

Theory: Hired Gun Killed King

Sniper Went Nightclubbing?



This composite sketch of a man seen running from the flophouse from which the fatal bullet was fired was made by a Memphis Commercial-Appeal staff artist. Galt, he said he remembered picking up the man.

ATLANTA, April 17 (UP) — The mysterious fugitive in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. apparently went nightclubbing in Atlanta the night after the murder and hailed two taxis in a hippie neighborhood.

Meanwhile, there is growing speculation among investigators that the assassin was a professional hired gun. Evidence, they say, points to a well-paid skilled craftsman.

One Atlanta taxi driver vividly recalled the man — whom the FBI has identified as Eric Starvo Galt — because he tossed part of his fare onto the floor of the cab.

"I remember him because he was a smart guy, the way he threw that money at me. You remember the smart guys," the driver said yesterday.

The man rode only two blocks and then hurriedly left the taxi. Apparently the same man caught another cab several blocks away and went to a modern, two-story apartment building.

The area, around Peachtree and 14th streets, is about seven miles from the public housing project where a 1966 White Mustang registered to Galt was abandoned April 5, more than 12

hours after Dr. King was shot to death by a white sniper.

FBI agents, tracing Galt's movements after the car was left in an apartment parking lot, apparently followed a trail to the Playroom nightclub near Peachtree and 10th streets.

One cab driver said the FBI asked him if he'd picked up any fares at the Playroom April 5, and, when shown a sketch of

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