44-38861-4097

SAC, IA SUBJECT THE MERKIN TO COMPANY OF THE PARKET

RE JAMES C. HARDIN. AN ACCRESSIVE, PENEIRATING. LENGTHE INTERVIEW WAS COMPUCIED THIS DATE WITH ALLAN O. THOMPSON, MANAGER, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL. THOMPSON ADVISED HE KNOWS THE INDIV. . MHOM HE PREVIOUSLE REFUSED TO LIENTIFY, BY THE HAME OF

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-44-38861-4097 1. You have seroxed fust 4 pages and they are in your Hardin file. 2. OPRNote states! "Fitz" re James C. Hardin

FRI WASH DC

COMMUNICATIONS ECTION MAY 0 0 1968 TELETYPE

Mr. Mohr

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FBI LOS ANG.

135 AM URGENT 5/30/68 DPK/VLB

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987), ATLANTA (44-2386),

SAN DIEGO (44-387), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740), SPRINGFIELD (44-56),

LAS VEGAS, LOUISVILLE, NEW ORLEANS (157-10653), JACKSON

FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (12P)

MURKIN

RE 1

AN AGGRESSIVE, PENETRATING, LENGTHY INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED THIS DATE WITH ALLAN O. THOMPSON, MANAGER, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL. THOMPSON ADVISED HE KNOWS THE INDIVIDUAL. WHOM HE PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO IDENTIFY, BY THE NAME OF ... HE ADVISED HE WAS APPROACHED BY THIS INDIVIDUAL AT THE RABBIT'S FOOT BAR A FEW DAYS AGO BUT COULD NOT RECALL SPECIFIC DATE. HE SAID THIS INDIVIDUAL SAID, "YOUR MR. THOMPSON, AREN'T YOU?" AND THEN PROCEEDED TO ASK IF THOMPSON WAS INTERESTED 44 SPILITTING THE 16 July 3 1968 REWARD MONEY OFFERED IN THE DR. MARTIN KING, JR. MURDER. THOMPSON SAID HE TOLD THIS INDIVIDUAL HE WAS NOT INTERESTED. DURING THE COURSE OF SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, THOMPSON SAID TOLD HIM HE HAD OBSERVED JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC GALT, AND ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL SITTING TOGETHER. ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION AT A LOCAL BAR. THE NAME OF WHICH WAS NOT MENTIONED. THOMPSON END PAGE ONE 55JUN 1 n 1968

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

THOMPSON SAID THE NAME PROMPTED HIS RECOLLECTION OF EVENTS AS SET OUT IN LA TEL OF FIVE TWENTY EIGHT SIXTY EIGHT, THAT IS, RAY BEING CALLED TWICE, POSSIBLE THREE TIMES, BY FROM NEW ORLEANS AND AFLANTA.

THOMPSON SAID THAT HE HAS SEEN ON AN INFREQUENT BASIS VICINITY OF THE HOLLYWOOD AND WESTERN AREA. LOS ANGELES. DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. HE ADVISED HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ASSOCIATES OF THIS RESIDENCE, PAST OR PRIOR, HIS AUTOMOBILE, OR HIS EMPLOYMENT, IF ANY. THOMPSON SAID AT SOME TIME AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, HE BELIEVES HE EXPELLED AND ANOTHER CAUCASIAN MALE FROM THE PARKING LOT OF THE ST. FRANCIS WHERE THEY WERE SLEEPING IN AN AUTOMOBILE. THOMPSON SAID IT WAS ON THIS OCCASION THAT HE LEARNED OF THIS INDIVIDUALS NAME IN THAT THE PERSON WITH WHOM HE WAS SLEEPING CALLED HIM THOMPSON ADVISED HE BELIEVED THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS THE SUBJECT OF A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST BECAUSE WHEN THOMPSON TOLD HIM TO CONTACT THE FBI. TOLD HIM THAT HE COULDN'T. HE DESCRIBED AS CAUCASIAN MALE, THIRTY SEVEN - FORTY TWO, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, ONE HUMDRED SEVENTY FIVE POUNDS. BROWN HAIR WORN SHORT AS IN CREW CUT, HABITUALLY WEARS SPORT SHIRT WITH CHEAP SLACKS. END PAGE TWO

E THREE

LA 44-1574

THOMPSON SAID WHENEVER AND WHEREVER HE OBSERVES HE WILL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE FBI.

THOMPSON REITERATED THE INFORMATION AS SET OUT IN LA
TELETYPE. HE ADDED ONLY THAT HE BELIEVES THE VOICE OF THE PERSON
CALLING ON THE TELEPHONE WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS
AND THE VOICE OF THE PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS
AT THE ST. FRANCIS HOTEL AFTER THE TELEPHONE CALLS, TO BE IDENTICAL.
HE SAID THAT ON ONE OCCASION HE HEARD THE OPERATOR AND A PERSON
WHOM SHE CALLED CONVERSE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT
HE WOULD LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR GALT.

THOMPSON VIEWED THE FBI FACIAL IDENTIFICATION CATALOG IN MAEFFORT TO OBATIN AN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF

THOMPSON DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS CAUCASIAN MALL, BORN FIVE FOOT ELEVEN INCHES,
ONE SIXTY POUNDS, EROWN GREYING HAIR, PARTIALLY BALD, HAZEL EYES,
USMC NINETEEN FORTY TWO - NINETEEN FORTY SIX.

THOMPSON CLAIMS HE HAS FURNISHED ALL INFORMATION IN THIS

MATTER CONCERNING BOTH AND HE STATES

THAT HE BELIEVES THAT HE COULD IDENTIFY A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE STATES

EFFORTS TO LOCATE ARE CONTINUING. — Properties

END PAGE THREE

LA 44-1574

RESULTS OF IDENTIFICATION CATALOG REGARDING ARE AS FOLLOWS.

- A. K A FOUR TWELVE
- B. K B ONE ONE
- C. K C ONE FIVE
- D. K D ONE IWO
- E. K E THREE FOURTEEN
- F. K F ONE ONE
- G. K G ONE SEVEN
- H. K H TWO ONE
- J. K J FIVE THREE
- K. K K FOUR SEVEN
- L. ZERO
- M. ZERO
- N. ON ONE TEN

GENERAL DESRIPTION IS SEX- MALE, AGE THIRTY FIVE- FORTY

RACE CAUCASIAN, COMPLEXION- COARSE SKIN, DARK, HEIGHT FIVE FT.

SEVEN INCHES - FIVE FT. EIGHT INCHES, WEIGHT ONE FORTY - ONE FIFTY,

SLENDER BUILD, COLOR OF EYES DARK, COLOR OF HAIR DARK.

FURNISH RESULT TO LOS ANGELS AND INTERESTED OFFICES.
END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

LA 44-1574

RE MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE (FEBRUARY ONE TO MARCH ONE LAST.) LETTER ADDRESSED TO ERIC S. GALT RECEIVED MAY IWENTY EIGHT LAST,

BY ALHAMBRA. CALIFORNIA, OPERATOR OF CONFIDENTIAL MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE CON-TRACTED FOR DURING FEBRUARY, SIXTY EIGHT, BY JAMES EARL RAY. LETTER READ QUOTE SHOW ME FIRST YOU MEAN BUSINESS UNQUOTE. LETTER SIGNED INITIAL INITIAL RETURN ADDRESS POST OFFICE BOX BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA. (APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO GALT AD IN FREE PRESS.)

INTERVIEWED MAY IWENTY NINE INSTANT, AND ADVISED HE RENTED POST OFFICE BOX ON OR ABOUT APRIL ONE LAST FOR FRIEND PLANNING TO OPERATE BUSINESS UTILIZING COMPUTER ANALYSIS TO LOCATE COMPATIBLE MARRIAGE PARTNERS. CLAIMS BUSINESS NEVER ACTIVATED AND NO MAIL RECEIVED AT POST OFFICE BOX, OR SENT WITH THAT RETURN ADDRESS. ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW RAY AND DOES NOT BELIEVE ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THE COMPUTER BUSINESS HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING HIM. COMPUTER BUSINESS ORGANIZED BY

AND THREE OF HIS FELLOW EMPLOYEES, ALL EMPLOYED PARK, CALIFORNIA. AND ASSOCIATES IN-COMPUTER BUSINESS

BEING INTERVIEWED.

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

RE SPRINGFIELD TEL TO LOS ANGELES, MAY TWENTY NINE, CAPTIONED FRANCES E. RAY.

ON MAY IWENTY EIGHT LAST, FEMALE, USING NAME FRANCES E.

RAY, ADDRESS HUNTINGON PARK, CALIFORNIA,
TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED LOS ANGELES FBI AND QUINCY, ILLINOIS,
PD. CONCERNING WHERABOUTS OF JERRY RAY.

FRANCES E. RAY WHO CLAIMS SHE IS A SECOND COUSIN TO JAMES EARL RAY INTERVIEWED THIS DATE. STATED RELATED TO JAMES EARL RAY BUT DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT'S WHEREABOUTS OR ACTIVITIES OR THAT SHE HAS EVER MET HIM.

TELEPHONIC CONTACT MADE WITH FBI, LOS ANGELES, AND POLICE OF OUINCY, ILLINOIS, BECAUSE SHE FELT VERY DEPRESSED FOR SUBJECT RAY.

FRANCES RAY ADVISED SHE IS DIVORCED AND HAS RESIDED IN LOS ANGELES SINCE NINETEEN THIRTY THREE

NORMA JEAN DOUGLAS.

DAUGHTER OF FRANCES E. RAY, INTERVIEWED THIS DATE, DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S WHEREABOUTS OR ACTIVITIES AND ADVISES FRANCES E.

RAY

PRONE TO FREQUENT CRANK TELEPHONE CALLS.

END PAGE SIX

LA 44-1574

COVINA PD FURNISHED FIVE CARDS BEARING PARTIAL LATENT PRINTS

TAKEN FROM SIXTY SEVEN GOLD COLOR BLACK TOP PLYMOUTH BEARING

CALIFORNIA LICENSE U T W ZERO ONE TWO RECOVERED AT COVINA. ALSO

FURNISHED CHECK IN AMOUNT OF FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS SIGNED

THIS CHECK TO COMPENSATE HIM FOR COLLISION DAMAGES AFTER ACCIDENT

IN COVINA, MAY FIFTEEN LAST. PRINTS AND CHECK BEING FORWARDED FOR.

LABORATORY EXAMINATION. ALSO FURNISHED GULF OIL COMPANY GASOLINE

INVOICE DATES MAY FIFTEEN LAST FOUND IN PLYMOUTH RECOVERED AT

COVINA REFLECTING PURCHASE AT HUNTINGTON PEACH, CALIFORNIA, UNDER

NAME OF CALIFORNIA LICENSE

ALLEN KRAUSE DESCRIBED DRIVER OF PLYMOUTH AS WMA, AGE THIRTY
FIVE TO FORTY, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES OR SIX FEET, ONE HUNDRED
SEVENTY TO SEVENTY FIVE POUNDS, STOCKY BUILD, BLACK STRAIGHT HAIR,
WELL SHAVEN, BUT EVIDENCE OF HEAVY BEARD AND AT TIME OF ACCIDENT
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY YOUTH DESCRIBED AS WHITE, AGE FOURTEEN TO
SIXTEEN YEARS, TALL, PLOND CURLY HAIR, ALLEGEDLY HIS NEPHEW, NO
NAME GIVEN. CLAIMED ON WAY TO LAS VEGAS. KRAUSE REPORTED
ACCIDENT AND FACT THAT CHECK WAS FRAUDULENT AFTER CHECK RETURNED.
TO HIM BY BANK.
END PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT LA 44-1574

WHEN OBTAINING CAR AT CHULA VISTA WAS DESCRIBED AS WMA, AGE FORTY TO FORTY FIVE, FIVE FEET NINE INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE TO EIGHTY POUNDS, DARK HAIR, FAIR TO MEDIUM COMPLEXION.

ACCORDING TO COVINA PD, CHULA VISTA PD SUSPECTS THAT

IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FIVE ARMED ROBBERIES

OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS IN CHULA VISTA AREA. PERSON OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA; ADVISED THAT AT TWO PM ON MAY FIFTEEN LAST, A MAN SHE DESCRIBED AS WHM, EARLY THIRTIES, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY POUNDS. BLACK HAIR, DRIVING A GOLD AND BLACK CAR CAME TO HER HOME IN RESPONSE TO A SIGN IN FRONT INDICATING IT WAS FOR SALE BY OWNER. THE MAN INDICATED HE WAS INTERESTED IN BUYING THE HOME AND LEFT HIM IN HER LIVING ROOM AND WENT TO MAKE TELEPHONE CALL TO ARRANGE FOR A LATER APPOINTMENT. END PAGE EIGHT

LA 44-157A PAGE NINE

TO HANDLE DETAILS OF SALE. WAS GONE FOR APPROXIMATELY
TEN MINUTES AND WHEN RETURNED MAN INDICATED HE WOULD OBTAIN
FIVE HUMDRED DOLLARS IN CASH AND RETURN FOLLOWING DAY TO
HANDLE DETAILS. AFTER MAN LEFT,
DISCOVERED
HER CHECK BOOK AND NUMEROUS CREDIT AND IDENTIFICATION
CARDS AND HER DRIVERS LICENSE HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HER PURSE
WHICH HAD BEEN IN THE LIVING ROOM.

CONTACTED BY DETECTIVE VICTORVILLE,

CALIFORNIA, PD, ON MAY IWENTY LAST, INDICATING A MAN ATTEMPTED

TO PASS A CHECK FOR TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS AT SECURITY FIRST

NATIONAL BANK, VICTORVILLE, AND WHILE TELLER VERIFYING

ACCOUNT MAN LEFT THE BANK. DETECTIVE AT SECURITY FIRST NATIONAL

DRAWN ON ACCOUNT OF AT SECURITY FIRST NATIONAL

BANK, LAKEWOOD PLAZA BRANCH, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

PERRY'S COUNTRY STORE AND RESTAURANT, P. O. BOX FORTY FIVE BONSALL (SAN DIEGO COUNTY), CALIFORNIA, WHICH LETTER ENCLOSED ALL HER SUPERMARKET IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHS, WHICH HAD BEEN AMONG ITEMS STOLEN. END PAGE NINE

LA 44-1574

PAGE TEN

SHE STATED SHE CALLED MR. PERRY THIS DATE WHO ADVISED HER THE IDENTIFICATION CARD AND PHOTOGRAPHS WERE LEFT ON A TABLE IN HIS RESTAURANT BY A LONE WOMAN CUSTOMER.

ATLANTIC DASH RICHFIELD, SHELL, MOBIL, AND GULF CREDIT

EXAMINED PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY AND INDICATED PHOTO SOMEWHAT RESEMBLED MAN WHO STOLE HER IDENTIFICATION BUT COULD NOT MAKE ANY IDENTIFICATION.

TAKEN LEAVE UNTIL MONDAY NEXT AND IS UNAVAILABLE. EFFORTS TO LOCATE CHECK IN PD RECORDS NEGATIVE. BANK PERSONNEL NOT AVAILABLE AT VICTORVILLE UNTIL FRIDAY NEXT.

WALTER DE PRIEST MAINTENANCE MAN, SS WHEELER APARTMENTS,
ONE ONE ONE FIVE EAST BALBOA BOULEVARD, BALBOA, CALIFORNIA,
ADVISED MAY TWENTY NINE LAST THAT A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF ABOVE APARTMENTS REVEALS THAT ONE ATTEMPTED TO RENT APARTMENT
WHEELER APARTMENTS APPROXIMATELY FIVE TWENTY LAST AT ABOUT
TEN AM TO ELEVEN AM, ACCOMPAINED BY INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED AS
HIS NEPHEW. STAYED ONLY APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS WITHOUT
END PAGE TEN

-A 44-157A

MR-PROPERTOR CO. T. S. T. B. T. B. T. B. T. S. T

PAGE ELEVEN

PAYING RENT AND THEN DEPARTED MAKING EXCUSES HE WAS GOING TO

BANK TO SECURE FUNDS FOR RENT. HE TOOK KEY TO APARTMENT

AND DID NOT RETURN IT. AT TIME OF REGISTRATION INDICATED RESIDENCE OF CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA, AND WAS

DRIVING LATE MODEL PLYMOUTH FURY, BEARING CALIFORNIA LICENSE UTW

ONE ZERO TWO. DE PRIEST HAS RECOLLECTION VEHICLE WAS TWO

TONED GOLD IN COLOR. ADVISED IN CONVERSATION HE

WAS EMPLOYED BY INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY AND WAS

BEING SENT TO AFRICA BY THAT COMPANY.

DESCRIBED AS WMA, FORTY FIVE TO FIFTY, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE POUNDS, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, TO NINE INCHES, DARK BROWN GRAYING HAIR, RUDDY COMPLEXION, WORE TROUSERS AND SHIRT. HAD NO LUGGAGE IN POSSESSION.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPANYING NAME NOT GIVEN, DESCRIBED AS WMA, APPROXIMATELY TWENTY, SIX FEET, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY POUNDS, LIGHT COMPLEXION, WORE SPORT CLOTHES.

PHOTO OF RAY EXHIBITED TO DE PRIEST AND STATES NOT
INDENTICAL WITH PHOTO OF RAY ALSO EXHIBITED MRS. LAVERNE
WHEELER, OWNER ABOVE APARTMENTS, WHO STATED THIS INDIVIDUAL
NOT RECOGNIZED BY HER AS RESIDING WHEELER APARTMENTS.

LOS ANGELES WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE INDIVIDUAL END PAGE ELEVEN

1571

PAGE TWELVE

WHO STOLE ONE NINE SIX SEVEN PLYMOUTH AND WILL SECURE AND FORWARD CHECK FROM VICTORVILLE TO LABORATORY.

SAN DIEGO AT BONSALL ASCERTAIN FULL FACTS CONCERNING
RETURN OF SIDENTIFICATION MATERIAL FROM PERRY'S
COUNTRY STORE ALSO NOTE ADDRESS AT CHULA VISTA AS GIVEN AT
BALBOA WHEN INDIVIDUAL UTILIZED NAME

SPRINGFIELD THROUGH JERRY RAY ASCERTAIN HOW WELL KNOWN A
RELATIVE FRANCES RAY OF HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA MIGHT BE.
ALSO NOTE SAME USE OF NAME OF INTERNATIONAL HARVESTOR COMPANY AT
BALROA BY THE INDIVIDUAL UTILIZING NAME
AS WAS USED FIVE FOURTEEN LAST AT CHULA VISTA IN SAN DIEGO
TEL FIVE SIXTEEN SIXTYEIGHT, COPY YOUR OFFICE.

LAS VEGAS CONTACT SO AND LAS VEGAS PD CONCERNING
WITH ALIASES TO DETERMINE IF SIMILAR M.O.
AS DESCRIBED BY CHULA VISTA PD IS BEING NOW USED AT LAS VEGAS.
SAN DIEGO TEL FIVE SIXTEEN SIXTY EIGHT FURNISHED LAS VEGAS.

COPIES OF THIS TEL FURNISHED OTHER OFFICES IN VIEW OF INFO

RE 1

INVESTIGATION ALL PHASES CONTINUING AT LOS ANGELES.

END

BUP

FBI WASH DC

20- DRU CANAL