

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 24, 1968

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[REDACTED] was interviewed at the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1520 Market Street, St. Louis, at which time he supplied the following information:

[REDACTED] emphatically denied since last being interviewed by Bureau agents that he has had any contact with or knowledge of the whereabouts of JAMES EARL RAY. He reiterated what he had previously mentioned that he also has had no contact with RAY since RAY escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). He pointed out that at the present time RAY would have no way of knowing that [REDACTED] was released from the MSP and, therefore, would not even be aware that [REDACTED] is in St. Louis, Missouri.

Regarding [REDACTED] association with RAY in the MSP, [REDACTED] commented that it was possible that RAY may have used amphetamines on occasion, however [REDACTED] never knew of RAY to sell or to deal in that or any other narcotic.

[REDACTED] did say that he knew JAMES EARL RAY to have a four for three loan business at MSP as on several occasions RAY had asked [REDACTED] if he ever needed any money, RAY had sufficient to loan him. RAY once told [REDACTED] that he had paid off a debt of an unnamed inmate and asked [REDACTED] how he could receive the re-payment from the inmate since the inmate had arranged for someone outside the prison to pay off the debt to RAY. RAY desired to know how the money could get into the prison past the warden as the warden had questioned RAY on several occasions regarding money being held for him by prison authorities. [REDACTED] indicated that it was the warden's belief that this money was in payment for narcotics.

[REDACTED] was unable to recall whether he had suggested it to RAY or it was a mutual agreement between he and RAY that this outside person send the payment to RAY in the name of one of RAY's brothers. [REDACTED] was of the opinion this was how the re-payment was handled, however had no concrete knowledge of which brother's name was used or the amount of the payment. [REDACTED] estimated that RAY possibly had \$300 to \$400 at the most when he escaped from MSP but seriously doubts that RAY had any more than that.

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On 5/20/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775
 by SA [REDACTED] RAH/leh Date dictated 5/21/68
EXHIBIT P

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██████████ stated that while incarcerated in MSP, RAY worked in the bakery as a bread cutter. In addition to RAY in the bakery, there were approximately 150 additional inmates. ██████████ commented that he doubted that over six of these fellow inmates had ever held conversations with RAY totaling more than 30 minutes. He stated that RAY was a good worker, a clever and thoughtful person, a conservative thinker, very closed mouthed and an individual who does not generally do things on the spur of the moment. ██████████ added that at no time did RAY exhibit any foreign language ability nor was there any talk of travel outside of the continental United States by RAY. However, on one occasion RAY did mention to ██████████ that he had been to the West Coast. Although ██████████ stated that RAY did not have any close family ties, the place most often spoken of by RAY was Illinois where ██████████ understands RAY's family are residents.

██████████ commented that approximately 95 percent of the content of conversations between he and JAMES EARL RAY while incarcerated in MSP was about how to get out of the penitentiary either legally or illegally. ██████████ emphatically denied that he had been engaged in any illegal activity inside the MSP and further stated that he was not the individual who was caught by prison authorities with numerous bullets in his pocket. He also stated that there was no truth to the statement that JAMES EARL RAY ever had an inmate beaten while in the penitentiary for non-payment of debt. ██████████ recalled that on either a Friday or Saturday evening, RAY had sent word to him by messenger that he wanted to meet with him for dinner. ██████████ did join RAY for supper and RAY commented that he had been granted permission to accompany his attorney to a Missouri Supreme Court hearing on the following Wednesday. RAY was desirous of learning the exact procedures in regard to security of him as a prisoner and if there was any relaxation of the security, whereby he may be afforded a chance to escape. ██████████ reportedly assured RAY that there was no opportunity for escape under those circumstances. According to ██████████, RAY replied, "That's okay, I've got something else."

The following Sunday while walking in the yard of MSP, ██████████ stated that he overheard an inmate, name unknown, complain that someone had stolen a set of hidden civilian clothing, however at the time did not pay too much attention to the remarks

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made. Several hours later, it was rumored that someone had on that afternoon walked out the front gate of the MSP. Eventually word came to [REDACTED] after a head count had been taken that evening, that the escapee was JAMES EARL RAY. [REDACTED] conjectures that it was RAY who stole the civilian clothes and who probably changed in the confines of the bakery and then mingled with the weekend visitors and if a guard on the double gate was new, which [REDACTED] says was true, RAY probably just walked out in this manner.

[REDACTED] feels positively that RAY would never have come to St. Louis, Missouri, after his escape unless he was merely passing through. He indicated that it is common knowledge that the St. Louis Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in St. Louis are notorious for developing a network of informants among ex-cons released from MSP. For this reason, RAY, who [REDACTED] reiterated never trusted an inmate while in prison, would certainly not come to St. Louis and contact anyone here after his escape. [REDACTED] again commented that JAMES EARL RAY has a natural ability to make himself inconspicuous and an individual who usually stays at arm's length from everyone.

[REDACTED] is of the belief that RAY is not guilty of the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., as the crime is completely foreign to RAY's personality. He does not believe that RAY would kill except to avoid returning to prison.