



At left is James Earl Ray, suspected murderer of Dr. King, as he appeared in 1959 after his arrest for robbery. Right, as Eric Starvo Galt in 1968 photo.

King Suspect Said To Be Fugitive Con

By The Associated Press and United Press International

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The FBI today identified Eric Starvo Galt, sought in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, as James Earl Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

A warrant was issued yesterday for a man identified as Galt in the April 4 sniper slaying of King in Memphis, Tenn.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said a systematic search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the case against the prints of more than 53,000 persons led to the determination "that Galt and Ray are identical."

MISSING YEAR

Hoover said Ray, 40, was reported missing from the Missouri State penitentiary at Jefferson City April 23, 1967.

He had been serving a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

The FBI released two front and side view photos of Ray apparently taken at the Missouri prison, where he had been an inmate since 1960. It said the photograph had been taken in 1960.

LONG RECORD

John Willard was the name used by the man who rooming house from which the shot that killed King apparently was fired.

Hoover said Ray had a known arrest record dating

back to 1949. Prior to his 1960 conviction in St. Louis, Ray was convicted of burglary in Los Angeles, 1949; armed robbery in Chicago in 1952; and forging United States postal money orders in Missouri in 1955.

Ray, who had been at the prison since March 17, 1960, spent some time in September, 1966, in the maximum security ward at the state hospital in Fulton, Mo.

The man known as Galt was charged Wednesday with the first-degree murder of King April 4 in Memphis, Tenn. He also is charged in a federal warrant with conspiracy and murder in the King assassination.

BORN IN 1928

He was a drifter since he left school in the 10th grade at Alton, Ill., when he was given a general discharge for ineptness and lack of adaptability, the FBI said.

The Alton city clerk said James Earl Ray was born in Alton, March 10, 1928.

He is about 5-feet-10, weighs 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair and two scars: A small one

on the center of his forehead and another on the palm of his right hand.

He has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

INFORMER

In Birmingham, Ala., the FBI reportedly has an informer — apparently the fellow conspirator of fugitive Galt.

A tip from the alleged informer led the FBI to believe it could arrest the mysterious Galt in California Wednesday.

This belief led federal authorities to obtain a conspiracy warrant against Galt. Memphis officials swore out a murder warrant.

But the tip either was wrong or Galt eluded authorities. A good part of the investigation apparently still centers in California, where Galt attended a bartending school in February and March.

SEEN MONDAY

It was learned today that an FBI alert was issued yesterday to all law enforcement agencies in Imperial County, Calif., in the southeast corner of the state, adjacent to both Arizona and Mexico, to be on the lookout for a man fitting Galt's description.

The alert said the man was seen Monday on a back road in a rural area, 4½ miles west of El Centro, Calif., and was carrying a bottle filled with water. It said he told someone he was headed for Uuma, Ariz., law enforcement officials said.

The FBI in its warrant charged Galt and his "alleged brother" with conspiring to harm King, shot to death by a white sniper in Memphis April 4.

The conspirator was not charged in the federal warrant or in the murder warrant.

The FBI in Washington said it "has no one in custody in connection with Dr. King's slaying," but a reliable source said agents either are in communication with or questioning Galt's "alleged brother."

The informer, according to sources, had rejected a .243 Remington rifle purchased by Galt in Birmingham "not the gun we need."

Galt returned to a sporting goods store and exchanged the gun for a .30-06 Remington pump rifle March 30. Such a gun was found abandoned near the Memphis

flophouse from where King was shot.

The FBI has traced Galt's activities to Birmingham, Memphis, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

The FBI refused comment whether it believes Galt is the man's real name or was simply a cover. He has two aliases — John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer.

"John Willard" was the name used by the man who checked into the flop house three hours before King was shot.