

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI used same tactics on King and his killer

WASHINGTON — The FBI, which used electronic skulduggery in an effort to discredit Martin Luther King Jr., tried to employ similar illegal tactics to catch his murderer.

Long-buried FBI documents reveal that then-director J. Edgar Hoover personally approved a break-in and illegal electronic bugging aimed at innocent relatives of James Earl Ray, who was later convicted of killing King.

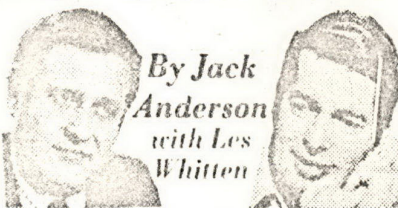
For years, Hoover had conducted a vicious smear campaign against King. The FBI peddled malicious anti-King stories to the press and had sent doctored tapes concerning King's personal life to his wife. When King was slain in 1968, whispers about possible FBI involvement put Hoover under great pressure to find the assassin.

While FBI agents were hot on Ray's trail, a May 10, 1968 memo, prepared for top Hoover aide J. P. Mohr, outlined elaborate illegal plans to catch the murderer.

As part of the overall investigation, code-named MURKIN — an acronym for murder and King — a memo was written, which declared: "Consideration is given to microphone installations on certain properties of Albert and Carol Pepper," the brother-in-law and sister of James Earl Ray.

"The proposal," cautioned the memo, "raises a question concerning the legality of any action taken against the subject of this case on the basis of information obtained from the microphones." If Ray called the Peppers and the bugged conversations were used to arrest him, the memo said, Ray "then could claim that the surveillance violated his right of privacy." This could prejudice the court case against him.

But if certain precautions were taken,



By Jack
Anderson
with Les
Whitten

the memo continued, "the worst that could happen" is that the arrest would be declared illegal. Using tortured logic, the document insisted that Ray could still be convicted despite the FBI lawbreaking.

The FBI plotters bluntly admitted that the whole scheme was unconstitutional and a "technical violation" of the law. "Be aware," the memo warned, "that since this search and seizure is unconstitutional as to the Peppers, they have at least a theoretical cause of action for damages against those who installed the (bugging) devices by trespass." "Trespass" is FBI lingo for a break-in.

If the Peppers sued the FBI and won, the memo insisted, the taxpayers would bail them out. "The government of the United States should surely be willing to pick up the tab for any judgment against those who installed the microphones," the memo concluded. At the bottom, Hoover scrawled "OK," and added his characteristic "H." Six other FBI officials also initialed their approval.

We have been unable to determine whether the FBI actually bugged or burglarized the Peppers' home. Indeed, assassinations expert Harold Weisberg has developed evidence indicating the Justice Department vetoed the plan. But inside sources insist the FBI did use dubious and possibly illegal means to capture Ray, who later pleaded guilty to murdering King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Footnote: The FBI has acknowledged that abuses occurred in the past. Since 1973, however, the present director, Clarence Kelley, has halted most of these practices. We were unable to reach the Peppers.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page A-4

Alton Telegraph

Alton, Ill.

Date: 11/8/77

Edition:

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

44-561-883

Submitting Office:

SI

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

NOV 10 1977

FBI-SPRINGFIELD

Donner

FBI/DOJ

original sent
to Bureau
11/10/77
JA

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI tried to use questionable tactics in Ray case

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Jack Anderson

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 22

State Journal Register

Springfield, Ill.

Date: 11/9/77
Edition:

Title:
MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-561
Submitting Office: SI

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

NOV 9 1977

FBI - SPRINGFIELD

FBI/DOJ

*stripped
11-15-77*

*original sent
to Bureau
11/9/77
JH*

44-561-884 Schmitt EN

Donum

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Footnote: The FBI has acknowledged that abuses occurred in the past. Since 1973, however, the present director, Clarence Kelley, has halted most of these practices. We were unable to reach the Peppers.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI played name game in effort to capture Ray

WASHINGTON (UPI) — James Earl Ray is not too unusual a name, especially compared with the names he used when he was trying to escape after murdering Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis April 4, 1968.

Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmeyer, Ramon George Sneyd, John Willard — those were among the names that Ray used to keep the FBI hopping as they searched for King's killer — according to bureau documents released to UPI this week.

In fact the FBI was at first convinced that there had been a conspiracy to kill King because.

- Lowmeyer bought the murder gun in Birmingham, Ala.

- The getaway car was registered in Galt's name.

- Willard rented the room in the Memphis flop house adjacent to the bathroom where the fatal shot was fired.

- Sneyd was arrested in London as King's killer.

After a laborious fingerprint check — all four men turned out to be James Earl Ray.

Galt was the name Ray used most of the time, beginning April 23, 1967, the year before the assassination, when he escaped from the

Missouri State Penitentiary.

That name fascinated the FBI, the files showed. They had three possible theories on where he got the name Eric Starvo Galt.

Galt may have come from Gault, Ontario, since Ray visited Canada soon after his jailbreak, one memo said.

Galt could have come from Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged," — a massive volume of right wing fiction that begins with the sentence "Who is John Galt?" An agent poured over the 1,000 pages of the book and found a character, named only once, called "Eric Brewer."

So, perhaps, Eric Starvo Galt was a combination of John Galt and Eric Brewer. But, the same memo noted, Ray's taste ran more toward girlie magazines than lengthy philosophical fiction.

So the FBI turned to James Bond for the answer.

One of the fictional Bond enemies was Ernst Stavro Blofeld. Could this name be

the source of the "Eric Starvo" part of the Galt alias? the FBI asked.

Since Ray was still a fugitive at this point, the FBI sent an agent out to a Washington bookstore to buy all 18 James Bond paperbacks in print at the time. Only 14 could be obtained here, so a New York agent was sent to get the other four.

The agents read all the books. They assembled a complete list of all the fictional names in the book — right down to Bond's boss, "M" and girlfriend "Pussy Galore."

The eight page list of Bond names was checked against all the other names that surfaced in the King investigation. None ever matched any other alias used by Ray.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 7

STATE JOURNAL -
REGISTER

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Date: 1/29/78
Edition: SUNDAY

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character: 88-5361
or:
Classification: 44-561 ✓
Submitting Office: SI

44-561-885
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

JAN 31 1978

FBI

3/3/78

FM SPRINGFIELD (62-2567)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

RE SPRINGFIELD LETTER TO BUREAU (BUFILE 157-26213), AUGUST 13, 1975.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, RICHARD EUGENE GEPPERT OPENED AS A SOURCE OCTOBER 30, 1970, AND DISCONTINUED SEPTEMBER 1971, RE-OPENED MARCH 1972 AND DISCONTINUED MAY 1972.

ON MARCH 2, 1978, (FNU) SNYDER, REPORTER, GRANITE CITY PRESS RECORD, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THE ALTON RESIDENT AGENCY AND INQUIRED IF THE FBI HAD SUBPOENAED RICHARD GEPPERT TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SNYDER HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT GEPPERT, AN INDIVIDUAL FROM ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, AND A THIRD INDIVIDUAL FROM BLACKJACK, MISSOURI, TO

(3) - SI (1: 62-2567)
(1: ~~44-561~~)
RDS/mmh (1: 157-1792)
(3)

Sup 3-

WJ

MMB
MMB
44-561-286

PAGE TWO SI 62-2567 CLEAR

APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. SNYDER HAD TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED RICHARD GEPPERT OF GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS TO DETERMINE IF HE HAD BEEN SUBPOENAED AND GEPPERT HAD REFUSED TO COMMENT. SNYDER WAS ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THE FBI HAD SUBPOENAED GEPPERT AND IF SO, IF GEPPERT OF GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS WAS IDENTICAL WITH THE GEPPERT SUBPOENAED. SNYDER WAS INFORMED THAT THE FBI HAD NOT SUBPOENAED GEPPERT AND COULD NOT FURNISH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION AS THE COMMITTEE HAD THEIR OWN INVESTIGATORS.

SPRINGFIELD DOES NOT PLAN TO CONTACT RICHARD EUGENE GEPPERT AND NO FURTHER ACTION IS BEING TAKEN, UACB.

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 8/18/78

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY (ATTN: DIVISION 6, exTRA DUTY DESK)

BT

, CLEAR

MURKIN.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, DETECTIVE RICHARD EVANS, DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION ILLINOIS STATE, DETECTIVE RONALD H. LEE, WILLIAMSON COUNTY DETECTIVE UNIT, AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY ROBERT HOWERTON, INTERVIEWED EUGENE AND SHIRLEY COX. MR. AND MRS. COX ARE REPUTABLE AND RELIABLE CITIZENS OWNING A PROMINENT BUSINESS IN MARION, ILLINOIS. THE FOLLOWING VERBATIM STATEMENT WAS GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. COX:

ABOUT NOON ON THE DAY AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ASSASSINATED, WE (EUGENE COX AND SHIRLEY COX, 402 SOUTH MARKET STREET, MARION, ILLINOIS) LEFT THE MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON A MULTIPLE LANE HIGHWAY. AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 78 AND 51, EUGENE COX SLOWED DOWN TO STOP AT A RED LIGHT, THE RADIO WAS ON AND WE HAD EARLIER HEARD THE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR A WHITE MUSTANG. WE HEARD A CAR HORN HONKING BEHIND US. WE BOTH SAW A

2 - Springfield (1: 44-561) (1: 62-2567)

~~JRR~~ JRR/lrf

(2)

Approved: EDH/JFGTransmitted 13

(Number)

1100 pm

(Time)

Per ly

FBI/DOJ

Asac Cognizant

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

SI 44-561 PAGE TWO CLEAR

WHITE MUSTANG WEAVING IN AND OUT OF TRAFFIC ABOUT A BLOCK BEHIND. THE WHITE MUSTANG VEARED TO OUR LEFT AND RAN THE RED LIGHT AS A NATIONAL GUARD TRUCK APPROACHED THIS INTERSECTION FROM OUR RIGHT. SHIRLEY COX TURNED AND WATCHED THE DRIVER OF THE WHITE MUSTANG COME UP BEHIND US AND PASS BY ON OUR LEFT. THE WHITE MUSTANG WAS DRIVING FAST PROBABLY ABOUT 60 MILES AN HOUR, WENT THREE OR FOUR BLOCKS AND MADE A RIGHT HAND TURN. THE WHITE MUSTANG WAS GOING SO FAST THAT HE DROVE UP THROUGH A FILLING STATION DRIVEWAY TO MAKE THE RIGHT HAND TURN. WE DO NOT RECALL WHAT THE NAME OF THE FILLING STATION WAS, ONLY THAT IN WAS NATIONAL BRAND GAS STATION. WE HAD TRIED TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN THE ARMY VEHICLE, BUT TO NO AVAIL.. BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX PM THAT SAME DAY, WE STOPPED FOR DINNER AT THE LEPETITE NEW ORLEANS CLUB IN CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI, EUGENE COX TELEPHONED THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TOLD THEM THAT WE HAD SEEN A WHTIE MUSTANG BEING DRIVEN ERRATICALLY WHILE WE WERE IN MEMPHIS. THE POLICE OFFICER DID NOT SEEM TOO INTERESTED. WE RETURNED TO OUR HOME IN MARION, ILLINOIS THAT EVENING. THE FOLLOWING DAY WE SAW THE COMPOSITE DRAWING OF THE SUSPECT SLAYER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING IN THE SAINT LOUIS GLBE DEMOCRAT. SHIRLEY COX STATED THAT THE COMPOSITE DRAW-

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

FBI/DOJ

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

SI 44-561 PAGE THREE CLEAR

ING WAS THAT OF THE DRIVER OF THE WHITE MUSTANG IN MEMPHIS. EUGENE COX ONLY HAD A SIDE VIEW OF THE DRIVER OF THE WHITE MUSTANG AS HE PASSED BY US. WE WANT TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT BECAUSE WE HAVE WATCHED JAMES EARL RAY ON TELEVISION AND KNOW THAT HE HAS NOT TRUTHFULLY ACCOUNTED FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS ON THE DAY FOLLOWING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ASSASSINATION.

STATEMENT WAS SIGNED E.L. COX AND S.M. COX DATED AUGUST 18, 1978.

HOWERTON ADVISED THAT MRS COX STATED THAT THE MAN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH KING'S MURDER WAS THE SAME MAN SHE HAD SEEN IN THE WHITE MUSTANG.

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BUREAU IN VIEW OF RAY'S TESTIMONY.

SPRINGFIELD INDICES NEGATIVE RE MR. AND MRS. COX.

BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____ FBI/DOJ

SI0013 2310400

PP HQ

DE SI

P 180400Z AUG 78

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY (ATTN: DIVISION 6, EXTRA DUTY DESK)

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN.

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44-561-887

Om
My

Rogers *AR*

SI 44-561 PAGE TWO CLEAR

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SI 44-451 PAGE THREE CLEAR

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SPRINGFIELD INDICES NEGATIVE RE MR. AND MRS. COX.

BT

2310411Z HQ - 1

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Fiddling With A Time Bomb

The Assassination Committee probe was a dubious idea in the first place. The last thing any society needs is a political investigation of past crimes that have political overtones.

The technique, itself, is irresponsible. They put on the witnesses that make for the best TV and press coverage — expressing all manner of personal opinions not founded on an iota of evidence.

They are now doing the work for which the committee was really created (at a cost of millions) — producing and exploiting publicity, currently by revising the Martin Luther King murder.

But the really dangerous can of worms is another of their "cases" — the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The evidence is overwhelming that Lee Harvey Oswald shot the President, and the series of scenarios dreamed up (profitably) by a number of people over the years have simply nailed down more absolutely two essential facts: (1) The Warren commission was rushed and somewhat careless, (2) regardless of which, in fact, Lee Harvey Oswald was the killer.

The only real open question is whether there were other gunmen, and a broader conspiracy.

That question with the data now available is really dynamite — because to raise the question of a wider conspiracy cannot possibly escape bringing in the Communist Secret Police.

One of the major areas of neglect by both the Warren Commission and the sensationalists reviving other scenarios has been a thorough examination of the background of Oswald, himself — and that has finally been done.

The clear result backed by a mass of hard evidence is that Oswald was a "Marxist" and a sympathizer from his middle-teen, that his Marine Corps service included highly specialized and very sensitive assignment involving secret information and close association with the Top Secret U-2 flights, that he defected to the Soviet Union in possession of information high on the KGB priority list, that his "diary" of his years in the Soviet Union was phoned up, that by a suspicious circumstance a "ranking" KGB officer defected right after the assassination to "confirm" the Oswald diary and assure us that the KGB had "no contact at all" with Oswald in Russia or elsewhere.

He got out of Russia with everybody's blessing and no trouble at all, and so did his brand new

Russian bride which was as unusual as his getting around the world and into Russia so efficiently in the first place.

He visited the Cuban and Russian embassies in Mexico city just a week before the assassination, and apparently was running back and forth between them, after what has clearly been a calculated program to ingratiate himself with the Cubans.

Finally, as we now know, *simultaneously with these events*, the CIA was negotiating with a Cuban "defector" about assassinating Fidel Castro — an agent who turned out apparently to be a "plant" checking out our intentions — and that on the eve of the Kennedy assassination, Fidel Castro in a public speech accused the U.A. government of plotting to kill him and bluntly warned that "two can play at that game."

That is the cold record that has emerged from the piles of suppressed documents which were freed up in the splash on new "information" laws that followed Watergate.

So, it would seem that either Oswald killed President Kennedy under the impression that this would finally convince the Cubans that he ought to be a big shot in Castro's Cuba — the role he was known to be actively seeking in the months leading up to the assassination — or *if there really was a broader conspiracy* then he must actually have been a direct agent of either the KGB or the Cuban DINA.

So, the "bigger conspiracy", thing — which would have made responsibility wide open on the information of just a couple of years ago — becomes pure political dynamite in 1978 — seemingly aimed chiefly at Fidel Castro!

When the assassination committee started its operations, the key facts about Oswald's personal history and activities were not known.

Now, they seem to be nailed down very tightly — making the risks involved in gamesmanship with the "conspiracy theory" potential dynamite of a kind quite different from what the instigators of the probe had in mind.

Not too mention the detailed development of the involvements of the Kennedy administration in assassination policies — at a time when there is expected to be a showdown about the next presidential selection involving Senator Kennedy.

They have a time bomb on their hands, in more ways than one.

C.L. Dancey

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page A-4

Journal Star

Peoria, Ill.

Date: 8/19/78

Edition:

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-561-PP

Submitting Office: ST

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

AUG 22 1978

FBI - SPRINGFIELD

FBI/DOJ

original sent
to Bureau
8/23/78
JH

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Assassinations committee House panel subpoenas

Quincy

By PAUL COLGAN

Ted Crowley, 71, of 315 N. Third, has been subpoenaed to testify before the House Assassinations Committee in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 7.

Crowley Thursday said he had no idea what the committee wanted. He expected to testify on his early associations with James Earl Ray, the confessed slayer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"I don't know what I could help them with," Crowley said.

Crowley, who declined to be photographed by The Herald-Whig, said he knew the Ray family when they lived in Quincy during Ray's youth.

Ray was born in Alton 50 years ago and went to school in Ewing, Mo. He lived in Quincy during his early manhood.

"I remember his grandfather and his mother,"

Crowley said.

The House Assassinations Committee would not comment on the Crowley subpoena. Medill News Service reporter David Bralow said he was told no comment is made on a subpoena until the person testifies.

Crowley said he knew nothing about Ray's whereabouts during the time of the King assassination in Memphis in 1968.

Ray denied he killed King during testimony before the House Assassination Committee earlier this month. Ray is currently serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee prison for the King slaying. He confessed to the slaying when arrested in 1968.

Now he claims a mysterious

"Raoul" was the mastermind behind a conspiracy to kill King.

Crowley said he saw Ray several times before 1968. "He was here on a lot of occasions," Crowley said.

Crowley said he didn't understand how his testimony on Ray's youth could aid the committee's investigation.

"It is a matter of record," he said. "How could I throw any light on it."

Crowley said the assassina-

tions committee is on a fishing expedition in wanting his testimony: "They are just flying around the country interviewing people," he said.

He said the investigation, which is expected to cost \$4 to \$5 million, was unnecessary.

Crowley is the former operator of Gem Tavern which was located on North Fifth in Quincy. He lost his liquor license in 1976 after he pleaded guilty to a charge of keeping a place of prostitution.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 12-B

Quincy Herald -
Whig

Quincy, Ill.

Date: 8/31/78

Edition:

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-561-889

Submitting Office: SI

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 5 1978	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alton robbery seen as source of Ray's money

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House Assassinations Committee has gone further than the FBI in showing a single bank robbery could have financed the travels of James Earl Ray, the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, a committee member said today.

The committee, in recess today, plans to devote its Friday hearing to evaluating the investigations by the FBI, local police and other agencies into King's assassination in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

Lack of proof of where Ray got money for thousands of miles of travel by car and plane after his escape from a Missouri prison on April 23, 1967, until his capture in London on June 8, 1968, has fueled theories he had an accomplice.

"There is no evidence that Ray financed himself by a series of small robberies, which is the conclusion of the Justice Department report," Rep. Floyd Fithian, D-Ind., told UPI in an interview.

"However, I think the committee has gone further both in questioning Ray and looking at other evidence pertaining to the possibility of a single bank robbery at Alton, Ill., having been the source of his funds," Fithian said.

Fithian said this was the idea behind questions he asked Wednesday while Edward M. Evans, the chief committee investigator, reported on the FBI's failure to link Ray to a single holdup in this country.

The Bank of Alton was robbed of about \$27,000 by two men wearing stocking masks on July 13, 1967. The robbery remains officially unsolved.

The bank robbery was similar to five others in which Ray's brother John was involved, with Ray's brother Jerry taking part in at least one, Evans said. He said all occurred near Alton, which was Ray's home.

Evans' second point was that

Ray had been washing dishes for \$85 a week prior to the Alton robbery. The day after the robbery he bought a \$210 car in nearby East St. Louis, Ill., and left for Canada.

Evans pointed out a three-way split in the bank robbery loot would provide Ray with \$9,000. Painsstaking investigation shows Ray spent \$9,607 during 14 months as a fugitive but had known resources of only \$1,238.54.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8-A

Quincy Herald -
Whig

Quincy, Ill.

Date: 11/16/78

Edition:

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or 44-561-890

Classification: 44-561

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

NOV 27 1978