SHERIFF WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR.

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT ON JAMES EARL RAY

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

June 3, 1969

Sheriff William N. Morris, Jr.
Criminal Courts Building
Memphis, Tennessee

Re: Report on James Earl Ray from May 22 until 5:30 PM, May 26, 1969

Dear Sir:

At 11:11 PM, May 22, 1969, Chief Proctor and I were relieved in "A" Block by Officers Hartline and Summers. Upon entering "A" Block the officers made a complete search and everything OK. Ray was lying on his bunk but not asleep. He talked with officers and seemed to be in a good spirit. Ray continued talking to officers until 12:30 AM. He then went to sleep and slept until breakfast was served at 6:15 AM.

Report from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, May 23, 1969. Officers on duty were Scott and Bounds. At 6:15 AM breakfast was served which consisted of bacon, eggs, and toast. Ray ate all of his breakfast. He was also given the morning paper. After eating he went back to his bed and slept until 7:30 AM. At 7:30 AM he stayed in his bunk and read the paper until 10:00 AM, at which time he got up, talking to officers and seemed to be in a good mood. At 11:00 AM a lunch of beans and noodles, jello, bread and iced tea was served. He was also given a coke. Ray ate some of the beans but did not eat anything else. At the same time lunch was served, Dr. Satterfield entered "A" Block and gave Ray a physical and stated that his blood pressure was slightly high, otherwise he was in perfect physical condition. At 11:10 AM, Dr. Satterfield left. Ray talked to officers until 12:30 PM, at which time he lay down and went to sleep. At 1:15 PM Ray's attorney Mr. Ryan, came in the block and talked to Ray until 2:20 PM. After the attorney left Ray was stripped, searched and everything OK. At 2:35 PM Jerry Ray was admitted to the visiting port and talked to James Earl Ray until 3:00 PM. After Jerry left Ray walked in the block and played cards until supper was served at 4:00 PM. The supper consisted of potato salad and cold cuts. Ray ate half of the meal. He was also given a coke and the evening paper. After eating, Ray went to bed and read the paper.

Report from 6:00 PM, May 23rd to 6:00 AM, May 24, 1969. Officers on duty were Hartline and Summers. At 6:00 PM when Hartline and Summers entered "A" Block, Ray was in his bunk reading the paper and remained in his bunk and read a book until 11:50 PM, at which time he went to sleep and slept until 5:30 AM. At this time he asked for a paper and went back to sleep.

Report from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, May 24, 1969. Officers on duty were Scott and Bounds. At 6:00 AM Officers Scott and Bounds entered "A" Block and a breakfast of eggs, creamed beef on toast and milk was served. Ray ate half of his breakfast. He was also given the morning paper. After eating, Ray remained in his bunk and read the paper and appeared to be in a good mood. At 7:00 AM he went back to sleep and slept until lunch was served at 11:00 AM. The lunch consisted of fish, mashed potatoes, a salad, and jello. Ray did not eat but remained in his bunk. At 12:30 PM he asked for a pencil and paper to write some notes which he was given. At 1:00 PM he walked in the block for 30 minutes, then returned to his bunk and started reading. He appeared to be in a good mood, talking with officers and watching TV. At 4:00 PM a supper of green beans, mashed potatoes, spaghetti, corn bread and cake was served. Ray ate half of the meal and returned to his bunk to read a book.

Report from 6:00 PM, May 24th until 6:00 AM, May 25, 1969. Officers on duty were Hartline and Summers. When Officers entered "A" Block Ray was watching the news on TV. From 6:00 PM until 12:00 midnight Ray lay on his bunk and read. At 12:00 midnight he went to sleep and slept until 6:00 AM.

Report from 6:00 AM, May 25th to 6:00 PM, May 25, 1969. Officers on duty were Scott and Bounds. When officers entered "A" Block Ray was in his bunk asleep and slept until 7:30 AM, at which time he got up and read until breakfast was served at 8:30 AM. The breakfast consisted of bacon, eggs, and rolls. Ray ate all of his meal and returned to his bunk to read the morning paper which he was given. After reading for 30 minutes he got up and talked to officers on duty and seemed to be in a very good mood. At 10:00 AM officers were notified that Ray's attorneys were down stairs but due to visiting hours they would not be allowed to see him until visiting hours were over. Ray spent the remainder of the day watching TV, reading and talking to officers. At 4:45 PM, Ray's attorneys, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Hill and Mr. Stoner entered "A" Block and conferred with Ray until 5:30 PM. At the same time the attorneys left a supper of noodles, sweet potatoes, green beans and bread were served. Ray did not eat any of his meal but drank a coke which he was given.

Report from 6:00 PM, May 25th until 6:00 AM, May 26, 1969. Officers on duty were Hartline and Summers. When officers entered "A" Block Ray was reading what appeared to be legal papers. He remained in his bunk and read until 7:00 PM, at which time he got up and walked in the block for 30 minutes, watched TV for 30 minutes, took a shower, walked for another 20 minutes, and went to bed and went to sleep at 9:30 PM and slept until officers relieved of duty at 6:30 AM.

Report from 6:00 AM, May 26th to 5:30 PM, May 26, 1969. Officers on duty were Bounds and Scott. When officers entered "A" Block Ray was in his bunk asleep. He was given the morning paper which he read until breakfast was served at 7:30 AM. The breakfast consisted of eggs, bacon, oatmeal, and milk. Ray ate all of his breakfast and appeared to be in good mood. At the same time the breakfast was taken in, Mr. Jerry Latta entered "A" Block and gave Ray a hair cut. Ray appeared to be in a good mood talking freely with Mr. Latta. At 8:25 AM Mr. Latta left "A" Block. Ray was stripped, searched and everything OK. Ray's court clothing was taken into "A" Block and he started dressing for court. At 9:25 AM Ray was taken from "A" Block to Division III, Criminal Court.

At 12:55 PM Ray returned from court, was stripped, searched and everything OK. After returning from court Ray appeared very quiet and lay in his bunk and read. At 1:00 PM a lunch of bologna, potatoes, black eye peas, and bread was served. Ray ate very little. He was also given a coke. After eating Ray still was very quiet and lay on his bunk and read a book.

At 3:15 PM officers were notified to get Ray ready to go back to Nashville. At 3:30 PM, Chief Proctor, and Chief Parker entered "A" Block and removed Ray from the Jail for transfer back to the State Penitentiary at Nashville. Ray was taken out the front door of the Criminal Courts Building and placed in an automobile which was occupied by Sheriff Morris, Mr. Jack Morris, Chief Proctor, and Chief Parker, and was taken to the Sheriff's Department Pistol Range, undetected. Chief Nixon, Captain Gilless, Captain Cox, and Captain Smith met them at the Pistol Range and at 5:30 PM, May 26, 1969, Ray was turned over to the State authorities on Interstate #40, east of WMC Road.

Respectfully submitted,

B. J. Smith (cpt)

B. J. SMITH, CAPTAIN