

Ray contends evidence may be a mistake

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WASHINGTON (AP) — James Earl Ray told House investigators Thursday he would take the blame for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination "right here on television" if they could prove he was in Atlanta three days before.

The House assassinations committee then displayed evidence that he was, but Ray countered by saying the commit-

tee's evidence was wrong. In response to the presentation, Ray suggested that the evidence "might be a mistake ... or some kind of forged document."

The exchange came as lawmakers zeroed in on the convicted assassin's oft-told story that he was framed for King's slaying by a man identified only as Raoul.

The committee suggested that Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison term for King's assassination, had been stalking King. The committee produced evidence that Ray was in Selma, Ala., the day after King visited there two weeks before the assassination. And it submitted evidence purporting to show that Ray was in Atlanta just days before the murder.

"I know I didn't return to Atlanta," Ray swore under oath, "and if I did, well, I'll just take responsibility for the King case right here on TV." Ray, who pleaded guilty to killing King but recanted three days later, was referring to live television coverage of the hearings.

The committee then displayed a huge blowup of two laundry tickets showing Eric S. Galt, the alias Ray agreed he was using, put clothes in the Piedmont Laundry in Atlanta April 1.

And then it produced a transcript quoting Jimmy Delton Garner, operator of Garner's Rooming House in Atlanta as saying Ray was there the day before and paid him \$10.50 rent.

"Well, he's in error," Ray told Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio.