

# Memphis guard left King before slaying'

United Press International

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — The top law enforcement official in Memphis, Tenn., removed a detective assigned to protect Martin Luther King hours before the civil rights leader was assassinated in 1968, Newsday reported in a copyrighted story today.

The Long Island newspaper said Ed Redditt, the city detective guarding King, was pulled from his post and told there was a plot to kill him. (REDDITT)

Memphis public safety director Frank Holloman did not replace Redditt, and allowed the detective to return to work three days after King was murdered, Newsday said.

"The police department never offered any further explanation of the 'contract' on his life," Newsday said.

The story also said Holloman acknowledged the report of a threat on Redditt's life, but refused to say who had made the threat.

It also said Redditt "had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life."