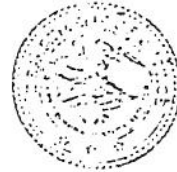


ROBERT L. KEUCH  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CRIMINAL DIVISION



8/31/78

Mr. Heymann:

I concur with the attached recommendation that we not prosecute John Ray for perjury.

I would emphasize that we have made every effort through John Ray's attorney to determine whether or not threat of prosecution or prosecution itself would result in any change in John Ray's testimony to the Committee. It seems clear from those conferences that Ray will persist in his position that his testimony concerning the bank robberies was accurate and truthful. This prosecution would in no way aid or assist the Committee's inquiry which might be an appropriate criminal prosecution standing alone. However, for if the matter were an appropriate criminal prosecution standing alone. However, for the reasons well set forth in the attached memorandum, even that is not so, so we have what I think would be a no win prosecution which would serve neither the Committee's interest nor our interests.

*RLK*  
*8/31/78*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(202) 739-2333

Bank of Alton, Illinois--7/13/67  
1:30 pm, \$27,230

Two subjects entered bank; First subject armed with sawed-off shotgun stood guard while second subject armed with revolver went behind counter and collected money.

Subjects wore stocking masks with hats.

Stocking masks and clothing were discarded after crime in a wooded area.

Attempt to burn discarded evidence short distance from the crime scene.

Canvas or paper bag used for the money.  
Only paper money taken.  
Fled on foot.

1. Jack Gowren told FBI in 1968 that James Earl took part. (Gowren was the common law husband of the mother of the Ray brothers.)
2. Uncle of the Rays, William Maher, lived in Alton.
3. James Earl bought a car for \$200 within 20 miles of Alton, the day after the robbery.
4. John Ray admits being around St. Louis about that time.
5. William Rife was originally slated to testify that John Ray had said he and James Earl took part in bank robberies together 1967-1968. This testimony apparently won't pan out, and Rife will simply say that James Earl was said to have taken part in 1967-1968 robberies.
6. Gowren was well acquainted with the Rays at the time of the robbery. By John's account, he may have borrowed John's visiting card to see James Earl the day before James Earl's escape on April 23, 1967.

Farmers Bank of Liberty, Illinois -  
10/17/69; 10:45 am; \$10,995

Two subjects entered bank; First subject armed with sawed-off shotgun stood guard while second subject armed with revolver went behind counter and collected money.

Subjects wore stocking masks with hats.

Stocking masks were discarded after crime.

Attempt to burn discarded evidence, including automobile, a short distance from the crime scene.

Cloth bag used for the money.  
Only paper money taken.  
Apparent car switch.  
(2 getaway cars?)

1. Rogers implicates Rogers and John Ray. Ray seemed experienced, while it was Rogers' first bank robbery. Drank in tavern beforehand to calm nerves.  
Ray held shotgun. Guns were supplied by Ray.
2. Ray admits knowing Rogers, who rented 2d floor apartment above Ray's Grapevine Tavern.  
Ray was later incarcerated with Rogers at Marion, Illinois.

Similar Elements of Felix Querandi

Farmers & Traders State Bank of  
Mercedia, Ill. 1/28/70, 1:05 pm, PERMURY  
\$5,038

Two Subjects entered bank; First Subject  
armed with sawed-off shotgun stood guard  
while second subject armed with revolver  
went behind counter and collected money.

Subjects wore stocking masks with caps.

Stocking masks and clothing were  
discarded after crime in wooded area.

Cloth bag used for the money.  
Only paper money taken.

Attempt to burn discarded evi-  
dence, according to Golden-  
stein's June 8, 1978 statement.  
Two switch cars used.

1. TWO CORROBORATING WITNESSES:

Rogers implicates Rogers, John  
Ray and Goldenstein.

Goldenstein implicates Rogers,  
John Ray, Jerry Ray, and Golden-  
stein.

2. Goldenstein says the Rays solicited  
him for the robbery, made the plans  
and supplied guns.

3. John and Jerry Ray were the wheel-  
men in the getaway, but didn't  
enter the bank. Decision was to  
have John Ray remain outside the  
bank because of his speech defect.

3. John Ray admits knowing Goldenstein.

Ladonia State Bank, Ladonia, MO.:  
6/11/70, 1:00 pm, \$13,975, PERIOD

Two subjects entered bank: First subj  
armed with sawed-off shotgun stood guard  
while second subject armed with revol-  
went behind counter and collected money.

Subjects wore stocking masks with  
caps.

Stocking masks were discarded after  
crime.

Attempt to burn discarded evidence,  
including the getaway car, a short  
distance from the crime scene.

Cloth bag used for the money.  
Only paper money taken.  
Two switch cars used.

1. TWO CORROBORATING WITNESSES:

Rogers implicates Rogers,  
John Ray, and Haynes.

Haynes implicates Rogers,  
John Ray, and Haynes.

2. Haynes says John Ray thought  
the robbery, supplied the gun  
and was the wheelman.

3. Haynes was convicted for this  
robbery.

4. John Ray admits knowing Haynes  
who did moving for him in 196  
and worked in the Grapevine  
for him.

Ray admits obtaining money from  
Haynes' wife, right after the  
Ladonia robbery, as repayment  
of rent money once advanced  
Ray. Admits suspecting it was  
from the robbery.

Bank of Hawthorne, Florida, 7/29/70,  
2:00 pm, \$4,514.

Two subjects entered bank, each armed with revolver; one subject stood guard while other subject went into vault and collected money.

Subjects wore stocking masks with hats.

Stocking masks were discarded after crime.

Only paper money taken.  
Two switch cars used.

- 
1. Rogers implicates Rogers, John Ray, and Kent [now dead].
  2. Rogers and Kent were convicted for the robbery.
  3. John Ray admits that he traveled from St. Louis to New Orleans with Rogers in June 1970, and then drove to Jacksonville, Florida, where he saw Rogers and Kent in June or July 1970.

Bank of St. Peters, Missouri,  
10/26/70, 1:20 pm, \$53,128.

Three subjects entered bank; two subjects armed with revolvers stood guard while third subject armed with revolver went behind counter and collected money.

Subjects wore stocking masks with hats.

Stocking masks and clothing were discarded after crime in a wooded area.

Two switch cars used.

- 
1. RAY CONVICTED FOR THIS ROBBERY.
  2. Goldenstein implicates Goldenstein, John Ray, Benny [now dead], Miller.  
Says Ray presented idea for robbery to the group. Ray was wheelman.
  3. Ray admits he knows Goldenstein and Benny, but denies knowing Miller.