

KING KILLING SUSPECT RAY IN CITY LAST DECEMBER

The man charged with conspiracy and murder in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was registered in a French Quarter motel from Dec. 17 through 19 of last year.

This was confirmed after Louis Lomax [NANA] reported that the suspect, James Earl Ray, met a man Lomax identified only as "a major New Orleans industrialist"* at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres, Dec. 17.

The States-Item has not been able to establish the identity of this "industrialist" or whether he actually exists... Lomax reported that investigators are searching for the "industrialist" (whose name still is unknown to them) ...

Asked about the possibility that criminal acts leading to Dr. King's death took place in New Orleans, District Attorney Jim Garrison said today, "We're very interested in the case."

However, the DA said, "we have no data at present. The federal people have not given us any information."

He added that federal authorities have not refused the information - they have not yet been asked for it. "Now that it's getting this specific, we'll be very much interested."

Garrison stressed that he means no criticism of federal investigators in this instance. "They have their own problems," he said.

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(Quoting Lomax)

On Dec. 16, 1967, Ray was in telephone contact with a major New Orleans industrialist, a man who is considered the economic and political "killer" of the community.

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On Dec. 17, 1967, Ray met in person with this New Orleans industrialist. On the day of the meeting, Ray was registered in a motel in New Orleans. The contact between Ray and the industrialist was made from this motel and the meeting was held in "downtown" New Orleans.

*an important person, a contractor and builder (NOSI 29 Apr);
"a man with an Italian name" (NYTimes 26 Apr).