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FBI Clears John Ray In Jordan Shooting

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Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

QUINCY, Ill. — The FBI has no plans to question John Larry Ray any further about the shooting of National Urban League Director Vernon E. Jordan Jr., a spokesman for the agency said today.

No links between Ray and the shooting of Jordan May 29 in Fort Wayne, Ind., were found during an interview of Ray, the spokesman said.

Ray said Thursday that although he sometimes suffers blackouts for weeks at a time, he was sure he did not shoot Jordan.

"I can say definitely I didn't do it," Ray said Wednesday after he was questioned about the shooting by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents.

"It would be against my nature. I never shot anybody," Ray told reporters at Adams County Jail in Quincy, where he is being held in connection with a Liberty, Ill., bank robbery the day after Jordan was shot and wounded.

"I can't tell you where I've been because of the blackouts," he said, "but I didn't shoot him."

Shortly after Ray's hour-long interview with FBI agents, Adams County Sheriff Robert Nall allowed Ray to talk to reporters in the hallway in front of his cell block.

Nall said that Quincy is a nine-hour drive from Fort Wayne. Jordan was shot at 2 a.m. and the Liberty Bank was robbed about 9 a.m. the next morning. Nall also said his department has a positive identification of Ray on May



John Larry Ray
"I never shot anybody"

22, when he was reportedly seen camping near the small town of Adams in Adams County.

Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said the Ray family had been targeted for persecution by the FBI and the Department of Justice.

FBI said Ray is not a suspect in the Jordan shooting, but he was questioned because of similarities between it and the King assassination. Both civil rights leaders were shot by .30-06-caliber rifles at motels.

Ray said he has never owned or fired a .30-06-caliber rifle.