SPRINGFIELD

WILLIAM ROBERTS III

pp. 2725 - 2937

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III Office: Springfield
Date: May 24, 1968

Field Office File #: SI 44-561 Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY
IO 4182
WF 442-A
TOP TEN FUGITIVE
DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

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

Synopsis:

Springfield files reflect HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER located and interviewed and determined not identical with subject in this case. Birth and other pertinent records located for subject JAMES EARL RAY. Numerous files reviewed re family of JAMES EARL RAY and those within Springfield Division located and interviewed. Prison records checked re RAY. Contact being maintained with all relatives at this time. Information developed and furnished re actual and alleged past associates of RAY. Interviews with possible fellow inmates of RAYs at Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac, Illinois, negative. Information developed and set forth re BENNY K. PINKSTON and JOHN C. HEDIZER, who have made prior threats against MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Investigation conducted to eliminate numerous possible suspects and lookalikes to JAMES EARL RAY. Wife of ROBERT HOOD STRADER located and interviewed. Investigation continuing to locate CECIL RAY. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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I. HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER

On April 8, 1968, a check of Springfield Division indices reflected a reference to HARVEY LOHMEYER, white male, age 23 in 1955; 5' 8" tall; FBI #730 979A; home address, Palmyra, Illinois.

On April 13, 1968, a recheck of the records of the Illinois State Prison Farm, Vandalia, Illinois, regarding the sentence served by HARVEY LOHMEYER, inmate number 33316, FBI # 730 979A, was verified as June 5, 1951 to October 20, 1951. LOHMEYER was sentenced from Adams County, Quincy, Illinois, on a charge of riot.

His previous identification and arrest record contains only an arrest on August 10, 1959, by Adams County Sheriff's Office on the charge of robbery and the disposition for the charge is shown as "pending". His inmate number 33316 and FBI number 730 979A do not show other sentences at this institution for this person under the name LOHMEYER or in the alias file.

Also, on April 13, 1968, the records of the penitentiary show HARVEY LOHMEYER, Illinois State Penitentiary Menard Number 24525, received at Menard, May 19, 1955, to serve 2 to 5 years on a charge of burglary. He was paroled July, 1958. A review of the file for associates and correspondents reflects no information that LOHMEYER associated for corresponded with ERIC GALT.

On April 13, 1968, THOMAS R. LOHMEYER, DONALD L. LOHMEYER, WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR, all brothers of HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER, FBI #730 979 A were interviewed and all presently reside in Quincy, Illinois area. DONALD L. LOHMEYER is employed by Durst Dairy at Quincy, Illinois, and was working during period March 29, 1968 and April 4, 1968 and his attendance at work was verified. THOMAS R. LOHMEYER and WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR. are both employed by Monogram Industries, Quincy, Illinois, and both were in Quincy, Illinois, from March 29, to April 4, 1968.

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On April 12, 1968, investigation was conducted in the Quincy, Illinois area in an effort to locate HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER, FBI #730 979A.

Investigation showed that HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER has not been in the Quincy area for many years and that his last known place of residence was somewhere in the State of California.

On April 13, 1968, the records of the Quincy, Illinois Police Department, were reviewed and showed the following records for brothers of HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER:

WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR.

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	2/16/17
Place of Birth	Quincy, Illinois
Height	5' 10½"
Weight	180 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Medium
Tattoo	Two swords on left forearm
Occupation	Laborer, Monogram Industries 825 South Front Street Quincy, Illinois

The file showed the following arrests for WALTER LORMEYER, JR.:

DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
6-16-40	Selling liquor	$25 fine
10-2-43	Speeding	$10 fine
3-15-51	Peace disturbance	$25 fine
7-19-52	Careless driving	$15 fine
7-16-54	Reckless driving	Sentenced 90 days Vandalia State Prison Farm
3-16-55	Peace disturbance	$25 fine
8-23-59	Careless driving	$15 fine

The Quincy Police Department files showed the following physical description of DONALD LORMEYER:

RACE:	White
SEX:	Male
DATE OF BIRTH:	8-20-30
HEIGHT:	5'7"
WEIGHT	153 lbs.
HAIR:	Brown
EYES:	Brown

The file showed the following arrests for DONALD LORMEYER:

DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
4-26-47	Investigation	Released
1-29-51	Careless driving	$25 fine
4-29-52	Speeding	$20 fine
10-27-56	Speeding	$5

The files showed the physical description of THOMAS R. LOHMEYER as follows:

RACE:	White
SEX:	Male
AGE:	not shown
HEIGHT:	5'7½"
WEIGHT:	150 lbs.
HAIR:	Brown
EYES:	Brown
COMPLEXION:	Ruddy
HOME ADDRESS:	1501 North 4th St. Quincy, Ill.

The files showed the following arrest record for THOMAS R. LOHMEYER:

DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
6-28-45	B & E	Released
3-15-51	Peace disturbance	$25 fine
5-25-52	Peace disturbance	$10 fine
3-15-55	Peace disturbance	$15 fine

On 4-13-63 ELIZABETH ROTH, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., Quincy, Ill., furnished the following information concerning the LOHMEYERs in the files of her office:

WALTER RAY LOHMEYER, JR., in 1/63 was residing at 1877 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois. He presently owns his home at that address and is very slow in payment on credit bills. He has been employed by Monogram Industries, Quincy, Ill., for approximately 20 years. No information of any connections of WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR., outside Quincy, Illinois.

The file showed that THOMAS R. LOHMEYER's last known address was 1527 South Fifth Street, Quincy, as of 6/65. He later made inquiries concerning purchasing a home in Payson, Illinois. As of 4/63 a credit check showed he had been employed by Monogram Industries in Quincy for 11 years. Nothing was contained in the file that would indicate that LOHMEYER had ever lived anywhere except the Quincy area.

The credit bureau files showed that DONALD L. LOHMEYER was last known to reside at 1501 North Fourth Street, Quincy, Ill., as of 8/66. On 11/66 the records show he was employed as a laborer at Durst Dairy, Quincy, and his wife at Illinois Bell Telephone Co., Quincy, Ill. The file did not show any residence for DONALD LOHMEYER outside the Quincy, Ill., area.

On 4-13-68, CHARLES GARRIEL, Office Manager, Durst Dairy, Quincy, Ill., advised that DONALD L. LOHMEYER is employed by that company as a laborer and that he was working on 3-29-68 and 3-30-68 and 4/1-4/68. He advised that LOHMEYER did not work on 3-31-68 as that was his day off. He also advised that LOHMEYER has been a good employee for many years and was a very quiet individual and had not been involved in any violence during the period of time he was employed by Durst Dairy.

On 4-13-68, DONALD L. LOHMEYER was interviewed at his place of employment, Durst Dairy, Quincy, Ill. He advised he has not been out of the State of Illinois, for a number of months and that he was working on 3-29 and 3-30-68 as well as 4/1-4/68. He advised he has not seen his brother, HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER for many years and only knew that HARVEY was living somewhere in California. He stated during the period from 3-29-68 until 4-4-68 he had seen his brothers, WALTER R. LOHMEYER and THOMAS R. LOHMEYER almost on a daily basis and knew for certain that neither one had been outside the Quincy, Ill., area. He advised that the name ERIC STARVO GALT was completely unfamiliar to him and he has never known anyone by that name to be associated with any member of the LOHMEYER family. He also advised he has never known any member of his family other than HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER , to use the name HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER.

On 4-13-68 Mrs. WALTER R. LOHMEYER, JR., 1877 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Ill., was interviewed and furnished the following information:

Her husband has not been out of the State of Illinois since 3/29/68 and he has been employed regularly at Monogram Industries with the exception of the dates 3-29 and 30-68 and 4-1 and 4-2-68 during which dates the union was on strike at Monogram. She advised that on these dates her husband was on the picket line and did not leave Quincy. She stated also that THOMAS R. LOHMEYER is employed by Monogram Industries and was at work on 4-3 and 4-4-68 and was on the picket lines at Monogram Industries on 3/29-30/68 and 4/1-2/68.

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On 4-13-68 WALTER R. LOHEYER, JR., 1877 Hampshire St., was interviewed and advised he has not been out of the Quincy, Ill, area since 8-15-67. He advised he has been to work every day during work days with the exception of 3/29-30/68 and 4/1-2/68 on which dates he was on the picket line at Monogram Industries his place of employment in Quincy, Ill. He stated that on each date from 3-29-68 until 4-4-68, he saw his brother, THOMAS R. LOHEYER, who is also employed by Monogram Industries and was at work on each date with the exception of the dates the union was on strike.

On 4-13-68 BILL LONG, Personnel Manager, Monogram Industries, 825 South Front St., Quincy, verified that WALTER R. LOHEYER, JR., and THOMAS LOHEYER were employed on every date during the last two months, with the exception the days the union was on strike.

He advised on 3/29-30/68 and 4/1-2/68 both the LOHEYERS had been observed on the picket lines at Monogram Industries.

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On April 20, 1968, the following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA JAMES T. GOSS at Quincy, Illinois:

Five photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A were exhibited to WALTER R. LOHMEYER, 1877 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois. LOHMEYER advised that he has never to his knowledge seen this individual before and he did not remember ever hearing any member of the LOHMEYER family mention JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he specifically had never heard his brother HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER mention JAMES EARL RAY.

On April 20, 1968, photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A were exhibited to Mrs. RITA F. LOHMEYER, 1877 Hampshire Street, Quincy. She advised that she had never seen this individual to her knowledge in her life and had never heard any member of the LOHMEYER family mention him.

On April 20, 1968, photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443A were exhibited to THOMAS LOHMEYER, Payson, Illinois. He advised that the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, were not familiar to him and that he could not state that he had ever seen this individual in his life. He also advised that he had never heard his brother, HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER, mention this individual.

On April 20, 1968, the photographs of RAY were also exhibited to Mrs. THOMAS LOHMEYER, Payson, Illinois, who advised that she did not know RAY and had never heard any member of the LOHMEYER family mention RAY.

On April 20, 1968, DONALD LOHMEYER, 1507 North Fourth Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised while being interviewed by SA DAVIS and viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, that he did not recognize the photograph of RAY as anyone that he had ever known. He statedthat these photographs were vaguely familiar to him and that if he had everfseen RAY, it was only to see RAY and not that of an acquaintance. He advised that he had never heard his brother HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER ever mention JAMES EARL RAY.

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The photographs of RAY were also exhibited by SA DAVIS to Mrs. LUCY LOHMEYER, 1507 North Fourth Street, Quincy, Illinois and she advised that JAMES EARL RAY is not known to her and that the photographs of RAY are not familiar to her.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 21, 1968, EARL JACK HILAND, Operator, Sky Ride Inn Tavern, 236 Front Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that HARVEY EDWARD LOHMEYER was at one time a brother-in-law of HILAND and that HILAND was in jail at the Adams County Jail, Quincy, Illinois, with LOHMEYER and ROBERT KELLY in 1951 after they were involved in a brawl at the Barn Night Club, Quincy, Illinois. HILAND viewed a number of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that the photographs are vaguely familiar to him as someone he has seen in the past. He stated that he definitely is not an associate of RAY and has never been a close associate of RAY and stated he could not furnish any information concerning RAY, RAY's associates, activities, or whereabouts.

On April 21, 1968, ROBERT KELLY, 1210 Hampshire Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised he was arrested at the Barn Night Club in Quincy, Illinois, with JACK HILAND, HARVEY LOHMEYER and JOHN O'DEAR.

KELLY advised that he is not acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY and did not know anything concerning RAY's family, whereabouts, or activities.

On April 21, 1968, JOHN O'DEAR, Route 6, Quincy, Illinois, advised he had been arrested for causing a riot at the Barn Night Club in Quincy in the early 1950's and that he was arrested with HARVEY LOHMEYER, JACK HILAND and BOB KELLY. He stated that JAMES EARL RAY is not an associate of his. He also advised that he is not acquainted with RAY's relatives and could furnish no information concerning RAY.

II. JAMES EARL RAY

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

On April 19, 1968, Sergeant HAROLD COX, Alton Illinois Police Department, made available Alton Police Department file 7514 on James Earl Ray:

This file disclosed RAY was arrested by the Alton Police Department as early as 1949 and as recently as 1959 for charges ranging from traffic violations through vagrancy, burglary and armed robbery. A photograph of RAY taken in 1955 was made available and will be submitted to the case file.

Conference with officers at the Alton Police Department, disclosed that the last known residence for RAY's parents JAMES and LUCIE RAY was 1439 Locust Street, Quincy, Illinois. Contact with relatives on RAY's mother's side of the family with family name, MAHER, disclosed that LUCILLE MAHER RAY divorced RAY's father and is currently residing in East St. Louis, Illinois area but her exact whereabouts are unknown. Likewise, her new married name is unknown to relatives in Alton.

Mrs. MARGARET KESHNER, Circuit Clerk, Alton, Illinois, made available a photo copy of a Certificate of Birth, #123 which disclosed JAMES EARL RAY was born March 10, 1928, to JAMES RAY and LUCIE MAHER.

All Alton Police Department Units have been furnished a photograph of RAY and have been alerted to be on the lookout for him.

RAY is not known to have been in the Alton, Illinois area since 1959 when he perpetrated an armed robbery at Wagoner's Foodliner, an independent grocery store located on the corner of 9th and Alby Streets in Alton, Illinois.

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Previous investigation concerning RAY was conducted in January, 1968, under the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement classification and efforts at that time to locate WILLIAM MAHER at 1118 East 7th Street, disclosed that MAHER no longer resides in Alton, Illinois and all public source records failed to disclose any information concerning his current whereabouts.

The Kansas City Division indicated that RAY was employed by the International Shoe Company at Hartford, Illinois, prior to incarceration at the Missouri State Penitentiary. It is to be noted that the tannery operated by the International Shoe Company at Hartford is no longer in business having shut down operations approximately 2 years ago.

On April 20, 1968, a certificate of birth was located showing JAMES EARL RAY was born March 10, 1928, at Alton, Illinois to JAMES RAY and LUCIE MAHER.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE:

On April 19, 1968, a review of the files furnished by U.S. Probation and Parole Office, Springfield, Illinois, was made by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE: The following information was obtained for lead value:

Correspondence while JAMES EARL RAY was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary:

Aunt, Miss LUCY RYAN, 701½ Washington Street, address also given as 801 North 12th Street, Quincy, Illinois;

One time co-defendant was WALTER TERRY RIFE, who is incarcerated in Leavenworth, Kansas. RIFE now lives in Quincy, Illinois.

Employment:

Dryden Rubber Company from July, 1949 to September, 1949, Chicago, Illinois;

International Shoe Company, May, 1944, to December, 1945, Hartford, Illinois;

Neo Product Company, April, 1950 to July, 1950, Chicago, Illinois;

Arbey Corporation, July, 1950, to July, 1951, Chicago, Illinois;

Borg - Erickson Corporation, August, 1951, to May, 1952, Chicago, Illinois;

Relatives:

Uncle who resides in Quincy, Illinois, no name given

Other names and addresses

WILLIAM MAHER, 1118 East 7th Street, Alton, Illinois.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA JOSEPH L. MC KINSTRAY.

On April 23, 1968, EDNA BABB, coordinator, Selective Service System, St. Clair County, advised she had no record of JAMES EARL RAY under that name or any known aliases. She stated that the serial number given 16163123 indicates to her that the first "1" means the man was an enlistee and the second digit "6" indicates he enlisted in the Sixth Corp or Army area. She stated that she recalled that in 1948 inductees from this area were sent to Chicago, Illinois for induction and there was no induction center at East St. Louis, Illinois.

Mrs. ADA S. DANIELS, Selective Service System, Madison County, Illinois, advised she could locate no record identifiable with JAMES EARL RAY under that name or known aliases or through the above military service number or the birthdate March 10, 1928.

At East St. Louis, Illinois

Sergeant TOMMY CARROLL, Army Recruiter, 650 Missouri Avenue, advised that his office does not maintain old records concerning enlistments. He suggested that if the military service number of an individual is known, his record could be located at the Department of Defense, Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

On 4/22/68, ROY WEHRMAN, Personnel Manager, Quincy Compressor, Inc., Quincy, Illinois, advised that the records of his office show that JAMES EARL RAY, Social Security #334-22-6876, was employed by Quincy Compressor on 8/6/51 and that he quit work on 9/4/51. He was employed as a drill press operator on the night shift and his application was filled out by the foreman PETER DUNKER.

The records show that JAMES EARL RAY's home address was 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois. His education was listed as four years of grade school at Quincy, Illinois and four years of high school at Chicago, Illinois. Identities of the schools not shown.

The file showed previous employment with the Arvey Corporation or Avery Corporation, Chicago, Illinois, as a laborer for one year. Hourly wage $1.40, dates of employment not shown.

The previous employment to that was apparently with Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. Period of employment was four months, position, labor.

The file showed the following description of JAMES EARL RAY:

Race	White
Height	5'11"
Weight	150 pounds
Date of application	8/6/51

On 4/23/68, PETER DUNKER, Superintendent, Drill Press Room, after viewing the application of JAMES EARL RAY and the photographs of RAY advised that he cannot

remember or recall JAMES EARL RAY. He pointed out that RAY only worked in his department for three weeks and that many thousands of people had worked in the Drill Press Section of Quincy Compressor. He stated that the record showed that RAY FELKER would have been the immediate foreman of RAY.

On 4/23/68, RAY FELKER, supervisor, Quincy Compressor, Inc., advised that after viewing several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY that he does not remember JAMES EARL RAY and does not recall the name. He advised that there is no one presently employed in the drill press operation that was working on the night shift in 1951. He advised that he cannot furnish any further information concerning RAY.

On 4/23/68, ELSIE RUDER, clerk, Local Board #1, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the files of her office show that JAMES EARL RAY, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, registered with the local board #1 on 4/13/49. His home address was shown as 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois and his date of birth, 3/10/28 at Alton, Illinois. His closest relative was shown as LUCILLE RAY, his mother, at 214 Spring Street. His occupation was listed as student, American Television School, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file showed previous military service with the United States Army from 2/19/46 until 12/23/48 and this was with the First Division, 16th Infantry Regiment. The file showed RAY to be holder of Serial Number 16163129.

The file showed his description as:

Eyes	Blue
Hair	Black
Complexion	Ruddy
Height	5'11"
Weight	157 pounds

Mrs. RUDER advised that this was all of the information located at Local Board #1. The complete file would be located at the Illinois State Headquarters of the Selective Service System Springfield, Illinois.

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On April 18, 1968, the following individuals were recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and advised that they had no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY:

VIOLA MAYFIELD,
2716 Cherry Street,
Quincy, Illinois;

FLOYD RIFE,
226 Lind Street,
Quincy, Illinois;

Sergeant ROLAND HANSON
Quincy, Illinois Police Department,
Quincy, Illinois.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, JUDSON GREEN, Business Manager, Quincy Clinic, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the records of his office shows that JAMES RAY first visited the Quincy Clinic on August 15, 1938. The records showed he was in the third grade at that time and also the family consisted of two other living children and one that had died of burns. JAMES RAY was listed as the oldest member of the family and his home address at that time was in care of Mrs. JAMES RAY, 315 Cherry Street.

On this first visit, he was attended to by Dr. WHITAKER and at that time suffered from loss of consciousness, sudden onset, both legs withdrawn. He was unconscious for thirty minutes and jerked and twitched with no biting of tongue. He did not soil his clothes and later had no memory of this attack. He had a history of frequent outcries at night. The records showed Dr. WHITAKER had diagnosed this as possible eplipsy, spontaneous in origin and not traumatic. No other symptoms at that time. He was also a persistent bed wetter and seemed to have no control at night.

Later, he was treated on July 3, 1940, by Dr. GUY TURNEY for a small blister right thumb and forefinger caused by a firecracker explosion. On the second day, this wound was cleaned. No other information available concerning any medical treatment. The file contained the following addresses, dates of the addresses not shown; however, the first entry made was on March 4, 1936 and the last on October 29, 1940. The addresses were shown all in Quincy, Illinois, as follows:

412 North Fifth Street

Rural Route 3, 18th Street

212 Spring Street

1258 Hampshire Street.

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928 Lind Street

1616 North Second Street

121 South Ninth Street

1517 North Fourth Street

701½ North Fifth Street

128½ North Fifth Street

1439 Cherry Street

214 Spring Street

315 Cherry Street

413 Vermont Street

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EHD/cab/sjs
1

The following investigation was conducted at Quincy, Illinois, by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On March 25, 1968, ROSIE RIFE, 400 College Avenue, Quincy, advised that she is the mother of WALTER TERRY RIFE. A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A , was exhibited to her, however, she advised that she did not know RAY. She advised that she has not seen this individual with her son, WALTER TERRY RIFE, and knew nothing concerning RAY's whereabouts.

On March 25, 1968, VIOLA MAYFIELD, 2716 Cherry Street, advised that she is the sister of WALTER TERRY RIFE and operates VI's Style Salon at that address. She advised that her brother, WALTER RIFE, had been living with another brother, LONNIE RIFE, at Baylis, Illinois. She advised that the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was unfamiliar to her and that she had, to her knowledge, never seen this individual in her life. She could furnish no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

On March 25, 1968, FLOYD RIFE, 226 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he is the brother of WALTER TERRY RIFE. He viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that he had never seen JAMES EARL RAY to his knowledge He advised that WALTER RIFE has been operating for several weeks the restaurant located in the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois and he, FLOYD, is in that restaurant almost on a daily basis and he had not seen or heard anything concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

On March 25, 1968, Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER, Quincy, Illinois Police Department advised that his department has received no information in the recent past concerning JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A. He advised that the last record in his file concerning RAY was when RAY was arrested in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955 with WALTER TERRY RIFE.

On March 25, 1968, DONALD G. OITKER, 321 South 7th Street, Quincy, advised that he has lived at that address for a number of years and that the name KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK is unfamiliar to him. He advised that the name JAMES EARL RAY is unfamiliar with him and after viewing a photogaph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, advised that he does not know this individual.

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EHD:eab:sjs
2

On April 11, 1968, Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, was contacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at which time Sergeant HANSON advised that he had no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY and that the Quincy Police Department has received no information concerning the present whereabouts of RAY.

III. FAMILY OF JAMES EARL RAY

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A. SUMMARY

On 4-20-68, GEORGE PARSONS, 2826 College Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

PARSONS advised that he is a supervisor for the Illinois Youth Commission and has had numerous contacts with the family of LUCILE RYAN. He stated that this family is also known by the name RAY. PARSONS advised that around 1955 and 1966 he had kept a member of this family, MELBA MARIE RYAN, in his home and that he had always been close to MELBA MARIE RYAN. He stated that this individual has mental problems and that nothing says can be relied upon.

PARSONS advised that he does not have any exact dates concerning anything in the family but that he knows the family is supposed to have moved to Quincy, Illinois, sometime during the 1940s and that the entire family lived at 214 String Street, Quincy, Illinois, during the 1940s until approximately 1955. He stated that this area at that time was an area infested with houses of prostitution and a very rough neighborhood and a very poor neighborhood. PARSONS stated that the entire family had been very close to each other and that he felt that members of the family would certainly harbor JAMES EARL RAY. He stated this would be particularly true of JERRY RYAN and JACK or JOHN RYAN. He felt that these two would harbor JAMES EARL RAY if they though it would be to JAMES EARL RAY's advantage.

He furnished the following names for members of the family:

Father	JAMES, JIM or JERRY RAY
Mother	LUCILE RAY or LUCILE RYAN
Son	JAMES EARL RAY
Son	JERRY RAY
Son	JACK RAY
Son	FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY

Son	MAX ANTHONY RAY
Daughter	MELBA MARIE RAY
Daughter	CAROL RAY
Daughter	SUSAN RAY

He advised that this was all of the members of the family with whom he was acquainted and he felt this included the entire family.

He stated that when the family moved from Quincy, Illinois, in approximately 1965, the mother, LUCILE RYAN, moved to Alton, Illinois; however, during this period of time in approximately 1952, the father had run off with some woman and had gone to St. Louis, Missouri, to live.

After the father left, the entire family became practically wards of the court in charity cases and that Catholic charities had furnished most of the subsistence and supervision of the children.

He advised that several of the younger children of the family, including FRANKLIN DELEANOR RAY, CAROL RAY, SUSAN RAY and MELBA MARIE RAY, had been placed in a Catholic orphanage in Alton, Illinois.

He advised that during the period of time that he kept MELBA MARIE RAY in his home that she seemed to think a lot of JACK RAY and JERRY RAY; however, she never spoke favorably of JAMES EARL RAY or JIMMY RAY and often stated that she had no feeling for JIMMY as he was bad. He stated that he did not know the reason for this feeling; however, that JAMES EARL RAY had never to his knowledge contacted MELBA MARIE for any reason.

PARSONS advised that when JACK RAY had served a period of time in prison, he had gone to Mt. Prospect, Illinois, in the Chicago area, to work at a golf course and he had also obtained JERRY RAY a job at that golf course. PARSONS advised that this was several years before and he was not sure if this would be in the late 1950s or the early 1960s.

PARSONS advised that LUCILE RYAN had worked as a prostitute in Quincy, Illinois, and had also pimped for her daughter CAROL when CAROL was 14 years old and that CAROL had also worked bars and at other places as a prostitute.

PARSONS advised that he had never heard of JAMES EARL RAY working any where and from his knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY and that family, he did not know of any racial hatred or dislike of Negroes by the family. He stated, however, that he did hear JERRY RAY mention one time after being in St. Charles Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois, in approximately 1952 or 1953 that he had had considerable trouble with Negroes at St. Charles. He stated that he had found this to be so with most white prisoners who had been in a penitentiary with Negroes and that sometimes there seems to develop some type of racial difficulty at prisons.

PARSONS advised that at the present time, MELBA MARIE RYAN is living on a disability pension. He stated that she had been arrested in Quincy on several occasions for breaking out window lights with a cross and claimed that God had told her to do this. He advised that MELBA MARIE will make a cross out of a large two by four and smash window lights on occasions. He stated he did not know of any violence on any other member of the family.

PARSONS advised that he had not had any recent contact during the last four years with any member of the family other than MELBA MARIE RYAN but he knew that MAX ANTHONY RYAN was adopted by some family out of the Alton Catholic Orphanage and that SUSAN RYAN was either adopted by some family in Quincy or else was placed in a foster home. He stated that the case worker for Catholic charities in Quincy, Illinois, should be able to furnish background information concerning the family.

On April 22, 1968, Circuit Judge RICHARD SCHOLZ, Quincy, Illinois, made available the dependency files concerning the LUCILE RYAN family in Quincy, Illinois.

The file contained the following information:

On March 9, 1955, five members of the family became wards of Adams County Circuit Court, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed the following to be the complete list of the members of the family:

Father	GERALD RYAN
Mother	LUCILE MAHER RYAN
Son	JAMES, age 26, whereabout not known
Daughter	MARJORIE, died at age 2
Son	JOHN, age 24, Pontiac Prison
Son	JERRY, age 20, Parolee from Pontiac
Daughter	MELBA, age 16
Daughter	CAROL, age 14, living with mother
Son	FRANKLIN, age 12, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois
Daughter	SUZAN, age 8, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois
Son	MAX, age 3, Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois

On that date, MELBA, CAROL, FRANKLIN, SUZAN and MAX became wards of the Adams County Court.

The file showed that MELBA MARIE RYAN was born at Macomb, Illinois, and was taken from GEORGE PARSONS, Supervisor, Illinois Youth Commission, who had been caring for MELBA on June 28, 1955 and was given to a Mrs. TURNER FOLEY, 332 North 24th Street, Quincy, Illinois.

On 7/55 MAX RYAN was tested by Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, and pronounced retardation was found in MAX at that time.

On 8/9/55 MELBA MARIE RYAN was committed to the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, and custody of RYAN taken from GEORGE PARSONS and given to the Illinois Youth Commission. Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently at that time MELBA MARIE RYAN had attempted to set fire to the PARSONS' home. He stated that this had been kept quiet by PARSONS and was not known generally.

On 3/20/56 Dr. GRAVIS SMITH, Beverly Farms, Godfrey, Illinois, had found MAX RYAN to be retarded and arrangements were being made to place him in a home for the feeble-minded.

The file showed that on 9/10/56 MAX ANTHONY RYAN had been placed in custody of the Lincoln State School and Colony, Lincoln, Illinois.

On 6/13/56 CAROL RYAN was declared a delinquent for wandering about the streets at night without lawful business and also since her mother LUCILE RYAN was declared a depraved person.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that this was due to LUCILE RYAN soliciting prostitution date for CAROL RYAN. He advised that LUCILE RYAN had worked as a prostitute during most of her life and that the area around 214 Spring Street was an area infested by houses of prostitution at the time of the RYAN/RAY family lived in that area. He stated that there had been testimony that LUCILE RYAN had attempted to solicit prostitution dates for herself in a tavern and when she was unable to find any dates had brought in her fourteen year old daughter, CAROL, and attempted to obtain prostitution dates for CAROL.

On 8/6/57 MELBA MARIE RYAN was granted a discharge from the Jacksonville State Hospital.

On 10/24/57 custody of FRANKLIN RYAN and SUSAN RYAN was given to the Catholic Charities of Springfield, Illinois.

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On 11/26/57 MAX ANTHONY RYAN was transferred from the Lincoln State School, Lincoln, Illinois, to Catholic Charities, Springfield, Illinois, and custody of MAX given to the Catholic Charities.

On 8/21/58 a court order gave custody of MELBA MARIE RYAN, CAROL RYAN, FRANKLIN D. RYAN and SUZAN RYAN and MAX RYAN to the Catholic Charities, Springfield, Illinois.

A notation was contained in the file that on 7/57 LUCILE RYAN moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and was residing at 1135 South Tenth Street, Apartment 8, St. Louis, Missouri.

At that time the father of the RYAN children, GERALD RYAN or GERALD RAY, was residing at 4149 West Pine Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information that MAX ANTHONY RYAN had been adopted in County Court, Sangamon County, Illinois, on 10/5/59.

On 6/30/60 a letter was addressed to the Court from Mrs. JENNY RAYNES from St. Louis, Missouri.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that apparently this would be a woman living with the father of the RYAN children.

On 128/60 JERRY RAYNES was shown residing at 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri; his DOB was shown as 11/24/1899, and employed by J & R Auto Sales, St. Louis, Missouri. At that time he was living with daughter, CAROL RYAN, DOB 1/30/41, who was employed by the Kresge Company in the St. Louis area.

At this time JERRY RAYNES gave JACK RANDOLPH, 5901 South Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri, as a reference. The file showed that JACK RANDOLPH was the owner of J & R Auto Sales and that RAYNES was employed as a car salesman on a used car lot for RANDOLPH.

The file showed that custody of FRANKLIN D. RYAN was given to his father JERRY RAYNES, 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, on 3/30/60.

Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN had died in approximately 1962 or 1963 when an automobile in which he was riding drove into the Mississippi River in West Quincy, Missouri. He advised that any records concerning the death of FRANKLIN D. RYAN would be in Missouri.

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Judge SCHOLZ advised that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was also known as BUZZY RYAN and that possibly some people would not know the true name of FRANKLIN D. RYAN.

The file showed that FRANKLIN D. RYAN was first declared a dependent on 9/8/52 and at that time was residing at 214 1/2 Spring Street.

Included in the FRANKLIN D. RYAN section of the dependency records was a letter dated 3/29/59 from LUCILE RYAN, his mother, who at that time was residing at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. In the letter she stated that "JIMMY is going to Chicago". The letter indicated that at that time JIMMY was residing with LUCILE RYAN at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The file contained information showing that before 9/24/59 Mrs. LUCILE BERNES, aka LUCILE RAY and LUCILE RYAN resided 1209 East Fourth Street, Alton, Illinois, and that she had moved from that address to 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis.

A notation was contained in the file that one 8/20/59 LUCILE RYAN's son, JAMES EARL RAY, and an accomplice JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN were arrested for an armed robbery of a supermarket in Alton, Illinois, and that this matter was pending in Circuit Court, Madison County, Illinois.

The file contained a section concerning JERRY W. RYAN, DOB 7/16/35. He was declared a delinquent on 3/10/50 for unlawfully growing up in idleness and crime and was to be sent to St. Charles Boys' Reformatory, St. Charles, Illinois.

At that time his father was GERALD RYAN, 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois, and mother, LUCILE RYAN, at same address.

Psychological tests given JERRY W. RYAN at that time showed he functioned between a low, average and dull in intelligence.

The file showed that SUZAN RYAN, aka SUSANNE RYAN, DOB 4/28/47, had been a ward of the court from 9/8/52 until 4/15/65 when she was discharged from the supervision of the court.

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HAZEL HAMILTON, Case Worker, Catholic Charities, Quincy, Illinois,had been SUZAN RYAN's supervisor since 3/54.

The file showed SUZAN RYAN resided at Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Illinois, from 3/8/54 until 1961.

The file showed that the RYAN children had an uncle, WILLIAM E. MAHER, who resided 1118 East Seventh Street, Alton, Illinois.

Also, the file included that an aunt, Mrs. SADIE FITZSIMMONS, address unknown, visited SUZAN RYAN while under supervision.

On 9/2/59 SUZAN RYAN had apparently run away from the supervision of the Catholic Children's Home and was located in Alton, Illinois, with a Mrs. MARY MAHER.

On 8/31/59 SUZAN RYAN was located with her mother, 1209 East Fourth Street, Alton, Illinois, where the mother lived under the name of BERNES. Apparently at one time the mother had resided at a home in St. Louis that was condemned at which time she had moved to Alton, date of the move or other information not shown.

The file contained information that JAMES RYAN resided at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, or 1727 South Eleventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri, where he lived with CAROL RYAN. The file did not indicate whether this was the father or son, JAMES RYAN.

The file contained a letter dated 3/30/60 that JACK was going to Chicago and that he had been held "for those licenses".

The file showed that MELBA RYAN, CAROL RYAN, and FRANKLIN RYAN were born in St. Louis County, Missouri, and SUZAN and MAX RYAN , Quincy, Illinois.

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On 4/22/68 HAZEL HAMILTON, Case Worker, Catholic Charities, 510 Jersey Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and furnished the following information.

She advised that sometime around 1948 the RYAN family or the RAY family of which EARL RAY, FBI #306443A, is a member, moved to Quincy, Illinois.

HAZEL HAMILTON advised that the RAY family moved to Quincy, Illinois, from Des Moines, Iowa, and that the family had moved to Des Moines from Ewing, Missouri. She advised that the family apparently changed names whenever it suited them and she knew that the family had used names including RAY, RYAN, BERNES, RAYNS, and RAYNES.

She advised that the mother and father of JAMES EARL RAY and the other children were absolutely no good and that when this family first moved to Quincy, Illinois, some member of the family was working at the Hotel Lincoln Douglas.

She advised that five of the children, MELBA MARIE RYAN, CAROL RYAN, FRANKLIN RYAN, SUZIE RYAN, and MAX ANTHONY RYAN, had at times been under the supervision of Catholic Charities and had been wards of the Adams County Court.

She advised that she had had very little contact with the three older brothers, JAMES EARL RAY, JERRY RAY or JERRY RYAN, and JOHN RAY or JACK RYAN. She stated that the youngest daughter, SUZAN RYAN, graduated from Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois, in approximately 1965, after which she moved to Chicago, Illinois, and the last known address she had for SUZIE was Apartment 809, 117 North Dearborn, Chicago, where she lived with a JANET VAIR.

In 1963 she had information that the father, living under the name of JERRY RAYNE, was residing at RFD, Clarence, Missouri.

In 1963 FRANKLIN D. RYAN had died in West Quincy, Missouri, and was later buried.

She advised that she does not know what exact year the family moved to Quincy, but thought it was around 1948 and stated that definitely JAMES EARL RAY was the oldest child in this family. She listed the children as follows in order of age:

Son	JAMES EARL RAY
Son	JOHN RAY
Son	JERRY RAY
Daughter	MELBA RAY
Daughter	CAROL RAY
Son	FRANKLIN D. RAY
Daughter	SUZAN RAY

She advised that she knew that the father of this group of children had used the name of JAMES RAY, GERALD RAY, JAMES RYAN and GERALD RYAN, as well as JERRY. She stated that the father RAY had been a ladies' man and it was her understanding that he had lived with many women but had probably never married any other than the mother of the children.

She advised that a Mrs. MAHER was the grandmother of the children, and in the past had induced them to run away from home and apparently had died in St. Louis while Mrs. MAHER was living with LUCILE RYAN.

She advised that when CAROL RAY was fourteen or fifteen years old that LUCILE RAY, the mother, would hustle as a prostitute and would also set up dates for CAROL. She stated that CAROL was a very rough and wild individual when fourteen or fifteen years of age and that she believed that CAROL would be very difficult to manage when it came to furnishing information concerning relatives.

She felt that the entire family is close enough to the criminal element that the family has developed an attitude of not cooperating with the law and she feels that it is possible that any member of the family might harbor JAMES EARL RAY; however, she stated that this is merely a personal belief and she had no information that the family had ever harbored anyone.

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MWO:mpb
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The following investigation was conducted by SA MACK W. OLIVER, Jr.

At Quincy, Illinois

On April 24, 1968, Miss Elizabeth Roth, Manager, Quincy Credit Bureau, advised that she had a file for JERRY WILLIAM RYAN, Jr. and that this individual had been in her files since 1950. Miss ROTH stated that RYAN's address in 1950 was 214 Spring Street; in 1954 the Tremont Hotel; and in 1956, 339½ South 7th Street. Miss ROTH advised that according to her file, JERRY WILLIAM RYAN, Jr., along with JAMES A. ALDERTON, LONNIE RIFE, EUGENE BARRIGAR, and FLOYD SIDENER, sought parole from the Menard State Penitentiary on August 29, 1958. Miss ROTH stated that she had no information on JERRY WILLIAM RYAN, Jr., since the 1950's.

Miss ROTH advised that she had a file for LUCILLE RYAN and that she had had this file since 1954. Miss ROTH said that the only address she had for LUCILLE RYAN was 536 York, Quincy, Illinois. Miss ROTH said that according to her information, LUCILLE RYAN was arrested on July 19, 1954, by local authorities, for assault and battery and again on August 24, 1957, for larceny, and that she was supposed to have robbed JOHN B. THOMPSON of the Pacific House. Miss ROTH said that she had one collection on LUCILLE RYAN and that the collection was in 1961 for the Bringaze Grocery Store of Quincy.

Miss ROTH advised that she had a file for SUSAN RYAN and that she had been in file since September 15, 1965. Miss ROTH advised that she had two addresses for SUSAN RYAN, 129½ North 9th Street and Fowler, Illinois. Miss ROTH advised that according to her information, SUSAN RYAN moved from Quincy, Illinois, on June 23, 1966, to 1117 North Dearborn, Chicago.

Miss ROTH advised that she had a file for MELBA RYAN who resides at the Virginia Hotel, and this name had been in file since February 27, 1966. Miss ROTH stated that she had no further information concerning MELBA RYAN.

Miss ROTH advised that she had a file for GERALD RAYNES since October 24, 1940, and that RAYNES was 38 years of age at that time. Miss ROTH stated that according to her information, RAYNES was living at R.R. #1, Ewing, Missouri, his wife was LUCILLE, and that he had four children (no names). Miss ROTH said that she had no information concerning GERALD RAYNES since 1948. Miss ROTH stated that according to her information, GERALD RAYNES came to Quincy, Illinois, from St. Louis, Missouri, and gave the following addresses and places of employment for GERALD RAYNES:

Addresses	Date
1507 North 4th Quincy, Illinois	September 28, 1944
Adams, Illinois	January 13, 1948
214 Spring Street Quincy, Illinois	November 12, 1961

Date	Employment
October 24, 1940 January 13, 1948	Gardner Denver Novelty salesman for BILL POPP.

Miss ROTH advised that she had a file for RUBY CARPENTER since May 25, 1964, and that RUBY CARPENTER came to Quincy, Illinois, from Clarence, Missouri. Miss ROTH stated that RUBY CARPENTER worked for the State of Illinois, Family and Children Service, and gave the following addresses that she had for RUBY CARPENTER:

1711½ Broadway
Quincy, Illinois

410 North 9th Street
Quincy, Illinois

630 North 6th Street
Quincy, Illinois.

Miss ROTH advised that she had a file for JAMES RAY which she had crossreferenced with JOHN V. RAY and that she had had this file since December of 1966. Miss ROTH stated that according to her information, JAMES RAY turned himself into the Adams County Sheriff's Office on March 3, 1967, and advised them that he was wanted in Ogden, Utah. Miss ROTH said that on June 15, 1967, RAY committed himself to the Veterans Alcoholic Hospital in Jacksonville, Illinois. Miss ROTH said she had four addresses for RAY which are as follows:

324 York Street
Quincy, Illinois

221 South 5th Street
Quincy, Illinois

323 York Street
Quincy, Illinois

1201 South Main Street
Jacksonville, Illinois.

Miss ROTH said that she had no further information concerning JAMES RAY.

Miss ROTH stated that she a file for JOHNNY LARRY RAY since April 8, 1953, and that he was 23 years of age at that time. Miss ROTH stated that JOHNNY LARRY RAY was sentenced to serve from three to four years, on June 2, 1953, at the Menard State Penitentiary, for auto theft. Miss ROTH stated that according to her information that JOHNNY LARRY RAY attempted to escape from the Adams County Jail on May 24, 1953. Miss ROTH said the only address she had for JOHNNY LARRY RAY was 214 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois.

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B. MELBA MARIE RYAN

On 4-20-68, MELBA MARIE RYAN was interviewed at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Ill.

MELBA MARIE RYAN furnished the following information to SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN:

MELBA MARIE RYAN advised that she is the sister of JAMES EARL RAY and identified a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, mated to Missouri Department of Corrections on 3-17-60, as her brother. She advised that she had only seen her brother JAMES EARL RAY three or four times during her life time and that she has spent a considerable amount of her life in mental hospitals. She stated that she has been in the Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Ill., on three occasions.

RYAN advised that she has been living at the Virginia Hotel since December, 1967, and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

She advised that she last saw JAMES EARL RAY around 1959 when he was living in St. Louis, Missouri, at a boarding house operated by their mother, LUCILE RYAN. She advised that she was staying with her mother, LUCILE RYAN at that time and that JAMES EARL RAY stayed with them for approximately six months.

She advised that she has never received a letter from JAMES EARL RAY in her life and had no idea as to his present whereabouts.

She advised that her mother is presently deceased and that her father is approximately 70 years of age. She stated that he was living in Missouri; however, she stated that she had talked to him on the previous night on the

telephone and he did not want to furnish his present address to anyone. She stated for this reason she would not give the FBI the address of her father.

She advised that she has received letters in her life from her brother JOHN RAY or JOHN RYAN and also from JERRY RAY, aka JERRY RYAN. She advised that the real name of the family is RAY and that when the family moved from Ewing, Missouri, to Quincy, Illinois, the mother changed the name from RAY to RYAN inasmuch as they were going to St. Bonaface Catholic School in Quincy and the mother thought that RYAN sounded more Catholic than RAY.

She advised that her father once had a brother named EARL RAY; however, he is presently deceased.

MELBA RYAN furnished the following list of her brothers and sisters:

Brother	JAMES EARL RAY
Brother	JOHN RAY, aka JOHN RYAN, JACK RYAN
Brother	JERRY RAY, aka JERRY RYAN
Sister	CAROL PEPPER
Sister	SUSAN RYAN Whereabouts unknown
Brother	MAX RYAN Whereabouts unknown

MELBA RYAN advised that she also had a brother named FRANKLIN DELANOR RYAN who had drowned in the Mississippi River around 1963. She stated also an older sister had died in a fire in Ewing, Missouri, before the birth of MELBA RYAN.

She stated that when she knew her brother JAMES EARL RAY around 1959 he had mentioned at that time he might go back to Germany inasmuch as he liked Germany when he was stationed there in the Army. She also was under the belief that JAMES EARL RAY had had a girlfriend in Germany; however, she had no knowledge of any contact RAY had with anyone in Germany since his discharge from the service. She thought that he had been discharged sometime during the 1940s.

She advised that she had moved to Quincy, Illinois, with her mother and father approximately 1948 when she was 10 years of age.

She stated around 1953 her father had left the family and that her mother had, at that time, "put several members of the family out for adoption", and the family had not been very close since that period of time.

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained during the interview:

Race	White
Sex	Female
Date of Birth	9-16-38
Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	None

On 4-21-68, the files of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department, were checked and revealed the following arrest record for MELBA MARIE RYAN, date of birth 9-16-38 at Ewing, Missouri:

DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
3-12-63	Mental Case	Released without Charge
2-13-66	Drunk	$10.00 and Costs
4-24-66	Intoxication	$10.00 and Costs
12-14-66	Drunk	Dismissed
12-14-66	Disorderly Conduct	Dismissed
12-30-67	Drunk	$10.00 and Costs
8-22-67	Drunk	$15.00 and Costs
9-18-67	Drunk	Dismissed
9-18-67	Interfering with an Officer	Dismissed
9-18-67	Criminal damage to property	20 days in County Jail

The following physical description of MELBA MARIE RYAN was obtained from the Quincy, Illinois, PD, as furnished by Captain HAROLD HUNSAKER of that Department:

Place of Birth	Ewing, Missouri
Height	5'5½"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Stout
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium
Occupation	On welfare subsistence
FBI #	33 271 C

A review of the records of the Quincy Police Department also showed a record for JOHNNY RAY, aka JOHN LARRY RAY and JOHN L. RAYNS and JACK RAYNS. This file showed JOHNNY RAY's date of birth to be 2-11-31, home address 214 Spring Street, hair brown.

The record showed he was 5'10" and weighed 160 pounds. The file contained the following arrests:

DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
4-7-53	Larcent of an Automobile	Illinois State Penitentiary, 5 - 10 years
2-18-60	Fictitious license	$10.00 and costs

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Desk Clerk, Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of JAMES EARL RAY, is still residing at that hotel. HARPER advised that very definitely RAY has not contacted anyone at the Virginia Hotel and that complete cooperation will be given the FBI in the matter concerning RAY by individuals connected with the Virginia Hotel. HARPER advised that he is certain WALTER TERRY RIFE has not had any contact with RAY anytime during the past several years.

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On May 1, 1963 and May 3, 1963, MELBA MARIE RYAN, Virginia Hotel, 234 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was re-interviewed by SA ELYON H. DAVIS. On each occasion, MELBA RYAN advised that she had no further information concerning the activities and whereabouts of her brother JAMES EARL RAY. She also advised that she had no further information of value concerning any member of the family. She stated that she had been in contact with her father residing at Center, Missouri as well as her father's ex-wife RUBY CARPENTER who lived in Quincy, Illinois. She stated she had also contacted MABEL FULLER who resides in Quincy, Illinois and all of these individuals disclaim any knowledge of the whereabouts or activites of her brother JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that she felt that all members of the family that she had contacted would cooperate in attempting to locate RAY and that she would furnish any information that came to her attention concerning any of his activities.

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EHD/jac
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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

Daily surveilances were conducted on a spot basis by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER at the Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, where MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of JAMES EARL RAY resides.

On May 10, 1968, Detective DONALD CAPPS, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, advised that Detectives of that Police Department daily and nightly check the Virginia Hotel. He advised that all members of the Quincy Police Department and especially the Quincy, Illinois Detective Bureau carry photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and if any information is developed concerning MELBA MARIE RYAN having visitors at the Virginia Hotel, this information will be immediately furnished to the FBI.

C. SUSAN DONIAN

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The following investigation was conducted by SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III:

On April 20, 1968, Father JAMES BRINKS, St. Aloysius Church, Springfield, Illinois, telephonically contacted the Springfield Division and advised he had known subject's sister, SUE since she was a child, and in an effort to help locate and interview her, he advised he was in possession of a newspaper article of April, 1967, in the Chicago "Tribune" regarding SUE, which showed her to be going under the name LEE RILEY and to be working as a go-go dancer in the Bourbon Street Club at 936 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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MWO:mpb
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The following investigation was conducted by SA MACK W. OLIVER, Jr.

At Quincy, Illinois

On April 22, 1968, Sister CATHERINE, Principal, Notre Dame High School, advised that she had a SUSAN J. RYAN graduate from Notre Dame High School on June 6, 1965.

Sister CATHERINE stated that SUSAN J. RYAN entered Notre Dame High School on September 8, 1961, and that she came from the Children's Home at Alton, Illinois.

Sister CATHERINE stated that while SUSAN J. RYAN was a student at Notre Dame High School, she lived with Mr. and Mrs. ROMAN KLINNER of Rural Route Number 3, Quincy, Ill.

Sister CATHERINE said that a transcript of her grades were mailed to the Gem City College on June 2, 1965, and that it was her understanding that RYAN had received a scholarship from the National Secretary's Association.

Sister CATHERINE said that she understood that RYAN did not accept the scholarship and that immediately after graduation, she moved from the KLINNER's residence to Chicago, Illinois, where she was attending a modeling school. Sister CATHERINE gave the following information and description from SUSAN J. RYAN's file:

Name	SUSAN JANE RYAN
Date of birth	April 28, 1947
Place of birth	Adams County, Illinois
Father	JERRY (no last name)
Mother	LUCILLE MAHER

Sister CATHERINE said that according to her information SUSAN RYAN had four older brothers, one younger brother, two older sisters, but that she gave the name of none of these brothers or sisters.

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2

Sister CATHERINE stated that her file contained a photograph of SUSAN JANE RYAN and that it would be available if needed in the future.

Sister CATHERINE stated that she could give no further information concerning SUSAN J. RYAN.

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D. FRANK RYAN

SI 44-561

On April 22, 1968, the following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT BLUM RASCOE at St. James Trade School in Springfield, Illinois:

Brother Aequiduis advised that he had a Franklin Ryan in attendance from June, 14, 1958, until January , 1959. He advised that he had no personal records available which might be of lead value, and that the above dates were all that indicated that FRANKLIN RYAN had ever attended this school. He advised that he had no record of any FRANKLIN DELANO (BUZZIE) RYAN. A check of the name RAY provided no information which might be of lead value.

On April 20, 1968, MELBA MARIE RYAN, Sister of subject, advised that a brother, FRANKLIN DELANO RYAN had drowned in the Mississippi River in approximately 1963.

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E. MAX RYAN

2782

SI 44-561

On 4/24/68, the following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT BLUE RASCOE at Springfield, Illinois:

Right Reverend Monseniour CASSIN, Director of Catholic Charity of Springfield, 830 East Monroe Street, Springfield, Illinois, advised that he would not disclose the adopting parents of MAX ANTHONY RYAN. CASSIN said that the boy had been under the Catholic Charity control ever since he was a young boy and would have no knowledge of his brother JAMES EARL RAY. He further advised that it was his opinion that to release the names of the adopting parents plus their whereabouts would only bring grief and injury to a family and to the young boy who he felt should not be involved with the element being investigated in this matter.

Miss AGNUS GIBBONS, Clerk, Domestic Relations Branch of Sangamon County Circuit Court, advised that she could not produce the records of the adoption of MAX ANTHONY RYAN with out a court order being obtained from one of the judges.

On this date, Judge DOUGLAS issued a court order on this date to have the records checked and the records were reviewed in the office at the County Building.

The records reflected the following information:

MAX ANTHONY RYAN was adopted on 10/5/59 by STEPHEN WALTER JURISH and LILLIAN EVELYN THEREAU JURISH who gave their address as R. R. #4, Edwardsville, Illinois. The natural mother of MAX ANTHONY RYAN is listed as being MARY LUCILLE (MAHR) RYAN and his natural father is listed as JERALD EDWARD RYAN. The boy's birth place was listed as Quincy, Illinois, Adams County, on 8/29/51

In a correspondence dated 2/68, STEPHEN WALTER JURISH

2783

father of the adopted boy, gave his present address as R.R. #1, Ellsinore, Missouri, 63937.

F. JOHN and JERRY RAY

SI 44-561

Re: JOHN LARRY RAY:

Springfield indices reflect a closed Selective Service case for subject's brother, JOHN LARRY RAYNS, also known as Jack Rayns, also known as John Larry Ray. A review of the file was made by SA WILLIAM ROBERTS, III and the only new information developed was the name of an aunt of the subject MILDRED MAHER, listed address as 1118 East- 74th Street, Alton, Illinois.

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Warden MAX FRY, of the Menard State Penitentiary, Menard, Illinois, made available records at Menard Prison to SA LARRY W. GREEN for examination:

JOHN LARRY RYAN, was released from Menard State Penitentiary, 2/1/60. He was incarcerated there on a larceny of motor vehicle charge. His registration number at Menard is 23401. RYAN left Menard on a full discharge and immediately after his discharge, made application to the stateof Illinois to have his civil rights restored. He wanted the results of this application sent to an address which was given in the record as 1783 North 10th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

It was discovered during examination of the above records, that JOHN LARRY RYAN's brother, JERRY RYAN, also was incarcerated at Menard State Penitentiary. JERRY RYAN had number 23737; from December, 30, 1954, to December 12, 1955, both RYANS were in the Menard State Prison together. Also from August, 1, 1953, to February 1; 1960, both were incarcerated at Menard at the same time.

Both RYANS listed their relatives the same. Correspondence in the file of JOHN LARRY RYAN while at Menard Prison consisted generally of correspondence going out to his mother, LUCILLE RYAN, 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. Other communications were those to his sister, HELEN RYAN, 1201 South Main, Jacksonville, Illinois.

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Other sisters are CAROL RYAN, 1727 South 11th, St. Louis, Missouri; and CAROL ROGERS, 1701 Washington, Quincy, Illinois.

Listed as brothers in the file of RYAN are brother JERRY RYAN, the above mentioned, who was released May 6, 1960, from Menard. JERRY was charged with larceny and was from Adams County, Illinois. Also listed as a brother was JAMES RAY, Quincy, Illinois, no other address shown. It could not be determined if this JAMES E. RAY is identical with subject.

Other relatives noted in the file were MARY BAKER, Tremont Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, who is the grandmother of JOHN LARRY RYAN. Other outgoing communications were to RALPH HOWARD, Indianapolis, Indiana, no other address shown, and a communication in 1960 was directed to JAMES E. RAY, addressed to Leavenworth Prison, Kansas. Again, it is not known or is it shown by the record that this JAMES E. RAY is identical with subject.

Correspondence noted in the file of JERRY RYAN were outgoing communications going to PAT WITT, 3971 West Minister, St. Louis, Missouri. and BEBY DOBYNS, 3971 West Minister, St. Louis, Missouri . One communication was addressed to JERRY LANCASTER, 4431 North 19th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

As above stated, the relatives shown for both JERRY RYAN and JOHN LARRY RYAN were identical in each file.

No other information helpful to this investigation was noted in these files.

G. RUBY CARPENTER

SI 44-561

On 4/23/63, RUBY CARPENTER, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at her home by SA ELYOJ H. DAVIS and SA MACK W. OLIVER. She furnished the following information.

In 1952, she was working in Quincy, Illinois at the Lincoln-Douglas Hotel. Also working at the hotel at that time was a JAMES GERALD RAY. She and RAY started going together and left Quincy, Illinois together and went to St. Louis, Missouri to live.

She stated at the time she left Quincy with RAY, he was married to LUCILLE RAY or LUCILLE RINE. RAY and his wife LUCILLE had seven children by their marriage to her knowledge. These included JAMES EARL RAY, JOHN RAY, also known as JACK RAY or JACK RINE, JERRY RAY, CAROL RAY, FRANKLIN D. RAY, SANDRA RAY, and MAX RAY.

She stated that before the RAY family moved to Quincy, Illinois from Ewing, Missouri, the father, JAMES GERALD RAY had obtained a job with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and had moved from Ewing, Missouri to Galesburg, Illinois where he worked for a short time as a switchman. He obtained a Social Security card before starting to work for the railroad under the name of RAYNES and he used the name of RAYNES during the time that she lived with RAY in St. Louis. She advised that she and RAY lived together in St. Louis from 1952 until 1961 and on 8/1/61, she married JAMES GERALD RAY at Palmyra, Missouri, the marriage vows and services being performed by the Methodist minister in that town. They lived together starting on that date on farm, Rural Route 1, Clarence, Missouri and this continued until RAY left her in December of 1963. She then obtained a divorce from RAY in Palmyra, Missouri in 1964 and returned to Quincy, Illinois. She stated that after he left her, JAMES GERALD RAY moved to Center, Missouri where he has continued to reside on a farm.

She advised that she has been in frequent contact with JAMES GERALD RAY since their separation in 1965 and that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the daughter of JAMES GERALD RAY also lives in Quincy and she occasionally is in contact with MELBA. She advised however that she has not been in contact with MELBA since Christmas, 1967 until 4/19/68 when MELBA called her to talk to her concerning JAMES EARL RAY and RAY being charged concerning the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised also on that date she had telephonically contacted JAMES GERALD RAY and at that time the father had stated that he hoped his son, JAMES EARL RAY was caught as soon as possible so that this thing would end. She advised that she is certain that JAMES GERALD RAY does not know of the whereabouts of his son JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that at the present time, JAMES GERALD RAY was using the name of GERRY RAYNES.

She advised that of the entire RAY family, she considers JACK RAY or JACK RINE to be closer to JAMES EARL RAY than any of the remainder of the family. She stated that the only time that JAMES EARL RAY ever lived with JAMES GERALD RAY and herself was sometime around 1959 when he worked as a baker in St. Louis. She stated that during this period of time, he also resided with his mother and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER at 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri. She advised that during this period of time, she and JAMES GERALD RAY were living on 1727 South 11th Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

She advised that JAMES EARL RAY is supposed to have learned the trade of a baker in prison and that he worked at one of the bakeries in St. Louis around 1959. She had no idea as to the name of the bakery or the exact location. She stated that he also had his own apartment while in St. Louis as well as living with both his mother and his father. She stated that she had not seen him since he went to prison around 1960 and has had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY since she and the subject's father moved to Clarence, Missouri on 8/1/61.

She advised that the subject's father JAMES GERALD RAY was an excellent car salesman and did quite well as a car salesman for a used car lot in St. Louis. Since 1961, however, he has worked on a farm, first, the one

owned by her at Clarence, Missouri and afterwards on a farm at Center, Missouri.

She advised that he has never married and she does not know of any close girlfriends of JAMES EARL RAY. She advised that she did not know of the identity of any girlfriends.

RUBY CARPENTER stated that she is certain that JAMES EARL RAY does not know of her present whereabouts. She stated that she is presently employed babysitting and doing housework for various individuals in Quincy and that in the event she learns something concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts, she will immediately notify the FBI.

The Harboring Statute was explained by SA DAVIS to RUBY CARPENTER.

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EHD:ras
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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 1, 1968, GARY SHELTON, 404 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, age 16, advised that RUBY CARPENTER is employed at his home as a babysitter and housekeeper during the daytime for the nine SHELTON minor children. After viewing a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, SHELTON advised that this individual had never been to his house to his knowledge and he has never heard RUBY CARPENTER mention JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he would immediately notify SA DAVIS of any information coming to his attention concerning any visitors to the home of RUBY CARPENTER and concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

SI 44-561
EHD:ras
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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 3, 1968, RUBY CARPENTER, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was re-interviewed at her home and furnished the following information:

She has had no contact with anyone who has any information concerning the whereabouts or activities of JAMES EARL RAY since last being contacted by the FBI.

She advised that definitely JAMES EARL RAY had lived with RUBY CARPENTER and her former husband, JAMES GERALD RAYNES who was commonly known as JERRY RAYNES or JERRY RAYNS in St. Louis, Missouri, sometime around 1959 or 1960. Also, during this period of time, JAMES EARL RAY had resided with his mother, LUCILE RYAN and grandmother, Mrs. MAHER, in St. Louis. This was shortly before he was sent to prison to the Missouri State Penitentiary in either 1959 or 1960.

Sometime during the period of time while JAMES EARL RAY was in St. Louis, Missouri, around 1959 or 1960 he definitely made a trip to Mexico. She had no idea as to the location of the town in Mexico that he visited; however, she remembered hearing him speak of his trip into Mexico.

She advised that on the previous day, May 2, 1968, Mrs. FRANK FULLER, 601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, had visited in RUBY CARPENTER's home. Mrs. MABEL FULLER, at that time, had advised that she had heard nothing concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts and she stated that Mrs. FULLER did not know anything concerning the activities of RAY. She stated that Mrs. FULLER has always been very defensive concerning her relatives and that Mrs. FULLER stated that she did not believe her nephew, JAMES EARL RAY, committed any crime or was involved in any way in the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that she had not recently talked to MELBA MARIE RYAN but that when last contacted by MELBA RYAN approximately one week before, MELBA had no information concerning the activities of JAMES EARL RAY, and had no information concerning his whereabouts. RUBY CARPENTER stated she doubted very much that JAMES EARL RAY would ever contact MELBA RYAN.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that she felt that her former husband, JERRY RAYNES, has had his phone disconnected inasmuch as she had tried several times during the past few days to call JERRY RAYNES at Center, Missouri. She stated that he has been "very jumpy" concerning JAMES EARL RAY and that she feels this is the reason that RAYNES had his phone disconnected. She stated that she is tempted to call RAYNES and was told that the phone was disconnected; however, she stated that a telephone strike was in existence and the possibility was that the calls did not go through.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she had no idea as to the present whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY's brother JERRY RAY or JERRY RYAN who is supposed to have disappeared from the Chicago area. She advised that sometime around April 25, 1968, JERRY RAY had called her from Chicago, Illinois, and asked her to speak to a Life magazine reporter. At that time, JERRY RAY had indicated that he wished his brother would surrender to the FBI.

She advised that she has not been contacted by CAROL PEPPER in any way and has no idea as to CAROL's present address. She also stated she had no information concerning the present whereabouts or address of JAMES EARL RAY's sister SUSAN; however, she did think SUSAN was in Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she personally has very few visitors and every Monday through Friday she leaves her home at approximately 6:30 a.m. and walks to 404 Oak Street in Quincy, Illinois, where she is employed by the Child Welfare Department of the State of Illinois, as a babysitter and housekeeper in the daytime for the HOMER SHELTON family. She advised

that HOMER SHELTON has nine minor children and that HOMER SHELTON's wife died in March, 1968, and she has been employed as a housekeeper for him since that time. She usually returns home in the afternoon sometime between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. after HOMER SHELTON returns home from work. She stated that HOMER SHELTON is employed at Moorman's Manufacturing Company.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that she did not feel that JAMES EARL RAY would have any information as to her present location. She again expressed the desire to aid the FBI in the apprehension of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that she would furnish any information that came to her attention concerning RAY's whereabouts or activities.

RUBY CARPENTER advised that her son JEROME CARPENTER is still in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, for the crime of murder and she does not feel that he would have any information concerning the whereabouts of activities of JAMES EARL RAY.

On May 3, 1968, HOMER SHELTON, 404 Oak Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed and advised that RUBY CARPENTER is employed on a daily basis as a babysitter and housekeeper for his children at that address while he is working. SHELTON advised that he has nine minor children and three are not in school and that his wife died in March, 1968. He stated he has no information concerning any visitors who may have visited RUBY CARPENTER during the daytime at his home. He stated that she has never mentioned JAMES EARL RAY to him and after viewing photographs of RAY, advised that RAY has never been to his home and that he has never seen JAMES EARL RAY. SHELTON advised that he would notify the FBI of any information he learns concerning anyone contacting RUBY CARPENTER or any information concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

SI 44-561
EHD/jac
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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

On May 1, 1968, Sergeant ROLAND HANSON, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, advised that he resides at 606 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois. He advised that RUBY CARPENTER who resides at 630 North Sixth Street is a neighbor of Sergeant HANSON. HANSON advised that he would notify the FBI of any visitors to or from the CARPENTER residence. Sergeant HANSON advised that Miss CARPENTER does not have many visitors and only goes to and from work each day after which time she seems to reside at her home by herself and she has very little contact with her neighbors.

On May 10, 1968 and May 13, 1968, Sergeant HANSON advised that he has not observed any visitors to the RUBY CARPENTER home since last being contacted by SA DAVIS.

Spot surveilances on a daily basis were conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER at the residence of 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, for the period of May 1, 1968 through May 10, 1968. During this period of time, no visitors were observed entering or leaving the RUBY CARPENTER home at that address.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 23, 1968

RUBY SMITH CARPENTER was reinterviewed at her home, 630 North Sixth Street, Quincy, Illinois, after she telephonically contacted SA DAVIS and requested to be reinterviewed by him.

Mrs. CARPENTER furnished to SA DAVIS the following written statement which she stated she had written to give as exact account as possible of her knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY. The statement was on both sides of a white piece of paper and read as follows.

"Mr. Elyon Davis - Since you were here the last time I have thought of some things I would like to make clear, things I did not think of at first. First I know nothing of the whereabouts of James Earl Ray. I have seen him perhaps 6 times, the last in 1958 I believe. 2nd I know nothing about any unlawful acts of any of the Ray, Rayns, Ryan family. The only one of the family I have been closely associated with is the father, James Gerald Ray, who was my husband for about 3 years. We were divorced the 9th of December 1963. 3rd I have always lived an honest and lawabiding life. I have worked hard and supported myself entirely for 16 years and have helped others a great deal besides. Everything I have or ever had has been from honest and respectful work. No one has ever given my anything except my father, who left me some money at his death. 4th I would not accept anything obtained dishonestly if it were offered to me, which was not.

"I have seen many errors printed about the family. The headlines of the Herald Whig stating Ray's father has long local criminal record. An article in Chicago Daily News by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson stating the children were adopted by various persons. None of the children were adopted unless perhaps Max, the youngest. They also stated James Earl Ray was the product of a broken home. How could he be when he was 24 years old when the father left the home, and had been living away from home several years prior.

On 5/20/68 at Quincy, Illinois File # SI 44-561

by SA ELYON H. DAVIS /smr Date dictated 5/22/68

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

"This statement is written by me and is true and sincere.

"/s/ Ruby Smith Carpenter

"May 15, 1968"

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that her former husband, JAMES GERALD RAY, is still residing in Center, Missouri, under the name of JERRY RAYNS, and that he had his phone changed to an unlisted phone in order that he would not be bothered by crank calls. She stated that she is in contact occasionally with HELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of JAMES EARL RAY, and with Mrs. FRANK FULLER, the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that all members of the family tell her that they have no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY's whereabouts and will cooperate in the location of RAY.

Mrs. CARPENTER advised that she could not furnish any further information other than that previously furnished to the FBI.

H. EARL EVERETT RAY

2800

SI 44-561

On April 22, 1968, BILL KAUFMAN, Illinois State Board of Probation and Parole, advised of the following re captioned individual subject's uncle:

EARL RAY, also known as Earl Everett Ray, James Ryan, James Mc Carthy, James Patrick Clancy, Joe Roe, White, male, date of birth, May 5, 1904, place of birth, Quincy, Illinois, and as of 1949, 5' 9¼" in height, 178 pounds, dark gray hair, light blue eyes, wife - AUDREY, divorced 1950, last known address, 1439 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, criminal record dateing back to 1916, Menard, Illinois State Prison Numbers 6588 and 21025. Incarcerated at Menard 1925 to 1933 (assault to kill) and 1948 to 1955 (assault to mayhem - threw acid in wife's face), no FBI number available.

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On 4/22/68 Chief RAY WELSH, Quincy, Illinois Police Department, made available the records of the Quincy Police Department of EARL EVERETT RAY.

The files showed that EARL EVERETT RAY is holder of Peoria, Illinois PD #14439 and that on 8/23/43 EARL RAY, 1401 Cherry Street, was arrested for throwing acid in the face of his wife, Mrs. EARL RAY. This case was later closed and no prosecution was involved.

The file showed that EARL RAY was 43 years of age in 1943. On 8/25/47 EARL RAY was wanted by the Quincy PD on an assault to kill charge. This apparently also involved his wife. On 9/10/48 the files contain information that EARL RAY and his wife were involved in a fight and that her sister, DORIS, was a witness. At that time Mrs. RAY moved to 1403 Cherry Street and her sister was DORIS GODMAN, 645 College Street.

On 7/24/55 EARL RAY was arrested for the assault of YVONNE MC GINBERG, 415 York Street, Quincy, Illinois.

On 8/59 EARL RAY was arrested for assault and battery and the victims were AUDREY RAY, wife, and LEONA FERGUSON. This occurred at 1403 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois, after he had hit AUDREY RAY in the mouth and LEONA FERGUSON in the stomach. At that time EARL RAY was living at 1415 Cherry Street, Quincy, Illinois.

AT GALESBURG, ILLINOIS:

On April 26, 1968, Mr. C. D. IREY, Special Agent, C B & Q Railroad, stated that a review of the employment files listed a file on EARL EVERETT RAY, subject's uncle, 164 South Academy Street, Galesburg, Illinois. He showed a previous address of 128 North 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois and listed LOUISA RAY as his Mother. The file indicated that he worked for the railroad for the period November 4, 1944, to November 17, 1944, 13 days. He listed former employment of April, 1934 to June, 1944 with Sunset Amusement Company, Excellsior Springs, Missouri and C B & Q Railroad, Omaha, Nebraska, and W. A. COLE, a fellow employee, does not recall RAY.

Name checks at the Galesburg, Police Department, Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Credit Bureau failed to develop any information. The former residence area of 164 South Academy is now a cemetary.

SI 44-561

I. WILLIAM and MILDRED MAHER

SI 44-561

WILLIAM E. MAHER, Uncle of JAMES EARL RAY, was located at 712 Brown Street, Alton, Illinois April 22, 1968. He stated prior to RAY's entry into the Army, he worked at a shoe tannery, Hartford, Illinois, where he became associated with individual who had pro-Nazi leanings and RAY became anti-Negro and anti-Jewish as a result. In military service, RAY was in Germany where opinion crystalized.

MAHER stated he last saw RAY 10 or 12 years ago and to his knowledge, RAY has not been in Alton since 1959 when he was involved in an armed robbery. He stated he could suggest no one in the Alton area acquainted with RAY or to whom RAY might turn for help.

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

WILLIAM and MILDRED MAHER, 712 Brown Street, Alton, Illinois advised they are the uncle and aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. They have advised that RAY has not been in contact with them for 10 or 12 years; that they do not believe he will contact them since they had a falling out when they last were together and that if RAY does contact them, or they think or anything that might be pertinent regarding him, they would get in touch with the FBI promptly.

With regard to other relatives of RAY, Mr. and Mrs. MAHER advised as follows:

Mrs. MARY MAHER,
Grandmother,
deceased

LUCILLE RYAN,
Mother
Deceased.

SI 44-561
RCH:epp:sjs
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA FRANK E. CORN, SR. and SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

AT ALTON, ILLINOIS:

From May 2, through May 14, 1968, physical surveillance of the residence of WILLIAM MAHER, 712 Brown Street, was instituted on a daily basis at varying times of the day and evening hours.

No unusual activity was noted during these surveillances.

J. Mrs. FRANK (MABLE) FULLER

SI 44-561

On April 20, 1968, Mrs. MABLE FULLER, nee Ray, Paternal Aunt of Subject, Quinty, Illinois, stated very little contact with any member of family. No information regarding subject's whereabouts of or background. She last heard that SUSAN, subject's sister, in Chicago and married. Uncle, WILLIAM MAHER, an advertising service man and paint contractor as of 1960, believed either deceased or in San Francisco, California. WILLIAM MAHER, was born September 20, 1916 and has FBI # 768642.

SI 44-561
EHD:ras
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The following individuals in Quincy, Illinois, were recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS on the dates indicated by each name, at which time they could not furnish any information not already furnished concerning this matter:

WALTER TERRY RIFE
Virginia Hotel
April 30, 1968

SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER
Virginia Hotel
April 25, 1968 and
April 30, 1968

ART CONNORS
Virginia Hotel
April 30, 1968

EARL JACK HILAND
Sky Ride Inn Tavern
April 30, 1968

On April 26, 1968, MARGARET ROTH, Assistant Manager, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., 226 North 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised SA ELYON H. DAVIS that FRANK FULLER and wife, MABEL RAY FULLER, resided at 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, as of April 1, 1967. This was the last entry in the file. In 1958, FRANK FULLER was working for Heck Vending Machine Company, Quincy, Illinois. The file showed he was 68 years of age in 1967 and either retired or unemployed. The Credit Bureau did not contain any information as to relatives and the credit of the FULLER family was good.

MABEL RAY FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, was reinterviewed on April 26, 1968, by SA's ELYON H. DAVIS and FRANK J. HABERSHAW.

Mrs. FULLER furnished the following information:

She has received no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY since last being interviewed by the FBI. She does not [SEARCHED INDEXED] not seen RAY since 1955 when her mother, the [illegible]

JAMES EARL RAY, died. He apparently arrived at the funeral services by himself and left by himself.

She advised that she is the sister of JAMES GERALD RAY, the father of JAMES EARL RAY. She has not been JAMES GERALD RAY for a number of years and has not had any close contact with her brother JAMES GERALD RAY.

She stated that JAMES EARL RAY served in the United States Army in Germany, near the end of World War II, or after the war and this is the only overseas travel concerning RAY of which she has any knowledge. She stated that she did not consider herself to be the favorite aunt of JAMES EARL RAY. She stated that before he entered the service in the middle 1940's, he had lived with the grandmother named MAHER, in Alton, Illinois, and apparently he had worked for some "leather making outfit" in Alton.

Mrs. FULLER advised that all of the children of the RAY family were apparently put out for adoption some time around 1952 and that she personally did not know there had been a RAY child by the name of MAX RAY.

She advised that until the FBI contacted her concerning JAMES EARL RAY, she did not even know that his mother LUCILLE was dead.

She advised that while JAMES EARL RAY was in prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, she had sent him mail on a number of occasions and had on occasion sent him small quantities of money. She stated that he had sent her two or three Christmas cards and this was the only contact she had with him.

Mrs. FULLER advised that apparently she had not been on JAMES EARL RAY's mailing list while in the penitentiary and he had smuggled out through other visitors and inmates Christmas cards to her on two or three occasions. These in turn were mailed to her.

She advised that on each one of these cards, he had signed them "JIMMY".

She advised that EARL RAY was her brother and that he had died in Buffalo, New York, a number of years ago. She stated that JAMES EARL RAY probably had no knowledge of the death of EARL RAY or the whereabouts of EARL RAY at the time of death.

Mrs. FULLER advised that she and her husband are retired and spend almost all of their time at home. She stated they have very few visitors and she has practically no contact with other members of the RAY family.

She advised that she would cooperate with the FBI in this matter and furnish any information that comes to her attention.

FRANK FULLER, 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that he is the husband of MABEL RAY FULLER and that she is the aunt of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he has no contact with members of the RAY family and he had no information concerning the whereabouts, activities or associates of JAMES EARL RAY.

FRANK FULLER advised he will furnish any information concerning any member of this family to the FBI.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

ELMER BECKMAN, 2505 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that the FRANK FULLER family resides at 2601 Chestnut Street, Quincy, Illinois and that the family solely consists of FRANK FULLER and his wife MABEL FULLER. BECKMAN advised that he, after viewing photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, had never seen this individual at the FULLER's house and he would immediately advise the FBI of any information concerning the activities of the FRANK FULLER family. He advised that FRANK FULLER is retired and that he and his wife spend almost all of their time at their own home. Occasionally, FRANK FULLER might work at a tavern in Quincy, Illinois, if a bartender could not be found a tavern on some given date.

ELMER BECKMAN was contacted concerning the activities at the FRANK FULLER house on May 1, 1963, May 6, 1963, and May 9, 1963, and on each occasion, BECKMAN advised that there had been no visitors to the FULLER house during that period of time.

Surveilances were conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and SA MACK OLIVER on the residence at 2601 Chestnut Street on a spot basis daily from May 1, 1963 to May 10, 1963. In this period of time, no activity was observed at the FULLER home and no visitors were observed at the FULLER home.

IV. ASSOCIATES OF JAMES EARL RAY

A. WALTER TERRY RIFE

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The following investigation was conducted by SA LARRY W. GREEN:

The following correspondents were shown in WALTER T. RIFE's correspondence file #31326 at Menard Prison, Menard, Illinois:

Frequent letters to his wife, JAN RIFE, 1508 North Autumn, Peoria, Illinois;)prostitute)

Mother-in-law, Mrs. FRANK (JULIA) OWEN, 1508 North Autumn Lane, Peoria, Illinois;

Other Miscellaneous Correspondence:

U.S. Disciplinary Barrack
Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas;

GEORGE GINOS
Hillsboro, Illinois, June 19, 1964;

LEON SUTHERLAND,
First National Bank Building,
Peoria, Illinois,
July 7, 1964;

HAROLD MASON,
527 South Adams,
Peoria, Illinois
July 13, 1965

Peoria County Bar Association,
Box 209,
Peoria, Illinois,
July 17, 1964;

CECIL MC CRACKEN,
Greenville, Illinois
Circuit Court Clerk,
December 10, 1964;

Bond County State's Attorney
December 15, 1964;

JAMES BAILEY (rejob);
Pekin, Illinois
RR 2,
November 3, 1965;

JOHN F. GRADY,
9 North County Street,
Waukegan, Illinois
April 25, 1966;

LAST ADDRESS: (May 19, 1966) paroled to FRANK OWENS,
1508 Peoria
(assumed 1508 North Autumn)

PREVIOUS INCARCERATION: Joliet Prison
April 16, 1959,
No. 22-674

BROTHER: FRED RIFE,
Lanark, Illinois;

SISTER: BETTY VOSS
227 Truman
Lanark, Illinois;

FRIEND: LINDA NIEDERS
General Delivery
Christopher, Illinois;

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CHG:sjs
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The following agencies at Harrisburg, Illinois, were checked with negative results concerning possible location of MONAN LEE CRAWFORD and DARLENE CRAWFORD, sister and niece, respectively, of WALTER TERRY RIFE (associate of subject JAMES EARL RAY).

Postmaster
BILL MELTON,
Harrisburg, Illinois;

Sheriff CLIFTON JONES
Saline County Sheriff's Office;

Officer PAT ATKINSON,
Harrisburg, Illinois, Police Department;

ROY LANE,
Former trooper,
Illinois State Police;

RAY JOHNSON,
Operator
Little Ray's Bar-B-Que
Route 45;

VERNA STINSON
Saline County Credit Bureau

It is to be noted that all of the above persons remembered the CRAWFORDs but all advised the CRAWFORDs moved away during 1955 or 1956 and they have no knowledge of forwarding address or their present location.

On 4-20-68, WALTER TERRY RIFE was re-interviewed at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN.

RIFE furnished the following information:

RIFE advised that he had had no contact with JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, since he last saw RAY in the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1957.

RIFE advised that the best he could remember concerning RAY that RAY had had close associates or relatives at one time in the Alton, Illinois, area. He stated that he felt that RAY had at one time hung out around taverns owned by TERRY TWEET in the Alton area.

RIFE advised that he knew that RAY had at one time close contact with some fence in Peoria, Illinois, to whom RAY sold stolen items. By this he stated that he meant that RAY was a thief and would steal anything during the period of time he knew RAY from the late 1940s until 1955 and this included household items, groups of burglaries of business establishments and such like and that RAY would get rid of hot items through a fence in Peoria. RIFE advised that he had no idea as to the identity of this fence.

RIFE stated that he (RIFE) had lived in the Peoria, Illinois, area until 1967 when RIFE moved to the home of his brother LONNIE RIFE at Baylis, Illinois. RIFE then in 2-68 had taken over the operation of the restaurant at the Virginia Hotel and had been operating this restaurant since that time.

RIFE again reiterated that any of the individuals who lived or worked at the Virginia Hotel could verify the fact that he had been at the Virginia Hotel for the period 3-27-68 through 4-4-68. He stated also that since he and his wife operated the restaurant together and since his wife

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had had a baby in 2-68, it had been necessary for him to work long hours and to also be at home on a regular basis to take care of the RIFE's three other children.

He again stated that members of the Quincy Police Force could verify that RIFE had been in Quincy on a daily basis inasmuch as the police checked the Virginia Hotel every night.

RIFE advised that he would be available for interviews by the FBI at any time and that in the event that he was not working or at his home 214 Lynn Street, Quincy, Illinois, SAMUEL EDNA HARPER, a Clerk at the Virginia Hotel, would know of his exact whereabouts, and RIFE could be reached in a short period of time.

RIFE advised that he could not remember anyone in the Quincy area who was close to the subject and could not think of anyone who might have any information concerning RAY.

RIFE advised that he did not feel that MELBA MARIE RYAN, the sister of the subject, has had any contact with RAY and he certainly is aware of the fact that MELBA MARIE RYAN has had serious mental problems and that any information that she would furnish could not be relied on.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA'S ELYON H. DAVIS AND THOMAS M. SCHOENHOFER on 4-19-68:

Trooper EARL MC FEETERS, Illinois State Police, Hull, Illinois, advised that he has since 3-18-68 seen LONNIE RIFE and WALTER RIFE almost on a daily basis. He advised that until recently, WALTER RIFE had lived at the home of LONNIE RIFE; however, WALTER RIFE is now working at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois, operating the restaurant in that Hotel. MC FEETERS advised that he does not believe either RIFE has made any long trips from the Quincy, Illinois, area or has been gone from Quincy, Ill., for any extended period of time during the past month.

On 4-19-68, Detectives DON CAPPS and HAROLD LAMB, Quincy, Ill., PD, advised that they are night detectives for that PD. Each advised that as a usual thing on their night routines they pass the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second St., Quincy, Ill. They advised that they cannot state for certain on any exact date that WALTER RIFE was at the Virginia Hotel; however, they have seen him there practically every night operating the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel. Each advised that RIFE certainly could not have been gone for any extended period of time from Quincy without their knowing of this and that RIFE was certainly not gone for several days at any time.

On 4-19-68, MARY JAN RIFE, home address 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at her place of employment, the restaurant at the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. She advised that she is married to WALTER TERRY RIFE and that her husband has been in Quincy, Illinois, for every day since February, 1968. She stated that her husband certainly was not gone any day from 3-27-68 through 4-4-68. She advised that he was working each day at the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel operated by her husband. She viewed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY,

FBI # 306 443 A, made on 3-17-60. She advised that she had never seen this individual in her life and had never heard her husband speak concerning this individual. MARY JAN RIFE advised that she has been married to WALTER TERRY RIFE since 1961 and that during that period of time JAMES EARL RAY has never contacted him for any reason. She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel and that shortly before being interviewed she had learned that MELBA MARIE RYAN was supposed to be the sister of the individual charged with the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She advised this was the first time she had ever heard of JAMES EARL RAY and did not know that RAY was a brother to MELBA MARIE RYAN.

She also advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN is a mental case and has been in Jacksonville State Hospital, Jacksonville, Illinois, on numerous occasions.

On 4-19-68, SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, Desk Clerk, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, advised that WALTER TERRY RIFE operates the restaurant in the Hotel. HARPER advised that WALTER TERRY RIFE had been working every day at the restaurant since 2-68 when he took over the operation of the restaurant. He advised that RIFE's wife had given birth to a child in 2-68 and that during the period of time that RIFE's wife was in the hospital, he had operated the restaurant practically without any help and had worked from 15 to 18 hours a day. HARPER advised that RIFE has not been gone from Quincy, Ill., for any one-day period since taking over the operation of the restaurant.

A photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was exhibited to HARPER. HARPER advised that this individual was unknown to him and stated he had never seen RAY to his recollection during his life.

HARPER advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel; however, he had never heard her mention JAMES EARL RAY and did not know that this was the brother of MELBA MARIE RYAN until that date. HARPER advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN had resided at the Virginia Hotel since 12-67 and he is certain that RAY has not visited the Virginia Hotel during that period of time.

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On 4-19-68, attempts were made to interview MELBA MARIE RYAN; however, she was in a hysterical state and it was impossible to conduct an interview on that date. She advised that she would be available for an interview on 4-20-68 and that she was willing to consent to an interview with the FBI. She did stated during a short period of time an interview was attempted to be conducted that she had no idea as to the whereabouts of her brother JAMES EARL RAY.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date MAY 1, 1968

On April 19, 1968, WALTER TERRY RIFE, home address 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of business, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. Before the interview, RIFE was advised of his rights by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and a Waiver of Rights Form was read to RIFE. RIFE advised he would not sign the Waiver of Rights Form but that he was willing to discuss anything with FBI Agents.

RIFE furnished the following information:

RIFE advised that he last saw JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306 443 A, in 1957 when WALTER TERRY RIFE was released from the United States Prison at Leavenworth, Kansas.

RIFE advised that he had been arrested in 1955 with JAMES EARL RAY at Hannibal, Missouri, and both had been charged with the possession of stolen money orders from a Post Office. He advised that these had been taken from a Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois, in a burglary and that he and JAMES EARL RAY had then traveled throughout the United States cashing these postal money orders. He advised that they had traveled to New Orleans, Florida, Kansas City and California, cashing the stolen money orders before being arrested at Hannibal, Missouri.

Both were then sentenced to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

RIFE advised that he had seen JAMES EARL RAY almost on a daily basis at the penitentiary at Leavenworth from 1955 until RIFE was released from the penitentiary in 1957. RIFE later learned that RAY was not released from the penitentiary at Leavenworth until 1958. He stated that he had not been in contact with RAY since that date and had no knowledge of RAY's activities other than he had heard that RAY was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early 1960's. He had no idea as to the charge concerning RAY at that time; however, he thought it was some type of armed robbery.

On 4-19-68 at Quincy, Illinois File # SI 44-561

SA THOMAS M. SCHOENHOFER

by SA ELYON H. DAVIS /ras Date dictated 4-25-68

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money and he knew that during that time that RAY broke into houses and stole money or goods he could sell. RAY also pulled stick-ups with a gun and that RAY committed burglaries in which safes were involved. RIFE advised that he does not want to talk about any particular job that he might have been involved in with RAY. He stated that RAY would also roll drunks to obtain money and would obtain money any way that a thief could obtain money. He stated that RAY was a roamer and a loaner and did not seem to have any close friends.

RIFE felt that in the event that JAMES EARL RAY ever returns to the Quincy, Illinois, area, RAY will contact RIFE. RIFE stated, however, that he has no knowledge that RAY has returned to Quincy since 1955 and does not believe RAY has returned to Quincy or he would have known something concerning the return of RAY.

RIFE advised that he would not hide JAMES EARL RAY and would immediately notify the FBI of any information he receives concerning RAY's whereabouts.

RIFE advised that he personally knew nothing concerning the shooting of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING in Memphis, Tennessee and that he most certainly himself was not in the Memphis area during the period of March 27, 1968 through April 4, 1968. He advised that this could be verified from all people connected with the Virginia Hotel as well as members of the Police Department of Quincy, Illinois. He stated that night policemen cruise by his restaurant at the Virginia Hotel practically every hour of each night and that the night detectives and also patrolman LARRY COLLINS could verify that he had not left the Quincy, Illinois, area.

RIFE advised that he knew that JAMES EARL RAY's uncle EARL RAY had moved to California from the Quincy, Illinois, area ten to fifteen years before and that he thought the uncle had died with a heart attack. He knew that somewhere he had understood that EARL RAY was dead.

RIFE advised that he could furnish no information concerning possible contacts of JAMES EARL RAY.

The Harboring Statute was explained to RIFE by SA ELYON H. DAVIS.

RIFE advised that he first met JAMES EARL RAY around 1942 when apparently RAY and his family moved to Quincy, Illinois, from some small town in Missouri. He stated that RAY had close connections in Quincy and that during the period of time that he had known RAY, RAY had resided with his Uncle, EARL RAY, in Quincy and at the time he and RAY were arrested in Hannibla, Missouri, RAY was living at the Victor Hotel on North Sixth Street in Quincy, Illinois. He advised that the Victor Hotel has been closed for many years and that he understands the operator of the Victor Hotel is now deceased.

RIFE advised that he had never heard RAY mention his father or talk very much concerning his relatives and RIFE advised that he did not know that NELBA RYAN, who resides at the Virginia Hotel was RAY's sister until learning on that date that RAY was charged with the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RIFE advised that when he and RAY were apprehended in Hannibal, Missouri, they were accompanied by KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK. He advised that he is certain that RAY had never met BUSKIRK until the date of their arrest in Hannibal and that he (RIFE) had picked up BUSKIRK in a tavern in Quincy and took her to Hannibal on a date. He advised that BUSKIRK is presently married to WILBUR CONNORS in Quincy, Illinois.

RIFE stated that he remembered distinctly that BUSKIRK and RAY did not know each other until he introduced them on the date the three were arrested in Hannibal. He stated that BUSKIRK was not actually arrested but was released and that she had nothing to do with the passing of the stolen postal money orders.

RIFE advised that he had never visited in the RAY home in Quincy, Illinois, and had no idea as to the address of RAY's people or the number of relatives that RAY had in Quincy. He stated that he and RAY as a normal thing, did not actually run around together but would meet each other in taverns at which time they would talk and decide to do something together.

RIFE advised that during the period of time that he had known JAMES EARL RAY, RAY had been "a thief". He stated that RAY would do anything during that period of time to make

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, MARY JAN RIFE, 214 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised she is certain her husband, WALTER TERRY RIFE, has no knowledge of the present activities or whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

She stated also that MELBA MARIE RYAN, sister of RAY, still resides at the Virginia Hotel and eats almost all of her meals at RIFE's restaurant in the hotel. She stated that MELBA MARIE RYAN has told her on several occasions during the last three or four days that she has no information or knowledge of the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN has been highly emotional during the past few days and she felt that this was due to numerous reporters attempting to interview MELBA MARIE RYAN.

She advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN is a mental case and no reliance can be placed on any statement made by MELBA RYAN.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 23, 1968, WALTER TERRY RIFE, 214 Lind Street, was reinterviewed at his place of business, the Virginia Hotel Restaurant, Quincy, Illinois.

RIFE advised that once when he was fingerprinted after his arrest on a possession of stolen postal money orders with JAMES EARL RAY in 1955, he was booked under the name of VERNON ELMO RIFE. He stated that VERNON ELMO RIFE has never been an associate of JAMES EARL RAY and has never been in jail with RAY and this is the reason records in Missouri would show RAY was arrested with VERNON ELMO RIFE instead of WALTER TERRY RIFE.

RIFE advised that when he and JAMES EARL RAY were passing the stolen money orders throughout the United States after their arrest in Hannibal, Missouri, they claimed they had purchased these money orders from a wino named WILLARD J. MC BRIDE. He advised that this information is not correct and they did not purchase the money orders from any WILLARD J. MC BRIDE. He advised that he has never known a WILLARD J. MC BRIDE and that he and RAY obtained the money orders in Adams County, Illinois. He said that the Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois, is located in Adams County, Illinois, and that he did not intend to admit to any burglary but that neither RAY nor RIFE obtained the money orders outside of Adams County.

RIFE advised that during the period of time that he and RAY were passing the money orders, they traveled extensively throughout the United States to towns in Florida, New Orleans, Louisiana, St. Louis, Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, across the United States to California and back to the Quincy, Illinois, Hannibal, Missouri, area, where they were arrested. He stated that there was no particular place that RAY seemed fond of during that trip more than anywhere else and that they traveled from town to town on a spur of the moment deal and no plan or scheme was involved in their travels.

He advised that during these travels he and RAY did not contact anyone named COIN and did not contact anyone to his knowledge, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

He advised that they did contact a COHEN in Kansas City, Missouri, and sole COHEN some of the money orders. RIFE was not certain as to the description of COHEN but thought that he would now be an old man. RIFE personally did not know COHEN or anything concerning his whereabouts or activities. He stated that COHEN was a man that they contacted in a tavern and sold him some of the stolen money orders. He stated that they contact COHEN by just asking questions in taverns as to who would by money orders.

RIFE advised that he knew that JAMES EARL RAY disliked Negroes immensely ; however, he had no idea as to the reason why. He advised that he had never known any incident involving RAY and Negroes.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois.

WALTER TERRY RIFE, operator, Virginia Restaurant, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was recontacted on April 30, 1968, May 3, 1968, May 10, 1968, and May 13, 1968, and on each date advised that he could furnish no additional information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. He also advised on those dates that definitely JAMES EARL RAY has not contacted MELBA MARIE RYAN at the Virginia Hotel.

SAMUEL EDWARD HARPER, desk clerk, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was recontacted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS on April 25, 1968, April 30, 1968, May 3, 1968, and May 9, 1968, and on each date advised that he could furnish no additional information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. On each date, he advised that MELBA MARIE RYAN, RAY's sister, still resides at the Virginia Hotel and that the restaurant of the Virginia Hotel is operated by WALTER TERRY RIFE.

On May 3, 1968 and May 9, 1968, ART CONNORS whose wife owns the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was recontacted on each date and advised that he had no information concerning the whereabouts or activities of JAMES EARL RAY not previously furnished.

On May 9, 1968, ART CONNORS, Virginia Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, advised that to his knowledge, no telephone calls have been charged to the Virginia Hotel that were made by MELBA MARIE RYAN. He advised that he remembers his wife placing a call or else accepting a telephone call in April, 1967 from his son Sergeant ARTHUR A. CONNORS, JR. who is stationed in New Jersey and was coming home to visit his parents before being transferred to Vietnam. CONNORS advised that his son Sergeant ARTHUR A. CONNORS, JR. was presently at the CONNORS home, Rural Route 5, Quincy, Illinois.

On May 9, 1968, Sergeant ARTHUR A. CONNORS, JR. Rural Route 5, Quincy, Illinois, advised SA ELYON H. DAVIS that he placed a collect telephone call to the Virginia Hotel from Long Branch, New Jersey on April 9, 1968. He

advised that this was of a personal nature to his mother concerning his transfer to Vietnam.

Sergeant CONNORS advised that the name JAMES EARL RAY is completely unfamiliar to him and that he could not recognize any photographs of JAMES EARL RAY as anyone he had ever seen.

B. JOSEPH ELMER "BLACKIE" AUSTIN

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The following investigation was conducted by SA EDWARD A. CARPENTER, at the Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary, on April 26, 1968:

A record was located for JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN who has FBI #821733 whose date of birth is April 15, 1898, and who originally was received at the Menard Branch, on December 21, 1925, and he remained at the penitentiary until July 22, 1949, when he was released and was returned to the penitentiary on December 22, 1950, where he remained until April 8, 1954, when he was released on parole and again returned to the penitentiary on February 8, 1955, where he remained until April 27, 1956, when he was again released on parole and then returned to the penitentiary on September 17, 1957, where he remained until May 7, 1959, when he was again released on parole until September 23, 1959, when he was returned until his ultimate discharge on February 23, 1965.

According to penitentiary records, AUSTIN when he was dismissed from Menard went to St. Leonard's House located at 2100 West Warren Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and he received a final parole on discharge on July 11, 1967, through the Parole Office located at 160 North LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois.

According to the records, AUSTIN at one time, was transferred to the state penitentiary at Joliet, from August 2, 1934, until August 15, 1936, when he was returned from Menard. According to the records, AUSTIN used the names JAMES FREELEY, SHARKEY AUSTIN and BLACKEY.

AUSTIN was originally received on a 25-year sentence for murder and a 10 to life sentence for armed robbery from Morgan County, Illinois. According to the records, AUSTIN has a nephew by the name of RALPH whose full name is RALPH TANNEHILL, 1432 - 4th Street, Madison, Illinois, a niece, Mrs. JOE REESE, 316 North Hoosier, Brazil, Indiana; a brother, CHARLES, residing in Waverly, Illinois; a brother, BERT, residing in Springfield, Illinois.

AUSTIN is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
DOB	4/5/98
Height	5' 10½"
Weight	129 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Dark
Hair	Gray
Occupation	Farmer
	Has cut scar on center of forehead

A review of his correspondence file reflects correspondence with Mrs. DOROTHY SEYMOUR, at Franklin, Illinois, a sister;

ROBERT REED, a case worker from St. Leonard House, 2100 Warren Avenue, Chicago, Illinois;

Father DOUGLAS WOLFE,
St. Leonards House,

Attorney J. EDWARD JONES
1432 West Harrison Street,
Chicago, Illinois;

A. A. Farris Company, Inc.
122 West Lincoln Avenue
Goshen, Indiana

St. Anthony's Inc Inc.
29 South LaSalle Street,
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. GERARD LETTMAN
Warren Clinic
2449 West Washington Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois

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Mr. and Mrs. MYRICK
Caseyville Nursing Home
Caseyville, Illinois;

A. B. ROBERTSON
2011 Road Street,
Madison, Illinois

Waukegan Rescue Mission
Waukegan, Illinois

Friend WILLIE MAE MORGAN
Waverly, Illinois;

MYRTLE COOK
Acme Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri

Cousin GERTRUDE WALLING
904 Lind Street,
Quincy, Illinois

No other information of value noted in file for AUSTIN.

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On May 9, 1968, AUSTIN's brother, CHARLES, was located and interviewed at Waverly, Illinois and advised he was in receipt of a letter, dated May 7, 1968, from AUSTIN with a return address of 2023 Warren Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois. CHARLES AUSTIN was not sure if his brother was employed or not.

CHARLES AUSTIN was interviewed re subject RAY and shown photographs of RAY but advised he was not acquainted with the subject nor had he ever heard his brother mention the subject.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON D. DAVIS at Quincy, Illinois, on May 10, 1968:

GERTRUDE WALLING, 1120 College Street, Quincy, Illinois, advised that she formerly resided at 904 Lind Street, Quincy, Illinois. She advised that when she lived on Lind Street she occasionally rented rooms in her home and sometime around 1956 she rented a room to JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN. She advised that she remembered AUSTIN'S date of birth to be 1898 inasmuch as her year of birth was the same and that was the only person she had ever lived in a house with who was born the same year as her. She stated that AUSTIN when he came to Quincy, Illinois, came to Quincy through some contact with a Catholic priest in either Quincy or Chicago. She advised that AUSTIN had been in the Illinois State Penitentiary and came to Quincy in an effort to obtain a job and that apparently this unknown Catholic priest had obtained AUSTIN a job in Quincy. However, AUSTIN lived at her home less than one month when he left and she heard shortly thereafter that he had been arrested and was returned to prison. She stated that she could not remember the name of the town in which he was arrested and had not seen AUSTIN since 1956. She stated as far as she knew AUSTIN did not have any relatives or associates in Quincy, Illinois, and that AUSTIN was not related to her. He simply lived in her home for a period of less than one month and that was as a border.

She advised that she did not know JAMES EARL RAY and had never known AUSTIN to speak concerning RAY under RAY'S true name or known aliases.

She stated that she is certain JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN was not a Quincy resident and that he knew nothing concerning Quincy at the time he moved to Quincy.

Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to GERTRUDE WALLING and she advised that she had never seen this individual before.

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On May 10, 1968, ELIZABETH ROTH, Credit Bureau of Quincy, Inc., 528 North Fifth Street, advised that her file contains very little information concerning JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN other than a newspaper clipping which showed that JOSEPH ELMER AUSTIN, age 59; had been arrested on August 4, 1957, in Robertson County, Tennessee, with JOHN GEWIN SCROGGINS, age 38, and a DORRIS CALVIN MEACHAM of Elkton, Kentucky. The three had been arrested for the alleged kidnapping of a Guthrie, Kentucky, motel clerk and had allegedly taken him across the state line into Robertson County, Tennessee, where they robbed him of $139.00 and set him free. The trio was stopped for speeding near Ashland City, Tennessee, and the $139.00 believed stolen from the Guthrie, Kentucky, motel clerk was found scattered along the highway near the scene of arrest.

AUSTIN was then committed to the Central State Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, after Government attorneys said they believed he might not be mentally capable of advising with council.

The article showed that AUSTIN came to Quincy, Illinois, in April, 1956, and previous to that he had been sent back to prison three times for violation of parole and had spent three months in a tuberculosis sanitarium in Jacksonville, Illinois.

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C. MILTON DEAN "BUCKY" BATCHELDER

SI 44-561

On April 25, 1968, investigation at Springfield, Illinois, revealed MILTON DEAN BATCHELDER, also known as Bucky, FBI #548 312 B, white male, dob April 25, 1932, at Quincy, Illinois, was the individual to whom a Hannibal, Missouri, policeman sold a car from RAY and forwarded the proceeds to. Checks at Menard State Prison, Menard, Illinois revealed BATCHELDER was transferred to Joliet Brancy, Illinois State Penitentiary on September 7, 1966.

D. PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR.

SI 44-561

A review of the Springfield files regarding PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR. reflected him as subject of a 1963 Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement case, in which he was described as follows:

Name	PAUL ARTHUR LAIL, JR., Aka Paul Alvin Lail, Jr. Paul Lail, Jr. Paul Arthur Carter
FBI #	754 483 A
Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
DOB	6/30/30
POB	Marion, North Carolina
Height	6' 5"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Red
Blue	Eyes
Occupation	Sign painter electrician truck driver radio repair man
Social Security #	295 22 4460
Teeth	No upper
Scars	Scar on left knee

SI 44-561

E. HILLIARD ALLEN SANDERS

SI 44-561

On 5-1-68, SA's FRANK E. CORN, SR., and ROBERT C. HAINES, interviewed HILLIARD ALLEN SANDERS, at 137 East Acton Street, Wood River, Illinois.

SANDERS stated that he was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, on 1-20-52, upon conviction of an armed robbery charge at St. Joseph, Missouri. He said he was released on parole on 9-1-64.

SANDERS advised that he never became acquainted with or had knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY during the time he was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary. He said that while he was in the penitentiary, he worked at several trades and that the last two jobs he had in the penitentiary had to do with the sewing machine mechanical section and that the last job he had was a halltender from 1963 to 1964.

SANDERS said that upon parole he went to Gadsden, Alabama, where he lived and worked for approximately 18 months; that he then went to Camden, South Carolina, where he was employed by the firm of E. I. DUPONT for 9 months. SANDERS said that he then came to Wood River, Illinois, where he has been working on construction at the Shell Oil Company Plant in Wood River. He said that he arrived in Wood River in 7-67 and has resided in Wood River since that time.

SANDERS concluded by stating that when national publicity was released concerning the identification of JAMES EARL RAY, he viewed photographs appearing on television and in the news media and determined that he had never known RAY while both were at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

SI 44-561

F. WILBUR CONNORS

On 4/20/68 WILBUR CONNORS, aka MANNY CONNORS, 825 South Fifth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and SA ELYON H. DAVIS and furnished the following information:

On that date was the first he had learned of his wife, KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, had been arrested with WALTER RIFE and JAMES EARL RAY in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955. He advised that he had never heard his wife mention JAMES EARL RAY and is quite certain that she did not know RAY or have much of any contact with him. He pointed out in 1955 his wife was only seventeen years of age and that she did not have a criminal record and for this reason he did not believe she had been involved with RAY and RIFE in any crime.

WILBUR CONNORS advised that his sister-in-law, LAURA CONNORS, owns the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. CONNORS advised that he is in this hotel on almost a daily basis and can state that WALTER RIFE was certainly working each day at the restaurant and the Virginia Hotel from the period 3/27/68 through 4/4/68.

CONNORS advised that he personally does not know JAMES EARL RAY and does not have any information concerning RAY's activities or whereabouts.

On 4/20/68 LAURA CONNORS, owner, Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by SA ELYON H. DAVIS and ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and furnished the following information.

Around 2/6/68 she had leased the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel to WALTER TERRY RIFE. She advised since that date the restaurant has been operated by RIFE and that RIFE has been working in the restaurant every day. She advised that RIFE's wife, JAN RIFE, gave birth to a baby in late 2/68 and for this reason WALTER RIFE had worked from approximately 7:00 each morning until 11:00 at night operating the restaurant. She stated that certainly WALTER RIFE was working during the period 3/27/68 until 4/4/68.

She advised that she does not know JAMES EARL RAY, FBI No. 306443A, and after viewing five different photographs of RAY advised that this is not an individual who she has ever known. She stated that MELBA MARIE RYAN does live at the Virginia Hotel and that she had learned on the previous night that MELBA MARIE RYAN was a sister to JAMES EARL RAY. She stated, however, in her conversations with MELBA MARIE RYAN, MELBA MARIE RYAN had denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of RAY and she does not believe that RAY has contacted the sister since his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

On 4/20/68 ARTHUR CONNORS advised that he is the husband of LAURA CONNORS, owner of the Virginia Hotel, 534 North Second Street, Quincy, Illinois. ARTHUR CONNORS advised that he can verify that WALTER RIFE was working at the restaurant in the Virginia Hotel during the period of 3/27/68 through 4/4/68.

ARTHUR CONNORS also viewed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A. CONNORS advised that this individual was completely unknown to him and he has never seen him at the Virginia Hotel.

G. KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK CONNORS

SI 44-561

On 4/20/68 KATHERINE DORIS BUSKIRK, presently married to WILBUR CONNORS and residing 825 South Fifth Street, Quincy, Illinois, was interviewed by ASAC DONALD T. SULLIVAN and SA DAVIS.

She advised that she had never met JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #306443A, until one night during 1955 when WALTER RIFE, an acquaintance of her, approached her in a tavern in Quincy, Illinois, and asked her if she wanted to go with RIFE to Hannibal, Missouri. While in the automobile, she was introduced to JAMES EARL RAY and after arrival in Hannibal, Missouri, WALTER RIFE and JAMES EARL RAY were arrested concerning some postal money orders that had been stolen. She advised that she had never seen RAY before that date and has never seen him since. She stated that she had no information concerning the whereabouts of RAY or any information concerning the background of RAY.

She advised that her husband did not know RAY and had never heard of her being arrested with RAY and RIFE in Hannibal, Missouri.

She advised that she is acquainted with MELBA MARIE RYAN since MELBA MARIE RYAN resides at the Virginia Hotel but that she did not know that this was a sister of JAMES EARL RAY.

She advised that she would furnish any information of value that she might learn to the FBI concerning RAY or the RAY and RYAN family; however, she had none to furnish at the present time.

SI 44-561
EHD:ras
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On April 24, 1968, ART CONNORS, whose wife LAURA CONNORS, owns the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois, advised that he had received no information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that he intends to cooperate in every way with the FBI in this matter and will immediately advise the FBI of anything concerning RAY's whereabouts.

He advised that RAY's sister, MELBA MARIE RYAN, has stated numerous times she has no information as to RAY's whereabouts. He advised that KATHERINE BUSKIRK, now married to CONNORS' brother, WILBUR CONNORS, known as MANNY CONNORS, has told him that she knew nothing concerning RAY other than she was arrested with RAY and WALTER RIFE at Hannibal, Missouri, in 1955. Inasmuch as she was not involved and knew nothing concerning the passing of the stolen money orders, she was released on the same day of the arrest and no charges pressed against her.

CONNORS advised he is certain in his own mind that neither MELBA MARIE RYAN or WALTER TERRY RIFE has any information concerning the whereabouts of RAY.

SI 44-561

H. JOSEPH ADAMS

2850

SI 44-561

The following investigation was conducted at the Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary, on April 26, 1968:

On April 26, 1968, MAX FRYE, Warden, Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary, advised that one of the inmates by the name of JOSEPH ADAMS, who works in the Office rs Mess at the Penitentiary, indicated to him recently that he was acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY having been with him at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Warden FRYE stated that he did not question him concerning his contacts or knowledge of RAY but thoughi it might be of value to interview him.

On April 26, 1968, JOSEPH ADAMS, also known as Shorty, who has Menard #11745 was interviewed at the penitentiary and advised after viewing a photograph of RAY that he was acquainted with RAY when RAY was at the Missuri State Penitentiary.

ADAMS advised that he left the penitentiary for Menard last October, 1967, and that when he got there, RAY was already there.

ADAMS advised that his only knowledge of RAY was that RAY brought food over to the hospital where ADAMS was working and he assumed that RAY apparently worked in the prison kitchen.

ADAMS advised that he never talked directly to RAY at any time nor did he ever observe him with any other inmates. He described RAY as a very quiet individual and this is all the information he had concerning him.

I. JOHN EUGENE GAWRON

SI 44-531
JAD:jah
1

The following investigation was conducted at Menard, Illinois, on May 1, 1963, by SA JEROLD W. DONALDSON:

Warden MAX FENN, Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch, made available the prison records of JOHN EUGENE GAUDON, Illinois State Police #25201 (Joliet Penitentiary #1817). The file reflected the following background data:

NAME	JOHN EUGENE GAUDON
ALIASES	JOHN GAURON JACK DAWSON JOHN GAUDES JACK DOWLEY
RACE	White
SEX	Male
DATE OF BIRTH	July 12, 1899
PLACE OF BIRTH	Chicago, Illinois
HEIGHT	5'3"
WEIGHT	170 pounds
HAIR	Gray
EYES	Hazel
RELIGION	Catholic
EDUCATION	8th Grade, Chicago
NATIONALITY	Polish
MILITARY SERVICE	U. S. Marine Corps from May 6, 1916, to May 24, 1917. Marine Corps Serial No. 73396
PARENTS	Deceased, father died 1931, mother died 1951.
FBI NUMBER	134834
OCCUPATION	Cook and baker
CHARACTERISTICS	Smokes, chews tobacco, and drinks heavily

The file revealed that GAUDON was originally received at Joliet, Illinois, Penitentiary on November 2, 1934, under sentence of one to life for burglary. GAUDON received Menard Branch, Illinois State Penitentiary on July 25, 1958, from Adams County, Illinois, as a parole violator. GAUDON paroled from Menard on March 21, 1959, to Veterans Administration Hospital,

Wood, Wisconsin. He remained there three days and left without permission. CARROL carried at that time in an absconder status until November 18, 1951, when he was returned to Menard Penitentiary. He was paroled on April 11, 1953, to the Soldiers and Sailors Home, Quincy, Illinois, but was never received at this home. CARROL's address as of April, 1953, was shown as 1807 South 11th, St. Louis, Missouri.

The following individuals were listed as correspondents in CARROL's file:

Miss MARY NICHOLS, cousin, 1010 Park Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri

Miss CAROL MAHER, later shown as Mrs. CAROL PEPPER, a friend, 1913 Hickory Street, St. Louis, Missouri, and ALBERT PEPPER, 1713 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

Questionnaires were filled out by the following individuals:

Date of questionnair not shown on file. LUCILLE MARY RYAN (friend), who lists an address of 701 Washington (date not shown) and 527 York, Quincy, Illinois, in July, 1957.

CAROL ANN MAHER (Second cousin), later shown as CAROL ANN PEPPER, 1913 Henry, St. Louis, Missouri

ALBERT LEROY PEPPER (friend), 1015 Allen, St. Louis, Missouri

JOHN LARRY RAY (friend), 1915 Hickory, St. Louis, Missouri

Also included in the file were 3 re-classification reports dated June 10, 1940; December 2, 1951; and September 2, 1953, which would be of pertinent background value.

J. MELVINA "RUSTY" TYLER

On May 9, 1968, BERNICE DUCKAN and ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN, owners of the Jewel Lounge, 106 (rear) - 5th Street, Peoria, Illinois, advised that they have owned that tavern for approximately one year. Both are from the State ofCalifornia and they advised that the Jewel Lounge was formerly known as the m & n Tavern and that the tavern is still commonly referred to as the "Old M & N". They advised that the former tavern owner (1959) called "Rusty"was unknown to them and they could furnish no information concerning her identity or whereabouts.

On May 10, 1968, LARRY ENNIGER, 1800 North Knoxville, Peoria, Illinois, former tavern operator, advsed that "Rusty" was widely known in the Peoria, Illinois area inasmuch as during the 1950s shehadtended bar at two or three different establishments.

On May 13, 1968, BETTY MEYERS, owner of the Beer Barrel Tavern, suggested "Rusty" whose name she did not know may be employed at the Piere Marquette Hotel in Peoria, Illinois.

On the same date, PHIL BUSSMAN, Sales Representative, Piere Marquette Hotel, identified "Rusy" as Mrs. RAY M. TYLER, also known as MELVINA TYLER, 408 Bryan Street, Peoria, Illinois and 213 Franklin Street, Bartonville, Illinois. He advised she has been employed as waitress in the lounge of the hotel for the past 6 years.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 16, 1968

MELVINA TYLER, also known as "Rusty", and "Mrs. Ray M. Tyler, 213 Franklin Street, Bartonville, Illinois, was interviewed at her residence regarding her knowledge or any prior association with JAMES EARL RAY, FBI # 405 942 G. She viewed photographs of RAY and advised that this individual is unknown to her and that she could furnish absolutely no information regarding this man.

She advised that she was the owner on record, and operated the M & M Tavern, 106 (rear) -5th Street, Peoria, Illinois, during 1958 and 1959. She said she purchased the tavern from MILLIE and MAC BURDIN who now operate the "Galley" a basement night club at the Hotel Jefferson, Peoria, Illinois. She said prior to 1958, she had operated bars at the Beer Barrel, 1034 Northeast Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois, and also the Pour House, 800 North Main Street, Peoria, Illinois. She advised she was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and came to Peoria, Illinois, at the age of 16. She advised that she married SAM ALLEN in early 1950 and she and ALLEN had had business interests in the above taverns between 1953 and 1959.

She stated she divorced ALLEN in 1958 and married RAY M. TYLER, a brick layer by trade, in 1960. She advised she is the mother of two children, ages 7 and 8. She stated she has been steadily employed as a waitress at the Piere Marquette Hotel, Peoria, Illinois, for the past six years.

She was advised that it had been reported that she may have associated socially with RAY and that she had been termed "a girl friend of RAY" about 1959. She stated that due to her association with the general public for the past several years as a waitress, she had become widely known in the Peoria, Illinois area due to her natural red hair, however, she advised that in many instances she would not know or recall customers who may have remembered her by name. She advised she is positive that she has never known RAY socially and has never corresponded with him. She advised that she would immediately notify the FBI should any information con-

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On 5/13/68 at Bartonville, Illinois File # SI 44-561

SA ELIAS WILLIAMS, JR. &
by SA QUENTIN P. STINSON skt Date dictated 5/15/68

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.

2857

cerning this individual come to her attention.

The following physical description was obtained from observation and interview and comments made by Mrs. TYLER:

Name:	MELVINA TYLER
Aliases:	"RUSTY" Mrs. RAY M. TYLER
Address:	213 Franklin Street Bartonville, Illinois
Sex:	Female
Race:	White
Age:	40
Height:	5'5"
Weight:	130 lbs.
Hair:	Red (shoulder length)
Complexion:	Fair, freckled
Marital Status:	Married (1960)
Husband:	RAY M. TYLER
Occupation:	Brick layer
Previous addresses:	408 Bryan Street Peoria, Illinois
Telephone number:	Unlisted 697-0122
Occupation:	Waitress

K. JAMES LAOMA OWENS

SI 44-561
RLW:skr
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROY LEE WILKERSON, JR. at Springfield, Illinois:

On May 15, 1968, WILLIAM KAUFFMAN, Division of Supervision of Paroles, 103 National Guard Armory Building, Springfield, Illinois, advised that his office has a file concerning JAMES LAOMA OWENS and OWENS has been incarcerated at the State Prison in Menard, Illinois, and the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. KAUFFMAN advised that JAMES OWENS has a prison registory number for the State Prison of Menard, Illinois, being 20208. OWENS' registory number for Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, is 69846. KAUFMAN advised that the only description that he has in his file is as follows:

NAME:	JAMES LAOMA OWENS
RACE:	White
SEX:	Male
FBI NUMBER:	1-397-707
AGE:	27 on March 12, 1947
HEIGHT:	5'2½"
WEIGHT:	129
HAIR:	Charcoal medium
EYES:	Dark Black
COMPLEXION:	Fair
OCCUPATION:	Clerk
CHARACTERISTICS:	Top of head bald.

OWENS was incarcerated at the Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch, Menard, Illinois, having number 20208, received from St. Clair County, Illinois, March 12, 1947, on the crime of robbery.

KAUFFMAN advised that the most current address that his files reveal is an address of 3904 Folsom Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, and this address was current as of August 15, 1965, as a communication sent to OWENS on this date was not returned. KAUFFMAN stated that on August 15, 1965, OWENS was issued a Certificate of Restoration of the Rights of Citizenship. KAUFFMAN stated that JAMES OWENS was discharged on June 27, 1965, at the expiration of his sentence from the State Prison, Menard Branch, Menard, Illinois.

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Illinois. KAFFMAN advised that he has not had any further communication or correspondence with OWENS since August 15, 1965.

KAUFFMAN stated that any additional information needed concerning OWENS could be obtained from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, or the State Penitentiary of Menard, Illinois, and this information at the penitentiaries would be more current then the information that he has, especially information concerning description and background information.

L. ANDREW WILSON "BLACKIE" DE CORE

SI 44-561

Menard Prison records reflect on May 17, 1968, ANDREW WILSON DE CORE, also known as De Cora and Blackie De Core, Menard #23415 received Menard Prison, June 15, 1953, on a transfer from Joliet, Illinois prison to serve a sentence of 1 to 20 years for robbery.

DE CORE was paroled June 15, 1959 to Rev. JAMES WINENEGAR, St. Louis Rescue Mission, St. Louis, Missouri, and was returned as a parole violator to Menard, July 19, 1960. He was paroled January 15, 1965 to Baptist Rescue Mission, Collinsville,Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. He was returned to Menard as parole violator, May 28,1965. He was discharged upon expiration of sentence, December 20, 1966. Upon discharge, he expressed intention of going to his sister's residence, Mrs. YALANDA DI CASOLA and her husband, VINCENT, 37555 Glenmore Drive, Freemont, California. Other friends and relatives contained in prison records are as follows:

Brother

ANTHONY DE CORE
713 South Claremont,
Chicago, Illinois or
1938 North 70th
Melrose Park, Illinois ;

Sister

Mrs. MARTHA BUTTITTO,
husband - BENNIE
9241 North Maple Court,
Morton Grove, Illinois;

Sister

NANCY COSENTINO
502 East Memorial
Bensonville, Illinois;

SI 44-561

Niece

Mrs. GEORGE ROGERS
2020 North Le Clare
Chicago, Illinois;

Cousin

PAT COLLESE
1641 North Latrobe,
Chicago, Illinois

Fiance

Miss HELEN HARE
3020 West Madison,
Chicago, Illinois;

Brothers

HARRY DE CORE and NICK DE CORE
addresses unknown

Friend

Miss MARY SAWYER
City Hospital Number 1
1515 Lafayette Street
St. Louis, Missouri.

SI 44-561
MWO:mpb
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA EDWARD A. CARPENTER:

At East St. Louis, Illinois

On May 22, 1968, Reverend DAVID BLISS, Pastor of the Baptist Rescue Mission, located in East St. Louis, Illinois, was contacted and advised that ANDREW WILSON DE CORE is unknown to him, and according to his records, he could not identify him in the East St. Louis, Illinois area and could not identify him as having given any service at the Rescue Mission.

Reverend BLISS advised that in the event that DE CORE should contact the mission, that he would make this fact known to the FBI.

V. INVESTIGATION AT ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY PONTIAC BRANCH

SI 44-561

A. RECORDS RE JAMES EARL RAY

STOW E. SYMON, Supervising Sociologist, Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac, Illinois on April 25, 1968, advised his file contains little information concerning RAY who was a model prisoner while incarcerated Pontiac, July 7, 1952 until discharged March 12, 1954. He stated RAY was confined on a charge of robbery under Criminal Court, Cook County, Illinois case 52-1155 which sets forth in statement of facts subject at time of arrest, in Chicago, Illinois was wounded in both arms by police bullets. No information was located at Pontiac describing wounds or location of scars. Subject RAY at Pontiac assigned Honor Farm, August 12, 1952 until discharge. This is dormitory type housing rather than cell type. Subject was assigned to the kitchen as a cook and also on officers quarters detail.

The following inmates were identified and are set forth with their last known addresses furnished the prison at their time of release:

LEE MILLER
Pontiac Number 19200
6538 North Talman Street and
3542 SouthPort
Chicago, Illinois;

EDWARD PAUL RIVERA,
Pontiac Number 19294
515 West 63rd Street,
Chicago, Illinois;

GUS MARZAHN
Pontiac Number 19095
1620 West Nelson Street,
Chicago, Illinois;

CHARLES REED
Pontiac Number 18492
2286 Street
Madison, Illinois

SI 44-561

FRED M. PETRAKIS
Pontiac Number 18516
Route 1
Peoria, Illinois
518 Sanford Street,
Peoria, Illinois;

KENNETH D. FOSDYCK,
Pontiac Number 19218
Route 1
Bushnell, Illinois;

DWIGHT ROWE
Pontiac Number 19086
432½ South Vine,
Kewanee, Illinois.

B. INTERVIEWS WITH POSSIBLE INMATES OF JAMES EARL RAY

SI 44-561

On 4/28/67, FRED PETRAKIS, 2904 North Avalon Place, Peoria, Illinois, a former inmate at Pontiac Penitentiary, was shown a 1955 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY without effecting an identification.

PETRAKIS advised that for about one and one-half months in late 1953, he served as a barber at the Pontiac Honor Farm in the penitentiary, however, he does not recall RAY. Prior to this, he cut inmates' hair at the main prison and served thirty-three months at Pontiac from 1950 to early 1953 before being paroled. PETRAKIS advised that he took inmate NORMAN DEAN's place as a barber and that DEAN may recall RAY.

On 5/1/68, NORMAN DEAN, barber, 927 Court Street, Pekin, Illinois, a former inmate at Pontiac Penitentiary, was shown a 1955 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY without effecting an identification. DEAN advised that he was discharged from Pontiac during the winter of 1952 and never cut hair on the Honor Farm. He possessed no information regarding RAY and was not aware that RAY was confined at Pontiac during the time of his incarceration.

SI 44-561

On 4/20/68, CHARLES E. REED, was interviewed by SA LARRY V. GREEN concerning his knowledge of the present location of JAMES EARL RAY.

It is noted that the referenced teletype contains the address of REED, as 223 - 6th Street, Madison, Illinois. This address should be corrected to show REED's address as 2023 - 6th Street, Madison, Illinois.

REED stated that he was at the Pontiac State Farm, Pontiac, Illinois, in 1952. He stated that he entered Menard State Penitentiary at Chester, Illinois, in late 1949 and was subsequently transported to Pontiac Prison, Pontiac, Illinois, in late 1950. He stated he remained there on a farm until he was released August 20, 1952. REED stated at the time he was on the prison farm, there were about 150 persons working there. He stated that his job was to deliver the mail to each dormatory daily and that he was familiar generally with every person located on the farm at that time.

When questioned about the subject, REED stated that he does not recall the name nor does he remember associating with a person named JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that he was familiar with the name since it had been in the news frequently in recent days, but it had never come to his attention until now that RAY may have been at Pontiac State Farm while he was there. He further stated that he does not recall any particular person who may have been friends with the subject. It is noted from the referenced teletype that subject entered the farm at Pontiac August 12, 1952. REED recalls that he was dismissed from Pontiac, August 20, 1952. He stated that he was 19 years old at the time he was on the farm. He further

related that he has not kept in contact with anyone he met while at the farm and knows nothing of the whereabouts of any of the inmates who were incarcerated at the farm while he was there.

REED is described as:

Age	Approximately 33
Height	5' 6"
Weight	140
Hair	Blonde, crew cut
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Ruddish
	Limps due to a crippled right leg
Marital status	Single, lives with his mother at the above noted address
Employer	Sanitation worker riding on sanitation trucks in the Madison-Granite City, Illinois area

REED has 5 brothers living in the Madison-Granite City area and 1 sister. It is noted from a criminal check at the Madison city PD that CHARLES E. REED has had some credit problems as well as being arrested for speeding and disorderly conduct since his release from Pontiac. (also from Granite City PD records)

SI 44-561
EHD:ras
1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ELYON H. DAVIS:

On May 2, 1968, Deputy Sheriff, JOHN BLIVEN, Mc Donough County, Macomb, Illinois, advised that KENNETH D. FOSDYCK no longer resides in Bushnell, Illinois, but resides in Macomb, Illinois. He stated that FOSDYCK has a criminal record and is holder of FBI #442 181 A. He advised that FOSDYCK is presently employed by Burell Florists in Macomb, Illinois, and resides at 321 College Street, Macomb, Illinois. He advised that the record of FOSDYCK shows he was first arrested on October 14, 1948, for tampering with a motor vehicle and has later arrests for robbery, petty larceny, auto larceny, probation violation; however, Deputy BLIVEN advised that the last known arrest for FOSDYCK was on December 3, 1954 when he was returned to the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois, for parole violation.

He furnished the following physical description of FOSDYCK:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	November 12, 1928
Height	5'10"
Weight	155 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Build	Slender
Education	8th Grade

On May 2, 1968, ELMER BURELL, Owner, Burell's Florists, Macomb, Illinois, advised that KENNETH D. FOSDYCK is employed by him and has been for a number of years. He stated that FOSDYCK resides at the Florist at 321 College Street, Macomb, Illinois, and that during the past several years FOSDYCK has been working regularly. He advised that FOSDYCK was working during the period of March 27, 1968, through April 4, 1968.

A number of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to ELMER BURELL. He advised that he has never seen anyone with FOSDYCK remotely resembling RAY. He also advised that he had never heard FOSDYCK mention RAY and felt certain that this individual had not been in Macomb in the recent past.

On May 2, 1968, KENNETH D. FOSDYCK was interviewed at 321 College Street, Macomb, Illinois. A number of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were exhibited to FOSDYCK. FOSDYCK furnished the following information:

The photographs of JAMES EARL RAY are vaguely familiar to him as someone he has seen in the past.

FOSDYCK advised that he (FOSDYCK) was assigned to the Illinois State Penitentiary Honor Farm at Pontiac, Illinois, from September 15, 1952 until February 5, 1954. He advised that there was not a large number of individuals residing at this Honor Farm and it is quiet possible that he knew JAMES EARL RAY vaguely during this period of time. FOSDYCK advised that he certainly has not seen RAY since February, 1954, and has had no information concerning RAY's whereabouts.

On 5/7/68 Chief of Police DEAN WATSON, Kewanee, advised that he knew of a DWIGHT ROWE having formerly lived in Kewanee, but advised that he had not seen him in years. He further advised that both of ROWE's parents were deceased, but that he believed ROSE V. JACABSON, 111 Hollis Street, Kewanee, was related in some way to ROWE.

On 5/7/68 Mrs. ROSE V. JACABSON, 111 Hollis, Kewanee, advised that DWIGHT ROWE was her first husband's brother. She further advised that ROWE quite often visits her children, but has not done so since the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. She has never heard him mention JAMES EARL RAY. Mrs. JACABSON advised that ROWE presently resides at 905 Third Street, Green Rock, Illinois.

On 5/7/68 attempts were made to contact ROWE, 905 Third Street, Green Rock, Illinois, but were unsuccessful.

On 5/8/68 DWIGHT PIERSON ROWE, 905 Third Street, Green Rock, Illinois, advised that he had served time at Pontiac, Illinois, but stated he did not remember JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that to the best of his knowledge the first he had ever heard of RAY was when his picture appeared in the newspapers in regard to KING. ROWE advised that he met so many other men while in Pontiac using so many different names that he could have met RAY and not realized it.

VI. PRIOR THREATS AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DAVID V. LANSDEN, Attorney, Cairo, Illinois, advised on April 27, 1968, that he has had BENNY K. PINKSTON, FBI #314 7431 as a client on 2 or 3 occasions. LANSDEN states that PINKSTON is a heartless individual who professes to be a separationist and usually acquires small amounts of money from businessmen in the white community by soliciting donations in $1 and $2 amounts to promote his separation of the races program.

LANSDEN stated that PINKSTON usually carries a quantity of JOHN BIRCH literature and distributes same and generally operates in the Sikeston, Missouri, or Forrest City, Arkansas area.

LANSDEN was unable to recall any conversation wherein PINKSTON threatened the life of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. nor does he recall PINKSTON ever consulting him as to what might happen if he killed KING. LANSDEN states to the best of his knowledge, PINKSTON is probably in Forrest City, Arkasas where he has a mother and other relatives. LANSDEN stated to the best of his recollection, he last saw PINKSTON 3 or 4 years ago.

VII. "INTEROFFICE" LOOKALIKES AND POSSIBLE SUSPECTS

A. VINCENT DE PALMA

2880

SI 44-561

On April 6, 1968, RONALD LORENZEN, Managing Editor, Times Democrat, Davenport, Iowa, advised he received a telephone call from EDWARD BUMGARDNER of 917 - 6th Avenue, Erie, Illinois on April 5, 1968. BUMGARDNER advised him that the photograph displayed on television of the assassination suspect appears to be that of one VINCENT DE PALMA. BUMGARDNER also advised that he is a former Minuteman and the assassination may have been committed by a member of the Minutemen.

SI 44-561

B. CARL RICE

SI 44-561

JUDITH LOTT, 1103 West North Crest, Peoria, Illinois, telephonically advised on April 5, 1968, she viewed a composite drawing of suspect in slaying of captioned individual on Channel 25 WEEK television, Peoria, Illinois, which individual resembles CARL RICE, Minneapolis, Minnesota. LOTT was described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5' 11"
Age	32
Hair	Blonde
Eyes	Blue
Weight	155 pounds

LOTT continued by saying RICE was previously involved in narcotics and racial matters. He attended Blake School, Minneapolis, resided with father, Doctor CARL RICE, suburb of Edina, Minneapolis, approximately 10 years ago. HARLEN BARRD, WEEK TV, Peoria, Illinois, advised the composite drawing of suspected slayer of captioned individual was shown on television April 5, 1968, which drawing was from UPI Wire Photo Service.

C. WILLIAM RAY KING

SI 44-561

On April 7, 1968, Detective Sergeants JOHN COLEMAN and ROY WEST, Rock Island Police Department, advised an anonymous telephone call was received at the Police Department that a white male wearing gold colored clothing was at the Ft. Armstrong Hotel in Rock Island, Illinois, either had a gun or guns or made statements that he had killed someone or that he had been in Memphis, Tennessee, when MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was killed. The voice was very muffled and the exact comments could not be distinguished.

Both proceeded to the Hotel where they immediately located BILLY RAY KING whom they checked for a gun. In subsequent conversation, they determined that KING came from Louisiana and spoke very bitterly of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated he got what he deserved and when asked if he had killed him, this person responded that even if he had he wouldn't tell them. They decided to take him to the Police Department for further investigation.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 11, 1968

BILLY RAY KING was interviewed at the Rock Island, Illinois, Police Department, by ROBERT A. WICKWIRE and CHARLES E. SMITH who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. KING was warned of his rights and he waived them as shown on an executed warning and waiver form.

BILLY RAY KING advised he has resided for ten years at 102 Arlington Street, Lake Providence, Louisiana. He has been employed as a deck hand on different boats in the Mississippi River since he was 18 years of age. He stated for the last three months he has been employed as a deck hand on a towboat for the K.G.W. Towing Company out of Greenville, Mississippi.

He added that he had been injured on his boat approximately twenty days ago and had been treated at the Greenville, Mississippi, General Hospital, but had been recuperating at his home in Lake Providence, Louisiana. He had recovered and arranged to catch his boat, which is the George Weathers, at Quincy, Illinois. His Personnel Director, JERRY WILSON, with the K.G.W. Towing Company in Greenville, Mississippi, had given him an airplane ticket from Greenville, Mississippi, to St. Louis, Missouri, to Quincy, Illinois, for April 5, 1968; however, he determined that all planes were full and was instructed to take a bus to Memphis, Tennessee, to catch a plane to St. Louis. He left his home by Trailway Bus around noon on April 4, 1968 and proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, which is about 175 miles. He arrived in Memphis sometime in the afternoon . probably around 4:00 p.m. While at the Trailway Bus Depot, the riots broke out due to the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He advised that the bus depot was closed. There was no busses allowed to leave or enter and the people in the bus depot were forced to remain in the depot all night long. He advised that the depot was only two or three blocks from the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, where KING was shot. He advised that he knows where this motel is located as he had stayed there on previous occasions. He added that it was general knowledge in all the papers that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was in Memphis and staying at the Lorraine Motel.

On 4-7-68 at Rock Island Illinois File # SI 44-561

SA CHARLES E. SMITH

by SA ROBERT A. WICKWIRE /ras Date dictated 4-9-68

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.

KING stated that he did not shoot MARTIN LUTHER KING but hastily added even if he had done so, he would not tell. He also stated that MARTIN LUTHER KING got just what he deserved and that the people in the North are getting just what they deserved on this racial problem as they caused the whole thing. When asked if he was a member of the KKK, KING stated that he was not a member but also added even if he was, he would not tell.

KING then stated during the early hours before daybreak, the busses started to move and he was able to take a taxi to the airport. He recalled that the fare was somewhere around $4.65. When he arrived at the airport, he determined that there was only one plane that he could catch to Quincy, Illinois; however, this plane was full and he was placed on stand by. When the plane left and he could not get on, he then made a long distance telephone call to his boss JERRY WILSON who then told him to catch a bus to St. Louis and a bus to Quincy where he could catch the boat. He advised that he took a cab back to the bus depot where he boarded a Trailway Bus for St. Louis, Missouri. He advised this was early in the morning and arrived in St. Louis sometime around noon. He then caught a bus from St. Louis to Quincy; however, this bus made many different stops and he arrived too late in Quincy to catch the boat. He then took another bus to Rock Island, Illinois, where he now waiting for the boat which is due to arrive at 12:00 midnight.

KING stated that he owns a 1967 bright blue Mustang which is at his home at Lake Providence, Louisiana. He explained that the papers for this car are in the name of his friend TRAVIS SHEFFIELD, who lives approximately three blocks away on Foster Street. He stated he bought this car from SHEFFIELD and is making the payments but he has not had the papers changed over to his name. The car is at his home. KING also admitted that he owned a .38 pistol and a shotgun which are both at his home.

The following description was obtained from observation and interview:

SI 44-561

Name	BILLY RAY KING
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	April 23, 1925
Place of Birth	St. Joseph, Louisiana
Height	6'1"
Weight	185 pounds
Hair	Dark Brown, Curly
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Medium to ruddy
Address	102 Arlington Lake Providence, Louisiana
Occupation	Deck Hand, Towboat
Education	Seventh Grade
Marital Status	Single
Employment	K.G.W. Towing Company Greenville, Mississippi
Mother	GERTRUDE FRITH
Arrests	Admits juvenile arrest before the age of 18 for assaulting a Negro police officer in Lake Providence, Louisiana, explaining he beat this officer with a pipe, served nine months in a reform school at Monroe, Louisiana; Admits arrest at the age of 18 for carrying a pistol at Lake Providence, Louisiana, fined $200.00 and $37.00 costs and two years probation.

SI 44-561

D. UNKNOWN SUSPECT

SI 44-561

TOM MOSS, Chief of Police, Kankakee, Illinois, advised on April 5, 1968, he received an anonymous telephone call stating that a young white man staying at the West Lane Motel, Marion, Arkansas, had told a female employee of this motel that he was a Chicago police officer and that he was on his way to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. No further information was obtained from the anonymous telephone call.

SI 44-561

E. ALLEN RICHARD THAYER

SI 44-561

The Springfield, Illinois Police Department, on April 8, 1968, advised ALLEN RICHARD THAYER was in custody and that he fits the general description of the individual who shot MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THAYER interviewed this date by Bureau Agents and he advised he could not account for his whereabouts on the pertinent dates as pertained to this case. He did advise, however, that he had been traveling across the United States for several weeks and that to the best of his knowledge he was in Denver, Colorado on the day that he heard that KING had been assassinated. THAYER advised at no time was in in Alabama or Tennessee this year. THAYER and companion were traveling in a 1959 gold Chevrolet.

THAYER is described as:

Height	5' 11"
Weight	155 pounds
Hair	Dark brown combed straight back
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Dark
Tattoo	Skull and crossbones left forearm
Previous arrests	Armed robbery Ontario Canda breaking and entering Hartford, Connecticut
DOB	10/23/33 Bristol, Connecticul

THAYER advised he knows nothing concerning the murder of KING nor has he any animosities toward KING. The Springfield Police Department filed charges against THAYER for defrauding an innkeeper.

F. WILLIAM LOHMEYER

SI 44-561

On April 9, 1968, discreet investigation was conducted re WILLIAM LOHMEYER, Route 1, Strawn, Illinois. Information was developed LOHMEYER has been in the Strawn Illinois area, during the pertinent period re captioned matter.

LOHMEYER is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	43
Height	5' 9"
Weight	165
Complexion	Ruddy
Hair	Brown Burr cut
Build	Medium - stocky round facial features
Occupation	Farmer Well respected in community

SI 44-561

G. J. J. TRARES

2895

SI 44-561

JEROME J. TRARES, is described as:

Race	White
Sex	Male
DOB	6/9/11
Height	6'1½"
Weight	230 pounds
Hair	Brown, graying bald, front and top
	4 Sheryl Drive, East St. Louis (Caseyville) Illinois
Employer	U.S. Gypsum salesman of building materials to wholesalers

Was in Memphis, April 2-4, 1968 to contact BILL WOOD at lumber yard owned by JOHNSONS, owners, Holiday Inn Motel Chain Driving 1968 Green Ford 4 door registered to U.S. Gypsum

TRARES departed Memphis at 4:00 P.M. April 4, 1968, arriving at residence 10:30 P.M. the same date after stop at Cairo, Illinois.

Due to varience in physical and car description and departure time, he does not appear identical to the unknown subject.

H. UNKNOWN SUSPECT

: 44-561

On April 6, 1968, Mrs. Bill SMITH, 705 West Maple, Champaign, Illinois, telephone 352-8324, telephonically advised that on Thursday, April 4, 1968, while watching the news on channel 16 in Champaign, Illinois, which immediately followed the [redacted] show, she observed an individual in the crowd at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was making a speech who did not applaud when the others did and looked as though he were a trouble maker.

She commented to her family concerning this person's reactions at that time. Subsequently, on April 6, 1968, she observed an artist drawing of the slayer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. on television, whose description is similar to that of an individual she observed in the news concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING. She said if she could see the news tape re-run of this, she is sure that she could identify the person to whom she is referring. She said she could be contacted at any time for any assistance she might be able to offer in this regard.

2898

I. ROBERT L. PLUNK

SI 44-561

ROBERT L. PLUNK, white male, age 34, born November 28, 1933, 5' 10" tall, 160 pounds, dark brown hair, receding, brown eyes, was a passenger on train number 6 IC Railroad to St. Louis, Missouri, at 5:00 A.M. this date, April 11, 1968. PLUNK briefly interviewed at Carbondale, Illinois, in view of information furnished by train personnel indicating PLUNK resembled artist's sketch of assassin of Dr. KING. PLUNK boarded IC passenger train #10 out of Jacksonville, Florida, at Corinth Mississippi with a round trip ticket to St. Louis. He was with his mother, EULIA PLUNK and resides at RR 2, Michie, Tennessee. PLUNK produced a letter from Veteran's Administration Hospital (Vab) St. Louis, Missouri, addressed to ROBERT L. PLUNK, RR 2, Michie, Tennessee, requesting him to report for physical re disability claim. PLUNK has TB was a Korean war veteran and had prior chest operation for TB at Murphyreesboro, Tennessee, VAH. The letter directed PLUNK to report VAH A 139, out patient service, 915 North Grand, St. Louis, Missouri, April 11, 1968. PLUNK claims he does not work due to physical condition. PLUNK obviously in poor physical condition and had difficulty in moving and breathing.

SI 44-561

J. A. J. CONSOLINO

2901

SI 44-561

On April 13, 1968, LEONARD KORMORNY, Manager, Lipsett Steel Products Company, 2520 East 23rd Street, Granite City, Illinois, advised that D. L. PETERSON is actually a D. L. Peterson Leasing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, and the automobiles for Lipsett Steel Products Company are leased through the D. L. Peterson Leasing Company.

He advised that the Lipsett Steel Products Company and the Luria Brothers and Company are the same company, operating out of 2520 East 23rd Street, Granite City, Illinois.

He said A. J. CONSTANTINO was an employee of the Lipsett Stell Products Company and that CONSTANTINO was residing at the Executive Apartments at 10038 Executive Drive North, St. Louis, Missouri, and would not be returning back to the company until April 15, 1968. He further advised that CONSTANTINO was the only employee of the company who took travelling assignments. He advised that he did not have any information concerning the 1968 Illinois license 411809 at the present time.

K. UNKNOWN SUSPECT, AKA RICHARD GALT

SI 44-561

On this date, April 19, 1968, [redacted], [redacted] North North Street, Peoria, Illinois, telephone number 637-1577, telephonically contacted the Peoria Resident Agency to advise that he had heard a radio broadcast from a Springfield station, Springfield, Illinois, not identified, while driving from Springfield to Peoria on this date. He recalled the commentator said the FBI was trying to locate an individual (NMN) GAIT who was a seaman working out of Birmingham, Alabama. He advised that he is a former seaman, and he immediately recalled an individual known to him as RICHARD GAIT (phonetic) whom he had sailed with on the SS Hudson of the Victory Transportation Line, New York City in December of 1951 to February of 1952, on a voyage to Spain and return to Port Arthur, Texas. He advised he and this individual known to him as RICHARD GAIT were both members of the Seafarers International Union, Mobile, Alabama, whose national office is Brooklyn, New York.

He advised he and another seaman named TOBY DANCY of Mobile Alabama, and also a member of the said union, discussed racial matters and religious matters and politics at length, during the above voyage. He stated there were four Negroes in the crew of approximately 40 men and that he, [redacted] and DANCY were the only two who associated with GAIT (PHONETIC).

He described this individual as follows:

Age	Approximately 40-42 years of age at this time
Height	6'
Weight	165
Build	Thin
	Casual dresser, had excellent knowledge of hand guns and had excellent knowledge of European countries.

2904

SI 44-591

NEUBLE advised that this individual had related that he had studied for the priesthood in Chicago, Ill., during his early years. He also advised that he was an experienced veteran seaman.

NEUBLE was contacted in person by SAs ELIAS WILLIAMS, Jr., and the writer, and he could add no additional information to the above.

SI 44-561

KENNETH NEWBLE, 1817 North North Street, Peoria, Illinois, viewed on April 18, 1968, a composite photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT. He advised this individual is definitely not the crewman which he had reference to aboard the SS Hudson in December, 1961, to February, 1962. He advised there is distinct differences in the hair and facial features. NEWBLE is of the opinion he knew the crewman as RICHARD GALT and cannot offer explanations or suggestions as to which crewman he may have made reference to. He advised he recalls RICHARD SANTAMOUR, also a crewman, who is definitely not identical with the individual he had reference to. Based on NEWBEL's statements, after viewing a composite photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT and in the absence of any recorded crewman named GALT. no further investigation to locate this individual will be conducted.

L. CLOYD DRAKE

2907

SI 44-561

Investigation by SA ROBERT ELLIS BASCOM at Winchester, Illinois, revealed on 4-13-63 that both license plates, CS 6003, are on 1962 white Chevrolet Bel-Aire hardtop. Such is in accordance with records of SOS at Springfield, checked 4-14-63. Car duly registered to CLOYD DRAKE, Winchester, Illinois.

Mrs. DRAKE interviewed. She advised her husband recently passed away and that only she and her husband ever used the auto. She further advised that the car definitely has not been to Chicago and that the plates have not been removed or used on any other auto.

No further investigation being conducted in view of discrepancy in description of auto seen in Chicago and that of DRAKE's auto.

SI 44-561

M. JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE

2909

SI 44-561

Information was received from the Jackson Division, on April 19, 1968, that Pascagoula, Mississippi Police Department stopped an individual driving a white Corvair bearing 1968 Illinois license DG 3109. The driver identified himself as JOSEPH CLAYTON MONTAGNE. MONTAGNE was accompanied by another white male whose identity was not determined. MONTAGNE indicated he was a musician and the other person indicated he was a seaman and they were both heading for New Orleans.

The officer who stopped the above individuals said that MONTAGNE resembled the photo of GALT and that after hearing a description of JAMES EARL RAY having a scar in the middle of his forehead he believed that MONTAGNE might be RAY as he recalled MONTAGNE having such a scar. No further description was available on MONTAGNE or the other person.

Auto Registration Section records, Springfield, Illinois, revealed 1968 Illinois license DG 3109 is registered to RAYMOND HILLBURN, 6039 North Ridge, Chicago, Illinois for a 1956 Dodge, Four door, VIN 32233139. Auto registration and drivers license checks re MONTAGNE negative.

Drivers License Section records re HILLBURN describe him as:

Name	RAYMOND MITCHEL HILLBURN
Address	1254 Leland,
Chicago, Illinois	
DOB	7/1/40
Height	5'-10"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Drivers license #	H41673340187
	Suspended since 3/10/68

N. PAUL STANLEY BOOTHBY

SI 44-561

Re: PAUL SCHUSY DOOLEY
Suspect
Clinton, Illinois

On 4/10/68, Sheriff CHARLES DARNETT, DeWitt County Sheriff's Office, Clinton, Illinois, advised SAC, Springfield, Illinois, that he had in custody one PAUL SCHUSY DOOLEY who had been arrested by the DeWitt County Sheriff's Office authorities at Clinton, Illinois. Subject had been riding a freight train from Springfield, Illinois to Clinton, Illinois, illegally and was arrested on local charges. Sheriff advised that subject resembled JAMES EARL RAY, also known as ERIC STARVO GALT.

Subject PAUL SCHUSY DOOLEY was fingerprinted by DeWitt County Sheriff's office and was interviewed by FBI Agents in Clinton, Illinois, at DeWitt County Jail.

During interview, Subject advised that he was in Memphis, Tennessee, on 4/3/68 through 4/12/68. He stated that he had left Chicago, Illinois on the 7th of April by freight train en route to Memphis to sell a pint of his blood for $15.00. Subject advised that he had traveled throughout the United States by hopping freight trains and he had so done this for the past two years and and had worked in many states doing odd jobs. Subject advised that he was in Chicago on 4/4/68 where he worked for Help Unlimited Corporation. Subject advised that while he was in Memphis, Tennessee, he resided at the Mission at London and -2nd Street. Subject advised that he had no information re the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. nor did he know of anyone who might have participated in the killing.

CI 21-731

The following description of the subject was obtained through observation and interview:

NAME:	PAUL STANLEY DOOMEY
RACE:	WHITE
SEX:	MALE
HEIGHT:	5'10"
WEIGHT:	155 LBS.
DOB:	JULY 11, 1931
HAIR:	BROWN
EYES:	HAZEL
RES:	LIMA, OHIO
SCARS:	RIGHT KNEE LEFT HAND

FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION:

5 S A U 11
U I R

PARENTS: MR. AND MRS. DONALD DOOMEY
1124 EAST STREET
LIMA, OHIO.

Subject's parents were contacted telephonically and they advised that the description of DOOMEY was identical with that of their son and stated that he had left home about two years ago following some family problems.

O. UNKNOWN SUSPECT, AKA J. CARNAHAN

SI 44-561

On April 29, 1968, Motor Vehicle Bureau, Springfield, Illinois, advised 1968 Illinois license B291617 was issued to JAMES J. MC GOVERN, 10023 West Devon, Rosemont, Illinois for 1966 Chevrolet Fleetside Panel Truck, VIN C2546F163402 Drivers license listed as M216 450 3056, Social Security number 361 072397.

1967 Illinois license B291617 issued to GEORGE WARD, Route 2, D Street, Murphysboro, Illinois, for a 1956 Ford pickup truck, VIN F10V6G25421, drivers license listed as W15662349765258. This license originally issued for 1954 Ford Pickup in which driver's license listed as W156623497652585. These are not Illinois drivers license.

Drivers license section, Springfield, advised drivers license number M216 4502 3056 issued February 14, 1968, to JAMES J. MC GOVERN. This chauffeurs license expires March 7, 1969 and described him as 5' 10", 190 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, DOB 2/25/23; application reflects he is self employed and dba J. J. Mc Govern Motor Service, Rosemont, Illinois.

Drivers license number W632 3TWL13 5234 issued December 8, 1967 to GEORGE L. WARD, 103 Third Street, Murphysboro, Illinois, and license expires December 8, 1968 and describes him as 5' 11", 190 pounds, brown hair, hazel eyes, DOB August 17, 1935.

SI 44-561

P. JAMES E. BODKER

SI 44-561

Illinois Drivers License B326 4453 3030 issued June 2, 1967 to JAMES E. BODKER, 14341 South Avalon, Dalton, Illinois will expire January 30, 1971 and describes him as male, born January 30, 1933, 5' 10", 175 pounds, brown hair, green eyes, occupation - construction laborer. Records reflect license was suspended December 12, 1967 for an accident. It was again suspended in February, 1968 for three moving violations but is presently clear and valid.

SI 44-561

Q. WILLIAM A. MARSHALL

On May 17, 1968, Mr. WOODROW THOMPSON, Parts Manager, employed 23 years with Rust International, Inc., International Harvester (I-H), Inc., Industrial Tractor, and Equipment Company, 1803 West Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois, advised that there has never been a WILLIAM A. MARSHALL or any employee by the name MARSHALL with the Rust International Company at Bloomington, Illinois. He related there is no other International Harvester Dealer in the Bloomington, Illinois area. THOMPSON further advised that the closest representative for the International Harvester Company is L. C. BARNETT, District Manager, International Harvester Company, 505 Rock Island Road, Peoria, Illinois. Records of credit bureau in Bloomington, Illinois; Police Department, Bloomington, Illinois; Mc Lean County Sheriff's Office, Bloomington, negative. A search of city directory and telephone directory failed reveal any listing for WILLIAM A. MARSHALL or similarity.

Also on May 17, 1968, Mr. L. C. BARNETT, District Manager, I-H, Four Zero Five Rock Island Road, Peoria, Illinois, advised that his office covers the Northern 60 counties for the State of Illinois which includes Bloomington, and his records reflect no one by the name WILLIAM A. MARSHALL as being an employee of his or as being a franchise dealer in his district. BARNETT further advised he knows of no recent employee transfers from his district to the State of California. BARNETT stated that any further checks re MARSHALL should be directed to I-H Home Offices, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

A. ROBERT HOOD STRADER

SI 44-561

On this date Mrs. ROBERT STRADER of Lexington, Illinois, telephone 309 365-3143, telephonically contacted the office concerning this matter. Mrs. STRADER, who sounded considerably upset emotionally, advised she expected her husband to return home from Detroit sometime late this afternoon and wanted to know whether or not we would assure that his identity would be protected in regard to any information provided to us concerning the KING case. Mrs. STRADER also asked what kind of protection we could give to her husband who felt his life was in danger.

Mrs. STRADER was advised that any information furnished to this Bureau in confidence would certainly be protected but that we were in no position to physically guard her husband and if he felt his life was in danger this was a matter he should take up with local authorities, however, we were desirous of interviewing him concerning any valuable information he might have in regard to this case and would do so at his convenience upon his arrival. Mrs. STRADER advised she would have her husband contact the office upon his arrival at Lexington, Illinois. She was also furnished the name of the SRA at Bloomington and of the whereabouts of our office there.

Mrs. STRADER stated she and her husband were passing through Memphis at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was slain. Her husband allegedly overheard a conversation among five individuals one of whom he claims resembles the published photograph of RAY, the subject, in this case, in which they talked about the killing. Subsequently, last Sunday night their car was broken into and on Monday he claims he was followed from Lexington to Detroit by a tan Chevrolet, the registration number of which he was unable to obtain. This car contained two individuals whom

- 196A

2921

SF 44-561

he did not recognize and at a rest stop these men took a shot at him but did not hit him because he "hit the ground". He fears he is in grave danger for his personal safety because he has information about the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Mrs. STRADER was advised immediately upon her husband's return she should contact this office and we would set up a mutually agreeable time and place during which we could interview her husband concerning this matter.

SI 44-561

MARGRET CARMICHAEL STRADER, wife of ROBERT REED STRADER, was contacted at the residence of her father, E. P. CARMICHAEL, Route #1, Lemington, Illinois, on 4/20/68. Mrs. STRADER advised she and her husband were at the CARMICHAEL residence the weekend of 4/20-22/68. She advised that on the night of 4/21/68 or early morning of 4/22/68 her husband was awakened by the dogs barking outside the farm residence which is located up a farm lane one-half mile from the main rural road. She advised her husband and her father, E. P. CARMICHAEL, upon making a search of the outside area, found that the STRADER's 1967 Oldsmobile Delta "88", cream colored with black vinyl top, had been broken into. Mrs. STRADER advised nothing was missing from the car and no one was located or seen in the area. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband left alone from the CARMICHAEL residence on the morning of 4/22/68 en route Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. STRADER advised that in a short period of time, Mr. STRADER returned to the CARMICHAEL residence. Upon his return,

STRADER stated he had found a note in the recessed area of the speedometer of his car. (Mrs. STRADER pointed out that the [illegible] has been broken; therefore, her husband was not normally required to the speedometer). She related this note was made up of words [illegible] from newspapers and pasted on the back of a pocket calendar (unable to describe the calendar). Mrs. STRADER said the note read in substance, "If you go to the police or the FBI you will be killed." Mrs. STRADER advised her husband, after returning with the note, proceeded on route Detroit, Michigan, and after a short period of time had elapsed, he telephonically contacted her, stating he was at the Holiday Inn, Bloomington, Illinois. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband informed her that upon reaching the road one mile north of the CARMICHAEL residence, and Route 63, he saw a 1963 or 1967 Chevrolet, tan in color, no license information, with two men in the car, parked along the road. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her that this car followed him on route Bloomington. However, they did not turn into the Holiday Inn when he did. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband then told her he was proceeding on to Detroit, Michigan,

Mrs. STRADER advised upon discussing above with her parents, her mother, Mrs. E. P. CARMICHAEL, stated she had noticed a late model, tan car, making several trips on the main rural road near the CARMICHAEL residence on the early morning of 4/22/68.

Mrs. STRADER advised that on the night of 4/22/68 her husband telephonically contacted her, but he would not disclose his location as he stated he was afraid to mention his location over the phone. She related her husband told her that he stopped at a rest stop area after leaving Indianapolis, Indiana. Upon leaving his car and walking the direction of the men's restroom, he saw a tan automobile occupied by two men driving very slow. He stated at this time the rider in this automobile fired a shot at him. STRADER told his wife the shot just missed his ear and he, STRADER, hit the ground where he laid as if he had been hit. STRADER stated that the tan car disappeared and he has not seen it since.

Mrs. STRADER stated her husband believesthis action was due to his being in the men's restroom at the Gulf Truck Stop, Lebanon, Tennessee, on 3/27/68, where he allegedly overheard five men planning to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her that one of the men in the restroom was RAY, when he recognized after RAY's photograph was published. She stated he further informed her that he would be able to recognize the other men he saw in the restroom. Mrs. STRADER advised she recalls being at the Gulf Truck Stop at Lebanon, Tennessee, on 3/29/68. She stated upon their leaving the truck stop, her husband did not mention to her anything of hearing of the plan to kill KING. She stated she does recall her

husband remarked, "If King goes back to Memphis he will [illegible]. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband did say he wanted to [illegible] SMITH of NBC, Washington, D.C, then he knew but did not [illegible] he desired to see DR. KING.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband returned to the [illegible] residence at Lexington, Illinois, on Friday, 4/26/68, [illegible] until the morning of Saturday, 4/27/68, at which time STRADER [illegible] his mother-in-law had an argument over Mrs. STRADER's son by a [illegible] previous marriage. Mrs. CARMICHAEL told STRADER to leave, [illegible]

Mrs. STRADER stated she told her husband she had contacted Mr. DONALD T. SULLIVAN, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, [illegible] Office of the FBI, and that he, STRADER, should call Mr. SULLIVAN and set up an appointment; that Mr. SULLIVAN had informed her he would make an appointment to meet STRADER at any location or at any time when STRADER was available. Mrs. STRADER stated her husband told her he was afraid to attempt to meet with FBI Agents, as he felt he was being followed. Mrs. STRADER stated she was unable to convince her husband to make arrangements for a meeting with the FBI. She advised her husband is very much interested in obtaining protection.

Mrs. STRADER advised of some of her husband's activities, which are not concerning the murder of Dr. KING. She advised that she does not know all of her husband's business and that she is sure he has not told her all he knows.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is acquainted with [illegible] STARNS of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who told STRADER in the summer of 1967 that there were several businessmen in the area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who were taking up a collection to obtain money to have KING assassinated. Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is well acquainted in the Baton Rouge and Denham Springs, Louisiana, area. She stated he was, in the summer of 1967, connected with the E.C. Donnell Construction Company of Denham Springs, La., which was doing construction work for the telephone company. She related E. C. DONNELL lives in Dallas, Texas. She related DONNELL had an equipment rental business and while STRADER and DONNELL were attempting to rent the equipment they were trying to gain financing for a recreational park in Louisiana similar to "Six Flags Over Texas." She related that some way they came in contact with a CHARLES and LILLIAN SHAPIRO (ph) of Miami, Florida, who advised they could finance same but were not interested in a recreational park but would be interested in financing a horse racing track. Mrs. STRADER advised Mr. DONNELL obtained RAYMOND STARNS to help locate his land which could be used as a horse racing park. He also obtained sanction of the sheriff, (FNU) IRWIN and SAM DOSHO, both of Slidell, La; however, "things got out of hand" and an article

appeared in "Life" magazine and the Governor of Lousiana placed a stop to the entire operation.

Mrs. STRADER advised her husband is in telephonic contact with her daily but declines to furnish information as to his location over the telephone, as he is very afraid. Mrs. STRADER was advised to inform her husband if he has any information he desires to furnish to the FBI, he can contact any FBI Field Office who will then arrange for an interview with him.

CARL STERN, Washington, D.C., NBC Office, advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that a man (FNU) STRADER, whom he had met on one occasion while coering a story in the South, had, on April 24, 1968, telephoned him from someplace around Toledo, Ohio. STRADER informed him he was en route to the home of his wife's parents in Lexington, Illinois. He then told STERN a "fantastic tale" about him, STRADER, overhearing a conversation on March 29, 1968 in Lebanon, Tennessee, concerning the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Apparently STRADER was of the impression that the people involved in the conversation knew he had overheard them and they had taken his license number. STRADER believed there had been at least one shot fired at him since that time. STRADER informed STERN he had vital information concerning KING's murder and called STERN for advice as to what he should do. STERN advised STRADER to call the Springfield Office of the FBI and they would make arrangements to have someone meet him at his convenience in their territory. According to Mr. STERN, BISHOP stated that STRADER is afraid to approach any office and may desire to have someone meet him at a location other than an office.

The files of the Springfield Office contain the following references to ROBERT STRADER, however, it cannot be determined at this point whether or not they refer to ROBERT HOOD STRADER of Lexington, Illinois.

On November 19, 1965, ROBERT STRADER, 6'1" -2", 175 lbs., employed cutting timber near Edwardsville, Illinois, and in construction work at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, was considered a suspect in the robbery of the Hamel State Bank, Bufile 91-26560, SI file 91-2642.

SI 44-501

In 10-60 prosecution of ROBERT H. STRADER was declined in an IRSC matter which involved a rental car. ROBERT H. STRADER had represented himself as an employee of General Telephone Co., of Illinois, registering at two motels at Bloomington, Illinois, and had skipped without properly checking out and without paying for his room. STRADER could not be located at that time but was described as a white, male, 35 [illegible] 40, 5'10" - 6', 150 lbs., dark brown hair, medium build and medium complexion. He was subject of Sirific 28-[illegible].

One ROBERT REED STRADER was subject of an IRSC; USAF - AWOL THEFT case in which Milwaukee was CO,9/60, Sirific 28-[illegible], Sirific 28-28403. This individual had a rather extensive arrest record dating back to 11/43 at which time he was AWOL and which involved record of arrest for issuing worthless checks, mail fraud, investigation of forgery, and defrauding an innkeeper. ROBERT H. STRADER, whose SBI No. was given as 244 603 A, was twice a patient at hospitals, once as a patient at the Patton State Hospital concerning which fingerprints were furnished by the State Bureau of Identification, Sacramento, California, on 6-3-60 and subsequently again on 9-21-60, was a patient at Atascadero State Hospital, California. That individual was described as white, male, approximately 6'3", 190 lbs., fair complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair and was considered to have suicidal tendencies.

A check through NCIC on 4-30-63 indicated ROBERT STRADER was not currently wanted.

SI 44-561

B. INVESTIGATION, ELDORADO, ILLINOIS

SI 44-561

[illegible] HERMAN, Principal, Eldorado High School, Eldorado, Illinois, on 6/22/38, made a search of pupil records available at the school. It was determined that an [illegible] also known as Jimmy had graduated from the school. [illegible] the son of J. A. RAY of Carmi, Illinois, and was born on 8/[illegible]/20 in Saline County and entered the school 9/1/31 and graduated 5/30/38 with a rank of 105 out of 119. RAY's year book photograph was examined as to identification with the subject in captioned case. The photo did not appear to be identical.

[illegible] JAMES FOX, Rose Chalmer, Eldorado Illinois, the [illegible] secretary to the principal at Eldorado High School stated that JAMES EARL RAY was a school mate of hers. She identified a photo of JAMES EARL, RAY submitted that she in case she felt the two are not identical. She further advised that she has seen JAMES EARL RAY within the past four years and that there is no question that his [illegible] have not changed to the degree that he might resemble JAMES EARL RAY.

C. CECIL RAY

: 1 44-561

Mrs. FRENCH was contacted at her home on 4/29/68.

She advised that her ex-son-in-law, CECIL RAY, formerly of Vandalia, Illinois, has been to her residence on approximately two occasions within the last five years, accompanied by an individual who resembled JAMES EARL RAY. It is her belief that CECIL RAY referred to this person as JAMES RAY. Mrs. FRENCH was unable to furnish any more specific information as to the times or when the visits were made.

She stated that CECIL RAY was separated from her step-daughter, JUDITH CARLENE RAY, who resides at 1013 Main Street, Highland, Illinois. They have been separated about four years. CECIL RAY is believed to be employed in JOLIET, ILL., as a truck driver for an unidentified Gas and Oil Company and was last seen by Mrs. FRENCH in 1966. CECIL RAY's parents are deceased but he is believed to have a brother who resides in Vandalia, Illinois, name unknown. CECIL RAY was employed as a bartender at one time at an unidentified bar on the main street in Vandalia. MRS. FRENCH had no photograph and could furnish no description of CECIL RAY.

By way of background concerning MRS. FRENCH, her husband EARL FRENCH was beat to death in Effingham, Illinois, in early 1967 and the case has not been solved. Mrs. FRENCH resides alone with her dog and according to Sheriff A. P. DITTER, is an avid beer drinker. Mrs. FRENCH did not appear to have been drinking at the time of the interview. She did refer to the death of her husband on several occasions and mentioned that she knew how [illegible] felt

SI 44-561

JUDITH FAY, 1038 [illegible]th Street, Highland, Illinois, was interviewed April 30, 1963, concerning her knowledge of possible association with the subject, JUDD RAY, FAY.

JUDITH FAY, stated that her husband, CECIL FAY, is at the present time separated from her although they are not divorced. She stated that there is a state warrant outstanding against her husband, CECIL, issued by the State Attorney's Office at Edwardsville, Illinois, charging her husband with nonsupport of the 4 children which she has. JUDITH FAY stated that it is her understanding from the State Attorney's Office at Edwardsville, Illinois, that her husband may have recently moved to Wisconsin, in order to escape the warrant outstanding against him in the State of Illinois.

However, she stated that his location, if he has moved to Wisconsin, is unknown to her. She further stated that it is her belief that her husband CECIL RAY has not moved to Wisconsin, but is instead living in Vandalia, Illinois, with some of his relatives. She stated that she has on several occasions contacted relatives of her husband in Vandalia but they have refused to help her locate her husband. She related that it is her belief that the relatives know the location of her husband but refuse to cooperate with her in finding him and they know the warrant will be issued against him.

Mrs. RAY stated that she does not know of any association which her husband may have had with the subject but said he could have associated within before their marriage in 1953 and may have associated sometime since then with him in Alton, Illinois.

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She stated that approximately 11 years ago, she and her husband resided in a downtown apartment in Alton, Illinois, and they resided there for approximately 3 years. She stated that during their stay in Alton, her husband brought numerous friends home with him to drink in the apartment or play cards and he never identified any of these persons with him. She stated that she never inquired as to their identity and would not be familiar with the name JAMES EARL RAY.

Mrs. RAY stated that her husband is well known in the Vandalia, Illinois area in that he was raised in that City. She stated that her husband's relatives all live in Vandalia and they possibly may know the present whereabouts of her husband.

She stated that she is anxious to learn the present whereabouts of her husband and that she will cooperate with the FBI in any way possible in determining his location. She stated that it is her belief if anyone knows his present whereabouts, it will be a member of his family in Vandalia.

It is her belief that his relatives there may be protecting his present address.

She stated that a member of the family most likely to know his address will be GILBERT RAY who lives on Randolph Street, Vandalia, Illinois. She stated that a brother of her husband, LARRY RAY, also resides in Vandalia, Illinois, but his address is unknown.

Another brother, STANLEY RAY resides in Vira, Illinois, and both parents of her husband are deceased.

Mrs. RAY stated that LEONARD BOYLE is a close friend of her husband and may possibly know his present whereabouts. She stated that he is the owner of Hetzgers Tavern, Vandalia, Illinois, and the exact address is unknown to her.

SI 44-501

She further stated that ELMER ERICK who is the owner of a Mobil Station in Vandalia, which station is located at the junction of the Old Highway and the New Super Highway may possibly know her husband's present whereabouts in that her husband has worked for him from time to time.

Mrs. MAY stated that she knows very little about her husband's associates and that he would be the one to contact concerning them. She further stated that she knew very little of her husband's family background before they were married and there may be some associates at that time that she is unfamiliar with.

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RCH:skt
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The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT C. HAINES:

At Edwardsville, Illinois

States Attorney LEON D. SCROGGINS, Madison County Court House, reviewed files maintained in his office and stated that a warrant for neglect and refusal was issued for CECIL RAY on complaint of his wife JUDITH in Madison County Court at Edwardsville. He stated that the information obtained at the time the complaint and warrant were issued disclosed that CECIL RAY was residing in Joliet, Illinois, and accordingly, certified copies of the warrant were forwarded to authorities at Joliet.

He indicated that he had no knowledge of the current whereabouts of CECIL RAY and that nothing in file indicated anything except that he was in Joliet.

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On 5-13-68, Sheriff LEONARD KELLY, Fayette County, Vandalia, advised there are several members of the RAY family in the vicinity and he was seriously doubtful of any connection with the suspect in this case. According to investigation conducted to locate CECIL RAY, all members of the family are not too smart and prone to using alcohol to excess.

In this respect, LARRY RAY, a City of Vandalia employee, was jailed over the weekend of 5/11-12/68 for threatening his wife, but released on $25.00 bond.

MARION KIRKPATRICK, an employee of the USPO, advised CECIL RAY lived in the same neighborhood, but has not been in Vandalia for at least two years, unless very briefly. No removal could be located at USPO, and no mail received during recent past. Tax and voter's records also negative.

GILBERT RAY, City of Vandalia employee in the street and garbage work, advised 5-14-68, he is an uncle of CECIL RAY and, to his knowledge, he has not heard of JAMES EARL RAY, but possibly CECIL could have known him, since at one time he was at Edwardsville and Alton. There is a brother STANLEY RAY who GILBERT believes is in Vira, Ill., where he works at Crane Packing CO. There is a half brother, RICHARD RISLEY, who lives in Joliet, address unknown. GILBERT RAY advised he had not seen or heard from CECIL RAY in several months and the last he knew he was in Peoria, Illinois, working at a Shite (phoenetic) Service Station, probably the Site brand of independent stations.

LEONARD BOALES former associate of CECIL RAY advised he had heard nothing from him for two or three years. BOALES no longer operates a tavern but helps his son-in-law in the tire recapping business. PRESTON PRIOR former associate, also had no recent information of CECIL's whereabouts.

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During contact with Sheriff KELLY and Chief DALE SLATER, May 14, 1963, both advised that the entire family of this group "were a little on the stupid side."