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Ray Claim 'Another Grandstand

Lane: Young Aides

Play,' Says Jesse Jackson

Leaked FBI Plot Files

By TOM KING

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Two aides to Andrew Young, United States ambassador to the United Nations, allegedly leaked secret FBI files and documents to key figures attempting to obtain a trial for assassin James Earl Ray, according to Mark Lane, Ray's attorney. The documents allegedly involve J. Edgar Hoover, late FBI director, in an FBI assassination plot.

Stoney Cooks, executive assistant to Ambassador Young, denied Mr. Lane's allegations.

Mr. Lane said Ambassador Young and

two of his aides, Mr. Cooks and Brady Tyson, who allegedly leaked the documents, will be called to testify at a hearing to decide whether Ray should be granted a new trial.

Mr. Lane said from his home Friday night that Walter Fauntroy, chairman of the House Assassination subcommittee investigating the slaying of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, briefed Mr. Young and his two aides on FBI files and documents relevant to the assassination.

"After the briefing, both aides spoke with Daniel Ellsberg (who leaked the Pentagon Papers) and Rev. James Lawson. Mr. Fauntroy also gave his informa-

tion to Rev. Joseph Lowery (president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference). Rev. Lowery then gave the information to Rev. Lawson," Mr. Lane said.



Anna Sandhu Ray

Rev. Lawson was a friend of the late Dr. King's and on Oct. 13, 1978, officiated at the marriage of Ray and Knoxville Anna Sandhu. Rev. Lawson is a Methodist minister from Los Angeles.

Mr. Lane said Mr. Ellsberg and Rev. Lowery have both signed affidavits that prove "without a doubt" that Mr. Hoover ordered the assassination of Dr. King. Mr. Lane said Dr. King was murdered by "a squad of off-duty and former agents reporting directly to Hoover."

Ray's attorney said Rev. Lowery is prepared to testify in court and that Mr. Ellsberg's 44-page affidavit would be used.

Mr. Lane, Friday night, conferred at his home with former State Court of Criminal Appeals judge Kenneth Galbreath. Mr. Lane said he will make application to the Court of Criminal Appeals next year for a trial for Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary at Petros for the King assassination.

Mr. Lane said when he makes application for a trial, a hearing date will be set. "At the hearing, I will call witnesses and Andrew Young and his two aides will be among my witnesses, as will be Daniel Ellsberg, Rev. Lowery and others."

Mr. Cooks said he was not aware of a briefing conducted by Rep. Fauntroy with Mr. Young. "I know I personally wasn't in on any such briefing," he said.

Mr. Cooks did say that Mr. Young and Rep. Fauntroy, who is also chairman of the board of the SCLC, are "old friends from their days in Congress. I'd say they talk quite often."

Mr. Cooks also said Mr. Tyson and Mr. Ellsberg had spent time together in New York in "May or June of 1977" when Mr. Ellsberg was in New York for a disarmament conference at the UN.

Mr. Cooks said Mr. Tyson, who he identified as "one of 107 staff aides here at the UN," and Mr. Ellsberg did discuss the King assassination. "Brady Tyson has heard about this affidavit and he's shocked that Ellsberg turned it into a serious affidavit. Brady Tyson has no FBI documents or files.

"He (Tyson) told me he and Ellsberg talked in general terms about the assassination, speculating like everyone else about what happened, who did it and was it a conspiracy. Tyson isn't privy to important information on the King assassination. Brady Tyson insists he doesn't know anything specific about the assassination and I have to believe him."

Mr. Cooks said Ambassador Young has received letters "weighing on him to influence President Carter to step in" from Rev. Lawson and from Ray. But, Mr. Cooks said, Mr. Young routinely passed them on to the House Assassinations Committee.

Mr. Cooks also said Mr. Tyson and Mr. Fauntroy, who is the unelected delegate from the District of Columbia in the House of Representatives, "are good friends. Brady has been around Washington and Congress from 1968 to 1977 and he has worked in Fauntroy's campaign and given him support and worked with him politically. Yes, it is possible that Brady and Walter Fauntroy have talked about this matter, but I know nothing about it."

Mr. Young was unavailable for comment, according to Mr. Cooks. Mr. Cooks said Mr. Young was attending an American Cancer Society dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City Friday night.

A week after his original plea, Ray recanted, wanting to change his plea and receive a jury trial, something he has never been granted. "Based on the infor-



Andrew Young

mation we have, James Earl Ray will receive a trial by jury within the next year and will be acquitted," Mr. Lane said.

Anna Sandhu Ray, who became Mrs. James Earl Ray earlier this year, told The News-Sentinel Friday that the campaign to exonerate her husband "is being helped by a man close to the President who has access to things."

Questioned further, Mrs. Ray said this

man "is in a Cabinet-level position." Asked if the man was Mr. Young, Mrs. Ray only laughed.

Mr. Lane confirmed Mr. Young's involvement. "He'll be upset when he knows it is out," Mr. Lane said. "He'll be nervous about it, but he (Mr. Young) knows everything that we are doing and why."

Mr. Lane said several other affidavits would also be released. Mr. Lane said "the affidavit Anna referred to does prove that we know who killed Martin Luther King and why. Yes, it does implicate the FBI."

"We know that Hoover told several people to kill Dr. King," Mrs. Ray said. "We have the documents and the memos from the FBI files. The man who signed this 44-page affidavit gained access to them and came forward to us. I think he is a very brave man," she said, referring to Mr. Ellsberg.

She said the files and documents "clearly show" that FBI men were involved in the assassination and had managed to "infiltrate" the Civil Rights leader's inner circle.

"In all the pictures of Dr. King on the balcony at the hotel, there is a man giving Dr. King mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. We know that man was working for the FBI then," she said.

Mr. Lane confirmed her claim and identified the man as Merrill McCollough. "Merrill McCollough was a special agent working for the FBI in 1968," Mr. Lane

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Young Aides Leaked Files, Lane Says

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said. "He posed as a militant black radical and infiltrated a group called The Invaders. McCollough was the first man to reach Dr. King on the balcony and he was to be the Government's key witness, strangely enough, in determining where the shot came from."

But Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was with King when the Civil Rights leader was shot, said "no one was giving him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation." He added that he had never heard the name Merrill McCollough although there was a Justice Department official on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel that day. He did not know the official, he said. He said he thinks Lane's connection of Young to the case is just another "grandstand play" by the lawyer.

Ray's attorney said McCollough, who will be his key witness, was now work-

ing for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Langley, Va., near Washington.

"We know that Hoover issued a hit order on Dr. King," Mrs. Ray said. She said the Atlanta FBI office "was the home of the get-King FBI squad." She also said "The Memphis police department is in this up to their necks."

Mr. Lane said evidence included in the affidavits to be presented will show former Memphis Police and Fire Director Frank Holloman was involved. Mr. Holloman, who testified Friday before the House Assassinations Committee in Washington, worked for the FBI before joining the Memphis police department.

"When we make application for a new trial, the Court of Criminal Appeals must allow us a hearing. At that hearing," Mr. Lane said, "we will call Merrill McCollough, Frank Holloman and Walter Fauntroy as key witnesses."

"Mr. Fauntroy knows a lot about this FBI business and he has received threatening calls and things," Mrs. Ray said, adding that Mr. Fauntroy has told Government officials his phone is bugged.

Mr. Holloman testified Friday in Washington that charges of a Memphis police-FBI conspiracy were "ludicrous" and "slandrous." The theory was first revealed in a book by Mr. Lane on the assassination. "It is unbelievable to me that the FBI would entertain such an idea," he testified to the committee.

Mr. Lane responded, saying, "We'll see what Mr. Holloman says under oath in a court of law while under intelligent cross examination. The House committee

has been taken over by the intelligence community, the FBI and the CIA. The FBI and CIA didn't even have to buy the committee. They are just renting it.

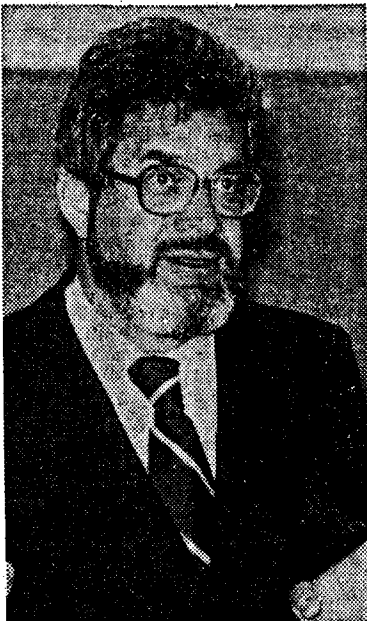
"James Earl Ray will not get a fair trial until he is tried by a jury of 12 men or women, black and white, in Memphis, Tenn."

Mrs. Ray and Mr. Lane agreed that members of the committee know who killed Dr. King and why.

Mrs. Ray also said Dr. King's chauffeur, Solomon Jones Jr., "saw a man wearing a white helmet running from some bushes by the motel after the shot was fired. Jones has told us that while he was sitting in his car, two Memphis policemen walked up to the car and said, 'That's a dead nigger in there.' About that time," Mrs. Ray said, "Mr. Jones said he heard a shot and then saw the man running away."

Mrs. Ray said Memphis policemen wore white helmets at the time.

Solomon Jones is in the Shelby County Jail awaiting transfer to the state prison in Nashville after being convicted of fraudulent breach of trust and larceny.



Mark Lane