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94-65861-X1

JAN 5 1971

BC / OPS

Section 55

REC-41

June 5, 1968

~~44-38861-44121~~

94-65861-X1

[Redacted]

Houston, Texas 77003

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of May 30th enclosing a clipping from your local paper has been received. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending this to me and am encouraged by your kind remarks.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 2
JUN 5 1968
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles indicate one prior outgoing to correspondent dated 5-1-68 in response to his letter sending a clipping from "The Houston Chronicle" concerning the Bureau's investigation of Martin Luther King's assassination.

JBT:ky (3)

cc _____
to _____
by _____
date _____
time _____
initials _____

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

JAN 5 1971 TELETYPE UNIT

DO-4

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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[REDACTED]

Houston, Texas
May 30, 1968

- MR. TOLSON ✓
- MR. DELOACH ✓
- MR. MOY ✓
- MR. [unclear] ✓
- MR. CASPER
- MR. CALLAHAN
- MR. CONRAD
- MR. [unclear] ✓
- MR. ROSEN ✓
- MR. SULLIVAN
- MR. TAVEL
- MR. TROTTER
- MR. JONES
- TELE. ROOM
- MISS HOLMES
- MRS. METCALF
- MISS SANDY

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Head of the F. B. I.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed is an article from today's
Houston Post, which may be of interest

This article does not reflect my thinking
because I have the utmost faith in you and your
great organization. If Mr. Ray is still alive
I'm sure he'll be found.

With my best wishes.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

94-65861-11

COPY:nm

REC-41

11 JUN 14 1968

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1 W

General G. Edgar Howe
Head of the F. B. I.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Howe:

[REDACTED]
Houston,
Texas
May 30, 1968

Enclosed is an article
from today's Houston Post, which
may be of interest.

This article does not reflect
my thinking because I have the
utmost faith in you and your
great organization. My Mr. Ray is
deeply pleased for you to be forward.
With my best wishes,
Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

EXP. PROC.
JUN 9 1968

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

[REDACTED]

Hunt for Ray Futile

By CARL T. BOWAN

WASHINGTON — The disappearance of the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King becomes more eerie and revolting with every passing day.

The FBI has not come up with a single meaningful trace of James Earl Ray, the Number 1 suspect, since I revealed several weeks ago that the investigation had taken



on international implications.

Even with \$100,000 or so of reward money lying around, the FBI hasn't so much as a hot tip or a rumor worth pursuing with hope.

In my earlier column, I deliberately did not reveal that a massive dragnet had been set up in Mexico. It was there that Ray had met with some characters who led FBI and other intelligence agents to suspect involvement of a foreign power. But investigators did not want the suspect tipped off as to the intensity of the search south of the border.

But it has revealed nothing.

"WE'VE COVERED Mexico, Canada, and the United States like a blanket," one high-level source tells me. "If Ray were alive in any of these places, I can't conceive of our not locating him by now."

Thus, the men who were clinging doggedly to the theory that King's killer was a berserk loner have now swung over to the belief that a hired killer planned the murder and the escape meticulously. But was it Ray — or were the seemingly clumsy clues left behind just decoys? And who did the hitting?

The truth is that the FBI has not located a single trace of Ray since he supposedly abandoned his white Mustang in Atlanta on April 5, the day after the Nobel Prize-winning Negro clergyman was slain in a Memphis, Tenn. motel. In fact, the FBI does not really have solid evidence that it was Ray who abandoned the car in Atlanta.

BUT THE massive investigation has turned up more information about Ray and his family. The most significant — and most galling in

some Washington circles — is that Ray was peddling dope while in prison in Missouri State Penitentiary from 1960 to April 1967.

As the magnitude of Ray's narcotics peddling has been revealed, top law enforcement officers here have started aghast at the evidence that guards in most prisons are so easily bribed into sending almost anything into or out of a prison.

Some investigators have concluded that our penal system is rotten to the core, and they have sent screams to the top of our government that it is high time someone planned a complete overhaul.

A SERIOUS question arises now as to how long the FBI can, or will, continue a concentrated search for Dr. King's killer. Already, student turmoil on scores of campuses has dictated the shifting of considerable manpower to the watching of these activities.

There are some worrisome connections between rioters on the various campuses. For example, one of the leaders of the Columbia University demonstrations recently showed up at American University here, trying to agitate students into putting some "muscle" into their protest.

So this confluence of demands on agents' time has led even some FBI personnel to each earlier pessimistic predictions that "they'll never catch Dr. King's killer."

94-65861-X1

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REC-48

94-65861-X

May 1, 1968

~~94-8-217~~

EX 109

[Redacted]

Houston, Texas 77003

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of April 25th, with enclosure, and certainly appreciate your courtesy in furnishing this material. I am indeed grateful for your favorable remarks and expression of support of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Houston - Enclosures (2) (44-1509)
Reurairtel 4-26-68.

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. Our last correspondence with "The Houston Chronicle" was outgoing 2-15-66 expressing appreciation to Mr. M. E. Walter upon his retirement as Vice President and editorial consultant. Up to that time we had enjoyed prior limited cordial relations with that paper. By airtel 4-26-68, Houston furnished a copy of this editorial and pointed out WMG:lmf SAC's contact with Mr. Everett D. Collier, Vice President and Editor, where Collier was straightened out concerning the facts in this case. The Director commented, "Collier should have taken his ire out on A. G. & not the FBI."

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MAY 1 1968
COMM-FBI

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MAY 5 1968

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signature]

[Redacted]

Houston, Texas
Apr. 25, 1968

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director of the F. B. I.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed is an editorial from a Texas paper, which maybe of interest. However, I do not agree with it. When all the facts about this case are all known, I'm sure the F. B. I. will shine brighter than ever.

With my best wishes.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

COPY:nm

[Handwritten notes]
4-25-68
[Signature]

- MR. TOLSON
- MR. DELOACH
- MR. MOHR
- MR. WOOD
- MR. CASPER
- MR. CALLAHAN
- MR. CONRAD
- MR. FELT
- MR. GALE
- MR. ROSEN
- MR. SULLIVAN
- MR. TAVEL
- MR. TROTTER
- MR. JONES
- TELE. ROOM
- MISS HOLMES
- MRS. METCALF
- MISS GANDY

[Handwritten signature]

orable J. Edgar

1811-Rusk
Houston, Texas

✓ Hoover

Director of the F.B.I.
Washington, D.C.

Apr. 25, 1968.

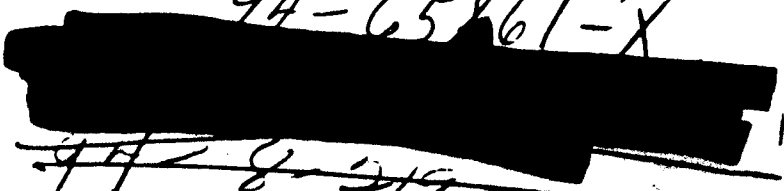
Dear Mr. Hoover:

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I. will shine brighter than
ever.

With my best wishes.

Sincerely,

94-65861-X



EX-109

REC-46

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APR 30 1968

CORRESPONDENCE

EX-109

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6/17

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FBI loses some of its shine

The hunt for the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has taken some odd turns, and one of the more unusual ones is the way the Justice Department and its agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have been behaving.

Immediately after the killing Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark exuded optimism about an arrest. "We are very close," he said. A few days later he said he hoped to provide a picture of the suspect. But it was not until a week after the murder that the FBI inadvertently disclosed the name of Eric Starvo Galt.

And so it has gone since April 4. Clark's optimism has faded, and the FBI has seemed almost intent on keeping the public confused.

The FBI's image as the smoothest man-hunting agency was tarnished by the length of time taken to identify the fingerprints of Galt as those of ex-convict James Earl Ray. It was 15 days after the assassination. In question is

whether it really took that long or whether the FBI was withholding the information.

It was not until Sunday that the FBI put Galt or Ray on its most wanted list. The success of the list in apprehending wanted persons over the years has been good. It is hard to understand why the description and photo of Galt were not released as soon as they were uncovered.

The FBI could never be accused of being loose-lipped, but the most wanted list was a creation of its director, J. Edgar Hoover. He has always been proud of the role it has played in apprehending those unfortunate enough to be listed.

We wonder if the recent policy adopted by the American Bar Assn. against pre-trial publicity has unduly influenced the FBI. If this is the case, the results are plain enough. The public linking of Galt and Ray was made about two weeks after the killing, and no one has yet been apprehended.