



# New Proof Promised In King Slaying

COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

Memphis, Tenn. — Two attorneys are seeking permission to present new evidence on the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to a Tennessee grand jury, according to news reports yesterday.

One attorney, Wayne Chastain of Memphis, said the case will bring to light new figures involved in the 1968 killing, including a retired businessman in London who allegedly has admitted to hiring King's assassin.

"I will provide information concerning the murder of Martin Luther King and involving persons other than James Earl Ray," Chastain told Reuter news agency. Ray pleaded guilty and was convicted in the April, 4, 1968, slaying of the civil-rights leader.

Chastain, who covered the King assassination as a reporter for the now-defunct Memphis Press-Scimitar newspaper, requested a hearing before the Shelby County grand jury last week. He is asking that more than five witnesses be subpoenaed, two of whom want immunity from prosecution before testifying.

Attorney Lewis Garrison of Memphis also has asked that the investigation into the assassination be reopened, the Memphis Commercial Appeal reported.

Although no connection has been found between the two, both attorneys reportedly represent five people who have information about King's murder.

The Observer in London reported yesterday that the businessman has confessed to hiring King's assassin and he has applied for immunity in return for naming the gunman.

But the state prosecutor in Memphis, John Pierotti, called the claims by Garrison, in particular, a "sham."

"I believe it is a sham and a fraud upon the public," Pierotti told The Commercial Appeal on Saturday.

Pierotti said the businessman is seeking immunity from prosecution in return for the gunman's name.

There was no comment from Garrison yesterday; he did not answer calls to his home.

Although Chastain declined to identify his client, the attorney acknowledged his acquaintance with Bill Pepper, a London-based American lawyer who has been investigating the King assassination on Ray's behalf for about 16 years.

Representatives of King's family in Atlanta were not immediately available for comment.

But the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a close associate of King who was in Garden City yesterday, said he always believed there was a conspiracy in the assassination.

"I was there when Doctor King was assassinated, and I have never believed that James Earl Ray acted alone," Jackson said after a church service.

Ray, who has recanted his plea, began serving a 99-year prison term in 1969.

Staff writer Monte R. Young contributed to this story.

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