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Search for Assassin Spreads Across South

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MEMPHIS—The search for the killer of Martin Luther King Jr. has spread hundreds of miles from this quiet, tense city, but authorities expressed confidence today that he would be caught.

There seemed little doubt that he was able to flee the city, eluding city police and the Arkansas state troopers guarding bridges across the Mississippi.

Attorney General Clark, who flew here at the direction of President Johnson to lead the search, said the investigation has widened to several states and "will spread as far as the evidence takes us."

"It has already spread several hundred miles from the boundaries of Tennessee now," he added.

The Attorney General said all evidence "indicated a single individual" was involved.

"There is no evidence of a widespread plot," he said.

Rewards totaling \$155,000 have been offered for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

Clark's confidence that an arrest was near was based on his statement that authorities had considerably more evidence than police "usually get in cases like this, including a number of studies of prints that may establish identity."

The prime suspect was de-

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scribed as a tall young white man who was seen running from the rooming house from which King was shot.

The man stopped in a doorway near the rooming house and discarded several objects. They were said to include a .30.06 Remington rifle and a small suitcase. Both are at the FBI laboratory in Washington for examination.

Mrs. Frank Brewer, who manages the rooming house, said the man seen fleeing resembled one to whom she had rented a room a few hours earlier.

A tight curfew was in effect in Memphis as 4,000 National Guardsmen in troop carriers kept order. There was a strange sense of isolation within the Negro community.

With streets empty and few businesses open along Beale St., many Negroes sat at home and listened to radio reports or watched television pictures of rioting and disorder in other cities. But here, where it all

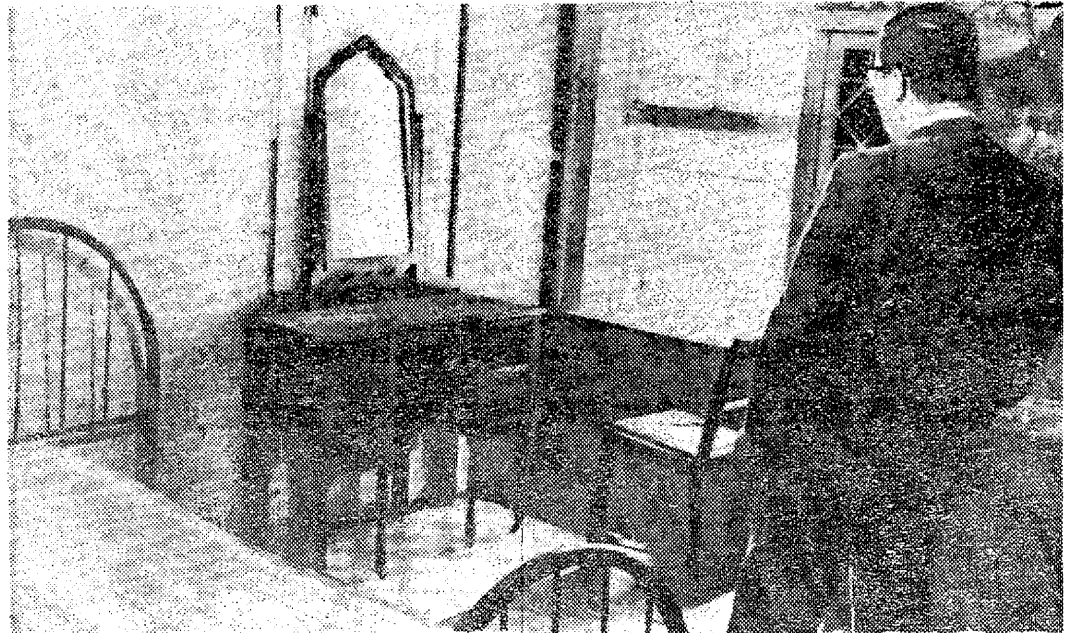
began, there was only tense quiet.

Many shops along Beale St. had been wrecked before order was restored. Only those with "soul brother" written on the windows had escaped damage.

The city administration, meanwhile, had done an about-face on permitting the massive parade which Dr. King had come here to lead on Monday. Earlier, an injunction had been obtained to halt the demonstration, but now Mayor Henry Loeb said that "in view of the tragic circumstances" there would be no objection.

Civil rights leaders predicted that as many as 40,000 persons would take part in the march which had been scheduled to give support to the city's striking garbage collectors, most of whom are Negroes.

The city has agreed to resume negotiations in the strike, now in its eighth week, but there was no indication that the mayor had relaxed his stand against union recognition and check-off of dues.



A reporter examines the room which Memphis police say the assassin of Martin Luther King rented shortly before the killing. He was believed to have fired the fatal shot from the window in the adjacent bathroom.

Associated Press Wirephoto