

22 April

Claims King's Killer Payoff Set in Orleans

New Orleans was the payoff point for a man hired to kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Time Magazine said in a story appearing in this week's issue of the magazine.

The magazine said a Memphis man overheard a Memphis businessman "giving an unknown trigger man urgent orders to kill King on the balcony of his motel, and even specifying the price for the job (\$5,000) and the pickup point for his fee (New Orleans)."

THE FBI in Washington had no comment on the report.

District Attorney Jim Garrison was out of town and unavailable for comment. Assistant DA James L. Alcock said he had no knowledge that the office was investigating any such report.

Time said the witness told the magazine and later the FBI of having overheard the conversation.

The conversation tended to support a theory that the plot was a "made-in-Memphis undertaking" according to Time.

The magazine also said that "according to several current theories, the death of King was plotted about three months ago in Memphis."

At least one Memphis man reported seeing a man roughly matching the description of James Earl Ray, the suspect named by the FBI, in Memphis last fall.

King was killed April 4 in Memphis by a sniper.