

NO 157-10673

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>OMAHA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>12/6/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/4/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY  <b>LEO J. ROSS</b>	TYPED BY  <b>jpw</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CR - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

REFERENCE:

New Orleans report of SA ALBERT B. MILLER dated 11/27/68.

- RUC -

A\*  
COVER PAGE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

None

CASE HAS BEEN:  
 PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO  
 PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

4 - Bureau (44-38861)  
 ③ - Memphis (44-1987)  
 → (1-U.S. Attorney, Memphis, Tenn.)  
 1 - Omaha (44-310)

Do not  
dissem  
R

Mc [unclear] M. Canale Jr.,  
 State Attorney General,  
 Memphis, Tenn.

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-1987-Sub-G-229

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - United States Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: SA LEO J. ROSS Office: Omaha  
Date: December 6, 1968

Field Office File #: 44-310 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

## Synopsis:

~~DONALD L. and MARILENE SMITH, Sioux City, Iowa, occupied Room 123 at Provincial Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, from 12/15-20/67 but have no recollection of observing RAY or occupants of Room 123.~~

- RUC -

## Details:

Information was received from the New Orleans Office that Mr. and Mrs. DONALD L. SMITH, Sioux City, Iowa, had registered on December 15, 1967, at the Provincial Hotel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 6, 1968

1  
 Mrs. MARION SMITH, 5515 Dodge Avenue, informed she and husband, DONALD L. SMITH, flew to New Orleans, Louisiana, on or about December 12, 1967, for a week's vacation and stayed at the Provincial Hotel in New Orleans.

They took an unrecalled taxi to the hotel and occupied Room 125, located at the rear of the hotel.

She informed she never observed the occupants of the motel room next to their unit, but noted she did hear someone entering this unit, but could not see as they had their shades pulled.

She noted the first evening there apparently were several people in the adjoining unit, as they could hear muffled voices, and there was considerable traffic in and out. However, this group left on December 13, 1967. Thereafter, they heard no voices coming from this unit. She said she could not be certain on which days thereafter she heard someone entering or leaving and could not say whether it was in the morning or evening.

They had no visitors in their room. She made one local telephone call to a cousin who lived in New Orleans, who is now deceased.

She paid no attention to automobiles in the parking area and has no recollection of any vehicle that might have been parked in this space.

She observed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and said she has no recollection of seeing him at the Provincial Hotel.

On 12/4/68 at St. Louis, Mo. File # 68-11-310

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 12/4/68

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**1**Date December 6, 1967

Mr. DONALD L. SMITH, 2313 Dodge Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa, an employee of the Iowa Highway Construction, informed on or about December 15, 1967, he and his wife, MARILYN, flew from Sioux City, Iowa, to New Orleans, Louisiana, and took an unoccupied tourist at the airport to the Provincial Hotel in New Orleans, where they had reservations.

They checked into Room 125 at the Provincial Hotel on December 15, 1967. The unit was located on the ground level at the rear of the hotel and situated on a parking area. There was a door to another unit located next to them. This adjoining unit was occupied their first night, apparently by a family as there was considerable movement in and out and they could hear muffled voices coming from the unit.

Thereafter, he was of the impression this unit was not occupied; however, later they did hear someone going in and out, but heard no voices. They kept their fingers pulled and were unable to observe the unit door opening. He believes the unit was actually occupied on December 17 and 18, 1967.

He stated he and his wife had no visitors to the hotel and his wife made one local telephone call to a cousin who lived in New Orleans.

As he recalled, they checked out on December 16, 1967, and flew back to Sioux City. He paid no attention to automobiles in the parking area and has no recollection of a Mustang parked near their unit.

He stated he and his wife spent little time in their room, usually leaving during the morning and returning later in the afternoon and leaving again around 7:00 p.m. each evening.

He viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and said he has no recollection of seeing such a man while at the Provincial Hotel. He stated he has since observed his photographs in newspapers.

On 12/4/68 at Sioux City, Iowa File # OM 44-388

by SA JED A. THOMPSON Date dictated 12/4/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MOBILE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>12/10/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/4/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA CARMELO GRAFFAGNINI</b>	TYPED BY <b>/mrc</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CR - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

REFERENCE: New Orleans report of SA ALBERT B. MILLER 11/27/68.

-RUC-

ADMINISTRATIVE:

During the interview of HENRY R. QUINN and JOE LACEY, JR., photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to them. Neither QUINN or LACEY ever recall seeing RAY at the Provincial Motel while in New Orleans or any other time.

The indices of the Mobile Office are negative regarding JOE LACEY JR., and HENRY R. QUINN.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<b>NONE</b>	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
4 - Bureau (44-38861) ③ - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - Mobile (157-2527)						44-1987-Sub-G-898 SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED DEC 13 1968 FBI - MEMPHIS		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA CARMELO GRAFTAGNINI  
Date: December 10, 1968

Office: MOBILE

Field Office File #: MO 157-2627

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY,  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIMCharacter: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: HENRY R. QUINN and JOE LACEY, JR., 1211 Westmoreland Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that they are partners in the interior decorating business in Montgomery, and that they were in New Orleans, Louisiana, staying at the Provencal Motel on December 14 through 16, 1967, in Room Number 126. JOE LACEY, JR. advised they called ELIZABETH B. PANNELL in Montgomery at telephone number 205-262-5180, from the motel on or about December 16, 1967, as she was a client of theirs. Neither QUINN or LACEY, JR., recall seeing anyone fitting the description of JAMES EARL RAY, nor does the name RAOUL mean anything to them.

-RUC-

## DETAILS:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/10/68

1

HENRY R. QUINN, 1211 Westmoreland Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that he and his cousin JOE LACKY, JR., who resides at the same address, are in the interior decorator business together. QUINN advised that he and LACKY traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, in December of 1967, in a white Chevrolet station wagon, for the purpose of purchasing antiques in the French Quarter in New Orleans for a client of theirs, Mrs. ELEANOR R. FARRILL. QUINN stated that while in New Orleans, they stayed at the Provencal Motel on Chartres Street. QUINN stated that they customarily take room 126 while staying in New Orleans at the Provencal Motel because of its convenient location to their automobile which is customarily parked in front of the door of Room 126.

QUINN stated that he has lived in Montgomery, Alabama, for the past fifteen years and has been employed therein with his cousin, JOE LACKY, JR., as a free lance interior decorator. He stated that he was born in Shelby County, North Carolina, on August 26, 1922.

QUINN advised that while staying at the Provencal Motel from December 14, 1967, through December 16, 1967, he does not recall having seen anyone fitting the description of JAMES EARL RAY. He further advised that he does not recall seeing anything to him. He stated that while in New Orleans he did not spend much time at the motel but was busy shopping for antiques and that he did not notice anything suspicious while at the motel.

The following is a physical description of HENRY R. QUINN as obtained at the time of interview:

Name	HENRY R. QUINN
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Shelby County, North Carolina
Occupation	Free lance interior decorator
Residence	1211 Westmoreland Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama

On 12/9/68 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 157-4627  
 by SA CLIFFORD A. ROSE  
SA GORDON CRAFTCHERRY / mca Date dictated 12/9/68

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NO 157-2627

2

Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	5'8"
Weight	155 pounds
Build	Slender
Hair	Light brown, thinning
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Fair
Characteristics	Wears glasses

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/10/68

1

**JOE LACHY, JR.**, 1211 Westmoreland Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, advised that he and his cousin, **EMERY R. QUINN**, are employed together as free lance interior decorators in Montgomery, Alabama. He advised that he traveled with **QUINN** to New Orleans, Louisiana, in December, 1967, and stayed at the Provincial Hotel from December 14, through 16, 1967. **LACHY** advised that they stayed in Room 128, while at the Provincial Hotel, and that they called **WILLIAM R. FINNEY** at telephone number 205-262-5188 from the motel on or about December 16, 1967, for the purpose of discussing the purchase of antiques for her, inasmuch as she was a client of theirs. **LACHY** stated that the purpose of their visit to New Orleans was the purchase of antiques in connection with their business.

**LACHY** advised that he does not recall seeing anyone fitting the description of **JOHN EARL RAY**, nor does the name **RAY** mean anything to him. **LACHY** stated that he does not recall anything of a suspicious nature taking place while he was a guest at the Provincial Hotel and does not recall anything in addition to the above concerning his visit to New Orleans.

The following is a description of **JOE LACHY, JR.**, as obtained at the time of interview:

Name	<b>JOE LACHY, JR.</b>
Residence	1211 Westmoreland Avenue Montgomery, Alabama
Occupation	Free lance interior decorator
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Woodward, Alabama
Height	6'
Weight	180 pounds
Hair	Light brown, balding in front
Complexion	Fair

On 12/4/68 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 157-8627  
 by SA CLYFFORD A. ROSE  
SA CLYFFORD A. ROSE Date dictated 12/4/68

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MO 157-2627

The cross reference directory for Greater Montgomery and vicinity for telephones listed in March, 1967, reflects that telephone number 205-262-5180 is listed to GRADY PANNELL.

Folk's City Directory for Montgomery, Alabama, 1968, reflects ELIZABETH B. PANNELL, widow of H. GRADY PANNELL, residing at 136 East Fairview Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>SAN DIEGO</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>12/10/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>12/6/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA ARNOLD W. O'BRIEN</b>	TYPED BY <b>kdw</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

REFERENCE:

Report of SA ALBERT B. MILLER dated November 27, 1968,  
at New Orleans.

- RUC -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES				
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE			
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW			
4 - Bureau (44-38861) ③ - Memphis (44-1987) 1 - San Diego (44-387)						44-1987-Sub-A-891 SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEC 11 1968 FBI - MEMPHIS Miller O'Brien			
DATE FILE STRIPPED <u>6/4/82</u>						Notations 100 Fred Phil M. Arnold, Jr., State atty. General, Shelby Co., Memphis, Tenn., 1/21/68 (10)			
INITIALS <u>md</u>									
RE: BU AIRTEL DTD 11/3/68									
Dissemination Record of Attached Report									
Agency									
Request Recd.	100 Fred Phil M. Arnold, Jr., State atty. General,								
Date Fwd.	Shelby Co., Memphis, Tenn., 1/21/68 (10)								
How Fwd.									
By									

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GPO : 1968 O - 299-885

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

## Report of:

SA ARNOLD W. O'BRIEN  
December 10, 1968

Office: San Diego

## Field Office File #:

44-387

Bureau File #: 44-38861

## Title:

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM

## Character:

CIVIL RIGHTS

## Synopsis:

Mrs. LOUISE LARSON, 5231 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, California; Mrs. JUNE LARSON and Mr. VIRGIL L. LARSON, 5646 Tart Avenue, La Jolla, California, all advised they arrived Provincial Motel, New Orleans, Louisiana, evening of December 19, 1967, and could furnish no information regarding subject. Photographs displayed to them with negative results. They also advised name of RAOUL unknown. No telephone calls made by Mrs. LOUISE LARSON or Mrs. JUNE LARSON. Several telephone calls made by Mr. VIRGIL LARSON from public telephone at hotel.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

Information was received from the New Orleans Office of the FBI that the following persons had registered on December 19, 1967, at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana:

Mrs. LOUISE LARSON  
5231 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, California;

Mr. and Mrs. VIRGIL L. LARSON  
5646 Tart Avenue  
La Jolla, California

SD 44-387

Mrs. LOUISE LARSON, 5231 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla, California, advised SA ARNOLD W. O'BRIEN as follows December 6, 1968:

Just prior to Christmas, 1967, Mrs. LOUISE LARSON traveled to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. VIRGIL L. LARSON, 5646 Taft Avenue, La Jolla, California.

They left Los Angeles and flew directly to New Orleans, Louisiana, where they registered at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, during the evening hours. According to Mrs. LARSON, they stayed at the Provincial Motel for approximately a week then proceeded to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where they were joined by Mr. and Mrs. STEWART STERNE, daughter and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. VIRGIL L. LARSON.

It is Mrs. LARSON's recollection that they had reservations in advance for their rooms at the Provincial Motel. Mrs. LARSON also advised that the room in which she stayed had a spiral staircase leading to a second bedroom directly above the room where she stayed. Her son and daughter-in-law were in a room several doors from her room but later moved into a room nextdoor.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to Mrs. LARSON and she advised that she has no recollection of having seen anyone resembling JAMES EARL RAY while she stayed at the Provincial Motel.

The name RAOUL has no significance to Mrs. LARSON.

Mrs. LARSON also advised that she personally did not make any telephone calls while staying at the Provincial Motel.

Mrs. JUNE LARSON, 5646 Taft Avenue, La Jolla, California, advised SA O'BRIEN as follows December 6, 1968:

Mrs. LARSON displayed a 1967 calendar in which a notation was made on the date, December 19, 1967, indicating

20-44-587

the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.

The Bureau advised that the purpose of the visit to the Bureau, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. was to discuss the proposed land acquisition and management of the Bureau.

During the visit, the Bureau advised that the purpose of the visit was to discuss the proposed land acquisition and management of the Bureau.

According to the Bureau, the purpose of the visit was to discuss the proposed land acquisition and management of the Bureau.

The Bureau advised that the purpose of the visit was to discuss the proposed land acquisition and management of the Bureau.

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SD 44-387

telephone calls to his office. She advised it is possible her husband may also have made a telephone call to her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. STEWART STEERE, Barnsley Heights, New Jersey, telephone 201-464-4721.

Mrs. LARSON advised that her husband always makes his calls from public telephones rather than making a call from the room.

Mr. VIRGIL L. LARSON, 5646 Tart Avenue, La Jolla, California, advised SA O'BRIEN as follows December 6, 1968:

Mr. LARSON, referring to a 1967 calendar at his office, noted that on December 19, 1967, a notation in pencil indicated that he, his wife and his mother departed San Diego aboard National Airlines for New Orleans.

Mr. LARSON advised that they arrived after dark on December 19, 1968, and took a taxi directly to the Provincial Motel, New Orleans.

Mr. LARSON also advised that the purpose of the trip was to spend Christmas with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. STEWART STEERE at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They decided to stop over at New Orleans and spend a week visiting the area since his wife had never seen New Orleans.

His mother, Mrs. LOUISE LARSON, occupied a room having a spiral staircase leading to a bedroom directly above the one being occupied by her.

Mr. LARSON advised that he and his wife first occupied a room one removed from his mother and later moved to a room next door to her. They stayed at the Provincial Motel until December 24, 1968, at which time they continued their flight to Fort Lauderdale.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were displayed to Mr. LARSON and he advised that none of the photographs were familiar to him and he does not recall anyone resembling the subject at the Provincial Motel.

SD 44-387

The name RAOUL has no significance to Mr. LARSON.

Mr. LARSON advised that he undoubtedly made several telephone calls while he stayed at the Provincial Motel; however, none of these telephone calls were made from his room. He always makes telephone calls from a public telephone in order to save the service charge that the motel or hotel usually charges for placing the call.

He undoubtedly called his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. STEWART SPERRE at Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, telephone number 201-464-4721. He probably also called the telephone company where he works, telephone number 714-298-0650.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>12/13/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>10/18 - 12/6/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka IO #4182 WF #442-A, TOP TEN FUGITIVE; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (DECEASED) - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>RAYMOND B. HOWE</b>	TYPED BY <b>jlh</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

## REFERENCE:

Bureau airtel to Kansas City and Memphis dated 11/12/68.

-P-

## LEAD:

## KANSAS CITY:

## AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI:

Will continue to maintain contact with officials  
at the Missouri State Penitentiary and submit monthly  
cost data airtels.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED <b>NONE</b>						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
5-Bureau (44-38861)						<b>44-1987-Sub-G 892</b> SEARCHED.....INDEXED <i>ll</i> SERIALIZED <i>ll</i> FILED <i>ll</i> <b>DEC 13 1968</b> <b>FBI - MEMPHIS</b>		
5-Memphis (44-1987)								
2-Kansas City (44-760)								
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency						<i>Photo</i> <i>Hester</i>		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								



KC 44-760

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The information included in this report is not the complete results of investigation covered during this period by the Kansas City Office in connection with this matter. It only contains the Wichita Beacon Newspaper articles and investigation requested in referenced communication.

B\*  
(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: RAYMOND B. HOWE  
Date: 12/13/68

Office: Kansas City

Field Office File No.: 44-760

Bureau File No.: 44-38861

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

Synopsis: FBI Fingerprint Examiner GEORGE BONEBRAKE conducted a week-long seminar to law enforcement officers from the south central Kansas area at Wichita, Kansas during November, 1968. An article concerning this seminar and BONEBRAKE's activities in the JAMES EARL RAY case appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper September 12, 1968. Also in this newspaper on October 16, 1968, it revealed that JAMES EARL RAY's attorney complained that prosecution witnesses have made public statements concerning his client. Both articles set forth. On October 24, 1968, Judge BATTLE, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, signed a petition requiring Examiner BONEBRAKE appear on December 6, 1968, to show cause why he should not be heard in contempt of court. Interviews with law enforcement officials attending seminar held by BONEBRAKE in Wichita set forth.

-P-

## DETAILS:

The following article under the heading "Identifying King Assassin Suspect Explained" appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper, Wichita, Kansas, on September 12, 1968. The article was written by BERNIE WARD, Beacon Staff Writer, and states as follows:

"One man sitting in a Memphis, Tenn., jail cell knows only too well what kind of an expert George Bonebrake is.

"James Earl Ray, awaiting trial as the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King last spring, is in that cell largely through the efforts of Bonebrake.

"Bonebrake, one of the FBI's most respected fingerprint experts, is in Wichita conducting a seminar on fingerprint identification for area law enforcement agencies.

"Following the assassination of Dr. King, Bonebrake led the search through thousands of fingerprints on file at the Washington, D.C., FBI headquarters for the identification of the killer.

"After Ray was arrested earlier this summer in London, England, Bonebrake was the government's star witness in the extradition proceedings that followed. And it was his expert testimony that identified the man being held by Scotland Yard as the fugitive - James Earl Ray.

"During the pause in the seminar here Wednesday, Bonebrake, a quiet, unassuming man, discussed the Ray case and others he has been involved in during his 27 years with the FBI.

"My testimony in the extradition hearing was two-fold," Bonebrake said, "since Ray was refusing to admit his true identity.

"I was able to testify that the latent prints we found in Memphis matched those taken of the man arrested in London, and that the same prints matched those taken of James Earl Ray while he was at the Missouri Penitentiary.

"Therefore," Bonebrake continued, "My testimony tended to implicate him in the murder of Dr. King as well as identify him as the fugitive wanted for escaping from the Missouri prison."

"Bonebrake picked up a large chart showing side-by-side blow-ups of two fingerprints. 'This one,' he pointed to a blurred photo of a fingerprint, 'is a latent print, or one which was found at a crime scene. The other is an ink print, one taken from a suspect when he was arrested.

"'When I am called to testify in court, I point out to the jury how the two are identical.

"'This is what I did in London. I was able to show that the latent prints obtained in Memphis, the ones taken in London and the ones taken of Ray at the Missouri prison were all the same.'

"Bonebrake said FBI agents obtained 'good' latent prints from a rifle believed used to kill Dr. King, from a telescopic sight on the rifle and from a pair of binoculars found at the scene.

"'This was a real break for us,' he said. 'We had several names to go on but we didn't know which one was correct.

"'Ray had purchased a car under the name of Gault, bought the rifle under another name and registered at the flophouse in Memphis using the name John Willard.'

"Once the latent prints were obtained, he said, an exhaustive comparison search was launched of thousands of prints of known offenders and known fugitives.

"'This way,' Bonebrake added, 'We were able to come up with Ray's name and eventually to identify him in London.'

"Bonebrake said he anticipated going to Memphis to testify on the fingerprint identification during Ray's upcoming trial.

"'There's no doubt in my mind that he (Ray) at least handled the murder weapon,' Bonebrake commented.

"During the week-long seminar here, Bonebrake is instructing lawmen from several South Central Kansas police and sheriff's departments on the proper identification of latent prints.

"The class is designed to teach officers to go to a crime scene and develop the crime scene or latent prints using various processes.

"Wednesday, the law officers compared latent prints found at a prepared crime scene with those of known offenders and established identifications. Today, they were instructed on the means of preparing that evidence for trial. Friday they will present the evidence during a mock trial"

On October 16, 1968, the following story under the heading "Beacon Story Ignites Ray Trial Controversy" appeared in the Wichita Beacon Newspaper. This article was also written by BERNIE WARD and states as follows:

"A front-page story in the Wichita Beacon on Sept. 12 has become this center of a controversy in Memphis, Tenn., over public statements made by the defense and prosecution in the case of James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"The Beacon story quoted FBI fingerprint expert George Bonebrake, the agent who identified Ray at an extradition hearing in London last summer, as saying: 'There is no doubt in my mind that he(Ray) at least handled the murder weapon.'

"In a story today in the Memphis Tenn., Commercial Appeal, Ray's attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, charged that a court order restricting pre-trial publicity in the case, 'protects the prosecution and only muzzles the defense.'

"Hanes cited specifically The Beacon interview story here with Bonebrake as an example of prosecution witnesses who have made public statements 'convicting my client and we have had no chance to counter them.'

" On Sept. 30, Hanes, private detective Renfro Hays, hired by the defense, and two Memphis reporters, Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press - Scimitar and Charles Edmundson of the Commercial Appeal were cited for contempt of court for trial-related statements made outside of court.

"W. Preston Battle, criminal court judge in Tennessee's Shelby County, issued the contempt citations.

"The contempt findings came after complaints Hanes and Hays had voiced about the unusually strict guard placed on Ray. The two newsman reported the complaints in their Memphis papers.

"Hanes had complained the strict security surrounding his client had threatened Ray's sanity and called the security measures 'cruel and unusual punishment.'

"Last week, Time Magazine in reporting the conflict between Judge Battle and the four defendants in the contempt action, reported Hanes also had talked to the press about the possibility of Communist conspiracy in the King murder.

"The Time report said that Judge Battle had found no violation of Ray's rights and had described the security precautions as 'reasonable'.

"The judge further stated that out-of-court suggestions that Ray's sanity may be in danger were 'extremely prejudicial and constitute a clear and present danger' to picking an impartial jury and holding a fair trial.

"In issuing the contempt citation Battle found statements by Hanes and Hays and the subsequent news stories by the two reporters were violation of his order prohibiting any prejudicial out-of-court discussions of this case.

"In today's story in the Memphis Commercial Appeal, Hanes referred extensively to the interview here with Bonebrake. The FBI expert was here to conduct a seminar on fingerprint identification for local law enforcement agencies.

"At that time, Bonebrake told a Beacon reporter he had testified at the Ray extradition hearing that 'the latent fingerprints we found in Memphis matched those taken of the man arrested in London and that the same prints matched those taken of James Earl Ray while he was at the Missouri penitentiary.

"Therefore, my testimony tended to implicate him in the murder of Dr. King as well as identify him as the fugitive wanted for escaping from the Missouri prison."

"Bonebrake also stated that FBI agents had obtained 'good' latent prints from a rifle believed used to kill Dr. King, from a telescopic sight on the rifle and from a pair of binoculars all found abandoned near the Memphis crime scene.

"In the Commercial Appeal Store, Hanes referred to Bonebrake's statements as an example of how Judge Battle's or limiting pre-trial publicity has different effects on the defense and prosecution.

"He added that any effort at successfully limiting the press would have to be at a nation-wide level.

"A reporter for the Commercial Appeal told The Beacon an attempt had been made to contact Bonebrake but the Washington, D.C., FBI office said the fingerprint expert was out of town and could not be reached.

"The reporter also said Hanes told him he received a copy of The Beacon story in the mail from an unidentified sender, apparently from Wichita.

"Hanes, a Birmingham, Ala., attorney, is in Memphis continuing his investigation of items of evidence the state is expected to introduce when Ray goes to trial Nov. 12.

"The beacon today attempted to contact Hanes at his Memphis motel for comment on his charges against the court but the attorney could not be reached."

KC 44-760

On October 24, 1968, Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, signed a petition requiring that Examiner BONEBRAKE appear before that court on December 6, 1968, to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court. This action was taken in connection with an article appearing in the Wichita, Kansas, Beacon Newspaper concerning a police school conducted by Mr. BONEBRAKE September 9 - 13, 1968, at Wichita, Kansas.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/28/68

Major CLYDE BEVIS, Records Division, Wichita, Kansas Police Department, said he had requested the FBI conduct an advanced fingerprint school for the Wichita Police Department with the understanding officers from surrounding law enforcement agencies would be invited. Major BEVIS recalled this school was held at the police academy of the Wichita Police Department during middle of September, 1968.

Major BEVIS said that in the regular course of business he notified members of the news media he encountered at police headquarters of the school being in session and suggested they might like to cover it. He specifically recalled talking to OLLIE THOMPSON, News Director of TV Station KTVH and BERNIE WARD, a reporter for the Wichita Beacon. THOMPSON made no commitment when he would try to cover the school. WARD declared he would appear at the school at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 10, 1968. Major BEVIS commented he arranged to be at the classroom at the time specified by WARD, however, WARD did not appear. On Wednesday, September 11, 1968, BEVIS said he was notified by some member of the training staff of the Wichita Police Department that WARD had appeared at the classroom. BEVIS instructed that Lieutenant JORDON JONES, introduce WARD to Instructor BONEBRAKE and help WARD with any coverage he desired.

BEVIS declared it was his understanding the instruction being provided by Mr. BONEBRAKE was for the benefit of law enforcement officers alone and not available for members of the press or others. He gave specific instructions that members of the press not be invited to attend any of the classroom sessions and he feels confident that had any member of the news media tried to enter the classroom while the instructions were being given he would have been immediately notified.

BEVIS said he had no further contact with the class or members of the press. When the article appeared in the Wichita Beacon on September 12, 1968, he was shocked

On 11/18/68 at Wichita, Kansas File # KC 44-760  
by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc Date dictated 11/21/68

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at its contents and without checking the accuracy of the facts expressed his displeasure to WARD on the day after publication. BEVIS observed that WARD was invited to do an article on the school, not on the background of the instructor or the RAY case. WARD'S only comment was, "Well that's news."

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/26/68

1

Lieutenant RALPH E. GREEN, 1017 West 3rd Street, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he is employed by the El Dorado Department of Public Safety and attended an advanced fingerprint school sponsored by the Wichita, Kansas Police Department during the second week of September, 1968. Lieutenant GREEN said the class was taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI, and lasted for one week.

Lieutenant GREEN said the class was for law enforcement officers only and he never observed any reporters or people from the news media in the class room during the class sessions. Lieutenant GREEN said the only time he saw anyone from the news media was a KTVH-TV cameraman, who took some pictures of Mr. BONEBRAKE, but this was during one of their recesses and nothing was said on this occasion regarding the RAY case.

Lieutenant GREEN said he at no time heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with reporters or members of the class during a recess. According to Lieutenant GREEN the only time he did hear Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case was during class and he did recall Mr. BONEBRAKE say that he had testified in England at the extradition proceedings and his testimony was that he had compared the latent fingerprints obtained from evidence in Memphis, Tennessee, with known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY and found they were identical.

Lieutenant GREEN said Mr. BONEBRAKE cautioned the members of the class not to discuss anything regarding the RAY case or information he had furnished during the class.

On 11/19/68 at El Dorado, Kansas File # KC 44-760  
by SA RICHARD L. ECKBERG:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/27/68

Officer LEE M. PADDOCK, JR., 325 West Towanda, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he is employed by the El Dorado Department of Public Safety and attended a one week advanced fingerprint school in Wichita, Kansas during the second week of September, 1968, which was sponsored by the Wichita Police Department and taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI.

PADDOCK said he is quite certain no members of the press, television or radio were permitted to attend the class and the only time he saw anyone connected with the news media in the classroom was during a recess when a television cameraman took some film footage.

PADDOCK said he never was present or never observed Mr. BONEBRAKE talking to newsmen other than the above mentioned television cameraman and never heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with newsmen or members of the class during a recess.

PADDOCK said Mr. BONEBRAKE did speak briefly about the RAY case during the class. He told the class he had testified at the extradition proceedings in England and his testimony concerned the finding of latent fingerprints on a gun in Memphis and the comparison of these latent fingerprints with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, which established that RAY was the person who had been arrested in England and also the person whose fingerprints were found on the gun.

PADDOCK said Mr. BONEBRAKE cautioned the members of the class not to discuss the case outside the classroom and PADDOCK said he did not hear either Mr. BONEBRAKE or any member of the class discuss the case.

On 11/19/68 at El Dorado, Kansas

KC 44-760

by SA RICHARD L. ECKBERG:bjc

11/20/68

Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/28/68

MORRIS HERRON, Valley Center Police Officer, recalled attending a school on the subject of fingerprints conducted by a Mr. BONEBRAKE, of the FBI, at the Police Academy, Wichita, Kansas, during early part of September, 1968.

HERRON said he was present at every session and did not hear Mr. BONEBRAKE or any member of the class conduct a press conference or have any contact with the press on any subject other than the school itself. Mr. HERRON recalled representatives of the news media being at the school. He thought it was the last day, Friday, September 13, 1968, on the occasion of the graduation of the class members. At this time he observed strangers around the halls of the academy with movie cameras, therefore, concluded they were television cameramen. He did not recognize any of these persons. He could not remember if Mr. BONEBRAKE was present at the school at this time.

HERRON was most emphatic in recalling no members of the press were in the closed meetings of the school wherein Mr. BONEBRAKE instructed on the subject of fingerprints.

At an early date of the school, exact date not recalled, HERRON mentioned some member of the class asked a direct question of BONEBRAKE concerning the use of latent fingerprints in the JAMES EARL RAY case. In response to this question, BONEBRAKE observed he had testified in the hearing of RAY at London, England, earlier in the year that fingerprints were introduced to establish the identity of RAY. BONEBRAKE elaborated on this point to the extent he mentioned he had testified that known prints of RAY from Missouri State Penitentiary were identical with the questioned prints of the suspect in custody of the English authorities.

HERRON recalled BONEBRAKE declined to discuss this case further mentioning something to the effect this was still a pending case and FBI policy did not permit the public disclosure of such information.

On 11/19/68 at Valley Center, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc Date dictated 11/21/68

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KC 44-760

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HERRON volunteered he had read the article appearing in the Wichita Beacon of about September 12, 1968, and he did not hear BONEBRAKE or a member of the fingerprint class mention such facts to the press.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/26/68

Officer CHARLES F. STEWART, Department of Public Safety, El Dorado, Kansas, home address, 113 East 5th Street, El Dorado, Kansas, advised he attended an advanced fingerprint school sponsored by the Wichita, Kansas Police Department during the second week of September, 1968. STEWART said the class was taught by Mr. GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI and lasted for one week.

STEWART said the class was restricted to members of law enforcement agencies only and he never observed any member of the press, radio or television in the classroom during the time the class was in session. Mr. STEWART said about the next to last day of the class he recalled a television cameraman taking some pictures, but did not hear or observe Mr. BONEBRAKE make any statements on this occasion about the RAY case.

STEWART said he at no time heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case with members of the news media or members of the class during recesses. STEWART said the only time he heard Mr. BONEBRAKE discuss the RAY case was during class and this was only to illustrate a point in how latent fingerprints could be used to identify an individual with a crime. STEWART said Mr. BONEBRAKE did mention that he had testified in the extradition proceedings in England to identify RAY as the person who was identical with the individual who had been in the penitentiary as JAMES EARL RAY in Missouri and also identical with the person whose fingerprints were found on a weapon found near the crime scene in Memphis, Tennessee.

STEWART said Mr. BONEBRAKE told the class he did not want them to discuss anything he had told them about the RAY case outside the classroom.

11/19/68El Dorado, KansasKC 44-760

On \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ File # \_\_\_\_\_

by SA RICHARD L. ECKBERG:bjc11/19/68  
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KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Lieutenant JORDAN JONES, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he was in attendance at the school in which Mr. BONEBRAKE lectured. He stated there were no members of the press in the class. He stated that he assisted BONEBRAKE in every way he could and he was the person who introduced a member of the press, whose name he did not recall, to BONEBRAKE. He stated that at this time the class took a break and BONEBRAKE spoke to this member of the press for a very short period of time. JONES stated he could not remember what was discussed. JONES stated he did recall, however, that after he read the newspaper article concerning BONEBRAKE and the RAY case, he wondered how the press agent could have written such a complete article concerning his interview with BONEBRAKE when he had been with him such a short time. JONES stated he was with BONEBRAKE during the breaks in the event he could be of any assistance, and no further press inquiries were made. JONES stated the only other occasion when the news media came was when a local television station took photographs of BONEBRAKE. JONES stated that at no time did he hear BONEBRAKE discuss anything concerning the RAY case with any of the news media. JONES stated that during the class BONEBRAKE told them how the latent prints had been identified with those of RAY and how many elimination prints they had. He stated BONEBRAKE also stated he had testified to the identification of RAY'S prints, but furnished no details.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11/26/68

Date

ART STONE, Chief of Security, Wichita State University, advised that while he was a member of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, Wichita, he attended a fingerprint school held in Wichita, which was operated by GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the Identification Division of the FBI. He said the school was held in about September, 1968, and only duly accredited law enforcement officers were in attendance at this school.

STONE said that during one break period in this school he saw a local newspaper reporter being introduced to Mr. BONEBRAKE by an unrecalled member of the Wichita, Kansas Police Department. STONE said he was not certain, but thought this reporter might be BERNIE WARD. He said although he did not hear the entire conversation between this person and BONEBRAKE, he thought he heard this person obtaining background information regarding BONEBRAKE. He said he did not hear any conversation between these two regarding the JAMES EARL RAY case.

STONE did advise that BONEBRAKE did mention the RAY case after receiving an inquiry from someone in the fingerprint class. In this connection he explained to the class how latents and partial latents received from various sources and seemingly unrelated at the time they were obtained later turn out to be related matters and excellent evidence material. BONEBRAKE did mention that he had travelled to London, England in connection with the RAY case to testify that the fingerprints of the man in custody there were identical with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY who had escaped from the Missouri State Prison, Jefferson City, Missouri. He said he is certain BONEBRAKE only mentioned the RAY case to show some of the conditions a fingerprint man would work under and the necessity of obtaining and maintaining prints.

STONE said the RAY case was only one of many illustrations used by BONEBRAKE for demonstrations in the class, to make a point about a certain phase or item in the training. He said BONEBRAKE did not discuss the RAY case at any length and always cautioned the persons in the class about any further discussion of this matter.

On 11/19/68 at Wichita, Kansas File # KC 44-760  
by SA JAMES F. MILLER:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/26/68

Detective Sergeant DEAN BERG, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, furnished the following information:

He recently attended a fingerprint school in Wichita, Kansas at which time GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the FBI was the instructor. He said no newspaper reporters were in attendance at this school since it was for law enforcement officials only.

He said that on about the third or fourth day of the school he saw an unknown man talking to BONEBRAKE and he was of the opinion this person was a newspaper reporter, however, since he did not know the man he is not certain of this information. He said this conversation took place during a break in the classes and was probably about 10 to 15 minutes in length. BERG said he did not know the text of their conversation.

BERG said BONEBRAKE mentioned the JAMES EARL RAY case in one of the classes and apparently did this to show how important partial and latent prints can be in a case. He said in this conversation BONEBRAKE mentioned that a partial latent print had been obtained in the RAY case and went on to show that what appeared to be unrelated items at the time they are obtained later turn out to be related in some manner. He further advised that BONEBRAKE said he compared the fingerprints of the man in custody in England with the known fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY who had escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary and found they were identical.

BERG advised that BONEBRAKE talked about a number of cases, without mentioning a lot of names, and in each case pointed out how certain items of evidence can become very important to a case. BONEBRAKE would show how latents obtained from various and sometimes unlikely places would be important. BERG said as far as he is concerned BONEBRAKE was an excellent instructor.

On 11/19/68 at Wichita, Kansas File # KC 44-760

by SA JAMES F. MILLER:bjc Date dictated 11/19/68

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KC 44-760

EWR:bjc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent EUGENE W. RUIZ:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Detective Sergeant, WARREN MALONE, Laboratory Investigator, Wichita Police Department, advised November 19, 1968, he had attended the school given by Mr. BONEBRAKE. He stated to the best of his knowledge, there were no members of the press in this class. He stated he recalled that a member of the press did come to the school and they took a break and so BONEBRAKE could talk with him. He stated he did not hear what they discussed and the interview was no more than ten minutes. MALONE stated he did not know of any further inquiries by the press. He stated that during the class, BONEBRAKE was questioned concerning the RAY case. BONEBRAKE told the class about receiving the weapon for examination and checking fingerprint cards and how they eliminated them and identified the prints as those of RAY. He also told them he had gone to England and testified, but MALONE said he could not remember what BONEBRAKE said he had testified to. MALONE stated that BONEBRAKE told the class that the RAY case was still pending and for them not to discuss it outside the class; the information he furnished them was solely for the classes Benefit.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/27/68

JAMES D. LAZELLE, Undersheriff, Cowley County Sheriff's Department, was contacted at the Winfield Police Station. He furnished the following information:

He attended each session of an advanced fingerprint school conducted from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968, at the Wichita Police Academy, Wichita, Kansas. The school was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE. This school was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for full-time law enforcement officers of Police and Sheriff's Departments.

The JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned while discussing latent fingerprints, their location and lifting, and their use in testimony to identify an individual. BONEBRAKE stated that he had been able to give testimony as to RAY's identity, based on fingerprints. There were no newsmen present when the RAY case was mentioned.

Newsmen from TV Channel 12, and from The Wichita Beacon, were present on one or two occasions, during recess breaks, for the purpose of obtaining information pertaining to the fingerprint school. He at no time heard the RAY case mentioned while newsmen were present.

On 11/20/68 at Winfield, Kansas File # KC 44-760  
by SA JAMES B. KELLY:ENV Date dictated 11/21/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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11/27/68

Date \_\_\_\_\_

CECIL JAMES LOWER, 227 Random Road, Sergeant, Arkansas City Police Department, was contacted at the Arkansas City Police Station. He furnished the following information:

He attended an advanced fingerprint school at the Wichita Police Department, Wichita, Kansas, from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968. This school was sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE. He understood that this school was open to law enforcement personnel only.

He recalls that the JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned during the regular class period. It was clearly understood that information pertaining to the RAY case was not to be discussed with anyone outside the class. The RAY case had come up in connection with the locating, lifting, preserving, and presenting findings in testimony, concerning latent fingerprints. BONEBRAKE mentioned having given testimony as to RAY's identity.

Representatives of TV Channel 12, and a photographer that took still pictures were present at the school, during a recess, on one day during the session. He did not know who the still photographer represented, but assumes it was a news media. Moving pictures were taken of class members and a still picture was posed for by BONEBRAKE and a class member, during the break. He does not know of any interview that newsmen had with BONEBRAKE.

The only mention that he heard made of the RAY case during the time the newsmen were present, was when the representative of the Wichita Police Department introduced GEORGE BONEBRAKE to the newsmen. At that time, the man making the introductions stated that GEORGE BONEBRAKE was one of the men who had worked on the RAY case.

11/20/68      Arkansas City, Kansas

KC 44-760

On \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

File # \_\_\_\_\_

SA JAMES B. KELLY :ENV

11/21/68

by \_\_\_\_\_

Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/27/68

KENNETH MOUSER, 223 E. 11th, Records and Identification Officer, Wellington Police Department, was contacted at his home. He furnished the following information:

He attended each session of an advanced fingerprint school conducted at the Wichita Police Department Academy, Wichita, Kansas, from September 9, 1968 through September 13, 1968. The school was conducted by GEORGE BONEBRAKE of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was his understanding that the school was conducted for Police and Sheriff's Officers, and was a "closed" school, with no one other than full-time peace officers invited to attend.

On one day during the school, there were representatives from Channel 12 TV, and a photographer from the Wichita Beacon present at the Academy, during a recess, for the purpose of obtaining information pertaining to the fingerprint school. He did not know any of the representatives from the TV station, but he was personally acquainted with the Wichita Beacon reporter, JAMES WAMPLER. WAMPLER had asked him to pose with BONEBRAKE for a photograph as if BONEBRAKE was pointing out points of interest on two enlargements of fingerprints, and he had done so. This photograph was taken in a side office, off of the classroom. He heard no mention made of any specific case, either Bureau or otherwise, during the time that the photographs were being taken. Later that night he had seen his picture on television, over Channel 12.

He at no time observed and was not aware of any newsman having a personal interview with BONEBRAKE.

/The JAMES EARL RAY case was mentioned during the fingerprint school while there were no newsmen present. At that time BONEBRAKE pointed out that he had been able to give testimony concerning RAY's identity through the use of fingerprints.

MOUSER recalls having read an article in the Wichita Beacon, giving what were alleged to have been facts of the RAY case, and he had been greatly surprised that any

On 11/19/68 at Wellington, Kansas File # KC44-760  
by SA JAMES B. KELLY:ENV Date dictated 11/21/68

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KC 44-760

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newsman would have been able to obtain as detailed facts  
as appeared to be quoted in the article.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

11/28/68

Date

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Lieutenant G. W. REED, Police Department, Derby, Kansas, observed he attended a fingerprint school at the Wichita, Kansas Police Academy during early September, 1968. This school was instructed by a Mr. BONEBRAKE, introduced as the foremost latent and single fingerprint expert from FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

In addition REED said he understood from a source unrecalled that BONEBRAKE had recently returned from England where he had offered fingerprint testimony in the JAMES EARL RAY case. REED felt he heard this from some other member of the class, but could not be sure on this point.

In any event he was certain he did not hear it from anyone in the presence of any representative of the news media. On this point Lieutenant REED said he thought a newspaper reporter and television cameraman appeared during the middle of the week at the class room, but, were at no time, present during the closed instruction periods of the school. At best they were in the hall way outside the class or in the classroom during the recess periods.

REED recalled that at the outset of the course a question by some class member was directed to BONEBRAKE concerning the fingerprint testimony in the JAMES EARL RAY case. BONEBRAKE cautioned the class he was not at liberty to discuss this case in detail, but could say he had testified to the identity of RAY based on fingerprint examination at the hearing in London. REED said he had no recollection of additional comments by anyone concerning the RAY case.

On 11/19/68 at Derby, Kansas

File # KC 44-760

by SA ELMER R. FLETCHER:bjc

Date dictated 11/21/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>Kansas City</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>Kansas City</b>	DATE <b>2/10/69</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>1/24 - 2/7/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>CHANGED</b> <b>FRED ALEXANDER MICHAELSON, aka</b> <b>Frederick Alexander Michelson</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA WEETER S. POND</b>	TYPED BY <b>:csd</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>ITSP</b>	

Title is changed to include alias Frederick Alexander Michelson as shown on subject's FBI Identification Record.

REFERENCE: Kansas City report of SA WEETER S. POND 1/15/69.

- P -

ENCLOSURES

TO THE BUREAU

Three copies of Parole Report and one Disposition Sheet.

Accomplishments: Conviction Kansas City - 1

Case pending over one (1) year - YES

Prosecution pending over six (6) months - YES

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SEARCHED..... INDEXED <i>llb</i>  SERIALIZED <i>llb</i> FILED <i>llb</i>  <b>FEB 17 1969</b>  FBI - MEMPHIS  <i>Hester</i> </div>	
1 - Bureau (87-95561) (Enc 4) 1 - USA, Topeka, Kansas ① - Memphis (44-1987) (info) 3 - Kansas City (2 - 87-21205) (1 - 44-760)			
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations	
Agency		<i>44-1987-Sub-A-893</i>	
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.			
How Fwd.			
By			

KC 87-21205  
WSP:csd

LEADS

KANSAS CITY

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI. Will maintain contact with U. S. Marshal, Topeka, Kansas, and local authorities, Liberty, Missouri, and set forth lead to interview subject in MURKIN case after he is transported to a Federal Institution.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

As set forth in details of Kansas City report of SA WEETER S. POND, 10/18/68, MICHAELSON on 10/2/68 indicated he had information concerning the assassination of JOHN F. KENNEDY on 11/22/63; of MARTIN LUTHER KING on 4/3/68; and of the subsequent "shocking news of ROBERT KENNEDY." His information "goes to the scale of great national importance." While he realized the information had been held too long he refused to discuss it while confined in the county jail. He indicated a full disclosure will be made if and when he is removed from the jail and placed in a penitentiary or hospital where he might receive treatment for his nervous stomach.

The above information has been furnished to Memphis and it was noted that MICHAELSON has made claims of being psychotic, however, he was incarcerated at the Missouri State Penitentiary from 6/25/65 to 8/26/66 and both MICHAELSON and JAMES EARL RAY were there at the same time.

B\*  
COVER PAGE