

FBI WASH DC

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

MAY 29 1968

TELETYPE

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

FBI LOS ANG

10:45PM URGENT 5-29-68 DPK

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

FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

ALLAN O. THOMPSON, MANAGER, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES, NOW ADVISES HAD CONVERSATION WITH CAUCASIAN MALE, WHOM HE REFUSES TO IDENTIFY, WHICH PROMPTED HIS RECOLLECTION OF CERTAIN EVENTS AS CONCERNS JAMES EARL RAY NOT EARLIER RECALLED. THOMPSON SAID THIS UNNAMED INDIVIDUAL INQUIRED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC STARVO GALT, AND A CAUCASIAN MALE BY NAME OF JAMES HARDIN. THOMPSON SAID THIS UNNAMED INDIVIDUAL APPROACHED HIM IN EFFORT TO QUOTE GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION UNQUOTE CONCERNING THE REWARD MONEY. THOMPSON SAID THAT AS RESULT THIS CONVERSATION, HE NOW RECALLS DURING PERIOD MARCH ONE LAST TO MARCH SEVENTEEN LAST HE RECEIVED CALL FOR ERIC GALT WHILE OPERATING HOTEL SWITCHBOARD. THOMPSON SAID WHEN HE ADVISED THE CALLER ERIC GALT HAD NO TELEPHONE IN HIS ROOM, THE MAN REQUESTED HIM TO LEAVE MESSAGE FOR ERIC GALT TO CALL JAMES C.

HARDIN COLLECT. THIS CALLER PROVIDED THE CITY AND OPERATOR

END PAGE ONE

cc Long

191

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

NUMBER, AS WELL AS NAME JAMES C. HARDIN. THOMPSON SAID HE RELAYED THIS INFORMATION TO GALT. THOMPSON ADVISED HE WAS QUITE SURE AS TO SPELLING OF NAME.

THOMPSON ADVISED THAT SUBSEQUENT TO INITIAL TELEPHONE CALL THERE WAS ONE OTHER, POSSIBLY TWO, CALLS BY THIS SAME INDIVIDUAL. HE ADVISED THESE CALLS CAME FROM BOTH ATLANTA AND NEW ORLEANS. HE SAID SUBSEQUENT TO THESE TELEPHONE CALLS A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS JAMES C. HARDIN CAME TO ST. FRANCIS HOTEL SOMETIME DURING PERIOD OF MARCH ONE TO SEVENTEEN, SIXTY EIGHT. HE ADVISED THIS INDIVIDUAL DID NOT RESIDE AT ST. FRANCIS HOTEL. THOMPSON DESCRIBED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS MALE CAUCASIAN, THIRTY FIVE TO FORTY, FIVE SEVEN TO FIVE EIGHT IN HEIGHT, ONE FORTY TO ONE FIFTY POUNDS, DARK HAIR COMBED BACK, NEAT, EYES POSSIBLY DARK, SLENDER BUILD, DARK COMPLEXION, SLIGHTLY ACNE SCARRED, SPOKE WITH SLIGHT SOUTHERN ACCENT.

THOMPSON SAID THE INDIVIDUAL WHO BROUGHT HARDIN TO HIS ATTENTION DOES NOT WISH TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF. HE SAID HE BELIEVES THIS INDIVIDUAL IS SUBJECT OF OUTSTANDING WARRANT FOR SOME UNKNOWN OFFENSE. THOMPSON WAS ADVISED OF IMPORTANCE OF

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

LA 44-1574

THIS MATTER AND, FURTHER, THAT HE COULD POSSIBLY BE SUBPOENAED TO PROVIDE THE ABOVE INFORMATION. THOMPSON SAID HE MADE PROMISE TO THIS INDIVIDUAL WHICH HE FULLY INTENDS TO KEEP. HE STATED IT WOULD TAKE COURT ACTION TO INDUCE HIM TO IDENTIFY THIS INDIVIDUAL.

THOMPSON SAID THE INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE REFUSES TO IDENTIFY SAID HE SAT NEXT TO JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC STARVO GALT, AND HARDIN. THOMPSON SAID THIS INDIVIDUAL MAINTAINED HE OVERHEARD GALT CALL THE OTHER "J. C."

INDICES CHECK NEGATIVE. INVESTIGATION CONTINUES IN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY THIS UNNAMED INDIVIDUAL.

FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED LEADS FOR NEW ORLEANS AND ATLANTA.

ONE. CREDIT AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION RE JAMES C. HARDIN.

TWO. REVIEW OF TELEPHONE RECORDS FOR AND LISTINGS FOR JAMES C. HARDIN.

THREE. REVIEW POSSIBILITY OF ASCERTAINING ALL COLLECT TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES NUMBERS FOUR SIX FOUR DASH ONE ONE THREE ONE, FOUR SIX TWO DASH NINE NINE ZERO ONE AND FOUR SIX TWO DASH NINE NINE ONE ZERO, TO ATLANTA AND NEW ORLEANS.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

LA 44-1574

FOUR. REVIEW OF AIRLINE FLIGHT RECORDS FROM ATLANTA AND NEW ORLEANS FOR LOS ANGELES DURING PERIOD MARCH ONE LAST THROUGH MARCH SEVENTEEN LAST FOR NAME JAMES C. HARDIN.

LOS ANGELES FEELS THOMPSON, [REDACTED], SHOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY AT LOS ANGELES TO ASCERTAIN IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL WHO HE CLAIMS PROMPTED HIS RECOLLECTION OF EVENTS OR TO DETERMINE IF THIS MAY BE FIGMENT OF HIS IMAGINATION. BUREAU REQUESTED TO ADVISE.

END

BJP

FBI WASH DC

TUP

194

CODE

5/29/68

RADIOGRAM

URGENT

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough

SENT BY CODED TELETYPE

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

RE LATELS MAY TWENTY-EIGHT LAST.

RE [REDACTED]

LOS ANGELES, IF NOT ALREADY COMPLETED, WILL PROCESS
RECOVERED NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN PLYMOUTH FOR LATENT PRINTS
AND OTHER EVIDENCE. POSSIBILITY COULD EXIST THAT THIS
VEHICLE USED BY SUBJECT RAY. INSURE DESCRIPTION OF
[REDACTED] AS FURNISHED BY [REDACTED] APPROXIMATES THAT OF [REDACTED]
AND IF NOT, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]
ARE NOT IDENTICAL. OBTAIN CHECK FURNISHED BY [REDACTED] TO
[REDACTED] FOR HANDWRITING AND LATENT FINGERPRINT COMPARISONS
IN MURKIN CASE.

RE ALLEN O. THOMPSON, MANAGER, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL.

THOMPSON SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY INTERVIEWED AND REINTER-
VIEWED IF NECESSARY AND ANY INFORMATION DEVELOPED ON HIM
WHICH CAN VIA TELETYPE BE USED TO ELICIT TRUE INFORMATION

FROM HIM SHOULD BE EMPLOYED IF NECESSARY. INTERVIEW HIS

1 - ATLANTA
1 - MEMPHIS
NEW ORLEANS
SAN DIEGO

EJM:CS (9)

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE...

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

RADIOGRAM TO SAC, LOS ANGELES
RE: MURKIN

ASSOCIATES, OTHER HOTEL EMPLOYEES, TENANTS AND ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN PURSUING OR RESOLVING THE RECENT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THOMPSON. UNTIL ALL OTHER AVENUES OF INVESTIGATIVE APPROACHES ARE EXPLORED TO ELICIT TRUE INFORMATION FROM THOMPSON, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR CALLING HIM BEFORE GRAND JURY AT THIS TIME. IF YOU FEEL THAT THOMPSON CAN FURNISH SUFFICIENTLY DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HARDIN AS TO POSSIBLY WARRANT CONSIDERATION OF HAVING AN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION PREPARED, YOU SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS.

EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO RESOLVE THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THOMPSON AND PURSUE IT TO LOGICAL CONCLUSION.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO ATLANTA, MEMPHIS, NEW ORLEANS AND SAN DIEGO.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

NOTE:

under false pretense

██████████ is a Ray look-alike suspect. He obtained a 1967 Plymouth on 5/14/68 and this vehicle was recovered on 5/28/68 Covina, California. Car was involved in accident with one ██████████ Azzusa, California, who stated driver of Plymouth identified himself as ██████████ and had given check to re-emburse him for damages. This check was found to have been stolen at Huntington Beach, California. ██████████ was shown photograph of Ray and stated driver of Plymouth not identical. It is not known whether ██████████ description approximates ██████████ and Los Angeles being instructed to run out loose ends.

Allen Thompson, Manager of St. Francis Hotel in Los Angeles, which was former residence of subject, advised an unnamed individual recently inquired about the relationship between Ray and one James Hardin. Thompson recalls during period 3/1-17/68, while operating switchboard, an individual called Ray and left message to call James C. Hardin collect. Calls were subsequently received from this individual reportedly from Atlanta and New Orleans. Later a person identifying himself as James C. Hardin came to hotel during period 3/1-17/68.

Thompson advised that the individual who brought Hardin to his attention does not wish to identify himself as he may be subject of an outstanding warrant. Thompson refuses to identify this individual. Los Angeles advises that Thompson drinks to excess and Los Angeles believes he should be brought before a Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles to ascertain identity of person who prompted his memory.

Los Angeles being requested to further pursue this through intense interview and other investigative avenues of approach.