FBI

Date:	6/5/70
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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau, 5/8/70.

For the information of WFO, subject JAMES EARL RAY is now being represented by J. B. STONER of the National States Rights Party; RICHARD J. RYAN, a Memphis, Tennessee, attorney; and BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. An article appearing in a Memphis newspaper indicated that FENSTERWALD is from Washington, D.C. and heads a private group called "The Committee to Investigate Assassinations." According to the article, FENSTERWALD worked for the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1957 until 1968.

Assistant Attorney General CLYDE MASON, Memphis, Tennessee, the state prosecutor assigned to the JAMES EARL RAY case, has asked that we furnish him any information available concerning FENSTERWALD and his political linkings.

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AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will prepare a brief outline of BERNARD FENSTERWALD's professional background including any information to indicate association with leftist and racist groups in order that this information may be made available to the District Attorney General at Memphis, Tennessee

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SAC, Memphis (41-1937)

6/16/70

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Director, FBI (44-38861)—5885

MURKIN

Re your airtel 6/5/70 captioned as above.

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., was the subject of applicant-type investigations in 1949 and 1959, which developed the following information which you may orally furnish to Assistant Attorney General Clyde Mason. Fensterwald was born August 2, 1921, in Nashville, Tennessee, graduating from Harvard University in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree and thereafter attending Harvard Law School, Harvard University, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1949. The names of his mother and sister appeared on a list of delegates and members in 1942 of the Southern Conference fr: Human Welfare, which has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. In 1956, while employed by the State Department, Fensterwald and his mother traveled to the Soviet Union. In addition to his employment by the State Department, Fenstervald was also employed as chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure (the Long Committee). He has also been employed on the staffs of a number of Senate committees.

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with Fenstervald have made it clearly evident that he was unscrupulous, untrustworthy and anti-FDI and frequently endeavored to draw the FBI into conflicts around the country by his requests of various telephone companies and other sources who might have information of wiretaps and other technical surveillances by the FBI. In January, 1966, in connection with hearings scheduled to be held in San Francisco, Fensterwald indicated that ex-Agent William Turner would be one of the witnesses he intended to call in connection with the extent of FBI wiretapping. As you are aware, Turner is extremely anti-FBI

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NOTE: See memo Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach, 6/15/70, captioned "Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Name Check Request," GHS:cs.

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Letter to SAC, Memphis Re: Murkin

and has an unsavory background. Fred J. Cook, in an article in the December, 1965, issue of "The Nation," dealing with wiretapping by Government agencies, allegedly obtained information for his article from Fensterwald, whom he quoted several times.

Insure that you are alert to furnish the Bureau under the above caption any information coming attention concerning the activities of the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations" or activities of any of the members thereof. (77-44206)