

Items

1. King was killed while assisting the strike of Memphis Sanitation workers Local 1733. This was a segregated local, in a union that professes to be purely anti-discriminatory. Clearly, the local had been in existence for some years without any significant help from the national office.
2. The strike was a surprise to the national leadership and any examination of the response of same would indicate that they were surprised by the action and reluctant to intervene with any semblance of alacrity,
 - (a) none of the important troubleshooters from the union were sent in at an early stage.
 - (b) the initial response of the national leadership (the only ones who could effectively intervene because there was no viable statewide or regional structure of the union in that area) was dilatory and definitely without any plan of using a broad range of techniques to garner support. No community organization.
 - (c) King filled this vacuum and there is ample evidence that the intervention of King was THE factor that led to the later national focus on the dispute.
 - (d) the first major items of support came from the trade union and civil rights forces that were antipathetic or aloof to the then involvement of the leadership of the union involved, SCME, which was involved in attacks on Reuther and closely identified with the AFL-CIO brand of civil rights, e.g., A. Phillip Randolph Institute, etc.
 - (e) the union, on a national level, was then engaged on a course of protecting the administration, the domestic and foreign policies of the AFL-CIO and a policy of "cooling it" at home. The overwhelming preoccupation of the administration with domestic tranquility, which was impossible in the event, did not become evident until later but it was so important that it of course led to Johnson's decision to hang up the cue stick.
 - (f) King's intervention in the economic issue of organizing black workers, who were already within the AFL-CIO and SCME structure had opened up the possibility of further mass confrontations throughout the south where each new organizing or bargaining situation would almost certainly meet with the intransigence shown by the Memphis council and Mayor Loeb. This would have immense coverage abroad (something not noticed by American activists but minutely scrutinized by the government,) visible and invisible.

CIA
(g) the union involved, S CME, had been forced to admit only a year earlier that it had been one of the principal conduits in money and personnel for a vast network of CIA, AIFLD, IOFTU, PSI, etc. action abroad which included the Jewish Labor Committee. The President of the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ S CME was an officer of the JLC for at least twenty years.

(h) Reuther had just finished exposing to the whole world the link between the CIA and the above named organizations.

CIA
Malcolm X
(i) Members of S CME, who were black, had been very important in CIA intervention in British Guiana and the Dominican Republic and had since had second thoughts about their work in the fifties and early sixties. King was aware of this and knew of their work. King was a "first" in violating the oft-stated rule about not mixing domestic civil rights agitation with international affairs. About this time all sorts of wierd things were happening vis-a-vis Carmichael, (the Panthers were watched by Dick Kriegel who was former a Caribbean operator of the S CME-CIA), and others. We definitely know that the CIA was prominent in this although they now say they had little to do with fingering anyone in the US? How could they even do this without being close to the internal civil rights situation? They would not have used the FBI, certainly, to get their leads for foreign investigations! They are incapable of effective cooperation with the bureau.

(j) King, who had escalated the efforts of one insignificant local (there were dozens in the same situation) in Memphis to an intense national confrontation was embarrassing the President of S CME, Meany, the local Central Labor Council and many others - who were avid-relentless-fanatical supporters of the foreign policies of the firm. The policies of some involved have changed since but any cursory look at S CME, Especially, and the others will show them as ~~1968~~ 1968 supporters of the entire machine operation abroad.

(k) King was ~~xxxx~~ paroled by Ray. Inmate: Missouri state prisons. Secretary-Treasurer of S CME nationally ex leader (by only one year) of Missouri S CME. Ray's escape from stir inexplicable. Sec-Treas of S CME had close contacts, intimate contacts, with state, county and municipal employees of Missouri.

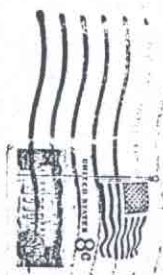
(l) Ray was originally arrested in LA after military service. Probation officer was member of LA Probation officers local of S CME. A number of investigators of mentioned the strange coincidence of the role of certain probation officers to criminals AND reporters from the LA Times and Herald Examiner were looking for Ray's LA probation officer immediately after the investigation. Person was then teaching in a community college in LA area. Never publicly interviewed and avoided any publicity. Why?

(m) Ray had lived in a hotel, frequently checked by police, in LA on Hollywood Blvd when all his business there seemed to be miles from that area. He never attempted to relocate to Long Beach (site of his bartending school) or any other location. Five blocks from the West Coast hqtrs of S CME which was then at 4949 Hollywood Blvd. He had been in that hotel for months.

(n) all of Ray's movements were presumably dependent on the mysterious contacts he had in harbor communities: New Orleans, his Canadian sojourn (the second time) and, of course, Long Beach. Curious for a midwesterner. Moreover, "Raoul" et al added another exotic touch to this. The only major contributor to the Maritime Trades Department (a fiefdom of Paul Hall) that is not a maritime union is S CME. What are civil service employees doing when their national office contributes on a regular per-capitata basis to the Maritime Trades Department??? Ronald Raouan's book on the foreign policy of the AFL-CIO should be read in connection with some of the weird internal alliances unions have as a result of their foreign policy. Ray's sojourn in Mexico even, was at a coast town.

Cover is the most important prerequisite for any covert operation. Where was the cover for the people who might have had motives to assassinate King in 1968? What groups gave them contacts, and dupes, with plausible cover.

Did the AFL-CIO discontinue operations abroad after 1968 disclosures? No. Then their personnel must have come from the US and bases here. Which groups could furnish this and fulfill the prerequisites of (a) mobility (b) plausibility (c) contact with useful personnel.



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