

NYTimes JUL 1 1974  
Both King Sons Died in Their Thirties

By ELEANOR BLAU

It was just a little more than six years ago, that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis.

The civil rights leader was shot on April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, as he stood on a motel balcony in Memphis, where he had gone to support striking sanitation workers.

Within hours, riots erupted in black neighborhoods across the country, spreading to 125 cities in nine days. President Johnson called out Federal

troops to quell to violence in Washington.

An extensive manhunt was started for Dr. King's killer two months later, James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, was arrested in London. Mr. Ray pleaded not guilty to the shooting, then changed his plea to guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

He now contends that his guilty plea was not voluntary but the result of pressure by his lawyers. A hearing has been ordered.

According to Mr. Ray, he was

coerced into pleading guilty because a trial would have revealed all the facts he had saved for William Bradford Huie, who was to write a book about the assassination. Mr. Ray and his lawyers were to share in the book's proceeds, the prisoner maintained.

The King family faced a new sorrow in 1969 when Dr. King's younger brother, the Rev. A. D. Williams King, who had followed Dr. King into civil rights work, was found dead in a swimming pool at his Atlanta home. The death was officially ruled an accidental drowning.

Mr. King, who was 38 when he died, had been the pastor of a Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., until his brother was slain. Then he went to Atlanta to join his father as co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The senior Mr. King remarked once at a memorial service for his elder son that he bore no animosity toward Mr. Ray.

Yesterday, he was said to have asked a friend, State Senator Leroy Johnson, "Leroy, how much more can a man take?"