



jake mc carthy

a personal opinion

Mark Lane's Case

...a attorney...
 ...evidence...
 ...person...
 ...James Earl...
 ...Ray...
 ...Dr. Martin Luther...
 ...Memphis...
 ...board...
 ...fatal shot...
 ...she saw...
 ...bathroom...
 ...had...
 ...James Earl...
 ...she was...
 ...insane...
 ...remained...
 ...Lane recently...
 ...he says...
 ...examined...
 ...psychiatrists...
 ...he was never...
 ...condition...
 ...administered...
 ...the first...
 ...preparing...
 ...St. Louis...
 ...every law...
 ...her inear...

...fact, he contend...
 ...notation in her records...
 ...to be held until...
 ...of James Earl Ray...
 ...1968...
 ...said, the re...
 ...was "ecorn...
 ...But the author...
 ...now...
 ...years...
 ...appeared to be that...
 ...as a man...
 ...in his...
 ...Ray, 6'11", with...
 ...Lane said: It...
 ...description of...
 ...3-foot-11 and was...
 ...at the time.

...the description she gives...
 ...also the description she...
 ...the killing...
 ...Chastain, the...
 ...Chastain...
 ...Lane, a...
 ...had inter...

...was arrested, says...
 ...Walden said that's...
 ...later, he...
 ...of the homicide...
 ...had...
 ...when...
 ...staying in the...
 ...house with a man named...
 ...Stephens. According to...
 ...Lane played for me, the...
 ...investigator of...
 ...said only recently that...
 ...their case witness, as if...
 ...didn't exist. He also...
 ...Stephens was...
 ...state at the time...
 ...be playing.

...are records, Lane says...
 ...never refused...
 ...because Stephens was too...
 ...problem...
 ...description Stephens...
 ...the killing...
 ...the driver, not...

Buffs of conspiracy theories may wish to take note. A study of newspaper clippings at the time shows Stephens and the proprietor of the boarding house being quoted as to the appearance of the killer. The government declares that Stephens is its only witness, even if he was drunk, Grace Walden has never been acknowledged; instead, they put her away. Her description of the fugitive does not match Ray. Yet the clippings show that at the time immediately following the killing, the FBI was putting out a description which matched that of James Earl Ray. If a man was going to be "set up," that's one way to do it.

Mark Lane wants a new trial because he wants to raise some questions about such matters. One of them involves the gun and suitcase the assassin left behind.

Ray has contended he was "killed" for a mysterious man named Raoul and someone else, probably a professional hit man who could sever Dr. King's spinal cord with a

single shot. Ray was never a gunman.

Lane also contends that the bullet which struck Dr. King cannot be matched as coming from the gun that the killer conveniently left outside the boarding house as he made his escape. That gun bore Ray's fingerprints. Ray says Raoul had him purchase a gun for him and bring it to Memphis.

Even more curiously, while the killer was depositing this gun for authorities to find, he also thoughtfully left a suitcase of belongings which included, says Lane, a radio bearing the name of James Earl Ray. Despite this identification by name, Lane asserts, the FBI waited two weeks to announce that it was looking for James Earl Ray, and at first used one of the aliases Ray admits using while running contraband for Raoul. This was a different name from the one Ray used in registering at the boarding house.

The government explains the strange abandonment of evidence, Lane said, by suggesting that Ray wished to be known as the killer of Dr. King. "If he wanted the credit," says Lane, "why has he been denying it ever since? And if he was trying to escape in the white Mustang, why would he leave the gun and the suitcase on the street?"

The registration book from the boarding house was seized by the FBI immediately after the killing but has since disappeared, Lane also maintains. "Maybe there is some other information in that book," he said the other day.

And he charged that "the two-week delay in identifying Ray also gave him plenty of time to get out of the country." Ray maintains he was given money by the mysterious Raoul for his numerous trips running contraband. The government appears to be maintaining the facade that James Earl Ray was funded by some "bank robberies" committed by his two brothers.

One of the brothers, John Larry Ray, has been imprisoned since 1970, convicted of driving the getaway car in a bank robbery in St. Peters, Mo., two years after the killing of Dr. King. To some degree of embarrassment for the government, the man accused of actually robbing the bank was acquitted. Last month John Larry Ray's brief parole at Dismas House in St. Louis was rescinded on the curious ground that he was suspected of "lying" to the House subcommittee on assassinations recently when he denied involvement in a 1967 bank robbery.

After all these years, Lane suggests, the government is still trying to get around the existence of Raoul. Yet the Ray brothers have never been charged with bank robbery as such.

"The thing that screwed up the government," Lane said, "is that Canadian authorities tracked down James Earl Ray. Somebody wanted to give him plenty of time and money to get away. The government never wanted a trial, and the case would have rested if Ray had remained in hiding."

But Lane has plans to keep it alive, and that is the subject for next time.