

Chronology  
Assassination of Martin  
Luther King

April 1968

- 4 King shot by sniper's bullet on balcony of his motel room in Memphis
- 5 N.Orleans States Item: Hunt single killer in "well-planned" slaying; quotes Memphis police director Frank Holloman as saying assassin checked into flophouse at midafternoon, shot from 2nd floor window; murder weapon was a new 30.06 Remington pump rifle with scope, one of 15 weapons stolen a night earlier from a Memphis store; 30 to 40 officers saw bullet strike and converged on scene; shot fired from 205 feet thru trees; assassin described as white male 26 to 32 years old 6 feet tall 165-175 pounds dark to sandy hair, medium build, ruddy complexion, black suit and white shirt.
- 5 NY Times, by Earl Caldwell, Memphis. Police director Frank Holloman said white man who was 50 to 100 yards away in a flophouse; chief of detectives W.P. Huston said a late model white Mustang believed getaway car of bareheaded white man in his 30's, black suit and black tie; Huston said police had chased two cars near the motel, halted one with 2 out of town men who were questioned but had nothing to do with the killing. A 30.06 rifle found about a block from the scene was thought to be the murder weapon and was turned over to FBI. King died of a gunshot wound on right side of neck, at root of the neck, a gaping wound. King had returned to Memphis Thursday morning 4 April, occupied room 306. Abernathy was present, also driver Solomon Jones, Jr. who was to drive to Rev. Samuel Kyles for dinner. Jesse Jackson, Ben Branch (a musician) were present. Jackson said police were coming from everywhere. They asked where the shot came from and he said, behind you. "The police were coming from where the shot came." Jones said he saw a man "with something white on his face" creep away from a thicket across the street. 10 or 15 minutes before Fire Department ambulance arrived. Aide Chauncey Eskridge, legal advisor, was at emergency room. Rev. Andrew Young thought shot was fired from a passing car, sounded like a firecracker. Newsman in nearby building though it was tremendous blast, like a bomb. About 15 persons in the motel courtyard; fire station nearby; police reported to have chased a late model blue or white car thru Memphis and north to Millington. A civilian in another car that had a citizens band radio also reported to have pursued fleeing car and opened fire on it. Police cordoned off five block area around Lorraine motel.

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N.Orleans States Item: AP Memphis: Known as "John Willard" Three Describe Assassin Suspect: Bessie Brewer, landlady of rooming house 422½ South Main, showed room at 3:15 p.m. described suspect as clean neat man. B. L. Reeves, retired hotel clerk, saw suspect when he checked in, said he was about 5'11" dark hair neatly cut. Charlie Q. Stephens, occupant room 6, says suspect was clean shaven had a long sharp nose, normal eyes, square chin, thick hair at front, receded on each side, wearing black dress suit white shirt and very dark or black narrow tie. Combed hair straight back. At 5 pm suspect went down hall to the bathroom, 205 feet 3 inches from motel. Shot sounded at 6:01 p.m. Stephens in kitchen said shot sounded like a German 88. Went into hall, saw the suspect there with an object wrapped in newspaper in hand, he fled down 20 steps to the ground. G.W. Canipe, owner of an amusement firm, said he got glimpse of suspect "after he dropped the rifle in front of my place...He didn't seem to be running."

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NY Post, by Ted Poston, Memphis: Search for Assassin Spreads across South: Search has spread hundreds of miles from Memphis, little doubt suspect was able to flee city eluding city police and Arkansas state troopers guarding bridges across the Mississippi. Ramsey Clark flew here to lead search, said search had now extended hundreds of miles from boundaries of Tennessee; said all evidence "indicated a single individual was involved. There is no evidence of a widespread plot." Rewards totaling \$155,000 offered for evidence leading to arrest of killer. Clark confident arrest near because authorities had considerably more evidence than police usually get in cases like this, "including a number of studies of prints that may establish identity." Suspect stopped in doorway near rooming house and discarded several objects including a 30.06 Remington rifle and a small suitcase, both now in FBI Lab Washington for examination.

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NY Post, AP Memphis: Man Who Killed King--His 3 Hours in Memphis: says suspect gave name as John Willard, spoke with Southern drawl, paid with crisp \$20 bill. Police took receipt carbon and the \$20 to headquarters. Mrs. Brewer said man was about 6' tall. Charlie Q. Stephens described him as clean shaven with long, sharp nose. Mrs. Brewer said he spoke like any other Memphian. Willie Anchutz, room no. 4, tried to get into bath when occupied by suspect. Story accompanied by sketch of man believed to be the assassin, source not given.

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6 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Memphis, April 5: Clark is sure killer will soon be seized: A source close to the manhunt said that FBI was close to making an arrest. Ramsey Clark said FBI searching in several states. Killer left rifle and fingerprints; witnesses saw white man in late 20's running from rooming house. Evidence collected by FBI and homicide detectives included a number of fingerprints. Bullet was a 30.06, tests were under way to establish if it had been fired from the rifle discarded near the scene. Clark said all evidence indicates it was act of single individual. Holloman said evidence showed conclusively slayer was a white man. Reports statements by Mrs. Brewer, Mr. Canipe (said he found a 30.06 rifle and small suitcase).

Inset on page 24 photograph of a Remington rifle of the type believed to have been used, caption states that its range is limited, story says 30.06 rifle found and believed used to kill MLK may have been one of several stolen from a Memphis store "a week ago." Retail for \$139.95 to \$159.95, when fired ejects a spent empty case on the rear move and automatically shifts a fresh round into firing position. NB: no reports of finding any shells. Uses 4-cartridge clip, has iron sights.

7 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Memphis April 6: Hunt for killer is "encouraging": Rumor persists that police know slayer 's identity. Frank Holloman, ex-FB I agent, refused to meet with reporters, however. Prepared statement said no details of investigation would be released now. Persistent reports that Memphis police and FBI agents know identity of the white man who shot MLK. One clue is the \$20 bill; more than \$150,000 in rewards posted by Memphis, private citizens, and newspapers. Gives text Holloman's prepared statement.

7 London Observer, Colin McGlashan, Memphis 6 April: King's murder : like Dallas all over again: foresees doubts, suspicions, rumours, and counter-theories of elaborate conspiracy as in case of JFK if no rapid arrest with conclusive evidence. Rev. Kyles says he does not believe police involved, said all day on Tuesday (?) radio and TV networks were broadcasting that MLK had arrived and was staying in room 306 Lorraine Motel. Holloman says 30-35 police guarding MLK when he was shot; later said 40-45, most in cars. Said that there was no ~~minim~~ search of rooftops or buildings. Fatal bullet was on downward trajectory of 205 feet through trees and scrub. Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb under heavy police guard after threats on his life.

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- 7 Ramsey Clark on MEET THE PRESS NBC TV said evidence still pointed very strongly in the direction that only one assassin was involved. His judgment was that it was one man on the run. There was a heavy FBI presence in Memphis before, at, and after "this incident," but no direct protection of MLK.
- 10 New Orleans States Item, AP Memphis: King's Slayer Hunt Settles Into Routine. No talk of an early arrest. Two U.S. Commissioners said they had not been approached to issue a fugitive warning by the FBI. A Mexican rumor started after Rolando Veloz, consul, said there was a resemblance between sketch of suspect and man who applied for tourist card 4/3/68, who turned out to be 19-year old student at Memphis State University. It was learned that the abandoned rifle was not one of those stolen from a store two days before the assassination. Itinerant preacher Lynn R. Cleveland, 33, picked up but released.
- 10 NY Post, by Cy Egan, King Assassin's Trail Weaves Into Mexico: Speculation that killer planted false clues to confuse the hunters. Police said large amount evidence left behind was highly unusual. A focal point of the FBI investigation was Birmingham, where gun shop records were being checked and airline passenger lists scanned. Fingerprints and handprints were found in the rooming house bathroom but no word as to what checks against official records had produced nor would authorities say anything about results of inspection of piece of blue luggage discarded near scene. Sketch of suspect distributed at Mexican border and inside Mexico. Witnesses disagreed on whether a man who ran from the rooming house fled in a white Mustang. Two said he left in the opposite direction from the parked car, others said he had doubled back to get into the car and speed off.
- 11 States Item, by Jay Bowles, Memphis: Second Car Sought in Slaying Getaway. Presence of a second white Mustang near doorway used by slayer led to reports it may have been getaway car. A car with Arkansas tags and a similar vehicle both left the scene within 15 minutes after the shooting. Canipe said he saw a young white man drop the package that had the gun but did not see his face. Police said they would investigate reports of a supposed police chase in NE Memphis, 8 miles from scene, 30 minutes after the shooting, possibly a decoy to allow killer to escape. A recording of police radio dispatcher's transmissions showed 7 calls in 12 minutes from a lieutenant's car in NE section of city but the lieutenant said on 4/9/68 that he did not make the calls. Led to speculation that someone sent the calls to draw officers away from the escape route. FBI declined comment on reports firearms dealers Birmingham being questioned about sales of Remingtons.

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- 11 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Memphis: False Police Reports of Chase Give Impetus to Conspiracy Theories. Memphis policemen who were searching for killer were drawn to north side of city 34 minutes after the shooting by a false report from "police car 160" that a white Mustang was speeding along city streets. Possibility being investigated report was relayed by an accomplice. Holloman refused to say if he now believed more than one person involved. False report was broadcast at 6:35 p.m. while police were setting up road blocks around the city, shortly after an alert broadcast for white Mustang with a radio antenna like those on cars with citizen band radio receivers. At 6:36 police radio said blue hardtop 1966 Pontiac had joined chase for white Mustang. In next 10 minutes, progress reports were relayed from central police radio to other police cars. At 6:47 police radio said white Mustang shooting at blue Pontiac. Lt. R.W. Bradshaw of car 160 said he saw no white Mustang and did not chase one. The radio messages could not have come from actual locale of car 160, it was said by unnamed radio equipment dealer who monitored police radio. Veloz, Mexican consulate, reported 4-day delay by FBI in checking his report man resembling suspect had asked travel permit to Mexico on 4/3/68. During week previous to 4/4/68 MLK had stayed at a different motel, had been at Lorraine only one day before the shooting, which raised questions as to how it could have been so well planned in so short a time. Questions arose also from dumping by suspect of rifle, suitcase, and binoculars, as if wanting call attention to himself.
- 11 NY Post: New Setback in the King Probe. Bullet that killed MLK so badly deformed that FBI having difficulty proving it was fired by the rifle found nearby. Tests showed only that it was the same caliber as the 30.06 Remington but soft point, squashed so that matching was not possible. Another new twist, reports that two white Mustangs were at the scene: one with Arkansas license plates said to contain a young man who stayed at wheel while the killing was in progress. The discarded rifle was traced through its serial number to a Birmingham store, where it was purchased new over the counter a few days before. Uses same bullet as Army M-1 rifle. Not known if scope purchased too. Binoculars found in blue case on sidewalk traced to York Arms Co., about 6 blocks away, purchased there on afternoon of 4/4/68. Stephens said FBI drawing of suspect did not resemble the man he saw, who was much younger.

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- 12 NY Times, Atlanta UPI: Maddox Thinks Reds Murdered Dr. King
- 12 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Memphis: Alabamian Named in Dr. King Inquiry.  
FBI Seeking to Question 36-Year-Old White Man—Car Found in Atlanta. Man was identified as Eric Starvo Galt, 5'11" 175 lbs. Car abandoned 8:30 a.m. 4/5/68 by white man about 5'9" about 165 lbs sandy hair. Bulletin describing Galt apparently released inadvertently by FBI, withdrawn 2 hours later. Galt said to have blue eyes brown hair born 7/20/31. Last known address 2608 Highland Ave Birmingham, a shabby rooming house where other residents said they last saw Galt about 3 months ago, said FBI agents had been swarming around the area most of 4/11/68. Alabama authorities disclosed the license number for the car FBI seeking had been issued to Eric S. Galt. Before car was impounded in Atlanta FBI inspector Joseph Sullivan arrived Memphis to assist in the investigation. The FBI bulletin was issued on Florida statewide police network at 6:37 p.m. by agent Charles Bell, canceled at 8:27 p.m. by agent John Hanlon. Bullet smashed and FBI lab unable match it with Remington 30.06 rifle discarded near scene, which according to Remington Co. Bridgeport Conn. had been traced by FBI through its serial number. Employees told not to give out information on where the rifle had been shipped. Police refused to say if new developments on false police broadcasts, from "policecaps 160." There was speculation that Lt. Bradshaw might have been relaying information furnished to him over a citizens band radio; he refused to comment. Clark said last night he was as optimistic as ever killer will be apprehended.
- 12 States Item, front page, 2 sketches captioned: How Artists View Suspect. Sketch by Mexican Police HQ artist Sergio Jaubert based on FBI description; second sketch by Memphis Commercial Appeal artist Bill Herrington based on description by man in Memphis building from which shot was fired.  
Page 3, by Gaylord Shaw, Memphis AP: FBI Issues, Cancels King Suspect Order. Miami FBI refused comment. Clark said last weekend on trail of one man on run. Car abandoned in Atlanta bore stickers "turista" was towed away 5:15-5:30 p.m. Thursday 4/11/68.
- 13 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Birmingham 4/12/68: Mystery Deepens in King Inquiry: Data on Man FBI Seeks to Question Few. Public records in Birmingham and Montgomery disclose little about Eric Starvo Galt, sought by FBI for questioning: only a driver's license and a title to a white Mustang. FBI issued and recalled bulletin for Galt night of 4/11/68; FBI agents asking about Galt in Birmingham several days. FBI asked residents of Economy Grill and Rooms, Birmingham, not to comment. Cherpes said FBI told him to answer "no comment." Maritime Commission had no record Galt. InMemphis FBI and police said to be questioning 2 young white

men about the fake chase on police radio broadcast involving white Mustang and blue Pontiac. Ramsey Clark said 4/12/68 impossible to predict when the assassin would be arrested. Jesse Jackson said he did not subscribe to contention killer acted alone, was deranged, puzzled as to why police near motel failed to catch the sniper

13 States Item, Memphis AP: More Leads Reported in King Slaying. Ramsey Clark first statement in five days, impossible to predict when arrest will be made. Robert Jensen, in charge FBI Memphis, refused to answer questions, said all he could say was no comment. Daily News in NYC said FBI had established white Mustang found Atlanta was the same car seen leaving scene Memphis, said witnesses Memphis gave investigators the license number of the car. Rep. Charles W. Whalen, Jr. (R.Ohio) said welter of premature and contradictory statements clouding the investigation and asked FBI to set the record straight.

14 NY Times, by Martin Waldron, Birmingham, 4/13/68: New Theory Told in King Inquiry: Man Sought by FBI May Have False Identity. FBI checking possibility Eric Galt an assumed name, spent several months in Birmingham last fall creating a false identity. On 3/1/68 Galt applied by mail for duplicate of his driver's license and it was sent to the Birmingham address Economy Grill and Rooms. FBI checked records Remington Arms Co. which disclosed a 30.06 rifle found on street Memphis had been shipped to a Birmingham gun store. Lease on Galt's safe deposit box at a Birmingham bank expired December 1967, was not renewed.

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- 15 NY Post, by Ralph Blumenfeld: FBI Widens Hunt For King Killer. Phantom fugitive Eric Starvo Galt, the lone potential suspect, subject of dragnet extending into the midwest and south from Miami to Virginia. His 1966 white Mustang with Alabama plates was found abandoned in Atlanta on 4/12/68, fits description car seen speeding from motel. FBI refused comment on AP disclosure agents questioned persons named Galt in several states. Rev. Ralph Galt of Birmingham denied knowledge of Eric Starvo Galt. Galt lived briefly at a South Birmingham boarding house 1967. He bought the Mustang August 30, paying \$2000 cash and was issued plates found on abandoned car in Atlanta, tag 1-38993. His driver's license application said, unemployed seaman, 5'11" 175 lbs blue eyes brown hair. FBI withholding national distribution of the sketch. FBI description of assassin estimates age 30-32, 5'10" 165 lbs receding hairline long thin nose. C.J. Davis, 26, tenant at boarding house Birmingham, said his recollection of Galt was dim. Owner Peter Cherpes would not say what Galt paid for room; rate \$22 a day with 2 meals. Cherpes went with Galt for his driving test 9/6/67.
- 15 States Item, by Don M'Kee, Birmingham: Landlord Identifies Drawing of Suspect. Cherpes, 72, identified drawing of suspect as Eric Galt, consented to talk after FBI responded his request to be released from secrecy pledge. Cherpes said FBI showed him the sketch on Wednesday 4/10/68, two days before Mustang found Atlanta. FBI on 4/12/68 issued an alert ("locate and notify" dispatch) in Florida at about same time Mustang found and impounded at Atlanta but withdrew the alert four hours later as "erroneous." Galt stayed at boarding house in fall 1967, stated on registration card last worked at Ingalls Shipbuilding Corp. at Pascagoula, Miss. Registered August 1967 and left 10/7/67 to look for job in Mobile.
- 16 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Birmingham: Birmingham Man Says FBI Drawing of Mystery Figure Resembles Ex-Roomer. Peter Cherpes said 15 April that Eric Starvo Galt left his rooming house early October 1967. At Pascagoula, A.C. Weeks of Ingalls Shipyard said that he had no record of Eric Galt. A duplicate of Galt's driver's license believed to have been the identification given at Birmingham gunshop in March when 30.06 Remington was bought. Capt. T. L. Payne said 25¢ for duplicate driver's license received on 3/6/68 (Alabama Highway Patrol). Cherpes said Galt had no visitors but received package from Chicago, 2' x 1', which he said he intended to return, because it was wrong size. Every development in the investigation thus far suggests that Eric Starvo Galt is a fictitious name.



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- 16 NY Post, AP Birmingham: Assassin Hunt Takes FBI Up Blind Alleys. Galt left Birmingham 10/7/67 but in December turned in his keys to safe deposit box at Birmingham Trust National Bank. A duplicate driver's license mailed to Galt's Birmingham address on 3/1/68 and it apparently vanished. Cherpes said Galt 6' 165-170 lbs. blue eyes, light brown hair neat taciturn. Rented room from Cherpes 8/26/67 to 10/7/67 for \$22.50 a week.
- 16 States Item, by Don M'Kee (AP) Birmingham: FBI Views Dead-End Clues to King Case Mystery Man. Same story as in NY Post.
- 17 NY Times, Atlanta, 4/16/68: Atlanta Cabbies Remember Galt: Two Identify Sketch of Man Sought in Dr. King Case. Two drivers of Atlanta Million Cab Co. said they drove a man resembling the sketch of Eric Starvo Galt to and from Atlanta's hippy neighborhood on 4/5/68. It is about 450 miles from Memphis to Atlanta by highway. One driver said the FBI showed him a sketch that differed from the one in the press, and that he could identify the FBI sketch only. The man in his cab dressed very neatly, seemed to have had acne, little scars on face from pimples.
- 17 NY Post, by Paul Valentine, Memphis: Hired-Killer Theory Gains in King Case. Sheriff Mel Bailey of Birmingham said he believes the assassin may have planned to kill King there and that a conspiracy existed to murder him. Federal authorities in Memphis said Willard and Galt the same person.
- 17 States Item, Atlanta AP: Atlanta Cab Driver Identifies Drawing.
- 18 NY Times, by Evert Clark Washington 4/17/68: FBI Accuses Galt of a Conspiracy in Dr. King Slaying: Alleges a Plot With Man He Said Was a Brother: Fugitive Warrant Out: Suspect is charged with murder in Memphis--Two Photos are Released. In Birmingham, Ala., former landlord saw the two photos released by FBI, when asked if they were of his former tenant, he said "I don't think so." In Memphis a witness said an FBI photo of Galt did not resemble the man who left the scene. In Atlanta a taxi driver could not identify an FBI picture. In Birmingham, William D. Paisley who sold Galt the Mustang said the FBI photos did not resemble Galt. FBI said Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. An announcement by J. Edgar Hoover said Galt in Memphis at time of killing and then left for Atlanta, said Galt has used names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past. Sources said Memphis police had almost run Galt down as they went to the murder scene. JEH said FBI agent had determined that the rifle and a telescopic sight found near scene had been purchased from Birmingham gun dealer 3/30/68. Galt described by FBI warrant as 5'8" to 5'11" 160-175 lbs brush-cut brown hair blue eyes neat dresser medium build, language and diction have rural quality, suggest he does not have much education, liked vodka, beer, Western and country music, has a nervous habit of pulling at an ear lobe. Left ear more protrusive than right ear. James T. Gamble chief FBI Birmingham said

the photographs had been taken in Birmingham in March, would not say how FBI got them. Galt went to Mexico after he bought the Mustang 8/30/67, JEH said. His travels included Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham and Mexico as well as Memphis and Atlanta, FBI said. Left Los Angeles 12/15/67 and drove to New Orleans. Left New Orleans 12/19/67 arrived Los Angeles 12/21/67. While there he took course at a school of bartending, graduated 3/2/68. FBI said Galt in New Orleans 1964 and 1965, in Birmingham September/October 1967, in Long Beach Calif. December 1967 to Feb. 1968 and took dancing lessons all those places at the times specified. Landlord and others in Birmingham who had identified the sketches as Galt said they were not satisfied man in FBI photos was Galt. Charles Q. Stephens of Memphis said man in FBI photos not man in rooming house--hair too full, man too young. An Atlanta cabbie said he had identified Galt from an FBI photo which was different from the photos of Galt released by FBI today. DA Phil Canale, Memphis, filed murder charge against Galt, signed by General Sessions Judge Wayne Lindsay. In Hollywood, Tomas Reyes Law, director of Int'l School of Bartending, said Galt graduated 3/2/68 and disappeared. In Birmingham, a source said FBI had concluded Galt was probably a fictitious name, no trace in Internal Revenue Service or Social Security Office.

- 18 NY Post, cover: Is This Galt? Witnesses Say No. Story on page 4 by Cy Egan says FBI obtained the photo through the Int'l School of Bartending, Hollywood. Lau, director of the school, puzzled by Galt's desperation for a job when he applied for the course, but turned job down 3/2/68 when graduated. FBI photo was one taken on graduation from the course. Lau said he last heard from Galt about 3/9/68 by phone; he had Southern accent, paid \$220 registration fee, gave as references 2 women and 1 man, all with Los Angeles addresses. Rod Arvidson, 46, manager National Dance Studios, Long Beach, said Galt had taken classes there from mid-December 1967 to 2/12/68, carried large sums money with him, seemed to be a Southern gentleman, neatly dressed. Kathy Norton, 21, dance instructor, said Galt told her he owned a bar or restaurant on Mexican coast.
- 18 States Item, Memphis (AP): Mystery Man Galt Charged With Murdering King. FBI said Galt made trips to New Orleans, claimed to have a 1962 Louisiana driver's license but no record of it, also dancing lessons in New Orleans 1964 or 1965. Fugitive warrant charged Galt of conspiring with a man he alleged to be his brother against King. Ramsey Clark said he did not think FBI release of photos meant Galt trail had become cold. Repeats details given in NY Post and NY Times.
- 18 States Item, by Charles M'Fadden, Los Angeles, AP: Galt Described As Quiet Loner. Galt spent \$700 in 3 months on dancing and bartending lessons. Repeats NY Post story. Arvidson says Galt no mixer, had trouble coordinating one foot with the other. Dance instructor Andreas Jergensen, 46, talked with newsmen. Galt gave date of birth as 7/30/31.

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NY Post, by David Larsen, Hollywood: Story of the King Suspect From the People Who Knew Him. Says Galt emerged today as fervent supporter of George Wallace; man who made trip to New Orleans in recent months (Garrison files being checked); steady drinker, alternately moody and contentious. Interviews with Charles Stein, songwriter, 38 and his sister Rita, who met Galt at Sultan Room, Hollywood. Robert Walters, campaign coordinator for Wallace, denied any knowledge of Galt. Stein made 2-day trip to New Orleans with Galt who made several long-distance calls while driving through Texas, spoke "touristy" Spanish to Stein, said he liked to hunt, was noncommittal on race. At time of trip to New Orleans, Galt staying at Los Angeles apt. where other residents either did not know him or are staying tight-lipped. He moved to the St. Francis Hotel, one block from Rabbits Foot Club, Hollywood. Bartender there, Bo Del Monte, says Galt was regular nightly patron at Club until about 3/19/68, drank screwdrivers. Adele Lewis, working at Club at that time, said Galt often got into arguments. Jim Morrison, who was tending bar one night, says Galt talked to young woman, got into dispute with her about Negroes. Del Monte says Galt often preached support of George Wallace. No one at the Club realized who Galt was until his photo appeared in newspapers 4/18/68, as he never gave his name. Joe Peters, bartender Sultan Room, said Galt drank vodka and cozkes. In applying for bartender school, Galt gave as a reference R. J. Weiler, "Marie Deninno" (actually Marie Martin) and "Rita Steen" (actually Rita Stein).

19 NY Post, by Cy Egan: Hunt for Galt Report Aided by "Brother". Says FBI allegedly using information supplied by his alleged co-conspirator to track down Galt. Galt first purchased a 2.43 Remington rifle, returned later same day 3/30/68 to exchange it for a 30.06.

19 NY Times, by Martin Waldron, Birmingham 4/18/67: Galt Eludes FBI Agents in California; Thousands of Wanted Posters Distributed. A source said FBI agents thought they were close to Galt last night; an unidentified brother was said in FBI complaint to be Galt's co-conspirator. Source in FBI said brother might have supplied information. FBI denied having anyone in custody. Gamble said 4/17/68 photo of Galt released by FBI was taken in Birmingham last month. But 4/18/68 it was disclosed photo came from bartending school Hollywood. Ala. Hiway Patrol said Galt requested duplicate driver license by phone. Gives text complaint filed by FBI. US Commissioner Mildred F. Sprague first denied signing the complaint, then refused to explain why she had denied it. Galt Recalled on Coast: repeats interviews with Rod Arvidson et al; dance studio personnel said Galt did not appear to speak Spanish. A Suspect Released: Atlanta 4/18/68: Police arrested man said to resemble Galt but after he was questioned by FBI agents he was released.

19 States Item, Washington (AP): KING SUSPECT IS ESCAPEE, REAL NAME RAY, FBI SAYS. FBI today identified Galt as James Earl Ray, 40, escapee from Missouri State Penitentiary. FBI said he was identified through systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the King case, against fingerprints of more than 53,000 for whom wanted notices are on file in FBI. Ray reported missing from jail at Jefferson City, Mo., on 4/23/67. He was serving 20-yr. sentence for armed robbery, had been at the prison since 3/17/60. Ray was in U.S. Army Feb. 1946 to Dec. 1948. Arrested 1949 for burglary Los Angeles. Convicted armed robbery 1952 Chicago, 1955 for forging money orders Missouri. Served terms in Los Angeles County jail, state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, and federal prison Leavenworth, Kansas. FBI said Ray had used names James McBride; James Walton; W. C. Herron; James O'Conner. Ray claimed born 3/10/28 Illinois; 5'10" 163 to 174 lbs blue eyes brown hair 2 scars, a small one center forehead, another palm of right hand.

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- 20 NY Times, Fred Graham, Wash. 4/19/68: FBI Says "GALT" IS AN ESCAPED CONVICT. Photos from FBI show James Earl Ray in 1966 and 1960, in prison, and this year under alias Eric Starvo Galt. FBI announced today that escaped convict Ray is the man sought under alias Galt, pictured him as trouble-prone drifter with long record of erratic and violent behavior. His true identity discovered after latent fingerprints uncovered in the King investigation were compared with prints of more than 53,000 persons listed as wanted by FBI. Ray escaped from prison 4/23/67. Had served 7 years of 20-year sentence for armed robbery. Explanation of why took so long to identify the fingerprints. No indication of where they were found.
- 20 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Birmingham, 4/19/68: HOW MANY "GALTS"? WITNESSES DIFFER. THREE EARLIER DESCRIPTIONS OF SUSPECT VARY WIDELY. Descriptions make it appear that as many as 4 men may have been under suspicion. Source in Justice Dept. said that credible witnesses in Memphis and Birmingham who saw Galt seemed to be describing different men, which led FBI to change view and decide it may have been a conspiracy. 3 differing descriptions of Galt detailed, also, description of James Earl Ray.
- 20 NY Times, p. 31: SUSPECT DESCRIBED AS A DRIFTER WHO WAS FAILURE AT EVERYTHING. Gives Ray's family background, youth, and record of trouble with police.
- 20 NY Post, page 3, stories by Jerry Cohen, THE KING SUSPECT: HIS FIRST CRIME and Timothy Lee, ASSASSIN HUNT FOCUSES ON ESCAPED CON. Gives Ray's police record. Story p. 16 details his break out of jail. Essentially same story as in NY Times.
- 20 States Item, Wash. AP: RAY ON "MOST WANTED" LIST. 4 photos of Ray and/or Galt. Basically same story as in NY Times. Details conflicting descriptions and whereabouts.
- 21 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Birmingham, 4/20/68: GALT HAD MONEY WHILE IN BIRMINGHAM BUT FBI FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF A JOB. Details sale of Mustang to Galt by Paisley, sale of rifle by Aeromarine Supply Co., sale of binoculars, possible airplane trips, confiscation of Delta Airline records including ticket Birmingham to Chicago 4/3/68 used only as far as Memphis. Details Galt 2 places same time.
- 21 NY Times, News of the Week, FADING CLUES RAISE QUESTION OF CONSPIRACY. Says alarming word "conspiracy" has begun to sound loudly. Martin Waldron.
- 22 NY Times, small box UPI Washington: FBI PRESSES HUNT IN SLAYING OF DR KING. FBI says nothing new to report.
- 22 NY Post, by Ralph Blumenfeld: FBI UNDER FIRE ON KING CASE. Mounting criticism of FBI tactics, discouraged local investigations, caused confusion with varying descriptions of alleged killer, according to police in Memphis and other cities. Memphis detectives continued to work on theory Galt a myth created by the conspirators. Asst. Police Chief Bill Price, Memphis, says someone has muddied the waters. Details discrepancies in descriptions of suspect. Ray's fellow-inmates, Warden Harold Swenson, sceptical; psychiatrist Dr. Donald B. Peterson examined Ray 5 weeks 1966, said nothing to indicate he was a killer or had tendencies to kill. There is growing concern when Ray is tracked down he might be shot by his captors since FBI has labeled him dangerous and armed. Editorial in Atlanta paper questions FBI wisdom, says, imperative Ray be taken alive. Police in 4 cities practically shunted aside by Feebees. Birmingham detective who tried question a clerk who sold rifle was called off by FBI when clerk refused to talk. FBI investigation being handled "at highest level." Ramsey Clark and Hoover.
- 23 NY Times, by Douglas E. Kneeland, Jefferson City, Mo. 4/22/68: FBI HUNT FOR RAY IN KILLING STUNS PRISON OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WHO KNEW HIM.

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24 States Item: KING KILLING SUSPECT RAY IN CITY LAST DECEMBER. Ray was registered in a French Quarter motel New Orleans 17-19 December 1967 according to (Louis Lomax) writing for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Ray met a major New Orleans industrialist at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, 17 Dec. Investigators are searching for the unknown "industrialist" in the light of disclosure by a prison inmate who served time with Ray that Ray had been interested in an offer of \$100,000 by "Southern businessmen" for anyone who would kill Dr. King. Time magazine said this week that New Orleans was the pay-off point for the man hired to kill MLK, which Time said was learned from a conversation overheard by a Memphis businessman. Lomax said also that on 2/17/68 Ray delivered a package to an unidentified New Orleans family. Garrison said he was very interested in the case but had no data, federal authorities had not given him any information, nor had he asked for any. Garrison emphasized that he had no criticism of federal investigators in this instance. Lomax also reported that FBI was looking for an unnamed Hollywood blonde who had reportedly disappeared but to whom Lomax had spoken yesterday. "Jerri" was a habitue of the Sultan Room, had spent several nights perhaps weeks with Ray (Galt). Lomax said that on 12/16/67 Ray was in phone contact with a major New Orleans industrialist, with whom he met on 12/17/67.

Page 3, BOUNTY TALK \$1 MILLION--RAY CELLMATE. Dalton, Ga. (AP)--Ray was quoted by a former fellow inmate yesterday as saying he would be willing to kill MLK for a million dollar bounty. Raymond Curtis, 40, now in Whitfield County jail here, is awaiting action on appeal of a murder conviction.

24 NY Post, Max Lerner: LONER OR CONSPIRATOR? Lerner opines that Ramsey Clark's early description of "a lone man on the run" may no longer be true. If there were others who used him, his capture now would be intolerable to them and the indicated course for them would be to kill him before he can be caught. Inevitably the case brings to mind the JFK assassination, Garrison, and a climate of conspiracy and a climate of hate. Lerner thinks day of the loner is probably passing but warns against believing everything disastrous is the result of conspiracy.

25 States Item: RAY CAME HERE WITH BROTHER--GRETNA WOMAN. Mrs. Leroy Lee, former Marie Stein, saw James Earl Ray 12/17/67 when he drove in from Los Angeles with her brother Charles Stein. He was introduced to her as Eric Starvo Galt. Other developments in the case today: a mysterious Hollywood blonde disappeared from her Milwaukee hotel room; Mexican authorities questioned an American resembling Ray but released him. Mrs. Leroy Lee described Ray as skinny with light hair and light colored eyes. Shown a picture of Ray, she said he did not even look like the man introduced to her as Galt. Charles Stein reportedly has identified Ray and Galt as the same man, and FBI has tied them thru fingerprints. Mrs. Lee's mother, Clovina Alonzo, and personnel at Provincial Motel had been questioned repeatedly by the FBI, but Mrs. Lee, the only one other than Charles Stein to see Ray, has never been questioned. (Lomax) was retracing Ray's route Los Angeles to New Orleans, increasingly certain that a 12/16/67 phone call by Ray from Houston to New Orleans will provide the clue as to who paid for MLK's assassination. Lomax reported that Ray while living at St. Francis Hotel Los Angeles made prepaid long distance calls every day at 6 p.m. from public phonebooth in lobby. Graffiti in phone booth refers to "Martin Luther Coon." It is believed that Ray (Galt) made the doodlings "but this could be certified only when the FBI fingerprint experts match the writing on the wall with that on the back of a TV set known to have belonged to Ray." Yesterday, "Jerri" and her husband, whose appearance corresponds with Ray's, checked out of the Royal Hotel, Milwaukee, and disappeared (after a phone call from Lomax). Daniel David Kennedy of Baltimore was questioned by Mexican police and released. Lt. Roberto Fletcher of the Caborca, Sonora, police, Mexico, had taken Kennedy into custody. Mrs. Pearl Kennedy, his mother, said in Baltimore that her son was innocent.

April

- 25 NY Post, Timothy Lee: A KING SUSPECT HELD IN MEXICO. Repeats story on detention of Daniel David Kennedy. Lt. Fletcher said FBI on way to question Kennedy but John Mull, FBI agent in charge Phoenix denied knowing anything about the arrest. In Washington, FBI refused to comment.
- 26 NY Post, Washington (AP): FBI BELITTLES RAY-GALT "CONTRADICTIONS." FBI sources insisted, but not for attribution, that Ray and Galt were one person. "We know there's only one person involved here," said one FBI official, "We've got his fingerprints and we know who he is." Puzzling aspects of case continue to pop up. Newest involves Ray's smoking habits: cigaret or cigar ashes found in Mustang, but FBI bulletin issued last year after Ray's escape said that he did not smoke. Rod Arvidson of dance studio said Galt did not smoke any kind of tobacco. FBI official brushed off differing descriptions of suspect's height, weight, eyes and hair.
- 26 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Los Angeles, 4/25/68: GALT TRIP FROM COAST TO NEW ORLEANS RECALLED BY COMPANION. Reports interview with Charles Stein.
- 26 Los Angeles Free Press, by Mark Lane: MEMPHIS IN APRIL. Reviews case to date.
- 27 States Item, Louis Lomax: RAY MET N.O. CONTACT NEAR MART. Ray met with important industrialist between 2:30 and 4 P.M. on 12/17/67 inside or near the Int'l Trade Mart in New Orleans. At 3:30 that day a close friend of Ray's, "Tommie," was in the Trade Mart. That evening Ray visited Tommie and told him that he saw him in the Mart but did not approach him because he was busy. Lomax said also that Ray returned to New Orleans at end of March 1968 and delivered a package to the mother of a Los Angeles friend.
- 27 NY Post, Pittsburgh (AP): DR. KING'S BROTHER SEES CONSPIRACY. Rev. A.D. Wms. King said that he believes there was a conspiracy.

April

- 28 NY Times, Martin Waldron, Memphis: THE SEARCH: WEIRD TRAIL OF KING'S KILLER Two investigations (one in Alabama, one in Alabama and Georgia) by FBI agents seemingly on trail of 2 Eric Starvo Galts, 2 rifles, 2 white Mustangs, 2 driver's licenses, and an airplane ticket. Speculation within the FBI is that it was a hired killing. Two businessmen, one in Birmingham and one in New Orleans, mentioned privately as possible sources of the several thousands of dollars spent by Galt between August 1967 and April 1968. According to Birmingham News, FBI thought Galt may have escaped the USA and made his way to Cuba ("if he's still alive"). Re: Green Stamps, 2 attendants at Birmingham gas station remembered Galt, he bought gas there and had minor repairs on the white Mustang. They said the Mustang needed work on its clutch—but the car Galt purchased from Paisley did not have a clutch but an automatic shift. The Birmingham Galt was quiet, almost shy, did not drink; the California Galt was a loudmouth who drank vodka at dingy Hollywood bars. Warden at Missouri State prison said that when Ray escaped, the wrong fingerprints were circulated to law enforcement agencies but a new set of prints were sent out later. However, officials in Georgia and Alabama said that they never received the second set of fingerprints.

No one who knew the California Galt or the Birmingham Galt has been able to recognize any of Ray's photographs.

States Item, Louis Lomax San Antonio Tex: CONTRADICTIONARY INFORMATION ON RAY INCREASES. FBI search of White Mustang unearthed Green Stamps purchased at a Birmingham gas station in mid-February 1968. Gas station owner identified photo of Ray as the man who got the Green Stamps. But FBI reports consistently place Ray in Los Angeles, dancing studio and bartending school, at the time of the gas station transaction. This is one of a series of disturbing contradictions, e.g., Ray's smoking habits. Stein said Ray did not smoke, but ashes found in Mustang impounded by FBI. FBI said Ray in Los Angeles to 3/27/68 and then bought rifle in Birmingham 3/30/68 yet following disclosure by Lomax, FBI interviewed New Orleans family and confirmed Ray had delivered package to them end of March. Ray could not have driven Los Angeles to Birmingham via New Orleans 2500 miles between 3/27 and 3/30/68 unless he had a driving companion. Lomax states FBI has been forced to admit that the fingerprints circulated during the early days of the manhunt were not those of Ray. FBI blames warden of the Missouri State Penitentiary for issuing mistaken fingerprints on Ray when he escaped from prison April 1967. FBI also said Ray had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans during time he was supposedly in prison; FBI failed retrace Ray/Stein drive LA to NO; failed to investigate Ray calls to New Orleans from public phone booth in St. Francis Hotel, LA. FBI failed to uncover the TV set Ray gave to a Hollywood girl friend on or about 2/14/68, the back of which had handwriting believed to be Ray's. Lomax all but certain Ray made 3 trips to NO between 12/15/67 and end of March 1968.

Atlanta AP: HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY--RAMSEY CLARK.

- 30 NY Post, Bob Williams, "On The Air," Author Truman Capote last night suggested that the FBI was looking for more than one man, he contended James Earl Ray himself is dead. He also argued MLK assassination could have been a leftist plot resulting from disappointment with King's non-violence.

May

- 1 States Item, Canberra Australia (AP): TIP FROM FBI: RAY SEARCH TURNS TO AUSTRALIA. Australian police said FBI cabled it had information indicating Ray might have fled to Australia; police making nationwide search, have started intensive examination of all entry documents filed since 4/4/68.
- 1 NY Post, by Jack Nelson, Washington--LINK MAP TO KING CASE. A map of Atlanta with areas of MLK residence and church circled has been linked to accused assassin Ray by the FBI. Reviews history of the case. FBI still bothered by possibility Ray was a hired killer; he had some \$6-8,000 in cash after his escape.
- 2 NY Times, Editorial: SEARCH FOR DR. KING'S KILLER. Information provided by Justice Dept, FBI and Memphis police and other agencies has created welter of contradictions. Clark said no less than 4 times no evidence of conspiracy, yet FBI charged in a warrent that Ray alias Galt and an "alleged brother" entered into a conspiracy in Birmingham. Descriptions by FBI, police, and other officials, and by witnesses and acquaintances, point not to one Galt but to four, ranging in age from 20 to 40 in height from 5'8" to 6', from 160 to 175 lbs in accent from Southern to rural. No one in Memphis rooming house recognizes FBI photo of Galt from bartending school; same is true of prisoners and warden in Missouri State Penitentiary. Clark and JEHoover have responsibility to keep public as fully and accurately informed as possible, and to ensure that the suspect is brought in alive. "The case of Lee Harvey Oswald bears no repetition."
- 3 NY Post, Art Petacque, Chicago: BROTHER DOUBTS RAY IS STILL ALIVE. Jerry Ray said he and other family members fear James Earl Ray may be dead. Ray's brother found it hard to believe he had shot MLK because he never was a man of violence but conceded he could have been used by persons conspiring to kill King. He never displayed animosity toward Negroes, according to his brother, but he was interested in the political ambitions of George Wallace.
- Chicago (AP): RAY'S BROTHER DISAPPEARS. Jerry Ray has quit his job at a golf club and disappeared, a few hours after an interview with a Chicago newspaper.

May 1968

- 4 LA Times: Ray's brother believes he was framed, slain; Jerry says he doubts James assassinated Dr. King but he might have been fall guy
- 6 NY Post Rowland Evans & Robert Novak: Fear reprisal for slaying of Dr. King: Federal authorities concerned wild talk inside black extremist groups demanding revenge, discussing plans to assassinate white reactionary in retribution (Wallace, Nixon, Reagan), FBI has infiltrated black extremist groups
- 6 Newsweek: Manhunts, Hot and Cold: chagrin in Washington over early predictions Ray would be caught quickly; speculates conspiracy charge was only a gimmick to establish federal jurisdiction
- 8 NY Times, UPI Washington 5/7/68: FBI distributes two new photographs of Ray. One (sunglasses) Mexico November 1967, one (cleft chin) California this year. FBI refused to say where the photos were obtained.
- 9 Washington Evening Star, by Jeremiah O'Leary: Holed up--or buried? The Ray Mystery Deepens. FBI has some witnesses who describe Ray as "Negro-hating racist" and others who say he never mentioned race over long periods of time. Gives detailed history of Ray; he spent a few days around September 1967 in Montreal, for reasons unknown. After leaving Birmingham 10/7/67 went to Mexico, Jalisco and Puerto Vallarta, was conspicuous, had photo taken with a prostitute (the "sunglasses" photo released by FBI 5/7/68). After ditching white Mustang, Ray stayed in hippie rooming house in Atlanta; but FBI did not find the place for several days, by which time Ray had flown the coop. But in his room FBI found a TV set he had obtained in a swap with a girl, and a map of Atlanta with well-defined right thumb print--25 other prints from rifle, car, binoculars, and places he had been "too indistinct for classification" (as to finger? or as to identity?--SM). This thumb print was compared with all fugitives of same age range, which led to identification of Eric Starvo Galt as James Earl Ray.
- 10 Time: The assassination according to Capote, reports Capote's opinion of the Ray case as given on the Johnny Carson show, e.g., Ray did not kill MLK, he was not capable such a crime, only function was to throw FBI off the trail, he was probably killed afterwards.
- 12 ABC-TV, Issues and Answers: Ramsey Clark is disappointed that Ray was not quickly found, as he had led public to expect, says "most massive manhunt" is continuing, by "FBI and co-ordinated local law enforcement" (see contrary story of 4/22/68 in NY Post)...Still thinks he will be found, no evidence he is not still alive, evidence indicates "a man acting alone" but it is impossible to rule out "a conspiracy of the right or the left or the middle..."
- 16 NY Post, Drew Pearson: Convinced FBI doing most exhaustive, painstaking manhunt and no foundation for reports J.Edgar Hoover not interested in catching the killer of the man he called "the most notorious liar in the world." Claims FBI has established that Ray was a "professional killer" and speculates that he may have been murdered "by those who hired him to kill King, or that he is hiding in some remote Mexican village." Says "black extremists have not been ruled out" and that KKK or Minute Men probably would not have waited so long for results if they had put up the money spent by Ray, about \$10,000 in 7 months before 4/4/68.
- 16 N Orleans States Item: St.Louis AP: Hearing for Ray set tomorrow, on motion filed before his escape from prison 1967.
- 16 States Item, Drew Pearson column (same as NY Post of same date, but longer)... Says wrapped rifle in bedspread, in which strands of his hair were found, left behind blue zipper bag with a hairbrush with hair matching strands in bedspread



May 1968

- 17 LA Free Press: Describes visit by 2 FBI agents re ad placed by Galt in 2/2/68 issue, seeking "passionate married" woman for "mutual pleasure"
- 17 States Item: Man in San Juan not suspect, FBI says, just a case of look-alikes.
- 24 NY Times, by Peter Kihss: Photos cited by research group in Kennedy death, prints sketch made by Mexico City police of MLK suspect, and photo of "tramp" in Dealey Plaza, remarkable resemblance; reports press conference held by Trent Gough and Richard Sprague.
- 24 States Item: Drew Pearson: King phone tap ordered by RFK
- 27 NY Post: Same Drew Pearson column
- 29 NY Daily Column: by Carl T. Rowan: Will the FBI ever get King's killer? Says investigation has taken on international implications, massive dragnet in Mexico, where Ray met with persons who led FBI to suspect involvement of a foreign power. However, dragnet turned up nothing at all. Those who insisted Ray was a lone assassin now have swung over to belief he was a hired killer. Has been discovered Ray was peddling dope while in State prison 1960-67. Some FBI spokesmen now conceding they will never catch the MLK killer.
- 31 NY Post, by Carl Greenbert, Los Angeles: The RFK/Pearson dispute over Dr. King. Gives history and allegations by each side.

June 1968

(Meagher 7/7/68)

- 8 NOSI p.1 RAY IS CAPTURED Seized in London using name Ramon George Sneyd
- 9 NY Times p.1 SUSPECT IN ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING IS SEIZED IN LONDON, Ray found armed, Arrested at the Airport by Scotland Yard on way from Lisbon, by Fred Graham.
- 9 The Sunday Times (London): Dr. King: Wanted man held in London; James Earl Ray arrested at Heathrow as he heads for Brussels. The arrest was made by Chief-Superintendent Tom Butler and Chief-Inspector Thompson; Scotland Yard said it was the outcome of close liaison with FBI and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- 9 The London Observer: Luther King murder--Man held in London.
- 10 Toronto Globe and Mail: Fat man visited Ray, landlady recalls; she saw a fat man pass a small envelope to Ray about 4 days before he flew to London on 5/6/68.
- 10 NY Times p.18: Ray is reported in London 3 weeks; 4 addresses are traced; Fred M. Vinson, Jr. of Dept. of Justice interviews him; FBI says he arrived in London 5/8/68, flew Lisbon same day, returned London day of arrest
- 10 NOSI, front page: Ray extradition contest expected; case could drag on to July or August. Detailed reconstruction Ray's movements and addresses
- 10 NY Post, p. 1: London hunts Ray's contact; No bail for King suspect; FBI says Ray in Lisbon for 33 days before arrested London but Scotland Yard says he was in London from 5/18/68; RCMP searching for fat man who gave Ray envelope in Toronto on 5/9/68; also searching for a blond woman about 50 who posed as Sneyd's aunt when she picked up a birth certificate at Hall of Records Toronto.
- 10 Ramsey Clark doubted conspiracy theory despite his travels without known \$\$ means.
- 10 I.F.Stone Weekly: Drew Pearson's charge RFK allowed FBI tap MLK's phone deserves serious investigation, though all earmarks of a dirty campaign leak; JEHoover hated MLK and slandered him in his lifetime.
- 11 NY Times p.1: Ray's extradition is sped by British; Provisional order is based on slaying of Dr. King; An arraignment held. *P.37 Police Toronto investigation, no comment*
- 11 NOSI p.1: Ray is put in tight-security prison; extradition effort pressed
- 11 Toronto Globe & Mail: Ray's ties with Toronto may go back some time, long before MLK shot; discovery was made yesterday in re odd way a Toronto resident signed his name (Eric St. Vincent Galt). P.3, Life as a fugitive; the record of a holdup man. P.4, British warrant issued. P.5, How Ray got the names.

*p.74 Ray sat passport Toronto**p.75 Ray being held close security. (By Waldron) Ray's arrest ends hunt since April 1967.*

MLK Chronology (James Earl Ray)--(Continued)

June 1968

- 11 NY Post, p. 3: King brother asks speed in Ray trial. Britain may deport Ray as undesirable. Real Galt about same height as Ray, has same scars on forehead and palm.
- 12 NOSI front page: U.S. formally asks extradition of Ray, evidence in documents. Toronto detectives searching for short blond man who came looking for Ray 3-4 days after his departure for London. P.15: Songwriter Charles Stein says Ray was paid, if he killed MLK.
- 12 NY Times, p 1: 3 whose names Ray used Resemble him; photos of Galt, Paul Bridgman, Ramon George Sneyd and Ray. Some believe Ray used Galt alias last summer when checking into an east end rooming house in Montreal; but U.S. authorities say Ray was in the U.S. during those months. Possibility raised that a fourth Toronto man, John Willard, 42, may have provided another alias for Ray. 10 days before Ray left Toronto man resembling him cased a supermarket. Toronto landlady reports short, slight man came looking for Ray 3-4 days after he flew to London.
- P. 30: British seek clue to calls for Ray; 2 phone messages to hotel in London pose mystery (by Homer Bigart). A mistake by Ray aided in capture; Was ahead of pursuers but doubled back on trail (by Fred Graham). Ray remembered in Lisbon as quiet and frugal; Hotel workers and bar girls tell of meeting suspect --reason for stay sought. Ray called "decoy" by brother over Chicago TV.
- 12 Wash. Post, p A-5: Ray linked to Canada holdup try, supermarket
- 12 NY Post, p.3: Did a Ray double set up false trail? by Cy Egan. In August 1967 while Ray was still in Montreal supposedly, man using alias Eric Starvo Galt checked into Birmingham rooming house (8/28/67).
- P.50, Max Lerner: Conspiracy again? column on RFK/MLK assassinations
- 13 NOSI p. 31: Britain okays proceedings to extradite Ray.
- 13 NY Post: Speed move to Bring Ray Back; Britain orders hearing.
- 13 NY Free Press, p.3: Photos of MLK sketch of suspect and "Frenchy" Readly Plaza
- 14 Wash.Post: Fat man cleared in Ray case probe; returned letter Ray had dropped.
- 14 NOSI, front page: Foreman for Ray? Ray's brother says will apply passport to visit brother in London; John Larry Ray, 35, also said trying contact Percy Foreman to ask him to take case.
- 16 NY Times, by Richard Hammer: Ray: Clues to a man of mystery. Police USA Canada and Europe trying unravel twisted trail left by Ray over past year during which he has been in Birmingham, Atlanta, Memphis, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Toronto London, Lisbon and possibly many other cities, using names at least 4 real people generally matching his own height and description as alias; the 4 reals all within a few blocks of each other in Toronto. Until FBI charged Ray as prime suspect MLK was considered 2-bit thief incapable of carrying out complex crime. Traces movements and activities Ray 4/4/68 to arrest on 6/8/68. Asks: where did he get the \$\$\$ ? what motive ??? how find real men whose aliases he used ?? Canadian police believe he had organized support in making his getaway.

June 1968

- 16 NY Times p. 72: U.S. seeks Tuesday to extradite Ray; long process begins with 2nd appearance in court (by Homer Bigart)
- 17 NY Post, p. 13: Ray won't talk, brother predicts. Says he will take any information he may have to his grave. Says he will plead not guilty, doubts insanity plea based on mental tests while in prison, says nothing insane about Ray, refused to give permission for him to receive shock treatments in prison, insists Ray did not kill MLK, was not that kind, never hurt anyone; feels Ray was set up as a decoy to throw police off track real assassin, could not have been his own money he was spending, would not have been so free with it, discounted dancing lessons, never danced in his life, was shy, a loner, not the bold type, could not have been in New Orleans 1964 because was then in jail.
- P.58: Doubt grows that Ray acted alone, by Richard T. Cooper (Toronto): Choice of assumed identities seems more than coincidental. Landlady says Ray left behind a map, rolls unused camera film.
- 18 NOSI: Extradition hearing for Ray is set for 6/27/68. Ray's lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, tentatively agreed defend accused assassin MLK, no stranger to race fights.
- 18 NY Post: Ray fighting extradition. P.51: Profile of Arthur J. Hanes
- 19 NOSI, p. 6: Won't fight extradition---Ray lawyer Hanes, as boarding plane to Wash.
- 19 NY Times, p.35 by Martin Waldron: Evidence hints a conspiracy in slaying of MLK. Says fingerprints on marked map found Atlanta rooming house believed to have provided FBI with link to Ray...Where did Ray get \$\$\$\$ spent? FBI "sources" suggested he may have been in on robbery of bank at Alton, Ill., on 7/13/67 in which \$20,000 was taken...but Ray may have been living in Toronto that date. Possibility Ray had help selecting real men whose names he used being investigated.
- 19 NY Times p.1: Ray lawyer wins delay to June 27; Judge grants plea for time to study data; suspect's guard again is heavy (by Homer Bigart)
- 20 NOSI p. 31: Alabama lawyer Hanes takes Ray case
- 21 NY Times p. 18: Hanes arrives London, does not know how Ray learned of him
- 21 NOSI p. 2: Ray's lawyer denies links Right or Left; would not say where \$\$ for his fee would come from.
- 21 NY Post p. 7: Who's picking up Ray's tab? by Cy Egan.
- 21 NY Daily Column, p.2 by Paul Scott: FBI says Ray's arrest is only the beginning. Investigation of MLK assassination far from closed; one agent says privately Ray is key to determining the others involved in the plot; also being carefully checked is Ray's contact with a person whom FBI photographed with King at a major U.S. airport. \$5.million spent by FBI in first 9 weeks of MLK investigation in search for Ray.
- 24 I.F. Stone Weekly: Enough has come to light clearly to show a conspiracy in MLK killing.
- 27 NOSI front page: Didn't kill King, suspect Ray tells Court; Fingerprints of accused on gun---FBI. FBI expert George Jacob Bonebrake testifies Ray's fingerprints were found on a rifle and binoculars discarded at MLK scene--1 print on the rifle, one on the scope and also on the binoculars, he said. He compared them with fingerprints of Ray in the L.A. police file and found they belonged to one and the same individual. Ray's lawyer seeking save Ray from extradition by contending MLK killing was a political crime.
- 27 NY Post p. 1: Ray on stand; denied he killed Dr. King. Denies testimony that he said "I feel so trapped" when apprehended by Scotland Yard. Clerk who sold rifle identifies Ray in affidavit.
- 28 NY Times p. 1: Ray tells court he is not guilty. U.S. says at London hearing his fingerprints were on rifle and binoculars. Detective asserts he said "God, I feel so trapped" after arrest.

June 1968

- 29 NY Post p. 26: Three important Memphis witnesses "disappeared," believed to be in protective custody.

July 1968

- 2 Ray is ordered to be returned to U.S. NOSI front page. David Calcutt, for U.S., tells court there was no conspiracy, no other man or other body was involved, it was a lone assassination for private purposes. Magistrate says no difficulty in establishing prima facie case vs Ray, says no evidence produced to show it was not an individual act.
- 2 NY Post: Ray loses, back to U.S. Faces trial in King slaying.
- 3 NY Post p. 22: Ray's lawyers working on appeal
- 5 NY Times p. 12: FBI studies order for books submitted by Eric Starvo Galt, 3-volume set on American Presidency ordered by typewriter by "Galt" late April 1968 giving Lorraine Motel, Memphis as return address. May have been prankster.
- 6 NY Times p. 19: Book tells of stern Maddox order on MLK funeral march, reports he said "shoot them down" if they tried enter capitol at MLK rites.  
P. 10: American lawyer visits Ray in prison. Charles Q. Stevens has been taken into protective custody.
- 6 NY Post p. 6: Police guard key witness Charles Q. Stevens