

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES - PRODUCTION NUMBER 1477-256
"MARTIN LUTHER KING": INTERVIEW WITH WALTER FAUNT-
ROY

SO NOW ON SOUND ROLL NINE. CAMERA ROLL 17. WALTER
FAUNTROY. AND IT'S MARKER EIGHT.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

CAMERA ROLL 17, TAKE EIGHT. MARKER.

INTERVIEWER Okay. Mr. Fauntroy, just for starters, if you'd give me your full
name with the correct spelling.

W. FAUNTROY It's Walter E. Fauntroy. Uh, Capital F-A-U-N-T-R-O-Y. F as in
Frank. [LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER Okay. And your title with the committee again was?

W. FAUNTROY I was, first of all, author of the legislation that, uh, resulted in the
He did not author the resolution & he was not the first chairman
establishment of the house select committee on s—on assassina-
tions, and the chair of the subcommittee investigating the
assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

INTERVIEWER And your position now is?

W. FAUNTROY Now I'm, uh, retired, uh, from the Congress, after, uh, twenty
years. I remain chairman of the board of directors of the Southern

Christian Leadership Conference, which was the organization which Dr. King founded. And, uh, uh, through which I was able to serve him, uh, in his fourteen years of public life as director of the Washington bureau, prior to going to the Congress.

INTERVIEWER Give me an overall view of—a summary, if you will, of the committee's findings concerning the assassination of Dr. King. Basically in terms of its relationship to possible conspiracy and James Earl Ray's involvement.

W. FAUNTROY Well, there are three things that stand out in my mind. Uh, uh, the committee concluded that, uh—two things generally. One of which I, uh, fully subscribe to, and the other which, uh, I had some question about. And all of which I felt nee—required additional investigation. The first conclusion was that there was a conspiracy. In the course of our investigation we identified, uh, two persons, uh, in the St. Louis area, known by the name of, uh, John Sullivan and John Kauffman, who, according to the testimony of a person by name of George Russell Byers, offered them fifty thousand dollars, uh, to kill Dr. King. As it turned out, uh, uh, we became very interested in that, and, uh, dispatched our staff to, uh, determine, uh, whether a person by the name of John Paul Speaker(?), who was a brother-in-law of Mr. Russell, uh, who was in, uh, Jefferson City prison, uh, serving a term for having, with malice of forethought and for pay, killed a person, uh, had, uh, been in position to communicate that to anyone with—else in the prison, namely, uh, James Earl Ray. Uh, we, uh, did in fact, uh, subpoena Mr., uh, Speaker. Not from prison, because by that time he had somehow been able to be released and was running a fruit stand [LAUGHS] outside of, uh, St. Louis. The sum of it is that, uh, we concluded that there was a conspiracy. The second conclusion on the basis of what evidence, uh, our committee at least told us it was able to develop was that, uh, James Earl Ray, uh, in fact, uh, shot Martin Luther King Jr.

SPIKA

INTERVIEWER Okay, I'm sorry. If you'd just begin that part again.

W. FAUNTROY Uh huh. Uh, well, there were two conclusions. The first, of course, was that there was a conspiracy, uh, to assassinate Martin Luther King Jr. And the second, uh, conclusion was that James Earl Ray, uh, in fact fired the shot that killed him. I was comfortable with the first. I wish that we had had much more time, uh, to, uh, investigate, uh, the parameters of the conspiracy

that we felt we had identified, uh, and, uh, I felt always uncomfortable that we did not, uh, get into, uh, the, uh, uh, question of whether, in fact, James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King Jr., to my satisfaction.

INTERVIEWER What was the scenario that basically the committee concluded took place the day of Martin Luther King's death, in relation to Mr. Ray?

W. FAUNTROY [LAUGHS] Now that does tax my memory. Uh, but, uh, uh, there was, as I recall, a, uh, conclusion that the alibi that, uh, he had gone to get a tire repaired at a gas station not far from, uh, Bessie Brewer's, uh, uh, rooming house was not, uh, confirmed. And, uh, secondly that, uh, the chief, uh, person in, uh, his, uh, alibi, namely a person called Raul, did not, in fact, exist. That he himself, uh, fired the shot from the window, uh, of the second floor. Uh, that he, uh, escaped, uh, by going down the hall where he was seen by, uh, a person whose, uh, credibility of course some of us still question. And, uh, that upon leaving, uh, the building, noticing a police car in the distance, uh, dropped the package, uh, with his—with the gun, his fingerprints all over, uh, uh, the, uh, uh, cigarette and—and can of, uh, beer—empty beer can [UNCLEAR]. That was, uh, generally the—the conclusion that, uh, the committee reached.

INTERVIEWER What were your feelings—

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

BEEP. BEEP.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

MARKER NINE NEXT.

MARKER.

INTERVIEWER Let me ask that actually, before we go on. A lot of time has passed now since the committee hearing. How do you feel about those conclusions?

W. FAUNTROY Well, I question them. Uh, I question certainly, uh, the conclusion that James Earl Ray shot Martin Luther King Jr. And I question

that we have done all that we can to uncover the full extent of the conspiracy. Uh, we, uh—because we had to close off before we felt we had, uh, followed every bit of evidence, uh, out, I urged the—the FBI to do follow up. In one instance a Mr. John Paul Speaker, uh, the person who was, uh, the hit killer in prison with James Earl Ray, uh, ended up, uh, meeting with a tragic and violent death. And the FBI some two years later sort of reported to us that there was really nothing else that they could, uh, contribute. Uh, I now feel on basis of an enormous amount of investigative work done by independent, non-governmental investigators, that quite frankly if I knew then what I know now, and what they have scientifically and reliably purported, uh, we would have gone on, uh, to learn much more about the nature of the conspiracy and who in fact fired the shot that killed Martin Luther King Jr.

INTERVIEWER

And what are your feelings about James Earl Ray having been the person who fired the gun that killed King?

W. FAUNTROY

Well, at this point I have very serious questions about it. Uh, for the reason, one, that, um, the, uh—it's now clear to me that the f—shot probably did not come from the second floor window. That [MUMBLES] it is likely to have come from the ground below, uh, where at least two persal—persons personally known to me, uh, uh, had—uh, Bernard Lee and, uh, uh, Solomon, uh, reported that, uh—at least to me—that they thought the shot came from someone in the bushes below. Uh, being, uh, left-handed myself, I remember going into that room and figuring out that it would have been a simple shot, for me. [LAUGHS] As I, uh, positioned myself in the window. It occurred to me sometime later however that—that James Earl Ray was right-handed, and that it would have been a very difficult shot for anyone who was right-handed, uh, who used the gun such as they presented me that was oriented toward, uh, a—a right-handed person. So I had very serious questions about that, and no capacity to follow up on it. But investigation since, uh, and evidence developed since, uh, has, uh, convinced me that, uh, uh, if you were to put James Earl Ray on trial today, that you could not prove that, uh—beyond a shadow of a doubt that he had, uh, in fact fired the shot. And that there might be, uh, further investigative, uh, data that would suggest, uh, uh, another route for who did the killing.

He knew all of this BEFORE their so-called investigation began. He had a copy of frame-up that I gave to all the Black Caucus in the House

INTERVIEWER

This whole story of James Earl Ray's alibi involving Raul, how did you feel about that then and how do you feel about it now?

W. FAUNTROY

Well, I had, uh—[MUMBLES]—I came to this, uh, investigation having worked very closely with my colleague then, Henry B. Gonzales, who joined me in co-sponsoring the measure that would put together an investigation of both the King and Kennedy assassinations. And I was, uh, intrigued by Oswald's, uh, claim that he was a patsy, and that he had a handler. Uh, the Raul story suggested to me the same pattern. And for that reason I was very much interested in it. Uh, unfortunately for, uh, our conclusion at that time, the committee developed no evidence of which I was aware, uh, that corroborated, uh, Raul's—the Raul story by James Earl Ray. Since that time, however, I have been disturbed, uh, uh, to learn that there was some information that was available to the FBI that was conveniently blacked out in the documents that we received that would have led to the identification, at least by one person who was in position, uh, to be credible, uh, that, uh, he was, in fact, contacted on several occasions, while in Los Angeles for example, uh, by, uh, a person named, uh, J.C. Harding, uh, which person the FBI knew at the time, uh, was, uh, implicated in some anti-civil rights activity at the University of Mississippi and would have fitted into our developing conspiracy conclusion, uh, that, uh, persons with money, uh, had, uh—had offered, uh, to kill Dr. King and that they had a southern business, uh, financial orientation.

The resolution was by long. Downing of Raul in the Gonzalez was the author of the first resolution that was not passed, not Fauntroy. What a lush he is - or well

lie!

INTERVIEWER

I'm sorry—we're going to cut for a minute and change our film rolls—

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

BEEP. BEEP.

OKAY, SO THIS IS NOW CAMERA ROLL 18. MARKER 10 NEXT.

CAMERA ROLL 18. TAKE NINE.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

IT'S STILL MARKER TEN. MARKER.

INTERVIEWER Let's talk about those FBI documents regarding Hardin. Explain to me, you know, how did you first become—when and how did you first become knowledgeable about them, and what was your reaction?

W. FAUNTROY Well, we had a series—uh, there was great interest on the part of members of the committee in the Raul story. Uh, because it, uh—it suggested, uh, that the conspiracy took on larger than, uh, you know, common criminal, uh, planning and activity. And that it, uh, might have involved a much larger apparatus. Uh, that being the case, um, there was interest in—in—on our part in, uh—in Raul. And every attempt to, uh—to identify Raul was met with, uh, the conclusion that, uh, James Earl Ray was in touch throughout this period with only his brothers. And that what other resources were available to him were available through, uh, various robberies and, uh—and activities that were traceable to—to petty criminal activity. Um, we were aware of—of a report that a manager of the St. Francis Hotel in—in Los Angeles, uh, reported that Ray was in touch with someone. Uh, when, uh, our—when the investigator who made the report—a gentleman by the name of LeMaster, who in fact by that time was a staff person on capitol hill in the Department—in the Agriculture Committee—uh, made his report back in '68, he indicated, uh, one, that, uh, uh, or at least to LeMaster, uh, that James Earl Ray had been contacted, uh, two or three times, uh, by a person who identified himself as J.C. Hardin. That he'd called from Louisiana and from New Orleans. Uh, that he had, in fact, come to the hotel at one point. Uh, that the manager had seen him. In fact, he remembered that he had, uh, seen him leaving early one morning, which meant that he may have been in the hotel overnight, uh, without paying. [LAUGHS] Uh, but, uh, most important, uh, LeMaster recommended to the—to the director, Mr. Hoover, that there be follow-up, including tracing of fa—of phone calls, uh, getting a bead on who this J.C. Harding was. Our committee knew nothing of this. Uh, it followed the lead and talked to LeMaster, who ten years later, uh, had a lapse of memory and indicated he didn't, uh, recall Thompson(?) never saying those things to him. What we now know from documents that have emerged is that, uh, he did in fact report those particulars. That his recommendations were not heeded in terms of follow-up to that. And that, uh, quite frankly they needed—need now to be followed-up to determine whether or not, uh, a lynch

*I brought it
to light, not
they*

Atlanta

pin of, uh, any theory that James Earl Ray had a handler, uh, could be dealt with, uh, objectively.

INTERVIEWER How did it make you feel that those things weren't followed up?

W. FAUNTROY Well, first of all, it—it, uh, almost persuades me [LAUGHS], uh, to call for an—officially for a—an opening of the files that have been put away until the year 2027. There are two things about those files that concerned me. Uh, the first was, uh, the number of areas that were blacked out in the documents the FBI, uh, sent us. Indeed, the name apparently of J.C. Hardin had been blacked out, uh, in the documents that we received. Uh, uh, else we would have ourselves checked phone logs and the name. I suspect that in those files put away for forty years, or for fifty years then, uh, are the answers to many of the outstanding questions. I'd like to get the original documents and remove the blacked out areas. [LAUGHS] Um, I've always, uh—on basis of our experience while with Dr. King and the enormous amount of data that has been developed about Hoover's insane hatred and determination to assassinate the character of Dr. King—I've always been concerned that, when I read the files on Do—on the surveillance of Dr. King, uh, there was no blacking out. Uh, obviously the FBI wanted to do everything it could to discredit and assassinate the character of Dr. Lu—Martin Luther King Jr. And again, against a background of the disinformation and lying that the FBI did, I'm not interested in having that garbage, uh, released. But certainly every piece of paper in which FBI, uh, operatives blacked out information from the committee ought to be made available to the entire public.

INTERVIEWER How significant are these documents in terms of the real truth—

W. FAUNTROY Well, in the first instance, as I indicated, uh, I think behind the blacked out areas are the answers to questions that are outstanding. But secondly, and most important for me, when you look at a murder, you look at three things. Who had the motive, the means and the opportunity. I'm not now satisfied that James Earl Ray had a sufficient motive, that he had the means and certainly the opportunity to pull it off as it was done. I think that, given what we now know about a relationship between, uh, persons in the underworld, uh, J. Edgar Hoover, and financial barons in this country, that you could develop a pretty clear picture of others who had motives, who had means, and who in Memphis,

*Blackout is a
lover, in context a
The net is
Mark Lamb
nonsense that
has no basis at
all*

Tennessee had the opportunity to take Dr. King out. I mention Memphis because I'd like to get into some of the files that will—we put away with blacked-out areas that relate to, uh, our—uh, the relationship between, uh—or the investigation of the—the Mafia, uh, Carlos Marcellus(?) and the southern, uh, Mafia. I'd certainly like to, uh, take another look at, uh, uh, the Memphis Police Department files, particularly because now we know that Frank Holloman, who was the combined police chief and fire chief in Memphis, uh, was, uh, himself, uh, the former executive assistant to J. Edgar Hoover for eight years. Uh, that sort of strongly suggests to me that there was an apparatus to have been functioning that included this network that, uh, may or may not have existed, uh, Memphis presented a unique opportunity, uh, once we had identified who else had motives and who else, most important, had the means to pull this off.

INTERVIEWER

Based on what you know from the documents, could Hardin have been Raul?

W. FAUNTROY

They did know

I think that is, uh, certainly a possibility. Now, again, had we known it then, had I known it then, uh, we would have at least followed the, uh, initial FBI investigators' recommendations. One, that calls to that hotel, uh, which were made from New Orleans and from Atlanta by a person who identified himself as J.C. Hardin, uh, were followed up and, uh, d—and, uh, corroborated. Uh, that secondly, um, uh, pictures of the man in question about whom the FBI already had information, unknown to us, together with his aliases, would have been made available, rather than a, uh—a composite drafted by the FBI and presented to Mr. Campbell, [MUMBLES] the manager. And, uh, I would have been interested in, uh—in Mr. Hardin's travels and whereabouts throughout that year, uh, before I would have been satisfied that he was not the first evidence corroborating Mr. Ray's claim that he was not in this alone, that he was being led and positioned, uh, to be the fall guy in this killing.

INTERVIEWER

I know this is probably a difficult question, but where do you cast the blame for something like this not having been followed up?

W. FAUNTROY

Well, uh, obviously, um, uh, I—I cast the blame on the blacked-out areas at this point, and who blacked the areas out. The FBI presented us, the committee, with what information it had. And claimed that, uh, for its own, uh, internal security reasons it had

*Cardinal name
was not blacked out in
the record so got marks in the
in CA 75-11996 FBI public reading room*

[CB] UM #1477-256 / 9

to black out names and references throughout. Now, beyond that, uh, I would not be prepared to, uh—to reach conclusions. As I said, there've been a number of works by investigative, uh, persons outside of the official channels in this country that have developed I think credible evidence and leads that need to be followed up. Now why follow them up? Uh, I lived through the decade of the sixties where we saw four of the brightest, most courageous young men this nation had produced wiped off the scene. Martin Luther King Jr. Malcolm X. John F. Kennedy. Bobby Kennedy. And, uh, I wanted to be sure that their assassinations were not the result of the operation of an apparatus that might include persons as vulnerable as we now believe Hoover to have been. And persons who had means and motives, uh, in, uh, our agencies and in the underworld and in the f—world of finance.

INTERVIEWER I'm sorry, we're going to stop again and change our film here.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

THIS IS TAPE NUMBER TWO. THESE ARE TRANSCRIPTION RECORDINGS OF THE INTERVIEWS AND THE LOCATION OF THIS IS PRODUCTION NUMBER 1477-256 AND THIS IS MATERIALS CONTAINED ON SOUND ROLL TEN, CAMERA ROLL 19. IT'S CONTINUING THE INTERVIEW WITH WALTER FAUNTROY. AND IT'S MARKER TEN NEXT. I'M SORRY. IT'S MARKER 11 COMING UP NEXT.

MARKER.

INTERVIEWER Okay, I'm sorry we interrupted your thought there—

W. FAUNTROY Uh huh—

INTERVIEWER If you could just begin that again, about your concern about four very significant people possibly having been involved in some major conspiracy to cause their death.

W. FAUNTROY Uh huh. I have two areas of concern at this point, uh, with respect to the investigation. The first has to do with leads that I think, uh, need to be followed up on. I have always been concerned about the role of the underworld, both in terms of what were apparently Sullivan and Kauffman's connections, and in

*The Ray had the funds,
all the money &
authority >
immediately before
established*

terms now of what we suspect to have been the case between Hoover and people in the underworld. For example, there were allegations, uh, that, uh, a, uh, Mafia operative by the name of Laberto(?), in Memphis, uh, was overheard giving some instructions to somebody to hit him on the balcony. Uh, which were never credible to us, because we could not, uh, really put our finger on it, although we had, uh, a very—what we felt a credible witness to the conversation. I'd like to follow that up. Uh, and, uh, there were concerns as well about, uh, the Memphis investigation by the Memphis police force under the direction of Hank, uh, Hallo—Frank Holloman(?). Beyond that, my concern in the decade of the seventies in, uh, shaping the assassination's committee legislation is even more urgent today. And that's because in the decade of the sixties we lost four of the brightest, most courageous young men this nation has produced. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, John F. Kennedy, and JFK—uh, and, uh, Robert Kennedy. Uh, and as we enter the decade of the nineties, with a new generation of [MUMBLES]—leadership on the scene, I want to be certain that there does not exist in the country today the kind of nexus that may have existed in the sixties, between financial, uh, barons, uh, who were legitimate business people, and Mafia people and operatives within our government that could put together, uh, a kind of apparatus that might, uh, result in current leaders who are seeking equity and justice and change for the benefit of all the people, uh, might, uh, fall victim to such, uh, a fate. Now, I know that that sounds, uh, uh, uh, rather presumptuous, but I tell you, there are people all over this country and all over the world who remember the decade of the sixties and who as we see this new generation move out have some concern and some hope that we don't have wiped out, as we did in the sixties, a new generation of leadership.

INTERVIEWER

Some proponents of the theory—well, at this point the established theory that James Earl Ray was the assassin, they point to documents like this and they say, well, this is pure speculation. There's no proof. The reason why things weren't followed up is because it didn't pan out, and that sort of thing. How do you feel about those kind of comments?

W. FAUNTROY

lee!

Well, I can say without fear of successful contradiction that the reason they weren't followed up is that we did not know then what we now know. I mean, if I had known that, uh, the report given to our staff by the Mr. LeMaster that he didn't remember

anything untoward being mentioned to him by this Mr. Thompson—if I'd known then what I know now, namely that he in fact wrote a memo to the director, not only raisin' the question of whether or not this man corroborates the Raul story, but also suggesting follow-up that was logical, which follow-up never occurred, believe me, uh, we would have followed up and, uh, as Dr. King so often said, truth crushed to earth would have risen then. I think it, uh—it may rise in the weeks and months to come, particularly if we get whole access to the original documents before the FBI blacked-out areas that may have led the committee down, uh, additional paths of investigation.

INTERVIEWER Could you just summarize for me briefly what did you know then about Hardin, and what do you know now?

W. FAUNTROY We knew nothing about Hardin. We knew nothing about a person by the name of J.C. Hardin who was reported to have called James Earl Ray several times from New Orleans, which is significant, and from Atlanta, which is significant. Uh, and who is reported to have arrived a couple of days before the assassination, uh, for some discussions with James Earl Ray in Los Angeles. We knew nothing about it. If we had known it, we would have followed it up and it would have been easy, I believe, to determine whether or not, in fact, calls were made by a J.C. Hardin from New Orleans or from Atlanta to Los Angeles at this hotel. It would have been easy, I think, to determine, uh, who, in fact, J.C. Hardin was, whether or not he was the, uh, person who was, in fact, at the University of Mississippi and, uh, who, uh, uh, was identified, uh, as an alias in FBI files that we've now seen. And that may have led us, uh, down a number of avenues. Uh, the investigation needs to be reopened.

INTERVIEWER What is your feeling at this point about James Earl Ray as the assassin?

W. FAUNTROY I find it, uh, hard to believe, uh, that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on the heels of an intensive [UNCLEAR] program designed to assassinate his character, uh, was taken out by a petty criminal, uh, uh, and got out of Memphis, out of the United States, got ahold of three passports, uh, and got to Europe, uh, all by himself. [BACKGROUND NOISE] And certainly not—

INTERVIEWER I'm sorry, let's cut for a second—

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

BEEP. BEEP.

NEXT, MARKER TWELVE.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

MARKER.

INTERVIEWER Okay, I'm sorry. Once again, what are your feelings now about James Earl Ray having been the assassin?

W. FAUNTROY I find it more difficult, uh, today, uh, than I found it at the time when we closed down the investigation to believe that James Earl Ray, acting alone, uh, pulled off the crime of the century, uh, was able to get out of Memphis, out of the country into Canada, to get three passports, and to go all the way to Europe enroute to apparently Rhodesia, uh, to, uh—uh, without help. I think that, uh, uh, there's much more, uh, reason to believe that, given the intensive effort on the part of a number of, uh, people to assassinate the character of Dr. King and to remove him from the national scene, uh, that there were others who had the motive, the means and the opportunity to take him out and they did.

INTERVIEWER How did you feel back during the committee investigation and how do you feel now about the whole concept of Raul?

W. FAUNTROY Well, you have to understand that, uh, I went through the sixties with Dr. King. I was director of the Washington bureau. I agonized, uh, with our team as the Cointelpro(?) program intensified and we were clear that if Dr. King were [MUMBLES] to be—were to be taken out, it wasn't going to be by some woman stabbing him in a chair somewhere, or by some Byron De la Bequeworth(?) shooting him, you know, outside his house. But that, with the evidence we had, that there were peop—very powerful people, particularly in the FBI, who were harassing him. Uh, you have to understand that that's what I brought t—to my investigation. I was therefore satisfied that the outlines of a conspiracy that we identified, uh, uh, explained for me, uh, why Ray could not have acted alone. I was uncomfortable about our not being able to corroborate Ray's alibi, that he was not there and that he had a handler. What I now believe is that, given

evidence that has emerged since we closed the investigation down, uh, this, uh—this possible handler, J.C. Hardin, uh, suggested we ought to do much more investigation, and in light of the evidence developed by a number of independent, uh, investigators that there was a relationship between Hoover and financial barons and people in the underworld, uh, suggests that, uh, we do not know the whole truth about this, we need to know it in the decade of the nineties when we've got a new generation of leadership on the scene that we don't want to meet the same fate that, uh, Martin, Malcolm, Bobby and John met.

INTERVIEWER Okay, let's stop—

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

BEEP. BEEP.

AND LET'S GO TO CAMERA ROLL 20. CAMERA ROLL 20.
NEXT WILL BE MARKER 13.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

TAKE 13 ON CAMERA ROLL 20. MARKER.

INTERVIEWER Knowing what you know about this investigation that obviously somehow mysteriously came to an end on Hardin, how do you feel about that?

W. FAUNTROY Well, I feel very uncomfortable about it. I feel that, uh, uh, we need to pursue it even now. As I said, I, uh, was not aware, uh, that, uh, we had a name. And that, uh, what seems to me to be a lead worthy of further investigation was not pursued. Uh, at this point, uh, I'd like to find Mr. Hardin, I'd like to find Mr. Campbell, I'd like to check, uh, as to whether or not, uh, uh, telephone logs, uh, held, maintained by the, uh, telephone company at that time, uh, suggested, uh, or clearly pointed out that phones were ma—phone calls were made. I'd like to interrogate those persons. And, uh, I'd like further to interrogate Mr. Ray, because I don't think he is telling us everything that—that he knows, uh, that, uh, may, uh, uh—may lead us to, uh, a different conclusion than that which we reached, uh—that which we reached back in 1978.

INTERVIEWER You said you had four questions.

W. FAUNTROY Yes. One, uh, I want to know, uh, whether the, uh, uh—there were logs that showed that calls were in fact made from New Orleans, uh, to Los Angeles and to that place. I want to know where they came from. Who made them. Who paid for them. I want to know a little bit about—more about J.C. Hardin. What else do we know about him and his alias? Or under that name, uh, that is in the FBI files. I'd like to, uh, know what—what, uh, his whereabouts were, from the time that James Earl Ray, uh, left or escaped from prison. Uh, and I'd—I'd like to know, uh, what his whereabouts were after leaving, uh, Los Angeles, uh, a couple of days before the assassination when, in fact, uh, the FBI, uh, agent reports that a person told him he was there.

INTERVIEWER What will it take to get this investigation reopened?

W. FAUNTROY I think, uh, at this point, uh, public demand. I—I met with, uh, my former colleagues on the committee, uh, oh, several months ago in response to, uh, public demand that files be released, uh, with respect to the assassination of, uh, John F. Kennedy. I agreed with it on basis of new information that had developed then. At that time, uh, I was not as aware as I am now of the effects of, uh—the work of other investigators and a—I had not had the opportunity to look, with some detail, at—at the records which I retained personally, uh, from my investigation. Uh, and, uh, did not see the need to release the King files at that time. Now I want to see those files released, alongside those of John F. Kennedy. And I want, uh, specifically all files where the FBI blacked out, uh, information, uh, that might, uh, lead us to other findings such as we've now determined from, uh—from, uh, the, uh, access that was gained to, uh, at least, uh, the report of Mr. LeMaster to the FBI director, which we apparently did not have, uh, when our committee was doing its work.

The HSC's files are trash they never investigated either because I did not intend to

INTERVIEWER Is this the kind of thing that's just one of those situations that time passes and new information develops, or are you at all angry about something falling apart here?

W. FAUNTROY Well, I don't get angry. I get annoyed. And I—I say the urgency now is that I know everywhere I go, uh, talkin' to people who—who were with us in the Camelot period when we saw change positive for the benefit of all the people on the horizon, who are

concerned that now that we have another opportunity it appears, that we not have to worry about this kind of thing happening. And that those who se—who are at the command post of political power in the country are able to function without, uh, uh, danger of being assassinated.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

INTERVIEWER Last question. Is the question here really one of did James Earl Ray shoot the gun, or is it a question of did he do it alone? You know what I mean? I mean, is it a question in your mind at all of James Earl Ray being the assassin? Or is it simply that he was the assassin who was connected—what is the—

W. FAUNTROY We had a number—a number of questions at that time. There was no evidence that, uh—that James Earl Ray was the kind of marksman who could take a person out with one shot at that distance with that kind of rifle. Uh, and, uh, so I have both questions: whether, in fact, he was a patsy being handled by those who had the means of putting together conspiracy plots to kill people. And, uh, whether those who conspired were beyond the John Kauffman and Sullivan that we identified and whom we believed to have made the offer, uh, uh, e—constituted in their little grouping. The, uh, works of, uh, David Garreau, *Martin Luther King Jr. and the FBI*, a fella by the name of, uh, um, Curt Gentry—Gentry who's done a book on J. Edgar Hoover, *The Man and His Secrets*, uh, a book by the name of, uh, uh—done by Dick Russell called *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, and only recently an official and confidential, uh, uh, account of the secrets of J. Edgar Hoover done by, uh, Anthony Summers, all of which throw up a number of things which, if we could pull together and investigate properly, uh, might suggest an outcome different from that which the committee reached way back now [LAUGHS] in 1970.

INTERVIEWER What is your hope right now?

W. FAUNTROY My hope is that Dr. King's belief that truth crushed to earth would rise will be allowed to continue to rise. We sing the song "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored." Uh, programs like this and numerous other works of determined and courageous people have been trampling, trampling, trampling,

and I want to see the end of it. I want to see Dr. King's, uh, assassination fully explained, uh, to the American people and to the world, in the hope that anyone who had the idea that they might want to do that again to another generation would take, uh—take it very seriously that we're not going to—to go for that.

INTERVIEWER Okay, cut. Excellent.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

BEEP. BEEP.

[END OF INTERVIEW WITH WALTER FAUNTROY.]