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 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

Page 6 A

Arkansas Democrat

Little Rock, Ark.

Date: 3-12-69

Edition: PM

Author: Eugene Norington

Editor: EDITORIAL

Title: ARK DEMOCRAT

Character:

or

Classification: 80-31-

Submitting Office: Little Rock

☐ Being Investigated

...the assassination of Martin Luther King was something else again. James Earl Ray is an inept and petty holdup man who had neither the reason to commit the crime nor the resources to make a single-... European escape worthy of any... mystery novel. Last November when Ray was supposed to be tried, the defense was ready to try to prove that the assassination was a plot hatched by militant... and members of the Cuban secret... William Bradford Huie, who is the only person other than lawyers and police... who have had contact with Ray since his arrest, wrote three Look magazine... about Ray and declared that he was... an elaborate plot devised by... men who wanted to use King's murder to trigger violent conflict between white and Negro citizens."

Yet Monday, in less than four hours, Ray suddenly changed his plea from innocent to guilty and was sentenced to 99 years... a minimum of evidence was in... almost none of the pending... The he acted... was maintained by everyone... James Earl Ray, who obviously up... proceedings by stand... saying, "I don't agree with the... that no..."

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The public is totally baffled. It seems that after almost no activity for nine months, there was suddenly a tremendous effort made to end this sordid tale quickly. Judge Preston Battle's statements about the slur on Memphis' good name would lead you to think that maybe some of the urgency came from the city fathers. Maybe there is a conflict between the state and federal authorities. Interestingly enough the FBI says it is still investigating. Anyway, the full story has not been told; partially because of the muzzling of everyone connected with the trial by the most stringent pre-trial gag in American history. Sure, the rights of the accused have to be protected, and, if the case is not closed, the investigators need secrecy to proceed. But even if one-half of what Ray, through writer Huie, said in Look Magazine is true, the American people need to be told the full story as soon as possible.

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# Mrs. King, SCLC Cleared Ray Sentence, Officials Say

By Paul W. Valentine  
Washington Post Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 11

Court officials in Memphis said today the controversial disposition of the James Earl Ray case was cleared in advance with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and with Coretta King, widow of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Under the agreement that

Mrs. King and SCLC officials reportedly approved, Ray was given a 99-year prison sentence—without a trial—after pleading guilty to the assassination of Dr. King last April 4.

Justice Department officials in Washington were notified of the plan in advance and raised no objections, it was reported.

Ray's speedy sentencing

Monday, without a prolonged presentation of evidence in the case, stirred widespread controversy.

Some Negro leaders charged that the arrangement was a "cover up" to prevent disclosure of a conspiracy behind the assassination. Mrs. King herself and some SCLC officials also contended that Ray was part of a conspiracy.

There was also criticism of the arrangement from such papers as The New York Times, which said the decision not to air the full case in public was "a shocking breach of faith with the American people."

Officials involved in the case here, however, said the decision to dispense with the trial in exchange for Ray's guilty plea was based on a variety of considerations, including the consent of Mrs. King and SCLC leaders. They said—as Justice Department officials in Washington have said—that there was no evidence of a conspiracy that could have been presented.

The agreement, in the judgment of the court officials, met "the Nation's requirement for justice."

The approach to Mrs. King was made by the Tennessee prosecutor, Phil Canale, through her lawyer. Canale also consulted, it was reported here, directly with officials of SCLC, the civil rights organization Dr. King led at the time of his murder.

"He (Canale) wanted to get their general feeling about the agreement," a highly placed official said. "Mind you, what they said was not controlling. We often consult with the family and relatives about the sentence arrangement, even in routine cases."

He said Mrs. King and SCLC "generally agreed" with the decision to avoid a trial although "some of the SCLC officials said they wanted to reserve their right to claim there was a conspiracy behind Ray."

After Ray's sentencing on Monday, Mrs. King made no specific criticism of the arrangement. She said, "For the moment we have been spared a trial which would compel us to relive the fearfully tragic events of his death. But we realize this is but a respite."

She went on to urge that both Tennessee and Federal authorities continue their investigation "until all who are responsible for this crime are apprehended."

Dr. King's successor as head of SCLC, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, issued a similar statement.

Ray's formal plea of guilty to murder in the first degree got him a 99-year sentence, which bars him from parole eligibility until the year 2018, when he would be 90 years old.

If he had been given a straight life sentence, he

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People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

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would have been eligible for parole in 12½ years.

It is known that during delicate negotiations with court and prosecution officials, Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, asked Judge W. Preston Battle whether he would impose the lighter sentence.

Judge Battle reportedly refused that proposal and said he would impose no less a sentence than 99 years because "the crime was too great."

Prosecutor Canale, according to court sources, also felt that the 99-year requirement was non-negotiable.

Foreman was in a weak bargaining position, it was said, because he knew the case against Ray was "airtight" and Ray "might have gotten the chair" if he had gone to trial before a jury.

Dr. King was shot with a rifle on the evening of April 4 as he stood on a balcony of the motel at which he was staying in downtown Memphis.

A rifle found outside a rooming house across the street from the motel balcony led to Ray's eventual arrest in London on June 8, 1968.

At the time of his arrest—and subsequently—there were widespread rumors that Ray had been the instrument of a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. These rumors were encouraged by Ray himself in interviews with the writer, William Bradford Huie, who paid Ray more than \$30,000 for exclusive rights to his story. And at the time of his sentencing on Monday, Ray said in court he could "not accept" the official theory that there was no conspiracy.

However, Justice Department officials and the FBI, as well as the Tennessee prosecutors, insist that there is no evidence that Ray had any accomplices.

Prosecutor Canale said that if any evidence of a conspiracy comes to light "the conspirators will be promptly and vigorously prosecuted."



Associated Press

James Earl Ray is led in chains to State Prison in Nashville.

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A privat committee formed here to "investigate assassinations," and headed by Bernard Fensterwald Jr., former counsel to the Senate Judiciary sub-committee on Administrative Practices, said that a man photographed in Dallas an hour after President John F. Kennedy's murder may be the real killer of Dr. Martin Luther King. He said the photo matched the artist's sketch of the man who killed Dr. King. The FBI had no comment.

Assassination of President  
 John F. Kennedy, 11/22/63  
 Dallas, Texas.

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CANALE 3/17 NX  
 BY JAMES M. EVANS  
 MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)-- A SMALL FRESH SCAR ON A BATTERED WOODEN WINDOW SILL PROVED TO INVESTIGATORS THE SHOT THAT KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS FIRED FROM THE BATHROOM OF A DOLLAR-A-DAY ROOMING HOUSE.

SHELBY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTY. GEN. PHIL M. CANALE, APPEARING ON A TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE (WHBQ) SUNDAY, SAID TO HIM THIS WAS THE MOST SURPRISING DISCOVERY IN THE CASE AGAINST JAMES EARL RAY.

IN AN INTERVIEW ON CBS-TV NEWS SUNDAY NIGHT, RAY'S ATTORNEY, PERCY FOREMAN, SAID HE THOUGHT RAY ACTED ALONE IN KILLING KING.

"I AM CONVINCED THAT JAMES EARL RAY MADE THE DECISION AND WAS THE MOVING FACTOR AND THAT NO OTHER PERSONS, ORGANIZATION OR GROUP...WAS CONCERNED IN THE KILLING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.," RAY SAID.

IN THE MEMPHIS NEWS CONFERENCE CANALE SAID SOMEONE FIGURED A "30.06 DEER RIFLE WOULD HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RECOIL."

"THEY CHECKED THE WINDOW SILL AND FOUND A TINY INDENTATION," CANALE SAID.

"WE TOOK THE WINDOW SILL OUT AND SENT IT TO THE FBI IN WASHINGTON," HE SAID. "THEY MADE PICTURES OF IT, BLEW THEM UP AND THE MARKINGS WERE IDENTICAL TO THE MACHINE WORK ON THE RIFLE THAT WAS ABANDONED NEAR THE FRONT OF THE ROOMING HOUSE."

THE RIFLE AND A ZIPPER BAG CONTAINING A MAN'S PERSONAL BELONGINGS PLUS A PAIR OF BINOCULARS AND A TRANSISTOR RADIO WERE FOUND WRAPPED IN A GREEN CLOTH LYING ON THE SOUTH MAIN STREET SIDEWALK, APPARENTLY DUMPED THERE BY THE KILLER.

CANALE SAID THE SLUG THAT SHATTERED KING'S SPINAL COLUMN WAS TOO DAMAGED FOR DEFINITE BALLISTICS TESTS, BUT HE SAID A PIECE OF COPPER AND LEAD FROM THE BULLET ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE END OF A MAN'S LITTLE FINGER WERE FOUND INTACT.

WORKING WITH THESE AND THE EMPTY HULL FOUND IN THE RIFLE, THE FBI ESTABLISHED THE BULLET WAS ONE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN FIRED BY THAT WEAPON. THE RIFLE WAS BOUGHT BY RAY, USING THE NAME HARVEY LOWMEYER. IN BRIMINGHAM. ALA.

54 MAR 20 1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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THE BINOCULARS, CANALE SAID, WERE BOUGHT IN MEMPHIS. HE SAID THE TRANSISTOR RADIO PROVED MORE PUZZLING. THE PLASTIC CASE WAS SCRATCHED IN ONE SPOT AND WHEN FEDERAL AGENTS TESTED IT THEY FOUND THE NUMBER 00416.

AFTER MATCHING FINGERPRINTS FOUND ON THE RIFLE AND OTHER ITEMS IN THE BAG WITH THOSE OF MISSOURI PRISON ESCAPER JAMES EARL RAY, THE RADIO MYSTERY WAS SOLVED.

RAY'S SERIAL NUMBER IN PRISON WAS 00416. HE APPARENTLY BOUGHT THE RADIO WHILE HE WAS AT THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON IN JEFFERSON CITY, MO., CANALE SAID, AND TRIED TO OBLITERATE THE NUMBERS.

THE PROSECUTOR SAID THIS WAS THE ONE ITEM OF EVIDENCE RAY ASKED TO SEE A WEEK AGO TODAY WHEN HE PLEADED GUILTY TO MURDER CHARGES AND ACCEPTED A 99-YEAR PRISON TERM.

CANALE EXPLAINED RAY TOOK THE STEP HE DID AFTER TELLING HIS ATTORNEY, PERCY FOREMAN, THAT HE WOULD BE FREE WITHIN TWO YEARS.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER RAY PLANNED TO SEEK FREEDOM LEGALLY OR THROUGH AN ESCAPE.

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*Washington Capital News Service*

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# RAY IN TWO YEARS

**Must Serve 30 Years** (UPI) — James Earl Ray admitted as assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and accepted a 99-year prison term because he thinks he will be out of prison in two years, Shelby County Dist. Atty. Paul M. Canale said yesterday.

Canale, appearing on a televised news conference, said Ray told his attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, "he would be free in two years."

Canale said Ray was not specific with Foreman as to whether he would attempt to gain his freedom through the courts or through a prison break.

Ray was transferred to the Tennessee State Prison last Tuesday — the day after he appeared in court to admit the slaying. He is housed in the maximum security unit.

Canale pointed out that the term Ray accepted was the stiffest penalty possible under Tennessee law, aside from death in an electric chair that has not been used since 1960.

The law provides that Ray must serve at least 30 years before he would be eligible for parole. If he had gone to trial and been sentenced to life he would have been eligible for parole in 15 years, 7 months. Al-

ready there have been reports that Ray is considering an appeal of his sentence.

Canale said the only legal avenue open to Ray would be a writ of habeas corpus which would have to challenge successfully some phase of his arrest and interrogation before he was sentenced.

The district attorney — in his first year in the prosecutor's office — said he was convinced Ray was capable of planning and carrying out the King assassination alone.

"He (Ray) had the animal intelligence to carry out such a plan," the attorney said. "It was no more brilliant than the plots that led to the slaying of President (John F.) Kennedy or Sen. (Robert F.) Kennedy."

## Obsession Described

Canale said all the psychiatric reports on Ray indicated he was obsessed with a desire for recognition. "It probably outweighed any desire for monetary gain in his mind," the attorney added.

Meanwhile, Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, who accepted the guilty plea and approved a 99-year prison sentence, said he is not as quick to accept the premise that Ray alone was guilty of the April 4, 1968 shooting.

"Like others, I would like to know how Ray actually found the spot from which to fire. How did Ray know where Dr. King would be?" Battle said yesterday.

"How did he determine the type of weapon to be used? What are the details of the actual purchase and selection of the weapon? Was he alone in the planning of the Lorraine Motel shooting?"

Ray's public defender, Percy Foreman, said he would appeal the sentence.

*Long*  
*G. B. Moore*  
*C. J. P. 206*

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## King Murder Case Kept Alive

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The arrangement by which James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and accepted a 99-year prison term have been a satisfactory disposition for everyone directly involved. The lack of a full-dress trial practically assures that the case will be kept alive indefinitely. There always will be speculation, and always will be questions about what the judge said. There always will be doubt that Ray knew those, and there always will be suspicion that there was a conspiracy of some kind.

The plea being a "coverup," as has been charged, the decision not to hold a full trial was the best way to assure that the murder charge and its leader will not be soon forgotten.

Ray himself made this even more certain when he stood up in court and said that he did not agree with the theory that there was a conspiracy. He certainly was in a position to know.

It could have been that he was simply trying to make the official record conform with what he told for publication while in prison, that a blond Latin man he knew only as "Sam" was involved. No proof has been shown that this man ever existed, except in Ray's imagination. Ray could have meant by his statement in court that he cannot prove that those were associated with him.

There is not the slightest reason for doubt that the word of those involved in investigation and prosecution of the case that there is, at the least, no evidence to indicate that there was a conspiracy. As the judge in the case put it, there is no evidence that there was a conspiracy and no evidence that there was not.

He added: If there was a conspiracy, no

member of such a conspiracy can be held responsible or be down to punishment unless there is no statute of limitations.

**DISPOSITION OF THE CASE** Ray does not foreclose action against anyone. If evidence should be found at some time in the future that someone else was involved in the murder. There no longer is any reason, except possibly fear, why Ray himself should not assist in future investigations of the slaying and in bringing to justice any other persons who might have had a part in the assassination.

Many people simply find it hard to believe that he acted alone. Among the many unanswered questions in the case is that of motivation. The Memphis district attorney, E. M. Canale, expressed the belief that Ray was moved by a personal hatred of Negroes. He believes that this feeling was strong enough to cause Ray to do what he did.

But others who know Ray well personally said that the murder of Dr. King was completely "out of character" for Ray. They said that Ray was not a racist, that he was not political-minded and that he was not a killer by temperament or inclination.

**ALL OF WHICH CAUSED** one person who knew him personally to say: "If he was motivated by anything, it would be money."

One of his brothers said: "If my brother did kill King, he did it for a lot of money."

The offenses in his previous criminal record were all related to money. And his travels after the assassination indicate that he was at least \$10,000 as a fugitive.

As matters stand, the book has not been closed on the King assassination case by any means, no matter how much we as a people would like to see it erased from the public memory as soon as possible.

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

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 HOUSTON, TEXAS

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**Chicago Tearing**  
The Justice Department said today a conspiracy charge pending against a Chicago labor leader was filed because he knew the FBI was watching him and ordered his men to "blow the place up."

**Proctor's Testimony**  
The grand jury said justice was done by taking a witness who was "not a good man" and putting him on the stand. The grand jury said the black group was "international" but was not "communist." The grand jury said the American labor union would not be involved in any "international" activities.

**Chicago Labor Union**  
The grand jury said the Chicago labor union was not involved in any "international" activities.

K. Long  
G.C. Moore  
19/2  
G. Ford

Markin

The Washington Post Times Herald A

The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_

The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_

New York Post \_\_\_\_\_

The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_

The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_

The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_

The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_

The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_

People's World \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 14 1969

Date \_\_\_\_\_

54 MAR 2 6 1969

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REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
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MAR 14 10 15 AM '69  
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MAR 14 8 52 AM '69  
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MAR 14 8 52 AM '69

Tolson ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 Bishop ☒  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Sullivan ☒  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

and my mother told me about committee...  
 at work that the best...  
 thing to do was to...  
 keep me out of...  
 the case last week I just...  
 said that if they thought this...  
 was best and what I ought to...  
 do was to plead guilty...  
 succeeds in getting...  
 sentence reduced to life...  
 instead, the practical...  
 result is a 20-year sen...  
 tence which he would be...  
 parole after 10...  
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**Diggs Seek**  
**Plot Aspect**  
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 Charles C. Diggs...  
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Rhodig  
 G. H. Moore  
 G. G. G.

The Washington Post ☒  
 Times Herald ☒  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
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 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date **MAR 13 1969**

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

But the case is far from over. The word, "conspiracy," is on the tongues of those who were most closely involved.

The judge who presided at the two-hour trial said that although "it has not been established at this time there was any conspiracy" by Ray and others to kill Dr. King, "the evidence is so conclusive that there was no conspiracy."

Ray said he didn't agree with "the charges that there was a conspiracy." Press reports quote a Justice Department spokesman as saying that the investigation into the original allegations of a conspiracy is still open.

The original federal warrant issued by the FBI last April 17 is still in effect. It charged that a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt had conspired with an individual whose name was not given, against Dr. King.

These words, together with questions about the supposed federal plan for the flight of the accused after the assassination, and about the possibility of a international travel, have led to a long end in the case.

Fortunately, the investigation remains in the hands of the FBI. It is not an conspiracy, but it is a case to find those who were involved in the assassination.

But the case is far from over. The word, "conspiracy," is on the tongues of those who were most closely involved. The judge who presided at the two-hour trial said that although "it has not been established at this time there was any conspiracy" by Ray and others to kill Dr. King, "the evidence is so conclusive that there was no conspiracy."

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

70  
 Omaha World-Herald  
 Omaha, Nebraska

Date: 3-12-69  
 Edition: Evening Home

Author:  
 Editor: Keith Wilson

Title: JAMES EARL RAY,  
 aka; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER  
 KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CR - UFAC -  
 or Conspiracy -

Classification: Robbery

Submitting Office: OMAHA  
 BUFILE: 44-38861

☐ Being Investigated

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44-38861-A -  
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176 MAR 24 1969

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

MAR 22 1969



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*0 Murkin*

UPI-128

(RAY)

WASHINGTON--CHAIRMAN JAMES O. EASTLAND, D-MISS., OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS "THE WORK OF ONE MAN," SAID TODAY HE WAS ASSEMBLING ALL THE FACTS IN THE SLAYING.

"THERE HAS BEEN AND THERE ARE NOW SOME QUESTIONS IN MY MIND ON THIS INCIDENT," EASTLAND SAID IN A STATEMENT. "I HAVE DOUBTS THAT THIS KILLING WAS THE WORK OF ONE MAN."

EASTLAND SAID HE WAS ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE BUT IN HIS STATEMENT DID ADD THAT HE WAS LAUNCHING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE KILLING OF KING.

EASTLAND SAID HE WAS "ASSEMBLING ALL AVAILABLE FACTS...IN AN EFFORT TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS IN MY MIND."

THE MISSISSIPPI SENATOR SAID THAT JAMES EARLY RAY, WHO BEGAN SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE TODAY AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO THE MURDER, INDICATED THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY WITH A "BLOND LATIN" MAN, WHO PROVIDED THE ASSASSIN WITH FUNDS.

"THE OBVIOUS QUESTION IS -- WERE THERE COMMUNISTS INVOLVED," EASTLAND SAID.

3/12--GE427P

**54 MAR 26 1969**

TOP CLIPPING  
DATED 3-12-69  
FROM Wash. Evening Star  
MARKED FILE AND INITIALED

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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**176 MAR 24 1969**

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Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-135

ADD 1 RAY, WASHINGTON (UPI-128)

EASTLAND EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NO DIRECT INFORMATION AND ADDED, "I AM SIMPLY RAISING SOME QUESTIONS THAT ARE IN MY MIND."

EASTLAND SAID HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW RAY KNEW THAT KING WAS GOING TO BE IN THE LORRAINE MOTEL IN MEMPHIS WHERE THE SHOOTING TOOK PLACE; HOW RAY KNEW THE LOCATION OF KING'S ROOM; HOW RAY KNEW KING WOULD COME OUT ON THE BALCONY WHERE HE WAS SHOT, AND HOW RAY KNEW WHERE TO GET A ROOM WHICH GAVE HIM THE ANGLE TO FIRE THE FATAL SHOT.

"IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT SOMEONE INSIDE THE MOTEL ADVISED RAY," EASTLAND SAID.

HE ADDED "THE MATHEMATICAL ODDS THAT KING WOULD STEP FROM A CERTAIN ROOM ONTO A BALCONY DIRECTLY INFRONT OF A WOULD-BE ASSASSIN ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE.

"ONLY A MAN ARMED WITH DETAILED AND ACCURATE INFORMATION COULD HAVE POSITIONED HIMSELF TO FIRE THE FATAL SHOT."

EASTLAND ADDED HE WAS ALSO PUZZLED AS TO "WHO ASSISTED AND ADVISED RAY IN THE INTRICACIES OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL."

3/12--GE5P

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

MAR 12 5 18 PM '69

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MAR 12 1969

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UPI-134

CORRECTION:

IN RAY, WASHINGTON (UPI-128) READ 3RD PGH X X X SUBCOMMITTEE BUT  
IN HIS STATEMENT DID NOT ADD THAT HE WAS X X X ETC.

WCNS

3/12--GE458P

3

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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MAR 12 1969

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Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen *Rosen* \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan *Sc* \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

In King County  
Washington  
Washington State

Misses having one of the most famous  
galleries in the city, and Mrs.  
Dr. Martin, who has been  
Assistant Secretary of the  
most famous of the  
D-Miss., said she was surprised  
has received some news infor-  
mation that someone is saying  
that James Earl Ray is going  
alone in the slaying of the leader  
of the Southern Christian Lead-  
ership Conference, Dr. Martin Luther  
King, Jr., in Memphis, Ark.

Gov. of Miss.  
the state of  
Tenn., having  
ing a 25-year

Eastland said he had seen some things that indicate to him that there have been a considerable

"In the same place," he said, "somebody told me that there was in the house. Somebody told me that he had seen him. Somebody told me that he was going out on the balcony where he was shot."

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

one staff member to report a member of the S.E.C. was requested to have said that they did not believe.

is not intended to be used as a basis for the FBI or the Justice Department.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

The Washington Post Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_

The Evening Star (Washington) **A-15** \_\_\_\_\_

The Sunday Star (Washington) **FINAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_

New York Post \_\_\_\_\_

The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_

The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_

The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_

The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_

The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_

People's World \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date MAR 12 1969

44-38861-A-1

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INVESTIGATIVE

MAR 13 3 25 PM 1969  
MAR 17 12 48 PM 1969

F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 13 9 53 AM '69

REC'D DELOACH  
FBI

MAR 12 4 30 PM '69

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FBI  
OR

MAR 12 7 1969

MAR 13 2 16 PM '69

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FBI

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 17 1 04 PM '69  
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FBI



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Mystery Unresolved in the King Murder

The first impression on the news from Memphis may very well have been, for many people, a sense of relief upon learning that the defendant in the Martin Luther King assassination had pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree. Ordinarily, such a plea settles a case, and when the sentence is life imprisonment those of us who are uneasy about capital punishment do not even have to agonize over a possible death penalty.

There is not much settled, however, about the King assassination except that James Earl Ray is going to prison. So many questions have been left unanswered that a thorough investigation by federal agencies—and a public report of the findings—are imperative, unless state or federal authorities are able to establish that a conspiracy existed and are able to bring co-conspirators to trial.

The American people in these times are prone to conspiracy theories, anyway, and if the Martin Luther King case is left hanging as it hangs now, there is no imagining the fantastic legends that will arise. More to the point, the American people deserve to know all that has been established about the assassination. This is especially evident when James Earl Ray himself publicly challenged a statement by the district attorney that no conspiracy had been indicated.

For our part, we have no doubt about Ray's guilt, but the state of Tennessee's handling of the case is, if anything, not only too convenient. Indeed, in the remarks of the court and the prosecutors there is rather too much emphasis on discarding the false name of "Eric Starvo Galt" to suggest that

The first and most obvious question remaining unsettled is where Ray got the money, after escaping, either to buy a new car to travel across the country and Canada, and where he got the money after the assassination, to escape to Europe. This mystery is only the first of the mysteries still enveloping the assassination of Dr. King.

Martin Luther King was one of the great men of his time, and is universally recognized as such practically everywhere except in his own South, the South in which he was killed. The investigation of his murder may not be left to the discretion of the state of Tennessee alone, but rather a matter of national concern and responsibility. The national conscience has not been easy until every angle in the investigation has been methodically explored and until a thorough national investigation has been publicly conducted.

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MAR 24 1969

54 MAR 26 1969

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

Page 6 A

Arkansas Gazette

Little Rock, Ark.

Date: 3-12-69

Edition: AM

Author:

Editor: EDITORIAL

Title:

ARK GAZETTE

Character:

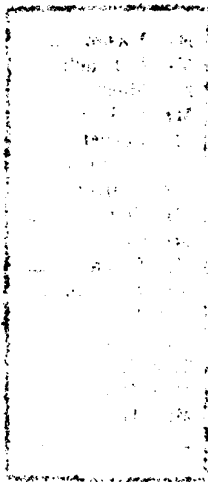
or

Classification: 80-338-

Submitting Office: Little Rock

☐ Being Investigated

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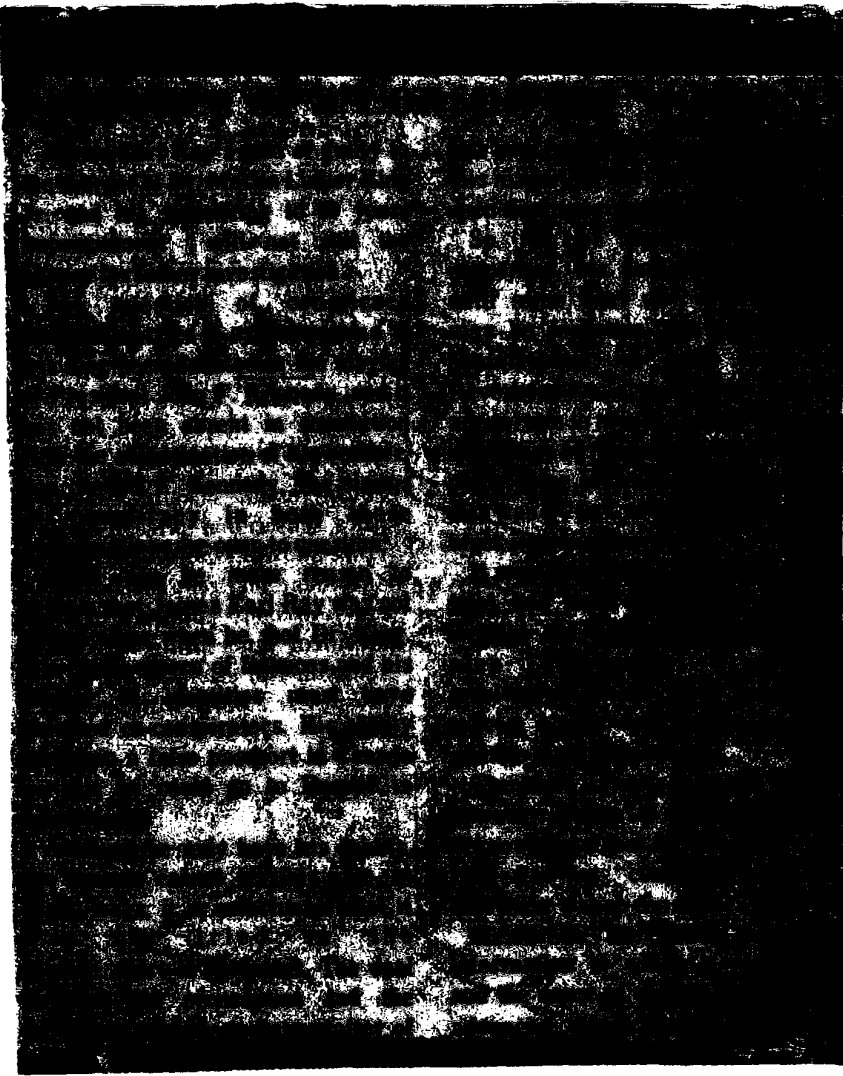
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F.B.I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 21 1969

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Mr. Tolson.....  
 Mr. DeLoach.....  
 Mr. Mohr.....  
 Mr. Bishop.....  
 Mr. Casper.....  
 Mr. Callahan.....  
 Mr. Conrad.....  
 Mr. Felt.....  
 Mr. Gale.....  
 Mr. Rosen.....  
 Mr. Sullivan.....  
 Mr. Tavel.....  
 Mr. Trotter.....  
 Tele. Room.....  
 Miss Holmes.....  
 Miss Gandy.....



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

4 Casper Star Tribune  
 Casper, Wyoming

Date: 3-12-69  
 Edition: Daily  
 Author: E.P. Martin  
 Editor: William J. Misset  
 Title: MURKIN

Character: CRA

or

Classification: 157-203

Submitting Office: Denver

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MAR 24 1969

54 MAR 26 1969

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FBI

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**The Case Is Not Closed**  
 James Earl Ray's plea of guilty in the assassination of Martin Luther King should not be allowed to close the book of criminal investigation into that terrible event. The clues to a possible conspiracy, involving others in Ray's guilt, were not explained away in his trial. Instead he breathed new life into them himself.

The justice department in Washington insists that it is still working on the conspiracy theory, but it did not challenge the stated belief of the local prosecutor that the guilt was Ray's alone. And defense counsel took the same position only to be contradicted by his own client, when Ray volunteered to the court the single, unexplained remark that he "can't agree" with the denial of a conspiracy.

It is, of course, an extremely difficult case for the authorities, and it may be unjust to wonder whether the search for the whole truth has possibly been mismanaged, in view of Ray's statement. But there was the original complaint by the FBI, when he was still a fugitive, charging a two man plot. And the nature of that flight, aided by passports and hideouts and funds and travel arrangements to several foreign countries, seems unlikely without cohorts who knew what they were doing and why.

The assassination remains a challenge to the skill of the FBI and to the diligence of the justice department. The case has not been closed.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop *[initials]* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gale *[initials]* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen *[initials]* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

*[Handwritten signature]*

A-16

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL  
 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 3/11/69

Edition: LATESS

Author:

Editor: RICHARD E. LEONARD

Title:

*[Handwritten: Murkin]*

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

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*Rhodes*  
*J. Moore*  
*Dr*  
*CG*

PI-69  
 (RAY)

MEMPHIS--JAMES EARL RAY, HINTING A CONSPIRACY EXISTED,  
 PLED GUILTY TODAY TO THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

RAY WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN COURT TO SUGGEST OTHERS MAY HAVE  
 TAKEN PART IN THE APRIL 4, 1968 SNIPER SLAYING OF THE NOBEL PEACE  
 PRIZE WINNER.

RAY PLED GUILTY IN A DEAL WITH THE PROSECUTION THAT HE  
 WILL BE SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON AT  
 NASHVILLE, INSTEAD OF TAKING THE CHANCE THAT A JURY MIGHT SENTENCE  
 HIM TO DEATH IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.

A JURY OF 12 MEN, TWO OF THEM NEGROES, WAS SELECTED FROM THE  
 FIRST 12 NAMES ON THE JURY LIST. EACH JUROR AGREED TO THE DEAL,  
 AND ALL 12 WERE SWORN IN AT 10:05 A.M. CST, ONLY 20 MINUTES  
 AFTER THE TRIAL BEGAN.

3/10--SW1220PES

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 68 MAR 17 1969

FOR MR. TOLSON  
 WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

MAR 10 12 24 PM '69  
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FBI

MAR 11 3 41 PM '69

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INVESTIGATIVE

MAR 10 12 09 PM '69

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Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop ✓ B/a  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen ✓  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
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UPI-95

ADD RAY, MEMPHIS  
THE JURY CONVICTED RAY OF THE KING MURDER AND -- AS IT HAD  
PROMISED -- SENTENCED HIM TO 99 YEARS IN PRISON.  
3/10-"GE137P

NOT RECORDED  
191 MAR 13 1969

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55 MAR 14 1969

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MAR 11 1969

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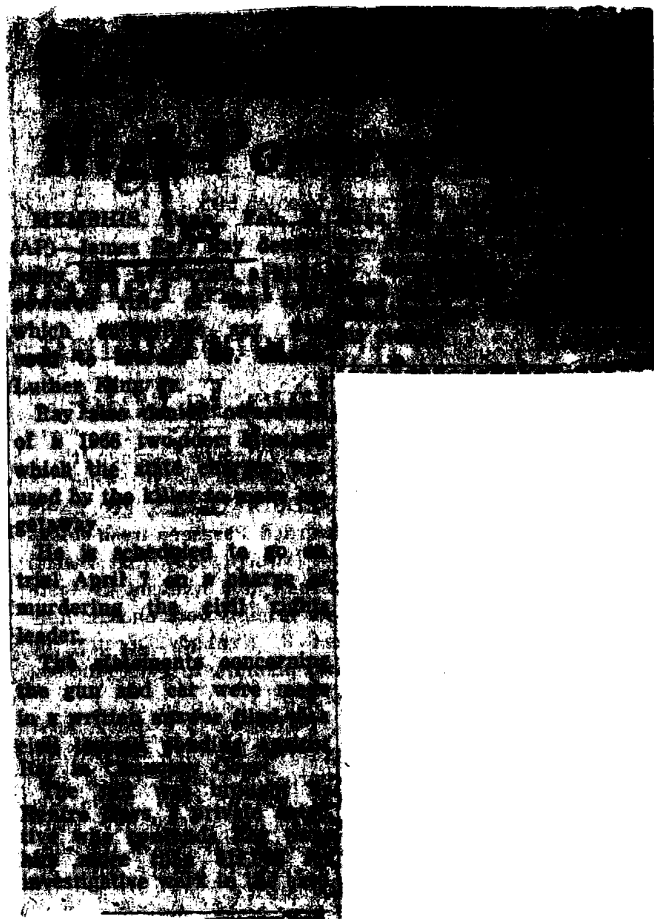
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Tolson ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 Bishop ☒ Bla.  
 Casper ☒  
 Callahan ☒  
 Conrad ☒  
 Felt ☒  
 Gale ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Sullivan ☒  
 Tavel ☒  
 Trotter ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Holmes ☒  
 Gandy ☒

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The Washington Post ☒ A-2  
 Times Herald ☒  
 The Washington Daily News ☒  
 The Evening Star (Washington) ☒  
 The Sunday Star (Washington) ☒  
 Daily News (New York) ☒  
 Sunday News (New York) ☒  
 New York Post ☒  
 The New York Times ☒  
 The Sun (Baltimore) ☒  
 The Daily World ☒  
 The New Leader ☒  
 The Wall Street Journal ☒  
 The National Observer ☒  
 People's World ☒  
 Examiner (Washington) ☒

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REC'D BISHOP

FEB 24 4 26 PM '69

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REC'D DELOACH  
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