

The reader might have difficulty finding this book, however, since the publisher made a secret deal to withdraw it from stores and sales. It remains the best overall work in the assassination, but in addition, there were very many articles on Robert Kennedy's assassination published by Duncan Harp ("The Tangled Web, an Inquiry into the Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy," copyright 1977) from an unpublished work in The Continuing Inquiry years ago.

MARTIN LUTHER KING April 4, 1968

As a result of the efforts primarily of Coretta King, the widow of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, a bill was passed in 1976 in the House of Representatives which resulted in some new investigation of the assassinations of her husband and President John F. Kennedy. "I don't have the facts, but at this stage I say it appears there was a conspiracy in the death of my husband," Mrs. King said in November, 1975. Nearly three years later, the House Committee found that there "probably was" a conspiracy in both cases. Trouble is, the House did not have the courage to go the whole nine yards and get to the bottom of both murders, or any others on our list.

"The way he was documented and followed around by Hoover and the CIA when he was abroad, it would have to have been attached to the forces of our government that felt he was a threat to the system as it existed." She referred to the CIA and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.

"The FBI has acknowledged that it undertook a harassment campaign to discredit King but concluded that Ray acted alone in King's assassination." (AP Nov 28, 1975, Nairobi, Kenya)

"We were operating an intensive vendetta against Dr. King in an effort to destroy him," said an Atlanta FBI agent to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. And Hoover did his best to slander King, telling Jack Anderson that Ray was hired to kill King by a man whom they said was cuckolded by him. (December 17, 1975)

It is absolutely clear to me after reviewing all of the known evidence in the case that renegades in the FBI and perhaps the local police set up the murder of King. It is clear simply from the manner in which any new evidence in the case has been treated. Or rather, covered up. It is clear that J. Edgar Hoover was greatly afraid of King and the possibility that he would become a Messiah, and if King ever turned away from non-violence, he might--in Hoover's demented paranoia--lead a violent revolt. That is what I believed the rationale was for killing this man.

As the Canadian police have repeatedly said, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin, simply could not have done all that he did in Canada without help, plus assume the identities and paper work of three Canadian citizens who looked like Ray and in

once case, had the same scars.

In addition, in violation of the treaty, the U.S. Government quite clearly made false presentiments to the Government of Great Britain when it sought to extradite Ray. It seems to me that if this was made clear to the British, that no-one has the right to keep Ray in jail, they could demand Ray back. When lawyers for Ray finally were able to obtain the FBI fingerprint evidence which they told the British they had implicating Ray in the murder, this evidence turned out to be false. Since no witnesses were presented at the extradition hearing in England, there was no cross examination, and only the word of the U.S. government was obtained.

Ray was brought back to the United States where he was put in a cell with bright lights shining on him at all times, two guards within five feet of him at all times, television cameras recording his every move and breath. He couldn't fart without them knowing about it.

We have a Constitutional clause stating that no cruel and unusual punishment will be meted out in this country. But it apparently doesn't apply to political prisoners such as Ray and Uri Nosenko. Ray was broken down and when he was about to come to trial, he pled guilty in fear of being electrocuted for a crime he insists he did not commit. Clearly, he really was coerced into it, and could not be responsible for what he did at that time, after the cruel and unusual punishment.

The only witness to say that he saw Ray running from the rooming house after the shot had others say that he (Charles O. Stephens) was too drunk to see anything, let alone stand up. Nobody saw anyone fire from the rooming house, either. Not only that, it would have been all but impossible to fire a rifle from the bathtub in the bathroom, as the State claimed.

Ray says that he did not know what the conspirators really planned to do. He thought he was just involved in smuggling, but saw later how he had been set up and drawn in. Ray wrote Senator James Eastland 1969: "I personally did not shoot Dr. King...but I believe I may be partly responsible for his death." Ray claimed that Raoul told him to buy the rifle which was later found near the scene of the crime, telling him it was to be shown to a gunrunner. Ray believed that "much of the evidence" was in Los Angeles and New Orleans. He was sent to those places by Raoul, and altogether had been given some \$12,000 over a period of months.

Crawdaddy published a sketch made by police from eyewitness descriptions of the man seen running from the scene of the crime. Alongside it is a picture of one of the three tramps marched back from the railroad yards behind the Grassy Knoll in Dallas on November 22, 1963, just after President Kennedy was shot. The picture is of the man we call "Frenchy," known by that for lack of a better name because of the European cut of his clothes. He would appear to be identical to the man seen at the

murder of King five years later.

We would suppose that this is the same "Jack Armstrong" mentioned above by Wayne Chastain, and as R. E. Sprague wrote in People and the PURSUIT of Truth, (June, 1977 and reprinted in The Continuing Inquiry, July 1977), Gary Patrick Hemming, a CIA contract employee, said that "Frenchy" was another mercenary working from a yacht owned by anti-Castro sympathizer Larry LaBorde...."Frenchy" was really a French-Canadian. He was said to be close to Loran Hall, William Seymour, and Lawrence Howard, but that they probably did not know his real name.

Sprague writes that the similarity of the man in the 1968 sketch with the photograph of "Frenchy" is so "striking...but also it was so strong as to make one conclude the sketch was made from the tramp photograph itself."

"It is important to recall that the sketch of the King 'killer' was broadcast and published long before the names Galt, Sneyd, or Ray were known. It was released, in fact, only a short time after the assassination." Sprague writes.

Jeff Paley took a copy of the sketch and the photograph of "Frenchy" to the Memphis police, who told him to go to the FBI, since they had taken over full control of the case. "The officer immediately pushed the pictures across the desk and although Paley protested that he was ignoring important new evidence, the agent refused to deal with the questions and discontinued the conversation. Paley gave up further efforts and returned to New York." The professionals don't want to hear from us, I don't think. We, The People.

Ray says it was Raoul that came out of the rooming house just after the shooting and dropped a bundle on the sidewalk. He jumped in the back seat of the white Mustang and Ray drove off. After a few blocks, the man got out, and Ray never saw him again.

The sketch that witnesses drew of the small man who ran from the boarding house in no way resembles Ray.

William Bradford Huie had told R.E. Sprague and Trent Gough that he had located three barmaids in Atlanta and Montreal that had seen Ray and Raoul together. Huie said that they identified Raoul from the sketch, and Ray from police pictures. Sprague tells us that after he showed the sketch of the man in Memphis and the November 22, 1963 Dealey Plaza picture of "Frenchy" to Huie, "From this time forward Huie and Foreman dropped all statements regarding a plot to kill Dr. King, and, even more interesting, in the existence of Raoul. When Huie published his third article (in Look) he treated Raoul as a figment of Ray's imagination, failing to mention that he had told researchers he found witnesses who had seen Ray and Raoul together."

Sprague writes that Huie said that Ray was a just a liar.

Only after Ray got a new hearing and took Jim Lesar as his lawyer, he made a positive identification of "Frenchy" as Raoul. For reasons best known only to Bernard Fensterwald, indicates

Sprague, none of the evidence identifying Raoul as "Frenchy" or the backing of the murder plot by four wealthy industrialists was brought out at Ray's new hearing. Interestingly, during a meeting with an intermediary at the Detroit airport, with Ray's lawyer at the time, Robert Livingston, Wayne Chastain, and Bernard Fensterwald, a close associate of Jim Lesar, Livingston and Chastain saw "Frenchy" observing them, and finally walking by.

Ray has since not talked about his identification of "Frenchy" as Raoul, either.

Richard E. Sprague (not to be confused with the first chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Richard A. Sprague) points out that David Lifton interfered with this investigation, as well as that of the assassination of John Kennedy. Lifton and Jeff Cohen claimed in an article in New Times that Raoul was James Earl Ray's brother, Jerry. Sprague writes that, "first, if the executive agencies sensed that Ray's brother was involved in the case, it seems rather certain they would have publicised the point because (a) the role of the younger Ray would have provided a plausible "conspiracy theory" to the plot-minded already aware of the great discrepancies in the case against James Earl Ray and (b) this sort of plot would easily fulfill the schematic already mapped out by the FBI, i.e., that James Earl Ray was motivated by racist and pathological impulses to murder Dr. King." Sprague also doubts that Jerry Ray had professional credentials for smuggling, and soldier of fortune type employment.

Sprague goes on to say, "Lifton and Cohen establish a link between Jerry Ray and the National States Rights Party; but to assume that racist inclinations automatically prove a person capable of murder is to perpetrate the kind of thinking always peddled by officialdom and the "authorized" chroniclers of these tragedies. The real critique of the Lifton-Cohen thesis, however, is far more substantive."

Lifton's tampering with this case is another example of a mind that constructs a syllogism from one shaky premise after another, each built on the last, always without corroboration of any given fact, if it is a fact at all. He thinks that if the whole jungle jim fits together, it must be a valid hypothesis, but forgets to erect it on any solid foundation at all.

Wayne Chastain believes that Jack Youngblood, also a mercenary and military intelligence spy, was involved in the murder along with Raoul and an unwitting Ray.

Harold Weisberg, through his attorney Jim Lesar, brought a Freedom of Information Act suit in order to free up the files and evidence the government claimed that it had against Ray. It is to be noted that evidence in criminal cases is supposed to be a matter of public record. When Harold, who knows that there is a cover-up in the case, finally got a look at that evidence, he knew why it was being kept secret: Not a single fingerprint of

Ray's was found in his rooming house, the bathroom where he was supposed to have fired the fatal shot, nor on his furniture, his car, nor anywhere else where they claim he was.

"They've sworn falsely, they've misrepresented, they've deceived the courts," Weisberg said. They fooled the British government. That is what the U.S. thinks of extradition treaties.

Even the autopsy report, which Weisberg got through his suit, conflicts with what the State had said about the bullet and the wounds.

In 1977 a woman said her husband, a retired police officer, was offered a half a million dollars to assassinate King. (The New York Times, March 20, 1977) The man had written Representative M.G. Snyder of Kentucky, and told him that several agents of the FBI and several police officers, including a chief of detectives, a captain, a lieutenant, and a sergeant, all in one police department. (AP, March 20, 1977) this would appear to be the Louisville, Kentucky P.D., taken with the AP article in the N.Y. Times of March 24, 1977.

A key article which led to the establishment of the House Assassinations Committee at the same time was written by Wayne Chastain of the Pacific News Service and published in the San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle, October 10, 1976: "Did lawmen set up King?" Chastain was a reporter in Memphis where King was shot, and he was one of the first people on the scene. He wrote, "Martin Luther King Jr may have been the victim of 'security stripping' -- a technique used by intelligence agencies to expose a victim to assassination by removing his protection.

"This theory persuaded the U.S. House of Representatives to create a special 12-member committee to investigate both the 1968 King murder and the 1963 assassination of John Kennedy. The Black Caucus in the House, acting on new information in the King case, was responsible for breaking a stalemate and pushing the investigation through, according to several committee appointees."

Newsday reporter Les Payne found in scores of interviews that Ed Redditt, a black Memphis Police detective in charge of protecting King, was removed from his post across the street from the motel where King was shot just two hours before the slaying. Redditt's contingency plan to seal off the area in the event of trouble was "never implemented" and the assassin got away.

The director of the police department, Frank Holloman, a retired FBI agent of twenty-five years, had removed Redditt, saying that he was the target of a murder plot. This was clear intimidation. Redditt never heard another thing about the plot after that day. Redditt said that Holloman told him of the plot against himself in the presence of a man he identified as being from the Secret Service. He also said that representatives of the FBI, military intelligence, the National Guard, and other

agencies were there. Redditt's assistant said that he too left his post before the slaying.

Someone in the King entourage relieved four members of an informal bodyguard just before the murder, as well. And, "the only two black firemen assigned to the fire station across from King's hotel, Redditt's command post, were also 'stripped away.'" Chastain wrote. One of the firemen, Floyd Newsum, was told that the transfer order came from the police department.

Holloman, writes Mark Lane, "served J. Edgar Hoover in a more personal manner," for eight years. "Holloman was the FBI inspector in charge of Hoover's personal office in Washington. Holloman told me that he had met with Hoover every day during that eight-year period." (Mark Lane in Washington Newsums, August 26-September 1, 1976; also in The Continuing Inquiry, September, 1976)

Ray's former attorney, Arthur Hanes, (whom Ray had fired two days before his trial was to begin) said at a hearing that he was positive that the rifle found near the scene of the crime was not used to kill Dr. King. Hanes was the former right-wing mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.

In spite of that fact, he said that the British government should not have extradited Ray because the assassination of Dr. King was a political killing. He had also worked for both the FBI and the CIA. He told a hearing that the slug that was taken from King's body "was as perfect as a slug fired for test purposes." If it had been fired from Mr. Ray's rifle, experts could have established this.

Also, Tennessee law states that if a judge dies during a trial or part of the appeal process, a new trial must be ordered. Judge Battle died at his desk three weeks after the trial with an appeal from Ray in his hands.

"Arthur Murtagh, a former FBI agent in Atlanta, (King's hometown) has said agents in the Atlanta office 'literally jumped for joy' when they learned King had been assassinated. He said the FBI intelligence squad in Atlanta was assigned to 'somehow or other get King to bring him down, break him or destroy him.'" This same FBI intelligence squad was then assigned to investigate the murder. Murtagh said that his superiors washed out leads suggesting a right-wing conspiracy.

This FBI man then went on to say that "had a more thorough investigation been conducted by the FBI, I believe links would have been established between the King assassination and the Kennedy murders--both those of JFK and RFK."

Murtagh said that the FBI intentionally and deliberately" avoided looking at conspiracy leads in both cases.

Former FBI agents said that the FBI would set off fire alarms where he was going to speak, planted false stories in the newspapers in hopes that colleges would stop giving honorary degrees to King, interfered in King's personal and private life by making anonymous calls to his friends, even to his wife. They

sent his wife a tape recording of her husband at a party in which she was not present, intended to get King in trouble at home.

Redditt further states that King was clearly lured to Memphis by deliberate provocation of the problems there. Violence was provoked in order to get King on the scene so that he could be shot. The Reverend Jesse Jackson said, "Dr. King would never have returned to Memphis if the violence had not happened.

"After the violence, apparently intended by the militant group to discredit him, King vowed to return to prove that he could still lead a peaceful demonstration," Chastain wrote.

A Memphis policeman had infiltrated the Invaders, the black militant group which disrupted the march of the sanitation workers. He was "one of the most provocative members," very active in planning confrontations, and he was one of the four men supposed to be informally guarding King.

The man shortly left the Memphis police department and may have gone to Washington. Redditt ran into him sometime later in Memphis and the man claimed to be with the CIA and begged Redditt not to blow his cover.

A man who claimed that he was an advance man and a security worker for King went to the Lorraine Motel and changed the reservation for King from a ground floor suite to a room overlooking the pool on the second floor, with a balcony. If King went out on that balcony, he was a much better target. When King's entourage arrived, they were mystified by the room switch and did not know who the man was who switched them.

Wayne Chastain, writing for the Memphis Press-Scimitar, uncovered a man whom he feels was a part of the gun team. He calls him Jack Armstrong, though Chastain knows his real name. "Armstrong" was identified as being in the restaurant below Ray's room an hour before the killing. Chastain believes the man then visited several people in Memphis some days after the shooting, all of whom called the police. He claimed to one of them, Russell X. Thompson, a lawyer, that his roommate had shot King, and not from the rooming house, but from the bushes in front of the Motel. Several eye-witnesses later said that that was where the gunman fired from, and no-one but the government claimed that the gunman had fired from the rooming house across the way.

"Armstrong" also said that Robert Kennedy would be shot if he won the California primary, which is what happened two months later.

James Earl Ray recognized a photograph of the man whom he said he had seen twice the day of the killing, and thought that he was a gunrunner for Raoul. As Alan MacRobert wrote, "his real life reads like something out of an international spy novel. A Southern-born gunrunner and soldier of fortune, he made his living fighting in, or against, most of the Latin American

revolutions from 1954 to the early Sixties, after fighting as a guerilla behind North Korean lines."

The assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King caused a great explosion of race riots in many cities in the United States upon his death. Violence was the very thing that King did not want to see happen. This saintly black man had fought non-violently to bring about change in the heinous racism and segregation that rotted the United States, making a lie of its pretence as the defender if not the creator of freedom.

Many people died in those riots, and a vast amount of property was destroyed in the fires that consumed the ghettos of some cities, not set by whites, but set by black provocateurs. Innocent people were pushed forward to face the clubs of police, and one of the darkest episodes in American history took place.

In fact, America itself seemed to explode from that moment forward, as increasing unrest over educational values, curriculums, and racial policies gripped the college campuses. It can be argued that the Viet Nam war was undertaken in a much stronger way about then in order to deflect attention from the trouble at home. Soon the campuses erupted in protest against that war, which nobody seemed seriously to want to win or end. All of these problems gave the Nixon administration ammunition for creating its own police operations, and clamping down as best it could. The Pentagon had some 50,000 spies on college campuses, and the FBI's COINTEL program threatened the very heart of America's Bill of Rights and liberty. The nightmare that was Watergate can be said to date from the murder of Martin Luther King, and all of these troubles flowed from the assassination of President John F. Kennedy--when the pace of orderly change possible within the framework of a peaceful country facing its problems and iniquities was overturned by the bullets of Dallas.

James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, was accused and convicted of the murder in a kangaroo court session in spite of the fact that he shortly tried to deny that he had shot King, and claimed that the assassination was a conspiracy of which he was an unwitting part. "I was down the street about three blocks from where King was shot, checking a leak in a tire when it happened," Ray said. "My fingerprints were on the gun--but I had handled it--I had given it to Raoul." He had first heard of King's death while driving his white Mustang toward Mississippi. Ray panicked when he heard on the car radio that he was wanted for the crime and began a flight that ended with the London arrest.

Ray was not an educated man, and he was totally inept as a robber or at much of anything else. He had little experience in the outside world, having spent much of his life in jail. He had no history whatsoever of violence, and in reviewing the evidence claimed against him, it simply is not credible that he could



have done any one of the many things attributed to him without a lot of help. Not just ordinary help, either, but it would have taken the boiler room of a major intelligence agency, or their moonlighters and graduates, to produce the false identities and travel arrangements Ray had.

The important thing to remember concerning James Earl Ray is that he had other identities: Paul Bridgeman, Ramon George Sneyd, Eric Starvo Galt and so on, and he had obtained Canadian passports, driver's licenses, and identification, passed in and out of the country, escaping from prison, gone to Europe after the war and been in both Lisbon and London at various times. The police claimed: He could not have done all

Lets get into how other writers and the public have viewed these crimes. As Harold Weisberg, the author of Frame-up, research in 20th Century America, said, in his book he tried to explain the Galt identity as Eric S. Galt, and since there is a real Eric S. Galt, the assumption has been that Ray saw his (Ray) says no. Between Windsor and Toronto, he says he chose Galt when he was a marker. He says he chose Eric only in something different from the more common

Weisberg writes in Frame-up, (Outerbridge Books, 1971. This is a brilliant book and a must read for readers while there are still a few copies left. you can order it directly from the author, Harold Weisberg, 7627 Old Receiver Road, Frederick, MD 21701. Enclose \$12.50 for the hardback, postage and handling.) "There is a lemming in this writing. Ray took the name Eric Starvo Galt. Huie says Eric S. Galt. Thus, he avoids the need to explain the odd middle name, which cannot fit this scheme. Aside from the astounding Ray resemblance to the real Eric Galt and two other Canadians, Paul Bridgeman and Sneyd, whose identities he had assumed, complete with identical scars, it is asking too much to believe Ray could have made up so unusual a name and, with the right middle initial, caught a live one he also resembles." (p. 53)

We know that there was an FBI vendetta to disrupt King, and his accused assassin claimed in 1988 that he was framed to cover up an FBI plot to kill King. (AP November 23, 1988) It is known that Hoover hated King for his calls for economic justice for minorities and for his use of peaceful protest.

In an application for a pardon hearing, Ray named four men whom he believes were involved in the conspiracy: Carlos Miguel Hernandez, David Graiver, whom Ray says he saw with 'Raoul' in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico in October, 1967; Randolph Erwin Rosenson. The House Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed Rosenson in June, 1977. Ray said that all of these people were involved in illegal narcotics smuggling, in which he had been

HAROLD :

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ads have sold a lot of  
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in 100 days

drawn by Roual. (The Nashville Tennessean, November 2, 1980.)

Ray said in the AP interview above that he didn't think he would ever get a parole. "I think the only way I'll get out of here is through a jury. If they wouldn't grant me a trial, I don't see how they'll grant me a parole." The fact is, that Ray was railroaded by his lawyer and the judge so that he was plead guilty, in fear of his life, and never had a chance to speak or defend himself. He claimed that the FBI had threatened to jail his father and brother if he didn't sign a confession.

Ray said that the government refuses his requests to review the evidence alleged against him, and has never conducted ballistics tests on the alleged murder weapon, suppressed witnesses and investigations that could have cleared him. "Since they won't, they must be hiding something," Ray said of the FBI.

Ray was identified from fingerprints on a rifle tossed in the doorway of a building near where the assassination took place. It hardly seems likely that an assassin would leave evidence dooming him at the scene so deliberately.

Aids to King believe that Ray did not shoot King, and that the FBI was in fact plotting the civil rights leader's death.

J. EDGAR HOOVER May 1, 1972

Hoover was an avowed racist, who, however, was not entirely bad. We have to view his life on balance. He did conduct a vendetta against King.

Hoover probably had made his own enemies. Jack Anderson wrote on December 17, 1975 that "The FBI vendetta against Dr. King didn't end with his murder. The old FBI bulldog J. Edgar Hoover, who had tried to blacken King's name while he was alive, also tried to tarnish his death."

Hoover had made an "incredible attempt to panic King into committing suicide, it seems to me, abrogates any right he may have to confidentiality. Yet I was reluctant to believe ill of Hoover. But in late 1970 I happened to be on an airplane with the late Hale Boggs, then the House Democratic leader. He told me how members of Congress were being intimidated, if not blackmailed, by Hoover. He said that the FBI would come upon a skeleton--a woman, a vice, a shady business associate--and then get word to him that an accusation against him had reached the FBI and they wanted to alert him so he could be on his guard. From then on, the Congressman was likely to be a captive of Hoover's."

Perhaps the most important facts to mention first in discussing the death of J. Edgar Hoover is that in the same month an attempt was made to kill George Wallace, who held the balance of power in the coming presidential election, and the Watergate burglaries were occurring. The first burglary of