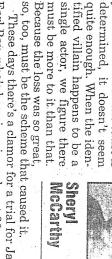


T are the hardest to get REAT TRAGEDIES over.

Because the loss was so great, must be more to it than that. single actor, we figure there tified villain happens to be a quite enough. When the idendetermined, it doesn't seem of innocents perish before years. Even when the cause is their time, the pain burns for woman is slain, when a host When a notable man or



ing if the real killer or killers came to justice. family has lived too long with the pain of not knowin asking for a trial. King's son, Dexter, says his that, they say, could clear his name. Ray's lawyers and family are pressing for a new trial confessed early on, but for years he's been claiming man named Raoul. Now, because he's terminally ill he didn't do it, that he was a pawn of a mysterious murdering the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray Earl Ray, who's been in prison almost 30 years for The bizarre thing is that King's family has joined These days there's a clamor for a trial for James

> The idea that King's murder was part of a con-spiracy is tempting. The idea that a lone bigot could have pulled it off seems to trivialize King's death. Moreover, blacks are no strangers to real their place and deprive them of justice. unions, political parties, corporate executives, poliwhite juries, criminal courts, lynch mobs, labor conspiracies — by southern lawmakers and allticians, real-estate agencies — to keep blacks in

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exonerates Ray or you have a new suspect. trial because you already have new evidence that that killed King came from Ray's rifle. So, test the overdue justice, while in reality it would do noth-ing of the kind. First, you don't hold a trial in the pipe dream. It's become a symbol for getting longgun, no problem. But, unless that turns up strikweapon and that it might prove whether the bullet new technology exists to test the alleged murder hope that it will unearth new evidence; you hold a ing new evidence, a trial for James Earl Ray is a Tennessee Judge Joseph Brown has ruled that

right against self-incrimination, protect the accused from testifying. All these serve, at times, to trial, while constitutional guarantees, like the evidence can keep valuable information out of the search for the truth. A trial is an adversarial hearing, in which each side tries to "win." Rules of Second, a criminal trial isn't the best way to

> obscure the truth, not to heighten it, guys' named Raoul without producing proof. It would be like O. J. Simpson's lawyers accusing Cojail. Without new evidence pointing to a different killer or killers, a trial would serve only to let Ray's out the truth, but to clear his name and get out of lombian drug dealers of being the "real killers. lawyers make innuendos about conspiracies and Ray's goal in pursuing a new trial is not to bring

should produce an address. claims, they know where Raoul lives, then they stops him from doing that, except the knowledge of to the authorities, so they can investigate. Nothing key lies with Ray himself. If he has facts about friends and family members. If, as his lawyer his own guilt and perhaps the knowledge of his Raoul, or any other conspirators, he is free to tell it If mystery remains about the King slaving, the

and with their need to know for certain whether something other than Ray's bigotry. But it's unfortunate that they've fixed on the idea of a trial for Martin Luther King's death was the result of I sympathize with the pain of King's survivors

without a trial. Let him tell what he knows before ing these last 28 years - no one except himself his time runs out. No one has kept him from talk-Ray as the way to bring that about. As for Ray, if he wants justice done, he can do it