

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM;
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY

DATE: 10/20/69

(OO-Memphis)

Re Phoenix letter to Bureau, dated 9/4/69.

On 9/26/69, Senior Officer Specialist [redacted] U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas advised SA [redacted] that inmate [redacted] was "out to Court" since 9/11/69. [redacted] advised that it would be impossible to anticipate [redacted] return but that he would notify SA [redacted] upon [redacted] return.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY DIVISION:

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

Will at USP-L at Leavenworth, interview [redacted] USP-1 # [redacted], Cell [redacted], employed Shoe factory, reference Phoenix letter to Bureau, 9/4/69, upon [redacted] return for Court.

- 2 - Bureau
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
 - 2 - New York
 - 2 - Kansas City
- WAW:ENL
(8)

REC 85

5836



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5-2-68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

ST
20

REC 16

44-38861-

1 - Mr. Long

TO SACs KANSAS CITY
BIRMINGHAM
NEW ORLEANS
MEMPHIS

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

MURKIN.

REBUTEL TO BH, ME, KC, SI, AND SL, MAY TWO, INSTANT,
AND BHTEL TO NO, NO CC OTHER OFFICES, MAY TWO INSTANT.

KANSAS CITY, AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY ██████████ WHO WAS REPORTEDLY
INCARCERATED THERE AT THE SAME TIME AS SUBJECT RAY. SET
OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS TO HAVE ██████████ INTERVIEWED WHEN
WHEREABOUTS LOCATED. NEW ORLEANS, HOLD IN ABEYANCE
INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE ██████████ PENDING INFORMATION DEVELOPED
BY KANSAS CITY.

FJH:jlh
(3)

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

MAY 2 1968

6:30 PM
TELETYPE

- Olson _____
- Loach _____
- Walters _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

54 MAY 13 1968

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FBI WASH DC

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

MAY 24 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 KAN CITY
09 PM URGENT 5-24-68 EOC
TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 1P
MURKIN

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

RE BUREAU AD IN PUBLICATION OF INTEREST TO SUBJECT.

██████████ INMATE ██████████ ADVISED THIS
DATE THAT ONLY MAGAZINE HE EVER SAW SUBJECT READ WAS TIME
MAGAZINE WHICH HE SEEMED TO RECEIVE EVERY WEEK. HE ADVISED
SUBJECT ALSO QUOTED U. S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT BUT HE NEVER
ACTUALLY SAW HIM READ THIS MAGAZINE. HE SAID TYPE OF MAGAZINES
YOU COULD GET INTO THE PRISON WAS VERY LIMITED AND THUS THE
PRISONERS DID NOT HAVE THE COMPLETE SELECTION THEY MAY DESIRE.
HE REMEMBERS RAY READING A BOOK BY NIETZSCHE, A GERMAN
PHILOSOPHER. HE ALSO STATED THAT RAY WAS AN ATHEIST. ██████████
SAID RAY WAS IMPRESSED BY GEORGE WALLACE'S PLATFORM FOR
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. HE REMEMBERS RAY QUOTING WALLACE AS
SAYING, "I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST NEGROES, EVERYONE SHOULD OWN
AT LEAST TWO". ██████████ ADVISED IT WAS NOT SUBJECT'S
STYLE TO PUT ADD IN PAPER, WANTED "PASSIONATE WOMAN" UNLESS
HE WAS DOING THIS TO GET A MESSAGE TO ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

REC 13 44 38861 4020

ND

G.M

MAY 29 1968

FBI WASH DC

56-1110 1968

[Handwritten initials]

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

MAY 10 1968

FBI WASH DC

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	_____

mm

FBI KAN CITY

1128 AM URGENT 5/10/68 PHM

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS, LITTLE ROCK
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 1P

mm

MURKIN

RE LITTLE ROCK TEL MAY SEVEN LAST.

WARDEN, MO. STATE PENITENTIARY, ADVISED NO PSYCHIATRIC
EVALUATION OF [REDACTED] WAS MADE AT MSP. HOWEVER, HE
REMEMBERS THE INDIVIDUAL AND HAD A NOTATION ON HIS FILE WHICH READ
AS FOLLOWS: "THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS NO INTEGRITY WHATSOEVER, TOLD
TRUTH ONLY WHEN IT WOULD SERVE HIS PURPOSES. HE IS COMPLETELY
UNRELIABLE." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE WARDEN AGAIN
STATED THAT HE WOULD PUT NO RELIABILITY IN ANYTHING [REDACTED] TOLD
HIM.

REC 36

44-38861-3318

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

MAY 13 1968

P

END

LCC

FBI WASH DC
66 MAY 15 1968

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 8, 1968

~~_____~~
Alabama, was reinterviewed and furnished the following information:

He was recently interviewed and furnished all the information to his knowledge as to his association with JAMES EARL RAY. As to the information he furnished concerning the fact that he heard RAY remark that the Cooley organization would pay \$10,000 to get MARTIN LUTHER KING killed, and he was going to kill KING upon his release, he said there were at least three persons whom he can recall who were present on this date and heard RAY make this statement. He said they were ~~_____~~ (phonetic), and ~~_____~~ (phonetic). He said he believes these three persons are still in prison in Missouri. He said this statement was made by RAY during the latter part of 1963. He said he would testify to this information.

He said he has no idea as to the identity of the Cooley organization and has never heard this organization mentioned by anyone other than RAY on this one occasion.

On 5/3/68 at Talladega, Alabama File # BH 44-1740

by SA ~~_____~~ Date dictated 5/6/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

[redacted] further advised that [redacted], "a cut and dried con," who worked in the tag plant of the prison, was one of the leaders and knew RAY well and he might be able to furnish information about him if he would talk to the FBI.

[redacted] related that [redacted] also knew RAY pretty well and would know more about him than he did since they both worked in the kitchen together for quite a while. He said [redacted] had been living in Georgia [redacted]

[redacted] stated there had been trouble with some of the Negro prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary who were Black Muslims so some of the prisoners decided to teach them a lesson and three or four of the Negro leaders were killed. [redacted] stated he did not know if RAY was in on the actual killing, but he was close with the ones that did it and therefore could have been in on the killing or at least he knew who did kill the Negroes.

[redacted] would not make any further statements about the killing of the Negroes in the Missouri State Penitentiary and he stated he could not furnish any names or identities but he did say there were ten inmates who were in on the killing of the Negroes.

[redacted] said he could not recall RAY saying too much about Negroes and he does not believe from his conversations with RAY that he, RAY, was a racist, however, all of the inmates in the Missouri State Penitentiary did not like the Negroes because of their belligerent attitude and animosity toward the white inmates.

[redacted] stated RAY liked to wear his hair short in the summer months and long in the winter. He said RAY used to have a "butch" cut in the summer months.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Additional copies of this report have been designated for the Bureau in order that dissemination may be made to Legats, Ottawa and Mexico City.

It should be noted that during interviews with certain of the subject's associates and former prison mates, their stories have varied from time to time. Some of their stories may have varied after this report was prepared. This is recognized but could not be avoided. Any more recent information obtained from them will be set out in subsequent reports.

LEADS:

All offices will continue to conduct investigation in this matter and will set out all leads which appear to be appropriate.

COVER PAGE
B*

[redacted] was in solitary when RAY escaped and knew nothing of it. He described him as an exceptionally quiet and "odd" person. RAY took mild drugs such as amphetamine and had very small veins, making it difficult for him to "main line" his shots. He purchased barbiturates and amphetamine whenever he could, but always believed he was ill, using drugs on occasion as a matter of medicine.

JEROME (NMN) CARPENTER, possesses Missouri State Penitentiary # [redacted]

He has known JAMES EARL RAY since about 1963, but not well. He knew JERRY RAY, brother of JAMES RAY, and their father was named JERRY RAY. When CARPENTER was 15 years of age his mother ran away with JERRY RAY and went to St. Louis, Missouri. They separated after two years and his mother has returned to Quincy, Illinois.

He described RAY to be a quiet, meek person who was very soft-spoken.

[redacted] now a [redacted] at St. Louis, was a fellow inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary with JAMES EARL RAY, during the period [redacted] or [redacted] until his release in [redacted]. RAY is described as a loner, closed-mouth, who never discussed anything but mixed well with the other inmates, both black and white. RAY never displayed propensity for violence or racist sentiments.

RAY was not addicted to drugs, but nearly all the inmates used any drugs available.

(Information received elsewhere noted that [redacted] received two telephone calls from RAY since KING was killed, one call coming from New Orleans, Louisiana, and one call from North Carolina.)

[redacted] became acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY in [redacted] while both were inmates at the Missouri State Penitentiary. RAY worked in J Hall as a "walk boy." He would take orders for cigarettes, gum, candy, and the like to be purchased within the prison and would bring hot water for shaving and coffee to the inmates. He was the only "walk boy" in J Hall and was free to contact any inmate and could walk throughout the hall freely. Conversations with

[REDACTED] Doe Run, Missouri, was in prison at Jefferson City, Missouri, from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] at which time he knew JAMES EARL RAY only slightly. They both had worked in food service in the prison.

He did not consider himself a friend of RAY's and did not know any background nor any information concerning RAY's escape.

He further advised that RAY's being somewhat of a loner resulted in no one being very close to him. [REDACTED] had no idea of RAY's present whereabouts.

[REDACTED] possesses Missouri State Penitentiary No. [REDACTED]. He knew JAMES EARL RAY well and visited him on occasion in the hall of the Missouri State Penitentiary. [REDACTED]

RAY had no ill feelings toward the Negro race and had no abnormal sexual habits.

He first met RAY in St. Louis about [REDACTED] and knew him all of the time they were in the penitentiary except for a brief period when he [REDACTED] was on parole.

Prisoners

44-38861-4964

35

7-30-68

67D
SAC, SI

MURKIN

██████████ TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT AS RESULT OF TRIP TO NORTHERN ILL. HE DEVELOPED INFO CONCERNING ONE BENNIE BUSHHEAD, AND AMERICAN INDIAN FROM OKLA. CITY WHO ALLEGEDLY WAS FRIEND OF JAMES EARL RAY AND MAY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN MISS STATE PENITENTIARY.