

An Accomplice In Ray Case?

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Investigators who compiled evidence which would have been used in a trial for James Earl Ray, convicted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, have not ruled out the possibility that Ray had an accomplice.

"We have no proof to show there was no accomplice," John Carlisle, an investigator with the attorney general's staff, said yesterday.

"The evidence we have is not conclusive one way or the other," Carlisle said.

"We have nothing to prove he had someone working with him, and nothing to prove he didn't."

"The investigation at this point is closed, but our ears are still open," he said.

Ray, accused of shooting Dr. King on April 4, 1968, pled guilty to the charge in the spring of 1969, and was sentenced to 99 years in the state penitentiary.

"If the case had gone to trial, the state could have proved Ray did the shooting," Carlisle said.

Carlisle detailed Ray's movements from the time Ray escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1967, until he was arrested by Scotland Yard agents in London June 8, 1968. He spoke yesterday to members of the Lions Club at Goldsmith's.

Carlisle also showed club members pictures of Dr. King taken at St. Joseph Hospital following surgery performed on the civil rights leader. The photographs showed where a bullet from the .30.06 rifle, allegedly owned by Ray, entered Dr. King's right jaw, and where it lodged in his left back, just under the skin.

Carlisle also said that laundry markings found on the inside of boxer shorts and a tee-shirt, allegedly dropped by Ray as he fled from the scene of the shooting, were keys which led to discovering Ray's identity.