

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/29/68

At the outset of the interview, JERRY WILLIAM RAY was advised of the provisions of Section 1001, Title 18, United States Code. He was advised that he did not have to talk to the interviewing Agents but that they wished to stress to him the importance of his cooperation and truthfulness in the matter of the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.

It was pointed out to JERRY that he had lied to the Agents in the previous interviews in that the FBI had located his brother, JOHN, and that it would have been impossible for JERRY not to have known his whereabouts. He then stated that he had lied but only in an effort to protect his brother JOHN's, investment in a bar in St. Louis. JOHN had put up \$2500 to purchase the bar and JERRY was of the opinion that if FBI Agents harassed JOHN, he would lock up the bar, take a loss and leave. The bar, known as "The Grapevine", is located in St. Louis, Missouri, and is licensed in the name of CAROL PEPPER, their sister. He said that he has no information nor does he believe that JAMES RAY has been in contact with JOHN since his escape from prison in April, 1967. JERRY went on to say that he doubted very much that JAMES RAY was aware of the present whereabouts of JOHN since JOHN was classified as a "drifter". It was pointed out to JERRY that JOHN had been a visitor to the Missouri Prison on the day before JAMES RAY's escape. In answer to a direct question, JERRY then admitted that it would be possible for JAMES RAY to know the location of his brother's tavern. He said that he doubted if JAMES RAY knew his, JERRY's, present employment at the Sportsman's Club, Northbrook, Illinois, but that he might be aware of it since he had written a letter to the Parole Board in which he might have mentioned his present employment saying that he possibly could obtain employment for his brother, JAMES RAY, either at the country club or in the immediate neighborhood. He denied that he had ever furnished JAMES RAY with his present employment. He said that to his positive knowledge, the only way that JAMES could get in touch with

On 4/24/68 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44-1114-9
 by SAs JOSEPH M. BURKE and
RENE J. DUMAINE: pas Date dictated 4/26/68

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him was through P. O. Box 22, Wheeling, Illinois, since he, JERRY, had obtained this box for the specific use of his brother since he did not want mail from the penitentiary coming to the country club.

JERRY related that JOHN came to this area sometime around 1964 and stayed for about 2½ years. To the best of JERRY's recollection, JOHN first worked at Murphy's Steakhouse, then went to the Rolling Green Country Club and from there to the White Pines Country Club where he was employed as a pot washer. JOHN then went to bartending school in Chicago and went to work for the Indian Hills Country Club in Itasca, Illinois. JERRY is of the opinion that his brother, JOHN, uses the name RYAN.

JERRY said that on April 20 or 21, 1968, he telephonically contacted his sister, CAROL PEPPER, and explained that the uncooperative attitude of both CAROL and JOHN arose from the harassment of the newspaper reporters in the neighborhood and that both were afraid of unfavorable publicity which would adversely effect the tavern business causing them to sell out and move. He said that his sister, CAROL, has told him that she feels that she now has to move from the particular neighborhood where she resides in St. Louis, Missouri. CAROL has commented to him that the picture in the newspaper of JAMES RAY does look something like him. JERRY said that he agrees with this but that felt it could not be his brother because he read in the newspapers that the person sought by the FBI for the KING murder had attended dancing school in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1964 and 1965, but since his brother was imprisoned during these years, he knew it could not be him.

Concerning his trip to St. Louis, Missouri, in February, 1968, JERRY advised that he stayed at the MacArthur Hotel for one night; he believes the date to be February 2, 1968, and that his brother, JOHN, either stayed in an apartment over the tavern or nearby, but not at the hotel as he previously implied. He said that about every six or seven weeks he drives to St. Louis, Missouri, to visit with

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CAROL and sometimes JOHN since they are the only family he has. He denied that his brother, JAMES RAY, had been at this family reunion at this last or any other time.

JERRY advised that he owns two automobiles, one a 1960 light green four-door De Soto which presently is parked in front of the cottage at the Sportsman's Country Club. The other, a 1961 two door white over red Plymouth. Both of these cars were purchased from a stepfather, JERRY RAYNES, who resides on a farm in Center, Missouri. He exhibited a receipt from the Dunhurst Currency Exchange showing that Missouri driver's license R250-6227-822-98-473MO, plus title and registration for 1960 De Soto had been turned in. The receipt was in the name of JERRY WILLIAM RYAN, 2897 Techny Road. JERRY said that he had turned over these items April 24, 1968, and expected to obtain his Illinois driver's license and license tags within the next several days.

JERRY further related that he paid \$200 for the 1961 Plymouth and has owned it for about six months. The car is presently at his stepfather's farm and is not registered. The reason it is not registered is that the title to this car was filed by his stepfather in St. Louis, Missouri, but was not returned. Both he and his stepfather made inquiry concerning the title, but it was evidently lost. JERRY said that he has driven the car to Chicago and in this area on one occasion utilizing license plates from a junk car. CAROL PEPPER has also driven the car on several occasions with the same plates. However, the plates have since been removed from the car and destroyed.

In response to questions concerning Post Office Box 22, Wheeling, Illinois, JERRY reiterated that the only person who has ever written to him was his brother JAMES RAY with the rare exception that he might receive some advertising literature of no consequence. He persisted in stating that that he had received no communications at this Post Office box within recent weeks. After further questioning, JERRY admitted that on April 23, 1968, he received a telegram addressed to him at P. O. Box 22. He then made available a copy of this telegram which read as follows:

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"JERRY RAY

"PO BOX 22 WHEELING ILL

"(RTE WATS CHGO)

"PLEASE CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, COLLECT AT 217-224-1710
ROOM 230, OR MYSELF OR GERALD MOORE 312-467-9700. I HAVE A
METTER OF IMPORTANCE TO DISCUSS AND SOME MONEY FOR YOU

"DICK WOODBURY LIFE MAGAZINE"

He then related that on April 23, 1968, he went to "Life" magazine offices where he was interviewed concerning his brother, other family members and family residences and background. He stated that it appeared to him that what "Life" magazine was interested in was the family history. He also advised that his picture was taken and that for his services he was paid \$150. According to JERRY, his sister, CAROL PEPPER, refused to talk with the "Time" and "Life" reporters but that his uncle, WILLIAM MAHER, cooperated freely. MAHER also told the reporters that SUE (SUSAN DONIAN) had a family album in which there were pictures of JAMES RAY, including a picture in uniform. Concerning SUE, JERRY related that he does not know SUE's present whereabouts and is certain that JAMES also is not aware of her present address. He requested to be informed of her whereabouts which was denied.

He related that his usual day off is Tuesday, and that on occasion, he will go to Northbrook, Illinois, where he gets a train to the Union Station and spends some time in Chicago, Illinois. The evening of April 23, 1968, he spent at the Victoria Hotel, Clark and Van Buren Streets.

JERRY advised that sometime around September, 1960, shortly after his release from prison, he was unemployed in St. Louis and he was contacted by his brother, JOHN, who told him to come to the Chicago area which JERRY did. He commenced employment at the Rolling Greens Country Club, Arlington Heights, Illinois, from September, 1960, until January, 1962. He then returned to St. Louis, Missouri, and returned sometime in April, 1962, where he obtained employment at the North Shore Country Club, Glenview, Illinois. He also worked for the Olympia Fields Country Club for 13 days and then went to work for the Medinah Country Club until sometime in December, 1963, when he was hit by a car as he was walking along a highway. JERRY spent some time in the hospital as a result of these injuries and then went back to St. Louis, Missouri, with JOHN. He again returned to this area and was employed at the Flossmoor Country Club, from April until September, 1964. At that time, he commenced his present employment at Spotsman Country Club.

JERRY said that he had resided at the Sportsman Country Club except for a short period of time from March to September, 1967, when he resided at 2897 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois, with his wife GJERDIS STREET who presently resides on Wisconsin Avenue, Lake Forest, Illinois. He said that while they were married, she had a child, however, this child was by her previous husband. He went on to say that he and his wife separated in August of 1967 and the divorce was finalized on January 25, 1967. Later in the interview, JERRY advised that he was married in August, 1966, and that the divorce was final January 25, 1968.

When questioned as to whether or not he had been married previously, JERRY replied that he hadn't, but that he had lived common-law with CAROL SARTAIN who is presently residing in Morristown, Tennessee. He did know that CAROL is presently married but he did not know CAROL's married name. CAROL and JERRY had one child, MICHAEL, age 6, who is presently living with CAROL's parents, Mr. and Mrs. WILLARD SARTAIN, Route #2, Whitesburg, Tennessee.

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This town is located 24 miles outside of Knoxville, but JERRY does not know exactly where the SARTAINS live. He said that he doubted that the subject would be aware of the SARTAINS identity since JAMES was in prison before JERRY met his ex-wife.

JERRY related that his take-home pay is approximately \$113 per week and that he also receives room and board. He said that he has no money to speak of, at the present time, since all of his savings had been expended in his ill-fated marriage. He said that he sends money to his sister, CAROL, which she deposits in her account to keep for him. He estimated that he has approximately \$200 in that account. He denied that any of his money had been utilized by his brother JOHN in the purchase of the tavern in St. Louis.

JERRY sends money to the SARTAINS spasmodically, about \$50 at a time and estimates that since December, 1967, he has sent them approximately \$150. He also sends clothing and other items for MICHAEL's use. He also advised that he expends a great deal of money on automobiles and since he has been in this area has had at least 12 cars but never seems to be able to purchase a newer model than a 1962. He informed that his marriage "cost him a fortune" indicating that in the first two months he was married, his wife ran up \$300 in phone bills. He also paid \$135 to send her to driving school after which she had three automobile accidents and in one completely demolished one car so that he had to buy another. His ex-wife was also extravagant and spent money freely through charge accounts.

JERRY related that he has never heard of anyone named JAMES DAVID DAILEY, THOMAS BEECHUM CREWS or JUNIOR RAY CONWAY.

JERRY advised that he was not aware that JOHN registered at the Mac Arthur Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, during the time that he, JERRY, was there. He said that he did not know that JOHN used the Mac Arthur Hotel whenever he was able to "pick up a woman". He said that JOHN has never married and has no knowledge that JOHN is presently going with or residing with any particular woman.

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He related that he has no idea as to the present whereabouts of his brother, JAMES, and believes that he is either dead or out of the country. He could offer no reason for JAMES alleged murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., but did say that JAMES would have to have been paid for this murder in view of the purchase of the car and the dance school payments which JAMES made which information he obtained from reading the newspapers. JERRY did speculate that if anyone did pay JAMES for this murder, it would have to be someone he met after his escape because he doubted that anyone in prison or anyone that he knew in JAMES' life prior to being in prison would have the money or the desire to kill KING. JERRY said that all of the other crimes committed by JAMES were small scores and that he knew he never realized much money from them.

JERRY further related that it is his opinion that JAMES would never get in touch with anyone in the family no matter how bad he needed help.

JERRY RAY was then interviewed by SAC MARLIN W. JOHNSON and ASAC KYLE G. CLARK in an effort to obtain his complete cooperation in this matter. After discussion, JERRY gave his word that he would not lie in the future and that if his brother did contact him, he would contact the FBI. He reiterated that he had no reason to believe that JAMES would contact him.

JERRY advised that he sends his money to his sister, CAROL, because he would spend it if it was available to him. He sometimes sends her his whole paycheck to put in the account. He wants the money to save to put as a downpayment on opening a bar.

Concerning his automobile accident, JERRY advised that he was walking along the highway when he was struck by a car and that he was taken to the hospital at Elmhurst, Illinois, where he was semi-conscious for three days. He

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stayed in the hospital for 13 or 17 days and his pelvis bone had been broken. He entered into a lawsuit in an effort to recover damages, however, he was only paid \$1,00 and believes he owes the hospital around \$400.

He again stated that he had absolutely no idea as to his brother's whereabouts and then advised that if there was anyone else involved in the crime with JAMES, it was JERRY's opinion that JAMES would never divulge this person's identity. He said that at the time his brother received the 20 years' sentence, from which he escaped, he had been offered eight years to turn state's evidence but did not do so. The other person involved with JAMES did turn state's evidence and received a six year sentence. JERRY opined that even if JAMES was offered a sentence, of five years against death in the electric chair, he would not implicate a partner if in fact he had one.

The following description of JERRY WILLIAM RAY was obtained through interview and observation:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Race | White |
| Sex | Male |
| Date of Birth | July 16, 1935 |
| Place of Birth | Quincy, Illinois (No birth certificate, doctor died two days after birth) |
| Height | 5'9" tall |
| Weight | 178 pounds |
| Build | Medium, stocky |
| Hair | Brown, receding |
| Eyes | Brown |
| Scars and Marks | Circle scar $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter above left eyebrow; |
| Tattoos | "J.R." left forearm outer; "J.R." in scroll right forearm outer |
| Other employments | Knodel Bakery Company St. Louis, Missouri, oven worker, one day, 1963-64; Sunset Sanitarium, St. Louis, Missouri 12 days, 1963-64; Keeshen's, cannot recall working there |
| Marital Status | Divorced |

JERRY then advised that he used the Bell Employment Service, Chicago, since his brother JOHN had used it because the fee was only \$15 or \$30 to locate a job. He then related that he came to Sportsman's Country Club from Flossmoor Country Club where he had been a bar waiter. He said he started out at Sportsman's as a dishwasher and then went to work for the Marx Maintenance Company as a maintenance man in the country club. Sometime thereafter, the country club dropped the maintenance service and hired JERRY. He also advised that his brother JOHN was employed at the Indian Hills Country Club, Elmhurst, Illinois, not at Indian Lake. He then recalled that his brother was also employed at Green Acres Country Club, about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sportsman's in Northbrook, Illinois.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

5/7/68

Date _____

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JERRY WILLIAM RAY advised that he left Chicago, Illinois, at about 1:00 PM, April 29, 1968, driving his 1960 light green Desoto. He became sleepy while driving and stopped at a motel in Braidwood, Illinois, where he slept and stayed until about 4:00 AM, April 30, 1968. He arrived in St. Louis at 9:00 AM that day and went immediately to his brother JOHN's apartment on Lemp Street, where he stayed until noon.

Then JOHN and he went to his sister CAROL PEPPER's residence, where they stayed for approximately two hours. JERRY and JOHN then returned to JOHN's tavern and JERRY said he drank too much beer, became sleepy and feel asleep that evening. He said that he could not recall very much about the evening after he returned to the tavern and that he stayed with JOHN at the apartment until leaving St. Louis, Missouri, about 11:00 AM, May 1, 1968.

JERRY advised that he, his brother JOHN, and CAROL have read almost every article in the newspapers concerning their brother. He commented that while he was in St. Louis this last time, most of the conversation centered around the article in "Life" magazine and that there was no indication in the conversation with JOHN or CAROL that they were aware of the subject's whereabouts or his whereabouts since his escape until September 1, 1967. JERRY was advised that the FBI was very much interested in attempting to determine his brother's whereabouts from the period of time from his escape until he first appeared in Birmingham, Alabama, about September 1, 1967. JERRY advised that he had no information as to his brother's whereabouts either during the above time or his present whereabouts. JERRY explained that JOHN, CAROL's and his own information concerning the whereabouts of the subject came from their aforementioned following of the KING murder in the newspapers and that he noted in one article that his brother obviously, using the name ERIC STARVO GALT, first appeared in a rooming house in Birmingham, Alabama, around September 1, 1967.

On 5/1/68 at Northbrook, Illinois File # CG 44-1114 -10
 by SAs JOSEPH M. BURKE
and RENE J. DUMAINE/laj Date dictated 5/3/68

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JERRY denied having any information which would in the slightest way indicate that his brother or his sister aided the subject in his escape and have had any idea of the subject's whereabouts since his escape.

JERRY then stated that his brother JOHN had told him that the FBI had combed a two-block area looking for a JACK GAWRON, since it had been developed that GAWRON had been acquainted with JAMES. JERRY said that JOHN knows that GAWRON has been interviewed by the FBI but JOHN did not indicate to JERRY that GAWRON had ever stated what he had told the FBI.

JERRY said that in the past, he had driven GAWRON around looking at possible burglary scores at which time GAWRON would pay the expenses. To JERRY's knowledge, GAWRON never committed any burglary in any of the places in which they had "cased" and in JERRY's opinion, GAWRON is "living on past glories." JERRY then stated that GAWRON was a name that he probably should have given to the Agents before since he, JERRY, was aware that GAWRON had served time with his brother JAMES. JERRY expressed the opinion that JAMES would not contact GAWRON but believes that JAMES does know GAWRON well, considering him to be slightly "stir crazy." JERRY did not mention whether or not GAWRON and JAMES participated in burglaries together and made no comment as to the closeness of association between them.

JERRY advised that WALTER RIFE was JAME's rap partner in Leavenworth and that he, JERRY, has served time with both LONNIE and WALTER RIFE in Menard.

JERRY advised that he has given the matter of what he would do if his brother contacted him considerable thought. He is now of the very strong opinion that he would assist the FBI if it could be handled in such a manner so as not to compromise him and also if he could be assured that every effort would be made to apprehend his brother without hurting him.