised
on 6/28/68 that a check of records for 1967 and 1968 failed
to reflect any vehicles registered or titled to a LESTER
EDWARD PACKETT.

Mrs. MARIE DICKENSON, Supervisor, Driver's License
Section, Secretary of State, Springfield, Illinois, advised
on 6/28/68 that a check of records failed to reflect any
driver's or chauffeur's license issued to a LESTER EDWARD
PACKETT.

3 - Bureau (44-38861) (RM)
2 - Chicago (44-1114) (RM)
2 - Los Angeles (44-1574) (RM)
② - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
2 - Springfield (44-561)
JDH/ssj
(11)

E 985

44-1987-Sub E-925JJJ

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/24/68

1

C. M. BAYNE, Auditor, Southern Greyhound Lines, Lexington, Kentucky, advised that a search of their records at Southern Greyhound Headquarters at Lexington, revealed that ticket number 13 000 82229 42 was issued by Augusta Nichols, Dye number 3, Knoxville, Tennessee, their ticket agent at Knoxville, Tennessee. The ticket was issued on April 7, 1968, and was from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Los Angeles, California, via Memphis, Tennessee and El Paso, Texas. The amount of the ticket was \$70.35 and it indicates that there was baggage that was checked on this ticket.

Mr. BAYNE advised that this ticket was used on April 7, 1968, and the purchaser left Knoxville Tennessee, at 8:15 PM on April 7, 1968, in a bus and being driven by JESSE G. BROWN of Nashville, Tennessee. This bus arrived at Nashville, Tennessee, on April 8, 1968, at 12:25 AM. The same bus then left Nashville on April 8, 1968, at 1:30 AM after a little over an hour layover and arrived at Memphis, Tennessee, at 6:35 AM on April 8, 1968. The driver of this bus was BERNARD FORESTER who lives at Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. BAYNE stated that the Southern Greyhound Lines would have been the carrier from Knoxville to Memphis, Tennessee, and the passage from Memphis to El Paso, would have been by Central Greyhound Lines, and from El Paso to Los Angeles by Western Greyhound Lines.

Mr. BAYNE furnished the above described Greyhound passenger ticket to the interviewing Agent.

44-1987-Sub-E-985KKK
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 SERIALIZED
 INDEXED
 FILED
 May 24 1968
 FBI - MEMPHIS
 Buzen GB
 Heister

On 5/20/68 at Lexington, Ky. File # LS 44-947

by SA J. ROBERT SAFFELL/bra Date dictated 5/20/68

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: July 1, 1968

Per M SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

There are enclosed herewith eight copies of FD-302 reflecting interview of C. M. BAYHI Southern Greyhound Lines, Lexington, Kentucky, relative to the tracing of Greyhound Bus Ticket utilized from Knoxville, Tennessee, to El Paso, Texas. As indicated in previous correspondence, the original of this bus ticket is being retained in the 1-A envelope of the Louisville Office awaiting instructions from the Memphis Division as to appropriate disposition to be made thereof.

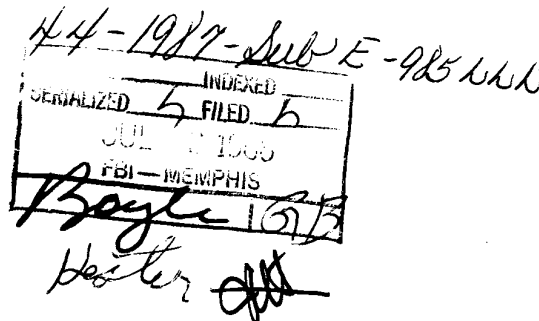
In view of the apprehension of JAMES EARL RAY and inasmuch as there appear to be no outstanding leads in this case and all stops have been removed, this case is being considered RUC.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 8) *W*
1 - Louisville
CAK/gn,jaj
(3)



5010-108

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



DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

7/3/68

SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

MURKIN

Re Memphis teletype dated 5/29/68 and Bureau airtel dated 5/31/68 concerning attempts to locate FRANK BRICKLEY.

On 6/14/68, MRS. NELSON CROWLEY, sister of FRANK BRICKLEY, Wichita Falls, Texas advised she last saw BRICKLEY about two and one half weeks prior to 6/14/68, when he visited her in Wichita Falls. He left about two weeks ago and did not say where he was going, and she has no idea where he might be. She said he is a drifter and only occasionally stops in to see her for a few days. She said she had told BRICKLEY that the FBI had inquired of their father about him. BRICKLEY only replied that he was in no trouble and that the FBI really did not want him.

MRS. CROWLEY said BRICKLEY had been residing at an unknown address in Dallas and he had claimed that he was employed as a painter by Southwestern Life Insurance Company Dallas, but had quit that job recently. She said CHARLENE HAYDEN, employed by New York Life Insurance Company, Dallas, was formerly the girl friend of BRICKLEY and might know his whereabouts.

MRS. CROWLEY advised she will notify the FBI should she learn the present whereabouts of BRICKLEY.

MISS CHARLENE HAYDEN, Clerk, Service Department, New York Life Insurance Company, Republic National Bank Building, Dallas, advised on 6/18/68, she has known BRICKLEY since about July, 1967. She believes he had been living in Dallas about five or six months prior to that. She said she went out with him, but when she wanted to terminate their relationship, he began to make a nuisance of himself, trying to see her both at work and at home. She said she has not seen him for about a month and hopes that she will never see him again. She said she has made it perfectly clear to BRICKLEY that she does not want to see him, but if he should contact her, she will notify this office.

MISS HAYDEN said BRICKLEY is 31 years old and,

2-Bureau
①-Memphis (44-1987)
1-Dallas
WBH:jw
(4)

E985

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayle JB

44-1987-Sub E-985 mmm

DL 44-2649

according to BRICKLEY, has spent most of his adult life in prison. She said she believes he may not be mentally balanced. He is a drifter, frequents low class bars, and stays in third rate rooming houses. She said she has no idea where he might be at the present time, or anyone who might know his whereabouts.

On 6/18/68, MISS NELDA ALLEN, Personnel Clerk, Southwestern Life Insurance Company, 1807 Ross Avenue, Dallas, advised she had reviewed the personnel records of past and present employees of that company and she could locate no record of FRANK WILLIAM BRICKLEY.

The files of the Dallas Police Department, Identification Bureau, and Records Bureau and Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Identification Division, were checked on 6/18/68, and no records of BRICKLEY were located.

In view of the subject's apprehension and the unknown whereabouts of BRICKLEY, the Bureau is requested to advise Dallas whether additional investigation regarding BRICKLEY is required.

July 8, 1968

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Dallas (44-2649)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re Dallas letter to Bureau dated 7/3/68.

In view of subject Ray's apprehension and unknown whereabouts of Frank William Brickley, Dallas should not conduct any further investigation to locate and interview Brickley.

① - Memphis

E 985

44-1987-Sub-E-985NNN

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 9 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyer [Signature]

SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947)

7/12/68

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN

Re Louisville letter to Memphis, 7/1/68.

Louisville is requested to return the original of the Southern Greyhound Bus Lines ticket to the appropriate official of the Southern Greyhound Lines at Lexington, Kentucky; however, maintain a Xerox copy of same in Louisville files in the event the Memphis Division desires any further action to be taken with this ticket at a later date.

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED h

INDEXED _____

FILED h

2 - Louisville

2 - Memphis

RFB:jap

(4) *jap*

SUB E-985 LLL

glt

44-1987-Sub E-985-000

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 7/25/68

FROM : SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) ~~(RUC)~~ (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis letter to Louisville, 7/12/68.

On 7/25/68, the original of Southern Greyhound Bus Ticket Number 130008222942 was returned to Mr. C. M. BAYLI, Southern Greyhound Bus Company, Lexington, Kentucky.

Inasmuch as there appears no further investigation to be conducted in the Louisville territory, this case is being RUC'd.

2-Memphis
1-Louisville
CAK/gn
(3)



5010-108

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

44-1987-Sub-E-9257PP

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 26 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayli GB
Hester

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/1/68

THOMAS McGEE, 873 Mesquite Street, advised that TRUMAN WEBBER ROGERS is the individual he had reference to. He stated that he grew up with ROGERS and feels that ROGERS could furnish some pertinent information in this matter and that he might know where the house is located at which MYRTIS RUTH HENDRICKS was working as a prostitute in Laurel, Mississippi.

He stated that he could furnish no further information in this matter but would be willing to return to Laurel and assist the FBI on a strictly confidential basis. He stated that he is on probation, however; and this would probably be a barrier.

He could furnish no further information in this matter.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

On 4/25/68 at Abilene, TexasFile # Dallas 44-2649Memphis 44-1987-Sub 2-246by SA URAL E. HORTON, JR./pwDate dictated 4/25/68

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

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

MYRTIS RUTH HENDRICKS, also known as **JITTERBUG**, 873 Mesquite Street, who requested her identity be kept confidential, furnished the following information:

She went to work on March 31, 1968, for an individual known to her as **DEVILISH NICK**, owner and operator of John's Restaurant located just off First Street before the underpass in Laurel, Mississippi, and worked there until April 9, 1968.

She worked as a cook and on the day after she started working for him, **DEVILISH NICK** had sexual relations with her. He then started her working at a place he had outside of town. On April 2, 1968, she overheard **NICK** say, "I got a call on the King", but did not hear any more of the conversation.

On the evening of April 3, 1968, two neatly dressed men with stocky builds came to **NICK**'s place, where she started work at 3 p.m., and worked nights.

While going to the bathroom, she observed a rifle with a telescopic sight in **NICK**'s office. Later, the two men took the rifle and a long box which took three men to carry out and put them in a 1964 maroon Dodge with a fake "Continental kit" on the back.

On April 4, 1968, while on duty, she overheard **NICK** receive a telephone call on his phone which is close to the kitchen. After this call, **NICK** said, "MARTIN LUTHER KING is dead". This was before the news came over the radio.

NICK had meetings every night in his office, and she was told by other employees that **NICK** is the head of the Ku Klux Klan in that area.

A white man known to her only as "Big WILL ADAMS' son" was in on the activity at the restaurant. **FROSTENE** (phonetic), a large fat Negro girl who works for **NICK**, and two white waitresses, who are associated with the two men who took the gun, knew of the activities of **NICK**.

On 4/22/68 at Abilene, Texas

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Dallas 44-2649

Memphis 44-1987-Sub E-281

by SA URAL E. HORTON, JR./pw

4/22/68

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

2

DL 44-2649

From what she overheard, she feels that NICK had some part in the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, but she has no definite proof of this.

She became so frightened, she told NICK she had a very sick relative in Abilene, Texas. She left on April 9, 1968, and came to Abilene where she met THOMAS McGEE. She has been going with McGEE for four years and he came to Abilene shortly before Christmas to look for work. She could not identify the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as ever being at John's Restaurant or having ever seen him.

She described DEVILISH NICK as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	About 33
Height	5'11"
Weight	200
Hair	Black
Characteristics	Red-faced, drinks a lot
Marital Status	Married to blonde wife about 33 years old.

The following is a description of MYRTIS RUTH HENDRICKS as obtained through observation:

Race	Negro
Sex	Female
Age	About 25
Height	5'7"
Weight	185
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Characteristics	Light brown skin
Residence	Rooming at 873 Mesquite Street, Abilene, Texas, phone 677-6434.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/26/68

THOMAS McGEE, 873 Mesquite Street, furnished the following information, which he requested be kept strictly confidential and his identity be protected.

He worked at John's Restaurant about a year ago for a month as carhop. He was told the restaurant was a meeting place for the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), and **DEVILISH NICK**, the proprietor of the restaurant, was the head of the KKK in that area. He also determined that the women employees worked as prostitutes for NICK on off hours and the two white women who work as waitresses, one brunette and one blonde, live in the most expensive hotel in Laurel, Mississippi, name unknown.

NICK beat up certain employees while he was there and McGEE decided to leave. When he learned that **MYRTIS RUTH HENDRICKS** was working for NICK, who was making a prostitute out of her, he had her come to Abilene.

He admitted that he is on probation out of Gulfport, Mississippi, for "moonshining", and has previously furnished information to the FBI through a one-legged man who runs a barbershop next door to Kitchen's Grocery in Seminary, Mississippi. This man could vouch for his reliability.

He feels that should **DEVILISH NICK** know that he and **MYRTIS** have talked to the FBI, he would have them located and killed, and would take some action against their friends and relatives in Laurel, Mississippi. He, therefore, requested that their identities be protected and kept very confidential. He intimated that if investigation by the FBI reflects that the information on **DEVILISH NICK** is of any value, he would be willing to return to Laurel and obtain information for the FBI on a paid basis.

He advised he and **HENDRICKS** will maintain contact with the FBI.

The following is a description of **DEVILISH NICK** as furnished by McGEE:

On 4/22/68 at Abilene, Texas

by SA URAL E. HORTON, JR./pw

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
4/22/68	

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2

DL 44-2649

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	About 33
Height	5'11"
Weight	200
Hair	Black
Characteristics	Red-faced, drinks a lot
Marital Status	Married to blonde woman about 33.

The following is a description of THOMAS McGEE
as obtained through observation:

Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Age	35
Height	5'11"
Weight	150
Hair	Black, curly
Eyes	Brown
Characteristics	Light brown skin; wooden right leg
Scars	2½" deep scar diagonally across left cheek
Residence	Rooming at 873 Mesquite Street, Abilene, Texas, phone 677-6434

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

5/1/68

Date

MYRTIS RUTH HENDRICKS, also known as JITTERBUG, 873 Mesquite Street, advised that she would be unable to advise as to the location of the house at which she worked for NICK as a prostitute, as they always went there at night. She advised that this work was before she started working at the restaurant. She started working for him as a prostitute shortly before Christmas and worked a number of times, exact amount unrecalled.

She advised that the only thing she recalls about the house is that it was on the outskirts of Laurel where there are some large homes which are not too close together. There was a gaslight in the front yard and she recalled a chimney which was for a mock fireplace in the house. She advised she did not know how many rooms were in the house, but it was fairly nice inside. She could furnish no further information on the residence, except that she believed it was a one-story house and had a large room which was always kept locked, which she believed was the meeting place for the Ku Klux Klan. She knew none of the men who frequented the place. She advised she worked from about 9 p.m., to midnight.

She advised that when NICK made the statement, "I got a call on the King", she was upstairs in the restaurant going to the bathroom and this was the same time that she saw the gun in the room upstairs on April 2, 1968. She advised she thought NICK was talking to the man who lived upstairs at the restaurant, name unrecalled.

She advised that at the time she overheard NICK state, "MARTIN LUTHER KING is dead", NICK was standing in the little booth where food is served to persons at the drive-in. She advised that NICK was called to the telephone and upon his return he made the statement to someone there, whom she does not recall. She advised as she recalled, this was early in the evening, the exact time she does not recall. She advised that at the time she overheard this, she was cooking and leaning over, listening for an order.

On	4/25/68	at	Abilene, Texas	SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____ MAY 17 1968 FBI - MEMPHIS	Dallas 44-2649
by	SA URAL E. HORTON, JR./pw			Date dictated	4/25/68
				Memphis 44-1987	Sub E-100

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

2

DL 44-2649

She was unable to furnish any further information, but again requested that her identity be protected and the information she furnished be kept strictly confidential.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM : *MM* SAC, DALLAS (44-2649)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO - MEMPHIS

DATE: 5/16/68

RE: DEAVOURS NIX - SUSPECT

Re Dallas teletypes dated 4/23, 26/68.

Enclosed for Memphis are eight copies each of FD-302s of interviews of THOMAS McGEE on 4/22/68, and 4/25/68, and of MYRTIS RUTH HENDRICKS on the same dates at Abilene, Texas.

Enclosed for Jackson is one copy each of the above listed FD-302s in view of their interest in DEAVOURS NIX.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 32)
2 - Jackson (Enc. 4)
1 - Dallas
WEH:pw
(5)

44-1987-Sub E 9161

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 17 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

get



5010-108-02

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

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MIAMI

1015PM EDT DEFERRED 5/17/68 LAS

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN

RETELCALL FROM BUREAU TO MIAMI, MAY SIXTEEN, CONCERNING
SUSPECT KNOWN TO DR. RUTH TURRELL, NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

TURRELL ADVISED FIVE SEVENTEEN, SHE DID NOT MEAN TO INDICATE
HER PATIENT RESEMBLES RAY PHYSICALLY AS HE DOES NOT. HER PATIENT
IS VERY HEAVY SET, BUSHY HAired MAN WITH NOTICEABLE BAD RIGHT EYE,
NOSE NOT POINTED AND NO NOTICEABLE IRREGULARITY IN EARS.

SHE MEANT ONLY THAT HE WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY CAPABLE OF SUCH
A THING.

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

E

44-1987-Sub E-987

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle BB

5/16/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, MILWAUKEE (44-388)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Milwaukee airtel to Bureau, 5/13/68.

ROBERT NEMACHEK, Security Office, Wis. Telephone Co., 208 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. (protect identity), advised SA DANIEL E. BRANDT on 5/15/68 he was informed on 5/10/68 by Det. JAMES MC FARLANE, Madison, Wis. PD, of the theft of a telephone credit card owned by MARSHALL I. GOLDMAN, 160 Evanslawn, Aurora, Ill. *Sub B - MR. [unclear]*

In addition, MC FARLANE indicated the Madison PD would extradite the individuals involved as there had been approximately \$1,400.00 of fraudulent purchases made with the stolen credit cards.

MC FARLANE said the person using GOLDMAN's gas credit card had been picked up by the Chicago PD but had been released.

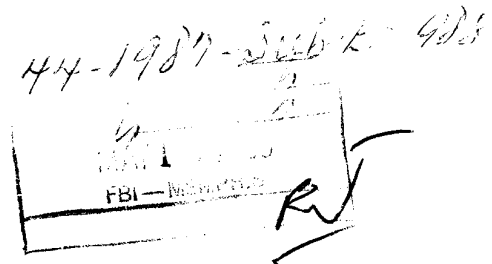
NEMACHEK advised the Milwaukee Security Office would conduct no further investigation on fraudulent phone calls as this matter would be handled by the Security Office, Ill. Telephone Co., Chicago, Ill. *LEAD*

Chicago, at Chicago, Ill., will contact Chicago PD for info to identify individual who used GOLDMAN's gas credit card and was released by Chicago PD.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau (AM)
2 - Chicago (Regular M.)
① - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
1 - Milwaukee
DEB:EAK
(7)

E



5/16/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

Re telephone call of JOHN M. DOWNEY to Director's Office, 6:06pm, 5/16/68.

DOWNEY's call concerned an individual by the name of FRED GABLE (PH), whom DOWNEY believes is identical with JAMES EARL RAY. DOWNEY met this individual five or six months ago at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

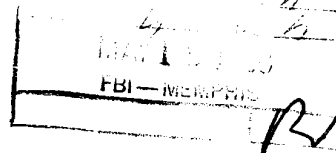
DOWNEY advised WFO during the evening of 5/16/68 that he prefers to be interviewed re this matter during the A. M. of 5/17/68.

WFO will interview DOWNEY A. M. of 5/17/68, display to him photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, and establish whether or not GABLE (PH) is identical with RAY. Bureau will be immediately advised of results of this interview.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

2 - Bureau
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
1 - WFO

LAC:rhs
(5)



5/22/68

AIRTEL

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

Re Milwaukee airtel to the Bureau dated 5/16/68
and Chicago airtel to the Director dated 5/16/68.

RE: ASSAULTS OF MARSHALL COLEMAN Sub E - 988

The following efforts were made by SA **WILL J. DUNN** to identify the individual using **COLEMAN's** gas credit card who had been picked up by the Chicago Police Department but had been released, as a matter of police cooperation.

On 5/20/68, Sergeant **JAMES CASTEN**, General Assignment, Review Section, Chicago Police Department, advised that based on the information available, he could not identify the person allegedly using **COLEMAN's** gas credit card who had been arrested by the Chicago Police Department and released. Sergeant **CASTEN** suggested that appropriate personnel at Area 8 General Assignment, Chicago Police Department, be contacted since the Shell Station address, 4333 Armitage Avenue, would fall within that area's jurisdiction.

On the same date, Lt. **JAMES O'NEILL**, Commanding Officer, Area 8, General Assignment, advised that without

3 - Bureau
2 - Milwaukee (44-388)
1 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Chicago

EJD:pas
(7)

44-1987-Sub E-988A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 31 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signature]

CG 44-1114

knowing the name of the complainant, it would be extremely difficult to locate the case number for the original offense that is, the purchases on March 8 and 11, 1968. He said that this case number would have to be obtained since if anyone was arrested by the police department on that charge, it would have been listed within that case number. He said that either Detectives W. HICKEY or J. ZACHARIAS, of his Command, might have handled the matter because they are the officers he usually assigns credit card cases to.

On 5/21/68, Detective WILLIAM HICKEY advised that he thinks he recalls the original report from the Shell Station and would make an effort to locate it. He further advised, however, that he could not recall anyone being arrested for this offense. Subsequently, on 5/22/68, Detective HICKEY advised that he was unable to locate any CB number for a fraudulent credit card purchase on the dates indicated at a Shell Station on Armitage Avenue. He also advised that he had discussed this matter with the various detectives assigned to Area 5 with negative results. He did suggest, however, that Detective ZACHARIAS be contacted.

On 5/27/68, Detective ZACHARIAS advised that he had no record nor recollection of either the original offense or of anyone being arrested and released on a fraudulent credit card use in Area 5.

Due to the manner in which the Chicago Police Department maintains its records, it would be physically impossible, based on the information furnished, in Milwaukee airtel of 5/16/68, to identify the individual supposedly using GOLDMAN's gas credit card who had been picked up and then released by the Chicago Police Department. Accordingly, for that reason and for the reasons set forth in referenced Chicago airtel, no further investigation being conducted into the identity of the assailants of MARSHALL GOLDMAN.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/20/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

Re telephone call of JOHN M. DOWNEY to Director's Office, 6:06 p.m., 5/16/68.

JOHN M. DOWNEY, 2745 29th Street, N. W., WDC, advised SA ROGER D. ASHLAND on 5/17/68 photographs of JAMES EARL RAY resemble an individual he met in the Town and Country Lounge of Mayflower Hotel, WDC on about April or May, 1967. DOWNEY said the person he met in the lounge said his name was FRED GABLE or FRED GABO (ph). This person told DOWNEY he had just gotten out of prison and only had \$20.00. DOWNEY offered to buy him a meal. Instead, DOWNEY bought him two cups of coffee and this person turned on him and said, "You are a copper." He also said he had a gun in his pocket and if DOWNEY followed him, he would shoot him.

DOWNEY described FRED GABLE or GABO as follows:

Race: *Sub E - 987* White
Sex: Male
Age: 40 years old
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 175 pounds
Build: Medium
Complexion: Ruddy

3 - Bureau
① - Memphis (44-1987)(Info)
1 - WFO

RDA:tab (5)
AIRTEL

44-1987-Sub E-987

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle BB

WFO 44-703

Hair: Dark brown
Scar: Small one on forehead
Eyes: (Could not recall color of eyes)

DOWNEY added during the conversation with this person at the bar, DOWNEY asked him why he was buying dollar drinks, if all he had was \$20.00. The man answered he wanted to know how bartenders mix drinks in high class bars.

Inasmuch as DOWNEY has not furnished specific information which would aid in locating FRED GABO or GABLE, WFO is conducting no active investigation at this time. WFO will keep in mind the above information in handling of leads in this matter.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

5/16/68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: MIAMI
FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN.

RE WFO TEL TO JACKSONVILLE DATED MAY FIFTEEN, LAST,
WHICH ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

WFO RECEIVED COMPLAINT TODAY THAT A LATE MODEL
BLACK BUICK WAS TRAVELING NORTHEAST ON NEW YORK AVENUE,
WDC. THE DRIVER WAS REPORTED AS RESEMBLING THE PICTURE OF
JAMES EARL RAY. THE VEHICLE BORE FLORIDA LICENSE ONE W
ONE NINE FOUR ONE ZERO THREE. ⁴⁴⁻¹⁹⁸⁷⁻¹⁰⁵⁵ JACKSONVILLE DETERMINE TO
WHOM VEHICLE REGISTERED AND SET OUT LEADS TO DETERMINE
WHEREABOUTS FOR ELIMINATION PURPOSES. NCIC NEGATIVE.

RECORDS, DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, TALLAHASSEE,
FLORIDA, REFLECTS SIXTY SEVEN - SIXTY EIGHT FLORIDA
LICENSE ONE W DASH ONE NINE FOUR ONE ZERO THREE,
ISSUED TO ALBERTO VADIA, ⁴⁴⁻¹⁹⁸⁷⁻¹⁰⁵⁵ TWENTY THREE HUNDRED CORAL
WAY, MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOR USE ON SIXTY EIGHT PONTIAC, ^{44-1987-Sub E-990}
VIN TWO FOUR TWO THREE SEVEN EIGHT P ONE SIX FOUR FOUR SIX ONE.

1 - WFO (AM) 44-703
① - Memphis (AM)
REH:cag (3)

E

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 18 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle *BB*

JK 44-769
PAGE TWO

MIAMI AT MIAMI: WILL DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF
REGISTRANT OF INSTANT VEHICLE FOR ELIMINATION PURPOSES.

WFO AND MEMPHIS ADVISED AM.

F B I

Date: **5/22/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

(OO: Memphis)

Sub E - 990
 Re Miami teletype to WFO with airmail copy
 to Memphis, dated 5/17/68.

Enclosed for the Memphis Division are 15 copies
 of an insert reflecting information furnished by **ALBERTO**
VADIA, Miami, Florida, on 5/17/68.

mm
 2 - Memphis (Enc. 15) (RM)
 1 - Miami
 JJM:vc
 (3)

Ret'd to MM
in ltr 5/29/68
me

44-1987-Sub E-990A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 24 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

glt

Approved: *[Signature]* _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
 Special Agent in Charge

SAC, Miami (44-1854)

5/24/68

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)(P)

MURKIN
CR

OO: Memphis

Re Miami Airtel to Memphis, 5/22/68.

Returned herewith is insert received from Miami
Division covering interview with ALBERTO VADIA.

Miami should include this insert in report which
that office is preparing.

2 - Miami (Enc.-15)
1 - Memphis
RGJ:ME
(3)

Airtel.....
Teletype.....
A. E.
A. M. A. P.
Spec. Del.
Reg. Mail.....
Registered.....

44-1987-Sub-E-990B

5/17/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649)(P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO - MEMPHIS

ReBuairtel dated 4/24/68 with letter from **RICHARD G. SHOTWELL** as enclosure.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA ALLYN T. BASKENVILLE:

AT SEAGRAVES, TEXAS

On April 30, 1968, Justice of the Peace S. B. **CHENAULT** advised he resides in the Beauchaire Hotel with **RICHARD G. SHOTWELL**. He considers **SHOTWELL** to be quite a "talker" and "bragger" and noted he had been discharged from the Merchant Marines for physical and mental disturbances.

On April 30, 1968, **RICHARD G. SHOTWELL**, Beauchaire Hotel, advised as he did in the letter to the Bureau. He observed photos of subject **RAY** and stated he cannot positively state the man he previously met was **RAY**, but that he believed there was a resemblance. He stated he met the individual in the Seattle Union Hall in January or February, 1968, and that **RAY** showed him a National Maritime Union Membership Card. **SHOTWELL** believes that the union would possibly have a copy of the photograph which would appear on the membership card as well as handwriting specimens. He could offer no further information. He exhibited papers reflecting that the U.S. Health Service, Seattle, Washington, had found him unfit for work due to arthritis and mental disorders.

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Seattle
2 - Dallas
VBN/gcs
(9)

44-1987-Sub E-421

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 18 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI LITTLE R

443PM 5/18/68 URGENT JEW

TO DIRECTOR, (44-38861); MEMPHIS (44-1987); KANSAS CITY; AND

OKLAHOMA CITY

FROM LITTLE ROCK (157-1215) 2P

MURKIN, OO: MEMPHIS

RE: LOOKALIKE TO JAMES EARL RAY

ON MAY SEVENTEEN, SIXTYEIGHT, MRS. PHYLLIS REED, SUMMERS, ARK., ADVISED AN INDIVIDUAL WHO LOOKED LIKE RAY DROVE INTO HER STATION IN NINETEEN FIFTYSIX RED AND WHITE CHEVROLET STATION WAGON BEARING UNKNOWN NEW MEXICO LICENSE. SHE DESCRIBED THE INDIVIDUAL AS A WHITE MALE, ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OLD, FIVE FT. TEN INCHES TALL, STOCKY BUILD, SHORT LIGHT BROWN HAIR, DRESSED IN CASUAL SPORT CLOTHES, POSSIBLY A KNIT SHIRT, LIGHT COLORED PANTS, AND TENNIS SHOES

IMMEDIATELY RADIO INFO WAS DISPATCHED TO LOCAL SO'S IN OKLAHOMA AND SOUTHWEST MISSOURI THROUGH BENTON COUNTY, ARK., SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ARKANSAS STATE POLICE, HUNTSVILLE, ARK. ROADBLOCKS WERE SET UP AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES ALERTED FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL AND CAR. ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED. LIAISON IS BEING MAINTAINED WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES THROUGH STATE POLICE RADIO, END PAGE ONE

E

44-1987-Sub E-992
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Bonar (8)