

Mark Lane, Investigator Of King's Killing, Hints

THE "ESCAPE" of James Earl Ray and his recapture look like a phony, fishy deal — part of the conspiracy to cover up the truth about the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

So believes the foremost investigator of that killing, Mark Lane, former member of the New York State Legislature, director of the Citizens Committee of Inquiry, and author, with Dick Gregory, of the recent book about the King murder, "Code Name Zorro," published by Prentice-Hall.

Without even having time to figure out all the angles and what they mean, Lane, who interviewed Ray several weeks ago in prison, told MIDNIGHT/GLOBE immediately after Ray's recapture:

"Two things about the so-called escape are extremely peculiar.

"I visited that prison, Brushy Mountain state penitentiary, in Tennessee as recently as April 23 and talked to the warden. It is a maximum-maximum security prison and the warden told me he had a special watch made of Ray. Even to enter as far as the prison library, where I interviewed Ray, I had to pass two sets of armed guards and five separate sets of steel doors; when one set opens, another set is closed.

"Ray came to meet me there from the bowels of the prison and I don't know how many more guards had to check him through.

"That makes it very strange that this watched, guarded man could escape. The second thing difficult to understand is why six others chose to try to escape with him. It doesn't make sense. If one of those prisoners had made a break on his own, well, they might send out a bloodhound and a couple of officers to look for him — but with Ray, it has to be packs of bloodhounds, every available man, helicopters, the whole works."

Lane believes there is visible the shape of an FBI plot behind much that has happened to Ray.

"Every time I have seen Ray," he said, "he told me, 'If I could get the FBI file I could break the case.'" Lane contends Ray's legal defenses have been poorly prepared, with every appeal lost. Ray's former attorney was against the Congressional select committee to investigate the assassination, while Lane contends Ray's only hope is to testify before that



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THE STRANGE TALE OF JAMES EARL RAY'S JAIL BREAK

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committee.
 The late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, nursed a hatred of Dr. King so great he attempted to force the civil rights leader to commit suicide by threatening him with scandal. This fact was revealed in hearings of the

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.
 Whoever masterminded the jailbreak plot, Ray lent himself to it out of despair, without even considering what may have been behind it. Many people believe it could have been a devious

FBI Behind 'Fishy' Escape



WEARY, HUNGRY AND COVERED WITH MUD, James Earl Ray, convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is led back to prison by Warden Stonney Laine.

GLOBE EXCLUSIVE
 By Harry Altshuler

investigation. Lane related: "The last time Ray talked to his brother Jerry, just a week ago, he told Jerry, 'I feel there's no hope now of getting the facts out; I'll have to try some other way.' Jerry didn't realize at the time that he might mean an escape attempt."

Lane feels that Ray, serving a 99-year term for the King murder, was framed; that there was actually a conspiracy to get rid of Dr. King and that others were involved; that the FBI at best was reluctant to pursue the case vigorously. And that the police in Memphis, where the

tragic shooting occurred on April 4, 1968, were lax. He cites that just before the assassination Dr. King's police guard was reduced from 10 men to two. And at the moment of the shot, one of those two couldn't be found.

Ray's hiding place was snuffed out by a bloodhound, after three full days at large. He was found in a wooded area less than five miles from the prison, under a pile of leaves he had pulled over himself. Dirty, unshaven and hungry, he put up no resistance, saying to his captors, "Now I feel good."

plan to get Ray killed and thus close his mouth forever.

But Ray was, he felt, in a hopeless position, with the select committee being attacked in sections of the press, and little hope of new