

12/9/75

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-3886)  
FROM: *WJ* SAC, BUFFALO (44-374) (C)  
*on*  
MURKIN

Re Buffalo nitel dated 11/28/75 relating to newspaper publicity, etc., at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, concerning efforts to reopen investigation of Dr. KING's death in the United States. Re nitel reflected that one HAROLD KIRK of Toronto was to be interviewed by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department (MTPD), Toronto since he reportedly had information relating to a former cellmate at Mimico Correctional Institute, identified as CLIFFORD H. ANDREWS, aka R. L. WARREN. As noted in referenced nitel ANDREWS, according to Toronto newspaper publicity reportedly could testify as to his participation in the plot to assassinate Dr. KING.

On 12/3/75, Staff Sgt. GERALD A. STEVENSON, Homicide Squad, MTPD, advised he had been responsible for an investigation in Toronto which led to HAROLD KIRK's subsequent incarceration at Mimico and that KIRK, probably because he remembered STEVENSON's name called the Homicide Squad at approximately 3:15 p.m. on 11/28/75 at which time he made reference to the KING newspaper publicity and asked to be interviewed.

Sgt. STEVENSON advised that he interviewed KIRK later on that afternoon at Mimico and that he apparently intended to impress STEVENSON with his importance due to his former association with CLIFFORD H. ANDREWS.

2 - Bureau (AM)  
Buffalo  
WJC:cdm  
(3)

44-374-395  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_ Serialized *38*  
Indexed *25* Filed \_\_\_\_\_

BU 44-374

STEVENSON characterized KIRK as a prolific check passer in the past and a "con man". KIRK claimed that he first met ANDREWS while in the hospital ward at Mimico in July, 1975 at which time he made various statements, exact details unrecalled, relating to the KING assassination. It was not until KIRK read the newspaper publicity re ANDREWS on 11/28/75 that he felt that there might be some substance to ANDREWS claim to have some knowledge of the alleged plot to assassinate Dr. KING.

KIRK recalled that ANDREWS had told him he was in need of money to return to the United States and that he had also asked KIRK regarding the location of an individual in Toronto from whom he might obtain money. KIRK had no knowledge if ANDREWS had been successful in contacting this person in Toronto following ANDREWS release from Mimico.

Summing up the contact with KIRK, Staff Sgt. STEVENSON was of the opinion that he, KIRK, had nothing positive to furnish relating to an alleged assassination plot based on conversations he had with ANDREWS previously.

As previously reported in referenced nitel, ANDREWS reportedly was released from Mimico on 9/30/75. In this regard, Inspector GEORGE SELLAR (NA), Homicide Squad, MTPD, Toronto, advised 12/9/75 as follows:

The 12/5/75 edition of the "Toronto Star," a Toronto daily newspaper, contained an article captioned, "Cited in King Case, Jailed Canadian Says He Knows Nothing," and was datelined Calgary, Alberta. This article made reference to ANDREWS, identifying him as CLIFFORD HOLMES ANDREWS, formerly of the Southampton - Port Elgin area of Ontario, as presently being incarcerated for a three month period at the Calgary Correctional Institute, after being convicted of car theft. Reportedly, the institute's warden, identified as TERENCE DOWNIE, was quoted in the article as saying ANDREWS told him that he did not know anything about the assassination of Dr. KING and further that he did not wish to be interviewed by anyone concerning it.

BU 44-374

An additional article regarding this matter appeared in the 12/6/75 edition of the "Toronto Star," wherein the warden of Calgary said that ANDREWS actually was serving only one month in prison there and that it was expected he would be released around 12/10/75. This article, along with other things, pointed out that prison records, not further identified, revealed that ANDREWS was in jail in Sudbury, Ontario, on the day that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was assassinated in April, 1968.

No further action being taken.

Copies of this communication, as well as referenced Buffalo nitel, being furnished to Memphis (office of origin) by routing slip for inclusion their file.

**CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS**  
(AND RELATED INFORMATION)



IDENTIFICATION SERVICES  
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
OTTAWA, CANADA

**SUMMARY OF POLICE**  
(NOT INTENDED FOR SENTENCE)

NAME(S) CLIFFORD HOLMES ANDREWS

FPS No. 75538A

FPS No. 75538A

DATE AND PLACE OF SENTENCE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION	DATE, PLACE CHARGE AND DISPOSITION
19 [REDACTED] - AUG. 19 FINGERPRINTED BY PF PORT ELGIN, ONT.	<u>CURRENT OUTSTANDING CHARGE(S)</u>  FALSE PRETENCES SEC.321 CC	No DISPOSITION	<div data-bbox="1681 454 2000 860" data-label="Text"> <p>44-374-396 SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED DEC 31 1975 FBI - BUFFALO</p> </div>

WHEN USED IN COURT FOR SENTENCING PURPOSES, DETACH HERE

• THIS IS A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. ALL CONVICTIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY FINGERPRINTS. DISTRIBUTION IS RESTRICTED TO AUTHORIZED AGENCIES.

C-480\* (4/74)

**CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS**  
(AND RELATED INFORMATION)



IDENTIFICATION SERVICES  
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
OTTAWA, CANADA

**SUMMARY OF POLICE**  
(NOT INTENDED FOR SENTENCE)

NAME(S) CLIFFORD HOLMES ANDREWS

FPS No. 75538A

FPS No. 75538A

DATE AND PLACE OF SENTENCE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION	DATE, PLACE CHARGE AND DISPOSITION
1963 - OCT. 1 TORONTO, ONT.	(1) FRAUD (2 CHGS.) (2) FRAUD (2 CHGS.)	(1) 2 YRS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. (2) 2 YRS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. BUT CONSEC. TO #1	1963 AUG 29 BRACEBRIDGE ONT OBTAINING FOOD & LODGING BY FRAUD- WITHDRAWN
1967 - MAR. 10		PAROLED	1965 OCT 1 TORONTO ONT FRAUD (3 CHGS.), ATT. FRAUD - ALL DISMISSED
1967 - SEPT. 26 SUDBURY, ONT.	COMMON ASSAULT, SEC. 231 (1) CC (3 CHGS.)	FINED \$50. I/D 10 DAYS ON EACH CHG. CONSEC.	
1968 - MAR. 11 SUDBURY, ONT.	ASSAULT C.B.H., SEC. 231 (2) CC	30 DAYS	1970 NOV 6 TORONTO ONT FORGERY (2 CHGS.), POSS OF REVENUE PAPER, THEFT OVER \$50., POSS OF STOLEN PROPERTY OVER \$50. ALL DISMISSED
1968 - MAR. 11	PAROLE VIOLATOR	RECOMMITTED	
1970 - NOV. 6 TORONTO, ONT.	UTTERING (2 CHGS.)	9 MOS. ON EACH CHG. CONC.	1970 DEC 2 HAMILTON ONT ABSCOND BAIL, THEFT OVER \$50. - WITHDRAWN
1970 - DEC. 2 HAMILTON, ONT.	(1) FRAUD (4 CHGS.) (2) POSS. OF STOLEN PROPERTY UNDER \$50.	(1) 16 MOS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. (2) 3 MOS. CONC.	
1971 - MAY 28		PAROLED	
1974 - SEPT. 4 MILTON, ONT.	EXTORTION SEC.305(1) CC	1 YR.	
1974 - DEC. 16 OWEN SOUND, ONT.	(1) FRAUD BY ACCOMMODATION SEC. 322(1) CC (2) FALSE PRETENCES SEC.320(1) CC (5 CHGS.)	(1) 6 MOS. CONSEC. TO SENT. SERVING (2) 6 MOS. ON EACH CHG. CONC. & CONC. TO #1	

WHEN USED IN COURT FOR SENTENCING PURPOSES DETACH HERE

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. ALL CONVICTIONS ARE  
SUPPORTED BY FINGERPRINTS. DISTRIBUTION IS RESTRICTED TO AUTHORIZED AGENCIES.

C-480\* (4/74)

12-12-75

Airtel VIA COURIER

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)  
From: Legat, Ottawa (44-4)(RUC)  
Subject: MURKIN

ReBUCab dated 11-29-75.

Enclosed for the Bureau, Buffalo, and Memphis are copies of RCMP record for Clifford Holmes Andrews. Also enclosed for Memphis is one photograph of Andrews.

5 - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
1 cc - Memphis (Enc. 2)  
~~1 cc~~ - Buffalo (Enc. 1) *4*  
1 cc - Foreign Liaison Unit (Enc. 1)

*44-374-397*

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
DEC 31 1975	
FBI - BUFFALO	

*ml*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## King Slaying Study Finds No U.S. Link

© New York Times News Service  
WASHINGTON — The Justice Dept.'s Civil Rights Div., after a four-month study of federal records relating to the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has found no evidence of government complicity of a tangible conspiracy in the black leader's death, according to department sources.

But Asst. Atty. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger, who headed the review of files compiled at the time of King's death in 1968, is nevertheless expected by some Justice officials to recommend a new enquiry into the assassination in hopes of resolving persistent questions about the motives and activities of James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin.

### Report Awaited

One source noted that Pottinger's report on the matter, described as quite lengthy, would not be sent to Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi until late this week or early next and that a recommendation to begin a full-scale field investigation of the Memphis assassination had not yet been committed to paper.

But the source acknowledged that a new investigation would be "the most credible way to handle" the renewed public concern about the assassination that resulted from disclosures last November by the Senate intelligence committee of a secret six-year effort by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to harass and discredit King.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2

COURIER EXPRESS  
Buffalo, New York

Date: 3/24/76  
Edition: Four Star  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-374  
Submitting Office Buffalo

☐ Being Investigated

44-374-398  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

#2 MAR 24 1976  
FBI-BUFFALO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Examine King case from all sides

The recent four-month U.S. Justice Department review of the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King turned up no evidence that the FBI or any other government agency was involved in the murder. But that was reassuring only as far as it went.

Recent revelations that Dr. King was subjected to wiretapping and harassment by the FBI have deepened the suspicions that were first raised about the original government investigation of the assassination.

Clearing away those suspicions demands not only that the government again review the case, as it has now done, that the murder be examined from outside. So it's encouraging to learn that the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division is about to recommend the appointment of such an independent committee.

It's to be hoped that the recommendation is both made and accepted. The shooting of Dr. King may never be satisfactorily explained, but it's essential that nothing be left undone in the search for possible motives and conspiracies. The memory of a great man demands nothing less.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

8A

DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE  
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

cc Bureau

1 - 80-1872

Date: 4/2/76  
Edition: SUNRISE  
Author:  
Editor: DESMOND STONE  
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-374  
Submitting Office: BUFFALO

☐ Being Investigated

44-374-399

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 1976	
FBI-BUFFALO	

ORR

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Inquiry Finds No FBI Fault In King Assassination, Probe

From News Wire Services

WASHINGTON, April 29 — Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi said today a five-month Justice Department inquiry has discovered no evidence that the FBI's investigation of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination was faulty or that there was any "basis to believe that the FBI in any way caused" his death.

Nevertheless, the attorney general said he was ordering a continued review of all records in the Justice Department on the slain civil rights leader and an additional examination of records at FBI headquarters and field offices to determine whether the FBI acted improperly in any way before or after the 1967 murder.

"It is believed that more than 200,000 documents may be involved," Mr. Levi said.

Mr. Levi apparently rejected one: key recommendation of Asst. Atty. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger, who conducted the inquiry, that a committee outside the government review the investigation of Dr. King's murder.

Mr. Pottinger, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, began his inquiry last November in the wake of disclosures that the FBI had wiretapped and continually harassed Dr. King on orders from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

In his report completed April 9, he confirmed that the FBI tried to discredit Dr. King and the civil rights movement he led.

But he said there was no indication that the FBI was involved in the King assassination.

1. SAC Q
2. ASAC ORR
3. Sec. Supvr. Mr
4. Desk 4 gn
5. Desk 5 Dr
6. Desk 6 Dr
7. LASH Dr

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

20

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS  
Buffalo, New York

1 - 100-18626

4/29/76

Date:

Edition: Late City

Author: Complete

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character:

44-374-400

or

Classification:

Submitting Office Buffalo

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 30 1976	
FBI-BUFFALO	
SAC(LAST) (P)	

F B I

Transmit in \_\_\_\_\_ Via airtel  
(Type in plaintext or code)

(Precedence)

4-21-76

(Date)

1 WHL To: SAC, Albany2 WHL From: Director, FBI3 WHL MEDIA RELATIONS4 WHL RESPONSE TO CRITICISM OF FBI5 WHL CONCERNING ACTIONS TAKEN6 WHL AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

During the recent past, there have been many allegations in the media concerning the FBI and actions taken by the FBI against Martin Luther King, Jr.

In order to assist you in responding to inquiries, not only from the media but also to questions posed to you during public appearances, I am setting forth some of the more frequent allegations, together with responses which have been made in regard to these allegations. You may feel free to utilize these responses whenever the subject of Martin Luther King arises.

In responding generally to questions and criticism regarding the FBI's investigation of King, it should be noted that our investigation should be viewed in context of the time involved--the early and mid-1960's--not today. Those were years of considerable racial strife throughout the Nation when subversive and other disruptive elements were attempting to capitalize for their advantage on the social awakening in our country on the civil rights issue.

Media, congressional and public criticism of our investigation of King have occurred in the following major areas:

2 - Each Field Office

(Do not type below this line.)

ELMIRA RWBGENEVA WHLJAMESTOWN WHLNIAGARA FALLS WHLOLEAN WHLROCHESTER WHL

*Issue  
Bureau  
Speakers,  
aware.  
@*

44-374-400

1976

SAC (WSD) WHL  
CC 80-2177 WHL  
Supervisor.

(Do not type BEYOND THIS MARGIN.)

Airtel to SAC, Albany  
RE: MEDIA RELATIONS

ALLEGATION: The FBI had no valid basis for investigating King.

RESPONSE: This is not true. The FBI had a valid basis for investigating King to determine the extent of communist influence being exerted upon him. However, for reasons of national security and ongoing investigations, the FBI is unable to provide any specifics. It can also be pointed out that this communist influence was of concern not only to the FBI, but also the President and Attorney General of the United States, who spoke personally with King concerning the matter. It should be noted that the bona fide civil rights activities of King were never under FBI investigation.

ALLEGATION: That the FBI conducted illegal electronic surveillances of King.

RESPONSE: This is not true. All electronic surveillances of King were legal.

ALLEGATION: The FBI mailed an anonymous tape and letter to King. According to interpretation by various individuals in the media and the Senate Intelligence Committee, contents of this letter suggested King commit suicide.

RESPONSE: There is no record in the official FBI files to verify that any mailing of anonymous letter or tape recording to King was an official FBI action or with FBI approval. As to the suggestion that the letter sent to King urged his suicide, we can find no basis for any conclusion that the anonymous letter urged King's suicide and we do not know what the letter urged. All we do know is that the draft, or original of what might have been the letter, was found in papers left at the FBI by a former Bureau official.

ALLEGATION: The FBI played tapes of monitored King conversations to persons outside the FBI.

RESPONSE: There is nothing in the files of the FBI to substantiate such an allegation.

Airtel to SAC, Albany  
RE: MEDIA RELATIONS

ALLEGATION: Information developed during our investigation of King was disseminated outside the Executive Branch of Government.

RESPONSE: This is true. Although our primary dissemination regarding King was made within the Executive Branch, there was some limited dissemination to other U. S. Government elements such as Congressmen. In several instances, on a highly selective basis, dissemination was made outside the Federal Government to leaders in religious, academic and news media fields. Dissemination did not include playing of any tapes.

ALLEGATION: The FBI conducted a campaign to discredit and neutralize King.

RESPONSE: The FBI during its investigation of King initiated actions, including several under our Counterintelligence Programs, to neutralize and discredit King. There was no statutory basis for such actions. As to the possible motive for the activity, because of reasons of privacy and delicacy, possible motive is not proper subject for public discussion.

ALLEGATION: That the FBI was in some way involved in the assassination of King.

RESPONSE: False. There is no evidence to support such an allegation.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Inquiry Finds No FBI Fault In King Assassination, Probe

From News Wire Services

WASHINGTON, April 29 — Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi said today a five-month Justice Department inquiry has discovered no evidence that the FBI's investigation of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination was faulty or that there was any "basis to believe that the FBI in any way caused" his death.

Nevertheless, the attorney general said he was ordering a continued review of all records in the Justice Department on the slain civil rights leader and an additional examination of records at FBI headquarters and field offices to determine whether the FBI acted improperly in any way before or after the 1967 murder.

"It is believed that more than 200,000 documents may be involved," Mr. Levi said.

Mr. Levi apparently rejected one key recommendation of Asst. Atty. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger, who conducted the inquiry, that a committee outside the government review the investigation of Dr. King's murder.

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In his report completed April 9, he confirmed that the FBI tried to discredit Dr. King and the civil rights movement he led.

But he said there was no indication that the FBI was involved in the King assassination.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

20

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS  
Buffalo, New York

1 - 100-18626

4/29/76

Date:

Edition: Late City

Author: Complete

Editor:

Title: MURKIN

Character:

44-374

or

Classification:

Submitting Office Buffalo

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 30 1976	
FBI-BUFFALO	

44-374-402

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Appeals Court Rejects Ray Bid for New Trial

United Press International

CINCINNATI, May 10 — James Earl Ray, the confessed assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who now claims he is innocent, today lost his latest attempt to change his guilty plea and stand trial.

The U. S. sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 3-0 ruling, decided that Ray had intelligently and voluntarily pleaded guilty to killing the civil rights leader and had received competent legal advice.

Dr. King was assassinated April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. Ray is now serving a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville.

Ever since he pleaded guilty to first-degree murder on March 10, 1969, Ray has been seeking to withdraw that plea and to stand trial.

He contended that his plea was not "voluntarily and intelligently" made because his attorney, Percy Foreman, had pressured him into pleading guilty against his will.

THE APPELLATE court decided, however, that "the plea was entered voluntarily and knowingly."

The judges said that Judge Preston Battle "very carefully questioned Ray as to the voluntariness of his plea before it was accepted.

"Ray specifically denied at that time that anyone had pressured him to plead guilty," the judges noted. "His responses and actions in court revealed that he was fully aware of what was occurring."

Ray also appealed on grounds that he was denied "effective assistance of counsel."

RAY ALLEGED that Mr.

Foreman was interested in getting the case closed in order to make money from magazine, book and movie rights to Ray's story.

Ray cited contractual arrangements among himself, his attorneys and author William Bradford Huie.

But the appellate judges ruled:

"While these events might have caused some prejudice to Ray had he decided to go to trial, on this record there is no showing of actual prejudice.

The court concluded: "The advice which Ray received was within the range of competence demanded of attorneys in criminal cases."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

23

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS  
Buffalo, New York

Date: 5/10/76  
Edition: Late City  
Author: Complete  
Editor:  
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-374-1003  
Submitting Office: Buffalo

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
# 2 MAY 11 1976	
FBI - BUFFALO	

8/6/76

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)  
(ATTN: DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM,  
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (100-18626) (RUC)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
Buded: 8/9/76

Re Bureau nitels, 7/29/76 and 7/30/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau under separate cover are xerox copies of entire serials or first page of serials as requested by referenced communications of Buffalo Division file 44-374, entitled "MURKIN."

Items contained in Buffalo file 44-374 1A section (and located there except as noted), which were not duplicated, are described as follows:

- 1A1 Handwriting of Dr. ALVIN EUGENE FRENCH, obtained from Gowanda State Hospital, Helms, New York, sent to Bureau with airtel dated 4/9/68 (see serial 16).
- 1A2 Not described on 1A envelope but thought to be fingerprints of ALVIN FRENCH, Gowanda State Hospital (see serial 17). Sent to FBI Identification Division with airtel dated 4/9/68. Returned from FBI Identification Division 4/12/68. Returned to Gowanda State Hospital 4/16/68.

3 - Bureau (AM) (RM)  
(1 - With Package)

② - Buffalo  
① - 44-374)

DAH:jeh  
(5)

44-374-404  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_ Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_ Filed \_\_\_\_\_

BU 100-18626

- 1A3 Photo of Dr. ALVIN EUGENE FRENCH received from Rev. CLARENCE F. FRENCH, Ransomville, New York. Sent to Memphis with airtel dated 4/9/68 (see serial 18).
- 1A4 Photo of tee shirts and shorts bearing laundry marks obtained from Bureau 4/12/68.
- 1A5 Enclosed under separate cover.
- 1A6 Photos of Dr. ALVIN EUGENE FRENCH, received 4/16/68 from Bureau (serial 33).
- 1A7 Photos of artist's conception of Unsub, received from Bureau 4/12/68.
- 1A8 Photo of JAMES DONALD GALT, received 4/18/68 from INS.
- 1A9 Negatives and photos of ERIC STARVO GALT, received 4/19/68.
- 1A10 Photos of JAMES EARL RAY, received from Bureau 4/20/68.
- 1A11 Photos of JAMES EARL RAY, received from Kansas City Division 4/20/68.
- 1A12 Enclosed under separate cover.
- 1A13 1967 photos of JAMES EARL RAY, received from Bureau 4/27/68.
- 1A14 Photos of JAMES EARL RAY, received from Bureau 4/30/68.
- 1A15 Photos of JAMES EARL RAY, received from Kansas City Division 4/26/68.
- 1A16 Photos of JAMES EARL RAY, received from Bureau 5/9/68.
- 1A17 Photos of JAMES EARL RAY, received from Bureau 5/4/68.
- 1A18 Enclosed under separate cover.

BU 100-18626

- 1A19 Photo of "Lomax" (possibly Lomax-Ray Nana), back of TV, and handwriting in telephone booth, received 5/13/68 from North American Newspaper Alliance.
- 1A20 Photos of laundry marks placed on shirt and bed linen for JAMES EARL RAY, received from Bureau 5/14/68.
- 1A21 Photo of JAMES EARL RAY taken in California approximately February, 1968, date received and origin unknown.
- 1A22 Photo of JAMES EARL RAY with dark glasses, received 6/17/68, origin unknown.
- 1A23 30 applications for lockmasters course in changing combinations with three attached letters, which were received in the recent past but not definitely known to have been received on or after 4/1/68. Items returned to ALICE TAYLOR, 38 Round Trail Drive, Pittsford, New York, 6/26/68.
- 1A24 41 applications for lockmasters course in changing combinations with eight attached letters, received on or after 4/1/68. Above items returned to ALICE TAYLOR 6/26/68.
- 1A25 58 applications for lockmasters course in combination lock manipulation and one attached letter which were received on or after 4/1/68. Above items returned to ALICE TAYLOR 6/26/68.
- 1A26 Enclosed under separate cover.

(Attached to Volume 5 of instant file was 1A1 which is enclosed under separate cover)

It is to be noted that serials 38 and 39 are non-existent and it is assumed that they were skipped in serialization.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Special House Panel on Murders Of JFK, King, RFK Seen by Albert

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14 — House Speaker Carl Albert said today "there is a good chance" the House will set up a committee to determine whether to re-open investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, civil rights leader Martin Luther King and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"There are lingering doubts and plenty of pressure on the speaker to do something," Rep. Albert told reporters.

He said he has discussed the matter with Rules Committee Chairman Ray Madden (D., Ind.) and expects the Rules Committee to decide tomorrow whether to create a special panel.

Sources said plans call for a 12-member study committee to make preliminary inquiries

and make a recommendation by January.

If the study committee reports that sufficient information is available to justify a full-fledged probe, sources said, it probably would be given a mandate to conduct the investigation during the life of the new congress taking office in January.

A resolution introduced by Reps. Thomas N. Downing (D., Va.) and Henry B. Gonzalez (D., Tex.) for an inquiry into President Kennedy's assassination has been pending before the Rules Committee since March without action.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus met with House leaders and reportedly obtained agreement on support for a committee with a mandate broadened to include the

King assassination and possibly the Robert Kennedy case if significant information is developed.

The proposed 12-member committee, it was learned, would include four members of the Black Caucus.

A Senate inquiry into President Kennedy's assassination is also possible. Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.) has asked the Senate Intelligence Committee to undertake a study and some preliminary investigations have been made.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

8

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS  
Buffalo, New York

① - 44-374

1 - 175-20

Date: 9/14/76

Edition: City

Author:

Editor:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF  
PRES. JOHN F. KENNEDY

Character:

or

Classification: 62-1827

Submitting Office: Buffalo

☐ Being Investigated

44-374-405

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 15 1976	
FBI-BUFFALO	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# House Votes Unit to Probe Murders of JFK, Dr. King

From News Wire Services

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 — The House voted 280-65 today to create a committee to reopen investigations into the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

Speaker Carl Albert told reporters he will designate Rep. Thomas N. Downing (D., Va.) as chairman, and Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D., Tex) as next in line. Mr. Downing is retiring at the end of this year and Mr. Gonzalez presumably would succeed him, as expected, the special committee is continued in the next Congress.

Rep. Downing promised his colleagues that the committee's efforts would be focused only on the Kennedy and King deaths although the resolution establishing the panel allows it to look into any others. He asked for \$250,000 in funds for this year.

MOST OF the opposition to

the measure centered on authority to look into other deaths.

Rep. Sidney Yates (D., Ill.) said it "gives the committee enormous powers to go into any assassination attempt of any person in the world."

Rep. John Anderson (R., Ill.) said the authority was included to allow the committee to get into any other deaths which may have been associated with the Kennedy and King assassinations.

He mentioned the deaths of Sam Giancana and John Roselli, two alleged Mafia leaders, who were killed after it was disclosed they were associated with a CIA plot to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Other allegations have been made that the plot against Castro may have been connected with the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963.

Rep. Downing said other re-

cent revelations have raised enough questions in the minds of Americans concerned about whether proper investigations were conducted into the two assassinations.

THE WARREN Commission which investigated Mr. Kennedy's death concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of the President.

The investigation of Dr. King's death is based on information that includes allegations involving the removal of a black policeman and two firemen from their posts in Memphis shortly before the assassination of the civil rights leader.

The information, first aired in 1968, was presented last month to Dr. King's widow and to members of the Congressional Black Caucus by Academy Award winning screenwriter Abby Mann and by assassination critic Mark Lane.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS  
Buffalo, New York

① - 44-374

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KENNEDY  
Character:  
or  
Classification: 62-1827  
Submitting Office: Buffalo  
☐ Being Investigated

44-374-406

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SEP 20 1976	
FBI - BUFFALO	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# House Votes New J.F.K., King Probes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House voted Friday to launch new investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

It adopted 280 to 65, a resolution to set up a special investigating committee. Sponsors said information never sifted thoroughly points to a conspiracy in the Kennedy case and to the possible involvement of more than one person in the King shooting.

Rep. Thomas N. Downing, D-Va., told the House, "In the case of President Kennedy I am convinced there was a conspiracy involved. I do not know the identity of the conspirators or their motives. That should be investigated in depth."

Earlier, Speaker Carl Albert said he is designating Downing as chairman of the 12-member select committee and Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Tex., as next ranking Democrat. Both have long been active in efforts to reopen the assassination cases.

Delegate Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia said "new information justifies this investigation" of the King death. Fauntroy served as Washington director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference when King headed the organization.

"The shameful conduct of the FBI with respect to Martin Luther King is enough to convince us of the need for additional investigation," he said. "The King assassination has never been investigated thoroughly. There was never a trial."

There was little opposition expressed in debate on the resolution, but Rep. B.F. Sisk, D-

Calif., argued it could accomplish little.

"For God's sake, if you have any respect for the dollars of taxpayers, let's vote this resolution down," Sisk said.

"To me, it is almost unbelievable that we should be here, close to October, even discussing this issue. People are running around, just plain witch hunting."

A spokesman for Downing estimated the enquiry would cost from \$200,000 to \$250,000 for the rest of the year. The House must approve money for the investigation separately.

Kennedy's assassination was investigated by a special commission headed by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren. One of the members was President Ford, then minority leader of the House. The commission reported finding no evidence establishing that anyone other than Lee Harvey Oswald was involved.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2

COURIER EXPRESS  
Buffalo, New York

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FBI - BUFFALO	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Investigated Klan, Minutemen Following Assassination of Dr. King

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI investigated members of the Ku Klux Klan and the Minutemen in the early days of the search for Martin Luther King's assassin, newly disclosed FBI documents reveal.

Four days after King was slain in Memphis on April 4, 1968, FBI headquarters ordered an investigation of all known

members of the Klan, the right-wing Minutemen, "other hate group members, rabble rousers and any other individuals known to have violent proclivities located within your territories."

The order was sent to FBI field offices in Memphis and Knoxville, Tenn., Birmingham and Mobile, Ala., Jackson, Miss., Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

The memo is part of about 18,000 documents compiled by the FBI during its investigation of the civil rights leaders' death.

## Releasing 442 Pages

The FBI is releasing 442 pages to comply with requests under the Freedom of Information Act. Officials are screening the rest of the files to determine what else will be released.

The documents provided the first public details of the FBI probe. James Earl Ray, who was subsequently arrested, pleaded guilty to shooting King. As a result, the government never was required to present its evidence at a trial or any other public forum.

Ray has since attempted to change his plea and obtain a trial.

The first batch of papers dealt with the early days of the investigation and included no mention of Ray.

But three memos identified Eric Starvo Galt as a suspect. That was an alias Ray used.

## Check Whereabouts

The April 8 memo from headquarters told the seven field offices to investigate members of

the Klan, Minutemen and other groups "to ascertain their whereabouts" at the time King was shot.

Those without an alibi would be regarded as potential suspects and their fingerprints, obtained from military records or already on file with the bureau, would be checked against prints found in the rooming house where the shot was fired, the memo indicated.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3

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FBI-BUFFALO	

#2

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Jim Bishop**

## James Earl Ray Bought Rifle For Hunting—'Deer, Perhaps'

© King Features Syndicate Inc.  
**EDITORS NOTE** — Jim Bishop spent three years researching a biography entitled, "The Days of Martin Luther King." The current congressional investigation into the assassination led him to write an assessment of James Earl Ray Jr. Bishop does conclude that Ray was selected by one or more men of Birmingham, Ala., to kill King. These Ray articles will run consecutively.

**SHOCK WAVES** slammed through the cell blocks in Jefferson City. The President had been assassinated. A convict said, "Somebody made a million." Another said, "The man who murders King will make another million." A prisoner recalls James Earl Ray saying, "That's the million I want to collect."

His escape-of-the-week plan worked on April 23, 1967. He hid in a bread basket and was driven through the gates. His Social Security card listed him as "John L. Raynes." The warden offered \$50 for his capture.

**THE SMILER** washed dishes, bought cheap cars, drove from city to city. He held up a store in Montreal and got \$1,700. He changed his name again: Eric S. Galt. He courted a divorcee and began to spend more money than he had ever accumulated.

He told her he had a sponsor named Raoul. Raoul told him his next move would be to a rooming house at 2608 Highland Ave., Birmingham, Ala. He did not know Raoul's last name, but he had a lot of cash and spent considerable time in Canadian travel agencies finding out how to leave Canada for a country like Rhodesia.

It seems obvious that someone acquainted with his prison background (13 years out of 39 behind bars) had offered Ray his "one big lick," the op-

portunity to kill Dr. Martin Luther King. From this point on, he accepted direction and money. It also seems fairly obvious that "Raoul" represented someone in Birmingham, or perhaps a group of whites, willing to pay a third-rate criminal to kill King.

He left prison with \$300. He earned \$670 at the Indian Trail Restaurant in Chicago. The holdup netted \$1,700 — total \$2,670. He bought a white Mustang for \$1,995, rented a safe deposit box at the Birmingham Trust Bank, had \$2,000 in a savings account, and paid for food, lodging and prostitutes.

**JAMES EARL RAY** drove to Los Angeles, paid cash for nose surgery, took a course in bartending (he would need a job in Rhodesia), and drove Charles Stein and his sister Rita to New Orleans to "have some fun" and to "meet my boss."

Raoul told him "the job" had to be postponed for two months. He was ordered to return to Los Angeles and move into the St. Francis Hotel. James Earl Ray rejoined the Steins with \$2,500 in \$20 bills. Raoul had invested \$8,500 in Ray. He later said he was promised \$12,000 more and a passport to Rhodesia where, he was told, the whites rile the blacks.

In the middle of March, 1968, the Smiler received orders to pack and drive to New Orleans. He arrived on March 20th, and read a message to drive to the Starlite Motel in Birmingham. Dr. King was crosstown at the Gaston Motel. Two paths began to converge.

**THE CHASE** was awkward. James Earl Ray drove his white Mustang mercilessly, but he was two days late to catch his man in Mississippi; a day and a half late for a speech in Camden, Ala., and two days late for a rally in Birmingham.

He drove to Atlanta with his boss. He bought a street map.

Carefully he circled the home of Dr. King, a parking lot, the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership group, and the Ebenezer Baptist Church. He spent a week finding the places, and studying the roads.

The boss had new orders. The map was discarded. On March 31, the two drove to Birmingham. They found a listing in the Yellow Pages for the Aeromarine Supply Co. When Dr. King flew from Atlanta to Memphis, he could see the big gun shop off the edge of the Birmingham Airport.

**AEROMARINE SOLD** anything a sportsman might desire. The Smiler found U. L. Baker behind a counter. He would like — well, he would like a rifle. What for? Hunting. Deer, perhaps. Ray said he would hunt up around the Sand Mountains or Arkadelphia. Donald Wood, son of the shop owner, wasn't busy. He listened.

So did John De Shazo, a customer. Each felt that the Smiler knew little about rifles. He hefted many. At last he settled on a Remington 700, caliber .243 Winchester. He ordered 20 rounds of ammunition. It wouldn't last more than two hours of hunting.

Oh, yes, he wanted a 2-by-7 scope mounted. His name, he said, was Harvey Lowmeyer. The gun cost \$134.95; the scope \$74.60; the metal base for the scope \$20.32; cartridges \$4.65. Total with tax: \$248.59. His fingerprints were on every rifle he touched.

He was gone 90 minutes when Ray phoned in some panic. He had bought the wrong gun. Could he exchange it in the morning? This time — magically — he knew exactly what he wanted — a Remington 760; 30.06 caliber. This one could stop an elephant . . .

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

25

COURIER EXPRESS  
Buffalo, New York

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Jim Bishop**

## Evidence Points to Conspiracy In Assassination of Dr. King

© King Features Syndicate Inc.

### THE WHITE MUSTANG

cruised the streets of Memphis slowly. James Earl Ray was ready for his "one big lick." The Memphis newspaper stated that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was staying at the Lorraine Motel with his entourage. The Smiler had to find a room facing King's quarters.

A loser works twice as hard as a winner. Driving past the Lorraine, Ray surely noticed that the backs of sleazy rooming houses on Main St. looked down on Dr. King's room. The distance was 225 feet. Staring through a rifle scope, the target would appear to be 32 feet distant.

It is certain that he had help.

His trunk held men's clothing suitable for a short slender man — not Ray's size. The ashtray was deep with dead butts. Ray never smoked. The car carpet on the right front seat was thick with caked mud. Ray was obsessively neat.

On April 1st, 1968, the Smiler had \$10.50 in cash. Two days later, he had \$1,050 in his pocket. His anonymous boss told him to get out of town: go a few blocks to the Arkansas-Riverside Dr., turn left, go down Rt. 55, make a right and drive across the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge and head for Birmingham. Or get on 78 and into the state of Mississippi.

There would be money. Lots of it. An airline ticket was ready for a flight to Canada. From there to London. Then on to Lisbon for a final conference before flying to Rhodesia. The U.S. had no extradition treaty with Rhodesia. It was a place, he had been told, where the blacks "knew their place."

**THE ROOMING HOUSE** on Main was a cheap, no-questions-

asked, cash-in-advance place. Bessie Brewer was accustomed to unwashed drunks. She looked up at Ray and saw a brown suit, a figured tie, a clean, smiling face. He wanted a room in the back.

She had a 5-B. There was a 6-B, next to the bathroom, but it was occupied by a man and a woman. Ray paid Mrs. Brewer \$8.50 for a week's rent. After that, he spent considerable time in and out of the bathroom. As always, Ray had forgotten something. Binoculars.

It was 3:30 p.m., April 4th. The sun would be down at 6:30. He drove to the York Arms Co., near Beale St., and bought 7-by-50 glasses. He was impatient to pay the \$41.55. When he returned to Main, he found a parking space in front of Mrs. Brewer's rooming house.

**IN ROOM 6-B**, Charles Stephens and his common-law wife heard the whispered footsteps in and out of the bathroom. Ray locked himself in. He stood in the bathtub, punched a rusty screen out and down into the yard, and raked the porch of the Lorraine with the binoculars. Someone turned the bathroom doorknob, and walked away.

Someone came back. Ray said, "In a minute!" His fingerprints were all over the windowsill, on the wall, and on the tub. He left. He waited. He returned. The second floor porch of the Lorraine was alive with traffic.

At 6 p.m. a limousine stopped below the porch. The blacks began to emerge from Room 306 of the Lorraine. Rev. Billy Kyles said they had to leave at once for dinner. He waited on an outside stairwell. Rev. Andrew Young started down the steps.

### NEIGHBORHOOD BLACKS

collected around the limousine, looking up. They wanted, just once, to see the round face of the man who fought their fight in peace. Rev. Jesse Jackson watched Dr. King emerge from his room, patting aftershave lotion. "You remember Ben Branch?" Rev. Mr. Jackson said.

Dr. King stopped at the rail, and looked down. "I remember him from Chicago," he said. "He played 'Precious Lord.'" Rev. Bernard Lee said that Dr. King should wear a topcoat. Across the street, the Smiler put the binoculars down, pulled the heavy rifle up, and stared through the crosshairs.

"Ben," Dr. King said, "make sure you play 'Precious Lord, Take My Hand.' Play it real pretty, for me." "Hey guys," Rev. Mr. Kyles yelled. "Come on." Jesse Jackson looked up at Dr. King and said "Oh, Doc ..."

**THERE WAS A SOUND** like two flat boards being slapped together. The bullet, flying three times the speed of sound, caught Dr. King a half-inch below the right side of his lip, shattered his jaw, moved downward and severed his spinal cord. The shot slammed him backwards against the wall.

A white man emerged from Room 308. He was James Laue, sent by the FBI to shadow Dr. King wherever he went. He was too late to do anything.

James Earl Ray was spotted by a roomer, Willy Anchues, as he left the bathroom. "That sounded like a shot," Anchues said. Ray nodded. "Yes," he said. "It was."

Was there a conspiracy to kill Dr. King? You bet there was ...

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

23

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FBI-BUFFALO	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Investigation Concludes Ray Acted Alone in King Assassination

United Press International

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 — A thorough FBI investigation indicates James Earl Ray acted alone in the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Justice Department announced today.

"In all the years following the assassination, the investigation has failed to reveal any connection between any alleged conspirator(s) and James Earl Ray — including those alleged by Ray himself," the 201-page report on the investigation stated.

"Indeed, the overwhelming evidence indicates that Ray was almost totally alone during the year after his escape from Missouri State Prison" before he shot Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn., the report said.

\* \* \*

**HOWEVER, THE** investigation, ordered by former Atty. Gen. Edward Levi, was unable to determine the source of the funds Ray used to buy equipment and then escape abroad before his capture, the report said. But it suggested the money came from robberies possibly committed by Ray.

The report, developed by the Justice Department's "Martin Luther King Task Force," found that during Ray's imprisonment in Missouri State Prison he had told inmates he "hated Negroes" and vowed on several occasions that he would

kill King "if the price was right."

"The only new evidence that was developed related to details that did not affect the ultimate conclusion that James Earl Ray was the properly convicted murderer," the Justice Department said in releasing the report.

\* \* \*

**RAY IS** serving a 99-year prison sentence in Tennessee.

The Task Force said it was "satisfied" that the "FBI did a credible and a thorough job in attempting to identify any possible conspiracy or persons who could have been involved in the murder."

It said the FBI focused on finding sources of funds Ray used in his wide travels before and after the assassination, following his escape from prison.

Checks of Ray's possible involvement in various bank robberies occurring in that period proved negative, the report said. It added:

"It is the bureau's opinion that Ray most likely committed on a periodic basis several robberies and burglaries during

this period in order to support himself."

**THE TASK** Force members also said that they "found no evidence of any complicity" in the assassination by the FBI or the Memphis Police Department.

However, the FBI failed to check some leads that might have erased some lingering mysteries about the case, the report said.

This included indications that one or both of Ray's brothers helped him escape in 1967 from the Missouri State Prison.

The FBI learned about that possibility after Ray was captured in England on June 8, 1968, but failed to check it because it apparently was considered unimportant then, the task force said.

**AS FOR** the FBI's efforts to harass Dr. King and discredit him as a civil rights leader, the task force called the campaign clearly improper but recommended against prosecution of anyone involved.

The late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover instigated the harassment of Dr. King. He and some of his top lieutenants are dead, and other top aides involved are retired from the bureau, the report noted.

"They are beyond the reach of disciplinary action," the task force said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

8

**BUFFALO EVENING NEWS**  
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#2 FEB 22 1977

FBI - BUFFALO

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Given Clean Bill In King Slaying Probe

© New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — A major Justice Dept. enquiry has concluded that the Federal Bureau of Investigation probe of the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King was "thoroughly, honestly, and successfully" conducted, and that the best available evidence suggests that the convicted murderer, James Earl Ray, acted alone.

The Justice Dept. investigators, who made an eight-month review of the FBI's handling of the case, also concluded that the bureau may have had grounds for starting a security investigation of King, but that its six-year surveillance was clearly unwarranted.

The report released Friday said that the FBI never developed evidence that King had any affiliation with the Communist Party, and that it was the personal feuding between him and the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover — not legitimate national security concerns — that resulted in the bureau's "determination to discredit Dr. King."

## Ordered Last April

The Justice Dept. investigation was ordered by then-Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi, in April, 1976, after the Senate Intelligence Committee had disclosed that the bureau had engaged in a six-year surveillance of the civil rights leader that had included the use of wiretaps, electronic bugs, and paid informants, and that it had attempted to discredit him by circulating stories about his personal life.

In light of these disclosures, Levi ordered an investigation to determine whether the bureau might have been in any way involved in the assassination, whether its investigation of the murder had been "thorough and honest," and whether there was any new evidence that might warrant a reopening of the case.

After sorting through more than 200,000 documents and interviewing approximately 40 witnesses, a team of lawyer-investigators

headed by Justice Dept. attorney Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., concluded that although the FBI's surveillance of King had become "twisted," the bureau's subsequent investigation of his murder in 1968 had been a "credible and thorough job."

The release of the report at this time could further cloud the future of the Special House Committee established to investigate the deaths of President Kennedy and King, since opponents of that investigation are likely to argue that a further study of the King assassination is likely to be duplicative and unnecessary.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

17

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#2 FEB 23 1977

FBI - BUFFALO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# 'Uncorroborated' Plot Evidence In Deaths Claimed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Assassinations Committee's chief investigator said Wednesday there is "uncorroborated" evidence of conspiracies in the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But as the panel met for briefings behind closed doors, Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, would say only that the information was "highly speculative," and that it was too early to know whether it could be verified or where it might lead.

## Sift 'Many Leads'

He said the committee, which still must prove to the House that its proposed enquiries into the two assassinations are justified, faces the task of sifting through "many leads" that already have come to it, and must regain access to FBI and other government agency files.

The committee and its staff have "no preconceived notions," Stokes said, but are "proceeding from ground zero" in probing anew the Kennedy and King assassinations.

As the panel convened, staff

director Richard A. Sprague said he had uncorroborated evidence "indicating that others may have had knowledge of or participated in the assassination" of King, and that "there was prior knowledge on the part of some individuals of the Kennedy assassination before it occurred." He gave no further details.

## Previous Enquiries

All previous official enquiries have reported no evidence to show that the slaying of Kennedy in Dallas in 1963 resulted from a plot, or that James Earl Ray had accomplices in the shooting of King in Memphis in 1968. The most recent such finding in the King case was a report by the Justice Dept.

Despite conflict with the previously published conclusions, Stokes said Sprague's report was "not an effort to sensationalize."

He said one of the committee's first moves would be to meet with Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell to ask that the FBI's files be reopened to the panel's investigators.

## Says Files Needed

Access to the FBI files had been cut off at the request of former chairman Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Tex., whose feud with Sprague had virtually paralyzed the committee for the last two weeks and raised doubts as to whether the House would approve its continued existence beyond the end of this month.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2

COURIER EXPRESS  
Buffalo, New York

ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN F.  
KENNEDY, DALLAS,  
TEXAS - 11/22/63  
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#2 MAR 14 1977

FBI - BUFFALO

44-374-413

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ray Says He Was Framed

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Earl Ray contended in an interview broadcast nationally Tuesday night that he had been sent to have a fire fixed when Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated and that he was set up to take the blame.

Ray, convicted of killing King, said "investigations by people representing me" are producing evidence he thinks

will clear him in a new court proceeding.

But Ray shed no new light on who killed King if he did not, or why. He said, as he has before, that his only contact with the murder was through a Latin named Raoul. He said he thought Raoul was conducting a gun-running operation.

Ray made the comments on the CBS-TV program "Who's

Who," in his first television interview since the assassination April 4, 1968, in Memphis. The interview took place at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn.

## Pleaded Guilty

Ray pleaded guilty to killing King but tried to recant that plea three days later and his efforts since then to get a new trial have been turned down.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2

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MAR 16 1977

FBI - BUFFALO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# New Report of Plot To Kill King Probed

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The House Select Committee on Assassinations is investigating allegations from a man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rep. M. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said Saturday.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that "he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man."

Snyder said he got a letter from the man and listened to a tape the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. Snyder refused to say whether the man or the police department involved were in Kentucky.

Asked why the man contacted him and let him listen to a copy of the tape recording, Snyder said, "He may have just been looking for someone with nerve, a fighter."

## Reads Part of Letter

Snyder read part of the letter and used the word "blank" where the man had used names.

"I retired from (blank) Police Dept. in (blank) after serving (blank) years," Snyder quoted the letter as saying. "While I was in the Police Dept. I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King."

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," Snyder said, continuing to read the letter. "Members of the (blank) Police Dept., Chief of Detectives Capt. (blank), Lt. (blank), Officer (blank), Lt. (blank) of the Homicide Bureau and president of the FOP Sgt. (blank)."

FOP stands for Fraternal Order of Police, an organization for police officers.

## Protecting Identities

Snyder said he could not divulge the names listed in the letter or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an accurate allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

Snyder said he former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-8

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#2 MAR 21 1977

FBI - BUFFALO

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## Probers Say 'Raoul' Is Ray's Brother

United Press International

WASHINGTON, March 21 — Two independent investigators claimed Sunday the mysterious "Raoul" whom James Earl Ray blames for the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. is Ray's younger brother, Jerry.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee prison after pleading guilty to the 1968 murder of Dr. King in Memphis. He later changed his story and asked for a new trial, saying he was the fall guy for a man identified only as Raoul, a Canadian who allegedly aided and financed him.

David S. Lifton and Jeff Cohen claim in an article in the April edition of New Times magazine that in his testimony Ray substituted the non-existent "Raoul" for his brother Jerry.

MR. LIFTON told UPI he briefed House Assassination Committee investigators, including counsel Robert Lehner, for two days in January on his findings. Mr. Lehner and chief counsel Richard Sprague will be interviewing Ray at Brushy Mountain Park Prison in Tennessee this week.

According to the magazine article, Ray has described how he met Raoul in a Montreal bar in 1966, entered into a smuggling scheme with him and was promised money if he would move south, lie low and wait for instructions. Seven months later he went to Memphis "with a weapon Raoul had told him to buy" and "on April 4, 1968, James Earl Ray, sitting outside a ramshackle rooming house, heard a shot, and a moment later, saw Raoul emerging, gun in hand," it said.

Many investigators have asked why Ray would not identify Raoul.

Jerry Ray was in 1968 "a devoted lieutenant of Georgia lawyer Jesse B. Stoner, leader of the racist National States Rights Party," the author said. Jerry Ray was last reported working in Chicago, they said.

THE AUTHORS say Percy Foreman, James Earl Ray's second lawyer, has confirmed that Ray once said he was accompanied by his brother March 29, 1968, when he went to purchase the rifle found later by police in Memphis.

A recent Justice Department investigation concluded that James Earl Ray alone killed Dr. King, but noted that Jerry Ray aided and abetted his brother after his escape from a Missouri prison, lied to the FBI about the extent and nature of his contacts with his brother and would, had the statute of limitations not expired, have been liable to prosecution.

Meanwhile, Rep. Gene Snyder (R., Ky.) said he understands the House Assassinations Committee has "some right substantial leads" about the King murder, besides information he relayed on an alleged assassination plot by FBI agents and police.

Rep. Snyder said during the week-end that a retired police officer wrote him last month about an alleged conspiracy involving three FBI agents and "three or four police officers" to kill Dr. King. He said the policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 to commit the murder.

Rep. Snyder declined to name the officer or his city police force. But UPI learned that the alleged plot supposedly involved high-ranking police and FBI agents from Louisville.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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MAR 22 1977  
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## Report of Plot To Kill King Is Traced

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, March 23 — The wife of a retired Louisville police officer confirmed today that her husband told Rep. Gene Snyder (R., Ky.) that he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mary Baird, 44, said her husband, ~~Clifton~~, who was out of town and unavailable for comment, told Mr. Snyder of an offer he said was made by members of the Louisville Police Department and several FBI agents.

She said her husband, 50, retired from the Louisville Police Department several years ago after 27 years' service.

"He told me about this when I first married him, seven years ago," Mrs. Baird said. "I think he thought he wasn't going to be believed."

She said she believes one reason he came forward a second time with the allegation was because "he wants to know why someone asked him" to kill the civil-rights leader, who was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

"It sure has been on his mind," Mrs. Baird said. "He said it just got to bothering him and that's why he contacted Mr. Snyder."

She said her husband, before contacting Mr. Snyder, told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot. She said her husband was "discouraged" after he spoke to the attorney.

Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying of King.

Mr. Snyder, who disclosed last week that he had heard from a man who claimed knowledge of a plot to kill King, refused to divulge the man's name.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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## House Panel To Be Told of Ray Interview

From News Wire Services

WASHINGTON, March 23 — The House Assassinations Committee today hoped to hear what James Earl Ray told its investigators about his part in the murder of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

A team of lawyers and investigators, headed by chief counsel Richard Sprague, interviewed Ray Tuesday at Brushy Mountain Park Prison in Tennessee where he is serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to Dr. King's murder, but would not talk to reporters afterwards.

Mr. Sprague was expected to brief the committee in closed session on the interview.

Jack Kershaw, Ray's attorney said afterward that Ray was not under oath, but that he answered all questions put to him.

"I don't see any great surprise information coming out until later," said Mr. Kershaw. "If there are any surprises, they will not be the result of Ray's direct information."

Mr. Kershaw said Ray talked only about his actions or actions of which he had direct knowledge.

The meeting took place in the office of the captain of the guard at the maximum-security prison.

The committee is trying to clear up speculation that Ray was not alone in planning the murder, carrying it out or in arranging or financing his travels after the crime.

Ray has claimed that he was wrongly advised to plead guilty in hopes of a new trial in which, he said, new evidence would be introduced.

Ray said in a television interview last week that he did not fire the bullet that killed Dr. King and that he was in Memphis at the time of the killing under instructions from a man he knew only as "Raoul."

Two independent investigators claimed in an article in the latest edition of New Times magazine that "Raoul" actually is Ray's younger brother, Jerry.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, (D., Mass.) said Monday the committee now has his "wholehearted support" and that the panel would ask the House for a \$2.5 million budget for the rest of this year.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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# Ray Contends Probes Will Uncover Evidence Clearing Him in King Case

Associated Press  
NEW YORK, March 16 — James Earl Ray, convicted of killing Dr. Martin Luther King, said Tuesday that "investigations by people representing me" are producing evidence he thinks will clear him in a new court proceeding.

Ray contended in an interview broadcast nationally that he had been sent to have a tire fixed when Dr. King was shot and that he was set up to take the blame.

But Ray shed no new light on who killed Dr. King or why. He said, as he has before, that his only contact with the murder was through a Latin named Raoul. He said he thought Raoul was conducting a gun-running operation.

Ray made the comments on the CBS-TV program "Who's Who."

NEWSMAN DAN RATHER told him many viewers obviously would think he was just making up a story to get himself out of prison and Ray replied he had always thought people would not believe anything he said in a news interview.

Giving new details about his story about Raoul and a conspiracy, Ray said he delivered a rifle to Raoul shortly before the April 4, 1968, assassination in what he thought was part of

the gun-running operation. He said Raoul then sent him to have a tire fixed.

He said the attendants at a service station told him they were too busy to fix the tire because of the hour. Dr. King was assassinated shortly before 6 P.M., the traffic rush hour period.

Ray said he was certain he was not in the rooming house from which the rifle was fired at Dr. King after 5:30 P.M.

RAY SAID RAOUL had been directing him in gun-running activities for a year. He said there was nothing to distinguish Raoul except that he had auburn hair, not black hair like most Latin people he knew.

But Ray said he and Raoul had never discussed killing Dr. King and so he did not know why King was killed.

He said he believes the most plausible theory is the one that Dr. King was killed to halt his civil-rights activities.

Ray pleaded guilty to killing Dr. King but tried to recant that plea three days later and his efforts since then to get a new trial have been turned down all the way to the Supreme Court.

He said he pleaded guilty because "I determined there was no way I could force Percy Foreman (his lawyer) to go to

trial with any prospect of success.

"I ASSUMED THAT if I did enter a plea of guilty and I could have had an investigation after the plea with newly discovered evidence, there was a possibility the case could've been reversed," he said.

He said he did not accept a prosecutor's offer to consider trying to reduce his 99-year prison term if he would tell his full story because he feared whatever he said to the prosecutor would be used against him.

He also said he is willing to testify to the House Assassinations Committee only if it will hear his own story, not assume he is guilty and try to find out who else was involved.

He said he was not willing to accept Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell's offer of a private interview and said he wants nothing to do with the Justice Department because he thinks it has "an inherent feeling against me because of my background."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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## House Probers Interrogate Ray Seeking King Slaying Bounty Link

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Assassinations Committee, facing possible extinction, said on Monday it is trying to determine whether James Earl Ray collected a bounty for killing civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee, which also is probing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, made the statement in an interim report to the House as it sought approval to proceed with its work for two more years.

Meanwhile, by a 9-4 vote the House Rules Committee cleared for floor action today the issue of whether to keep the committee alive. If the House refuses, the committee's work will end May 1.

### Payoff Probed

In its report, the committee

said it is investigating whether Ray, 49, was hired by businessmen or others to murder King, who was shot to death at a Memphis, Tenn., motel April 4, 1968.

The report said Ray told fellow Missouri state penitentiary inmates before he escaped April 23, 1967, that he would kill Dr. King "if the price was right," and that he intended to find a businessmen's association he heard had offered \$100,000 for King's murder.

The question of whether Ray ever made contact with such a group has never been answered, the report added, saying "the committee intends to resolve

A recent Justice Dept. report on the King assassination, the committee report noted, also quoted Ray's former prison cellmates and acquaintances as saying he intended to collect a bounty for killing King.

"The Justice Dept. report, however, fails to note that almost every one of these statements points at the same time to the existence of a conspiracy," the committee said.

While the committee's progress report was being circulated in Congress, its in-

vestigators questioned Ray for more than six hours Monday at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn.

### Serving 99-Year Term

Ray is serving a 99-year term after pleading guilty in 1969 to killing King. Since then, however, Ray has maintained he was forced into entering the guilty plea by Percy Foreman, his attorney at the time.

Jack Kershaw of Nashville, hired by Ray last month, said his client gave investigators enough information to pursue details of Ray's alleged relationship with a mysterious man named "Raoul." Ray has argued that he was in Memphis on the day King was killed at the direction of "Raoul."

The committee's chief counsel, Richard Sprague, would not reveal any details of the meeting with Ray, held in a conference room just outside the prison's walls.

"We are continuing our interrogation of Mr. Ray and we will be back," was Sprague's only comment.

Kershaw said House investigators would return April 11 to continue their talks with Ray. Sprague and other committee officials interviewed Ray for the first time last Tuesday.

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## LaFalce Raps Credibility Of Probes Panel

Courier-Express Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON — The House Committee investigating the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. has lost its credibility, Rep. John J. LaFalce, D-Town of Tenawanda, said Thursday.

He said the American people still have questions about the assassinations, but the House committee charged with finding the answers has lost its credibility and cannot ease the public's suspicions.

LaFalce was the only member of the Western New York congressional delegation to vote against continuing the investigation on Wednesday when the House gave the go-ahead for two more years.

The select panel had been torn by dissension between chairman Henry Gonzalez, D-Texas and Richard Sprague, chief counsel to the committee.

Gonzalez attempted to fire Sprague last month, but he found no support for the move on the committee and quit. Sprague resigned 15 hours before Wednesday's House vote after it became clear the House would not authorize the continued investigation with Sprague as chief counsel.

LaFalce said it is too late to "rehabilitate the credibility" of the committee. He wants a separate investigation, possibly by the justice dept.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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ASSASSINATION OF  
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KENNEDY, DALLAS,  
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*Washington Merry-Go-Round***New Leads in King Slaying?****By JACK ANDERSON AND LES WHITTEN**

WASHINGTON — Nine years ago, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., spiritual leader of the civil rights movement, was gunned down in Memphis. An escaped convict named James Earl Ray was nailed for the murder.

Yet nagging suspicions persisted that he may have been hired by others. The public doubt finally forced a Justice Department task force to review the case. It has concluded that Ray "was the assassin and that he acted alone."



Ray

HOUSE INVESTIGATORS, however, have challenged the Justice Department's findings. In a confidential, 16-page analysis, they have pointed out significant inconsistencies and omissions in the task force report.

The House investigators don't pretend that they have solved the case. But they have set forth their clues in a fascinating secret report, stamped "Sensitive." Here are the highlights, in chronological order:

**WHILE RAY WAS** serving time in the Missouri state penitentiary, he told cell-mates that he would kill King "if the price was right." Ray also was quoted as saying he intended to seek out a "businessmen's association" which allegedly had offered \$100,000 for King's murder.

On April 23, 1967, Ray escaped from the prison by hiding in a large bread box, which was loaded on a bakery truck. The congressional investigators are trying to find out "whether anyone aided Ray in his escape and whether this assistance was connected" to the King assassination.

**THE ESCAPEE** had immediate access to false identities. He posed alternately as Eric Galt, Ramon George Sneyd, Paul Bridgman and John Willard. "The aliases correspond to the names of real men, all of whom lived close to one another in suburban Toronto," report the investigators. "In addition, three out of the four bear physical resemblances to Ray." Galt "even had scars in the same location as did Ray, the forehead and right palm." The House sleuths want to know "whether Ray received any help in obtaining these aliases."

For the next year, Ray "traveled across the United States, lived in more than a dozen cities and traveled in four foreign countries . . . A conservative estimate of his total expense would be at least \$7,000. Ray himself estimates that he spent at least \$9,500."

**THOSE WHO DID** business with him recall that "he often paid for items with new \$20 bills." The House Assassinations Committee "intends to investigate the sources of Ray's funds in general and of those \$20 bills in particular."

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Ray opened a safety deposit box in a Birmingham bank in August, 1967, and closed it four months later. Bank records show the box was closed by someone living in Baton Rouge, La. Yet Ray was living in Los Angeles at the time. The committee, therefore, is investigating "who in Baton Rouge aided Ray by closing that safety deposit box."

The committee has received unverified reports that Ray was in touch with the Beverly Hills office of Litton Industries in California. While Ray was posing as Eric Galt, he also listed as his previous employer a Pascagoula, Miss., shipbuilding company owned by Litton Industries. The investigators are checking "whether there is any relationship between Ray and Litton Industries."

**THE LATE** William Sartor, a journalist, alleged that organized crime figures had accepted a \$300,000 contract on King's life from a right-wing racist group. According to Sartor, Ray got in touch with these men in New Orleans. The committee is seeking "all evidentiary materials that might support or refute Mr. Sartor's report."

A witness has told investigators that he overheard a telephone conversation on the afternoon of the King assassination. "Frank Liberto, a person with alleged organized crime connections, said: 'Shoot the b... Do it this afternoon. Shoot him, even if you have to do it on the balcony; just do it.'"

**THE COMMITTEE** has received "independent corroborations" of a possible Liberto link. A witness told of a Birmingham, Ala., gun shop owner who, before the assassination, pointed to a rifle and said: "This is the gun that is going to kill Martin Luther King." Later the witness saw the gun shop owner "in the company of Ray and Liberto." The secret report describes Liberto as "a target of the committee's investigation."

The Memphis police set up a surveillance post in a firehouse overlooking the motel where King spent his last fateful hours. Curiously, two black firemen, Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsum, were withdrawn from the post. Then a black policeman, Edward Redditt, was called off the surveillance. The committee "has begun to investigate these incidents."

**RAY FLED TO TORONTO** after the assassination. He applied for Canadian birth certificates under the names of Paul Bridgman and Ramon George Sneyd. He finally obtained a birth certificate and passport in Sneyd's name. The House investigators are checking "the procedures used by Ray in securing these documents."

The investigators are also chasing down a number of other leads. They are undeterred by the cold water that the Justice Department tried to throw on their investigation.

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## Ray Tied Conspiracy To Assassination of Dr. King, Sprague Says

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, April 11 — Former House assassinations counsel Richard A. Sprague today quoted James Earl Ray as saying other persons were involved in a conspiracy in which Martin Luther King was assassinated.

Mr. Sprague also said he has concluded from Ray's statements that "Raoul," a man Ray has claimed enlisted him in a gun-running operation that put him in Memphis when Dr. King was killed, is a fictitious name.

Mr. Sprague also said some federal investigators believe the man the CIA recorded contacting Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated was not Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mr. Sprague said he did not know what it would mean if, in fact, the voice the CIA said was that of Oswald was not Oswald. The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald assassinated Mr. Kennedy acting alone.

"THERE WELL could have been a conspiracy that arose after the assassination; that certain agencies felt it would be an embarrassment to disclose relationships with Oswald," Mr. Sprague said. "I don't know."

He said that CIA tape-recordings of the man who contacted the Soviet and Cuban Embassies were erased before the assassination to be used to record something else.

He said he does not believe the House Assassinations Committee can conduct a proper investigation of the two assassinations and said he doubts it even wants to.

He said a special prosecutor should be set up with an independent staff to investigate the assassinations, without the pressure he said the House committee staff was under to produce something sensational.

Mr. Sprague said he believes the committee was set up before the election to appeal to black voters unhappy with inadequate investigation of the Dr. King assassination. He said the panel was established with the idea that it might be scrapped after the election.

MR. SPRAGUE resigned as staff director and chief counsel of the committee two weeks ago when it appeared the House would kill the investigation if he remained on the job.

Mr. Sprague quoted Ray as saying in the two interviews conducted by committee investigators that persons other than members of Ray's family helped him obtain a weapon to escape from a Missouri prison before the assassination.

Ray has not described the others, except to say they are not his brothers, Mr. Sprague said. The investigator said it has become clear partly through Ray's own comments and partly through what the investigators could perceive themselves that the name "Raoul" is made up.

Mr. Sprague said that name was made up by someone else and Ray reluctantly used it.

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# FBI, CIA Sought King's Death, Inmate Says

United Press International  
COLUMBUS, O., April 12 — Federal authorities reportedly plan to investigate an Ohio Penitentiary inmate's claim that FBI and CIA agents offered a New York underworld figure a \$1 million contract in 1968 to kill Martin Luther King Jr.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers, in a copyrighted article, said today that Ed Evans, chief investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, will question Myron Billett, 52, in connection with his allegations.

Billett, alias Paul Butcilli, told Scripps-Howard Newspapers he set up a secret meeting in January 1968 at a hideaway motel in Apalachin, N. Y., between the agents and the late Carlos Gambino, who reportedly headed one of five New York crime families.

"I can give you the meeting place we had in New York, the name of the motel, the woman who called ahead and made the arrangements for us and those who were at the meeting," Billett said.

Billett, who also claims to be a former undercover agent for the FBI, said he was told the offer to kill Dr. King came from Washington and was approved by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Billett said Gambino, however, rejected the contract and later passed the word that none of the crime families with which he was associated would accept the offer.

Billett said he sent a letter March 27 to House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, stating he wanted to testify before the Committee on Assassinations. Rep. O'Neill's office said it has not located the letter.

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# Sprague Says Assassination Panel Has 3 Good Leads

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard A. Sprague, former chief counsel for the House Committee on Assassinations, says the panel has at least three worthwhile leads in its investigation of the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sprague says the leads are only that — but they should be pursued.

The committee's credibility was damaged earlier this year when a dispute between Sprague and the chairman, Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Tex., ultimately led to the resignation of both from the panel. But the big blow was accidental disclosure of an extraordinary March 17 strategy session.

At that meeting, committee members worked out a scenario whose aims included public release of rehashed information to make it appear new and thus build pressure on House members to vote to keep the panel alive. The House ultimately ex-

tended the committee through 1978.

## No Faith in Committee

Sprague told a news conference last week that he doubts a committee that thinks in such terms can learn the facts behind the assassinations of Kennedy and King.

Nevertheless, he said at the news conference and during an interview later that the committee has three worthwhile leads to pursue:

—A memo from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that Sprague speculates could mean the CIA give the Warren Commission and the public a phony story after Kennedy's assassination to cover up CIA contacts with Lee Harvey Oswald.

—James Earl Ray's story to committee investigators that he had outside help before the assassination of King, and that he was offered a contact after the assassination but did not use it.

—The statement of a nurse who was in the emergency room

that "too much lead" was removed from former Gov. John Connally to support the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald alone killed Kennedy and wounded Connally.

## Memo Contradicts CIA

Sprague said the Hoover memorandum contradicts the CIA's story that it tape-recorded Lee Harvey Oswald trying to contact Soviet and Cuban embassies in Mexico City before Kennedy's assassination — contrary to the CIA's story that it erased them before the assassination — and that the agents concluded the voice was not Oswald's.

Sprague speculated that could mean the CIA was trying to cover up its own contacts with Oswald.

"An area of speculation," he said, "is that in showing that Oswald was in Mexico City, you contradict other testimony, and there is other evidence uncorroborated, placing Oswald in Dallas and associating with a CIA agent."

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## Jerry Ray Denies Plot

ATLANTA, April 19 (UPI) — James Earl Ray's younger brother said Monday that magazine reports he might have been involved in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were "a bunch of bull."

Jerry Ray accused the FBI of plotting the civil right's leader's death and said the agency hounded him and his other brother, John, in an effort to get them behind bars also.

Mr. Ray, whose brother, James Earl, is serving a 99-year prison term in Tennessee, said he is filing libel suits against everyone who has suggested he conspired with his brother, including attorney Percy Foreman.

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# Ray Claims He Was At Service Station When King Was Assassinated

United Press International

WASHINGTON, May 2 — James Earl Ray said in a television interview broadcast today that he was in a Memphis gas station having his car serviced at the time Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

Ray, who originally pleaded guilty to the murder, wants a new trial, claiming that a man known to him only as Raoul might be responsible for the crime.

Ray was interviewed in his prison cell at Brushy Mountain Park Prison in Tennessee by author-investigator Mark Lane, who claims the assassinations of both Dr. King and John F. Kennedy were the result of conspiracies and not the single deeds of Ray and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mr. Lane was interviewed on the ABC Good Morning America program. Portions of the author's filmed interview with Ray were used.

**RAY SAID** of his movements on April 4, 1968, when Dr. King was shot:

"At that time, I intended to go to a movie . . . I recalled that I had car trouble the day before. I doubled back to service the car. I believe that's close away from the terminal and where the shooting took place."

After he left the gas station, he said, "I ran into a (police) road block in the immediate vicinity of where the shooting was supposed to have taken place. There have been police statements that they waved me off. Anyhow, I went to New Orleans."

The FBI, which investigated the King murder, and a Justice Department review earlier this year concluded that all the evidence showed that Ray killed Dr. King with a rifle he is known to have purchased several days before.

Ray claimed he had been involved with others, including a man named Raoul, in some smuggling schemes operating across the Canadian and Mexican borders, Mr. Lane noted.

"I THINK probably the most valid evidence is in some material found in the car when I was caught at the border one time (before the King assassination)," Ray said in the interview.

"It was a business card. It had an address on it. The address was crossed out. It had some writing on the back with an individual's name. This was looked into and it indicated some agency that was funding intelligence agencies."

Mr. Lane said Ray pleaded guilty because he was kept in jail for eight months under "inhuman, torturous conditions."

The House Committee on Assassinations is investigating both the King and Kennedy deaths and investigators have interviewed Ray four times.

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# Wouldn't Change Plea: Ray

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray says he might once again plead guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — even though he insists he never fired the fatal bullet at the civil rights leader.

"I was in a bind," Ray said in a copyrighted story in Sunday's edition of the Nashville Tennessean.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence in the King assassination, said he was pressured into a guilty plea in 1969 by his lawyer at the time, Percy Foreman.

"I'm not guilty in any way legally," Ray said. "In other words, I didn't shoot him . . . But I may be in some way partly responsible for it . . . I purchased the weapon and things like that"

Ray claims a mysterious man named "Raoul" furnished the money for the rifle apparently used to kill King in Memphis on April 4, 1968. But Ray said he had no idea "Raoul" was planning to shoot King.

"I understand the difference between knowing and unknowing . . . There's got to be an intent," he said in the interview. **Feared for Brother**

Ray said Foreman put him "in a bind" by telling him that the chances were "99 per cent" sure Ray would go to the electric chair. He said he also feared his brother,

Jerry Ray, might be prosecuted by the government unless he pleaded guilty.

He said he signed a stipulation that he fired the shot that killed King, knowing it was false.

"If I had to do it all over again I would have had to — I think I would have to admit to that stipulation based on the position they had me in — Percy Foreman, the trial judge and the prosecutor," Ray said.

He said he is convinced he might have received "40 or 50 years" had he represented himself or had a public defender handled his case.

Ray said he signed a letter to Foreman authorizing the guilty plea. But he claimed the letter, prepared by Foreman, was "completely false."

Ray said he was in the vicinity of the murder scene at the time of the slaying but that he was unaware of the killing until he heard about it on the radio.

## Gave Gun to "Raoul"

Ray said he bought the rifle, on which his fingerprints were found, but claimed the last time he saw it was the day before King's death when he gave it to "Raoul" in Memphis.

Asked about his fingerprints, Ray said, "It doesn't surprise me too much. When I

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1

COURIER EXPRESS  
Buffalo, New York

Date: 5/30/77  
Edition: Four Star  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-374  
Submitting Office: Buffalo

☐ Being Investigated

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JUN 1 1977	
FBI - BUFFALO	

44-374-428

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Disband Assassinations Panel

The escape and recapture of James Earl Ray would seem to have no bearing on whether the special House committee, created last year to take a fresh look at the assassinations of President John Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., should continue in business or disband.

Nor does the Ray incident alter our judgment that this erratic special committee — dogged from the start by bad tempers and, apparently, bad leads — should end its meanderings and chalk up the last eight months to experience.

Certainly the swift recapture of Ray alive after his escape in Tennessee undermines all those conspiracy theories premised on the suspicion that Dr. King's assassin was lured into an escape so that he could be killed and thus silenced forever. Conspiracy theories of assorted varieties have abounded in both the Kennedy and King assassinations. But proof and hard evidence haven't really surfaced.

The new information that convinced a House majority to establish the special committee, for example, has wilted under exacting scrutiny.

"We certainly have come up with nothing earth-shaking, and much that

witnesses tell us is in conflict with what they supposedly told people who have written books about the assassinations and who have provided the basic leads for the committee to pursue," a committee source said recently.

This comes eight months after the committee began operations and long after initial personal squabbles produced the resignations of both the original chairman and chief counsel of the committee. Reportedly, Arthur Goldberg, former Supreme Court justice, and Archibald Cox, former Watergate special prosecutor, have each turned down offers to fill the chief counsel's spot. So this key post, along with that of permanent staff director for the committee, continues vacant. In other words, responsible people are not jumping at the chance to accept these important assignments.

Initially, there seemed some basis for the congressional decision to reopen the assassination probe. Given the results to date, however, it would seem best for this ill-fated committee to crawl back off the long, unpromising limb it is now clinging to.

In addition to everything else, ending the fruitless inquiry would save the taxpayers \$2.5 million.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

14

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS  
Buffalo, New York

cc Bureau

1 - 44-374

1 - 80-1876

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Editor: M. C. Browne

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OF PRESIDENT JOHN  
F. KENNEDY

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Papers Trace Flight Of Ray After King Slaying

United Press International

WASHINGTON — James Earl Ray was safely out of the country two days after he killed Martin Luther King, Jr., and within five weeks he was relaxing at nightclubs in Lisbon and considering a flight to Rhodesia, according to newly released FBI documents.

Ray deftly eluded a nationwide FBI dragnet in the weeks following the April 4, 1968, assassination by assuming aliases and hopscotching North America and Western Europe on a series of plane flights, using bogus passports, the files show.

Before he was arrested by Britain's Scotland Yard June 8, 1968, FBI agents concluded, Ray seriously considered trying to become a mercenary soldier in Africa.

Investigators never completely unraveled the saga. Long after Ray's arrest they were thwarted in attempts to pinpoint where he got the money for his venture.

At the same time, the FBI found no evidence to prove Ray was involved in a conspiracy.

**BUT AGENCY** reports tracing his activities after the assassination, part of 40,000 pages of FBI files made available to United Press International Tuesday, make clear that Ray had plenty of money for overseas airplane flights and hotel rooms.

In the largest manhunt in history, the bureau decided Ray had the racial hatred to provide a motive for the killing.

The FBI, trying to question everyone in contact with Ray in the year between his escape from a Missouri prison and the slaying, could find no one who plotted murder with him.

The files disclose that the FBI investigated a 1976 report that a

man named "Ralph" offered two brothers \$50,000 in an Atlanta bar to kill Dr. King a few months before he was assassinated.

\* \* \*

**THE FILES** said an intensive investigation was conducted, but no one else in the area could identify the man.

The files also say the wife of one of the brothers called the story "a fabrication by her husband and his alcoholic brother."

The FBI rejected Ray's claim in a magazine interview that a shadowy "Raoul" offered him \$12,000 to kill Dr. King.

"Investigation by us, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Mexican authorities has failed thus far to identify Raoul or to verify his existence. We have no information to date to indicate that Ray was involved in a conspiracy," the FBI said.

A pair of reported plots to kill Sen. Robert F. Kennedy two weeks before his assassination in Los Angeles June 4, 1968, were investigated by the FBI and apparently found not to be serious, the files showed.

\* \* \*

**THE DOCUMENTS** showed the agency pursued dozens of rumors and tips about previous attempts on the life of Dr. King. Several of the tips suggested plots to kill Mr. Kennedy.

One threat against Dr. King came from a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., former Ku Klux Klan member who told a woman that

the late Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown would be killed next and that, "We will take care of Bobby Kennedy so he will never become president."

The FBI cleared the man whose name was not revealed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6

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Buffalo, N. Y.

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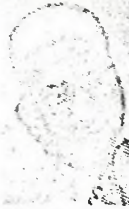
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SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JAN 27 1978	
FBI - BUFFALO	
FBI/DOJ	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Henry Locke

## Caucus Hits FBI Tactics With King

THE ISSUE of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) reported involvements in illegal tactics to discredit the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as shown on a recent television broadcast, has come under fire by many black leaders.



Locke

State Assemblyman Al Vann, D-New York City, chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, said the 20 caucus members will research the allegations shown in the television drama.

And if they are found to be actual portrayals of the FBI's actions to discredit the slain civil rights leader, along with hundreds of other demonstrators from 1955-68 in their struggles to eliminate segregated barriers, the caucus will develop some recommendations.

However, Vann acknowledged that many black leaders throughout the nation were suspicious of the FBI's involvement during many civil rights marches. But the average man on the street did not learn of the FBI alleged involvements until they saw the television show, "King."

That program showed the FBI paying young blacks to riot to make Dr. King look bad as the leader of a demonstration, as well as being involved in illegal wiretaps and tape recordings about the clergyman's personal life.

BUT JAMES L. Theisen, who recently was acting FBI agency in charge of the local office in recently was acting FBI agent chief, said the portrayal in the television show on Dr. King's life "was far from the way things happened."

"I was in the South in 1963 when all the things were going on," Theisen said. "We went in to do a job and we did it."

Theisen said he spent 14 months in the South during the civil rights struggles during the 1960s and claimed there were no illegal actions by FBI agents.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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COURIER EXPRESS  
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1 - 80-1877

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Local Black Leaders React Strongly To FBI Tactics as Depicted in 'King'

**By HENRY D. LOCKE Jr.**  
Courier-Express Staff Reporter

Many black leaders in the Buffalo area were outraged about the illegal tactics reportedly used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to discredit the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as shown in last week's television series about the slain civil right leader's life.

The three-part movie, entitled "King," was shown on WGR-Television, Channel 2. It was based on Dr. King's life, especially during the period of 1955-1968 when he led hundreds of demonstrations in a struggle to strike down segregation barriers in this nation.

In interviews with The Courier-Express, some of the leaders said they suspected for many years that the FBI had not used all of its powers to protect Dr. King and his supporters during demonstrations in many of this nation's cities.

## Knew About "Smear"

Donald R. Lee, president of the Black Development Foundation (BDF) said: "I was active in the civil rights movement and I was aware that the FBI was using illegal tactics to smear Dr. King's name.

"It was a common feeling among Dr. King's followers that not only the FBI was out to get Dr. King, but state police agencies and other law enforcement officials used the same illegal tactics."

Lee said many of his close associates developed the feeling that when "a black reached a certain level of influence or achieved a vast amount of power, the structure would try to strike him down and use any illegal tactics necessary to do the job."

"It may have been a new revelation to some people, Lee said, "but I have known for a long time that there are two sets of rules in law enforcement — one for blacks and one for whites — with the government being the most powerful."

## Recalls Open Conflict

Daniel R. Acker, president of the Buffalo chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was in open conflict with Dr. King.

"It was kept a secret from many people," Acker said. "But now we find out (through the television show) the role the FBI could have had in the assassination of Dr. King."

"It's a shame that the FBI had the guards removed, who were protecting Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn. The FBI may be solely responsible for Dr. King's death. Plus the FBI paid people to riot in Memphis to make Dr. King look bad and that made it easier to assassinate Dr. King.

"I think the FBI owes Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's wife, a public apology for all the bad things it did to discredit Dr. King, the world's greatest leader," Acker said.

"By Dr. King being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his fight for human dignity for all people proves that Bull Connors (a police chief in Alabama) and other oppressors were wrong."

But James L. Theisen, acting agent in charge of the local FBI office, denied that his agency indulged in illegal tactics to discredit Dr. King or any person in this nation.

He said the way the FBI was portrayed in the television show on Dr. King's life "was far from the way things happened. I was in the South in 1965 when all the things were going on. We went in to do a job and we did it."

"We investigated the cases and discussed them with the U.S. Attorneys on the scene. There were no illegal actions there by the FBI."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

B-3  
COURIER-EXPRESS  
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1 - 80-1877

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FBI - BUFFALO	

#### Proven Violations

Theisen said he spent 100 percent of his time investigating alleged violations of federal laws for 14 months while in the South. If there were violations, he said, they were investigated by the FBI and reported to the U.S. Department of Justice for further action.

When he was asked whether he felt the public would change its long-time positive image about the FBI, he said:

"I can't control how people think. I know that we, as a matter of course, did not get involved in any illegal actions. I have been an agent for 13 years, and no time did I experience any such action."

Rev. Bennett W. Smith, a former associate of Dr. King, and now pastor of St. John Baptist Church, 184 Goodell St., said "traditionally the attitudes by blacks towards the FBI was unfavorable because there were no black agents."

Rev. Smith, who also is coordinator of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), said when former U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy suggested to Hoover that some black agents be hired, Hoover made his chauffeur and porters FBI agents and continued them in their domestic jobs.

"Blacks have always had negative feelings about the FBI because of the way Hoover felt about blacks. People close to Dr. King knew about the wire taps and the tapes sent to Mrs. King and many of us are not convinced that the FBI was not involved in the conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King."

However, the clergyman said:

"We can't prove it. But based on the hatred that Hoover had for Dr. King, nothing is too far fetched for him to have attempted to get rid of Dr. King."

Dr. Winton J. Hardiman, regional director of the NAACP, said the image of the FBI, in the minds of blacks and whites, was damaged because of Hoover's dislike for Dr. King.

"There were many presidents of the United States who were afraid to move against Hoover," Hardiman said.

#### "Two-Edged Sword"

"But blacks always felt that the law was a two-edged sword — one for blacks and one for whites. Blacks did not get equal justice in courts or in having crimes against blacks solved."

"The story on Dr. King's life reinforced that belief in the minds of blacks that a dual system of justice still exists in this country because too many people are afraid to express their opinions for fear they will lose their jobs or chances for a promotion."

Hardiman said the open opposition by Bull Connors in Alabama to equal rights, aided Dr. King and his movement because "it made the world aware of the substandard treatments that blacks had to put up with in their fight for human justice."

Grant R. Hanesworth, assistant director of the Buffalo Division for Youth, said before the film on Dr. King's life was shown on television, many people believed the FBI was all positive. But now it has caused the "death of the myth," because all of the FBI's actions against Dr. King appeared to have been racially motivated.

#### Agent Found No Link

Hanesworth said one FBI agent who was assigned by Hoover to investigate the activities of Dr. King found himself on the bad side of the late FBI director because the slain leader could not be connected to any left wing organization.

However, Hanesworth said

the film inferred that the agent later began fabricating information about Dr. King so he could get back in the good graces of Hoover. And that fabrication continued through the FBI agency until Dr. King was destroyed.

Hanesworth also said the film portrayed the FBI as forging documents to "hook up Dr.

King with Communist groups and also to try to label Dr. King as a person who had avoided paying his income taxes."

He said the film showed Hoover as a person who was so powerful that he "was extremely dangerous" to anyone who disagreed with his philosophy.