

Galt Had Money While in Birmingham but F.B.I. Finds No Evidence of a Job

By MARTIN WALDRON

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The man whom the Federal Bureau of investigation has accused of conspiracy in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seemed well supplied with money when he lived in Birmingham last fall creating a fictitious identity.

Agents have found that he spent more than \$4,000, but they have been unable to find where he worked during that period, or whether he worked at all.

The F.B.I. has said that the man named in their warrant as Eric Starvo Galt in actuality was a habitual criminal, James Earl Ray, who escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April of 1967 where he had been since 1960 after being caught in a \$120 grocery store holdup.

The operator of a Birmingham rooming house where Galt lived for six weeks last summer and fall said that Galt did not work during that time and spent most of his days sitting around talking about the weather.

Trip to California

After Galt left Birmingham in October of 1967, the F.B.I. said he drove to California and spent most of his time either there or driving to and from New Orleans.

While he was in Birmingham, Galt apparently kept his money in a safety deposit box at the Birmingham Trust National Bank.

On Aug. 27, 1967, William D. Paisley, the sales manager of a Birmingham lumber company, ran the following advertisement under the automobiles for-sale classification in The Birmingham News:

"Mustang, '66, V-8, auto trans. Radio, W.W. tires, factory warranty. Individual, \$1,995. 592-0448."

Mr. Paisley said that a man introducing himself as Eric Galt had responded to the advertisement and bought the car on Aug. 30, paying the \$1,195 asking price.

"He didn't try to cut the price at all," said Mr. Paisley. "He just drove the car around

the block once and said he'd buy it."

Mr. Paisley said that Galt went to a bank, got the money and paid cash.

During the six weeks that he resided in the Birmingham rooming house Galt's living expenses averaged at least \$50 a week. He paid \$27 a week for his room, which included dinner, but much of the time he ate elsewhere.

Repairs on Car

He bought gasoline and had minor repairs done on his car at a service station near the rooming house.

At \$50 a week, a figure that a source in the Justice Department said was probably low, Galt spent \$1,650 for rooms, meals and incidentals from Aug. 27 through April 4, the date that Dr. King was shot to death in Memphis.

The F.B.I., which impounded Galt's Mustang in Atlanta on April 11, said that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles from late last August through the time it was abandoned in Atlanta the day after Dr. King's murder.

At a cost of 4 cents a mile, Galt spent more than \$750 in operating the automobile.

The F.B.I. said that on March 30, 1968, Galt bought a .30-'06-caliber rifle at a Birmingham gun store.

The management of the store, the Aeromarine Supply Company, refused to comment. But the Remington Arms Company

of Bridgeport, Conn., said that it was a Remington rifle.

A new Remington .30-'06 rifle with a telescope sight such as the one that Galt had mounted on the rifle would cost more than a \$150.

Galt also bought an expensive pair of binoculars in Memphis on the day that Dr. King was killed.

There was an indication in Birmingham that Galt may have taken one or more airplane trips during the seven months preceding the assassination of Dr. King.

An employee of Welta Airlines said that F.B.I. agents had confiscated some airline records and had asked luggage

handlers whether they recalled a certain piece of luggage being loaded on to a Birmingham-to-Memphis flight on April 3, 1968.

The confiscated records were said to have included a copy of a ticket from Birmingham to Chicago for April 3. The ticket was used only as far as Memphis, a source said.

The F.B.I. continued to refuse to amplify its statement of last Wednesday that Eric Starvo Galt and another man, alleged in a complaint by the bureau to be Galt's brother, conspired to injure Dr. King and violate his civil rights under a 1909 law. The Tennessee authorities have sworn out an arrest warrant charging Galt with murder.

A bureau theory that more than one man may have used the name of Eric Starvo Galt was bolstered today.

The bureau said last Wednesday, when it issued a warrant for Galt's arrest, that in February of 1968 Galt was in California attending a bartender's school.

In Birmingham last night, two service station attendants said they had seen Galt in Birmingham in February. They said they remembered his purchasing gasoline several times last September.

The Birmingham Trust National Bank would not give details of the rental of the safety deposit box by Galt, but it did

say that Galt's key to his safety deposit box was returned to the bank last December.

The F.B.I. said that last December Galt was either in California or driving between California and New Orleans.

Earlier, witnesses who had known Galt since last August gave widely varying descriptions of him to the F.B.I.

The description from Memphis witnesses said that Galt was a man in his late 20's. The description from Birmingham witnesses said that Galt was a man in his mid-30's.

The F.B.I. said that James Earl Ray was 40 years old.

The bureau has not issued a

warrant in Ray's name. Joseph H. Gamble, the agent in charge of the Birmingham office, said that the original warrant in Galt's name was legally sufficient on which to arrest Ray because Galt was an alias of Ray.

The F.B.I. said yesterday that it had determined that Galt was Ray after comparing his fingerprints with more than 53,000 sets of prints of wanted criminals.

On Most Wanted List

WASHINGTON, April 20 (UPI) — The FBI placed the name of James Earl Ray today on its list of 10 most wanted fugitives.

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