SA HENRY A. SNOW

5/20/68 Birmingham

3792 - 3843

-204 (Rev.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Memphis
1 - USA, Birmingham

Report of: SA HENRY A. SNOW Office: BIRMINGHAM
Date: 5/20/68

Field Office File #: 44-1740 Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

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

Synopsis: Proprietor of the "Gun Rack", Birmingham, a store dealing in the sale of firearms, is of opinion that subject spent considerable time examining high power rifles in his place on 3/27/68, which was two days prior to his appearance at the Aeromarine Supply Company where murder weapon was purchased. Record located of bank draft purchased by subject, as GALT, on 9/28/67, in amount $337.24, payable to Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, for photographic equipment. Son of seller of Mustang to subject believed photograph of subject identical to purchaser. Same opinion of photograph expressed by operator and cook at the Economy Rooming House, Highland Avenue, Birmingham, where subject resided from 8/26/67 to 10/7/67. JAMES W. BROWN, Reform, Alabama, who was well acquainted with subject RAY while both confined in Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, recalled that RAY was considerably upset during demonstrations led by KING and about the Fall of 1963 RAY made the statement that he was going to kill KING when he got out and was under the impression that some organization would pay $10,000.00 for KING's murder. BROWN also identified several former and present inmates who knew subject. Similiar information secured from another former inmate, who is now a parolee from Missouri State Penitentiary, residing near Birmingham, but who desired his identity not be made known. RAY eliminated as possible suspect in any bank robbery committed in Birmingham Office territory. Since

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submission of last report and since issuance of Identification Order and wanted flyer for RAY's apprehension, extensive investigation has continued in Birmingham territory without securing any additional information as to his whereabouts, although numerous "look-a-likes" and suspects eliminated. This investigation included personal contacts and delivery of Identification Orders to all employees in the following business categories: outlets of salacious books, rooming houses, hotels and motels, bus stations, railroads, airline facilities, car rental agencies, public luggage lockers, laundries and dry cleaners, "lonely heart" type organizations, and bank safe deposit box departments. Classified ads of used cars for sale which appeared in Birmingham newspapers during pertinent period, 3/21-4/2/68, were reviewed and 486 cars advertised eliminated as having been sold to subject. Subject's photographs published in periodical distributed to all service stations in state. No record located of subject having applied for employment at any country club. No record of any unidentified deceased male who might be subject located. Check of marriage and divorce records of all counties in Birmingham territory negative. SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/2/68

The following signed statement was furnished by CLYDE R. MANASCO, Route 9, Box 602, Birmingham, Alabama, ~~clerk at the Gun~~ Rack located at 1507 S.W. 31st Street, Birmingham, Alabama:

"Birmingham, Alabama
April 18, 1968

"I, CLYDE MANASCO, having viewed seven photographs exhibited to me by Special Agent J. T. ARNETT of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have selected the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT as appearing similar to the man who came to The Gun Rack Store, Birmingham, Alabama, where I am employed, and made inquiry regarding high-powered rifles and scopes. I believe the date the man appeared at The Gun Rack was March 27, 1968. The photograph of a man identified as ERIC STARVO GALT appears identical to this man with the exceptionin the photograph ERIC STARVO GALT's face appears slightly broader than I recall the man who was in The Gun Rack.

"I have read this statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ CLYDE R. MANASCO

"Witnessed:

Special Agent J. T. ARNETT (/s/), FBI, Birmingham, Ala.
April 18, 1968"

In addition to information furnished in the signed statement, Mr. MANASCO advised that as he had previously stated, the man who was in The Gun Rack making inquiry regarding high-powered rifles had light brown hair.

Photographs exhibited to Mr. MANASCO were as follows:

JOHN OSCAR LUCK, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA J. T. ARNETT:scb/epg Date dictated 4/25/68

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#102955, Birmingham, Alabama, photograph taken April 21, 1962;

ROBERT CROSS, Birmingham FBI #91-1803;

CHARLES NEWMANT GAULT, Birmingham FBI #26-22408;

ERIC STARVO GALT, true name JAMES EARL RAY;

THOMAS FRANKLIN BRADY, Birmingham FBI #26-22408;

ERNEST GEORGE BLAND, Birmingham FBI #44-1740;

JAMES ROBERT LUKE, Atlanta Police Department #251309, photograph taken October 20, 1967.

BH 44-1740
JTA:scb/epg
1

QUINTON B. DAVIS, 912 Ann Street, Birmingham, Alabama, owner of The Gun Rack, 1507 31st Street, S.W., Birmingham, Alabama, viewed the following photographs:

JOHN OSCAR LUCK, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office #102955, Birmingham, Alabama, photograph taken April 21, 1962;

ROBERT CROSS, Birmingham FBI #91-1803;

CHARLES NEWMANT GAULT, Birmingham FBI #26-22408;

ERIC STARVO GALT, true name JAMES EARL RAY;

THOMAS FRANKLIN BRADY, Birmingham FBI #26-22408;

ERNEST GEORGE BLAND, Birmingham FBI #44-1740;

JAMES ROBERT LUKE, Atlanta Police Department #251309, photograph taken October 20, 1967.

Mr. DAVIS advised, after viewing the above photographs on April 18, 1968, that he could not make a positive statement as to whether the photograph of any of the above individuals was identical to the photograph of the individual who had been in The Gun Rack making inquiry regarding the high-powered rifle and had specifically made inquiry regarding a Model 264 Browning automatic rifle.

BH 44-1740
JTA:scb/epg
1

JOHN MICHAEL KOPP, 1420 35th Street, Ensley, Birmingham, Alabama, employed as the manager of the Firearms Department, Long Lewis Hardware Store, Bessemer, Alabama, viewed photographs of the following individuals on April 18, 1968:

JOHN OSCAR LUCK, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, #102955, Birmingham, Alabama, photograph taken April 21, 1962;

ROBERT CROSS, Birmingham FBI #91-1803;

CHARLES NEWMANT GAULT, Birmingham FBI #26-22408;

ERIC STARVO GALT, true name JAMES EARL RAY;

THOMAS FRANKLIN BRADY, Birmingham FBI #26-22408;

ERNEST GEORGE BLAND, Birmingham FBI #44-1740;

JAMES ROBERT LUKE, Atlanta Police Department #251309, photograph taken October 20, 1967.

After viewing photographs of the above individuals, Mr. KOPP advised that he could not identify photograph of either of the above individuals as being the photograph of the customer who was in Long Lewis Hardware on March 29,1968 making inquiry concerning purchasing a high-powered rifle.

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 17, 1968

1

A review of records of the Exchange Security Bank, Birmingham, disclosed that on September 28, 1967, ERIC S. GALT purchased a bank draft #04012FPS, from the Exchange Security Bank's Five Points South Branch Office.

This draft was dated September 28, 1967, made payable to Superior Balk Film Company, in the amount of $337.24, and was drawn on the City National Bank of New York, New York, and authorized signature contained thereon was BOB SELLERS. This draft did not contain any endorsement.

In the event the above document is to be introduced in court, a subpoena duces tecum should be addressed to BOB CRADDOCK, Exchange Security Bank, Birmingham, Alabama.

On 4/16/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA ROBERT J. YARNALL:cap 7 Date dictated 4/17/68 3800

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 17, 1968

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WAYNE RUSSELL, Assistant Auditor, Exchange Security Bank, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that when a customer purchases a bank draft, the customer will fill out a requisition form or application, or may submit to the teller a piece of paper containing necessary information for the preparation of a bank draft, and that this will be submitted to a teller, who will then type out the original and two copies of the bank draft, and will then have one of the bank officers sign the draft as the authorized signer.

The original draft and one copy will be returned to the customer and the second copy will be retained by the bank for their records. The application or requisition form or piece of paper handed to the teller will then be destroyed at the end of the day.

On 4/16/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

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by SA ROBERT J. YARNALL:cap Date dictated 4/17/68 3801

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-[illegible]-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/18/68

WILLIAM DAVID PAISLEY, SR., 701 South 48th Street, after viewing a photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT, said that there was a resemblance between this man and the ERIC STARVO GALT who purchased PAISLEY's 1966 white Mustang in August, 1967. PAISLEY said he could not make a positive identification and added that the man in the photograph has a fatter face than the ERIC STARVO GALT who bought the Mustang.

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER: RMB/jml/epg Date dictated 4/18/68

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-302 (Rev. - 5-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/18/68

Mrs. WILLIAM DAVID PAISLEY, SR., 701 South 48th Street, after viewing photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT, said she could not be sure if this is the man she observed buy a white 1966 Mustang from her husband in August, 1967. She stated that her recollection of this man is admittedly vague as she paid no attention to him, but, as best she could recall, the photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT did resemble the purchaser, except that the man in the photograph has a fuller face than the purchaser and the hair in the photograph is too dark. She said the mouth and the nose in the photo-graph definitely remind her of the purchaser.

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER: RMB/jml/epg Date dictated 4/18/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/18/68

WILLIAM DAVID PAISLEY, JR., 701 South 48th Street, Birmingham, after viewing photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT, advised that the photographs showing GALT's eyes as being shut resembles the person known to PAISLEY as ERIC STARVO GALT, who purchased a 1966 white Mustang from PAISLEY's father in August, 1967. PAISLEY commented that it appeared GALT had put on some weight since PAISLEY had last seen him in August, 1967, as GALT's face in the photograph appears fatter than what PAISLEY recalls. After studying the photographs of GALT for several minutes, PAISLEY commented that the more he looked at the photographs the more he believed that they were identical with the ERIC STARVO GALT who purchased the Mustang.

PAISLEY added that he did not wish to make a positive identification at this time based on the photographs, and stated he could probably make a more definite identification if he could see GALT in person.

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER: RMB/jml/epg Date dictated 4/18/68

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/22/68

Mrs. J. D. (ELIZABETH) WEEKS, 2201 Pioneer Drive, was interviewed at her place of employment, Sears Roebuck, Vestavia Hills, Birmingham, Alabama, and stated that she is the sister of MARLIN C. MYERS, who owns the Continental Dance Studios, 7960 Crestwood Boulevard, Birmingham, Alabama. Mrs. WEEKS stated that she took dance lessons between September 12, 1967, and October 3, 1967, at the Friendship Club, Graymont Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, on Tuesday evenings between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Mrs. WEEKS advised that her brother and sister-in-law were the instructors at these dance lessons. Mrs. WEEKS advised that the only reason she recalls an individual named ERIC GALT attending dance lessons at the Friendship Club, is that her sister, DORIS LADNER, told her his name. Mrs. WEEKS advised from what she can recall of this individual, he spoke very little and did not mingle with the other students. Mrs. WEEKS advised she never saw this individual in an automobile and does not recall if she ever saw him smoking.

Mrs. WEEKS described this individual as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Early 30's
Hair:	Brown, crew-cut
Height:	6'
Weight:	185 lbs.
Build:	Medium
Complexion:	Medium

Mrs. WEEKS advised she could not furnish any additional information concerning this individual.

On 4/17/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA PETER JOHN BODKIN:mfl Date dictated 4/22/68

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/19/68

MARLIN C. MYERS, Owner, Continental Dance Studios, 7960 Crestwood Boulevard, stated he is positive ERIC GALT took dance lessons at Continental Dance Studios, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1964, under the name of ERIC S. GALT.

MYERS stated Continental Dance Studios, New Orleans, Louisiana, did not have any employees and the turnover in dance instructors was very rapid. MYERS furnished the following names of dance instructors who possibly were at Continental Dance Studios, New Orleans, Louisiana, during 1964, but cannot furnish their addresses:

FRANK DESIMONE, New Orleans, Louisiana

JANET KISER, possibly married to DESIMONE

MARCUS FELOS, address unknown

SANDRA BANKSON, Telephone No. 945-4612

MYERS stated that FRANK DESIMONE would possibly be able to furnish current addresses for the above dance instructors and names and addresses of other dance instructors.

MYERS stated the only student he can recall is one ORLENA MILLER, who owns a costume shop on Drier Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, and is a very good friend of JIMM GARRISON.

MYERS stated that all dance instructors were paid by checks drawn on the Whitney Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana.

MYERS stated that Mrs. LOUELLA LUTZ would possibly have records for Continental Dance Studios, containing names and addresses of all dance instructors, employed at Continental Dance Studios, New Orleans, Louisiana, during 1964.

On 4/16/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA PETER JOHN BODKIN:jbt Date dictated 4/19/68

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BH 44-1740

In connection with the above information furnished by Mr. MARLIN C. MYERS, Continental Dance Studios, Birmingham, to the effect that he believed subject, who was then known as GALT, had taken dance lessons at the Continental Dance Studio, New Orleans, Louisiana, during 1964, it is pointed out that extensive investigation conducted at New Orleans revealed no such record of attendance by GALT during 1964 or during any other year.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 5/8/68

JAMES W. BROWN, Route 1, Box 176-B, Reform, Alabama, advised that he was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in April of 1960 and was released on June 15, 1965. He stated that he knew JAMES EARL RAY while he was in prison and first met him sometime in 1963. He stated that he had been in groups where RAY was talking on several occasions and had talked to him personally a few times.

BROWN stated that RAY made the statement that he was glad when JOHN F. KENNEDY was killed, and had made some statements at this time to the effect "That is one 'Nigger'-loving S.O.B. that got shot." He stated that RAY did not like Negroes and that during the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was leading some of his demonstrations and this information was being published in the newspapers, RAY used to curse KING and the Negroes. The news of the demonstrations and marches used to aggravate him considerably. He stated that RAY made the statement that KENNEDY was running the country and especially in the racial field, and that MARTIN LUTHER KING could get the Federal Government to do anything he wanted them to. BROWN further advised that he had heard some prison rumors that RAY was supposed to have killed three Negroes while he was in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

BROWN advised that sometime in the Fall of 1963, RAY made the statement that he was going to get MARTIN LUTHER KING when he got out. He stated that he heard him say something about COOLEY (phonetic) or COOLEY'S organization would pay $10,000.00 to have KING dead. He stated that he could furnish no further information concerning this and RAY did not mention it again in his presence.

BROWN further advised that RAY seemed to have a sufficient supply of money and that he gambled with the other convicts continuously in the prison yard. The convicts used chips made from bottle caps or gambled for cigarettes and they would settle their gambling losses at the end of the month. He stated that RAY indicated at one time that he got

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On 4/30/68 at Reform, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA CLARENCE E. WRIGHT:bal Date dictated 5/6/68

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a check or money regularly from some source on the outside. He stated that RAY did drink some and he had detected alcohol on his breath on different occasions. The convicts made whiskey in the prison and some of the guards sold whiskey to the convicts also. He stated there was a lot of narcotics passed around in the prison and the guards would bring some of it in and some of it was being brought in by visitors. He never had any personal knowledge that RAY used narcotics. He was unable to name any specific guard that sold contraband to the convicts; however, he did say that one guard was caught selling contraband to the convicts in 1962 or 1963 and was fired. He stated that RAY did talk to one particular guard a lot; however, he does not remember the guard's name.

BROWN stated that he has not seen RAY since he left prison and has no idea where he might have gone. He stated that RAY had talked about tunnelling out of prison and going to Virginia and hiding in a cave. He heard RAY say that he had a large supply of guns before he was in prison and heard him mention a submachine gun. The only foreign country he ever heard RAY mention was Liberia, Africa, and RAY stated that he had a brother-in-law working there and that he was making a lot of money.

BROWN advised that RAY was not too friendly; however, he would talk in groups. RAY told BROWN once that he had been in Birmingham, Alabama, and that [redacted] had stated that Birmingham was a good town to steal in. He never discussed his past life in BROWN'S presence and BROWN has no idea where RAY is from or anything about his family.

His close associates in prison were:

JOHNNY VALENTI (phonetic)

VALENTI is believed to be from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and BROWN believes he is still in prison. VALENTI talked about Mexico a lot and could speak Spanish. RAY stated one time that he was going to visit a friend of his and VALENTI'S (this friend's name unknown) who was released from prison and got married and it is believed that he is runing a cafe near Moberly, Missouri.

"TICK" WILSON, who was killed while in Missouri State Prison.

JOHNNY JOHNSON, who is from the Kansas City area and is believed to be still in prison as he was serving a twenty-year sentence.

"HONEY" EDEN - EDEN was serving five years.

RICHARD BEEMAN

(FNU) MAYBERRY, from West Plains, Missouri.

BROWN was shown a copy of I.O. 4182 and he stated that the center picture looks exactly like he remembered him in prison and the other pictures resemble him also.

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 8, 1968

JAMES W. BROWN, 305 South East Street, Talladega, Alabama, was reinterviewed and furnished the following information:

He was recently interviewed and furnished all the information to his knowledge as to his association with JAMES EARL RAY. As to the information he furnished concerning the fact that he heard RAY remark that the Cooley organization would pay $10,000 to get MARTIN LUTHER KING killed, and he was going to kill KING upon his release, he said there were at least three persons whom he can recall who were present on this date and heard RAY make this statement. He said they were JOHNNY VALENTI, MOOMIE EDEN (phonetic), and CHESTER EALEY (phonetic). He said he believes these three persons are still in prison in Missouri. He said this statement was made by RAY during the latter part of 1963. He said he would testify to this information.

He said he has no idea as to the identity of the Cooley organization and has never heard this organization mentioned by anyone other than RAY on this one occasion.

On 5/3/68 at Talladega, Alabama File # EH 44-1740

by SA JOSEPH T. LANDERS:cap/hss Date dictated 5/6/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 4-1-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 15, 1968

JAMES W. BROWN, 305 East Street, Talladega, Alabama, was interviewed at the Rehabilitation Center, Talladega, and furnished the following:

BROWN entered the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, on March 25, 1960, after having been convicted in Kansas City, Missouri, for murder and receiving a twenty-year sentence. He stayed "inside the walls" at Jefferson City until February, 1964, when he was transferred to a branch of the Penitentiary System at Fordland, Missouri.

During his imprisonment, BROWN became acquainted with one JOHNNY VELANTI (phonetic). VELANTI had told BROWN that VELANTI had some relatives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and VELANTI was serving a twenty-year sentence after being convicted in Kansas City, Missouri, for robbery. V LANTI had also claimed to BROWN that when he was arrested by the Kansas City Police Department he, VELANTI, had in his possession the name of a notorious Kansas City gangster, which had been given to VELANTI by a New Orleans friend. VELANTI did not identify either of these two names, but claimed he was questioned "thoroughly" by the Kansas City Police Department about this name VELANTI had in his possession.

BROWN claimed he and VELANTI became good friends during this time and sometime in either November or December, 1963, through VELANTI, BROWN met JAMES EARL RAY, another inmate at the penitentiary. This meeting took place in the prison yard at a time shortly after the assassination of President KENNEDY. At the time of the meeting, RAY was involved in a poker game and VELANTI told BROWN that he, VELANTI, was a personal friend of RAY's, who was doing twenty years for robbery. VELANTI introduced RAY to BROWN as "JAMES RAY" and told BROWN that everyone called him "RAY." Later, at an unrecalled time, VELANTI told BROWN that he, VELANTI, had known "RAY"

On 5/9/68 at Talladega, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss Date dictated 5/14/68

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in Atlanta, Georgia, and that they (VELANTI and RAY) had committed a robbery in Atlanta together. BROWN claimed VELANTI had told him that VELANTI and RAY had robbed a oil company about midnight after having watched it for about a week. VELANTI also told BROWN that VELANTI's wife and three children were then, 1963 or early 1964, living in Atlanta and that VELANTI's oldest son had been killed in an automobile accident in early 1964. About that time, early 1964, VELANTI's wife quit writing to him and VELANTI tried to get the Catholic Chaplain to contact his wife in an effort to have her resume writing. BROWN also recalled that VELANTI had told him he was serving a sentence for the robbery of a Kansas City hotel. BROWN and VELANTI had both been in the same jail at Kansas City, Missouri, at the same time but were in different tanks and did not actually meet until they got to prison.

BROWN stated he was present during about three or four conversations between VELANTI and RAY, but that BROWN and RAY never had any detailed conversation of any kind. BROWN recalls in one of these conversations in late 1963 RAY said to VELANTI that he, RAY, was going to escape from the "pen" and that RAY knew a "guy named COOLEY" who could hide RAY where no one could find him. BROWN claimed that RAY also stated that COOLEY would pay $10,000 to anyone who would kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. In other conversations, BROWN recalled RAY talking about tunnelling out of the penitentiary, if he had to, and going to Liberia where RAY claimed he had a brother-in-law living, who was "making good money." BROWN recalls that at another time, in discussing the assassination of President KENNEDY, VELANTI stated he did not believe anyone should kill the President, to which RAY said that he, RAY, would have done it himself if he had had the chance and that KENNEDY "was nothing but a damn Catholic." According to BROWN, RAY often expressed his hatred for Catholics and Negroes.

BROWN also recalls RAY claiming he knew where a cave was located in Virginia, where RAY could hide upon his escape. BROWN believes that one of the prisoners who overheard some of the conversations was "MOONEY EDEN."

BROWN claims that VELANTI told BROWN on more than one occasion that RAY had killed three Negroes in the penitentiary with a "shiv" (knife). BROWN claimed he did not know the details concerning these alleged killings.

BROWN believes he once told RAY that he (BROWN) was from Alabama and recalls RAY stating that Birmingham was a good town to steal in and that RAY had once stole a car in Birmingham before he was arrested in Kansas City. BROWN was of the opinion that RAY, at the time he met him, was living in "C" Hall and was working in the license plate plant. BROWN further stated he believed RAY was left-handed, smoked Winston cigarettes, walked pigeon-toed, and had a Zippo lighter with the initials "J.R." scratched on it.

BROWN claims he knows of no lottery or gambling operation conducted by VELANTI in which RAY took an active part.

BROWN stated he would cooperate with the FBI in any way possible and was doing so, not for any reward, but because he felt he should.

Confidential source, whose reliability has not been established, advised that he was received in the Missouri State Penitentiary during September, 1965, and was immediately placed in quarantine for a thirty-day observation period which is required of all new prisoners and thereafter he was assigned to Cell 188, Tier #8, J Hall, and scheduled to work in the carpenter shop. In this connection, the source stated that there is only one inmate to a cell and that the Missouri State Penitentiary has five halls within the prison wall which house prisoners.

The source said that while in J. Hall, during November, 1965, he first became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY, who was already assigned to J Hall and who worked daily in J Hall as a "Walk Boy." The source explained that the duties of JAMES EARL RAY as a "Walk Boy" were to take orders for cigarettes, gum, candy, etc., which could be purchased within the prison and to bring hot water for shaving and instant coffee to the inmates. The source added that JAMES EARL RAY was the only "Walk Boy" in J Hall and further that he was free to contact any inmate and could move throughout the hall freely. He pointed out that this was RAY's only duty in the hall and that he could remain inside during working hours, having no other assignments.

The source said that his first conversation with RAY took place when RAY observed him reading a Birmingham, Alabama "Post-Herald" newspaper which he had a subscription to while in prison. The source advised that RAY asked him on this occasion if he was from the State of Alabama to which he replied he was from Walker County, Alabama. RAY said to the source that he knew where Walker County, Alabama, was located and further that this was a dry county, serving no alcoholic beverages, which gave the source the impression that RAY knew what he was talking about, especially since he mentioned beer joints like the All State Tavern, another beer joint which source believed was Rose's Place and Riverview Cafe.

RAY said that he had visited or stayed in the Birmingham, Alabama, area in the past; however, RAY never mentioned any associates, acquaintances, friends, relatives or employments in the State of Alabama. The source advised that this conversation ended with RAY asking him if he could have his Birmingham, Alabama, "Post-Herald" newspaper when he finished reading them each day, which was agreeable to source. The source advised thereafter RAY would come by his cell each evening and pick up his newspaper which he would place between the cell bars.

The source said that RAY never discussed his family nor did he ever indicate from which part of the United States he came from, but the source believed that RAY was from the southern part of the United States only because RAY never indicated where he was from, coupled with his interest in a southern newspaper.

The source stated that he personally gave RAY his present home address and telephone number on one occasion, telling RAY to stop by his home sometime if and when he ever got released from prison and they would have a drink or two together. The source pointed out that RAY did not ask him for his address or telephone number and that he merely furnished this to RAY knowing that he was doing a 20 year prison sentence and more than likely he would never again see RAY after he left prison. He stated that when he gave RAY his address and telephone number, RAY replied "Don't be surprised if I call you up sometime" and thereafter placed this piece of paper in his pocket.

The source said that RAY was a very quiet individual, soft spoken, calm, clean, never laughed or enjoyed a good story, solemn face, and remained to himself most of the time. The source advised that he would often see RAY in the prison yard and on occasion attempted to strike up a conversation with RAY, but he never appeared interested so the source gave up trying to make conversation with RAY.

The source said that the only topic which would arouse RAY's interest was the subject of money. The source

stated that on one occasion during a conversation with RAY, RAY said "One of these days if I ever get out of here I am going to make myself a bunch of money." When source asked how he intended doing this, RAY replied he had contacts and there are more ways of making money than robbing banks. Source then asked RAY what his plan was, to which RAY replied "The Businessmen's Association has offered $100,000.00 for killing MARTIN LUTHER KING and he's five years past due." The source stated he then asked RAY what the Businessmen's Association was, to which RAY replied "I don't know but I will find out." The source added that this was the first and last time RAY ever mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING nor did he ever again mention the Businessmen's Association in his presence.

The source said that RAY told him that he always worked alone and therefore limited the possibility of being caught and said "I have got a place picked out where I can hide," never mentioning where the place was located.

The source stated there was a prison cigarette lottery going on almost daily in J Hall and that RAY was involved in this lottery, delivering wagering tickets as well as picking these up and would deliver the winnings to inmates each night. He said there were two separate lotteries in J Hall. One lottery was run by two inmates named JOHNNY VALENTI and another individual from St. Louis, Missouri, name unknown. The source described this individual as a white male, Italian, age 43 to 46, dark complexion with gunshot wound in face and nicknamed "Dago." The source said the other lottery in J Hall was run by an individual nicknamed "Boston," who was doing a 20 year sentence and described him as a white male, 45 years of age, very short and occupied either cell 23, 24 or 25 on the flag in J Hall, meaning the first floor.

The source said that he did not like VALENTI's wagering odds so he always placed his wagers with the individual nicknamed "Boston." The source stated that

RAY would always handle the wagers since he could talk to any inmates in the cellblock and was reimbursed by JOHNNY VALENTI and "Boston" for this service. Source estimated that there were approximately two dozen lotteries being operated in the Missour State Penitentiary, which consisted of five separate halls housing the prisoners.

The source advised that he never saw RAY run narcotics or handle contraband at any time and on one occasion RAY showed him his arms to prove that he had never been addicted to narcotics. The source added that he never observed RAY with any large sums of money.

The source advised that there was an organization being operated at the Missouri State Penitentiary by the inmates and this organization was called "Cooley's Organization." The source said that this was a protection and enforcer organization and that while en route to the Missouri State Penitentiary he first became aware that such an organization existed. The source advised that he was at one time lodged at the County Jail in Springfield, Missouri, for several months and became acquainted with a prisoner, (FNU) CRAIG, whom he described as a "four time loser." The source said that CRAIG has a brother who is a detective on the Springfield Police Department and that CRAIG had previously served time at Missouri State Penitentiary and was being returned to this penitentiary. The source said that when CRAIG learned that he also was en route to the Missouri State Penitentiary, CRAIG advised him to join the Cooley's Organization at the Missouri State Penitentiary since he would need to get along with other prisoners and be being a member of this organization, he would obtain "special favors." The source said that CRAIG informed him that the Cooley's Organization would settle any grievances he may have while at Missouri State Penitentiary against other prisoners and that this was a very powerful organization, having influence with guards and could even, for a price, arrange "a murder."

The source advised that after his release from quarantine, he again observed CRAIG, who was then working in the mess hall at the Missouri State Penitentiary. The source advised that he then approached CRAIG and told CRAIG that he desired to join the Cooley's ~~Organization~~ and at this time gave him a $10.00 canteen book, pointing out that the membership fee to join the Cooley's Organization was $10.00 and that this membership fee would make an inmate a paid up member as long as he was in prison. The source advised that CRAIG told him that he would obtain his membership for him and the same night JAMES EARL RAY came to his cell and gave him a card saying "Here is your card," and nothing else, and therefore he always felt that RAY was a member of the Cooley's Organization since he was so trusted. However, RAY never said to him that he was a member nor did he ever ask him.

The source said that his membership card was type written with his name on it and had the heading "Membership Cooley's Club." The source said that this membership card was like a credit card and it could get an inmate credit on purchases of candy and other sundries but could not be used for credit purposes on lotteries.

The source advised that he had two or three differences with prisoners over wagers while in J Hall and upon getting no satisfaction, he personally contacted CRAIG in the mess hall at which time he displayed to CRAIG his membership card and filed his grievance with CRAIG. The source stated that CRAIG informed him that he would handle this complaint; however, the fee for handling his grievance was 50% of what was due a prisoner. The source added that subsequently RAY appeared at his cell in J Hall with his share of the cigarettes collected from his grievance.

The source stated that CRAIG was later transferred from the mess hall to the Church Farm, which is located outside the prison wall at Missouri State Penitentiary. The source said that prior to CRAIG's departure, CRAIG

contacted him and instructed him who to see in the future to take complaints should he have any additional grievances. At this point, the source pointed out that most grievances would be placed either at the mess hall or the prison yard, noting that only during these periods of time all the inmates from different halls could talk with each other. The source added that he was unable to furnish any description of name of the individual he was instructed to contact in the mess hall after the departure of CRAIG since he had no further complaints and was subsequently transferred to the Renz Farm, which is also located outside the prison.

The source stated that the Cooley's Organization was operating when he arrived at the Missour State Penitentiary and was still doing business when he departed and he felt that this operation had been started and maintained by old cons who are now trusties and who reside in A Hall, which is the trusties' barracks. He added that he personally feared the power of the Cooley's Organization as did other inmates and in his opinion, he personally felt they could render retaliation regarding him if they became aware that he gave information concerning their organization.

The source said that during the time RAY was assigned to J Hall, he had attempted an escape which was unsuccessful and thereafter he never saw RAY again since RAY was not returned to J Hall and he later went to Renz Farm. He said that while at Renz Farm he did hear that RAY successfully escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary by hiding himself in a bred truck.

The source was asked if there ever circulated at Missouri State Penitentiary a rumor concerning the killing of three Negro inmates and if RAY's name was ever mentioned as a suspect or being involved in these killings. The source said that he did learn that when prison authorities first tried to integrate the prisoners, four white men with pillowcases over their heads waited

for five Negro prisoners to enter the shower room on one occasion and stabbed three of the Negroes to death, wounded a fourth and the fifth escaped. He said that at no time did he hear any rumor that RAY was involved in these killings.

The source said that the inmates located in J Hall at the time he was also lodged there and who could possibly furnish additional information concerning RAY were (FNU) SPRATT, cell 187, and GENE (LNU), cell 190, who escaped by overpowering a guard and taking his uniform; however, this individual was successfully apprehended and returned to Missouri State Penitentiary. Source advised that another inmate,name unknown, who occupied cell 190, was a lottery player. Another inmate, name unknown, nicknamed "Cowboy," was a hall tender in charge of convicts in J Hall.

This source was displayed numerous photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and advised that all photographs bear a close resemblance to RAY; however, he specifically identified the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken at the Missouri State Penitentiary during the time he was incarcerated. The source said that he would have no difficulty in identifying RAY should he ever see him again, even if he attempted to disguise is identity; giving as his reasons that RAY was definitely "slough-footed" and his toes pointed out noticeably when he walked causing his heels and soles to wear down on the outside edges. He has a prominent cleft on his chin, which is noticeable and remarked that RAY liked his booze and that he had the impression from talking with him that he was a heavy drinker. The source also added that in his opinion from his knowledge of RAY in prison that he thought RAY had a normal sex life.

The source advised that the only other person that he knew that RAY might have been closely associated when in prison was a full-blooded Indian prisoner who was the barber in J Hall but whose name he could not recall. The source stated that he definitely had not been contacted by RAY since he has been released from prison, which was May 3, 1967, and stated that he would notify the Birmingham FBI Office if RAY ever attempted to contact him in any way or manner in the future.

)2 (Rev. 4-...-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date 4/20/68

Mr. PETER CHERPES, Owner, Economy Rooming House, 2806 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, was given two photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT and after carefully studying these photographs for several minutes, stated, "I believe this is ERIC GALT who resided at my rooming house. The photographs bear a very close resemblance to him; however, I can't be sure until I seen him in person."

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:jbt Date dictated 4/19/68

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3822

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date 4/20/68

Mr. HERBERT KELLY advised that he is employed as a cook at the Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, and that he was employed at this house during the period August 26, 1967, through October 7, 1967.

Mr. KELLY advised that during this period of time he prepared and served the morning and evening meals and was acquainted with most of the tenants. He said that he did remember a guest by the name of ERIC GALT who resided at the Economy Rooming House and particularly recalled that he occupied Room 14, and was always late for breakfast.

Mr. KELLY was given two photographs of ERIC STARVO GALT and after carefully studying these photographs for several minutes, stated, "I believe these photographs of GALT are identical with the ERIC GALT who resided at this rooming house. These pictures bear a very close resemblance to him."

Mr. KELLY stated that he would not make a positive identification pointing out that he desired to view GALT in person before making such an identification.

On 4/18/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:jbt 39 Date dictated 4/19/68

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302 (Rev. 1-[illegible])

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 10, 1968

1

PETER CHERPES, Owner of the Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, which photograph had been taken during the residence of RAY in Los Angeles, California, during late 1967 and early 1968. CHERPES, without hesitation, definitely identified this photograph as being a photograph of a person known to CHERPES as ERIC S. GALT, who resided at CHERPES' rooming house from August 26, 1967, through approximately October 7, 1967. CHERPES said this photograph of JAMES EARL RAY was the best likeness of the man known to CHERPES as ERIC S. GALT that CHERPES had seen to date.

On 5/6/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA'S ROBERT M. BARRETT & WILLIAM A. SAUCIER RMB:cap Date dictated 5/8/68

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-302 (Rev. [illegible])

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 10, 1968

1

HERBERT KELLY, who is employed as a cook at the Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, and who served meals to ERIC S. GALT during the residence of GALT at the Economy Rooming House, was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, which had been taken during the residence of RAY in Los Angeles, California, during late 1967 and early 1968. KELLY definitely identified this photograph as being a photograph of the person known to him as ERIC S. GALT. KELLY also said this photograph was the best likeness of GALT that KELLY had seen to date.

On 5/6/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA'S ROBERT M. BARRETT & WILLIAM A. SAUCIER RMB:cap Date dictated 5/8/68

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MISCELLANEOUS

Outlets of Salacious Books

The following investigation was conducted by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:

During investigation it had been determined that subject RAY had on more than one occasion while residing in California written to publishing houses dealing in salacious and sex books. In view of that characteristic of RAY, all newsstands and book shops serving as local outlets of that type of material were canvassed and identification orders left with the proprietors. No one during this survey recalled having seen RAY in their establishments but each promised to notify the FBI at Birmingham should he be observed in the future.

Bank Robberies and Bank Burglaries

The following investigation was conducted by SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN:

Based on a suggestion from the Bureau, all pending unsolved bank robbery files in the Birmingham Office have been reviewed on the possibility that subject RAY may have participated in such activity. Based on this review, RAY has definitely been eliminated as being a suspect in any such bank robbery.

Files pertaining to unsolved bank burglaries in the Birmingham territory were likewise reviewed but same reflected no witnesses to such bank burglaries and no latent fingerprints which might be compared with the prints of RAY.

Rooming Houses

The following investigation was conducted by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT, WILLIAM A. SAUCIER, NEIL P. MARTIN, and RICHARD D. SCHWEIN:

Although as has previously been reported by the Birmingham Office that all rooming houses were canvassed with the photograph of the individual then identified as GALT, each of these establishments were recontacted during the periods April 25-29 and May 3-7, 1968, and identification orders supplied to the proprietors. The proprietors were also questioned concerning the possibility of subject under the name RAY or additional aliases then known as having been a tenant in the past, especially during the pertinent periods when his whereabouts were not known. The number of such rooming houses was quite extensive and included all which advertised in the daily press, under the classified section of the telephone directory, or by sign advertisements. No identification of RAY having resided in any such place resulted other than as has been previously reported, his residence at the Economy Rooming House, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, from August 26 - October 7, 1967. The above also included checks at charity type shelter homes and institutions. It also included all YMCA operated establishments.

Marriage and Divorce Records

The records of the Probate Court in each of the 31 counties comprising the territory of the Birmingham Office were searched pertaining to any marriage or divorce record of subject RAY under his true name or any known aliases. This resulted negatively but was considered advisable in view of his veiled reference on one occasion that he had a divorced wife living "over the mountain" near Birmingham.

Possible Local Robberies

Immediately after identification of RAY as being involved in this matter, the Robbery Squad of the Birmingham Police Department was furnished with photographs of him and also pertinent dates during which he was known to have resided in Birmingham, i.e. August 26 - October 7, 1967. Members of the Robbery Squad have exhibited his photograph to holdup victims occurring in Birmingham during that period without identification.

At the present time, this facet of the investigation is being extended to include robbery squads of the police departments in the six Resident Agencies of the Birmingham Office and to the cities of road trip territories.

Unidentified Deceased Males

Immediately after the identification of RAY as the subject of this investigation, contact was had with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, and with the Office of the Coroner, which official works closely with the Sheriff's Office. The Coroner was requested to advise the Birmingham Office should any unidentified deceased male be examined by his office. As yet there have been no such instances coming to the attention of the Coroner.

Based on information contained in Bureau communication, dated May 9, 1968, regarding this matter, similar inquiries and stop notices are being placed at the present time with coroners and sheriff's offices in the counties of the six Resident Agencies and to road trip territories of the Birmingham Office.

Possible Employment of Ray
By Country Clubs

The following investigation was conducted by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:

In a communication from the Bureau, dated May 10, 1968, it was pointed out that while residing in the Los Angeles area during the early part of 1968, and prior to his departure therefrom in March, 1968, RAY had been determined to have made several telephone calls to country clubs in an effort to obtain employment, especially as a bartender, since he is known to have pursued a course in bartending while residing in Los Angeles.

All country clubs in the immediate area of Birmingham were contacted on May 16, 1968, by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER, photographs exhibited, and records of applications and employees checked with negative results. This matter is now receiving attention by the Resident Agencies in Birmingham Office territory in connection with country clubs located in those areas.

Hotels and Motels

On the dates April 25, 26 and 29, 1968, SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT, WILLIAM A. SAUCIER, NEIL P. MARTIN, and RICHARD D. SCHWEIN conducted the following investigation:

After the identification of RAY, his photographs and identification orders were exhibited to all hotels and motels in the Birmingham-Bessemer, Alabama, area, although employees of those establishments had previously been contacted and shown photographs during the period that subject's name was believed to be GALT. Records of

these establishments were checked thoroughly under the name of RAY and his other aliases during any period he was known to have been in the Birmingham area, but no such record of residence could be located. Exhibition of his photograph was extended to include all employees on all three shifts of each hotel and motel. No employees could make any identification.

Bus Stations

All employees on each shift at the terminals of bus lines serving Birmingham were again contacted on April 25 and 26, 1968, by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT, WILLIAM A. SAUCIER, NEIL P. MARTIN, and RICHARD D. SCHWEIN, and identification orders pertaining to RAY were supplied to the employees without effecting an identification.

Railroads

After issuance of the identification order for the arrest of subject RAY, employees of the city ticket offices and the respective terminals of railroads serving the city of Birmingham were contacted by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT, WILLIAM A. SAUCIER, NEIL P. MARTIN, and RICHARD D. SCHWEIN, and copies of the identification orders furnished to said employees. No one recalled having seen RAY in the capacity of a passenger on any railway line.

Airlines

Although all city offices and Municipal Airport stations of each airline serving Birmingham had been previously contacted regarding subject then known as GALT, they were again canvassed on April 25, 1968, by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER and identification orders issued for RAY were exhibited and left with personnel of each city office and airport station of each airline. No identification was effected.

Car Rental Agencies

On April 25, 1968, all automobile rental agencies in Birmingham were recontacted by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT, WILLIAM A. SAUCIER, NEIL P. MARTIN, and RICHARD D. SCHWEIN, after the establishment of RAY being the subject in this matter, their records checked and identification orders supplied to each shift of such rental agencies. This resulted negatively as to any identification of RAY utilizing such a method of transportation during the pertinent period.

Luggage Storage

The following investigation was conducted by SAs NEIL P. MARTIN and RICHARD D. SCHWEIN on May 1, 1968:

Through the cooperation of the managers of the luggage storage departments of the bus stations, railway stations, shopping centers, and the Birmingham Municipal Airport, all luggage which had been allowed to remain over the prescribed period of storage was examined. No item which could be attributed to RAY was noted.

Laundries and Dry-Cleaning Establishments

The following investigation was conducted by SAs ROBERT M. BARRETT, WILLIAM A. SAUCIER, NEIL P. MARTIN, and RICHARD D. SCHWEIN:

Since it had been determined from investigation that the subject previously known as GALT frequently utilized branch offices of laundries and dry-cleaning establishments, usually on a weekly basis, all main offices and the 261 branch offices in residential neighborhoods were recontacted after issuance of the identification order for RAY. No employees other than have been previously reported could identify RAY as being a patron of their establishment. Identification orders were left with each proprietor.

BH 44-1740

Parolees from Missouri State Penitentiary

Mr. JOHN McINTOSH, Chief Deputy, U. S. Probation Officer, was contacted by SA HENRY A. SNOW to determine whether their files contained records of any parolees from the Missouri State Penitentiary residing in the Northern District of Alabama, who may have been confined in the Missouri institution during the same period of confinement of RAY. Based on available records, Mr. McINTOSH was unable to identify any such state parolees who might be under federal supervision at this time.

Mr. WARREN GASTON, Alabama State Parole and Probation Officer, Room 411, Jefferson County Court House, was contacted for the same purpose and suggested that Mr. L. B. STEPHENS, Parole Executive, Alabama State Office Building, Montgomery, Alabama, would have a ready reference of all Missouri State Penitentiary parolees presently under state supervision in Alabama. He stated that Mr. STEPHENS keeps these records under an interstate compact with the various states. Appropriate communication was dispatched to the Mobile Office for contact with Mr. STEPHENS.

Safe Deposit Boxes

In a communication dated May 6, 1968, the Bureau pointed out that it may have been possible for subject RAY while fleeing on the day after the murder from Memphis, Tennessee, to his next known location in Atlanta, Georgia, to have visited a bank and gained access to a safe deposit box previously rented. The pertinent date was considered to be April 5, 1968.

Through the cooperation of the following bank officials extended to SA HENRY A. SNOW during the period May 8-16, 1968, they caused records of the 24,380 safe deposit boxes to be checked for the pertinent date of entry, April 5, 1968:

Mr. CHARLES T. SMITH, Auditor, and
Mrs. CATHERINE A. REEDY, Manager of
Safe Deposit Department, Birmingham
Trust National Bank, Main Office,
and its 17 branch offices

Mr. CLAUDE LOVELESS, Comptroller,
First National Bank of Birmingham,
and its 25 branch offices

Mr. ROBERT F. CRADDOCK, Auditor,
Exchange Security Bank, and its 12
branch offices

Mr. GEORGE MURPHREE, President, City
National Bank of Birmingham, and its
four branch offices

Mr. FLOYD L. JONES, Vice President,
Central Bank and Trust Company, and
its five branch offices

Mr. J. W. INGRAM, Cashier,
American National Bank

Identification orders were exhibited and delivered to the manager of each of the safe deposit departments of each of the banks without any recognition of RAY as having been a past customer or as having access to any safe deposit box on the date April 5, 1968. Each of the bank officials, after having caused a check to be made of their entry cards for the pertinent date, advised that no customer who might conceivably be identical with RAY entered a box on that date.

Laundry Mark 20-R-3

After receipt of information to the effect that among recovered effects abandoned by subject, there was a linen laundry mark, 20-R-3, thereon, SA DAVID T. DALY on April 30, 1968, determined from laundries in the Birmingham area that although some utilized the Thermo-Seal machine, none were located who have in the past identified linens in their laundries by the mark 20-R-3.

VIRGIL ESCO, Plant Manager, Mayfield Cleaners, 219 South 20th Street, advised that they have in the past used the mark 20-R-; however, he found this to be a white and pink stripe and a cloth mark. Therefore, it is not identical with the mark 20-R-3 which was found on the linens in instant investigation.

Used Cars Advertised

On the possibility that subject RAY, who has been known to have purchased a used vehicle in the past, may have again done so through the medium of classified advertisements in the daily press, a review of all such ads was made by SAs RICHARD D. SCHWEIN and NEIL P. MARTIN, which ads appeared in the "Birmingham Post-Herald" (morning) and the "Birmingham News" (evening) for a period which was deemed to be pertinent, i.e. March 21 - April 2, 1968.

After such reviews, the owners of all such cars who had placed ads were contacted and this amounted to 486 automobiles; the period during which the previous owners were contacted by SAs SCHWEIN and MARTIN was from May 7-17, 1968. In each instance, the purchaser of the vehicle was satisfactorily determined not to be identical with subject RAY.

News Media and Publications

During the period covered by this report, constant liaison has been maintained with the daily press and television stations in the Birmingham area. These outlets all have publicized the photographs of RAY effectively. The weekly "Birmingham World", which has extensive circularization among the Negro citizens of Birmingham, has also given prominent space to the publication of subject's photographs and news items.

In addition to the above, SA ROBERT J. YARNALL through arrangements effected with Mr. SAM C. SPIVEY, Executive Secretary, The Alabama Service Station Association, 1102 South 20th Street, Birmingham, caused a full page write-up and photographs of RAY to be published on page 5 of the April issue of the magazine published by that association. This publication reaches all service stations in the State of Alabama.

"Look-Alikes" and Miscellaneous Suspects

Based on widespread coverage through news media, etc., numerous reports have been received during the period covered by this report wherein citizens have reported individuals resembling RAY. Without exception each of these instances received immediate attention by Agents of the Birmingham Office and all such cases resulted in the positive elimination of the suspected individuals. Records of these instances are maintained in a separate section of the Birmingham file in this matter.

BH 44-1740

Check of Motor Vehicles Stolen in Alabama

By communication dated April 26, 1968, the Bureau made available a list of motor vehicles stolen in Alabama as compiled from information retained at NCIC. The Mobile Office, under date of May 6, 1968, transmitted to the Birmingham Office a list of those vehicles stolen in the Birmingham territory during the pertinent period. At the present time the Birmingham Office is engaged in determining whether subject RAY may have been responsible for the theft of one of these vehicles.

In addition thereto, the Birmingham Police Department, when previously contacted, advised that the Auto Theft Squad of that department will without exception compare any latent fingerprints on any vehicle stolen in the State of Georgia and recovered at Birmingham. Special attention has been afforded by the Birmingham Police Department to any car reported stolen in Georgia immediately prior to or shortly after the date, April 6, 1968.

In addition to the above, each Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle (ITSMV) case, which had been pending in the Birmingham Office involving an unknown subject either stealing a car in the Birmingham territory and abandoning same in Atlanta territory or vice versa, has been reviewed and special attention given to any witnesses to the theft or recovery of such vehicle. To date, no such witness has identified RAY as being a possible suspect in any of those cases.

BH 44-1740
MK 44-1987
EHW:mas

The following investigation was conducted by SA HORACE H. WILLIS in an effort to identify the operator of an automobile displaying Alabama license tag 42-7866 at Chicago, Illinois, on April 19, 1968.

In the late evening of April 19, 1968, GENE PANELL, Alabama State Trooper, Florence, Alabama, advised his office at Florence and Decatur, Alabama, had no record of the above license plate, and stated the registration pertaining to this tag could be obtained from the Probate Judge's Office, Moulton, Alabama, on April 22, 1968.

On April 22, 1968, records of the Probate Judge's Office, Moulton, Alabama, reflected the following information relating to this license plate. It was issued to EDGAR F. BORDEN, Moulton, Alabama, for a 1966 Chevrolet Chevelle, VIN 1381768(or A)176978, on March 12, 1968.

Mrs. JUANITA JACKSON issued the plate, and Mrs. JACKSON stated she did not recall what the person buying this tag looked like. After viewing a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, she stated she had no recollection of ever having seen an individual resembling RAY.

Considerable investigation was conducted April 22 through April 24, 1968, in an unsuccessful effort to identify EDGAR F. BORDEN.

On April 24, 1968, TOM PETTUS, County, Attorney, advised he handled a divorce for EDGAR T. BORDEN from Cook County, Illinois, in 1957, and PETTUS' records showed that EDGAR T. BORDEN, wife WALCIE BORDEN, had a son named EDGAR FLOYD BORDEN.

Mrs. WALCIE JOHNSON was located on Rural Route, Moulton, Alabama, and advised she had a son, EDGAR FLOYD BORDEN, who was in Alabama in March 1968 and purchased a license plate for his Chevrolet Chevelle automobile at that time. She said this son was now in the process of moving

from 2344 Sacramento, Chicago, Illinois, to 2324 Greenwood Street, San Angelo, Texas, in care of ERWIN BORDEN. She described EDGAR FLOYD BORDEN as follows:

Age	25
Date of Birth	August 7, 1943, Lawrence County, Alabama
Height	5' 5" or 6"
Weight	132
Hair	Dark
Eyes	Brown
Marital Status	Married

BH 44-1740

"Lonely Heart" Type Organizations

The following investigation was conducted by SA'S ROBERT M. BARRETT and WILLIAM A. SAUCIER:

A review of the Birmingham telephone and city directories was made on May 14, 1968, for any "lonely heart" type organizations, with negative results. The only exceptions noted were the listings for Electra-Date Corporation, and Computa-Date Corporation, Homewood, Alabama, a Birmingham suburb.

On May 14, 1968, BILLY SELLERS, President, Electra-Date Corporation, #9 N.W. 23rd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, checked his records through the use of a computer, for any record of JAMES EARL RAY, under his true name or known aliases, without affecting any identification. He did locate a record for one EVERETT S. RAY, P. O. Box 4231, Memphis, Tennessee, telephone 276-1217. This RAY is a white male, age 44, 5'8", 136 pounds, does not dance, does smoke, and is a welder.

SELLERS said he would carefully scrutinize all subsequent applications, and should he receive any for anyone having the same description, likes, dislikes and preferences as does JAMES EARL RAY, SELLERS would immediately notify the FBI.

On May 14, 1968, RICHARD SAUNDERS, owner of Computa-Date Corporation, Homewood, Alabama, advised his business is engaged in providing dates for both males and females, through an electronic computer system. He added he presently has 28 offices in the Southeastern section of the United States, which includes the states of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and Mississippi. He searched his records through the use of his computer, for any record of JAMES EARL RAY, under his true name or known aliases, with negative results. SAUNDERS said he would immediately notify the FBI should he receive any application from anyone resembling JAMES EARL RAY, in any manner, or which application would be of interest to the FBI.