and World

vast murder conspiracy, not a lone assassin. rights leader was the victim of a MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A jury hearing a lawsuit filed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s family Wednesday that the civil

claimed six years ago that he paid The family's lawyer claimed that the FBI, CIA, the Mafia and the mil-Ray to kill King in Memphis in 1968. Jowers, a retired businessman who The King family had sued Loyd

lend support to their call for a new investigation into the killing. Prosecutors have long said that they are convinced Ray fired the fatal shot and that they could find no evidence itary were involved.

The family wanted the jury to find evidence of a conspiracy and

tions, the jury of six blacks and six suit. After three hours of deliberaamount in their wrongful-death lawanyone else was involved. The Kings asked for only a token

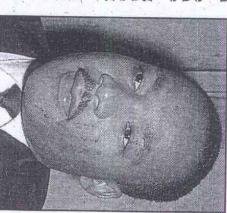
> whites awarded the family \$100 in damages.

always asked for." "I'm just so happy to see that the people have spoken," King's son Dexter said. "This is what we've

ease last year. Ray confessed to shooting King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He spent the rest of his life to get a trial. He died of liver disclaiming to be innocent and trying

Ray's guilty plea was upheld eight times by state and federal ernment involvement. courts. A congressional committee The committee did not find any govconcluded in 1978 that Ray was the before or after the assassination killer but that he may have had help

huge march on Washington. ing the Mafia and federal agents to kill King because of his opposition to the Vietnam War and plans for a 73, was part of a conspiracy involvlawyer, told the jury that Mr. Jowers, William Pepper, the Kings'



Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.

New Orleans to a Memphis produce from the head of organized crime in In his closing argument, Mr. Pep-per said the order to kill King came dealer who got Mr. Jowers to handle

> Mr. Pepper claimed. Army sniper squad was in place to shoot King if the Mafia hit failed, the payoff and murder weapon. An

history. efforts to get a trial. Mr. Pepper who also represented Ray in his city officials helped cover up the assassination, said Mr. Pepper, told the jurors they could rewrite Army intelligence and state and Later, the FBI, CIA, the media

Lewis Garrison, Mr. Jowers' lawyer, told the jury that while they could reasonably conclude King client's role was minor at best was the victim of a conspiracy, his

purported killer, but said it wasn't favor to an underworld figure who was a friend. He did not identify the TV that he hired King's killer as a In 1993, Mr. Jowers said on ABC

Ray.
Mr. Jowers, of the trial and did not testify. recanted it either, was sick for much repeated the claim but has not who has never