DAY/TIMER Time-Saver LETTER

JAMES H. LESAR, ESQ.
910 16th ST., N.W.
SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

IN REFERENCE TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL ☐ INTER-OFFICE ☐

FOR Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

HOW TO USE THIS DAY/TIMER Time-Saver LETTER TO SAVE TIME.

Type or write your reply in the space below. Then mail the white copy to us and keep the pink copy for your files. You'll save time and effort, and we'll have your answer much faster! Thank you.

MESSAGE

FOLD

DATE 10/22/80

Dear Harold,

Enclosed are some papers which I copied from James Earl Ray's suit against the FBI when I was down at court one day a few months ago but never found time to send you.

Jim

SIGNED

REPLY

FOLD

DATE

10/27*- Vintage Jimmy- great effort to get the immaterial - five years after refusing to have any FOIA interests when I suggested them. ...There is the possibility that JER was not in Atlantathe day his laundry records show he put it in, but nobody seems interested in pursuing that. Even mentioning the possibility. ...The new John records are very good to have but neither of us can now do anything with them. ...I don't see how JER expects to get any useful information from the bank robbery records. This is what he is after before Green, at least in part. ...He is also seeking clemency. Heard from Jerry and there was the brief piece in yesterday's Post. He'll be putting in a case in that effort. I'll be interested in the part where he shows who financed the job he says he didn't pull. H

SIGNED

RE-ORDER FORM No. 82352L © DAY-TIMERS, Allentown, Pa. 18001

Green, J. J.
Let this be filed June 27

United States District Court
District of Columbia
Washington, D.C. 20001.

June 25, 1979

James E. Ray
B.M.P.
Petros, TN. 37845.

in re: Ray v. F.B.I. no. 79-1279.

FILED
JUL 27 1979
JAMES E. DAVEY, Clerk

Dear Sir:

In reference to the aabove titled case, initially an F.O.I. request by Plaintiff for certain records pertaining to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr. case, since the plaintiff is acting pro se, and in order to expediate the matter assuming the government is acting in good faith in the matter of providing plaintiff with the material in controversy, the plaintiff respectfully makes the following suggestion:

That the F.B.I. provide the court with all of the censored & withheld material in controversy for an in-chamber inspection and determination as to whether the release of withheld segments of said material would be inappropriate under the exceptions in the F.O.I. Act, or for national security.

Further, in order that there be no misunderstanding as to the material in controversy: What plaintiff has requested from the F.B.I. are bureau investigative reports delineating where plaintiff was located during the period commencing March 30th 1968 and terminating April 2nd 1968, e.g., name of Motels, if any, plaintiff lodged in on said dates.

It would make no difference whether the F.B.I. gathered this information in 1978, when plaintiff's representatives commenced investigating the matter & the F.B.I. intruded therein or, the original F.B.I. 1968 investigation into said locations. Plaintiff specifically refers to the F.B.I. 1968 investigation because if the

F.B.I. in the instant suit is merely required to divulge their 1978 investigation it could in effect provide the bureau with deniability if in the future the true location of plaintiff during the aforementioned period is determined to be other than what the F.B.I. now contends.

In addition, evidently it is standard procedure for the F.B.I. to canvas Motels over a wide area seeking suspect(s) when ever a serious crime is committed that provides the bureau with jurisdiction. Accordingly there would appear to be no question in the F.B.I. investigation of the King case but what the bureau(after learning Plaintiff was a suspect in April 1968 and was in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968, and thereafter traveled under the name, Eric Galt, in a Mustang Automoble to Memphis, Tennessee, arriving there April 2, 1968), did interview all Motel owners/managers situated on route 72, the main highway between Birmingham and Memphis.

The importance of the matter in controversy is that both the F.B.I. and a "Select Committee of the United States House of Representatives" investigating the Martin Luther King jr. homicide have publicly contended plaintiff was in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 1, 1968, and thereafter followed Dr. King to Memphis, Tennessee, after he (King), announced on April 1, 1968, his intention to travel to Memphis, Tennessee. The Plaintiff denies being in Atlanta on April 1, 1968, rather contending he was in the State of Mississippi on said date.

cc: U.S. Atty Gen.
U.S. Atty, D.C.
F.B.I.

Respectfully submitted:

James E. Ray

Reproduction of Materials for Congressional Inquiry Only

Doc. # 7

Date 9/8/77

The following material has been reproduced for existing and review at FBIHQ by representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No. 91-27494

Section —

Serials 1 through 32

(except following serials not in file on this date:

Enclosure Behind File or Bulky Enclosure:

No. Copies 2 By JTA

RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

ATTACHMENT B

Mr. Lomax B. Coley
Sheriff, Alcorn County
Corinth, Mississippi. 38834.

10 October 1978

James E. Ray #65477
B.M.P.
Petros, TN.37845.

Dear Sheriff Coleman:

This letter pertains to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr homicide and related matter as follows:

On April 1, 1968, I checked into a Motel in Corinth, Mississippi, and departed the following morning. Until just recently I assumed the authorities knew this consequently I never asked anyone to check into the matter. Now I learn the authorities believe I was else where April 1st.

My reason(s) for this letter is to enquire if your office has a record, through perhaps a routine check of cars registered in Motels on the aforementioned date, of the automobile I was driving. It was a 1966 Mustang registered under the name of Eric S. Galt; Alabama tag no. B 8995.

Also, assuming Motels have to be licensed by the city or county in Mississippi, would either of thoes Governments require Motels to retain, or furnish them to retain, a list of the Motel Guests ? possibly for tax purposes.

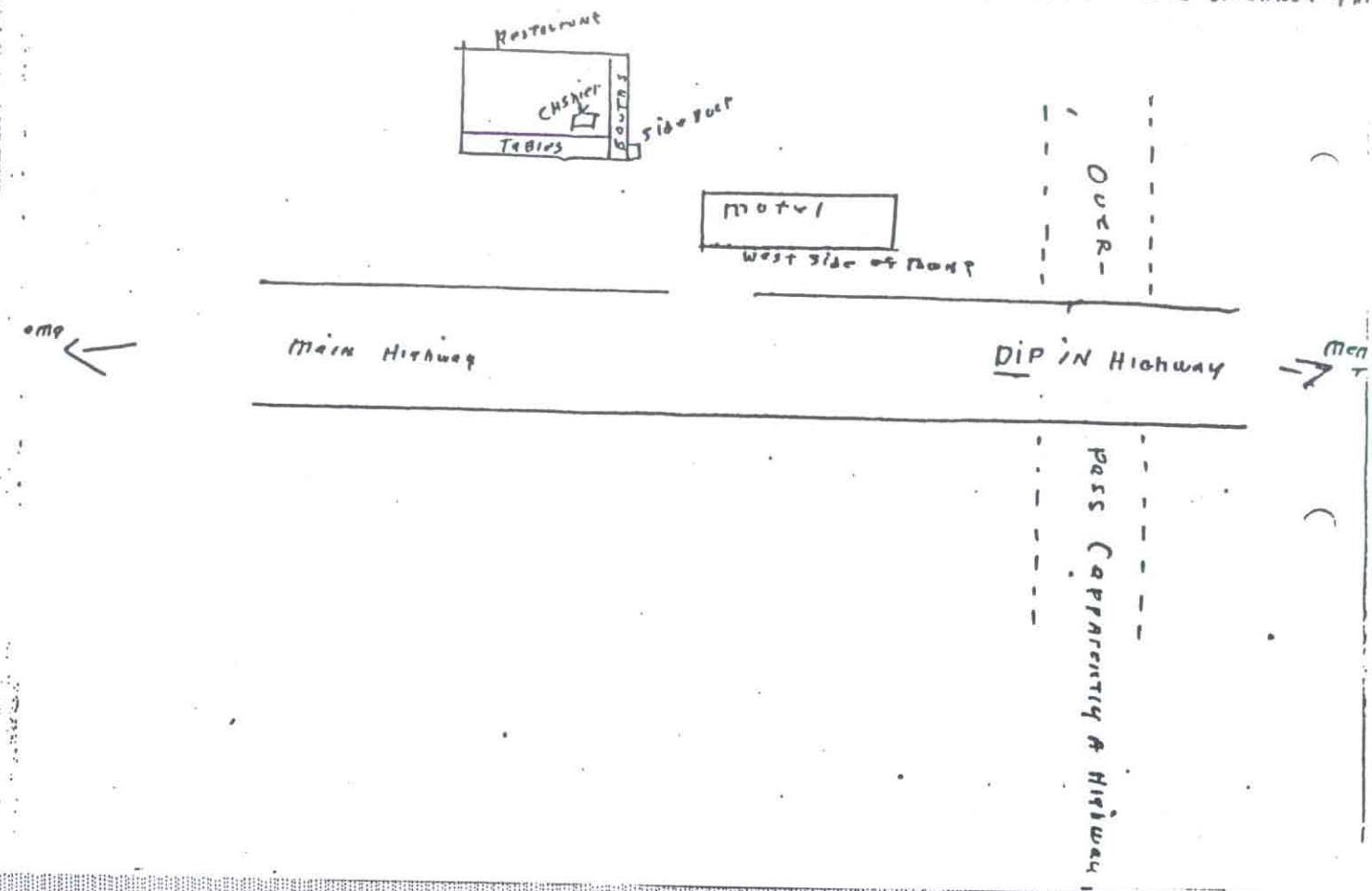
Finally any other information about the above subject from your office would be very much appreciated, such as the 1968 Owner of the Motel I stayed in (see diagram attached), providing the Diagram can be matched with the Motel.

Sincerely:

James Ray

from DIP.

2. Not sure about restaurant or just how far from Motel. Restaurant Even with motel ± believe. I had breakfast th



4-750 (2-7-79)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

5 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
INFORMATION PROVIDED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-38861-6339

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

79-1229

16

United States Department of Justice

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

JUL 6 1979

Mr. James Earl Ray
#65477
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros, Tennessee 37845

Re: Appeal No. 9-1337

Dear Mr. Ray:

You appealed from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your request for access to records taken in 1978 from the Southern Motel after receipt of information from Sheriff Coleman and the file on the Alton, Illinois, bank robbery.

As a result of discussions between Bureau personnel and members of my staff, a supplemental release of records is enclosed. After careful consideration of your appeal, I have otherwise decided to affirm the action in this case.

The bank robbery is the subject of one Bureau main file from which you have received or been offered access to all information with the exception of the identities of individuals contacted by or who provided information to the Bureau. 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7)(C) and (7)(D). These pertain to investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which would, respectively, constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties and disclose the identities of confidential sources. This material is not appropriate for discretionary release.

There were no records taken from the Southern Motel in 1978. Records reflecting the contact with Sheriff Coleman are enclosed. The identity of the individual from the Alabama Hotel & Motel Association will continue to be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7)(C). This item cannot be the subject of a discretionary release.

Your letter of June 12, 1979, expands the scope of your initial request to include documents taken from the motel

EXHIBIT G

prior to 1978, as well as any materials reflecting the investigation of your whereabouts on March 30, March 31 and April 1, 1968. This new request has been referred to the F.B.I. With respect to this new request, three readily retrievable documents concerning the motel records were located and are enclosed. Should you desire a hand search of the files for other materials on the motel records or on the investigation into your whereabouts, you need merely so advise the Bureau and it will notify you of the search costs.

I wish to advise you with respect to all of your requests that field offices have not been searched for records. It would appear that the most likely location of the motel records is the Jackson Field Office. It would be likely that a search of that office would be less costly than a search at Headquarters. The F.B.I. also has indicated, with regard to your broad request for records concerning your whereabouts, that virtually all information in the ninety-three volumes of the King Assassination file would be included in this request. Copies of these documents will be made available to you, if you wish, upon payment of $2,177.40, the cost of reproducing 21,774 pages. If you wish to have either Bureau Headquarters or the Jackson Field Office searched for the motel records, please advise those offices of any aliases under which you registered.

Although I am aware that you have already instituted suit in this matter, I am required by law and departmental regulation to fully advise you of your right to judicial review of my action. Such review is available to you in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which you reside, or in the District of Columbia, which is also where the records you seek are located.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Egan
Associate Attorney General

By: Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

Enclosures

79-1279

Mr. Allen R. McCreight
F.O.I. Branch
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C...20535.

17 November 1978

James E. Ray #65477
B.M.P.
Petros, TN.37845.

FILED

JUL 16 1979

JAMES F. DAVEY, Clerk

Dear Sir:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act as amended (5 U.S.C. § 552).

I write to request all files in the below listed subject matter. I am unaware of the name the files are indexted under therefore I will be specific in my requests. I do know they pertain to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr. homicide.

1) Just recently I wrote to Sheriff Edwin B. Coleman, Sheriff of Alcorn County, Mississippi providing him a diagram of a Motel I stayed over-night in begining on 1st April 1968. The name of the Motel is the "Southern". Subsequently Sheriff Coleman informed the F.B.I. and the bureau's Mississippi office confiscate said Motel files, logs, registration cards, ect. & apparently told the owner of said Motel to deny I was ever a quest in the establishment, in Corinth, Miss. I hereby request a phot-copy of all papers taken from said Motel.

2) Just recently a Select Committee of the United States House of Representatives has accused me of robbing a Bank on July 13, 1967. The Bank is/was located in Alton, Illinois.
I hereby request the information as follow in respect to said Bank Robbery:

A. Copies of all statements made by Bank employees who were witnesses to the Robbery.

B. Records of any suspects in the Robbery.

C. The type of Automobile, ect., use in said Robbery if any.

D. The type of weapons used in said Robbery.

E. Any other Documents in the F.B.I. files which would clarify this matter.

If you determine that some or all of the requested information is exempt from release, I would appreciate your advising me as to which exemptions you believe covers the information which you are not releasing.

MP 3pgs

Exhibit A

I am prepared to pay costs specified in your regulations for locating the requested files and reprodding them; however, as you know the Amended Act permits you to reduce or waive fees, if that "is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the public". I believe this request plainly fits that category in that I do not request said files for any financial gain, resale, ect., but to avail them to said Seledt Committee and the Free Pres· if the press wishes the Documents. Therefore I ask you to waive any fees.

As provided in the amended Act, I will expect to receive a reply within ten working days.

Sincerely: James E Ray

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF MORGAN)

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 17th day of November, 1978.
My Commission expires October 17, 1982.
Notary public Brenda F. Dagley.

cc: Select Committee

cc: United pres International.

exempted from these documents, as well as from the documents contained in Volume VIII of the HSCA Hearings pursuant to the provisions of the FOIA, Title 5, United States Code Section 552. The documents are listed numerically by the numbers appearing in the upper right corner of each document, after which are listed the serial numbers as each document appears in FBI files. In some instances there is no FBI serial number and the document is listed as "not recorded." This means that the document is present in the file, but was not assigned a serial number. The description of the document, number of actual pages and number of pages released, description of material withheld and exemptions asserted are also set forth. There then follows a cross-reference to the appropriate portion(s) of paragaph (10), supra.

(12) Identification of Records Within the Scope of Plaintiff's Request

(A) With regard to the FBI file system and the processing of plaintiff's FOIA request, the following description may be of assistance: Administrative, applicant, personnel, general and investigative files compiled for law enforcement purposes are maintained in the FBI Central Records System. A notice describing this system was published at 40 Federal Register 167 (August 27, 1975). The FBI Central Records System consists of one numerical sequence of files broken down according to subject matter. The subject matter of a file may relate to an individual, organization, company, publication or foreign intelligence activity. Access to this system is afforded by the FBI's General Indices arranged in alphabetical order, consisting of approximately 59 million index cards on various subject matters, including names of individuals. The index cards fall into two general categories:

"Main" index cards and "See" (short for "see references or cross-references") index cards. A "main" card carries the name of an individual, organization, activity or the like, which is the main subject of a file contained in the system. A "see" reference card bears the name of an individual, organization, activity or the like, which is referred to or indexed in, but is not the main subject of that particular file maintained in the system. Generally, "see" references contain insufficient information by which a positive identification can be made with a given name. In many instances, receipt of additional information can assist in making a positive identification, or in locating the file in which the requested information is maintained. Furthermore, it should be noted that the FBI indexes neither all names of individuals contacted nor all information received during an investigation. Only those names and that information which is considered pertinent, relevant and necessary for future retrieval are indexed.

(B) In response to plaintiff's request, a search of the General Indices was conducted in order to identify the records in the Central Records System determined to be within the scope of plaintiff's request for information regarding the robbery of the Bank of Alton on July 13, 1967. As a result of this search, a main file was located regarding the FBI's investigation into this matter. It was subsequently ascertained that material contained in this file had been published in Volume VIII of the HSCA Hearings. To determine whether the entire file was included in this volume, a page by page review was executed, comparing the raw file to the published material. As a result of this comparison, seven pages were found to have not been published and were subsequently processed for release to plaintiff.

With respect to plaintiff's request regarding the Southern Motel, however, the responsive records were located in the Congressional Inquiry Unit (CIU) at FBIHQ. This was because the letters and attachments provided by plaintiff to Sheriff Coleman were still being researched and considered by CIU at the time of plaintiff's request, and those documents generated between the Jackson and Memphis Field Offices and FBIHQ continued to be maintained by the CIU concerning this matter. Since those particular documents relative to this aspect of plaintiff's request had not as of that time been forwarded to the FBI's Central Records System for filing, the search necessary to eventually locate these documents had to be accomplished by and within the CIU.

(C) Attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit I are the documents at issue in this suit. Each document has been assigned a number for identification purposes. Documents numbered 1 through 6 concern records dealing with the Southern Motel in Corinth, Mississippi, and Sheriff Edwin B. Coleman of Alcorn County, Mississippi. Documents numbered 7 through 9 are those pages of documents from the FBI file on the robbery of the Bank of Alton, Alton, Illinois, on July 13, 1967, which were not published in Volume VIII of HSCA testimony. Documents numbered 10 through 25 are documents dealing with the Alton bank robbery which were published in the above volume, and in which deletions were made. Due to the reduced size of the pages as they appear in Volume VIII, copies have been made from the FBI documents themselves.

From my examination of each of the documents so identified, I have concluded that every document was compiled and maintained for a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Tron W. Brekke
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of July, 1979.

Notary Public

My Commission expires April 30, 1984.