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2 of 4

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PART 2 OF

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MURKIN MEMOS

VOLUME IX

☒ XEROX *Lickless Murkin -*
4/6/77 Newspaper Clippings
☒ REVIEWED *Memphis Riot*
7/1/77 jmn
☒ EXCISED & XEROXED *no excising needed*
☐ OTHER _____
☒ COMPLETED

Date

7-1-77

The following material has been reproduced
for excising and review at FBIHQ by representatives of
the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No.

Newspaper Clippings - Memphis
Riot

Section

Serials

through

(except following serials not in
file on this date:

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4-15

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"PATROLMAN L. D.
 JONES; LARRY
 PAYNE-VICTIM
 CR"



United Press International

Mother of Larry Payne, slain in Memphis riot, is carried sobbing from his funeral.

Mother Sobs, 'They Killed You Like a Dog'

Memphis Riot Victim Buried

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 2 (UPI)—The mother of a Negro youth slain by police in last week's riot broke down at his funeral today, sobbing, "They killed you like a dog."

A convoy of police squad cars cruised outside the crowded Clayborn Temple A.M.E. Church during the funeral of 16-year-old Larry Payne.

His mother had to be helped from the church when she became hysterical. Authorities feared the funeral and the impending re-

turn of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would build up tension again in the city.

Dr. King was to come back to lead more sympathy marches for 1200 striking garbage collectors, mostly Negroes, who have been out of work since early February in a dispute with the city over pay raises and union representation.

An aide of Dr. King said that a mass march will take place, "probably Friday."

Last Thursday a march of 5000 persons led by Dr. King erupted into violence when Negro youths began

breaking windows and battling police.

Young Payne was killed, 62 persons were injured, and 300 persons arrested before the melee was quelled by police, State Troopers and National Guardsmen dispatched to the city by Gov. Buford Ellington.

Payne was killed by a policeman allegedly as he carried a television set from a looted store. Relatives contend, however, that the youth had surrendered and had put his hands up when he was slain by the shotgun blast of Patrolman L. D. Jones.

The Washington Post A-3
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
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 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
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UPI-201

(MEMPHIS)

MEMPHIS, TENN.--A FEDERAL JUDGE ISSUED AN ORDER TODAY BARRING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FROM HOLDING A MASSIVE 6,000-MAN MARCH IN MEMPHIS NEXT MONDAY, BUT THE INTERGRATION LEADER PROMPTLY ANNOUNCED HE WOULD IGNORE IT.

"WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE STOPPED BY NACE (CHEMICAL DISABLING GAS) OR INJUNCTIONS OR ANY OTHER METHOD THAT THE CITY PLANS TO USE," KING SAID.

KING, WHO WAS TO ADDRESS A RALLY HERE LATER TONIGHT, CLAIMED THE INJUNCTION, OR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, WAS A "BASIC DENIAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT PRIVILEGES."

CITY OFFICIALS SOUGHT THE INJUNCTION IN VIEW OF THE VIOLENCE THAT FLARED LAST THURSDAY WHEN KING LED AN EARLIER MARCH. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED, 62 INJURED AND 276 ARRESTED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THAT DEMONSTRATION.

4/3--TS718PES

295A

MEMPHIS 4/3 AJ

SUB IN NIGHT LD MEMPHIS 270A FOR 3RD PGH BGNG: KING, WHO

"THERE AIN'T NO INJUNCTION GOING TO TURN US AROUND," KING SHOUTED A RALLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AS 2,000 NEGROES CHEERED HIM. CLAIMING THE INJUNCTION WAS A "BASIC DENIAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT PRIVILEGES," HE ANNOUNCED THAT "WE ARE GOING TO COURT THURSDAY MORNING TO FIGHT IT."

"WE DON'T STOP FOR THE DOGS OR THE NOSES AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO STOP FOR ANY INJUNCTION," KING TOLD THE RALLY.

PICKUP 4TH PGH: CITY OFFICIALS

F1146PES..

PATROLMAN L. D. JONES
LARRY PAYNE - VICTIM
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UPI-191

(MEMPHIS)

MEMPHIS, TENN.--THE MOTHER OF A 16-YEAR-OLD NEGRO BOY SLAIN DURING LAST WEEK'S RIOTING THREW HERSELF ON HIS COFFIN BEFORE IT WAS LOWERED INTO THE GRAVE TODAY SCREAMING, "OH, DON'T LET THEM PUT HIM DOWN."

FOUR MEN PULLED HER FROM THE CASKET. SHE FAINTED AND WAS CARRIED TO A LIMOUSINE.

POLICE CONTEND THAT THE VICTIM, LARRY PAYNE WAS SHOT TO DEATH WHILE CARRYING A TELEVISION SET FROM A LOOTED STORE. RELATIVES CHARGED THE YOUTH HAD SURRENDERED AND HAD HIS HANDS UP WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY A SHOTGUN BLAST FIRED BY PATROLMAN L. D. JONES.

THE BOY'S MOTHER, MRS. MASON PAYNE, BECAME HYSTERICAL AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES AND STOOD BEFORE THE CASKET SOBBING: "LARRY, OH LARRY, THEY KILLED YOU LIKE A DOG." SHE WAS HELPED FROM THE SERVICES AND APPARENTLY HAD BROUGHT HER EMOTIONS UNDER CONTROL UNTIL SHE BROKE DOWN AGAIN AT THE GRAVE SITE.

A DREARY, INTERMITTENT RAIN FELL WHILE THE FUNERAL WAS IN PROGRESS, AND A CONVOY OF POLICE CARS CRUISED THE STREETS OUTSIDE CLAYBORN TEMPLE, GUARDING AGAINST ANY NEW TROUBLE.

4/2--TS699PES

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Sony

Memphis Tense at Funeral

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 2 (UPI) — The mother of a Negro youth slain by police in last week's riot broke down at his funeral today, sobbing that "they killed you like a dog." A convoy of police squad cars cruised outside the crowded Clayborn Temple AME Church during the funeral of 16-year-old Larry Payne. His mother had to be helped from the church when she became hysterical. Authorities feared the funeral and the return of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would build up tension again in the city.

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News 1 _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Worker _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
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 3-28-68

McDonnell
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UPI-199

(MARCH)

MEMPHIS, TENN.--A 3,000-MAN PROTEST MARCH LED BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ERUPTED TODAY INTO BLOODY VIOLENCE THAT CLAIMED THE LIFE OF ONE TEEN-AGE NEGRO LOOTER AND BROUGHT 4,000 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN RUSHING INTO THE CITY.

A 7 P.M. CURFEW WAS CLAMPED ON THE TOWN.

AT LEAST 105 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND DOZENS OF POLICEMEN AND RIOTERS WERE INJURED IN THE PITCHED BATTLES THAT RAGED ALONG HISTORIC BEALE STREET, THE STREET "WHERE THE BLUES WERE BORN."

RIOTERS PELTED POLICE WITH ROCKS AND BOTTLES AND ATTACKED THEM WITH CLUBS.

OFFICERS RESPONDED WITH TEAR GAS, NIGHTSTICKS AND CHEMICAL MACE.

THE VIOLENCE STARTED WHEN ABOUT 150 YOUNG NEGROES BROKE AWAY FROM THE MAIN LINE OF MARCH AND RAN SCREAMING ALONG STREETS, CLUBBING POLICEMEN, SMASHING WINDOWS AND LOOTING STORES.

KING SPRINTED DOWN A SIDESTREET, LEAPED INTO AN OLD MODEL CAR AND SPED AWAY. HE LATER WAS REPORTED CONFERRING WITH LOCAL NEGRO LEADERS AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.

PROTEST LEADERS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE MAIN BODY OF THE MARCHERS BACK TO THE FORTRESS-LIKE CLAYBORN TEMPLE AME CHURCH, RALLYING POINT FOR THE MARCH, BUT FIREBOMBING AND LOOTING INCIDENTS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON.

AT DUSK, MAYOR HENRY LOEB ANNOUNCED THAT --UNDER PENALTY OF ARREST--ONLY PERSONS ON THEIR WAY TO OR FROM WORK WOULD BE PERMITTED ON THE STREETS ANYWHERE IN THE CITY BETWEEN 7 P.M. AND 5 A.M.

NIGHT CLASSES AT ALL THE CITY'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WERE CANCELLED, AND POLICE SET UP A COMMAND POST AT THE CORNER OF HERNANDO AND BEALE STREETS. FLYING SQUADS WERE DISPATCHED FROM THE COMMAND POST AS QUICKLY AS TROUBLE CALLS WERE RECEIVED.

3/28--TS658PES

UPI-176

(MEMPHIS)

WASHINGTON--REPORTERS SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TODAY TO GET WHITE HOUSE OPINION ON THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

PRESS SECRETARY GEORGE CHRISTIAN SEEMED UNFAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT CONDITIONS IN MEMPHIS.

"WHAT ABOUT MEMPHIS?" HE SAID TO THE REPORTER WHO POSED THE QUESTION.

TOLD THERE WAS A RIOT IN THE TENNESSEE CITY CHRISTIAN SAID, "GOD THAT -- NO, NO."

3/28--TS508PES

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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278A

MARCH 3/28 AJ

URGENT

7TH LD 262A

BY CHARLES ROND

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--GANGS OF YOUNG NEGROES WHO TURNED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S NONVIOLENT MARCH INTO A BLOODY STREET BATTLE ROAMED THROUGH THE CITY THURSDAY NIGHT BURNING AND PILLAGING IN A RAMPAGE THAT LEFT ONE DEAD AND 37 WOUNDED.

"MAN, WE'VE GOT FIRES EVERYWHERE," SAID A PATROLMAN GUARDING FIREFIGHTERS AT A STORE IN A NEGRO NEIGHBORHOOD. HE ESTIMATED 30 FIRES WERE STARTED IN THIS MISSISSIPPI RIVER CITY THURSDAY NIGHT. HEAVILY ARMED POLICE AND 4,000 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN PATROLLED BEALE STREET, BIRTHPLACE OF THE BLUES. A TOTAL OF 105 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED.

A WHITE BUS DRIVER, LLOYD KIRBY, WAS MOBBED AND STABBED BY A BAND OF NEGROES. POLICE SAID HE WAS NOT SERIOUSLY HURT BUT ALL BUSES WERE RECALLED.

THURSDAY NIGHT A PATROLMAN SHOT AND WOUNDED A NEGRT LOOTE STAGGERING OUT OF A STORE LADEN WITH GOODS.

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THURSDAY NIGHT A PATROLMAN SHOT AND WOUNDED A NEGRO LOOTER STG

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THURSDAY NIGHT A PATROLMAN SHOT AND WOUNDED A NEGRO LOOTER STAGGERING OUT OF A STORE LADEN WITH GOODS.

"WE'VE GOT MEN OUT HUNTING FOR A CAR CARRYING SIX NEGROES THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SHOOTING AT WHITE PEOPLE," A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OFFICIALS CLAMPED A 7 P.M. TO 5 A.M. CURFEW ON THE CITY.

THEY ORDERED LIQUOR STORES CLOSED.

POLICE USED CLUBS, TEAR GAS AND CHEMICAL MACE TO QUELL THE STREET FIGHTING THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUT WERE UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE SPORADIC, HIT-AND-RUN ATTACKS THAT DEVELOPED AFTER NIGHTFALL. DURING THE DAY, OFFICERS KILLED A YOUNG NEGRO WHEN HE CHARGED OUT OF A STORE WAVING A KNIFE AT THEM.

THE VIOLENCE BEGAN WHEN SEVERAL HUNDRED NEGRO YOUTHS SUDDENLY BOLTED OUT OF THE 3,000-MAN MARCH KING WAS LEADING IN SUPPORT OF A STRIKE BY CITY GARBAGE COLLECTORS, WHO ARE PREDOMINANTLY NEGRO. THEY RAN SCREAMING DOWN BEALE STREET, SMASHING WINDOWS, LOOTING AND CLUBBING POLICE.

KING, AT THE HEAD OF THE MARCHERS, SPRINTED DOWN A SIDE STREET, LEAPED INTO AN OLD MODEL CAR AND SPED AWAY. OTHER NEGRO LEADERS TURNED THE MAIN BODY OF THE MARCH BACK TOWARD THE CLAYBORN TEMPLE AME CHURCH, WHERE THEY HAD STARTED, WHILE POLICE BATTLED WITH THE YOUNG NEGROES ON THE SIDEWALKS.

KING LATER CALLED A NEWS CONFERENCE TO DENOUNCE "THOSE ON THE SIDELINES WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MARCH TO CREATE CONFUSION. THEY WERE NOT IN THE RANKS OF THE DEMONSTRATORS."

MORE TS1022PES

279A

MARCH 3/28 AJ

1ST ADD 7TH LD MARCH MEMPHIS 278A XXX DEMONSTRATORS."
HE SAID THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE GARBAGE COLLECTORS--MOST OF THEM NEGROES WHO CLAIM THE CITY IS DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THEM--WOULD CONTINUE FRIDAY BUT "WE ARE GOING OUT OF OUR WAY TO SEE THAT FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NONVIOLENT."

THE YOUTHS, ONE NEGRO LEADER SAID, "DIDN'T COME TO MARCH--THEY WERE OUTSIDE OF OUR CONTROL AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN."

GOV. BUFORD ELLINGTON SENT RIOT-TRAINED HIGHWAY PATROLMEN AND 4,000 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN INTO THE CITY. HE PUT ANOTHER 8,000 TROOPS ON A STANDBY ALERT. POLICE SET UP A COMMAND POST AT THE CORNER OF HERNANDO AND BEALE STREETS NEAR THE CLAYBORN TEMPLE AND DISPATCHED "ATTACK SQUADS" CONSISTING OF ONE FIRE TRUCK AND THREE SQUAD CARS TO FIRES.

HELICOPTERS DRONE OVER THE CITY, SPOTTING FIRES FOR HARASSED FIREMEN.

SHORTLY BEFORE DUSK, MAYOR HERB LOEB ANNOUNCED THAT ANYONE FOUND ON THE STREETS BETWEEN 7 P.M. AND 5 A.M. WOULD BE ARRESTED UNLESS THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO WORK. HE WAS GRANTED THE POWER BY A LAW RUSHED THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE IN NASHVILLE A FEW HOURS EARLIER.

NIGHT CLASSES AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WERE CANCELLED.

MOST OF THE DAYLIGHT VIOLENCE TOOK PLACE ALONG BEALE AND HERNANDO STREETS AND AROUND THE TEMPLE. YOUNG NEGROES HURLED ROCKS AND BOTTLES AT POLICE, WHO REPLIED WITH TEAR GAS SHELLS AND JETS OF CHEMICAL MACE.

NEGROES RACED IN AND OUT OF BUILDINGS. AT ONE POINT OFFICERS CHASED A BAND OF YOUTHS INTO A BUILDING, HURLED A TEAR GAS SHELL IN THE DOOR AND SLAMMED IT SHUT. THE NEGROES RACED TO THE THIRD FLOOR AND THREW OPEN THE WINDOWS FOR AIR.

POLICE FINALLY MANAGED TO CLEAR THE STREETS AND THE VIOLENCE DIED DOWN BEFORE DUSK BUT WHEN NIGHT FELL, THE LOOTING INCREASED AND BURNING BEGAN. MOST OF THE TARGETS WERE PAWN SHOPS, LIQUOR AND GROCERY STORES. A LAUNDRY-CLEANING FIRM OWNED BY THE BROTHER OF MAYOR LOEB WAS HIT BY A FIREBOMB AND A GARBAGE TRUCK WAS SET AFIRE ACROSS THE STREET.

BEALE STREET WAS LITTERED BY BROKEN GLASS AND MUTILATED SHOW-WINDOW MANNIKINS. POLICE CLEARED HANDY PARK, NAMED AFTER W. C. HANDY, THE FATHER OF THE BLUES. MOST OF THE PERSONS IN THE SMALL PARK WERE ELDERLY NEGROES WHO HAD GATHERED TO WATCH THE THREE-BLOCK LONG MARCH.

A TURQUOISE-HELMETED POLICEMAN, A GAS MASK ON HIS FACE, PUT HIS ARM AROUND AN OLD NEGRO MAN AND LED HIM AWAY WHILE THE BATTLE RAGED AROUND THE PARK.

"THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR YOU OLDER PEOPLE," HE SAID. "YOU OUGHTTA BE HOME TODAY."

POLICE IDENTIFIED THE LOOTER WHO WAS KILLED AS LARRY PAYNE, 16. THEY SAID AN OFFICER CUT HIM DOWN WITH A SHOTGUN BLAST WHEN HE RUSHED AT HIM WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE.

(INCLUDES PREVIOUS)

TS1031PES..

262A

MARCH 3/28 AJ

URGENT

6TH LD 250A

BY CHARLES ROND

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--GANGS OF LOOTERS, DODGING POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN THE DARKNESS, ROAMED THE NEGRO DISTRICT THURSDAY NIGHT HOURS AFTER TURNING THEIR BACKS ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TO START BLOODY STREET FIGHTING THAT KILLED ONE PERSON AND WOUNDED 37 OTHERS.

THERE WAS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF SNIPER FIRE IN THE NIGHT AND AT LEAST ONE STORE WAS SET AFIRE.

HEAVILY ARMED POLICE AND GUARDSMEN PATROLLED HISTORIC BEALE STREET, BIRTHPLACE OF THE BLUES, AND ARRESTED A NUMBER OF LOOTERS. BUT AUTHORITIES SAID MANY OTHERS, ROVING IN SMALL GANGS, ESCAPED INTO THE DARKNESS AFTER RANSACKING LIQUOR STORES AND PAWNshops.

"WE'VE GOT MEN OUT HUNTING FOR A CAR CARRYING SIX NEGROES THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SHOOTING AT WHITE PEOPLE," A POLICE OFFICIAL SAID.

THE TROUBLE STARTED EARLIER THURSDAY WHEN 150 SCREAMING NEGRO YOUTHS STORMED AWAY FROM KING'S 3,000-MAN MARCH AND ATTACKED POLICE, HURLED ROCKS, BOTTLES AND STICKS, AND LOOTED STORES. GOV. BUFORD ELLINGTON ORDERED 4,000 GUARDSMEN INTO THE CITY AND PUT ANOTHER 8,000 ON STANDBY ALERT.

OFFICIALS CLAMPED A 7 P. M. CURFEW ON THE CITY AND ORDERED LIQUOR STORES TO CLOSE.

AT LEAST 105 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE TROUBLE THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

POLICE USING CLUBS, TEAR GAS AND CHEMICAL MACE PUT DOWN THE MAIN FIGHTING THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUT WHEN NIGHT FELL THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INCREASED.

PICKUP 7TH PGH 250A: POLICE SAID

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MARCH 3/28 AJ

URGENT

8TH LD 262A

BY CHARLES ROND

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--GANGS OF YOUNG NEGROES WHO TURNED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S NONVIOLENT MARCH INTO A BLOODY STREET BATTLE ROAMED THROUGH THE CITY THURSDAY NIGHT BURNING AND LOOTING IN AN ORGY OF DESTRUCTION THAT LEFT ONE DEAD AND 37 WOUNDED.

"WE'VE GOT FIRES EVERYWHERE," SAID A SHOTGUN-ARMED PATROLMAN GUARDING FIREFIGHTERS AT A BURNING GROCERY STORE.

THE TEMPO OF THE BURNING INCREASED AS MIDNIGHT APPROACHED. IT APPEARED SCORES OF BUILDINGS WERE SET ABLAZE IN NEGRO DISTRICTS, BUT A DISPATCHER SAID "WE'VE BEEN TOO BUSY TO COUNT 'EM."

HEAVILY ARMED POLICE AND 4,000 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN PATROLLED BEALE STREET, BIRTH PLACE OF THE BLUES AND SCENE OF THE WORST RACIAL VIOLENCE IN THE NATION THIS YEAR. POLICE SAID 175 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED.

A HIGHWAY PATROLMAN'S HAND WAS MANGLED IN A FIREBOMBING THURSDAY NIGHT. POLICE SHOT AND WOUNDED A LOOTER. S DRIVER. LLOYD KIRBY, 60, WAS MOBBED AND STABBED BY NEGROES WHEN HE STOPPED HIS BUS. AUTHORITIES SAID HE WAS NOT SERIOUSLY HURT BUT THE TRANSIT COMPANY RECALLED ALL OF ITS BUSES.

THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE SNIPING INCIDENT--AT THE CORNER OF BEALE AND HERNANDO STREETS WHERE POLICE SET UP THEIR COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. NO ONE WAS HIT.

"IT IS A HIT AND RUN SITUATION," SAID ASST. POLICE CHIEF W.E. ROUTH. "BUT SO FAR NOTHING HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND." POLICE SAID SOME OF THE ARSONISTS WERE APPARENTLY USING FLARES FOR FIREBOMBS.

MEMPHIS, A CITY OF 700,000 PERSONS, ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THEM NEGROES, HAS EXPERIENCED VERY LITTLE RACIAL UNREST IN THE PAST.

PICKUP 7TH PGH: OFFICIALS CLAMPED

F1148PES..

BY RICHARD LEESITT
MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD "ATTACK"
PATROLS TODAY PROWLED FAMOUS BEALE STREET, NOW A THOROUGHFARE OF
DEBRIS AND LOOTED SHOPS, TO PREVENT A SECOND DAY OF NEGRO
RIOTING. SPORADIC VANDALISM CONTINUED.

A 16-YEAR-OLD NEGRO, WHO POLICE SAID CHARGED A PATROLMAN
WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE, WAS SHOT TO DEATH THURSDAY AS NEGRO YOUTHS
PARTICIPATING IN A "NONVIOLENT" MARCH LED BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR. BROKE LOOSE FROM THE ORDERLY DEMONSTRATORS AND BEGAN
BREAKING STORE WINDOWS AND BATTLING POLICE.

ABOUT 62 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND 300 INJURED. ABOUT
150 FIRES WERE SET, SIX OF THEM MAJOR, POLICE SAID.
"IT WAS GUERRILLA WARFARE," SAID FIRE-POLICE DIRECTOR FRANK
L. HOLLOMAN. "WE ARE AT WAR IN MEMPHIS."

BEALE STREET, IMMORTALIZED IN THE BASTARDLY MOURNFUL LYRICS
OF NEGRO SONGWRITER W. C. HANDY, BORE THE BRUNT OF THE VIOLENCE
THAT CUT AN EIGHT-MILE SWATH OF DAMAGE THROUGH THIS MISSISSIPPI
RIVER PORT.

MORE THAN 12 HOURS AFTER KING LED HIS DEMONSTRATORS IN
SUPPORT OF STRIKING GARBAGE WORKERS, BANDS OF NEGRO YOUTHS STILL
ROAMED THROUGH SECTIONS OF TOWN, BREAKING WINDOWS AND STARTING
FIRES, POLICE SAID.

AT MIDNIGHT AN AIDE TO GOV. BUFORD ELLINGTON SAID THE SITUATION
WAS "UNDER CONTROL," BUT SPORADIC, HIT-AND-RUN VANDALISM CONTINUED
INTO THE EARLY MORNING HOURS TODAY, POLICE REPORTED.

KING, WHO ESCAPED UNHURT AFTER THE MELEE ERUPTED, VOWED TO
CONTINUE DEMONSTRATING FOR THE STRIKING SANITATIONMEN, BUT
DENOUNCED "THOSE ON THE SIDELINES WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE
MARCH TO CREATE CONFUSION. THEY WERE NOT IN THE RANKS OF THE
MARCHERS."

ELLINGTON MOBILIZED THE ENTIRE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD,
ORDERING THOSE TROOPS NOT DISPATCHED TO MEMPHIS TO REMAIN ON
STANDBY ALERT.

A 4,000-MAN NATIONAL GUARD FORCE JOINED HUNDREDS OF STATE
TROOPERS, POLICEMEN AND SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES IN EFFORTS TO RESTORE
ORDER TO THE CITY OF 700,000, WHICH HAS A 40 PER CENT NEGRO
POPULATION.

AS HUNDREDS OF FIRES DOTTED THE CITY THURSDAY NIGHT,
AUTHORITIES ORGANIZED "ATTACK UNITS" TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION.
THESE UNITS, CONSISTING OF FOUR OR FIVE PATROL CARS CARRYING
POLICEMEN AND TROOPERS OR SOLDIERS, AND GENERALLY A FIRETRUCK,
CRUISED UNTIL THEY GOT AN EMERGENCY CALL, THEN RACED TO THE
TROUBLE AREA.

LARRY PAYNE, 16, A NEGRO, WAS FELLED WITH A SHOTGUN BLAST
WHEN HE RUSHED AT A POLICEMAN WITH A BUTCHER KNIFE, AUTHORITIES
SAID.

A NEGRO LOOTER WAS WOUNDED BY POLICE AS HE RUSHED FROM A
STORE CARRYING MERCHANDISE, AND A TROOPER'S HAND WAS MANGLED
IN A FIREBOMBING. A GROUP OF NEGROES STABBED A WHITE BUS DRIVER,
LLOYD KIRBY, 60, WHEN HE STOPPED HIS BUS, AND POLICE LATER
CANCELED ALL BUS TRAFFIC.

IT WAS THE SECOND SIGNIFICANT RACIAL VIOLENCE OF THE YEAR IN THE
NATION.

THREE NEGRO YOUTHS WERE KILLED BY STATE TROOPERS AT ORANGEBURG,
S. C., WHEN OFFICERS FIRED INTO STUDENTS AFTER ATTEMPTS TO INTEGRATE
A BOWLING ALLEY.

THE MEMPHIS VIOLENCE BEGAN AS A DEMONSTRATION BY KING TO
FORCE THE CITY TO NEGOTIATE WITH STRIKING GARBAGE COLLECTORS,
ALMOST ALL NEGROES. THE COLLECTORS HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE SINCE
EARLY FEBRUARY IN A DEMAND FOR HIGHER PAY AND UNION REPRESENTATION.

BUT SHORTLY AFTER THE MARCH OF ABOUT 5,000 PERSONS GOT UNDERWAY,
IT WAS DISRUPTED BY NEGRO YOUTHS WHO STARTED BREAKING STORE
WINDOWS, GRABBING MERCHANDISE AND FIGHTING WITH POLICE.

KING SPRINTED DOWN A SIDE STREET, LEAPED INTO A CAR AND SPED
AWAY. POLICE USED CLUBS, TEAR GAS AND CHEMICAL MACE TO
DISPERSE THE RIOTERS, AND MAYOR HENRY LOEB, UNDER NEW POWERS
PUSHED THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE, ORDERED A 7 P. M. TO 5 A. M. CURFEW.

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Negroes Riot in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 28 (UPI)—Screaming Negro youths broke away from Dr. Martin Luther King's march thru Memphis today and ran thru the streets, smashing windows and looting until police stopped them with tear gas. When the youths suddenly tore away from the mass of several thousand marchers, Rev. King sprinted down a side street, leaped into an old model car and sped away. The marchers were demonstrating in support of a strike by sanitation workers.

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News 1 _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Worker _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Date 3-28-68

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 Bishop _____

King Marchers

Riot in Memphis

Guard Called To Put Down Looting; 1 Dead

**51 Are Arrested,
Dozens Injured
As Youths Rampage**
BULLETIN

MEMPHIS (AP) — Some 4,000 riot-trained National Guardsmen moved into Memphis this afternoon to put down looting and rioting which erupted earlier in the day during a Negro protest march led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Gov. Buford Ellington said: "The situation in Memphis has worsened. There are groups of rioters scattered throughout the areas."

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)—Screaming Negro youths broke away from Dr. Martin Luther King's march through Memphis today and ran through the streets, smashing windows and looting downtown stores until police, using tear gas, stopped them.

Police said one of the looters was killed.

When the youths tore away from the 3,000 marchers, King sprinted down a side street, leaped into an old-model car and sped away.

Remaining Negro leaders turned the marchers back toward their starting point while 200 helmeted policemen, using tear gas and clubs, battled the Negro youths along historic Beale Street.

Police said at least 51 persons were arrested and dozens of police and rioters were injured.

"We have one dead," said Detective Chief W. P. Huston. "The situation is complete turmoil." He said the looter was slain about eight blocks from Clayborn Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church, rallying point of the marchers.

A spokesman said King had gone to a hotel and would announce later whether he would make a scheduled speech at a rally tonight.

He said King "is an unviolent person and it was obvious there were people in the march who were violent. This thing has been building up—all these kids have been becoming more and more impatient with the ministers."

The marchers, demonstrating in support of the seven-week old strike by sanitation workers, struggled back to Clayborn Temple and police sealed off Beale Street.

(The Associated Press reported that the march leaders, using

See MEMPHIS, Page A-8

The Washington Post

Times Herald _____

The Washington Daily News _____

The Evening Star (Washington) 1

The Sunday Star (Washington) _____

Daily News (New York) _____

Sunday News (New York) _____

New York Post _____

The New York Times _____

The Sun (Baltimore) _____

The Worker _____

The New Leader _____

The Wall Street Journal _____

The National Observer _____

People's World _____

Date 3-28-68



—Associated Press

A Memphis policeman levels his night stick on a looter during racial violence today.

MEMPHIS

King Marchers Riot, Youths Loot Stores

Continued From Page A-1

bullhorns, shouted to the crowd. "The march is over, the march is over."

(But the looting and violence continued, despite police use of tear gas, the AP said. Finally, the crowd gave way before officers armed with shotguns and rifles, who formed a blockade of squad cars and motorcycles to push the mob out of the downtown area.

(Virtually every store window on historic Beale Street was smashed by the marchers, and many on Main Street also were shattered, the AP said.

(In Nashville, Gov. Buford Ellington dispatched 250 riot-trained Tennessee Highway patrolmen to Memphis to help deal with the situation, the AP said. At the same time, he alerted 4,000 National Guardsmen who were to assemble at West Tennessee armories to await further orders.)

Sporadic skirmishing continued around the AME Temple. Bottles and rocks flew through the air at officers, who replied by lobbing tear gas shells.

A young Negro jumped out of a telephone booth near the temple with what appeared to be a rifle. Officers pounced on him and beat him unconscious. A young Negro girl tried to claw the police, but they knocked her down with a nightstick and fired tear gas at her.

A deep, booming report like that of a shotgun came from a tenement across the street from the temple. Fifteen police cars converged on the building.

Throwing Poles

At the temple, about 2,000 persons crowded inside. Outside, many youths milled around, throwing poles that had carried picket signs at police, who replied with tear gas. Ministers inside the church used bullhorns to tell the crowd, "Don't be violent."

One civil rights leader, the Rev. Henry Starks, said: "If the leadership had not been

KING DUE HERE TOMORROW FOR CONFERENCES

Dr. Martin Luther King is scheduled to arrive in Washington tomorrow for a full day of meetings starting with a 10 a.m. conference with Negro ministers at the Church of Redeemer.

But after today's disorders in Memphis, an aide here said it is doubtful that King would come here.

At 12:30 p.m. King is scheduled to meet with professional and business men at the Statler Hilton Hotel.

After a 1:30 p.m. session with community organization leaders he is slated to meet with labor leaders at 2 p.m. at the Philip Murray Building. After a brief rest he next was to appear at the Bethlehem Baptist Church for a 7 p.m. poor people's hearing and half an hour later was to conclude his busy day at a mass meeting at the Bethlehem Baptist Church.

King is scheduled to arrive from Memphis, where he went today after a flight from New York.

what it was, there would have been a tragedy to blot the pages of history."

Another spokesman said the youths "didn't come to march—they were outside of our control and always have been."

(There were varying reports of how many youths broke away from the marchers to begin the rioting. United Press International said about 150 youths left the marchers. The Association Press used a figure of 20 to 30, but said others joined them later.)

It was the second outbreak of violence by the youths. Earlier, a group leaving a high school to join the march bombarded police with bricks and rocks for half an hour, but were allowed to go ahead and join the demonstration.

In the earlier incident, one Negro girl was slightly hurt when she was struck on the back of the head, and windows in a squad car were shattered.

This disturbance broke out when about 250 students left Hamilton High School to join King's mass march. The principal tried, in vain, to stop them. Police were called and the rock-throwing began when they arrived.

Police said this disturbance simmered down within 30 minutes and the students resumed their trek downtown to the gathering point for King's march.

The sanitation workers strike, which the marchers were supporting, has become a major racial issue in the city. Most of the garbage collectors are Negroes who claim the city is discriminating against them.

King's Memphis March Explodes Into Violence



A Memphis policeman levels his night stick on a looter during violence that disrupted a protest march.

Associated Press Photos by Jack Thornell

Rioters and Police Clash; Looter Dies

By Nicholas C. Chriss
Los Angeles Times

MEMPHIS, March 28 — Young Negro militants today turned a protest march led by Dr. Martin Luther King into a bloody riot which ravaged historic Beale Street and left at least one looter dead.

Police, provoked by a hard-core of about 30 militants who broke off from the march and started breaking windows and looting, struck out indiscriminately, beating back rioters with billy clubs, tear gas and chemical spray.

Dozens of policemen and marchers were injured as street warfare raged for several hours in a predominantly Negro section of the city just a few blocks from the Mississippi River.

More than 100 persons were arrested. Dr. King fled almost immediately. He was hustled away in a car by associates and reportedly met with them at an undisclosed location.

Gov. Buford Ellington sent 4000 National Guardsmen and 250 riot-trained State Troopers into the city and put another 8000 Guardsmen on alert at their home armories throughout Tennessee.

Mayor Henry Loeb ordered a 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. All city buses stopped running, although the violence remained confined to a few-block area where it broke out.

Emergency Law

The Tennessee Legislature in Nashville, the capital, sped to the Governor an emergency measure granting broad powers to declare a state of emergency. It would allow the mayor in any town of the State to impose curfew, prohibit sale of gasoline, liquor, beer and firearms, and take whatever steps he felt necessary to preserve order.

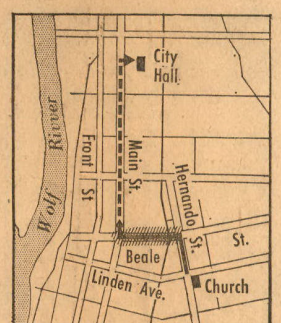
Baxton Bryant, head of the Tennessee Humans Relations Commission, said militant young Negroes had been seeking to start trouble for weeks, but had been restrained by Negro ministers.

"What the police did today has encouraged plenty of disciples of violence," said Bryant, a Caucasian.

A large segment of the City's Negro population had stayed home from work today to participate in the march and observe Dr. King's request for a one-day "strike" to force the city to come to terms with striking sanitation workers.

An estimated 10,000 Negro students did not show up for classes today.

The March of 6000 to 8000 persons began at 11 a.m. at See MEMPHIS, A6, Col. 1



March 29, 1968 The Washington Post

Memphis march began at Clayborn AME Church, and was to end in front of City Hall. Melee began when vanguard of column turned onto Main Street.



United Press International



United Press International



Associated Press

Memphis trash strike sympathizers begin gathering peacefully to march. But soon the scene changed to violence, with police retreating before a hail of missiles. A victim of the melee, one of many, lies unconscious in the street.

Protest March Flares Into Riot

MEMPHIS, From A1 other policeman became separated from fellow officers, and several Negro youths fell on him and beat him.

Dr. King and his monitors never were fully able to control the young militants who began shouting and jeering as the protest march began.

Dr. King was nearly mobbed and repeatedly jostled, and a look of fear crossed his face as the tension increased.

When the march had advanced about five blocks in about 15 minutes to Main Street, the violence erupted. Negro teenagers smashed store windows in the partly residential, partly commercial neighborhood and began looting.

About 250 city policemen and Shelby County patrol officers arrived on the scene in squad cars, sirens screaming.

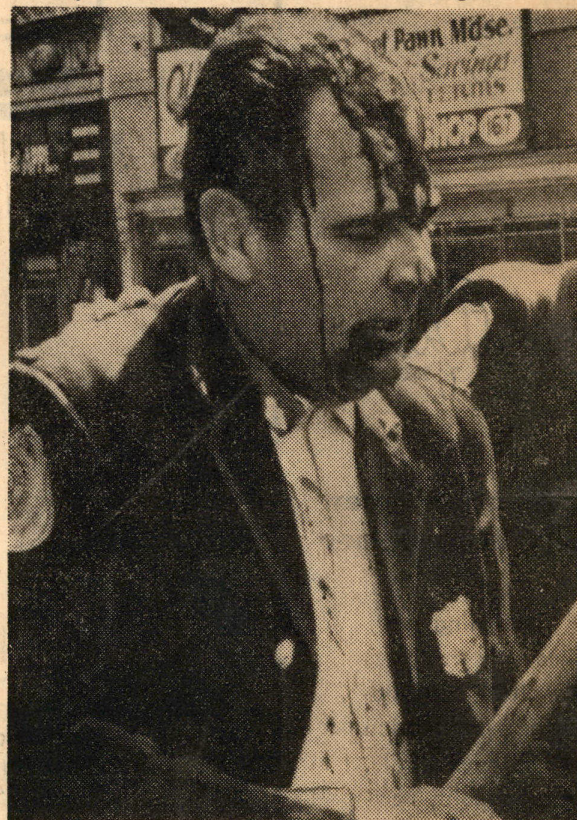
As officers moved in to scatter or arrest the trouble-makers, they were met with a bar-

By noon, three blocks of Beale Street, was in shambles, as was a short stretch of Main Street and the intersection of Hernando and Linden Streets, where the Clayborn Church is located.

Shards of glass littered the pavement on Beale, and half-dressed, mutilated store manikins lay in gutters.

[Police identified the looter who was killed as Larry Payne, 16, UPI reported. Officers said they caught him inside a store, and that he came out swinging a knife. He was killed by a shotgun blast.

[Much of the violence occurred after the main body of marchers had returned to the church. Instead of follow-



United Press International

Lt. D. W. Williams was one of several Memphis police officers beaten by rioters during outbreak of violence.

Protest March Flares Into Riot

MEMPHIS, From A1

the Clayborn Temple AME Church, with only two policemen present.

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When the march had advanced about five blocks in about 15 minutes to Main Street, the violence erupted. Negro teenagers smashed store windows in the partly residential, partly commercial neighborhood and began looting.

About 250 city policemen and Shelby County patrol officers arrived on the scene in squad cars, sirens screaming.

As officers moved in to scatter or arrest the trouble-makers, they were met with a barrage of stones, heavy planks and bottles.

Policemen barged into the march, firing tear gas and temporarily disabling spray and lashing out with their clubs.

Policemen Follow

As the marchers retreated back along Main, onto Beale and, in many instances, toward the Clayborn Church, officers followed, raining blows upon them.

Men, women and youths stumbled beneath the police clubs.

A newsman watched from a few feet away as eight policemen piled on a middle-aged Negro man and struck him at least 20 times on the head and body as they cursed him.

Nearby, other officers cornered four other Negro men and struck them until blood spurted from head wounds.

"Please don't beat me any more," a young Negro male pleaded through bloody lips.

A young girl in a pink dress, who could not keep up with other fleeing marchers, was jabbed in the back with police nightsticks. One officer yelled at her: "Black bitch, get out of here."

Officer Is Beaten

Two officers pulled another policeman off a Negro man he was pummeling. The restrained policeman gasped at the other two officers. "I'd have killed that son-of-a-bitch if you hadn't pulled me back."

Farther down the street, an-

other policeman became separated from fellow officers, and several Negro youths fell on him and beat him.

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[Much of the violence occurred after the main body of marchers had returned to the church. Instead of following their leaders inside, some of the young Negroes began throwing rocks and bottles at police officers, who replied by lobbing tear gas shells at them. Numerous pawn shops, liquor stores and other businesses were looted by the youths during the hit-and-run raids which followed.]

Loudspeaker Plea

From the church's loudspeaker system a deep voice, directed at officers lobbing tear gas cannisters into the chapel, pleaded:

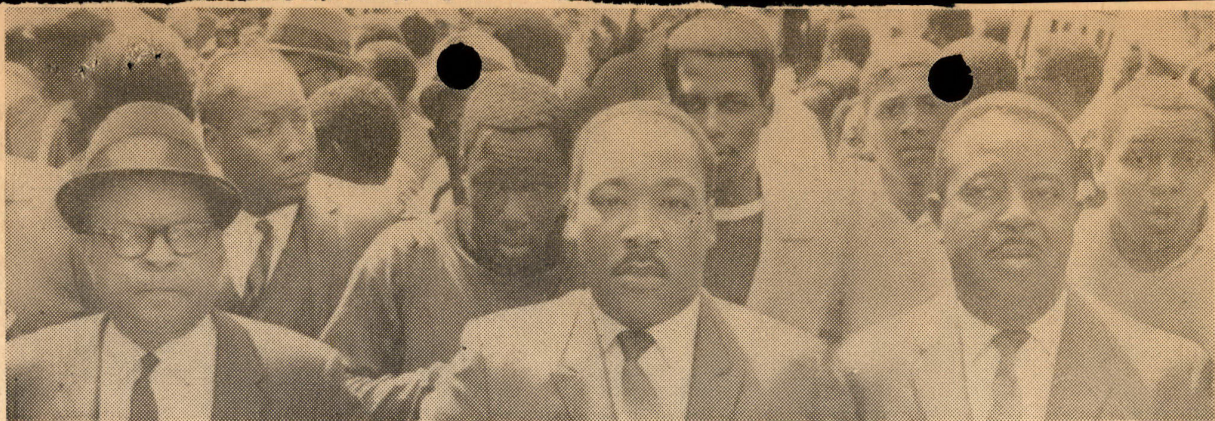
"Don't gas us no more. We're going to leave. Put that [tear gas] gun down. Don't shoot. Don't you know this is a house of the Lord?"

Officers withheld their tear gas fire, some persons emerged from the church and headed home.

The City has been using nonstrikers, new employees and supervisory personnel to continue partial garbage collection during the seven-week strike which, at the very outset, was fraught with racial overtones because nearly all the strikers are Negro.

The sanitation workers walked off the job after the City rejected their demands for higher pay, city recognition of their union—the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees—and payroll deduction of union dues.

Civil rights leaders accused the executive branch of the city government of showing "bad faith" during negotiations.



Associated Press

Dr. Martin Luther King starts march flanked by the Rev. H. Ralph Jackson (left) and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy.



Looter leaps over debris in ransacked Memphis store.

*Tickless Murkin - Possible Demonstrations
for 4/4/69 Div. 5 (Ed Glass)*

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MURKIN

April 4, 1969
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Song

(MURKIN TRIAL)
 ATLANTA--AIDES OF THE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PLAN TO STAGE A MOCK TRIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., DURING THE TRIAL OF JAMES EARL RAY TO "CONVICT" THE NATION AT LARGE OF KING'S ASSASSINATION.
 THE REV. JAMES BEVEL WOULD BE CHIEF PROSECUTOR IN THE TRIAL, WHICH WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN THE MANNER OF BRITISH PHILOSOPHER BERTRAND RUSSELL'S SWEDISH TRIBUNAL TRIALS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR VIETNAM WAR POLICIES.
 KING'S SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HAS NOT OFFICIALLY APPROVED THE MOCK TRIAL, HOWEVER, IT WAS EXPECTED TO DO SO NEXT WEEK, SCLC SOURCES SAID.
 THE MOCK TRIAL PROBABLY WOULD LAST FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK AND TAKE PLACE IN MASON TEMPLE, A LARGE CHURCH ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MEMPHIS WHERE KING MADE HIS LAST SPEECH THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS MURDER.
 BEVEL AND OTHER SCLC STAFFERS HOPED TO HOLD A LARGE MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS DURING THE MOCK TRIAL WITH KING'S WIDOW, MRS. CORETTA KING, AND HIS SUCCESSOR IN SCLC, THE REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY, LEADING THE MARCHERS.
 RAY'S TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGES IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 7. IT HAS BEEN POSTPONED TWICE, ONCE FROM NOV. 12, AND ONCE FROM MARCH 5.
 BEVEL BELIEVES RAY SHOULD NOT BE CONVICTED OF THE MURDER UNLESS ALL THE NATION IS CONVICTED OF IT, ON THE GROUNDS OF RACISM.
 2/28--EG814PES

(COURT)
 WASHINGTON--TWO MEMPHIS NEWSPAPER REPORTERS TODAY ASKED THE SUPREME COURT TO PUT A STOP TO WHAT THEY CALLED A "UNIQUE METHOD OF CENSORSHIP" DEvised BY THE JUDGE IN THE JAMES EARL RAY TRIAL.
 THE TWO ARE CHARLES EDMUNDSON OF THE MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL AND ROY HAMILTON OF THE MEMPHIS PRESS SCIMITAR, BOTH SCRIPPS-HOWARD PUBLICATIONS.
 THEY WERE FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF COURT BY SHELBY COUNTY CRIMINAL JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO PRESIDE ON APRIL 7 OVER THE TRIAL OF RAY, ACCUSED OF THE MURDER OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IN MEMPHIS IN APRIL, 1968.
 2/28--GE656P

UPI-48

(MOCK)

ATLANTA--THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE PLANS FOR A MOCK TRIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., CONVICTING THE NATION FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

THE MOCK TRIAL WAS PROPOSED TO THE SCLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN FEBRUARY. "THE ORGANIZATION IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA, AND WE'RE GOING TO DISCUSS IT NEXT WEEK IN DETAIL," SAID REV. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, SCLC PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

OTHER SCLC SOURCES SAID THE GENERAL PLANS HAVE ALREADY MET WITH APPROVAL BUT DETAILS MUST STILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP'S TOP STAFF.

THE TRIAL WOULD BE HELD DURING THE STATE TRIAL OF THE LATE NEGRO LEADER'S ALLEGED ASSASSIN, JAMES EARL RAY.

3/1--JD:036AES

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UPI-48

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3/1--JD1056AES

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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UPI-198

(KING TRIAL)

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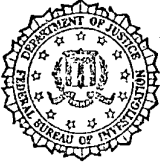
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2/28--EG814PES

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama
February 27, 1969

Munkin
April 4
ACTIVITIES

Re: COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

A confidential source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on February 26, 1969 that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) held a meeting of its city conveners in Atlanta, Georgia on February 25, 1969 at the Inter-denominational Theological Center on Beckwith Street. Source furnished the following information concerning this meeting.

There were approximately thirty persons in attendance. A few of these people were SCLC officials from Atlanta. The majority of the persons present were SCLC city conveners. However, five of the city conveners were absent.

The meeting lasted from approximately 11:10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and was divided into two sessions. Rev. Andrew Young, SCLC official, presided in the morning session, and Rev. T. Y. Rogers, SCLC official, presided at the afternoon session. Rev. Ralph Abernathy, President of SCLC, spoke, as well as Rev. Calvin Morris, official of SCLC's Operation Bread Basket, Chicago, Illinois, and Rev. William Hollins, SCLC staff member. A discussion was held on observing the anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1969.

From April 4 through April 7, 1969 a commemorative vigil will be held at the United Nations in New York, led by Rev. Wyatt T. Walker.

On April 4, 1969 parents will be called upon to keep children out of school all over the United States.

ENCLOSURE

Re: COMMUNIST INFILTRATION,
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

From 6:00 p.m. through 6:04 p.m. on April 4, people will be asked across the country to pause and stop all movement during the time Rev. King was assassinated. Food chain stores will be asked to suspend business nationally on April 4.

April 5, 1969 will be designated "National Tag Day". Contributions will be solicited for Martin Luther King tags to secure funds for SCLC.

April 6, 1969 will be "Black Easter". People will be urged to make only necessary purchases, point up poverty situations in the United States. A pageant is planned for Chicago by leaders of Operation Bread Basket in which Dr. King will be symbolically raised from the dead.

April 7, 1969 through April 12, 1969 will be "Days of Confrontation", of which Rev. T. Y. Rogers is National Coordinator. Places of confrontation are to be decided by local groups in thirty cities where city conveners are stationed or in other cities which are likely to be riot areas. SCLC plans to avoid future rioting by confronting injustices in educational systems, welfare, law enforcement, politics, militarism, etc. The program will be continued to secure petitions to have January 15 declared a legal holiday in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.

Several SCLC officials have been subpoenaed to testify in the trial of James Earl Ray. They will not appear, but Chauncey Eskridge and Jesse Jackson of SCLC will testify. All other SCLC personnel will stay out of Memphis.

At one point during the program, one of the speakers criticized the leadership of Dr. Abernathy of SCLC and noted what the organization needed was stronger leadership. Rev. Abernathy was sitting in the meeting at this time and heard the remarks; however, after Rev. Abernathy spoke to the group, he was strongly and vigorously applauded. Among other things, he said that SCLC could not live in the dream of Dr. King alone but that all members of the organization

Re: COMMUNIST INFILTRATION,
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

must have their own thoughts and dreams for the future. He said that Dr. King organized SCLC and carried out a necessary program in his time, but if SCLC is to continue to advance, all of its leaders must keep up with the times and anticipate the needs of the future.

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UPI-61

(KING)

ATLANTA--THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS MAKING PLANS FOR A "NATIONWIDE CONFRONTATION" BEGINNING APRIL 4, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY, KING'S SUCCESSOR, SCLC PRESIDENT REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY, DESCRIBED THE OCCASION AS A WEEK-LONG PROGRAM OF "COMMEMORATION AND CONFRONTATION."

THE APRIL 4 PROGRAM WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE PRAYER VIGILS AND SERVICES FOCUSING ON KING'S DEXTER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MONTGOMERY, ALA. WHERE HE BEGAN HIS CIVIL RIGHTS WORK, ABERNATHY SAID.

2/26--SW1214PES

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama
February 24, 1969

RE: COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

A confidential source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past reported on February 24, 1969, that a Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) "Memorial Mobilization Meeting" was held on February 23, 1969, at the Gaston Motel, Fifth Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama. Hosea Williams, Bernard Lee, Andrew Young, T. Y. Rogers and Stoney Cooks, SCLC employees, conducted the meeting which touched upon Negro political representation in Alabama and a march on Montgomery, Alabama, to be conducted April 4, 1969. This source stated that the memorial march will be a statewide demonstration to be conducted at Montgomery, Alabama, on April 4, 1969, and Negro college students will be encouraged to participate in this march on the capitol. SCLC intends to complete the details regarding the march at a meeting which will be held in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 4, 1969.

A second confidential source of this Bureau who has furnished reliable information in the past reported on February 24, 1969, that a meeting sponsored by SCLC was held at the A. G. Gaston Motel in Birmingham. Hosea Williams and Andrew Young, SCLC officers, were in charge. There were representatives from six or seven counties in Alabama. The main topic of discussion was to prepare for a march on Montgomery, Alabama, April 4, 1969, to commemorate the death of Rev. M. L. King, Jr. Another primary topic of discussion was the planning of an overall movement to be set up in Alabama to secure better Negro political participation inasmuch as Hosea Williams feels that one-third of the people in public office in Alabama should be black, according to the population of the state. A series of programs to deal with this question will be mapped out on

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**RE: COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

March 8, 1969, at St. Judes Catholic Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Tommy Wrenn, a subsistence worker for SCLC, spoke out at this meeting, and using profanity cursed the white people, calling them rats, etc. He proposed a disruption in the steel plants in Alabama. He suggested that the steel workers call in sick on April 4, 1969. He asked all steel workers to meet with him after the meeting was over. It was noted that about fifteen Negroes met with Wrenn after the meeting.

Source advised that also present at this meeting were Stoney Cooks, SCLC Youth Director, and Dr. J. L. Cashin, Negro dentist from Huntsville, Alabama, and leader of the National Democratic Party of Alabama. Peter Hall, a Birmingham attorney, was present, as well as Fred Gray, who is from Tuskegee and Montgomery, Alabama. Gray said he favored this proposed march on Montgomery, but he wanted to know who would be in charge and exactly what they would do. He said that the wrong leadership in this matter could cause trouble.



*In Reply, Please Refer to
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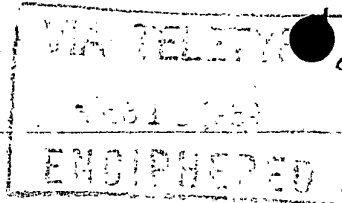
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama
February 24, 1969

Title	COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Character	INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Reference	Memorandum dated February 24, 1969, at Birmingham, Alabama.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



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

11:10 PM URGENT 2-19-69 JWE
TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM
FROM ATLANTA

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE (SCLC), IS - C.

RE BIRMINGHAM AND BUREAU TELETYPES FEBRUARY NINETEEN,
SIXTYNINE AND ATLANTA AIRTEL AND LHM TO BUREAU FEBRUARY
THIRTEEN SIXTYNINE CAPTIONED RE ABOVE.

ON NIGHT FEBRUARY NINETEEN, SIXTYNINE AT ONE THREE EIGHT
SEVEN - R ADVISED HE WAS NOT AWARE AS OF THAT TIME THAT SCLC
HAD FINALIZED ANY SPECIFIC PLANS FOR APRIL FOUR, SIXTYNINE OR
THAT BASIC NATURE OF ACTIVITY CONTEMPLATED FOR APRIL FOUR WAS
DIFFERENT THAN THAT INDICATED IN REBUTEL AND RE LHM. ATLANTA
WILL FOLLOW THIS MATTER AND IMMEDIATELY FORWARD PERTINENT
DETAILS.

RECEIVED: 11:14 PM LRC

☒ XEROX *Lickles Murkin - Press Release*
6/24 *Vol. 5*

☒ REVIEWED *7/11/77 mer*
no excusions necessary

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MURKIN

Ray Denied New Trial On Appeal

CINCINNATI, May 10 (AP)—James Earl Ray's appeal of his guilty plea in the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was denied today by the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The unanimous decision concluded that the U.S. District Court for the western district of Tennessee was correct in refusing Ray's motion for a new trial.

The district court had said Ray failed to prove that his defense attorneys, Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman, provided ineffective assistance or improper investigation or that Ray was induced to plead guilty.

The appeals court said Ray's testimony at a hearing before his 1969 guilty plea made it plain he understood his actions. He received a 99-year sentence.

Ray had argued that the attorneys were more interested in profiting from books about the case than in defending him. The judges said they disapproved of the fee arrangement between Ray and the lawyers, but said it did not prove he did not receive a good defense.

King was shot to death on a motel balcony in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Ray was arrested in London, England, June 8, 1968. He is now in the state prison at Nashville.

While still in England, Ray hired Hanes, a Birmingham, Ala., attorney, to defend him. Ray said that before their first interview, Hanes made an agreement with author William Bradford Huie to write a book and articles about the case before the trial. The funds were to go for Ray's legal fees.

Ray said he fired Hanes two days before his trial because he believed Hanes was more concerned about book royalties than about a defense.

Ray then hired Texas attorney Percy Foreman, who made a similar agreement with Huie, and Foreman advised Ray to plead guilty.

The appeals court said evidence indicated that Ray was provided with a case investigation by Hanes and an investigator, and that Foreman properly investigated the case as well. Both attorneys were aware of alleged "weaknesses" in the state's case, the court said.

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The New York Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
The Los Angeles Times _____

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Ray Again Fails in Retrial Effort

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

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

King was assassinated April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. Ray, who pleaded guilty to first degree murder on March 10, 1969, is now serving a 99-year sentence at the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville.

Ever since entering the guilty plea, Ray has been seeking to withdraw that plea and to stand trial.

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 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____

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Theories on King Murder Tied by Common Threads

This is the second of two articles written by John M. Crewdson and based on reporting by Mr. Crewdson, Ben A. Franklin, Nicholas M. Horrock and Martin Waldron.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1—Most of the theories of a conspiracy surrounding the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, are bound by a common thread—the view that unnamed “interests,” southern, reactionary and white, had sensed in Dr. King’s increasingly militant civil rights activities a new economic and political threat that precipitated his murder at their hands.

A second common thread has been the skepticism of many over the intervening seven years that James Earl Ray, a small-time holdup man with a reputation for bumbling bad luck and a long string of jail sentences, could by himself have planned and carried out both the crime and an escape that stretched over four countries and two months before he was finally captured in London.

Charges that Mr. Ray had not acted alone began to mount almost from the moment that Dr. King, his spinal cord severed by a hollow-nosed rifle bullet, died in the emergency room where he had been taken from the Lorraine Motel, in downtown Memphis, Tenn.

According to officials and former officials of the Justice Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation, the bureau has checked out various assertions of such a conspiracy that have come to its attention and has found virtually all to be without substance. A team of New York Times reporters spent six weeks investigating

the case, also without being able to establish any firm evidence of a conspiracy.

But even without access to Government files, which remain largely closed, or to Mr. Ray, who refused to be interviewed, the Times found puzzling gaps and inconsistencies in the evidence so far made public by the F.B.I., the Justice Department and other agencies. Even some Justice Department lawyers have been so concerned that someone possibly involved in the assassination may have gone unpunished that they have twice tried to induce the convicted killer, Mr. Ray, to tell what he knows to a Federal grand jury.

Testimony Refused

On both occasions, first in 1971 and again last year, Mr. Ray, who has privately maintained that he was but an unwitting part of a larger plot against Dr. King’s life, sent word to the Justice Department through his lawyers that he would not testify.

Mr. Ray’s lawyers conceded that their client may, as the Justice Department suspected, have “some knowledge” concerning the involvement of others in the shooting, but they say that his refusal to talk stems from his fear of reprisals from co-conspirators. Such reprisals, they add, could easily be carried out inside the walls of the Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville, where the 47-year-old Mr. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence.

Although Mr. Ray pleaded guilty in a 144-minute pre-trial proceeding on March 10, 1969, he attempted to retract that plea within a few days, saying it had been made under undue pressure from his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston. Mr. Ray now has before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit a motion for a new trial.

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald Jr., a Washington lawyer and foun-

der of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, who is now Mr. Ray’s chief counsel, asserted in a recent interview that if a new trial were granted he could present a case that Mr. Ray was nowhere near the Memphis motel at the time of the assassination.

Mr. Ray had previously told his lawyers that he had been outside a rooming house adjacent to the motel when Dr. King was killed, although he had not known of the murder at the time.

The Tennessee prosecutors produced a witness, Charles Q. Stevens, who placed Mr. Ray inside the house at the time the shot struck Dr. King—a shot he said he had heard but had not seen—fired from the boarding house bathroom.

Mr. Stevens later asked for, but did not receive, the \$100,000 reward offered for information leading to the conviction of Dr. King’s murderer. The reward that has never been paid to anyone.

Conspirators’ Names

Mr. Fensterwald said that his efforts to gain an acquittal for Mr. Ray probably would not produce the names of any co-conspirators. His client, Mr. Fensterwald said, “has no interest in solving the crime.”

Several officials and former officials of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, which was given the responsibility for investigating the murder almost from the moment it occurred, have become increasingly convinced over the last seven years that Mr. Ray, despite his protests, was Dr. King’s assassin.

And even those officials who doubt Mr. Ray’s sole responsibility attributed their beliefs to “hunches” and “gut feelings,” not to hard evidence.

In 1971 and in 1974, partly because of their own doubts and partly in response to the unofficial appeals by Mr. Fensterwald, Civil Rights Division officials sifted and resisted the mass of evidence—enough to

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full-to packing crates gathered by the F.B.I. during its intensive 1968 hunt for Dr. King's killer.

But after these investigations turned up nothing substantially new, and in light of Mr. Ray's persistent refusal to talk about possible co-conspirators, a number of Justice Department lawyers felt more convinced that before that he had acted alone.

Last summer, for example the Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. King's successor as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Dick Gergory, the comedian, who has become interested in assassination conspiracies, asked Stanley Pottinger, head of the Civil Rights Division, to re-examine the two most persistent conspiracy reports.

Re-Evaluation

But the Justice Department is re-evaluating several aspects of the case that have aroused the most interest and concern, including two claims by individuals that they had been part of or knew about the effort to kill Dr. King.

The first was the assertion of Robert Byron Watson, a former employee of an Atlanta art gallery that he had overheard his employers plotting to kill Dr. King a few days before the assassination.

The second was the assertion of a convicted confidence man, Clifford H. Andrews, that he had been part of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King, for which he had been promised, but had never received, \$200,000. Because he was double-crossed, Mr. Andrews was reported to have said, he was willing to name the other conspirators in return for various considerations, including immunity from prosecution and an undescribed sum of money.

The Civil Rights Division concluded in a memorandum sent recently to Attorney General Edward H. Levi that neither the Watson nor Andrews report warrants a re-opening of the King investigation, and Mr. Fensterwald, Mr. Ray's lawyer, agreed in a recent interview that both men appeared to be without credibility.

Third Assertion

The Justice Department, despite its findings in the Watson and Andrews matters, is nonetheless looking into a third such assertion involving a group of visitors to an Atlanta jail who purportedly were overheard, six months before the assassination, attempting to solicit the help of inmates in arranging for Dr. King's murder.

While Justice officials see Mr. Ray's refusal to talk as the most significant indication of

that conclusion is reinforced by his story to defense lawyers that he was "set up" to take the blame for the killings by a mysterious French Canadian named Raoul.

Mr. Ray's story has changed over the years, and parts of it are demonstrably untrue, but its essence is that he first encountered the man in a Montreal bar a few months after his escape from the Missouri prison at Jefferson City on April 23, 1967.

He spent most of the year between his escape and the King assassination, Mr. Ray says, working for Raoul, whom the Canadian authorities have never found and whom patrons at the Neptune Bar, where Mr. Ray says the two men conducted their initial business, do not remember, just as they do not remember Mr. Ray.

'Arms Sale' Planned

It was Raoul, Mr. Ray has said, who induced him to purchase a .30-06 rifle at a Birmingham sporting goods shop and carry it to Memphis in his white Mustang, also financed by Raoul. The weapon, Mr. Ray says, was to be shown to prospective customers in an arms sale.

Mr. Ray told his first lawyer, Arthur Hanes Sr., the former Birmingham Mayor, that he was instructed by Raoul on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, to check into the rooming house opposite the Lorraine Motel. He said he was eventually joined by the Canadian, who asked him to leave the rifle and wait in a downstairs bar.

Mr. Hanes recalled in a recent telephone conversation that Mr. Ray had said he had done as he was asked, but, growing restive, had stepped out of the bar in time to see Raoul running down the stairs to the street, where he dropped the rifle and Mr. Ray's other belongings and climbed into the Mustang.

Mr. Ray, who insists that he had no knowledge of Dr. King's murder until he heard about it on a car radio sometime later, said he drove off with Raoul in the back seat, hidden by a bedsheet. After four blocks, Mr. Ray said, Raoul jumped out of the car and vanished and Mr. Ray continued on to Mississippi.

Mr. Ray is reported to have since changed his story, maintaining without elaboration that he was some distance from the rooming house when the fatal shot struck Dr. King, but the discrepancies between elements of either version and the facts cast doubt on the story in its entirety.

For one thing, none of the patrons gathered that afternoon in Jim's Grill, a bar on the ground floor of the rooming house, were able to recall for F.B.I. agents having seen a man resembling Mr. Ray.

attention that Raoul had joined him in Room 58, which, as "John Willard," he had rented a half-hour earlier, is called to question by the failure of anyone, including Mrs. Frank Brewer, the rooming house manager, to recall having been asked by a stranger for the room in which "Mr. Willard" was registered.

Apart from the doubtful story of Raoul, no independent evidence of Mr. Ray's involvement in a conspiracy has turned up in seven years, and the record of his movements before and after the killing of Dr. King includes his securing for himself such things as the rifle and a bogus Canadian passport, which would more logically have been provided by co-conspirators.

Still, the suspicion of a conspiracy persists in the minds of many, from Harold Weisberg, the former Maryland chicken farmer who has styled himself an "independent investigator" of several recent assassinations, to the former high-ranking Justice Department official who recently reflected on the evidence and decided that Mr. Ray was "probably not a solo."

Although there is some basis for such suspicions, they have been founded in large part on misinformation, and confusion over erroneous "facts" picked up after the King killing and passed on over the years, gaining a kind of credence through repetition.

A principal example is the belief, widely held, that the Federal Government uncovered some early evidence of a conspiracy that it subsequently suppressed. That belief was prompted by the warrant, obtained by the Justice Department for Mr. Ray's arrest three weeks after the King assassination, which charged that he had conspired in the killing with a man "whom he alleged to be his brother."

Conspiracy Alleged

Since ordinary murder is not a Federal crime, the Justice Department was able to claim jurisdiction in the case only by alleging the existence of a conspiracy to violate Dr. King's civil rights, and the warrant charging Mr. Ray with that offense was obtained on the strength of his statement to the Birmingham sporting goods clerk that he was purchasing a rifle in anticipation of a hunting trip with his "brother."

Much speculation has also centered on how Mr. Ray obtained the five military cartridges found in the bundle dropped outside the Memphis rooming house, with the implication that he might have been

ment connections.

But according to the 1972 edition of Cartridges of the World by Frank C. Barnes, a large quantity of surplus military .30-06 cartridges of the type found in the bundle had, by 1968, been commercially available in this country for some years.

While there is no conclusive proof that Mr. Ray killed Dr. King—no one reports having seen him or anyone else fire the fatal shot—a rifle of the type used in the assassination was found shortly afterward outside the rooming house, and Mr. Ray's fingerprints were on it.

He had indisputably purchased the rifle, and three hours before the murder, rented a room in the house. Immediately after the shooting, he fled from Memphis to Canada, England, Portugal and back to England before he was captured.

There remain, however, some perplexing questions about the Ray case that make many of those familiar with its detail reluctant to conclude that Mr. Ray was a lone assassin. As one former Justice Department lawyer who worked on the case typically remarked, "The other assassinations made sense in a kind of mad way—the James Earl Ray thing never made any sense."

Foremost among the mysteries are Mr. Ray's motives for suddenly leaving a girlfriend and offers of a bartending job in Los Angeles in March, 1968, to drive across the country to kill Dr. King.

The Justice Department is addressing this question, but the evidence it has assembled is contradictory. There are some indications that Mr. Ray was a virulent racist with a particular antagonism toward Dr. King, and other signs that he was a nonviolent man who neither liked nor detested blacks and had no particular feeling about Dr. King.

Oddities of Case

The F.B.I., one former official said, did not address the question of motive, nor was it "particularly" puzzled at the time about the oddities of the case. One of these was the discovery that Mr. Ray's rifle, when abandoned, contained only one empty cartridge in the chamber and none in the four-round clip. That would suggest that the assassination had been a one-shot, all-or-nothing proposition—risky at best for an experienced rifeman, much more so for Mr. Ray, whose skill at shooting was evidenced only by an Army marksman-ship medal.

Nor is there a convincing explanation why Mr. Ray—if the killer was Mr. Ray—dropped the rifle and his other belong-

ings on the street in full view in front of the rooming house, rather than secreting them upstairs or tossing them out a window.

The F.B.I. concluded that dropping the rifle on the street, where it was found by a Memphis policeman within seven minutes, was simply typical of Mr. Ray's career as a bungler. He had previously been arrested after having fallen out of a getaway car onto the street, having run headlong into a blind alley and having dropped his bankbook, complete with name and address, at the scene of a crime.

Escape a Mystery

Other anomalies abound. The details of Mr. Ray's escape from the Missouri penitentiary are unclear. And no one can explain why the "wanted" flyer issued routinely after his absence was discovered contained examples of fingerprints that were not his.

Nor is there a convincing explanation of how Mr. Ray, after making his way by bus from Atlanta to Toronto, secured the aliases Paul Bridgman and Ramon George Sneyd. They were residents of the Toronto area who bore a resemblance to Mr. Ray, who was carrying a Canadian passport

in Sneyd's name when he was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport on June 8, 1968.

There are a number of similar questions, each in itself perhaps explicable as the result of luck or happenstance, but together the substance of a deeper mystery.

For example, why did Mr. Ray exchange after one day the first gun he purchased from the Birmingham gun shop, obtaining a more powerful expensive weapon, when the first would have served his purpose equally well?

But there are larger questions, and one of the most significant is how Mr. Ray, a stranger to Memphis who had arrived there less than 24 hours before Dr. King was killed, was able to learn that the black leader was staying at the Lorraine Motel.

Although it has been widely reported that the Memphis newspapers of April 4 carried articles to that effect, and even photographs of him standing on the balcony outside his room, no such articles or photographs appeared until April 5, the day after Dr. King was shot.

Source of Funds

But the central question—the one on which the theory of any conspiracy turns and for which the F.B.I. candidly admits it has no answer—is where Mr. Ray obtained the thousands of dollars he used to finance his travels through at least five countries, his \$2,000 Mustang, his \$500 rifle and his habit of spending long hours in bars.

One Justice Department official said recently, "We simply don't know how he got his money." But he noted that Mr. Ray's robbery of a London savings bank four days before his arrest seemed to be an indication that he was not being supplied with funds by other conspirators.

The F.B.I. investigated again all unsolved bank robberies at the time of Dr. King's murder but was not able to link Mr. Ray to any of them. The bureau theorizes, but cannot prove, that he sustained himself with other small robberies in the United States.

There are many more unanswered questions, but the clues to their solution lie not in the files of the F.B.I., but in

the recesses of the mind of assassins—Lee Harvey Oswald and Sirhan B. Sirhan among them—whose motives will be decided to cooperate with the Justice Department and has some pertinent information to offer once he mounts the witness stand, his name appears day, "There are still people destined to remain among the ranks of the other American Booth."

Study of Dr. King's Death Finds No Links to F.B.I

This is the first of two articles on renewed questions about the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was written by John M. Crewdson and is based on reporting by Mr. Crewdson, Ben A. Franklin, Nicholas M. Horrock and Martin Waidron.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—For an agency that could prosecute nearly eight years the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has puzzled many private citizens and even some Government officials who were skeptical that James Earl Ray, an escaped ex-convict with no obvious antipathy toward the black civil rights leader, had been the lone assassin, despite Mr. Ray's own admission of guilt in court.

Last month when the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence disclosed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had carried out a secret six-year effort to discredit Dr. King publicly, questions were suddenly being asked in official quarters: Might the F.B.I. itself have been involved in some way in the murder of Dr. King at a Memphis motel on April 4, 1968?

Pressure for an investigation of the F.B.I.'s harassment of Dr. King was immediate. The Senate committee considered extending its own investigation but decided to leave it to some

agency that could prosecute if evidence warranted. Within days, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division opened an examination—the first ever—of the 96-volume archive the F.B.I. had compiled on Dr. King. About the same time, The New York Times began its own inquiry into the case. Although limited by Mr. Ray's refusal to talk with reporters and by lack of access to the still-classified

Justice Department and F.B.I. files, reporters investigated many questions about Mr. Ray's possible motives, movements, money and connection and the activities of the F.B.I.

After numerous interviews over six weeks with present and former officials of the Justice Department and the F.B.I., lawyers and others familiar with the case, The Times found no evidence that would implicate the F.B.I. either directly or indirectly in the killing.

Sources familiar with the investigation by the Senate committee asserted that the

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had found no evidence of F.B.I. complicity in the position of the King file they had examined.

The Justice Department's re-examination of the case continues. But J. Stanley Pottinger, head of the Civil Rights Division, said in an interview that so far his inquiry had turned up no evidence whatever of F.B.I. involvement in the killing.

But many other questions remain open. The Justice Department's investigation itself is charged with a broader task than merely finding out whether the F.B.I. had a hand in the murder. It is also trying to determine the extent of the "dirty tricks" played against Dr. King and whether any of them involved illegalities. The inquiry is checking the F.B.I. files for possible dereliction in the bureau's original investigation of the murder or for evidence of a conspiracy itself.

Only one occasion has thus far come to light, according to Justice Department and F.B.I. sources, in which the bureau's efforts to discredit Dr. King overlapped with his investigation of his murder.

In that instance, which appears to be of no consequence, the F.B.I.'s Intelligence Division provided to its General Investigative Division the name of a Los Angeles dentist with whose estranged wife Dr. King had been filmed by F.B.I. intelligence agents entering and leaving motel rooms as well as overheard talking on the telephone, according to the sources.

The F.B.I.'s assassination investigators, considering the possibility that Dr. King's murder might have been arranged by a jealous husband, interviewed both the dentist and his wife and concluded that the man knew nothing of the crime.

Preconceptions Denied

Although none of them cited that particular incident as an example, many of the F.B.I. personnel who talked to The Times emphasized that they approached the King murder case with no preconceptions about whether a conspiracy had existed.

As one put it, "We didn't have the slightest damned idea who or what" was behind the killing at the outset, and he noted that the F.B.I. had officially considered a number of possibilities, including the likelihood that the killer was an agent of a foreign power, but discarded such theories as contradictory evidence mounted.

So far, the Civil Rights Division lawyers say they have found only one item in the

96-volume file that caused them any alarm—an F.B.I. proposal, made late March or early April 1968, to point out to friendly "media sources" in Memphis that Dr. King, the country's foremost integrationist, had taken a room there a few days earlier at the ex-White-owned Rivermont Motel overlooking the Mississippi River.

On March 28, 1968, Dr. King and other officials of his Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a Civil Rights Organization, went to Memphis, to lead a march in support of striking municipal garbage workers. The dispute quickly turned into a violent protest when some demonstrators began smashing shop windows.

Dr. King and his aides retreated from the violence to the Rivermont, several blocks from the black-owned Lorraine

Hotel and Motel in a rundown section of the city, where the King party had previously stayed.

Dr. King left Memphis the day after the disastrous march with a promise to mount another protest as soon as tempers cooled, and when he did return, on April 3—the day before he died—he and his entourage installed themselves at the Lorraine, on whose open-air balcony, he was shot down the following evening.

The discovery of the F.B.I. proposal to embarrass Dr. King publicly for having stopped at the white-owned Rivermont the week before opened the possibility in the minds of Justice Department lawyers that the F.B.I. might have been indirectly responsible for, or even tried to engineer, Dr. King's staying at the Lorraine Motel.

But the Justice Department's investigation of the matter, which has included interviews with F.B.I. agents responsible for the proposal and a review of the Memphis press during the period in question, has produced, one official said, no evidence that the F.B.I. even tried to encourage the publication of such a story.

Nothing, the official said, appeared in either of the Memphis newspapers, The Commercial Appeal or The Press-Scimitar, taunting Mr. King for his brief stay at the Rivermont.

Moreover, former aides to Dr. King have told the Department that his party did not go to the Rivermont Motel of its own volition in the first place but was taken there by the Memphis police, who believed it the most secure place for Dr. King to stay until the rioting abated.

One facet of the Justice Department's current internal re-

view is the question of whether the animosity evidenced by J. Edgar Hoover, the late F.B.I. director, and other high bureau officials toward Dr. King created a climate within the bureau that resulted in an investigation of his death that was not thorough and expeditious enough.

A number of former F.B.I. agents, many of them involved in the assassination investigation, disclosed that many field agents knew that Mr. Hoover and his chief aides had been angered by Dr. King's criticism of the bureau's civil rights activities in the South, had expressed offense at his personal morals and were concerned

that his association with purported Communist sympathizers might give the American Communist Party a degree of control over black voters in the South.

Although knowledge of harassments aimed at Dr. King was confirmed to top officials at F.B.I. headquarters, some lesser executives and field agents knew of the minor disruptions and physical and electronic surveillance of which he was a target.

But these persons and others, including Justice Department officials who read the product of the F.B.I.'s investigation as it flowed into headquarters in 1968, the bureau's efforts to find Dr. King's killer had been unstinting.

There is, however, at least one indication that the F.B.I. investigation may have been tardy in following up an important lead—a fingerprint clue.

Several former F.B.I. and Justice Department officials noted that whatever Mr. Hoover's views might have been, the pressure on the bureau to find the killer had been intense, both from Attorney General Ramsey Clark and President Johnson. One former official called Mr. Clark "a heavy hammer." Another said President Johnson "was quite provoked at us" because it took the F.B.I. two months and four days to find Mr. Ray.

'We Had to Solve It'

One former F.B.I. official with responsibility for the King investigation noted that charges at the time by some blacks and radical whites that the bureau could be expected to hold back on the case "worked the other way."

"People were saying we wouldn't crack the case because Hoover didn't like King," the former official said, "and he [Hoover] made it very apparent [within the F.B.I.] that we had to solve it."

"We followed shotgun leads, wasting manpower and money,

like it was going out of style," the man said, and another retired F.B.I. official, also closely involved with the investigation, echoed that contention.

"This is a case," he said, "where we went all out. We followed not only the leads that were logical or even semiplausible, but a lot that were simply crazy, absolutely just silly. We followed them all."

The F.B.I.'s hunt for Dr. King's killer was one of the most comprehensive "special," or high-priority, investigations in the bureau's history, involving at its peak some 3,000 agents—then about half the total number—more than 30,000 interviews of individuals believed to have knowledge of the case, and a cost of nearly \$1.5 million over two months.

But some former Justice Department officials, and even a few retired F.B.I. agents, conceded that once the bureau's investigation narrowed to Mr. Ray's whereabouts, some evidence that did not seem to lead directly to Mr. Ray, but which might have provided clues to a conspiracy, might have gone overlooked.

One former F.B.I. official echoed that suspicion, saying that once Mr. Ray's identity was discovered two weeks after Dr. King was killed, "we were sure it was Ray" who had committed the murder, "and everything else was secondary" to finding the man. But no one interviewed could provide any examples of leads they believed had not been energetically followed up.

Several officials, in discounting speculation about the bureau's involvement in the King

killing, pointed out that if, inconceivably, the bureau had chosen to arrange for such a murder it presumably could have developed a more sophisticated and far less risky method than the employment of a bumbling ex-convict with a hunting rifle.

And several individuals in and out of Government familiar with the internal workings of the F.B.I., asserted that the bureau was institutionally incapable of making the leap from sending Dr. King anonymous letters to arranging for his assassination.

But some questioned whether the bureau which had had Dr. King under intermittent surveillance in the weeks before he was murdered, might have received and withheld information about an assassination plot that could have saved his life.

According to all those interviewed by The Times, the F.B.I. had no such information at the time of Dr. King's death, and had warned him of impending

dangers on numerous occasions. During the 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., for instance, the Justice Department sent a high official to advise Dr. King privately that the F.B.I. had learned of a threat against his life.

Sevela past and present Justice Department lawyers pointed out that, to take a cynical view, whatever the degree of Mr. Hoover's personal dislike for Dr. King, it would not have been in the F.B.I. director's interest to see the black leader martyred, but rather to relay to Dr. King every threat brought to the bureau's attention in the hope of frightening him out of the civil rights movement.

The only assertion of tampering by Mr. Hoover with any facet of the King investigation came from one former top F.B.I. official, who noted that Mr. Ray was captured in London by New Scotland Yard at 6:15 A.M., Eastern daylight time, on June 8, 1968 — four days after Senator Robert F. Kennedy was struck down by an assassin's bullet in Los Angeles.

Delay on Identification

The funeral service for Mr. Kennedy, whom Mr. Hoover had also grown to dislike while he was Attorney General, was scheduled to begin in New York City at 10 o'clock that same morning, and the former F.B.I. official said that Mr. Hoover had ordered the public announcement of Mr. Ray's capture held up until the funeral was under way, in the belief that this would detract from the publicity surrounding the services.

One facet of the F.B.I. investigation that remains a mystery — Mr. Pottinger has asked the bureau not to comment publicly on the case in view of Mr. Ray's appeal for a new trial — is the passage of 15 days between the shooting of Dr. King and the bureau's identification of the suspected killer as James Earl Ray.

Within seven minutes of the King shooting, a Memphis police lieutenant discovered on the sidewalk outside a cheap rooming house adjacent to the Lorraine Motel a bundle containing a .30-06 calibre hunting rifle — purchased by Mr. Ray a week earlier, it was later learned — a mismatched box of cartridges, a pair of binoculars, two unopened cans of beer and some undergarments.

Several of these items, including the rifle, one of the bullets, the binoculars and a beer can, bore Mr. Ray's fingerprints — "so much in the way of evidence left on the scene," one former Justice Department

official said, "that it puzzled that it took the F.B.I. as long as it did to come up with [the name of] James Earl Ray."

The bundle also contained a portable radio that Mr. Ray had bought at the Missouri State Penitentiary a few days before he escaped, and the radio had an easily traceable se-

rial number on it. For some reason, the F.B.I. apparently did not check out the radio serial number until after Mr. Ray was arrested.

The bundle was shipped under guard to the F.B.I. laboratory in Washington, arriving less than 12 hours after the shooting. And yet, by all available accounts, no search of the bureau's fingerprint files was begun until April 18, when F.B.I. agents, retracing Mr. Ray's steps, discovered in a room he had rented in Atlanta a map that yielded a nearly perfect latent thumb print.

Only after the thumbprint was rushed to Washington did F.B.I. clerks begin poring over the fingerprint cards of 53,000 Federal fugitives, in the belief

that Mr. Ray might be one.

They were right, and they were also lucky. Mr. Ray's prints, on file in that group because of his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary the year before, were on the 700th card the clerks examined. The next day, April 19, the F.B.I. announced that the man it was seeking, whom it had known up to then only by the aliases of Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer, was Mr. Ray. What remains unclear is why the successful file search was not begun sooner, with the latent fingerprints lifted from the items in the bundle.

(Tomorrow: The conspiracy question.)

CBS Explores

By Jay Sharbutt
Associated Press

King Assassination

NEW YORK — CBS News offers tonight a one-hour TV study (WTOP-9, 10:30 p.m.) of the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whether James Earl Ray did it, and, if so, whether he acted alone or as part of a conspiracy.

Ray pleaded guilty in a Tennessee court in 1969 to King's slaying in Memphis, but renounced that plea, to no avail. He later failed in a federal court bid to withdraw his plea and go on trial, but a new effort by him now is pending before a federal appeals court.

IN TONIGHT'S show, correspondent Dan Rather says CBS News, in its probe into the slaying of King, the black civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, tried to interview Ray in prison.

"But due to the repeated advice of his lawyers, he wouldn't talk for this broadcast," he adds. "So the best witness stands mute."

Like CBS' two-part November study of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, tonight's show revisits the scene of the slaying, re-studies the evidence and interviews various persons, ranging from one of Ray's current lawyers to a Memphis landlady who rented Ray a room.

IN THE KENNEDY shows, CBS cautiously concluded that while "it may never be established" whether Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, "the evidence indicates" that Oswald "probably did" shoot Kennedy.

There's none of that in tonight's show. CBS fails to turn up any evidence of a conspiracy to kill King and doesn't offer any opinion, even a cautiously worded one, on whom it thinks may have killed him.

It simply says, among other things, that Tennessee's case against Ray as a lone assassin "was not as air-tight as we had been told," that no one saw the fatal shot fired and that there's no evidence Ray was near the scene of King's death "at the moment of the murder."

And it reiterates that "what seemed to be unquestionable proof — an unqualified plea of guilty — now is in legal contest" and that a federal appellate court decision on Ray's case may come soon.

SO, DESPITE its work, the show winds up sounding the let's-have-an-independent-investigation call CBS News first made at the end of its November probe into the Kennedy assassination.

At that time, it said "history will be less confused" if new congressional probes are made about information CBS said was withheld from the Warren Commission by the CIA and the FBI.

Tonight, it says that regardless of the court decision Ray gets, doubts about the circumstances of King's assassination still will remain and "an outside investigation is now needed" to attempt to resolve those doubts.

IT SAID THE probe could be made either by Congress or by an independent commission appointed by the president.

On Monday night, CBS will air the last of its four-program series on the shootings of major American leaders. It says that show will study the "doubts and discrepancies" surrounding the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., and the attempted assassination of Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama.

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"We simply don't know how he got his money," one Justice Department official said recently. But he noted that Ray's robbery of a London savings bank four days before his arrest seemed to be an indication that he was not being supplied with funds by other conspirators.

The FBI investigated again all unsolved bank robberies at the time of King's murder, but was not able to link Ray to any of them.

There are many unanswered questions, but unless Ray eventually decides to cooperate and has some pertinent information to offer, his name appears destined to remain among the ranks of other American assassins whose motives will become progressively clouded by death, silence or history.

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King Death Theories Explored

New York Times News Service

Most of the theories of a conspiracy surrounding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, are bound by a common thread — the view that unnamed "interests," Southern, reactionary and white, had sensed in King's increasingly militant civil rights activities a new economic and political threat that precipitated his murder at their hands.

A second common thread has been the skepticism of many over the intervening seven years that James Earl Ray, a smalltime holdup man with a reputation for bumbling and a long string of jail sentences, could by himself have planned and carried out both the crime and an escape that stretched over four countries and two months before he was finally captured in London.

Charges that Ray had not acted alone began to mount almost from the moment that King died in the emergency room where he was taken from the Lorraine Motel, in downtown Memphis, Tenn., after a hollow nosed bullet severed his spinal cord.

ACCORDING to officials and former officials of the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the bureau has checked out various assertions of such a conspiracy and has found virtually all to be without substance.

A team of New York Times reporters spent six weeks investigating the case, also without being able to establish any firm evidence of a conspiracy.

But even without access to government files, which remain largely closed, or to Ray, who refused to be interviewed, The Times found puzzling gaps and inconsistencies in the evidence so far made public by efforts to gain an acquittal for Ray. The FBI, the Justice Department and

Even some Justice Department lawyers have been so concerned that someone possibly involved in the assassination may have gone unpunished that they have twice tried to induce the convicted killer, Ray, to tell a federal grand jury what he knows.

Ray's lawyers concede their client may, as the Justice Department suspected, have "some knowledge" concerning the involvement of others in the shooting. But they say his refusal to talk stems from his fear of reprisals from co-conspirators. Such reprisals, they add, could easily be carried out inside the walls of the Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville, where the 47-year-old Ray is serving a 99-year sentence.

ALTHOUGH Ray pleaded guilty in a 2½-hour pro forma proceeding on March 10, 1969, he attempted to retract that plea within a few days, saying it had been made under undue pressure from his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston. Ray now has a motion for a new trial pending.

Bernard M. Fensterwald Jr., a Washington lawyer and founder of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, who is now Ray's chief counsel, asserted in a recent interview that if a new trial were granted he could present a case that Ray was nowhere near the Memphis motel at the time of the assassination.

Ray previously had told his lawyers that he had been outside a rooming house adjacent to the motel when King was killed, although he had not known of the murder at the time.

The Tennessee prosecutors produced a witness, Charles Q. Stevens, who placed Ray inside the house at the time the shot struck King, a shot he said he had heard, but had not seen fired from the boarding house bathroom.

Stevens later asked for, but did not receive, the \$100,000 reward offered for information leading to the conviction of King's murderer. The reward has never been paid to anyone. Fensterwald said his efforts to gain an acquittal for Ray probably would not

co-conspirators. His client, Fensterwald said, "has possibly concluded in a memorandum sent recently to Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi that neither the Watson nor Andrews report warranted a reopening of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and Fensterwald agreed in a recent interview that both men appeared to be without credibility.

SEVERAL officials of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, have been interviewed that both men appeared to be without credibility. Justice is looking into a third such assertion involving a group of visitors to an Atlanta jail who purportedly were overheard, six months before the assassination, attempting to solicit the help of inmates in arranging for King's murder. There remain some perplexing questions that make many familiar with the case reluctant to conclude that Ray was acted alone.

In 1971 and in 1974, partly because of their own doubts and partly in response to the unofficial appeals by Fensterwald, Civil Rights Division officials resisted the mass of evidence gathered by the FBI during its intensive 1968 hunt for King's killer.

But after these investigations turned up nothing substantially new, and in light of Ray's persistent refusal to talk about possible co-conspirators, a number of Justice Department lawyers felt more convinced than before that he had acted alone.

Nevertheless, the Justice Department is re-evaluating several aspects of the case that have aroused the most interest and concern, including claims by two individuals that they had been part of or knew about plots to kill King.

The first was the assertion of Robert Byron Watson, a former employee of an Atlanta art gallery, that he had overheard his employers plotting to kill King a few days before the assassination.

The second was the assertions of a convicted confidence man, Clifford H. Andrews, that he had been part of a conspiracy to kill King, for which he had been promised, but had never received, \$200,000. Because he was double-crossed, Andrews was reported to have said, he was willing to name the other conspirators in return for various considerations, including immunity from prosecution and an undescribed sum of money.

THE CIVIL Rights Division concluded in a memorandum sent recently to Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi that neither the Watson nor Andrews report warranted a reopening of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and Fensterwald agreed in a recent interview that both men appeared to be without credibility.

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