

NEW THEORY TOLD IN DR. KING INQUIRY

Man Sought by the F.B.I. May Have False Identity

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 13—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been checking the possibility that a white man wanted for questioning in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spent several months in Birmingham last fall creating a false identity.

The bureau refused to comment. But a source confirmed that agents had been exploring the likelihood that Eric Starvo Galt was an assumed name.

Mr. Galt has been sought for several days for questioning.

Apparently, very little concrete information about Mr. Galt, whose age was given in an F.B.I. bulletin Thursday night as 36 years, has been developed.

He showed up in Birmingham last summer and lived in the Economy Grill and Rooms, a stucco two-story boarding house on Birmingham's South Side.

Last Aug. 30, he bought a 1966 white Mustang automobile from the sales manager of a Birmingham lumber company. For it he paid \$2,000 in cash, which he got from a safety deposit box at a Birmingham bank.

Driver's License Issued

On Sept. 6, 1967, Mr. Galt took a driver's test at Birmingham. The application for the driver's license said that he had been accompanied to the testing station by Peter Nicholas Cherpes, the manager of the Economy Grill and Rooms.

Mr. Cherpes has said that Federal investigators asked him not to answer any questions about Mr. Galt.

The driver's license was issued Sept. 30.

On the application for his license, Mr. Galt said that he had obtained a driver's license in Louisiana in 1962.

Col. Thomas Burbank, director of the Louisiana State of Police, said that driver license records were kept on microfilm in Baton Rouge and that the records room was closed yesterday and for the weekend.

Before Federal agents had told residents at the Economy

Grill and Rooms in Birmingham not to answer questions about Mr. Galt, a telephone repairman who lived there said that Mr. Galt had left the rooming house about three months ago.

Mr. Galt bought 1968 license tag 1-38993 for his Mustang last fall while still living at the rooming house, whose address is 2608 South Highland Avenue.

On March 1, 1968, he applied by mail for a duplicate of his driver's license, and it was sent to him at that address.

Gun Records Checked

Federal agents have been checking records of the Remington Arms Company at Bridgeport, Conn. The records disclosed that a Remington 30-'06-caliber rifle, which was found on a Memphis street shortly after Dr. King's assassination, had been shipped to a Birmingham gun store.

A Federal source emphasized

that agents wanted only to question Mr. Galt. No charges have been filed against him and may not be, the source said.

During the month that he lived in the rooming house in Birmingham, Mr. Galt apparently made no friends.

Most of the residents there are transients, some staying only a day or so.

A Negro handyman at the rooming house said that he barely remembered Mr. Galt. "I haven't seen him for quite some time," he said.

The lease on Mr. Galt's safety deposit box at a Birmingham bank expired in December and was not renewed.

On the driver's license application last September, Mr. Galt gave his occupation as merchant marine. A check showed that no seaman's papers had ever been issued to an Eric Starvo Galt.

Mr. Galt's automobile was impounded by the police and

Federal agents in Atlanta Thursday. Residents of a nearby housing project said that the car had been parked there since early on Friday morning, April 5, about 13 hours after Dr. King was killed in Memphis.

The white man who drove it there was alone and locked the car and walked away, the residents said.

A minister notified the police that the car was there because the car fit the general description of one that had been seen leaving the scene of Dr. King's murder.

The F.B.I., which has taken over almost all of the investigation of Dr. King's killing, has refused on numerous occasions to make any public statements about the inquiry.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark has said several times that he was hopeful of a quick solution.