

Evidence Will Clear Ray, Attorney Claims

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Attorney Mark Lane said Saturday he has "irrevocable evidence" that James Earl Ray did not murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that he knows who did and can provide the names of at least two members of the assassins' group.

Lane said persons in high positions in the U.S. government are aware of the information clearing Ray of the sniper murder in Memphis in 1968 but have not divulged it.

"They are, all of them, accessories to the fact in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King," Lane said.

Lane is the attorney who appeared with Ray in recent hearings before the House Assassinations Committee that investigated the murders of King and President John F. Kennedy.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for his confession to killing King with a rifle at a Memphis motel. Ray has recanted the confession, contending he was duped by others who killed King, but the Assassinations Committee did not call for a new trial for Ray.

Lane, in a telephone call to Washington radio station WRC, an NBC affiliate, said he will soon file motions in federal and district courts demanding a trial for Ray.

"We now know, with irrevocable evidence, evidence which is beyond any question, that the most cynical person in the country, even members of Congress, have to accept, we know for the first time who killed Martin Luther King," Lane said.

"Not only the group involved, but we have the names of two of the people involved in the group. We know James Earl Ray is not guilty, we know who was involved.

"We know who killed Martin Luther King. We are prepared to prove this, prepared to prove people in powerful positions of the U.S. government today who learned of this information before we did, who have this information now.

"I now feel confident for the first time that Mr. Ray must be given a trial. At that trial we will prove that we know who killed Dr. King and that James Earl Ray played no part in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King."

Lane said the information was a wedding present to Ray, who married artist Anna Sandhu Friday in brief ceremonies before returning to his cell.