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# Woman says husband told of King death plot

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The wife of a retired policeman confirmed yesterday that her husband told Rep. Gene Snyder (R-Ky.) there was a plot to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mrs. Mary Baird, 44, said her husband, Clifton, 50, told Snyder of an alleged plot involving Louisville police officers and FBI agents.

Mrs. Baird said her husband was out of town and not available for comment.

Snyder said last week a man told him he had been offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King. He declined to name the man, however.

Mrs. Baird said her husband retired from the Louisville police department several years ago after 27 years' service. "He told me about this when I first married him, seven years ago," she said in an interview. "I think he thought he wasn't going to be believed."

Mrs. Baird said she believes one reason her husband came forward with the allegation was because "he wants to know why someone asked him" to kill King, who was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Her husband, before contacting Snyder, told one of James Earl Ray's attorneys of the alleged plot, she said. Ray is serving 99 years in prison for the slaying of King.

Snyder still refuses to confirm that Baird is the man who told him of a plot.

Snyder said, "I'm not in a position to say whether he's telling the truth or not, but he does not appear to me to be a person other than totally rational."

The \$500,000 offer allegedly was made two or three years before King was killed according to an "informed source" quoted by the Kentucky Post, which first identified Baird as the man who wrote to Snyder.

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WASHINGTON — The House assassinations committee, in danger of lasting only one more week, approved sharply reduced budget yesterday in hope the House will let it continue to investigate the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

After approving the budget, the panel met in private to hear from its investigator on Tuesday's prison interview with James Earl Ray.

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), the committee chairman, told reporters a public report yet could be made on the "very lengthy" interview the investigators had with Ray. He said they plan to talk to him again.

The committee settled on a one-year budget of \$2.8 million — \$3.6 million below the request that committee counsel Richard Sprague made last December.