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MYSTERY DEEPENS IN DR. KING INQUIRY

Data on Man F.B.I. Seeks
to Question Are Few

By MARTIN WALDRON

Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 12

—Eric Starvo Galt, who is sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for questioning in connection with the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., today remained something of a mystery man.

Searches of public records in Birmingham and in Montgomery, the Alabama state capital, disclosed little information about him. The only records concerning him were of a driver's license and a title to a white Mustang automobile.

The F.B.I. has been seeking Mr. Galt, who is 36 years old, since yesterday, when his white 1966 Mustang was found abandoned in Atlanta. The car fitted the general description of a white Mustang that had been parked near the rooming house in Memphis, Tenn., from which the shot was fired that killed Dr. King on April 4.

The fact that Mr. Galt was sought for questioning did not necessarily mean that any charges would be filed against him.

Last night an F.B.I. bulletin was issued in Florida saying Mr. Galt was sought for questioning. The bulletin was withdrawn a couple of hours later, apparently because of publicity surrounding it.

It was learned today that men who identified themselves as F.B.I. agents had been asking questions about Mr. Galt in Birmingham for the last several days.

The F.B.I. refused comment today on the bulletin. And in Birmingham, F.B.I. agents were reported to have asked residents of the Economy Grill and Rooms boarding house at 2608 South Highland Avenue, listed by the F.B.I. as Mr. Galt's address, not to comment.

Residents of the rooming house, who said last night that they had not seen Mr. Galt for about three months, refused today to discuss him.

Peter N. Cherpes, manager of Economy Grill and Rooms, said the F.B.I. this morning had requested that he answer all questions regarding Mr. Galt with a "No comment."

A handyman at the rooming house said he did not really recall Mr. Galt.

"I don't even remember what he looked like," the handyman said this afternoon. He said it had been several weeks since he had seen him.

Merchant Seaman

Records in Montgomery disclosed that Mr. Galt had taken a driver's license test on Sept. 6, 1967. He listed his occupation as merchant mariner and said he was unemployed. The Maritime Commission said it had no record of papers being issued to an Eric S. Galt.

In Birmingham, the Jefferson County Department of Revenue said Mr. Galt bought the white

Mustang on Aug. 30, 1967, from William D. Paisley, the sales manager of a Birmingham lumber company.

Mr. Paisley was not available immediately for comment.

Last March 1, Mr. Galt applied for a duplicate of his driver's license. He gave the address to which the duplicate was to be sent as the Economy Grill and Rooms in Birmingham.

The Post Office Department declined to say if Mr. Galt had left a forwarding address.

Mr. Galt was described in the F.B.I. bulletin released inadvertently in Florida last night as being 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing 175 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair, the bulletin said, and was born July 20, 1931.

This information may have come from his driver's license.

In Memphis today, the F.B.I. and the Memphis police were reported to be questioning two young white men about a police broadcast of a fake chase of a white Mustang on the Memphis North Side shortly after Dr. King was shot.

There has been speculation that the police were given false information about a white Mustang and a blue Pontiac in an effort to draw police attention away from the fleeing killer.

The police in Memphis refused to say if they had arrested anyone in connection with the broadcast.

Statement by Clark

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 12—

Attorney General Ramsey Clark said tonight that it was "impossible" to predict when the assassin of Dr. King would be arrested, although there was hope that it would be soon.

In a statement, Mr. Clark said the F.B.I. was diverting every possible resource to the pursuit.

King Associate Puzzled

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, April 12—The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Chicago Negro leader who was with Dr. King when he was slain, said today he did not subscribe to the contention of some that Dr. King's killer acted alone and was deranged.

At a news conference Mr. Jackson also said he was puzzled as to why the police near Dr. King's motel failed to catch the sniper because "I only saw police coming toward me from the direction of the shot."