

'Fat Man' Cleared In Ray Case Probe

By Ward Just
Washington Post Staff Writer

TORONTO, June 13—The "fat man" of the James Earl Ray case, the subject of an intense police hunt here, has been found. He has no criminal connection with the case.

The "fat man," was said to have delivered a letter to Ray at a rooming house here four days before the accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King entered into police headquarters voluntarily yesterday.

Toronto police gave this account:

Ray had apparently written a letter about a job and had accidentally dropped it in a pay phone booth near his rooming house. A middle-aged Toronto man who works in the same area found the letter, which was unsealed, in the phone booth, read it, and walked to the rooming house at 962 Dundas st. west where Ray was living under the name Ramon George Sneyd.

The "fat man"—who was not in fact fat, but big — asked the landlady, Mrs. Sun Loo, if Sneyd lived there. She called Sneyd from his upstairs room, and the letter was turned over to him.

Police said the "fat man" who asked to remain anonymous, could not remember to whom the letter was addressed nor very much about its contents; he is now cleared of any criminal involvement in the Ray affair.

Police professed to be pursuing a number of leads in the Ray case, many of them having to do with girl friends in the Toronto area.

Police also are checking reports of a "short, slight" man

who visited Ray—then using the alias "Paul Bridgman" late in April, and a Toronto belly dancer whom Ray reportedly watched covetously from a bar stool in a downtown tavern.

Both aliases have real life counterparts in Toronto: Paul Bridgman is a teaching consultant, and Sneyd is a Toronto police constable. A third alias, Eric Starvo Galt, is the counterpart of Eric St. Vincent Galt, a foreman at a Union Carbide manufacturing plant here.

The Canadian passport that permitted Ray to leave Toronto for London was taken out in the name Sneyd. Police are now studying a report that a female census taker visited the Sneyd residence here and solicited information from Mrs. Sneyd, reportedly including a question whether her husband possessed a passport. The real life Sneyd has denied the report.

[In London, the United States won formal approval of



JAMES EARL RAY
... dropped a letter

the British government to proceed with its case to return Ray to be tried for the King murder. Home Secretary

James Callaghan signed an order authorizing the Chief London Magistrate to go ahead with a hearing on the U.S. request for Ray's extradition. The hearing was expected to be held within a week.

[Assistant Attorney General Fred M. Vinson Jr., meanwhile, flew back to Washington after five days in London in which he helped prepare the American submission for extradition.]

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PAGE A-5

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