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San Francisco Chronicle

# NATION

S.F. CHRONICLE - 4/3/98



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## Remembering King's Legacy

**B**uddhist monk Konomu Utsumi played a drum along Highway 61 in Tennessee yesterday in the walk to commemorate the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. About 50 marchers took part. The march began January 20

in Atlanta and has passed through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. About 15 people have walked the entire trip, which concludes in Memphis tomorrow, the 30th anniversary of King's death.

# King's Widow Wants New Probe

Citing new evidence, she calls on Clinton to form commission

Washington Post

Atlanta

The widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called on President Clinton yesterday to appoint a commission to examine what she said is "mounting evidence" of James Earl Ray's claim that he was set up as the assassin of the famed civil rights leader.

Coretta Scott King, speaking near her husband's crypt at Atlanta's Martin Luther King Jr. Center two days before the 30th anniversary of his death, repeated her family's recent claims of Ray's "innocence" and called for a meeting with the president to discuss "new evidence" in her husband's assassination.

The King assassination has been investigated by a congressional committee and numerous local law enforcement agencies, all of which concluded that Ray was the shooter. The congressional inquiry left open the possibility that Ray may have received assistance from others, but rejected the notion of a government conspiracy.

A news release accompanying Coretta King's statement offered a series of alleged facts that have accumulated in the past several years — many of which have been examined in previous inquiries.

"I had hoped that the emergence of new evidence over time would lead to a trial for Mr. Ray without my family's intervention or involvement," King said. "As new evidence accumulated, we became increasingly convinced that he was in fact innocent of killing my husband. But still the authorities refused to give



Coretta Scott King spoke near her husband's crypt at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta

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him a trial."

White House spokesman Barry Toiv said officials there were unaware of King's request and would have no immediate comment.

Coretta King's statement brings renewed controversy to the circumstances surrounding the assassination of the civil rights leader, who was gunned down as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel on April 4, 1968. Ray originally pleaded guilty to the crime, but tried to recant three days later.

Many people — including a series of Ray's attorneys and close associates of King — have claimed that Ray was not the murderer, or at least that he did not act alone.

Others, including Jesse Jackson, former Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joseph E. Lowery Jr. and Representative John Lewis, D-Ga., have speculated that King's assassination grew out of a conspiracy, although they stop far short of absolving Ray. Many of those leaders suspect government complicity in King's death, noting the fact that King was hated and harassed by late

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

Skepticism is rife among the American public. A poll taken for CBS News last month found that only 1 in 10 Americans believe Ray acted alone — a figure that has remained consistent over the years.

In his legal attempts to win a trial, Ray has offered numerous theories of the murder. Once, he said it was a plot hatched by King's own inner circle. At other times, he has told a series of stories centering on a mysterious gun runner he knew only as "Raoul," whom Ray claims framed him to take the blame for the crime.

Despite Ray's credibility problems, his claims of innocence received renewed attention last year when they won the public support of the King family.

Coretta King was joined at her news conference by three of her children; former Washington, D.C., House Delegate Walter Fauntroy, who chaired the congressional subcommittee that investigated King's assassination; and former U.N. ambassador Andrew Young, a longtime King family confidant.