JAMES H. LESAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
910 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W. SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 223-5587

August 21, 1978

Mr. Fred Fiske
WAMU-FM Public Radio
via American University
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Fiske:

Enclosed are some FBI records on members of James Earl Ray's family which Harold Weisberg asked me to send you.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Lesar

EXHIBIT 4 C.A. 78-0249
EXHIBIT 10

PLAINTEXT

May 1, 1968

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Mr. Long

TO: SACS, CHICAGO
KANSAS CITY
ST. LOUIS
SPRINGFIELD

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

MURKIN

FULL COVERAGE IS TO BE AFFORDED THE RELATIVES OF SUBJECT RESIDING IN YOUR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES. THIS WILL INCLUDE A SPOT SURVEILLANCE OF THESE PERSONS AS WELL AS A DETERMINATION OF THEIR ASSOCIATES AND INDIVIDUALS MAKING FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THEM. [redacted] YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS A CONTINUING PROJECT UNTIL OTHERWISE ADVISED BY THE BUREAU. [redacted]

IT WILL BE FULLY INCUMBENT UPON EACH OFFICE TO BE COMPLETELY AWARE OF ANY SITUATION IN WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTACTS RELATIVES

1 - MEMPHIS

REC-71 EX 109

19 MAY 2 1968

REL: ph

(6)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAY 1 1968

TELETYPE

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TELETYPE TO SAC, CHICAGO
KANSAS CITY
ST. LOUIS
SPRINGFIELD

RE: MURKIN

OF THE SUBJECT. YOU SHOULD INSURE THAT EACH RELATIVE IS ADEQUATELY COVERED TO POSSIBLY ASSIST IN THE SUBJECT'S LOCATION AND APPREHENSION.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

NOTE: In view of the fact subject could possibly contact his relatives, the offices covering residence of relatives requested to provide full coverage to provide any information whatsoever that could lead to the subject's apprehension.

EXHIBIT 6

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
APR 26 1968
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FRI [illegible] DC

FRI ST LOUIS

101ORN URGENT 4-26-68 JLS

TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, CHICAGO AND SPRINGFIELD

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN - SUMMARY

JOHN LARRY RAY, BROTHER OF SUBJECT, REINTERVIEWED. MORE COOPERATIVE. ADMITTED VISITNG SUBJECT TWO OR THREE TIMES MSP. WAS IMPRISONED IN ILLINOIS PERIOD OF YEARS PRIOR TO SUBJECTS NINETEEN FIFTY NINE ARMED ROBBERY AND DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECTS ACTIVITIES DURING SAME. AGAIN DENIED CONTACT WITH SUBJECT SINCE ESCAPE OR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

[redacted]. EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD DEVELOPING LIQUOR PERMIT VIOLATION TO SERVE AS LEVER TO FORCE COOPERATION. SUPPLIERS OF GRAPEVINE TAVERN STATE DELIVERIES ARE COD AND PAID IN CASH BY WHO EVER IS ON DUTY. PUBLIC UTILITIES STATE BILLS PAID BY CASH OR MONEY ORDERS, NAME OF REMITTERS NOT YET KNOWN. [redacted]

[redacted] EMPLOYMENT ONE DAY MAY TWENTY EIGHT FIFTY EIGHT GLEN ECHO COUNTRY CLUB VERIFIED. [redacted] SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [redacted] RESIDENCE ONE NINE ONE THREE HICKORY. NOT RECALLED BY EMPLOYEES.

REC-110 44-38861-2243

16 APR 29 1968

END PAGE ONE

~~CORR TEXT LINE FIFTEEN WRD AUVJWXR'S SHOULD BE SUBJECT'S,~~

~~TEXT LINE SIXTEEN WRD SHOULD BE USED~~

66 MAY 3 1968

cc - Long

SL 44-775

COMMERICAL BAKERIES UNABLE TO LOCATE PAY EMPLOYMENT TO DATE.

HIPPIE NEIGHBORHOODS NEGATIVE.

MOBERLY MO STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MEN INMATE [redacted]

[redacted] STATED WHEN HE WAS AT MSP RAY INDICATED INTEREST IN LETTERS

[redacted] RECEIVED FROM MEXICO AND QUESTIONED REGARDING MEXICAN

ECONOMY AND ARMY STRUCTURE.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

EXHIBIT 7

PLAINTEXT

May 2, 1968

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, ST. LOUIS

1 - Mr. Long

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

MURKIN

ST. LOUIS WILL PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE AT THE GRAPEVINE TAVERN TO DETERMINE IF THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE TAVERN IS POSSIBLY ENGAGED IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES WHATSOEVER. ALONG THESE LINES, YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY ASCERTAIN IF THE TAVERN IS POSSIBLY LICENSED AND IS CONFORMING WITH PRESENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THEM. THIS IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE UTILIZED IN CONNECTION WITH INTERVIEWS TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF SUBJECT. KANSAS CITY HAS ADVISED THAT SUBJECT MAY UTILIZED THE ALBERT PEPPER STATIONERY COMPANY, SEVEN ONE TWO A SHENANDOAH STREET, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, AS A MEANS OF GETTING MONEY OUT OF PRISON, ALLEGEDLY PURCHASING STATIONERY.

[redacted]

1 - MEMPHIS

REL: plw (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

TELETYPE TO SAC, ST. LOUIS

RE: MURKIN

[redacted] IF GRAND JURY IS NOT IN SESSION TO SUBPOENA RECORDS, YOU SHOULD INSURE THAT REVIEW OF RECORDS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH FULL SECURITY AND THE BUREAU'S INTEREST WILL BE FULLY PROTECTED.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

NOTE: Kansas City has advised that Ray has utilized the Albert Pepper Stationery Company of St. Louis, Missouri, as a means of getting money out of the prison. [redacted] St. Louis also being instructed to fully cover the Tavern as owned and operated by subject's relatives and to ascertain if illegal activities involved and to establish the Tavern operating in compliance with regulations.

EXHIBIT 10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
MAY 15 1968
TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI ST LOUIS

1126PM URGENT 5-14-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM ST. LOUIS

MURKIN - SUMMARY

RE [redacted] RAY AND JAMES LAOMA OWENS ENTER JEFFERSON-GRAVOIS BANK SL SUMMER SIXTYSEVEN.

CURSORY CHECK OF ALL CHECKING SAVINGS AND INSTALLMENT LOAN ACCO UNDER RAY NAME AND ALIASES AND JAMES LOAMA OWENS AT JEFFERSON-GRAVO BANK SL BY BANK [redacted] TODAY UNPRODUCTIVE. CHECK IN DEPTH ALL BANK RECORDS, INCLDUING SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES, WILL BE MADE TOMO

RE EX CONS [redacted] AND [redacted]

[redacted] TODAY ADVISED HE AND [redacted] VISITED [redacted] LAST NIGHT. ALLEGED [redacted] TOLD OF FBI INTERVIEW. BOTH [redacted] AND [redacted] GAINED DEFINITE IMPRESSION [redacted] HAD HARBORED RAY AFTER ESCAPE, THO [redacted] DID NOT ADMIT TO SUCH IN SO MANY WORDS.

RE [redacted] RRINTERVIEWED EXHAUSTIVELY. AGA DECLINED TO FURNISH SPECIFIC INFO RE DEEP SOUTH BANK ALLEGEDLY ROBBED BY UN-NAMED MAN AND RAY, JUNE JULY SIXTYSEVEN, ON GROUND WANTED FEW MORE DAYS TO DETERMINE IF SOMEONE ELSE AWARE OF SAME, SO HE WILL NOT BE FINGERED AS SOURCE. INSISTED SAW ACCOUNT OF ROBBERY IN CHICAGO END PAGE ONE

REC-44 44-38[illegible]

EX-115

MAY 16 1968

57 MAY 23 1968

SL 44-775

TRIBUNE, BUT NOW PLACES TIME AS MUCH AS MONTH FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE JUNE TWENTY THIRD. NOTE CG CHECK OF TRIBUNE WAS TO END JULY SIXTY-SEVEN. PLACES VISIT OF UN-NAMED MAN FEW DAYS OR WEEKS AFTER TRIBUNE ARTICLE. NOW CLAIMS MAN TOLD HIM ON FIRST VISIT RAY WAS ACCOMPLICE. PLACES SECOND VISIT WITHIN THREE OR FOUR WEEKS OF FIRST, INSTEAD OF SIX WEEKS AGO, AS ORIGINALLY STATED. NOW SAYS MAN JUST CAME FOR CUP OF COFFEE, SECOND VISIT, AND THAT RAY OR TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLAR LOAN MADE ON PREVIOUS VISIT NOT MENTIONED. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH DISCREPANCIES STATED "AS I'VE TOLD YOU, MY BRAIN DON'T WORK RIGHT". STATED MAN MUST HAVE OBTAINED [redacted] ADDRESS FROM RAY AND RAY [redacted] NOW SAYS STATE LINE RIVER WAS MISSISSIPPI AND CITY WHERE BANK ROBBED ON EAST SIDE OF RIVER.

TOLD OF VISIT BY [redacted] WHO HE KNOWS AS [redacted] AND ANOTHER MAN LAST NIGHT. SAID [redacted] ASKED FOR FOOD MONEY. [redacted] GAVE HIM THREE OR FOUR DOLLARS. THEY TALKED OF RAY BEING RED HOT NOW AND BOTH MEN LEFT.

[redacted] EMPHATICALLY DENIED HARBORING RAY, OR KNOWING WHEREABOUTS SINCE ESCAPE. WHEN ADVISED OF REPORT RECEIVED RAY SEEN NEAR HIS RESIDENCE HE STATED IF HE WAS, HE NEVER CAME INSIDE OR CONTACTED HIM IN ANY WAY.

[redacted] CLOSED AS [redacted] UNRELIABLE. BEING CONSIDERED POSSIBLE HARBORER.

END PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

RE CAROL PEPPER SISTER.

CAROL PEPPER RE-INTERVIEWED TODAY. SPECIFICALLY DENIED CONTACT BY OR KNOWLEDGE OF RAY WHEREABOUT SINCE ESCAPE, OTHER THAN WHAT READ IN PAPERS AFTER START OF THIS CASE. SAYS BROTHER JERRY IS ONLY MEMBER OF FAMILY WHO HAS NOT MOVED SINCE ESCAPE, AND IS ONLY ONE WHOSE PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS KNOWN TO RAY. SAYS GRAPEVINE TAVERN BARELY MAKING ESPENSES AND MAY NOT CONTINUE.

RE JOHN LARRY RAY, BROTHER.

JOHN RAY ONLY PERSON OPERATING GRAPEVINE TAVERN TODAY AND COULD NOT BE INTERVIEWED BECAUSE OF CUSTOMERS.

RE JERRY RAYNES, FATHER.

SOURCES AND SPOT CHECK DISCLOSED NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY.

FELLOW PRISONER INTERVIEWS AND LOOK ALIKE RESOLUTIONS CONTINUING.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

BGM

FBI WASH DC

FP

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 1 1968

TELETYPE

EXHIBIT 11

F

FBI WASH DC

FBI ST LOUIS

632PM URGENT 6-1-68 JLS

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

(MURKIN) - SUMMARY

RE JERRY RAYNES, CAROL PEPPER, JOHN LARRY RAY.

SOURCES AND SPOT CHECKS DISCLOSED NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY.

NO PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS OTHER PHASES OF INVESTIGATION TODAY.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

P

REC 11 4130

EX 109

14 JUN 5 1968

Deleted Copy Sent John Larry Ray
by Letter 3/4/76
Per FOIA Request

54 JUN 13 1968

CC -

EXHIBIT 18

5/3/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

1 - Mr. McDonough

TO: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

EX-105

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) — 28-97

MURKIN

REURLET APRIL THIRTY LAST.

YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO OBTAIN [redacted] INDICATED WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED. [redacted]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. AIR MAIL TO MEMPHIS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
MAY 3 1968
TELETYPE

1 - MEMPHIS

EJM:cs
(4)

NOTE: In connection with investigation being conducted by St. Louis, that office requests authority to obtain [redacted] information on [redacted] Portageville, Mo. [redacted] had been described as close associate of subject Ray and allegedly hid Ray out at time he escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967.

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE TWO...

MAY 1 1968

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

NOTE CONTINUED:

[redacted] St. Louis, Missouri. She is landlady of [redacted] former cell mate and alleged close friend of subject Ray.

[redacted] Jerry Raynes, Ray's father who resides at Center, Missouri.

St. Louis also requested authority to obtain similar data on [redacted] Albert and Carol Pepper (sister and brother-in-law of subject) and on the Grapevine Tavern owned by Carol Pepper but operated by John Larry Ray, subject's brother. This coverage has previously been authorized by Butel 4/30/68.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

EXHIBIT 20

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

JUNE

TO Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 9, 1968

FROM A. Rosen

SUBJECT MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Gale

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

PURPOSE: To recommend the installation of a technical surveillance (TESUR) on the telephones of Albert and Carol Pepper, St. Louis, Missouri, and the telephone listed to the Grapevine Tavern in St. Louis, Missouri, owned by Carol Pepper, subject's sister, and operated by John Larry Ray, subject's brother, and the installation of a microphone surveillance at the residences of Carol Pepper, and John Larry Ray, and at the Grapevine Tavern. These installations could assist in the early apprehension of the subject, which could possibly be instrumental in reducing the stresses and tension placed on our national security subsequent to the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

BACKGROUND: We are presently conducting exhaustive and extensive investigation to determine the present whereabouts of the subject James Earl Ray, who is one of the TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES. Although many hundreds of interviews have been conducted and leads run out, we have not been able to locate the subject nor have we located any person who can furnish us any information as to the subject's present whereabouts. It has been determined that Carol Pepper, the sister of the subject, and John Larry Ray, the brother of the subject, are the closest relatives to him. Carol is married to Albert Pepper and they reside at 2025 Belleview, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone number 645-2948. John Larry Ray resides at 1900 A Cherokee, St. Louis, Missouri, no telephone listed. Carol presently owns the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone number PR 6-9417. This tavern is operated by John Larry Ray.

John Larry Ray has expressed a cooperative attitude; however, it is felt that he is not giving us complete and accurate information. Carol Pepper refuses to submit to interview and is not cooperative. It is felt that if the subject telephones or personally contacts any of the relatives, it will most likely be Carol Pepper or brother John Larry Ray.

Enclosure sent 5-13-68

REC 11

REL:erg

MAY 31 1968

EX-102

CONTINUED - OVER

11 MAY 22 1968

6 MAY 31 1968

SPEC. MAIL RM

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

RECOMMENDATION: That a technical surveillance be installed on the telephones of Albert and Carol Pepper and the Grapevi[illegible] Tavern and a microphone surveillance be installed at the residences [illegible] Albert and Carol Pepper and John Larry Ray and at the Grapevine Tavern.

Attached for approval is a memorandum to the Attorney General requesting authority for this coverage.

It is doubtful that A.G. will approve. These could be of great assistance.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

EXHIBIT 21

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: May 10, 1968

FROM : J. J. Casper

SUBJECT: O MURKIN

JUNE

As shown in attached memorandum of May 9, 1968, from Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach, consideration is given to microphone installations on certain properties of Albert and Carol Pepper. The proposal raises a question concerning the legality of any action taken against the subject of this case on the basis of information obtained from the microphones.

We believe these microphones can be installed and used without prejudicing the case against the subject. In a very recent decision of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, a listening device was installed on the premises of one Levine. Later, a subject named Granello, an associate of Levine, came up for trial and claimed that the listening device installed on Levine's premises, which was installed by trespass, was illegal as to him, Granello. It was not contended that any information obtained from the Levine microphone was used as evidence against Granello at trial either directly or as a lead. The court held that since Granello had no interest in the Levine premises, the monitor was not illegal as to him and he could not obtain a new trial or dismissal of the indictment. U.S. v. Granello, 280 F. Supp. 482 (1968).

Applied to instant case, this rule of law could work out in different ways. Assuming that the subject of this case is not on the premises to be surveilled by the means suggested, and has no possessory or other right in those premises, any information disclosed by the surveillance in some way, such as conversation among the Peppers, could be used to learn the whereabouts of the subject for purposes of arrest. The problem becomes somewhat more complicated, however, if the subject of this case made a telephone call to those premises and that telephone call were recorded and used as the basis for his apprehension. He then could claim that the surveillance violated his right of privacy in the telephone communication he made to that place, citing the Katz decision in the Supreme Court.

Enclosure

1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
DJD/pal

MAY 31 1968

REC 11 44-38861-3763

31 MAY 22 1968

"CONTINUED - OVER"

The worst that could happen in either of the above circumstances, however, - assuming that we follow the precautionary measures listed below - is that we illegally learn where the subject is located and thus are able to arrest him on that knowledge. The rule that comes into play here, established in the last century by the Supreme Court in Ker v. Illinois, 30 U.S. 347 (1886), is that an illegal arrest is no bar to prosecution. Wong Sun v. U.S., 371 U.S. 471 (1963); U.S. v. Hoffman, 385 F2d 501 (1967); Keegan v. U.S., 385 F2d 260 (1967). A person may be arrested unlawfully and actually kidnapped into the court having jurisdiction of the criminal case, yet the court still retains jurisdiction to try the person for the offense. The court would not allow the prosecution to use as evidence any information obtained through the illegal surveillance but the illegal surveillance would not taint the use of any other evidence obtained either before or after and which was gotten in a legal manner. Nor, to repeat, would the illegality of the arrest alone, resulting from whereabouts disclosed by unlawful surveillance, prevent the court from trying the subject for the offense.

If the action being considered is taken, we strongly suggest three precautionary measures, as follows:

(1) That all recordings be preserved intact. It may be necessary to disclose some of them to the court or even to the defense.

(2) That no use be made of any information obtained against anyone whatsoever or in any way whatsoever except for the single purpose of locating the subject in this case. As we well know by this time, evidence of the offense obtained in this manner is not admissible. It would not be admissible against the subject and it would not be admissible against the Peppers on a charge of harboring.

(3) Be aware that since this search and seizure is unconstitutional as to the Peppers, they have at least a theoretical cause of action for damages against those who installed the devices by trespass. Here again, however, if nothing learned by this surveillance is used against the Peppers in any way, their cause of action is diminished to the lowest possible degree, becoming that for a technical violation only rather than one of substantial harm to them. Moreover, in any such case the government of the United States should surely be willing to pick up the tab for any judgment had against those who installed the microphones.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

EXHIBIT 22

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

The Attorney General

JUNE

May 13, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHLR KING, JR.

James Earl Ray has been identified as the subject in the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Extensive investigation has been conducted, and no information has been developed indicating his present whereabouts. In order to possibly assist in locating and apprehending the subject, it would be of extreme value to know if the subject has made any contact, either personal or by telephone, with his sister, Carol Pepper, as well as his brother, John Larry Ray.

In view of the above, it is requested that you authorize installation of a technical surveillance at the residence of Carol Pepper and at the Grapevine Tavern, owned by Carol Pepper and operated by John Larry Ray. It is also requested that you authorize installation of microphone surveillances on the residences of Carol Pepper, and John Larry Ray, as well as the Grapevine Tavern.

These installations could assist in the early apprehension of the subject, which could possibly be instrumental in reducing the stresses and tension placed on our national security subsequent to the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

RELivea
(7)

NOTE: See memorandum A. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach dated 5-9-68, caption "MURKIN," RE: org.

3509

11 MAY 17 1968

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME
DATE
BY

6 MAY 21 1968