

M:lw Journal April 6, 1992

How can King family buy such nonsense?

By LEONARD LARSEN

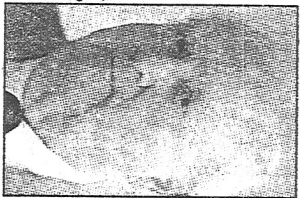
The pain of Martin Luther King's murder and the dignity of his life and work are only mocked in a futile foolishness, 29 years after King's death, to direct suspicion onto yet another monstrous and imaginary government conspiracy.

It's made more painful, even embarrassing, to the memory of King that his widow and surviving children are parties to the farce, seemingly unable or unwilling to believe King's real assassin was a career petty criminal, a thief, a con man, a liar, an outspoken racist and ultimately a killer.

So wretched a man as James Earl Ray — the King family and the claque of career conspiratorial theorists now surrounding them all suggest —

could not have brought down the world's most famous civil rights leader, the loved and respected martyr to world peace and racial healing.

As it was claimed in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and other killings, the claque, with the King family now alongside, insists it must have been — had to have been — powerful plotters inside the United States government that conspired to kill King.



Leonard Larsen is a columnist for Scripps Howard News Service.

A core belief attaching to the King murder conspiracy is that the civil rights leader was not shot to death in Memphis on April 4, 1968, in a racist attack by a prison escapee and social outcast, but killed by a murderous conspiracy of industrialists, militarists and anti-communists angry at King's opposition to the war in Vietnam. Just as it was and still is in the Kennedy assassination — where the conspiracy claque saw the same plotters in 1963, then concerned that the president might turn against U.S. involvement in Vietnam — the King assassination conspiracy is not only unproved but so far-fetched as to pick up a momentum of oddball belief: so crazy it must be true.

Please see **LARSEN** page 2



Dexter King (right), son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., meets with confessed killer James Earl Ray.

ASSOCIATED PRESS