

FBI

Date: 6/11/68

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

Via IRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44-1114)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
Re Chicago tel 6/11/68.

On 6/11/68, 12:02 a.m., an anonymous male telephonically contacted SA EARNIE L. WALDRUP and claimed to be an escapee from Washington State Prison, Walla Walla, Washington. He advised that he is aware that JAMES EARL RAY is under arrest and there has been some publicity about a "fat" man who supposedly met RAY on several occasions. The caller advised that he is the "fat" man referred to in the papers and stated that he is en route to Washington State by car to turn himself in to authorities. He advised that he escaped in February, 1967. ^{E-1060, 1060A}

Caller further advised that, following his escape, he went to Dallas, Texas, where he met an individual by the name of GENE BASS, owner of a meat packing company in Dallas. Caller claimed that BASS gave him \$1600 to do the job that was done by JAMES EARL RAY; he accepted the money, then contacted RAY on several occasions to give him money which he had obtained from BASS. He delivered money to RAY at Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham, Alabama, and Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Caller advised that BASS is not the sole supplier of money for assassination, but there are numerous people involved, primarily at Montgomery, Alabama. He claimed that

- 2 - Memphis
- 2 - Dallas (44-2649)
- 2 - Seattle (44-371)
- 2 - Mobile (157-2627)
- 1 - Chicago

RJD: pas

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

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

CG 44-1114

he can furnish names of individuals involved; but preferred not to give them over the phone. He stated that he feels certain that RAY will talk and he wants to avoid having to run from authorities. He stated that he will be available for interview, upon his return to Washington State. He indicated that he preferred to serve Federal time in prison, was invited to come to the office and stated that he would arrive shortly.

Caller has not appeared at Chicago Office as of 9:00 a.m., 6/11/68, During the call, he indicated that he was in the Chicago area and apparently was calling from a pay phone since the operator cut in advising that his initial time had been used up. He then stated that the \$1600 paid to him by BASS was in postal money orders. He would furnish no further information other than set forth above, but again stated that he would come to the Chicago Office this date.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.