

ALABAMIAN NAMED IN DR. KING INQUIRY

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F.B.I. Seeking to Question 36-Year-Old White Man —Car Found in Atlanta

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MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 11—

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was seeking a 36-year-old Alabama man tonight for questioning in connection with the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was killed by a sniper's bullet here a week ago tonight.

The man was identified as Eric Starvo Galt, a 5-foot 11-

inch white man weighing 175 pounds.

An F.B.I. bulletin said that Mr. Galt was last seen driving a white Mustang automobile. The car, bearing Alabama license plate 1-38993, was found abandoned tonight near a housing project in Atlanta.

A resident of the project said that the automobile was abandoned at 8:30 A.M. last Friday by a white man who was about 5-foot 9-inches tall, who weighed about 165 pounds and who had sandy colored hair.

Inadvertently Released

The bulletin describing Mr. Galt was apparently released inadvertently by the F.B.I., which has been conducting its investigation in the case under the strictest secrecy. The bulletin was withdrawn two hours after its release in an attempt to avoid publicity.

The F.B.I.'s headquarters in Washington refused to comment, but a source said that agents wanted to talk with Mr. Galt in connection with the slaying of Dr. King.

The source stressed that seeking Mr. Galt for questioning did not necessarily mean he would be charged with complicity in the slaying of Dr. King.

Mr. Galt was said to have blue eyes and brown hair and his birthdate was listed as July 20, 1931.

The F.B.I. bulletin said that his last known address was

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2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham.

A Birmingham reporter who went there tonight said that a shabby rooming house was located at the address and that other residents said they had last seen Mr. Galt about three months ago.

The residents said that F.B.I. agents had been "swarming" around the area most of today.

The neighborhood was described as a former elite residential area of mansions 50 to 60 years old. Mr. Galt's rooming house was said to be a big white structure with a red neon sign over its door saying: "Rooms."

No occupation was given for Mr. Galt.

A check with Alabama authorities disclosed that the license number listed for the automobile being sought by the F.B.I. had been issued to "Eric S. Galt."

The area in Atlanta where Mr. Galt's automobile was found tonight is about six miles from the Atlanta airport.

The Atlanta Constitution, which first reported that the car had been abandoned, said that residents of the housing project had "joked" over the weekend that the car abandoned there last Friday resembled the one in which Dr. King's slayer was believed to have fled.

Last Thursday night, the Memphis Police and Fire Director, Frank C. Holloman, said

that the man suspected of shooting Dr. King from a toilet in a run-down rooming house was about 30 years old and 5 feet 10 inches tall, and weighed about 165 pounds. He was described as having sandy hair.

Before the car was impounded in Atlanta and the bulletin on Mr. Galt issued today, Joseph Sullivan, an F.B.I. inspector, arrived in Memphis to assist in the investigation of Dr. King's killing.

Inspector Sullivan was in charge of an investigation in Mississippi in the murder of three civil rights workers whose bodies were found under a dam in Philadelphia.

The F.B.I. bulletin was issued on a statewide police network in Florida at 6:37 P.M. over the name of Agent Charles Bell. It was canceled at 8:27 P.M. by an agent named John Hanlon.

According to a report today, the bullet that killed Dr. King had been smashed and laboratory technicians of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been unable to match it with the Remington .30-06 caliber rifle believed to have been the assassin's weapon.

Witnesses said that the rifle had been discarded by a long-nosed white man who ran from a rooming house near Dr. King's motel immediately after the shooting.

The F.B.I. refused to comment in the report that the bullet could not be identified. But the report was consistent with information furnished by

a source in Memphis, who said that the bullet was soft-nosed and had been squashed, apparently when it hit Dr. King's left shoulder blade.

Soft-nosed bullets are used in big game hunting because they expand on contact and do much more damage than do the steel-jacketed bullets used by soldiers.

The Remington .30-06 caliber rifle cartridges are powerful enough to kill a man at a distance of more than a half-mile.

In another development today, the Remington Company at Bridgeport, Conn., confirmed that one of its 30-'06 rifles had been traced by the F.B.I. through its serial number.

A company spokesman said, however, that employes had been told not to give out information such as where the rifle had been shipped to be sold at retail.

The rifle apparently purchased by the assassin or an accomplice in Birmingham, Ala., last week. A clerk at a gun store near the Birmingham Airport said that the F.B.I. had checked the store's records, but she denied that the rifle was sold there. "That is just a rumor," she said.

The police refused to say today whether there were any further developments in the investigation of false police broadcasts that drew police attention away from downtown Memphis about 30 minutes after Dr. King was shot.

False reports of a dramatic car

chase, including the exchange of shots between a white Mustang and a blue Pontiac, were broadcast over the central police radio shortly after Dr. King had been taken to a hospital.

Witnesses near the scene of the shooting had given statements that led police to believe that the assassin had fled in a white Mustang.

The police dispatcher making the broadcast said that the descriptions of a chase were being fed to him by "police car 160."

A review of a tape recording of the broadcast showed that at one point the dispatcher said that the officer in police car 160 had gotten information from a "complainant."

There was speculation in the Police Department today that Lieut. R. W. Bradshaw, the officer who was assigned to car 160 on the night of the murder, might have been relaying information furnished to him over a citizens band radio.

Lieutenant Bradshaw refused to comment.

Clark 'Optimistic as Ever'

Attorney General Clark asserted last night that he was as "optimistic as ever" that the killer of Dr. King will be apprehended.

He commented before delivering a formal address at a dinner of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at the Waldorf-Astoria, where he received the League's 1968 Human Rights Award.