

Charles Stephens is alleged to have been a sort of eye-witness and officially the only eye witness who could place James Earl Ray in the Memphis flophouse from which it is alleged the fatal shot was fired.

The Department obtained his signature on an affidavit that, while not making identification of James Earl Ray, was phrased by a Department attorney to convey the idea that Stephens did identify Ray allegedly fleeing down the flophouse corridor.

About two weeks after the killing, when Ray was identified as "Eric Starvo Galt," Stephens was shown a photograph of Ray. He then stated this was not the man he ~~had~~/~~see~~ claimed to have seen.

Just before Dr. King was killed James McCraw, a cab driver, went to drive Stephens to a liquor store. McCraw found Stephens to be very drunk, even for Stephens. McCraw would not ~~drive~~ accept Stephens as a fare. On returning to his cab McCraw radioed this information to his dispatcher, who then sent him on another call. Before McCraw picked up his next fare he ~~heard a broadcast announcing that Dr. King had been shot~~ his dispatcher radioed all cabs to stay away from the area ^{McCraw} had just left.

The FBI picked up McCraw's manifest for the day of April 4, 1968.

The FBI has not provided ~~this~~ a copy of this manifest in this instant cause.

The name of James McCraw does not appear in the FBI's index to the prosecutorial ~~files~~ volumes.