vestigators failed to probe conspiracy in slaying of Martin Luther King. plays newspaper clipping supporting his belief that in-OPPOSING THEORY: Professor Philip Melanson dis-Staff photo by Jun Davis

Prof blasts fed probe King slay

By ALAN LEVIN

acy in the murder. probe a possible conspircompetent" and failed to assassination was "insional investigation into charged that a congres-Martin Luther King Jr.'s A BAY STATE professor

him flee the country. conspiracy that helped Memphis — said James Earl Ray apparently was rights leader's shooting in backed by a sophisticated niversary of the civil lerday before the 20th anson — in an interview yes-Professor Philip Melan-

mittee on Assassinations by the 1978 Select Comacy was left unexamined evidence of the conspirsassinations, said that eastern Massachusetts tist who specializes in as-University political scien-But Melanson, a South-

fored evidence of a separate conspiracy, but "they The case was reopened sald. Congress instead of of pursuing real conspiratorial leads." Melanson "They weren't capable

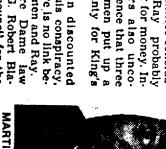
death. St. Louis men put up vered evidence that three vestigators also uncoed that Ray probably killed King for money. In-\$50,000 bounty for King's The committee conclud

saying there is no link be-tween the men and Ray. But Notre Dame law the St. Louis conspiracy, Melanson discounted

claimed to have a direct congressional committee, said investigators never key, chief council for the professor G. Robert Blaink, only circumstantia

others helped him obtain capable of it. attempts at crime, was inwho had bungled earlier fications because sophisticated false identi-Ray's conspirators. not know the identity of Melanson said he does Bu

ment operation against sive spying and harasshad conducted an extenrevelations that the FBI by Congress in 1978 after



resemblance to Ray. Ray took while he fled pomen — who were never in man with a remarkable ice, including a Toronto terviewed by the commit-Melanson talked to two

people as they wished, but he defended the investiganot interview as many tion as thorough. Canadian law and could gators were limited by Blakey said his investi-



MARTIN LUTHER KING

Widow calls for control of handgun sales

sacrifices of men, women and children" and vote to control the sale of handguns. day urged Congress to "end the needless rights leader Martin Luther King yester-WASHINGTON — The widow of slain civil this inaction is an aroused citizenry."

ington hotel. The call by Coretta Scott King came on the seventh anniversary of the shooting of President Reagan outside a Wash. lition's petition drive.

Kennedy, widow of Robert F. Kennedy handgun sale restrictions. She and Ethel lition to Ban Handguns, that calls for petition, sponsored by the National Coa-King then put the first signature on a

are the honorary chairwomen of the coa-

"For too long Congress has ac. 20th anniversary of the deaths of King and quiesced to the gun lobby," King said. Kennedy. King was assassinated on April "The only thing that will bring an end to 4, 1968, and Kennedy on June 6, 1968. _Ap The petition drive coincides with the

BOSTON HERALD MARCH 31, 1488