

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police hand U.S. probers file on Ray

BY HAROLD KENNEDY
News staff writer

Birmingham's voluminous file on James Earl Ray—probably the most complete file anywhere on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s convicted assassin—was turned over to the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations by the city's Police Department last week.

The file was put together over a period of about a year by then-Sgt. Jack LeGrand, now a captain with the Birmingham Police Department, sources said.

LeGrand and Sgt. C.R. Jones traced Ray's movements from a time well before he came to Birmingham prior to the King shooting to a time after the civil rights leader was slain.

The Birmingham files include information on when Ray came to Birmingham, where and how long he stayed, his acquaintances, his movements in and out of the city (including a trip to California), and his possible connection with a right-wing group headquartered in West End.

The files contain such detailed information as where and how much Ray paid for the gun bought in Birmingham and used to gun down Dr. King, where and how much he paid for a car that was

found parked in an Atlanta housing project parking lot several days after King's death.

Two top agents of the Select Committee spent two days in Birmingham (Thursday and Friday) last week acquiring the files, which contained information on eight different people, Capt. LeGrand said Wednesday.

Two of the people, he said, are Canadians and six have lived or still live

in Birmingham. He would not release any of the names, but said they all are connected with the Ray investigation.

"This information was provided and any other information they request at future dates will be provided by this department," LeGrand said.

There was some indication that LeGrand may later be summoned before the Select Committee to give personal testimony, though no such re-

quest has yet been made, according to sources.

Ray lived in Birmingham for some time prior to King's assassination, using mainly the name Eric Starvo Galt. But he used a half dozen or more other aliases, too.

During most of his stay here, he lived in a Highland Avenue boarding house.

Ray also took and passed a drivers license test while in Birmingham, the files show, and there is

strong evidence he was still in Birmingham as late as two weeks prior to Dr. King's death.

Dr. King flew into Birmingham about that time, for one of a series of speeches he was making throughout the South to work up support for his planned Washington march. He made his talk at a Bessemer church.

"He was kept under close surveillance by the Birmingham Police Department from the time

his plane landed at Municipal Airport until he left the next day to assure that nothing happened to him while here," said Maurice H. House, retired Birmingham police captain who headed the detective division during LeGrand and Jones' investigation of Ray's Birmingham movements. "And after Dr. King was killed, LeGrand did about as complete an investigation as possible on Ray. It's all in the files."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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The Birmingham Ne
Birmingham, Ala.

Date: 3/17/77

Edition:

Author: Harold Kenned

Editor: John W. Bloom

Title: MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-174

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

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