

U. S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FEDERAL BUREAU

~~DO NOT DESTROY PENDING
LITIGATION~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

See also Nos.

A

CLASSIFICATION NO.

44-1242

Serials

651 thru

Volume Number

4

Ruc 8/31/78
~~Moody 8/21/78~~
~~Ruc 8/20/76~~

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Wedding without a honeymoon for Ray

James Earl Ray, the confessed killer of Martin Luther King Jr., is to take a bride today in prison but will not consummate the wedding afterward, the prison warden said.

Ray, 50, will marry Anna Sandhu, a freelance television courtroom artist, in a 3 p.m. ceremony behind the walls of Bruhy Mountain State Penitentiary, a maximum security prison in a mountainous, isolated area of East Tennessee.

Stonney Lane, prison warden, said there were to be a maximum of five guests at the ceremony in the visitors' gallery at the prison. He said no reporters or photographers were to be allowed to attend in accordance with prison policy and because it would disrupt prison routine.

"I've got about 429 other inmates I've got responsibility for and it's too disruptive to the institution," Lane said in

a telephone interview Thursday night.

He said four prison officers were to be present but that no extra security precautions were planned. "Of course, it's behind three locked doors," he said.

"I'll allow them to have cake and coffee and socialize for about 30 minutes, then he'll be

taken back to his cell," Lane said. Asked if Ray was to be allowed to consummate the wedding, the warden said, "No."

The Rev. James Lawson, once associated with King, said Monday he planned to perform today's ceremony. Lawson, pastor of the Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, formerly was minister at a black church in Memphis and was among the persons who convinced King to visit Memphis in 1968 to to help striking city garbagemen.

Mrs. Sandhu, 32, a Knoxville divorcee, announced last week that she planned to marry Ray, a lifelong bachelor.

Ray is serving a 99-year term for the April 4, 1968, slaying of King in Memphis. He pleaded guilty in 1969 to King's murder but has since tried to recant and demand a new trial in the case.



JAMES EARL RAY
... married

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

PAGE 17A

THE NEWS
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Date: 10-13-78

Edition: LATE STREET
FINAL

Title:

Character:
or

Classification: 44-1242-480
Submitting Office: SAN ANTONIO

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>AK</i>	FILED <i>AK</i>
OCT 17 1978	
FBI - SAN ANTONIO	

FBI/DOJ

AIRTEL

10/2/78

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Chicago (44-1114)
Dallas (44-2649)
Houston (44-1509)
Jackson (62-544)
Kansas City (44-760)
Memphis (44-1987 sub M)
Oklahoma City (44-686)
Pittsburgh (44-1572)
San Antonio (44-1242)
St. Louis (44-775)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

RE: ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON

Copies of all reports from recipient offices have been received and have been forwarded to the Department.

Based on the extensive investigation conducted re this Burgess Audie Wilson allegation including the fact investigation determined he did not have access to the airplane in April of 1966, nor to a vehicle in Missouri as he claimed, the Department requested no further investigation re the Wilson allegation.

Promptly report any additional information to FBING volunteered re the Wilson allegation; however, conduct no active investigation unless instructed by FBING as directed by the Department.

44-1242-679

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>MR</i>	FILED.....
OCT 2 - 1978	
FBI - SAN ANTONIO	

Moody

AIRTEL

10/2/78

20 SACs, Birmingham (44-1740)
Chicago (44-1114)
Dallas (44-2649)
Houston (44-1589)
Jackson (62-544)
Kansas City (44-760)
Memphis (44-1987 sub M)
Oklahoma City (44-636)
Pittsburgh (44-1572)
San Antonio (44-1242)
St. Louis (44-775)

From: Director, FBI (44-39361)

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44-1242-679

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>M</i>	FILED <i>A</i>
OCT 2 - 1978	
FBI - SAN ANTONIO	

[Signature]

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References

KENNETH L. KING
Pastor, First Baptist
Church of Canyon Lake,
Star Route #2
Box 94,
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
(512) 964-3457

LAWRENCE F. HUGHEY
Route 1
Box 1955
Winona, Texas
(In letter of recommendation,
HUGHEY indicated that he
had never known WILSON to
be hostile, although he
did drink too much)

Relatives

Sister: Mrs. LYDIA MCGAHEY
2002 East 8th Avenue
North Columbus,
Mississippi

(WILSON indicated that this
sister is the relative who
understands him best)

Sister: Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTHER
Route 1
Fulton, Mississippi

One Brother (not further
identified)

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Previous Employments

Crittenden Drywall
8310-A Speedway
San Antonio, Texas
Telephone 341-2407 (5/76)

Austin Power, Incorporated
Buda, Texas
Telephone 295-7351 (12/77)

U. S. Air Force (May, 1947 -
February, 1960)

Knights Life Insurance
Memphis, Tennessee
(July, 1963 - December, 1965)

Prudential Insurance Company
Memphis, Tennessee
(February, 1960 - July, 1963)

U. S. Air Force Reserve
Richards - Gebaur Air
Force Base, Missouri -
Panel Engineer (January, 1966 -
January, 1967)

Self-employed Jewelry and
Watch Repairs,
Starkville, Mississippi
(January, 1967 - January,
1976)

Prior Marriages

BETTY LOU (HOOTEN) WILSON,
December 13, 1948 - 1966;
1966-1973

AVIS LEA (PRUETT) WILSON,
December 31, 1974 - June 7, 1975

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Prior Arrests

1963 - Los Angeles, California -
Bad Check - Restitution Made -
Dismissed

1973 - San Antonio, Texas -
Contempt of Court - Dismissed

1972 - San Antonio, Texas -
Post-dated check - Made Good

1966 - Memphis, Tennessee -
forgery - Dismissed

February, 1975, Mountain Home,
Arkansas - Public Drunk -
Fined

January, 1976, Hurst, Texas -
Child support - pending

1974 - Fulton, Mississippi
DWI - Fined

On March 25, 1976, under Cause Number 7712, WILSON was placed on 8 years probation by the 22nd Judicial District Court, Comal County, for Theft Over \$200 and Under \$10,000. The charge resulted from WILSON's taking a check for \$2500 from a supposed business partner to Dallas, Texas, for the purpose of purchasing stock for their jewelry store. WILSON did not return. A condition of the probation was the restitution of \$2500 and payment of court costs in the amount of \$62.50.

On June 8, 1976, WILSON reported to the Probation Office while under the influence of alcohol. WILSON advised that he had been working for the U. S. Secret Service in Seguin, Texas, on a counterfeiting ring and that members of this ring were attempting to kill him. He admitted to being under the influence of alcohol and asked that his probation be revoked. WILSON was incarcerated in the Comal County Jail.

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Subsequent inquiry by ALLEN with the U.S. Secret Service determined that WILSON had furnished information of no value to that agency and that there was no counterfeiting ring. After approximately three days of incarceration WILSON advised ALLEN that the reason he had requested his probation be revoked was because he was seeking protection. He indicated that he wanted his probation continued. By report dated February 6, 1978, to the Probation Office, WILSON indicated that he was residing at 113 Mill Street, San Marcos, Texas, 78666, telephone number 392-2776. He listed his employment as self-employed - construction. The report indicated that he was living with his wife, JO ANN WILSON.

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TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at New Braunfels, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, BARBARA HARTIGAN, Records, McKenna Memorial Hospital, New Braunfels, Texas, after having been furnished an Authority to Release Medical Information, executed by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR, furnished the following background and descriptive data:

Name	BURGESS WILSON
Date of Birth	
Address	Box 1444 Startzville, Texas
Relatives	STEPHEN WILSON (son) 5427 Little Creek San Antonio, Texas 78242 Telephone 623-4939, U. S. Air Force
Occupation	Retired
Telephone Number	899-2764

Medical records indicate that on May 22, 1974, at 10:35 p.m., WILSON arrived at the Emergency Room, McKenna Memorial Hospital by ambulance experiencing severe chest pains and numbness of his right arm. Examination indicated an abnormal electro-cardiogram. WILSON was admitted at 12:05 a.m., May 23, 1974. He was treated for coronary occlusion. The following day the pain disappeared and the electro-cardiogram was normal. His past medical history listed alcoholism and heart attack, the last "heart attack" being in 1963 in Memphis, Tennessee.

On May 24, 1974, WILSON left the hospital via taxi against medical advice at 3:20 p.m.

It was noted in the medical records that WILSON has upper dentures.

On May 28, 1974, WILSON again appeared at the McKenna Memorial Hospital Emergency Room at 8:45 a.m., indicating that he had received a rattlesnake bite at approximately 7:30 a.m.,

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while pulling weeds at his residence near Canyon Lake. He was admitted to the hospital at 9:45 a.m., with the initial diagnosis being "rattlesnake bite, possible; toxic hepatic dysfunction probably secondary to ethanol intake."

Examination of the wound revealed a slightly raised, scratched area on the left wrist, however, no fang marks were located. WILSON was determined to be allergic to anti-venom. Suction was applied to the wound area, however, no venom was located.

His medical history indicated that he supposedly has carcinoma of the prostate which was diagnosed at the University of Tennessee about six months prior to May 30, 1974. Patient admitted to slightly heavy use of alcohol.

WILSON was discharged at 9:10 a.m., on May 30, 1974.

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA MANUEL MARQUEZ, JR.:

AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

On August 23, 1978, a search with Brownsville, Texas, Police Department records, Cameron County Sheriff's Office records, and Cameron County Jail records, failed to reflect any record identifiable with BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE SAN ANTONIO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 8/30/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/18-23/78
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV	TYPED BY mmk
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCES: Memphis teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/18/78;
 San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/18/78;
 Dallas teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
 Jackson teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
 San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/19/78;
 San Antonio teletype to the Bureau, dated 8/21/78;
 Bureau teletype, dated 8/22/78;
 San Antonio teletype, dated 8/23/78;
 Jackson teletype, dated 8/23/78; and
 Jackson teletype, dated 8/24/78.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE

A review of San Antonio indices revealed that BURGESS
 AUDIE WILSON, JR. is a subject of San Antonio file 29-2620

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:					
4-Bureau (44-38861)					
3-Memphis (44-1987 Sub M)					
(1-USA, Memphis, Tennessee)					
1-Jackson (62-544)					
1-San Antonio (44-1242)					
ASSEMBLED BY: <i>gh</i>					
Dissemination Record of Attached Report		Notations			
Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By					

A
 COVER PAGE

44-1242-678

FBI/DOJ

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captioned "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., BF&E, OO: San Antonio." WILSON allegedly defaulted on a \$1,000.00 note at the Kyle State Bank, Kyle, Texas, and in a security agreement and financing statement filed with the Hayes County District Clerk's Office, WILSON indicated that the \$1,000.00 note was obtained to purchase cattle.

By teletype, dated August 24, 1978, Jackson Division requested San Antonio to re-interview WILSON regarding a discrepancy in the registration number of the Bonanza Aircraft he claimed he owned at the time of KING's death. This interview was not conducted based on telephonic instructions received from ASAC, Memphis Division, on August 24, 1978.

B*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-U. S. Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: THOMAS E. MOODY, IV
Date: 8/30/78

Office: San Antonio, Texas

Field Office File #: 44-1242

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: NCIC inquiry revealed BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., born [redacted] in Mississippi, Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [redacted], wanted by New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department as Probation Violator as of 8/18/78. WILSON presently on probation out of Comal County District Court, Texas, for theft over \$200.00 and under \$10,000.00. WILSON previously treated at McKenna Memorial Hospital, New Braunfels, Texas, and Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. No record located for treatment of mental disorders. Results of record reviews of both hospitals, Comal County District Court Clerk's Office, Comal County Probation Office, Comal County Sheriff's Office, and interview of ex-wife set forth.

- RUC -

DETAILS:AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On August 18, 1978, inquiry of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) revealed that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., born [redacted] in Mississippi, Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [redacted] Texas Drivers License Number 77911315, was wanted by the New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department as a Probation Violator, date of warrant April 18, 1978.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk DAVID A. WALL:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

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A review of the records, Identification Bureau, Bexar County Jail, San Antonio, Texas, on August 18, 1978, indicated that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., white male, born [REDACTED], height 5'11", hair black, eyes brown, was booked into the Bexar County Jail on June 19, 1972 on Contempt of Court charges out of State District Court 57 (case number F248-084). WILSON served twelve days and was released on June 30, 1972.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Clerk CARMEN J. HINES:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On August 21, 1978, a review of court records, Bexar County 57th District Court, San Antonio, Texas, revealed WILSON was incarcerated for Contempt of Court growing out of a civil suit entitled "Allison-Kaufmann Company, a California corporation, v. North Star Diamond Corporation (case number F248-084) of which WILSON was listed as the owner. This civil suit involved a fraud case and WILSON was incarcerated following his refusal to furnish the court with an inventory of merchandise in his possession belonging to Allison-Kaufmann Company. This incarceration did not involve any action growing out of child support.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WAYNE SMITH:

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

On August 19, 1978, JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 Mill, San Marcos, Texas, advised that she met BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., also known as Bill Wilson, at Sadler, Texas, in September, 1977, and they were married in November of 1977. They separated February 15, 1978 and the divorce was finalized on April 26, 1978. On August 12, 1978, she received a telephonic message from WILSON indicating that he was in the state of Tennessee and was involved in an automobile accident. WILSON stated that as a result of this accident both of his legs were amputated. CHILDRESS advised that WILSON is a "very convincing liar and a con-man". He has never mentioned the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING and has never displayed any hatred or dislike for members of the black race.

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According to CHILDRESS, she believes that WILSON was in the United States Army during 1968, and WILSON has stated that he was a Prisoner Of War (POW) during the Vietnam conflict. She is aware that WILSON visited the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in San Antonio, Texas on several occasions, but she possesses no knowledge of him suffering from any psychiatric problems. By previous marriage, WILSON has three children, two sons and one daughter, locations not known by CHILDRESS.

CHILDRESS advised that it is her personal opinion that WILSON is sick and she is not in a position to provide any information regarding his whereabouts in 1968 other than the fact that he did mention that he once resided in Memphis, Tennessee.

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SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at
San Antonio, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, MARGI MARTIN, Records,
Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, after having been
furnished an Authority to Release Medical Information
executed by BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., furnished the
following background and descriptive data:

Name	BURGESS A. WILSON
VA Claim Number	14592430
Social Security Account Number	[REDACTED]
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	Fulton, Mississippi
U. S. Air Force Service Number	142 25 795
Dates of Service	May 2, 1947 - February, 1960
Type of Discharge	Honorable
Address	2601 Westward Drive Apartment 104 San Antonio, Texas (June, 1976)
	Route 4, Box 620-D Canyon Lake, Texas 78130 (August 4, 1976)
Occupation	Jeweler
Relatives	STEPHEN WILSON (Son) 5627 Culebra San Antonio, Texas Telephone 433-0588

Further review of the record indicated that no
compensation was being received from the VA by WILSON and
that he had received no treatment at that facility for
mental disorders. In June, 1976, his claim folder was located
in the Wichita VA Center.

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SA 44-1242

On June 27, 1976, WILSON was admitted as an in-patient to the VA hospital in San Antonio for insect bites. Initial diagnosis indicated Cellulitis of the right knee, Lymphangitis and Lymphadenitis; inflammation of lymph glands and multiple pus nodules on all extremities and neck. Additional diagnosis included chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; mild cardio infarction and a questionable cerebral vascular attack at age 30.

On June 29, 1976, WILSON went on pass from the hospital to visit his son who had been involved in a motorcycle accident in Dallas, Texas. WILSON did not return to the hospital.

On August 4, 1976, WILSON was treated as an out-patient for lime burn on his left foot. He was seen and released. On August 6, 1976, he telephonically contacted the hospital to report that his foot was healing properly.

On December 11, 1976, he was again treated as an out-patient for a swollen left elbow. He returned on December 14, 1976, for additional treatment. On December 21, 1976, WILSON failed to keep an appointment at the VA hospital for additional treatment and has not been treated subsequent to that time.

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SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted at
New Braunfels, Texas, by SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV:

On August 22, 1978, WALTER FELLERS, Sheriff, Comal
County, advised that BURGESS WILSON, also known as BILL WILSON,
Texas Department of Public Safety Number 1808984, had been
incarcerated in the Comal County Jail on the following occasions:

Arrest Number	A 8491
Date	March 1, 1976
Charge	Theft Over \$200 and under \$10,000
Address	401 5th Street South Columbus, Mississippi
Disposition	Pled guilty and sentenced to 8 years in the Texas Department of Corrections - probated to 8 years

Arrest Number	8942
Date	June 8, 1976
Charge	Violation of Probation
Address	401 5th Street South Columbus, Mississippi

Arrest Number	9636
Date	November 21, 1976
Charge	Violation of Probation (Capias Number 7721)
Address	Route 4, Box 6206 Canyon Lake, Texas

Arrest Number	A 10576
Date	July 13, 1977
Charge	Violation of Probation
Address	Route 4, Box 6206 Canyon Lake, Texas
Disposition	On bond to District Court

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Sheriff FELLERS advised that a Deputy from his office departed on August 22, 1978, en route to Ocean Springs, Mississippi to return WILSON to New Braunfels, Texas. He indicated that he expects WILSON to be returned prior to the end of the week.

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SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV at New Braunfels, Texas:

On August 22, 1978, HAZEL KUHN, Clerk, District Clerk's Office, Comal County District Court, New Braunfels, Texas, made available for review the records of the Comal County District Court. She noted that on the day BURGESS WILSON was scheduled to appear in Comal County District Court in connection with his divorce proceedings set forth hereinafter, he was admitted to the McKenna Memorial Hospital for an "alleged" rattlesnake bite. His attorney, IRVIN BOARNET of New Braunfels, withdrew from the case following this incident.

A review of the Comal County District Court records revealed that on September 3, 1974, WILSON was indicted by a Comal County Grand Jury for Theft Over \$200, a color television set being the property of DOROTHY E. WIMBERLY, under Cause Number 7520, in the 22nd Judicial District Court. An arrest warrant was served on WILSON on September 20, 1974, in Baxter County, Arkansas (Mountain Home). WILSON waived extradition and restitution was made. The charge was formally dismissed on March 30, 1976.

On February 7, 1975, an information was filed in Comal County District Court charging WILSON with Theft By Check. A capias was issued on February 7, 1975. WILSON, also known as WILLIAM WILSON, Highway 5, Mountain Home, Arkansas, was doing business as Ozark Jewelry and Watch Repair, (501) 425-8636. The charge was subsequently dismissed on December 22, 1977.

On August 7, 1974, WILSON was indicted by the Grand Jury in Comal County for Theft of Over \$200 and Under \$10,000 from ALBERT J. CRAUSE, Apartment 18, 1786 Austin Highway, San Antonio, Texas, under Cause Number 7712. WILSON pled guilty to this charge on March 11, 1976, at which time the following other charges were pending against him:

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Cause Number 7520

Theft Over \$200 -
To be dismissed upon
Restitution

Cause Number 7686

Theft Under \$200 -
To be dismissed upon
Restitution

Cause Number 21,797

Pending in the 18th
Judicial District Court,
Johnson County, Texas -
Criminal non-support case

Case Pending in Oktibbeah,
Mississippi - Fraud by
False Pretenses

WILSON's spouse at that time was listed as
PATRICIA WILSON, 103 Catherine Drive, Starkville, Mississippi.

As a result of WILSON's guilty plea, he was placed
on 8 years probation by the 22nd Judicial District Court,
Comal County, beginning March 25, 1976. He was to report
weekly to the Probation Officer and pay \$2500 restitution
and \$62.50 for court costs.

On June 8, 1976, the 22nd Judicial District Court
issued a warrant for WILSON's arrest for violation probation.
On June 9, 1976, a hearing to revoke his probation was held
based on his appearance in the Comal County Courthouse under
the influence of intoxicating liquors; his admission to
frequently consuming alcoholic beverages and his failure
and refusal to pay restitution.

On June 25, 1976, an order for continuing probation
was issued after his serving 20 days in jail.

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On November 18, 1976, an order for arrest was issued by 207th Judicial District Court, Comal County, for WILSON's arrest for violation of probation. The capias was served on November 20, 1976. On November 25, 1976, an order continuing probation was issued after WILSON spent four days in jail.

On July 8, 1977, an order for WILSON's arrest was issued by the 207th Judicial District Court. Capias was served on July 9, 1977. Also on that date, an order for his arrest was issued by the 207th Judicial District Court for violation of probation involving the Theft of Over \$200. The capias was served on July 13, 1977.

On April 18, 1978, an order was issued for WILSON's arrest by the 22nd Judicial District Court for violation of probation. The capias was issued on April 18, 1978.

On April 22, 1974, BETTY LOU WILSON filed a petition for divorce in Comal County District Court seeking to dissolve her marriage to BURGESS A. WILSON. The petition listed a son, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, born [redacted], at Memphis, Tennessee. In the petition BETTY LOU WILSON listed her address as 1505 West Canyon Lake Drive, Startzville, Texas, and BURGESS WILSON's address as 101-B Wonderland Shopping Center, Timex Center, San Antonio, Texas. The petition indicated that they were married on February 25, 1967, and separated on March 28, 1974.

In a cross petition filed by BURGESS WILSON on May 21, 1974, he indicated that they were originally married on December 13, 1948, and divorced on August 28, 1966, in Memphis, Tennessee. They were remarried on February 28, 1967, and separated on March 28, 1974.

The cross petition indicated that the son, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, was residing with WILSON's daughter, DEBORAH ANN JONES. A degree of divorce was entered on June 27, 1974, granting custody of MARK ANTHONY WILSON to BETTY LOU WILSON and requiring BURGESS A. WILSON to pay child support. A motion for Contempt was filed on August 19, 1974, as WILSON was in arrears in child support payments. The court has been unable, until this time, to locate WILSON for the purpose of serving the necessary papers.

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SA 44-1242
TEM:eya

The following investigation was conducted by
SA THOMAS E. MOODY, IV at New Braunfels, Texas:

On August 22, 1978, FRANK ALLEN, Probation Officer, Comal County, New Braunfels, Texas, advised that BURGESS WILSON was referred to his office for pre-sentence investigation on March 11, 1976. As a result of his pre-sentence investigation, he reported that the chances of successful probation by WILSON would be poor.

ALLEN stated that he did not believe WILSON to be capable of violence and noted that WILSON experiences illusions of grandeur and is capable of telling "wild stories" when drinking.

A review of the records of the Comal County Probation Office regarding WILSON revealed the following information:

Name	BURGESS WILSON
Date of Birth	
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'11"
Weight	165 pounds
Eyes	Brown
FBI Number	879 421 E
Texas Department of Public Safety Number	1,80-898-4
Social Security Account Number	
Mississippi Driver's License Number	
Address	5627 Culebra, Number 1401 San Antonio, Texas 78228
Spouse	PATRICIA ELSIA
Length of Marriage	7 months
Number of Marriages	3
Number of Dependents	4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Fall guy

Ray: I did not shoot Dr. King

Convicted assassin James Earl Ray swore he turned the rifle that killed King over to 'Raoul' the day before the assassination, and claimed to have been in his white Mustang when news of King's assassination came over the radio.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Convicted assassin James Earl Ray swore anew Wednesday that he did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., contending he was set up to take the blame by a man named "Raoul."

Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence for King's slaying on April 4, 1968, had recanted his 1969 guilty plea three days after entering the plea. But it was the first time the 50-year-old convict had stated his case publicly under oath.

"I did not shoot Martin Luther King," Ray told the House assassinations committee in a jammed and heavily guarded hearing room.

Under oath

Testifying under oath, Ray recounted in detail his now-familiar story that he thought he and Raoul were only gun and contraband-smuggling conspirators until he learned Dr. King had been shot.

Ray swore he turned the rifle that killed King over to Raoul the day before the assassination in Memphis. He recounted that he had had a tire fixed at a service station several blocks away from the Lorraine Hotel, where the civil rights leader was slain, and was still in his white Mustang when he heard news of King's assassination on the radio.

Surrounded at the witness table by U.S. marshals, Ray told his story for nearly two hours.

Rep. Richardson Preyer had admonished everyone not to move or stand up when Ray stood or was being escorted to and from the committee room. Anyone violating the order would be expelled immediately, Preyer warned.

When Ray was returned to the committee's chambers for an afternoon session of questioning, both he and his attorney, Mark Lane, pleaded for adjournment. Earlier, Ray had claimed exhaustion after alleged brutality by prison officials at an undisclosed location where he is being held. Federal prison officials denied the charge.

Preyer granted the adjournment request after conferring with other members of the panel. "The committee wants to be fair. We will adjourn until 9 a.m." on Thursday, he said.

When Ray finished a lengthy opening statement, Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, immediately began questioning him about the varying versions he has given of the

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

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SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS
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Raoul story for nearly 10 years.

Stokes asked Ray about a lie detector test to which he consented last year at the request of Playboy magazine. The magazine said the machine showed Ray lied when he denied killing King but told the truth when he said no one asked him or paid him for the murder. Ray later denounced the test as faulty.

Stokes asked why he has described Raoul variously as a blond-haired Latin, a sandy-haired Latin and a reddish-haired French Canadian.

The truth

Ray said a book writer was wrong about the blond hair, and that his sworn testimony Wednesday depicting Raoul as

having had dark hair with a reddish tint was the truth.

Ray told the committee he was giving essentially the same story he would have given at a court trial in 1969, if the court had not made an "in chambers deal" to have him plead guilty.

He accused his lawyer at the time, Percy Foreman, of telling him he could profit financially from pleading guilty and that family members might be arrested if he did not.

"I could have offered conclusive proof," Ray said.

Stokes asked him what the proof was.

"I thought I could establish that I was in various establishments in that area — the drugstore, the tavern, the service station" and not in the rooming house when the shot was fired, Ray replied.

Ray said he met Raoul in a tavern in Montreal in July 1967 and that within days Raoul recruited him to run contraband into the United States.

The following year, he testified, Raoul told him to buy a rifle as a sample for a gun-running operation into Mexico.

Met Raoul

Ray said he met Raoul on the outskirts of Memphis the day before the assassination, adding that Raoul took the rifle. Ray said Raoul told him he would show it to prospective Mexican customers.

"And that was the last time I saw the weapon," Ray said.

He said Raoul told him to rent a room at 422½ South Main Street, the rooming house from which Ray is accused of shooting King, and the two were to meet there at 3 or 4 p.m. on April 4.

Ray said he rented the room the next day and Raoul arrived sometime after 4 p.m. at Jim's Grill downstairs.

He said Raoul sent him out to buy a pair of binoculars the customers wanted to see. He said he then went down to the grill for a sandwich and left for the service station about 5:40 p.m.

Dr. King was assassinated at 6:03 p.m. — by a shot from the rifle fired from a bathroom window about 20 feet from the room Ray rented, Memphis police and the FBI concluded.

Ray said he drove back toward the rooming house but a police car was blocking the street and people "were running" so he veered away.

He said he drove to Atlanta and abandoned the car, took one bus to Cincinnati, another to Detroit and from there got to Toronto, from which he later fled to Europe.



JAMES EARL RAY, right, confers with his attorney Mark Lane beginning his testimony for the House.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's security accused

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Earl Ray's lawyer said Wednesday that he obtained a court order to protect the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King from prison abuse while being held to testify before the House assassinations committee.

The lawyer, Mark Lane, has accused guards at the Federal Correctional Institution at Petersburg, Va., of beating Ray, keeping him under surveillance and under lights that prevented him from sleeping or eating.

U.S. marshals said Ray was not beaten but that he had been kept under television surveillance and constant light had been needed for that.

They said prison guards only restrained him by holding his arms when he stood up and resisted having his picture taken during processing on arrival at the prison Monday night.

After a hearing before U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant in

Attorney claims abuse

Washington, Lane told reporters that he had won an order for Ray "to be taken out of the hands of prison officials and put in the hands of U.S. marshals."

The judge conducted the proceeding with private consultation with lawyers involved and left without announcing any ruling. His staff refused to confirm later that he had made a ruling.

U.S. Marshal J. Jerome Bullock, in charge of holding Ray for the House committee testimony, said his understanding

was that three U.S. marshals will now have to watch Ray themselves rather than leave him under the care of prison officials.

Bullock said that does not necessarily mean Ray will have to be moved, only that marshals must watch him directly whether he is kept in the federal prison or somewhere else.

Lane, who is also a well-known conspiracy theorist, said a 20-minute drive plus a 45-minute plane flight is required to bring Ray to the hearing room on Capitol Hill or return him to the prison.

Earlier, Lane charged that federal prison officials and guards beat Ray on Monday night and put him in a hot, tiny punishment cell with the lights burning 24 hours a day. Federal marshals had transported Ray to Washington from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn., earlier in the day.

Michael Aun, a spokesman for the Bureau of Prisons, denied that Ray was injured, saying rather that one officer had been kicked and another elbowed in the mouth during the struggle.

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

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Ray's varying stories blamed on poor memory

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Earl Ray, struggling to convince the House Assassinations Committee he didn't kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., blames his poor memory and human foibles for discrepancies in his various stories.

Committee members promised lengthy questioning today as Ray returned to the witness stand for a second day of testimony about the events which took him to Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968, when the civil rights leader was shot to death on a motel balcony.

Ray is serving a 99-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to the murder.

But for nearly 10 years, Ray has claimed innocence and offered a variety of accounts involving a mystery man named Raoul who Ray says enlisted him in a smuggling operation and then framed him for the assassination.

Statement

The discrepancies between Ray's sworn statement Wednesday and his earlier stories clearly troubled committee members. Its chairman, Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, promised a "quite

Convicted killer 'innocent'

extensive" cross-examination in an effort to separate truth from fiction.

"Sometimes," Ray said of differences in his stories about Raoul's description, "in these interviews for four or five hours, I have trouble concentrating."

Stokes asked whether Ray told the truth in a 1977 television interview.

"Well, it could be," Ray replied. "I think it was essentially true. I don't recall. I wasn't under oath."

The story, as Ray told it to the committee, began in April 1967, when he escaped a Missouri prison and fled to St. Louis, Chicago and finally Montreal, where he became acquainted with Raoul in a dockside bar.

They struck a deal: Ray would help Raoul with a smuggling venture in exchange for cash and a false Canadian passport.

In August 1967, he and Raoul met in Windsor, Ontario, and transported contraband into Detroit in Ray's car. He said Raoul paid him \$1,000 but

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THE NEWS
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claimed he was unable to provide the passport.

They parted then but kept in touch and worked together on a Mexican smuggling operation in October 1967 and met in New Orleans in December to plot a gun-running trip to Mexico, Ray said.

Ray said Raoul gave him cash on four occasions in all for a total of \$7,000, including \$2,000 to buy the white automobile in which he fled Memphis moments after the assassination.

On Raoul's instructions, Ray said, he came to Bessie Brewer's rooming house across the street from King's motel on April 3, 1968.

The next day, he said, he met with Raoul at the rooming house and a bar in the same building and spent the afternoon running errands for him.

Shooting

He chose instead to return to the rooming house but found the street blocked by a police car and saw people running, he said. As he drove south into Mississippi, he heard radio news bulletins that King had been shot and that police suspected a white male driving a white car.

Realizing he was the object of the search, Ray said he kept on driving and escaped finally to London, where he was arrested June 8, 1968.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray claims evidence is wrong

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — James Earl Ray told House investigators Thursday he would take the blame for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination "right here on television" if they could prove he was in Atlanta three days before.

The House assassinations committee displayed evidence that he was, but Ray countered by saying the committee's evidence was wrong. In response to the presentation, Ray suggested that the evidence "might be a mistake ... or some kind of forged document."

The exchange came as lawmakers zeroed in on the convicted assassin's oft-told story that he was framed for King's slaying by a man identified only as Raoul.

Stalking

The committee suggested that Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison term for King's assassination, had been stalking King. The committee produced evidence that Ray was in Selma, Ala., the day after King visited there two weeks before the assassination. And it submitted evidence purporting to show that Ray was in Atlanta just days before the murder.

"I know I didn't return to Atlanta," Ray swore under oath, "and if I did, well, I'll just take responsibility for the King case right here on TV." Ray, who pleaded guilty to killing King but recanted three days later, was referring to live television coverage of the hearings.

Convicted assassin James Earl Ray promised to take blame for the assassination if the committee proved he was in Atlanta three days before; the committee produced evidence he was.

The committee then displayed a huge blowup of two laundry tickets showing Eric S. Galt, the alias Ray agreed he was using, put clothes in the Piedmont Laundry in Atlanta April 1.

And then it produced a transcript quoting Jimmy Delton Garner, operator of Garner's Rooming House in Atlanta as saying Ray was there the day before and paid him \$10.50 rent.

"Well, he's in error," Ray told Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio.

Ray said he is sure he put the laundry

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PAGE 2A

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in March 25 and that the laundry slip is either forged or the clerk wrote down the wrong date.

However, the committee produced a page from the laundry counter book showing that Ray's ticket was entered chronologically on a page dated April 1. But Ray insisted they are wrong. "I went into the laundry," he said, "but I did not go in April 1."



JAMES EARL RAY
...asks for proof

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King's killer to tell his side of tale today

WASHINGTON (AP) James Earl Ray, the self-confessed killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., finally gains a national forum today, summoned by Congress to declare publicly and under oath whether he killed the civil rights leader.

Guarded by a phalanx of federal marshals, Ray prepared to testify before the House Assassinations Committee and face almost certain skepticism about his account.

Although he had initially pleaded guilty to the killing, Ray since recanted that plea.

Security

Security was so tight that only news reporters; Ray's lawyer, Mark Lane; and about 30 invited guests with reserved-seat tickets were being admitted to the 200-seat spectator section.

Ray's scheduled three-day appearance as the committee's star witness comes after an 18-month investigation of King's murder in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968. Committee members seemed doubtful, however, that Ray's account could settle the mysteries of the case.

After pleading guilty to assassinating the civil rights leader, Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Since then, however, he has told several variations of a story centering on a man named Raoul.

He has said he knew Raoul only by his first name and was involved in a narcotics and weapons smuggling racket with him. In some accounts, Ray has claimed Raoul framed him for the murder of King.

Because he pleaded guilty, Ray was never tried on the charge of killing King. Arguing that he was forced by his lawyers to enter the plea, he has petitioned the courts for years to grant him a trial.

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PAGE 2A

THE NEWS
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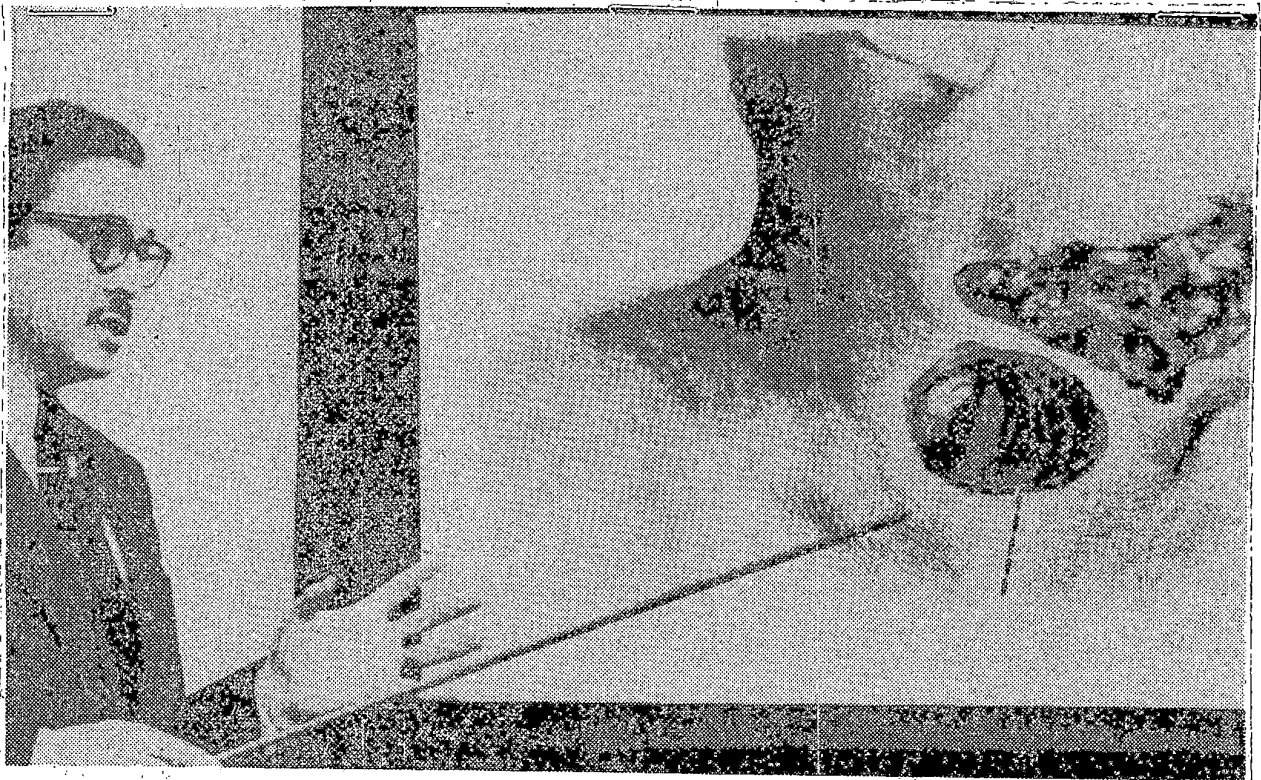
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DR. MICHAEL BADEN SHOWS DRAWING OF KING'S ENTRY WOUND TO PANEL
... House Assassinations Committee hear his testimony Tuesday

AP LASERPHOTO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray ready to testify

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House assassinations committee was told Tuesday that scientific tests failed to prove whether the bullet that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came from the window of a boarding house or the bushes below.

The panel heard the testimony as it prepared for Wednesday's appearance by James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to slaying King on April 4, 1968, while the civil rights leader stood on the balcony of a Memphis hotel across from the boarding house. Ray has since recanted his plea and now maintains he did not fire the shot that killed King.

In another development, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, declaring that Ray appears to be a small cog in a large wheel, asked the Justice Department to reopen its investigation into the assassination.

A rifle shot from the bushes would be a major contradiction of eyewitness

testimony and the conclusion of Memphis police that Ray assassinated King with a rifle shot from the bathroom window of the boarding house.

The committee refused to say whether

that question will be settled. But Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, said he thinks hearings scheduled for November will leave no doubt that the fatal shot came from the window.

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SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS
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RAY: 'I DID NOT SHOOT KING'

Victim Of Plot, He Says

WASHINGTON (UPI) — James Earl Ray, the petty crook who pleaded guilty to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., today denied under oath that he shot the civil rights leader.

"I did not shoot Martin Luther King Jr.," Ray told the House Assassinations Committee in televised testimony.

Ray said new FBI documents point to a conspiracy between the bureau and Memphis police to kill King.

He said his first lawyer, Percy Foreman, made a deal with Tennessee authorities that resulted in his pleading guilty without facing a trial.

Ray said he had a 38-page statement to read to the committee, but began reading from three "newly discovered" FBI documents.

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SAN ANTONIO LIGHT
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FBI/DOJ

One said the first person to reach screened, specially ticketed members of the public, and the news media.

King's fallen body was a Memphis undercover police officer. This officer then pointed in the direction of the rooming house from which the fatal shot was believed to have been fired.

It was believed that Ray would testify that at the time of the assassination he was several blocks away from the murder site at a service station.

The testimony took place before 12 committee members, 90 staff members, some 200 carefully

Escorted by his lawyer, Mark Lane, Ray entered the hearing room under heavy security provided by federal marshals. He wore a checkered sportcoat and a striped tie and carried a briefcase.

Before Ray testified, Lane protested that his client had been beaten by federal marshals on Monday when he was transferred to Wash-

(Continued, Page 20, Col. 3.)

Ray Denies He's Guilty

(Continued from Page 1.)

ington. But Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., said that matter was not before the committee.

"In essence, I would have told the trial court and jury that I did not shoot Martin Luther King Jr.," Ray said. He said it is easy for a lawyer "to maneuver his client to a guilty plea," particularly when the court cooperated.

Lane, his late attorney, preceded Ray by making several procedural motions — one to permit other defense attorneys a place at the witness table. It was rejected for security reasons.

On another point, Lane contended his client had been beaten by guards as late as Monday and held in solitary confinement for 24 hours. Preyer, a former federal judge, interrupted Lane, saying:

"This is not a trial. There are no prosecutors. There are no defendants. The role of counsel is not that of counsel in a criminal trial. The role of counsel is to advise the witness as to his constitutional rights."

After detailing the allegations against the undercover agent, Ray told the committee that future witnesses who may testify "against" him could be paid FBI informers. He asked — and was granted — the right to respond.

U.S. marshals spirited the 50-year-old escape artist into Washington Tuesday, and instituted massive security measures to protect him.

The committee, headed by Congressional Black Caucus member Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, is neither judge, prosecutor nor jury.

It has been directed by the House only to present what, if any, new evidence it has uncovered in the King murder and the earlier assassination of John F. Kennedy, a subject of later hearings.

"We'll nail James Earl Ray to the cross," one committee source predicted before the hearings began. Although many members of the panel are now reported convinced Ray fired the death shot, uncertainty and doubts linger on whether he had help.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray to testify

Assassination

hearings begin today

Security for Ray's hearing is so tight that only reporters and people already cleared will be allowed in the hearing room.

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Earl Ray will be given a chance at the House Assassinations Committee's first public hearings this week to detail his statement that he did not kill Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray, appearing under tight security, will be the star witness as the committee begins hearings on its investigation of the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy.

"We'll question him on his story and on what evidence corroborates it or disputes it," said Delegate Walter Fauntroy, D-D.C., chairman of the sub-

committee that is conducting the King investigation.

Ray pleaded guilty to killing King in Memphis April 4, 1968, and is now serving a 99-year sentence in Tennessee.

But Ray has publicly recanted his confession and has contended he was set up by a man he knew only as Raoul to take the blame.

Security for Ray's hearing is so tight that only reporters and people already cleared will be allowed in the hearing room.

Reporters have been warned not to move as Ray is being brought into or taken from the hearing room. Metal detectors will be set up at the doors.

"We are custodians of a person on whom no chance will be taken that he will not get back to Tennessee," a committee spokesman said at a briefing.

First witness

The first witness Monday was to be the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy who succeeded King as leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

He was to set the scene with testimony on why King was in Memphis and events that preceded the assassination.

A pathologist is to give details Tuesday of the shooting that killed King.

Then Ray gets the witness table for the rest of the week and the committee says it does not know itself what to expect.

The spokesman, who does not want to be named, said Ray's testimony is scheduled for the three days if it is relevant to his involvement in the assassination but "may last an hour" if Ray and his lawyer, Mark Lane, try to get off on other issues.

Ray's story as late as last Thursday afternoon was the same as it has been for years, with one or two details added in recent months.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Ray told him and other black leaders at Brushy Mountain State Prison then that Raoul sent him away from the rooming house from which Dr. King was about to be shot to get a tire fixed.

Ray repeated his story that he heard on the radio on the way back that King had been assassinated, Jackson said.

He said Ray claims an unnamed businessman can testify he was at the service station.

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

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FBI/DOJ

Jackson said Ray also says he has a photograph of Raoul and that a woman who was across the street now says Ray was not the man who fled from the rooming house after the murder.

The committee resumes hearings after Labor Day with a month of testimony on the assassination of President Kennedy. Three more weeks of hearings on the King assassination are planned for November.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Abernathy

convinced of plot

In King assassination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Martin Luther King Jr.'s friend and successor told congressmen Monday he is convinced the civil rights leader's assassination was a conspiracy — and thinks King was told it was coming.

"He had a premonition or maybe some knowledge," the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy testified. "I think he had received some word, from some sources, that he was going to be assassinated."

Abernathy gave that testimony as the House Assassinations Committee held the first public hearings on its \$5 million investigation of the murders of King and President John F. Kennedy.

Outside the hearing room, Abernathy told reporters he believes the FBI was involved in the assassination and told King in advance "to warn him and to threaten him both."

Abernathy said he has no evidence to support that but believes it because of the FBI's admitted harassment of King and efforts to disrupt his activities.

"I think when Dr. King started to bring poor people together, someone in a very high place in our country, I believe — high place — decided we must eliminate this young black leader and cut him down," he told newsmen.

Regarding that point, his only refer-

ence to anyone by name was the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. "I would not eliminate Mr. Hoover," he said in response to a question.

James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to assassinating King and then recanted his confession, is to testify to the House committee beginning Wednesday.

Ray, 50, was turned over to U.S. marshals and taken by helicopter from the Brushy Mountain State Prison in eastern Tennessee on Monday, Warden Stonney Lane confirmed. A spokesman for the U.S. marshal's office, Bill Dempsey, would not comment on Ray's whereabouts.

Abernathy said he also thinks Memphis police and the FBI helped Ray get out of Memphis after the assassination the afternoon of April 4, 1968.

But he said he would accept a conclusion that the FBI was not involved in the killing.

"If they find someone else was involved, I would accept it," he replied.

In his testimony, Abernathy said he is convinced the murder was a conspiracy because he believes Ray must have had help in getting to Europe after the assassination.

And he said he believes King had been told he was going to be assassinated because King became nervous, gave instructions on his funeral sermon and gave Abernathy instructions for taking over his work.

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FBI suspect in King death plot

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, successor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, says he is convinced there was a conspiracy to kill King and that the FBI was involved.

After testifying before the House Assassinations Committee, Abernathy told reporters of his convictions.

He avoided the conspiracy claim in his testimony before the panel, though.

Mark Lane, perhaps the most prominent exponent of an assassination conspiracy theory, asserted to reporters once again that "people associated with the FBI are prime suspects." Lane, an attorney, is representing James Earl Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to the murder.

Recanted

Ray, who soon recanted the plea, is scheduled to give his sworn account to the committee Wednesday. Under tight security, federal marshals brought Ray to Washington Monday

Black leader claims

night from Tennessee's Brushy Mountain State Prison, the prison warden said. Under questioning about the FBI, Abernathy criticized the agency's alleged harassment of King and other civil rights leaders.

He noted that King distrusted the FBI and its director, J. Edgar Hoover.

The SCLC staff received numerous threats against King and "we would report some of them (to the FBI) for the record but King and his aides never saw the FBI as a source of protection," Abernathy testified.

He said he does not remember FBI agents questioning him about the events in Memphis. But the FBI said agents did interview Abernathy. Officials declined to elaborate.

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

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THE NEWS
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FBI/DOJ



REV. RALPH ABERNATHY TESTIFIED MONDAY
. . . before panel probing King's death

AP LASERPHOTO

Abernathy told the committee he believes King was forewarned of the assassination and told reporters later he believes the FBI gave King that information "both to warn him and to threaten him."

But again, Abernathy said he has nothing to support his conclusions but speculation and unspoken impressions from the man he called his dearest friend.

"We were inseparable. He died in my arms," the husky 52-year-old minister said quietly as he traced the events, monumental and mundane, which brought King to Memphis to support sanitation workers — mostly poor and black — striking for better wages.

King, Abernathy said, "was in good spirits" although he had been deeply depressed a week earlier when he saw violence erupt in the Memphis civil rights march he was leading. King saw the outbreak as a devastating blow to his gospel of non-violent protest, Abernathy explained.

In fact, he continued, King had turned increasingly introspective during the preceding few weeks.

Abernathy told of awakening late one night to find King missing from the hotel room they shared in Acapulco.

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King death hearing to be trial, play

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Assassinations Committee's first public hearings on the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King in a sense will resemble both a trial and a play.

Just as dramatists set the scene and introduce the characters in a play's opening scene, the committee has designed today's initial session to recreate the mood of Memphis, Tenn., where King was shot to death on April 4, 1968.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, King's friend and longtime colleague in the civil rights movement, was scheduled as the leadoff witness.

With the scene set, the committee plans on Tuesday to question a pathologist about the medical investigation following the murder.

But the star witness, scheduled to testify Wednesday through Friday, will be James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to killing King, a plea he later recanted.

It is not yet clear to the committee what Ray will say — or whether he will say anything at all. The panel obtained a court order requiring Ray to testify, but, the committee spokesman noted, "We can bring him up here with a writ and we can sit him down and we can ask him a question. But if he doesn't answer, what are we going to do — threaten him with jail?"

Since recanting his guilty plea, Ray has asserted that he did not kill King and that he was involved in what he thought was only a narcotics and gun-smuggling ring with a man named Raoul, who framed him for the King assassination.



JAMES EARL RAY
...to testify

AP LASERPHOTO

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

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Testimony on King Murder Begins

By DANIEL F. GILMORE
WASHINGTON (UPI) — A House committee, with its chairman pledging to suspend judgment until all the evidence is in, today began a long series of public hearings into the murders of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

First up was the King case — the April 1968 murder on a Memphis motel balcony. Ralph David Abernathy, King's chief lieutenant and one who stood beside him when an

assassin's bullet ended his life, was the first witness called by the House assassinations panel.

Security was heavy. Capitol police carefully screened spectators, reporters and television technicians who had to pass through airport-style metal detectors before being admitted to the chamber.

The precaution was just a shadow of the conditions to expect on Wednesday when the convicted assassin, James Earl Ray, takes the stand at the start of three days of testimony.

Ray's lawyer, Mark Lane has contended that Ray was a dupe in the assassination and that the responsibility for King's slaying lies with the FBI.

Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the panel which has probed the slayings for two years at a cost of more than \$4 million, spoke first to the crowded Capitol Hill hearing room.

He said that while individual committee members "may have reached preliminary judgments on certain issues" in both cases, "We are suspending judgment as a committee until all the evidence is in."

The committee will hold hearings this month and next, breaking off in October and then resuming work through November and December.

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SAN ANTONIO LIGHT
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Submitting Office: SAN ANTONIO

SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED..... FILED.....
AUG 15 1978
FBI - DOJ

JN0001 2361555Z

PP HQ ME SA

DE JN

P 241532Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELETYPE, AUGUST 23, 1978; AND DALLAS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 23, 1978.

DALLAS DIVISION ADVISED THAT SEARCH OF RECORDS AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (FRC) CONCERNING REGISTRATION NUMBER 34L, REPORTEDLY FOR A BONANZA AIRCRAFT OWNED BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, REVEALED THAT THE CORRECT NUMBER WOULD HAVE BEEN N34L INASMUCH AS ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES HAS THE PREFIX "N". REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED FOR USE ON A TWIN ENGINE BEACH CRAFT IN 1956, THE OWNER BEING MR. LEAR, SR., OF LEAR,

*ASAC Dick Blay
Memphis Div telephonically
advised 10:08 pm, 8/24/78, to
disregard this tel - Do not
interview Wilson
al*

44-1242-667

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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AUG 24 1978	
FBI - SAN ANTONIO	

Moody

PAGE TWO JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

INC., WHO SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK THE AIRCRAFT TO SWITZERLAND AND SOLD IT TO AN ITALIAN CORPORATION IN 1962. A REQUEST WAS RECEIVED THAT THE PLANE BE DE-REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IT WAS ON JULY 27, 1962. NO RECORD COULD BE LOCATED WHICH WOULD INDICATE ANY USE OR REFERENCE TO THIS REGISTRATION NUMBER AFTER THAT DATE. NO RECORD WAS LOCATED REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION AT NEW BRAUNFELLS, TEXAS. WILL REINTERVIEW BURGESS AUDIE WILSON RE CORRECT REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE BONANZA AIRCRAFT HE CLAIMED HE OWNED AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH.

BT

JACKSON 230155Z

PP 13 4E SA

DE JJ

P 24153Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (02-044) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P) PRIORITY

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 1911, JMW.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELETYPE, AUGUST 23, 1978; AND DALLAS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 23, 1978.

DALLAS DIVISION ADVISED THAT SEARCH OF RECORDS AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (FAC) CONCERNING REGISTRATION NUMBER 34L, REPORTEDLY FOR A BOEING AIRCRAFT OWNED BY SURGEON MAJOR WILSON, REVEALED THAT THE CORRECT NUMBER WOULD HAVE BEEN 134L INASMUCH AS ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES HAS THE PREFIX "1". REGISTRATION NUMBER 134L WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED FOR USE ON A TWIN ENGINE BEACH CRAFT IN 1953, THE OWNER BEING MR. LEAF, SR., OF LEAF,

44-1242-667

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AUG 24 1978	
FBI - SAN ANTONIO	

PAGE TWO J 02-544 UNCLAS E F T O

INC., WHO SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK THE AIRCRAFT TO SWITZERLAND AND SOLD IT TO AN ITALIAN CORPORATION IN 1962. A REQUEST WAS RECEIVED THAT THE PLANE BE RE-REGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IT WAS ON JULY 27, 1962. NO RECORD COULD BE LOCATED WHICH WOULD INDICATE ANY THE OCCURRENCE OF THE AIRCRAFT AFTER THAT DATE. NO RECORD WAS LOCATED ALSO WITH THE NAME BOBBIE WILSON.

INVESTIGATION AT W. B. FIELDS, TEXAS. WILL REINTERVIEW BOBBIE WILSON TO DETERMINE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE AIRCRAFT. RESULTS WILL BE FURNISHED AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH.

BT

JNO 001 235200Z

PP HQ ME SA

DE JN

R 231955Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-3386L) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8938, JEH.

MURKIN; 00: MEMPHIS.

ON AUGUST 23, 1978, SERGEANT LAURA MIZE, DESK SERGEANT, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THAT DEPUTY (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) REYUN, OF THE COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAD ARRIVED AT THE OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT EARLY THIS MORNING TO PICK UP PRISONER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. DESK SERGEANT MIZE ADVISED THAT DEPUTY REYUN DEPARTED OCEAN SPRINGS AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 A.M., THIS DATE WITH WILSON EN ROUTE TO NEW BRAUNFELLS, TEXAS.

BT

44-1242-646
AUG 23 1978
J. E. Cady

170 DE1 230203Z

FM ME SA

BTJW

231050Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-3586L) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1927 SUB M) PRIORITY

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEM.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

ON AUGUST 23, 1978, SERGEANT LAURA WIZE, DESK SERGEANT, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THAT DEPUTY (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) REYUN, OF THE COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS, SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAD ARRIVED AT THE OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT EARLY THIS MORNING TO PICK UP PRISONER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. DESK SERGEANT WIZE ADVISED THAT DEPUTY REYUN DEPARTED OCEAN SPRINGS AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30 A.M., THIS DATE WITH WILSON EN ROUTE TO NEW BRAUNFELLS, TEXAS.

BT

44-1242-666
10/1/78

44-1242-666

MR MR

10/1/78
JEM