

# F.B.I. ACCUSES GALT OF A CONSPIRACY IN DR. KING SLAYING

Alleges a Plot With Man He Said Was a Brother to Violate Victim's Rights

## FUGITIVE WARRANT OUT

Hoover Places Suspect in Memphis at Time of Killing —Two Photos Released

Text of the F.B.I. statement is printed on Page 46.

By EVERT CLARK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 17

The Federal Bureau of Investigation issued a fugitive warrant today charging Eric Starvo Galt, described as a 36-year-old "loner," with conspiracy in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King's assassin has been sought since the civil rights leader was killed by a rifle bullet on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4.

The F.B.I. said Galt conspired beginning about March 29 with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother" to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" Dr. King. The conspiracy continued until about April 5, the agency said.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced that Galt was being sought as a fugitive on the charge of having conspired to violate Dr. King's civil rights, in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

The maximum penalty on conviction under this law is a \$5,000 fine and a 10-year prison sentence.

### Announcement by Hoover

An announcement by J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I. director, placed Galt in Memphis at the time of the killing and said he then left for Atlanta.

It said that Galt, "who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past," owned the white 1966 Mustang automobile bearing

## Sought by the F.B.I.



United Press International  
Man said to be Eric Starvo Galt. The eyes were painted in by an F.B.I. artist. Original picture is below.



Alabama license plates that was found abandoned in Atlanta one week after the assassination.

John Willard was the name given in Memphis by a man

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who fled from a rooming house near the Lorraine Motel just after Dr. King was shot. The man had taken a room in the house, and the fatal shot is believed to have been fired from a bathroom window there.

There was no explanation of the Lowmyer alias.

The Mustang found in Atlanta resembled one seen speeding away from the assassination area.

Sources close to investigators in Memphis said that the Memphis police had almost run Galt

down as they went to the murder scene.

The Federal warrant was issued in Birmingham, Ala., where Mr. Hoover said that a .30-'06-caliber rifle equipped with a telescopic sight had been found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the shooting. He said an F. B. I. agent had determined that that rifle and a telescopic sight was bought from a gun dealer in Birmingham on March 30.

### Suspect Described

The announcement did not directly link Galt to the rifle found in Memphis or say that the .30-'06 was the weapon that killed Dr. King.

Galt was described as 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing between 160 and 175 pounds and having "brush-cut" brown hair and blue eyes.

"He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build," the F.B.I. said.

Those who have met him describe him as a loner and say his "language and diction have a 'rural' quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education," the agency said.

Galt was said to like vodka, beer and Western and country music and to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe, the F.B.I. added.

"His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear," it said.

The F.B.I. released two photographs of Galt, one with his eyes closed and another containing a notation on the back: "Eyes drawn in by F.B.I. artist."

The man whom the agency said Galt had alleged was his brother was not further identified in the announcement here.

Galt traveled extensively in this country and went to Mexico after he bought the white Mustang from a private citizen in Birmingham last Aug. 30, Mr. Hoover said. The car's odometer showed the Mustang had been driven more than 19,000 miles since the purchase, the F.B.I. director said.

"Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los

Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham and Mexico as well to Memphis and Atlanta," the F.B.I. announcement said.

The suspect left Los Angeles last Dec. 15, drove to New Orleans and "claimed he contacted either an engineering firm or a contracting firm," according to the agency.

He left New Orleans four days later and arrived in Los Angeles on Dec. 21. The agency said.

There was no indication why he had been in touch with the company.

### Took Bartending Course

While he was in Los Angeles, Galt "took a course at a school of bartending and was gradu-

ated on March 2, 1968," the agency said.

The announcement did not attempt to trace Galt's whereabouts day by day or even week by week. But it placed him in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965, in Birmingham last September and October and in Long Beach, Calif., from last December until last February by saying he took dancing lessons in those places at those times.

"He is said to be an avid dancer," the announcement said.

It also said intensive investigation by the F.B.I. had disclosed that Galt "has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman."

Galt should be considered "armed and dangerous" and any information about him should be furnished immediately to the nearest F.B.I. office, the announcement added.

The F.B.I. refused to say where it got Galt's photograph. The pictures show him in a dark suit and a neat, dark bow tie; he might have been wearing a tuxedo at the time. One picture appeared to have been cut out and placed on a different background, as though it might have been taken from a group picture, such as one taken at a nightclub.

### Sketch Shown Previously

The photographs were the first to be connected with the case, although F.B.I. agents have been showing a full-face sketch of a suspect to hundreds of persons all through the South.

There was nothing in today's statements to indicate what role the F.B.I. thought the al-

leged other conspirator played, or whether there might be still other suspected conspirators.

Galt's name was first publicly linked with the King murder on April 11, when an F.B.I. bulletin was released in Florida, apparently by mistake, and later withdrawn. The bulletin asked that Galt be located for questioning.

On April 12 the Mustang was found in Atlanta. It apparently had been parked there since about 12 hours after the murder. It was impounded after residents of the housing development where it was found noted that it matched the description of the car wanted in the murder.

The section of the United States Code under which Galt is accused states:

"If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same; or

"If two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another,

with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured—

"They shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both."

#### Memphis Hopes to Try Galt

MEMPHIS, April 17 (UPI)—Tennessee authorities indicated tonight that they would file murder charges in the assassination of Dr. King.

"That will be our immediate consideration," Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman said in answer to a question of whether there were plans to issue a warrant for the arrest of Galt.

"We look forward to the apprehension of this individual and his ultimate return to Memphis for trial for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Mr. Holloman said.

He would not elaborate on the statement.

## F.B.I.'s Statement on the Hunt for Galt

Following is the text of a statement released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday concerning a warrant issued for Eric Starvo Galt in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the F.B.I. as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the F.B.I. in Birmingham, Ala., today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241 of the United States Code.

The F.B.I. complaint charges that "on or about March 29, 1968, in Birmingham, Ala., Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King Jr. in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala.

#### Rifle Found

According to Mr. Hoover, a .30'06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel

and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that F.B.I. agents determined that the .30'06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Ala., on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight was also purchased from this dealer.

The F.B.I. director said that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Ga., on April 11, 1968.

Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on Aug. 30, 1967. The Mustang odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August 1967, and early April 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; Birmingham, Ala., and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

#### Avid Dancer

Intensive investigation by the F.B.I. has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been in Florida as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham between September and October, 1967, and in Long Beach, Calif., from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on Dec. 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engi-

neering or contracting firm. He left New Orleans on Dec. 21, 1967, and arrived back in Los Angeles on Dec. 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles area earlier this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as a white male. He is approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow; his teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 29, 1931.

#### Nervous Habit

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of Western and country music.

The Federal statute under which Galt has been charged provides a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine. Bond of \$50,000 has been recommended.

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest F.B.I. office.