

The attorney for convicted assassin James Earl Ray, Mark Lane, has set up his headquarters in Southern California. Lane's Citizens Commission of Inquiry is launching a national campaign to secure a new trial for Ray who, together with Lane, has been meeting with the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

The crusading attorney/historian has been briefing local political and news figures about explosive new information concerning the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We were present, in a select group, when Ray's new attorney played tapes of Memphis witnesses who corroborate Ray's alibi that he was at a nearby service station at 6:01 p.m. on April 4, 1968--when someone put Dr. King between the cross-hairs.

THE MAN WHO TOOK ON CITY HALL

Whatever happened to Steve Antony? Antony, you may remember, was the man who in 1964 took on City Hall when the Board of Supervisors declared eminent domain on Highland Boulevard, in order to make room for the Hollywood Film Museum (only the museum was never built). The ex-Marine and a small band of loyalists faced hundreds of sheriffs in a dramatic armed confrontation that had all of Los Angeles choosing sides.

Today, Steve Antony is a successful building contractor in Southern California but he is not forgotten. We have learned, in an exclusive interview, that Antony and independent researchers now have evidence of Supervisorial fraud in 1964. Says Antony, "They bulldozed my life like storm troopers--they must pay!" (Watch for continuing news on the Steve Antony story.)

A NATIONWIDE COMMITTEE WHICH OPPOSED THE CONTROVERSIAL "Senate Bill One" last year says that, despite reports to the contrary, S-One Is Not Dead.

The National Committee Against Repressive Legislation alleges that S-One has simply changed its name to another senate bill, S-1437. The committee's executive director, Frank Wilkinson refers to S-1437 as (quote) "Son Of S-One."

Senate Bill One, according to its critics, amounted to an "Official Secrets Act" in the United States -- punishing government employees and journalists for disclosing government secrets; increasing the ability of various police agencies to wiretap U-S citizens.

Wilkinson concedes that most of the repressive features in S-One have been deleted in the new S-1437 bill. However, he says that some very dangerous sections remain, making the new bill a serious threat to civil liberties in the United States.

He says, for example, that one section makes it a crime for a reporter or news organization to refuse to disclose confidential news sources to the police or to a court, even if a court order to do so is later ruled invalid. In addition, says Wilkinson, S-1437 defines failing to obey a "Public Safety Order" as a new crime. This section, he predicts, would be used against anti-nuclear demonstrators participating in mass sit-ins.

ECONOMIST AND WRITER JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH reports he was a bit confused when he recently obtained his F-B-I file and discovered there was a mysterious "Doctor Ware" in his background.

According to the famed economist, his F-B-I file -- obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request -- referred to a "Doctor Ware" with whom Galbraith was allegedly in contact 10 years ago. Galbraith says he was sure he had never met such a Doctor.

The economist reports he has now solved the Doctor Ware mystery: He says he discovered that when he was teaching at Princeton University, the F-B-I ran one of its periodic security checks on him.

A fellow teacher is reported to have told a visiting F-B-I agent that he (the teacher) knew nothing derogatory or disloyal about Galbraith, other than the fact that Galbraith might be considered (quote) "Doctrinaire," -- that is, fixed in his attitudes.

The agent reportedly mistook the word "Doctrinaire" for a "Doctor Ware," and for more than 10 years, Galbraith's file has indicated that he apparently was a follower of a shadowy character named Doctor Ware.

A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE says that he will press for an investigation into the backgrounds of several members of the press who have been covering the committee's activities.

Congressman Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia, the Chairperson of the subcommittee looking into the Martin Luther King assassination, says he is (quote) "annoyed" over the charge his committee is receiving from certain unnamed members of the news media.

Fauntroy, in a television interview over the weekend, declined to mention any specific journalists; but he suggested that some of them may have ties to the C.I.A., and may be deliberately stressing what Fauntroy called (quote) "Sideshow Issues" to undermine the committee's credibility.

Fauntroy charged that a (quote) "few" journalists have been repeatedly denigrating the committee's efforts by -- in his words -- (quote) "suggesting that we're coming up with nothing new".

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L. A. CONNECTION TO KING CASE

Mark Lane, the attorney for James Earl Ray, has been meeting quietly with representative of columnist Jack Anderson in L.A. They are planning a double header for Anderson's first big syndicated T.V. special. With Lane's help Anderson's guests will be--Robert Lee Vesco and James Earl Ray!

The dean of polygraph operators, L.A.'s Chris Gugas, has left for Tennessee with attorney Lane to talk to Ray and a mystery woman named Grace Stephens. Grace Stephens saw something on the day of the murder in 1968 that led authorities to rush her into a mental institution, where she has been held incommunicado for nine years, until a small Citizens Commission of Inquiry team led by Lane, himself, got into the asylum, taped a statement, and, eluding asylum guards, made their getaway. Lane now represents Grace Stephens and a habeas corpus writ is in the works. A secure "safe house" in another part of the country has been found for this victim of April 4, 1968, a woman who would not lie about what she saw.

The Citizens Commission of Inquiry has opened up a new office to handle the fast-breaking King assassination case. Volunteers can call 399-0707 or 392-7622.

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WHY FRED CAN'T READ

Big time college football is a law unto itself, or so investigators have suspected for years. Now we, and New Times Magazine, have found athletic scandal right here in Southern California.

It all began at Morningdale High School in Inglewood where Young, Black Fred B. burned up the gridiron while being excused from scholastic responsibilities. Fred's "C-plus" average (and we have seen the transcript) hid the fact that he could not read. But Fred was in the old boy system and the coach handed him on to the coach at El Camino Junior College. Now Fred's grades shot up to a "B-plus" average but when he was handed over to the coach at Cal State, Los Angeles, he still could not read--but his average (in his all-sports curriculum) remained at "B-plus!"

This was not a case of passive neglect; Fred's "B-plus" average required that public employees forge documents, commit fraud, doctor records. Fred was all washed up by 19 when his eligibility ran out and his grade average dropped to F. Fred B. is a tragic symbol, but we have learned that Junior College Board activist Wallace Albertson and other state officials, including Governor Brown, are being briefed on the Fred B. case. Will coaches and heads of English Departments go to jail? No, but this sports meat machine approach to education has to be stopped wherever it occurs.

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Happy New Year!