

Ny Times 3-18-77

# Around the Nation

## New Ballistic Tests Set On Bullet in King Death

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—The House Select Committee on Assassinations announced today that it would conduct independent ballistics tests next week on the bullet that killed the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee also confirmed that its investigators would interview James Earl Ray in prison, where he is serving a 99-year sentence on conviction of killing Dr. King.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation expert testified in proceedings after Dr. King's assassination in 1968 that the bullet was too badly damaged to determine if it came from the rifle that Memphis police say bore Mr. Ray's fingerprints.

Walter Fauntroy, a Washington, D.C., delegate of the subcommittee conducting the King assassination investigation, said that two separate ballistics tests would be made by separate professionals and not the bureau.