

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 4/29/68

GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, Inmate, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, at first said he did not know JAMES RAY. He was shown various pictures of RAY and then said he recognized him as an associate of an inmate he knew as RAY CURTIS. He said he had served time with CURTIS both in the penitentiary and in jail at Springfield, Missouri, and read an article of an interview with CURTIS in regard to RAY within the past few days.

EDMONDSON said his wife did not know RAY and he personally had no dealings with RAY inside or outside of the penitentiary, and did not discuss escapes or anything else with him.

EDMONDSON said he obtained a Canadian passport in Montreal, Canada under the name of [REDACTED] for the reason he spoke German, and is going to adopt that name eventually. He said his wife is [REDACTED], nee [REDACTED], and she is residing with her parents at [REDACTED] Quebec, Canada. He said she visits him on occasion, about every other month, but she does not plan to visit again as he expects to be released on a decision of the Missouri Supreme Court within a matter of about 30 days, and he will then go to Canada and join her.

EDMONDSON said it is very easy to get a Canadian passport and the procedure is probably known to every fugitive from the United States. He said all that is needed is \$5.00, plus someone to sign as a "guarantor", plus either a Baptismal Certificate or a Birth Certificate. He said he obtained his by sending in his marriage license and his wife's birth certificate. He said Baptismal records are available as are "guarantors" in the Rue Notre Dame area. He said most of the certificates emanate from the Saint Justin Parish and it costs about \$50.00 to obtain the necessary papers to back up the passport application.

He said there are a lot of "floaters", such as prostitutes and other "hustlers" in the Notre Dame area and they are the ones with whom to make contact. He said there

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by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/26/68

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is a definite pipe line in this regard. He said it usually would take about a week or ten days to get the necessary papers, and within a few days the passport would be received.

He said it is important to evaluate the contacts to know if 2500 Rue Notre Dame is east or west. He said neither is a good section, but east is French and west is English. He said the English are working people, but the French are "hustlers". He said the address could be considered as "downtown". He also said, if the passport was obtained on a Baptismal record, he might be able to furnish further information which might be helpful.

EDMONDSON said he believed that it would be no problem for RAY to hide out from Police and officials, but he would have to hide from the "whole literate public", which he said he knew from personal experience is not easy. He said, in his opinion, since RAY has been connected with the assassination of Dr. KING, he has no place to go, and no place to hide.