

By HAL LIPPER

A lawyer who has spent nine years investigating the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is charging that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is responsible for the civil rights leader's death.

"All evidence now available points toward the FBI



LANE

as the prime suspect in the murder of Dr. King," claimed Mark Lane, director of the Citizens Commission of Inquiry in Washington, D.C.

"The American people have not been given the details about the pathological hatred that J. Edgar Hoover's FBI portrayed toward Dr. King," he said.

Lane is co-author of "Code Name 'Zorro,'" a book about the FBI's involvement in the assassination. "Zorro" was the FBI's code name for Dr. King.

Last night in Pittsburgh, Lane raised several issues about the shooting that have gone unanswered:

✓ He charged the FBI influenced news stories to get Dr. King to change his Memphis hotel to the Hotel Lorraine on April 4, 1968, the day of his assassination.

✓ He questioned why the FBI's death inquiry couldn't explain why two black firemen — potential witnesses — were transferred from their posts across the street the night before the shooting.

✓ Or why the police officer in charge of security at the hotel was removed from duty just before the assassination.

✓ And, he questioned why the FBI took 15 days to begin hunting escaped convict James Earl Ray, when his finger-prints were allegedly found on the rifle hours after the slaying.

"The investigation into Dr. King's death was made by the FBI's 'Destroy King Squad' which had originally been formed to discredit his civil rights movement.

"My own belief is that all the evidence is not available," he said.

Lane noted the director of the Memphis fire and police departments was a former high-ranking FBI agent.

He said the director, Frank Holloman, was responsible for the transfer of the two firemen and the head of security prior to Dr. King's death.

"Yet Holloman has never been questioned under oath as to why the transfers were made, or why Dr. King's security force dwindled from 12 to 10 to two," Lane said.

"Code Name 'Zorro'" traces Dr. King's legacy from the busing demonstrations in Montgomery, Ala. until his death in Memphis.

It portrays Hoover's fear of the allegedly communist-inspired Dr. King and how the paranoia spread through the bureau.

Lane delves into inconsistencies surrounding the black leader's death and the investigation that followed. He details Ray's trial and the convicted murderer's later plea of innocence.

Lane is well-known for his book "Rush to Judgment" which blasts the Warren Commission's investigation into the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

That book theorizes that more than one gunman was involved in the Dallas, Tex. shooting.

Lane ran as a vice presidential candidate in 1968 when comedian Dick Gregory ran for president. Gregory helped write the book.

Blames FBI

Pittsburgh Press
6-1-77

Lawyer Has King Death Question List