

THOMPSON'S TANK HAULS RAY

Thompson's Tank, the armored vehicle bought by the City of Jackson four years ago, was used by Memphis authorities early today to haul James Earl Ray, accused of slaying Martin

Luther King, to a Shelby County jail. The vehicle was back in Jackson at 10 a.m. today. — Daily News-AP Wirephoto.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jackson 'Tank' Transfers Ray To County Jail

James Earl Ray traveled the final 25 miles to jail in Memphis Tenn., today in "Thompson's Tank," a \$15,000 armored car owned by the city of Jackson.

Chief of Detectives M. B. Pierce of Jackson confirmed today that Shelby County, Tenn., deputies got the 13,000-pound vehicle Thursday and used it to transport Ray from Memphis Naval Air Station in suburban Millington to County jail in Memphis.

Jackson bought the tank under Mayor Allen C. Thompson after racial troubles in 1963 that included the sniper murder of Negro leader Medgar W. Evers and a near-riot just after Evers' funeral.

Like an over-length panel truck with windows, the tank has armor plating, searchlights, sally ports for tear gas and gunfire, and finger-piercing steel barbs around the base to prevent tipover by mobs.

In one of its few appearances, the tank moved in on a disturbance by Negro students at Jackson State College one night in February 1964 — and a nervous policeman touched off a tear gas canister inside, sending eight officers and driver pell mell into the street.

But for the most part the tank sits parked on the street outside police headquarters, between battery charges and repairs of flat tires.

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

PAGE 1

THE JACKSON DAILY NEWS

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: JULY 19, 1968
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: JAMES M. WARD
Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 157-9586sf1
Submitting Office: JACKSON

Being Investigated

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JUL 22 1968
FBI - JACKSON
McDaniel

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But a nervous policeman accidentally fired a tear gas canister inside, driving eight officers and driver pell mell into the street.

City's Tank Carries Ray In Memphis

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Thompson's Tank" briefly returned home, transporting James Earl Ray the terminal 25 miles Friday to jail in Memphis, Tenn., behind its armor plate and bulletproof glass.

The tank is an armored riot vehicle named unofficially for Mayor Allen C. Thompson of Jackson, built in Memphis for the city at \$15,000.

Jackson bought the tank after Negro leader Medgar W. Evers was slain in June 1963 and a near-riot by Negroes came after Evers' funeral. More than 1,000 Negro demonstrators were arrested during those weeks.

Shelby County, Tenn., deputies got the tank Thursday and drove it to Memphis, returning it about 10 a.m. Friday, said Jackson Chief of Detectives M. B. Pierce. The tank carried Ray from Memphis Naval Air Station at suburban Millington to county jail downtown.

Thompson's Tank looks like an over-length milk truck with side windows. There are searchlights, sally ports for tear gas and gunfire and anti-tipover barbs around the bottom.

The tank was built by J. Tom Moore and Sons Inc., which calls itself "the world's largest manufacturer of armored cars," and is building a quantity of Thompson's Tanks for the state of Virginia at \$35,000 each. The firm also has supplied the Treasury Department, banks and armored car services.

The original Thompson's Tank has gotten into action only a handful of times. For the most part, it's parked on the street at police headquarters, between battery charges and tire repairs.

One night in February 1964, it moved into the Jackson State College area to help quell a disturbance by Negro students. Bricks had been hurled and there were reports of gunshots.

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

PAGE 5

THE CLARION LEDGER

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: JULY 20, 1968
 Edition: HOME
 Author:
 Editor: T.M. HEDERMAN JR
 Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:
 or
 Classification: 157-9586sf1
 Submitting Office: JACKSON

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 JUL 22 1968
 FBI - JACKSON
 M. DANIEL



KLAN ROBES IN CUSTODY — Deputies Burkett Herrington, left, and George Butler of the Lauderdale County sheriff's office examine Ku Klux Klan robes this morning. The robes were found inside a building in the county and were reported to Sheriff Alton Allen by an anonymous tip. Last week, three

sticks of dynamite, electric detonators and fuses were found in a chicken house near Collinsville. Sheriff Allen speculated there may be some connection between the two discarded materials. The FBI and sheriff's department are investigating.

—Staff Photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

MEMPHIS TRIAL SET FOR NOV. 12

'Not Guilty' Plea

Entered For

Accused Slayer Of King Makes No Statement

Initial Appearance Since His Return

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray pleaded innocent today to a charge of killing Martin Luther King here on April 4, and trial was set for Nov. 12.

Appearing publicly for the first time since his extradition hearings in London, Ray entered his plea through his lawyer, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham.

Everybody Searched

Security officers searched persons who entered the Shelby County Criminal Courtroom to witness Ray's arraignment.

Ray, wearing a checked blue sport coat and blue slacks, was led into the courtroom at 10:57 a.m., and the arraignment proceedings ended 12 minutes later. Ray was returned to his steel-lined, air-conditioned cell block in the county jail.

Hanes had both indictments read — one alleging murder in the first degree and the other charging Ray with carrying a dangerous weapon.

"Plea Of Innocent"

At the end of each reading, Hanes said:

Ray

"My client wishes to enter a plea of innocent."

Ray remained silent throughout the arraignment. He was seated at the counsel table between Hanes and Hanes' son, Arthur, Jr. Behind them sat Sheriff William N. Morris and two other officers.

Judge Preston Battle had told Hanes a plea did not have to be entered today and asked whether the defense wanted a recess.

"We will enter a plea to the indictment," Hanes answered.

Election Causes Conflict

Battle also asked if Hanes wanted a period of "a few days or a few weeks" to determine when he would be ready to try the case.

Dist. Atty. Gen. Phil Canale told the court he had conferred with Hanes about having the trial in late September — but, he said, it might last until the Nov. 5 general election. Under Tennessee law on-duty jurymen cannot cast ballots.

Canale suggested the Nov. 12 date and Battle asked if it could be set earlier. Hanes said he felt the case would be completed in six weeks — the time between late September and election day.

"But I have no idea what the prosecution will put on," Hanes said.

"All right," Battle responded, "let's set the case for Nov. 12."

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

PAGE 1

THE MERIDIAN STAR

MERIDIAN, MISS.

Date: JULY 22, 1968
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: JAMES B. SKEWES
Title: MURKIN

Character:
or

Classification: 157-9586SF
Submitting Office: JACKSON

Being Investigated

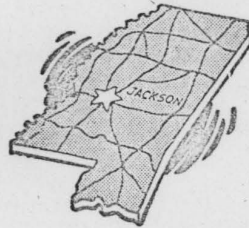
157-9586-74

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FBI - JACKSON	

#4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Covering the
CROSS-ROADS



with
Jimmy Ward

Regarding the arraignment of James Earl Ray, suspect in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, it may be recalled after King's slaying that many Mississippians feared that a crank from this state might have pulled the trigger. However, Ray seems to have little link with Mississippi. Earlier reports said he was once employed at the shipyard in Pascagoula, but this proved incorrect. Informed sources say the assassin did drink beer sold in Mississippi (at least it bore Mississippi tax stamps) in the rooming house room that afternoon of the slaying. Otherwise, Ray had little contact in Mississippi.

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

PAGE 1

JACKSON DAILY NEWS

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: JULY 24, 1968
Edition: HOME
Author: JIMMY WARD
Editor: JAMES M. WARD
Title: MURKIN

Character:
or

Classification: 157-9586SF1
Submitting Office: JACKSON

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SERIALIZED *JH* FILED *JH*
JUL 25 1968
FBI - JACKSON
#4 *JH*

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Ray's Attorney Says Security Should Be Cut

By **BILL JOHNSON**
 Associated Press Writer
 MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —
 Four men have been ordered to appear in Shelby County Criminal Court to answer charges of violating an order prohibiting prejudicial statements to news media in the case of James Earl Ray

At the same time, Judge W. Preston Battle is to consider today a contention that tight security arrangements in the jail here are violating the constitutional rights of Ray who is charged with murder in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ordered to show why they should not be held in contempt were Arthur Hanes Sr., Ray's chief counsel; Renfro Hays, a Memphis private detective hired by Hanes, and reporters Charles Edmundson of the Memphis Commercial Appeal and Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

Hanes charged that around-the-clock lighting, television cameras which monitor Ray's cell 24 hours a day and microphones in the cell constitute cruel and unusual punishment and are endangering Ray's health.

The devices are part of the elaborate security measures initiated at the county jail since Ray's return to the United States from London where he was arrested in June.

Hanes' ~~motion~~ said the de-

fense is uncertain Ray is receiving his constitutional right to confer privately with counsel because of the microphones.

Dist. Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale denied the charge that lights and television cameras used to monitor Ray's movements are what the defense called an "electronic form of cruel and unusual treatment."

Canale, who will prosecute when Ray comes to trial Nov. 12, said Ray averages about nine hours of sleep per day and is not mistreated.

The contempt proceedings were recommended by a group of attorneys Battle named to keep watch on news coverage in the Ray case.

Battle's order prohibits all connected with the trial from discussing for publication any phase of the King investigation and Ray's arrest and confinement for trial.

The committee acted after stories were published quoting Hanes and the private detective on Ray's health and ability withstand trial.

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

—Page 1

—Jackson Daily News

—Jackson, Miss.

Date: Sept. 27, 1968

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: James M. Ward

Title: James Earl Ray

Character:

or

Classification: 157-9586-SF1

Submitting Office: Jackson

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SEP 30 1968

FBI - JACKSON

#4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Report Ray Worked At Chicago Cafe

CHICAGO (AP) — James Earl Ray, charged with murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., worked for two months in a north suburban restaurant shortly after his 1967 escape from a Missouri prison, the Chicago Tribune said today in a copyright article.

The paper said the disclosure by the owners of a Winnetka restaurant to FBI agents supplied the missing link in Ray's whereabouts since his escape from prison April 3, 1967. King was shot in Memphis, Tenn., on April 14 this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Klingeman, owners of the India, Trail Restaurant, hired Ray who was

using the alias of John L. Rayns when he applied for a job on May 3, 1967, the Tribune said. He remained there until June 24, 1967, when he left unexpectedly.

The Klingemans did not learn that their former employe was Ray until mid-August 1968 when they were approached by a writer commissioned by Ray to write his life story, the paper said.

The couple then notified the FBI and were interviewed by agents on Aug. 24.

The Klinemans told the FBI that Ray received two or three phone calls at the restaurant during the week before he quit his job as a food server. Mrs. Klineman also reported, the paper said, that on the day Ray left an unidentified man appeared at the back door of the restaurant and spoke to him for several minutes.

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

Page 18

The Daily Herald

Biloxi, Miss.

Date: Oct. 24, 1968
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: E. P. Wilkes
Title: James Earl Ray

Character:

or

Classification: 157-9586-SF1
Submitting Office: Jackson

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#4	

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Broke Muzzle In Ray Case; Is Accused

FBI Fingerprint Expert Facing Contempt Charge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — George Bonebrake, a senior FBI fingerprint expert, has been ordered to show cause Dec. 6 why he should not be held in contempt for allegedly violating orders prohibiting out-of-court comments on the James Earl Ray case.

Judge W. Preston Battle of Shelby County Criminal Court said it was impracticable to hold the hearing before Ray goes on trial Nov. 12 for murder in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Battle, who will preside at Ray's trial, has issued stringent orders sharply restricting discussion of the case by anyone connected with it. Bonebrake is expected to be a key prosecution witness.

The judge cited Bonebrake upon the recommendation of a committee of seven attorneys he had set up to watch over pre-trial news. The committee had advised Battle it believed Bonebrake "has actual knowledge of the aforesaid orders, decrees and injunctions issued by this court ... there is strong cause to believe that respondent George Bonebrake is in contempt."

Bonebrake was cited for comments he made about his fingerprint investigation. The comments were published in the Wichita, Kan., Beacon.

Battle earlier held Ray's attorney, a private investigator for the defense and two Memphis newspaper reporters in contempt of the pretrial orders on discussion of the case.

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

Page 4

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: Oct. 25, 1968

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: James M. Ward

Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification: 157-9586-SF1

Submitting Office: Jackson

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OCT 28 1968
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#4

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Huie, Look In Contempt In Ray Case

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The judge who will preside in the James Earl Ray case was advised Monday to institute contempt of court proceedings against author William Bradford Huie and the publishers of Look magazine.

A committee of seven attorneys told Judge W. Preston Battle an article Huie wrote about Ray and published in the current issue of Look probably violated his order restricting pre-trial publicity.

It recommended that Huie and Cowles Communications Inc., publishers of Look, be required "to show cause why they would not be held in contempt" after the Ray jury is sequestered and "at such time as the above parties are within the jurisdiction of the court."

Ray is scheduled to go on trial in Battle's Shelby County criminal court Nov. 12 on a charge of murder in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal said it contacted Huie at his Hartselle, Ala., home and he expressed surprise at the committee's action. The newspaper quoted Huie as saying, "everything we have published about the Ray case has been carefully screened by expert legal counsel. If we've committed any contempt, we've certainly tried not to."

The committee, named by Battle to watch over publicity in the case, cited a story Huie wrote for Look. It deals with Ray's activities from the time he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary until before King was killed here April 4.

Huie said the material for the article came largely from handwritten notes provided by Ray. It was the first of three planned articles with the second scheduled to appear the day Ray goes on trial.

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

Page 26

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: Nov. 5, 1968

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: James M. Ward

Title: James Earl Ray

Character:

or

Classification: 157-9586-SF1

Submitting Office: Jackson

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 NOV 6 1968
 FBI — JACKSON
 # 4

ancient saying that one should say nothing critical about the dead. But a discussion of the developing relations between the New Left and civil rights movement is impossible without making note of the role played by Dr. King in these developments in the closing years of his career.

"Martin Luther King, when he first emerged as leader of the civil rights movement, made a number of positive contributions for which he has rightly been honored. During this early period, among other things, he insisted on nonviolence and he avoided association with the extremists.

"Before his death, however, he had moved into AN INCREASINGLY OPEN ALLIANCE with the extremists and he had become increasingly reckless in his criticism of American foreign policy.

Many people, of course, recall that on April 4, 1967, a year before his murder, King urged many to apply as conscientious objectors to military service and described the U. S. Government as the "greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

Later, the Internal Security Subcommittee's memo reported: "At the antiwar meeting in New York on April 15, Dr. King found himself doing what he once said he would not do. He appeared on the same platform with black power advocates Stokely Carmichael and Floyd McKissick.

DREW-RESPONSE

King's attacks on his own country brought a strong statement from the national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of America, a race of people who have been persecuted and slaughtered out of all proportion to the Negro since the day of creation.

The national commander had this comment on Dr. King's assault on the United States role in trying to protect the people of South Vietnam:

"It is utterly incredible that Dr. King's denunciation of our Government should manifest itself in such an ugly parallel.

"We consider his extremist tirade to reveal an ignorance of the facts, pandering to Ho Chi Minh, and an insult to the intelligence of all Americans. It is indeed sad that so respected a national leader should have voiced his dissent so irresponsible.

FROM HANOI?

"His speech could have been written in North Vietnam."

Scholastic Scope can eulogize King as they see fit.

But they most certainly should give both sides of the coin and let the reader draw his own conclusion.

eventually to ~~live~~ lives behind the walls of penitentiaries. James Earl, disgruntled at being shifted out of the Military Police when in the Army in the late 1940s, opted for a bad discharge and was released for "ineptness" for military service. His career as an armed robber and burglar seems to have been a remarkably inept one since his record shows a succession of apprehensions, convictions and prison sentences. But no one has accounted for the successful stickups, which he surely must have had.

The capers that failed and put him into Missouri State Penitentiary for a 20-year stretch was the Oct. 10, 1959, armed robbery of the Kroger Supermarket in St. Louis. Ray and a companion got \$120 from the cash register, after failing to get the manager to open the store safe, and were photographed in the process. In the getaway, they were pursued by another customer, who saw them switch cars. Ray's car was spotted on a street and within minutes, the police were on him.

ATTEMPTED BREAK

On the day he was being taken to court for sentencing, he attempted to get away from Deputy Sheriff Earl Riley by leaping into an elevator on the third floor of the city jail. He failed to close the outside door so the elevator wouldn't move. Riley went into the elevator, cuffed Ray and brought him into court, where he drew 20 years for armed robbery under the Habitual Criminal Act. On March 17, 1960, he entered the big pen at Jefferson City.

James Earl Ray, Inmate No. 00416, tried to escape soon after he entered. He tried scaling a wall. It was futile. That's the kind of gesture that usually ends in death because the wall guards are generally sharpshooters, and have some very heavy firepower if they need it.

Nearly six years after he entered, he tried again. On March 12, 1966, he and another convict, Joseph Seibert, put dummies in their beds. Seibert was found quickly. But not Ray. It took two days to locate him. He was found hiding in a ventilator shaft.

This break attempt resulted in his being gshipped to the Missouri State Hospital at Fulton, Mo., in September, 1966, where he was placed under five weeks observation.

Dr. Henry V. Guhlman Jr., a psychiatrist at Fulton was to later report in a story copyrighted by the Chicago Daily News—that psychological testing of Ray showed he was an "obsessive compulsive personality" beset by fears that he would come to harm. There was "no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or paranoid ideas," he said.

By this time, the Ray family had been further wounded by tragedy. Ray's brother, Franklin, drowned in 1963 when his car plunged into the Mississippi River across from Quincy, Ill.

Returned to Jefferson City, Ray also returned to thinking about how to get out. He succeeded on April 23, 1967. The fugitive flyer headed: "WANTED ESCAPED CONVICT" stipulated a \$50 reward for his arrest and detention. It wasn't distributed until May 17, nearly a month after he was gone. This was mailed to almost all major police jurisdictions in the nation.

FINGER PRINTS MIXED

There was one problem. It had the wrong fingerprints. Somehow, they were transposed and the prints of another prisoner were circulated.

Wilkinson, the Missouri Director of Corrections, says the error was discovered and "corrected notices" were sent out before the end of that month.

HAS BETTER LUCK

The Sunday morning Ray vanished was the start of new and unusual—for him—luck in getting around and keeping out of trouble. He went on foot for the first four or five days and finally got to the St. Louis area where a friend—so far, not publicly identified—took him to Edwardsville, Ill., where he got a bus for Chicago. The Huie-Ray story is that Ray had saved or otherwise collected \$300 in prison and came out with the money in his shoe.

In Chicago, he got a room at 2731 N. Sheffield Ave., which is fairly close to Wrigley Field, home of the baseball Cubs and the football Bears and an area seemingly favored by what Chicagoans call hillbillies.

He went after a dishwasher's job he saw advertised in a newspaper. Records of the Indian Trail Restaurant in Winnetka, a north Chicago suburb, show he worked there from May 7 to June 25th. The operators knew him as John.

RETURNED TO ST LOUIS

Ray next returned to the St. Louis area and spent almost a week with two friends in Quincy, Ill., and again went to Chicago to pick up his last check from the Indian Trail, and then coming back to East St. Louis, where he was to get a .38 pistol from a friend. From there, he set out for Canada, driving a 1962 red Plymouth which he reportedly bought in East St. Louis, Ill. He reportedly earlier had a 1960 Chrysler, picked up in Chicago, for \$100.

Huie says Ray crossed from Detroit into Windsor and was on the road to Montreal when he invented the name Eric Starvo Galt. Somewhere between Windsor and Toronto, Ray supposedly saw the name "Galt" on an exit marker on the MacDonald-Cartier Freeway. (There is a community with that name which is not far off the freeway).

MONTREAL

Ray arrived in Montreal July 18 and got a room for \$75 a month at Har-K Apartments, 2589 East Notre Dame. So far as is known, he remained in Montreal until August 21, 1967. During that time, he enrolled in a correspondence course in locksmithing from a New Jersey school. The FBI reportedly has evidence he used the name "Galt" in applying. He also was running short of money, and according to the Huie-Ray story, obtained \$800 in the armed robbery of a Montreal brothel.

Ray headed south from Montreal—where he purportedly met the mysterious "Raoul"—and arrived in Birmingham, Ala., August 25, whence began the episodes involving the purchase of Paisley's white Mustang and the subsequent travels to Mexico and Los Angeles and New Orleans and Los Angeles again, then the journey in which he is "Eric Starvo Galt" in an Atlanta rooming house and becomes "Harvey Lowmyer" when a rifle is bought in Birmingham and allegedly "John Willard" when he is in the rooming house at 422½ S. Main St., a place with a vantage point to strike down the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ON THE HILL**KENNETH FAIRLY**

One Saturday in the late winter of 1952, the regimental headquarters of the historic Seventh Cavalry Regiment accidentally burned, destroying in the fire some of the battle streamers and other relics of the famous Army outfit which dated back to the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1776.

At the time, we were editing an Army weekly newspaper and because a higher headquarters was on the backside of the commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division about a series of unaccounted for fires, the General banned publication of the fire in the headquarters of the famous regiment once commanded by Gen. George A. Custer who died at the Little Big Horn with his troopers.

LOST BATTLE

Since then, because as a lowly sergeant we were not on exactly equal ground with a Major General and lost a fight to print the story, we have been against censorship. But we do believe in presentation of both sides of an issue.

There has been brought to our attention that a publication entitled Scholastic Scope is required reading in at least one Jackson high school. Its Sept. 27th issue features "The Life and Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.," and the front-page is adorned with a picture of the controversial man in a deliberative mood.

The writer who prepared the article backgrounded King's advocacy of nonviolence as a tactic to win freedom for the Negro, from his early study of Thoreau and Gandhi.

CHRIST LIKE?

But it is this paragraph to

which we object: "Martin Luther King began to think that black Americans could use Ghandhi's way to win their freedom. Wasn't Gandhi's way also the way of Jesus Christ? Hadn't Christ told his people to "Turn the other cheek" if somebody struck them?"

Now, to us, this is a suggestion which infers that King was Christ-like in his approach to the problems besetting this nation, and we think such a supposition is outrageous.

We trust that the high schoolers of today are intelligent enough to weed out the truth from slanted news articles because the level of education is much better today, particularly in the Jackson schools, than it was in our setting some quarter of a century ago.

But we do think that the writer of the King story should have also presented the other side of King to his readers, as outlined in a memorandum of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Judiciary of the Senate by Sen. Thomas Dodd of Connecticut.

In a study of the New Left, a movement described as extremely dangerous to the United States as it exists today, the memo says:

KING'S ROLE

"Perhaps the major fusion of the civil rights movement with the New Left was found, however, in the person of the late Martin Luther King.

"The assassination of Dr. King in Memphis on April 4 of this year was an unspeakable tragedy, an affront to every civilized man. There is an

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

Page 19

The Clarion Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: Nov. 15, 1968
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: T. M. Hederman
Title: Murkin

Character:

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Classification: 157-9586-SF1
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NOV 15 1968

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Freshwater Trial Reset For Feb. 3

MEMPHIS (AP) — Margo Freshwater, who was to have gone on trial March 17 charged with murder in connection with shooting of a Memphis liquor store clerk, will go to trial instead on Feb. 3.

Shelby County Criminal Court officials said the change was being made so the Freshwater trial will not conflict with that of James Earl Ray, the man charged with murder in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Miss Freshwater, 20, of Columbus, Ohio, has been in Mississippi and Tennessee jails for almost two years. She was twice tried in Desoto County, Miss., for the murder of a Tennessee taxi driver. Each trial resulted in a hung jury.

Charged with her in the deaths was former Memphis attorney Glenn Nash, who was adjudged criminally insane and has never been brought to trial in either of those cases, or on a third murder charge against him in Florida.

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

Page 10

The Clarion Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: Nov. 21, 1968

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: T. M. Hederman

Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification: 157-9586-SF1

Submitting Office: Jackson

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# 3	108

Ray's Steps Traced After Dr. King's Assassination

By **BERNARD GAVZER**
AP Newsfeatures Writer

The shot that mortally wounded the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was fired at 6:01 p.m., April 4, 1968, so far as the most careful checking can determine.

Within minutes, police combed the immediate area, going toward probable vantage points, especially toward a rooming house less than 100 yards away. Witnesses thought the shot came from there, and two occupants of the rooming house soon told of hearing the sound of a rifle shot coming from the hallway bathroom. The man they said had apparently emerged from the bathroom—which had a window affording a direct line of fire to the motel balcony where Dr. King stood—went down the hall and out of the building, carrying some sort of package.

WENT BACK

That was the last time anyone remembers seeing him in the vicinity of 422½ S. Main St., Memphis, Tenn. Where did he go? How did he manage to vanish so quickly and completely?

Investigators, once they found the abandoned white Mustang in Atlanta, were able to go back bit by bit, finding who had owned it, who bought it, where it had been serviced, and so on. But now the chore was to discover what it could tell about where its driver had gone. How did it get to Atlanta? Could anyone safely say it was abandoned by the man who was to become known as Eric Starvo Galt-Harvey Lowmyer-James Earl Ray?

The owner of the Atlanta rooming house could not say whether "Galt" had returned to the room anytime before 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 5. That was when he came in to pull the linens and found the room empty and a note regarding the TV set.

Had anyone in flight wanted to head to Canada from Atlanta, he would have had a choice of three Greyhound buses to Toronto, among other points. It's a scheduled 35 hours and by taking the 10:30 p.m. bus, a traveler would arrive in Toronto at 9:30 a.m., April 7.

FINAL ODYSSEY

In the Huie-Ray account, Ray reportedly reaches Canada April 6.

It is known that on April 8, 1968, James Earl Ray certainly was embarked on his final Canadian odyssey.

It was on this day that a man wearing dark-rimmed glasses, a burgundy sport jacket and tan raincoat came to 102 Ossington Ave. in a working-class section of Toronto largely inhabited by Italians, Hungarians, Poles, Lithuanians and Chinese.

Mrs. Leda Szpakowsky, the landlady, showed him a room on the second floor. It had a large bay window overlooking the street, a double bed, TV with rabbit ears antenna, three wooden chairs, a chest of drawers, a food cabinet, a dinette table, two color depictions of Jesus Christ, and a wall decoration saying "Home Sweet Home."

The man said he was a real estate salesman. He paid the

rent of \$10 in advance, left and returned in the early evening with a small overnight bag.

MANNERLY LODGER

His name?

"Paul Bridgman," said the man.

He was a quiet, mannerly lodger, said Mrs. Szpakowsky. He would go out a little before 9 a.m., return before noon, leave in the early afternoon and return after dinner time.

His movements during these hours and days is not clear. One man thought he may have been the person who came to the To-

ronto Amateur Athletic Club which is across the street from the rooming house at 102 Ossington. The club man said such a man had inquired about a steam bath and shower but left when the telephone rang and he went to answer it.

ALIASES FROM LIBRARY

He may have been in the Public Library on College Street, looking through bound volumes of backdated newspapers, such as the Toronto Telegram of Nov. 11, 1932, and the Toronto Daily Star of Oct. 8, 1932. The Toronto Telegram of that date carries the birth announcement of one Paul Edward Bridgman, who now is a consultant in the Toronto school system. The Daily Star of that date carries the birth announcement of Ramon George Sneyd, a constable in the Toronto Police Department.

ORIGIN OF NAME

When and where did he pick the name "Paul Bridgman?" If somehow he had gotten to Toronto early Friday, April 5, 1968, presumably he could have

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

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found it in the library newspapers that Friday or on Saturday. The library is closed on Sunday. If he had not arrived until Monday, April 8, when could he have gotten the name, since he used it on renting his room? It is not known whether anyone at the library ever saw anyone answering his description either prior to April 8, or in the eight days following.

(The birth announcements carry some very essential information—such as the maiden name of the mother as well as the name of the father. This is the sort of information needed when one applies for a passport).

And "Paul Bridgman" clearly had a passport on his mind on April 11. On that day, he came to Mrs. Mabel Agnew's Arcade Photo Studio on Yonge St. She personally took passport photos of "Paul Bridgman."

INQUIRY BY PHONE

She would not say when he picked them up, but did say "Our pictures are always ready in 20 minutes to a half hour."

Five days later, Mrs. Yee Sun Loo, landlady of a rooming house at 962 Dundas St., which is one of the main thoroughfares which crosses Ossington Ave., received a call from a "Ramon George Sneyd" who telephoned to inquire about a room.

The same day, April 16, "Ramon George Sneyd" walked into the Kennedy Travel Bureau on Bloor St. He asked Miss Lillian Spencer, the office manager, about travel to London and also completed a passport application. As one of his next-of-kin he listed "Paul Bridgman."

He presented a duplicate birth certificate in the name of Sneyd, three passport photographs and \$8 fee. Normally, such an application requires the name of another Canadian citizen who has known the applicant at least two years, but in Canada this can be satisfied by the applicant swearing on oath that the information is true.

arrest of one Eric Starvo Galt. He was described as a man with a "rural" way of speaking; a taste for vodka and beer; and a preference for western and country music. He was said to "have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes further from his head than his right ear."

The complaint charged:

"On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Ala., ... Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., ... in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Ala. ..."

Photographs of the wanted man showed a man with his eyes closed. He was wearing a dark or black suit jacket that was cut so much of a white shirt could be seen, the sort of jacket that might go with a tuxedo.

The black bow tie added to the idea that it was a tuxedo-style jacket. A second version of the same photograph was distributed, this time with eyes painted in by an FBI artist.

REAL GALT

There is a real Eric S. Galt. The full name is Eric St. Vincent Galt. He is a man of 54 and an employe of Union Carbide in Toronto. This Galt was found to be a law-abiding, responsible citizen.

He had no idea how anyone came to be using his name. An avid scuba diver, he had traveled to United States shore areas on vacations. But how anyone could have had access to his papers or to information about him, he could not fathom. He did do something unusual, however, in signing his name. He abbreviated his middle name, St. Vincent, as St. V., making little circles for the periods. One reading the signature could interpret it as saying "Starvo."

The next day, April 18, at Mrs. Szpakowsky's rooming house, her young daughter answered the phone and a man asked for "Paul Bridgman." He was not home, she said. No message was left.

Over on Dundas St., "Ramon George Sneyd" saw Mrs. Yee Sun Loo and gave her \$9, a week's rent, in advance, and said he'd be moving in later. He did, on April 19.

RAY UNCOVERED

And now, the alias "Eric Starvo Galt" is officially discovered. In Washington, D.C., the fingerprints are matched and there is no mistake about it: the wanted man is James Earl Ray, an escaped convict from the Missouri State Penitentiary. He had been serving 20 years for armed robbery and as an habitual criminal. He had already served sev-

en years ~~when he~~ escaped April 23, 1967.

BROTHER GETS THE NEWS

In St. Louis, at "The Grapevine" tavern on the South Side, John Larry Ray heard the news stoically. It was on the radio. His brother was wanted for one of the sensational killings of our time. He went on serving his customers.

"But I was kind of surprised," John Larry says. "Personally, I got doubts myself that Jimmy did the actual killing. He wasn't the kind of guy who broods a lot, and he wasn't a political guy.

"If I had to see a reason and there was no money involved, then I can't see Jimmy doing it. He was no racist. My brother, Jerry, will tell you the same thing."

Jerry, who was working as a maintenance man at Sportsman Country Club near Northbrook, a Chicago suburb, said James "was never a man of violence."

"Look at all the money he came into all of a sudden. Buying Mustangs, taking dancing lessons, taking trips to Mexico," Jerry said.

But John Larry and Jerry are hardly the best authorities regarding James Earl.

LARCENY

"I ain't saw Jim on the outside since 1949. Only on the inside," admits John Larry, who entered Menard Prison in Illinois June 1, 1953, on a 5 to 10 years sentence for motor vehicle larceny. He was known as John Ryan, Inmate No. 23401. He was released Feb. 1, 1960.

Jerry entered Menard Feb. 26, 1954, on a 2-to-5 for larceny, under the name Gerald Ryan. Before then, he had been at St. Charles reform school in Illinois. He was paroled from Menard Dec. 12, 1955, and returned as a parole violator Aug. 1, 1958. He was discharged May 6, 1960.

Brother Jim had been elsewhere most of the time since 1949. So there were few and rare occasions for the brothers to see or know one another, especially as free men.

At the ~~Missouri State~~ Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Mo., it was approximately 3:25 p.m., on Sunday, April 23, 1967, when Lt. William R. Turner, Control Center Desk Officer, was told there had been an escape from the institution.

FORMAL COUNT

The formal count at 5 p.m., showed that Inmate James E. Ray, No. 00416, assigned to the Main Kitchen on the 11 a.m.-7 p.m. shift, had not reported for work at 11 a.m. He was missing from the 5 p.m. count. A search was made of the grounds and

result.

Ray, according to Huie, claims to have escaped at approximately 8:30 a. m. when a guard nodded and he sprinted 15 feet from the kitchen loading dock to the 23-foot wall, at a point where there is a tunnel through it. Ray supposedly hoisted himself atop a pipeline and from this starting point of about 6 feet up the wall, managed to get sufficient hold in crevices by using a four foot rod to hoist himself in stages over the wall. The rod has a hook at the end and is used in the kitchen to move hot pans in large ovens.

CHALLENGED

"Ray is covering up," says Fred Wilkinson, Missouri State Director of Corrections. "We discovered very early in the game that he was aided in the escape by another inmate. We know who that inmate is and he still is in prison. Regardless of what Ray says now, we are satisfied that he got out hidden in a breadbox."

Wilkinson and others previously reconstructed the escape as having occurred in this way: An inmate helped him get into a 3x5 breadbox, squishing the loaves as he got in, and then covering him with bread. The box was placed on an open, stake track for a two and a half mile trip to the Renz Farm, which is a prison farm. There are eight boulevard stops and two traffic lights on the route from the prison, in downtown

Jefferson City, to the farm. The box holding Ray was one of two on the truck. Ray needed the help of an inmate to be certain his box wouldn't be on the bottom. There was once an escape attempt in which a convict was hidden in a coffin but other prisoners, unaware of the escape, loaded it on a freight car upside down. The man almost suffocated.

PRISON UNIFORM

Ray presumably was wearing the prison uniform—a dark green outfit with a three-quarters inch black stripe on the outside seam of the trousers. He could also have switched to the white trousers worn in the kitchen, where he was assigned, or have been given them by convict hospital attendants.

"In these days of hippie styles," says Fred Wilkinson, "he could have been on the street in prison greens and no one would have paid particular attention, since the stripe is a rather simple marking."

The 3 x 5 ft. breadbox was hauled to the Renz Farm where the prisoners noticed the squashed and ruined bread, but said nothing. They had enough bread for the day and so no issue was made of it. However, if they did know it was part of an escape, they probably would not have said a word because the inmate code is to seal lips on any escape attempt.

"There is no question about the state of the bread. A man had been in the breadbox and we are certain it was Ray," says Wilkinson. "Also, even on a Sunday morning there is a lot of movement around the loading dock with at least five or six trucks there. He couldn't have run across the yard without being spotted."

HARD LUCK FAMILY

The saga of Ray's life and the hardluck family from which he emerged now began to unfold.

James Earl was the first of nine children. One was to die in a fire, another in a car which plunged into a river. James Earl and his two closest brothers, John Larry and Jerry, were

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King's Aide Asserts Ray 'Not Guilty'

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A ranking figure in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) refused Sunday to elaborate on evidence he claims could free Dr. Martin Luther King's accused assassin.

"I have evidence that would free him," the Rev. James Bevel said at a news conference. "I won't discuss the specific evidence now because it wouldn't be beneficial to James Earl Ray. But, he's not guilty."

The director of SCLC's non-violent education and direct action program, sent a telegram Saturday to Ray in Memphis, Tenn., which read

"I would like to inform you that I would be very happy to take your case without fee. I

was present on April 4 at the Lorraine Motel when Dr. King died—you have been accused of murdering him. Of course, I know you are not guilty."

DELAYED

The 32-year-old civil rights advocate and former liaison officer between SCLC and militant Negro groups, said he did not volunteer his information sooner because of the shock immediately following King's slaying.

"I hadn't prepared to be responsive to him," Bevel said. "But then I thought, 'Here's a man sitting here that shouldn't be here.'"

Ray is scheduled to go on trial March 3 in Memphis on a charge of murder.

"If he (Ray) decides not to take my services, that's his

choice," Bevel said. "I would continue to be very good and warm to him. I wouldn't be against him."

Bevel is not a member of the bar, but a lawyer "by circumstances." The native of Itta Bena, Miss., said he was qualified to defend Ray because of the legal experience gained while representing himself during several civil rights' cases in Mississippi.

NO REACTION

Public Defender Hugh Stanton in Memphis has refused to react to the telegram as has Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston.

King was cut down by a sniper's bullet while leading a strike by Memphis garbage collectors last spring.

His accused assassin was subsequently arrested in London following an intensive manhunt and extradited to Memphis.

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

Page 1

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Huie Gets Contempt Charge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—William Bradford Huie, biographer of James Earl Ray, was arrested on a contempt of court warrant Friday after testifying for two hours and 40 minutes before the Shelby County Grand Jury. Ray is charged with murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Huie, who claims knowledge of a conspiracy in the King slaying, had been directed to appear before the grand jury and tell all he knows about the case.

The warrant was issued by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, the judge who will try Ray when he goes to trial March 3 on a charge of assassinating King. The contempt citation was based on a strict no pre-trial publicity order issued by Judge Battle.

Huie's articles on Ray, in which he said King's death was the outgrowth of a conspiracy, appeared in Look Magazine. He purportedly paid Ray up to \$35,000 for the material he used in writing them.

Shortly after Huie concluded his session with the grand jury, Ray's attorneys appeared before Judge Battle for a hearing on several defense motions.

These included a request by the prisoner to have a photographer make a series of pictures of him in his steel-plated jail cell. Ray said a magazine had offered to pay him up to \$5,000 for exclusive rights to publish the pictures. Ray said he needed the money for his defense.

Before going before the jury, Huie told newsmen he could name others he said were involved in King's slaying-but probably wouldn't do so before the grand jury.

"I can't name people who I think may be involved until they are arrested. I could be sued for libel," said the dapper Alabama author.

Asked how the grand jury could return indictments if he did not name names, Huie replied, "I am not in the law enforcement business. The only information I have is information given me by James Earl Ray. All of it has been made available to the FBI and the State of Tennessee."

Judge Battle has cited several other persons for violating his no-publicity edict, including two Memphis newspapers and Ray's former attorney, Arthur Hanes, onetime mayor of Birmingham.

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

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King's Wife Asks Case Kept Open

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., said Monday that James Earl Ray's plea of guilty in the slaying of her husband "cannot be allowed to close the case, to end the search for the many fingers which helped pull the trigger."

Mrs. King said, however, that for her family, "there is a sense of emotional relief" in the sentencing of Ray.

"For the moment, we have been spared a trial which would compel us to relive the fearfully tragic events of his death. But we realize that this is but a respite," she said in a statement.

MUST CONTINUE

Mrs. King said that "all concerned people must press the State of Tennessee and the U.S. government to continue until all who are responsible for this crime have been apprehended."

"Not until then," she said,

"can the conscience of the nation rest."

Earlier, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, who succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said that Ray's admission of guilt strengthens his belief that there was a conspiracy in King's slaying.

OPPOSE DEATH

Both Abernathy and Mrs. King reiterated their stand that the death penalty for Ray would be contrary to the moral and religious convictions of King.

"Retribution and vengeance have no place in our beliefs," Mrs. King said.

The Rev. James Orange of SCLC, who was with King when he was slain, said, "I am trying to stay out of this. I think they should set that man free." He declined to elaborate when asked why he felt Ray should be set free, saying he had no further comment.

Ray Enters Guilty Plea In King Murder Case

Implies Conspiracy; Sentence, 99 Years

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray pleaded guilty on his 41st birthday Monday to a first degree murder charge and was sentenced to 99 years in state prison in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But he said he disagreed "with the theory that there was no conspiracy" in King's death.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Justice Department said the investigation into the original allegations of a conspiracy is still open.

The guilty plea means Ray will be eligible for parole on his 71st birthday or earlier if time served in jail here is taken into account. His lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., said he agreed to the plea "to save this man's life."

First-degree murder is punishable in Tennessee by sentences ranging from 20 years to death in the electric chair. No one has been executed in the chair since 1961.

PROCEEDINGS SWIFT

The whole proceeding took less than 3½ hours from guilty plea to sentence at 12:12 p.m. The 12-man jury which formally fixed the sentence included two Negroes.

The jury had agreed in advance to the state-defense arrangement for the guilty plea and 99-year sentence.

"Are you pleading guilty because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King in such a manner that you would be found guilty of first-degree murder under the laws of this state?" Criminal Court Judge Preston Battle asked Ray.

"Yes, I'm pleading guilty," Ray replied. One way or another, he repeated this answer four times.

King was shot once with a rifle bullet, fired from a rooming house across the street from the Lorraine Motel last April 4. The civil rights leader had come here to lead a demonstration in

behalf of the city's 1,200 garbage collectors, most of them Negroes, who were on strike.

That walkout, over demands for a union contract and a pay increase, was settled soon after King was slain. On June 8, Ray was arrested in London by Scotland Yard detectives—climaxing what has been described as one of the world's biggest man-hunts.

RETURNS TO MEMPHIS

Returned to Memphis under tight security after British extradition hearings, Ray has been held in a specially armored, air-conditioned cell at the Shelby County Jail.

His trial, first set for November, was postponed twice and had been scheduled to begin April 7.

The guilty plea itself was entered while the jury, selected two weeks ago and at work in other Criminal Court cases since then, was not yet in the courtroom.

Ray, attired in a checked blue sport coat and dark pants, was questioned by Judge Battle at length over his decision to plead guilty.

EXPLAINED RIGHTS

"Has your lawyer explained all your rights to you?" the

judge asked. Battle said these rights include trial by jury, with appeals. "Do you understand these?"

Q. Is this what you want to do?

A. Yes, I think so.

Q. Do you understand that a plea of guilty means that you waive your right to appeal the conviction, or to appeal any pre-trial rulings which may have gone against you. Do you understand this:

A. Yes sir.

Q. Has anything else been promised to you besides the 99-year sentence to induce you to plead guilty?

A. No.

Q. Has any pressure been put on you to induce you to enter a plea of guilty?

A. No.

Q. Are you pleading guilty because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King in such a manner that you would be found guilty of first-degree murder under the laws of this state?

A. Yes, I'm pleading guilty.

Soon afterward, the jury entered the courtroom. Dist. Atty. Gen. Philip Canale and Foreman then made their usual opening statements to the jury. Canale told the jurors that there was no evidence of any conspiracy in the case.

Foreman put it this way: "It took me months to prove to myself ... that it was not a conspiracy."

It was then that Ray stood up and, addressing the judge, said, "I don't want to change things. I just want to add something. I don't agree with the theory that there was no conspiracy." He did not elaborate.

At this point, Foreman interrupted Ray to say that his client was pleading guilty to first-degree murder, "not to anything about a conspiracy."

"Will this change any of the answers you gave me previously?" asked the judge.

"No, sir," Ray replied.

Q. I want to ask you again if you are pleading guilty that you killed Martin Luther King under circumstances under which you could be found guilty of first-degree murder under the laws of this state?

A. Yes, sir.

Later, when he passed sentence, the judge himself said there was no evidence of any conspiracy. But, he said, if such evidence arises, the state will be quick to prosecute.

Canale, the district attorney, was asked later at a news conference about Ray's possible motive in pleading guilty.

"I think race had a lot to do with it," Canale replied. He refused to elaborate, but said later there was "some indication he (Ray) was a racist."

Battle himself told newsmen: "Memphis has been blamed for the death of Dr. King, to me wrongfully and irrationally. Neither the decedent (King) nor his killer lived here. Their orbits merely intercepted here."

The judge said he felt he had tried the case "as nearly as possible to other like cases, and to scrupulously follow the law" and his own conscience.

Foreman, who took over the case on the eve of Ray's scheduled November trial, told the judge earlier in the court:

"I've never had hopes of anything except ... to save this man's life." He took over from Arthur Hanes, former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., after Ray fired Hanes four days before his November trial was to start.

This resulted in a postponement of the scheduled trial until March 3 and thence to April 7 to give Foreman more time to prepare a case.

The first public hint of the guilty plea came last Friday. published the story, the subject of recurrent but unconfirmed rumors. Soon afterward, newsmen accredited to cover the trial—there were about 100 of them, all told—were summoned to be in court Monday morning.

Again, there was no indication what the hearing would entail until a briefing session for the newsmen began at 8 a.m. An hour and a half later, Ray told the judge in court he wanted to plead guilty.

JURY WILLING

Then, to make no mistake, came the judge's lengthy questioning of Ray and finally, as Ray sat quietly in the court, the judge asked the jurors if they still were willing to abide by the guilty plea arrangement.

All 12 men raised their hands in assent. At 12:12 p.m., Battle

then intoned: ~~You have~~ pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and it is the judgment of the court that you be confined for 99 years in the state penitentiary."

There still was no immediate indication when Ray would leave his special jail cell and be transferred to the penitentiary in Nashville—or how the transfer would be made.

At Nashville, however, Harry Avery, state corrections commissioner, said at midmorning that his office had not been in contact "with the people in Memphis" concerning Ray.

"But in view of the special security arrangements in Memphis," he said, "We will keep him in maximum security here until his classification is completed—about a month or six weeks."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

LID ON QUESTIONS

Guilty Plea Left Puzzles

Editor's Note—For more than six months now, AP Newsfeatures Writer Bernard Gavzer has practically lived with the case of James Earl Ray. To gather material for a recent 15,000 word story on Ray and the King murder, Gavzer traveled 10,000 miles, tracking down all possible clues.

By **BERNARD GAVZER**
AP Newsfeatures Writer

James Earl Ray's plea of guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. put the lid on a court trial which may have aired puzzling questions about his escape from prison, his motive in killing King and his flight from justice.

His imprisonment without the searching inquiry a trial would have produced leaves a number of key questions unanswered:

1. How did he pay his way? From the time of his escape from Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., April 23, 1967, until his capture in London, June 8, 1968, it is estimated he spent at least \$10,000. He had traveled variously to Toronto, Montreal, Atlanta, Birmingham, New Orleans, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Los Angeles, Memphis, Portugal and London. He reportedly robbed a Montreal house of prostitution of \$800 and a London bank of about \$400.

FANTASY?

2. Published accounts from prison of Ray's version of his flight say he was contacted in Montreal by a light-haired, or

blond, Latin ~~man~~ named "Raoul." This man, Ray said, gave him thousands of dollars. But the Royal Canadian Mounted Police say no evidence of such a man has been found. Was this a fantasy or was there a person named Raoul?

3. Minutes after Dr. King was shot as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, one police radio channel was occupied with details of a fake pursuit of a white Mustang, which apparently concentrated police attention in directions away from the more logical and immediate routes of flight to adjoining Arkansas or Mississippi. Police said this was a hoax, but so far as is known there has been no public explanation of the coincidence that the white Mustang of the hoax was to be the same kind of car which Ray used.

MOVED

4. Dr. King had previously housed himself in the white-operated Rivermont Motel but he moved into the Negro-operated Lorraine on April, 4, 1968, the day King was slain. How did Ray know for certain that King was there and that he had a room on a balcony that was exposed to possible attack from a number of positions across a street?

5. How did Ray pick the rooming house on Main Street and how did he know that the best vantage point would be from the hallway bathroom from which the fatal shot was fired? He had

been offered a ~~litchette~~ in another part of the establishment, but this would have looked out to Main Street, away from the Lorraine site.

6. Of the aliases he used, three were of living men all residing within the Toronto area: Paul Bridgman, Ramon George Sneyd, Eric Starvo Galt. Galt's actual middle name is St. Vincent.

Did someone select the names? What were the odds that he could randomly select such names and then find sufficient information to be able to use them, such as he did in seeking passport and other official documents in the names of Bridgman and Sneyd?

WHO SENT QUARTER

7. While in Birmingham, before the King assassination, Ray bought a white Mustang for \$1,995 cash. Later, when he was in Los Angeles, two unexplained events regarding the license occurred. On Feb. 28-29, 1968, the Alabama Highway Patrol received a telephone request for a duplicate license for "Galt," as Ray was known. It was sent to a Birmingham rooming house on March 1, with a request for 25 cents fee. The quarter was received by the highway department on March 6. Who placed the call, who sent the quarter, why?

8. In an Atlanta rooming house before the slaying, Ray had departed, leaving behind a map which bore his fingerprint and had four places circled on it: King's home, the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King's church and a project housing area where the white Mustang was found abandoned after the slaying. Who furnished the information for the map? Did Ray figure it out on his own, or were others involved?

9. Before the slaying, Ray went to the Aero Marine Supply Co., near the Birmingham airport, where he first bought a

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

Page 1

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.243 Remington. He returned the next day, to get a more powerful Remington Gamemaster. Why would he have risked making an exchange which would fix his appearance in the minds of others? Why would he have decided on a more powerful weapon? The .243 would have been just as deadly, say some hunters.

ESCAPE DUBIOUS

10. Ray's published accounts of his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary say he scaled the wall with the aid of a long-handled kitchen tool. Examination of the inside of the wall indicates this was a highly fanciful account. Had he indeed gone over the wall at the point he claims, he still would not have been out of the prison because there is an additional supervised area he would have had to negotiate. Prison authorities still contend he got into a breadbox with the aid of one or perhaps more prisoners. If so, who helped him? 11. After the slaying, Ray managed to obtain a passport in Toronto under the name of Ramon George Sneyd. There are conflicting versions of just how his passport was obtained, especially since the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Toronto has no record of sending a duplicate "Sneyd" birth certificate to him. One was sent to Ray, as "Paul Bridgman," but it was returned, unreceived. Without any document to show his identity, it remains a mystery as to how Ray was able to get the passport in the name of Sneyd. 12. Once he went abroad and arrived in Portugal, Ray was safe from the long arm of American law. The United States has no extradition agreement with Portugal involving such capital cases and he would have been safe there. He went to London. Why?

There are other questions, pertinent but in a way, secondary. The answers to these key questions may have emerged had witnesses been called and evidence presented, and had Ray been on the stand for cross-examination.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Negotiations Preceded Plea In King Case

**Lengthy, Guarded
Discussions Led
To His Decision**

By **BERNARD GAVZER**
Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The decision of James Earl Ray to plead guilty to killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in return for a 99-year prison term was the result of lengthy and closely guarded negotiations.

Not only did the prosecution and defense approve of the plan, a reconstruction of the events shows, but King's widow, Coretta, U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington concurred.

Notes on telephone calls made by the prosecution and information from a New York attorney's office confirm that Mrs. King was informed of the potential agreement and apparently approved it.

But Mrs. King also made it clear that she did not want it thought that she believed Ray acted alone. After Ray entered his plea, she said: "This plea of guilty cannot be allowed to close the case or to end the search for the many fingers which helped pull the trigger."

Information now becoming available also showed that Ray at first wanted to take his chances in court, but agreed to the 99 years when presented with the evidence against him.

Ellington was not available for comment.

Ray's guilty plea before a special session of Shelby County Criminal court last Monday precluded a full-fledged trial which could have resulted in Ray's being sentenced to the electric chair.

The absence of such a trial with its full presentation of evidence has added fuel to the controversy of whether Ray was merely part of a conspiracy to kill King.

Phil Canale, Shelby County district attorney general who headed the prosecution team, and Hugh Stanton, the public defender, both confirmed that talks leading to a possible guilty plea began in December. But they differed over who instigated the negotiations.

Canale said that in a telephone conversation with the U. S. civil rights division of Department of Justice on Dec. 19 he outlined the procedures which would be followed under Tennessee law. "The key points to the agreement were a plea of guilty and a sentence of 99 years," Canale said.

Stanton said he talked with Canale about a possible guilty plea "at least a week before Christmas, and as I remember, he said he wanted to check it out with his associates."

Stanton said the defense investigation had prompted a feeling that Ray faced a possible death sentence if the case went to trial, and that a deal could be made for the 99-year term.

Canale, on Dec. 31, called Harry Wachtel, a New York attorney for Mrs. King and Dr. King's family, to see what Mrs. King's reaction would be. Wachtel called back Jan. 3 and said Mrs. King wanted it made clear that such a deal did not mean that she and others in the family thought there was no conspiracy.

But, Wachtel said, Mrs. King and other family member were

"opposed in fact and in principle to capital punishment and would not wish to see Ray executed in the electric chair."

After the original call to Wachtel, Canale also discussed the matter with Ellington, who said he had no objections to the deal. On Jan. 3, Canale called the Justice Department again, and was informed that Clark had given his approval to the plan.

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

Page 1

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss.

Date: March 15, 1969
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Author:
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#4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mrs. King, Clark OK'd Ray Plea

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Maneuvers which led James Earl Ray to change his plea to escape the electric chair in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., began in mid-December and had the approval of U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington and Coretta King, widow of the Negro leader.

These details emerged in reconstructing the delicate negotiations that produced the agreement under which Ray came into court Monday, admitted slaying King and received a prison term of 99 years. Had he gone to trial and been convicted, he could have been sentenced to death.

SEVERAL VERSIONS

The failure of the case to go to trial produced some adverse reaction and added to arguments that a conspiracy was being ignored or covered up.

The agreement was first proposed in mid-December. There are two versions as to who acted first.

Shelby County Atty. Gen. Phil Canale, who was in charge of the prosecution, spoke by telephone with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department Dec. 19.

PROCEDURE GIVEN

"In this call, I outlined the procedures that would be involved under Tennessee law. The key points to the agreement were a plea of guilty and a sentence of 99 years. I wanted the department's views.

Canale said he acted on his own and that "from the standpoint of a prosecutor seeking a compromise, plea and punishment is the custom instead of the exception."

But Hugh Stanton, the public defender, said that on the basis of the defense investigation there was a solid feeling that Ray would risk getting the death penalty in a trial and that Stanton thought a deal could be made for a guilty plea and 99 years.

"I talked to Canale about this at least a week before Christmas, and as I remember, he said he wanted to check it out with his associates," Stanton said.

An effort to learn what Mrs. King's reactions would be was initiated Dec. 31. Canale spoke with New York lawyer Harry Wachtel, counsel for Mrs. King and Dr. King's family, and described the possible agreement. He also then aired it with Ellington, who said he had no objections.

On Jan. 3, Wachtel called Canale and told him that Mrs. King and others in the King family were "opposed in fact and in principle to capital punishment and would not wish to see Ray executed in the electric chair."

However, Wachtel emphasized that Mrs. King wanted it made clear that this did not in any way mean she or the others in the family thought that Ray acted alone. Mrs. King remains convinced there was a conspiracy and after the Monday hearing, she said.

"This plea of guilty cannot be allowed to close the case or to end the search for many fingers which helped pulled the trigger."

Notes describing Canale's telephone calls, as well as information from attorney Wachtel's New York office, confirmed that

Mrs. King was informed of the potential agreement and apparently had approved it.

That same day, Jan. 3, Canale spoke with the Justice Department and was informed that the plan had been discussed with Atty. Gen. Clark and that such a procedure had his approval.

Sometime in February, Judge W. Preston Battle of Shelby County Criminal Court had a discussion with Percy Foreman, the Texas attorney who headed the Ray defense team.

"He asked me then, informal-

ly, for information regarding a guilty plea" the judge said.

"He also asked whether a guilty plea could be settled with a life sentence. I said, "Whoa, that's only 13 years in this state and the very least I'd consider is 99 years." I told him that before anything could be done there would have to be a full agreement between the defense and prosecution, that there would have to be a waiver of the defense motion and that examination of Ray would have to take place in open court at which time Ray would have to make clear that he understood what the plea meant."

The defense and prosecution then began careful negotiations. They wanted to avoid a leak which would prematurely bring the agreement into the headlines, and perhaps disrupt it.

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

Page 1

The Clarion Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: March 15, 1969
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Author:
Editor: T. M. Hederman
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MAR 17 1969	
FBI - JACKSON	

#7

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

KKK Attorney To Defend Ray

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — The office of J. B. Stoner said today that Stoner, an attorney with past connections with the Ku Klux Klan and the National States Rights party, will represent James Earl Ray in his fight for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A spokesman, Edward S. Fields, said Stoner is en route by automobile to Nashville where he plans to confer with Ray Saturday morning.

Ray was imprisoned in Nashville after pleading guilty in Memphis to King's slaying and receiving a 99-year sentence.

Fields said Stoner was hired to help Ray change his plea to innocent and to defend him if he wins a new trial.

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

— Page 1

— Jackson Daily News

— Jackson, Miss.

Date: March 21, 1969
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Author:
Editor: James M. Ward
Title: Murkin

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#4 . 88

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Martin Luther King Memorial Here Fri.

A Memorial Program for Dr. Martin Luther King has been planned by the Natchez Chapter of the NAACP, to be held here on Friday evening, Rev. Shed Baldwin, Pastor, is helping plan the services which will be very impressive and will include choir number as well as Memorial talks. Rev. Shed Baldwin, President of the Natchez Chapter, has announced.

The Memorial Program will include a Memorial March from the Beulah Baptist Church on B Street to the Court House and return. The Memorial March will form at the church at five thirty o'clock.

The Memorial Services will be held at seven o'clock at Beulah Baptist Church, Rev. W. L.

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

Page 14

The Natchez Democrat

Natchez, Miss.

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Date: April 2, 1969
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: James W. Lambert
Title: Murkin

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APR 7 1969
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Observances Held In 3 State Towns

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Predominantly Negro groups staged demonstrations in at least three Mississippi cities on the anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Authorities at Greenville said several hundred persons marched through the city Friday to a rally at Coleman High School stadium. The demonstration was sponsored by the Greenville Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

A few whites, mostly clergymen and Roman Catholic nuns, march as it moved quietly through the Delta city. No incidents were reported.

About 300 persons marched on the Forrest County Courthouse at Hattiesburg in a quiet demonstration described by police as "solemn."

The Rev. E. E. Grimmett, pastor of St. Pal's United Methodist Church, addressed the gathering from the steps of the building and urged them to carry on the doctrine of non-violence espoused by the slain civil rights leader.

Police at Meridian said about 40 persons gathered in Highland Park in a memorial demonstration. The biracial group sang civil rights songs, read from King's works and discussed the ideas he had expressed.

Meridian police and curious onlookers witnessed the demonstration, and no incidents were reported.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rain, Curfew Cool Memphis After March

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the first anniversary of his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was memorialized in services, marches and vigils across the nation. Speakers pleaded for a rededication to his battle for human rights.

The observances Friday in hundreds of towns and cities were peaceful. But in Memphis, Tenn., where King was killed on April 4, 1968, a mass march was taken as an opportunity by vandals to smash store windows.

A curfew ordered by Mayor Henry Loeb and cool rain emptied the streets during the night. Police had arrested more than 70 persons by midnight for curfew violations, looting, burglary and assault.

The city was relatively quiet when the curfew was lifted shortly before dawn and authorities were to decide later whether to reimpose it tonight.

In Montgomery, Ala., several thousand Negroes camped through the night in a huge field behind a Roman Catholic school. They were waiting the start of a march on the State Capitol today in memory of King.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, who succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was to lead the march. He headed the services for King in Memphis Friday.

The day passed calmly in Chicago, the only other city where mourning was marred by violence. There were outbreaks in two neighborhoods Thursday by groups of Negro youths.

Police and 5,000 National Guardsmen stood by in case of further trouble but only one minor shooting incident was reported.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., speaking at a special Good Friday service in suburban Evanston, called on blacks and whites to follow the nonviolent principles of his son.

"Violence gains nothing," the elder King said. "Good men will always be opposed to looting, killing and rioting. We must strive continually for peace, justice and fair play."

President Nixon sent a message of condolence to Dr. King's widow, Coretta, in Atlanta, which was delivered by Robert H. Finch, secretary of health, education and welfare, on the eve of the anniversary.

Mrs. King avoided public ceremonies during the day but did visit her husband's grave with her four children. She placed a red and white cross of flowers on the gravestone inscribed:

"Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty I'm free at last."

In Nashville some 300 demonstrators marched to the grounds of the Tennessee State Prison where James Earl Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for King's murder. They said their purpose was to remind Ray "of what he did."

Boston Mayor Kevin White called on Congress to declare King's birthday a national holiday. Later hundreds of Negroes held a black-only rally in King's honor, at one point asking a Roman Catholic priest and four nuns, all white, to leave.

In Alaska, a member of the John Birch Society led the opposition forces that defeated a resolution in the Sate Senate to ask Congress to declare King's birthday a national day of mourning.

Sen. Clyde R. Lewis, an Anchorage Republican and member of the Birch Society's National Council, said King had "contributed more than anyone else to the present campus rioting and street rioting."

In Selma, Ala., the scene of a bloody 1965 civil rights clash, about 2,000 persons marched under a blazing sun chanting "Soul power, soul power! Uhm Ah!" All but a handful of the marchers were black.

About 3,000 turned out for a program at the Portsmouth, Va., municipal stadium after a two-mile march. The crowd chanted, "Be black, be proud, be great!"

A mule-led caravan of some 200 persons marched down Basin Street in New Orleans followed by a sound truck playing tape recordings of King's speeches.

School officials in Kalamazoo, Mich., canceled an assembly to honor King. When it was postponed on Thursday, about 100 black students broke four windows and ripped down lockers.

And in Memphis, a surprise guest was Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. who said, "Let us work so no man be denied a job by the evil of discrimination... If I fight for these goals all my public life, there is no greater service I can do for my country."

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

Page 1

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss,

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wants first to search for a consensus among the legislators and farm leaders before proposing any changes in the present law.

Economy-minded White House aides would like to see the agriculture program revised to save money. However, Hardin so far has not supported these proposals.

Robert "Bobby" Baker, whose financial dealing while a Senate aide to former President Johnson caused a major scandal, is cruising the Mediterranean. At the time that his business deals with lobbyists became public, the outgoing Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas lectured him about being "like Caesar's wife" because of his close relationship with the then Vice President Johnson.....The Nixon Administration's strong stand in the last few weeks against bias in hiring is largely the result of pressure from major corporations.

Many firms, especially those deeply involved in consumer markets such as gasoline and retail store chains, were upset by attacks Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen (R. Ill.) made on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) for "unreasonable pressure" it was using on firms to end alleged discriminatory hiring practices . . . The appointment of William M. H. Brown, III, a Negro, as chairman of EEOC, has softened criticism of White House policies.....The inside story on the President's recently announced \$1 billion hunger program is that it was never shelved — as was widely reported. The false reports came from certain Johnson Administration hold-over officials within the Department of Agriculture and Health, Education and Welfare, who really didn't know what was going on at the White House.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

EASTLAND SPURS NEW QUIZ

FBI Checking Conspiracy Angle In King Shooting

By PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Federal Bureau of Investigation is probing dark new hints of a conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The unannounced FBI inquiry was ordered by Director J. Edgar Hoover after Senator James Eastland (D-Miss.) chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, turned over a letter he received from James Earl Ray, the convicted King slayer.

In the two-page hand written communication drafted in his prison cell, Ray suggested a conspiracy in King's death by alleging that others in addition to himself were involved.

Significantly, Ray did not try to deny his own participation in the assassination of King, who was slain last year in Memphis as he left his motel room.

READY TO TALK

While he gave no specific details in his letter to Senator Eastland, Ray clearly indicated that he was ready to talk if certain conditions for his safety could be agreed upon.

In privately discussing Ray's surprise letter with other members of his Subcommittee, Senator Eastland reported that he decided to turn it over to the FBI after his staff investigators were unable to make any breakthrough in the case.

In addition to requesting the FBI to quiz Ray about the content of the letter, Senator Eastland also suggested the G-

men might want to ask the admitted slayer of King the following questions.

How did you know that King was going to be in the Loraine Motel on the day of the slaying?

How did you know the location of King's room?

How did you know Kink would come out on the balcony where he was shot?

How did you know exactly where to go to get a room

from which to fire the fatal shot?

Senator Eastland also wants Hoover to check on Ray's eyesight to determine if it was good enough to have permitted him to fire the fatal shot.

What effect the new FBI inquiry will have on Ray's request for a new trial is conjectural.

Ray's letter, however, has given the FBI the reason they need for questioning the convicted assassin on several aspects of the mystery shrouded case.

For example, the FBI would like to determine if Ray had ever had any direct or indirect contacts with persons close to King including one of his long-time advisers and speech writers.

This "ghost", known to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as one of the top secret communists in the country, was the chief architect of the "Poor People's Campaign" that King was to have led in the nation's capital only days after he was assassinated.

Still incomplete is an FBI investigation of Ray's contacts made in New Orleans before King's assassination and after Ray had escaped from prison.

As reported in this column late in March, Senator Eastland has taken the position that someone inside the motel had to finger King for the assassin.

Since Hoover knows more about the unpublished activities of the late Dr. King and his associates, Senator Eastland believes he is in the best position of anyone in the country to determine if others were involved in the slaying.

FARM LEGISLATION

Members of the House Agriculture Committee have begun bringing pressure on the White House for the administration to give more attention to farm legislation.

With the omnibus farm law, the Food and Agriculture Act, set to expire next year, Representative W. R. Poage (D. Tex.), chairman, has sent word to President Nixon that he's likely to get hearings started no later than July.

Up to now, neither the White House nor Agriculture Secretary Clifford M. Hardin has given Congress any type of an Agriculture blue-print on what the Administration favors.

Kept busy on the hunger problem, Hardin is being extremely careful in taking a position in the highly controversial area of farm policy. He has indicated that President Nixon

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

Page 15

Jackson Daily News

Jackson, Miss.

COPY SENT BUREAU

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Author:
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Title: Murkin

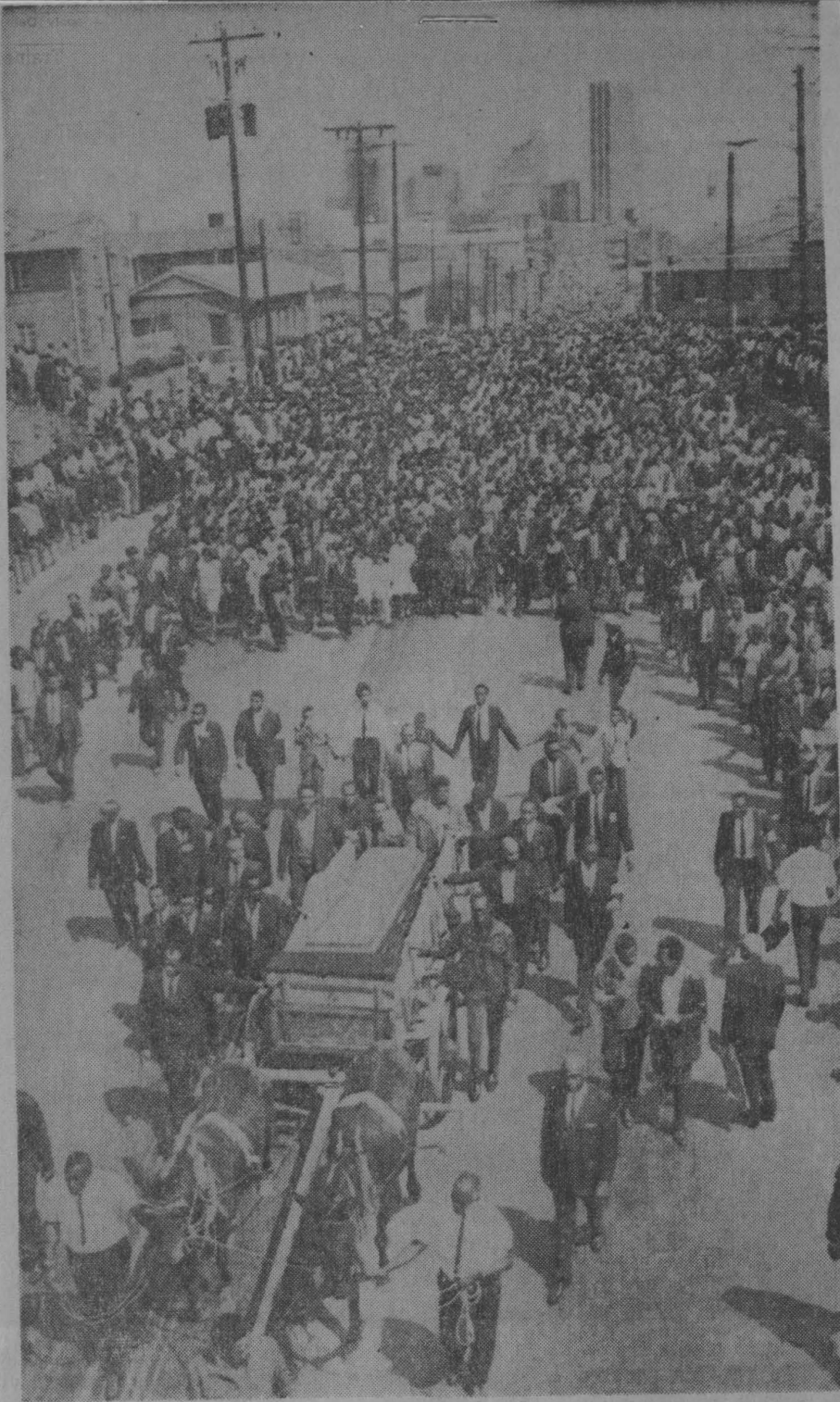
157-9586-571
Character:
or
Classification: 157-9586 SE
Submitting Office: Jackson
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157-958-571-91

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AN ASSASSIN STRIKES ONCE MORE
—Dr. Martin Luther King met death at the hands of an assassin in 1968.

His funeral procession through the streets of Atlanta drew this huge crowd of mourners.—AP Wirephoto.

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

Page 2-G

The Clarion Ledger

Jackson, Miss.

Date: Dec. 28, 1969
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: T. M. Hederman, Jr.
Title: Martin Luther King (Assination)

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Classification: 157-9586-SE1
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#4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tougaloo Having King Observance

A former teacher of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will headline a program in observance of Dr. King's birthday Friday morning at Tougaloo College.

The program is slated for 11 a.m. in Woodworth Chapel.

Dr. Lucious Tobin, the speaker for the occasion, taught the slain civil rights leader at Morehouse College. Serving on the Morehouse faculty for 25 years, Dr. Tobin now works at Benedict College.

Tougaloo's affiliate artist Miss Dwendolin Sims of New York City will also headline the observance, singing several of Dr. King's favorite songs.

Dr. Tobin's topic will be "His Troublesome Presence Challenges this 'Cultured Hell.'"

The speaker earned a degree in sociology at the University of Michigan, the Bachelor of Divinity at Colgate Rochester Divinity School and the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at Morris College in Sumter, S. C.

He also studied at Virginia Union University; with further study at the Divinity School, University of Chicago and the Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

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

PAGE 2

THE CLARION LEDGER

JACKSON, MISS.

Orig to Bu

Date: JAN. 15, 1971
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Editor: T. M. HEDERMAN, JR.
Title: Murkin

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - JACKSON	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ballistics Probed At Ray Hearing

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A firearms expert testified Thursday he did not see how authorities concluded from a nick in a window sill that the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 fired the shot from a rooming house bathroom.

Herbert MacDonell, Corning, N.Y., said he could not determine what object caused the nick in the bathroom sill, although authorities theorized that it was made by the recoil of the barrel of a 30-.06 rifle they say was used to kill King.

MacDonell testified for James Earl Ray in the third day of a U.S. District Court hearing on whether Ray is entitled to withdraw his guilty plea in King's death and stand trial for murder.

A key state witness, Charles Quitman Stephens, has said he saw Ray running from the bathroom soon after the slaying April 4, 1968. King was on the balcony of a motel across the street from the rooming house.

Ray's attorneys have introduced statements from other witnesses saying the shot appeared to come from a parking lot or bushes near the rooming house.

MacDonell said the configuration of the window sill nick was such that if it were caused by a rifle muzzle the weapon would have had to been held at such an angle that the butt would have extended several inches into one of the bathroom walls.

MacDonell, professor of criminalistics at Elmira College, said he also thought a ballistics comparison could be made on the bullet fragment taken from King's body. Robert Frazier, an FBI expert, has said the slug was so mutilated that it couldn't be determine whether it came from the rifle found near the rooming house. Officers say Ray's fingerprints were on the rifle.

Another witness, former Dist. Atty. Phil M. Canale, Jr., Ray's trial prosecutor, testified that negotiations for Ray's guilty plea began

about three months before Ray entered the plea March 10, 1969 and shortly after the late public defender Hugh Stanton Sr. was appointed to assist Houston attorney Percy Foreman in Ray's defense.

Canale said no firm negotiations took place until late January or early

February and that he did not make his recommendation for a 99-year sentence until Feb. 1, 1969.

Ray's attorneys have claimed that his constitutional rights were violated because the Sheriff's Department turned over his mail, including mail to his attorneys, to the prosecutor's office.

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

PAGE 2

THE CLARION-LEDGER

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: 10/25/74
 Edition: HOME
 Author:
 Editor: T. M. HEDERMAN, JR.
 Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:
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SERIALIZED <i>BS</i>	FILED <i>BS</i>
OCT 25 1974	
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Defense Says Ray Framed In Killing

MEMPHIS (AP) — At-torneys for James Earl Ray said Tuesday there was a conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but that evidence "eliminates any reasonable belief" that Ray was part of it.

In a brief filed in U.S. District Court, the attorneys said "evidence now points to the fact that James Earl Ray was framed for a crime he didn't commit."

"The evidence increasingly indicates that law enforcement officials, both state and federal, have covered up the evidence of this frameup," Ray's attorneys said.

"...There was a conspiracy

to kill Dr. King...but evidence eliminates any reasonable belief that James Earl Ray was part of the conspiracy."

Ray's attorneys, James Lesar and Bernard Fensterwald, Washington, D.C., based their allegation of a frameup on their claim that the bullet taken from King's body could be traced to a rifle other than one found on the street near a downtown rooming house from which authorities say the fatal shot was fired April 4, 1968. Police have said the rifle discovered near the slaying scene bore Ray's fingerprints and was the murder weapon.

An FBI firearms expert has said the fatal bullet fragment was so mutilated that he could not say to the exclusion of all other similar weapons that it came from the gun found on the street.

Ray's has claimed he was lured to the rooming house by a person named "Raoul" and that he did not kill the civil rights leader.

His attorneys made their arguments in response to a brief filed by the state contending that Ray made a "reasoned and reasonable" decision to plead guilty to killing King in order to avoid the death penalty.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert M. McRae Jr. held an eight-day hearing two months ago on whether Ray is entitled to withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial for murder. Ray, now serving a 99-year prison sentence, says he was pressured into the guilty plea on March 10, 1969.

McRae is expected to rule within a month.

In their brief, Lesar and Fensterwald said: "A Watergate-type coverup of the assassination of Dr. King continues until this day. That and that alone explains the frenzied efforts of the state to obstruct an examination of the physical evidence by petitioner's investigator and counsel."

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

PAGE 1

JACKSON DAILY NEWS

JACKSON, MISS.

Date: 12/18/74
 Edition: HOME
 Author:
 Editor: JAMES M. WARD
 Title: JAMES EARL RAY

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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. The other tape was turned over to the committee, Snyder said.

SNYDER SAID he listened to a copy of that tape.

"Most of it was inaudible to me," he said. "I could make out a little. I made out enough to believe and ascertain that a discussion was being had about King and money, but I didn't even listen to all of it."

Snyder said he wants the allegation to be thoroughly investigated "and this guy ought to be protected from any problems. If it is inaccurate, then those people who he names need to be protected."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Alleged Police, FBI Plot To Kill King Investigated

By **BILL HENDRICK**
Associated Press Writer

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

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

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

ASKED WHY the man contacted him and him listen to a copy of the tape reading, Snyder said, "He may have just looking for someone with nerve, a f..."

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," Snyder quoted the letter as saying. "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)."

FOP STANDS for Fraternal Order of Police, an 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."

In Washington, an FBI spokesman said, "Anything on assassinations we have to say 'no comment' because it is before a congressional committee."

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 99 years in prison for the assassination of the civil rights leader 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.

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

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

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