

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, KANSAS CITY (88-9449)

DATE: 3/25/68

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-7447) P

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST

OO: KC

Re Chicago airtel to St. Louis, 2/8/68, and report of SA JOSEPH L. KISSIAH, 2/23/68, at Kansas City.

The following investigation was conducted by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL at St. Louis, Mo.:

On 2/22/68, H. A. HERRON, Desk Clerk, McArthur Hotel, Chestnut and Broadway, advised after checking his records they contained no information indicating a JOHN RAY had been a resident of that hotel. He viewed subject's photographs and stated he did not recall seeing an individual resembling subject in the hotel. He spoke with other desk and service personnel at the hotel and they advised they recalled no JOHN RAY having resided at or frequented the hotel.

On 3/5/68, Mrs. ERNEST N. COOK, 712 Shenandoah, advised that she recalled the ALBERT S. PEPPER family as having resided upstairs at that address. She stated, however, they had recently moved to a new address, 2025 Bellview, Maplewood, Mo.

On 3/19/68, Mrs. CAROL RYAN PEPPER, 2025 Bellview (telephone 645-2948) was interviewed. She was most uncooperative and denied that her maiden name had been RAY, stating, however, that it had been LUCILLE RYAN. She advised that her father and mother, GEORGE and LUCILLE RAY, were deceased and that she had a brother, JERRY RAY residing somewhere in Illinois. She also advised that she had another brother, JOHN RAY, whereabouts unknown, whom she had not seen in several years.

- 2 - Kansas City
 - 2 - Chicago
 - 2 - St. Louis
- CBB:mjb
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Upon viewing a photograph of subject, she denied being related to this individual and stated she had never seen him. When questioned concerning her husband's employment, she advised he worked for some hardware store and stated she was unable to furnish the name or address of this business place.

In view of Mrs. PEPPER's uncooperative attitude the interview was terminated.

On 3/20/68, Mr. and Mrs. ERNEST M. COOK, 712 Shenandoah, were interviewed. They advised after viewing subject's photograph they had never observed an individual resembling him visiting the PEPPERS who had resided upstairs over their apartment for a period of several months up until two or three months ago. They advised that an individual reportedly a brother of Mrs. PEPPER had visited the PEPPERS on various occasions and that he and his family supposedly resided in the St. Louis area. They stated this individual did not resemble subject in their estimation.

They further advised that an individual referred to as "DADDY" by Mrs. PEPPER visited the PEPPERS on numerous occasions and this person reportedly recently bought a home and moved to Poplar Bluff, Mo., or somewhere in the Poplar Bluff area.

When questioned concerning other relatives or close associates of the PEPPER family, they advised that JAY and ROSEMARY SHIRLEY and their three children, SHERILL, JAY and ANNETTE, had been frequent visitors at the PEPPER home. They were of the opinion that Mrs. SHIRLEY was the sister of ALBERT PEPPER. This family had resided at the 712 A Shenandoah address prior to the time the PEPPER family moved in. The COOKS were of the opinion that the SHIRLEY family had recently bought a home somewhere in the St. Louis area. They can furnish no other information concerning the identity or the location of the SHIRLEY family.

- LEADS -

CHICAGO DIVISION:

AT NORTH BROOK, ILL.:

In view of the uncooperative attitude of subject's sister, Mrs. ALBERT S. (CAROL) PEPPER, will reinterview

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subject's brother, JERRY RAY, for more detailed information concerning various members of subject's family, including the individual referred to by CAROL as "DADDY", who recently moved to Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Will determine from JERRY RAY whether or not subject's mother prior to her death was married to an individual by the name of RYAN and whether this person might presently be located if he is still living.

ST. LOUIS DIVISION:

AT ST. LOUIS, MO.:

Will attempt to locate the JAY (ROSEMARY) SHIRLEY family and interview them for available information concerning possible whereabouts of subject and identify the other members of the family who might be in possession of information of value.

Will consider the advisability of interviewing ALBERT S. PEPPER after additional background information on the PEPPER family has been developed.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.