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AM-RAY 1STLD-WRITETHRU A218 5-3

BY CARL A. VINES

PITTSBURGH, TENN. (UPI) -- JAMES EARL RAY'S ATTORNEY SAID TUESDAY HIS CLIENT GAVE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS THE NAME OF A MAN WHO CAN PLACE HIM AT A SERVICE STATION WHEN THE SHOT THAT KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS FIRED.

ATTORNEY JACK KERSHAW TOLD NEWSMEN THE INVESTIGATORS WOULD INTERVIEW THE MAN, IDENTIFIED AS WILLIE GREEN, NEXT WEEK.

KERSHAW SAID GREEN STILL LIVES IN MEMPHIS, BUT DECLINED TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE MAN.

ROBERT LEHNER, CHIEF OF THE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION INTO THE KING ASSASSINATION, SAID AFTER A SIX-HOUR MEETING WITH RAY TUESDAY THAT THE GROUP WILL RETURN TO BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON FOR STILL ANOTHER INTERVIEW AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE.

KERSHAW SAID THE INVESTIGATION WILL MOVE TO MEMPHIS NEXT WEEK, WHERE RECORDS ON THE KING MURDER WILL BE STUDIED AND GREEN AND OTHER PERSONS WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

KERSHAW SAID THAT RAY WENT TO A SERVICE STATION TO GET A SPARE TIRE REPAIRED LATE ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS KILLED BY A SNIPER AS HE STOOD ON A MEMPHIS MOTEL BALCONY.

"THERE WAS A PERSON WHO REMEMBERS HIM AND HAS MADE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT," KERSHAW SAID.

HE SAID THE STATEMENT IS INCLUDED IN INVESTIGATIVE WORK BY PRIVATE DETECTIVES ON THE KING CASE.

KERSHAW SAID THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS WENT INTO MINUTE DETAIL ON RAY'S ACTIVITIES ON APRIL 3 AND APRIL 4.

ON THE DAY OF KING'S MURDER, KERSHAW SAID THAT RAY TOLD THE INVESTIGATORS HE RENTED A ROOM AT A FLOPHOUSE ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE LORRAINE MOTEL, WHERE KING WAS SHOT, AFTER ARRIVING AT MEMPHIS APRIL 3. HE RENTED THE ROOM ON INSTRUCTIONS OF "RAGUL," THE MYSTERIOUS MAN WHO RAY CLAIMS HE WORKED FOR IN SMUGGLING OPERATIONS.

IN THE AFTERNOON BEFORE THE SLAYING, RAGUL SENT RAY TO BUY SOME BINOCULARS AND NEXT TOLD RAY TO GO TO A MOVIE, KERSHAW SAID.

"BUT HE RECALLED THAT RAGUL WANTED TO USE THE CAR THAT NIGHT, SO HE DECIDED HE HAD BETTER HAVE THE SPARE TIRE FIXED," KERSHAW SAID.

"HE WENT SEVERAL BLOCKS TO A SERVICE STATION TO GET THE TIRE FIXED, BUT THEY WERE TOO BUSY TO FIX IT." RAY CLAIMS HE WAS AT THE STATION AT THE TIME OF THE KING SLAYING.

"SO HE LEFT THE SERVICE STATION AND DROVE BACK TOWARD THE ROOMING HOUSE WHERE HE HAD LEFT RAGUL," HE SAID.

WHILE DRIVING TOWARD THE ROOMING HOUSE, KERSHAW SAID, RAY RAN INTO A POLICE ROAD BLOCK, BUT WAS ALLOWED TO PASS.

KERSHAW SAID RAY THEN DROVE FROM MEMPHIS TO NEW ORLEANS AND BEGAN TO "PANIC" AFTER HEARING NEWS REPORTS THAT LED HIM TO BELIEVE HE MIGHT BE A SUSPECT IN THE KING SLAYING.

FROM NEW ORLEANS, KERSHAW SAID, RAY DROVE HIS WHITE MUSTANG TO ATLANTA WHERE HE PICKED UP SOME CLOTHES AND A .38 CALIBER PISTOL. HE SAID RAY LEFT HIS CAR PARKED IN ATLANTA AND TOOK A BUS TO MONTREAL, WHERE HE OBTAINED A CANADIAN PASSPORT IN THE NAME OF RAYMOND SNEED AND FLEW TO LONDON, THEN TO LISBON, WHERE HE UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT PASSAGE ON A SHIP TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND FINALLY BACK TO LONDON WHERE HE WAS ARRESTED AT HEATHROW AIRPORT.

KERSHAW SAID HE FINANCED HIS TRAVELS WITH ABOUT \$1,000 HE HAD BEEN PAID BY RAGUL FOR SMUGGLING OPERATIONS.

THE ATTORNEY SAID HE BELIEVES RAY WAS SIMPLY GOING FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN PANIC. "HE JUST WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM POLICE ACTIVITY," SAID KERSHAW.

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