

New York Post

© 1968 New York Post Corporation

Vol. 167
No. 127

NEW YORK, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1968

10 Cents
15c Beyond 50-Mile Zone

FBI WIDENS HUNT FOR KING KILLER

By RALPH BLUMENFELD

The FBI today widened its search for a phantom fugitive named Eric Starvo Galt, the lone potential suspect so far in the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. 11 days ago.

The dragnet reportedly has stretched for the first time into the Midwest — northward from the Memphis murder scene—while federal agents continue combing the south from Miami to Virginia.

With no sign of a quick solution now, the hunt for Galt has taken on mounting importance. His 1966 white Mustang with Alabama plates, found abandoned in Atlanta Friday, fits descriptions of a car seen speeding from near the motel where King was shot.

But the FBI refused to acknowledge its pursuit of Galt and would not comment on Associated Press disclosures that agents have questioned persons named Galt in several states.

"We don't know a thing about this person," said the wife of the Rev. Ralph Galt of Birmingham, Ala. "We

Continued on Page 3

**LATE
CITY**

**Over the
Counter Stocks**

FBI Widens The Hunt for King's Killer

Continued from Page 1

have checked all the relatives we can think of. We've checked pictures, and this man's description doesn't ring a bell."

The Rev. Galt, a white minister who teaches at the predominantly Negro Miles College in Birmingham, is the only Galt listed in the phone book there, although the missing Galt lived briefly at a South Birmingham boarding house last year.

State records show that he bought the Mustang Aug. 30, reportedly paying \$2,000 cash, and was issued the plates found on the abandoned car in Atlanta—Alabama tag 1-38993. His driver's license application listed him as an unemployed seaman, 5-11, 175 pounds, blue eyes and brown hair, 37 years old.

Except for the age, the physical description is close to that of a man seen fleeing a Memphis rooming house across from King's motel after the murder. Merchant marine records do not list Galt.

There has been speculation about his name, which sounds fictitious to some of the Galts being questioned by the FBI. They point out that the villain in one of Ian Fleming's James Bond novels, "On Her Majesty's Secret," was named Ernst Stavro Blofeld. And Ayn Rand's novel, "Atlas Shrugged," posed the question: "Who is John Galt?" It was widely used in the book's advertising campaign.

"PhieeiFlfig"iii fi

FBI men combing Alabama,

Florida and Virginia were said to be flashing an artist's sketch of the face of King's killer. Two hitchhikers near Jacksonville, Fla., were arrested after a Negro motorist told police one of them was "a dead ringer" for the man in the sketch. The FBI cleared the hitchhikers of any connection with the assassination, but they were jailed anyway on vagrancy charges.

Memphis police said the FBI was withholding nationwide distribution of the sketch. "They haven't given us anything but a physical description... they aren't handing out pictures of the man," said one police official who asked for anonymity. "They either don't have a good one, or they're going it alone."

Photo Requests Turned Down

The FBI description of the assassin estimates his age as 30-32 and says he's 5-10 and 165 with a receding hairline and a long, thin nose.

Reporters who asked for a copy of the FBI sketch were turned down.

There is no hint that the FBI has a photograph of Galt, or that one exists. Except for his car registration and license applications, his name appears nowhere on official government records.

Tenants of the boarding house can't recall anything about Galt except that he seemed neat and clean. "My memory of him is so dim," said C. J. Davis, 26. "I don't guess there's any softer thing as a typical person."

Absent for Weeks at a Time

It cost \$22 a day for a room and two meals, but Galt apparently was gone for weeks or months at a time from his room, No. 14, on the ground floor. Owner-manager Peter Cherpes wouldn't say what rate Galt paid, whether it was lately—or even whether Galt still has the room.

Cherpes knew Galt better than anyone yet turned up by reporters in Birmingham. He accompanied Galt to his driving test Sept. 6, records show, and is the only person known to have spent any time with the man who has become a phantom. But Cherpes says he has told the FBI everything he knows about Galt. He politely refuses to discuss the case at all.