

ZODIAC

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Hal:

That copyrighted story ZWS did
~~is~~ on Lane was an item we did
three weeks ago on The Newsworks story.
We mentioned in the item that Lane
"copyrighted" the story in Newsworks.

I've enclosed it plus an A.P.
item from an Arizona paper on Holloman--
labeled Memphis. Also enclosed is a short
NY Times wire item on who's on assassination committee.

Jon

(ZNS) ATTORNEY MARK LANE, A LONG-TIME RESEARCHER INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY; IS SUGGESTING THAT THE F.B.I. MAY HAVE PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE 1968 ASSASSINATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR.

LANE, IN A COPYRIGHTED ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON NEWSWORKS, ALLEGES THAT NEW EVIDENCE HAS SURFACED WHICH INDICATES THAT DOCTOR KING'S POLICE PROTECTION WAS DELIBERATELY WITHDRAWN JUST MOMENTS BEFORE HE WAS ASSASSINATED IN MEMPHIS.

ACCORDING TO LANE, THE SECURITY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND EVEN AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE F.B.I.

LANE SAYS HE HAS INTERVIEWED A MEMPHIS DETECTIVE NAMED ED REDDIT, WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT KING SHORTLY BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS SHOT TO DEATH. REDDIT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT JUST HOURS BEFORE THE KILLING, HE WAS ORDERED BY HIS SUPERIORS AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO REMOVE HIMSELF FROM THE KING CASE AND TO RETURN TO HIS OWN HOME.

REDDIT REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO LEAVE KING'S SECURITY DETAIL, AND THEN WAS VIRTUALLY PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST UNTIL AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OCCURRED.

LANE SAYS THAT TWO OTHER BLACK MEMPHIS FIREMEN ON THE KING DETAIL WERE ALSO ABRUPTLY TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE ASSASSINATION AREA JUST BEFORE THE KILLING OCCURRED.

ACCORDING TO LANE, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING KING'S SECURITY FORCE WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN MEMPHIS, FRANK HOLLOMAN.

HOLLOMAN IS A FORMER F.B.I. OFFICIAL WHO HAD WORKED PERSONALLY WITH J. EDGAR HOOVER DURING THE F.B.I.'S EARLIER EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT KING.

LANE QUOTES ANOTHER FORMER F.B.I. AGENT, ARTHUR MURTAGH, AS REPORTING THAT AGENTS IN THE ATLANTA OFFICE (QUOTE) "LITERALLY JUMPED FOR JOY" WHEN THEY LEARNED KING HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED. ACCORDING TO LANE, THIS SAME ATLANTA F.B.I. OFFICE A FEW DAYS LATER HEADED UP THE ENTIRE FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE KING MURDER CASE -- ZODIAC * * * (MORE)

Official Says King Death, Officer's Move Unrelated

MEMPHIS (AP) — The man who was police director when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated here says it is ridiculous to think there is any connection between King's death and the removal of a black policeman among those assigned to guard the civil rights leader.

Former Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman said the policeman was sent home from guard duty because his life had been threatened.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted Friday to reopen the investigation into the 1968 slaying, based on new information that reportedly includes the removal of the black policeman and two black firemen from their posts shortly before King was shot.

The black officer was Sgt. Edward E. Redditt, who now works for the city's community development office.

At 4 p.m. on April 4, 1968, Holloman ordered Redditt off the detail after reports there was a "contract" out on the detective's life.

Redditt and Lt. E.H. Arkin Jr. were sitting in a police cruiser in front of Redditt's home when word of the assassination came over the police radio at 6:01 p.m.

"As I look back now, it didn't bother me then. It bothered me later," Redditt said Friday as he recalled that night. "I was so busy I didn't think about it. It bothers me now."

Holloman said that sending Redditt home had no significance other than to protect the policeman's life.

"He had been threatened and we took it upon ourselves to move him out of his family to

a safe place," said Holloman, now executive director of Future Memphis, Inc. "It is ridiculous to suggest that this had anything to do with King's death."

Redditt said he protested his removal from the detail guarding King, but he added that he has no reason to question Holloman's motives.

Before coming to Memphis, Holloman spent 25 years with the FBI, where his career included a stint as an inspector in the office of then-Director J. Edgar Hoover.

King, who had come to Memphis to offer support to striking garbage workers, was shot and killed on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, a half-block from Main St.

James Earl Ray was arrested and pleaded guilty to the crime and currently is serving a 99-year term at the state prison in Nashville.

Holloman said he had "no recollection" about the transfer of the firemen and does not know who gave the order to move them.

"The fire department had no role whatsoever in security or police work," he said. "I don't see how this could have any bearing on King's death."

Floyd Newsom is one of the two black firemen who said they were transferred from Fire Station No. 2 the night before King's death. The station is about a block from the Lorraine Motel.

Newsom said he had told his story repeatedly and that details of his move were published shortly after the assassination.

Like Redditt, however, Newsom says he was never interviewed by the FBI or any other law enforcement agencies investigating the assassination.

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(M.V.)