

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

ASD 4

TO: Captain J. G. Ray,
Intelligence Bureau

FROM: Lt. O. B. Holcomb
Lt. E. H. Arkin

SUBJECT: Arrest and interview of
Jerry William Ray, brother of
James Earl Ray.

DATE: July 9, 1968

At 8:00 A.M. this date we were notified by Chief Henry Lux that Jerry William Ray, WM, 32, 1902 Cherokee St., St. Louis, Missouri, had been arrested at 1:15 A.M. this date at Main and Vance on a charge of public drunkenness. We were further advised that he is a brother of James Earl Ray, alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, and that he was registered in the Linden Lodge, Room 210, with another brother, John Larry Ray, WM, 34.

At 9:00 A.M. this date Jerry Ray appeared in Div. II, City Court, before the Honorable Judge Bernie Weinman on the above listed charge. At that time Judge Weinman dismissed the charge against him. When this case was called, a white male in the court room was observed to appear interested in the case and after the case was dismissed, Lt. Holcomb identified himself to this white male and asked his name. He advised that he was John Ray, Jerry's brother. He was invited to Chief Inspector Wallace's office to be interviewed by Lt. Arkin and Lt. Holcomb and he readily agreed.

After reporting to this office, John was advised of the right to remain silent and was advised that he was not under arrest and could leave at any time during this interview or decline to answer any questions asked him. With this understanding, John readily agreed to cooperate with us and gave the following information:

He advised us that he and Jerry had arrived in Memphis at 6:00 P.M., July 8, 1968, and had checked into the Linden Lodge, Room 210, and had paid the rent for that night only. He said that they had come in his car, which is a 1963 Chrysler New Yorker, four door, white in color, bearing Mo. Lic. AE2-558, and the left rear bumper has a bumper sticker with the writing Elect Ray Mueller. Mr. Ray said that they had been talking to a newspaper reporter who is affiliated with the Chicago Daily News, by the name of Jerry Lipson. Mr. Lipson had advised he and Jerry that they could possibly come to Memphis or Birmingham and set up an office for the purpose of obtaining funds for an attorney to represent James Earl Ray. This reporter told him that he would handle all the publicity pertaining to this fund raising and John stated they were just looking Memphis over and might ~~rent~~ rent a room or an office while they were here. He further advised that he was either going to Birmingham or was going to call to see if James Earl's attorney is back from London yet.

The following personal history was obtained from John as to his family and background:

He is a white male, approximately 6 feet tall, 190 lbs., with black straight hair combed straight back with a part, receding hairline, ruddy complected. On his inside lower right arm are tattooed the initials J.R. and a blue tattoo is on top of the right lower arm. He advised that he was born 2-14-33 in Alton, Illinois, and is presently living at 1902 Cherokee St., St. Louis, Missouri, and is the owner of the Grapevine Tavern at 1982 Arsenal, St. Louis, Missouri. He also advised us that there were nine children in the family, but that two of them are deceased along with his mother. He advised his father's name is Gerald Ellis Ray, @Jerry, 68, of Rt. 14, Hannibal, Missouri. He advised that James Earl is the oldest child in the family; that he is next oldest and Jerry is next under him.

2 - Jerry William Ray.

The following are the rest of the brothers and sisters:

Melba Marie Ryan, 29, Quincy, Illinois, address unknown, who is a mental case and draws a mental disability check from the government.

Carol Ann Pepper, 26 or 27, of 2025 Bellevue, Maplewood, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. She is the wife of Albert Pepper, a plumber.

Susan Jane (last name unknown), 21, married, and residing in Chicago, Illinois. John advised the FBI knows her whereabouts, but will not tell him.

Max Anthony (last name unknown), 16 or 17, an orphan and was last seen by them in Quincy, Illinois in 1951.

We then interviewed Jerry at the same place in the presence of John and advised him that his drunk charge had been dismissed in court and advised of his constitutional rights as to questions and was advised that he could leave if he wanted to or answer our questions if he wanted to. Jerry appears to be an alcoholic and could never could give us a legitimate reason for being in Memphis except he thought James Earl may come back to Memphis early and wanted to see him if he did. He further advised that he was leaving here and going to Knoxville, Tennessee, and then he changed that to Whitesburg, Tennessee, to visit his six year old son by a prior marriage, Michael Eugene Ray, who is staying with his ex-wife's parents. Her name is Carol Dean (last name unknown), 27, and lives in Morristown, Tennessee.

Jerry advised that he is unemployed and at large, but is presently staying with John. He advised he has a 1960 model DeSoto, white/light green, bearing Illinois license, that he left at John's house in St. Louis.

Jerry also is approximately 6 feet, 190 lbs., with black receding hair, combed back straight. He is ruddy complected and rough in appearance. Jerry advised he was born in Quincy, Illinois, July 16, 1935, and he has the initials J.R. tattooed on top of his lower left arm and a blue tattoo on top of his right lower arm.

Investigation of his personal property disclosed his Army classification card, Social Security card, and Illinois driver's license bearing the name Jerry William Ryan. He stated the reason for this was that he had no birth certificate and in 1943 he registered for the draft under this name, but could give no reason for doing this. He further advised he had a Post Office rental box in Wheeling, Illinois.

When Jerry was arrested last night, all his personal papers were photostated and during this interview he was asked about each one of them. All pertinent information was noted on the copies and the copies are to become a part of this file.

John and Jerry have checked out of the Linden Lodge and they were asked to call this office when they found another place to stay and to keep in contact with us during their stay in Memphis. They stated they would do this.

NOTE: John Larry Ray has a bad speech impediment and appears to be tongue tied.