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The FBI obtained a warrant yesterday charging Eric Starvo Galt with conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. King in Memphis on April 4. The FBI released these

photos of a man it identified as Galt. The open eyes in the picture at right were sketched in by FBI artists. The source of the photograph was not revealed.

Fugitive, 'Brother'

By Laurence Stern
Washington Post Staff Writer

A fugitive warrant charging Eric Starvo Galt with conspiracy in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was obtained yesterday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The announcement by Attorney General Ramsey Clark was the first official assertion that Dr. King's death in Memphis on April 4 was the result of a conspiracy. Shortly after the murder Clark declared that the killing was committed by one man, acting alone.

The FBI complaint charges that the conspiracy was hatched on or about March 29 in Birmingham between Galt "and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother." FBI spokesmen would not elaborate on the identity of the alleged conspirator.

Photos Released

Simultaneously with the announcement of the filing of the complaint, the FBI released two photographs of Galt in what officials surmised to be bartender's garb—a formal jacket and black tie. The suspect in the photograph was identified as Galt "also known as Harvey Lowmyer and John Willard."

Five hours after the FBI announcement here, Galt was charged with first-degree murder in a state warrant issued in Memphis. District Attorney Phil Canale filed the murder charge. Murder is a capital crime in Tennessee.

The itinerant Galt was said to have worked as a cook on Mississippi River boats, as a merchant seaman and was also a professionally trained bartender. He was described by the FBI as "armed and

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dangerous."

The FBI statement said that Galt bought a 1966 white Mustang, a major clue in the case, from a resident of Birmingham on Aug. 30, 1967. Between the time of purchase and the day the car was found abandoned in Atlanta on April 12 the Mustang's odometer recorded 19,000 miles, according to the FBI.

Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham, Mexico, Memphis and Atlanta, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and April 4, the FBI said, and then he left for Atlanta.

Basis for Complaint

The FBI complaint was based on a Reconstruction era civil rights statute. It charged the following:

"On or about March 29, at Birmingham, Alabama . . . Eric Starvo Galt and an individual

Plot Charged in King Death; Fugitive and 'Brother' Linked

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whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr. . . . in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala. . . ."

The FBI announcement pointed out that a .30-06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a room-

ing house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the assassination of Dr. King. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, where Dr. King had been staying at the time he was killed.

In Memphis witnesses have told authorities that a man checked into a rooming house adjoining the Lorraine Hotel and Motel under the name of "John Willard," one of the aliases attributed to Galt. The suspect was charged as Galt since he has used the name for nearly a year. There is still no certainty that it is the real name of the suspected assassin.

The FBI described Galt as "an avid dancer" and said that he took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964-65, in Birmingham during September and October, 1967, and in Long Beach, Calif., from December, 1967, to February, 1968. In Los Angeles he graduated from a bartending course last March 2, the Bureau asserted.

The announcement said that Galt traveled from Los Angeles to New Orleans and back between Dec. 19 and 21, 1967. While in New Orleans, the FBI said, Galt claimed to have contacted an engineering or a contracting firm.

He is described as white, about five feet eight to five feet eleven, between 160 and 175 pounds, and a neat dresser. He has brown hair worn in a "brush" cut with blue

eyes, a straight, narrow nose, and clean, regular teeth. His birth date was given as July 20, 1931.

Galt, according to the FBI, was described as a "loner" with a "rural" flavor to his speech. He is a fan of western and country music. He has a preference for vodka and beer. The description further notes that Galt's left ear protrudes further from his head than his right ear.

A Memphis FBI agent commented that "we have a lot of additional information that is not in the (FBI) statement. We even know what filling stations he stopped at," United Press International reported.

Meanwhile a witness at the slaying scene said the FBI photograph of Galt does not resemble the man seen leaving the scene shortly after the slaying.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, who lives in the second-floor rooming house in Memphis from which the fatal bullet is thought to have been fired.

And an Atlanta taxicab driver said last night that the FBI picture he identified as a man he hauled two blocks the night after Dr. King was assassinated was different from the picture of Galt released by the FBI.

"The one the FBI showed me was much younger. The face was much thinner. The cheeks weren't as fleshy," said the driver.