

F.B.I. Places Ray on List of Most Wanted Fugitives

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 11—The Federal Bureau of Investigation placed James Earl Ray on its 10 Most Wanted List today and printed 40,000 fliers bearing pictures and a description of the escaped killer.

Noting that Mr. Ray's escape route nine years ago after the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been through Canada to Europe, the bureau has also alerted police agencies abroad as well as the Passport Office of the State Department and the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Tom Deakin, an F.B.I. spokesman, said

that the fliers were being sent to post offices, police departments, news organizations "and security people in general."

"This is the highest priority fugitive investigation we've got going," Mr. Deakin said.

Bell to Oversee Search

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell, who had been in Hot Springs, Va., where he had spoken to the state bar association, returned here this afternoon to monitor the manhunt.

Mr. Bell telephoned President Carter early this morning to give him a "status report." In a call last night, Mr. Carter

had asked to be kept informed of developments in the search for Mr. Ray.

Mr. Deakin said that the bureau's Knoxville office, which is serving as its headquarters for the manhunt, has been reinforced with the arrival of additional special agents from the bureau's Louisville and Memphis offices.

Mr. Ray was placed on the Most Wanted List about 12 hours after he and six other convicts scaled the walls of the Brushy Mountain state prison in eastern Tennessee. One man was shot off the wall and Mr. Ray and five others escaped into the rugged, snake-infested hills.

It was the second time that Mr. Ray

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 1977

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has been on the bureau's Most Wanted List, but the first time under his real name. After Dr. King was shot in Memphis he was placed on the list under the name of Eric Starvo Galt, the alias he had used when he registered at the rooming house from which Dr. King was shot.

At various other times in his career of crime he has used such other aliases as Eric St. Vincent Galt and Paul Bridgeman.

The F.B.I. bulletin tells law enforcement officers that Mr. Ray should be considered to be armed and dangerous.

Members of Congress connected with the investigations into the slayings of Dr. King and President Kennedy expressed alarm about the possibility of Mr. Ray's eluding capture.

Representative Christopher J. Dodd, a

Connecticut Democrat who is a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, said that if Mr. Ray was not recaptured alive "we lose the key link in the King assassination case."

"If something should happen to James Earl Ray, it would be much more difficult for this committee to arrive at the answers that we think we should in order to put to rest the lingering doubts surrounding the assassination," Mr. Dodd said.

Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's representative in the House who is chairman of the subcommittee inquiring into the King slaying, said that he had dispatched a committee investigator to Tennessee to look into the

circumstances of Mr. Ray's escape.

Another committee member, Representative Harold E. Ford, Democrat of Tennessee, said the panel would meet in special session Monday to discuss Mr. Ray's escape. The Associated Press reported.

Mr. Ford raised the question, as have some civil rights leaders, that Mr. Ray might have been helped to flee so he would not be available to help in the investigation of the King slaying.

Mr. Ford told Memphis radio station WMPS that the committee would decide "whether to come in now and investigate how did they plot this escape, who was behind this, or whether James Earl Ray acted alone in this escape." The Associated Press reported.