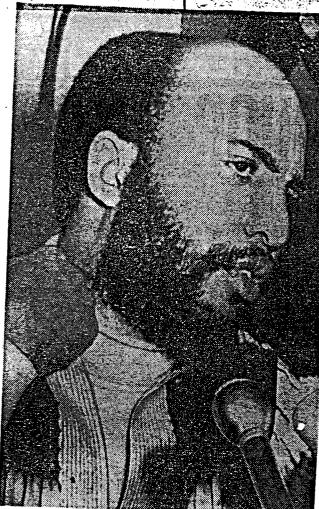
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Associated Press The Re James Bevel a SCLC leader, shows newsmen a spot on his neck which he says is the area where an assassin's bullet struck Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mr. Bevel says James Earl Ray is not Dr. King's killer.



King Aides Uphold Conspiracy Theory

Two close associates of the used-the word "conspiracy" in late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther referring to the King assassi-King Jr. said yesterday that nation. the murder of the civil rights Memphis believe that persons leader was part of a conspir-other than Ray were aware of

role James Earl Ray may have and a Negro policeman from had in the April 4 shooting in the immediate area of the Lor. Memphis. Ray has been charged with killing Dr. King assassination. However Mr and is awaiting trial.

head of the Southern Ohris couldn't wouch for its validity. tian Leadership Conference's Mr. Bevel has offered to ac nonviolence direct action pro as a lawyer for Ray, but this gram, said he believed Ray was incapable—both mentally and physically—of carrying said yesterday that he planner out the assassination of Dr.

"We've allowed King to be killed under the guise of law and order and now we're going to allow Ray to be lynched under the guise of justice." Mr. Bevel said at a news conference in Philadelphia.

David Abernathy, said he came "even more thoroughly

might acquit Ray.

Mr. Abernathy said "I felt seeking to state what I have have the kind of mind that said, that more than one per-could do two or three days son is guilty in the death of planning for such a thing."

Mr. Abernathy repeatedly ately for 100 yards.

acy and not the action of only the plan to kill Dr. King. He cited as reasons the orders to But they differed on what remove two Negro firemen raine Motel on the day of the Abernathy said the informa The Rev. James L. Bevel, ton was second hand and he

has been refused because he is not a member of the bar. He to appeal this ruling against him by Memphis Judge W Preston Battle.

Mr. Bevel described Ray as ranged man" who has never been involved in man ort of racial conflict and to the

He said he coner But in Atlanta, the head of Ray for an hour last week in the SCLC, the Rev. Ralph the Shelby County jail and beknew of no evidence that convinced that Ray is not the assassin of Dr. King."

"It is apparent to me," Mr. that Mr. Bevel was merely Bevel said, that Ray "doesn't

Martin Luther King. I do not believe he was saying Mr. Ray very well coordinated physic did not pull the trigger."

During the news conference dexterity to fire a gun accur-

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