

No Evidence of A King Plot

Since the assassination in 1968 of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., many theories of conspiracy have been advanced, despite the confession in court of a small-time holdup man named James Earl Ray that he had acted alone.

Last month those theories began to include even the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after a Senate Committee disclosed that for six years the F.B.I. had carried out a secret effort to publicly discredit Dr. King.

A team of New York Times reporters investigated the case for six weeks, and has been unable to establish any firm evidence that (1) the F.B.I. was involved in the killing, either directly or indirectly, or (2) that any other conspiracy was involved.

The Times team did not have access either to Mr. Ray in prison or to certain F.B.I. and Justice Department files.