

# FBI Identifies Galt As Prison Escapee

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HOOVER DID not mention the discrepancies between his statement Wednesday and his latest announcement. FBI officials handed the announcement to reporters but would answer no questions.

The FBI handed out two pictures of Ray taken in 1960. In several ways, they matched pictures of Galt taken in 1968. In both pictures, deep lines ran from the subject's nose to his mouth. The ears looked identical and so did the lines around the eyes.

In its announcement Wednesday the FBI said a warrant had been filed charging that Galt entered into a conspiracy with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother." It said the conspiracy "continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr."

King was slain on the porch

of a motel in Memphis April 4. He was shot from ambush by a man in a rundown rooming house across the street. The man escaped in a white Mustang, later found abandoned in Atlanta.

**NO MENTION** of the alleged brother was made in the new announcement. It was reported Thursday that an informer, cooperating with the FBI, led to a belief that King's slayer was in California.

A reliable source told UPI that FBI agents were in communication with Galt's "alleged brother."

Police in Los Angeles said a wanted poster issued by Missouri authorities in the search for Ray as a prison escapee said he had two brothers, John Ray of 1918 Park Ave., St. Louis, and Jerry W. Ray of Wheeling, Ill.

Records in Madison County, Ill., said Ray was born to James and Lucy Maker in Alton, Ill.

**RECORDS OF** the Seafarer's International Union at Chicago listed a "J. E. Ray" as a member.

Out of its belief that an arrest was imminent Wednesday, the FBI had filed its charges against Galt. Officials in Memphis followed up by swearing out a murder warrant for his arrest.

But if the manhunt — one of the most intensive in American history — was in fact closing around Galt, he apparently managed to escape it.

An FBI alert was issued Thursday in Imperial County, Calif., in the southeast corner of the state, adjacent to Arizona and Mexico, to be on the lookout for a man fitting Galt's description.

**THE ALERT SAID** such a man was seen Monday afternoon on a back road in a rural area, 4.5 miles west of El Centro, Calif., and that he told someone he was headed for Yuma, Ariz. He was carrying a bottle of water.

Ray was identified in the FBI announcement as having used the aliases of Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner.

The man who checked into the Memphis rooming house a few hours before King was shot used the name John Willard.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The FBI said yesterday that the Eric Starvo Galt who was sought across the nation for murdering Dr. Martin Luther King is in fact James Earl Ray, who escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary 51 weeks ago.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said a systematic search of fingerprints uncovered in the case against the prints of more than 53,000 persons led to the determination that Galt and Ray are identical.

**BUT THE** announcement raised some perplexing questions. Wednesday, when Hoover identified Galt as the man sought for conspiracy in the slaying, he said that Galt had taken dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965. But yesterday's FBI announcement said Ray was in prison between 1960 and April 23, 1967, when he escaped.

The discrepancy, federal sources said, arose from an error into the investigation of the background of "Galt."

Ray was sentenced to 20 years on Dec. 18, 1959, in St. Louis Circuit Court on an armed robbery charge. He and another ex-convict, James Owens, were convicted of robbing a St. Louis supermarket of \$190.

Convicted by a jury which deliberated 20 minutes, Ray attempted to escape from the court room by jumping into an elevator. He made two unsuccessful attempts to escape from the Missouri penitentiary where he succeeded last year.

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