

criminal had decided to go big-time.

On April 19, we published and distributed nationwide a "Wanted" flyer containing a photograph and description of James Earl Ray. The following day he was added to the list of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." From the moment Ray was finally identified, he became the object of a highly intensive investigation involving all FBI field offices. His photograph and description were published by newspapers and magazines and telecast throughout North America.

Because Ray had been missing for more than two weeks, we had to assume that he might have left the country. So in addition to widespread probes throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, we extended the search to nations outside North America. These included: England, Germany, Rhodesia, the Netherlands, Guatemala, Venezuela, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Honduras, Italy, and Bermuda. It was probably the most comprehensive manhunt in the annals of American crime.

On May 14 the Washington field office of the FBI had instituted at the Department of State a review of approximately 2,153,000 passports issued to American citizens during the previous year. At our request, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were also reviewing Canadian passports during the same period. Again we needed a big break—and again we got one.

RCMP troopers, working around the clock, located a passport for "Ramon George Sneyd," issued in Ottawa on April 24. The photograph on the passport was that of James Earl Ray.

Since the passport had been issued in order to fly to London during a two-week period in May, we immediately contacted our counterparts in Scotland Yard. They quickly determined that "Sneyd" had arrived in London on May 7, 1968, using a Canadian passport. But he'd departed for Lisbon, Portugal, on the same date.

We dispatched two agents to Portugal. But—as we later found out—just as they landed in Lisbon, James Earl Ray was winging his way back to London. He clipped in before anyone spotted him, but