

# ZODIAC

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(ZNS) THE DEFENSE INVESTIGATOR FOR CONVICTED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY SAYS HE IS HIGHLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT REPORTS WHICH ALLEGE THAT AN ANTI-CASTRO "SOLDIER OF FORTUNE" WAS INVOLVED IN THE 1968 MURDER OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR.

THE INVESTIGATOR, HAROLD WEISBERG OF MARYLAND, IS REFERRING TO PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS THAT A GUN-RUNNER WITH C.I.A. CONNECTIONS NAMED "JACK" YOUNGBLOOD MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN KING'S MURDER.

THE VILLAGE VOICE RECENTLY PUBLISHED A COVER STORY ON YOUNGBLOOD, QUOTING SEVERAL WITNESSES IN MEMPHIS WHO APPARENTLY PLACE YOUNGBLOOD NEAR THE SCENE OF THE MURDER WHEN KING WAS GUNNED DOWN IN MEMPHIS.

OTHER WITNESSES IN MEMPHIS REPORTEDLY IDENTIFIED YOUNGBLOOD AS BRAGGING ABOUT HAVING INSIDE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ASSASSINATION SHORTLY AFTER KING WAS KILLED.

WEISBERG, HOWEVER, SAYS HE FINDS THE YOUNGBLOOD CONNECTION "IRRATIONAL." WEISBERG SAYS THAT YOUNGBLOOD WAS IN MEMPHIS ABOUT THE TIME KING WAS SHOT, BUT HE QUESTIONS WHY A MAN LIKE YOUNGBLOOD WOULD BE SO CONSPICUOUS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE MURDER IF, IN FACT, HE WAS INVOLVED IN IT.

WEISBERG SAYS THAT IF YOUNGBLOOD HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER, THEN HE'D HAVE TO BE EITHER "STUPID" OR "INSANE" TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION HE APPARENTLY DID.

YOUNGBLOOD'S IMMEDIATE WHEREABOUTS IS UNKNOWN. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE WITNESS REPORTS THAT HE WAS PICKED BY POLICE AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, THERE ARE NO POLICE RECORDS INDICATING THAT HE WAS EVER OFFICIALLY QUESTIONED.

AT LAST REPORT, HE WAS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN AN ALASKAN OIL PIPELINE DEAL -- ZODIAC

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