

FBI Belittles Ray-Galt 'Contradictions'

that an FBI bulletin issued last year after Ray's prison escape said Ray "does not smoke."

In California, where the FBI said a man named Galt took dancing lessons from December 1967 through February 1968, an official of the dancing school, Rod Arbidson, said: "I never saw him smoke any kind of tobacco."

Estimates of the fugitive's height have ranged from 5-feet-8 to 6-feet, his weight from 160 to 175 pounds. His eyes have been described as either blue or hazel, his hair as either brown or sandy.

An FBI official brushed off the varying descriptions, saying "you run into this every time—it's human nature."

in the manhunt, the FBI has distributed thousands of flyers. The first set bears Galt's name, the second Ray's.

Puzzling aspects of the case continue to pop up. The newest involves Ray's, or Galt's, smoking habits.

Atlanta residents said cigar-et or cigar ashes were scattered on the carpeted floor of a white 1966 Mustang that FBI agents impounded there a week after King was slain. They also said a clear butt fell out of the car when the agents opened the door. The FBI has said the car was owned by Galt. In Missouri, it was reported,

Memphis, Tenn., April 4, Tennessee officials quickly filed a murder charge against Galt.

Two days later, the FBI said a check of fingerprints showed Ray was the man sought, and he had used Galt as an alias. Ray escaped April 23, 1967, from the Missouri state penitentiary where he was serving a 20-year sentence for a \$190 supermarket robbery.

The FBI has not amended its conspiracy complaint to name Ray instead of Galt, although Tennessee officials made such a name change in the Memphis murder charge. In enlisting the public's help

discuss any aspect of the investigation insisted, though not for attribution, that Ray and Galt are the same person.

"We know there's only one person involved here," said one official.

"We've got his fingerprints and we know who he is."

This "one person" contention in itself seems to clash with the FBI's formal stance that Galt conspired with "an individual he alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights.

The FBI filed the conspiracy complaint against Galt in Birmingham, Ala., 13 days after King was shot by a sniper in

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI officials are quietly trying to play down contradictory descriptions of the appearance and habits of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, the elusive escaped convict charged with the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The discrepancies have fueled speculation that perhaps Ray and Galt actually are two persons, or that two or more persons used the name Galt.

No official statement has been issued to rebut this theory. But as the massive search for King's killer entered its fourth week, FBI sources who had refused to