

St. Petersburg Times Editorials

"The policy of our paper is very simple — merely to tell the truth"
—Paul Poynter, publisher, 1912-1950

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The Capture Of Ray

The capture in London of James Earl Ray, assassin of Martin Luther King, is a major step in the diagnosis of a disease that has infected the

IT COULD have been a permanent and wide-spread effect.

It should have been a natural disinclination to fill the mind with the assassination of the especially suspicious Robert F. Kennedy.

The well-known fact that the King murder could now begin to unwind, also would have facts upon which to stand.

Negroes would have a standard of living that is a sad fact that the American people, most closely identified with the cause of Negro justice, the two Kennedys and King, were victims of a gun.

That same day an unanswerable question was why suspects in the Kennedy case were captured, but despite all the nation's police resources James Earl Ray was free. Now Ray is dead, so there is an answer.

This question of confidence by Negroes in the ability of the American system to respond to their needs demands the closest attention. Should that confidence ever be lost, should disillusionment ever

become permanent and wide-spread when the demands for justice within the system surely would become demands for a different system that must not map

the path of a conspiracy, a tragedy in the eyes of President Kennedy, the fact of a conspiracy making sense to have passed his profitable career. Those still believe those believing Sen. Kennedy's death was an organized effort to murder the mass of preliminary facts pointing to the conclusion of the work of a single man.

The King murder is a different matter entirely. When last asked, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said the evidence indicated Ray acted alone.

But Ray escaped from prison only a year before King was shot April 5. He rarely worked and had no known income. Yet he appeared well supplied with money, well enough to buy a car, travel to California, to Canada and then Europe before capture.

HARD QUESTIONS of money point toward a conspiracy in the King case, questions that won't go away until they are answered. If Atty. Gen. Clark has some answers, the nation needs to know them.

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