RONALD E. SHERK

Portland, Oregon

pp. 2534 - 2581

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B 10-14

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: ROMALD E. SHERK Office: Portland, Oregon
Date: 5/23/68

Field Office File #: 157-380 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
Murder of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING,
April 4, 1968

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

Synopsis: Investigation to identify person or persons responsible for murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, 4/4/68; or to locate and apprehend JAMES EARL RAY, negative to date, State of Oregon. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

-P-

DETAILS:

AT PORTLAND, OREGON, AND THROUGHOUT STATE OF OREGON

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PD 157-183
ME 44-1987
RES:jms
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ERNEST EMIL JOSELLIS - SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

JOSELLIS shot himself, not seriously, on the early morning of April 16, 1968 while seated in his car in the southeast section of Portland. He claimed to Portland Police officers that he had been shot by "Communists" and to have been sent to the United States from East Germany by "Communists" to murder Negro civil rights leaders.

JOSELLIS, who is Portland Police Number 50226-M, was recently released from Dammasch State Mental Hospital, Wilsonville, Oregon, after voluntary commitment and is considered psychotic and dangerous.

Investigation at his place of employment shows he was working the graveyard shift at Columbia Steel and Casting Company from 11:30 p.m., March 30, 1967 to 6:00 a.m., March 31, 1968. He quit his employment at Columbia Steel and Casting Company at noon, April 2, 1968.

His ex-wife, LUCILLE MARCONI, stated to Special Agent RONALD E. SHERK on April 17, 1968, that JOSELLIS has telephoned her or seen her nearly every day since April 2, 1968 and was never out of Portland, Oregon, during April, 1968.

JOSELLIS was under sedation and could not be interviewed April 17, 1968, but Special Agent RONALD E. SHERK observed him in the Portland Sanitarium Hospital, Portland, Oregon. He has a pug nose, very long wavy blond hair, and facial characterists entirely dissimilar from those of JAMES EARL RAY.

JOSELLIS is considered positively eliminated as a suspect in this case.

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RUTH E. GALT and LOWELL T. GALT - SUSPECTS - ELIMINATED

On April 12, 1968, Mrs. MARITA BUTLER, First National Bank of Oregon, Tillamook Branch, Tillamook, Oregon, telephoned Special Agent in Charge W. B. SOYARS, JR., Portland FBI Office, in response to Portland circular letters to all financial institutions concerning ERIC STARVO GALT. She stated that one RUTH E. GALT had on April 3, 1968, opened a checking account giving the address "house on hill", Oceanside, Oregon. This is a motel.

Subsequently, on the same day, Mrs. BUTLER called again stating that additional checking had been done by the bank and that RUTH E. GALT was married to LOWELL T. GALT who had been employed for 20 years by the U. S. Census Bureau.

In view of the fact that the name GALT has been determined to be an alias of JAMES EARL RAY, no further action will be taken concerning this lead.

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ERICK GAULT - SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY GEORGE F. WICK, PORTLAND, OREGON

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

On March 19, 1968 at about 6:00 p.m., GEORGE F. WICK, a new car salesman for Fred Bauer Chevrolet Company, 1850 N. Lombard Street, Portand, Oregon, telephoned Special Agent in Charge W. B. SOYARS, JR., FBI Portand Office, and stated he had been contacted by an ERICK GAULT on March 11, 1968, concerning the purchase of a used car.

Special Agent RONALD E. SHERK immediately went to the Fred Bauer Chevrolet Company and interviewed Mr. WICK. WICK who is age 62 and apparently a sober and solid citizen, has sold cars in the Portland area for many years. At about 7:30 p.m., March 11, 1968, WICK received a telephone call from a person who wanted to talk to a salesman. The caller stated that his name was ERICK GAULT, that he was passing through town, was calling from a bar and was stopping at a motel on Union Avenue, Portland, Oregon. He said he did not know the name of the address of the motel. He stated he was looking for a 1964 Chevrolet station wagon with air conditioning and had $1600 in cash. He said he had a Mustang, but did not desire to trade it in as he was going to give it to his brother. WICK told the caller that he thought he knew where he could get such a car and invited the caller to the showroom. WICK then called BOB INMAN, 5406 N. E. Jessup Street, Portland, Oregon, telephone 282-0409; but found that the station wagon INMAN had for sale was a 1963 Ford Country Squire and had no air conditioning.

The individual who called himself ERICK GAULT arrived at the Fred Bauer Chevrolet showroom alone about 8:00 p.m. the same night and said he was not interested in the Ford. He stayed only a short time and said he would contact WICK on the following day. Nothing further was ever seen of GAULT by WICK.

WICK saw the car "GAULT" was driving and thinks it was a light colored Mustang with California plates, but could not be sure about either since he was not planning to take the car in trade.

WICK was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that the above suspect is definitely not identical with RAY. He described the above suspect as follows:

Name	ERICK GAULT
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	28-35 years
Height	5'7" (possible one inch shorter)
Weight	185 pounds (obese with a large paunch)
Eyes	Not noted
Hair	Light brown (receding noticeably at temples)
Complexion	Medium (sunburned or tanned)
Dress	Light sports shirt, open collar, color not noted; plaid sports jacket, varied colors, colors not noted; dark trousers; shoes not noted; sloppy appearance; accent not noted.

WICK is an Oregonian by birth.

Although the description does not fit and RAY's Mustang had already been recovered in Atlanta, Georgia before March 11, 1968, a squad of Agents checked all motels on Union Avenue, Portland, on March 20, 1968, looking for an "ERICK GAULT" registration or an out-of-state Mustang registration on pertinent dates which might fit with the information furnished by WICK. Results were entirely negative.

ALVIN A. JOHNSON - SUSPECT

On April 23, 1968, GLENDORA SMITH, Postmaster, Grass Valley, Oregon, stated that one ALVIN A. JOHNSON came to her post office seeking to obtain a letter, which he had written from WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA in care of General Delivery to a friend of his. He said the friend was not coming to Grass Valley, Oregon as he had thought and he wanted to get the letter back. She did not give him the letter because of postal regulations. She believed JOHNSON resembled photographs she had seen of JAMES EARL RAY.

Sheriff LEO ROBERTS, Sherman County, Wasco, Oregon, stated on April 23, 1968, that he had at that date stopped an old Chevrolet pickup truck and checked JOHNSON out. Sheriff ROBERTS stated that JOHNSON had proper identification for the vehicle, which bore Washington license GOO-072. The sheriff, who has photographs and identifying data concerning RAY, stated JOHNSON did not resemble RAY in any respect in that he was shorter, lighter, has black-greying hair and definitely hazel eyes.

However, in view of the importance of this matter Seattle was requested by communication dated April 24, 1968, to determine the registered owner of Washington license GOO-072 and if JOHNSON is the registered owner, determine if the vehicle was registered to JOHNSON prior to April, 1967, the month in which RAY escaped from confinement.

UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY
ARTHUR BROWN, CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA

On April 29, 1968, at approximately 3:10 p.m. ARTHUR BROWN, Post Office Box 1032, Crescent City, California, telephone Crescent City 4163, telephonically contacted the Medford, Oregon FBI Resident Agency and informed SA JAMES J. MULLANEY as follows:

At 2:45 p.m. on April 29, 1968, he was having lunch at Glenn's Bakery and Coffee Shop, 3rd and H Street, Crescent City, California. An individual resembling JAMES EARL RAY sat next to him and drank a cup of coffee and left.

He stated this suspect was wearing a checkered gray sports coat with gray slacks and white shirt. He said the suspect had dark hair and fit the description and appearance of RAY as set forth in the newspapers and on television.

Mr. BROWN stated he was unable to determine what type of vehicle this suspect was driving since he had to pay his bill for his lunch and by the time he did that the man had gone. He stated the suspect appeared very nervous and that he had a side and front view of the man and felt he look just like RAY. The above information was furnished to the San Francisco Office by communication dated April 29, 1968.

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JAMES ALLEN JOHNSTON - SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

On May 13, 1968, Mr. AL JOHNSON, 6341 S.W. Wilbur Street, telephone 244-8456, telephoned SAC WILLIAM B. SOYARS, JR. He stated that he is a retired police officer and works part-time at Alpenrose Dairy, Portland, Oregon.

He stated that sometime last week the dairy hired a new man who JOHNSON thinks resembles photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that this suspect has a large black mustache and fits the general description of RAY.

SAs RONALD E. SHERK and KARL B. MC LEOD went to the Alpenrose Dairy, 6140 Shaddock Road, Portland, Oregon, on May 13, 1968. The new employee with the mustache was determined to be JAMES ALLEN JOHNSTON. JOHNSTON was located and interviewed. He bears a superficial resemblance to photographs of RAY in that his nose is similar; however, he is much younger having been born November 4, 1944 at Detroit, Michigan and is 23 years of age. He has no dimple or cleft in his chin and is six feet tall. He is definitely not identical with RAY. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force and his Air Force serial number is 16747588.

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UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY JAMES STANTON LEONARD, EUGENE, OREGON

AT EUGENE, OREGON

On April 16, 1968, JAMES STANTON LEONARD, 1188 Cottonwood Street, Eugene, who is a chemical engineer at Weyerhaeuser Company, Springfield, Oregon, contacted Special Agent JAMES R. JAY at the Eugene, Oregon Resident Agency of the FBI and furnished the following information:

In early April, 1968, Mr. LEONARD was attending an American Chemical Society meeting at San Francisco, California. On the night of April 4, 1968, at approximately 12 midnight, LEONARD stopped at the Extension Twenty One, a tavern on Gary Street.

LEONARD described the tavern as follows:

When you enter, directly facing the bar there are approximately six stools along the front side of the bar. LEONARD sat in the second stool from the left next to the bar. There were two white males seated in the third and fourth stools from the left. The males are described as follows:

Number 1:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Weight	180 pounds (muscular)
Complexion	Very ruddy and weather beaten
Face	hook nose
Age	early 50's
Dress	Leather or corduroy waist length jacket; dirty shirt and pants (color unknown, work-type clothes); work-type cowboy boots (low heel); cowboy hat

Characteristics	East Texas accent; may be missing teeth; ranch-type person and spoke in the idiom of a rancher

Number 2:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Weight	Approximately 180 pounds
Build	Stocky, muscular
Age	Early 40's
Hair	Black, slightly curly, looked shiny and greasy
Face	Round
Dress	Sports shirt and slacks, color unknown
Characteristics	Louisiana accent; more intelligent looking than Number 1

The pair were apparently slightly drunk and were having an altercation with the bar maid. They talked of putting a shotgun across the bar at the bar maid and wondered what her reaction would be. They further talked of guns in general. The conversation turned to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEONARD overheard Number 1 state "He said he would do it, but I didn't think he would." Number 2 stated, "I didn't think he would do it." The conversation continued.

LEONARD only heard parts of the conversation and at another time, Number 2 stated to Number 1 "Now you are talking like a "cajon". For a time, they spoke in Ranch Spanish.

LEONARD explained this is a type of Spanish utilized by ranch people in Texas who employ Mexicans. It is a form of "pidgeon" Spanish.

LEONARD attempted to engage the pair in conversation without success. LEONARD further stated that the bar was very dark and he could not provide a better description of the two. He does not feel the bar maid knew the pair but would surely remember them as she had a definite argument with them and at one time walked away in anger.

LEONARD stated he is from Texas and is almost certain that they spoke with an East Texas and Louisiana accent respectively.

The above information was furnished to the San Francisco Office by communication dated April 16, 1968.

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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. GLADYS HARRISON, COOS BAY, OREGON, WHOSE MAIDEN NAME WAS GAULT

By communication dated April 15, 1968, the Sacramento Office stated that they had interviewed a Mr. and Mrs. WESLEY I. GAULT at Salmon River, California, who did not know of any relative by the name of ERIC STARVO GALT. They suggested that WESLEY GAULT's older sister, Mrs. GLADYS HARRISON, whose maiden name was GAULT, be interviewed since she has the names and address of all of their relatives.

AT COOS BAY, OREGON

Mrs. GLADYS HARRISON, 815 Elrod Street, informed SA LE ROY R. ELLIOTT on April 17, 1968, that her maiden name is GAULT (not GALT) and she knows of no family named GALT or any member of her family who may have dropped the "u" from their name. She said she knows no member of her family named ERIC or STARVO.

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CHESTER JOHN LIS - SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

Mr. ROBERT M. HOOKER, a Portland businessman, 1365 Northwest 94th Avenue, came to the Portland Office on April 12, 1968, and suggested as a suspect one CHESTER J. LIS because of his resemblance to the artist's conception then appearing in the newspapers. HOOKER knew LIS in the Army in Korea in 1953. LIS, who was then psychotic andhad an extreme hatred of Negroes, went berserk in Korea and in the summer of 1953 was court martialed and allegedly sentenced to twenty years imprisonment in Leavenworth Penitentiary. He is believed to be now at large, but HOOKER has had no contact with him since 1953. LIS was from the State of New Jersey.

HOOKER described LIS as a white male American, age approximately 26 years in 1953, 5'10" to 6'0" tall, light complexion, sandy brown hair, 160 to 170 pounds, wiry build. HOOKER has no other information concerning LIS.

By communication dated April 14, 1968, the FBI Identification Division furnished the FBI Identification Record of one CHESTER JOHN LIS, FBI number 497 555 B, who was convicted of aggravated assault while in the United States Army in 1953 and hence is probably the same CHESTER J. LIS named as a suspect by Mr. HOOKER.

The FBI Identification Record of this individual shows arrests in New Jersey in 1961, 1964, and 1965, and he therefore can not be identical with JAMES EARL RAY who was confined in the Missouri State Penitentiary during those years.

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UNKNOWN SUSPECT IN SAN FRANCISCO REPORTED BY
KENSAL E. VAN HOLDE, CORVALLIS,
OREGON, APRIL 12, 1968

AT CORVALLIS, OREGON

On April 12, 1968, KENSAL E. VAN HOLDE, Professor, Biophysics, Oregon State University, 229 North 32nd Street, stated that at 9:45 AM, April 10, 1968, he left Palo Alto, California, on a commuter bus, company unknown, arriving at the Seventh Street Station, San Francisco, California, at 11:00 AM.

As he was standing in the aisle to leave the bus he observed a man who appeared similar to the pencil drawing of the unknown subject which appeared in newspapers early in this investigation. This suspect occupied a window seat about three seats in front of the long lateral seat on the left side of the bus. The bus stopped several times between Palo Alto and San Francisco, and Mr. VAN HOLDE does not know whether the suspect boarded at Palo Alto or later.

The suspect got off the bus at the Seventh Street Station, San Francisco, California, apparently without luggage or packages and was not seen thereafter by Mr. VAN HOLDE.

Mr. VAN HOLDE knew no one on the bus. He described the suspect as a white male American, age middle or late twenties, 5'8" to 5'10" tall, 130 to 140 pounds, frail build in appearance. Hair lightish brown, but some strands darker, slightly wavy on top, brushed straight back, receding moderately, giving widow's peak appearance, not newly cut, but not long, no sideburns. Eye color unknown. Complexion pinkish. Trace of small reddish mustache. Nose long, slim and slightly turned up. Face thin and delicate looking. Chin fairly long and pointed, but not prominent. Mouth

small, petulant, with slightly puffy lower lip. Tattoo on back of right hand, probably diagonal, "Ku Klux Klan" in squared block capitals, 1/4 to 3/8 inches high, usual blue tattoo color. Another complex design tattoo, nature unknown, on right forearm. Wore light weight, light colored sport shirt, not highly patterned; light weight, light tan slacks; light weight, light colored cloth jacket.

The above information was furnished to the San Francisco Office by communication dated April 12, 1968.

By communication dated April 15, 1968, the San Francisco Office advised that CLARENCE HUTCHINSON, 227 St. Charles Avenue, San Francisco, California, who was the driver of the Greyhound Bus which departed Palo Alto, California, at 9:45 AM, April 10, 1968, which is the only transportation company furnishing commuter service between San Francisco and Palo Alto, stated that none of the passengers on this trip resembled the drawing of the unknown subject which appeared in the newspapers insofar as he can recall. He stated that he did not know the identity of any passengers on this trip.

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INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN H. GALT

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

By communication dated April 11, 1968, the Salt Lake City Office requested interview with MARTIN H. GALT, who formerly resided at Kanab, Utah, and left that area approximately four years ago and presently resides at 950 Southwest 21st Avenue, Portland, Oregon. MARTIN H. GALT is said to be an employee of the United States Bureau of Land Management.

MARTIN H. GALT, 950 Southwest 21st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, a retired employee of the United States Bureau of Land Management, was interviewed on April 11, 1968, by SA RONALD E. SHERK. He is over 65 years of age and definitely not identical with the subject. He stated that he is not acquainted with any ERIC STARVO GALT or person of similar name.

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LOOK-ALIKE GREYHOUND BUS PASSENGER FROM SAN FRANCISCO NORTH ON APRIL 29, 1968

By communications from Sacramento, May 7, 1968, and from Seattle, May 10, 1968, information was received that a woman at Olympia, Washington, stated on May 3, 1968, that she traveled from San Francisco to Olympia, Washington, via Greyhound Bus leaving Gate 22 at San Francisco, California, at 10:20 PM, April 29, 1968. A man,allegedly resembling JAMES EARL RAY entered the bus after waiting at Gate 23 for the Portland bus with several other passengers.

The woman said that this suspect did not proceed beyond Portland, Oregon. She described the suspect as a white male American, 35 to 40 years of age, 5'8" to 5'10" tall, thin build, dark brown hair, in need of a hair cut and hair down back of neck, sprinkled with gray, definite widow's peak in front. He needed shaving and his beard was dark brown with a light brown mustache covering most of his upper lip with a "phony" appearance. His face was thin and tanned with an oily forehead, possibly coated by suntan makeup. He had sky blue eyes with a nose which appeared sharper than on the Identification Order. He wore buckskin colored shirt and pants and a sweater or jacket, with suede type casual shoes. He talked to no one on the bus and sat near the rear.

Portland was requested to interview bus driver THERON E. HAUTA who drove the bus from Redding, California, to Klamath Falls, Oregon, and STANFORD A. GOTTER, who drove the bus from Klamath Falls, Oregon, to Portland, Oregon.

The informant was of the opinion that this look-alike passenger disembarked at Portland, Oregon, and did not proceed north to Olympia on the same bus as the informant.

AT KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

On May 10, 1968, THERON E. MAUTA, Warden Road, who is a Greyhound Bus Driver, informed SA WILLIAM H. GRAY that he did drive the above bus from Redding, California, to Klamath Falls, Oregon, in the early morning hours of April 30, 1968. He was furnished a description of the unknown man who was observed by the informant on this bus and was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

He was unable to identify the suspect and stated that he has seen no one resembling JAMES EARL RAY riding on that bus or any other bus driven by him.

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

STANFORD A. GOTTER, Route 2, Box 191 B, Hillsboro, Oregon, informed SA RONALD E. SHERK on May 13, 1968, that he did drive the above bus from Klamath Falls, Oregon, to Portland, Oregon, in the early morning hours of April 30, 1968. He was furnished a description of the unknown man observed by the informant on this bus and was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that he is unable to identify the suspect suggested by the informant and does not recognize photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as anyone who rode on that bus or any other bus driven by him.

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JOHN KELLY, ALSO KNOWN AS
JIMMY - SUSPECT

On April 5, 1968, Mrs. GEORGIA HARDY, 4746 NE 91st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, furnished the following information, stating that [redacted]is of the utmost importance that she remain anonymous.

She has a brother, EDWARD E. O'FALLIN, address unknown in Memphis, Tennessee, telephone #362-1015, who is employed by the City of Memphis Water Department. O'FALLIN's wife's brother, JOHN KELLY, also known as JIMMY, is suspected by Mrs. HARDY as possibly being the assassin because of news reports that the assassin wore a grin.

She described KELLY as follows:

Race	White
Age	About 37
Height	5'8"
Hair	Light Brown
Complexion	Reddish

He is a veteran of the Korean War, a battle hero, fond of guns, "a little simple minded," and always wears a silly grin. KELLY resides with his parents, names and address unknown, in Forest City, Tennessee, and visits O'FALLIN in Memphis.

This information was furnished to the Memphis Office for evaluation by communication dated April 5, 1968.

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JOHN WILLIARD - SUSPECT

On April 6, 1968, Mrs. JOHN COCKRELL, 1112 East 20th Street, Eugene, Oregon, telephonically advised the Portland Office that after reading about the KING murder in the newspapers, she was reminded of JOHN WILLIARD that she knew at the University of Missouri during the late 1930's. He went from the University of Missouri to either the University of Arizona or Arizona State to set up a student bible class.

He was convicted of embezzling funds and was sent to Arizona State Penitentiary. She last saw him about 23 years ago in San Francisco, and has heard since that he is still residing there and spending most of his time in flop houses.

She described WILLIARD as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	Now 48 or 50 years of age
Height	5'11"
Build	Slender
Hair	Dark
Characteristics	Has silly grin, meticulous dresser, of religious nature, and psycotic

Mrs. COCKRELL has no idea where WILLIARD may be located but states she feels he is capable of instant crime.

This information was furnished to Memphis for evaluation by communication dated April 6, 1968.

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UNKNOWN SUSPECT REPORTED BY
JAMES BIGELOW, BILLINGS, MONTANA

By communications dated April 9, 1968 and April 10, 1968, the Butte Office stated that JAMES BIGELOW of Billings, Montana, stated that on April 5, 1968, at approximately 5:50 p.m., he observed an individual at the Portland, Oregon International Airport sitting in the front row of chairs near a telephone booth in the area of some television sets. He felt the individual might be identical with the subject in this case. BIGELOW gave only a general description and did not observe the suspect leave.

On April 12, 1968, SA RONALD E. SHERK contacted a large number of persons at the Portland International Airport and exhibited the photographs which were then available, namely, the ones taken at the bartender school at California in 1968.

After JAMES EARL RAY had been identified as the subject, additional photographs had been reviewed. Results were completely negative on both occasions.

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DONALD CHURCHILL SUSPECT - ELIMINATED

On April 11, 1968, information was received that one DONALD CHURCHILL appeared at Nehalem, Oregon, a small town on the Oregon coast, on the night of April 9, 1968, from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. CHURCHILL reportedly was similar in appearance to the sketch of the unknown subject which had appeared in newspapers and talked about the KING murder. CHURCHILL was interviewed on April 11, 1968, by SA FREDERICK A. FLETCHER and stated that he was in Washington, D.C. on April 4, 1968, to confer with his attorney, FRED C. SACKS, concerning a divorce. CHURCHILL appeared to be possibly mentally disturbed.

By communication dated April 12, 1968, the Washington Field Office advised that attorney FRED C. SACKS stated DONALD CHURCHILL contacted him personally and by telephone on April 3. and April 4, 1968, and that Holiday Inn records. Washington, D.C., show that CHURCHILL was a guest there April 4, and April 5, 1968. CHURCHILL is considered eliminated as a suspect.

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UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY
SAMUEL J. LINDLEY, PORTLAND, OREGON

On April 10, 1968, Mr. SAMUEL J. LINDLEY, 5431 S.E. 41st Avenue, Portland, Oregon, telephoned the Portland Office and stated that at about 12:15 p.m. that date he had seen a person at the Chuck Wagon Cafe at 60th Avenue and S.E. Foster Road, that looked very much like the man we were looking for in the KING case.

SA RALPH P. HIMMELSBACH was immediately dispatched to the Chuck Wagon Cafe where he interviewed the manager and two waitresses, the only employees in the establishment then, and he also interviewed four individuals in adjacent establishments. None of the individuals could recall seeing any person resembling the description of the unknown subject in this case.

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UNKNOWN SUSPECT SUGGESTED BY
GERALDINE MARIE TANNER

On April 10, 1968, GERALDINE MARIE TANNER, a prostitute then incarcerated in the Portland City Jail, Portland, Oregon, was interviewed by SA WILLIAM A. TENWICK. She made available a copy of a letter which she received from PEARL R. MILLER, also known as KATHY LAWTON, Room 52, London Lodge Motel, Broadway at 7th Street, Oakland, California. In the letter, the following quotation is contained: "I knew whites was going to kill that man," referring to Dr. KING.

This information was furnished on April 10, 1968, to the San Francisco Office.

By communication dated April 12, 1968, the San Francisco Office advised that they had located and interviewed PEARLIE REE MILLER, also known as KATHY LAWTON, who acknowledged that she was the author of the above-mentioned letter, but denied having any knowledge as to the identity of the subject.

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PASSPORTS - IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE and INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

In accordance with Bureau instructions issued April 18, 1968, personal contacts were made with the following on April 19, 1968:

Inspector LAWRENCE C. LURMO, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Portland, Oregon, by Special Agent in Charge W. B. SOYARS, JR.

U. S. District Court Clerk DONAL D. SULLIVAN, U. S. District Court, Portland, Oregon, who handles passport matters in Oregon.

All airlines, domestic and overseas at Portland International Airport, Portland, Oregon, including contacts with the Airport Police, car rental agencies, and the two bars at the airport.

Current wanted flyers concerning JAMES EARL RAY were left with all parties contacted. None recalled seeing RAY but promised to immediately contact the Portland FBI Office in the event he appears.

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CONTACTS WITH NARCOTIC INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES

In accordance with Bureau instructions on April 22, 1968, a supply of the most recent wanted flyers was shown to the following who promised to contact their informants concerning RAY:

BILL W. FREEMAN, Special Agent in Charge, U. S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, U. S. Courthouse, Portland, Oregon.

Lt. JACK STRUDGEON, Narcotics Bureau, Portland Police Department, Portland, Oregon.

No leads have been received from the above sources to date.

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INVESTIGATION IN VICINITY OF ROGUE RIVER, OREGON

By communication dated April 23, 1968, the Kansas City Office advised that JACK FOX LAMPHERE, Warsaw, Missouri, furnished the following information requesting that his identity not be disclosed to persons interviewed:

He stated that while serving sentence in the Missouri State Penitentiary, he became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY. He recalled that RAY frequently mentioned his liking for the Rogue River area of Oregon and got the impression that RAY had lived in that area and possibly had relatives there. He never heard RAY mention any relatives. RAY gave the impression that he was familiar with sawmill work in Oregon and "riding on a chair while sawing logs". LAMPHERE got the impression that Rogue River as referred to by RAY was a town in Oregon. RAY would talk about fishing and mentioned fishing in streams. LAMPHERE believed this to be trout fishing. RAY spoke of logging in a pond in the Rogue River area and spoke of sawmill type work in that area of Oregon of which he was fond.

The Kansas City Office advised that they have no information indicated that RAY has relatives or associates in Oregon.

There is a city named Rogue River in Southwestern Oregon. Ithas a population of about 700 and is in the center of the logging industry of Southwestern Oregon. A famous fishing river, namely, the Rogue River, runs through the city. There are numerous sawmills in Southwestern Oregon as well as other parts of the state inasmuch as logging is the principal industry in the State of Oregon.

Only small sawmills in this area have a man riding on the saw carriage back and forth as the log is sawed. For nearly the past 20 years, the "sawyer" has not ridden on the saw carriage. The man who rides is known as a "setter" and his job is to fit the "dogs" in the logs. He is given instructions by the "sawyer" by finger signals to set the log for cut (1 inch, 2 inch, 3 inch, 4 inch, etc.) by number

of fingers shown. The "sawyer" remains in a stationary position, operating the controls; he is a highly skilled and highly paid workman, and usually an older, experienced man. Even the job of "setter" is a key job and it is unlikely that RAY, who was only 31 years of age before his most recent incarceration, and who could have had only limited mill experience because of his frequent incarcerations, would have been given any such job in a mill.

All the larger mills have had automated saws for the past 25 years or more, and no one rides back and forth on the saw carriages of such installations.

The majority of the small mills, which would have been using the older type equipment prior to 1960 are so-called "gypo" mills, operate non-union, and frequently go out of business, change ownership, or change location. The chances of finding a small mill in the same location and with the same ownership as in 1960 are slim. This also applies to the chances of finding employment records.

For the above reasons, circularization through union sources will likely prove non-productive. However, should circularization through union sources be desired, it can be accomplished at Portland, Oregon, through the only two unions to which saw mill workers belong, and can be accomplished for the eleven Western states, through addressograph equipment available at Portland, Oregon.

Since many workers do not come to the attention of the unions, even in union plants, and since the majority of the smaller mills are non-union, a more effective method of circularization would be through employment groups including many non-union mills. The names and addresses of these employer groups have been obtained.

PD 157-183
MK 44-1987
RES:jms
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By communication dated April 23, 1968, the possibilities for the circularization of the logging industry were furnished to the Bureau, but no reply or authorization for such circularization has been received to date.

On April 23 and 24, 1968, Special Agent JAMES J. MULLANEY conducted an intensive investigation at Rogue River, Oregon and vicinity including contacts with all sawmills logging operations, and lumber workers' labor organizations. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were shown to all persons interviewed. No person recalled seeing RAY or furnished any information concerning RAY.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987

INVESTIGATION IN "HIPPIE" COMMUNITIES,
PORTLAND, OREGON

On April 24, 1968, instructions were received from the Bureau that investigation be conducted in all "Hippie" communities.

The only Hippie community in Oregon is a scattered one located primarily on the West Side of Portland, Oregon.

On April 25, 1968, specific assignments were made to seven Special Agents of the Portland Office who have informants or contacts within the Hippie community.

They immediately made extensive contacts throughout the Hippie community on April 25 and April 26, 1968. No persons were located who could furnish any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

-30-

SPANISH LANGUAGE WANTED FLYERS
RE: JAMES EARL RAY

The only concentration of Spanish speaking persons in the State of Oregon is located in Malheur County at the extreme eastern edge of Oregon where large numbers of Mexican and individuals of Mexican nationality are employed in the sugar-beet industry.

On April 23, 1968, SA FRANK DAVIS, who is Resident Agent covering Malheur County, made a wide-spread distribution of the Spanish Language Wanted Flyers concerning JAMES EARL RAY in all the principal Post Offices, City Halls and labor camps in Malheur County.

No leads have arisen as a result of this distribution.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987

REVIEW OF ITSMV CASES FOR CARS STOLEN IN GEORGIA SINCE MARCH 23, 1968

A review was made on April 29, 1968 of the 24 pending and closed files concerning cars recovered in the State of Oregon from March 23, 1968 through April 26, 1968. No cases were located concerning vehicles stolen from the State of Georgia.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987
RES:cpg
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CHECK OF OREGON DRIVERS LICENSE RECORDS
CONCERNING MALES BORN JULY 20, 1931

In accordance with instructions received from the Bureau on April 16, 1968, arrangements were made with Mr. LARRY EDWARDS, Data Processing Project Leader, Department of Motor Vehicles, Salem, Oregon, to obtain a list of males born July 20, 1931, as contained in the records of the Oregon Motor Vehicles Drivers License Division. In accordance with the instructions furnished by the Bureau, Negroes, males over 6'0" tall and males under 5'7" tall were not included in the list.

Mr. EDWARDS furnished a list of twenty-seven white males born July 20, 1931, and with the above height limits.

Leads were set out on April 18, 1968, to have these twenty-seven men checked out as suspects in this case.

On April 20, 1968, the following receipt of information from the Bureau advised that JAMES EARL RAY, born March 10, 1928, had been positively identified as identical with "ERIC STARVO GALT." Investigation concerning these twenty-seven suspects was discontinued since the date July 20, 1931 was no longer relevant to this investigation.

By communication dated May 3, 1968, the Memphis Office concurred with this decision since this lead is no longer of value.

PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:tme
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ISSUANCE AND CANCELLATION OF APB
RE ERIC STARVO GALT AND WHITE MUSTANG

Immediately upon the receipt April 11, 1968, of instructions that an All Points Bulletin be issued for ERIC STARVO GALT and a 1966 white Mustang hardtop, 1968 Alabama license 1-38993, Vehicle Identification Number 6T07C190647, an APB was issued at 2:03 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Immediately upon receipt of instructions on April 11, 1968, that any APB concerning GALT and the Mustang be cancelled, a cancellation APB was sent out at 3:35 p.m., April 11, 1968.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987

REVIEW OF UNIDENTIFIED LATENT FINGERPRINT FILES

Arrangements were made with the appropriate offices of all law enforcement agencies in the State of Oregon, which maintain unidentified latent fingerprint files to compare their unidentified latent fingerprints received since April 23, 1968 to date against the fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY as they appear on IO #4182. No identifications were effected.

The only agencies in the State of Oregon which maintain unidentified latent fingerprint files and the agencies contacted as above are:

Portland, Oregon Police Department;

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Portland, Oregon;

Oregon State Bureau of Identification, Salem, Oregon;

Klamath Falls, Oregon Police Department.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987
RES:cpg
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CHECK OF OREGON VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS RE
MALES BORN JULY 20, 1931

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

On Monday, April 15, 1968, Mr. E.R. LEE, Registration Supervisor, Oregon State Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Office Building, made available the books containing the original birth records of all persons born on July 20, 1931, in the State of Oregon.

These records were personally reviewed by SA RONALD E. SHERK. No record of an ERIC STARVO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, or HARVEY LOWMYER, as well as all variations of these names, was found. The names of the parents of all males born July 20, 1931, were also examined and nothing of significance was noted.

PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:lbt
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CONTACTS WITH NEWS MEDIA

Immediately following receipt of instructions to do so on April 17, 1967, all newspapers and television stations in Portland, Oregon, were furnished with copies of the two photographs of "ERIC STARVO GAULT" then in the possession of the Portland Office. Additional copies of these photographs were made and were mailed to newspapers and television stations outside the city of Portland on April 18, 1968.

On May 7, 1967, the proof and mat article concerning JAMES EARL RAY was mailed to all newspapers in Oregon.

On May 8, 1967, the two new photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, taken in 1967 in Mexico and in 1958 in California were mailed to all television stations and newspapers in Oregon.

It was noted by monitoring the television and press that the television stations and all daily newspapers in Oregon received the above photographs through their wire services and used them even in advance of receipt of the material furnished by the Portland Office. It was also noted that the television stations and daily press have been giving concentrated and daily coverage to the developments in this case, including both locally written articles and editorials and syndicated material.

There are eleven television stations, twenty-one daily newspapers, and 102 weekly newspapers in Oregon, all of which were fully furnished the material as above.

PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:lbt
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HARVEY LOWMEYER OR
LOWMYER - SUSPECT

Following receipt of information on April 8, 1968, that a rifle abandoned near the scene of this crime was purchased by an individual using the name [redacted]MEYER or LOWMYER, specific assignments were made and carried out immediately and the following were checked, all with negative results:

(1) All city directories in Oregon

(2) All telephone directories in Oregon

(3) Records of Oregon Drivers License Division, Salem, Oregon

(4) Records of Oregon Motor Vehicle Division, Salem, Oregon

(5) Voter Registration Records in all of the 36 counties in Oregon

(6) Credit and criminal checks in all of the law enforcement agencies and credit bureaus in Oregon

PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:lbt
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ERIC STARVO GALT - SUSPECT

Immediately upon receipt on April 11, 1968, of information that one "ERIC STARVO GALT" was a suspect in this case, specific assignments were made and the following sources were contacted, all with negative results:

(1) All city directories in Oregon

(2) All telephone directories in Oregon

(3) Records of Oregon Drivers License Division, Salem, Oregon

(4) Records of Oregon Motor Vehicle Division, Salem, Oregon

(5) Voter Registration Records in all of the 36 counties in Oregon

(6) Credit and criminal checks in all of the law enforcement agencies and credit bureaus in Oregon

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PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:lbt
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JAMES EARL RAY
ALSO KNOWN AS - SUSPECT

Immediately upon receipt of information on April 19, 1968, that "ERIC STARVO GALT" is in fact JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT, W. C. HARBON, HARVEY LOWMYER, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JOHN WILLARD, and "JIM," specific assignments were made and the following sources were re-contacted, all with negative results:

(1) All city directories in Oregon

(2) All telephone directories in Oregon

(3) Records of Oregon Drivers License Division, Salem, Oregon

(4) Records of Oregon Motor Vehicle Division, Salem, Oregon

(5) Credit and criminal checks in all of the law enforcement agencies and credit bureaus in Oregon

PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:lbt
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BOMBING SUSPECTS
PORTLAND DIVISION

Immediately upon receipt of instructions, April 8, 1968, that all bombing suspects in this Division be checked out, a review was made of the Portland files and it was determined that Portland presently has no bombing suspects.

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PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:tme
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CHECK OF OREGON MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATION DIVISION RE WHITE MUSTANG

In response to instructions, SA VERN F. DAVIS made inquiry at the Oregon Motor Vehicle Division, Salem, Oregon, on April 11, 1968, for possible re-registration of the white 1966 Mustang registered to ERIC STARVO GALT. Results were negative.

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PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:tme
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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In accordance with Bureau instructions, a circularization was made April 10, 1968, to all financial institutions in the State of Oregon, asking that they check their records to determine if they have ever had a checking account, savings account, or other records of HARVEY LOWMEYER (or LOWMYER), or ERIC STARVO GALT.

Response was completely negative.

Financial institutions in the State of Oregon circularized were:

Banks	318
Savings and Loan Associations	34
Credit Unions	31
Total	383

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987

INTERVIEWS WITH UNITED STATES RESIDENTS WHO WERE AT HOTEL RIO PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1967

AT PORTLAND, OREGON

Mr. and Mrs. JOHN WADDINGHAM, 955 Westwood Drive, informed SA RONALD E. SHERK on April 30, 1968, that they stayed at the Hotel Rio Puerto Vallarta, Mexico only the night of October 27, 1967, during a vacation trip to Mexico. They do not recognize JAMES EARL RAY by description, name, aliases or photograph as anyone they have ever seen at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico or elsewhere.

The only U.S. residents with whom they had contact at the Hotel Rio were Mr. and Mrs. HARVARD PALMER of Mercer Island, Washington, with whom they had dinner on the night of October 27, 1967.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987

REVIEW OF UNSOLVED OREGON
BANK ROBBERY CASES

On April 24, 1968, SA ELVIN L. BARTON, bank robbery coordinator of the Portland Office, reviewed all unsolved bank robbery matters in the Portland Division occuring since April 1, 1967. The only case in which JAMES EARL RAY appears to in anyway approximate the description of the subject is a case entitled: "UNSUB; U.S. National Bank of Oregon, Metropolitan Branch, Portland, Oregon, 8/11/67, BR" PDfile 91-2228.

SA JACK T. HAZEN, who is the case agent in the above entitled bank robbery case, has shown the photograph of RAY to the lone witness in this case but the witness expressed no interest in the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY.

PD 157-183
ME 44-1987
RES:cpg
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CONTACTS WITH DANCING SCHOOLS, STATE OF OREGON

In accordance with instructions received from the Bureau April 14, 1968, all dancing schools in the State of Oregon which offer dancing instruction to adults were contacted. The respective proprietors were shown the photographs of the subject then available, namely the photographs taken at the bartender's school in California in early 1968, and were furnished with the descriptive and background data concerning the subject as then known.

None of the dancing school proprietors contacted recalled ever having had any contact with an ERIC STARVO GALT or anyone resembling him.

Eleven dancing schools were contacted in Portland, Oregon. Eighteen dancing schools located in Oregon in cities outside of Portland were contacted.

PD 157-380
ME 44-1987
RES:lbt
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THERMO SEAL MARKING TAPES

Immediately upon receipt of instructions, April 9, 1968, that investigation should be conducted to determine whether laundry marks were made by a Thermo Seal Marking Machine, the following investigation was conducted by SA ELVIN L. BARTON:

It was determined from LARRY H. GIRVAN, Laundry and Dry Cleaning Department, Van Waters and Rogers, 3950 NW Yeon Boulevard, Portland, Oregon, that only sixteen laundry or dry cleaning establishments in Oregon use Thermo Seal Marking Machines. A list of these sixteen businesses was obtained from Mr. GIRVAN, and all sixteen were contacted telephonically. In each instance, the laundry marking involved was gone over with the company representative carefully and in all instances, the persons contacted advised that this is not their laundry mark. All stated that their Thermo Seal Marking Machines began with either one numeral or two numerals rather than a letter such as "D" or "O". None of them use "O" as a prefix.

By communication dated April 10, 1968, the Albany Office furnished a list of businesses in Oregon which allegedly use Thermo Seal Marking Machines. A check of the file disclosed that all of them had been contacted as above except the Eagle Cap Laundry and Cleaners, Enterprise, Oregon.

It was determined that the Eagle Cap Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Enterprise, Oregon, went out of business over a year ago. The former owner is GERALD GOODMAN who now works for the Umatilla Ordinance Depot, Umatilla, Oregon.

GERALD GOODMAN, Post Office Box 131, Hermiston, Oregon, informed SA RONALD E. SHERK that he went out of business, January 1, 1967, and no one has taken over the Thermo Seal Machine which GOODMAN formerly used. The machine actually has not been used since sometime in October, 1966.

GOODMAN stated that he never used a mark similar to the pertinent marks in this case in that he used only a lot number and date but never any letters.

PD 15 -380
ME 44-1967
RES:lbt
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THERMO SEAL MARKING TAPES
(Continued)

Immediately upon receipt, April 19, 1968, of information that a pillow case and bed sheet found in the trunk of the 1966 white Mustang registered to ERIC STARVO GRAY contained Thermo Seal laundry tapes, yellow in color, and contained the Code 20 R-3, all of the businesses in Oregon using Thermo Seal Machines were re-contacted and all advised that they had never used such a marking.

By communication dated April 26, 1968, the Seattle Office advised that a Thermo Seal Machine, formerly owned by Most Western Laundries, formerly Hoquiam Steam Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Hoquiam, Washington, had been sold in 1964 to Stacey's Cleaners, Portland, Oregon. Stacey's Cleaners had already been interviewed and was among the above described sixteen businesses previously contacted.

2:31