

CLUES

A Flood Of Poison Pot

After testing nearly 1000 marijuana samples, PharmChem Laboratories in Palo Alto reports that 18.8 percent were contaminated by the herbicide paraquat.

The lab says it has been completely deluged since announcing its anonymous testing program at a fee of \$5 per sample (see Barb March 10). Because of the large number of samples, PharmChem's John Kotecki says that people should wait two weeks from the time they mail in a sample before calling for test results.

Such tests should take place before smoking any weed, warns the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). Medical clinics in San Francisco and Fresno have reported six separate cases just last week in which heavy dope smokers suffered serious res-

piratory problems, apparently after smoking weed contaminated by paraquat.

The U.S. government's National Center for Diseases Control is now exploring the possibility of setting up a special program to monitor such incidents of "paraquat poisoning" being reported from around the United States.

Meanwhile, the White House reports that it has been receiving dozens of letters per day blasting the government for its role in the spraying of paraquat on Mexican marijuana fields. --(ZNS)

Ray Pegs King Assassin In Photo

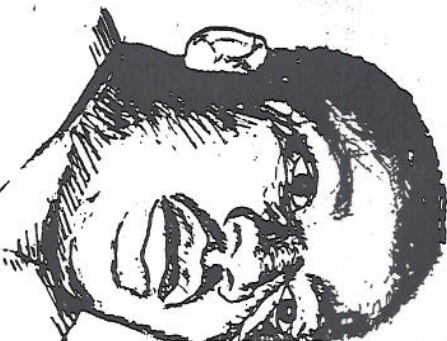
Attorney Mark Lane, the lawyer for convicted assassin James Earl Ray, says his client has made a "positive identification" of a photograph of a man alleged to have masterminded the Martin Luther King assassination. Lane says that Ray was shown a photograph of an unidentified

individual recently, and that Ray is convinced that the man in the photo is "Raoul," the mysterious figure whom Ray alleges framed him for the murder of Doctor King.

Lane, however, refuses to elaborate on the photograph or even to state who showed the picture to his client. The attorney says that members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations recently showed Ray a number of photographs -- and that Ray had picked out a man in one of the pictures as "resembling" Raoul.

Lane says that since that time, however, Ray has seen yet another photo "of a different man" and has made a "positive identification" of Raoul from the photo.

Lane states that he is declining to say any more about the



Who really killed Martin Luther King?

photo because Ray is afraid his comments will be "misconstrued" by the media. According to the attorney, Ray will reveal everything he knows about the photo -- and about Raoul -- if and when he is back in court after being granted a new trial. --(ZNS)