

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

### Assassinations Unit May Be Renewed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (UPI) — The House Rules Committee voted today to resurrect a special committee to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee imposed a tight budget, however, and gave said the special committee two months to justify its existence.

By voice vote, the committee recommended to the House a resolution to reconstitute the 12-member committee.

The resolution probably will go to the House tomorrow or Thursday. Adoption is expected, but only after debate and amendments. Representative Richard Bolling (Dem.), Missouri, said, "It's a temporary extension, and the House will later make a final decision."

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

2A St. Louis  
Post Dispatch

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Editor:

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FEB 3 1977

FBI-ST. LOUIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

### Assassination inquiries to go on

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House has voted to continue its inquiry into the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. temporarily while Justice Department lawyers said they could find no evidence of a conspiracy in Dr. King's death.

By a 237 to 164 vote Wednesday, the House extended the life of its Assassinations Committee until March 31, when its work will be re-evaluated.

Last September the House began what was to be a two-year investigation. But the inquiry ran into trouble because of its price tag of \$6.5 million per year and criticism of the chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague.

After the vote Wednesday night, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Tex., was appointed chairman. House leaders said they were confident that he would protect individual rights and present a new budget in two months.

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

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Globe Democrat

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D. \_\_\_\_\_ *RJW*

FEB 4 1977

ST. LOUIS  
*[Signature]*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# ~~C~~lears FBI Of Complicity In Dr. King's Assassination

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 — A special Department of Justice panel has cleared the Federal Bureau of Investigation of any complicity in the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It said that James Earl Ray apparently killed the civil rights leader without help.

But the 201-page report, which closely reviewed the FBI's investigation of the assassination, criticized the Bureau for working undercover to drive the Rev. Dr. King out of the civil rights movement.

"In all the years following the assassination, the investigation has failed to reveal any connection between any alleged conspirator(s) and James Earl Ray — including those alleged by Ray himself," the report said.

The report praised the FBI for a painstaking investigation of the murder, but said that, to this day, no one had been able to find out how Ray financed his activities. These included a flight to Europe, where he was later arrested, returned to the United States and sentenced to life in prison.

"The task force also found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder," the report said. "Indeed, the overwhelming evidence indicates that Ray was almost totally alone during the year after his escape" from the Missouri Penitentiary before he shot to death the Rev. Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn., the report said.

Former Attorney General Edward H. Levi ordered the investigation in order to clear up questions about the FBI's harassment of the Rev. Dr. King and the investigation of his death.

The report, developed by the Justice Department's "Martin Luther King Task Force," found that during Ray's imprisonment in Missouri he had told inmates that he "hated Negroes" that he had said on several occasions that he would kill the Rev. Dr. King "if the price was right."

"The only new evidence that was

developed related to details that did not affect the ultimate conclusion that James Earl Ray was the properly convicted murderer," the Justice Department said in making the report public.

Ray is currently serving a 99-year prison sentence in Tennessee.

The special panel said it was satisfied that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had done "a credible and a through job in attempting to identify any possible conspiracy or persons who could have been involved in the murder." The FBI focused on finding the sources of funds that Ray used in his wide travels after his escape from prison and before and after the assassination, the report showed.

Checks of Ray's possible involvement in various bank robberies occurring in that period proved negative, the report

said. "It is the Bureau's opinion that Ray most likely committed on a periodic basis several robberies and burglaries during this period in order to support himself," the report said.

The special panel said it was understandable that the FBI had investigated to see whether the Rev. Dr. King had been influenced by the Communist Party, but the report said that investigation should have been ended in 1963 because there was no evidence of Communist influence. Instead, the investigation continued for nearly six years until the Rev. Dr. King's death.

The special panel included five Justice Department lawyers and two research analysts working under the supervision of Michael Shaheen, head of the department's Office of Professional Responsibility.

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

1A & 7A

St. Louis

Post-Dispatch

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FEB 22 1977

FBI-ST. LOUIS

But the report's authors list two loose ends, lack of a clear motive for the shooting and an inability to learn how Ray supported himself for a year before the Rev. Dr. King's death.

"Ray's apparent hatred for the civil rights movement, his possible yearning for recognition and a desire for a potential quick profit may have, as a whole, provided sufficient impetus for him to act and act alone," the report said.

Imprisoned in the Missouri State prison until his escape in 1967, Ray took part in inmate speculation about a bounty on the Rev. Dr. King's head. But the report found no evidence proving that a bounty payment was actually offered.

Meanwhile, an attorney for Ray accused the Justice Department of attempting to whitewash the investigation of the killing. Robert I. Livingston of Memphis, Tenn., also charged the Justice Department with trying to thwart a planned investigation of the assassination by a House committee.

Livingston said he knew of two persons willing to testify before the panel, but that they could not because the committee was having internal problems. Robert F. Kennedy, while serving as attorney general, failed badly by maintaining FBI surveillance on the Rev. Dr. King, the task force said.

The report found that during Ray's imprisonment in Missouri he told inmates he "hated Negroes." It said he vowed on several occasions to kill the Rev. Dr. "if the price was right."

Livingston said he never had placed any faith in the investigation.

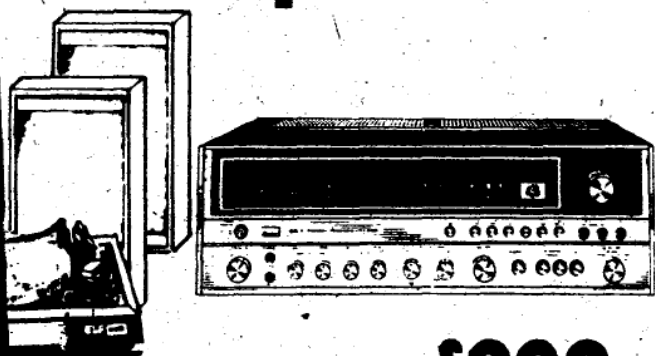
"Since that investigation started, I felt they would approve everything the FBI has said and done in connection with the Dr. King murder. I knew they would find no fault whatever with (late FBI director) Mr. John Edgar Hoover, I knew they would find no fault with anyone remotely connected to it.

"The only thing I'm surprised at is that they haven't recommended Hoover for sainthood."

"The forces behind the assassinations are working full time to see that nobody anywhere investigates these assassinations," he said. "There are forces at work trying to destroy the select committee of Congress to investigate the assassinations.

"There are people in this world who don't want any of these investigations continued."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# New Policies Restrain FBI, Kelley Says

Compiled From News Services

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 — Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Clarence M. Kelly Jr. said Friday that current policy and Department of Justice guidelines would prevent future FBI harassments such as those used against the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Kelley expressed great satisfaction that a Justice Department task force found the FBI had made a creditable and thorough investigation of the King assassination in 1968.

"There are portions of the report which described objectionable actions on the part of the FBI," Kelley said, referring to the task force's criticism of the FBI's attempt to "neutralize" the Rev. Dr. King's role as a civil rights leader.

A Justice Department task force investigating the death of the Rev. Dr. King says evidence that James Earl Ray was a lone assassin is convincing, although his motive remains elusive.

In the report made public Friday, the task force praised the FBI's original investigation of the Rev. Dr. King's death in 1968, but said the Justice Department failed to exercise proper supervision over the agency's work.

The report said also that former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover inspired an improper and at times illegal harassment campaign against the Rev. Dr. King in the last five years of his life. But it recommended against prosecutions in the campaign because Hoover and his top aids are dead or retired.

Ray was acting alone on April 4, 1968 when he gunned King down on a motel balcony in Memphis, the report concluded. It said that FBI agents checked out conspiracy theories but found them groundless.

"The task force is satisfied that the FBI did a credible and thorough job in attempting to identify any possible conspiracy. In all the years following the assassination, the investigation has failed to reveal any connection between any alleged conspirator and James Earl Ray..."

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

12A ST. LOUIS  
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SLMO.

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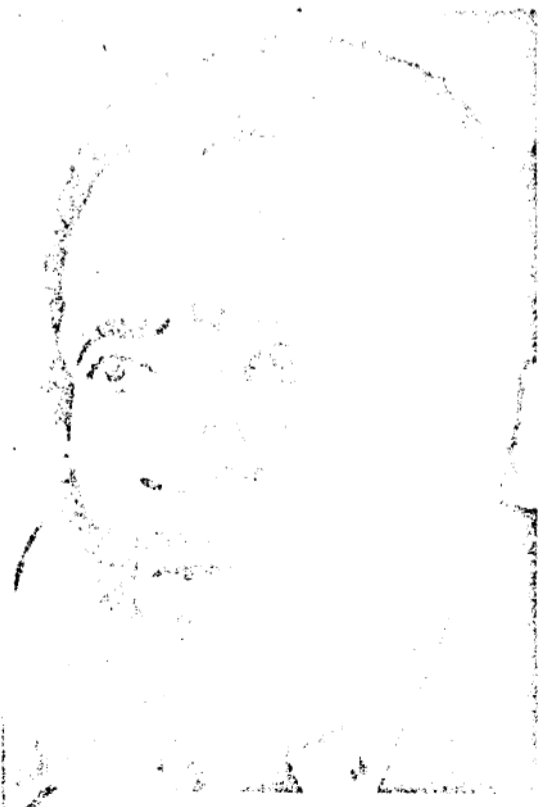
(Mount Clipping) as the final answer. Mrs.

# King Family Dissatisfied With Report Findings

BY LILYANN J. MITCHELL

"Not satisfied," is a two-word summary of the statements made by those close to the late Black Prophet, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., relative to the recent concluding report from the House Select Committee on Assassinations that, "Ray apparently acted alone," - thus, ending their most recent inquiry into the King slaying case.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader, and his father, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., both stated in a news announcement this week that the investigation was not thorough enough and said they would "not accept this



DICK GREGORY

King, Dr. King Sr., the Rev. Dr. David Abernathy, Hon. Andrew Young, Rev. Dr. Jessie L. Jackson, Dick Gregory, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and a long list of other notable Black and white citizens and organizations, have pushed over the past years for a complete re-investigation into Dr. King's brutal slaying.

"There is no doubt in my mind that a conspiracy existed," said Mrs. King. U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Andrew Young, said he would do all he could to have Dr. King's documents on the slaying case reviewed more thoroughly.

"If the true story was told it would blow the lid off of a powder keg .. and you had better be ready to face what the outcome of this re-investigation will bring," human rights leader, Gregory told members of the CBC and some 4,000 dinner guests during their last annual event in Washington, D.C. about six months ago.

Shortly after this re-investigation into the King slaying officially opened, it was reported that numerous documents pertinent to the King case were missing from the government's file.

This week, Gregory announced that he will resume his hunger fast until a "thorough and true" investigation into Dr. King's slaying is investigated - which should include the necessary FBI, and other legal government documents on the King slaying.

In other King developments, U.S. District Judge John Lewis has ordered the

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

1 (Second Section)

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FBI to file with the National Archives all of its tapes and documents growing out of buggings and wiretaps of King.

According to the judge's previous orders, these materials cannot be made available to the public for at

least 50 years, except by court order. Until a new investigation is held - including all of the King records and documents, from all sources holding the valuable records - Gregory said he will be fasting on fruit juices alone.



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Attorney general wants to see James Earl Ray

By GLENN ELSASSER  
Globe-Democrat -  
Chicago Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Griffin B. Bell wants to talk personally with James Earl Ray to clear up doubts that Ray acted alone in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bell said Thursday.

Bell said he "read carefully" a special Justice Department task force report on the King assassination, issued last week, and "puzzled over the case."



Bell

THE REPORT found no evidence of FBI involvement in the 1968 murder of Dr. King, but Bell said the case was not closed for the Justice Department.

A final decision will be made, he said, once the House Select Committee on Assassinations has completed its investigation of the killings of Dr. King and President Kennedy.

"I had it way in the back of my mind to do a little more," Bell told a breakfast meeting of reporters.

Speaking of a possible meeting with Ray, Bell said: "I'd either go or someone I have absolute confidence in would."

The attorney general mentioned that he was troubled by the problem of where Ray got his money after the King slaying. The Justice Department report

said he probably stole it, but Bell said there is no evidence of this.

FURTHERMORE, Bell questioned whether Ray was knowledgeable enough to get the passports he used to travel abroad after the assassination.

Ray, who is serving a 99-year state prison term in Tennessee, has contended since the assassination that he was "a fall guy" in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King. The U.S. Supreme Court in December refused to review his guilty plea.

Asked whether he thought some government agency might have been involved in the assassination, Bell replied: "Oh, not at all."

When asked whether he as attorney general would give Ray any "special consideration" if he believed Ray's story, Bell said this would have to be worked out with Tennessee officials because Ray is a state prisoner.

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

15 A

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

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FEB 28 1977

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# Gonzalez Resigns From King Inquiry

WASHINGTON, March 2 (AP) — Representative Henry B. Gonzalez (Dem.), Texas, resigned today as chairman of the special House committee investigating assassinations.

Gonzalez explained that he could not work with Richard A. Sprague, the committee's chief counsel, whom he called an "unconscionable scoundrel."

In a letter to House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, Gonzalez said it was clear that House leaders were unwilling to support his insistence on dismissing Sprague.

The committee was set up last year to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader.

It has been virtually paralyzed in recent weeks by the dispute between Gonzalez and Sprague, which emerged from the reluctance of House members to approve the \$6,500,000-a-year budget requested by Sprague.

Gonzalez wrote, "I cannot bring myself to sign pay vouchers for an unscrupulous individual, an unconscionable scoundrel, and no power on earth can compel me to do so."

Gonzalez's move caught the committee staff by surprise, and Sprague had no comment. On Feb. 10, Gonzalez dismissed Sprague for refusing to cut the staff to reduce costs.

But all 11 other members of the committee told Sprague to stay put, asserting that only the committee and not the chairman alone had the power to dismiss anyone.

Gonzalez told the Speaker in his letter that Sprague had "refused to produce any kind of information on which the committee could make rational budget decisions. And since he pursued a deliberate course of action to undermine me with members of the committee and staff alike, I had no recourse but to dismiss him, which I did."

"I found in the committee an administrative nightmare," Gonzalez wrote. "I found a chief counsel who assumed full powers of the committee itself, a chief counsel who was insubordinate and insulting, not to mention disloyal."

The House, after rejecting Sprague's budget request, extended the committee's life only until the end of this month and limited its budget to \$84,000 a month.

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

P6B, St. Louis  
Post-Dispatch,  
St. Louis, Mo.

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Edition:  
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Editor:  
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MAR 3 1977

FBI-ST. LOUIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Mrs. King Challenges Groups To Further Probe Husband's Slaying

BY LILYANN J. MITCHELL

Apparently disillusioned and still firmly convinced that her late husband's brutal murder on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. was the plot of a well planned conspiracy, Mrs. Coretta Scott King said of the recent committee's report that James Earl Ray acted alone:

"I have no knowledge as to how comprehensive this report was. Therefore, I can draw no firm conclusion. I would still like for some agency, group or organization to research and disclose what the task force was doing and how it was conducting this investigation, so that others may judge for themselves how the Justice Department conducted their investigation - and in what manner they drew up their conclusions," Mrs. King stated from a prepared press statement to the ARGUS from her office in Atlanta.

Meanwhile the new Attorney General Griffin E. Bell has told the press he is curious about the "gaps" in the Martin Luther King Jr. slaying case, and said he would like to conduct a "personal" probe into the assassination of the late civil rights leader.

James Earl Ray is presently serving a 99-year state prison term in Tennessee for King's murder, but the convicted inmate claims he is taking the full rap in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King. His appeals for a hearing to re-open the case have been denied.

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

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MAR 4 1977

FBI-ST. LOUIS



**MRS. CORETTA KING**

A special report from the Department of Justice to the media this week reads in part:

The purpose of the study was to examine FBI activities involving Dr. King and to evaluate the effectiveness of the assassination investigation. "The report concluded that the FBI had conducted a painstaking and successful investigation of the 1968 assassination in Memphis, Tenn. The task force also found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder," the statement to the ARGUS said.

However, the report further stated, "The FBI's COINTELPRO - type harassment of Dr. King and efforts to drive him out of the civil rights movement were found to have been clearly improper. The task force recommended no disciplinary action because the chief FBI

officials responsible for the harassment are dead or retired, but proposed outright prohibition of COINTELPRO-type activities against domestic intelligence subject."

Dr. King's widow, his father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., other family members and civil rights leaders have called the latest report from the house committee "unacceptable" to them.

Shortly after this re-investigation into the King slaying officially opened, it was reported by the media that numerous documents pertinent to the King slaying case were missing from the government's file.

Last week human rights activist Dick Gregory, announced that he will resume his hunger fast until a "thorough and true" investigation into Dr. King's slaying is initiated - which should include the necessary FBI and other legal government and official documents on the King case.

In addition to this, the U.S. District Judge John Lewis has ordered the FBI to file with the National Archives all of its tapes and documents growing out of buggings and wiretaps of Dr. King. According to the judge's previous records, these materials could not be made available to the public for at least 50 years, except by court order.

A couple of months ago, Ed Redditt, an ex-police detective in Memphis told the National Inquirer Magazine in

an interview that he and another Black officer, W.B. Richmond, were the only detectives assigned to police detail on April 4, 1968. He stated that when police officials in Memphis learned of the many threats against Dr. King's life they "slashed security from 10 men to two men, instead of beefing it up.

"When Dr. King was murdered I was miles away - and another officer on duty with me that day (W.B. Richmond) was missing from the scene," Redditt said.

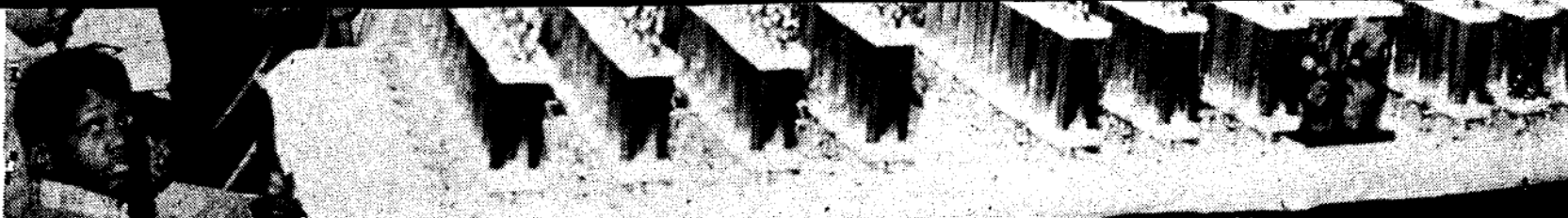
Redditt said despite his protests that he had a job to do, he was ordered home and Holloman (then the director of the Memphis Police and Fire Department) called in two burly police officers to escort him there and stand guard over him.

Redditt further stated that it appeared, "as if the guards were trying to keep me in the house, rather than protect me."

Attorney General Bell said at a recent news conference, although the report found no evidence of FBI involvement in the 1968 murder case of Dr. King, the case was not closed for the Justice Department.

He said a final decision will be made when the House Select Committee completes its investigation of the killings of both Dr. King and President John F. Kennedy.

Of a possible meeting with Ray, Bell stated: "I'd either go or send someone in whom I have absolute confidence."



**THE 16TH ANNUAL MATHEWS-DICKEY BOYS CLUB AWARDS DINNER..** attracted the largest crowd ever. A portion of the huge throng is pictured along with some of the many trophies that were awarded to the young participants in the far flung program. Among the consultants

to the club, which is supported through United Way contributions and is an affiliate with the Khoury League, is Dr. Eugene Mitchell, St. Louis ARGUS Publisher. Martin Mathews and Hubert (Dickey) Ballentine are the co-founders of the club. (Photo by James Joiner)

"Congratulations Mathew Dickey Boys Club for Helping Boys To Become Men." read the remarks of Block Unit 365 in the attractive program booklet. It was as appropriate a tribute as any for the continuous effective work for far flung organization performs in the greater St. Louis area.

Over 2,000 of their participants, their coaches and their parents, friends taxed the vast facilities of the UAW Hall on Good-fellow recently as the organization celebrated its 16th Annual Banquet.

On hand to receive 'citizen of the year' award were Buddy Blattner, founder of the Buddy fund and a veteran sports announcer and Michael Spinks, one half of the brother combination who became the first duo to annex gold medals in the same olympics. Mrs. Kay Spinks, the mother of the pair who endeared herself to millions, was on hand. Leon was not present. He is training for his next pro fight.

Special awards were given to Mrs. Catherine

gave lavishly of their time as coaches etc...the variety of MVP's on a seemingly endless list of little league baseball teams (who received their awards from two of the M-D's outstanding graduates, basketball star Hercle Icy, (Iowa State and the NBA) and Larry Whisenon, a budding minor league player from Central High.

Busily engaged in seeing to it that things "hung together" were co-founder Martin Mathews and Hubert (Dickey) Ballentine.

There was the usual top-flight performance of master of ceremonies Lloyd Hines, now a KMOX-TV staffer; a host of visitors including head-table guest Martin L. Duggan, Editor of the Globe Democrats Editorial Page; popular politico Leroy Tyus; noted Black baseball historian Normal (Tweed) Webb; John King, who footed the bill so that Mrs. Spinks could see her sons make olympic history; City official Arthur J. Kennedy; program



**THE TASK OF KEEPING THE ...**program moving fell again into the capable hands of Lloyd Hines, a KMOX-TV personality and one of the original Mathews-Dickey participants as a youth.

**Membership Open To  
Tennis Enthusiasts**

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X

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3/13/78

FM ST. LOUIS (62-5097)  
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BT

ENCLOSURE P.T.O.

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

RE ST. LOUIS TEL CALL TO BUREAU, MARCH 13, 1978.

IN THE COURSE OF FILE REVIEW IN AN UNRELATED MATTER,  
SI 1167-C, ST. LOUIS FILE 137-16185, BUFILE 137-36945, WAS REVIEWED.  
THIS FILE CONTAINED A CONTACT MEMORANDUM DATED MARCH 19, 1976,  
WHICH CONTAINED INFORMATION RELATING TO SEVERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS  
AND ALSO CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

DURING THE FALL OF 1973, FIVE OR SIX MONTHS AGO, DATE NOT  
RECORDED, BEYERS CAME TO THE SHOP INQUIRING AS TO WHETHER THEY  
COULD GET TOGETHER TO TALK, AND THEY LATER DID SO AT PIZZA AND  
CREAM, CLAYTON, MO., IN THE AREA OF A BRAD DUGAN PAINT STORE,  
WHERE INEORMANT HAD TRAVELED ON BUSINESS. BEYERS TALKED FREELY

1 - 62-5097  
1 - 152-10885  
② - 62-117290  
ATTN: [unclear]  
[unclear]

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FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
[unclear] 270

PAGE TWO SL 62-5097 UNCLAS E F T O

ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS BUSINESS, AND THEY LATER WENT TO INFORMANT'S HOUSE WHERE BEYERS TOLD A STORY ABOUT VISITING A LAWYER IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY, NOW DECEASED, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, WHO HAD OFFERED TO GIVE HIM A CONTRACT TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE SAID THAT ALSO PRESENT WAS A SHORT, STOCKY MAN, WHO WALKED WITH A LIMP. (LATER, WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER INDIVIDUAL, BEYERS COMMENTED THAT THIS MAN WAS ACTUALLY THE INDIVIDUAL WHO MADE THE PAYOFF OF JAMES EARL RAY AFTER THE KILLING.) BEYERS SAID HE HAD DECLINED TO ACCEPT THIS CONTRACT. HE DID REMARK THAT THIS LAWYER HAD CONFEDERATE FLAGS AND OTHER ITEMS ABOUT THE HOUSE THAT MIGHT INDICATE THAT HE WAS 'A REAL REBEL'. BEYERS ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE HAD BEEN OFFERED EITHER \$10,000 OR \$20,000 TO KILL KING."

EXTENSIVE FURTHER RESEARCH IN THE ST. LOUIS INDICES AND FILES FAILED TO REVEAL THIS INFORMATION WAS IF ANY WAY DISSEMINATED AND THE INFORMATION SIMPLY REPOSES IN THE INFORMANT FILE.

ABOVE IS BEING FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION AND NO ACTION BEING TAKEN UACB. LETTER AND LHM FOLLOW.

BT

K 370

RAY, JAMES EARL

44-775\*

card # 1

MAY 68

w,m, b. 3-10-28, Quincy or Alton, Ill.

FBI #405942G

IO #4182

WF #442, 442-A

44-775-1A27

photo taken late Jan. or early Feb  
1968 in Calif.

no desc. data

4/68

44-775-140

-Sub 1-30

-Sub 1-31

-530, CP II

-530, CP R

-530, p.86

-530, p.87

ASN

b. 3/10/28, Alton, M Ill.

WM

RAY, JAMES EARL

44-775-530, p. 109

card # 2

MAY 68

w,m, 30, b. in Ill.

citation of leading case giving precedent to summary dismissal of past conviction  
remedy State VS Carter 11 Southwestern Pate 979

354 Southwestern Second page 840 Law book in which appeal of Kroger convictions  
is reported

44-775-654

5/68

non prosecutive summary

6/68

44-775-877

Chronological listing of activities

44-775-877

6/68

RAY, JAMES EARL

3/74

87-21859-27p3

no desc.



JAMES EARL  
NOV 1973  
w, m b. 6/1/19, Chilton County, Ala.  
FBI NO: 3 827 907

RAY, JAMES EARL 6/77 88-10663  
w, m b. 3/10/28, Alton, Ill. or St. Louis, Mo.  
5'10", 175 lbs., Black and Gray Hair,  
Blue Eyes, BMPNO: 65477  
FBI NO: 405942G  
SSAN:   
*mat*

Title **JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; ETAL; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE** File No. **88-10663**  
Date Rec.: **6/11/77**  
Assigned to (date) **SCHULTZ 6/11/77**  
Reassigned to (date)  
OO **IC**  
File to be destroyed (date)  
FD-ID (REV. 4-11-75)

RAY, JAMES EARL

4-77

91-7597-23

convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, jr.

"How Ray Escaped Prison And Op. Him." April 13th 1977

James Earl Ray  
H.R. Baines

To whom it may concern,  
I am making this statement on my own  
free will, to try to clear up a matter that  
the public has been kept secret of for nearly  
10 years.

That in whether or not, James Earl Ray,  
who was convicted of killing Dr. Martin  
Luther King, had any help in escaping from  
Missouri State Prison or not. And also  
if rewards were offered inside the prison  
for Kings killing.

I was sent to Mo. State Prison in 1957  
for 12 years, during which time I became  
known as a tough guy, because of my own  
escape with James Bradley, in which we  
attacked three prison guards, overpowered,  
a guard tower, & took the guard in the tower  
as hostage, and was later captured in the  
Missouri River. We were given 8 additional  
years to serve for this.

Also because of several knife fights, &  
running the prison with dope smuggled in we  
both had bad reputations.

Because of our reputations every one knew  
us & we them.

Later James Earl Ray came to the  
prison. He was a quite guy & didn't  
speak much to any one, but it was proved  
he could be trusted. It was not a snitch.

At various times Bradley & I would  
pay Ray to watch for guards while we  
ran a card or dice game in an ingly cell.  
Or we would use Ray to pass out ~~the~~ dope  
& collect money from it for us.

44-975-1189

*Jon*

AUG 29 1977

SEARCHED INDEXED

✓

(2)  
All the prison knew Bradley & A escaped over the wall, so it was no surprise when Ray asked us the best ways to get out of the prison. We told him of several ways it could be done, by going over the wall or thru it, including the bread truck way.

Ray was a walk man at that time, (working in the cell block). To escape by the bread truck, he ask for & got a job transfer to the bakery. Later he made good his escape.

There was no outside help in the escape. The only help he got was from Bradley & myself in telling him how to escape & thru by the master on the loading dock not saying he was in the bread box.

Also the papers keep claiming that Ray told his cellmates he would still bring for \$100,000, this is a lie. as is of any word going around for things hitting and a reward for it.

His cell mates told those lies to the F.B.I. because they thought by doing so their own sentence would be cut or they would get a parole. His cell mates did not even know he was going to escape because Ray did not trust them, nor did they know they were killed & Ray wanted for it, till it came out in the papers. That story got out only because that is what the F.B.I. wanted the public to hear.

As the Ray was still out a escape

(3)  
after King was killed, the F.B.I. came  
to the prison to talk to me & to  
Bradley.

I was in solitary at this time for  
breaking into the prison clothes factory & stealing  
a bunch of clothes.

The F.B.I. ask me if I knew where  
Ray was ~~hiding~~ hiding out at, if I  
knew how he escaped, if I could  
tell them anything.

At this time I was under a 25 yr. sentence,  
& I told them I didn't know - nothing about nothing,  
cause I could have been tried for aiding in the  
escape.

Bradley, who was under sentence of 4 life terms,  
& two yr sentences and a 4 yr. term, also told  
them no.

I did in answer to their question tell them  
that I did not believe Ray killed King.

I said he was set up to look like it  
cause he was an escape & no one would believe  
his story.

I know Ray well & he could not  
kill a stray cat or dog much less take a  
human life.

I told the F.B.I. 10 yrs. ago  
that & also that I believe Ray did not  
be room, & did put the gun in it, his  
prints were on the gun, but he couldn't  
pull the trigger, some one else had to  
cause shooting Ray, Ray wouldn't have the  
nerve or heart to do so. He just did  
what he was paid for & that was it.

sent the room + leave the gun in it,

The F.B.I. did not release any of the facts they found out at the prison, just what would make Ray look bad.

Before I could not say anything because I was in Mr. Ding's time, & could be prosecuted for aiding. The same for Bradley.

But now, Bradley is dead, he was killed by St. Louis, Police after he made a parole a few years ago. so in the only one left that knows besides Ray that he did have help to get out of prison but it was from the prison its self, he got the help, not outside.

What happened outside after the escape I do not know.

John R. Bowers  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1977

My Mr. Bowers # number was # 72271

Bradley's was # 71844 believe.

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
BURLINGTON COUNTY  
MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. 08060

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Post Office Box # 332  
Trenton, New Jersey 08603

Attn: Agt. Buffalo



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (44-2104) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY;  
"MURKIN"  
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: 8/25/77

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau, are two Xerox copies of a letter written by GENE R. BARNES which is self-explanatory. One Xerox copy of this letter is being furnished Alexandria, Knoxville, Memphis and St. Louis Offices for their information.

This letter was furnished to the FBI in Trenton, N.J., by Investigator DONALD V. POWELL, Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, Mt. Holly, N.J., who obtained the letter during an interview with BARNES at Stafford County, Virginia.

Copies of BARNES' letter are being furnished to Memphis and Knoxville who were office of origin in the MURKIN and JAMES EARL RAY case, respectively. Information copy also being furnished St. Louis, Missouri, inasmuch as BRADLEY referred to in BARNES' letter claimed he spent time in Missouri State Prison.

Newark files disclose that BARNES was subject of a Newark ITSP investigation in February, 1977, and subsequently arrested by Virginia State Police during a high-speed chase on 2/8/77, and incarcerated in the Stafford County Jail in Stafford, Virginia.

Alexandria see your file 87-3041.

Newark indices failed to contain any identifiable information concerning JAMES BRADLEY mentioned in BARNES' letter.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
  - ( 1 - "MURKIN")
- 1 - Alexandria (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Knoxville (Enc. 1)
- 1 - St. Louis (Enc. 1) *fw*
- 3 - Newark
  - (1 - 44-2104)
  - (1 - 87-29367)
  - (1 - 88-12106)

*44-235-1188*  
*Con*  
AUG 29 1977

PGS/lmw  
1010-110(9)

*W. J. Powell*  
*8/29/77*  
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

NK 44-2104

Newark file regarding "MURKIN" has been destroyed.

Any further investigation in this matter is being left to the discretion of the office of origin in the respective cases.

Newark conducting no further investigation in this matter.

SAC, KANSAS CITY

8-29-77

SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) (RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY;  
"MURKIN"  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Re Newark letter to Bureau, 8-25-77.

Enclosed for Kansas City Division is one copy  
of above referenced communication, including enclosure.

Copy being furnished to Kansas City inasmuch  
as BRADLEY referred to in BARNES' letter claimed he spent  
time in Missouri State Prison.

- 2 - Kansas City (Encl. 2)
- 1 - Bureau (INFO)
- 1 - Alexandria (INFO)
- 1 - Memphis (INFO)
- 1 - Knoxville (INFO)
- 3 --Newark (1 - 44-2104) (INFO)  
(1 - 87-29367)  
(1 - 88-12106)

① St. Louis  
LFC:klb  
10

*klb*

44-775-1184

SEARCHED

98

FILED

*Jon*

*RUC*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Did FBI Story Incite King's Murder?

By KARL EVANZZ  
ARGUS Washington  
Correspondent

Washington - In perhaps the most startling revelation to date, the House Assassinations Committee last week listened to a remarkable story about how an FBI agent walked into a Louisville, Kentucky police station and told an undetermined number of police officers that certain people were willing to pay handsomely for a "hit" on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The incident, revealed to the committee during three days of closed hearings here in Washington, occurred

three years before the "messiah" of the civil rights movement was assassinated.

The "contract" for the "hit" on Dr. King, which was for either \$500,000 or \$250,000, was told to the committee by at least two men who were members of the Louisville police force in 1965.

The committee also took testimony from several FBI officials, including the agent who told the story to the police. The agent, whose name was not disclosed, is still a member of the FBI stationed in the Midwest.

The testimony of the officers and agents about the incident has rekindled speculation as to whether the FBI, either directly or indirectly, incited the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FBI agents admitted in June of 1969 in the draft evasion trial of Muhammad Ali that the telephones of the heavyweight boxing champion, the late Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and Dr. King had been wiretapped without official authorization.

One agent, Robert Nichols, confirmed during the Ali hearings that Dr. King's home telephone was tapped from around 1964 until around the time of his assassination. Asked if the tap continued until the actual day of Dr. King's death, Nichols nodded.

Dr. King was assassinated April 4, 1968 as he stood on the balcony outside of his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. With him at the time of his death were veteran civil rights leaders, among them United Nations Ambassador Andy Young, and Rev. Ralph David Abernathy.

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

Page 1  
St. Louis Argus  
/St. Louis, Mo.

Date: 12/15/77

Edition:

Title: MURKIN

44-775

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SL

44-775-1196

Ind. Bureau 1221177

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**RAY IDENTIFIES PHOTO:** James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, said Wednesday that he had positively identified a photograph of a man he says set him up to take the blame for the killing. Ray said the photograph was shown to him two or three months ago but he would not say by whom.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
P2A, St. Louis  
Post-Dispatch,  
St. Louis, Missouri

3/30/78

Date: 3/30/78  
Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-775

Submitting Office:

44-775-1192

cls cls

Duncan FBI

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ray says he saw photo of King's killer

PETROS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Wednesday he has made positive identification of a photograph of the man he says killed the civil rights leader.

Ray, who has said he is innocent of the King slaying, said the photograph was shown to him two or three months ago but he would not say who showed it to him. Ray's lawyer, Mark Lane, said it has not been decided whether to turn the photograph over to the U.S. House Assassinations Committee or to a judge.



**James Earl Ray**

Ray has said "Raoul" met him in a Montreal bar a few months after Ray's 1967 escape from a state prison at Jefferson City, Mo., and tricked him into a series of narcotics smuggling and gun-running schemes and the trip to Memphis, where Ray was arrested.

"Since my arrest in 1968 ... I've looked at about 200 or 300 pictures and some of them are familiar, but there never was anybody I could really identify," Ray said. Those photographs were supplied by lawyers, the Assassinations Committee, his brothers, investigators, newspaper reporters and others.

Asked who gave him the photograph in which he identified "Raoul," Ray said: "Well, I wouldn't want to go into that, because you know, the House committee might subpoena him. I've been talking to a lawyer, and we haven't decide just what to do about this matter yet."

**INTERVIEWED AT** Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, Ray said the photo showed "Raoul," the man Ray says set him up to take the blame for the April 4, 1968, shooting of King in Memphis.

Ray says the man is a Latin with auburn hair, of medium height and build, and that he believes "Raoul" was an alias.

No official investigation has ever confirmed the existence of "Raoul."

Ray has said "Raoul"

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

P16A, St. Louis  
Globe-Democrat,  
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 3/30/78

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

44-775-1193

Character: 44-775  
or (KING ASSA.)

Classification:

Submitting Office:

SL

Being Investigated

*cls cls*

*JTN*

172

TRANSMIT VIA: FACSIMILE

PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLAS

DATE: 4/25/78

To: SAC, St. Louis

✓ From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter from the OPR of the Department, which furnished a copy of a letter from Albert Pepper, which enclosed a copy of a newspaper article, which items are also enclosed.

Albert Pepper was married to Carol Pepper (sister of James Earl Ray) and the Peppers resided at 2025 Belleview, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone number 645-2948, in 1968. Carol Pepper also owned the Grapevine Tavern, 1982 Arsenal, St. Louis, telephone number PR6-9417, in 1968. In the enclosed letter, Albert Pepper now lists his address as 523 Franru Lane, Lemay, Missouri.

St. Louis promptly review your office files and sutel whether or not there is any information located therein indicating the FBI entered or installed some type of surveillance equipment on the home and telephone of the Peppers in 1968, the Grapevine Tavern and the telephone number at the tavern in 1968, or at the present residence of Albert Pepper.

Encls. 3

44-775-1194  
mat

APR 25 1978

ST. LOUIS  
NORTHCUTT

Do not type below this line.

W

APR 14 1978

OPR

Letter from Mr. Albert Pepper

Thomas J. Biamonte, Inspector-Deputy  
Assistant Director  
Office of Professional Responsibility  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

This is in reference to the attached letter of Albert Pepper dated March 12, 1978. As you can see from his letter, Mr. Pepper requests whether the FBI ever illegally entered his home or other properties and installed a microphone surveillance.

We are referring this matter to your Office for appropriate inquiry. Please advise us of your findings so that we can respond to Mr. Pepper.

/s/

Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel  
Office of Professional Responsibility



Mr. Benjamin Civile  
Asst. Atty. Gen.  
U.S. Dept of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530.

12 March 1978

RECEIVED

MAR 20 1978

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Dear Sir:

I understand your office is investigating break-ins by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

There has been a published report, and other information, that the F.B.I. committed some type offense as described in the enclosure, a column by columnist, Jack Anderson.

I would appreciate it very much if you could tell me whether there is any substance to Mr. Anderson's allegation about the F.B.I. I live in the St. Louis, Missouri, area so the records, if any, may be located in the St., Louis F.B.I. field office.

RECEIVED

MAR 28 1978

Sincerely: Albert Pepper  
523 Frank Lane  
LeMay, Mo. 63125.

*Albert Pepper*

PUBLIC INTEGRITY SECTION

Note, if in fact the F.B.I. or other government agencies did not illegally entered or installed some type surveillance equipment therein (my home), could I receive from the government some type sworn affidavit to that effect so the matter can be disposed of ?

cc: U.S. Senate Judiciary committee.

P.S. I understand in sworn testimony in U.S. Dis. ct. Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1964, in the Hoffa jury tampering trial, F.B.I. special agent, Charles Bolz, testified the F.B.I. files "recorded transcripts or both of all conversations which the federal agency bugs illegally".

T R U E C O P Y

FBI AIMED AT RAY'S KIN

BY JACK ANDERSON AND LES WHITTEN

WASHINGTON - The FBI, which used electronic skulduggery in an effort to discredit Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to employ similar illegal tactics to catch his killer.

Long-buried FBI documents reveal that then-Director J. Edgar Hoover personally approved a break-in and illegal electronic bugging aimed at innocent relatives of James Earl Ray, who was later convicted of killing King.

For years, Hoover had conducted a vicious smear campaign against King. The FBI peddled malicious anti-King stories to the press and had sent doctored tapes concerning King's personal life to his wife. When King was slain in 1968, whispers about possible FBI involvement put Hoover under great pressure to find the assassin.

While the FBI agents were hot on Ray's trail, a May 10, 1968, memo, prepared for top Hoover aide J. P. Mohr, outlined elaborate illegal plans to catch the murderer.

AS PART OF the overall investigation, code-named MURKIN - an acronym for murder and King - a memo was written which declared: "Consideration is given to microphone installations on certain properties of Albert and Carol Pepper," the brother-in-law and sister of James Earl Ray.

"The proposal," cautioned the memo, "raises a question concerning the legality of any action taken against the subject of this case on the basis of information obtained from the microphones." If Ray called the Peppers and the bugged conversations were used to arrest him, the memo said, Ray "then could claim that the surveillance violated his right of privacy." This could prejudice the court case against him.

T R U E C O P Y

T R U E C O P Y

But if certain precautions were taken, the memo continued, "the worst that could happen" is that the arrest could be declared illegal. Using tortured logic, the document insisted that Ray could still be convicted despite the FBI lawbreaking.

The FBI plotters bluntly admitted that the whole scheme was unconstitutional and a "technical violation" of the law. "Be aware," the memo warned, "that since the search and seizure is unconstitutional as to the Peppers, they have at least a theoretical cause of action for damages against those who installed the (bugging) devices by trespass." "Trespass" is FBI lingo for a break-in.

We have been unable to determine whether the FBI actually bugged or burglarized the Peppers' home. Indeed, assassinations expert Harold Weisberg has developed evidence indicating the Justice Department vetoed the plan. But inside sources insist the FBI did use dubious and possible illegal means to capture Ray, who later pleaded guilty to murdering King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

The FBI has acknowledged that abuses occurred in the past. Since 1973, however, the present director, Clarence Kelley, has halted most of these practices. We were unable to reach the Peppers.

T R U E C O P Y

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 4/26/78

3655

FM ST. LOUIS (44-775) C

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

RE BUREAU PRIORITY FACSIMILE APRIL 25, 1978, AND BUREAU TEL CALLS TO ST. LOUIS APRIL 26, 1978.

ST. LOUIS REVIEW OF CAPTIONED FILE, ELSUR INDICES AND ELSUR FILES ALL NEGATIVE FOR ANY RECORD OR INFORMATION INDICATING THAT FBI ENTERED OR INSTALLED SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT ON THE RESIDENCE PAST OR PRESENT OR THE BUSINESS (GRAPEVINE TAVERN) OF CAROL AND ALBERT PEPPER. ELSUR INDICES AND ELSUR FILES REVIEWED BY NAME, RESIDENCE, (PAST AND PRESENT), BUSINESS ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS, INCLUDING THE PEPPERS' NON-PUBLISHED NUMBER 645-9152.

BT

File Stripped  
4-28-78  
mat

44-775-1195  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED mat  
INDEXED mat  
FILED mat

Close

005

KAW:sfm (1)

Approved: RBK/W

Transmitted 1950  
(Number) (Time)

Per bjk

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) (C)      DATE: 6/1/78

FROM : SA HERBERT NORTHCUTT, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN;  
CIVIL RIGHTS

A serial by serial review of the file on two occasions by SA HERBERT NORTHCUTT, JR. failed to reveal any indication that the FBI conducted electronic surveillance or surreptitious entry on any individual during the course of this investigation.

① - St. Louis  
HN:dmn  
dmn



5010-110

44-775-1196

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1978	
FBI - ST. LOUIS	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# James Earl Ray's brother held by U.S.

By **GEORGE LARDNER JR.**  
~~Globe-Democrat~~-Washington  
Post News Service

WASHINGTON — Federal marshals pulled one of James Earl Ray's brothers out of a halfway house in St. Louis this week and put him back in jail to await an investigation of a complaint that he lied to the House Assassinations Committee.

U.S. Parole Commission officials said they decided to "retard" the parole of John L. Ray — who had been scheduled to be released from the halfway house Friday — on the strength of allegations from the committee's chief counsel, G. Robert Blakey.

**PAROLE AUTHORITIES** will try to determine "whether or not Mr. Ray has committed a new criminal act," U.S. regional parole commissioner Robert Vicent of Kansas City said Friday. He said there was "nothing unusual" about sending Ray, 46, back to jail in the meantime.

Ray's Washington lawyer, James H. Lesar, sharply questioned the action. He also accused several members of the committee of bullying tactics against John Ray in two secret sessions this spring before the subcommittee investigating the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



John L. Ray *SSS*

"God knows what they think the perjury is," Lesar told a reporter. He said subcommittee officials "confiscated" notes he took from the transcript of John Ray's first appearance April 17. At a subsequent hearing May 9, Lesar protested, subcommittee chairman ~~Walter~~ Fauntroy, D-D.C., "told me not to talk to anybody about what John Ray

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
P4A  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat  
St. Louis, Mo.

Date: 6/17-18/78  
Edition: SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

*44-775-1197*

SEARCHED <i>✓</i>	INDEXED <i>✓</i>
SERIALIZED <i>cm</i>	FILED <i>Ed</i>
JUN 19 1978	
<i>[Signature]</i>	

had said."

~~JAMES EARL RAY~~ is serving a 99-year prison term in Tennessee for Dr. King's 1968 murder. The committee has reportedly been investigating contentions that the assassination may have been, in some respects, a family affair.

(John Ray, who like his brother has a lengthy criminal record, was released from the federal penitentiary in Marion, Ill., this spring from an 18-year term for bank robbery to await parole at Dismas House, a pre-release facility or "halfway house" at 5025 Cote Brillante Ave., St. Louis.

(He was to have been paroled Friday, after serving more than seven years of his sentence.

(RAY HAD BEEN sentenced in U.S. District Court in St. Louis in April 1971 in the \$53,127 robbery of the Bank of St. Peters on Oct. 27, 1970.

(The Rev. Fred L. Zimmerman, S.J., executive director of Dismas House, told The Globe-Democrat that two federal marshals picked up Ray about 6 p.m. Thursday and took him to the federal prisoner section of St. Clair County jail in Belleville.)

After Ray's first appearance before the King subcommittee April 17, assassina-

tions committee chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, in a statement for the Congressional Record, raised the prospect of contempt proceedings against both John Ray and a sister, Carol Pepper.

STOKES SAID THAT "Mr. Ray refused to disclose information clearly within his knowledge by systematically relying on a supposed lack of recollection . . ."

Ray was called back before the subcommittee May 9 at another secret session where, according to informed sources, he gave a series of responses that the subcommittee deemed perjurious. No formal charges have been filed, but Justice Department officials said they are trying to determine whether to seek an indictment.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert L. Keuch told the parole commission in a June 14 letter that a preliminary review indicated Ray had testified falsely.

At the behest of the assassinations committee, Blakey also sent Parole Commission officials statements from congressional witnesses concerning some bank robberies in which Ray had denied participation and for which he had never been prosecuted.

X

5/26/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Re Bureau telephone call to SL, 5/26/78.

Enclosed herewith are two copies of photographs of JERRY LEE MILLER, FBI #79,774 E and two photographs of JAMES ALLEN BENNY, FBI #11,175 F.

3 - Bureau (Enc - 4)  
2 - St. Louis  
(1) 44-775 & 1- 91-5279

JFS:kmt

(5)

*[Handwritten mark]*

44-775-1198

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INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI reportedly used black leader to try to oust King

ATLANTA (AP) — The former FBI official named in reports that the FBI used a prominent black leader to try to oust Martin Luther King Jr. as head of the civil rights movement said Tuesday that he remembers talking with a black leader but does not remember anything more.

"I have a vague recollection of some black leader coming to see me. I don't remember who he was. I have no idea what we talked about," said Cartha DeLoach, former head of the FBI's crime records bureau.

**THE REPORTS SAID** a confidential memo in 1964 from former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to his assistant, William C. Sullivan, alluded to a discussion between a black leader and DeLoach.

The memo, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, indicated the FBI worked during the mid-1960s with a black leader, whose name was deleted from the memo, to try to replace King.

In a telephone interview with The Atlanta Journal from New York, where he is a Pepsico Inc. executive, DeLoach said the man he met "probably wanted to see Mr. Hoover and was referred to me. You're asking about something that was 14 years and thousands of

memorandums ago."

He said he could not remember whether the man was well-known at the time or became prominent later.

"If I knew any facts today, I would tell you. But it would be ancient history," DeLoach said. He said public disclosures of a Hoover campaign to oust King were "blown all out of proportion."

**KING'S WIDOW**, Coretta Scott King, commenting Monday on the FBI report, said, "It simply proves once again that the FBI treated the civil rights movement as if it were an alien enemy attack on the United States.

"All of this raises the real issue of today ... and that is to question the purposes and the practices of the FBI in whether we should, as a nation, consider dismantling it and replacing the FBI with a law enforcement agency with genuine lawful objectives and procedures," she said.

Dr. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King once headed, said he would ask President Carter to have the FBI either "substantiate the fantastic claim" that a black leader worked with the FBI against King or withdraw the allegation.

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

P9A, St. Louis  
Globe-Democrat,  
St. Louis, Missouri

Date: 5/31/78  
Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

SL

44-775-1199

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1978	
FBI-ST. LOUIS	

AST/BJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Tom Wicker

## What's In A Name?

ATLANTA

AT A CONVIVIAL LUNCHEON here the other day, Hal Gulliver, the editor of the Atlanta Constitution, was drawing out his guests on a variety of hot topics — Rhodesia, the Cubans in Africa, the state of the American press, the outlook for Jimmy Carter's re-election.

A quiet voice broke into the conversation: "May I change the subject a moment?"



Wicker

The hard talkers around the table fell silent, as Dr. Benjamin R. Mays, the retired president of Morehead College, chose his words carefully: "Why is the biggest and most expensive Federal Building named for J. Edgar Hoover?"

No one answered, because no one had an answer, although all understood Mays' question instantly. The FBI Building is the biggest and most expensive ever erected by the General Services

Administration; and that morning, the Atlanta papers had detailed yet another disclosure of how J. Edgar Hoover did his malevolent best to undermine, slander and destroy the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of this century's greatest Americans.

THESE EFFORTS RANGED from Hoover's personal branding of King as "the most notorious liar" in the country to an actual attempt to induce him to commit suicide. But more was at stake than Martin Luther King's reputation; as Mrs. Coretta King put it, the latest disclosure also "proves once again that the FBI treated the civil rights movement as if it were an alien enemy attack on the United States."

In November, 1964, the executive director of the NAACP, Roy Wilkins — as his latest Senate testimony shows and as Kings' FBI files will support — intervened with the bureau to stop its attacks on King, which Wilkins felt were damaging the civil rights movement. But FBI memos just coming to light show that the bureau tried to convert this into another scheme "to remove King from the national picture" and replace him with an FBI-chosen "national leader."

This was not only an attempt to destroy King; since the memos distorted Wilkins' statements and attitudes in what he later told a Senate Committee was a "self-serving" manner, the FBI recklessly endangered his reputation as well as that of King.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
P3C, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri

Date: June 5, 1978  
Edition: 3 Star Final

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

44-775-1200

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
JUN 13 1978  
FBI/DOJ

ALL THIS, NOT insignificantly, was ~~taking place~~ while Martin Luther King was writing his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize. Apparently the mere thought of his despised target being so honored was more than J. Edgar Hoover could accept.

Roy Wilkins' intervention on behalf of the civil rights movement, moreover, was occasioned by such FBI activities as its circulation to various newspapers of tapes and transcripts of wiretaps and microphone surveillances used against King. These "leaks," it should be noted, were engineered by the FBI at a time when it was a felony to disclose the fruits of a wiretap.

If this were the only blemish on J. Edgar Hoover's record, it might be regarded as a sad aberration in an otherwise admirable career. But in fact, as time brings more Freedom of Information suits, more grand jury deliberations, more investigative reporting, the truth becomes clearer — the assault on Martin Luther King was only part of a long and dismal record of FBI attempts at Hoover's command to suppress dissent and social change, hound and harass supposed enemies, smear individuals and organizations, blackmail those on whom it "had something," and manipulate public attitudes to suit the director's prejudices. And all these activities were based on surveillances and infiltrations conducted with little or no regard for the law.

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FM KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-3886L) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) IMMEDIATE

OKLAHOMA CITY (IMMEDIATE)

ST. LOUIS (IMMEDIATE)

*W. Ebert  
advised  
8-22-78*

BT

UNCLAS E F I O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 3988, JEH.

MURKIN. *44-775-1201*

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND KANSAS CITY,  
AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ME TELCAL TO KC SAME DATE.

FOR INFO OF OKLAHOMA CITY AND ST. LOUIS, A SYNOPSIS  
OF REFERENCED TELETYPE IS AS FOLLOWS:

ON AUGUST 19, 1978, ONE BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, BORN  
, AT MISSISSIPPI, 5'11", BROWN EYES, BROWN  
HAIR, FBI NO. 879 421 E, WAS INTERVIEWED BY AGENTS OF THE  
JACKSON OFFICE AT GULF PORT, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON TOLD

*8/21/78  
WRF*

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*44-775-1201*  
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PAGE TWO, KC 44-760, UNCLAS EFTO

INTERVIEWING AGENTS THAT HE HAD SHOT AND KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. AMONG OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WILSON FURNISHED TO THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS, WILSON ADVISED THAT DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH HE SHOT AND KILLED KING HE RESIDED AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND THAT HE WAS AT THAT TIME IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVES, RICHARDS GEBUR AFB, EMPLOYED AS A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE.

WILSON ALSO STATED THAT AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH, HE HAD OWNED A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT. WILSON PROVIDED THE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL FROM WHOM HE HAD PURCHASED ONE OF THESE PLANES, THE BONANZA, AS BEING (FNU) FISHER.

INVESTIGATION AT KANSAS CITY DIVISION REGARDING THESE PERTINENT BITS OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY WILSON HAS YIELDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

IN REVIEW OF THE 1969 COLE'S DIRECTORY, KANSAS CITY, DISCLOSED THAT WILSON WAS SUBSCRIBER TO PHONE NUMBER SO1-6526 AT 13125 HERRICK AVENUE, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI.

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INDICES, COMPUTER CRIMINAL HISTORY, AND THE LOCAL CRIMINAL HISTORY WERE CHECKED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. FURTHER INVESTIGATION WITH THE GRANDVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT INDICATED THAT THE ONLY RECORD, CRIMINAL, TRAFFIC, OR MISCELLANEOUS, THAT WILSON HAD WAS A VIOLATION ON 8/9/69 FOR NOT DISPLAYING A CITY STICKER. WILSON PAID THE FINE ON 8/26/69.

DON FISHER, FISHER SALES AND SERVICES, LEAWOOD, KANSAS, WAS CONTACTED AND INDICATED HE BOUGHT THE STATE LINE AIRPORT, LEAWOOD, KANSAS, IN 1964. FISHER REMEMBERS THE SALE OF A MODEL G, NUMBER 56 BONANZA TO WILSON. HE SAID HE DOES NOT REMEMBER THE PARTICULAR DATE. HE SAID HE REMEMBERS THE SALE BECAUSE HE PURCHASED THE PLANE FROM A C.C. MILLER, A RETIRED EXECUTIVE WITH WESTERN AUTO PARTS. HE SAID MILLER BASED THE PLANE AT STATE LINE AIRPORT UNTIL HE BOUGHT THE PLANE FROM MILLER. HE SAID HE THEN SOLD THE PLANE TO WILSON. FISHER SAID ALL THE RECORDS PERTAINING TO THIS PURCHASE WERE DESTROYED IN A FIRE LAST YEAR. FISHER THINKS THAT WILSON

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FINANCED THE PLANE AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK, AND BELIEVES THAT WILSON HAD A PARTNER. FISHER RECALLS THE NAME OF LOU CREWS, WHO OWNS LOU CREWS JEWELERS, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. FISHER INDICATED THAT THE AIRPORT KEEPS NO RECORDS OF LANDINGS OR TAKE-OFFS OF AIRCRAFTS. FISHER ALSO BELIEVES THAT WILSON WAS A SHRINER AND THAT HE DRANK A LOT.

REVIEW OF CURRENT DIRECTORIES, AN INQUIRY OF INFORMATION FOR BELTON, MISSOURI, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, RAYMORE, MISSOURI, AND PECULIAR, MISSOURI, FOR A WILBUR JEWELERS PROVED NEGATIVE, ALL POSSIBLE SPELLINGS FOR WILBUR WERE SEARCHED.

RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR BASE WAS CONTACTED AND INDICATED THAT ALL RECORDS OF PAST EMPLOYEES ARE STORED AT THE RECORDS CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, TELEPHONE 314-268-7243.

KANSAS CITY PHONE COMPANY INDICATED THAT RECORDS FOR THE PERIOD IN QUESTION HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WILL CHECK RECORDS AT MILITARY RECORDS CENTER FOR ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING WILSONS EMPLOYMENT AT RICHARDS-GEBAUR AIR BASE DURING APRIL 1968. PARTICULARLY PAYING ATTENTION IF WILSON WAS EMPLOYED

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AND PRESENT ON APRIL 4, 1968.

OKLAHOMA CITY AT OKLAHOMA CITY, WILL CONTACT FAA  
RECORDS CENTER AND WILL PERFORM A COMPLETE TITLE SEARCH  
FOR BONANZA PLANE, REGISTRY NUMBER 34L. ADDITIONALLY,  
WILL DETERMINE CURRENT OWNER AND WILL SET OUT LEADS TO  
APPROPRIATE FIELD OFFICE TO CONTACT OWNER FOR REVIEW OF  
PLANE LOG BOOK WHICH SHOULD REVEAL DISPOSITION OF PLANE  
DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

MEMPHIS AT MEMPHIS, CONSIDER OBTAINING PILOTS LOG BOOK  
OF WILSON WHICH COULD REVEAL FLIGHT ACTIVITY OF WILSON DURING  
PERIOD IN QUESTION.

KANSAS CITY AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, WILL CONTACT THE  
APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT JOHNSON COUNTY BANK AND OBTAIN ANY  
PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE FINANCING OF THE BONANZA  
PLANE. (2) WILL PERFORM CREDIT CHECK AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
TO DETERMINE PAST EMPLOYMENT OF WILSON.

AT GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WILL ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN  
WILSON'S CONNECTION WITH KATZ DEPARTMENT STORE OF GRANDVIEW.  
(2) CONTACT LOU CREWS AND ASCERTAIN CREWS' RELATIONSHIP WITH



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WILSON. (3) WILL ATTEMPT THROUGH FORMER NEIGHBORS AND ASSOCIATES, TO ESTABLISH WILSONS WHEREABOUTS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD, APRIL 1968. (4) WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE EXISTANCE OF JULIE TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET TO ESTABLISH EXISTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL AS DESCRIBED BY WILSON IN RE TEL.

BT

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FM KANSAS CITY (44-762) P

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