

ARTHUR T. PRASSE  
COMMISSIONER  
BUREAU OF CORRECTION



TELEPHONE  
AREA CODE -814  
643-2400

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
AT HUNTINGDON  
DRAWER R. HUNTINGDON. PA 16652

4a

HARRY E. RUSSELL  
SUPERINTENDENT

ADDRESS ALL REPLIES TO SUPERINTENDENT

February 11, 1969

Mr. Hugh Stanton  
Public Defender Office  
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

Possibly you would appreciate some information about the writer of the attached letter. He has been continuously imprisoned since January of 1962 for a charge of murder committed in the Pittsburgh area of Pennsylvania. He did manage to escape from a county prison with 5 others but was apprehended the same day. This was in November of 1966 and two months later he was involved in another escape attempt in which this inmate assaulted another officer. He continues to be a vicious, dangerous and manipulative type prisoner.

In what way or capacity he could be of any assistance to Mr. Ray would be very questionable.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. E. Russell".

H. E. Russell  
Superintendent

HER:js  
Encl.

STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
AT HUNTINGDON  
H. E. Russell, Superintendent

RELATIONSHIP: legal

DATE: Jan. 27, 1969

TO: Mr. Hugh Stanton  
NUMBER AND STREET: Public Defenders Office  
CITY AND STATE: Memphis, Tenn.

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Dear Sir:

I possess what I believe to be vital evidence in the defense of your client James Earl Ray. I am willing to testify and give you or Mr. Foreman the entire details. I am forwarding this letter to you Monday January 26<sup>th</sup> 1969. I don't believe its necessary to indicate that any delay in mailing this letter or in your receiving it, would be ample grounds for the reversal of any possible conviction. Mr. Ray is innocent and I firmly believe I can assist him in proving this.

Respectfully,  
Charles Ganss