R. J. Shotwell
Hotel Beau Claire
Seagraves, Texas
79359

SEAGRAVES, TX 79359
AIR MAIL

To the Sheriff
Shelby County Jail
Memphis,
Tenn.

Seagraves, Texas.
Sept 19, 1968.
79359.

To the Sheriff.

Dear Sir,

I have been sending a magazine now and then to James Earl Ray after I read it. As a present to the bird in a gilded cage. I wouldn't want to trade places with him. I also mark the package in care of you, the Sheriff. So if you can read it the mag and then deliver it to Earl Ray if it meets with your approval.

But! always in every jail there's always some smart con who wants to upset every thing that isn't in his favor etc.

Now I happen to be a retired disabled U.S. Merchant Mariner just recently I received a service Button from the National Maritime Union which is called for a nickname the colored union And was I surprised And it does bring a little happiness

Lakes Deep Sea, Inland Waters. And its marked 20 yrs from N.M.U.
And Im proud to wear it. And Im only glad that I can send a magazine now and then to James Earl Ray in your care. Time always drags regardless of where ever you are. Also Ill just say this about the fellow who is kicking about cold food. Think World War II also bored & I couldnt make Vietnam. But as a seaman I stood many an hour and hungry on ships at the bow on watch. "Food cold" now it sure gives me a thrill to know that Lindquist who was jailed on charged of carrying a pistol and robbery with a deadly weapon. As the newspaper says isint half as good as Ray who is getting cooked. As far as the Red light is concerned I happen to be an electrican. A sea going electrican but now Im a disabled man. And honest Sheriff I admire you. Ive been in Memphis years ago. Now

3/ I am 70 years old. And a hungry man doesn't care whether his food is cold. Well I'm glad the guards in you jail take good care of Ray. You know seamen are brothers and they aren't afraid to be involved. And when a seamen goes bad it hurts all of us who have been honest loyal and true. But we kept the ships sailing thru every walk of life. Thru every step of the ways. Thru every war merchant ships today which are unarmed. I'm not a preacher Arthur Hanes of Birmingham is wrong because I'd enjoy Detention alone and it isn't what I'd call "cruel and inhuman treatment" You could tell mr. Hanes that the truest boxes of his states and I mean Alabama. Out at Trussville not so far from Birmingham away. They work the men with stripes on their backs and have real at boxes where a man is held up by his thumbs and stretched for hours at a time standing on his toes. Yes Mr. Hanes I think you are wrong. Ray is being well treated. at least

4 he didnt rob anyone in Memphis.
a river towns a good town and
and as far as this Linguist is concerned
of you dont mind I'll keep sending in
detective magazines in youre care
and for James Earl Ray!

You know I'm not a Texan. I'm
staying here for my broken body.
And I got in an argument last night
about sending Ray the mags. Well
I also had a call here from a F.B.I.
agent and I wouldnt speak in
front of this man. And he just aint
got aller it yet. And he wants to
know too much. Of course I'm not
a wanted man. I'm a white man
but honest Sheriff. Aint we all
brothers? Well keep up the good
works. And disregard the rat that
doesnt like to eat "cold food."

Best of wishes and I'll
always send a magazine in your
care for James Earl Ray. Keep that
Linguist in tight security he's a
trouble maker. I dont know him
but you can say "Hello to Ray for
me if you want too.

Thank you. Richard J. Shotwell