

ME 44-1987
CE 44-1365

RE: INDIVIDUAL RESEMBLING
JAMES EARL RAY,
TRYON PLAZA MOTEL,
TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA

By communication dated May 22, 1968, the Columbia Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation advised as follows:

On the night of May 18, 1968, BILL REID, a former officer of the Greer, South Carolina, Police Department, who now resides at Tryon, North Carolina, advised that he had observed an individual at the Tryon Plaza Motel at Tryon, North Carolina, on May 18, 1968, who fits the description of and bears a resemblance to JAMES EARL RAY. REID stated he did not know the name of this individual but he was occupying the third room east of the office at the motel.

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN C. HENNIGAR at Tryon, North Carolina:

On May 27, 1968, Mrs. RUTH GORDON, Tryon Plaza Motel, Tryon, North Carolina, advised that she recalls May 18, 1968, as her daughter, Mrs. THELMA BURGETT, worked part of the day on Saturday. Mrs. GORDON advised that three doors east of the office would be Room 9 at the Tryon Plaza Motel. Mrs. GORDON advised that her registration cards reflect that Room 9 on May 18, 1968, was occupied by J. FLEETWOOD SIENIER, 148 East Seventh Street, Jacksonville, Florida, representing the Massey Company. Mrs. GORDON advised that the registration card indicates he drove a Plymouth with Florida license 2-66110.

Mrs. GORDON further advised that Room 9 was occupied by R. L. BONE, 2103 South Main Street, Greenwood, South Carolina, on May 19, 1968. This card indicated that Mr. BONE represented the Saco Lowell Shops and was driving a 1965 Chevrolet with South Carolina license E-131608. Mrs. GORDON advised that she has always been an avid detective story reader and has been following the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING very closely. Mrs. GORDON advised that she has not seen anyone at the motel who resembles the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the local paper.

Mrs. GORDON advised that she and her daughter, Mrs. THELMA BURGETT, have talked about the assassination and no mention of any individual in the motel resembling RAY has been discussed.

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On May 27, 1968, Mrs. THELMA BURGETT, Tryon Plaza Motel, advised that she recalls working part-time on Saturday, May 18, 1968. Mrs. BURGETT advised she does not recall anyone resembling the photograph of RAY registering at the motel.

Mrs. BURGETT advised there was an incident at the motel at that time as an individual had come to the motel, registering as a single and later she found out he had a woman in the room. Mrs. BURGETT advised she approached this individual and told him to come to the office, and pay the additional price for a second person in the room. Mrs. BURGETT advised that when he got to the office, she discovered he had not registered and asked him to register at that time. Mrs. BURGETT advised that this individual refused to register, stating that it was too late. Mrs. BURGETT advised that this individual was a nice-looking man; however, he did not fit the description or photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the local paper.