

3 Civil Rights Leaders Bid Ford Reopen Dr. King Death Inquiry

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 (UPI)—Three civil rights leaders urged President Ford today to reopen the investigation of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

They said two witnesses, both currently jailed on other matters, could provide evidence that Dr. King was killed as a result of a conspiracy and not by James Earl Ray acting alone.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Dick Gregory and Hosea Williams, a Georgia state legislator, led a small group of supporters in picketing the White House after sending a telegram to President Ford calling for a new investigation into Dr. King's death.

They also urged Mr. Ford "in the spirit of Thanksgiving" to ask Dr. King's family to the White House to apologize for harrassment of the black leader by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In a news conference last night, Mr. Ford said he abhorred the F.B.I.'s attempts to discredit Dr. King and thought those responsible should be brought to justice.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said yesterday that he had ordered a review of the F.B.I. investigation of Dr. King's death.

Mr. Abernathy, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Williams said any investigation should include evidence from Robert Byron Watson, who allegedly overheard a plot to assassinate Dr. King. Mr. Watson is in Federal prison at Ashland, Ky., on traffic violation convictions.

They also said a C. H. Andrews, also known as R. L. Warren, would be willing to testify to his alleged part in the plot against Dr. King if he

were granted immunity from prosecution.

Mr. Andrews, they said, is in the Mimico Correctional Institute in Toronto, Ont.

They gave not details of the testimony that either Mr. Andrews or Mr. Watson could offer.

Mrs. King Sees Conspiracy

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov. 27 (AP)—Coretta King, Dr. King's widow, said today that his assassination was apparently caused by a Government conspiracy, and that investigations into his slaying should be reopened.

"I don't have the facts, but at this stage I say it appears there was a conspiracy in the death of my husband," she said.

Mrs. King, on a three-nation African tour, arrived yesterday in Nairobi. She was interviewed before a meeting with Kenyan women leaders arranged by the United States Information Service.