

Louisville group quiet on probe of King death

By ED RYAN

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Little public light was shed on an alleged plot involving Louisville law enforcement officers to kill the late Martin Luther King Jr., as the House Assassinations Committee ended a two-day hearing on the matter yesterday.

Eight past and present Louisville policemen and Louisville-area FBI agents testified at the closed-door sessions.

But they were requested by the committee not to talk to the press afterward, and they didn't.

Subpoenaed by the committee and testifying were:

- ✓ Clifton E. Baird, a retired Louisville Police Department patrolman who apparently wrote Rep. Gene Snyder, R-4th District, alleging he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King. (The civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. James Earl Ray was convicted of the murder.)

Snyder sent Baird's letter to the committee, which is investigating both the King murder and President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

- ✓ Ollie Blair, a former Louisville policeman who worked with Baird.

- ✓ James Bibb, a former police lieutenant and 10th Ward Louisville alderman. Baird and Blair are believed to have served under Bibb's command.

- ✓ Lt. Col. Priest Fry, a retired chief of detectives.

- ✓ Capt. Robert Gregory Jr., also a retired chief of detectives.

- ✓ Brent Hardin, who was just promoted to lieutenant colonel in the city police department.

- ✓ Charles Duncan, a former FBI agent in the Louisville office who is now assigned to St. Louis.

- ✓ Bob Peters, a retired Louisville FBI agent who now works for a Louisville department store.

There was no indication yesterday that the congressional investigation concerning the Louisville allegations will continue.