FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

[illegible] with our assassination [illegible] they either tell us too much or [illegible] The Clay Shaw trial, based on [illegible] but one man's frustration with the [illegible] report, went on for 24 days. The end [illegible] Sirhan Sirhan trial is not in sight. Yet [illegible] that these assassinations were [illegible] of single gunmen.

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

[illegible] Monday, in less than four hours, [illegible] changed his plea from inno[illegible] to guilty and was sentenced to 99 years [illegible] only a minimum of evidence was in[illegible] and almost none of the parading [illegible] occurred. That he acted [illegible] was maintained by everyone [illegible] James Earl Ray, who obviously up[illegible] proceedings by stand[illegible] saying, "I don't agree with the [illegible] my innocence."

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

Page 6 A

Arkansas Democrat

Little Rock, Ark.

Date: 3-12-69
Edition: PM
Author: Eugene Worrington
Editor: EDITORIAL
Title: ARK DEMOCRAT

Character:
or
Classification: 80-31-
Submitting Office: Little Rock

☐ Being Investigated

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

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0-19 (Rev. 7-17-68)

Mrs. King, SCLC Cleared Ray Sentence, Officials Say

By Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 11 —Court officials in Memphis said today the controversial disposition of the James Earl Ray case was cleared in advance with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and with Coretta King, widow of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

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

Ray's speedy sentencing Monday, without a prolonged presentation of evidence in the case, stirred widespread controversy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If he had been given a straight life sentence, he

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would have been eligible for parole in 12½ years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Associated Press

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

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

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

File 5-1403

"Murkin"

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The Washington Post
Times Herald
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People's World
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[illegible] said he is [illegible] that a trial would [illegible] provided the an[illegible] [illegible] his de[illegible] accept a guilty [illegible] Ray in return for [illegible] sentence.

[illegible] I would [illegible] to know how Ray [illegible] the spot [illegible] to fire," the [illegible] in an interview. [illegible] Ray know where [illegible] would be? How [illegible] determine the type [illegible] to be used? [illegible] of the actual [illegible] and selection of [illegible] he alone [illegible] of the Lor[illegible]

[illegible] miraculous [illegible] to flee to [illegible] the all[illegible] about his [illegible] spot[illegible]

[illegible] said there is [illegible] about [illegible] not moth[illegible] and evi[illegible]

[illegible] than much [illegible] but so, [illegible] pro[illegible] of [illegible] an asso[illegible] he [illegible]

[illegible] questions [illegible]

[illegible] trial would [illegible] our understanding [illegible] substantial evidence [illegible] established Ray as the [illegible]er," the judge said.

"It is an error to assume that the prosecution would have had a chance to cross-examine Ray about his finances, or how he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary, or about persons who gave him aid before or after the slaying of Dr. King.

"That whether Ray would have taken the stand I doubt very seriously that defense counsel would have risked placing Ray in such a position. In fact, as I understand it, this all along has been one of the [illegible] problems between [illegible] various men who have served for the defense [illegible] against it, and [illegible] wanting to take the [illegible]

"Suppose he had [illegible] the stand. The public [illegible] understand that this [illegible] not guarantee that [illegible] would have cut right [illegible] these puzzling questions [illegible] an adversary proceeding [illegible] chance to make the best case and to [illegible]

[illegible] refused to accept the defense-prosecution [illegible]

[illegible]

The Washington Post
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The Evening Star (Washington)
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Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
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The New York Times
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his freedom [illegible] court, or [illegible] a jail break.]

Battle said he thinks that some of the unanswered questions ultimately will be answered by Ray. He said he thinks that Ray has [illegible] the notoriety and [illegible] odically [illegible] tails of the crime.

The judge was taken aback by some of the public [illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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CANALE 3/17 NX

BY JAMES M. EVANS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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THE BINOCULARS, CANALE SAID, WERE BOUGHT IN MEMPHIS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — [illegible] admitted assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and accepted a 99-year prison term because he thinks he will be out of prison in two years, Shelby County Dist. Atty. Phil M. Canale said yesterday.

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

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

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

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

Must Serve 30 Years

The law provides that Ray must serve at least 30 years before he would be eligible for parole. If he had gone to trial and been sentenced to life he would have been eligible for parole in 15 years, 7 months. Already there have been [illegible] that Ray [illegible] thought about the [illegible] trying to have the sentence [illegible] turned.

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

The district attorney—in his 21st year in the prosecutor's office — said he was convinced Ray was capable of planning and carrying out the King assassination alone.

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

Obsession Described

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

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

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

"How did he determine the type of weapon to be used? What are the details of the actual purchase and selection of the weapon? Was he alone in [illegible] of the Lorraine [illegible] thereof.

"[illegible]

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King Murder Case Kept Alive

The arrangement by which James Earl Ray [illegible] guilty to the murder of Dr Martin [illegible] King Jr and accepted a 99-year prison [illegible] has been a satisfactory disposition [illegible] for everyone directly involved. [illegible] the lack of a full-dress trial practically [illegible] that the case will be kept alive in[illegible]. There always will be speculation. [illegible] will be questions about what the [illegible] There always will be doubt that [illegible] alone, and there always will be [illegible] that there was a conspiracy of some [illegible].

[illegible] from being a "coverup," as has been [illegible] the decision not to hold a full trial [illegible] way to assure that the murder [illegible] will not be soon for[illegible].

RAY HIMSELF MADE this even more cer[illegible] that he stood up in court and said that [illegible] not agree with the theory that there [illegible] conspiracy. He certainly was in a po[illegible] to know.

[illegible] could have been that he was simply try[illegible] to make the official record conform with [illegible] he told for publication while in prison, [illegible] a "tall Latin man he knew only as [illegible]" was involved. No proof has been [illegible] that this man ever existed except in [illegible] imagination. Ray could have meant by [illegible] in court that he cannot prove [illegible] were associated with him.

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

[illegible] added: If there was a conspiracy, no member of such a conspiracy can [illegible] pass or lie down in pleasant [illegible] there is no statute of limitations [illegible].

DESCRIPTION OF THE case [illegible] does not foreclose action against anyone [illegible] evidence should be found at some time in the future that someone else was involved in the murder. There no longer is any reason, [illegible]cept possibly fear, why Ray should [illegible] not assist in future investigations of the [illegible]ing and in bringing to justice any other persons who might have had a part in the [illegible]nation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"THE HOUSTON POST"
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Date: 3-14-69
Edition:
Author:
Editor: OVETTA CULP HOBBY
Title: QUIRIN
Character: 80-424
or
Classification: 44-1509
Submitting Office: HOUSTON
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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Ray said yesterday that the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not "a conspiracy" [illegible] by John [illegible] of a conspiracy.

[illegible] Ray's trial, Ray's attorney and the prosecutor stated [illegible] evidence of a conspiracy. But Ray himself, on leaving his courtroom, said he didn't agree with the official theories on a conspiracy.

Charge Pending

The Justice Department will hear a complaint charge [illegible]

One who [illegible] this suspicion is San [illegible] Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's "Operation Breadbasket" in Chicago.

[illegible] Statement

[illegible] Justice [illegible]

The Washington Post
Times Herald A
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington)
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Daily News (New York)
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New York Post
The New York Times
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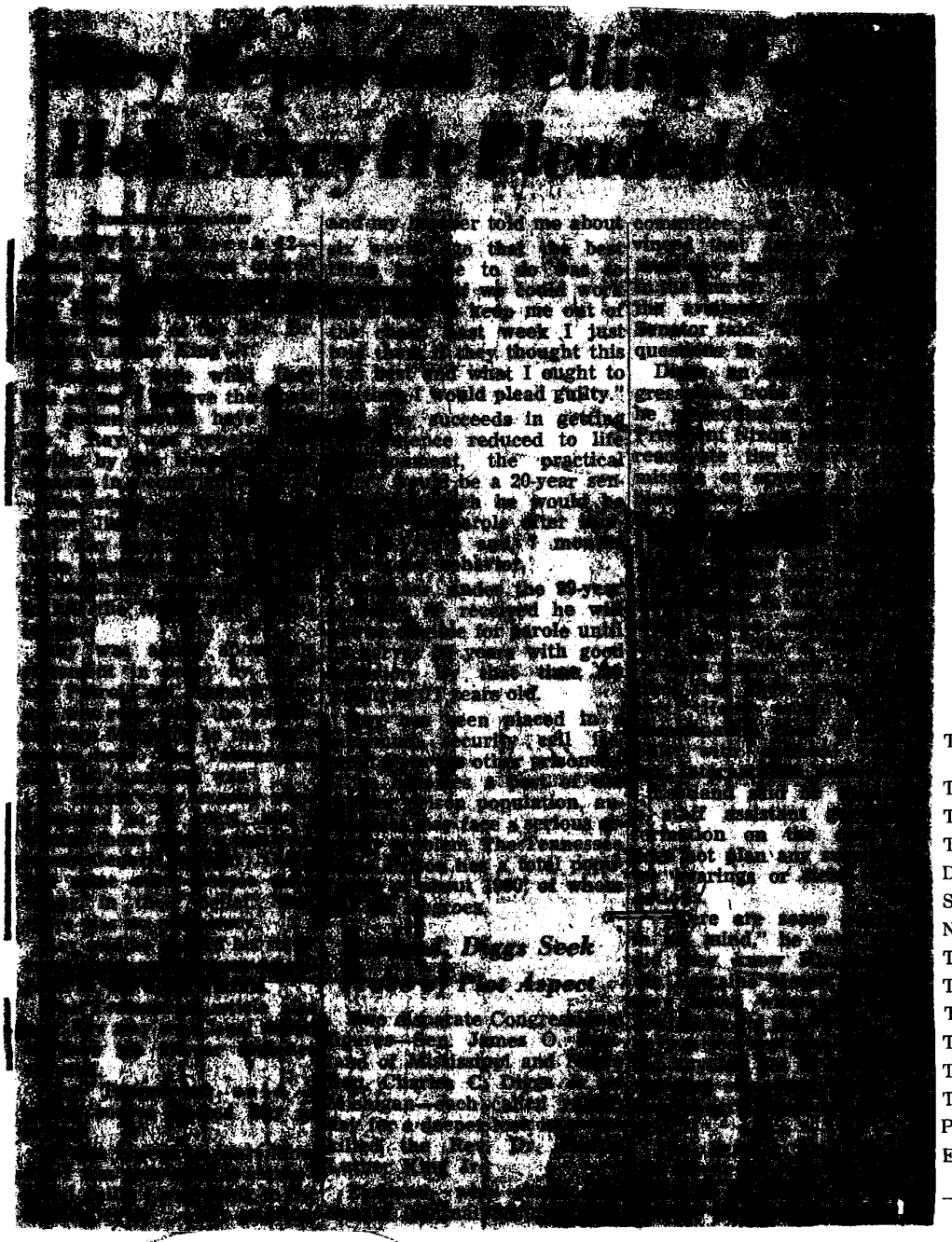

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The Washington Post
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The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington)
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
New York Post
The New York Times
The Sun (Baltimore)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

Date MAR 13 1969

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

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[redacted]

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

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

Ray said he didn't agree with "the [redacted]."

Press reports quote a Justice Department spokesman as saying that the investigation into the original allegations of a conspiracy is still open.

The original federal warrant issued by the FBI last April 17 is still in effect. It charged that a man identified as Eric Starvo Galt had conspired with an individual who he thought to be James Earl Ray against Dr. King.

These words, together with such ideas about the apparent careful planning for flight [redacted] and about the [redacted] Ray's international travel [redacted] have kept alive the [redacted] Fortunately, [redacted] remains in the hands [redacted] are conspirators [redacted] to find them [redacted]

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Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
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Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

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

70
Omaha World-Herald
Omaha, Nebraska

Date: 3-12-69
Edition: Evening Home
Author:
Editor: Keith Wilson
Title: JAMES EARL RAY, aka; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
Character: CR - UFAC -
or Conspiracy -
Classification: Robbery
Submitting Office: OMAHA
BUFILE: 44-38861
☐ Being Investigated

OM 44-310

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UPI-128

(RAY)

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

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

EASTLAND SAID HE WAS ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE BUT IN HIS STATEMENT DID NOT ADD THAT HE WAS LAUNCHING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE KILLING OF KING.

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

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

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

3/12--GE427P

54 MAR 26 1969

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

44-38861-A

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UPI-135

ADD 1 RAY, WASHINGTON (UPI-128)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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UPI-134

CORRECTION:

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

WCNS
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[redacted]

In King C[redacted]

[redacted]

D-Miss., [redacted] has received [redacted] that James [redacted] slayer in the [redacted] of the Southern [redacted] Leadership Conference [redacted] Memphis, [redacted]

[redacted] of the state [redacted] Tenn., [redacted] ing a 99-year [redacted]

Eastland [redacted] some things [redacted] that indicate [redacted] have been [redacted]

"In the [redacted] "somebody [redacted] was in the [redacted] to know [redacted] Sunday [redacted] was going [redacted] where he was [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] staff [redacted] manager of the [redacted] reported to [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Washington Post
Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington) A-15
The Sunday Star (Washington) FINAL
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
New York Post
The New York Times
The Sun (Baltimore)
The Daily World
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Examiner (Washington)

Date MAR 12 1969

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MAR 13 2 16 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 12 4 30 PM '69

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

[illegible] Unresolved In the King Murder

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

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

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

For our part, we have no doubt about Ray's guilt, but the state of Tennessee's presentation of the case is, if anything, not only too convenient. Indeed, in the opinion of the court and the prosecutor's there is rather too much [illegible] concerning the fate name of [illegible] to suspect that [illegible]

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

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

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

Page 6 A

Arkansas Gazette

Little Rock, Ark.

Date: 3-12-69
Edition: AM
Author:
Editor: EDITORIAL
Title:
ARK GAZETTE

Character:
or
Classification: 80-338-
Submitting Office: Little Rock

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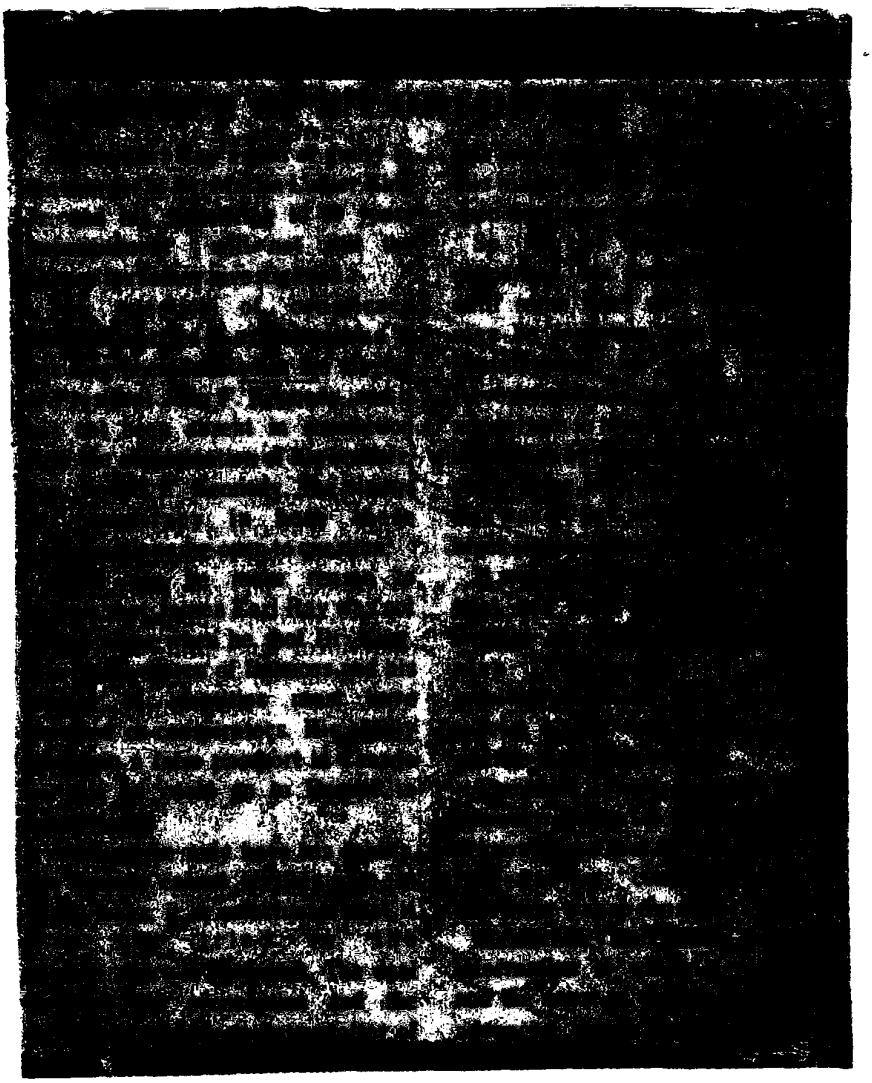

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 Casper Star Tribune
Casper, Wyoming

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

Character: CRA
or
Classification: 157-203
Submitting Office: Denver

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The Case Is Not Closed

Jame[illegible] Earl Ray [illegible] guilty in the assassination of Martin Luther [illegible] should not be allowed to close the book on criminal investigation into that terrible event. The clues to a possible conspiracy, involving others in Ray's guilt, were not explained away in his trial. Instead he breathed new life into them himself.

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

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

The assassination [illegible] a challenge to the skill of the FBI and to the diligence of the justice department. The [illegible]

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

Log

A-16
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 3/11/69
Edition: LATEST
Author:
Editor: RICHARD E. LEONARD
Title:
Murkin
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

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PI-69
(RAY)

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

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

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

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

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58 MAR 17 1969

FOR MR. TOLSON
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UPI-95
ADD RAY, MEMPHIS
THE JURY CONVICTED RAY OF THE KING MURDER AND -- AS IT HAD PROMISED -- SENTENCED HIM TO 99 YEARS IN PRISON.
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191 MAR 13 1969

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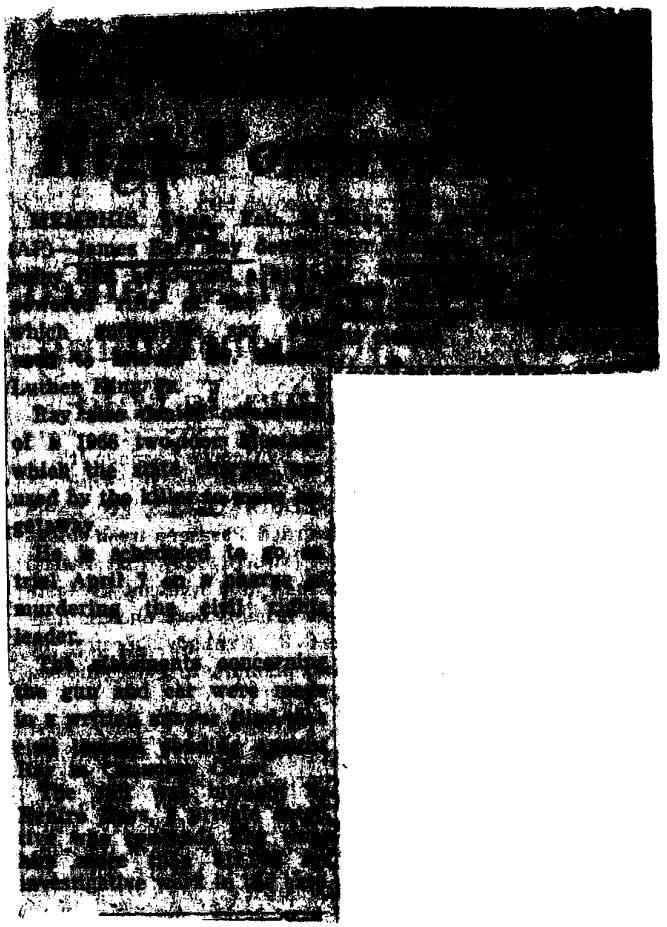

The Washington Post
Times Herald A-2
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington)
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
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RECD-TOLSON
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FEB 24 4 28 PM 69

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RECD-BISHOP

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