

Records in July cut file

BANK ROBBERIES

The investigation of bank robberies was an essential part of the FBI's investigation of the King assassination, which really was a Ray only investigation. Although the FBI charged conspiracy (in Birmingham, not Memphis) in order to contrive jurisdiction, it never investigated any real conspiracy leads while exhausting all the obviously irrelevant indications of conspiracy. One of the major problems was accounting for Ray's financing for the period beginning with his MoPen escape in 4/67 until his capture in 6/68. During this time he bought a car and other expensive things, went to Canada twice, to Mexico, to England, Portugal, back to England, and was leaving England when he was caught. The FBI theorized that he robbed banks to finance himself and it and the later House assassins committee theorized that his brothers were his partners, that they financed him with bank robberies after King was killed. The OER report even criticizes the FBI for not pursuing these areas even more than it did. It did devote much effort to its bank robbing theory. However, probably because it was obviously frivolous, the FBI opted not to file those records under MURKIN but under the various bank robberies. They nonetheless are pertinent. My first of several appeals, all of which have been ignored, followed by filing bank robbery records involving me, of all things, in what remained of the gutted Long tickler. More recently my pertinent appeals are based on bank robbery (and other) records provided to Jerry Ray and not to me. I believe that not providing these Jerry Ray (and earlier John Ray) records represents the FBI's breaching of the agreement, to provide all pertinent records provided to others, which you and it reported to me, and that your failure to do anything about this after I appealed raises questions about the seriousness of the Department's attitude toward the Act and its clear intent as well as its historical case determination.

Scattered throughout the batch of abstracts I received the week of 4/7 there are references to the bank-robbery investigation as part of the MURKIN investigation. These are far from all such records and the abstracts to which I refer are not all on the subject. Most of the bank robbery records, including on the investigations and shadowings of the Rays, are not filed under MURKIN.

All surveillances of any kind, by anyone, anywhere, are within my requests. These appeals also have been ignored for a very long time, save for the reported search of the electronics index, which is not complete and is limited to one form of surveillance. Some of these surveillances records are filed with the bank robbery records.

4043. The name obliterated in this reference to the Alton, Ill., bank job, a matter I appealed long ago, is that of the dead Jack Gannon, aka The Kat Man. Both the FBI and OPR disclosed the name. (The Alton robbery preceded the King assassination. The judge told the FBI to disclose names withheld in it but it has not done so.) This was part of the MURKIN investigation: "ALL LEADS ARE TO BE GIVEN CONTINUOUS & EXPEDITIOUS ATTENTION. SUPPL DAILY RESULTS OF INVEST ACTIVITY CONCERNING THIS BANK ROBBERY. SUCH TELS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED UNDER "MURKIN" CAPTION & ARE TO CONTINUE UNTIL ISSUE IS FULLY RESOLVED AS WHETHER RAY WAS OR WAS NOT INVOLVED IN BANK ROBBERY."

4128. FBIHQ explained its theory on the bank robberies: VIEW FACT SOURCE OF FUNDS SUBJ NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SI COMPLETELY EXHAUST EVERY AVE AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE IF SUBJ INVOLVED IN ROBBERY BANK OF ALTON, ILL., ON 7/13/67. IT WILL BE INCIDENT UPON SI TO ASSURE APPRO DIVS THOROUGHLY, EXHAUSTIVELY COVER EVERY LEAD IN MOST EXPEDITIOUS MANNER. COPY MAIL ME." (SI-Springfield office.)

4326. SI extended this investigation to include laundries, where pictures of Ray and unnamed "associates" were displayed. In 4519 it reported doing this with the banks of the area, as the chance that the Alton bank loot was deposited in any of them.

4626. The abstract is limited to reporting that Savage Arms, Inc., said it was not possible to trace weapon similar to the one recovered after the Alton robbery. The underlying record reports Gannon's denial of any contact with Ray after his Hagen escape. Gannon and a suspect, Richard Covington, are named.

4714. Here Covington's name, as a suspect, is withheld. OPR disclosed it. "ALL ASPECTS MUST (BE) IMMEDIATELY INVESTIGATED TO DETERMINE IF SUBJ. RAY IS IMPLICATED."

4733. Laundry marks are to be checked with dry-cleaning institute, because it was alleged that Ray was in on the Alton robbery.

(Joe)

4767. One Heints is involved with Covington in Alton investigation.

4730. More reporting on Covington not being at usual haunts.

4781. In providing more of the above on Covington, the underlying records disclose the names of those with whom he allegedly lived, including a woman and the names of four sources.

4833. Two abstracts. In one Legat, London, is told that all field offices have reviewed all unsolved robbery cases beginning time of Ray's Kefauver escape. A sample of ~~hand~~ handwriting, "NOTE USED IN ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY" in England, is not Ray's. Second abstract covers London's submission. London also suggested that the FBI ask the RCMP to examine its unsolved bank robberies. 4787 is more on these two.

4811. More on Covington, included in MURKIN without Ray being mentioned in underlying record. Source's name withheld from abstract on (b)(2) claim only. 4797 gives the name of Willie Lee to Covington's, but no mention of Ray is made. In 4798, Lee is mentioned with Joe Heints, but not Ray. (Other non-player names are disclosed in underlying record, without regard to privacy.) This also is true in 4809. 4817 has Lee as associate not of Ray but of Covington and John McClinton, suspects. All of these many references to men and women not in any way involved in the King assassination in the MURKIN HQ file reflects the fact that anything connected with these bank robberies was regarded as part of the assassination investigation, even when there was no connection with or mention of Ray. Any Ray.