

Police in Canada Investigate Whether Ray Had Assistance

By JAY WALZ

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TORONTO, June 10 — Police investigators weighed today the "important possibility" that James Earl Ray, the man accused of killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had important, perhaps underworld, accomplices helping him make his escape to Europe through Canada.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose check of passport applications provided the clue leading to Ray's identification and arrest in London last Saturday, has decided that the suspect on his own could not have worked so fast and successfully during his month in Toronto.

"He didn't come cold into the city," a police spokesman said. "There was help of some kind."

The spokesman noted that many Canadians seeking passports and related documents in the normal way often complained that it takes longer than if did Ray — about two weeks.

Police sources note that Ray used the loopholes known to espionage agents, narcotics agents and other underworld figures to enter and leave the country. They point out that Ray had money, had been in Canada a year ago and lived in Montreal for a while last July, signing an apartment lease under the alias of Eric S. Galt, a name he also used in Los Angeles.

Mystery on Names

The real Eric S. Galt is a supervisor with Union Carbide in Scarborough, a community in metropolitan Toronto.

One mystery confronting the police is how it happened that the three men whose names Ray used as aliases all live within a few blocks of each other. They are Mr. Paul Bridgman, a consultant teacher with the Toronto Board of Ed-

ucation, and Ramon George Sneyd, a constable of the Toronto police force.

When Ray was arrested in London he was carrying two Canadian passports issued to Ramon George Sneyd. When he first came to Toronto on April 8, four days after the slaying of Dr. King, Ray used the name of Paul Bridgman and obtained a birth certificate in this name.

All the men have found the experience of "being an alias" embarrassing, although all have been cleared by the police. None can explain how his name came to be used. B. O. Simmonds, Toronto Deputy Police Chief, said he did not know how Ray obtained enough information about Constable Sneyd or Mr. Bridgman for passport applications.

To obtain a passport, Ray needed a birth certificate. The police say they do not know how Ray obtained vital statistics about Mr. Bridgman and later Mr. Sneyd. But this need not have been difficult. He could have obtained the data from birth announcements on file in Toronto newspapers.

Both The Toronto Star and The Toronto Telegram reprinted this evening announcements of Mr. Bridgman's birth that were published in their respective vital statistics columns on Nov. 11, 1932. They read: Bridgman: On Thursday, Nov. 10, 1932, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bridgman (née Evelyn Godden), a son, Paul Edward."

The date, parentage, sex and name are all Ray or anyone else would need to know when going to the registrar general for a birth certificate. H. F. C. Humphries, Ontario Deputy Registrar General, said today that Ray could have obtained a birth certificate easily.

"The kids are doing this all the time," he said.