

NEWS from Congressman CHARLES W. WHALEN, Jr.

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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

Congressman Charles W. Whalen, Jr. (R-Ohio) today questioned the handling of the investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He called on the FBI to "set the record straight" on confusing statements which have been issued in recent days.

The Ohio Congressman noted discrepancies in statements relating to the murder and suspects.

"The handling of the investigation and the efforts to apprehend the guilty person or persons hardly has been reassuring to a tense and troubled nation," Whalen said.

"After all the agonizing examination of the Warren Commission investigation of the Kennedy assassination in 1963, we find the public confronted after this new tragedy with premature and contradictory statements."

Whalen cited initial reports that Federal agents were in hot pursuit and that an arrest was imminent.

"Then we are told that the assassin is 'on the run' and that 'the trail has lengthened.' The next development was the promise of a picture of a suspect.

"Then, we see a picture based on an artist's conception published in our newspapers, only to have Federal authorities say that no such sketch was authorized by the FBI."

In addition, the public first was told there was no conspiracy but then "we learn that misleading reports were broadcast on Memphis police radio frequencies which confounded pursuers and suggested there was a conspiracy," Whalen said.

"The ensuing developments included reports of one, two or no white Mustang cars. Then the Florida State Police went on the lookout for a suspect only to have that search cancelled abruptly."

Whalen urged that the record be set straight by the Federal investigators "and the elimination of confusion that has been created in the aftermath of this tragic event."

"A Federal investigation that inspires at least a modicum of confidence would go a long way toward quieting the seething unrest which continues to permeate the Nation."