UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM

SA RICHARD M. WOOLF

SUBJECT:

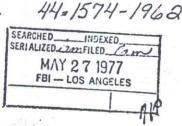
MURKIN

On 5/16/77, LES SUZUKAMO, reporter, UCLA "Daily Bruin" telephone 825-2638, telephonically advised that MARK LANE had made an appearance at UCLA on 5/16/77, and had talked about his new book concerning the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Among other things, according to SUZAKAMO, LANE alleges that the FBI was responsible for the death of KING, that the FBI had no basis for investigating KING, that the FBI conducted an illegal wiretap of KING, etc.

In response to inquiry, SUZAKAMO was furnished information as set forth in Bureau letter dated 4/21/76, entitled, "MEDIA RELATIONS, RESPONSE TO CRITICISM OF FBI CONCERNING ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

For information.

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DATE: 5/2

HP .

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Man Loses Reward In King Murder

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The man who led police to the rifle which investigators believe killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was denied a \$100,000 reward Monday offered for help in convicting the killer.

Charles Quitman Stochens, who lived in the rooming house where the shot that killed King was fired on April 4, 1963, told police then that he saw a man running from a bathroom carrying a long package. A rifle with the finger-prints of James Earl Ray was found inside later.

Ray now is serving a 99-year sentence at Brushy Mountain State Prison after pleading gualty to murder in King's feath.

Stephens was held in the Shelby County jail at Memphis after the slaying as a material witness in the case.

Judge Charles A. Rond denied the rewards because Stephens gave police most of his information before the rewards were posted and it did not lead "to the identification and arrest of James Earl Ray as murderer."

The state Court of Appeals upheld Judge Rond's ruling. Judge Charles E. Nearne dissented from that portion which held, in effect, that Stephens' giving information to the police before the rewards were posted disqualified him.

If that were the case, Nearne said, it would encourage citizens to wait "until the pot is right" before giving information to police.

Nearne agreed Stephens' information was not essential to the case against Ray, which Ray still is fighting despite his guilty plea.

The Memphis Publishing Co. had offered \$50,000 of the reward. Other donors included: The Memphis Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Association and Future Memphis Inc., \$25,000; Mrs. Wells Awsumb, \$1,000; National Alliance of Postal Employes, \$10,000; City of Memphis, \$5,000; city councilmen, \$8,915, plus \$85 in cash donations.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-9 HERALD EXAMINER LOS ANGELES, CA

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> MAY 2.4.1977 FEI - LOS ANGELES

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FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

By JOY HOROWITZ Herard Examiner Staff Writer

James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Martin Luther Jr., escaped from the Brushy Mountain Penitentiary a k and a half ago not to flee prison, but to "escape into a troom," one of his lawyers has said.

In an exclusive interview with The Herald-Examiner, rney Mark Lane, of Washington, D.C., said that Ray, has attempted to be tried for the murder of King, fled o prison so that his case could finally come to trial.

"What he had planned was if he got off the (prison)

and escaped from the mountainous regions of Tennesand got to a population center, he was going to call his rney and have him negotiate with the government — e and federal." Lane said.

"The terms he had in mind when he escaped were that would surrender if he was guaranteed a trial," Lane

Ray never has been tried for king's murder since he red a guilty plea on March 10, 1969. The U.S. Supreme it recently refused to allow him to withdraw his guilty

"In essence," said Lane, who became Ray's attorney days ago along with Tennessee attorney Jack Kershaw, was not trying so much to escape from the Brushy intain Penitentiary as to escape into a courtroom."

Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison sentence, has ned that his original guilty plea was coerced by his er at the time, Percy Foreman.

Ray claims a mysterious man named "Raoul" ashed the money for a rifle Ray bought which was arently used to kill King in Memphis on April 4, 1968. But he has said he did not know "Raoul" planned on

Aing King.

Ray is expected to be indicted for escaping prison, a ny, by a Tennessee grand jury next week.
Cane said his legal strategy will be to try the case of

murder of Martin Luther King in Ray's escape trial.

"It is our contention that Ray is wrongfully at the tentiary in the first place because he was coerced...into ding guilty, and therefore, he cannot lawfully escape," e declared.

"The trial of the death of Martin Luther King has er taken place. We hope to turn the trial of James Earl for escaping into the first legal confrontation of the ence about who killed Dr. King."

Lane, who said he last spoke with Ray April 23, said he will attempt to call key witnesses involved with the assassination, including "all the people in the FEI who terminaed the destroy-ling squad" and fermer Mem-Police Chef Frank Holloman, a J. Ed. ar Hoover dante and the man who was responsible for reducing security surrounding King the day he was killed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 HERALD EXAMINER LOS ANGELES, CA

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FBI/F

Lane further charged that the FBI had no lawful jurisdiction in trying to apprehend Ray since he was charged with a state crime, not a federal one.

"Kershaw (Ray's other attorney) has informed me that one prisoner picked up (before Ray was captured) was actually beaten by an FBI agent for the purpose of forcing him to tell where Ray was because the FBI was anxious to capture Ray before the local authorities did," Lane claimed.

"The rest of that is go ng to be told in affidavits in court."