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Wash. Star News Sunday Oct 27
Ray Held 'Fall Guy' 1971

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., yesterday called King's convicted murderer "the fall guy" for wealthy interests and urged a new trial for James Earl Ray.

In a two-page statement, the SCIC said it was convinced that the civil rights leader was killed by a conspiracy and that a new trial is needed to get to "the big fish."

Ray pleaded guilty to the April 1968 slaying but has asked for a new trial, contending that he was pressured into the plea by his lawyer and wants to change it.