

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via A I R T E L _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, RICHMOND (44-657) - P -
SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Philadelphia teletype to Richmond, 4/22/68.

AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA JOHN G. MC CARTHY:

Records of the DMV for the State of Va., reflect that Va. License T146395 was issued for 1968 Ford pick-up truck registered on owner WILLIAM H. SMITH, 913 Montrose Ave., Charlottesville, Va.

Neighborhood inquiry in vicinity of 913 Montrose Ave., on 4/23/68 determined WILLIAM H. SMITH, his wife, and one child, have resided at that address for approximately 12 years. SMITH is employed as a carpenter with the Van Lear Construction Co. He owns a 1968 Ford pick-up with a camper top for the truck. He also recently reportedly took a vacation to Kansas City, Mo.

On 4/23/68, Mrs. GRACE SMITH, nee Kent, 913 Montrose Ave., Charlottesville, advised that her

- ② - Memphis
- ① - Philadelphia (INFO)
- ② - Richmond

JGM:vsr
(5)

44-1987-Sub E-683

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

RM 44-657

husband is employed by the Van Lear Construction Co. as a carpenter and has been so employed for the past ten years. She has resided at her present address for twelve years. Mrs. SMITH advised that her husband recently took a vacation to Kansas City, Mo., visiting a friend from the Army, a CHARLES DON WATSON, having left Charlottesville on Friday, 4/12/68.

Mrs. SMITH advised that her husband had been in Charlottesville and was employed by Van Lear Construction Co. during the week of the KING murder and in fact, had been working nights for Sgt. ELWOOD CASON of the Charlottesville, Va. PD at CASON's residence. SMITH also pointed out that her husband has two fingers missing from his left hand and stated that her husband's presence in Charlottesville at the time of the KING murder could be easily confirmed.

On 4/23/68, Sgt. ELWOOD CASON, Charlottesville, Va. PD, advised that he is well-acquainted with WILLIAM H. SMITH, having known him for a period of several years as a resident at 913 Montrose Ave., Charlottesville. CASON pointed out SMITH has two fingers missing from his left hand and that although he does have the same physical build as JAMES EARL RAY, including some close physical facial attributes as with the photograph distributed on RAY, he does not have a scar in the center of his forehead. CASON also pointed out that SMITH had been doing some carpentry work at CASON's residence for a period of several weeks, working every night, including the night of 4/5/68, at which time he had been paid by CASON for completion of the work.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.