

## King Probe Pressed

# Landlord Identifies Drawing of Suspect

By DON M'KEE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) —The owner of a boarding house said today he had identified a drawing of a man sought in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a roomer known by the name Eric Galt.

"It's him, I'm sure," said Peter Cherpes, 72, who runs a boarding house on Birmingham's South Side. Cherpes consented to talk after the FBI responded to his request to be released from a secrecy pledge.

CHERPES said FBI agents showed him drawings about last Wednesday, or two days before a car registered in the name of Eric Starvo Galt was found abandoned in Atlanta. The car, a white Mustang with an Alabama license tag, matched the description of a car seen leaving the assassination scene in Memphis,

Tenn., where King was shot April 4.

Cherpes was shown a newspaper artist's drawing of the assassin Monday and he said it was much like the drawings exhibited by federal

agents. Cherpes said the sketches "looked exactly like Galt."

The man known as Eric Starvo Galt has become the object of a widening search

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by FBI agents, who have been contacting persons with the same name or similar names from Virginia to Florida and sifting through dozens of stores and businesses in Birmingham for clues to the missing man.

THE FBI issued an alert, called a "locate and notify" dispatch, in Florida for Galt last Friday at about the time the white Mustang was being impounded in Atlanta. The alert was withdrawn four hours later with the explanation that it had been erroneous.

Since then, the FBI had declined to say anything about Galt. There was no warrant for Galt, the FBI said last Friday. Galt rented a room from him, Cherpes said, last fall, at about the time the hunted man obtained an Alabama driver's license. He also purchased with cash a white Mustang from a Birm-

ingham car salesman. He listed his occupation as merchant seaman, unemployed.

Cherpes said that when Galt registered he noted on the registration card that he last had worked at the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corp. at Pascagoula, Miss.

Cherpes said Galt came to the boardinghouse in August 1967 and left Oct. 7, 1967, saying he was going to Mobile to look for a job.

MEANWHILE, in Jacksonville, Fla., a man picked up for questioning about the assassination was cleared, police said.

Agents have exhibited composite drawings of a man's face, but no photographs, according to persons contacted in Birmingham.

At the same time, police sources in Memphis disclosed yesterday that the FBI was withholding nationwide distribution of a composite drawing of King's killer, who fired the death shot from a dingy second floor bathroom in a rundown rooming house. King, leader of nonviolent civil rights forces, was struck in the neck as he stood on a second floor motel balcony facing the rear of the rooming house.

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