

Jackson Returns to Memphis Site Where Dr. King Was Shot Down

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MEMPHIS, April 30 — On this bright, cool morning, as birds sang and Secret Service agents scanned surrounding buildings, the Rev. Jesse Jackson returned to the spot where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down 16 years ago.

The Democratic Presidential candidate recalled how he was standing in the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel that day when he heard the crackle of gunfire and looked up to the second floor balcony to see the civil rights leader bleeding.

He said he and other King aides raced up the concrete steps to find their hero dying.

"We hoped it was his arm, but the bullet hit him in the neck," Mr. Jackson said matter of factly as he placed a finger at the base of his own throat.

Return to Room 306

Today the Democrat led reporters and a small crowd of supporters up the stairs to the balcony outside Room 306, where Dr. King was staying when he was killed on April 4, 1968.

"This is the scene of the crucifixion," he said. "Now we ask the Master to roll the stone away and let us have the resurrection tomorrow."

The Tennessee primary takes place Tuesday. Mr. Jackson said, however, that his visit was "not at all" political.

The door to Room 306 bore a wreath of plastic roses. Next to the door is a marker, like a gravestone, commemorating Dr. King's life and death. Above it stretches a banner with Dr. King's words: "I have been to the mountain-top."

Room 306 has been converted to a little museum with artifacts and photographs of Dr. King.

Moments later Mr. Jackson dis-

cussed his own fears as he stood on the sidewalk in front of the flophouse on Main Street from which the shots were fired. James Earl Ray later pleaded guilty in the slayings and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Mr. Jackson receives far more death threats than Walter F. Mondale and Senator Gary Hart, the other two Democratic candidates, according to sources familiar with the threats.

In his appearances, Mr. Jackson refers to death more often these days as he stirs his church audiences by reciting, "Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death."

Mr. Jackson acknowledged today that he faced danger. But he said he saw "a complete revival of spirit and renewal of mind of a whole people," taking place.

"I'm sensitive," he said. "I want to live, as other people do, to have the conveniences and comforts of life that other people do. There are high and low moments of the spirit."

Mr. Jackson said a fit memorial to Dr. King would be the enactment of a school breakfast program by the Tennessee State Legislature to "feed the hungry children of this state every day." A proposal for such a program recently failed to win approval, he noted.

F.B.I. Role Criticized

He also repeated his belief that the Federal Government had taken part in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King.

"I went to see James Earl Ray in prison," he said referring to a visit years ago. "It was clear he was involved, but it was also clear he wasn't capable of pulling it off himself."

The candidate said that the authorities had failed to protect the minister

admirable and that the United States Bureau of Investigation had attempted to impugn his character and divide his family. The F.B.I. saw as its role to corrupt, discredit or destroy a "black messiah," he said.

"Given the fact that the C.I.A. will

mine harbors and overthrow governments, if they perceive an individual as having the power to offset a war machine, it stands to reason he would be in extreme jeopardy by a mean government," Mr. Jackson concluded.