

12/16/77

Dear Jim,

Yesterday I read and marked up the copy of Lane's condensation in Senia.

It appears not to be completely identical with Zorro.

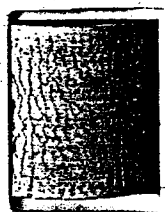
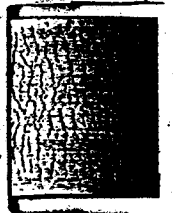
Instead of writing you separately about what I noted when we make copies again I'll make a copy that will show the markings. In most cases they will not require any explanation.

Ripoff and factual error are obvious.

I believe the quotes of Jimmy are not direct quotes.

I know some are not what Jimmy has said in the past.

Hastily,



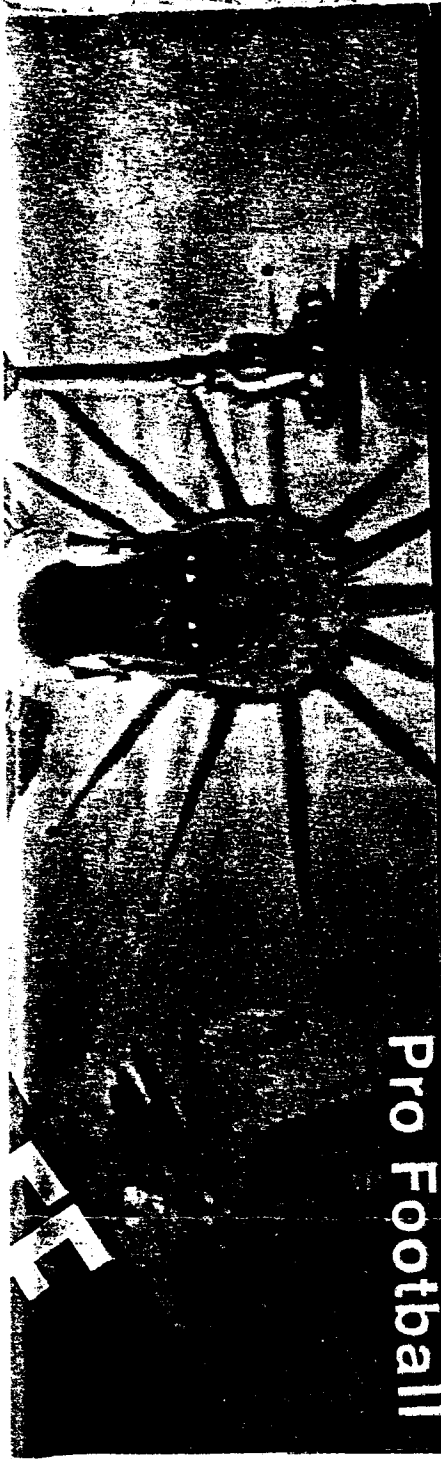
ALEX HALEY TALKS ABOUT SUICIDE

THE GREAT FRAY (KILLER) BEVIL KING
(and other miscellaneous books)

Serpid

NOVEMBER 1977 \$1

**Inside
Women's
Pro Football**



ET



WHO

The reason for the book (By Mark Lane)

Nine years ago Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the greatest civil rights protagonist in modern American history, was murdered in Memphis, Tennessee. Subsequently James Earl Ray was arrested and charged with the crime. Ray insisted that there had been a conspiracy and that after Dr. King's death he discovered that he had been an unwitting implement of that conspiracy.

No trial, or other public proceeding, has occurred since April 4, 1968, the day Dr. King was killed, which permits us to evaluate the evidence in the case. Ray entered what he has referred to, not without some supporting evidence, as an induced plea of guilty. A prearranged and rehearsed hearing was conducted without cross-examination or challenge by the defense. It raised more questions than it answered. Ray publicly contended, much to the embarrassment of his own lawyer, the Tennessee Attorney General, and the trial judge, that there had been a conspiracy to kill Dr. King. No one asked him what he meant or asked him to elaborate.

It is, therefore, not surprising that just before this book was completed a national poll conducted by George Gallup disclosed that fewer than one out of five Americans believed the official version of the events—that James Earl Ray was the lone assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

That is why Dick Gregory and I decided that this book must be written now. So much new and profoundly disturbing evidence has come to light

FY
my

...ned the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King?

A condensation of the book
CODE NAME "ZORRO": The
Murder of Martin Luther
King, Jr. by Mark Lane and
Dick Gregory. ©1977 by Mark
Lane and Dick Gregory.

Dick Gregory, of course, is a black comedian who needs no introduction to our readers. As a long-time devoted civil rights militant, Gregory was often one of Rev. King's front-line activists. And his book contains many touching reminiscences of his days and jailed nights with the late Rev. King.

Mark Lane, co-author with Gregory, has been active on many fronts for political and personal freedom. As director of the Citizens Committee of Inquiry, Lane led investigations into the murders of both Dr. Martin Luther King and President John F. Kennedy.

You can obtain your own copy of the complete book, which we condense a small part of here, from the publisher, Mail Order Dept., Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632. Price is \$9.95 plus 50¢ postage (total \$10.45).



Kennedy said, "Do me a favor and don't go down"

since 1968—some of it uncovered by Greg, some by me, some by other investigators—that the matter cries out for reconsideration by the most eminent of all juries, the American people.

Greg and I decided to divide the task of preparing the manuscript along purely practical lines. Greg knew King—was deeply involved in his work. I, on the other hand, had ready access to extensive documentation through the files of the Citizens Commission of Inquiry, which I now head. So it was decided that Greg should be primarily responsible for writing the first part of the book, the part dealing with Martin Luther King and events leading up to his murder, and that I should be primarily responsible for the later parts of the book, those dealing with the murder and its aftermath.

Did President Kennedy help kill Rev. King? (by Dick Gregory)

Martin Luther King and I fought together on the battlefield for human justice. This is where I learned to respect him as a leader, to admire him and love him for what he was doing for humanity. Martin had a tremendous influence on my life, on my commitment to nonviolence, and on my commitment to the struggle for human justice.

I watched Martin as he grew large and vital on the American scene. And I watched and listened as a few powerful Americans attempted to make the world believe that what he was doing was wrong—that he was "picking on" America. They fought back by accusing Martin of being everything except what he really was—one of the most

who?
H.W.?



Dick Gregory, comedian, civil rights activist and political activist, is co-author with Mark Lane of CODE NAME "ZORRO": The Murder of Martin Luther King Jr.

brilliant, dedicated, and admired spokesmen and leaders for the fight to gain humanity that this world has ever known. The FBI hated King with a passion. A clever criminal could have called the FBI and told them that King was organizing a march on one side of town, waited five minutes for all the agents to get there, and then have an open season robbing the banks on the other side of town.

I watched Martin as he dealt with issues concerning the plight of the poor and oppressed. I watched as he dealt with violence and injustice in America, and as he pointed out the country's lack of moral leadership. Then I saw him become the conscience of America.

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The FBI dubbed him "Zorro,"

Did the FBI help kill Rev. King? (by Mark Lane)

Today, nine years after his death, Martin Luther King, Jr., is still the conscience of America. I shall never forget how upset America was when he began his vigorous, adamant, and extremely vocal opposition to the Vietnam War. Through him I came to understand that a commitment to nonviolence is more than marching for a cause and singing "We Shall Overcome," or turning the other cheek when one was slapped by a Southern sheriff.

Clearly, those who feared for King's life and safety were not paranoid. His violent death in Memphis is proof. And the "white folk watchers" in the black community have been ever and acutely aware of what Mr. Charlie will and will not tolerate. When King left off antagonizing bigots and Klansmen and began attacking defense spending and pointing out the inconsistency between claiming to be a Christian country and committing unspeakable atrocities in Vietnam, they saw the gauge on the social Geiger counter go wild. Danger! Danger! Danger! was the only possible interpretation.

King, they felt, had crossed that invisible line separating black folks' business from white folks' business. The governmental policy makers, the industrial giants, the shakers and movers of American society do not use public accommodations. It was barely relevant to them whether or not blacks were served at Woolworth's counter, or where they sat on the bus. King was no longer a darky preacher leading the country in a rousing prayer meeting. He was attacking the power elite.

All over the world, Birmingham was making front pages—but in Birmingham, the stuff wasn't on the front page, it was on page three or four. The front page was just business as usual.

I had to call President Kennedy, though, that night. The note said, "Call Operator 18, Washington, D. C., the White House," and so I called Operator 18. I really was surprised, because when I said, "Dick

Gregory," Kennedy said, "Oh, yes, Dick, I've been waiting for your call. I have a problem and I wonder if you'll help me with it?"

Martin had announced that I was going to Birmingham. President Kennedy said, "Do me a favor and don't go down to Birmingham, because I feel that Dr. King is wrong. We reached a settlement there, and everything is going to be fine—your going there will create problems."

So I said, "I want to go, you know. When I see what's happening to black folks on television, with the news, and the fire hoses, and whatever deal between white folks that's been made, the streets are where I need to be, and where I'm going." And Kennedy said, "Well, I'm sorry you feel that way, Dick, but thanks for returning my call." Next day I got on a plane and flew to Birmingham. When we got off the plane and met with King's people, I said that I really had to meet with Martin and tell him about the call I had from the President, because I thought it was serious and that there might be danger when we got to the 16th Street Baptist Church rallying point.

When we arrived at the church, I had a strange feeling, seeing the police surrounding the church. I think it went back to my childhood. My mother had told me about the lions eating the Christians.

I saw Martin Luther King at the Gaston Motel, which was bombed, but fortunately he had quietly left the day before. The Gaston Motel was his headquarters. I looked at the police around the motel and questioned the people around me to see if it was safe enough. There were so many bombings, and other violence, that I had a premonition. This was before the 16th Street Baptist Church got blown up, when the four little girls were killed.

I was invited to the home of A. D. King, Martin's brother, in Birmingham. His house was also bombed.

J. Edgar Hoover's attitude toward civil rights activists

was evident from the first. FBI Special Agent Arthur Murtagh had served in Georgia in the early sixties. He told me that the ways the Bureau had chosen to deal with this delicate and potentially dangerous matter were hardly satisfactory.

There was a code name for King—Zorro. Zorro, the Spanish word for fox, was a legendary masked figure in the Spanish Old West, popularized by a television program of the late fifties; a nobleman in disguise, he was a political Robin Hood. "Zorro" was followed and spied upon constantly, and concerted efforts were made to humiliate King. Murtagh related:

"The wiretap had been on for a long time. King had been awarded the Nobel Prize, and a banquet was planned for King, to be in Atlanta, to which world dignitaries would be invited, thousands of people. It would be a testimonial.

"I walked into the squad room in the morning and the agent came out of the meeting room and said, 'They're going to get Zorro now! Sullivan's in there and we're really going to get him!'"

In March 1968, King's help was requested by SCLC member Reverend James Lawson, the leader of the Memphis Strike Strategy Committee. A plan was formulated—King would send in aides James Bevel, James Orange, Tyrone Brooks, Andy Young, and Hosea Williams to prepare a massive march in Memphis which would draw national attention to the strike. King's aides recruited the help of an organized militant black group, the Invaders. This group had repeatedly brought hundreds of black students to earlier marches. The Invaders were helpful at times, provocative to others.

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Lane, Director of Washington, D.C. based Citizens Committee of Inquiry, is co-author of CODE NAME "ZORRO": The Murder of Martin Luther King Jr.

On the day of the March 28 demonstration, a crowd of 8,000 people, spanning many blocks, awaited Dr. King's arrival. Reverend Lawson noticed many marchers he had never seen at strike sessions or civil rights demonstrations directly at the front of the march.

Shortly after the march began, the first windows were broken. In some areas, looting began before the marchers entered the area. According to eyewitness reports, police just watched this looting and did nothing to stop it until the marchers came through.

Soon the police entered, viciously and indiscriminately attacking the demonstrators. Dr. King's party commandeered a passing car and was taken by a police escort to the Holiday Inn Rivermont Hotel.

At a press conference the next day, King vowed to return to show that his tactics of mass nonviolent action were still viable.

The official explanation of the Memphis march-turned-riot is that the violence and looting were probably triggered by the Invaders. But a black reporter for *Newsday*, Les Payne, has turned up evidence which adds a new dimension to the matter.

In an article entitled, "FBI Tied to King's Return to Memphis," Payne reached his conclusion in three steps:

- 1) Several FBI informants and at least one Memphis police undercover agent were among the most active members of the Invaders.
- 2) According to some witnesses, the Invaders led the March 28 riots which attempted to discredit King.
- 3) According to Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young, "Dr. King would never have returned to Memphis if the violence had not happened."

This seemingly farfetched thesis must be considered seriously when viewed in the context of the FBI's campaign to destroy Dr. King and their

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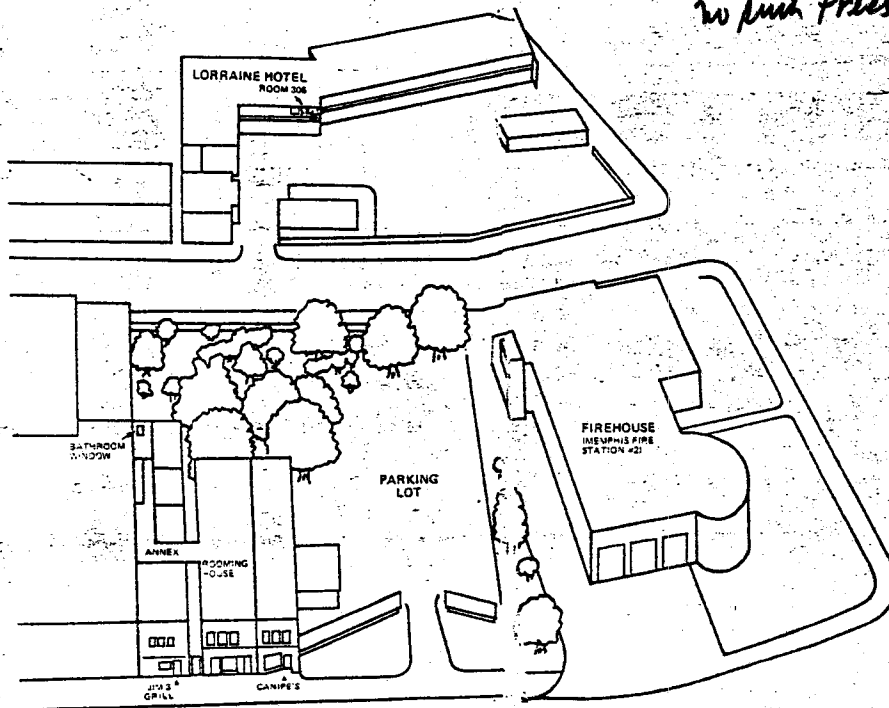
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The FBI was writing "news stories" for wire services

no push trees



Sketch by artist Adam Schneider showing layout of Memphis' firehouse No. 2, Lorraine Motel where Rev. King was staying, and rooming house where James Earl Ray allegedly fired on King.

counterintelligence program tactics to provoke and disrupt black groups. One FBI memo admitted the use of *agents provocateurs*. . . . in harassing and impelling criminal activities . . ." During the late sixties, FBI provocateurs in the black movement repeatedly urged and initiated violent acts. In the Memphis setting, turning a nonviolent march into a riot would have furthered the FBI's goal of discrediting King.

On March 29 the Domestic Intelligence Division of the FBI drafted another "news story" and recommended that that article should also be furnished to cooperative news sources. It read:

Martin Luther King, during the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee, has urged Negroes to boycott downtown white merchants to achieve Negro demands. On 3/29/68 King led a march for the sanitation workers. Like Judas leading lambs to slaugh-

ter [sic], King led the marchers to violence, and when the violence broke out, King disappeared.

The fine Hotel Lorraine in Memphis is owned and patronized exclusively by Negroes, but King didn't go there for his hasty exit. Instead, King decided the plush Holiday Inn Motel, white owned, operated and almost exclusively patronized, was the place to "cool it." There will be no boycott of white merchants for King, only for his followers.

The FBI even provided a headline for the story: "Do As I Say, Not As I Do."

The news story was accompanied by an internal bureau memorandum, bearing the caption of its Counterintelligence Program, which read as follows:

The purpose is to publicize hypocrisy on the part of Martin Luther King. Background: Martin Luther King has urged Negroes in Memphis, Tenn., to boycott white merchants in

order to force compliance with Negro demands in the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis. On March 28, 1968, King disappeared. There is a first-class Negro hotel in Memphis, the Hotel Lorraine, but King chose to hide out at the white owned-and-operated Holiday Inn Motel.

Recommendation: The above facts have been included in the attached blind memorandum, and it is recommended it be furnished to a cooperative news media source by the Crimes Records Division for items showing King is a hypocrite. This will be done on a highly confidential basis.

The FBI memoranda accomplished their tasks. Dr. King returned to Memphis to lead a nonviolent march for the sanitation workers and to salvage his national movement and his projected Poor People's Crusade. He was compelled to do so, at least partially due to the FBI memorandum of March 28 and the wide

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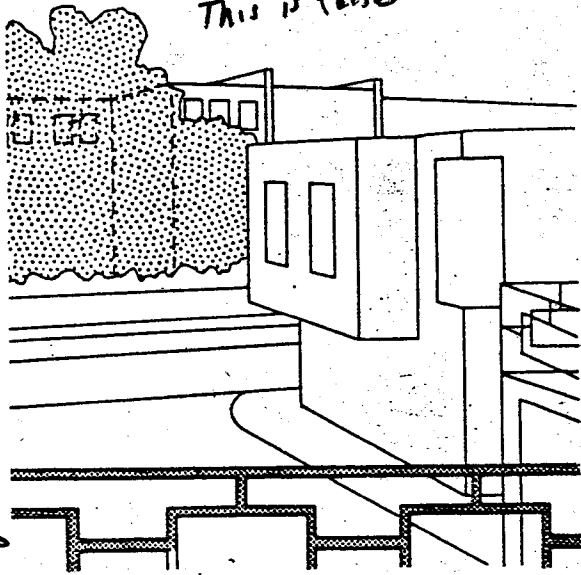
ULTRA

have had read supply mid 50 Banne Box 1

NOVEMBER, 1977
Church committee - FBI testimony, not CC, is source

Why were trees cut down?

This is false



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Artists drawing showing view from the Lorraine Motel balcony when some trees blocked the view of the rooming house.

circulation given to that memorandum, at first in Memphis, and then throughout the country.

The FBI had prevailed. Dr. King was to return not just to Memphis but to the Lorraine Motel.

Did Memphis police help kill Rev. King? (by Mark Lane)

Not for Security

Reverend Samuel Kyles asked the police to assign Ed Redditt, a black Memphis detective, to provide security for Dr. King. Redditt was assigned and set up the police command post at Fire Station Two because of its proximity to the Lorraine and because it provided security from the Invaders and others who wanted no police, black or white, on the scene.

On April 4th there were no black firemen in Fire Station Two, since the only two blacks had been assigned elsewhere.

Detective Ed Redditt was at Two, however, and he was in charge of stationary security

False
NOVEMBER, 1977

for King. His radio provided him immediate access to the mobile units in the vicinity. Assigned to assist him was a Memphis police officer, W. B. Richmond.

Redditt said, "The day of King's assassination I was at the firehouse. I could identify everybody who came and went. I knew the SCLC personnel, I knew Dr. King, I knew the cars, I knew the license plate numbers."

I asked if he had always provided security when King came to town. "Right," he answered, "so I knew who to look for. I knew the local Klansmen by sight. I knew the Invaders, the ministers, the militant groups, everyone involved in the leadership of the sanitation strike."

I asked Redditt how many police officers had provided stationary security for King in the past. "Normally we had ten, but this time it was reduced to two."

According to Redditt, "About an hour and a half, no more than two hours before Dr. King's assassination, Lt. Arkin, who was in intelligence, came down to the station. He said, 'Ed, they want to see you at headquarters.'" Redditt was reluctant to leave his post, to abandon the entire security operation to Richmond

So was Redditt

Redditt had difficulty leaving since his plan to cut off a potential escape from the scene, should there be an attempt on King's life, was predicated upon a functioning team of at least two men. Arkin told Redditt that Holoman himself had ordered him to report to him at headquarters. "So what could I do? I got into the car with Arkin, leaving Richmond all alone, and we proceeded to headquarters." Upon arriving at police headquarters Redditt was taken into the conference room.

"It was like a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this room, just before Dr. King was murdered, were the heads and the seconds in command of I guess every law enforcement operation in this area you could think of. I had never seen anything like it before."

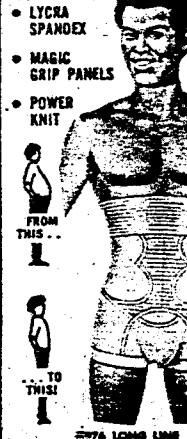
If the elaborate charade, which included the removal of Detective Redditt and the detailing of Firemen Newsom and Wallace, was designed to strip away the security just before Dr. King was killed, in order to facilitate the escape of the sniper, it was an ultimately successful plan. The murderer fled, unobserved and unimpeded.

Did Memphis sanitation dept. help kill Rev. King? (by Mark Lane)

Wayne Chastain, now a practicing lawyer in Memphis, was a reporter for the Memphis Press Scimitar, one of the two major daily newspapers at the time of the assassination of Dr. King.

After the police concluded that the shot had been fired from the bathroom window in the rooming house, Chastain came across an unpublished photograph in the newspaper's files. Taken by an Associated Press photographer from the

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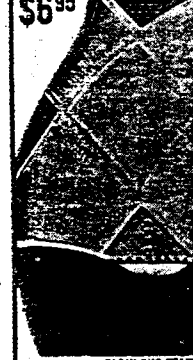
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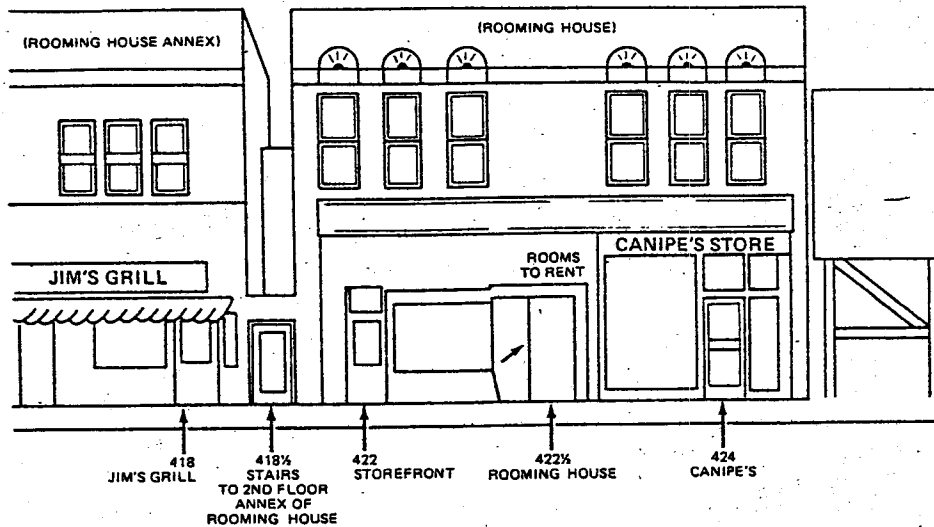
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Ray contends he was framed



The entrance to the rooming house at 422 1/2 South Main provides internal access to the building to its left. It was alleged by prosecution that Ray entered 422 1/2, from which Lorraine Motel could not be seen, walked through it to next building, and secured a view of Lorraine Motel balcony from the bathroom to rear of that building. How Ray could have known of the internal connection between the two places has not been explained to this day.

bathroom window, it showed the Lorraine Motel balcony as the sniper would have seen it if the shot had been fired from there.

Chastain noted that the view was obscured by branches from trees growing on the embankment between the rooming house and the motel.

Later that day he discussed that oddity in the case with Kay Black, another reporter for the *Memphis Press Scimitar*.

Chastain has continued to maintain a growing file on the case and has talked with many witnesses since. "Now I no longer believe the shot came from there. Now I think that picture and those trees take an added significance," he told me.

Later Kay Black received a telephone call from William B. Ingram, the former mayor of Memphis. Ingram had called to inform Black that the city was cutting down the trees on the embankment between the rooming house and the motel.

I asked Ms. Black if, in her judgment, the trees would have interfered with a shot from the bathroom window to the motel balcony. "Well, it occurred to me that they might, and on reflection I

think they might have. That is why Mayor Ingram called, I think. They provided very substantial screening. And they were possibly important evidence and they were being cut down just as the investigation began."

Ms. Black determined that the city of Memphis had arranged for the trees to be cut down and had ordered the city sanitation department to remove them. She said that Ingram had called her in the morning. She reported the information to her desk and that afternoon she visited the murder scene. "And those trees were down. The screen was gone. There was just no way any longer to know if that shot could have been possible."

After talking with the relevant witnesses and after reading interview reports and official records comprising the entire defense and prosecution cases, I am convinced that the state was not prepared to prove that Ray was in the rooming house on April 4, 1968.

Ray has insisted that he was innocent, denied that he shot King, and proclaimed himself to be an inglorious and unwitting dupe of others.

Ray's explanation to me of his movements through the United States from Canada to Mexico, his purchase of a rifle in Birmingham, and ultimately his presence in Memphis on April 4th in the vicinity of the murder scene is either basically true, or the intricate and comprehensive work product of a brilliant mind. For the narrative explains in a cohesive fashion all of Ray's otherwise inexplicable actions. Ray's relationship with a man he refers to only as Raoul becomes the Rosetta Stone of the defendant's odyssey.

According to Ray he fled to Canada after escaping from the Missouri penitentiary in Jefferson City. While in Montreal, he said, he "let the word get around" in the Neptune Tavern, a bar that welcomed seamen, that he had been in trouble in the United States and that he was seeking identification papers and money. Ray made it plain that he had been involved in criminal activities and was willing to undertake similar low-risk activities if his needs could be met. According to Ray a man he subsequently referred to as Raoul approached him and indicated that he could provide adequate documents and sufficient funds if Ray helped

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The Murder of
Martin Luther
King, Jr.



Mark/Dick
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into the United States from
Canada. I would think it had
all been decided before the car
was bought in to haul nar-
cotics across the border. But
nobody told me about any
planned murder of King or
anyone else."

I asked Ray if he would tell
me where he was when Dr.
King was murdered.

"Yes, I'll tell you. It looks
now as if I may not get a trial
at all so I'll tell you what hap-
pened."

Our conversation took
place in the library of the
Brushy Mountain Penitentiary.
I was the first visitor to see
him after the United States
Supreme Court had denied his
application for a trial.

He said, "I was sent out of
the rooming house eight or ten
times that day. I was almost
never in there. As to the bath-
room I'm not sure I was ever
in there at all. It had no spe-
cial meaning for me at the
time. But I was in and out of
the room I had rented all
day—mostly out of it.

"I was sent to the drug-
store, to the gun shop, twice
to the place that sold binocu-
lars, to taverns. Late afternoon
I was sent to a gas station to
check out the car, to get air in
the spare tire. I did that and
drove back toward the room-
ing house on South Main. The
place was filled with police,
blocking off the street. Some-

thing had happened and I
knew I had to get out of there.
I was a fugitive and I could
not afford to get stopped by
the police. I turned down a
street before the rooming
house and started to drive
away. I was later told that a
police officer waved me on
through but I don't remember
that happening."

I asked Ray where he went.
He said, "I began to drive
toward New Orleans. I had the
car radio on and the an-
nouncement came that King
had been shot. It was dark by
then. Maybe about seven
o'clock when I heard that
news. But even then I wasn't
sure about what had hap-
pened. I didn't even know that
the Lorraine Motel was behind
the rooming house. I didn't
know that King was staying
there. I didn't even know that
King was in town."

I asked Ray when he deter-
mined for the first time that
he had some involvement with
the events that led to Dr.
King's death. "Well, I kept on
driving and then the news
report came over the radio
about King being shot and the
suspect, a white man, had
escaped from the area in a
white Mustang. I was driving a
white Mustang. I had just left
the area. It wasn't hard at that
time for me to put two and
two together and decide that I
was it." +++

SEPIA