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11 JUNE 68  
550 PPD

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--NY ONLY--

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION--

GENERAL DESK ASKED FOR FOLLOWING STEIN-EARL  
RAY STORY TO MEET REQUEST FROM CANADIAN  
PRESS

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WITH RAY BJT

HOLLYWOOD (AP) -- A MAN WHO SAYS HE MADE A SIX-DAY AUTO  
TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS LAST DECEMBER WITH THE MAN NOW  
CHARGED WITH SLAYING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SAID TUESDAY: "FROM  
MY UNDERSTANDING OF HIM, IF HE DID  
KILL KING HE WAS PAID FOR IT."

SONGWRITER CHARLES STEIN ADDED HE THINKS JAMES EARL RAY'S  
LIFE IS IN DANGER.

"IF HE WAS PAID FOR THE JOB, HIS LIFE IS DEFINITELY IN DANGER.  
DOUBLE DANGER," SAID STEIN, "FROM THE PEOPLE WHO PAID HIM --  
AND FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING'S FOLLOWERS."

DOES STEIN THINK RAY WAS PART OF A CONSPIRACY TO KILL KING?

"IF HE WAS PAID FOR THE JOB AND YOU CALL THE ONES  
THAT PAID HIM A CONSPIRACY, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A CONSPIRACY,"  
STEIN SAID.

STEIN, 39, SAID HE KNEW RAY AS ERIC STARVO GALT ON  
THE TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS AND BACK IN A WHITE MUSTANG DRIVEN BY GALT.

STEIN SAID HE WAS OFFERED THE FREE RIDE AFTER AGREEING  
TO ADD HIS SIGNATURE TO FORMER ALABAMA GOV. GEORGE C. WALLACE'S  
CAMPAIGN TO QUALIFY FOR CALIFORNIA'S JUNE 4 PRESIDENTIAL  
PRIMARY BALLOT.

STEIN WENT TO NEW ORLEANS TO BRING BACK HIS SISTER  
RITA'S TWO CHILDREN. HE SAID HE HAD MET GALT IN A HOLLYWOOD  
BOULEVARD COCKTAIL LONGE AND THOUGHT HIM "SOME KIND OF POLITICIAN."  
BUT A WALLACE CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR SAID CAMPAIGN FILES SHOWED  
NONE OF THE NAMES GALT, OR RAY, REPORTEDLY USED.

ON THE TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS, SAID STEIN, A BEARDED,  
HEAVY-SET ROCK 'N' ROLL LYRICIST: "HE TOLD ME HE'D SOLD SOME  
JOINT IN MEXICO, SAID HE'D BEEN THERE FIVE YEARS.  
BUT HE COULDN'T TALK SPANISH, EXCEPT 'SI' AND 'COMO ESTA,' THINGS  
EVERYBODY KNOWS. I THOUGHT HE JUST LIKED TO KID AROUND  
AND LET IT SLIDE.

"I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE CAT. I SUSPECT HE WENT TO  
PICK UP SOME BREAD, YOU KNOW, MONEY. HE WAS TAKING CARE  
OF HIS BUSINESS." 7"2

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"I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE CAT. I SUSPECT HE WENT TO  
PICK UP SOME BREAD, YOU KNOW, MONEY. HE WAS TAKING CARE  
OF HIS BUSINESS. HE WAS GOING TO SEE SOME PEOPLE IN NEW ORLEANS,  
A CONTRACTOR OR AN ENGINEER AS NEARLY AS I CAN RECALL.  
HE DIDN'T TALK MUCH. IF YOU ASKED HIM A PERSONAL  
QUESTION HE'D JUST ANSWER THAT QUESTION AND STOP.  
IT WAS LIKE PARRYING, IN FENCING.

"HE TOLD ME HE WAS IN THE ARMY -- HE DIDN'T SAY WHEN. HE WAS  
UP ON POLITICS; HE THOUGHT POLITICS WAS A BUSINESS TO MAKE MONEY.

"WE TALKED ABOUT HUNTING. HE INDICATED HE WAS A GOOD SHOT,  
LIKED TO HUNT DEER AND STUFF LIKE THAT. I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T  
DIG KILLING ANIMALS, AND WE GOT AROUND TO PEOPLE. I TOLD HIM  
THE SAME GOD IS IN EVERYBODY, REGARDLESS OF COLOR. HE SEEMED TO  
HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING FOR THAT."

STEIN SAID HIS BEST KNOWN SONG IS ONE HE WROTE AFTER  
KING'S ASSASSINATION, "THOUGH HIS BODY'S GONE, HIS SPIRIT LIVES ON,"  
RECORDED BY A GROUP CALLED THE MELTING POT.

ASKED IF HE THOUGHT RAY HAD HELP IN ESCAPING FROM  
PRISON, STEIN SAID: "I DON'T KNOW HOW HE COULD HAVE DONE IT BY  
HIMSELF."

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