

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 10/14/68

FROM: SAC, Memphis (44-1982) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Submitted herewith for the Bureau's information are two copies of an Order issued by Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Memphis, Tenn., relative to seating accommodations in the courtroom in anticipation of forthcoming trial.

Also submitted are two copies of an "Order on Scire Facias," issued by Judge BATTLE.

In addition to the above Orders issued by Judge BATTLE, there are enclosed two copies each of the following:

Letter prepared by subject JAMES EARL RAY to his brother JERRY, dated October 14, 1968.

Letter dated October 9, 1968, addressed to subject by his brother, JERRY RAY, St. Louis, Mo.

Letter dated October 14, 1968 from subject to Attorney ARTHUR HANES.

(2 - Bureau (Enc.-10))
1 - Memphis
RGJ:ME
(3)

REC 53

5242



OCT 25 1968

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHIBBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

DIVISION THREE

STATE OF TENNESSEE,

vs.

JAMES EARL RAY, Alias ERIC
STARVO GALT, Alias JOHN WILLARD,
Alias HARVEY LOHMEYER.

§
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§
§
§
§

NOS. 16645 and 16819

ORDER ON SCIRE FACIAS

This cause came on to be heard on a verified petition for citation for contempt of Arthur J. Hanes, Sr., Renfro T. Hays, Roy Hamilton and Charles Edmondson, heretofore filed by the Court-appointed amici curiae; personal service of said petition upon all four named respondents; scire facias issued by this Court ordering said respondents to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of previous orders of this Court; the sworn answer of the respondent Renfro T. Hays; the hearing in open court on the 27th day of September, 1968 and on the 30th day of September, 1968, at which time sworn testimony was adduced by the petitioners and the respondents; the argument of counsel for all parties; the exhibits in the cause, and upon the entire record in this cause, from all of which it appears to the Court:

That the respondents Arthur J. Hanes, Sr., Renfro T. Hays, Roy Hamilton and Charles Edmondson, each, are guilty of contempt as found by this Court in its opinion which has been filed in this cause, and which the Court incorporates by reference in this order the same as if copied herein verbatim; and

The Court being undecided at this time as to what action to

Alias HARVEY LOWMEYER. §
§

ORDER ON SCIRE FACIAS

This cause came on to be heard on a verified petition for citation for contempt of Arthur J. Hanes, Sr., Renfro T. Hays, Roy Hamilton and Charles Edmundson, heretofore filed by the Court-appointed amici curiae; personal service of said petition upon all four named respondents; scire facias issued by this Court ordering said respondents to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of previous orders of this Court; the sworn answer of the respondent Renfro T. Hays; the hearing in open court on the 27th day of September, 1968 and on the 30th day of September, 1968, at which time sworn testimony was adduced by the petitioners and the respondents; the argument of counsel for all parties; the exhibits in the cause, and upon the entire record in this cause, from all of which it appears to the Court:

That the respondents Arthur J. Hanes, Sr., Renfro T. Hays, Roy Hamilton and Charles Edmundson, each, are guilty of contempt as found by this Court in its opinion which has been filed in this cause, and which the Court incorporates by reference in this order the same as if copied herein verbatim; and

The Court being undecided at this time as to what action the Court should take by way of punishment on account of said contempts, and being desirous of giving the matter further consideration,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that this matter be, and the same is hereby, reserved by this Court for further and future orders of this Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the motions of the respondents Roy Hamilton and Charles Edmundson, made by and through their attorneys, the Honorable Armistead Clay and the Honorable Ezra Z. Bryan, at the conclusion of the Court's opinion, to reconsider the Court's action and, in the alternative, to fix punishment, are hereby denied.

To all of which the respondents respectfully except.

W. Benton Burt

J U D G E

Oct. 11, 1968 in case for

1968, Municipal Time

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

STATE OF TENNESSEE

VS.

NO. 16645 Murder First Degree

NO. 16819 Carrying Dangerous Weapon

JAMES EARL RAY
Alias Eric Starvo Galt,
Alias John Willard,
Alias Harvey Lowmeyer,
Alias Harvey Lowmeyer.

ORDER

Attendance in the Courtroom will be limited to the seating accommodations of the Courtroom except insofar as the Court shall order.

The north portion of the Courtroom behind the rails consisting of seats numbered 1 through 42 will be reserved for accredited representatives of the news media who will be admitted to the Courtroom only upon presentation of credentials issued by this Court. The south portion of the back of the Courtroom behind the rails consisting of seats numbered 111 through 111 will be available to members of the public for each session of the Court in order of their appearance except for seats for family and/or friends of the defendant, and seats for family and/or friends of the deceased.

Seat assignments for representatives of news media shall be as follows:

1. Associate Press Representative
2. U. P. I. Representative
3. Associated Negro Press Representative
4. National N. B. C. T.V. and Radio Representative
5. National C. B. S. T.V. and Radio Representative
6. National A. B. C. T.V. and Radio Representative
7. Commercial Appeal Representative
8. Press-Scimitar Representative
9. Tri-State Defender Representative

11. Memphis W M C T.V. Representative
12. Memphis W R E C T.V. Representative
13. Memphis W H B Q T.V. Representative
14. Memphis W.M.P.S. Representative
15. Memphis W.D.I.A. Representative
16. The New York Times and News Service Representative
17. Los Angeles Times and News Service Representative
18. Chicago Daily News Wire Service Representative
19. St. Louis Post Dispatch Representative
20. The Nashville Banner Representative
21. The Nashville Tennessean Representative
22. Washington Daily News-Scripps Howard News Representative
23. Wall Street Journal (National Observer) Representative
24. The Birmingham News Representative
25. Atlanta Constitution Representative
26. This seat to be shared by following named four (4) London newspapers on a revolving basis to be worked out among themselves, and plan to be approved by the Court:
 - (a) The London Daily Mirror Representative
 - (b) The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post Representative
 - (c) The Daily Mail Representative
 - (d) The London Daily Express Representative
27. Reuters Representative
28. Deutsche Press-Agentur Representative
29. Toronto Telegram Representative
30. French News Agency Representative
31. This seat to be shared by Life-Time-Fortune magazines on a revolving basis to be worked out among themselves, and plan to be approved by the Court.
32. Newsweek Representative
33. Harpers Representative
34. Saturday Evening Post Representative
35. Gerold Frank, Doubleday and Company
36. George McMillan, Little Brown and Company
37. W.S.G.H., Birmingham
38. Clay D. Blair, Bantam Books
39. Revolving Seats

41. Revolving Seats

42. " "

Enter.

Clifferton Bower
Judge Division III

Criminal Court, Shelby County, Tennessee

Date: Oct 14 1968

To Mr. Jerry Ray

1902 Cherokee

St. Louis, Missouri,

63118

Dear Jerry,

Oct-14-68

I rec'd your letter a couple days ago.
There is a couple of things I would
like for you to do when you come down.
One I want to sign the power of attorney
over to you, it's just a one page
document giving you the right to sign
anything for me with my name, I
guess you could get me from a notary
and bring it to me I would then sign
it and give it back to you. Also
when you come down I would
like to see you in all the details
concerning your car. I will be in my car

and ask them to give you any
information they have to you on
the limits of an Alabama attorney
to practice in Tennessee, it seems
as if your firm from Alabama you can
just take one case a year up here
and I might help to have a Tennessee
att for the ethics committee being.
I would ask Mr. Hones about this
but he is in Calif. visiting relatives and
I don't know when he will be back.
Well I guess that all for now,
Take it easy. *frig*

P.S.

I think the Bar association is
located in the Criminal Court Building.

Dear Jimmy:

Oct 9, 68

Just a short note to let you know
Jack got back okay, he got back
Friday evening and I received your
letter yesterday.

There isn't much to write about
as I haven't heard from Nancy or anybody
else concerning the case.
I'll probably check down and pay you or
write you about ten days so if you want
me to contact anybody for you let me
know in your address book I can find you
in a day or two.
There isn't much about to write
about, I'm sorry I wanted to let you
know I got your letter.

Love,
Dad

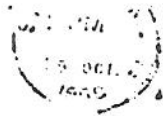
Jimmy

P.S.

I was just on my way way to mail to
mail this letter when I received your last
letter. I was just going over to the
the town which each is at. I'll take
your letter over to him and after we find
out the information you want either then
or I will write you and pass along the
information.

as ever

Yours
[Signature]



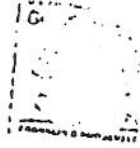
17012
[Faint handwritten address]

air mail

Michigan county jail

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MEMPHIS, TENN.
COUNTY JAIL.



To. Mr. Arthur Honee
Att. at Law.
Birmingham, Alabama.
35203

Dear Mr. Honee;

oct-14-68

I will just write a short note,
everything is about the same, the papers
have been writing about 2 articles everyday
about the case, the last article took up
the whole front page of the 2nd section.
I guess they had a little briefing from
the state attorney office as they come
up with a couple new theories, also
bring me up a set of books as one
suppose to be a hippie according
to the last article. The main reason
I am writing this letter is to say
I haven't made any oral statements
while up here and will not
until I go to court. This would
be similar to the letter I wrote

Oct - 14 - 68

Re your on att. to the Court from England.
I read in the paper a couple of days ago where
the federal court are using this tactic to
get convictions.
Well I suppose that's all for now

Sincerely
James E. Ray.
Memphis County Jail ...