

the

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30¢

New Evidence Shows How

**Martin Luther King
Was A**

FBI Helped

**Murder
Conspiracy**

Like shattered glass, the evidence of conspiracy in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is all around.

Only it has taken until now for someone to pick up the pieces. The man doing it is Mark Lane, lawyer, author and assassination bloodhound.

What he has found, so far, is proof "beyond a doubt" that there WAS a conspiracy... and that the FBI and the Secret Service played a major part.

Lane, who wrote "Rush to Judgment," perhaps the most important book about the JFK assassination, and TV writer Abby Mann, went back to Memphis. They interviewed everyone in any way connected with the tragic events of April 4, 1968.

Their conclusion: James Earl Ray, now serving a 99-year murder rap, was framed.

In an exclusive interview with MIDDNIGHT, Lane gave the following remarkable account of his investigation.

"Dr. King had come to Memphis to address a meeting at the Mason Temple on behalf of the sanitation workers, and was greeted on his arrival by numerous death threats, and one very serious threat in particular.

"This highly volatile situation found the Memphis police responding by REDUCING King's security from 10 officers to just two.

"The command post for protecting King was Fire Station Two, just a few yards from the Lorraine Motel balcony, where the civil rights leader was slain.

"At the moment the fatal shot was fired, neither one of the policemen assigned to protect King was anywhere around.

"Where were they?"

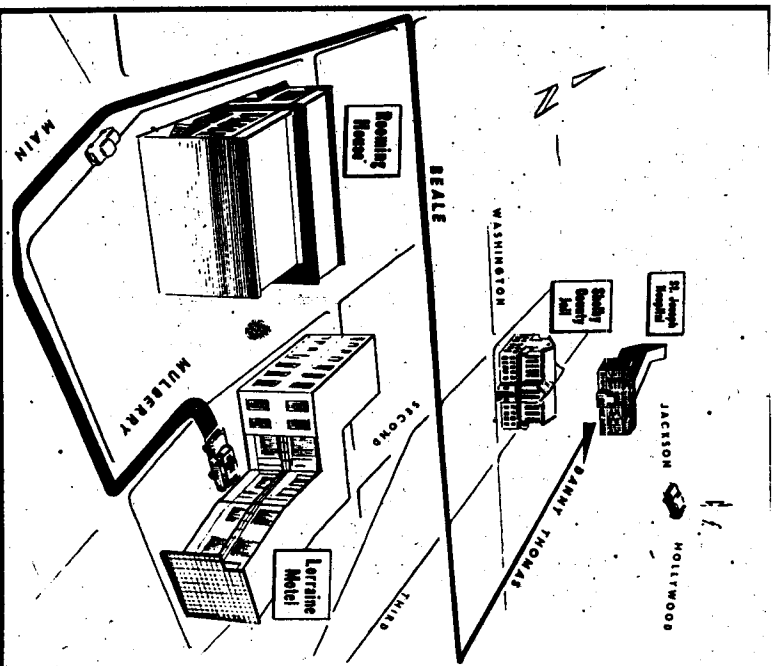
"The men assigned as his security were Detective Ed Redditt and Patrolman W.B. Richmond. Redditt, known to King's people as a trustworthy, competent and thorough officer, had been requested for the detail by King's friends.

"He was surprised that his entire



MARK LANE: "The total objective of the FBI Atlanta office was to somehow or other get King..."

detail consisted of just one assistant. And he was further surprised — suspicious even — when it seemed that Richmond's job was not so much to help him, as to spy on



MAP OF THE AREA shows Ray's rooming house, King's motel and the route taken by the ambulance to the hospital.

him for the police department.

"According to Redditt, at approximately four o'clock the afternoon of the slaying, he was urgently summoned from the fire station to the office of Frank Holloman, the Memphis Director of the Police and Fire Departments.

"It's interesting that before assuming this unusual double directorship, Holloman had been with the FBI for 25 years, including service as the top agent in Atlanta, where Dr. King lived. Holloman had also been in charge of J. Edgar Hoover's personal office in Washington.

"Redditt was reluctant, angry in fact, about leaving his post. He became even more upset when he got to Holloman's office and found a Secret Service agent, just arrived from Washington, carrying the news that an organized crime 'contract' had supposedly been put out on Redditt's life.

"Redditt found this difficult to believe and he also considered it incredible that the Secret Service was extending its security beyond the President and Vice President to protect a previously unknown Memphis police officer.

"And why, he wondered, wouldn't a phone call have sufficed rather than the Secret Service agent taking several perhaps crucial hours to fly with the news from Washington?

"Redditt was ordered home, with two policemen accompanying him, apparently for his own protection.

"Redditt remembered arriving at his house. 'We were sitting there in the car with the radio on, right in front of my house. I was wondering what this was all about and what was happening at the Lorraine Motel in my absence, when the announcer interrupted the broadcast to announce that Dr. King had just been shot.'

"For two days, the police remained at Redditt's house. Then he was allowed to go back to work. 'What about the contract on my life?' he asked. He never heard another word about it.

"As for his assistant, Patrolman Richmond, he had been at the police station, far away from Dr. King, when the shot was fired."

In his recent investigation, Lane spoke with the only two black firemen at Station No. 2 — Floyd Newsom and N. E. Wallace. It turns out that the night before Dr. King's murder, both were mysteriously transferred to another fire station and replaced by two white firemen. Lane considers this "witness stripping" of the most obvious kind.

Lane also managed to interview Frank Holloman, the director of police and fire departments, and the man responsible for taking Detective Redditt away from the scene of the murder.

Holloman admitted to reducing security around King despite the

threats on his life and he admitted to not replacing Redditt when the detective was called off the job.

Still, Holloman told Lane that he never even considered that the Secret Service order removing Redditt as head of security for Dr. King could have been a part of any conspiracy.

As a final statement, Holloman told Lane. "I have absolutely nothing to apologize for regarding anything the FBI and Mr. Hoover did for all the years that I was there."

Another top FBI agent feels differently. He is a retired 20-year man named Arthur Murtagh and he spoke openly to Mark Lane, particularly about the period of his career spent in Atlanta.

"Murtagh revealed that the eight-man intelligence squad in the Atlanta office was charged with the responsibility of destroying Dr. King," Lane told MIDNIGHT.

Murtagh's exact words were, "Their total objective in life was to somehow or other get King, to bring him down, break him or destroy him."

It was this Atlanta squad, Lane says, that sent the notes to King suggesting he kill himself. And it was these same agents who arranged for the illegal wiretaps at King's home. This was all uncovered by the Special Senate Committee investigation into the FBI.

Murtagh was with an assistant supervisor of the Atlanta FBI office when the news came that Dr. King had been shot. "I hope the son of a bitch dies," the agent said to Murtagh. "And, when moments later the

sad news of King's death came, the agent "literally jumped with joy."

Then, according to Murtagh, the agent said, "They got Zorro, the son of a b____. They finally got the b____."

Zorro was the FBI code name for Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Martin Luther King.

Responsibility for investigating the assassination was, of course, turned over to Hoover and the FBI.

Mark Lane considers this an abomination of justice.

"In an ordinary case," he explained, "when someone gets killed the police ask, 'Did he have any enemies?'"

"Dr. King had a number of enemies and among those enemies were those who tried to have him end his life — the FBI Atlanta Intelligence Squad and J. Edgar Hoover.

"The most remarkable thing that I uncovered was the fact that this squad, which would ordinarily be prime suspects, conducted the entire investigation for the United States government into the question of who killed Dr. King.

"So you had the prime suspects doing the investigating and they say there was no conspiracy!"

This is what Mark Lane uncovered in his recent investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Add to it the information he had already — information gathered in Memphis within days of the murder in April of 1968 — and the conspiracy theory gains even more credence.

Lane interviewed Charles Q. Stephens, the key witness against

Make It All Possible



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.: The bullet taken from his body could not be matched to Ray's rifle, says Mark Lane.

James Earl Ray — the witness who said he saw a man with a rifle in his hand, fleeing the scene.

"The description that Stephens gave me precluded the possibility that he had seen Ray," Lane said. "And after I spoke with him, Stephens was jailed as a material witness."

Lane also interviewed the landlady at Ray's boarding house from where the shot was supposedly fired. She couldn't identify Ray as the man who rented the room, Lane said.

One further incredible fact, according to Lane, is that the FBI conceded that the bullet taken from Dr. King's body could not be

matched to Ray's rifle.

"And when captured, Ray steadfastly insisted that he was innocent," Lane said. "He was coerced into pleading guilty by his attorney, upon promise of almost certain death if he did not."

"According to Ray, his attorney offered him a huge sum of money if he would plead guilty and refrain from any embarrassing situations in court."

"Nevertheless," Lane continued, "when Ray did plead guilty, he said in open court that there had been a conspiracy to kill Dr. King."

Later Ray asked permission to change his plea to "not guilty," but before a decision was made, the



JAMES EARL RAY was told the only way to save his life was to plead guilty. He got 99 years.

judge who tried the case died.

"Under Tennessee law," Lane, a lawyer, explained, "an application for a new trial is automatically granted if the trial judge should die while the application is pending before him."

"But this was not to be the case, the new judge ruled."

Largely as a result of Mark Lane's work, the new government Select Committee on Assassinations is re-examining the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the circumstances surrounding its investigation.

Much of the evidence the government will weigh is here, for the first time, in MIDNIGHT.