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F.B.I. ACCUSES GALT OF A CONSPIRACY IN DR. KING SLAYING

Alleges a Plot With Man
He Said Was a Brother to
Violate Victim's Rights

FUGITIVE WARRANT OUT

Suspect Is Charged With
Murder in Memphis—Two
Photos Are Released

By **EVERT CLARK**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 17 —

The Federal Bureau of Investigation issued a fugitive warrant today charging Eric Starvo Galt, described as a 36-year-old "loner," with conspiracy in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King's assassin has been sought since the civil rights leader was killed by a rifle bullet on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4.

The F.B.I. said Galt conspired beginning about March 29 with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother" to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" Dr. King. The conspiracy continued until about April 5, the agency said.

Attorney General Ramsey

Sought by the F.B.I.



United Press International
Man said to be Eric Starvo Galt. The eyes were painted in by an F.B.I. artist. Original picture is below.



Clark announced that Galt was being sought as a fugitive on the charge of having conspired to violate Dr. King's civil rights, in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

Charged With Murder

The maximum penalty on conviction under this law is a \$5,000 fine and a 10-year prison sentence.

In Memphis tonight Galt was charged with first-degree murder on a state warrant.

An F.B.I. spokesman declined to say if Eric Starvo Galt was the real name of the man sought or if this was an alias.

The F.B.I. released what it said were two photographs of Galt.

In Birmingham, Ala., tonight Galt's former landlord said, when asked if the photos were of his former tenant, "I don't think so." In Memphis, a witness said an F.B.I. photo of Galt did not resemble the man seen leaving the scene soon after the slaying. In Atlanta a taxi driver similarly could not identify an F.B.I. picture. The F.B.I. had no comment on these statements.

In Birmingham, William D. Paisley, the man who sold Galt

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a white Mustang that figures importantly in the case, also said the photographs did not resemble Galt.

The F.B.I. said Galt should be considered "armed and dangerous." It said any information about him should be given immediately to the nearest office of the agency.

An announcement by J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I. director, placed Galt in Memphis at the time of the killing and said

he then left for Atlanta.

It said that Galt, "who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past," owned the white 1966 Mustang automobile bearing Alabama license plates that was found abandoned in Atlanta one week after the assassination.

John Willard was the name given in Memphis by a man who fled from a rooming house near the Lorraine Motel just after Dr. King was shot. The man had taken a room in the house, and the fatal shot is believed to have been fired from a bathroom window there.

There was no explanation of the Lowmyer name.

The Mustang found in Atlanta resembled one seen speeding away from the assassination area.

Sources close to investigators in Memphis said that the Memphis police had almost run Galt down as they went to the murder scene.

The Federal warrant was issued in Birmingham, where Mr. Hoover said that a .30-'06-caliber rifle equipped with a telescopic sight had been found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the shooting. He said an F. B. I. agent had determined that that rifle and a telescopic sight was bought from a gun dealer in Birmingham on March 30.

Suspect Described

The announcement did not directly link Galt to the rifle found in Memphis or say that the .30-'06 was the weapon that killed Dr. King.

Galt was described as 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing between 160 and 175 pounds and having "brush-cut" brown hair and blue eyes.

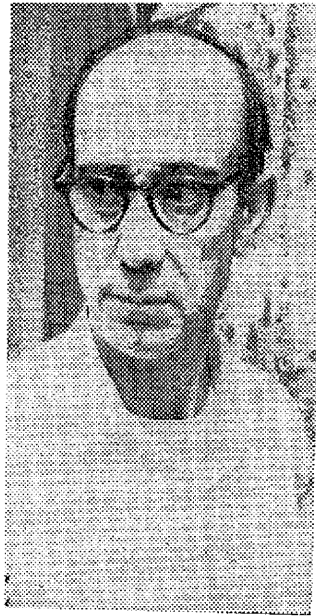
"He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build," the F.B.I. said.

Those who have met him describe him as a loner and say his "language and diction have a 'rural' quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education," the agency said.

Galt was said to like vodka, beer and Western and country music and to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe, the F.B.I. added.

"His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear," it said.

In one of the photographs



Associated Press

Charles Q. Stevens says the photo released by F.B.I. is not of the man he saw fleeing after the murder.

released by the F.B.I., Galt had his eyes closed. The other had a notation on the back: "Eyes drawn in by F.B.I. artist."

James T. Gamble, chief of the F.B.I. office in Birmingham, said tonight that the photographs had been taken in Birmingham in March. He would not say how the agency had obtained them.

The man whom the agency said Galt had alleged was his brother was not further identified in the announcement here. No warrant was issued for him.

Galt traveled extensively in this country and went to Mexico after he bought the white Mustang from a private citizen in Birmingham last Aug. 30, Mr. Hoover said. The car's odometer showed the Mustang had been driven more than 19,000 miles since the purchase, the F.B.I. director said.

"Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham and Mexico as well as to Memphis and Atlanta," the F.B.I. announcement said.

The suspect left Los Angeles last Dec. 15, drove to New Orleans and "claimed he contacted either an engineering firm or a contracting firm," according to the agency.

Took Bartending Course

He left New Orleans four days later and arrived in Los Angeles on Dec. 21, the agency said.

There was no indication why he had been in touch with the

company.

While he was in Los Angeles, Galt "took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968," the agency said.

The announcement did not attempt to trace Galt's whereabouts day by day or even week by week. But it placed

him in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965, in Birmingham last September and October and in Long Beach, Calif., from last December until last February by saying he took dancing lessons in those places at those times.

"He is said to be an avid dancer," the announcement said.

It also said intensive investigation by the F.B.I. had disclosed that Galt "has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman."

The F.B.I. refused to say where it got Galt's photograph. The pictures show him in a dark suit and a neat, dark bow tie; he might have been wearing a tuxedo at the time. One picture appeared to have been cut out and placed on a different background, as though it might have been taken from a group picture, such as one taken at a nightclub.

There was nothing in today's statements to indicate what role the F.B.I. thought the alleged other conspirator played, or whether there might be still other suspected conspirators.

Galt's name was first publicly linked with the King murder on April 11, when an F.B.I. bulletin was released in Florida, apparently by mistake, and later withdrawn. The bulletin asked that Galt be located for questioning.

On April 12 the Mustang was found in Atlanta. It apparently had been parked there since about 12 hours after the murder. It was impounded after residents of the housing development where it was found noted that it matched the description of the car wanted in the murder.

The section of the United States Code under which Galt is accused states:

"If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same; or

"If two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured—

"They shall be fined not

more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both."

Landlord's View

BIRMINGHAM, April 17 (UPI)—Peter Cherpes, Galt's former landlord, who earlier said police sketches of the man seen running from the vicinity of where Dr. King was slain were definitely Galt, said today "I don't think so" when asked if the F.B.I. photographs were of his former tenant.

Others in Birmingham who had identified the sketches as Galt said they were not satisfied that the photograph was that of the man named in the conspiracy warrant.

'It's Not the Man I Saw'

MEMPHIS, April 17 (AP)—An F.B.I. photograph of Galt does not resemble the man seen leaving the scene shortly after the slaying, a witness said today.

"Unless he was wearing a wig or had had a face lift or something, it's not the man I saw," said Charles Q. Stevens, who lives in the rooming house from which the fatal bullet is thought to have been fired.

"The hair is too full and the face is too young," Mr. Stevens said after viewing the picture.

Bessie Brewer, operator of the rooming house, said she was unable to tell if the picture was of the man who registered under the name of John Willard the afternoon of April 4, three hours before Dr. King was killed, and left immediately after the shooting.

"I don't know," she said. "I couldn't tell you to save my soul."

'The Face Was Thinner'

ATLANTA, April 17 (AP)—An Atlanta taxi driver said tonight that an F.B.I. picture he identified as a man he hauled two blocks the night after Dr. King was assassinated was different from the picture of Galt released by the F.B.I. today.

"The one the F.B.I. showed me was much younger. The face was much thinner. The cheeks weren't as fleshy," said the driver, who has asked that he not be identified.

He said an F.B.I. agent had showed him three photographs. "He may have shown me that

one, but that wasn't the one I recognized," the driver said.

Murder Warrant Issued

MEMPHIS, April 17 (AP)—Eric Starvo Galt was charged with first-degree murder tonight in the assassination of Dr. King.

The state warrant was issued five hours after the F.B.I. in Washington announced that Galt had been charged in a Federal warrant with conspiracy in Dr. King's death.

District Attorney Phil Danale filed the murder charge. It was signed by General Sessions Court Judge Wayne Lindsay.

The state warrant charged that Galt "did unlawfully, feloniously, willfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of his malice aforethought kill and murder Martin Luther King Jr."

Good Bartending Student

HOLLYWOOD, April 17 (AP)—Tomas Reyes Lau, director of the International School of Bartending, said tonight Galt graduated March 2 and disappeared after refusing a job. Mr. Lau said Galt was an excellent student.

"He never said anything about Negroes," Mr. Lau said.

There were no Negroes in the class.

Name Called Fictitious

Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 17—A source said today that the F.B.I. after making numerous checks around the country, had concluded that the name Eric Starvo Galt was probably fictitious.

No trace of the name was found in records of the Internal Revenue Service or of the Social Security Office, the source said.

New Weather Map

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—The Commerce Department said today that it would publish beginning April 22 weather maps on a weekly basis covering the preceding seven days. Unaffected by the new program will be the weather map used by newspapers throughout the country. This map is transmitted twice daily by The Associated Press. Officials said that this was an entirely different program.