

Prosecutor: Ray killed King and that's that

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The district attorney yesterday said a re-investigation of the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. found no evidence that anyone other than James Earl Ray committed the crime.

"There is simply no credible evidence to support a new trial for Mr. Ray," Bill Gibbons said. "The evidence against him is overwhelming." Gibbons' probe began last year after King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and son Dexter said Ray should receive a trial to clear up lingering suspicions of a conspiracy in the April 4, 1968, assassination in Memphis.

He said his investigation was limited to whether Ray had an accomplice, and did not go into wide-ranging conspiracy theories alleging involvement by the government and organized crime.

"Any such investigation is for someone else with a different mission or purpose," he said. Ray, now 70 and in poor health, avoided a death sentence by pleading guilty in 1969 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison after a rifle belonging to Ray with his fingerprints on it was found at the murder scene. Ray later recanted his confession and con-

tended he was framed by an underworld figure named Raoul.

Gibbons' investigation found no evidence such a man was involved in a plot. He also dismissed a claim by a Memphis cafe owner who said he had received \$100,000 to arrange King's murder. The man apparently made up the story to try to make money, Gibbons said.

Gibbons said his investigators were not able to take a new statement from Ray because of his condition. Ray suffers from liver disease and been in and out of a coma in recent months.