

KINGSTON WIFE  
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# King's son says LBJ in murder plot

NEW YORK/The Associated Press

A SON OF ASSASSINATED U.S. CIVIL-RIGHTS LEADER Martin Luther King believes the late president Lyndon Johnson was part of a plot to kill his father.

"Based on the evidence that I've been shown, I would think that it would be very difficult for something of that magnitude to occur on his watch and he not be privy to it," Dexter King said Thursday on ABC's Turning Point.

The program explored theories about King's assassination and also provided a surprising twist to one theory promoted by the lawyer for James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the slaying in 1969.

Ray's lawyer, William Pepper, said former U.S. army major Billy Eidson was part of a plot to kill King and was then murdered in a coverup. To

Pepper's surprise, ABC brought out Eidson and introduced him to Pepper.

"I don't want to shake your hand. I just want to look at you," Eidson told Pepper.

He then asked Pepper to retract statements in a 1995 book that implicated him in the slaying of King.

Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison for shooting King on April 4, 1968. He retracted the confession days later and has been trying to win a trial ever since.

The King family has come out in favor of a trial for Ray, saying they believe he is innocent and King's death was probably the result of a government conspiracy.

Martin Luther King told ABC he, his mother and three siblings are united in their belief Ray had "basically nothing to do with the assassination."