

30 April 1968

The Editors
LIFE
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear Sirs,

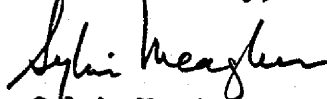
"Ray Alias Galt" demonstrates again the zest of LIFE's propensity for the instantaneous lone assassin, which rivals that of Ramsey Clark --and Earl Warren, for that matter.

Every passing day peppers us with new ominous indications of conspiracy in the assassination of Martin Luther King, and of monumental ineptitude (or worse) in the ensuing FBI investigation, as was also the case in Dallas. But no hint of that in LIFE's cover story on James Earl Ray, who may (or may not) be "Eric Starvo Galt" (or one of several "Galt"s), who may (or may not) be the "John Willard" who may (or may not) have fired the fatal shot in Memphis.

LIFE's self-congratulation on the success of its correspondents in "uncovering information that even the FBI had missed" might have been justified if its team had probed into the blatant evidentiary contradictions and absurdities which are piling up in a sordid heap. But its correspondents merely dug up proof that a known criminal had been a rotten kid.

It won't be as easy to merchandise James Earl Ray as a lone assassin as it was with Lee Harvey Oswald. Ray was not so obliging as to have himself photographed holding a 30.06 rifle, for LIFE to doctor and publish on its cover. Nor will the more than twenty million Americans who are personally bereaved and enraged by the murder of Martin Luther King be conned by any new official thesis of a lone assassin. They are already calling attention to the sinister replay of Dallas in Memphis and I hope that they will have the courage and decency that white racist America lacked after Kennedy was shot down, and settle for nothing less than the full truth--about both assassinations.

Yours sincerely,



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