Second Car Sought In Slaying Getaway

By JAY BOWLES

MEMPHIS (AP)—The presence of a second white Mustang near the doorway which police say the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., used to escape gave rise today to published reports that it may have been the getaway car.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal said the car with Arkansas tags and a similar vehicle, parked a short distance north, both left the scene within 15 minutes after King was fatally shot a week ago today.

Both vehicles were within 100 feet of the doorway to the second-floor rooming house where police said the assassin waited and shot King as he stood on the balcony of a motel across a rear street.

The killer was believed to have walked out of the Main Street entrance to the rooming house, turned south and dropped the murder weapon in front of a business firm next door.

Guy Canipe, owner of the firm, said he saw the young white man drop the package which contained the gun, but did not see his face.

The Commercial Appeal speculated that the man then walked a few steps farther along, got into the dirty white Mustang with Arkansas tags and sped away.

The second Mustang, parked north of the rooming house entrance, also left the scene near the time of the shooting.

Police said they would investigate reports that a supposed police chase in northeast Memphis —eight miles from the scene—30 minutes after the shooting may have been a decoy to allow the killer to escape.

A recording of the police radio dispatcher's transmissions showed seven calls in 12 minutes from a lieutenant's car in the northeast section of the city detailing the case.

The lieutenant said Tuesday he did not make the calls. This led to speculation that someone other than police may have sent the calls on the police frequency to draw officers away from the escape route.

The FBI declined to comment on reports firearms dealers in Birmingham, Ala., had been questioned about sales of Remington rifles.