

represent me," Ray mused, "and I figure that would have been good for at least 50 years."

Firing attorney Author Hanes and his son, from Birmingham, was a mistake, Ray said he now feels.

"I believe (with Hanes) I might have been able to go to trial and, at worst, end up with a hung jury," Ray said, reflecting on the decision he made a few days before he was to have gone to trial.

The younger Hanes since has said he and his father strongly believe they could have won a not guilty verdict.

The Hanes legal team was dismissed from the case because Ray questioned their financial ties with author William Bradford Huie. Jerry Ray has said his brother felt the Huie-Hanes arrangement was not in the best interest of his defense.

RAY SAID Foreman went farther than was expected in the guilty plea, especially in the area of ruling out the possibility he had acted in association with others.

He said if he had been asked point blank, "Did you shoot and kill Dr. Martin Luther King?" the plea would have been not guilty.

However, he said if the question involved conspiracy, "I legally would have had to plead guilty."

Ray said he does not like the term conspiracy "when it involves just two people," and would rather use the word "collusion."

But the inmate declined to go deeply into the "collusion" aspects of the case, and said he would rather confine any remarks to what he did.

HE BRIEFLY discussed a person called "Rouel" who, he said, he cannot identify because that name was an alias and he said he does not know the man's real name.

"Could this man have shot King, if you didn't?" Ray was asked.

"I don't know, but I guess it's possible," he said. "But I couldn't testify to that and would rather not speculate."

He said his reasons for being in Memphis that day were not legal ones, but that King's visit had nothing to do with the purpose of the trip.

Ray said he may have heard King was in Memphis at the time, but was of no interest to him and knowledge of this did not register in his memory.

On the "collusion" aspects of the association with "Rouel" resulting in the killing, he indicated it was an offshoot of actions by one of the persons involved.

RAY INDICATED he was in connection with a smuggling operation which may have involved drugs, jewelry or counterfeit money, but said he was simply a courier and only had contact with one man, "Rouel."

He said he had been involved in smuggling across the border between Canada and the United States and the U.S. and Mexico.

"We'd put the packages in tires and just drive across the border," he said. "If you slipped the (border) agents a dollar or two, they'd let you go right on through."

"If you gave them a lot more money, though, they'd become suspicious."

He said he had driven from Atlanta to Memphis as part of this operation, and said he did not know King would be in Memphis when he (Ray) left Atlanta.

IN FACT, he said, it had not been announced that King would be there at that time — when he left Atlanta.

He said he was in no hurry, took his time in traveling and that records show he spent the night of April 2 (two days before King was killed), 1968, at a motel or hotel in DeSoto County, Miss., and the night of April 3 at the "New Rebel Motel" in Memphis.

Ray said he had been inside a boarding house, from which police said the fatal shot was fired, four or five times during the day of April 4, and had been there last for "about 20

minutes" sometime between the hours of 3:30 and 5 p.m., about an hour or more before the fatal shot was fired.

Ray said he last had gone to the boarding house on an errand, but did not say what the errand was.

Later he said he departed for New Orleans, and was not alarmed when he heard on the radio that King had been killed.

HE DID BECOME alarmed, Ray said, when he heard that police were looking for a white Mustang, the same type car he said he was driving.

"I decided to go to Atlanta then, instead of New Orleans," Ray said. "I knew (because of his escape from prison in Missouri and other illegal activities) I was in trouble if they stopped that car and I was in it."

"It didn't matter if King had been shot or not. I couldn't afford to be stopped."

He said he indeed had purchased the murder weapon identified by police, but had seen it last a day or two before the shooting.

He said he was not certain police

actually wanted him for the King murder until they began mentioning the name Eric S. Galt, an alias used by Ray at the time.

RAY ADDED that he did not leave personal possessions and the weapon outside the boarding house, does not know who did and that he had left them at a room in Memphis because "I had intended to return there."

He said he may have been "set up" to take blame for the shooting, but wouldn't say he thought it was deliberate.

The 46-year-old inmate, looking well with about 165 pounds on his 5-foot-11 frame, said he returned to Atlanta and picked up some cleaning "about April 5 or 6. . . not April 1, as the FBI says," and began his flight, which ended with his arrest June 5, 1968, in England. He said he left the United States sometime in May.

Ray said between April 23, 1967, when he escaped prison in Missouri, and the time he was captured, he had come into the possession of about \$9,500, and had \$200 with him when taken into custody.

He said authorities in America, because of extradition agreements, only could try him for murder in the King case. Also, he said, there was a fugitive warrant from Missouri which officials there backed away from because of the murder case.

IF HE WINS a new trial (a Court of

Appeals plea is pending) and is acquitted, there is the possibility officials would have to return him to England, he said he believes, but is not absolutely certain.

Concerning the pending appeal:

"If I present my case well, I'll win; if I don't present my case well, I'll lose . . . it's as simple as that," he said.

Ray again said he wants to take the stand and "tell what I did, not what someone else did," and if he loses in criminal courts he may turn to civil courts for a forum.

He challenged some evidence he said police had against him.

"I understand there are reports police said they found some full beer cans with my prints on them. I don't even drink beer."

He also said he had never seen Dr. King, and, concerning a witness who placed him inside the boarding house, running down a hall, after the shooting, "I never saw him except for a couple of pictures."

And he feels photos showing him being placed in jail at Memphis, securely restrained and bowing somewhat in a bulletproof vest, were harmful to his case and were taken and released for that purpose.

Ray spends most of his time "segregated" inside the prison, he said, but doesn't have the appearance of a beaten man.

He's constantly busy studying law, pushing ahead with work designed to



JAMES EARL RAY
Firing Hanes Was Mistake

win him a new trial, and wondering if someday police might be taking him back to the airport in Memphis for a return flight to England. _____,

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Gains Freedom From 'Lockup' Cell

NASHVILLE, Aug. 15. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year prison term for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was released from his maximum security prison cell Friday.

It was Ray's first taste of limited freedom in more than three years. He was placed in maximum security when he was transferred here during the closing of Brushy Mountain State Prison in July, 1972.

Warden Robert Morford said the 47-year-old inmate was released from his "lockup cell" after meeting with the Review Board.

"All of the men in the maximum security unit meet with a review board once a month," Morford said. "This was his time and the board recommended his release. That recommendation came to me for review and I agree with it and approved the transfer."

Asked if there were any fear for Ray's safety, Morford said the fact that the release was approved showed there was none.

Ray has been engaged in a lengthy legal battle to win a full trial on the charge that he fired the shot that killed King on the balcony of a Memphis motel in 1968. After fleeing to Europe, Ray was captured in

London and later pleaded guilty in the case.

He now contends he was coerced into the plea and is entitled to a full trial. He lost his bid for a full trial and his appeal is pending before the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a related development, Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves asked the U.S. Justice Department to reopen the King case. He said a month-long probe by Atlanta authorities left many questions about the killing unanswered.

The Atlanta investigation was launched after a convicted heroin smuggler gave authorities a lengthy statement touching on the slaying, including allegations about a conspiracy.

Morford said Ray will meet with the job assignment board next week before being put on a work detail.

He said there were no indications that Ray would be in any danger while mingling with the other inmates. "If we were fearful for his safety we would not be releasing him from the maximum security section," Morford said.

Ray used his prolonged stay in maximum security as the basis for one of his frequent appeals and petitions for release from prison. He said in one action that the extended period in maximum security was causing his mental and physical health to deteriorate.

Ray will be housed with another inmate in a two-man cell. Morford said Ray's cellmate was also white.

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

PAGE 3

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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Judge Denies CBS Petition To Examine Ray Evidence

Criminal Court Judge William Williams yesterday denied the petition of CBS, Inc., to microscopically examine ballistics evidence from the James Earl Ray case.

Williams denied the petition because Ray's appeal for a new trial is pending before the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Ray is appealing U. S. Dist. Judge Robert M. McRae Jr.'s Feb. 27 ruling denying him a new trial.

Williams indicated he would be willing to allow CBS access to the material when the appeal is complete.

"It is not a public record . . . but it is property subject to conditions and at the proper time forensic tests may be performed," Williams said. "This is not the time for this petition."

George Hoover, director of information services for CBS, said yesterday in New York after the ruling, "We think we are in the right and probably will appeal."

Newton P. Allen, attorney for CBS, argued during the hearing the evidence is public information. He said the press does have the right to sue for such information based on a recent U. S. Supreme Court decision. CBS wants the evidence for a Nov. 30 documentary.

Williams said he saw no First Amendment question in the petition involving the public's right to know.

"CBS would assume an adversary position and be in a position to dispute the state or defendant and put their credibility on the line to the public," Williams said.

CBS is seeking to perform a microscopic and stereoscopic examination of the bullet that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., along with test bullets, cartridges and the rifle found at the scene. They also want to examine the windowsill from the rooming house overlooking the Lorraine Motel.

Attorneys for Ray, along with Atty. Gen. Hugh Stanton Jr. opposed CBS' petition.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Jewett Miller argued the exhibits in the course of a trial are not and do not become part of the public record.

CBS argued the examination of the evidence was necessary because of a question whether the bullet which killed King came from the rifle found at the scene.

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

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THE COMMERCIAL
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Ray Claim Varies With Earlier Statement

James Earl Ray has told a national newspaper he was a mile away when Dr. Martin Luther King was gunned down by a sniper in 1968.

But earlier this year Tennessee's most famous prisoner told *The Nashville Banner* he was in Mississippi, some 80 miles inside of Mississippi when the shot "heard around the world" was fired at Memphis.

In an interview published in *The National Star*, a weekly, writer Steve Dunleavy said Ray told him matter-of-factly: "I personally did not shoot Dr. King. I might have been partly responsible for his death. But then

the man who made the rifle might have been responsible in part, too. I was a mile from the scene."

Last April, Ray was interviewed by Weldon Grimsley, a *Banner* reporter now employed by the *Pensacola News Journal*.

Grimsley quoted Ray as telling him that he had been at a boarding house across the street from the Lorraine Motel, where the civil rights leader was slain, but that he had left several hours before the fatal shooting.

Grimsley said Ray told him during the lengthy interview that he was en

route to New Orleans when he heard on his car radio that King had been killed.

The apparently inconsistent statements by Ray add further mystery to the case in which the defendant, sentenced to 99 years in prison on a guilty plea, now claims he was pressured into the plea.

"No, I'm not looking for a lesser charge," the *National Star* quoted Ray as saying. "I'm looking to be found not guilty. I don't want any conspiracy charges. I want a not guilty."

"If I didn't kill him, then someone

else did. But that's for the prosecution to find out. I'm not a state witness and don't intend to be. There's a lot more investigating to do into the case, but I'm not going to help the authorities.

"There are people who want to see the end of me. In December 1973, they tried to put me in a lunatic asylum. They want to keep me quiet, I embarrass them.

"If I get my appeal I'll tell you all about it then. Yeah, it will shock a lot of people. Was I a fall guy? I'm not going to answer that — ~~but I'm not~~ going to waste my case on you."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE 15

NASHVILLE BANNER
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Lawyer Fights Bid By CBS For Bullet Tests

An attorney for James Earl Ray yesterday objected to a request by the CBS, Inc. (Columbus Broadcasting System) to microscopically examine the slug which killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other ballistics evidence in the case.

In an answer filed in Criminal Court, James H. Lesar, one of Ray's attorneys, said CBS should be denied access to the evidence because publicity of the evidence would violate Ray's rights.

Criminal Court Judge William H. Williams set a hearing tomorrow on the CBS petition.

Lesar said Ray recognizes the public interest in the case, but "notes that in the past (publicity) has led to efforts to commercialize and sensationalize this case and that this both violated his (Ray's) rights and denied the public the truth about the assassination of Dr. King."

In its petition, CBS said it plans a broadcast for Nov. 30 on the assassination of King. It proposes a microscopic and stereoscopic examination and photography of the murder bullet, test bullets, cartridges,

tridges, the 30.06 rifle found at the scene and the windowsill from which the assassin fired.

"There is a question whether the bullet which killed Dr. King can be demonstrated to have come from the rifle found at the scene of the crime," the petition said.

The petition said there is also a question whether the rifle found at the scene is the same rifle that made the markings on the windowsill.

Lesar argued that because Ray's appeal of the denial of his petition for writ of habeas corpus is pending before the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals at Cincinnati, CBS should not have access to the information.

But CBS argued it should be allowed access because Ray is a convicted and sentenced felon and not an accused person awaiting trial.

Lesar also objected to CBS' obtaining information which Ray's attorneys could not obtain for an evidentiary hearing last fall.

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

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FBI 'Blackmail' On King Found

By JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON. — The Senate Intelligence Committee is investigating allegations that the FBI tried to smear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by spreading stories about his sex life.

Some senators regard this as a classic abuse of police power. It will get special attention, therefore, from the committee.

King won the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent crusade to gain equal rights for black Americans. He faced the police dogs and fire hoses of Southern sheriffs without flinching. His cry, "We shall overcome," stirred his people.

King's rhetoric, however, led him into a collision with the powerful FBI chief, J. Edgar Hoover. This became one of the famous feuds of the 1960s.

Senate investigators are now trying to determine whether Hoover used the FBI to carry on his vendetta against King. They want to know who ordered the snooping and who leaked the sex stories to the press. They are also searching for FBI agents who participated in the actual surveillance of the civil rights leader.

We were the first to reveal on May 21, 1968, that the FBI had tapped King's telephones. We reported that the wiretaps had divulged information about his alleged love affairs, a subject that was none of the FBI's business.

NOW, MORE THAN seven years later, we have dug deeper into the story for the answers the senators are seeking.

There is bitter disagreement over who first suggested that the FBI cave-drop on King. But in October, 1963, Hoover obtained — some say wangled — a memorandum from then-Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy authorizing the controversial wiretaps.

The official justification was to determine whether King had any secret ties with the Communists. But the only secret dealings that the wiretaps revealed were with women. His dynamism and courage had made him attractive to many women.

Here are examples of the sort of smut that the FBI collected about this Nobel prize winner.

• The FBI bugged his suite in Washington's elegant, old Willard Hotel. He allegedly drank too many "black Russian" concoctions, bragged of his sexual prowess to a woman visitor and then produced

• In Las Vegas, King allegedly picked up an FBI informant who reported to the FBI next morning that he had paid her \$100 to spend the night with him.

• Another time, he allegedly became intoxicated and made passes at a woman in a New York City hotel. The secret FBI summary of the incident reported that "King threatened to leap from the 13th floor window of the hotel if this woman would not say she loved him."

• The CIA forwarded a raw, unverified report to the FBI that King, totally naked, chased a woman through an Oslo hotel during his Norway visit to receive the Nobel peace prize.

• The FBI also monitored King's relationship with the vivacious wife of a Los Angeles dentist. The FBI called it an "illicit affair." The woman insisted the relationship was "merely a friendship."

• As part of its continuing surveillance, the FBI bugged King's hotel suite in Atlantic City during the 1964 Democratic convention. But apparently nothing of significance was picked up.

The FBI continued its electronic surveillance of King, according to our sources, until his death in April, 1968. The latest secret sex report we saw was dated Feb. 20, 1968.

In other words, the FBI continued listening to King's most private conversations for nearly five years. Yet during all this time the FBI picked up no evidence that he had committed a crime or was likely to commit one. Hoover's boys just kept filling up folders with titillating tidbits, idle gossip and vicious slander about the great Dr. King. His FBI dossier can only be described, therefore, as a blackmail file.

INDEED, WE CAN prove that FBI officials tried to peddle embarrassing items about King to newsmen. Our FBI sources also say that Hoover's loyal sidekick, the late Clyde Tolson, sent the Willard Hotel tape anonymously to the civil rights leader's wife, Coretta King.

But the blackmail, apparently, didn't work. King's close friend and associate, Rep. Walter Fauntroy (D.D.C.), told us the late leader was fully aware of the FBI's surveillance and wasn't the least deterred by it.

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MEMPHIS PRESS SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN

CBS Request Gets Challenge by Ray

By TOM JONES
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

A bill opposing the request of CBS News to conduct "scientific examinations" on ballistics evidence gathered after the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been filed in Criminal Court by James Earl Ray's attorney.

James H. Lesar, Ray's Washington, D. C., attorney, said in the bill filed yesterday that CBS News "will be subject to a suit for libel" if the petition for examination is granted.

CBS asked to examine the evidence in preparation of a television special on the King assassination. Ray pleaded guilty to the slaying in March 1969 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Lesar said interest in the case "has led to efforts to commercialize and sensationalize this case and that this both violated his (Ray's) rights and denied the public the truth about the assassination of Dr. King."

Lesar said the federal motion by Ray for an evidentiary hearing "overwhelming demonstrated Ray has never been lawfully convicted of killing Dr. King."

The answer added: "Ray asserts that both the public

interest and his own interest require his being given a trial."

He argued that an examination by CBS of the rifle, slugs and other ballistics evidence would be used to support the contention that King was shot by the rifle and would link Ray to the slaying.

"This is not true," the answer said. "Ray was not at the scene of the crime and did not know King was going to be shot. It doesn't matter if the bullet which killed Dr. King came from the rifle left on South Main or if it was fired from the bathroom window. Ray was not there and he did not and could not shoot Dr. King."

Lesar also attacked the CBS argument that Ray "is a convicted assassin and does not have the rights of an accused." The bill said, "Ray has always contested his guilt and has been trying for six years to get a trial."

"CBS has no moral or legal right to assume Ray's guilt or refer to him by any designation or description which implies either guilt or a lawful conviction," the bill said.

Judge William Williams has set a hearing Friday on CBS' petition.

9/25/75

CHARLES H. SCHNEIDER

Memphis Office: MEMPHIS

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King's Widow Poses Question Of Government Role In Death

From Our Press Services

NAIROBI, Kenya — The widow of Martin Luther King said Thursday his assassination apparently was caused by a government conspiracy, and that investigations into his slaying should be reopened.

"I don't have the facts but at this stage I say it appears there was a conspiracy in the death of my husband," Coretta Scott King said.

"The way he was documented and followed around by Hoover and the CIA when he was abroad, it would have to have been attached to the forces of our government that felt he was a threat to the system as it existed."

She referred to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and to the late Federal Bureau of Investigation chief, J. Edgar Hoover.

Mrs. King, on a three-nation African tour, arrived in Nairobi Wednesday. She was interviewed before a meeting with Kenyan women leaders arranged by the U.S. Information Service.

Mrs. King commented on the review ordered by Atty. Gen. Edward Levi of the FBI investigation of King's shooting death in 1968. James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the killing in Memphis, and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

"I am very encouraged by this. I do feel with the recent investigations into the FBI and CIA we have new evidence, confirmed evidence," she said.

"I feel it requires further investigation into the death of my husband, as well as the assassinations of others from the Kennedys on."

"I think there are grounds for reopening the case. I have always felt there was more to it than came out. I also felt somehow in the long run of history it would be revealed — just what did happen."

Mrs. King told the Kenyan women Hoover tried to discredit her husband by alleging he stole some money, sought self-glorification and was sexually immoral.

The last accusation was "an effort to get me upset and turn me against him,"

she said. "I was never affected, because I knew his moral commitments."

"From the grave the truth has risen," Mrs. King added. "High officials now know it was Hoover and not Martin Luther King who was immoral and unjust."

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

— PAGE 1
 — COMMERCIAL APPEAL
 — MEMPHIS, TENN

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At the same time in the United States, four well-known civil rights leaders called on President Ford to reopen the investigation of the King assassination.

In Chicago, Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), called for a new trial for Ray and a congressional or Warren Commission-type investigation into the assassination.

"We are urging the Congress to launch a full-scale investigation into Dr. King's assassination. There are enough public doubts, unanswered questions and circumstantial evidence to merit such an investigation by the Church committee in the Senate and the Pike committee in the House.

"We want James Earl Ray back in court to stand trial . . . as he himself wants.

"Or we want a Warren Commission-type investigation of Dr. King's assassination held publicly for all the world to see."

In Washington, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Dick Gregory and Georgia state legislator Hosea Williams led a small group in picketing the White House after sending Ford a telegram calling for a new investigation into the King death.

They said two witnesses, both currently jailed on other matters, could provide evidence that King was killed as the result of a conspiracy and not by Ray's acting alone.

The three black leaders said any investigation should include evidence from Robert Byron Watson, who allegedly overheard a plot to assassinate King, and C. H. Andrews, also known as R. L. Warren, who is willing to testify to his alleged part in the plot against King if he were granted immunity from prosecution.

Watson is in federal prison at Ashland, Ky., on traffic violation convictions, and Andrews is in the Mimico Correctional Institute in Toronto.

The trio gave no details of the testimony either Andrews or Watson could offer.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI King File To Be Checked

By MORRIS CUNNINGHAM

From The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department's review of the FBI investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King initially will be limited to checking the contents of "four drawers in a filing cabinet," and will not necessitate a return of investigators to Memphis.

John Wilson, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said Atty. Gen. Edward Levi has ordered a review of the FBI's investigatory work into the assassination — and not into the assassination itself — to determine "the sufficiency of the original investigation."

The review was ordered in light of recent Senate Intelligence Committee disclosures that the late J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI director who led the King investigation, considered the civil rights leader "dangerous" and was a party to various harassments directed at King before he

was fatally wounded on a Memphis motel balcony April 4, 1968.

At a news conference Wednesday night, President Ford said he abhors harassment of King and an effort should be made to bring to justice those responsible. He said he would consult with Levi on the matter.

The records to be reviewed, Wilson said, "fill four drawers in a filing cabinet," apparently containing paperwork and agent reports on their investigatory work.

Asst. Attys. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger and Richard L. Thornburgh will review the files and determine whether the investigation, for any reason, should be reopened.

Wilson noted that Levi, Pottinger and Thornburgh all have joined the Justice Department since the King slaying.

The Senate hearing disclosures have led to some voicing concern that the FBI's preconceived notions may have led to shortcomings, and possibly to cover-ups, during the investigation.

The disclosures include reports the FBI bugged King's hotel rooms and sent tapes to his wife, and, at one time, sent him a letter hinting he should commit suicide. Hoover, testimony indicated, believed King to be "dangerous" and agents should act to blunt his effectiveness.

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

PAGE 15

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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Levi ordered Pottinger, assistant attorney general in charge of civil rights, and Thornburgh, assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division, "to review the file and to recommend to me whether the investigation should be reopened."

Levi's action "is not in itself a reopening of the matter," Wilson said. "He has no indication that the original investigation was anything less than thorough."

The FBI, which threw heavy resources into the investigation of King's murder, early identified his probable killer as James Earl Ray and traced Ray to London, where he was apprehended.

Ray was extradited, returned to Memphis and tried for murder in Shelby County Criminal Court. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in state prison. Ray's recent petition for a new trial was denied.

Wilson said there are no plans at this time for any field investigation that might result in FBI agents once again studying the scene of the slaying in Memphis.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mrs. King Asks For New Probe

NAIROBI, Kenya. — (AP) — Coretta King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, has called for a re-opening of the investigation of her husband's assassination, which she says was apparently the result of a government conspiracy.

"I don't have the facts but at this stage I say it appears there was a conspiracy in the death of my husband," she said in an interview Thursday.

Mrs. King, who is in Nairobi on a three-nation African tour, commented on the admission by the FBI that it undertook a harassment campaign to discredit King, and a subsequent order by Atty. Gen. Edward Levi of a review of the agency's investigation of King's shooting death in 1968. James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the killing in Memphis, Tenn., and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

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King Assassination Should Be Reinvestigated

By D'ARMY BAILEY

ONE SHUDDERS to think that foreign murder conspiracies and domestic plots have grown from the central U.S. government with the support and sanction of top national leaders.

In the last 20 years there have been shocking events and revelations which have cut to the raw of the American image. There were civil rights protests, Vietnam, Cuba, Watergate, and the political assassinations of the Kennedys and King.

NOW A NEW series of revelations is unfolding. The emerging picture shows that a lawless group of high government officials had a firm grip on the national intelligence and law-enforcement machinery.

Hoover's campaign to discredit Dr. Martin Luther King is the latest revelation to come to the forefront. Hoover apparently walked over every law in the book to carry on his campaign to destroy King. Available reports show Hoover as obsessed with toppling this black national leader.

During the days of the civil rights movement, the leaders and activists always feared government espionage. But they were more fearful of misdeeds by local law agencies than by the federal police in Washington.

Today's news stories show that the suspicions of movement activists were not paranoid cynicism. The activists' hunches were right. There were government conspiracies against them.

The big unanswered question is whether these government-inspired murder plots were limited to targets outside the United States. From what we have learned so far, the CIA and Hoover were not especially bound by the restrictions of law or global boundaries.

In these circumstances it is imperative that the 1968 assassination of Dr. King be reanalyzed. The review of the FBI investigation which was ordered by Atty. Gen. Edward Levi is a partial step in the right direction.

But it is now time for a new, thorough and complete investigation of whether King's death was the product of a conspiracy.

The federal court has already ruled that the guilty plea of James Earl Ray to the King murder would not be set aside. Although that ruling is now on appeal, the appeals courts have given wide latitude to the trial court findings of district judges.

A renewed investigation of the King assassination need not await the outcome of Ray's appeal. What an investigation might reveal could, however, have some later bearing on Ray's own case in the same way as the Watergate investigation turned up information for later criminal trials.

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

PAGE 7

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: Dec. 1, 1975

Edition:

Author:

Editor: MICHAEL GREHL

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or 44-1987 Sub C 642
44-1987 Sub C

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DEC 1 1975

FBI - MEMPHIS

Orig. fwd to
Bureau 12-1-75 am

As more is revealed about what went on during the Hoover years, there is evidence that Hoover's superior at the Justice Department, Robert Kennedy, knew of at least some of Hoover's activities. Quite probably so did President Kennedy. At the very least Hoover's excesses were tolerated.

Memphis has a special interest in getting to the bottom of the King murder. The crime was executed in Memphis and helped drive the wedge wider between black and white Memphians.

It is useless to guess at what a new investigation might reveal. The important thing is that there is credible evidence which creates an uneasiness in the public mind.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Democrats Urge King Death Inquiry

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Democratic Senate and House leaders Tuesday called for congressional inquiries into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Democratic Whip Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) urged the Senate Intelligence Committee to conduct a "thorough review" of the original FBI investigation of King's death.

Rep. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.) said the House Judiciary Committee should conduct an investigation because of the "shocking and confirmed" disclosure the FBI had attempted to discredit King. Burton is chairman of the House Democratic caucus.

Atty. Gen. Edward Levi last week ordered a Justice Department review of the FBI investigation which concluded James Earl Ray was the lone assassin of King.

But Byrd said the Justice Department could not conduct the review alone at a time "when some citizens believe that every government investigation of itself results in a cover-up."

In a separate statement, Burton said, "the United States people have the right to know the extent of the involvement of any federal agency in the invasion of Dr. King's right to privacy, his harassment, as well as the relevant facts of his assassination."

Levi ordered the review after it was revealed the FBI conducted illegal wiretaps and harassed and intimidated King and his family before the 1969 assassination in Memphis.

Byrd said the implication of Levi's order was that the FBI's hostility toward King may have affected the thoroughness with which the murder was investigated.

"Indeed, some people have suggested that James Earl Ray may have been part of a wider conspiracy in the death of Dr. King, which the FBI ignored," Byrd said.

The assistant Democratic leader added in a Senate speech "too many questions have been left unanswered concerning the assassination . . ."

"The citizens of the United States need to know that the official resolution of this case was indeed complete, just and thorough," he added. "The finding of the Select (Senate Intelligence) Committee could go far to establish that degree of credibility and to restore faith in law enforcement generally."

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

PAGE 4

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: Dec. 3, 1975

Edition:

Author:

Editor: MICHAEL GREHL

Title: MURKIN

44-1987 Sub C 643

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1987 Sub C

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mup</i>	FILED <i>mep</i>
DEC 4 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Orig fwd to
BUREAU 12-4-75

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Demo Leaders Ask Review of Dr. King's Death

WASHINGTON. — (UPI) — Democratic Senate and House leaders today called for congressional inquiries into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Democratic Whip Robert C. Byrd D.-W. Va., urged the Senate Intelligence Committee to conduct a "thorough review" of the original FBI investigation of King's death.

Rep. Phillip Burton, D-Calif., said the House Judiciary Committee should conduct an investigation because of the "shocking and confirmed" disclosure the FBI had attempted to discredit King. Burton is chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

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*Orig fwd to
BUREAU 12-4-75AM*

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

PAGE 1

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: DEC. 2, 1975

Edition:

Author: CHARLES H.

Editor: SCHEINER

Title: MURKIN

44-1987 Sub C 644

Character:

or

Classification: *44-1987 Sub C*

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
DEC: 4 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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said, "The United States people have the right to know the extent of the involvement of any federal agency in the invasion of Dr. King's right to privacy, his harassment, as well as the relevant facts of his assassination."

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many questions have been left unanswered concerning the assassination . . ."

"The citizens of the United States need to know that the official resolution of this case was indeed complete, just, and thorough," he added. "The finding of the select (Senate Intelligence) committee could go far to establish that degree of credibility and to restore faith in law enforcement generally." (Related story on FBI probe on Page 2.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge Denies CBS Petition To Examine Ray Evidence

Criminal Court Judge William Williams yesterday denied the petition of CBS, Inc., to microscopically examine ballistics evidence from the James Earl Ray case.

Williams denied the petition because Ray's appeal for a new trial is pending before the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Ray is appealing U. S. Dist. Judge Robert M. McRae Jr.'s Feb. 27 ruling denying him a new trial.

Williams indicated he would be willing to allow CBS access to the material when the appeal is complete.

~~"It is not a public record . . . but it is property subject to conditions and at the proper time forensic tests may be performed,"~~ Williams said. "This is not the time for this petition."

George Hoover, director of information services for CBS, said yesterday in New York after the ruling, "We think we are in the right and probably will appeal."

Newton P. Allen, attorney for CBS, argued during the hearing the evidence is public information. He said the press does have the right to sue for such information based on a recent U. S. Supreme Court decision. CBS wants the evidence for a Nov. 30 documentary.

Williams said he saw no First Amendment question in the petition involving the public's right to know.

"CBS would assume an adversary position and be in a position to dispute the state or defendant and put their credibility on the line to the public," Williams said.

CBS is seeking to perform a microscopic and stereoscopic examination of the bullet that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., along with test bullets, cartridges and the rifle found at the scene. They also want to examine the windowsill from the rooming house overlooking the Lorraine Motel.

Attorneys for Ray, along with Atty. Gen. Hugh Stanton Jr. opposed CBS' petition.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Jewett Miller argued the exhibits in the course of a trial are not and do not become part of the public record.

CBS argued the examination of the evidence was necessary because of a question whether the bullet which killed King came from the rifle found at the scene.

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

PAGE 31

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

44-1987-1-30C

Date: 9/27/75
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: GORDON HANNA
Title:

Character:
or 44-1987-508C 645
Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 30 1975	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

An Independent Probe Needed

MRS. CORETTA Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, has expressed a desire to have a new investigation of her husband's assassination by some agency other than the Justice Department.

Her distrust of the Justice Department can hardly be wondered at in view of the disclosures that have been made concerning the attitudes toward the late civil rights leader held by the FBI and its former director, the late J. Edgar Hoover.

Mr. James B. Adams, associate deputy FBI director, told the Senate Intelligence Committee in November about 25 separate attempts by the bureau — without legal justification — to discredit Dr. King as a civil rights leader in the 1960s.

And in October a former president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police said Mr. Hoover told him in 1965 that Dr. King was one of three men the late FBI director "hated more than anyone else in the world."

More recent congressional testimony portrayed the FBI and some of its agents

as being indifferent to the safety of civil rights workers under Dr. King's leadership.

It is not known how or by whom a new investigation of Dr. King's assassination should be carried out. Perhaps Congress should set up the machinery and provide the funds for an independent investigation.

Certainly, Mrs. King is justified in preferring that the job not be undertaken by the Justice Department. An investigation of Dr. King's death could turn into an investigation of the FBI's efficiency the first time. Thus the FBI could be placed in a conflict of interest by the possibility that what it turns up in the new investigation might detract further from its reputation as a law enforcement agency.

— PAGE 18

— THE TENNESSEAN

— NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: NOV. 11, 1975

Edition:

Author:

Editor: LLOYD ARMOUR

Title:

EDITORIAL

Character:

44-1987 subc646

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

*Orig. fwd to
BUREAU 11-17-75 awr*

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BRL BRL

113

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hoover Simply Disliked Communists

By WILLIAM A. RUSHER

THE POSTHUMOUS ATTACK on J. Edgar Hoover has centered on his supposed persecution of Martin Luther King Jr. A carbon copy of an anonymous letter to King, arguably urging him to commit suicide, has turned up in the files of William Sullivan, a former Assistant Director of the FBI (and no friend of Hoover, who failed to anoint him as his own successor). Sullivan says he knows nothing about the letter, so — on exactly no evidence whatever, so so far as I can tell — everybody has leaped to the conclusion that Hoover wrote it. When you're out to beat a dog, apparently, just about any stick will do.

EXACTLY why Hoover detested King so much (and Hoover certainly never

made any secret of that fact) has, however, received curiously little attention. The general assumption seems to be that Hoover was, in addition to everything else, a racist bigot who just naturally detested black leaders. The fact that the Bureau under Hoover's direction brilliantly infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan is discreetly overlooked in aid of this brazen lie.

But what about Martin Luther King Jr.? The man is dead now, and one hesitates to tamper with his memory. Whatever his sins, his eloquence on behalf of the cause of black Americans, and his subsequent assassination, have virtually apotheosized him. There are scores of Martin Luther King Jr. High Schools and Auditoriums and Boulevards all over America, and the anniversary of his assassination is widely

observed as a day of mourning.

But it was with King the man, not King the canonized memory, that Hoover had to concern himself; and it is therefore necessary to pay a certain attention to the facts. And one of the key facts is that King was amazingly indifferent to the presence of a dedicated Communist in the high command of his

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

PAGE 16

NASHVILLE BANNER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Date: JAN. 7, 1976

Edition:

Author:

Editor: KENNETH E. HORNER

Title:

Character: 44-1987 Sub C-646

Classification: 44-1987-Sub-306

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated: 44-1987-Sub

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 8 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
Hester	ONE

Put in King's file

Orig fwd to BUREAU 1-8-76 am

Late in 1962 the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* reported that the southeastern director of the SCLC was ~~one~~ Hunter Pitts O'Dell. What made this fact of more than casual interest was the further fact (which by then had been on the public record for six and a half years) that O'Dell was a long-time Communist Party activist.

I happened to have come across

O'Dell's spoor in 1966, during an investigation by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (of which I was then Associate Counsel) into a white-collar cell of the Communist party in New Orleans. Its members included such well-placed enthusiasts as the former national legislative representative of the Louisiana state PTA, the program director of WDSU-TV (New Orleans' largest television station), the head of a travel agency, and the proprietor of a book store near Tulane University. These and other cell members (all of whom were white, by the way) would

*King was indifferent
to the presence
of a Communist in
his high command . . .*

foregather regularly to study Communist doctrine under the tutelage of O'Dell, who at that time was a student at (black) Southern University, and was also working as a bus boy in a downtown cafeteria.

When the U.S. marshals went to O'Dell's rented room to serve the subcommittee's subpoena, the bird had flown (not to reappear for weeks, at which point he took the Fifth Amendment). But in the room were no less than 175 documents later received in evidence by the subcommittee, including: a vast array of American and foreign Communist literature; 375 copies of an issue of the *Worker*, setting forth "The Southern People's Common Program for Democracy, Progress, and Peace"; a document dated Nov. 4, 1955, from the National Organization Commission of the Communist Party, addressed "To all districts"; two Social Security cards made out to names used as aliases by O'Dell; and an undated memorandum, apparently by O'Dell, headed "Proposals on Southern Party Organization."

THIS WAS the man chosen by King as his SCLC director for the Southeastern United States. Moreover, when the *Globe-Democrat* re-published the truth about O'Dell, King dawdled for six months before announcing, under heavy pressure, that O'Dell had left the SCLC "by mutual agreement." Because of his Communist record? Not at all; merely, said King, because of concern that his affiliation with the integration movement would be used by "segregationists and race-baiters."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI's Probe In King Case Under Fire

By DAN THOMASSON
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON.—The Justice Department is delving deeply into the FBI's handling of the investigation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination to determine whether the bureau was involved in any way in the civil rights leader's slaying.

A team of attorneys from the department's Civil Rights Division, headed by Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger, has been poring through nearly 100 supersensitive FBI files on King and on his assassination. Until now most of those files have been so secret that only a few of the bureau's top officials have had access to them.

The department's probe of an FBI investigation—rare if not unique in the history of the bureau—has been prompted by increased public debate over the thoroughness of the FBI inquiry into King's 1968 slaying in Memphis. That debate was stimulated by new Senate Intelligence Committee disclosures of FBI harrassment of King during the 1960s.

"We seriously doubt anyone in the bureau was involved in the assassination," a department source said. "But the FBI's actions against King certainly raise questions we want to get answered."

The inquiry began in November, shortly after the Intelligence Committee revealed bureau activities against King—wiretaps, bugs, personal surveillance and even a letter aimed at convincing him to take his own life—were far more extensive than previously disclosed.

The investigation also comes at a time when at least one congressional subcommittee—a Senate Judiciary Committee panel set up to oversee the FBI—is preparing to conduct its own inquiry into the King case.

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

PAGE 7

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: JAN. 13, 1976

Edition:

Author: CHARLES H.

Editor: SCHWEITZER

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

44-1987-508C647
BBB BBV
J

“What the department can't ignore, as we can't,” said a congressional source, “is whether the intense harassment of King led someone or some element in the bureau into something more serious or tempered the investigation. I have doubts the department will get very far, because I don't think FBI files will show very much . . . unless someone really was stupid.”

The department also actively is investigating a number of other FBI activities including possible violations of federal civil rights statutes by agents carrying out a bureau program to disrupt and harass antiwar activists and others during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

It further is trying to ascertain whether there were law violations in the award of bureau contracts, and whether there was any bureau involvement—other than use of informants—with a militant, right-wing San Diego, Calif., terrorist group known as the Secret Army Organization.

The Senate Intelligence Committee is investigating allegations the bureau supplied the group weapons. FBI Director Clarence E. Kelley denied flatly Sunday that the bureau did any more than use an informant in trying to investigate the organization.

At the same time, the department's civil rights and criminal divisions are investigating the CIA's actions in the 1971 break-in of a Fairfax City, Va., photo shop. Former CIA Director Richard Helms reportedly faces being charged with misdemeanors for the agency's participation with Fairfax police in the break-in.

Department sources said a decision on prosecution of Helms will be made in a week.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Maintains Innocence In Plea for New Trial

By CHARLES DURFEY
Special to The Press-Scimitar

CINCINNATI, Ohio. — James Earl Ray did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and for that reason he should be given a new trial, attorneys for Ray told the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals today.

While questioning of James Lesar, one of Ray's Washington, D.C., attorneys this morning, members of the three judge-panel focused on "apparent lies," told by Ray during his original trial.

Judge Anthony J. Celebrezze asked Lesar if Ray was now contending that he didn't shoot King.

Lesar said, "That is correct."

"Then he lied twice," said Celebrezze, citing Ray's guilty plea in Shelby County Criminal Court and in a document presented to that court.

Hearing the legal arguments in addition to Celebrezze were Chief Judge Harry Phillips and Circuit Judge William E. Miller.

After asking whether Ray "understood what he was doing when pleading guilty," Celebrezze answered the question himself, saying "He probably knew more law than his attorney, he's been in and out of jail so much."

Judge Miller was interested in whether Percy Foreman of Houston, Ray's former attorney, adequately represented Ray in the case.

Lesar contended Foreman improperly advised Ray to plead guilty because Foreman did not conduct an independent investigation of the case and stood to profit from a book about Ray.

Lesar asked the three-judge panel to overturn Ray's first degree murder conviction and order a trial so the evidence can be brought out in public.

The hearing today was to review U.S. Dist. Judge Robert M. McRae's denial of the new trial request last February. The Memphis judge decided after eight days of hearings that Ray's 1969 confession to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was voluntarily made on the advice of competent attorneys.

Ray, who has served seven years of a 99-year prison sentence at the Nashville

state penitentiary, claims his former attorneys, Foreman and Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, pressured him to plead guilty and compromised his interests by signing contracts for royalty rights to a book on the slaying.

Lesar claimed that Judge McRae failed to conduct a "full scale judicial inquiry" into the assassination as ordered by the Cincinnati based appeals court in 1974.

Attorneys from the Tennessee Attorney General's office opposed Ray's request for a new trial and said that McRae did conduct a detailed investigation.

Ray "admitted his guilt" to the first degree murder of Dr. King with full knowledge of the direct consequences, Asst. State Atty. Gen. Joe Haynes said.

Each side had been allocated 20 minutes for arguments, but the three judge panel allowed Lesar to argue for 45 minutes to the state's 20.

A decision is not expected for several weeks.

Orig. and one fwd.
Bureau, 2/4/76. (JAP)

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

Memphis Press-Scimitar

Memphis, Tenn.

Page 1

Date: 2/3/76
Edition: Final
Author: CHARLES DURFEY
Editor: MILTON R. BRITTEN
Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Memphis

Being Investigated

44-1987-50AC 648

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 4 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CBS Is Denied Ray Evidence

NASHVILLE (AP) — The Court of Criminal Appeals has rejected a request by CBS News that it be permitted to conduct scientific tests on some of the evidence used in the murder trial of James Earl Ray.

The court held that neither the public nor the news media has an absolute right to photograph or conduct scientific tests on evidence in a criminal case.

CBS made the request while working on an hour-long documentary, shown last month, examining theories that Ray did not act alone in the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Orig. and one fwd. Bureau, 2/4/76. (JAP)

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

PAGE 3
COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: JAN. 30, 1976
Edition:
Author:
Editor: MICHAEL GREHL
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

44-1987-SUB C 679

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 4 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten initials]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

TO YOU AMERICA



Yes, if you want to, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness.

AND ALL OF THE OTHER SHALLOW THINGS WILL NOT MATTER.....

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Orig fwd to Bureau 1-28-76 am

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

PAGE 5

TRI-STATE DEFENDER

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

Date: JAN. 24, 1976

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

WHITTIER

Title:

SENGSTACKE JR.

Character:

or 44-1987 sub C 650

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

SEARCHED INDEXED

SERIALIZED FILED

JAN 25 1976

FBI - MEMPHIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Tuesday, February 10, 1976--Page 5

U.S. Government Killed King: Jackson

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was standing at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s side when he was shot to death in Memphis in 1968, said Monday the United States government killed King.

"James Earl Ray didn't act alone," the one-time King lieutenant said. "The circumstantial evidence is overwhelming. He couldn't have that tight a time schedule, he couldn't have gotten out of the country by himself."

Ray also now says he did not act alone, Jackson added.

He also cited recently revealed FBI and Justice Department memos which showed FBI policy was to "disrupt, discredit or overthrow and destroy black organizations."

Another memo, he said, called for the destruction of the "black messiah."

Jackson said revelations of CIA involvement in assassination plots around the world made it clear the government would also try to silence internal opponents to its policies.

"Why, Martin's Vietnam views alone were enough to get him murdered. Others have been shot for less."

He said the FBI seemed to be the most likely organization to investigate for links to the murder, but added the FBI is but a part of the

larger Justice Department operations.

He said only a special prosecutor and an independent congressional committee could fairly investigate the King assassination. Such an investigation should be made, he said, and the Ray murder case reopened.

Parent Drop-Outs Cause Crisis

Continued from page 1

society, he said.

He favors passage of the Equal Rights Amendment because what is at stake is "the adult rights of women." However, he said he did not like to call women a minority; though "maybe they're an oppressed majority."

He said only blacks, Latinos and Indians were minorities in this country because they had been brought here against their will or taken in military expansion.

White women, he said, should remember they have always been the wives, sisters, aunts, of the racists in power in this country.

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

Page 5
Clarksville
Leaf Chronicle
Clarksville, Tenn

Date: 2/10/76

Edition:

Author: Unknown

Editor: James Charles

Title: Rev. Jesse Jackson

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Me

Being Investigated

44-1987-SUBC651

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 17 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Original and 1 fwd. Bureau 2/17/76. (JAP)



FURTHERMORE -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson told Austin Peay State University students Monday that moral authority and discipline were needed to overthrow the decadence now rampant in American society.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Coby Smith:

Article on Invaders and King not accurate

Coby Smith, former member of the Invaders and now assistant to the vice president of State Technical Institute, told the Tri-State Defender that a recent report on the now defunct militant organization by a New York newspaper is not completely accurate.

Smith, who served on the executive board of the Invaders said he, and other members of the organization were aware of infiltrators long before the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. Smith said those sources used in the article appearing in the Garden City Newday was misleading. He said "people, when asked to speak on aspects of a subject they are familiar with, have a tendency to talk about that aspect which they know least about.

"This was obviously the case," he continued, "with those friends of Dr. King who the writer used as sources. The story said "according to some witnesses, the 100-member group called the Invaders led the March 28 riots which attempted to discredit King's efforts.

"Following the riot, in which one youth was killed, scores injured, and 238 arrested, King vowed that he would return to prove that he still could lead a non-violent demonstration."

*Orig. fwd to
BUREAU 3-1-76 ^{mm}*

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

PAGE 6

TRI-STATE DEFENDER

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

Date: Feb. 28, 1976

Edition:

Author:

Editor: WHITTIER

Title: SENGSTACKE JR

MURKIN

Character:

or 44-1987-Sub C 652

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 1 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Smith ~~said~~ since the organization felt that a small nucleus of the black community was leading King in the wrong direction as far as strategy was concerned, the Invaders decided they would not take part in the march. He said at the time many people were donning Invader jackets because "they were very easy to make."

Smith said it wasn't that people were interested in what happened to Dr. King at the time, rather it was what would happen to the other black ministers such as Rev. James Lawson and Rev. Ralph H. Jackson. A letter, sent to the black leadership

with a bullet attached to it, caused the concern. Some people tried to blame the Invaders.

The article written by Les Payne stated, "several FBI informants and at least one undercover agent from the Memphis Police Department were among the most active members of a young, violence prone black group which openly opposed King's peaceful march supporting the city's sanitation workers."

Smith said the organization had many people associated with it directly and indirectly who were on the payrolls of the FBI, CIA and Memphis Police Department. As for the members of the Invaders that infiltrated our group, some of our members had seen him in Indiana and were aware of the fact that he was an infiltrator.

The Newday Article stated, "On April 4, the day King was

killed, the groups met with him and his staff and threatened renewed violence unless they were given \$750,000 to redevelop their community. 'They just got louder and louder,' one aide who was at the meeting recalled. "We told them we didn't have access to that kind of money. We had to put them out."

Smith stated, "There were no shouting matches. We attempted to show Dr. King that the time had come for community organizing at a grass roots level. Smith stated, "King allowed himself to be led by a small segment of the Memphis black leadership. We got the impression that, during the meeting, he understood what we were saying and that is that the younger element of the Memphis community had been ignored by the so called established black leadership. ~~word~~"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

TO YOU AMERICA



Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness.

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DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Perspective

orig fwd to Bureau 4-2-76,com

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

PAGE 5

TRI-STATE DEFENDER

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

Date: April 3, 1976

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

WHITTIER
SENGSTACKE JR
EDITORIAL

Character:

or 44-1987 Sub C 653

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Witness Held In King Death Loses Quest For Rewards

Chancellor Charles Rond yesterday denied reward money to a man who was held as a material witness in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Charles Quitman Stephens, who claimed to have seen a man fleeing from a Main Street boarding house the night King was assassinated, had claimed rewards totaling \$100,000.

In denying the reward to Stephens, Rond said the man told police everything he knew before the reward was offered.

Rond said in the opinion "it has been held that in order for a furnisher of infor-

mation to recover under a private reward it must be shown that he had knowledge of the reward offer and that he acted with the intention of claiming it."

The opinion said Stephens gave a full statement to police on April 4, 1968, before the reward was offered on April 5.

Although Stephens gave police information after the reward was offered, he disclosed "no information that had not already been given by him to the police" the opinion said.

The Commercial Appeal had offered a \$25,000 reward in the case. The Scripps-Howard organization, including the Memphis Press-Scimitar, offered another \$25,000.

The Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Association and Future Memphis, Inc., offered \$25,000 also. The National Alliance of Postal Employees added \$10,000 more and Mrs. Gwen Awsumb also offered \$1,085.

The City Council in 1968 offered to make up the difference in order to extend the reward to \$100,000. Rond said the city's obligation was \$5,000 and individual council members owed a total of \$8,915.

Rond said Stephens argued that "he gave to the police and FBI a description of James Earl Ray, and that this description was made the basis of a flyer" which led to Ray's capture.

But those offering the reward said Stephens was "unable to obtain more than a side view of Ray" and told police he would not recognize Ray if he saw him.

Stephens was also unable to identify a picture of Eric S. Galt, the defense argued, and another source identified Ray and Galt as the same person.

Rond had held the decision on the reward pending federal appeals in Ray's case. But based on a ruling last year by U.S. Dist. Judge Robert McRae, Rond said "further delay would not be warranted."

Rond said McRae had "considered and disposed of every question raised" and "in light of Judge McRae's thorough inquiry and findings" he decided the reward case.

The chancellor used McRae's words in describing Stephens' confinement as a material witness. Rond said the confinement was provoked by Stephens' "fondness for the fermented grape."

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

PAGE 25

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: April 9, 1976

Edition:

Author:

Editor: MICHAEL GREHL

Title:

44-1987 Sub C 254

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

 Being Investigated

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