The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Southeastern Massachusetts University

North Dartmouth, Massachusetts 02747

College of Arts and Sciences
Political Science Department

March 21, 1984

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Suite 900
Twin Towers Building
1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Bud:

When you called yesterday I did not have the enclosed clipping in front of me. I wondered if the clipping is accurate. If the letter was postmarked the month before Ray escaped, then this establishes a very early surfacing of the Galt alias. Was the envelope written by Ray, or someone else? Who was it to?

Since the how and when of the adoption of the Galt alias is so crucial yet mysterious, it seems that - depending on the date, origin, and content of the envelope - it could be very significant. I'll greatly appreciate anything you can provide.

Best Regards,

Phil

Philip H. Melanson

PHM:t

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Envelope Is Cited By Ray Attorney

By WAYNE CHASTAIN
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

A battered envelope, postmarked one month before James Earl Ray escaped from the Missouri State Prison, was one of the leads obtained by Ray's defense attorneys this week after they examined in detail for the first time the state's evidence against Ray, who is now serving 90 years for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, one of the defense attorneys said today.

Bernard (Bud) Fensterwald, a Washington, D.C. attorney who joined Memphis attorney Richard Ryan last month in defending Ray, said the envelope was addressed to a "doctor" at a flophouse in Atlanta with a return address of a political organization.

"Marked across the top was Eric Starvo Galt," Fensterwald said. "There were some penciled notations about Galt being a man good for some odd jobs . . ."

The state contends that Galt was an alias Ray used when he registered in a Memphis motel the night before Dr. King was fatally shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

Fensterwald, who received permission from the court last month to examine the state's evidence for the first time, said the envelope was among the evidence he examined at the Memphis police department's property room where the Ray evidence is stored.

There was nothing in the state's summary of proof, Fensterwald said, about the envelope or about the individual the letter was apparently addressed to.

The attorney also said the 30 caliber metal jacketed bullet extracted from Dr. King's body was intact enough that it could be subjected to a spectrographic analysis, adding that there was no indication in the state's proof that it had ever undergone any such tests.

A new trial motion will be heard Sept. 2. Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale will ask for dismissal of Ray's request for a new trial on the grounds that it does not allege any violations of Ray's constitutional rights.

Yesterday, Criminal Court Judge William Williams denied a defense motion by Fensterwald and Ryan for a spectrographic analysis of the bullet that killed Dr. King.

Orig & one to Bureau 7-14-70.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

PRESS SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7/11/70
Edition:
Author:
Editor: CHARLES H. SCHNEIDER
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 44-1987
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

44-1987-Sub-C-4

INDEXED
FILED
70.

Dear Jim, 4/5/84

With regard to Melanson's 3/21 to Bud and the attached 44-1987-Sub C-4, the Chastain story headed "Envelope Is Cited By Ray's Attorney," as I told you I had no recollection of Bud ever telling me that he had a Ray envelope indicating that Ray had used the Galt alias before escaping McPen. Or perhaps it was intended to reflect t at Ray wrote to the flophouse address in Atlanta before he escaped and thus new the place before escaping, which could be significant.

This record was disclosed to me in C.A. 75-1996. I've checked the files. That Sub consists of clippings and I did make copies of some of them. I can tell by the binding. I've checked them for the rest of the year and there is no further story of this nature or any other reference to that matter.

I do not recall any other record relating to this matter. If anyone wants me to, I can go over the Memphis and/or Atlanta main files for that time period, on the chance I missed something. But I won't now unless Bud or Phil wants me to.

I see the envelope was not Ray's as I reread the story. I therefore think that the FBI had an interest in the organization from which it was sent or the doctor to whom it was addressed and has no connection with Ray.

Best,