Frederick Writer Believes Ray Not King's Assassin

FREDERICK — A local writer is suing the federal government for information he says he needs to help prove his contention that James Earl Ray did not kill the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Harold Weisberg of Shookstown has filed suit against the State and Justice departments. Both, according to Weisberg, have contrived to remove all copies of transcripts and all affidavits presented by the American government in the Bow Street Magistrate's Court in London where Ray was ordered returned to Memphis, Tenn., for trial.

Ray pleaded guilty in 1968 to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and is serving a life sentence.

"The evidence proves that Ray did not do the shooting," Weisberg says. He adds however, "There is no question there was a conspiracy and Ray may have been involved."

Weisberg claims that Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, first threatened, then bribed his client to make a guilty plea at Memphis to avoid a trial, "where the deficiencies of the case against Ray as the murderer would have been exposed."

Weisberg has published four books dealing with the assassinations of Dr. King and President John F. Kennedy. He said "responsible" publishers have shied away from printing his works and that he has published three of his books on his own and a fourth with the help of another person.

The books are paper bound and [illegible] direct copies of typewritten mauscripts.

The Justice and State departments have told Weisberg in effect that they didn't have the documents and that even if they did, the documents would be part of "investigative files" and exempt from disclosure, the writer said.

This he said is in violation of the Freedom of Information Act.

Weisberg said he tried at first to obtain the documents from the London court but that "all copies of all evidence had been removed."

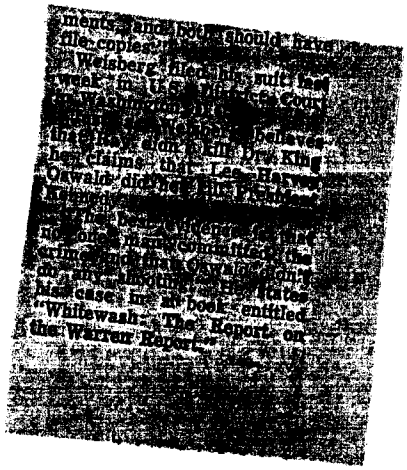
A Justice Department spokesman has declined comment on the case pending court action.

"We have no open society when the record of a public trial is suppressed," Weisberg said in an interview Wednesday.

He maintains the refusal of the two departments to provide him with the documents from the London extradition proceeding is "the most fundamentally subversive attack on any Anglo Saxon concept of law I have ever heard about."

Weisberg, 56, lives in a comfortable house on a wooded hillside. He has worked for newspapers and magazines and has written non-fiction. But since the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy, Weisberg has abandoned all other work. He said income since then has been slight and he is living mainly on savings.

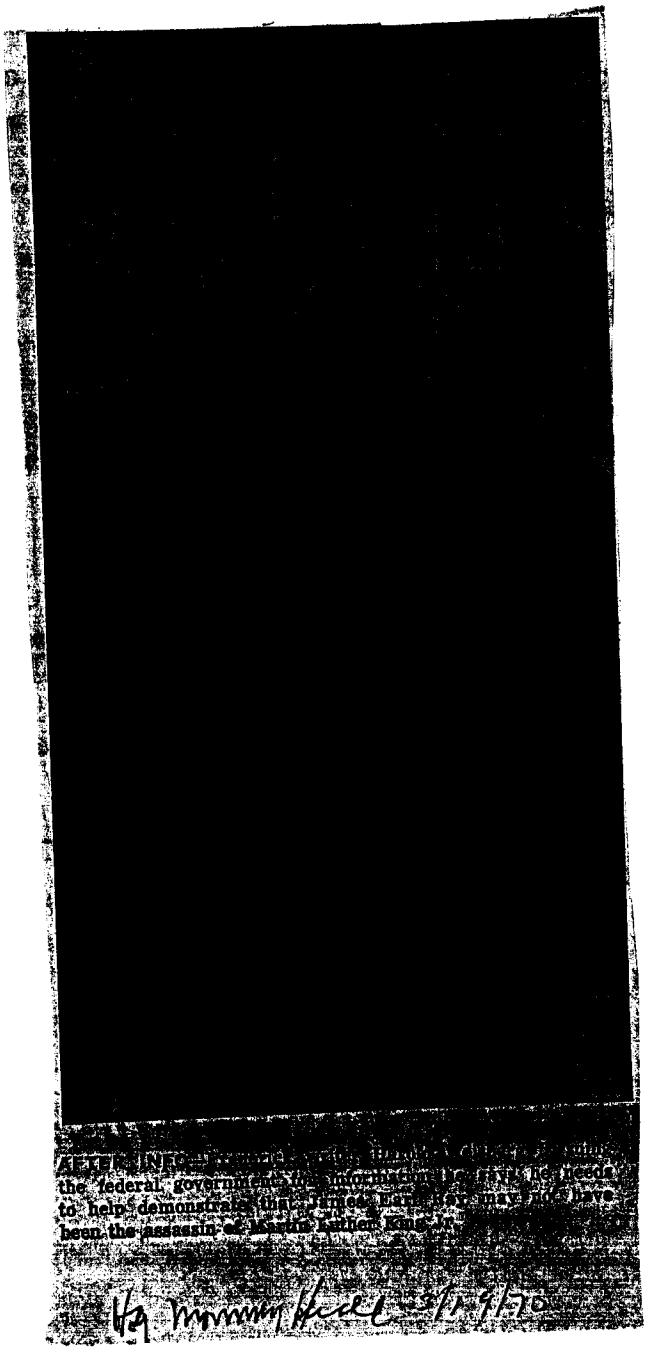
"Mostly what I want are the 200 pages of affidavits produced in place of witnesses in London," Weisberg said. "These had to be certified by the Justice and State departments and both should have file copies."



Weisberg filed his suit last week in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

[illegible] believes that Ray didn't kill Dr. King he claims that Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill President Kennedy.

[illegible] he best evidence is that no one man committed the crime and that Oswald didn't do any shooting. He states his case in a book entitled "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report."



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AFTER INFO [illegible] the federal government [illegible] he says he needs to help demonstrate that James Earl Ray may not have been the assassin of Martin Luther King Jr.

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