

F B I

Date: 5/9/68

Transmit the following in _____
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Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
MURKIN

Enclosed are three newspaper clippings in captioned matter, one showing the two most recent photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, one captioned "Ray Indictment Believed OK'd" and "FBI Hints Conspiracy Against King."

In connection with the newspaper article captioned "Ray Indictment Believed OK'd," it is noted that the local Attorney General's Office has refused to confirm or deny to the newspapers that the Grand Jury did indict JAMES EARL RAY.

A & D.

3 BUREAU (Enc. 6) ENCLOSURE
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
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REC 8 44-38861-342

1cc + 3 enc - Room 2260
5-14-68, REY/EO

10 MAY 10 1968

C. C. Bishop

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Long

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Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



TWO MORE FACES—The FBI yesterday released these photographs of James Earl Ray, the ex-convict sought in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The photo at left, showing Ray wearing dark glasses, was taken in Mexico in November, 1967. The photo at right was taken somewhere in California in late January or early February of this year. The FBI refused to say how or where the photographs were obtained.

—UPI Telephoto

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 8

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5-8-68
 Edition:
 Author: FRANK P. AULGREN
 Editor:
 Title:

Character:
 or
 Classification:
 Submitting Office: MEMPHIS
 Being Investigated

114-38861

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Indictment Believed OK'd

Speculation Grows That Grand Jury Passed True Bill

By CHARLES EDMUNDSON

According to widespread speculation at the Courthouse, the Shelby County Grand Jury has returned a murder indictment against James Earl Ray, sought as the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The attorney general's office refused to confirm or deny that the grand jury at its session Monday indicted Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt. So did Criminal Court Clerk James A. 'Bubba' Blackwell. Mr. Blackwell pointed out that Ray is not in custody and that he would be subject to a \$1,000 fine if he told of the indictment of a person not arrested.

The reference docket, which usually shows the name and offense of each person indicted, shows Indictment No. B-16645 was returned against someone for some offense. But places for the name of the person, the offense and the prosecuting witness are left blank. Only the date and signature of W. F. Bowld, grand jury foreman, are filled in.

A reporter who asked also to see the grand jury minutes book for Monday found minutes covering all the 107 indictments noted in the reference docket except B-16645.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 60

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ENCLOSURE

114.388(1)

Asked if Ray has been in-
dicted, Robert Gunnar Jensen,
agent in charge of the Mem-
phis FBI office, said, "No
comment — that's my stock
answer."

Almost without exception,
the clerk lets Criminal Court
reporters see the full list of
those indicted, specifying
which ones are not in custody
and requiring their names not
be published. The exception
made for B-16645 is the only
one recalled in years. Until
Monday at least the worldwide
search for Ray, charged with
shooting Dr. King with a
scope-sighted rifle here April
4, had been conducted on the
strength of a murder warrant
issued in General Sessions
Court.

To indict persons not in cus-
tody is customary procedure,
although it normally would
confer no advantage in a man-
hunt over a warrant. An as-
sistant attorney general said,
however, that an indictment
might carry more weight in
seeking extradition of a sus-
pect from a foreign country.

Both the Criminal Court
judges and the attorney gener-
al's office are looking ahead to
the possibility Ray is alive and
will be brought back here for
trial. Precautions are stressed
to assure the trial would leave
no room for reversal of a con-
viction on grounds of improper
publicity.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Hints Conspiracy Against King

By VICTOR RIESEL

WASHINGTON, May 8.

The FBI's central Martin Luther King desk, under the personal direction of J. Edgar Hoover, is operating on the hard theory that the Negro leader was the victim of a conspiracy of "several or more persons."

There are those high in the Justice Department, therefore, who believe that Eric Starvo Galt-James Earl Ray was a hired killer, heavily paid and amply supplied with cash. Most of this was in \$20 bills.

Evidence is piling up inside the bureau to justify investigation of a conspiracy beyond Galt and a man he said was his brother. This evidence moves the case swiftly beyond the conjectures of amateur detectives and dilettante criminologists.

Part of the evidence is the provable free flow of cash (some \$7,000) Galt-Ray was able to pour out whenever he wished. In addition to the white Mustang, the dance lessons and the bartenders school fee, the accused assassin criss-crossed this country in a manner no poor man could. The car has 19,000 miles on its speedometer.

Whether or not he drove, he is known to have lived well in cities so distant from each other that Galt-Ray would have had to have traveled more than 15,000 miles in the past nine or ten months.

Whoever planned his itinerary, his make-up, his aliases, had a novelist's imagination. Ray, for example, is (or was) a James Bond fan. "Eric Starvo" is one of Bond's suave characters. The name "Galt" was contrived by novelist Ayn Rand, who fashioned the "John Galt" in "Atlas Shrugged" after the late John Gall, one of the most prestigious of capital attorneys and once a power in the iron and steel industry.

So the pseudonym apparently not the creation of an illiterate, reflects a smooth fellow, suave and dynamic and a leader of men.

No one in the FBI or the Justice Department, despite weeks of questioning, would conjecture over the nature of the conspiratorial cell. It could be Klan-like. But it could be northern as well as southern.

One thing is certain. There's been a fantastic search. For example, every "John Willard" (Galt's Memphis boardinghouse alias) in the United States has been checked out.

Investigators don't put much stock in the interpretation that because Galt-Ray frequented Atlanta and Birmingham the conspiracy was centered in the Deep South. The probers believe that the white car and the Remington rifle were purchased and planted in such a manner that the leads would point southward.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 26

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ENCLOSURE

Galt-Ray had Chicago connections of some kind, it's believed. There is obvious evidence and there are leads which the authorities grimly refuse to discuss. The obvious leads are the letters which Eric Starvo Galt received from Chicago while living in the Birmingham rooming house.

The Bureau and the Justice Department, as well as Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, are silent because they think too much has been said already.

But there is no doubt that at least 3,000 of the FBI's 6,000 men and virtually all its 600 resident agents (placed so

that the FBI can get to any part of the nation in an hour) are working on the murder of Martin Luther King.

This is the second biggest manhunt in history — second only to the investigation of the John Kennedy assassination

when each of the Bureau's 6,000 agents was involved in some fashion.

Where is Galt-Ray? Of course he can be on any continent. But the prevailing Justice Department theory now is that the killer is in some tiny

hamlet or village — so small that big town dailies just aren't followed closely by all the residents.

So, the federals now are preparing to get the sniper's photo into those isolated clusters of rural communities. It worked once in a bloody murder case

years ago and the technique may produce results again.

What thought is there of the nature of the conspirators?

There's only conjecture. There are literally thousands of cells made up of men and women capable of planning

this murder. They are not all Klan operations either.

Many units have tiny "armies," storm troopers, arm band identifications, private uniforms. They drill in secret in lonely woods and curtained basements. They are in the heart of many big cities.

They are of all extremes. They would have the kind of money Galt-Ray spent and still not be wealthy. Or they could be provocateurs.

One thing is certain: The Justice Department believes it has evidence leading to a conspiracy.