

with J.B. Stoner, the racist leader of the National States Rights party.

Ray's claim, since he renounced his confession, has been that he was working on a smuggling deal with Raoul and was in Memphis the day King was killed on orders of Raoul. No one has ever been able to locate Raoul.

THE MAGAZINE quotes attorney Percy Foreman as saying Ray had acknowledged Jerry Ray was with him when Ray bought the rifle, believed to have been the murder weapon, in Birmingham, Ala. William Bradford Huie, a Ray biographer, has testified he believed Jerry Ray had advance knowledge of the assassination.

Jerry Ray has always insisted that he was working at a Chicago club for months before and after the assassination and never left there. He was questioned repeatedly by the FBI during the investigation and contends that FBI knew he worked seven nights a week.

The New Times claims that the FBI never adequately pursued Jerry Ray's whereabouts at the time of the purchase of the rifle a few days before King was killed.

The magazine says even if Raoul and Jerry Ray are the same person, it does not follow that they were co-conspirators in King's death. The

article raises the possibility that both were dupes.

The FBI has said it cannot positively connect the bullet that killed King with the rifle Ray purchased because the bullet was too badly mangled for ballistics comparison. The committee intends to conduct its own ballistics tests this week.

Ray's fingerprints were on the rifle, the rifle was found near the rooming house from which the shot was fired, and Ray sticks to his present story that he did not fire the shot.

United Press International

"All right," said Billy Carter, wearing an disco uniform and holding a can of Pabst. "Let's now see who won that war, even if it did take us a while."

"We whupped the Yankees," agreed Rhett Butler, "but we still can't pay off the mortgage on the place."

Billy reminded Rhett that his brother plans to give everyone a \$50 tax rebate.

"You reckon that'll do it?" he asked.

THAT WAS ONE SCENE last night from the annual Gridiron Club musical satire of politicians, written by Washington journalists and with President and Mrs. Carter and scores of government

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But he said nothing defini-
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House Panel Plans New Tests on King Bullet

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Assassinations Committee said yesterday that it will commission new ballistics tests this month on the rifle bullet that killed Martin Luther King Jr.

Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), head of the subcommittee investigating the King assassination, also said that committee lawyers will interview James Earl Ray next week in the Tennessee prison where he is serving a 99-year term for the 1968 murder.

FBI experts have said that tests after King's assassination were inconclusive. They said the bullet slug that killed King was so distorted it was impossible to say it came from the Remington rifle which was found nearby bearing Ray's fingerprints.

Chief committee counsel Richard A. Sprague and deputy Robert Lehner, who is directing the King investigation, plan to talk to Ray Monday or Tuesday in what Fauntroy said may be just "the first in a series of threshold interviews."

Ray's new lawyer, Jack Kershner of Nashville, who will be representing him, has been quoted as saying Ray's story is that he turned the rifle over to a portery man named Bantz and was sent off on an errand before King was killed.

A member of the Justice Department task force that reviewed the case recently said that account differs markedly from earlier versions Ray has given.

The committee took up the rifle and the bullet last Friday and

plans to have two separate tests conducted by independent experts rather than the FBI.

The American Civil Liberties Union, meanwhile, announced that it now "strongly supports a continuation of the assassinations inquiry" in light of its new rules of procedure. ACLU Washington director John H. F. Shattuck said the committee had previously "failed adequately to recognize the rights of witnesses" and its new rules "are sensitive to civil liberties concerns."

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Daily News (New York) _____
The New York Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 3-18-77

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84 MAR 25 1977

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police hand U.S. probers file on Ray

BY HAROLD KENNEDY
News staff writer

Birmingham's voluminous file on James Earl Ray—probably the most complete file anywhere on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s convicted assassin—was turned over to the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations by the city's Police Department last week.

The file was put together over a period of about a year by then-Sgt. Jack LeGrand, now a captain with the Birmingham Police Department, sources said.

LeGrand and Sgt. C.R. Jones traced Ray's movements from a time well before he came to Birmingham prior to the King shooting to a time after the civil rights leader was slain.

The Birmingham files include information on when Ray came to Birmingham, where and how long he stayed, his acquaintances, his movements in and out of the city (including a trip to California), and his possible connection with a right-wing group headquartered in West End.

The files contain such detailed information as where and how much Ray paid for the gun bought in Birmingham and used to gun down Dr. King, where and how much he paid for a car that was

found parked in an Atlanta housing project parking lot several days after King's death.

Two top agents of the Select Committee spent two days in Birmingham (Thursday and Friday) last week acquiring the files, which contained information on eight different people, Capt. LeGrand said Wednesday.

Two of the people, he said, are Canadians and six have lived or still live

in Birmingham. He would not release any of the names, but said they all are connected with the Ray investigation.

"This information was provided and any other information they request at future dates will be provided by this department," LeGrand said.

There was some indication that LeGrand may later be summoned before the Select Committee to give personal testimony, though no such request has yet been made, according to sources.

Ray lived in Birmingham for some time prior to King's assassination, using mainly the name Eric Starvo Galt. But he used a half dozen or more other aliases, too.

During most of his stay here, he lived in a Highland Avenue boarding house.

Ray also took and passed a drivers license test while in Birmingham, the files show, and there is

strong evidence he was still in Birmingham as late as two weeks prior to Dr. King's death.

Dr. King flew into Birmingham about that time, for one of a series of speeches he was making throughout the South to work up support for his planned Washington march. He made his talk at a Bessemer church.

"He was kept under close surveillance by the Birmingham Police Department from the time

his plane landed at Municipal Airport until he left the next day to assure that nothing happened to him while here," said Maurice H. House, retired Birmingham police captain who headed the detective division during LeGrand and Jones' investigation of Ray's Birmingham movements. "And after Dr. King was killed, LeGrand did about as complete an investigation as possible on Ray. It's all in the files."

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

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The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

Date: 3/17/77

Edition:

Author: Harold Kennedy

Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1740

Submitting Office: BH

☐ Being Investigated

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Date 3/14/77

To: ☒ Director

Att.: Congressional
Inquiry Unit

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Title MURKIN

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☐ Agent

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RE: 3/14/77 "The Miami
Herald, page 17-A,
entitled, "King Panel
Might Call Miami Man".

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ACTION DESIRED

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*sent HQ via telecopier
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A review of pertinent files, Miami office, shows no 1968 advance notice from WILLIE SOMERSET, directly or indirectly, concerning a planned assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

SAC JULIUS L. MATTON

See reverse side

Office Miami
MY 44-1854

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Panel Might Call Miami Man

House Panel Contacts Ex-Police Lieutenant

By JIM BUCHANAN
Herald Staff Writer

A former Miami police lieutenant said Sunday that he may be called to testify before a congressional committee about receiving a pre-assassination tip in 1968 that Martin Luther King might be killed.

Charles Sapp, the former policeman, said the information came in April 1968 from a Miami Police Department paid informant, Willie Somerset, who five years earlier had claimed advance notice of President John Kennedy's assassination.

"I've been contacted by a spokesman for the House Assassinations Committee," Sapp said Sunday, "and I've told them I'd be happy to testify as to what I know."

SAPP SAID he "can't recall the exact time element, but it was shortly before King was killed." King was killed on April 4, 1968.

Other sources told The Herald that the telephoned tip was received by the lieutenant April 3. Sapp, who retired in 1971, headed the department's intelligence-gathering unit.

Somerset, an admitted racist who then was trying to organize his own National Foundation of Labor, "claimed to have overheard the death threat at a union affair in Washington," according to Sapp.

"He said he overheard two men condemning King for meddling in union affairs. If you remember, King was helping the Memphis sanitation workers, who were out on strike," Sapp said.

Somerset told me the man said I had to 'take care of King,' or words to that effect."

"SOMERSET called me because he wanted me to know he was in Miami and shouldn't be suspected if something happened."

Somerset was once a member of the National States Rights Party and claimed to have heard, during a conversation 13 days before the Kennedy slaying, of plans to shoot him.

Sapp said Sunday, "I can't remember the exact day he called me, but I'm certain the FBI got an immediate report on the tip, because the agents were in our office every day, and they got the same information I sent on to the chief."

Sapp's distant connection with the King case came to light last September as part of a Miami magazine article dealing with the assassinations of King and Kennedy.

Two weeks ago, Sapp said, he was contacted by an investigator for the House committee.

"WE TALKED for a while, and he said they'd be in touch with me. But I haven't heard anything from them yet," Sapp said.

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

17-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 3-14-77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: WILLIE SOMERSET

Character: 44-1854*
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

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R
KING

WASHINGTON (AP) -- ATTY. GEN. GRIFFIN BELL SAID TODAY HE WOULD LIKE TO QUESTION JAMES EARL RAY ABOUT THE MYSTERIES STILL SURROUNDING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BUT BELL HAS NO PLANS TO ATTEMPT TO SEE RAY, SAID JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MARVIN WALL.

BELL MADE THE REMARK IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AT A BREAKFAST MEETING WITH A GROUP OF REPORTERS. HE WAS ASKED ABOUT A DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE REPORT LAST WEEK WHICH CONCLUDED THAT RAY ACTED ALONE WHEN HE ASSASSINATED THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER ON A MEMPHIS HOTEL BALCONY APRIL 4, 1968.

THE REPORT SPOKE OF SEVERAL LINGERING MYSTERIES IN THE CASE, INCLUDING RAY'S SOURCE OF INCOME IN THE MONTHS PRECEDING THE ASSASSINATION.

WALL, WHO ATTENDED THE SESSION, SAID BELL REMARKED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO QUESTION RAY OR HAVE SOMEONE HE TRUSTED QUESTION HIM.

THE TASK FORCE REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH RAY BUT THE PRISONER REFUSED.

WALL SAID BELL IS MAKING NO PLANS TO PURSUE THE EFFORT TO QUESTION RAY.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE 167 MAR 3 1977

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UP-724

(BELL-KING)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL SAID THURSDAY HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO QUESTION JAMES EARL RAY ABOUT THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

BELL WAS ASKED BY A GROUP OF REPORTERS AT A BREAKFAST MEETING WHETHER HE BELIEVED ALL POSSIBLE EVIDENCE IN THE 1968 ASSASSINATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED.

"I'D LIKE TO TALK TO RAY," BELL SAID.

MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED ABOUT RAY'S MOTIVE, HIS SOURCE OF FUNDS AND OTHER MATTERS SINCE HE PLEADED GUILTY AND WAS SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN PRISON WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE BEING BROUGHT OUT IN A TRIAL.

RAY REFUSED TO BE QUESTIONED BY A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE WHICH REVIEWED THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF THE MEMPHIS SLAYING. IT REPORTED LAST WEEK IT COULD FIND NO EVIDENCE OF ANYONE ASSISTING HIM IN THE ASSASSINATION.

MARVIN WALL, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR, SAID BELL WOULD EITHER LIKE TO INTERVIEW RAY OR HAVE IT DONE FOR HIM BY SOMEONE WHO "WOULD ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS."

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Report Cites Trouble Attorneys General Had in Reining FBI

By John M. Goshko

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Justice Department's probe of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder has provided fresh insights into the department's biggest continuing problem—keeping the FBI under the control of the Attorney General. A report by a special department task force, made public Friday, concluded that the FBI was not implicated in the April 4, 1968, shooting of King in Memphis.

Instead, the report said, the bureau's investigation of the murder was thorough and left virtually no grounds for doubting that James Earl Ray, now serving a 99-year sentence for the murder, was the sole assassin.

In other respects though, the report is harshly critical of the FBI's behavior in the King case and the failure of the Justice Department, which is responsible for supervising the bureau, to correct its excesses.

The report says, in effect, that under three successive Attorneys General—Robert F. Kennedy, Nicholas

DeB. Katzenbach, and Ramsey Clark—the FBI functioned like an ungoverned wild subject only to the whims of its longtime director, the late J. Edgar Hoover.

During the King murder investigation, for example, the report says that Hoover and other FBI officials treated Clark, who was then Attorney General, with a "disrespectful attitude" and failing to keep him informed of its actions.

The task force also criticized the considerable delay in appointing a victim's counsel, who was not named until the week of the FBI's announcement of King's death in an effort to silence the civil rights movement.

This campaign, the report makes clear, was rooted in Hoover's animosity toward King and was made possible because Justice Department officials were fearful of intervening or were so lax in their supervision that the FBI was able to do things behind their backs.

Much of this information already had been made public through press

and congressional disclosures following Hoover's death in 1973. As a result, Edward H. Levi, the Attorney General during the past two years, was forced to devote the bulk of his efforts to reasserting Justice Department control over the bureau.

He imposed strict guidelines on the FBI for the conduct of domestic security investigations, and forced the bureau's current director, Clarence M. Kelley, to acknowledge the Justice Department's authority over FBI activities. However, the bureau's critics have continued to voice doubts about whether Levi's changes were sufficient to prevent future FBI efforts to operate in its old free-wheeling and unsupervised manner.

The degree to which it did so in the 1960s is underscored by the task force's description of FBI conduct during the King murder case. At almost every turn, the report notes, FBI personnel displayed "marked discourtesy" to Clark and his aides at the Justice Department.

Early in the investigation, for example, when Clark announced plans for

making a progress report to the na-

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John M. Goshko
H. R. [Signature]

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The National Observer _____
The Los Angeles Times _____

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quarter FBI files, saying the complaint was filed in Birmingham rather than Memphis because the boxer, "could not rely on the U.S. attorney, Memphis" to give it a free hand.

When Clark complained to an assistant FBI director about being "kept in the dark," the official summarily "hung up the phone." After Ray's capture in England, when Assistant Attorney General Fred Vinson was sent to London to arrange for extradition, the FBI told its attache there to be "diplomatic but firm with Vinson and under no circumstances should Vinson be allowed to push our personnel around."

In summarizing these incidents, the report said, "The task force views this

lack of coordination and cooperation as improper." But it also adds, "an obvious criticism of Clark:

"In fairness to the bureau, it has to be said that it is the obligation of

every one of us in the same manner case."

Regarding the Hoover-inspired harassment campaign against King, the document said the FBI had legitimate reasons for initiating an investigation because of evidence that due to King's lay leaders allegedly had communist ties.

When Hoover presented this evidence to Attorney General Kennedy in 1963, the report says, Kennedy was "sincerely concerned" since proposed civil rights legislation was then very vulnerable to the attack that

Communists were influencing the direction of the civil rights movement.

The report says Kennedy was sufficiently alarmed to take the initiative in suggesting that the FBI begin with tapping surveillance of King. He subsequently changed his mind in a time, but in October, 1963, Kennedy

finally bowed to Hoover's persistent pressure and authorized the bugging of King's residence and office.

This electronic surveillance continued under Katzenbach and Clark, and much of the intelligence gathered, some of it dealing with King's sex life, was widely disseminated among government officials. During Kennedy's time in office, the report adds, "without his knowledge," the FBI broadened its activities to include illegal harassment tactics and these continued under Kennedy's successor.

Yet, the report concludes, the investigation of King quickly established that he was not under Communist influence and should have been ended shortly after it was started in 1963. That it was allowed to continue for more than five years prompted the task force to make this observation:

"The continuing security investigation reflects that the Attorney General and the (Justice Department) division charged with responsibility for internal security matters failed badly in what should have been firm supervision of the FBI's activities."

CLUE, FIRST



WOODIES

FIRST IN VA

U.S. Inquiry Clears FBI in King's Death

By John M. Goshko

Washington Post Staff Writer

A Justice Department task force's investigation has found no evidence of FBI involvement in the 1968 murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., despite the bureau's earlier attempts to harass and discredit the civil rights leader.

Instead, the task force concluded, the FBI reacted to King's death by conducting a painstakingly thorough and honest search for his killer.

These are the main findings of the five-member task force's 100-page report, which was made public yesterday. The task force reached the conclusions after reviewing more than 200,000 documents in FBI files and interviewing approximately 40 witnesses.

The special probe was ordered last April by then Attorney General Edward H. Levi following press and congressional disclosures that the FBI, under orders from the late Director J. Edgar Hoover, had waged a five-year campaign of intimidation and surveillance against King.

Levi told the task force to determine whether there had been any cover-up or other improprieties in the FBI's probe of the King murder. He also directed the panel to look for any new evidence pointing to a conspiracy in the assassination.

The task force found that the evidence it surveyed virtually rules out the existence of a conspiracy. Instead, it said, the evidence points strongly to the conclusion that James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the crime, acted alone in the shooting of King on a Memphis motel balcony on April 4, 1968. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee state prison.

"The task force is satisfied that the FBI did a credible and honest job in attempting to identify any possible conspiracy," the report said. "In all the years following the assassination, the investigation has been a fair and honest search for the truth."

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"The sum of all of the evidence of Ray's guilt points to him so exclusively that it most effectively makes the point that no one else was involved," the report added.

Despite this unequivocal tone, the task force's report is not expected to lay to rest all the questions and theories about conspiracy surrounding King's death. That point was made by the new Attorney General, Griffin B. Bell, when he suggested in a recent television interview that the Justice Department probe neither established nor ruled out a conspiracy.

The point Bell was trying to make, a department spokesman said yesterday, was that people are still going to read whatever they want to into the findings of the task force. In addition, the spokesman added, "the Attorney General was taking note of the fact that the report leaves some questions unanswered."

In Atlanta, the report was immediately denounced by Tyrone Brooks, a spokesman for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group formerly headed by

"We don't have any doubts about the report because it seems to be based on the Justice Department's investigation of the events surrounding the assassination of Dr. King."

Also in Atlanta, King's widow, Coretta King, said she wanted an independent agency to investigate "whether the Justice Department made a sufficient inquiry and could find their conclusions convincing."

J. Stanley Pottinger, the outgoing assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Division, also had suggested to Levi that an independent panel of persons outside government should review the task force's findings. Justice Department sources said yesterday they did not know whether Bell has any plans to follow that recommendation.

The House has established a committee to investigate the killings of King and President Kennedy, although it currently is bogged down in a bitter fight between its chairman, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), and its chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague.

Some of the allegations that prompted establishment of the House

committee are addressed in the task force report. These involve questions by black civil rights leaders about the withdrawal of a black detective, who had been assigned by the Memphis police to keep King under surveillance, and the transfer of two black firemen from a firehouse across the street from the motel where King was shot.

The report confirms that the detective, Edward E. Redditt, who had taken up a post in the firehouse on the day of the murder, was ordered to go home at 4 p.m. because of a reported attempt on the life of his family. The order was attributed to Memphis Police and Fire Director Frank C. Holloman, who had served in the FBI for 25 years.

The task force said Redditt may have been removed because Philip R. Manuel, an investigator for the Senate Government Operations Committee, apparently notified Memphis police that his staff had received a tip from an informer about a plot to kill a "Negro lieutenant" in Memphis.

Manuel, the task force said, has no "present recollection" of the incident. However, the report added, "He said the events sounded familiar and he

believed the Memphis police records were correct."

The report also noted that another black police officer, Willie B. Richmond who also had been assigned to surveillance of King, remained in the firehouse after after Redditt's departure and was among those who rushed to the motel after the shot was fired.

The task force said it could not establish clearly the reasons why the two black firemen, Norvell E. Wallace and Floyd E. Newsum, were transferred from the firehouse. It did note, though, that both were strong supporters of the strike by Memphis sanitation workers, most of whom were black, that had drawn King there as a gesture of solidarity.

"Our investigation has not disclosed any evidence that the detail of Wallace and Newsum was in any way connected with the assassination," the report said. It speculated that they might have been transferred because their sympathy for the strikers would have made them hostile to what many blacks saw as police efforts to stop King.

Perhaps the biggest question left

WARNOKE VS. NITZE

A Look at the Record

The argument over whether Paul Warnke should head the U.S. negotiating team at the SALT talks comes down, I think, to this: Do we want to make a serious effort to cut back the arms race and the consequent buildup of nuclear weapons?

On his record over a number of years, Warnke, a former Defense Department official and now a Washington lawyer, does want to. On their records over a number of years, his opponents do not.

It really is as simple as that, and all that needs to be done is to compare Warnke's public record with that of his self-appointed chief opponent, another former State and Defense official named Paul Nitze.

To begin somewhere near the beginning, Warnke was opposed to the installation of the Safeguard antiballistic missile system (ABM) and Nitze was in

viet Union might regard this change as evidence that we are preparing a first strike.

Warnke is opposed to building the B-1 bomber. He believes it is vulnerable and that a standoff bomber, capable of hurling missiles from outside an enemy's air defense, would be a better and cheaper bet.

Nitze is in favor of the B-1 Bomber.

Warnke advocates a policy of "parallel restraint." Our side would take a small step toward arms reduction by telling the Russians we were not going to proceed with a stipulated arms program and urging them to restrain themselves similarly.

Nitze, on the other hand, favors a program of buying "bargaining chips," that is, proceeding with new and advanced arms programs and bargaining them away in return for concessions. Jimmy Carter's press conference re-

Human Rights

While the U.S. government has been blinking at massive violations of human rights in both Latin and Central America, Catholic forces have carried the fight to the militarists and entrenched elite that the church once supported so steadfastly, especially in Chile, Brazil and Uruguay.

Gen. Pinochet, president of the Chilean junta, struck back by dissolving the Inter-Church Committee for Peace, which has been the only source in Chile for legal and economic assistance to political prisoners and their families. The general, however, has not been able to silence the protesting voice of Cardinal Silva Henríquez, Archbishop of Santiago.

The Brazilian dictatorship has had the same problem with Archbishop Paulo Arns of São Paulo, who denounced the government for its "flagrant lack of respect for the human person by those who declare they are Catholics and Christians."

Even in the most extreme cases, as in South Africa where Cardinal Henriques y T...

In neighboring Portugal, the hierarchy had little to do with initiating the revolution that overthrew the repressive Salazar despotism, but it has since played a significant part in putting a democratic coalition in power supporting it against authoritarian challenges from both the left and right.

If the Carter administration is going to practice what it preaches about human rights, especially in Asia and the Far East, it could take some lessons from the Catholic elements who have been protesting against the brutal suppression of political dissidents by anti-democratic governments in South Korea and the Philippines.

While Washington continued to support the military regimes in those countries with American troops, bases and arms, the militant Catholic clergy in the Philippines was busy circulating evidence of the Marcos government's torturing and killing political prisoners.

And in South Korea, where harsh police measures were meted out to 18 political dissidents, including a former

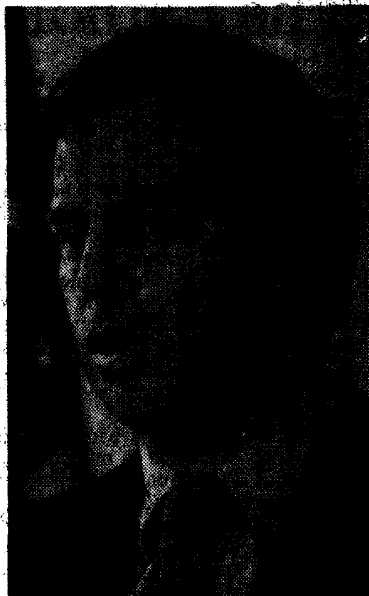
unanswered by the report is where Ray got the substantial sums of money that he spent during the year

between his escape from a Missouri prison and King's killing. The task force said, "The sources for Ray's funds still remain a mystery today."

In regard to the Hoover-inspired FBI harassment of King, the task force found that there might have been legitimate reasons for investigating him initially, because the FBI had established that one of his advisers at one time had had Communist ties.

However, the report continued, it quickly became clear that King was not under any Communist influence, and the security investigation should have been ended. To continue it for five years with frequently illegal tactics was "clearly improper," the report concluded. The King investigation started under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and continued under his successors, Nicholas Katzenbach and Ramsey Clark.

It noted that criminal charges against FBI participants in the harassment were barred by the five-year statute of limitations.



J. STANLEY POTTINGER

... suggested outside review

The Catholic Crusade for

At the climax of the now memorable national Roman Catholic "Call to Action" conference in Detroit several months ago, Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark clasped Msgr. John Egan of Notre Dame University in a bear hug and exclaimed, "Jack, this is one of the greatest days in the church."

They were reflecting the exhilaration generated by an extraordinary gathering that inspired many old resolutions on issues of justice and human rights, and which, among other things, advocated amnesty for draft evaders and a halt to U.S. arms sales to foreign nations.

"I never thought I'd live long enough to see this day come in our church," said Msgr. Egan. Another participant, Joseph Cunniff, editor of the Catholic Journal, Crosscurrents, said the church was in a period "of very healthy ferment." Not just in the United States, he might have added, but even more so in other parts of the world where the church has been playing an ever bolder role in opposing political repression

voteless blacks; they condemned police brutality against the blacks, and vowed to promote black leadership in the church.

As many have discovered, the government of South Africa is a dangerous one to challenge, but the church is now defying it by opening all-white parochial schools to all races, despite the ruthless apartheid laws that require segregation. The church also intends to desegregate its hospitals, homes and orphanages.

Whatever the outcome, the militant activism in South Africa dramatizes what John Deedy, managing editor of the respected U.S. Catholic magazine Commonweal, calls "the new social dimensions within Catholicism." It dramatizes particularly, he says, "the sensitivity of more and more Catholics to the human depredations born of what they regard as the inequitable workings of an unjust social order."

Despite the spirited "Call to Action" conference in Detroit last year, Deedy thinks the "ferment of liberation theo

Still Some Questions On King Assassination, Atty. Gen. Bell Thinks

SEATTLE (UPI) — Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell says a still-secret Justice Department investigation does not rule out the possibility there was a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King.

"I have read the special report the Justice Department had on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and there are some questions that are still unanswered," Bell said.

Asked if it ruled out the theory that convicted assassin James Earl Ray was part of a larger conspiracy in the 1968 assassination of the civil rights leader, Bell said, "I think if you read the report you could lean to either side on it. You could say there is no evidence of a conspiracy or still wonder if there was — that there had to be a conspiracy."

"That's one reason I want to release the report. I want everybody to be able to read the report and make up their own minds," Bell said.

BELL NOTED the study was centered on the FBI's conduct in the assassination investigation — not on the ultimate question of who might have been involved in the killing.

"We'd like to have answers to two more questions," he said. "Is not a conspiracy case in the assassination investigation been opened?"

"The Justice Department has been asked to look into it," Bell said. "The Justice Department has been asked to look into it."

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IN REPLY TO questions, Bell said litigation over the last 20 years had fairly well settled the law of school desegregation and the Supreme Court had ruled busing could be used as a last resort rather than a basic remedy. He suggested the administration would encourage use of local, multi-racial committees to devise school desegregation plans which "may not suit everybody but will be the best under the circumstances."

On other subjects he said: "Neither the attorney general nor the Justice Department has authority to conduct warrantless break-ins."

But he left open the possibility that, in his view, the President could order warrantless break-ins under some circumstances to protect national security.

• He wants to either end investigations into alleged congressional bribery and FBI misconduct or return indictments soon. "It seems to me you don't have to have a grand jury investigate for months and years to find out whether you've got a case or not," said Bell, adding innocent persons may be subject to suspicion until the grand jury decides whether there is a case or not.

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Justice Study Finds No Plot In King Death

Associated Press

A Justice Department conclusion that no evidence exists of a conspiracy in the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. aided House members who sought yesterday to block the re-establishment of a committee to probe the slayings of the civil rights leader and President Kennedy.

Attorneys for the department's Office of Professional Responsibility conducted a 10-month review of the King case and concluded that James Earl Ray acted alone in the assassination of King, department sources said.

The disclosure of the department's finding came shortly before the House began to debate a move to renew the life of the Select House Committee on Assassinations for two months.

House leaders endorsed a two-month extension of the committee. But Rep. Jim Collins (D-Tex.), said in prepared remarks that "there is no proven evidence that has come available that would justify Congress in creating the Witch Hunt Committee."

The committee would resume the assassination investigation on an \$84,000 per-month budget until March 31, when its work will be re-evaluated, under the proposal before the House.

The committee became embroiled in controversy late last year because of its proposed two-year, \$13 million budget and the conduct of chief counsel Richard A. Sprague.

House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill told reporters he supports the compromise but "it is obvious that Sprague has been running the committee and making policy."

O'Neill said the release of the King report was "very unfortunate timing" by whoever put it out.

"It could very well affect the House vote," he said.

The Justice Department legal team sent its King report to former Attorney General Edward H. Levi shortly before he left office Jan. 20.

Last April, Levi ordered an examination of an estimated 200,000 FBI documents concerning the investigation of King's assassination.

The department plans to make public a censored version of the report, deleting names of informers and some other sensitive information, sources said.

But the release has been delayed because department officials thought it might be construed as an effort to influence the House in its debate over the assassinations committee.

Department officials also wanted to give Attorney General Griffin B. Bell, who took office a week ago, time to review the findings.

Levi launched the review of FBI files at the suggestion of his Civil Rights Division which conducted its own five-month preliminary review and called for further study.

The series of reviews was prompted by disclosure of the details of FBI harassment of King during the years J. Edgar Hoover ran the bureau.

Ray pleaded guilty to the 1968 murder of King, but told the court he did not agree with statements by the prosecution and his own attorney that there was no conspiracy. He is serving a 99-year prison sentence and has unsuccessfully sought a new trial.

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