

SFChronicle, 12 Apr 68

Alabama Man

FBI Names Chief Suspect In King Killing

New York Times

Memphis

The FBI last night was seeking a 37-year-old Alabama man for questioning in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

An FBI bulletin which was released by mistake in Miami last night identified the man as Eric Starvo Galt. He was described as being 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing 175 pounds.

The FBI in Washington refused to comment but sources said that Galt was sought in connection with the assassination of the civil rights leader in Memphis.

It was the first indication that the FBI may be nearing a solution to the killing.

The FBI bulletin, which was withdrawn at 10:30 p.m. said that Galt, who has blue eyes and brown hair, was last seen driving a white Mustang car with Alabama license plates, number 1-38993. This is the license plate issued for a car in Birmingham.

The FBI bulletin gave Galt's address at 2618 Highland avenue in Birmingham. Reporters who went to that address said that it was a rooming house and that other residents said they had not seen Galt in about three months.

In Atlanta, police were re-

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ported to have impounded a white Mustang that had been parked near a housing project since last Friday. Dr. King was murdered the night before.

The license number on the car could not be learned immediately.

The Atlanta Constitution said the automobile, believed to bear an Alabama license tag, had been parked at a public housing project near the Georgia State Capitol.

Residents of the project were questioned closely by FBI agents and other agents swarmed around the car photographing it and dusting for fingerprints, the story said.

The Constitution said Mrs. Ernest Payne saw the car arrive in the lot last Friday evening. The newspaper said she described the man who stepped out of the car as between 25 and 30 years, 5-foot-9 or -10 and weighing 165 to 170 pounds.

The Birmingham rooming house owner refused to talk to reporters and kept the door locked.

"I don't know him," the owner said through a closed window. "I'm sure he's never lived here. I'm not going to open the door."

Percy Strickland, a telephone repairman who lives in the rooming house, said, however: "I have heard the name of Eric Galt plenty the

last week. The FBI has talked to everybody in this rooming house."

Strickland said boarders "come and go and it's hard to distinguish," but he remembered Galt as being "younger than the FBI description."

He said Galt lived in the bottom floor of the two-story, pale gray stucco building and was considered "one of the boys."

Birmingham police said Galt had no criminal record.