

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Escape Assisted By Coincidences

Petros, Tenn. — UPI — A number of coincidences may have hindered state officials in their efforts to recapture James Earl Ray, confessed slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and three other convicts who broke out of Brushy Mountain State Prison.

Although there is no indication the Friday night events occurred as part of any alleged escape plot, the following did happen:

- Prison officials fruitlessly attempted to call the Morgan County sheriff's office when the escape occurred only to find that the local telephone system had broken down.

- The guard tower nearest the location where Ray and his six companions went over the wall was not manned at the time.

- State Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer, the state's top law enforcement officer, was in Texas on business at the time of the escape.

- Plummer's deputy commissioner, Highway Patrol Commander Richard M. Dawson, was with his mother on a trip to Alabama.

- Prison Warden Stony Lane was on vacation in Corpus Christi, Tex.

In the past other coincidences concerning the King murder have fueled speculation about a possible conspiracy.

For example, immediately after the King slaying in Memphis on April 4, 1968, a shortwave radio broadcast told of an imaginary chase in the city's suburb. The shortwave report said there were shots being fired in the chase, and Memphis police were dispatched to the area. Some said this distracted them from apprehending Ray.

Police believe the shortwave broadcast was done as a prank by a teenager, but there has been no conclusive explanation.

Ray's costly trip to Atlanta, then to Canada and finally to Europe has not been explained. The FBI has hinted that Ray committed several armed robberies to support the trip, but this has never been officially verified.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Many Questions Linger After Ray Prison Escape

AP, New York Times

The questions linger in the James Earl Ray escape story:

How did the convicts get under a live electric wire that dangled less than a foot above the top of the prison wall?

Why did not guards in the wall towers notice the breakout in progress?

And perhaps the most puzzling of all, how was the escape ladder, a contraption of more than 20 pieces of pipe screwed together, made in secret?

Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton's theory on the 2,300 volt cable is that the fugitives used a notch in the wall to bypass it.

Blanton said Sunday that investigators had found marks on the prison wall where it meets a rock cliff that helps form one side of the compound. There is a gap between the wall and the cliff, creating a notch that makes the wall lower at this point and provides more space beneath the cable. Investigators think the marks on the wall came from a makeshift ladder used for the escape, Blanton said.

Murray Henderson, corrections commissioner, said the gap apparently worsened after severe winter weather eroded the aging stone wall.

Power Failure

Another theory concerns a power failure at the prison. Henderson acknowledged that there was a failure the night of the escape, but he

said it happened after the breakout and lasted only minutes.

Earlier, however, Deputy Warden Herman Davis dismissed the idea that the power might have been off, claiming that it is on 24 hours a day.

The official explanation for the guards' failure to spot the breakout is that other prisoners aided the escapees by staging a fight and other minor disturbances in the prison yard to distract the guards.

The only gunfire came from Tower 3, a wall observation post more than 150 yards across the compound. It slightly wounded Jerry Ward, the last man to make it over the wall. Ward was recaptured almost immediately.

Another guard post less than 50 yards away was empty because it is manned only in emergencies, according to Davis and Henderson.

Custom Designed

The ladder was custom designed for the job, with a key shaped foot at the bottom to keep it away from the wall and an angled piece at the top that fit almost perfectly across the wall. It also could be concealed in pieces and quickly assembled.

Larry Hacker, a 32 year old robber and safecracker, worked in the prison's plumbing plant and was identified by officials as the most likely creator of the ladder. But Hacker did not confirm this after his recapture early Sunday.

For the first three years after his capture in London for the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Ray was surrounded by extremely tight security.

But since July, 1971, when a federal court judge ruled that solitary confinement for Ray's protection violated his constitutional rights, security loosened.

Ray was confined to a two man cell, worked in the prison laundry and was accorded the same open yard exercise privileges available to other prisoners.

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Tired Ray Captured After 54 Hour Flight

AP and UPI
Brushy Mountain, Tenn.
—AP— James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was captured early Monday morning in a wooded area of the Cumberland Mountains, 54 hours after he and five other inmates scaled a wall and escaped from Tennessee's prison for hardcore criminals.

"We have Mr. Ray in custody," said Jim Henderson, a

public affairs officer at the prison, at 2:35 a.m. Another fugitive sighted with Ray just before midnight remained at large.

A third fugitive, Earl Hill Jr., 34, was taken at that time.

A few hours after Ray was seized, police arrested Donald Ray Caylor, 24, another of the fugitives who fled with Ray. Caylor was spotted walking along a street in Oak

Ridge, 20 miles east of the prison.
Caylor's return to the prison left only Douglas Shelton, 32, still free.

The 49 year old Ray was captured only five miles from the prison. He was returned to Brushy Mountain State Prison in a squad car and was taken to the administration building.

Ray appeared tired but alert and wide-eyed when seen through the car window. His hair was wet and matted and his clothes, a black sweatshirt and black pants, were covered with sand and mud. His face also was smeared with mud.

Riding with Ray were Warden Stoney Lane and a deputy warden. The car was followed by an open four wheel drive vehicle carrying four armed officers.

A senior state police officer

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said Ray had asked that there be no pictures but that he had nothing else to say.

Within minutes after Ray's return, a convoy of National Guard trucks began arriving, loaded with fuel for the 16 helicopters that were to have been brought in to the search operation Monday morning along with 160 military policemen.

State Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer, who had taken charge of the operation Sunday, relayed a statement from Gov. Ray Blanton's office saying the governor was extremely pleased with Ray's capture.

3 Hour Chase

Lane said Ray was captured after a chase of three hours and three miles through heavily wooded creek bottoms and hillsides. After the initial sighting, the bloodhounds picked up a "hot trail" and pursued Ray until they found him in woods, lying on the ground covered

with leaves in an attempt to conceal himself, Lane said.

Plummer said Ray had exercised vigorously in the prison yard to prepare himself for the ordeal of the escape and flight. Some of the escapees wore themselves out in the initial dash from the prison, Plummer said. "But Ray, being older and fairly cunning, didn't move as much."

Ray stayed with his escape plan until his trail was picked up by the fresh bloodhounds early Monday. Then, he ran as hard as he could until he could not run anymore. He surrendered without a struggle.

Lane said Ray would be placed in "administrative segregation" for three days while a hearing on the escape was conducted. "It is not solitary confinement, but his movements inside the prison are sharply restricted," the warden said.

Ray faces a disciplinary hearing within the next three days.

Ray was captured at approximately 2 a.m.

The warden said that when the search intensified, after the capture of Hill, the other suspects had split up and their locations were bisected by a highway. But Lane said that because only one set of fresh hounds was available, "we chose at random to take the road on the west side."

"We didn't know at the time it was Ray," he said.

Officers said that they could hear Shelton moving in the woods but that the dogs followed Ray's tracks.

Authorities said heavy thunderstorms that raked the Cumberland Mountains earlier in the day, the first rain since the escape took place Friday evening, helped in the search. The moisture could help the dogs follow the fugitives' scent because the scent would adhere to damp earth much better than to dry ground.

Blanton said he had kept US Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell briefed on the search and that

Bell had kept President Carter informed.

Larry E. Hacker, serving a 28 year term for safecracking and robbery with a deadly weapon, was the reputed mastermind of the escape. He was captured early Sunday by an FBI agent and two sheriff's deputies. In addition to Ray, the other inmates and their crimes were:

Hill, murder and rape; Shelton, murder; Caylor, armed robbery; and David Lee Powell, murder. Jerry W. Ward, a bank robber, was shot and captured as he scaled the prison wall Friday. Powell, the only black in the group, was spotted Saturday by helicopter and apparently waited until officers on the ground picked him up.

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—AP Wirephoto

One of the bloodhounds used in the mountain search for James Earl Ray

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IN CUSTODY — James Earl Ray was escorted
into Brushy Mountain State Prison near Petros,

Tenn., early Monday by Warden Stoner (left)
(left) and Deputy Warden Herman Davis.

—AP Wirephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Probers See No Outside Escape Ties

Washington, D.C. — UPI — Two investigators of the House Assassination Committee said Monday they had found no evidence to indicate James Earl Ray received outside help in his Tennessee prison escape.

"I cannot report that there was aid from the outside. No aid from the outside has been found," Deputy Chief Counsel Robert Lehner told an open meeting of the committee.

"There is a possibility he acted alone. There is a possibility he acted with others. There is even the possibility he was a latecomer to the escape."

But Lehner also said "there is no evidence that he had any funds or arms" when he was apprehended Monday.

Several members of the committee, which is looking into the possibility of conspiracies in the murders of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy, have expressed fears that Ray was sprung in order to be killed. Ray at first confessed to killing King, then denied it.

Lehner and Edward Evans, chief investigator of a subcommittee probing the King death, traveled to Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee over the weekend. Lehner said Monday the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is conducting a thorough investigation of the escape.

Evans said there was no evidence that clothing stolen from a car near the prison "had anything to do with the escape."

In giving his initial report, Lehner said there were two general theories about the escape:

- It was internally organized by the prisoners, and it is possible that some prisoners joined the escape at the last moment when they saw it unfolding.

- Outside aid was not ruled out, but it would be "every man for himself" if prison authorities sounded an alarm bell that could be heard throughout the valley.

Investigators are hopeful Ray himself can provide explanations.



JAMES EARL RAY
In Custody

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

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James Earl Ray Escape Calls for Explanation

Speculation that James Earl Ray might have been aided in his escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee as part of a conspiracy has added interest to a House of Representatives subcommittee investigation into the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The theory is that unknown individuals, who also might have been involved in the killing, wanted to keep Ray from testifying before the House body.

Interesting as such speculation may be, however, there are some other questions that should be answered before pursuing the mystery of why Ray escaped. Specifically, a full scale investigation should be made of how he managed to slip out.

The man, after all, was found guilty of one of the most controversial killings of the century, with political and racial overtones. He had also attempted escape twice before and, on one occasion, was successful.

Considering all of this, Brushy Mountain prison authorities should be called on the carpet to explain fully why security on Ray was not tightened to the point where a repeat performance was impossible.

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

A-3
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Custody Shift To US Requested

From Sentinel Wire Services

Nashville, Tenn. — Gov. Ray Blanton, obviously angered by accusations that officials may have conspired in James Earl Ray's escape, asked President Carter Monday to take the convicted killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. into federal custody.

Fifteen hours after the self-proclaimed escape artist dropped exhausted on a mountainside and was recaptured as he feebly tried to burrow under a pile of leaves, Blanton announced in Nashville that he had asked Carter to accept custody of Ray.

"I'm offering him to the president of the United States," Blanton said with a smile. "If they want him, they can have him."

"Considering that James Earl Ray was convicted of murdering a figure of national prominence; that he was an escapee from a Missouri state prison at the time of this murder; that he has made one escape from behind walls in Tennessee and attempted two others, and considering the immense cost ... and that we are hampered by federal court order in our efforts to secure this prisoner — I am requesting that the federal government accept custody of James Earl Ray," Blanton said in a letter to Carter.

Ray, little the worse for his futile 54 hour bid for freedom, ate heartily at Brushy

Mountain State Prison and awaited his lawyer's arrival.

He was taken first to the prison infirmary, where he was pronounced fit despite scratches and cuts from his flight through the woods and thickets with two bloodhounds baying on his trail.

He was placed in "admini-

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trative segregation" in a one-man cell in Block D.

Although he can talk through the bars of his cell to other prisoners, he will remain locked up except for a daily 30 minute exercise period in a walkway of the block.

His meals will be brought to the cell and he loses his \$22 a week job in the laundry. A hearing will be held this week to determine whether he should be prosecuted for escape. If convicted, he could be held under administrative segregation and have his chances of being considered for parole delayed until sometime early in the next century.

Search Continues

The search continued for the last of the seven convicts who went over the wall at Brushy Mountain Friday.

Authorities said bloodhounds had lost the trail of Douglas Shelton, 32, a convicted murderer, but they were sure he was still hemmed up in the same craggy, coal filled mountains that defeated Ray.

Ray and two companions — Shelton and cellmate Earl Hill Jr., had been free nearly 50 hours when bloodhounds caught their trail Sunday night near a strip mine eight miles northeast of the prison.

They ran in different directions. Officers quickly found Hill hiding in a thicket. Hill, 34, is serving two life terms for murder.

Walking Along Street

Six hours and five minutes after Ray's arrest, Donald Ray Caylor, 24, was taken into custody while walking along a street in Oak Ridge, Tenn., about 10 miles to the east.

Early Sunday a federal agent, aided by two sheriff's deputies, recaptured Larry E. Hacker, 32, believed to have been the ringleader of the escape. Hacker, serving two 28-terms for armed robbery, was arrested at a church about four miles east of the prison.

Another of the fugitives — convicted murderer David Lee Howell, the only black among the escapees — surrendered Saturday to a helicopter crew in an open field near Wartburg.

Another prisoner was wounded during the escape and recaptured almost immediately.

Tells of Disgust

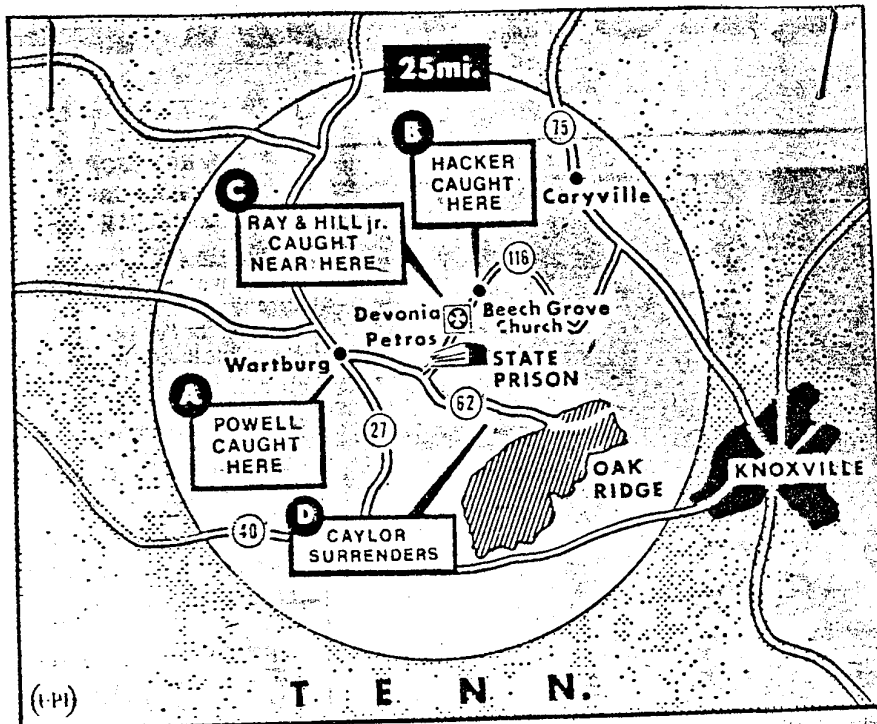
The governor said he was disgusted with suggestions that prison officials helped Ray escape by relaxing restrictions. He had earlier indicated he thought Ray would not have escaped if not for a federal court order.

"In January, 1970, James Earl Ray petitioned the federal court for relief from the harshness of his confinement, and the court advised the state to devise a plan to provide Ray with additional opportunities for work, recreation and exercise."

Blanton, apparently felt that the state could not adequately guard Ray under such circumstances.

"All of us have had our integrity questioned and all of us are a little tired of it," Blanton said. "There were national officials in the news media that did question our integrity and even said we may have been part of the escape."

Blanton said the search for Ray has cost about \$178,000 in state funds "and that doesn't even include court or pretrial costs."



Map of the Petros (Tenn.) area indicates where James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.,

and four other convicts were recaptured. They had escaped Friday from the Brushy Mountain State Prison.

—UPI Map

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Guard Loses Job Over Ray Escape

Petros, Tenn. — UPI — A guard who allegedly was either reading or "looked the other way" when James Earl Ray and five companions went over the wall at Brushy Mountain State Prison was fired Thursday for negligence.

Floyd Hooks, 38, was in the tower closest to the section of the wall the convicts scaled. He refused to comment on his firing or say whether he would appeal. "Right now, I don't care to talk about that," he said.

"His (Hook's) primary responsibility is to keep eye on wall and see that nobody gets within 10 feet of it," Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said.

"I know some people who said he was reading. Others said he looked the other way the whole time.

"Hooks said he was paying attention to the yard, but the evidence is overwhelming that he looked the other way. How can seven men get across the wall if you're paying attention? The evidence just doesn't weigh out," Henderson said.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



AP Wirephoto
GUARD FIRED
Floyd Hooks, 38, was fired Thursday from Brushy Mountain State Prison for negligence. Hooks was manning the guard tower closest to the spot where James Earl Ray and six other inmates climbed the wall to escape last week. The seven men were recaptured, and Friday they were found guilty of escape and placed in administrative segregation for an indefinite period.

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Martin Luther (Marty) King III, son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., said Friday in Macon, Ga., that he did not believe that confessed assassin James Earl Ray acted alone when he shot his father and that "there certainly had to be some kind of conspiracy." King, 19, said he "could not visualize in my mind how a man of James Earl Ray's intelligence could have escaped all the way to London" after the slaying.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray Wants Retractions of 2 UPI Stories

New York, N. Y. —UPI— James Earl Ray, convicted slayer of Martin Luther King Jr., has asked United Press International to retract two stories carried by the wire service in the past month.

The first dispatch, carried May 29, was a story quoting a copyrighted Nashville Tennessean exclusive interview

that carried the headline: "Would Plead Guilty Again, Ray Admits."

The second story, written by UPI while he was at large after his June 10 escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison, depicted him — based on records of previous interviews with a social worker, his onetime attorney and le-

gal proceedings — as a man who never got along with his poverty stricken family, drifted between holdups and who led a bitterly lonely life.

Referring to the second story, Ray said it served "to convince the public, and influence the courts, that even if I am not guilty in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. homicide I belong in prison."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Was Incapable of Planning, Financing King Plot

By JESSE JACKSON

IN THE NINE years since a sniper's single bullet stopped the mortal life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the mystery of how many fingers were on the trigger has grown.

The mystery isn't one of who schemed, financed and committed the assassination. There is also the question of who schemed, financed and created the moral climate that led directly to King's death.

Eight years ago, the law satisfied itself that James Earl Ray was the single mind and hand in King's death. But all that has happened since then has made it increasingly evident that the complex reality of

the assassination could not have been the solitary handiwork of a man who couldn't even pass muster as a first class burglar.

WHAT'S BROUGHT the mystery into new and disturbing focus after years in the bureaucratic maze is the desperate escape and recapture of Ray.

He's back in his cell now, and it's important that we don't let the question that his escape resurrected go back in there with him.

Please consider some of them with me; then ask yourself if we don't owe it to ourselves, to our future and to King's memory to face all the facts of both the deeds and of the times that stole him from us.

THE FIRST, but not necessarily the most disturbing, questions focus on Ray himself.

The year before King's assassination, Ray was a prisoner in Missouri, doing time for stealing, an unremarkable felon without record or reputation for violence, or for making big scores.

Yet, after he escaped his Missouri prison and before he was captured 13½ months later across the Atlantic in London, he had lived in Canada twice, had raised and spent \$10,000 to pursue King and then to flee, and had somehow managed to supply himself with plausible identification and passports.

It seems no less remarkable that he managed to position himself in a boarding house window with a clear line of sight over roofs and into the courtyard of King's motel in Memphis — a city Ray had never before seen in his life.

A succession of Ray confidants has maintained that he acted alone, that he was a dupe, that he was part of a conspiracy. Ray also has contradicted himself, claiming sole responsibility and then darkly hinting of a conspiracy. Most recently he has spoken unspecifically about a "Raoul," who guided him to and through the assassination.

AS DESPERATELY as we need answers to these questions, history and the future also urgently need to know how the climate was created that gave us Ray and his co-conspirators.

Some key answers are hidden in, ironically, the Department of Justice, the guardian of our rights which sanctioned an official "get King" operation so divisive that its agents burst into cheers

when they learned that Ray had silenced the voice they could not.

These were the agents of the FBI assigned to maintain continual surveillance of every element of King's life. They did their job with relish and devotion, eavesdropping on all King said with hidden electronics, watching all through telescopic lenses on their cameras.

Their mission was not to preserve his rights in life but to discredit his witness and morally damage his life.

ONE OF THOSE FBI agents, now retired, was Arthur Murtaugh. He has told how a key unit in the investigation of King's assassination was the very core of the FBI "get King" squad. Murtaugh has been quoted as saying that when King was wounded, the agent in charge of the unit shouted, "I hope the SOB dies!"

And when word was flashed that King was dead, Murtaugh recalled, the same agent jumped up and down joyously, saying, "They finally got that SOB!"

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Page Two

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The FBI in 1968 was an accurate, enthusiastic reflection of its director's will and sense of duty. His hatred of King was well known, as was his fear of the "subversive" civil rights movement. The FBI also knew something else: The director had the ear and confidence of the most powerful.

None of them ever told the director how to run his FBI, but all knew he ran it in the most useful way he could. We need to know who helped Ray and why, but we obviously can't give the FBI principal responsibility for finding out. At least not until the character assassination plotted by it in our name has been totally exposed as well as those responsible for it.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

An attorney for James Earl Ray said Friday that his client could not be tried on a prison escape charge because he was unlawfully confined. The attorney, Jack Kerslaw, said at a preliminary hearing at Tennessee's Brushy Mountain State Prison that Ray, convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., would plead not guilty to the charge.

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James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King, fears he will be killed by the FBI if he is transferred to a federal

prison from his prison in Tennessee, his lawyer said Wednesday. Jack Kershaw outlined Ray's fears at a hearing on the state's request to dismiss Kershaw's petition and clear the way for the transfer. Kershaw also said Ray would plead innocent Friday to an escape charge stemming from his prison break June 10.

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Tennessee's Civil Service Commission blamed Brushy Mountain State Prison officials Tuesday for the escape June 10 of James Earl Ray, convicted killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The commission ordered the reinstatement — with \$800 back pay — of guard Floyd Ray Hooks, 38, who had been fired for negligence in the escape. Ray pleaded innocent Tuesday in Wartburg, Tenn., to escaping from the prison.

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or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

1-WA
1-MI

44-388-490

SEARCHED <i>Out</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
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FBI—MILWAUKEE	

2

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



—AP Wirephoto

RAY TO COURT —
James Earl Ray was led to his arraignment in Wartburg, Tenn., on charges of escaping from Brushy Mountain State Prison. Ray is the confessed killer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

1-MI-44-388
1-MI-88-7126

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

A-18
Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisc.

7/28/77
Date: Latest
Edition:
Author:
Editor: R.H. Leonard
Title:

Character:

or

Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-491

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 29 1977	
FBI—MILWAUKEE	

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bell Won't OK Transfer of Ray

Washington, D.C. — UPI — Saying "leave well enough alone," Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell Thursday refused to transfer James Earl Ray, convicted murderer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., from Tennessee to a federal prison.

Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton asked the federal government to take Ray following his short-lived escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison in east Tennessee June 10.

However, in a letter to Blanton, Bell said, "Ray now appears to be incarcerated in a secure prison with no apparent problems as to his safety."

Questioned about the decision at a news conference,

Bell cited "the old saying 'leave well enough alone.'"

Risk in Transfer

He said there is an escape risk inherent in any prisoner transfer, but denied he was concerned that Ray might be personally endangered by federal prison inmates.

"That would be a terrible thing for me to say," Bell said.

In Nashville, Blanton said he was "extremely disappointed."

"I am confident we can handle him, but I would point out again that Ray is a nationally known figure, that he is the subject of numerous investigations, and that he has a record of attempted escapes," Blanton said.

"If we are to have the responsibility for his incarceration, the federal courts should allow us the latitude to take whatever precautions are necessary to secure his safety, prevent future escape attempts, and keep to a minimum the disruption of the daily routine at the prison."

Bell said he had discussed his decision with Blanton by telephone and believed the governor was satisfied.

Notes Prison Security

He said that Ray and six other convicts were recaptured within five days after they escaped from the prison. Bell said there never has been a successful escape from the institution.

He called Ray's incarceration in Tennessee an "accident of geography," since King's murder in 1968 occurred while he was visiting Memphis.

In his letter to Blanton, Bell said a Ray transfer would involve "some risk as to his security and personal safety in changing his environment at this time."

"The United States does have an interest in ensuring that Mr. Ray is available to testify in any present or future federal investigation of the circumstances surrounding Dr. King's murder," Bell said.

"However, I am advised that the Tennessee Department of Corrections has cooperated with prior investigations and I am confident that such cooperation will continue in the future."

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

A-4

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 7-29-77
Edition: FINAL
Author: R.H. WILLS
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-492

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FBI/DOJ

MI-ONLY
Q-MI-44-388
I-MI-88-7126

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray will serve his 99 year sentence under strict security at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary as long as the federal government refuses to take custody of him, Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton says. US Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell announced Thursday that he was turning down Blanton's request to place Ray in federal custody. The convicted murderer of Martin Luther King Jr. escaped from the prison June 10, but was recaptured.

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

— A-3
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 7-29-77
Edition: LATEST
Author: R.H. LEONARD
Editor:
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-493

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - MILWAUKEE	

①-MI-44-388
1-MI-88-7126
MI-ONLY

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Polygraph Points to Ray's Guilt

UPI and AP

Chicago, Ill. — A lie detector test indicates that James Earl Ray killed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. all by himself, according to the current issue of Playboy magazine.

Playboy said the polygraph test was the first Ray had taken since he was arrested June 8, 1968, for the assassination of the civil rights leader. The magazine said the questioning was done at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary in Tennessee June 22, shortly after his abortive escape.

Playboy said Ray, informed of the test results, maintained his innocence, although he originally confessed to King's murder.

According to the magazine, the key sequence in the polygraph interview is:

Q: Did you kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

Q: Do you know for sure who killed Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

Officials of John E. Reid and Associates, the polygraph firm that administered the test, said Ray's involuntary responses, as picked up on the polygraph machine, indicated he lied, Playboy reported.

Playboy also cited another



James Earl Ray

sequence in the polygraph questioning:

Q: Did anyone ask you to kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

Q: Did you arrange with anyone to kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

Q: Did anyone give you any money to kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

The experts said that on the basis of the polygraph reading, he was telling the truth in these responses, according to Playboy.

Ray said he escaped in hopes of "making some sort of arrangements to turn myself in in exchange for a trial."

"You know, I don't think the state has that much of a case against me," he told Playboy. "I believe I'd have a

good chance of being acquitted."

Ray claimed that he acted alone in the June 10 escape, although others made the break with him. He was recaptured two days later.

Ray referred to the mysterious "Raoul," for whom he said he was running guns at about the time of the King assassination. Asked where he got the \$9,500 he spent on his attempt to flee after the killing, he said most came from Raoul, as payment for his gun running.

Ray's lawyer, Jack Kershaw, said in Nashville Monday that the polygraph test was faulty. He contended that when Ray answered "no" to the question on whether he killed King, the polygraph showed little difference from Ray's response to other questions.

Warden Stoney Lane said Kershaw had told him that the Playboy writer who came with him to see Ray was an investigator. The warden also claimed Kershaw said the lie detector test was directly connected with the case.

"We didn't know until this afternoon," he said. "He (Kershaw) comes in and pulls a deal like that. The lie detector test just blew my mind. They took us to the cleaners on that deal. I just couldn't believe it."

Herbert Jenkins, who was

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

A-5

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 8/9/77

Edition: LATEST

Author:

Editor: R.H. LEONARD

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-494

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MI ONLY

a member of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, said the polygraph test "squares with the evidence."

"As I recall, the FBI was convinced with the evidence at hand that he (Ray) was the only person and there was no conspiracy."

Ray was sentenced after he pleaded guilty. Later, however, he sought to attribute the slaying to a mysterious accomplice.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Not satisfied with the results of a polygraph test arranged by Playboy magazine, the lawyer for James Earl Ray, convicted slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., says he will arrange for at least two more lie tests for his client. Playboy said the test showed Ray lied when he said he did not kill King. The lawyer, Jack Kershaw, commented: "One never relies on one lie detector test."

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

A-3
Milwaukee Journal
Milwaukee, Wisc.

8/11/77

Date: Latest

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: Milwaukee

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

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1-MI-88-7126

44-388-495

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The attorney for convicted
killer James Earl Ray says he
has persuaded Ray to drop a
\$1 million libel suit against
Playboy magazine. Ray, con-
victed killer of the Rev. Mar-
tin Luther King Jr., filed the
suit over a Playboy story that
said lie detector tests showed
he acted alone in killing King.

44-388x
88-7126x

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

A-3
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 8/16/77
Edition: LATEST
Author:
Editor: R.H. LEONARD
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE
☐ Being Investigated

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1-MI

SEARCHED <i>OR</i>	INDEXED <i>OR</i>
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<i>E</i>	
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FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Convicted Of Escaping From Prison

Wartburg, Tenn. — UPI — James Earl Ray was found guilty Thursday night of escaping from the Tennessee prison where he is confined for the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray received an additional sentence of one to two years.

Ray, who could have received up to five years on the escape charge, testified he broke out of Brushy Mountain State Prison near Petros June 10 because he thought that was the only way he could win a new trial for the King assassination.

The sentence was added to the 99 year term Ray received after pleading guilty to the 1968 sniper slaying of King in Memphis.

"It was my intention after I was out a couple of months to get in touch with US Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell, to arrange for a trial in the King case," Ray said.

A jury of nine men and three women deliberated almost 3 hours before returning a verdict.

Defense attorneys immediately served notice they would file a motion for a new trial. Circuit Judge Lee Asbury scheduled a hearing on the motion for Nov. 28.

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

A-4
Milwaukee Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 10/28/77
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: R.H. Wills
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated

44-388-497

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1-MI-44-388
1-MI-88-7126
MI only

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The House Assassinations Committee has ordered James Earl Ray to undergo a lie detector test on his denial that he killed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Four committee investigators questioned Ray Monday at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary in Tennessee.

44-388-1
88-7126*

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

A-3
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Date: 11/15/77
Edition: LATEST
Author:
Editor: R.H. LEONARD
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MILWAUKEE
☐ Being Investigated

1-WA
1-MI

44-388-498

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FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Overcame Much in Short Life

By JESSE JACKSON

SUNDAY WAS the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. He would have been only 49.

Most of those we admire in American life and history were hardly finished with their works at 49, but King's was finished when he kept his final date with destiny at the age of 39.

How could one man so touch and alter the American conscience in such a short life? How could such an ordinary man do so much?

And that is what Martin Luther King Jr. was: an ordinary man.

DO YOU remember his ordinary origins? A public school student with parents who taught the principles of



Martin Luther King Jr.

a conservative life. A man who, for most of his life, was noted neither for his social conscience nor perfection in his own life.

And don't forget the negative power of one other fact of his life: He was a black man in a white society.

Martin Luther King Jr. learned the power of discipline many times and in many ways. He began disciplining his mind as a student at Morehouse College. His mastery of himself next led him to Boston University and to his doctorate in systematic theology.

THE OPEN, disciplined mind he developed as a student was never allowed to deteriorate.

He was always hungry to know more. Up to the week of his death in Memphis 10 years ago, he read at least one book a week — and not books of entertainment, but of substance.

I remember that one day during the bitter and terrifying days of the demonstrations in Selma, Ala., I saw

three books in his briefcase: one on Thoreau; one by the theologian-thinker, Paul Tillich; and a third on the life of Gandhi.

In those years of reading and thinking he had mastered the theory, art and practices of nonviolence that Gandhi's life exemplified.

BUT KING never forgot who he was and so he delicately blended the ethnic, the ethical, the economic and the eternal to make his own formidable contribution to non-violent change.

And though his life was consumed with practicing what he preached, he carefully taught all of us around him so that the work could go on regardless of what happened to the man.

And thousands have adopted the methods King perfected — most especially those of confrontation politics, practiced today by such diverse interests as farmers, gays, browns and women.

BUT IT WAS his principles that gave his methods their power. I heard him discuss the choice he had: to be political, which is to be expedient, or to be prophetic, which is to be morally motivated.

He never yielded on this. He remained a public opinion molder and never became a public opinion leader — that is, someone who reads the polls to find out where to lead.

And he did it, this ordinary man. He did it so well that his stature came to overshadow that of the presidents of his day.

Yet every barrier he overcame led him to another, more formidable barrier. With each struggle, the odds became greater.

YOU AND I know the damage that can be done when someone — a boss or a teacher — criticizes us, but imagine how it must have hurt King when a president of the United States and other civil rights leaders said he was wrong to oppose the Vietnam War.

But history proved him right.

Martin Luther King Jr. won a Nobel Peace Prize and the admiration of many world leaders, but all that he really wanted was to continue to prove that the dreams of ordinary people are more powerful than any politics.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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

A-15

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 1/16/78
Edition: Final

Title:

Character:
or 44-388
Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

44-388-499

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AB 79

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Death Probed Anew

Washington, D.C. —AP— The House Assassinations Committee has subpoenaed J. B. Stoner and several associates of his National States Rights Party for its investigation into the murder of Martin Luther King Jr., a congressional source said Saturday.

The source, who declined to be identified, said the committee wanted to question Stoner about his assertions that an FBI informant offered him \$25,000 to have King assassinated and \$2,000 to blow up a church in Birmingham, Ala.

The source said the House panel also wanted to learn more about Stoner's activities with the party and his relationship with convicted King assassin James Earl Ray, whom he represented as an attorney.



J.B. Stoner

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

A-3

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 1/29/78
Edition: Latest

Title:

Character:

or

44-388

Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

44-388-500

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FBI-MILWAUKEE	

DEF

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Paints Ray as Painfully Shy

Washington, D.C. —UPI— James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., is portrayed in FBI files as a painfully shy man who sought women's company through ballroom dance classes, phone calls and sex oriented classified ads in the back pages of magazines.

Ray was described throughout the FBI investigation as the classic example of a loner — too shy to look a woman in the eye, yet able to proclaim sexual preferences in a letter to a woman he had never met.

FBI files also suggest that Ray sometimes sought out prostitutes. A woman he dated in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, said Ray advised her of his strict daily budget — \$8 for women and \$8 for drinks.

Ray was a bad enough soldier to be discharged and a good enough escape artist to break out of a state prison.

His records list several aliases, two birth dates and a confusion of names for parents and other relatives. One memo from a 1967 prison escape file on Ray, who had fled a 20 year term for robbery, said that Ray, "while incarcerated, had no visitors."

50% Interest Charged

An FBI memorandum said a fellow inmate in the Missouri state prison had said Ray would lend money to poker players and charge them 50% interest.

Ray enlisted in the Army in 1946 and was discharged in 1948 because of "ineptness and lack of adaptability," one FBI file said. The FBI files also said Ray visited a hypnotist and underwent plastic surgery on his nose early in 1968.

A medical file referred to in an FBI memorandum said Ray had suffered an epileptic seizure as a child, and another record told of a month's stay in a state hospital. Ray's criminal record dated back to 1949, when he was about 20. He had faced charges for burglary, vagrancy, driving without a license, robbery, cashing stolen money orders and forgery.

Racy Ads Answered

For a while, the FBI developed a detailed profile of an "Eric Starvo Galt" as the suspected assassin. Later, investigators concluded that was Ray.

Prison inmates who served time with Ray in the early 1970s reported he constantly read "girlie magazines," and the FBI files indicate that he often replied to the classified ads.

Ray himself placed a classified ad in the Los Angeles Free Press saying: "Wanted: discreet meeting with pas-



James Earl Ray

sionate married female." He left a box number and hired a mail forwarding service when he left the area.

The FBI files contain reports the Post Office Department received obscene letters from Galt, along with a picture of Ray. At least two women complained that he plagued them with late night telephone calls.

Ray also sought to be with women at dance classes. He took classes in New Orleans, Birmingham and Los Angeles.

But when he met women face to face in these classes, he froze. One instructor recalled that he was very shy in crowds and with women.

Ray nonetheless had some girl friends, one of whom told the FBI he was extremely shy and never would look her in the eye while talking to her.

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

C-24

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

1/26/78
Date: Latest
Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: Milwaukee
Submitting Office:

44-388-501

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SERIALIZED	FILED

JAN 26 1978

[Signature] JKEE
FBI/DOJ
SSB/SEF

1-MI-44-388
1-MI-88-7126
MI only

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Memphis

FROM : Director, FBI

DATE: January 20, 1978

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)
REQUEST OF HAROLD WEISBERG FOR
MURKIN MATERIAL
FOIPA MATTER

Lesar, James Hiram (I)
151-66

murkin
44-388

I-15

Enclosed for each recipient office is a copy of the following documents: James H. Lesar's letter dated December 19, 1977, with attached privacy waiver of Mr. Bernard Fensterwald; Mr. Harold Weisberg's FOIA request letter dated December 23, 1975; and Mr. Harold Weisberg's FOIA request letter dated April 15, 1975.

190-10
190-416,
416A, 416B,
416C

For your information, James H. Lesar is the attorney representing Mr. Weisberg in the two FOIA requests referred to above. The subject of both these requests is the Murkin case. Pursuant to these requests, the Bureau has processed Murkin and related files at Headquarters and in eight field offices, culminating in the release of approximately 48,000 pages of material to Mr. Weisberg.

This is to advise the recipient offices of the Bureau response to Mr. Lesar's letter dated December 19, 1977. Mr. Lesar requested information from FBI Headquarters, 18 field offices, and one legat concerning Mr. Bernard Fensterwald and his relation to the Murkin case. The FOIPA Branch will handle this request as it pertains to material at FBIHQ, however, Mr. Lesar has been advised that he should contact the individual field offices set forth in his letter for a direct response from those offices on the material in their possession. Each office is being provided the enclosed documents in anticipation of

1 - Alexandria (Enc 3)
1 - Atlanta (Enc 3)
1 - Baltimore (Enc 3)
1 - Birmingham (Enc 3)
1 - Boston (Enc 3)
1 - Chicago (Enc 3)
1 - Dallas (Enc 3)
1 - Houston (Enc 3)
1 - Kansas City (Enc 3)

1 - Los Angeles (Enc 3)
1 - Miami (Enc 3)
① - Milwaukee (Enc 3)
1 - Nashville (Enc 3)
1 - New Orleans (Enc 3)
1 - Pittsburgh (Enc 3)
1 - Portland (Enc 3)
1 - WFO (Enc 3)
1 - Legat: Mexico City (Enc 3)

114-388-502



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FBI - MILWAUKEE	

Pertus

JAMES H. LESAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1231 FOURTH STREET, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024
TELEPHONE (202) 484-6023

December 23, 1975

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Mr. Harold Tyler, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DEC 23 11 00 AM '75
ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPUTY

Dear Mr. Tyler:

On behalf of Mr. Harold Weisberg, I am requesting that you grant him access to the following records pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

1. All receipts for any letters, cables, documents, reports, memorandums, or other communications in any form whatsoever.
2. All receipts for any items of physical evidence.
3. All reports or memorandums on the results of any tests performed on any item of evidence, including any comparisons normally made in the investigation of a crime.
4. All reports or memorandums on any fingerprints found at the scene of the crime or on any item allegedly related to the crime. This is meant to include, for example, any fingerprints found in or on the white Mustang abandoned in Atlanta, in any room allegedly used or rented by James Earl Ray, and on any registration card. It should also include all fingerprints found on any item considered as evidence in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
5. Any taxicab log or manifest of Memphis cab driver James McCraw or the cab company for which he worked.
6. Any tape or transcript of the radio logs of the Memphis Police Department or the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for April 4, 1968.
7. All correspondence and records of other communications exchanged between the Department of Justice or any division thereof and:

R. A. Ashley, Jr.
Harry S. Avery

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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DEC 23 1975	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	
Perkins - ICAP	

James G. Beasley
 Clay Blair
 David Calcutt
 Phil M. Canale
 John Carlisle
 Robert K. Dwyer
 Gov. Buford Ellington
 Michael Eugene
 Percy Foreman
 Gerold Frank
 Roger Frisby
 Arthur Hanes, Jr.
 Arthur Hanes, Sr.
 W. Henry Haile
 William J. Haynes, Jr.
 Robert W. Hill, Jr.
 William Bradford Huie
 George McMillan
 William N. Morris
 Jeremiah O'Leary
 David M. Pack
 Lloyd A. Rhodes
 J. B. Stoner
 Hugh Stoner, Jr.
 Hugh Stoner, Sr.

stanton

stanton

8. All correspondence or records of other communications pertaining to the guilty plea of James Earl Ray exchanged between the Department of Justice or any division thereof and:

Rev. Ralph Abernathy
 Rev. James Bevel
 Rev. Jesse Jackson
 Mrs. Coretta King
 Rev. Samuel B. Kyles
 Rev. Andrew Young
 Harry Wachtel

9. All notes or memorandums pertaining to any letter, cable, or other written communication from or on behalf of the District Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee, or the Attorney General of Tennessee to the Department of Justice or any division thereof.

10. All notes or memorandums pertaining to any telephonic or verbal communications from or on behalf of the District Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee, or the Attorney General of Tennessee to the Department of Justice or any division thereof.

11. All tape recordings and all logs, transcripts, notes, reports, memorandums or any other written record of or reflecting any surveillance of any kind whatsoever of the following persons:

Judge Preston Battle
 Wayne Chastain
 Bernard Fensterwald
 Percy Foreman
 Gerold Frank
 Arthur Hanes, Jr.
 Arthur Hanes, Sr.
 Renfro Hays
 Robert W. Hill, Jr.
 William Bradford Huie
 James H. Lesar
 Robert I. Livingston
 George McMillan
 Judge Robert McRae, Jr.
 Albert Pepper
 Carol Pepper
 James Earl Ray
 Jerry Ray
 John Ray
 Richard J. Ryan
 J. B. Stoner
 Russell X. Thompson
 Harold Weisberg

This is meant to include not only physical shadowing but also mail covers, mail interception, interception by any telephonic, electronic, mechanical or other means, as well as conversations with third persons and the use of informants.

12. All tape recordings and all logs, transcripts, notes, reports, memorandums or any other written record of or reflecting any surveillance of any kind whatsoever on the Committee to Investigate Assassinations (CTIA) or any person associated with it in any way.

This is meant to include not only physical shadowing but also mail covers, mail interception, interception by any telephonic, electronic, mechanical or other means, as well as conversations with third persons and the use of informants.

13. All records pertaining to any alleged or contemplated witness, including any statements, transcripts, reports, or memorandums from any source whatsoever.

14. All correspondence of the following persons, regardless of origin or however obtained:

Bernard Fensterwald
Percy Foreman
Robert W. Hill
William Bradford Huie
James H. Lesar
Albert Pepper
Carol Pepper
James Earl Ray
Jerry Ray
John Ray
J. B. Stoner
Harold Weisberg

15. All letters, cables, reports, memorandums, or any other form of communication concerning the proposed guilty plea of James Earl Ray.

16. All records of any information request or inquiry from, or any contact by, any member or representative of the news media pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. since April 15, 1975.

17. All notes, memoranda, correspondence or investigative reports constituting or pertaining to any re-investigation or attempted re-investigation of the assassination of Dr. King undertaken in 1969 or anytime thereafter, and all documents setting forth the reasons or guidelines for any such re-investigation.

18. Any and all records pertaining to the New Rebel Motel and the DeSoto Motel.

19. Any records pertaining to James Earl Ray's eyesight.

20. Any records made available to any writer or news reporter which have not been made available to Mr. Harold Weisberg.

21. Any index or table of contents to the 96 volumes of evidence on the assassination of Dr. King.

22. A list of all evidence conveyed to or from the FBI by any legal authority, whether state, local, or federal.

23. All reports, notes, correspondence, or memorandums pertaining to any effort by the Department of Justice to expedite the transcript of the evidentiary hearing held in October, 1974, on James Earl Ray's petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

24. All reports, notes, or memorandums on information contained in any tape recording delivered or made available to the FBI or the District Attorney General of Shelby County by anyone whomsoever. All correspondence engaged in with respect to any investigation which was made of the information contained in any of the foregoing.

25. All records of any contact, direct or indirect, by the FBI, any other police or law enforcement officials, or their informants, with the Memphis group of young black radicals known as The Invaders.

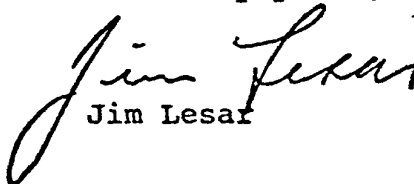
26. All records of any surveillance of any kind of The Invaders or any member or associate of that organization. This is meant to include not only physical shadowing but also mail covers, mail interception, interception by telephonic, electronic, mechanical or other means, as well as conversations with third persons and the use of informants.

27. All records of any surveillance of any kind of any of the unions involved in or associated with the garbage strike in Memphis or any employees or officials of said unions. This is meant to include not only physical shadowing but also mail covers, mail interception, interception by any telephonic, electronic, mechanical or other means, as well as conversations with third persons and the use of informants.

28. All records containing information which exculpates or tends to exculpate James Earl Ray of the crime which he allegedly committed.

This request for disclosure is made under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by Public Law 93-502, 88 Stat. 1561.

Sincerely yours,


Jim Lesar

JAMES H. LESAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1231 FOURTH STREET, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024
TELEPHONE (202) 484-6023

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE

APR 13 10 07 AM '75

DEPUTY
April 15, 1975 GENERAL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

The Deputy Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

Dear Sir:

On behalf of Mr. Harold Weisberg I am requesting disclosure of the following information on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

1. The results of any ballistics tests.
2. The results of any spectrographic or neutron activation analyses.
3. The results of any scientific tests made on the dent in the windowsill of the bathroom window from which Dr. King was allegedly shot.
4. The results of any scientific tests performed on the butts, ashes or other cigarette remains found in the white Mustang abandoned in Atlanta after Dr. King's assassination and all reports made in regard to said cigarette remains.
5. All photographs or sketches of any suspects in the assassination of Dr. King.
6. All photographs from whatever source taken at the scene of the crime on April 4th or April 5th, 1968.
7. All information, documents, or reports made available to any author or writer, including but not limited to Clay Blair, Jeremiah O'Leary, George McMillan, Gerold Frank, and William Bradford Huie.

This request for disclosure is made under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by Public Law 93-502, 88 Stat. 1561.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Lesar
Jim Lesar

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 15 1975	
FBI - MILWAUKEE	
<i>Pakis 1996</i>	

JAMES H. LESAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
910 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W. SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 223-5587

December 19, 1977

Special Agent John Harting
Federal Bureau of Investigation
6982 J. Edgar Hoover Building
Washington, D.C. 20535

Re: Weisberg v. Dept. of Justice,
C.A. No. 75-1996

Dear John:

I am enclosing a notarized privacy waiver by Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr. which authorizes you to release to Harold Weisberg any records or information pertaining to him which is contained in FBI files.

In addition to the FBI's Central Headquarters records which pertain to Mr. Fensterwald, I am requesting a search of certain FBI field offices where such materials may be found, namely:

Alexandria
Atlanta
Baltimore
Birmingham
Boston
Chicago
Dallas
Houston
Kansas City
Los Angeles
Memphis
Mexico City
Miami
Milwaukee
Nashville
New Orleans
Pittsburgh
Portland
Washington, D.C. Field Office

*Gen. & Admin.
as requested
JH*

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Lesar
James H. Lesar

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FBI - MILWAUKEE	
<i>Peters 12/21</i>	

PRIVACY WAIVER OF BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.

I, Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., 811 Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia, have read the two Freedom of Information Act requests dated April 15 and December 23, 1975 which Mr. Harold Weisberg has made for Department of Justice records pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I hereby authorize the Department of Justice to release to Mr. Weisberg and his attorney, Mr. James H. Lesar, and only to them, any records responsive to Mr. Weisberg's requests which mention or pertain to me, and to do so without excising my name or any details about me which appear in such records.

B. Fensterwald Jr.
BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2 day of
December, 1977.

June Latiff
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

My Commission Expires October 31, 1981

Letter to Memphis
Re: FOIA Request of Harold Weisberg for Murkin material

Mr. Lesar's request. It is noted that Mr. Fensterwald's privacy waiver is restricted to that information which only falls within the purview of the subject matter of Mr. Weisberg's Murkin request letters dated April 15, 1975, and December 23, 1975.

Should this request be received by any of the recipient offices, any questions regarding handling of this request may be directed to Ralph Harp, FOIPA Branch, FBIHQ, extension 5566.

Enclosures (3)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kennedy, King Death Probes Quietly Continue

New York Times Service
Washington, D.C. — The sign on the police guard's desk reads "Restricted Area. SCA staff only."

Once, the somewhat scruffy building near the Capitol housed millions of the FBI's files and fingerprints. Today, more than 100 staff members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations work on a hush-hush basis not unlike the FBI's own mode of operation in the days of J. Edgar Hoover.

Police guard the committee quarters 24 hours a day. There are special locks on files filled with huge piles of secret material. Every staff member has been cleared by the bureau and the CIA.

Created by the House in the fall of 1976 to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the committee is very much alive despite the almost total silence in which it has enveloped itself in recent months.

It was scarcely a year ago when the committee was very much on view. A widely publicized dispute over staffing and spending between Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), who was then the committee chairman, and Richard A. Sprague, then the committee chief counsel, threatened for a time to end the panel's effectiveness.

Pledged to Secrecy

Sprague subsequently resigned and was replaced by G. Robert Blakey, a Cornell University law professor. Gonzalez also stepped aside, and the committee is now headed by Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio).

With its staff members pledged to secrecy and holding closed hearings three times a week, the committee's findings are not yet public. But the findings will be unveiled in 40 days of public hearings this fall, before the committee officially goes out of business.

One set of public hearings is scheduled for September, the other for November. It has not yet been decided which of the two assassinations will be dealt with first in the hearings.

Actually, there are two staffs. One group of lawyers, researchers and investigators is assigned to the Kennedy assassination. The other, of equal size, is investigating the King assassination.

Mountains of Paper

The two staffs have conducted more than 2,000 interviews and examined mountains of documents furnished by government agencies and departments.

The staffs have had access to 347 cubic feet of files housed in the National Archives; 998 volumes of FBI material; 2,800 CIA files and 1,400 other documents; 4,386 pages of reports by the Secret Service, and numerous other files and reports by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Defense Department and Justice Department.

Because of advanced technology and sophisticated computers, the committee believes that new analysis of old evidence can disclose much more than was available in 1964 when the Warren Commission investigated the

Kennedy assassination and determined that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

Despite the findings of the Warren Commission and the conviction of James Earl Ray in the King case, the House committee was set up to answer the following questions:

Who killed John F. Kennedy?

Who killed Martin Luther King Jr.?

Did the assassins of the two men work alone or as part of conspiracies?

How well did the FBI, the Secret Service, police departments and other investigative agencies or departments perform in probing the assassinations?

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

A-5

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
 Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 3/26/78
 Edition: Latest

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

44-388-503

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1978	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

FBI/DOJ

1-MI-62-1178
 1-MI-44-388
 MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Says Photo Shows 'Raoul'

Petros, Tenn. — James Earl Ray, serving a 99 year sentence for killing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., said Wednesday he has made positive identification of a picture of the man he says set him up to take the blame for the assassination. Ray said the picture of "Raoul" was shown to him two or three months ago, but would not reveal who showed it to him.

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

A-3

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 3/30/78
Edition: Final

Title:

Character:

or

44-388

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

44-388-504

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1978	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	
FBI/DOJ	

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police & Courts

James Earl Ray, allowed to meet with reporters Wednesday at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn., claimed that he had found a photograph of a man known as "Raoul," who allegedly set him up to be charged as the sole slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray is serving 99 years for King's 1968 murder. Nashville lawyer Jack Kershaw, who formerly represented Ray, said later Wednesday that Ray had made the same claim earlier. Ray said he was uncertain how he would proceed with the alleged new evidence.

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

A-3

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 3/30/78
Edition: Latest

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

44-388-505

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1978	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

FBI/DOJ

MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

What Other Editors Say**Nation Still Suffers Loss of King****New York Times**

Who knows where Martin Luther King Jr. would have stood this morning had he not been gunned down in Memphis 10 years ago. His struggle for desegregation in the cities and towns of the Deep South was close to won. The drive for economic justice had just begun. The trek to Memphis to support a strike of garbage workers seeking higher wages was symbolic of a new situation.

In losing Martin Luther King, black Americans lost a leader who better than anyone gave voice to their aspirations and added a powerful vision of the fair society. All Americans lost a moral force that compelled them finally to confront the evil of racism and the costs of inequality.

But something more was lost with Martin Luther King. Even in the midst of rebellion, he had the American gift for searching out the "vital center," for building coalitions that stretched from the militant to the moderate and unified their objectives and tactics in a boldly nonviolent struggle. It was no easy task and on the day he was struck down, his own movement was visibly fragmenting.

Those who knew him, however, felt sure that he would find a way to shift the attack against segregation to the more difficult issues of economic integration without losing his hold on millions. His American dream survives. It is up to us to re-create his ennobling tactics.

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

A-21

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 4/7/78
Edition: Latest

Title:

Character:

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Classification: 44-388
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

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44-388-~~807~~

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 8 1978	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	
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MI only

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Files Show Plot To Oust King

Washington, D.C. — UPI — An unidentified black leader apparently worked with the FBI in the 1960s in an effort to remove the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. from national prominence in the civil rights movement, according to just released FBI files.

The secret office files belonging to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover were obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request made by the Center for National Security Studies, a private organization.

They "reveal the extent to which King and his close associates were perceived as a threat by the FBI and kept under government surveillance during the five-year period before King's assassination" in 1968, the center said.

It said, for instance, a Dec. 1, 1964, interoffice memo to William Sullivan, then No. 3 in the FBI hierarchy, indicated "the FBI and a black leader apparently worked together in an effort to eliminate King."

The name of the collaborator was blanked out in the released document.

"(blank) stated to DeLoach (another top FBI official) that

he was faced with the difficult problem of taking steps to remove King from the national picture," a copy of the memo showed. "He indicated in his comments a lack of confidence that he alone could be successful. It is therefore suggested that consideration be given to the following course of action:

"That DeLoach have a further discussion with (blank) and offer to be helpful in connection with the problem of removal of King from the national scene."

The memo then suggested that the unnamed black leader get together with other black leaders such as James Farmer and labor leader A. Philip Randolph and "on a highly confidential basis could brief such a group of the security background of King." The briefing would include "the use of a tape such as contemplated in your memorandum, with a transcript for convenience in following the tape, (and) should be most convincing."

"This might have the effect of increasing the stature of (blank), who is a capable person and is ambitious," it said.

Another document made public Sunday referred to the Sept. 9, 1964, "monitoring" at Atlanta, Ga., of a conversation between King and Muhammad Ali, who was then facing federal draft evasion charges. In another document, Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach gave Hoover blanket authority to carry out electronic surveillance in his absence without prior authority, as was required at the time.

King was shot and killed in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, pleaded guilty to the murder.

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

A-3

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 5/29/78
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Milwaukee
☐ Being Investigated

1-MI-80-383
1-MI-44-388
MI only

44-388-507

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 30 1978	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

BI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The FBI's effort in the 1960s to remove the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. from national prominence in the civil rights movement apparently was aided by an unidentified black leader, according to FBI files just released. The secret files "reveal the extent to which King and his close associates were perceived as a threat by the FBI..." the Center for National Security Studies said.



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

A-2

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 5/29/78

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

44-388-508

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 30 1978
FBI - MILWAUKEE

1-MI-80-383
1-MI-44-388
MI only

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Used Black in Attack on King

Washington Post Service

Washington, D. C. — The FBI apparently worked with a black leader in its long undercover campaign to discredit the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., according to newly disclosed FBI documents.

The tentative scheming was disclosed in one of a series of memos from the confidential files of late FBI Direc-



Martin Luther King Jr.

tor J. Edgar Hoover. The Center for National Security Studies obtained the memos under the Freedom of Information Act.

Senate investigators have previously revealed that the FBI's campaign against King included a proposal to groom a new "national Negro leader" to take his place.

But in making that discovery some years ago, the Senate Intelligence Committee also said it had contacted the proposed successor to King only to be told that "he was not aware of the FBI's plans for him or of any attempts by the FBI to promote him as a civil rights leader."

The newly declassified FBI memo suggests otherwise, although it is not conclusive. The name of the man the FBI had secretly anointed has never been made public. The

FBI also deleted the name of the black leader from the memo obtained by the center.

Dated Dec. 1, 1964, and addressed to late FBI Assistant Director William C. Sullivan, the memo alludes to a discussion the anonymous leader had a few days earlier with another high ranking FBI official, Cartha DeLoach.

"(Deleted) stated to DeLoach that he was faced with the difficult problem of taking steps to remove King from the national picture," the FBI memo said. "He indicates in his comments a lack of confidence that he, alone, could be successful."

As a consequence, the memo suggested DeLoach "have a further discussion with (deleted) in connection with the problem of the removal of King."

DeLoach, it was added, could also suggest that (deleted) might desire to call a meeting of Negro leaders including, among others, civil rights leaders such as James Farmer and A. Philip Randolph as well as some prominent black judges, ministers and public officials.

The memo concluded by stating that those invited might then see "the danger of King to the overall civil rights movement."

"(Deleted) is already well aware of this," the FBI memo emphasized.

There is no indication that the proposed meeting of

black leaders was ever held, but according to the Intelligence Committee's 1975 study on the King smear

campaign, information about King's private life was made available at the time to various people.

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

A-5

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 5/29/78
Edition: Latest
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Editor:
Title:

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or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Milwaukee

☐ Being Investigated

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 30 1978	
FBI-MILWAUKEE	

1-MI-80-383
1-MI-44-388

FBI/DOJ

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No New Evidence On Assassinations

Los Angeles Times Special
Washington, D.C. — Despite a tedious, expensive and far ranging investigation, a blue ribbon congressional committee has uncovered no significant evidence of conspiracy in the assassinations of President Kennedy or Martin Luther King Jr., according to dozens of sources interviewed by the Los Angeles Times.

Black leaders, in and out of the government, were principally responsible for creation of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, reflecting a strong belief among blacks that James Earl Ray did not act alone in the assassination of King.

The assassinations committee is split into two subcommittees, one focusing on Kennedy, the other on King.

During its 20 month investigation, the committee has

Spent almost \$5 million on staff salaries, travel and

expenses and wages for consultants, including ballistics, forensic and medical experts.

• Interviewed more than 1,500 witnesses.

• Examined voluminous documents, some previously secret, dealing with prior investigations of both assassinations.

• Expended extensive effort rechecking old leads discredited by prior investigators and chasing after what conspiracy buffs, particularly attorney and author Mark Lane, call "new evidence."

Clarifying unsubstantiated rumors and exaggerations by conspiracy buffs may turn out to be the committee's principal service to the American public.

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

A-4

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
 Milwaukee, Wisc.

Date: 6/1/78
 Edition: Final
 Author:
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Character:
 or
 Classification:
 Submitting Office: Milwaukee
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 MI only

44-388-510

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FBI - MILWAUKEE	