

ZODIAC NEWS SERVICE

Dec. 12, 1975

Harold:

Enclosed is ZNS story, plus
a copy of Reuters' dispatch
from last Thursday. Marks on the
Reuters' story were made by radio
newswomen who broadcast it
Thursday evening on KSAW in
San Francisco.

Also, I heard CBS radio account
of your press conference -- I think it
was voiced by Neal Strouger (I don't know
how to spell his name).

Jon

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DECEMBER 12, 1975

PLEASE CREDIT

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FOR ITEMS USED

(ZNS) A MARYLAND PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HAS RELEASED PREVIOUSLY-CLASSIFIED F.B.I. REPORTS WHICH HE SAYS DESTROY THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTENTION THAT JAMES EARL RAY ASSASSINATED DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE INVESTIGATOR, HAROLD WEISBERG, OBTAINED THE DOCUMENTS UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

ONE F.B.I. REPORT, ACCORDING TO WEISBERG, PROVES THAT KING'S ASSASSIN DID NOT FIRE THE FATAL BULLET FROM THE WINDOW OF A MEMPHIS ROOMING HOUSE. THE MEMPHIS POLICE AND THE F.B.I. HAVE CLAIMED FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS THAT RAY FIRED THE MURDER WEAPON FROM THE SECOND STORY WINDOW OF A DOWNTOWN FLOOR HOUSE.

HOWEVER, THE DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY WEISBERG SHOW THAT THE F.B.I. WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THAT A RIFLE HAD BEEN FIRED FROM THE ALLEGED SNIPER'S WINDOW.

THE REPORTS STATE THAT THE F.B.I. LAB FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF GUN-POWDER IN OR AROUND THE WINDOW SILL; AND THAT INVESTIGATORS COULD FIND NO TRACES OF PAINT, WOOD OR SCRATCHES ON THE BARREL OF THE ALLEGED MURDER RIFLE THAT WOULD LINK IT TO THE SECOND-STORY ROOM.

WEISBERG SUGGESTS THAT RAY'S RIFLE WAS PLANTED BY UNKNOWN CONSPIRATORS IN FRONT OF THE ROOMING HOUSE TO IMPLICATE RAY WHILE THE ACTUAL ASSASSIN FIRED AT KING FROM A LOCATION OUTSIDE THE ROOMING HOUSE.

WEISBERG ALSO ALLEGES THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED "REINVESTIGATION" OF THE KING KILLING IS A "SHAM." HE CHARGES THAT THE AGENCIES CONDUCTING THE NEW PROBE ARE THE VERY SAME ONES WHICH COVERED UP ALL EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY BACK IN 1968 -- ZODIAC

Note: Weisberg's number is (301) 473-8186.

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R A7531)1z@TCZCYR

RAY

*Writer Harold Weisberg
accused FBI*

WASHINGTON, DEC 11, REUTER - THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF

INVESTIGATION WAS ACCUSED TODAY OF CONCEALING AND FAKING

EVIDENCE IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN

EFFORT TO GET A QUICK CONVICTION ~~IN THE CASE.~~

AUTHOR HAROLD WEISBERG CHARGED THAT ~~JAMES EARL RAY~~, WHO

PLEADED GUILTY TO MURDERING THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER IN MEMPHIS,

TENNESSEE, ON APRIL 4, 1968, COULD NOT HAVE FIRED THE FATAL

SHOT.

That killed King because
"RAY WAS NOT AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME," MR. WEISBERG TOLD

A PRESS CONFERENCE.

MR. WEISBERG IS THE AUTHOR OF A TWO-YEAR-OLD BOOK ENTITLED

"FRAMEUP," ALLEGING THAT RAY WAS WRONGLY ACCUSED. HE HAS ALSO

WRITTEN SEVEN BOOKS TAKING ISSUE WITH WARREN COMMISSION

FINDINGS ON THE JOHN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

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*decey they
wanted of James Earl Ray.
Weisberg - written number of books critical Warren
Report -*

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RAY 2 WASHINGTON

Weisberg says he's obtained
HE CLAIMED THAT FBI DOCUMENTS HE HAD OBTAINED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT *showing* SHOWED THAT:

-- IT WAS NOT PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE TO HAVE FIRED THE DEATH
BULLET FROM WHERE POLICE AND FBI SAID THE MURDER HAD BEEN
COMMITTED -- THE WINDOW OF A HOTEL BATHROOM OPPOSITE THE HOTEL
BALCONY WHERE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS STANDING WHEN HE WAS
King SHOT.

-- IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE FROM DR. KING'S WOUNDS
THAT THE BULLET'S TRAJECTORY LED TO THE BATHROOM WINDOW.

-- AN AUTOPSY REPORT THAT MIGHT HAVE SHOWN DR. ~~KING'S~~ FATAL
came
WOUND WAS CAUSED BY A SHOT FIRED FROM A LOWER LEVEL WAS CHANGED
BECAUSE OF THE "POLITICAL NEEDS" TO MAKE AN ARREST.

MR. WEISBERG SAID RAY HAD BEEN EXTRADITED FROM BRITAIN --
WHERE HAD FLED FOLLOWING THE MURDER -- AS A RESULT OF A
DELIBERATE DECEPTION ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
PRODUCING FBI PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTS, HE SAID THERE
WERE NO TELLTALE POWDER MARKS ON THE WINDOWSILL WHERE RAY HAD
ALLEGEDLY RESTED THE MURDER RIFLE.

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RAY 3 WASHINGTON

HE CHARGED THAT FBI PHOTOGRAPHS OF A BULLET FRAGMENT RECOVERED FROM DR. KING'S BODY WERE NOT TAKEN AT AN ANGLE THAT WOULD SHOW GROOVES THAT WOULD HAVE INDICATED WHICH RIFLE HAD FIRED IT.

THE AUTOPSY REPORT, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CHANGED TO HIDE THE FACT THAT THE BULLET HAD BLOWN APART ON IMPACT -- BECAUSE THIS WOULD HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE THE TRAJECTORY.

MR. WEISBERG ALSO SAID A LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF THE METAL FOUND ON DR. KING'S CLOTHING HAD BEEN PARTIALLY SUPPRESSED FOR THE SAME REASON.

Weisberg now says he's acting as
THE AUTHOR, WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS RAY'S INVESTIGATOR *for Ray-*
SAID HE HAD NO THEORIES ON WHO HAD KILLED DR. KING.

REUTER 1411