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Clark Says King Killing Suspect Alive

Washington

Attorney General Ramsey Clark expressed the belief yesterday that escaped convict James Earl Ray, accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King, remains alive. He said he was "very optimistic" that he would be captured.

He said he found no evidence to support theories that Ray had been hired by conspirators to kill King and then was himself killed. "We have no evidence to believe that he is not still alive," he said.

Interviewed on a television program, Clark also said the investigation was still operating on the assumption that King's killer was not the agent of conspirators.

"Our evidence indicates a man acting alone," he said.

Clark, who predicted that King's killer would be apprehended within a few days of his assassination in Memphis, Tenn. on April 4, said he was "disappointed" that his prediction was wrong.

Clark defended the record of the Johnson and Kennedy administrations in combating crime against a charge last week by Richard M. Nixon that he had been "indifferent, lame and ineffectual."

He noted that Nixon cited figures to show that the crime rate had grown by 88 per cent since John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961. He countered by saying that in the 1950s, including the eight-year period when Nixon was Vice President, crime had increased by 98 per cent.

United Press

NYTimes

S, MONDAY, MAY 13, 1968

Clark 'Very Optimistic' Ray Will Be Captured

WASHINGTON, May 12 (UPI) — Attorney General Ramsey Clark said today that James Earl Ray, sought in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, was alive. He said he was "very optimistic" that Ray would be captured.

Mr. Clark interviewed on the American Broadcasting Company's television program "Issues and Answers," said he had found no evidence to believe that he is not still alive. Mr. Clark said, "I believe we will find him." Clark said.