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Clark Is Sure Killer Will Soon Be Seized

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 5—Attorney General Ramsey Clark said today that he was "confident" of a quick solution to the assassination here yesterday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A source close to the intensive manhunt said that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were close to making an arrest.

The Attorney General, who flew here this morning at the order of President Johnson with other top officials of the Justice Department, told a news conference that the F.B.I. was searching for the killer in several states.

He said that the killer, who was believed to have escaped in a white Mustang automobile,

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had left an "unusually large" amount of physical evidence at the scene of the ambush. A search for the car was under way tonight.

The evidence collected by several squads of F.B.I. agents and Memphis homicide detectives included a small suitcase, a number of fingerprints and a 30.06-caliber rifle with a telescopic sight.

The bullet that killed Dr. King was a 30.06. Tests were under way to try to establish that that particular bullet had been fired from that particular rifle.

"Leads derived from the evidence are being followed up in several parts of the United States," Mr. Clark said.

"All of the evidence indicates that this was the act of a single individual," Mr. Clark said.

Mr. Holloman said that the evidence indicated conclusively that the slayer was a white man.

Dr. King, who was 39 years old, was felled by a rifle bullet as he emerged from Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel to go to dinner.

Dr. Jerry Francisco, a professor of pathology at the University of Tennessee who is the

Shelby County medical examiner, said that the civil rights leader was hit only once. Death must have been almost instantaneous, Dr. Francisco said.

The bullet, he said, exploded through Dr. King's right jaw and neck, severing his spinal cord in the region of the second thoracic vertebra.

Damage Was Severe

Dr. Francisco said that the force of the speeding bullet had done severe damage to Dr. King's vital organs.

If Dr. King had lived, he said, he would have been paralyzed from the chest down except for his arms because of the severing of his spinal cord.

Mr. Holloman, whose job is equivalent to that of police commissioner, said that the rifle shot that killed Dr. King had apparently been fired from a bathroom used by upstairs occupants of a rundown rooming house at 420 South Main Street.

The bathroom window is 205 feet and three inches from the spot where Dr. King was standing when the bullet hit him yesterday at 6:01 P.M., central standard time.

A white man, about six feet tall and in his late twenties, was seen running from the rooming house immediately after the shooting.

Witnesses said that he continued south along Main Street while, around the corner, police officers assigned to guard Dr. King swarmed into the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel.

The back of the rooming house faces the side of the Lorraine Motel. The balcony on which Dr. King was standing when he was shot can be seen clearly from the bathroom of the rooming house.

Mr. Holloman said that he was unable to explain how the man who shot Dr. King had eluded the police officers who were there to guard the civil rights leader. "I'm trying to find out," he said.

The neighborhood where the assassination occurred is in south Memphis on the edge of a business district patronized largely by Negroes.

The rooming house at 420 South Main Street, where the ambusher apparently lay in wait, is occupied mostly by elderly men.

Mrs. Frank Brewer, who with her husband manages the rooming house, said that a young man wearing dark clothing rented one of the rooms at 3:30 P.M. yesterday under the name of "John Willard."

"I showed him a room toward the north side of the building but he was not interested in that one," Mrs. Brewer said.

The Lorraine Motel cannot be seen from the north side

of the rooming house. "Then I showed him one to the south," Mrs. Brewer said. This room afforded a view of the balcony of the inner court of the motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mrs. Brewer said that the man had no luggage and paid her \$8.50 in advance.

She said that he had dark hair and a Southern accent.

"He didn't talk any different from anyone else around here," she said.

The man who fled through the front door of the rooming house after the fatal shot was fired had the same general description as the man to whom Mrs. Brewer had rented the room.

After turning south on Main Street, the man stopped next door and left several objects in a doorway.

G. W. Canipe, manager of an amusement company on the ground floor of the building, said he saw the man drop the objects and went out to see what they were.

He said he found a 30.06 Remington pump action rifle and a small suitcase. Both the rifle and the suitcase were sent to Washington last night for examination at F.B.I. laboratories.

Attorney General Clark said that F.B.I. agents were ordered into the investigation last night as soon as he learned that assault on Dr. King had been shot.

President Johnson told said.

as necessary on the job.

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