FBI

Date: 8-19-68

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Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN.

Submitted herewith for information and assistance of the Bureau is a press clipping which appeared in the "Memphis Commercial Appeal" on the morning of 8-18-68. This article indicates that WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE has obtained book and movie rights for an account from handwritten notes of JAMES EARL RAY regarding the Dr. KING murder.

On 8-18-68, Sheriff WILLIAM N. MORRIS JR [redacted] advised SAC, Memphis, of certain information that had come to his attention in connection with JAMES EARL RAY. Sheriff [redacted] showed SAC a MORRIS copy of a questionnaire prepared by WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, intended for subject RAY. The initial paragraph of this questionnaire indicated that JAMES EARL RAY had furnished information to [redacted] regarding an employment at the Indian Trail Restaurant for an approximate period of two months. This restaurant located in Winnetka, Illinois. The tenor of the material indicated that RAY had had this employment in Winnetka, Illinois, shortly after his escape from the Missouri Prison on 4/23/68. In addition, the introductory paragraph also indicated that RAY had left prison, gone to Chicago, Illinois, and thereafter to Toronto, Canada.

This questionnaire was a new item, and Sheriff MORRIS [redacted] advised that Attorney General PHIL M. CANALE was cognizant of this information. Sheriff [redacted] advised that WILLIAM BRADFORD MORRIS HUIE had told him that he had paid HANES to represent RAY so that he could get the story from RAY first hand. Sheriff [redacted] MORRIS

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C. C. Bishop

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Approved: R G Jensen Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

was of the opinion that the information which appeared in the initial paragraph of the questionnaire was information which Attorney HANES had delivered to HUIE. This may well place this type material in the nature of privileged information.

In addition, Sheriff [redacted] advised that JAMES EARL RAY is a little more at ease with the guards at the present time than he was during his earlier incarceration. In fact, Sheriff [redacted] stated that JAMES EARL RAY had informed the guards that he was most embarrassed when he had been arrested for jay-walking in Toronto. RAY told the guards that he and two buddies had been arrested at the same time for jay-walking. No date or time given by RAY for this arrest in Toronto.

The reported employment in Winnetka, Illinois, shortly after RAY's escape from Missouri State Pen, appears to be new information. It is not felt that verification of this employment would add anything to the investigation of the murder of Dr. KING, per se. It is felt that inquiry by the Bureau at this time for the verification of this employment might only add material to WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE's ultimate story. Memphis at this time recommends that no investigation by the Bureau be conducted to verify this employment.

Insofar as the jay-walking arrest in Toronto, since this information came via the guards at the Shelby County Jail, it is felt that inquiries should be made of the Toronto Police to ascertain whether or not they have such an arrest record. If such an arrest record is available, the identities of the so-called two buddies should be determined. Since no date was given as to the time of this alleged arrest, it is felt investigation should be held in abeyance. In the event this jay-walking arrest occurred at the time of RAY's first visit in Canada, here again it is not felt that extensive investigation would necessarily add anything to the investigation of the murder of Dr. KING. If, however, this jay-walking arrest did occur after the shooting of Dr. KING, the Memphis Office is of the opinion these so-called two buddies should be located and interviewed.