

FBI

Date: 7/31/68

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re William Len Hotel, Memphis, Tenn., phase of investigation.

Enclosed herewith is one Xerox copy each of an investigative insert reflecting investigation conducted by [redacted] at Memphis, Tenn., and an FD-302 dated 4/7/68 reflecting interview of Miss EDITH BRUNER, Clerk, William Len Hotel.

[redacted] San Francisco, California, and [redacted] or [redacted] Kansas City, Mo. checked into the William Len Hotel, Memphis, Tenn., at 1:38 p.m. on 4/4/68 and checked out at approximately 12:10 a.m. on 4/5/68. [redacted] and [redacted] were immediately transported to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport via Yellow Cab.

Two individuals believed to be identical with [redacted] and [redacted] based on the Memphis PD investigation and time element concerning flights leaving Metropolitan Airport, furnished Delta Airlines personnel at Metropolitan Airport names of [redacted] and [redacted] no addresses, departed Memphis via Delta Airlines flight # 157 nonstop to Houston, Texas, at 1:57 a.m., 4/5/68 with a scheduled arrival time, Houston, at 2:50 a.m. same date. Tickets for the flight were purchased just prior to departure time and since no reservations

*Boyer memo
Enc. to [redacted]
8-5-68
REK/CA*

Airtel _____

Teletype 3 - Bureau (Encs. 2)
2 - Memphis
RFB/ngm
(5)

A.M.S.D. _____

Spec. Del. _____

Reg. Mail _____
Approved: _____

Registered _____
Special Agent in Charge

ENCLOSURE
REC-22

REC.D - CIA WICHL2

C. - Bishop

EBI

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EXHIBIT DD

ME 44-1987

were made, these names were merely added to the passenger manifest and no addresses were obtained. Efforts to locate this manifest to date have been negative.

Investigation conducted by Kansas City and San Francisco Divisions determined that the addresses furnished by [redacted] and [redacted] at the William Len Hotel were nonexistent. These Divisions as well as Houston and Memphis have been unable to identify [redacted] or [redacted] through contact with airline personnel, transportation drivers, motel and hotel clerks, credit and criminal checks, and through a review of street and telephone directories in the pertinent cities involved.

The FBI Laboratory developed six latent fingerprints of value on Q349 which was the William Len Hotel registration card of WALKER and five latent fingerprints of value were developed on Q350 which was the registration card for [redacted].

The FBI Identification Division developed [redacted] FBI # [redacted] as a suspect possibly identical with [redacted] who registered at the William Len Hotel. The Latent Fingerprint Section of the FBI, Identification Division, has advised that the latent prints developed on Q349 and Q350 are not identical with the fingerprints of [redacted] FBI # 52651D. The FBI Laboratory has also advised that the handwriting appearing on Q349 and Q350 is not identical with the handwriting of [redacted] FBI # [redacted].

The William Len Hotel personnel advised that this [redacted] is not identical with [redacted] or [redacted] who registered at the hotel on 4/4/68. [redacted] FBI # [redacted] was interviewed by a BuAgent on 6/12/68 at St. Louis, Mo., and denied being in Memphis or ever flying via commercial airlines. Driver for the Yellow Cab Company transporting [redacted] and [redacted] to Metropolitan Airport, Memphis, advised that a photograph of [redacted] FBI # [redacted] is definitely not identical with either of the two individuals that he transported to the Metropolitan Airport, Memphis, in the early a.m. of 4/5/68.

The Yellow Cab Company driver, William Len Hotel employees, and Delta Airlines employees advise that JAMES EARL RAY is definitely not identical with the two individuals that they had dealings with in Memphis on 4/4-5/68.

Although it is agreed that [redacted] and [redacted] departed the Memphis area in a somewhat suspicious manner on 4/5/68, many visitors and residents, immediately after KING was killed, departed the Memphis area by any means of transportation available due to the real existence of fear of ~~the~~ riot as a result of KING's killing. The Memphis Division conducted investigation regarding numerous persons who left the area after KING's killing and [redacted] and [redacted] were merely two individuals of the large number of individuals who were under investigation as suspects prior to the identification of ERIC STARVO GALT at the Rebel Motel, Memphis, and subsequent identification of JAMES EARL RAY as being identical with ERIC STARVO GALT.

Due to the manner in which [redacted] and [redacted] departed the Memphis area and the lack of luggage at the time of their arrival and departure, it is believed that [redacted] and [redacted] were "running from something," possibly law enforcement and/or were in the city of Memphis for some type of illegal activity.

Since [redacted] and [redacted] furnished nonexistent addresses in San Francisco and Kansas City, Kansas, and it is believed that they actually changed names while in Memphis, it is not believed that any of the names used in Memphis by these individuals would be their true identities.

In view of the above, no further investigation is being conducted or directed by the Memphis Division concerning the William Len Hotel phase in this matter.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/7/68

Miss EDITH BRUNER, Clerk, William Len Hotel, advised she noticed two individuals in the lobby of her hotel during the early evening of April 4, 1968. She stated that she did not know the names of these individuals, but knew that they were registered at the hotel as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] however, she did not know which of the individuals was [REDACTED] and which was [REDACTED]. She said she first saw them in the lobby at approximately 7:30 p.m. They, according to Miss BRUNER, at that time just seemed to be killing time, and asked general questions about Memphis and the racial conditions which had existed and were existing in Memphis. Miss BRUNER stated that the taller of the two men advised her that they were from California, but they gave her no information as to why they were in Memphis or what they intended to do in Memphis.

Miss BRUNER advised that she could not furnish any details concerning the activities of these two individuals on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, nor could she furnish any details regarding their activities after 7:30 on April 4, 1968. She could not state whether or not either or both of them had left the hotel during the time they were staying at the hotel for any period of time. She said during the evening of April 4, 1968, she did not pay any particular attention to them, but just merely noted that they were around the lobby of the hotel on various occasions. Miss BRUNER furnished the following description of the two men:

A. Shorter Man

Race:	White
Age:	25 to 26
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	150 pounds
Hair:	Ash brown, parted on the side
Dress:	Grey suit and tie

She could furnish no further descriptive data on this individual.

On 4/5/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987
 by SA [REDACTED] / jms 44-38861-5030 Date dictated 4/6/68

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ENCLOSURE

B. Taller Man

Race:	White
Height:	6'2"
Weight:	200 pounds
Hair:	Blonde, short cut
Eyes:	Color unknown
Complexion:	Ruddy face
Dress:	White shirt, dark trousers, and carrying a coat in his arm, blue in color, which appeared to be too small for him.

Miss BRUNER could furnish no further descriptive data on this individual.

12:10 AM

✓ Miss EDITH BRUNER continued by advising that the two above-mentioned individuals checked out of the William Len Hotel at approximately 12:30 p.m., April 5, 1968. She said when they checked out, they seemed to be in an extreme hurry. She pointed out that they had put a deposit on their key when they checked in inasmuch as they did not have any baggage, but they checked out in such a hurry that they almost forgot to collect the money which they had put on the deposit. She said she had to remind them to collect their deposit on the key, but they seemed to be more interested in checking out and getting out of the hotel than they did collecting the money which they had on deposit. Miss BRUNER said she did not particularly note what the two men did after they left the hotel, and, therefore, could furnish no further information regarding their activities after this time.

ME 44-1987

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RE: SUSPECTS W. DAVIS, B. CHIDLOW, VINCENT
WALKER, AND LAWRENCE RAND

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] at Memphis, Tennessee, on the dates indicated:

Miss RUBY WIGGINS, Desk Clerk, William Len Hotel, 110 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on May 22, 1968, she registered [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] San Francisco, California, into Room [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Kansas City, Missouri, into Room [REDACTED] at approximately 2:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968. She said neither individual had a roomer's reservation at the time they arrived at the hotel and each paid in cash \$4.68 for the room plus a \$1.00 deposit on the key for the room. Miss WIGGINS advised she does not recall the denomination of the bill either individual gave to her to pay for the charges but recalls it was in cash and not paid by check or credit cards. She said neither individual furnished any form of identification when they registered into the room. Miss WIGGINS stated when they arrived at the hotel, they requested the cheapest room she had for rent.

Miss WIGGINS advised she does not know how either individual arrived at the hotel but is pretty certain that they did not have a car.

Miss WIGGINS was shown several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. Miss WIGGINS said neither of the individuals was anywhere near as old as the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and added that neither one of the individuals looked like the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. Miss WIGGINS commented that the smaller of the two individuals who registered at the hotel could possibly in a faint sort of way resemble the 1960 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY that appears on the identification order. She stated, however, that neither one of the individuals was old enough to be JAMES EARL RAY and, in her opinion, neither one looked anything at all like JAMES EARL RAY.

Miss MARTHA BRANNAN, Desk Clerk, William Len Hotel, advised on May 21, 1968, she was working at the desk when Miss RUBY WIGGINS, Desk Clerk, registered in [REDACTED]

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ENCLOSURE

and [REDACTED] mentioned above. She said she recalls that neither individual had a reservation when they arrived at the hotel and both individuals paid cash for the room after asking for the cheapest room in the hotel. Miss BRANNAN advised that she does not recall the denomination of the bill either individual gave to pay the charges but recalls it was cash and not paid by credit cards. She said, as she recalls, neither individual furnished any type of identification.

Miss BRANNAN was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. Miss BRANNAN said neither of the individuals was anywhere near as old as JAMES EARL RAY and neither of them looked anything like the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

Miss ROSE FRATINI, Switchboard Operator, William Len Hotel, advised she was on the switchboard at the hotel during the afternoon, evening, and night of April 4, 1968. Miss FRATINI advised she recalls when [REDACTED] of San Francisco, California, and [REDACTED] of Kansas City, Missouri, checked into the hotel. She stated she believes it was approximately 2:05 P.M. on April 4, 1968, when these two individuals checked in without a reservation. She stated that they appeared nervous and did not do a great deal of talking. Miss FRATINI stated neither individual made any phone calls through the switchboard and no one made any phone calls to either of these individuals. She further advised she does not recall that either of these individuals used the pay telephone in the lobby of the hotel.

Miss FRATINI was shown several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G, and said neither of the individuals known as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was anywhere as old as JAMES EARL RAY and neither of these individuals looked anything like the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

Mrs. BEE ALBRIGHT, Operator, Cigar Stand, lobby of William Len Hotel mentioned above, advised on May 22, 1968, that she recalls 2 individuals in the lobby of the hotel during the afternoon and evening as well as night of April 4, 1968, as being nervous and asking minor questions about the Memphis area. Mrs. ALBRIGHT advised she could not recall the names off-hand but said they were 2 individuals who came in on the afternoon, registered at the hotel, and left shortly

after midnight. Mrs. ALBRIGHT was shown several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. Mrs. ALBRIGHT stated that neither of the individuals looked anywhere near like any of the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. She said the main reason that they did not look like RAY is because both of these individuals were very young and not near as old as photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

Miss EDITH BREWER, [REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, advised that she is a desk clerk at the William Len Hotel, Memphis, and generally works from 11:00 P.M. to approximately 8:00 A.M. Miss BREWER advised she recalls that she came on duty early on April 4, 1968, and recalls that 2 individuals who were registered in the hotel were pacing back and forth in the lobby of the hotel asking questions about the Memphis area. Miss BREWER said they seemed to be nervous. Miss BREWER stated she was on duty when they checked out of the hotel at approximately 12:30 A.M., April 5, 1968, and recalls that they were in a hurry to catch a cab and were hesitant about waiting for their refund of \$1.00 deposit on their key.

Miss BREWER was shown several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. Miss BREWER stated that the side view photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in 1960 as appears on the identification order somewhat vaguely resembles one of the individuals but added that the individuals in the hotel were much younger than the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. She said neither of these individuals, in her opinion, was JAMES EARL RAY.

Mr. KIRK BOWMAN, [REDACTED] Memphis, advised he is currently employed by the Travelodge Motel but stated that during the early part of April 1968 he was employed as a desk clerk, night manager, and auditor for the William Len Hotel mentioned above. Mr. BOWMAN advised he recalls coming to work late, approximately 11:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, and worked on through the morning, April 5, 1968. He recalls that 2 individuals by the names of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] checked out of the hotel at approximately 12:30 A.M. He said these individuals had prepaid for their room. Therefore, his only duty was to refund \$1.00 deposit to each of them on the keys that they had for their rooms.

Mr. BOWMAN was shown several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. Mr. BOWMAN advised none of the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY appeared to resemble either

of the individuals who checked out of the hotel. He did comment that the 1960 front view photograph of RAY as shown on the identification order does bear a slight resemblance in facial features; however, both of the individuals registering at the hotel were much younger than the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

Mr. JOYNER W. FARRIS, [REDACTED] West Memphis, Arkansas, advised on ~~May~~ 22, 1968, that he is employed by the Yellow Cab Company, 581 South Second Street, Memphis, Tennessee, and was working during the evening of April 4, 1968, and the early morning hours of April 5, 1968.

Mr. FARRIS advised he recalls picking up 2 fares at the William Len Hotel at approximately 12:30 A.M. on April 5, 1968. Mr. FARRIS said that he waited for 2 individuals to check out of the hotel and he drove them to the airport in Memphis to catch a plane out of the city. Mr. FARRIS commented that early in the evening of April 4, 1968, he picked up a fare at the William Len Hotel and this individual requested that he drive him to West Memphis, Arkansas. Mr. FARRIS stated as they approached the bridge, this individual changed his mind and told him to drive him to the airport. Mr. FARRIS advised after they arrived at the airport, this individual whose name he did not know requested that he wait while he went in to check on reservations. Mr. FARRIS stated he waited and shortly thereafter this individual returned to his cab and requested to be driven back to the William Len Hotel. Mr. FARRIS advised that when they arrived at the William Len Hotel, this individual again requested that he wait while he checked out of the hotel. When this individual returned to the cab he had another individual with him and it was at that time that both requested to be driven to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport.

Mr. FARRIS stated he did not strike up a conversation with these individuals and does not recall discussing much of anything with them. He said he does not recall that they had any luggage whatsoever when they checked out of the hotel or into the cab. He said when they reached their destination at the airport, they paid the taxi cab fare in cash but he does not remember the amount and does not remember the denomination of the bill that was given him for payment of the fare.

Mr. FARRIS was shown several photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. After viewing the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, Mr. FARRIS stated that neither of the individuals bore any resemblance whatsoever to any of the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY. He stated the main reason he feels this way is that these 2 individuals are much younger than the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY.

Mr. KEITH B. HAGSTETTE, Assistant Supervisor, Delta Airlines, Metropolitan Airport, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on May 23, 1968, he would attempt to locate the manifest for flight #157 leaving Memphis on the early morning of April 5, 1968. He said he recalls previously checking this flight and determined that 2 individuals did not have reservations but caught this flight which was non-stop to Houston, Texas.

Mr. HAGSTETTE advised on June 3, 1968, that he is unable to locate the manifest for flight #157 on April 5, 1968. He said this flight was due to leave Memphis at 12:25 A.M. on April 5, 1968, and was non-stop to Houston. He said the flight left at 1:30 A.M. on April 5, 1968. Mr. HAGSTETTE advised he would request the Atlanta office to furnish a new manifest to his office so that he could determine who the passengers were on this flight.

On June 6, 1968, Mr. HAGSTETTE advised his Atlanta office advised him their work was way behind and requested that their office in Atlanta be contacted by the Atlanta Division of the FBI for a copy of this manifest. He pointed out that he recalls from previous inquiry it was determined that the names [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were passengers' names that were added to the list of passengers for flight #157 and would not appear on the manifest as printed by the computer.

Mr. JIM WEDDLE, Ticket Agent, Delta Airlines, advised he resides at 4582 Applestone, Memphis, Tennessee. He said that he worked on the 6:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M. shift on April 4, 1968, and April 5, 1968. He stated as he recalls he left work at approximately 3:30 A.M. on April 5, 1968.

Mr. WEDDLE stated he recalled that at approximately 10:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. on April 4, 1968, an individual came up to the ticket counter and inquired concerning a flight to Houston, Texas. He said this individual requested passage

or this flight for 2 individuals but stated he did not have money with him to pay for the tickets. He said this individual informed him that he would return to the ticket counter later to pay for the tickets prior to boarding on the plane. Mr. WEDDLE stated he only saw one individual that was shabbily dressed. As he recalls, this individual wore a long-sleeve dirty white shirt, gray trousers, and possibly had a 2 day growth of beard. Mr. WEDDLE stated he did not know the name of this individual but assumed that it was either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. He said he made reservations for this individual and sometime after midnight this individual came to the counter and paid for the 2 tickets which amounted between \$50 and \$60 with \$5 and \$1 bills. Mr. WEDDLE stated he does not recall checking any baggage for this individual either time he appeared at the ticket counter. Mr. WEDDLE advised that he recalls the name [REDACTED] as it is a common name and recalls the name [REDACTED] because he and other ticket agents were commenting that the name probably should be [REDACTED].

Mr. WEDDLE stated he has seen numerous photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G. Mr. WEDDLE stated that this individual who purchased these 2 tickets did not resemble any of the photographs of RAY in any way. He pointed out he did not see the other individual for whom the ticket was purchased. This man did not give him any address here in Memphis.

Mr. JIMMY D. SULLINGER, [REDACTED], Southaven, Mississippi, advised on June 3, 1968, he was working as a ticket agent for Delta Airlines at the Memphis Metropolitan Airport from approximately 11:30 P.M. to approximately 8:00 A.M., April 4-5, 1968. Mr. SULLINGER advised he recalls that JIMMY WEDDLE sold 2 tickets to an individual prior to midnight of April 4, 1968, in the names of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Mr. SULLINGER advised he recalls the name [REDACTED] specifically as the various ticket agents were pronouncing the name [REDACTED]. Mr. SULLINGER advised he did not see the individual who purchased the tickets in the names of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and can furnish no information whatsoever concerning these 2 individuals. Mr. SULLINGER stated he may have been the individual who checked passengers onto the flight at the ticket gate and he has no way of knowing whether or not he was the individual who checked them onto the plane. He said he does not recall any of the passengers who boarded that flight and he definitely does not recall seeing or meeting [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] who were on flight #157 leaving Memphis non-stop for Houston on April 5, 1968.

Mr. HAROLD BYRD, Ticket Agent, Delta Airlines, Memphis Metropolitan Airport, advised on June 3, 1968, that he was employed as a ticket agent at the Delta Airlines ticket counter from approximately 3:30 P.M. on April 4, 1968, to approximately 2:00 A.M. on April 5, 1968. Mr. BYRD advised he does not recall seeing passengers [redacted] and [redacted] who purchased tickets at this Delta Airlines ticket counter and caught flight #157 that left at 1:30 A.M., April 5, 1968, for Houston, Texas. Mr. BYRD advised he recalls the incident only because the name [redacted] was pronounced by the various employees of Delta as [redacted]. Mr. BYRD advised he could furnish no information whatsoever concerning the individual who purchased 2 tickets in the names of [redacted] and [redacted].

Mr. JERRY DOOLIN, [redacted] Memphis, Tennessee, advised he is a ticket agent for the Delta Airlines at the Memphis Metropolitan Airport and on April 4, 1968, was working the 4:00 P.M. to 2:30 A.M., April 5, 1968, shift. Mr. DOOLIN advised he recalls reviewing the manifest for flight #157 that left Memphis at 1:30 A.M. on April 5, 1968, non-stop for Houston, Texas. He stated he recalls that 2 individuals by the names of [redacted] and [redacted] were walk-up passengers to the ticket counter and did not have reservations prior to the early evening of April 4, 1968. According to Mr. DOOLIN, he did not see the individual who purchased the 2 tickets in the names of [redacted] and [redacted]. Mr. DOOLIN further commented that he may have "closed out" the flight, but he does not recall seeing the 2 passengers [redacted] and [redacted]. He said by "closing out" the flight he meant that he may have checked all the passengers onto flight #157 just prior to its departure from Memphis. Mr. DOOLIN advised he could furnish no information whatsoever concerning the 2 passengers [redacted] and [redacted].

Mr. FRANK GUY, [redacted] Memphis, advised he is a porter for Delta Airlines at the Memphis Metropolitan Airport. He stated he was working as a porter during the evening of April 4, 1968, and the morning of April 5, 1968. He stated he recalls that he was working this particular shift because that was the night that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed and there was a curfew on. He stated he was very busy the entire evening and night because of the curfew and does not recall that anyone else was working with him that night. Mr. GUY stated he does not recall any passenger coming out to

the airport in a Yellow cab asking the Yellow cab to wait for him while he went in to purchase a ticket and then return to the cab. Mr. GUY advised he cannot furnish any information concerning any of the passengers who boarded any of the Delta flights during the evening of April 4 and the morning of April 5, 1968.

The following is a composite description of the 2 individuals who registered in the hotel as [redacted] and [redacted] as furnished by employees of the William Len Hotel mentioned above:

Number 1

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	25 to 28
Height	5'10"
Weight	150
Hair	Brown, parted on the side
Dress	Wearing gray suit

Number 2

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	25 to 30
Height	6'2"
Weight	200
Hair	Blond
Face	Ruddy
Dress	White shirt, dark trousers, carrying dark blue coat on his arm

The following individuals were contacted at their respective places of employment on June 3, 1968, to determine if any cars had been brought in on April 4, 1968, prior to 2:00 P.M. and if any cars were rented from 2:00 P.M. to midnight on April 4, 1968, to an individual by the name of [redacted]

These firms are the only places that rent cars that are in a close proximity to the William Len Hotel mentioned above:

Mr. GENE YORK, Assistant Manager, Avis
Rent-A-Car, 57 South Third Street, Memphis

Miss JEAN STARNES, Clerk, Budget Rent-A-Car,
106 South Second Street, Memphis

Mr. BOBBY LIPIN, Manager, Hertz Rent-A-Car,
Downtown Office, 110 South Second Street,
Memphis

Mr. TED O. BAUCAUM, Manager, Downtown Office,
National Car Rental Systems, Inc., 22 North
Third Street, Memphis

The above individuals on June 3, 1968, advised that a review of their records failed to indicate that any cars were turned in prior to 2:00 P.M. on April 4, 1968, that had been rented by an individual in the name of [REDACTED], or [REDACTED]. These individuals also advised that a complete review of their records fails to indicate that any cars were rented between the period 2:00 P.M. and mid-night of April 4, 1968, to any individual registering the name [REDACTED].