

King 'killer' seen as

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Free lunches explained

A letter explaining the federal guidelines for free school lunches as well as an application form for free or reduced price lunches is being sent home this week with all pupils in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS).

The federal government requires that all parents having children in school be notified of the guidelines for free lunches whether they are eligible or not. The letter is being communicated in Spanish to parents of Latin students.

A hot lunch is served in all 158 MPS schools. The price is 30 cents in the elementary schools and 35 cents in the junior and senior high schools. If parents are unable to afford the full price, the school is providing lunches free or at reduced prices to those children determined to be eligible within the policy adopted by the Board of School Directors based on federal guidelines.

Families who believe that their children are eligible for free or reduced price lunches are urged to apply. They may use the application form sent home with children or obtain additional copies from the school. Applicants approved for free lunches also are eligible for free breakfast served in certain schools.

—James Earl Ray, sentenced to 99 years in prison six years ago for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was framed, says a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point professor who is recognized as an authority on the assassinations of the 1960s.

Dr. Davis Wrone charged on a Milwaukee television talk show recently that Ray was used as a scapegoat by state and federal prosecutors anxious to quell the outrage that followed King's death.

"There are numerous agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation who are honest, decent, hardworking people," Wrone told host Ralph Adam Fine on Channel 6's "A Fine Point." "But there are people in the upper echelons of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as revealed in the John Kennedy assassination,

Newsletter cites killings

The Assassination Information Bureau of Wisconsin, an organization formed to raise public support for new inquiries into assaults on American political figures, has begun publishing a newsletter.

Entitled "Between The Lines," the organ devotes itself mainly to the cases of John and Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and George Wallace. Its news articles and editorials question the official "sole assassin" theories behind the attacks on these notables, and agitate for further inquiry.

The AIBW is petitioning now in support of U.S. House Resolution 204, which calls for a Congressional reopening of the Kennedy, Kennedy, King, and Wallace cases.

The AIBW says it is seeking working members. The organization can be reached at Post Office Box 1935, Milwaukee 53201. 444-4744.

and as will be revealed here, that will go to great lengths not to help the ends of justice. And they did deliberately interfere with the James Earl Ray case."

Describing the government's case against Ray as "false in every aspect," Wrone said it would have been physically impossible for Ray to have done what the prosecution said he did — shot King from the window of a nearby boarding house as the civil rights leader stood on the balcony of his motel. It is scientifically more likely, Wrone said, that the shot which killed King came from a knot of bushes below the balcony.

Charles Quitman Stevens, a resident of the boarding house who swore he saw a man who looked like Ray fleeing the boarding house with a "bundle" moments after the shooting; was "dead drunk" at the time, said Wrone. Moreover, Wrone said, Stevens' wife, who was also present, contradicted her husband's statement, then was whisked away to a mental institution by authorities under her maiden name.

"The state and federal governments' presentation of the case against Ray is false in every aspect," said Wrone. "They have no eyewitnesses, no material facts, they can't link any bullet to the rifle (which bore Ray's fingerprints). The placement of the rifle and so forth are all proven by the critics, by myself, not to have existed as the state said."

Why, then, did Ray plead guilty to the crime? Because, said Wrone, he was "browbeaten" by his attorneys, first Arthur Hanes Jr. and Sr. and then Percy Foreman, who

stood to make hundreds of thousands of dollars from author William Bradford Huie, whose book "He Slew the Dreamer" presumably would have been worthless had Ray not been convicted. The partnership of those lawyers with Huie constitutes "a massive conflict of interest," Wrone said.

"(Foreman) had assumed from the very beginning that Ray was guilty," Wrone said. "He assumed that's why Ray had hired him. And he had taken the case in order to make money ... He also told Ray, 'If you don't plead guilty, they'll barbecue you.'"

Wrone pointed out that Ray proclaimed his innocence persistently before entering his plea, and has since continued denying killing King. Ray is now fighting for a new trial on various grounds, including denial of proper counsel.

Wrone also pointed out that Ray has said he may have been an "unwitting" and "peripheral" part of a conspiracy behind King's assassination.

Wrone would not speculate as to who might have been the author or authors of the conspiracy. Nor is there clear evidence, he said, as to why the government might have been willing to settle for Ray's conviction and to forego searching for the real killers.

But he noted that, at the time of his death, King had branched out from "a narrow civil rights position" to more general criticism of the government in areas of economics and foreign policy. About a year prior to his death, King had condemned the

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American military involvement in Vietnam and had linked it to oppression of Black people at home. He had challenged the waging of a faraway war with billions of dollars that could have been used to rebuild sfum areas here.

"He was slowly widening his position. He was moving into a criticism of the military industrial-intelligence complex in America," Wrone said. "That doesn't mean they shot him. That means his murder was beneficial."

According to Wrone, failure of the prosecution, the courts, the press, and Ray's own attorneys to solve the murder of King means that the military-industrial-intelligence complex has become so powerful as to threaten democracy itself. This issue, he said, is more important than the issue of who may have shot King.

"I believe America is in a crisis - an institutional crisis," said Wrone. "We're slowly losing the principles that made us great . . . that we're supposedly celebrating in a Bicentennial year."

Wrone appeared on the program with James Ravet of the Assassination Information Bureau of Wisconsin, a group which is lobbying for new investigations into the King and Kennedy assassinations and the attempt on the life of George Wallace.

Specifically, the AIBW backs U.S. House Resolution 204, which calls for a Congressional reexamination of these political crimes. The proposal is gaining Congressional support, and has the endorsement of Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wisc.)