

Former committee chairman Louis B. Stokes commemorated the thirteenth anniversary of King's assassination with appropriate modesty in the April 1981 issue of Ebony. "I told my staff," he wrote, "that no stone was to be left unturned in an uncompromising search for the truth."

These are the words he could have read in countless FBI records, if he read those records.

Ebony's readers Stokes also gave a forthright description of the committee's investigation of the assassination: "We not only investigated the movements of James Earl Ray and persons associated with him; we also investigated reports and rumors that the FBI or some public agency or secret group was involved in the assassination."

In this unintended honesty Stokes revealed the preconception that coincides instant vision, precisely with J. Edgar Hoover's ~~preconception~~ that Ray was the assassin. Like Hoover, Stokes saw to it that there was no investigation of the crime. There was only the effort to make it appear that Ray was the assassin. Like Hoover, Stokes saw to it that and of these, only the least credible ~~reports of~~ allegations of a conspiracy were looked into, those involving Ray as the assassin.

Stokes' article is a tired rehash of the FBI's solution, as was his committee's. Neither Stokes nor the committee's report said anything else, except for the irrelevancies with which the FBI booby-trapped the committee. The committee grasped greedily at the glittering trash the FBI scattered to take its eye and attention. This fool's gold was the committee's treasure.

