

King Witnesses Vanish in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 28 (UPI) — Three persons, believed to be key witnesses in the April 4 slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., may have been taken into protective custody.

Local authorities refused comment and a special agent of the FBI said he had "no knowledge" of the whereabouts of Charles Q. Stevens and Willie Anchutz, both occupants, and Mrs. Bessie Brewer, the former manager, of the downtown rooming house on South Main-st, from where the fatal shot was fired.

All three saw the man who checked into the

rooming house and allegedly fired the shot that killed Dr. King. The FBI later identified that man as James Earl Ray, a fugitive from a Missouri prison arrested June 8 in London under the name George Ramon Sneyd.

In extradition proceedings in London yesterday, Barrister David Calcutt, representing the United States, said Mr. Stevens was a witness to the King assassination, a statement that sparked a search here for the witnesses.

A check of the rooming house revealed that Mrs. Brewer and her husband, Frank, had been replaced in the manager's office by Mr. and Mrs. James MacDonald; Mr. Stevens' room No. 6 was padlocked; and there was no report on Mr. Anchutz.

Frank Holloman, Director of Fire and Police, said he could make no comment on any facet of the case. He repeated the statement as he was questioned about the whereabouts of the three.

Robert Jensen, special agent in charge of the FBI office here, said he talked with Mr. Stevens a "few weeks" ago, but "I have no knowledge of his whereabouts at the present time."

Mr. Jensen refused comment about Mrs. Brewer and Mr. Anchutz, saying, "I'm sorry I'm restricted and can say nothing about the case."

Frank Marley, who lives in room No. 5, said Mr. Stevens was "in jail."

A check of all penal institutions, both city and county, failed to turn up any report of Mr. Stevens.

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