

# FBI says former agent's claim in Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — 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 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.

A former agent who did search the car supported Scafidi's statement, as did the lead state prosecutor in the Ray case.

Wilson made his claim Tuesday at a news conference in Atlanta with Ray's attorney William Pepper.

Pepper said Wilson took two slips of paper from Ray's car. Both had the name "Raul" written on them, and one detailed "a laundry list of payments to other people and other entities," Pepper said.

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 Raul. No evidence of Raul's existence has ever been found by prosecutors.

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, said Tuesday she wants an investigation into

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## case 'total fabrication'

Wilson's claim.

Ray, now 70, confessed to the crime and pleaded guilty in 1969 but recanted three days later and has sought a trial since then. He is serving a 99-year sentence and has been in poor health because of liver disease.

Ray's white Mustang was found in an Atlanta housing project after King was killed. Wilson found the papers but kept them from his superiors because he did not trust them, according to Pepper.

Neither Pepper nor Wilson said why he

waited 30 years to come forward.

According to FBI records, however, Wilson's only involvement in the Ray case was checking on some Western Union money orders cashed through an Atlanta bank, Scafidi said.

Retired FBI agent Carl E. Claiborne did search the car. From his home in Knoxville, Claiborne said he did not know Wilson and "he wasn't there" during the search.

Neither Pepper nor Wilson could be reached for comment yesterday.