

A Few Puzzles Remain to Be Solved in Ray Case

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MEMPHIS, March 10 — James Earl Ray's decision to plead guilty to the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today leaves a number of unanswered questions.

Taken together, the major questions that have not been answered do not prove a conspiracy in the view of some investigators others, however, feel that some of the questions may need more exploring.

One major question for which no answer has been suggested is, who got a duplicate driver's license in Alabama for Ray in late February, 1968?

In October, 1967 using the name Eric Starvo Galt. On Feb. 28, 1968, Ray, who was still using the Galt alias, was in Los Angeles taking a course in the International School of Bartending.

On that day, someone called the Alabama Highway Patrol driver's license division in Montgomery and asked that a duplicate of Galt's driver's license be sent to 2608 South Highlands Avenue in Birmingham, the address that Ray had used in the Alabama city when he was establishing his identity as Galt.

The duplicate driver's license was mailed to the Birmingham address on Feb. 28, along with a bill for 25 cents. The bill and the 25 cents were returned to Montgomery by mail four days later. Ray still was in California.

In trying to cope with this

question today, James Beasley, an assistant Memphis prosecutor, said "any friend" could have received the license for Ray. But he said he had not identity for such a friend.

The prosecutors had answers for many other questions:

What about the police radio report on the night of Dr. King's murder that three men in a white Mustang automobile, said on the radio to be Dr. King's assassins, who were speeding toward the Navy base northeast of Memphis while firing pistol shots at the occupants of a blue automobile which was trailing them?

It was a prank, said Memphis Attorney General P. M. Canale. He said that the state knew the identity of two teen-age boys who made the broadcast but that the state does not have sufficient proof to bring them to trial.

Where did Ray get the \$15,000 or more that he spent during the year he was free after escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary before Dr. King was killed?

Mr. Canale said that Ray sent a large amount of money out of the prison before he escaped in early 1967. The prosecutor refused to say how Ray got the money. But there was a report from unofficial sources that Ray had run a drug traffic while in the prison.

In addition, Mr. Canale said that there was evidence that Ray had committed several robberies while fleeing

from authorities after he escaped.

How did Ray know that he could get a shot at Dr. King from the \$1-a-day rooming house?

Mr. Canale said that Ray did not know that he could get such a shot, but that the state believed that Ray had been trailing Dr. King for several days.

"We believe that he reconnoitered, cased the joint," Mr. Canale said.

What about Ray's claim to William Bradford Huie, the Alabama author, who wrote in Look magazine that Ray had said that a blond Cuban named Raoul had hired him to smuggle unnamed items into the United States and later had apparently directed him to kill Dr. King?

Mr. Canale said that the Canadian police had found no trace of a blond Cuban along the Montreal waterfront where Ray had said he met him. However, the prosecutor said, there was evidence that Ray had smuggled narcotics from Canada into the United States and smuggled jewelry either into or from Mexico.

Why would Ray kill Dr. King?

Mr. Canale said, "Race played at least some part in it." Ray, he said, was a racist.

Although Missouri prison authorities said that Ray did not have a history in prison of being a racist, a former inmate at the prison said that Ray was constantly making remarks against "niggers." A California bar-

tender said that in late 1967, he heard Ray make slurring remarks about Negroes.

A barmaid and a bearded California song writer, Rita Rosas and her brother Charles Stein, said that Ray had agreed to drive to New Orleans to pick up Mrs. Rosas's two children in December of 1967 if the two of them would sign a petition to get former Alabama Gov. George Wallace on the California ballot for President.

Mr. Canale said also that his investigators had picked up evidence of Ray's racist activities but that he would not disclose what they were.

How was Ray able to get a passport in Canada and how could he pick the names of three Toronto residents whom he could pass for physically to use as aliases?

Mr. Canale said that the state's investigation had shown that "the grapevine" in the Missouri State Prison was such that Ray would have known that it was easier to get a fraudulent passport in Canada than in the United States.

He said that the state presumed that Ray had read birth notices in old Canadian newspapers to find the names of real Toronto residents that he used.

If Ray had learned from the prison "grapevine" how to get a fraudulent passport in Canada, he may also have learned from the same source how to find names in old newspapers.

*Midlothian Mirror, Penn Jones, 2 May 68: "The word from reliable sources out of Memphis, Tennessee is that the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King was flown out of the United States after the assassination that night in a U.S. Navy plane."