

# FBI presses hunt for King's assassin

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced Wednesday that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the FBI as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the FBI in Birmingham, Ala., charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

The FBI complaint charges that "on or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Ala., ... Eric Starvo Galt and an individual 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 en-

joyment 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.

According to Mr. Hoover, a 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main St. in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that FBI agents determined that the 30.06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Ala., on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight also was purchased from this dealer, he said.

The FBI director also

stated that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11. Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. The Mustang's odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August, 1967, and early April, 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Intensive investigation by the FBI has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a Merchant Seaman.

He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October, 1967; and in Long Beach, Calif., from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on December 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm, FBI said. He left New Orleans on December 19 and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles Area early this year, Galt took a course at a school of Bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The FBI gave this description:

The fugitive is described as a white male. FBI said he is approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair, which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow; his

DATE 4-20-68

PAGE 3

- \_\_\_ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- \_\_\_ THE EVENING STAR
- \_\_\_ THE SUNDAY STAR
- \_\_\_ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- X WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

44-703-28

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>PPH</i>	FILED <i>PPH</i>
APR 24 1968	
FBI - WASH.	

*Lawson*

teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt, describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of western and country music.

The Federal statute under which Galt has been charged provides a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine. Bond of \$50,000 has been recommended.

FBI said Galt should be considered armed and dangerous and any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

DATE 4-20-68

PAGE 3

THE WASHINGTON POST  
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN



**WANTED** — The FBI has identified this man, Eric Starvo Galt, as a prime suspect in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI described him as a graduate of a bartending school and said he had used the names John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer. (The eyes of this picture were drawn in by an FBI artist.)

DATE 1-20-68

PAGE 3

THE WASHINGTON POST  
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN