

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

DATE: December 22, 1970

FROM : Director, FBI

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 \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_.

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 no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department

Enc. See note attached.

ENCLOSURE

EX-112 REC 844-38861-5901

NOT RECORDED

JAN 5 1971

58 JAN 11 1971

*6-5pm*

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 PROLEPTURE 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) 547-3837

Received 12-21-70 from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] House Committee on Internal Security.  
DWB

44-38861-5901

REC OF  
CROG  
ETM

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

HATTIEBURG, MISSISSIPPI

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

HATTIEBURG, 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 Raiford Turner Hays, a Memphis private detective.

"You got the goods to prove they've ferreted 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 George's got the only living witness who knows Ray isn't the killer hidden away in a cell house as the state's got the goods," he added.

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

"It seems everyone wants to cover up the real story behind King's death," he said. "But not me. I'm going to tell what I know."

Hays said the woman who can prove Ray didn't kill King is a former nun at the Lorraine Hotel.

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

Hays identified the woman as Grace Stevens.

"She was the one who really killed King," said Hays.



Arthur Hanes, attorney for James Earl Ray, talks with lawmakers in front of the Shelby County Jail in Memphis, Tenn., where Ray was kept pending the trial.

the spot in the rooming house or the killer wouldn't have had a clear shot of King.

"The article [in King's death] had been a 'feature' in that young man's life for about four years before the assassination," he said.

"Then, on March 23, a man I found dead in bed in that rooming house. That's the day Ray goes to a store in Birmingham and gets a rifle," he said.

"And on that same [Wednesday] by their activities—if that's what you want to call it—other people seem that they're down in the trees that open to the East of the rooming house and the next night King is shot to stay," he said.

"From when King decided to go down in Memphis, he didn't think he was going to the Lorraine Hotel," Hays went on. "King thought he was going to stay at the River House Hotel—that's where he had his reservation."

"By the time King got back to Memphis, the Lorraine had been changed to the Lorraine and that's when the real game of wits started being played."

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

Miss Stevens has been a patient at Western State Mental Hospital in Bolivar, Tenn., since King was removed there 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. Mark... hospital authorities refuse to say if Scott still is on the staff, or whether Miss Stevens is, or was, a patient at the institution.

"When I got through questioning her, Scott turned to me and said 'My God, that's why they beat 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 great deal of evidence to indicate that whoever killed King didn't do the job without help," Hays said.

"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, make a diagram of it."

"This plan shows King was supposed to have been shot from two positions. Now this plan could only have been fired from

**"Ray's witness is being hid in a hotel house..."**

"I can see to see stayed by the big state detective. But he was changed. He was moved upstairs and after that his name was changed again."

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

"They made three separate efforts to get him in the right room," the detective added.

Hays told that the hotel had a great deal of power. "I could see King to get him to return to Memphis and then I could get him into the hotel room."

Hays also pointed out that the woman who was the hotel... was a... of a... that... the... of King's death.

# Rev. King's Killer Still On The Loose!

"But I got a rough statement made by a guy who heard the deal she made with King's room," he said. "The gun in her and set up the deal before he ever got there."

Ray explained that the man—former employe of the hotel—killed 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?

To add to the list of quirks in King's death, Ray 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.

**"The courts were just too much of a coincidence."**

"Either all these people suddenly developed heart trouble or some accident prone someone arranged to help them," said Ray. Battle never had a heart problem in his life, added Ray, 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 investigate his prison sentence on grounds that he pleaded guilty because of faulty advice by his attorney.

Ray has been settling a new suit on grounds that his second attorney, Perry Foreman of Boston, pressured him into pleading guilty.

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

"There's still one more place in the penitentiary 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 21, 1968.

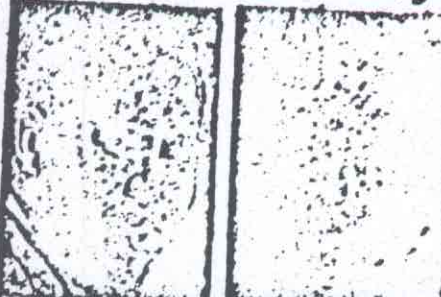
"I don't say his death is linked to the others," said Ray, "but he is the one person who could have forced a full investigation."

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

"I'm going to get my co-defendant shot by a court," vowed the investigator.

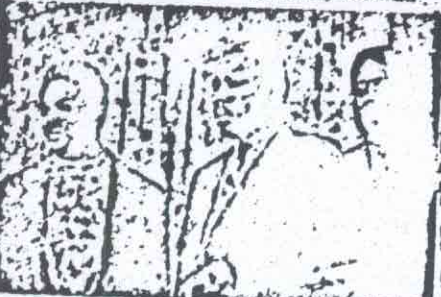
And perhaps Ray will file suit in Memphis, seeking possession of Ray's rifle. Memphis and the rifle used in the slaying is part of a \$40,000 fee he's offered by the state to stop him from being a free man.

## Says Ray Not Guilty

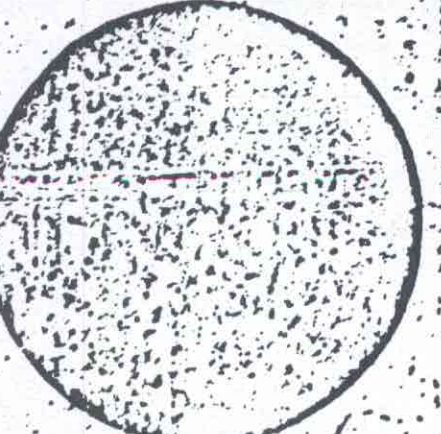


"Ray didn't kill Dr. King," says James E. Ray, the Memphis detective who worked on the case for attorney Arthur Hanes.

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



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



The killer with a rifle measured by 7 telescopic sight had a clear view of his target, Dr. M. L. King Jr. All the front had been put down to stop him from being a free man.