

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI

DATE: December 22, 1970

ATTENTION: MR. TURNER

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Murkin

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____)

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent at _____ dated _____

A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

This covers the receipt of a complaint and further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department

58 JAN 11 1971

Enc. See note attached.

ENCLOSURE

FX-112 REC 44-38861-5901

NOT RECORDED

JAN 5 1971

6-9pm

NOTE: Attached material was furnished by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] House Committee on Internal Security which had been
forwarded to the Committee by one [REDACTED]

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

TO: HON. RICHARD ICHORD, M.C.

FROM: [REDACTED]

RE: (1) FAILURE OF JUSTICE DEPT. TO INVESTIGATE NEW EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY LINK IN ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, DR. KING, AND SENATOR KENNEDY BY EXTREMIST GROUP
(2) FAILURE OF JUSTICE DEPT, CIA, SECRET SERVICE TO DISCLOSE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION INFORMATION, THUS NEED FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY.
(3) REQUEST INFORMATION RE PROLEDURE FOR REQUESTING INVESTIGATION BY YOUR INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE.

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

927 FIFTEENTH ST. N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

(202) 347-3837

Received 12-21-70 from

[REDACTED] House Committee on Internal Security.

DWB

44-38861-5901

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CROZ
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[REDACTED]
BOOK REVIEWS - FREELANCE REPORTING
[REDACTED]

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

[REDACTED]
Current temporary interim address:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI
39401

Insider Exclusive!

"James Earl Ray didn't kill Dr. Martin Luther King. And I can prove it, but state officials won't let me," says Renfro Turner Hays, a Memphis private detective.

"You got the cops to prove they've looked up the wrong man in the state penitentiary of Nashville," said Hays, who worked for Ray's first attorney, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala.

"Not only that, but they've got the only living witness who knows Ray isn't the killer hidden away in a not house as the man's fall to the ground," he added.

This is what Hays told a NATIONAL ENQUIRER reporter in an exclusive copyrighted interview.

"It seems everyone wants to cover up the fact that Ray killed King's death," he said. "But not me. I'm going to tell what I know."

Hays said the woman who says she saw Ray didn't kill King is a former neighbor of the Lorraine Motel.

That's where King spent his last living hours with his close friends, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, now head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Rev. James Bevel, a Chicago civil rights leader.

Hays identified the woman as Grace Stewart.

"She saw the dog who really killed King," said Hays.



Arthur Hanes, attorney for James Earl Ray, talks with Turner Hays in front of the Shelby County Jail in Memphis, Tenn., where Ray now has pending charges.

He also spent in the rooming house on the fifth wouldn't have had a star shot at King.

"The 'murder' (killing) in that hotel had been a robbery in that rooming house for about four years before the assassination," he said.

"That, as Hays is a man of sound mind is not in that rooming house. That's the fact that goes to a store in Birmingham and buy a rifle," he said.

And on that same day by about 1963-64 if that's what you want to call it—some people want the military to be true that upon by the line of fire between the rooming house and the motel where King is shot to stay," he said.

"I was asked, King decided to go to Memphis, he didn't think he was going to the Lorraine Motel," Hays went on. "King thought he was going to stay at the River House Motel—that's where he had his rooming house."

"The fact King got back to Memphis his rooming house had been changed to the Lorraine and that's what the real gang of medical chairs began."

"I can prove that Ray did not kill Dr. King."

Miss Stewart had been a patient at Western State Mental Hospital in Dallas, Texas, since King was assassinated on a hot April morning in 1968.

"I pointed her two years ago right after King was killed," Hays said.

"She had a picture of the man who killed King. It wasn't a picture of Ray either."

"Not only that, but I've got her statement describing the gunman, and I've got a witness to what was said in her room."

Hays identified the witness as a Dr. Ross. However, hospital authorities refuse to say if Ross still is on the staff, or whether Miss Stewart is, or was, a patient at the institution.

"When I got through questioning her, Ross turned to me and said, 'My God, that's why they sent her up here. I know there was nothing in the world wrong with the woman,'" reported Hays.

Hays has raised some other rather curious questions regarding the investigation.

"There is a good deal of evidence to indicate that whoever killed King didn't get the job without help," Hays says.

"Let's go back and reconstruct the last hours of King's life," he said.

"First of all, you've got to go back and look at the area. You know, with a picture of it."

"This place where King was supposed to have been shot during the two marches, how this place could only have been fired from

"Ray witnesses to being hit in a hotel room."

"I was not in three days in the big state detention. But this was changed. He was moved upstairs and after that he was changed again."

"The room he finally received put him in direct line of fire with the room from which the sniper shot him down," Hays said.

"They made three separate plans to get him in the hotel room," the detective said.

Hays said that the state had been a great deal of pressure placed on King to get him to return to Memphis and so on so as to get him into the hotel room.

Hays also pointed out that the man who was the hotel, later in 1968, died of a gunshot wound three weeks before the death of King's brother.

Rev. King's Killer Still On The Loose!

But I got a copy of a statement made by a guy who heard the deal the night King was shot," he said. "The guy is her and set up the deal being he ever got there."

Ray explained that the man—a former employee of the hotel—died the day after King was shot.

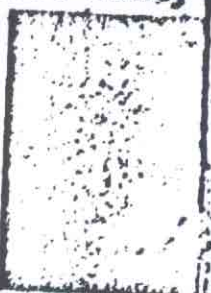
"He was up in one of the hotel rooms by himself, and his pistol accidentally fell out of his belt and hit the floor. The gun went off and he shot himself through the heart."

Kind of peculiar, wouldn't you think? asked Hays.

To add to the list of oddities in King's death, Hays said even the judge died shortly after Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years.

The jurist, Judge W. Preston Battle, accepted Ray's guilty plea on March 10, fourteen days later, he died of a heart attack in his chamber.

Says Ray Not Guilty



"Ray didn't kill Dr. King," says James E. Hays, the Memphis detective who worked on the case for attorney Arthur Hanes.

James Earl Ray continued to fight for a new trial from his heavily guarded cell in the state penitentiary at Nashville.

The crowd were just the march of a coincidence...

"None of these people had any developed heart trouble or were accident prone or someone arranged to help them," said Hays. Battle never had a "heart problem in his life," added Hays, although he was a diabetic.

While Ray has asked for a new trial, there is doubt if he ever will get it.

For while Ray has asked for a new trial, the law has been interpreted to bar him from it.

The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled that a convicted criminal cannot invalidate his previous sentence on grounds that he pleaded guilty because of faulty advice by his attorney.

Ray has been seeking a new trial on grounds that his second attorney, Perry Foreman of Houston, pressured him into pleading guilty.

A high legal source says that why Ray's appeal for a new trial was turned down.

"There's still one more place to the people that needs an explanation," one source has said. "That's the strange death of King's brother."

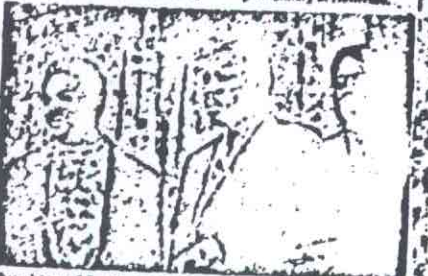
The Rev. A. D. King was found drowned in a recently installed swimming pool at his Atlanta home on July 11, 1968.

"I don't say his death is linked to the others," said Hays, "but he is the one person who could have served a full investigation."

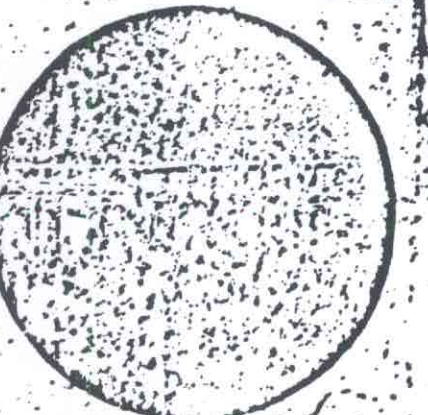
"From several points of view there was a conspiracy. And Ray isn't the killer," Hays claims.

"The going to get my evidence fixed by a court," vowed the investigator.

And perhaps Hays will file suit in Memphis, seeking possession of Ray's public hearing and the file used in the dossier in that of a \$40,000 fee he had paid for his copy of the file to be made by his



This picture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was taken while standing with his two dearest advisors, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Ralph Abernathy, as they stood on the porch of the Lorraine Motel.



The killer with a rifle, captured by a Memphis night club had a close view of his target, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. All the news had been put down by the time a shot was fired at the club.