



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1015 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
May 9, 1968

The Editor

RE: JAMES EARL RAY,
ALSO KNOWN AS
ERIC STARVO GAULT

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a newspaper mat and proof concerning captioned subject.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is respectfully requesting the aid of the nation's press in bringing about the prompt apprehension of this badly sought fugitive, and it is therefore hoped that you will publish the enclosed material.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

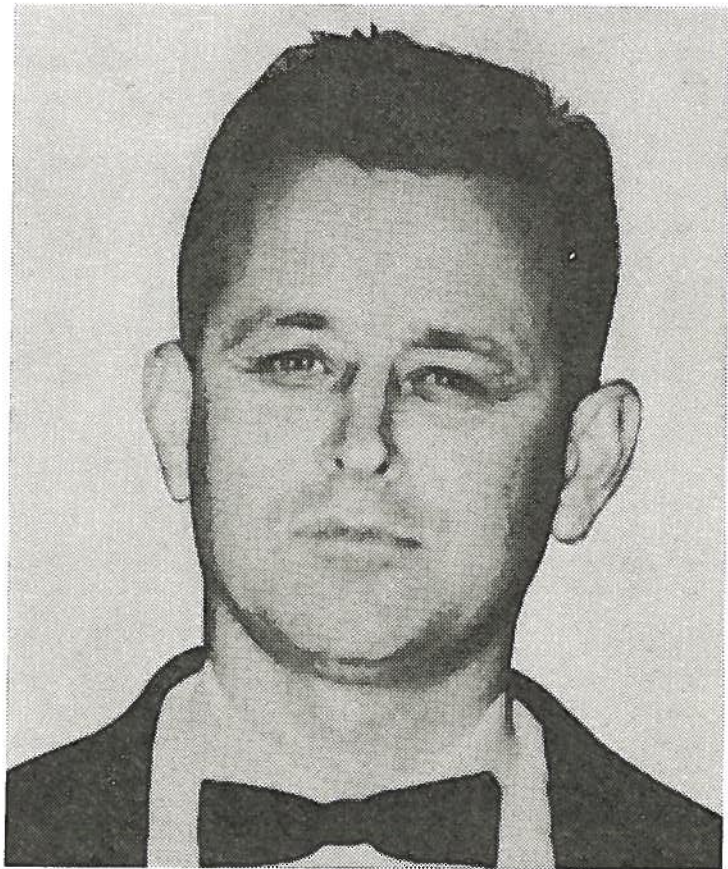
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.E. Milnes", is written over a large, light-colored circular stamp or mark.

J.E. MILNES
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure

WANTED BY THE FBI



JAMES EARL RAY, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, James McBride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner.

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee, sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Top Ten" list to insure widespread dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to speed his location.

Ray has been intensively sought since the murder of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices were posted, determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias of Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful flight to avoid confinement for robbery. His long criminal record also includes convictions for burglary and forging U.S. Postal Money Orders.

A white American, born in Alton, Illinois, on March 10, 1928, Ray is 5'10" tall, weighs 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably. Known as a "loner" and "drifter," Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.