

'WHITE MUSTANG' ROUTE TRACED

Ray Met N.O. Contact
Near Mart--Reporter

By LOUIS LOMAX

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HOUSTON—Additional evidence and conversations with people who knew James Earl Ray, the alleged slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, establish that Ray met with an important industrialist on the after-

THIRD LOMAX ARTICLE

Negro reporter and author Louis Lomax, searching out evidence along the route the accused killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. took last December from Los Angeles to New Orleans, writes the third article for the States-Item on his findings today.

noon of Dec. 17, 1967, either inside or near the International Trade Mart in New Orleans. The meeting occurred between 2:30 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

That the meeting took place was established by reconstructing the timetable followed by Ray and Charles Stein, the Hollywood songwriter who motored with Ray from Los Angeles to New Orleans beginning on Dec. 15.

This reporter is now retracing that route with Stein.

STEIN MET Ray in a Hollywood bar and indicated that he, Stein, wanted to go to New Orleans to get his nieces, both

small children. Ray replied he was making a round trip to New Orleans to "meet some important people" and that he would give Stein a

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free ride if Stein would agree to sign the petition to place former Alabama Gov. George Wallace on the California ballot. Stein agreed and the trip was begun around noon on Friday, Dec. 15.

Traveling in the now famous white Mustang, Ray and Stein took turns driving and, without stopping to sleep, arrived in New Orleans at approximately noon on Dec. 17. Ray checked into the Provincial Motel, but before parting from Stein he said he had to meet with a New Orleans man who was—and presumably still is—"an engineer or contractor." At approximately 3:30 that afternoon "Tommie," a close friend of Ray's, was in the International Trade Mart. That evening Ray visited Tommie and told him he saw him in the Trade Mart. When Tommie asked why Ray did not approach him in the mart, Ray replied, "I was busy."

That the meeting did indeed occur is given further credence by the fact that late on the night of Dec. 17 Ray visited Stein and said his business had been completed, that he was ready to return to Los Angeles. Stein, a native of New Orleans who wished to spend an additional period of time with his relatives, insisted that they "rest up" in New Orleans for a "couple of days" before undertaking the return drive. The two men and the children left New Orleans on Dec. 19 and arrived back in Los Angeles on Dec. 21.

THE KEY to whom Ray

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met with in New Orleans seems to lie in two long distance phone calls Ray made during the trip to New Orleans. After the first phone call Ray indicated to Stein that his party was not in, but would be available at approximately "nine o'clock" that evening, Dec. 16th. After driving about an hour Ray left the freeway to make his "nine o'clock" call. The contact was made and Ray talked for some 15 minutes while Stein drank coffee and munched candy.

Stein and this reporter are now in the Houston area from which the calls were made. A search of the area has considerably jogged Stein's memory for specific details and the search has been narrowed down to a 200-mile stretch of highway between San Antonio and Houston.

There was yet another development in the story on Thursday. It has already been established that Ray returned to New Orleans at the end of March and delivered a package to the mother of a Los Angeles friend. It now appears that while in New Orleans on the last trip, a scant five days before Dr. King was murdered, Ray may have spent time with a New Orleans girl whom he is known to have admired. If true, (and her name is known) she may provide new information as to Ray's movements and activities just a few days prior to the assassination.