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MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - FBI agents have uncovered "very substantial" physical evidence as they work "around the clock pursuing every lead" in the search for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin, says Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark.

"The FBI is devoting every possible resource to this investigation," Clark said. ". . . While it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested, I remain hopeful that it will be soon."

A Justice Department spokesman said the statement issued in Washington Friday night, Clark's first public pronouncement on the case in five days, was in response to newsmen's queries.

But Clark, like FBI officials, refused to answer newsmen's questions. "All I can say is no comment," said Robert Jensen, special agent in charge of the Memphis FBI office. King was shot and killed by a sniper April 4 as he stood outside his motel room here.

The search for the assassin has spread hundreds of miles from Memphis, sources report, and involves thousands of investigators.

The scope of the investigation was evident Friday in both Memphis and Birmingham. Newsmen seeking to question persons who might have information about the case were told repeatedly: "The FBI has already been here."

At the Memphis rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired, Charles Q. Stevens said FBI agents had shown him two composite drawings of the suspected slayer—one a partial profile and the other a full face view.

Stevens said he could identify the partial view, but not the full face view. He said he saw the gunman flee after hearing a shot fired from a communal bathroom next door to his room. The bathroom window affords a clear view of the motel balcony where King was standing when shot.

And at a rooming house in Birmingham, residents said FBI agents had questioned them about Eric Starvo Galt, a white man named in an FBI bulletin issued, then withdrawn, in Florida Thursday night.

The message sent over the state police teletypewriter network in Florida asked help in locating Galt. It said Galt was driving a white Mustang.

Witnesses in Memphis told investigators earlier they saw a man in a white Mustang drive away from the rooming house. Records in Alabama show that a man named Galt bought a 1966 Mustang in August 1967. Other documents disclosed Galt listed his occupation as "merchant seaman, unemployed," when he applied for a driver's license in Birmingham last September, giving the Birmingham rooming house as his address.

Federal authorities in Atlanta impounded Thursday night a white Mustang which had been abandoned in a parking lot near the Georgia State Capitol. Residents of the neighborhood said the car had been there since the day after King was shot.

A Methodist minister who notified police about the abandoned car said he "came within just a hair of not talking to police." The Rev. Ike Powell said he had heard news reports about a white Mustang, but "it's a big world and there are so many white Mustangs."

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