

# Ray Is Apprehended in Tennessee

By Bill Curry

Washington Post Staff Writer

PETROS, Tenn., June 13 — James Earl Ray's compelling bid for freedom, begun with a well-planned but risky climb over a state prison wall 55 hours earlier, ended at 2:30 a.m. today with his apprehension in the rugged Cumberland Mountains.

The finish of the little drama and no surprise that the convicted killer, a rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., had been aided by several of the fellow convicts he had befriended.

His escape began with all the drama of a late night and diversionary tactic—but unfolded with precision. Authorities said one of his accomplices was seen closing in on the most wanted man in America.

His odyssey turned toward custody at about 10:30 last night when residents of Devonia, about 8 miles north-east of the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, saw three strangers in the area. Police responded and took them into custody.

Earl Hill Jr., a Tennesseean serving two years for the 1967 murder of a Washington, D.C., policeman, was one and wounding of the officers.

At the same time, officers spotted "two other inmates that fit the description of James Earl Ray and Douglas Shelton," said Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney R. Lane. A 500-square-yard area near the Cumberland Coal Co. mining camp was sealed off, and authorities closed in.

Ray, 40, was expected to be returned

immediately to Brushy Mountain's disciplinary wing to await further action.

Earl Hill Jr., 34, was arrested at 11:10 last night in a coal camp in Devonia, about 8 miles from the prison that he, Ray and five others fled Friday evening.

At 12:10 the arrested, a tired and uncomfortable man, in the back of a prison van, in a blue sweatshirt, black gym shoes, and a black hat, surrounded by television cameras and him in light.

Lane said the van had sealed off the area. He thought that Ray and Hill were nearby.

Earlier, officials had broadened the search for Ray, the convicted rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., and the others to a 25-mile radius of Brushy Mountain prison.

Convicted armed robber Larry Edward Hacker was found at 2:45 yesterday morning. One of the six who broke out last night was shot and immediately recaptured Saturday.

Gov. Ray Blanton said yesterday that he would have National Guardsmen and state police available to assist state and federal law enforcement officials in the search.

"We must ensure on our part and I don't know," Blanton said, "to assure the country we have done the utmost not only to preserve his rights but to return the inmates."

Blanton criticized a 1971 federal court order that removed Ray from the

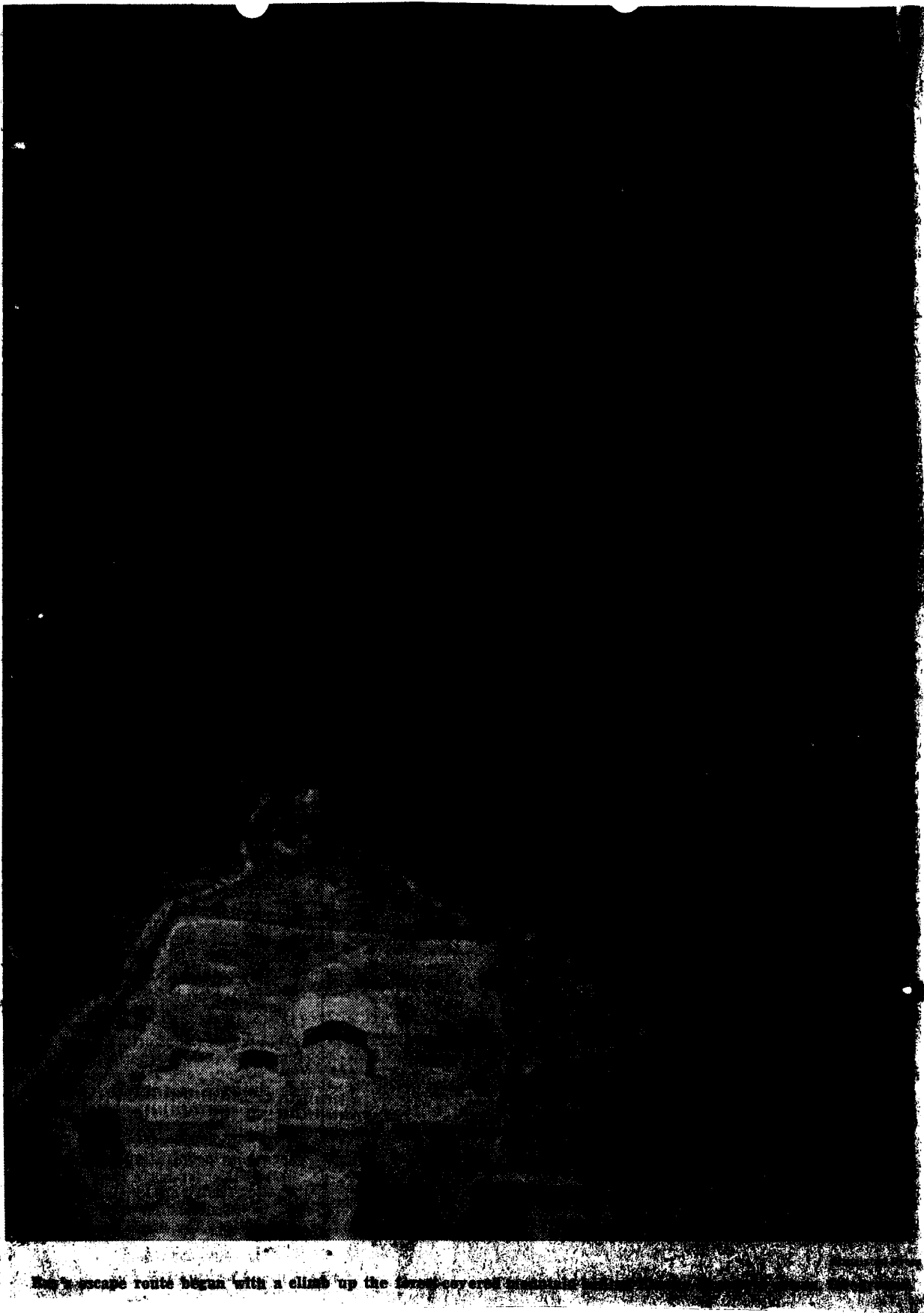
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Ken's escape route began with a climb up the fence-covered landscape.

...and ... a bird and ... in the back ... in a blue ... black ... around ... him in ... that someone had sealed

Earlier yesterday, officials had announced their search for Ray, the suspected killer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., and the others to a 25-mile radius of Brushy Mountain prison.

Convicted armed robber Larry Edward Hacker was found at 2:45 yesterday morning. One of the six who broke out with Ray Friday night was shot and apprehended immediately and another fugitive was recaptured Saturday.

"We may have had failures on our part and lately — we don't know," Blanton said. "But we will assure the country we believe we have done the utmost not only to preserve his rights but to return the inmates."

Blanton criticized a 1971 federal court order that removed Ray from al-

**See RAY, A2, Col. 5**

## Steel for Warships Alleged to Exceed Need by \$8 Million

**By Morton Mintz**

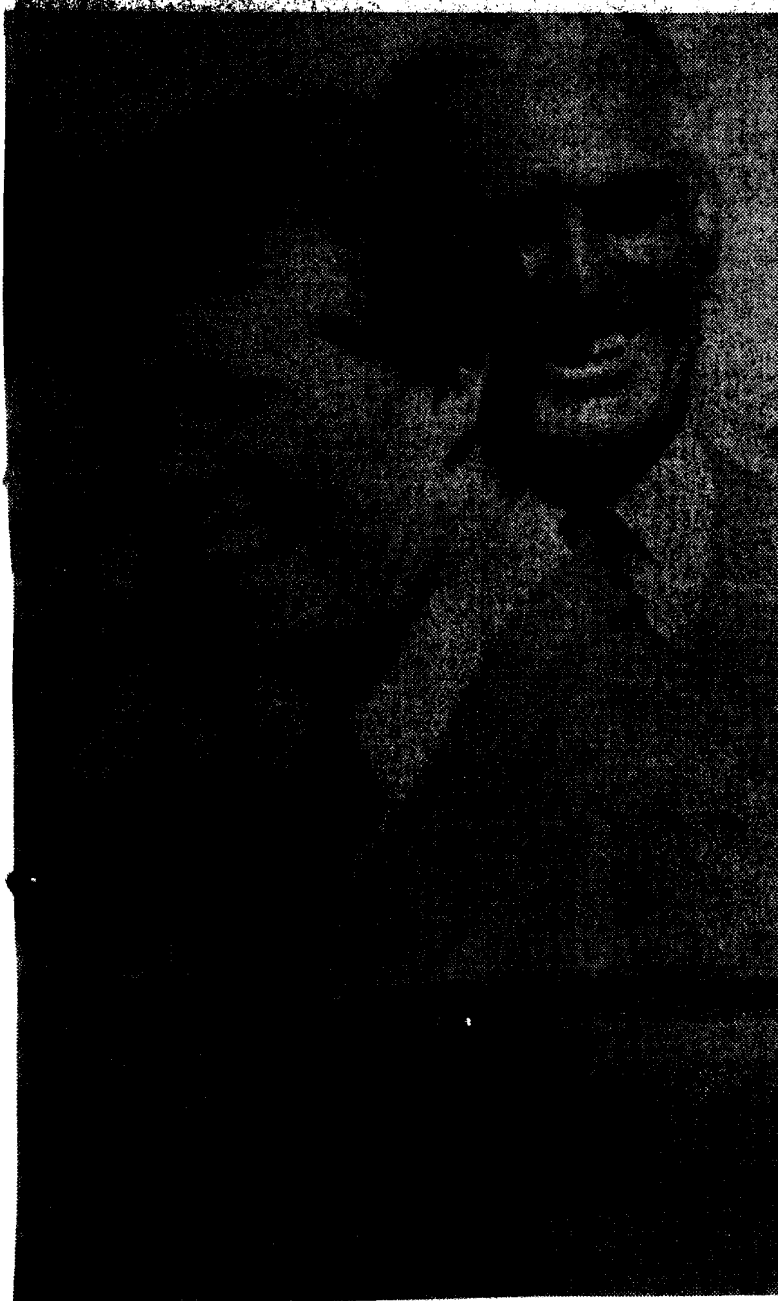
**Washington Post Staff Writer**

Government investigators are contending that Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Co. built 12 war vessels for the Navy but billed the government for enough steel to build 20, The Washington Post learned yesterday.

The excess steel at issue—nearly 80 million pounds valued at about \$8 million—figures in disputed claims for \$62 million that the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. subsidiary has filed against the Navy.

Investigations of the claims were begun in April, 1975, by the FBI, and in June, 1976, by the Renegotiation Board, the executive branch unit responsible for recovering excess profits from defense contractors. In addition, one source told a reporter that federal prosecutors have been presenting evidence in the case to a grand jury for several months.

In Seattle, a spokesman for Lockheed Shipbuilding said that LSCC "has been cooperating fully with the Justice Department's ongoing investigation. . . . We are aware of no wrong going in connection with the claims and believe the department's investigation, when concluded, will bear this out. We will not comment further on this matter until the investigation is completed."



# Ray's Escape Raises Question: How Was It Done So Easily?

By Bill Curry

Washington Post Staff Writer

PETROS, Tenn., June 12—The regular after-dinner headcount in the A and B wings of Brushy Mountain State Prison had been completed about 6 p.m. Friday when the guard's voice came over the loudspeaker.

"The yard," the voice said, and, as usual, some 200 of the prison's 400 inmates, including James Earl Ray, filed into the recreation yard. By 7:30, however, the normal activity of softball, horseshoes and basketball had been broken. There was a scuffle in the basketball court. A prisoner nearby writhed seemingly in pain from an apparent injury to his leg.

Then a shotgun blast from a guard tower toward the northwest corner of the prison yard reverberated off the thick stone walls and sheer mountain slopes beyond.

James Earl Ray and six others had climbed a pipe ladder to freedom.

"How does America's most famous prisoner in that maximum security prison . . . escape so easily?" asked Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), chairman of the House committee investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy and Ray's victim, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

But for all his notoriety, all the aura of conspiracy that has attached to him, all the unanswered questions, James Earl Ray is to prison officials here essentially just another long-term in a fortress of dangerous men.

"We have people here who are more dangerous than Ray," says the state commissioner of correction, Murray Henderson. "I think we have a man more dangerous" among those who escaped, he added in reference to Larry E. Hacker, who was recaptured hours later.

"Everybody here is under observation all the time," Henderson said. It is, after all, the state's tightest security facility. "Listen, you can't keep a man locked up and locked down [24 hours a day]. The courts won't let you."

A federal judge in 1971 ordered Ray removed from the virtually continuous confinement in which he had been kept, essentially for his own protection, and that he be placed in the general prisoner population. Ray was to be treated like a normal prisoner.

That, apparently combined with an imaginative and risky escape plan, an unusual combination of cooperation by other inmates, including Ray's unauthorized freedom still unknown is whether that cooperation extended outside the prison walls or to the prison force.

Henderson spoke today of "distraction" and "negligence," but later revised that to say that if negligence is found disciplinary action will be taken.

Ray, for all intents and purposes, was just another prisoner. Housed in the A Wing, he worked in the prison laundry, had access to other inmates and was extended normal recreation yard privileges. He also, however, conducted media interviews here, and has been visited by members of the House Assassinations Committee.

Brushy Mountain Prison, wedged in the crevice of a valley between steep, precarious and wooded mountains, would normally look forboding, but for the dominance of the Cumberland. Yet the mountains are part of the

security; one-fourth of the north wall is the sheer sedimentary rock-faced cliff that rises above. The thick stone-block wall that forms the rest of the prison walls joins the mountain solidly, and a barbed wire carrying 2,300 volts of electricity tops it.

There are 16 to 18 inches of space between the top of the wall and the wire, and, in the northwest corner, the wire turns prematurely to leave part of the wall unguarded.

Six guard towers sit on the wall. All but one, No. 8, near that northwest corner, were manned Friday night. Officials say that the added-on tower (it is made of wood instead of stone block) has watchmen only when there is trouble or rumors of trouble.

So the props were in place Friday night. Why this particular Friday, when Ray was apparently nearing testimony to the House committee, is known only to those who broke out. But while the inmates tossed horseshoes, played softball and shot baskets, a group of men began assembling from plumbing pipes a ladder—a long-stem curved at the top with stubs of pipes sticking out as rungs. Prison officials theorized the pipe sections had been hidden in the recreation yard or under the inmates' clothing.

The ladder went up and over the wall, around the mountain. The men began climbing it. A kitchen worker decided to join, and then a seventh and last man joined. One hundred yards away, beyond the closest manned tower, came the report of a shotgun, then more and more. One fellow, the seventh man, Jerry W. Ward, who was subsequently captured outside.

The other six were gone, into the woods, into the mountains, into the twilight. As the prison alarm was activated, a later power outage—matter of seconds, Henderson said—followed the escape, at least a phone failure from nearby residences using their phones at the sound of the alarm.

Prison officials had to drive some distance to find working phones. Henderson concedes the existence of a conspiracy among so many people inside the prison walls, but he said there is no evidence of an outside one. "This is a maximum-security prison," he said. "We have hard-core people here who can't get along. They live by the inmates' code, so you don't know what's going to happen."

## Ray Apprehended in Tennessee 55 Hours After Prison Break

RAY, From A1

Hacker was arrested early yesterday in a church at Beech Grove where he had taken refuge after being flushed out of a nearby stream. Hacker, 32, who is serving 28 years on conviction of robbery with a dangerous weapon and safecracking, had worked in the prison plumbing shop. He had escaped Nov. 4 and remained free until April 27.

The three prisoners who were reapprehended prior to yesterday are being held in the prison's "B" block, its disciplinary facility. They have been questioned, Lane said, but nothing was learned.

An internal investigation also is under way, Lane said, but no personnel action has been taken.

Officials continued to discount

statements that Ray, who has disavowed his confession of King's 1968 killing and has said instead that he only bought the rifle for others, was freed by those wanting him dead or unavailable to the House Assassinations Committee. The committee has been investigating the slayings of King and President Kennedy as well as officials' investigations of those murders.

Lane said Ray's brother, Jerry, had visited Ray last weekend. Lane said officials have no information that Jerry Ray, who lives in Chicago, is back in the area. Ray had had no visitors since, Lane said.

Blanton talked with Attorney General Griffin B. Bell yesterday to appraise him of the escape incident.

Many area residents were told to remain in their homes and not to go to the streets to join the search.

## The Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, high in low 60s, low near 60. Chance of rain 10 per cent through tonight.  
 Tuesday: Partly cloudy, high in low 60s, low near 60. Chance of rain 10 per cent through tonight.  
 Details are on Page C2.

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MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1977

# Ray Is Apprehended

By Bill Curry

Washington Post Staff Writer

PATRICK, Tenn., June 13 — James Earl Ray's compelling bid for freedom, begun with a well-planned but risky escape over a state prison wall 58 hours earlier, ended at 2:30 a.m. today with his apprehension in the rugged Cumberland Mountains.

The chase came with little drama and no apparent sign that the convicted killer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. had been aided by anyone other than the fellow convicts he fled with.

His escape began with all the drama of a late movie—a phony and diversionary prison-yard fight—but unfolded with near script-like precision. Authorities captured four of his accomplices one by one before closing in on the most wanted man in America.

His odyssey turned toward custody at about 10:30 last night when residents of Devonia, about eight miles northeast of the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, reported seeing three strangers in their community. Police responded and soon took into custody

Earl Hill Jr., a 34-year-old Tennessean serving two life terms for the 1967 murder of a vacationing Washington, D.C., policeman and the rape and wounding of the officer's wife.

At the same time, officers spotted "two other inmates that fit the description of James Earl Ray and Douglas Shelton," said Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney R. Lane. A 500-square-yard area near the Cumberland Coal Co. mining camp was sealed off, and authorities closed in.

Ray, 49, was expected to be returned

## Go-Ahead Decided On Controversial Atom Power Plant

By Margot Hornblower

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Carter administration is on the verge of allowing construction of the controversial Seabrook, N.H., nuclear power plant, which has become a nationwide symbol in the battle over atomic energy.

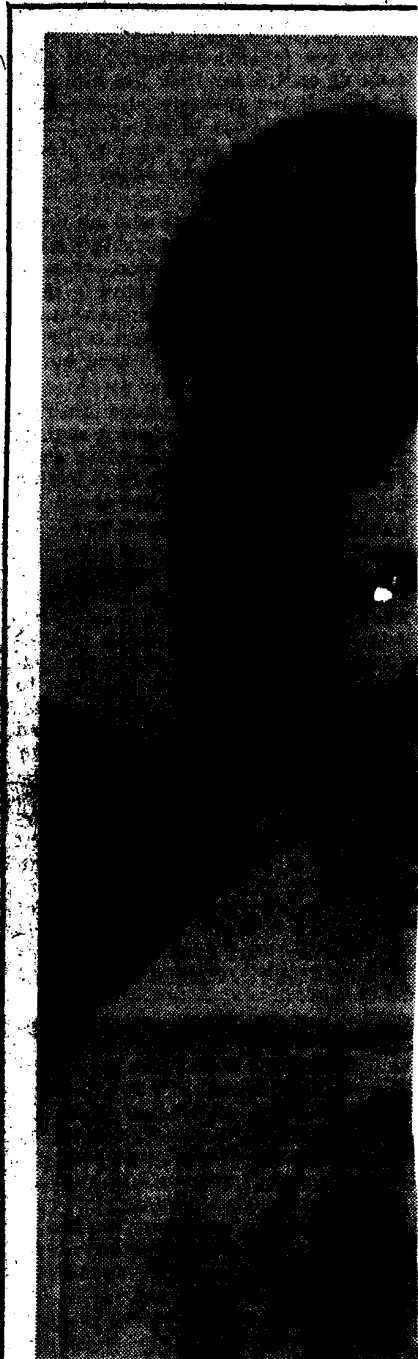
Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Douglas M. Costle acknowledged that he has "made a final decision" to allow the plant to discharge 1.2 billion gallons of heated water into the Atlantic Ocean daily, an issue which has held up construction since November.

## 2 Nuclear Plants in Va. To Be Shut

By James O'Connell

Washington Post Staff Writer

Two nuclear power plants in Virginia will be closed for \$20 million.



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## Ray Captured; Officials Brocken Search

By Bill Curry  
 and Jan Bransome

Associated Press Staff Writers

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 11 — James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., remained free tonight following his bold and well-organized breakout over the rock wall of a Tennessee state prison here. The early afternoon report of another escape, however, led officials to believe that Ray and two other convicts at large were still nearby in this rugged mountain terrain.

While officials pressed their search for the escapees with hounds, helicopter teams and heavily armed state troopers, the night commander of correctional department stated that the severe prospects were better than the will

of the Brushy Mountain State Prison Friday night had outside help.

Ray has recanted his confession that he killed King and claimed instead that he bought the rifle for \$800. But the commissioner, Murray Henderson, particularly scolded at suggestions that Ray had been freed by those who wanted to eliminate him in order to silence the key figure in what many believe is an as yet undeveloped conspiracy to kill King.

The warden had help from other prisoners, Henderson said, referring to a fight and to injury other inmates allegedly to distract guards during the escape.

But "we have no evidence there was any assistance from the outside," he said. A simultaneous telephone outage cuts off the night shift.

west of Knoxville, occurred when a prison whistle sounded the escape alarm and stridently resounded over loaded telephone circuits, he said.

In all seven prisoners raced for the 13-foot-high northwest wall carved out of solid rock, near an unmanned guard tower when a race snuffled during an outdoor recreation period disrupted attention. One prisoner was wounded in a hail of gunfire and was escorted to the hospital. Ray and two other prisoners, using a ladder, jumped from a window, climbed over the wall, and fled. The three were charged with a 1968-1969 current and forced along a ravine into the heavy wooded mountains.

David Lee Powell, 37, serving a 100-year sentence for a 1964-1965 murder conviction, was captured about 1:42 p.m. today after a police helicopter spotted him and his companions walking along Highway 100 near the entrance to Brown's Creek Park, about eight miles from the prison. Powell, 37, was charged with the murder of King, but the other two could not be identified as the escapees, though they were not known if Ray was one of those who fled.

"They made a very good job of it," would expect," Henderson said. The FBI took over the search for Ray this morning after the escape of the "10 Most Wanted" list. "This is the latest prison escape investigation we've got going," he said.

See RAY, A6-C4, 1

James Earl Ray, in May 1969, was indicted for the murder of King.

# Ray Remains at Large

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# Ray, 4 Other Convicts Remain at Large After Escape From Tennessee Prison

RAY, From A1

FBI spokesman Tom Deakin. Director (Clarence M.) Kelley has directed an all-out effort to apprehend him.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell briefed President Carter on the escape in an 8 a.m. telephone call.

Officials said that Powell, the only black among the escapees, joined the escape from the state's most secure maximum security prison on the spur of the moment. Davis said the last breakout at Brushy Mountain was in 1971.

The facility houses 400 prisoners—300 locked up behind the walls and 100 in trusty facilities on the prison's perimeter.

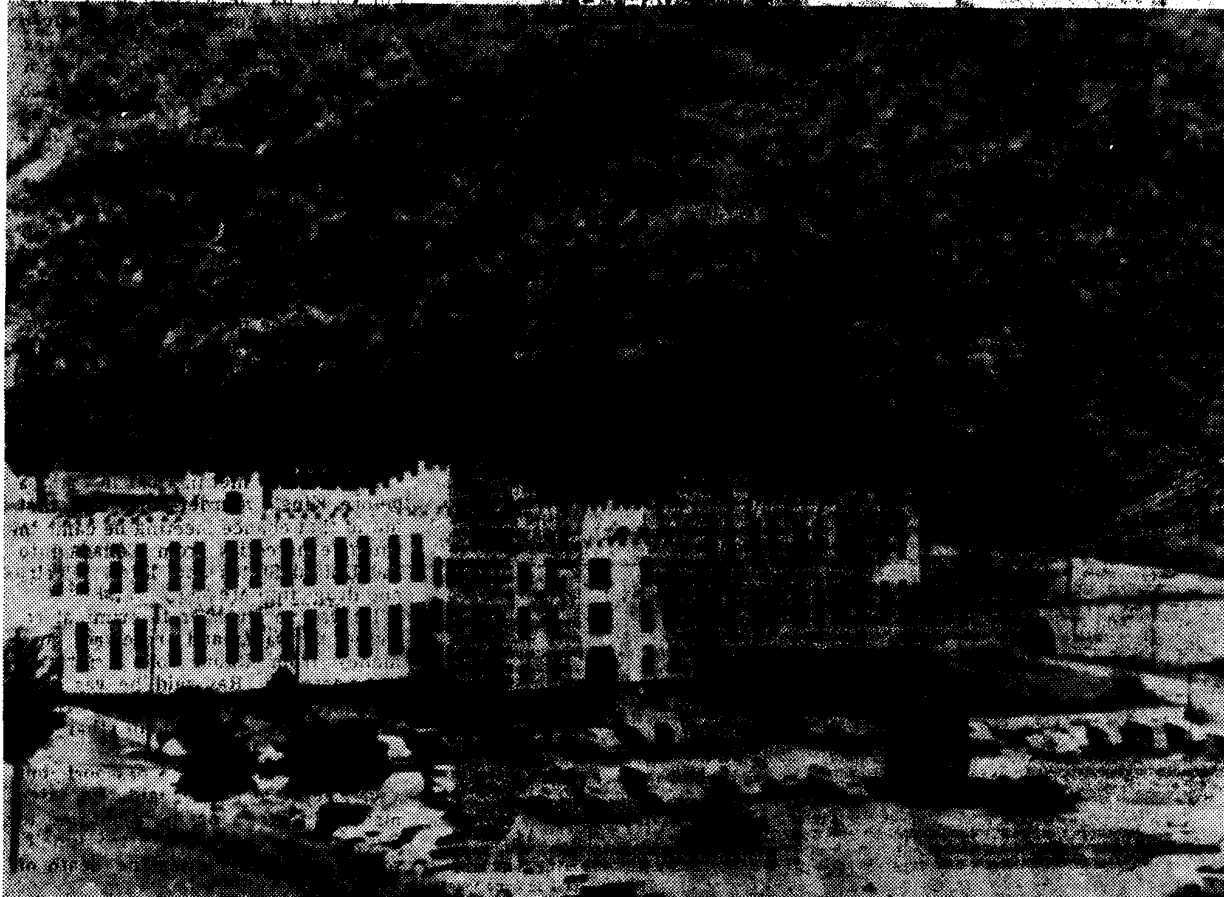
Some 250 correctional officers, state troopers and other police personnel are involved in the search, generally confined to a 10-mile radius of the prison. Earlier today, Knoxville police Capt. Bill Beck flew FBI agents with "special equipment" over the area and returned them to Knoxville for what apparently was processing of infrared film.

Brushy Mountain prison is ringed by high mountains, with some to the north reaching elevations of 2,960 feet. Dense growth of hardwood forest and the numerous, broken limestone rocks make walking the ridges arduous going. Strip-miners, however, have ringed the mountains with ledges or "benches"—equivalent to roads—that run the mountaintops for miles.

Walking the benches can substantially increase a walker's pace, but at night the obscured, 100-foot dropoffs make walking or running dangerous.

While most of the mining in this area now is by stripping, there are active and abandoned deep mine shafts where it is possible to hide undetected from aerial search. The prison has an abandoned mine where convicts once worked.

The names of nearby towns speak volumes about the area's remoteness. For example, there is Charlie's Branch, Sainville, Coalville, Sunbright, Deer Lodge and Grimsley.



Aerial view of Brushy Mountain State Prison, where Ray and six other convicts went over the wall Friday night.

Ray had been housed in the prison's A wing and had not been subjected to special security precautions. "Listen, you can't keep a man locked up and looked down," Henderson said. "The courts won't let you."

Late this afternoon, Gov. Ray Blanton said he has directed Tennessee law enforcement and correctional officers "to use all possible restraint in their efforts to capture the prisoners."

and to return them to custody without any loss of life." He added: "The extenuating circumstances regarding the congressional and other investigations of the James Earl Ray case make it imperative that he be returned to custody safely and at the earliest possible moment."

Deputy warden Davis said that officials had met with representatives of the House Assassinations Committee today but said he did not know the purpose or the outcome of the meeting.

Davis acknowledged that it had probably taken the prisoners some time to join their pipe ladder together, hook it on the prison wall and climb slowly to freedom.

"It was the fault of someone," he said. "Any time you have an escape from a prison, it's the fault of someone."

He said he anticipated an investiga-

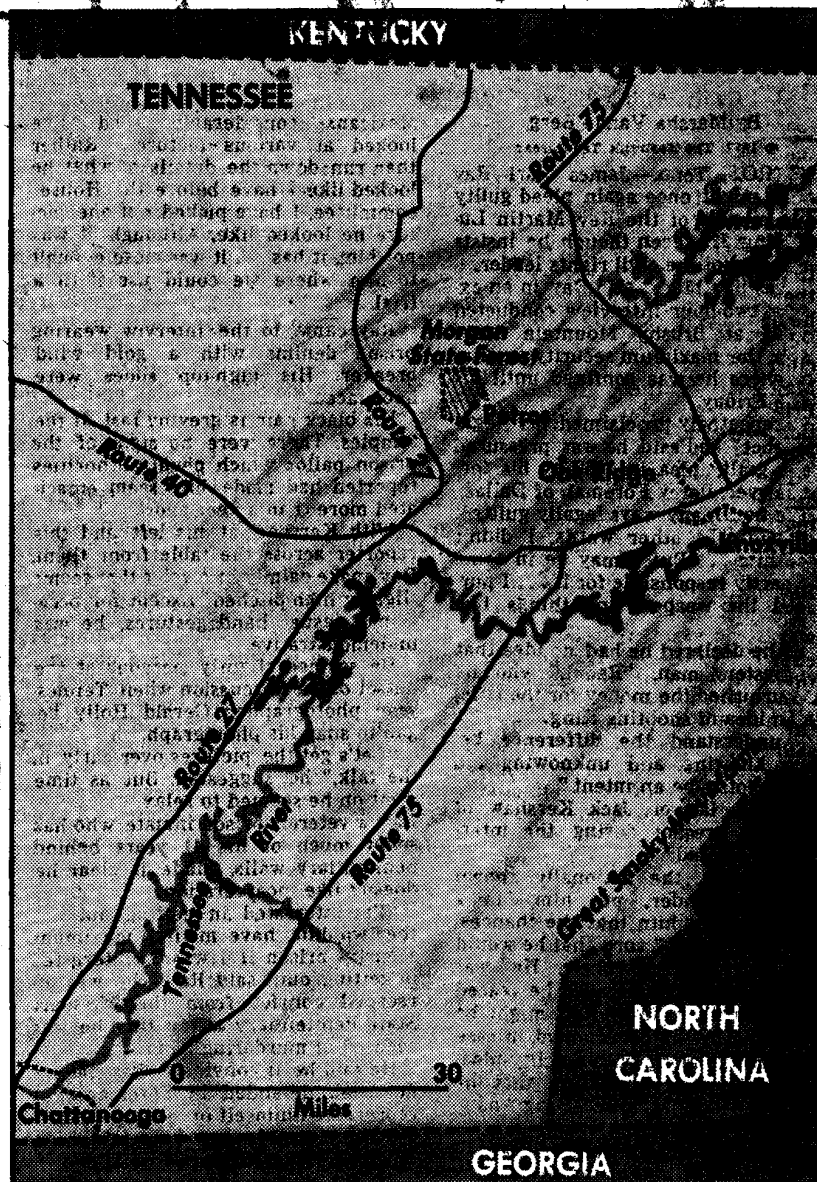
tion by the warden but said that neither Powell nor Jerry W. Ward, the convict wounded while attempting to escape, had been interrogated yet.

The escape occurred just yards from the unmanned No. 8 watchtower, a white, wooden observation post that officials say is used only when there is trouble or indications of trouble.

A guard in a watchtower perhaps 100 yards across the recreation yard fired the first of numerous shots. Officials said all roads in the area were sealed within 30 minutes of the escape.

All seven prisoners were serving harsh sentences due to expire in the 1990s or later, if ever.

One of those still free is Earl Hill Jr., 34. A Tennessean, he was serving two life sentences for the 1967 shooting death of a vacationing Washington, D.C., policeman, Lowell E. Bailey,



The prison is located a mile from the coal town of Petros, northwest of Knoxville.

and the wounding and rape of Bailey's wife.

Lawmen originally believed they had Ray and his cohorts hemmed into a five-mile-square area immediately adjacent to the prison, but at midday they expanded the area.

Charles Bass of the state prison system said this was done "because the dogs appeared to have two hot trails" that took them outside the previously designated search area.

A light rain fell briefly this morning but quit before it wiped out the scents the bloodhounds were tracking.

The dingy little coal town of Petros, one mile from the prison and the home of the prison's work force, looked like it does any other day. Two of the town's four stores, Hunters Grocery and Gunter's Grocery, stationed within site of each other at opposite ends of the town, were open for business.

Jean Williams, a textile worker, said the massive manhunt in the area was "no big thing."

"There have been lots of other escapes before," she said, scoffingly, "but there wasn't this much excitement, because Ray wasn't involved. We're used to it anyway."

When the news of the escape broke, she said, "everybody loaded up their guns and got ready—no big thing."

Those still remaining at large besides Ray and Hill are:

- Larry E. Hacker, 32, serving 28 years on robbery with a deadly weapon and safecracking convictions.
- Donald Ray Caylor, 24, serving 51 years on armed robbery, assault with intent to commit murder and jail escape convictions.
- Douglas Shelton, 32, serving 68 years on felonious assault, first-degree murder and grand larceny convictions.



# CIA's Soviet Oil Forecast Disputed

By J. K. Smith

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence Agency report that the Soviet Union will compete with Western nations as important suppliers of oil in the 1980s is incorrect, according to a Library of Congress study. "Soviet energy needs and planned production require it to be a modest exporter of oil and natural gas to the West," the study says. "The Soviet Union's industrialized regions and its Eastern Europe neighbors in the period of the seventies and eighties," the study says, "will be classified as energy forecasters in the Soviet and Eastern European bloc countries would import 3.5 million barrels a day by 1985 was released by President Carter the day he told the American people that his energy plan was 'the moral equivalent of war.'"

The CIA report, based on U.S. oil industry studies, was released at the urging of James A. Schlesinger Jr., the President's energy adviser, amid speculation that the administration was trying to generate a crisis atmosphere as the President unveiled his energy plan. Schlesinger headed the CIA during the Nixon administration.

The Library of Congress study was made by a team headed by Dr. Her-

man F. Franzen. Undertaken months before the CIA study was released, it says the Soviets must continue to export oil and natural gas to earn the money to pay for Western imports and economic expansion.

The study estimates that by 1980 the Soviets will export about 256 million barrels of oil a year and 26 billion cubic feet of gas to Western Europe.

A copy of the study, which is expected to be released early next week, was obtained by The Washington Post from congressional sources.

Both the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China "are not expected to be major exporters or importers of oil in the period ending in 1990," the study concludes.

Last year the Soviet Union led world oil production, pumping 10.4 million barrels over 10 million barrels a day more than Saudi Arabia. According to Soviet trade figures, the Russians sold more than half of their oil exports to Western countries in 1976 in pursuit of "hard currencies." In the past, Soviet oil exports have been directed in large measure to meeting the oil needs of the Communist bloc countries, from Eastern Europe to Cuba.

Since world oil prices quadrupled in 1973, the Soviets have used oil to earn

foreign exchange to offset balance-of-payments deficits and mounting debt to Western nations, now calculated at over \$11 billion.

The Library of Congress study cites Soviet energy objectives over the next 15 years as:

- Maintaining self-sufficiency in energy to meet domestic needs;
- Servicing East European bloc needs;
- Utilizing oil and natural gas exports to finance trade with Western industrialized countries.

Last year the Soviets imported 150,000 barrels of oil a day, much of it from Iraq. Should the Soviets have to increase imports, analysts say they will probably turn to Iraq and Libya, two oil-exporting countries with political links to Moscow. Iraq's largest trading partner is the Soviet Union.

Last year U.S.-Soviet trade totaled nearly \$2.6 billion, of which \$1.4 billion went toward purchasing U.S. wheat and other agricultural products. Without the foreign exchange earned by energy exports, the Library of Congress analysts argue, the Soviet Union would be unable to purchase vital foodstuffs and industrial, agricultural and consumer goods from the West.

The study suggests that Soviet oil production could begin to taper off in

the 1990s, unless the Russians are able to develop potential resources in Siberia.

Asked about the accuracy of the CIA study, a senior State Department official said, yesterday, "The basis of the CIA study is really an engineering analysis, and the slowness with which new fields are developed... we found the CIA conclusions generally right."

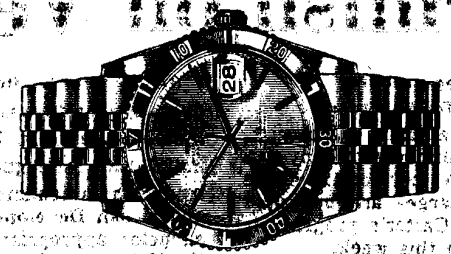
"Any time you deal with a society that is so conservative, you are never really sure," he said.

## Son of Park Critic Elected in Seoul

SEOUL, June 11—Chung Dal Chul was elected to Parliament from a downtown constituency here today, succeeding his father, Chung Il-Hyung, who had lost the seat after criticizing President Park Chung Hee.

Chung, 33, returned home from the United States, interrupting his studies to run for office after his father, a veteran opposition leader, was deprived of his seat following a conviction for his role in an illegal dissident movement.

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# Hill Assassinations Unit To Probe Ray's Escape

By George Landner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The chairman of the House Assassinations Committee said yesterday that it will conduct its own investigation into James Earl Ray's escape Friday night from a maximum security prison in Tennessee.

"I think we have to do it," said Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio). "Here we have a famous prisoner who is the focal point of a congressional investigation and he escapes from a maximum security institution. I think we'd be subject to criticism if we just accepted whatever investigations that other authorities make."

The convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Ray was still at large last night after he and six other men scaled the wall at Brushy Mountain State Prison, where he had been serving a 99-year term for the murder. One of the men in the escape and was captured almost immediately, while another escapee was caught yesterday.

Two investigators for the committee, chief deputy counsel Robert Lehner and his top investigator, Edward Evans, were dispatched to Tennessee and are expected to report back to the committee for a hearing late Monday morning.

"I'm going to propose that we conduct our own investigation of all the circumstances surrounding the escape," Stokes said, adding that Lehner's initial report from the field raised some doubts in his mind about how secure the Tennessee prison really is. Although the prison wall is topped with electrified barbed wire, Stokes said he understood that the wire stops short of one corner, where prisoners might squeeze around it without too much difficulty.

Stokes said committee investigators had interviewed Ray half a dozen times this year for the inquiry that the House authorized last September into the April, 1968, murder of King.

"Obviously this was organized on the inside, at least, and it was conspiratorial in nature," Stokes said of the escape. "I guess the fear I have is whether there was outside participation in the matter also, and, if so, for what purpose. One possibility is that it was an attempt to get Ray to a place where he will never be found again. Another possibility is that it was an attempt to get him out to kill him. The question is whether he was a willing participant or whether he was lured into it."

Stokes also hinted that Ray might have some funds at his disposal. "I have information that Ray was getting a large amount of money" in connection with some of the recent publicity over the King murder, the chairman said, without elaborating how or why.

The escape quickly fueled a wide variety of speculation about its manner and motivation. It was Ray's third attempt to escape from Brushy Mountain. He made several attempts to escape from other prisons and he successfully broke out of the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City in 1967. He remained free then for more than a year before he was captured in London following the murder.

"He's an escape artist," said George McMillan, author of a book about Ray called "The Making of an Assassin," which contends that Ray was essentially a loner who killed King for racial reasons. "Raymond Curtis [one of Ray's fellow inmates at Jefferson City] told me Ray just used to stare at the wall out there. He studied the cracks. I think this is the eighth time he's tried to escape from various prisons."

McMillan doubted that "there's any plot at all, except with the other inmates he escaped with." He said he felt "the essential question is: If he's innocent [of King's murder], why did he try to escape? If he had a story to tell, he had the House committee to tell it to. And he's had access to the press for a decade. I think he realizes his alibi have run out."

Others disagreed. Ray's lawyer for some six years, Washington attorney James Lesar, said he felt Ray had simply given up hope in the courts and in the thought he might one day get a new trial. He started recanting almost immediately after he pleaded guilty, but it took him more than five years to get an evidentiary hearing, Lesar said. "The U.S. Supreme Court threw him down last December."

Ray then raised his hopes in the House committee, and its former counsel, Richard Stargus, Lesar said. Lesar said he told Ray that "he had already decided he was guilty" and that the House investigation was a "cynical exploitation" of him, but "he didn't believe me. Then, two weeks ago, he said he was a person who was not a murderer."

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# Ray Remains at Large

By Bill Curry  
and Jim Branscome  
Washington Post Staff Writers

PETROS, Tenn., June 11 — James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., remained free tonight following his bold and well-organized breakout over the rock wall of a Tennessee state prison here. The early afternoon arrest of another escapee, however, led officials to believe that Ray and four other convicts at large were still nearby in this rugged mountain terrain.

While officials pressed their search for the escapees, guards, helicopters and state troopers, the state correction department discounted the possibility that the seven prisoners had broken through the wall.

of the Brushy Mountain State Prison Friday night.

Ray had no confession that he killed King, maintained instead that he was a scapegoat for others. But Murray Henderson, a prison official, scoffed at suggestions that Ray had been freed by those who wanted to eliminate him in order to silence the key figure in what some believe is an as-yet-undetected conspiracy to kill King.

"We know they had help from other prisoners," Henderson said, referring to a fight and an injury other inmates, feigned to attract guards during the escape.

But "we have no evidence there was any assistance from the outside," he said.

A simultaneous search is being conducted in this community.

west of Knoxville, occurred when a prison whistle sounded the escape alarm and panicked residents overloaded telephone circuits, he said.

In all, seven prisoners scaled for the 13-foot-high northwest wall, carved out of solid rock, and an unmanned guard tower which a rush scuffle during an outdoor recreation period diverted attention. One prisoner was wounded by a ball of gunfire and was captured almost immediately, but Ray and the others, using a ladder fashioned from climbing pins, climbed over the wall, cut through barbed wire and ran through the current and raced to the heavily wooded area.

David L. Davis, a 100-year sentence for murder conviction, was about 1:42 p.m. when a helicopter

er spotted him and two other escapees walking near the entrance to the State Park, about 10 miles from the prison. Davis said the prison's deputy warden Davis, but the helicopter for cover as the helicopter was one of those who fled.

"They made better time than we would expect," Henderson said.

The FBI took over the search for Ray this morning.

"This is the beginning of a major investigation," a FBI official said.

James Earl Ray, 37, is a white male, 5'10", 160 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, and a mustache.

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# Ray, 4 Other Convicts After Escape From Tennessee

## RAY FROM ALI

The spokesman Tom Deakin, Director [Clarence M.] Kelley has directed an all-out effort to apprehend them.

Officials confirmed the search for Ray and the other escapees throughout the night.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell briefed President Carter on the escape in an 8 a.m. telephone call.

Officials said that Powell, the only black among the escapees, joined the escape from the state's most secure maximum security prison on the spur of the moment. Davis said the last breakfast at Brushy Mountain was in 1971.

The facility houses 400 prisoners—350 locked up behind the walls and 100 in trusty facilities on the prison's perimeter.

Some 250 correctional officers, state troopers and other police personnel are involved in the search, generally confined to a 10-mile radius of the prison. Earlier today, Knoxville police Capt. Bill Beck flew FBI agents with "special equipment" over the area and returned them to Knoxville for what apparently was processing of infrared film.

Brushy Mountain prison is ringed by high mountains, with some to the north reaching elevations of 2,000 feet. Dense growth of hardwood forest and the numerous broken limestone rocks make walking the ridges arduous going. Strip-miners, however, have zinged the mountains with ledges or "benches"—equivalent to roads—that run the mountaintops for miles.

Walking the benches can substantially increase a walker's pace, but at night the obscured, 100-foot dropoffs make walking or running dangerous.

While most of the mining in this area now is by stripping, there are active and abandoned deep mine shafts where it is possible to hide undetected from aerial search. The prison has an abandoned mine where convicted rape victims were kept.

The parties of search tonight were made up of state troopers, FBI agents and local police. The search area was divided into sectors, with each sector assigned a specific area to search.

Ray had been housed in the prison's "A" wing and had not been subjected to special security precautions. "Listen, you can't keep a man locked up and locked down," Henderson said. "The courts won't let you."

Late this afternoon, Gov. Ray Blanton said he has directed Tennessee law enforcement and correctional officials "to use every possible means in their effort to locate the prisoners and to return them to the state without any loss of life." The exacting task of the investigation is

of the James Earl Ray case make it imperative that the prisoners be returned to custody safely as soon as possible.

Deputy Attorney General said that officials had met with representatives of the House Judiciary Committee today but said he did not know the purpose or the outcome of the meeting.

Davis acknowledged that it had probably taken the prisoners some time to join their pipe ladder together, hook it on the prison wall and climb slowly to freedom.

"It was a mistake of someone," he said. "And it was an escape from a prison, the result of someone."

He said the state is conducting an investigation of the escape by the warden.

Neither the warden, W. Ward,

the convicts, nor the state attempting to escape. The state is useful information. Officials said.

The escape is a major security problem from the United States. The state, a white, wooden observation tower, officials say, is used only when there is trouble or indications of trouble.

A guard is a watchtower. The guard is a watchtower. The guard is a watchtower. The guard is a watchtower.

One of the escapees, a white, wooden observation tower, officials say, is used only when there is trouble or indications of trouble. The escape is a major security problem from the United States. The state, a white, wooden observation tower, officials say, is used only when there is trouble or indications of trouble.

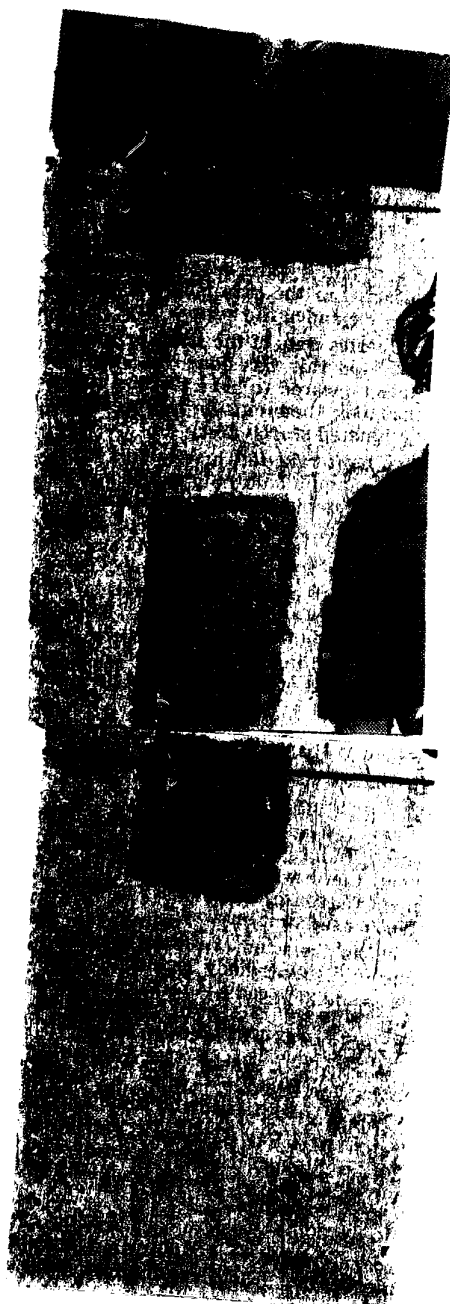
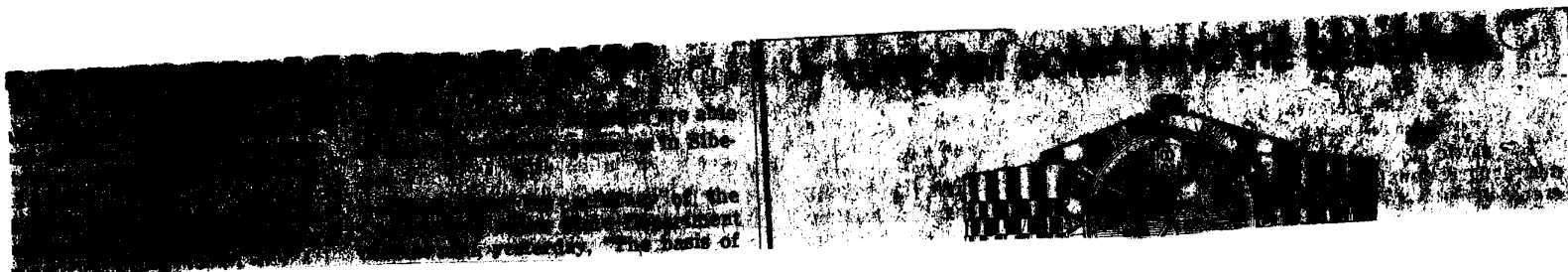
Jean Williams, the massive, black, "no big thing" escapee, said, "There are no escapees here, but there is a problem, because we're used to it."

When the state, she said, "There are no escapees here, but there is a problem, because we're used to it."

Those still in the sides, Ray and the state, a white, wooden observation tower, officials say, is used only when there is trouble or indications of trouble.

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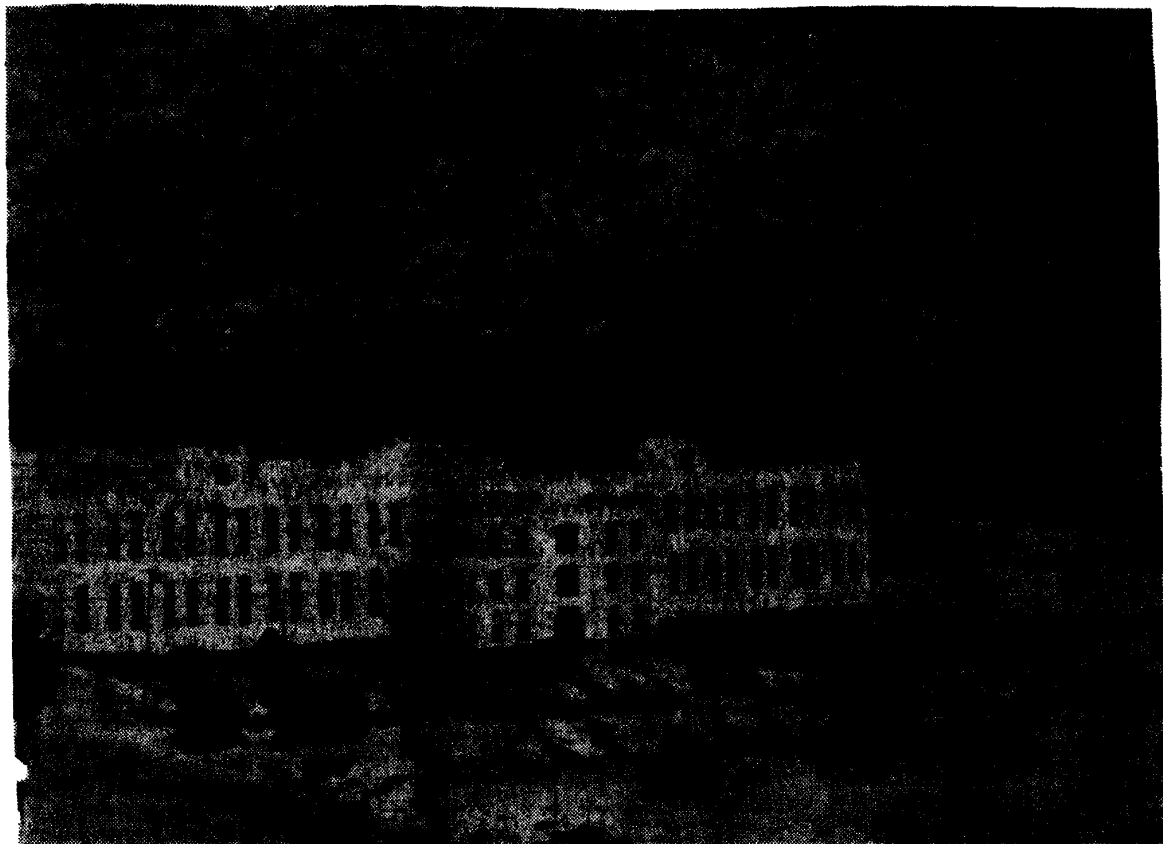
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Aerial view of Brushy Mountain State Prison, where Ray and six other convicts fled over the wall.

analysis, and the slowness with which new fields are developed. "We found the CIA conclusions generally right."

"Any time you deal with a society that secretive you are never really sure," he said.

## Son of Park Critic Elected in Seoul

APRON FRANKS-PRISON

SEOUL, June 11—Chung Dal Chul was elected to Parliament from a downtown constituency here today, succeeding his father, Chyung Il Hyung, who had lost the seat after criticizing President Park Chung Hee.

Chyung, 33, returned home from the United States, interrupting his studies, to run for office after his father, a veteran opposition leader, was deprived of his seat following a conviction for his role in an illegal student movement.

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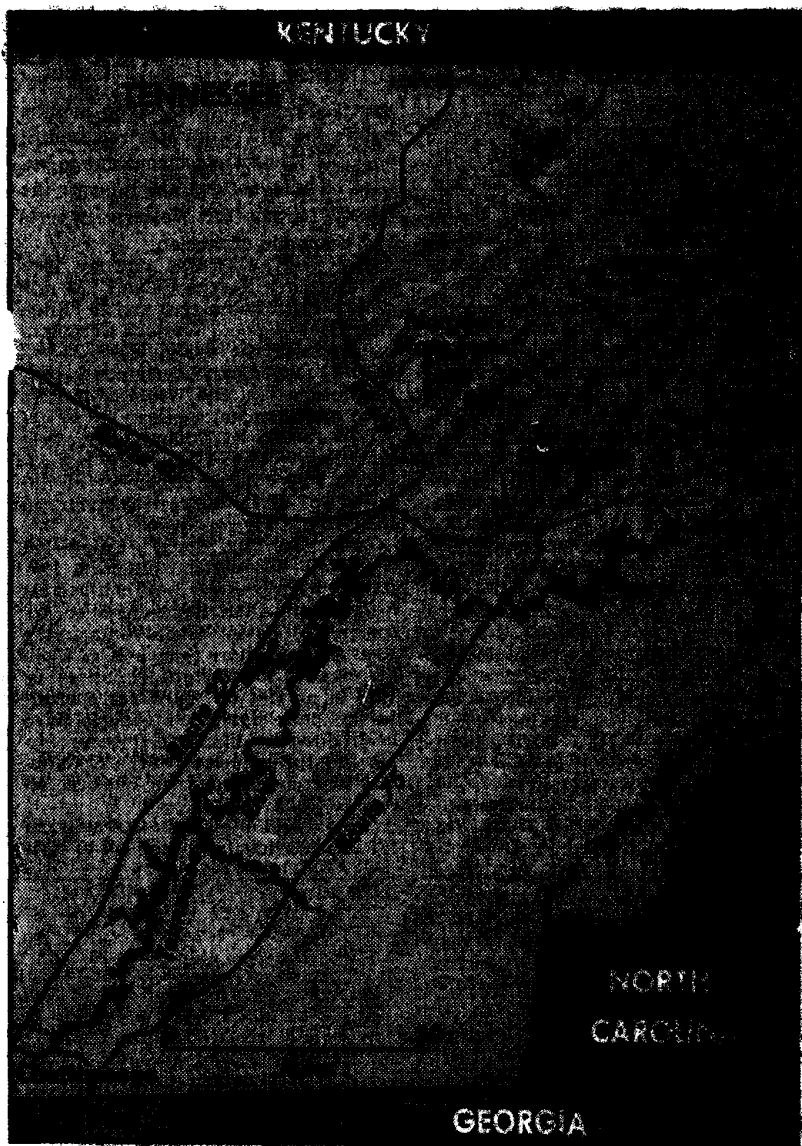
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# Woodies and clemm...



By SAM Perlmutter, The Washington Post

The prison is located a mile from the coal town of Petros, northwest of Knoxville.

# Soviet Oil

The Central Intelligence Agency's new study, released today, says the Soviet Union will export 258 million barrels of oil a year and 26 billion cubic feet of gas to Western Europe by 1980. The study, based on a CIA report, says the Soviet Union will export 258 million barrels of oil a year and 26 billion cubic feet of gas to Western Europe by 1980. The study, based on a CIA report, says the Soviet Union will export 258 million barrels of oil a year and 26 billion cubic feet of gas to Western Europe by 1980.

The CIA report, based on U.S. oil market studies, was released at the request of James R. Schlesinger Jr., the president's energy adviser, amid speculation that the administration was planning to generate a crisis atmosphere. The President unveiled his energy policy, Schlesinger headed the Commission on the Energy Administration. The report of Congress study was made by a team headed by Dr. Her-

man T. Francher. Undertaken months before the CIA study was released, it says the Soviets must continue to export oil and natural gas to earn the money to pay for Western imports and economic expansion.

The study estimates that by 1980 the Soviets will export about 258 million barrels of oil a year and 26 billion cubic feet of gas to Western Europe.

A copy of the study, which is expected to be released early next week, was obtained by The Washington Post from congressional sources.

Both the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China "are not expected to be major exporters or importers of oil in the period ending in 1980," the study concludes.

Last year the Soviet Union led world oil production, pumping 10.4 million barrels—over 1 million barrels a day more than Saudi Arabia. According to Soviet trade figures, the Russians sold more than half of their oil exports to Western countries in 1978 in pursuit of "hard currencies." In the past, Soviet oil exports have been directed in large measure to meeting the oil needs of the Communist bloc countries, from Eastern Europe to Cuba.

Since world oil prices quadrupled in 1973, the Soviets have used oil to earn

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# Hill Assassinations Unit To Probe Ray's Escape

By George Langner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The chairman of the House Assassinations Committee said yesterday that it will conduct its own investigation into James Earl Ray's escape Friday night from a maximum security prison in Tennessee.

"I think we have to do it," said Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio). "Here we have a famous prisoner who is the focal point of a congressional investigation and he escapes from a maximum security institution. I think we'd be subject to criticism if we just accepted whatever investigations that other authorities make."

The convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Ray was still at large last night after he and six other men scaled the wall at Brushy Mountain State Prison, where he had been serving a 99-year term for the murder. One of the men was wounded in the escape and was captured almost immediately, while another escapee was caught yesterday.

Two investigators for the committee, chief deputy counsel Robert Lehner and his top investigator, Edward Evans, were dispatched to Tennessee and are expected to report back to the committee for a hearing late Monday morning.

"I'm going to propose that we conduct our own investigation of all the circumstances surrounding the escape," Stokes said, adding that Lehner's initial report from the field raised some doubts in his mind about how secure the Tennessee prison really is. Although the prison wall is topped with electrified barbed wire, Stokes said he understood that the wire stops short of one corner, where prisoners might squeeze around it without too much difficulty.

Stokes said committee investigators had interviewed Ray half a dozen times this year for the inquiry that the House authorized last September into the April, 1968, murder of King.

"Obviously this was organized on the inside, at least, and it was conspiratorial in nature," Stokes said of the escape. "I guess the fear I have is whether there was outside participation in the matter also, and if so for what purpose. One possibility is that it was an attempt to get Ray to a place where he will be able to make a statement about the assassination of King."

Stokes also hinted that Ray might have some funds at his disposal. "I have information that Ray was getting a large amount of money" in connection with some of the recent publicity over the King murder, the chairman said without elaborating.

The escape quickly fueled a wide variety of speculation about its manner and motivation. It was Ray's third attempt to escape from Brushy Mountain. He made several attempts to escape from other prisons and he successfully broke out of the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City in 1967. He remained free then for more than a year before he was captured in London following King's murder.

"He's an escape artist," said George McMillan, author of a book about Ray called "The Making of an Assassin," which contends that Ray was essentially a loner who killed King for racial reasons. Raymond Curtis, one of Ray's fellow inmates at Jefferson City, told me Ray had tried to stare at the wall out there. He studied the cracks. I think this is about the eighth time he's tried to escape from various prisons."

McMillan doubted that "there's any plot at all" except with the other inmates he escaped with. He said he felt "the essential question is: Is he innocent [of King's murder] and did he try to escape? If he had a story to tell, he had better make a committee to look it up. And he had access to the press for a decade. I think he realizes his efforts have run out."

Others disagreed. Ray's lawyer for some six years, Washington attorney James Leavelle, said he felt Ray had simply given up hope in the courts and in the thought he might one day get a new trial. "He started working almost immediately after he pleaded guilty, but it took him more than five years just to get an evidentiary hearing," Leavelle said. "The U.S. Supreme Court turned him down last December."

Ray then joined his wives in the House committee and its former counsel, Richard Goodwin, Lewis and Clark said he would like to see the House conduct its own investigation. "I think the House investigation was a good idea," he said. "I think it's a good idea to have a full and complete investigation of the escape."



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rest and Columbia Dresses; all



# Ray, in May Interview, Insists He's Innocent of Murder

By Marsha Vande Berg

© 1977, The Nashville Tennessean

PETROS, Tenn.—James Earl Ray says he might once again plead guilty to the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. even though he insists he never shot the civil rights leader.

"I was in a bind," said Ray in an exclusive, two-hour interview conducted May 29 at Brushy Mountain State Prison, the maximum security institution where he was confined until his escape Friday.

He repeatedly proclaimed his "legal innocence" and said he was pressured into a guilty plea in 1969 by his former lawyer, Percy Foreman of Dallas. "It's not in any ways legally guilty," 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."

But he declared he had no idea that the mystery man, "Raoul," who he said furnished the money for the rifle, had an idea of shooting King.

"I understand the difference between knowing and unknowing. . . . I got to be an intent."

Ray's lawyer, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, present during the interview, Ray stated:

Foreman, the nationally known defense lawyer, put him "in a bind" by telling him that the chances were 50 per cent sure that he would be sent to the electric chair. He was "in a bind" because he feared that his brother, Jerry Ray, might be persecuted by the government in case he did not go along with a guilty plea. Ray signed a stipulation that he fired the shot that killed King knowing that it was false.

• Stories about his being a "racist" are exaggerated and distorted.

• He had never heard about King "or other political figures" in any conscious way prior to King's death.

• He was in the vicinity of the King murder at the time but was not aware of what had happened until he heard it on the radio.

• He has identified a picture of a man who "looks like Raoul" and it is in the possession of Congressional investigators looking into King's death. He said the photograph "is not Raoul" but looks like him. Raoul is the man Ray claims led him into the intrigue.

Ray contends that he left a Memphis boarding house about 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968—approximately 30 minutes before King was slain at a motel across the street.

"At that particular time of the shooting I was either in the vicinity of a service station or in the vicinity of where the shooting took place. I can't be more specific," he said.

Q: Who did you leave in the room?

A: One individual was left in the room. . . . alias called himself Raoul. That is the man.

Q: What was he like?

A: He's . . . I guess, 150 pounds. I never saw him as Spanish. I suppose. I . . . with Spanish . . .

Mexicans considerably. . . . and I've looked at . . . . Rather than run down . . . of what he looked like . . . the House committee. . . . out one picture he looked . . . though it was not him, it . . . close enough to him where we could use it in a trial.

Ray came to the interview wearing prison denim with a gold windbreaker. His high-top shoes were hook-laced.

His black hair is greying fast at the temples. There were no signs of the prison pallor which penal authorities reported had made him seem emaciated more than a year ago.

With Kershaw at his left and this reporter across the table from them, Ray spoke calmly in a voice that seems slightly high-pitched. Except for occasional, casual hand gestures, he was undemonstrative.

He seemed slightly nervous at the outset of the discussion when Tennessean photographer Gerald Holly began to snap his photograph.

"Let's get the pictures over early in the talk," he suggested. But as time went on he seemed to relax.

Ray, a veteran prison inmate who has spent much of his 46 years behind penitentiary walls, made it clear he doesn't like incarceration.

"I'm interested in getting out. . . . they wouldn't have me in a federal security prison if I wasn't . . . . is getting out," said Ray. . . . escaped convict from . . . . Ray's attorney at the time of the arrest of guarding King.

He said he is convinced he has not been defended properly. He represented himself in court by a public defender who received 10 or 20 years.

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

That "stipulation" which Ray agreed to on March 10, 1969, was a plea bargain that he received 99 years instead of the death penalty, said:

"That at approximately 8:01 p.m. on April 4, 1968, the defendant (Ray) fired a shot from the second floor bathroom of the rooming house and fatally wounded Dr. Martin Luther King who was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel."

Ray listened again to that and said: "Of course, you can admit to a stipulation or a guilty plea. . . . Everything you say in court is not necessarily factual."

Q: Now are you saying the stipulation is not factual?

A: Yes, it is.

Q: What about the stipulation?

A: I could . . . somewhere else at 8:01.

When pressed about his six-year struggle for a trial, Ray said which he . . . . lawyers—Ray.

"I'd like a . . . ."

for it. If they do, all right, . . . . don't, all right.

"I'd rather . . . . and I want a trial . . . . I don't want to litigate . . . . He, then . . . . I want . . . . other."

When asked about conviction, he is a "racist" and read . . . . in which Foreman declared that he had . . . . cracked. That sounds like . . . . stuff. That is what Percy Foreman said on talk shows. He . . . . such reports and said they were . . . . factual.

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A similar report was invented about his registration to vote for George Wallace in 1969, he claimed.

He acknowledged that a young woman who was in prison had asked him to get help for him—and that he helped her to vote for political figures and get involved in politics. He said he took her to register and thinks she registered for Wallace. Later, he said, she changed her registration after he indicated he didn't want Wallace and asked of a change.

Ray claimed to know only one person who he learned from the Missouri prison. He admitted he had help from prison inmates. He denied any prison officials aided in that escape beyond that he would not do.

Much of the story about Ray's escape was the mysterious "Raoul" who some think might be real, but Ray said he never saw him. He said he had a Spanish person who came to him.

He said they met in a bar in Canada before Ray's escape and said that out of that connection he came to smuggling drugs for Ray.

He was asked, "How do you feel about black people? You are supposed to have objected to being transferred in prison to an honor farm because there were blacks and whites integrated there. That is what a prison official has said. What do you say to that?"

He replied, "They searched all the records and all they found at a prison was I was in Leavenworth in 1957. At

the time of this incident I was working in the bank.

"There were 10 means, four blacks, seven whites and three or four from Mexico. It was about as integrated in the factory as you could get.

"I did ask not to go to the honor farm. I was told it was easy to get a narcotics charge on you out there. Marijuana was there."

Q: Back in 1957 they were after marijuana violators?

A: Yes. They would fine you five or 10 years—10 years for just one cigarette. There were blacks out there at the farm and the allegations were that they were using quite a bit of that. But in the penitentiary you associate with people you have something in common with. Mexicans associate with Mexicans; Texans associate with Texans; blacks with blacks and whites with whites. That is instinctive.

"Are you saying this statement is wrong then?" he asked. "I was asked."

"I'm saying that one-third right and two-thirds fabrication."

He was no stranger to prison life, he said, and he had many friends. He said he was in prison for a long time and he was in prison for a long time. He said he was in prison for a long time and he was in prison for a long time.

Raoul promised him a passport but never delivered, Ray said. He later decided to get a passport and fled to Europe where he was arrested June 8, two months after the death of King.

Of Raoul, Ray said: "I never did trust him and I assume he never trusted me. I know very few criminals you can trust." He is certain that "Raoul" is an alias—not a real name. He added:

"I wouldn't want my case to rise or fall on aliases because there was a real Raoul. A man who paid him and provided a passport is real, he could be a name is counterfeit."

"I'm 99 percent sure there's no one by that name except an alias like the four names I was using," Ray said.

Ray, who was in London under the alias of George Sneed, and who used the name of Willard to register at a boarding house from where he believed to have been shot, uses his own name.

"It's just a name," he said. "If a person has a real name, the police can check up on you."

Asked about the fact that apparently only his fingerprints were found on the rifle, Ray said:

"It doesn't mean too much. When I got the rifle it was still in the case. There is possibility that later on someone handled the gun who wore the fingerprints."

should have been all over it, as much as I handled it, I chased it."

But then Ray said: "The only thing I prove is stupidity on my part whenever I'm doing something in the past like armed robbery. I put Band-aids over my eyes and that way you won't see any prints."

During the trial Ray—who has been called by some writers as semi-literate—asked a clear knowledge of the questions facing his attorney.

When asked for answers, Ray sometimes hesitated on them. His vocabulary was surprisingly diverse, although his grammar, at times, fails him.

At one point, he said he thinks many "laymen" take what he called a Pollyanna view of the legal system.

When this reporter commented that Ray was "obviously an intelligent man," he interrupted, as if suggesting that an old "con" was being "conned."

"I don't know about that intelligent," he said.

He said later on, "I don't know about that. There's also some people who cause they're dumb. That's what I mean here."

General	13	64	16	9
Professional	10	69	16	10
Technical	8	60	17	15
Administrative	10	69	13	8
Manual Worker	12	64	13	11

This question was asked next:  
*Just your impression, do they have more fringe benefits—time off, holidays, pensions and the like—than they would in non-governmental jobs or do you think they have fewer fringe benefits?*

And here are the results:

	More	Fewer	Same	Don't Know
General	77%	6%	9%	5%
Professional	81	6	9	5
Technical	78	6	9	7
Administrative	65	7	11	17
Union Families	76	8	9	7
Non-Union Families	76	6	9	9
Republicans	77	7	7	9
Democrats	74	8	10	8
Independents	81	3	8	8
Managerial and Professional	81	3	8	8
Manual and Sales	74	7	9	5
Manual Worker	74	7	8	9

And this question was asked:  
*How do you think the number of people employed by the federal government compares to what you think the federal government employs too many people or not enough to do the work must be done?*

And here are the results nationwide:

	About Right	No Opinion
General	10%	11%
Professional	10	5
Technical	9	11
Administrative	13	23
Union Families	9	8
Non-Union Families	10	12
Republicans	8	6
Democrats	12	8
Independents	11	14
Managerial and Professional	7	9
Manual and Sales	10	15
Manual Worker	7	6

The findings are based on interviews with 1,000 people in more than 100 scientific and localities during the period 1972-73.  
 (c) 1977 Inc.

# In Local Publi

By G...  
 PRINCETON, N.J. (UPI)—A Washington mood has been spreading that extends to the federal employees.

The latest Gallup survey shows these civil servants are having a morale problem:  
 • 64 per cent of the federal employees are average government workers, better paid than most workers in the private industry.  
 • 67 per cent believe federal employees work less hard than those employed in the private sector.  
 • 76 per cent think federal employees have more benefits than people working in the private sector.  
 In view of these attitudes, it is not surprising that two Americans in 10 believe the federal government employs too many people.

# Est

including the United States and other countries.  
 This question was asked in the survey:

*Just your opinion, do you believe that federal government employees are paid more or paid less than persons would work in non-governmental jobs?*

And here are the results:

	Paid More	Paid Less	Same	Don't Know
General	62	14	17	7
Professional	62	14	17	7
Technical	64	13	11	12
Administrative	49	15	15	21
Union Families	65	12	12	11
Non-Union Families	67	12	11	10
Republicans	62	12	13	12
Democrats	60	14	18	8
Independents	70	10	10	10
Managerial and Professional	60	14	18	8
Manual and Sales	70	10	10	10
Manual Worker	65	11	12	12

This question was also asked:  
*Just your impression, do you think they work harder or not so hard as they would in non-governmental jobs?*

And the results:

	Harder	Not So Hard	Same	Don't Know
General	10	11	78	1
Professional	10	5	84	1
Technical	9	11	80	1
Administrative	13	23	64	1
Union Families	9	8	83	1
Non-Union Families	10	12	78	1
Republicans	8	6	86	1
Democrats	12	8	80	1
Independents	11	14	75	1
Managerial and Professional	7	9	84	1
Manual and Sales	10	15	75	1
Manual Worker	7	6	87	1

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## NOTICE

Due to the rush for early printing, the 'Sale Circular' in today's paper is unable to remove from the ad center which we now find may be in short some (but not all) of our stores. An items are:

- Gillette Super Max 2
- Sunbeam Mr. Touch Up
- Bain De Soleil Suntan Cream
- Super Shade Sunburn Preventer
- Certtron 8-track Tapes
- Summer's Eve Disposable Diapers





United Press International

**James Earl Ray and lawyer Jack Kershaw conferring last month in Tennessee prison.**

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# James Earl Ray Flees Prison

From News Dispatches

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 10 — James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., broke out of the maximum security Brushy Mountain Prison in a hail of gunfire today, triggering a massive manhunt.

A spokesman in the governor's office at Nashville said Ray and six other men "went over the wall" at about 1 p.m. EDT.

The escape occurred during the evening rush hour, according to Brooks, a spokesman for Gov. Ray.

The prison used using a homemade bomb out of lighting conduits has been cap-

tured and there are still six at large. One of the men is Earl Ray.

At least two others also are convicted. Others also

The other men were injured as he went over the wall. He was shot by guards and taken to Oak Ridge Hospital.

FBI agents, not waiting for an invitation, rushed to the fortress-like prison buried in the Tennessee mountains 40 miles northwest of Knoxville near Oak Ridge.

Ray, 37, a former prison fugitive when King was shot April 4, 1968, was sentenced to 99 years on his plea of guilty to the slaying of King, a Nobel Prize winner, in 1969.

King was shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4. He was later arrested and he had fled under guard.

Ray and several attorneys, winning a writ noted defense lawyer Percy Foreman. There was no testimony in his Memphis trial.

About 100 men after escaping prison. The prison is a maximum security facility. It is the only prison in the state with a maximum security unit. It is the only prison in the state with a maximum security unit. It is the only prison in the state with a maximum security unit.

a conspiracy—a claim which has resulted in recent questioning of Ray here by members of the House Assassinations Committee.

He said his attorneys railroaded him and he claimed he was working for a man named "Raoul" who he thought was a gunman, and had been set up to take the blame for the killing.

The governor said he killed King with a rifle through the bathroom window of his house. The rifle was found in the door of the building.

Ray's claim that he was rejected by the committee, although the committee is unexplained.

ed facets to the case, such as where he got the rifle, and around. But the committee is not sure.

The assassination was off rioting and burning in the city.

In the meantime, Ray's arrest, special agents are possible of a second escape. The King was shot in the slaying of King in Memphis.

Earlier this year, the committee to try to settle these questions once and for all. There were statements from Ray's attorneys that their client might be willing to give public testimony.

See RAY, A14, Col. 2

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The Washington Post A-1, 14  
Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
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FBI/DOJ

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# James Earl Ray Flees Prison

RAY, From A1

The Justice Department also reviewed the investigation of the King murder and on Feb. 18 issued its final report, saying:

"The task force has concluded that the investigation by the FBI to ascertain and capture the murderers of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was thoroughly, honestly and successfully conducted. The sum of all the evidence of Ray's guilt points to him so exclusively that it most effectively makes the point that no one else was involved."

## Washington Lawyer Is Not Surprised

Associated Press

The Washington lawyer who represented James Earl Ray before the Supreme Court said he wasn't really surprised when Ray escaped from a Tennessee prison last night.

James H. Lesar said the admitted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. felt he had no alternative but to escape.

"After seven years of constant struggle to gain a hearing and re-opening the case in court, I think he simply concluded that the courts' claims to justice were farcical," the lawyer said.

Lesar said Ray had discussed his feelings of futility, but had not mentioned any plan to escape. Still, he said, "I wasn't really surprised" when he heard that his former client had broken out of prison.

Ray's escape "could have been avoided if the courts had at any time during the past eight years done what they were obligated to do, to give him the trial he deserved," Lesar said in a telephone interview.

Lesar represented Ray in a plea to the Supreme Court to set aside a circuit court decision that affirmed a federal district court verdict, in effect sanctioning Ray's conviction.

Ray had contended that his original guilty plea had been coerced, that he had not been adequately represented by his previous attorneys, and that the evidence did not show the crime had been committed the way the prosecution had originally contended.

"Ray has known all along that, if it had been anyone other than he and, if it had involved any other crime than the assassination of Martin Luther King, he would have gone to trial," Lesar said.

"Instead, it took him four years of strenuous legal efforts to get an extraordinary hearing. . . ."

Lesar said he had urged Ray to continue to seek a new trial. "I felt that . . . pressures are building to the point, evidence is building to the point, that in the not too distant future he could get a trial."

He said he had advised Ray not to speak with investigators for the House probe, which he called a "cynical exploitation" of Ray.





United Press International

hames trip Thursday. Stead, 100, chatted with Queen Victoria at her 1897 Jubilee.

Except for the peculiar case of Northern Ireland, the queen presides over a society distinguished by extraordinary social peace and solid-

latest date for which figures are available—days lost through strikes were lower here than in many other industrial countries. Strikes were nearly twice as frequent over the decade in the United States, more than twice as frequent in Canada and Italy, and

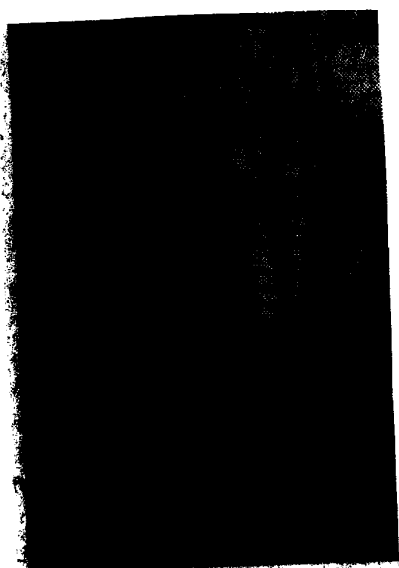
## South African U.S. Diplomat

From News Dispatches

JOHANNESBURG, June 10 —

Police detained a white U.S. diplomat and a black American poet for more than an hour today after they entered racially tense Soweto township without permits.

The South African township, home of 1 million blacks, has been the scene of student disturbances, including scattered incident today



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*Huber*

WP-061

(ASSASSINATIONS)

MEMPHIS (UPI) - INVESTIGATORS FOR THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE TODAY OPENED A WEEK-LONG REVIEW OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 1968 ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

INVESTIGATORS HOPED TO LOCATE WITNESSES AT THE BOARDING HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE DOWNTOWN LORRAINE MOTEL, WHERE A SNIPER FIRING A RIFLE KILLED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER ON APRIL 4, 1968.

REP. HAROLD FORD, D-TENN., A COMMITTEE MEMBER, SAID INVESTIGATORS WERE ASSUMING THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER'S DEATH WAS A HOMICIDE. HE SAID THE QUESTIONING WILL INVOLVE "PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY COME TO THE FRONT."

JAMES EARL RAY, KING'S CONFESSED ASSASSIN WHO IS SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE AT BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON AT PETROS, TENN., HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO WIN A NEW TRIAL.

FOLLOWING RAY'S FIFTH INTERVIEW WITH COMMITTEE STAFF INVESTIGATORS LAST WEEK, HIS LATEST DEFENSE LAWYER, JACK KERSHAW, SAID AN ELDERLY BLACK SERVICE STATION ATTENDANT COULD GIVE RAY AN ALIBI.

BUT THE MAN, IDENTIFIED AS WILLIE GREEN, 66, SAID ONLY THAT HE SAW A MAN MATCHING RAY'S DESCRIPTION AFTER KING WAS SHOT TO DEATH.

UPI 05-09 11:48 AED

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 191 MAY 18 1977

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

97 MAY 19 1977

FBI/DOJ

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## **Bell Wants Data On Money Trail In King Murder**

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said yesterday that the Justice Department's review of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. murder case has not answered all his questions about the 1968 slaying of the civil rights leader.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters, Bell was asked about the findings of the department task force that reviewed the case. Its report was made public last Friday.

The task force concluded that the FBI had investigated the murder thoroughly and said there were virtually no grounds for doubting that James Earl Ray, now serving a 99-year sentence, was the sole assassin.

However, Bell said yesterday "I'd like to find out how Ray got his money." Although Ray traveled extensively and spent money freely in the year between his escape from a Missouri prison and the shooting of King in Memphis, the source of his funds has remained a mystery.

The task force recounted speculation that Ray might have earned money through drug dealings while in prison or by committing burglaries after his escape. However, it found no evidence to substantiate this speculation.

"I don't think we're going to find out unless we talk to Ray," Bell said. Ray refused the task force's attempt to interview him, and a spokesman for Bell said there are no plans to make another request for an interview.

Bell said the King case, although not officially closed, is being put "in abeyance" pending the outcome of a House committee's investigation of the assassination.

Mr. King

The Washington Post A-12  
 Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

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## FBI Harassed Him, Ray Tells Probers

PETROS, Tenn. (AP)—James Earl Ray told House investigators Thursday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) tried to pressure him into naming alleged conspirators in the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ray's attorney said.

Attorney Jack Kershaw met with reporters after Robert Lehner, who is heading the King portion of the House Assassination Committee's investigation, spent more than six hours with Ray behind the walls of Brushy Mountain State Prison. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for the 1968 murder of the civil rights leader.

"I FIND today that the FBI is involved in this case, in my opinion, in an improper way," Kershaw said. "FBI pressure was brought upon James Earl Ray by means of threatening members of his family."

Lehner would not comment on Ray's testimony but said he will return to the prison, perhaps within two weeks, to interview Ray again.

Kershaw said Ray told the investigators that an FBI agent, identified only as Jensen, tried to talk with him one day after he was transferred to the state penitentiary at Nashville after pleading guilty in Memphis to the Rev. Dr. King's murder.

"As Jensen left he turned to Ray and said, 'If you don't co-operate you can expect to see your brothers down here with you,'" Kershaw quoted Ray as telling Lehner.

The attorney said Ray told the investigators that the FBI agent wanted him to disclose names of alleged conspirators whose names Ray did not know.

"It indicates to me that the government itself did not believe Ray acted alone," Kershaw said, adding that both he and the House investigators will try to find the alleged FBI agent.

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
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6 - L.A. W

# King Slaying Payoff Charge Studied

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The U.S. Justice Department may investigate a former Louisville policeman's allegation that he was offered \$500,000 in a plot to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. Atty. George Long said yesterday.

"We may look into this," Long said, "It is possible, but I haven't had a chance to check. I will discuss the possibility with the Department of Justice."

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Washington Star-News A-5  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3-25-77

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84 APR 6 1977

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Story erred in linking Fry, Denton to plot

Due to a reporting error, a story in yesterday's Courier-Journal said that two of the people alleged to have been involved in a local plot to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. apparently were former Sgt. Tom Denton and Priest Fry, former chief of detectives.

Actually, those involved were identified only as a sergeant who was president of Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Lodge 6, and as chief of detectives. Denton did not become FOP president until several years after the alleged conspiracy; several others, some with the rank of sergeant, served as president before Denton.

Fry served as chief of detectives between 1957 and his retirement in 1971, but was removed from the position for a one-year period bridging 1965 and 1966. Those alleged to have been part of the conspiracy by ex-policeman Clifton Beard have not been identified by name.

The Courier-Journal regrets the errors.

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

Page B 1

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Date: 3/24/77

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: Barry Bingham Jr

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Ls

☐ Date Investigated

34 APR 11 1977

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Retired Policeman's Wife Says Husband Told Of King Plot

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The wife of a retired policeman confirmed Wednesday it was her husband who told Rep. Gene Snyder (R-Ky.) of an alleged plot by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents and Louisville police officers to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mary Baird, 44, said her husband, Clifton E. Baird, a former Louisville police officer, told Snyder of the alleged plot.

SNYDER QUOTED Baird as saying the offer was made in a car by members of several members of the Louisville Police Department and several FBI agents.

Mrs. Baird said her husband 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 in an interview. "I think he thought he wasn't going to be believed."

Snyder said the man told him he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Mrs. Baird said she believes one reason her husband came forward with the allegation was because "he wants to know why someone asked him" to kill King, 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."

Her husband, before contacting Snyder, told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot, she said. Mrs. Baird said her husband was "discouraged" after talking with the attorney. Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying of King.

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.

Baird told his wife "he was offered \$500,000 to kill" King and "he didn't appreciate it," Mrs. Baird said.

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

Page 15

Kentucky  
Enquirer

Covington, Ky.

Date: 3/24/77

Edition:

Author:

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84 APR 11 1977

## Wife Says Husband Was Offered \$500,000 to Assassinate Dr. King

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

Mary Baird 44 years old, said that her husband, Clifton, who was unavailable for comment, had told Mr. Snyder of an offer that Mr. Baird said had been made by members of the Louisville Police Department and several agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

She said that her husband, who is 50, retired from the Louisville force several years ago after 27 years' service. He is now working for a private security agency, which his wife declined to identify. She said that he was out of town on business that was unrelated to the investigation of the King assassination by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

"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 believed 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 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."

### Reportedly Told Ray's Lawyer

She said that her husband, before getting in touch with Mr. Snyder, had told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot. She said that her husband was "discouraged" after he told the attorney.

Mr. Ray, who confessed that he had killed Mr. King, is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying. He did not implicate anyone else in the murder.

Mr. Snyder, who disclosed last week that he had heard from a man who said

that he had knowledge of a plot to kill Dr. King, refused to divulge the man's name.

In Washington, a committee spokesman declined comment on Mrs. Baird's statements or identification of her husband as the man who had gotten in touch with Mr. Snyder.

Mrs. Baird said that her husband had told her "he was offered \$500,000 to kill" Dr. King and that "he didn't appreciate it." She said, "I can't say any more, but he's just not that type of person."

Asked why her husband thought he was asked, Mrs. Baird responded: "That's the \$64 question; he wants to know why someone asked him."

### Newspaper Disclosed Name

The Kentucky Post first named Mr. Baird as the man who reported the alleged plot to Representative Snyder, a Republican.

Mrs. Baird said that she had no idea how her husband was identified as the man who made the allegation but that she was glad it is out in the open now.

"I'm not upset," she said. "It had to come out sooner or later."

Mr. Snyder said earlier this week that he had met the man "face to face" and was convinced he was a "rational" man. Mr. Snyder said he had changed his mind and voted to extend financing for the House Select Committee on Assassinations solely because of his conversation with the man.

C. J. Hyde, a longtime Louisville police chief who is now retired, said that he remembered Mr. Baird as a "very fine police officer."

### Committee Approves Reduced Budget

WASHINGTON, March 23 (UPI)—The House Select Committee on Assassinations, which is in danger of lasting only one more week, approved a sharply reduced budget today in the hope that the House will let it continue to investigate the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King.

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# Ray's Attorney Says He Checked Kentucky Leads

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of James Earl Ray's lawyers says that more than a year ago he looked into an allegation that Louisville police and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King and concluded "there wasn't much to it."

The lawyer, James H. Lesar, said yesterday that even if the allegation of a retired Louisville policeman is true, "it was remote from the assassination" because the man alleges there was only talk and not an attempt to kill the civil rights leader.

A House assassinations committee aide said investigators have talked to the retired policeman, who was not identified publicly, and are checking his story without presuming how much substance there is to it.

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

Page A 4

Lexington Herald

Lexington, Ky.

Date: 3/22/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Don Mills

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 1-100-4383

Submitting Office: Ls

☐ Being Investigated

84 APR 11 1977



# King Unit Backed By O'Neill

By George Lardner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Assassinations Committee yesterday won a turnaround promise of "wholehearted support" from House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr.

After a closed-door meeting with the committee's three senior members, O'Neill also told reporters, with apparent approval, that the panel will ask the House for \$2.5 million to carry it through the rest of this year.

The committee has already spent \$250,000 since Jan. 1. As a result, the new budget proposal would presumably meet a two-year inquiry costing some \$5.5 million—compared with the initial projection of \$13 million that caused so much controversy within the House last winter.

O'Neill's endorsement greatly enhanced the committee's chances for survival, but the Speaker acknowledged that it still faces considerable opposition.

"They have my wholehearted support," the Speaker said after conferring with Assassinations Committee Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.) and Del. Walter Fauntroy (D-D.C.). "But there is a lot of work to be done (getting votes) on the floor."

The Speaker's conversion apparently came after a private briefing for him on the information compiled thus far in investigating the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. "They convinced him," an O'Neill aide said tersely.

Members of the House Rules Committee got their own backgrounding in a closed meeting with Assassinations Committee members shortly after noon.

The Assassinations Committee will expect March 31 action to win House approval of a new resolution launching the investigation. That would set the House on the road to a vote on the committee's request for \$2.5 million to carry it through the rest of this year.

Even Rep. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), who has been critical of the inquiry from the start, was hesitant after yesterday's briefing to say he still felt it ought to be squelched. But he made plain that he is still skeptical about the information that was laid out for him and other Rules Committee members yesterday at what amounted to "an informal, clandestine meeting."

He said such an approach had never, to his knowledge, been used with the Rules Committee before, not even during the impeachment proceedings against President Nixon.

"I presume the committee has collected some leads, some information which they're going to use to justify continuing the investigations," Lott said last evening. "Some of them are very far-fetched, very remote, in my opinion, but I am re-evaluating my position."

## INQUIRY, From A1

The Assassinations Committee, Lott pointed out, has at least started to buckle down to work after being bogged down for months in disputes over its budget, its investigating techniques, and finally the unsuccessful effort of erstwhile chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) to fire chief committee counsel Richard A. Sprague.

MAR 31 1977

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L. Lott

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The Washington Post A-1; A-7  
Washington Star-News \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3-22-77

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## Continuing Assassinations Probe Backed

By Ron Gorno  
 Washington Star Staff Writer

The House Committee on Assassinations today won a major victory in its drive for survival by getting the strong, unqualified endorsement of House Democratic leaders.

Three members of the committee, which must prove its worth by March 31 or die, met this morning with Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Democratic Leader Jim Wright of Texas and others to brief them on the investigative outlook.

"I TOLD THEM they would have my wholehearted support," O'Neill told reporters after meeting with the committee members in his private congressional office.

The speaker said that the committee, which had appalled some House members earlier by asking for a \$6 million budget for this year, was cutting back its request to about \$2.5

See PROBE, A-7

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Washington Star-News A-1  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3-21-77

MAR 31 1977

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 FROM Wash. Post  
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84 APR 6 1977

# PROBE

Continued From A-1  
million to cover the rest of 1977 and that he was supporting the new figure.

The committee was represented by its new chairman, Rep. Louis Stokes of Ohio; Del. Walter Fauntroy of the District, chairman of its subcommittee on the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rep. Richardson Preyer of North Carolina, who heads the subcommittee on the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The committee representatives were to meet later today with members of the House Rules Committee, which must approve any resolution to authorize the continued investigation past March 31.

**THE COMMITTEE'S PURPOSE**  
— to reopen the King and Kennedy

murder cases to try to dispel lingering doubts about them — had become lost in a dispute between its former chairman, Rep. Henry Gonzalez, D-Tex., and its staff director, former Philadelphia prosecutor Richard Sprague, over who was in charge.

Sprague's proposals, since dropped, suggesting use of sophisticated electronic investigative equipment and his \$6 million budget request outraged a number of House members, leading to the confrontation between Gonzalez and Sprague. Gonzalez quit when other committee members refused to support his firing of Sprague.

For the past two weeks Stokes and other members of the committee have been on a major public relations campaign to prove that serious questions remain about the Kennedy and King assassinations, and that a congressional inquiry could answer them. They seem to have raised more questions about the King kill-

ing, but O'Neill emphasized today that he supports the committee's desire to "keep both cases alive."

NEITHER O'NEILL nor Wright would go into much detail about what fertile investigative fields the members of the committee discussed during this morning's meeting, but O'Neill did say that the briefing indicated that Stokes had been "working tirelessly" since he had assumed the chairmanship to get the panel on the right track.

Among moves taken by the committee since the chairmanship changed hands:

- All the physical evidence against James Earl Ray in the King murder was subpoenaed from Shelby County, Tenn., officials, and publicly received by the committee.
- Arrangements were made to interview Ray in Tennessee later this week. He pleaded guilty to killing King eight years ago and is serving a 99-year term.



—United Press International

**WOMEN TO JOIN D.C. CHURCH**—President and Mrs. Carter leave the First Baptist Church here yesterday accompanied by daughter Amy and her nurse, Mary Fitzpatrick (left), whom the congregation recommended for membership. Fitzpatrick was released from a life murder sentence recently so she could care for Amy in the White House. She first met the Carters when the President was governor of Georgia and she took care of Amy under a state release program founded by Carter.

## COURT

Continued From A-1

**THE FACT THAT** Congress changed its mind in 1972 and decided to treat the sexes equally in calculating Social Security pensions, the court said, made no difference in judging the validity of the old formula.

On March 2 the court ruled 5-4 that it is unconstitutional to treat widows better than widowers in determining their federal pensions.

**IN STRIKING DOWN** that provision, the court said that it was based upon "a traditional way of thinking about females" by Congress.

When it struck down the better treatment for widows, the court foreshadowed a ruling that also would strike down another part of Social Se-

expensive. There is a lot of resentment about bureaucracy."

There also is some congressional concern about how much Carter can accomplish in a general sense," says Moffett, D-Conn., a member of the Operations Committee.

"But I worked at HEW for three years with people who have been in the executive department and are more skeptical. The energy department put a lot of functions under one umbrella and added a lot of supergrades. You just get a lot of labels around."

"Reorganization probably won't succeed. It won't make any great changes," says a senior White House veteran. "But it's a renewal, a fresh start, a chance to turn the soil over."

Nevertheless there is obviously enough potential for difficulties. No one knows yet what the administration will propose that will create pressure on congressional interests. And the congressmen must prove they can face down the lobbyists.

It also is unclear how much fallout there will be from the outrage over the 19 water project cuts struck from his budget amendments. It has ruffled congressional feelings from past appointments, failures to consult with a

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Rep. Snyder Claims Letter Ties FBI To King Assassination Try

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he has referred to the House Assassination Committee a retired police officer who claims FBI agents propositioned him to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In statements broadcast Friday on WHAS-TV,

Snyder said the former officer, who he declined to name, has a tape recording of a purported conversation between himself and FBI agents in which an alleged suggestion was made to murder King.

According to Snyder, the former policeman "names three FBI officers (and)

three or four prominent people at that time in the police department (and) indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder."

Snyder, who represents Kentucky's 4th District, declined to name dates and the city where the purported offers were made.

Snyder also declined to specify whether the former officer was from Kentucky. He said the man contacted him by letter recently and that he later met the man and listened to one tape recording.

Part of the tape was inaudible, Snyder said, but he was able to discern that the subject was King's assassination.

"I have talked to him and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen and I think these kinds of leads need to be checked out," Snyder said.

Snyder said Assassinations Committee now has the tape recording and is investigating the matter.

King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. The Assassinations Committee recently said it had new information on King's murder, but has not produced any evidence of involvement by anyone other than the convicted killer, James Earl Ray.

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

—Page 11

—Messenger

—Mayfield, Ky.

Date: 3/21/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Wendell Givens

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

84 APR 11 1977

**Routing Slip**

FD-4 (Rev. 3-1-73)

3/25/77

To: ☒ Director

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Att.: CIVIL RIGHTS  
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FILE LS 100-4583

Title HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS (MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.)

☐ SAC \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Agent \_\_\_\_\_

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**ACTION DESIRED**

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Open Case

☐ Assign \_\_\_\_\_ Reassign \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Bring file

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Call me

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Correct

☐ Return file

☐ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Search and return

☐ Deadline passed

☐ See me

☐ Delinquent

☐ Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Discontinue

☐ Post ☐ Recharge ☐ Return

☐ Expedite

☐ Send to \_\_\_\_\_

☐ File

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ For information

☐ Submit report by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Handle

☐ Type

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

Attached hereto are sundry articles from various newspapers in Kentucky concerning captioned matter.

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See reverse side

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# Snyder Contacted By Man Who Claims Police And FBI Plotted To Kill King

By **BILL HENDRICK**  
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said Saturday the House Assassinations Committee is investigating an allegation from a "logical, rational" man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

Snyder said he received a letter from the man and listened to a tape

recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. He 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."

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

"I retired from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," the letter said. "While I was in the police department 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 department, chief of detectives, captain (blank), lieutenant (blank), officer (blank), lieutenant (blank) of the homicide bureau and president of the FOP sergeant (blank)."

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

Page 1

State Journal

Frankfort, Ky.

Date: 3/20/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: S.C. Van Curon

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: Ls 100-4583

Submitting Office: Ls

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FOB stands for Fraternal Order of Police, a collective bargaining organization for police officers.

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 the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted who he says is James Earl Ray's attorney...."

Ray is serving a life term in prison in connection with the assassination of the late civil rights worker who was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

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

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," Sprague said.

Snyder said he would vote to continue funds for the committee's continued existence solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

The former policeman, Snyder said, tried to turn over a tape recording of the alleged \$500,000 offer to Ray's attorneys but finally was asked by one of the attorneys' investigators "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

Snyder said he has discussed the allegation with Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member

of the committee. Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen," Snyder said.

Snyder said the man told him the offers for him to kill King were made in his automobile, where he had a tape recorder. Snyder quoted the man as saying he had two tapes, one of which was either stolen or lost.

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## Assassinations Panel Probing Allegations

# New FBI-Police Link to King Killing

## Charged

**By Jeremiah O'Leary**  
 Washington Star Staff Writer

The House Assassinations Committee has received two new reports to investigate in connection with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

One is a letter received by Rep. Gede Snyder, D-Ky., from a former policeman who claims the FBI agents and police officers conspired to kill the civil rights leader and that he was twice offered \$500,000 to kill King.

The other is a copyrighted article in the New Times magazine which purports that Ray's mysterious employer "Raoul" was really Ray's own brother, Jerry.

These allegations were made public as Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague prepared to go to Brushy Mountain Penitentiary in Tennessee this week to interview Ray. Ray pleaded guilty to slaying King in 1968 and was sentenced to 99 years in jail.

HE HAS NEVER testified under oath about what he knows of the Memphis murder. The committee is expected to subpoena Ray to testify in Washington if it gets authority and funding past its March 31 cutoff date.

Snyder, in Louisville, would not name the former policeman who wrote the letter about the alleged FBI plot to kill King. But he has given the letter to the committee

now headed by Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, and Sprague has acknowledged that its allegations are being investigated.

According to Snyder, he has met the former policeman "face to face" and he appears to be a "rational, logical kind of man." Snyder said he received the letter last month and also listened to a tape recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot.

The FBI said it had no comment because the matter is under congressional investigation.

**SNYDER WOULD NOT** say what police department was involved or even if it was in Kentucky. He read the letter to the Associated Press but deleted all names, saying only that the plot involved three FBI agents and "three or four policemen."

Snyder said he did not know why the former policeman came to him. He said the man asked to be put in touch with the assassinations committee.

The New Times article by David S. Lifton and Jeff Cohen also has been brought to the attention of the committee. The authors assert that Ray has substituted the name Raoul for his brother, Jerry, in several instances including the purchase of the rifle that was allegedly used to kill King. Jerry Ray, now employed in Chicago, was at one time associated

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Washington Star-News A-11  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Los Angeles Times \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3/20/77

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FBI/DOJ