



Black Is Duttful

Ray Not Issue

By JESSE L. JACKSON

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Now that James Earl Ray has testified publicly and under oath before the House Special Committee Assassinations, where do we stand? 1) We now KNOW some things about Ray, and 2) there is developing the outer shape of a conspiracy.

We now know that Ray is a pathologic liar. He lied to his lawyers, to journalists, to me when I visited with him, and under oath to the Special House Committee. I think he even lies to himself.

He said he wasn't in Atlanta on April 1, 1968. A laundry slip and witnesses prove that he was. He said he didn't rob a London bank. The committee produced the robber's note with his fingerprints on it. Ray said witnesses at a gas station in Memphis would place him away from the murder scene, but when produced, they denied it.

Even though the committee didn't quite put Ray's finger on the trigger, they did carve away his ability, refute his lies and circumstantially build a virtually airtight case establishing Ray as the actual assassin.

Does Ray deserve a trial? Only incidentally. The truth, not Ray, is the critical issue. The Assassinations Committee, under the outstanding and competent leadership of its chairman, Louis Stokes, has interviewed more than 2,000 people, gathered hundreds of hours of testimony and conducted a credible hearing.

In early September, Congress should give the Assassinations Committee the \$750,000 it needs to complete its investigation. If that committee is allowed to complete its work, there may be no need for a special prosecutor or a trial. The real issue is to establish the truth of who killed Dr. King and any legal means necessary to establish that ought to be used.

The committee, through the questioning of a congressman and former aide to Dr. King, Walter Fauntroy, will consider 21 different conspiracy theories when it again returns in November to public hearings in the King assassination. What is publicly known, and the direction the committee now seems to be headed, points to the outer shape of

a conspiracy involving a Southeast right-wing political connection, possibly centered in Alabama.

Ray's first attorney, whom he called to represent him from London, was Arthur Hanes, of Birmingham, Ala. Hanes is the same lawyer who represented (successfully) the three Ku Klux Klan members accused of killing Detroit housewife and civil-rights worker Viola Liuzzo. He is also the same attorney who worked closely with "Bull" Connor during the 1963 Birmingham demonstrations when dogs and firehoses were unleashed on innocent men, women and children.

The mysterious "Raoul" (whom Ray spent considerable time with, but can't identify very clearly) may actually be Jerry Ray, James Earl's closest brother. Jerry Ray, an outspoken racist, is a bodyguard and errand boy for J. B. Stoner, head of the National States' Rights Party, an extreme right-wing and racist political group.

Some have said that Ray becomes "dense" and "devious" when pressed for information about Raoul. James Earl Ray seems to be protecting

someone, either someone he loves (possibly his brother) or someone he fears. The theory that Raoul may actually be his brother Jerry is given further credence by the fact that much of what James Earl Ray has said about his contact with his brother Jerry prior to the assassination parallels much of what he has told of his contacts with Raoul.

For example, Ray now says that Raoul instructed him to purchase first one gun and then, the next day, what turned out to be the murder weapon. But salesman Donald Woods of the Aermarine Supply Company in Birmingham, said Ray told him when he returned with the first gun that "he'd spoken with his brother who told him he'd got the wrong gun."

It is important that the issue of Dr. King's murder be kept visible and alive, for only when the truth is known can we fully be about the business of healing ourselves as a nation.

In my next column, I will deal with why I still believe the government, especially the FBI, was implicated in Dr. King's death.