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FBI Disputes 'Evidence' of King Conspiracy

Former agent's claim called a fabrication

Associated Press

Memphis, Tenn.

A former FBI agent's claim that he found evidence supporting James Earl Ray's assertion of a frame-up in the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is a "total fabrication," an FBI spokesman said yesterday.

Former agent Donald Wilson said he discovered the evidence — two slips of paper — in Ray's car six days after King was killed by a sniper in Memphis on April 4, 1968, but did not tell anyone.

FBI records, however, show that Wilson was not among the five agents who searched the car.

"He is alleging something that as far as we're concerned is a total fabrication," FBI spokesman Frank Scafidi said from bureau headquarters in Washington.

Wilson said Tuesday that he took two slips of paper from Ray's car. Both had the name "Raul" written on them. Ray has argued for 30 years that he was set up to take the blame for the murder by an underworld figure he knew only as Raoul.

Ray's attorney, William Pepper, dismissed Scafidi's comments as part of an FBI "disinformation campaign." Wilson was not part of the search team, Pepper acknowledged, but had access to the vehicle before it was hauled to FBI headquarters in Atlanta and checked by agents.