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# Evidence Hints a Conspiracy in Slaying of Dr. King

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MEMPHIS — From the moment of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4 evidence has accumulated to suggest that he was the victim of a conspiracy. Several bits of evidence indicate more than one person may have been involved in Dr. King's slaying. Others point to the possibility that the murder may have been a hired killing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has refused to comment. Attorney General Ramsey Clark has said several times that the F.B.I., has not uncovered any evidence of a conspiracy.

Mr. Clark, said however, that the investigation did not end with the arrest of James Earl Ray in London on June 8. If others are involved, he said, *conspiracy are the following items: the F.B.I. will find them.*

### Indications of Conspiracy

Among the indications that there may have been a conspiracy are the following items:

¶ A vivid description broadcast over the Memphis police radio network on the night of April 4 of an automobile chase that never took place.

¶ The finding of a duplicate driver's license in Alabama.

¶ A trail of free spending left by Eric S. Galt, an alias used by Ray.

¶ Three other aliases the F.B.I. contends Ray — or some other individual — used in the United States and in Canada.

Dr. King was shot at 6:01 P.M. as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel in Memphis, watching the sunset and talking with friends in the parking lot below him.

The police discovered almost immediately that the assassin had apparently fired the fatal shot from the bathroom of a cheap rooming house 200 feet from the motel. At 6:20 p.m. a description of an automobile chase supposedly taking place in northeast Memphis was broadcast over the citizens band radio leased by Memphis businesses.

The broadcast occurred just after the police radio broadcast information that the killer of Dr. King might have fled in a white Mustang automobile.

### Student's Statement

A 27-year-old part-time student, who asked that his identity not be made public, gave a detailed statement on April 11 about the "chase."

"About 6:20 P.M., I was east-bound on Jackson at Springdale (two Memphis streets)," the student said in his statement. "An unidentified C.B. [Citizens Band] mobile operator called for a telephone call to the police department.

"A base station in South Memphis answered his call and wanted to know what message to give the police. At the time, skip conditions [interference] interrupted their communication and they were unable to maintain contact.

"I arrived at Jackson and Hollywood and saw a police car stopped at the red light. I motioned to the policeman to pull into the parking lot at the intersection. It was car 160."

Car 160 was driven that night by Lieut. R. W. Bradshaw.

The mobile operator, who said he was driving a blue Pontiac, had broadcast that he was chasing a white Mustang and wanted to relay information to the police.

### Call to Police Mobile

"I called the mobile, saying, 'The mobile chasing the white Mustang,'" the student said. "I told him I had a police car beside me and would relay his messages. He tried to tell the base station he was chasing a white Mustang with the man who had shot King."

Lieutenant Bradshaw began to relay the messages over his police radio to headquarters where the messages were re-broadcast to all police cars.

Several police cars that had been stopping white Mustangs in the city sped toward the scene of the chase, which by now was reported to be at 100 miles an hour.

The mobile operator who said he was following the white Mustang said he could not get the car's tag number.

"I asked him several times if he could get the license number," the student who was monitoring the calls, said. "He said, 'I'm afraid to get that close. He's shooting at me.'"

It took the police less than an hour to decide that no such chase took place. A sheriff's car happened to be at the spot where the mobile operator reported that three men in a white Mustang were shooting at him. The sheriff's men said they saw no chase.

The student said he had been skeptical himself. He said he kept getting a strong reading on his radio signal meter, an indication that the broadcasts were originating at a spot close to him and that the source of the broadcasts was not moving.

Lieutenant Bradshaw would not comment. Memphis Police Commissioner Frank Holloman has said only that the police department was investigating the possibility that the broadcasts were designed to draw police attention to northeast Memphis while the killer fled southward.

Ray's car, a white Mustang that the F.B.I. said he bought

under the name Eric S. Galt, did not carry Citizens Band radio equipment.

On March 2, Ray graduated from a bartenders' school in Hollywood, Calif. The F.B.I. said Ray, using the name Galt, had enrolled in the school after taking a series of dancing lessons at Long Beach, Calif.

The F.B.I. has produced a photograph that it says proves that Ray attended the bartenders' school graduation ceremony.

The day before Galt's graduation from the bartenders' school, a man using the name of Eric S. Galt called the driver's license division of the Alabama Highway Patrol in Montgomery and said he had lost the driver's license issued to him the previous Sept. 30. He asked that a duplicate license be mailed to the Economy Grill and Rooms in Birmingham.

Galt had stayed at this rooming house for several weeks in the summer and fall of 1967 and had listed it as his address when he had received an Alabama driver's license.

### License Mailed

The duplicate license was mailed as requested, along with a bill for 25 cents to cover costs. The bill and the 25 cents were returned and received in Montgomery on March 6.

Peter N. Cherpes, manager of the Economy Grill and Rooms, said Galt never came back to the rooming house after Oct. 5, 1967. He said he did not recall Galt's getting any letters after he left.

Mail to roomers at the Economy Grill and Rooms is left on a hall table by the postman, and the mail is readily accessible to people walking in from the street.

The Galt who attended the bartenders' school is not believed to have left California until mid-March. He checked into an Atlanta rooming house on March 24 where he left behind a map of Atlanta with the location of Dr. King's home, office and church marked on it. Fingerprints on this map are believed to have provided the F.B.I. with a link between Galt and Ray.

The white Mustang automobile that Galt used in California has been considered by the F.B.I. to be the one that was abandoned in Atlanta on April 5—the day after Dr. King was assassinated.

Airlines operating between Los Angeles and Birmingham have not shown that a passenger by the name of Galt or any of the aliases that Ray used flew between that city and Birmingham between March 2 and March 24.

It would have been a practical impossibility for Galt to

drive from Los Angeles to Birmingham after his graduation from the bartenders' school in time to pick up the duplicate driver's license and to have returned the 25 cents to Montgomery by March 5, the day the bill and the quarter were mailed. Who received the duplicate license and who mailed the 25 cents is not known.

Where Ray got the money he spent between Aug. 26, 1967, and June 8, 1968, when he was arrested in London, is a puzzle.

He took dancing lessons and the bartenders' course, he bought the white Mustang, a .30-06 caliber rifle, drove 1,900 miles in Mexico, Canada and the United States, went by airplane to Europe and had his living expenses. The cost must have been \$10,000 or more.

### Escape From Prison

He has not been known to work since escaping from the Jefferson City state prison in Missouri on April 23, 1967.

Six weeks ago an F.B.I. spokesman in Washington suggested that the money spent might have come from robberies. Several newspapers have quoted F.B.I. "sources" as saying one of these may have been the robbery of a bank at Alton, Ill., on July 13, 1967, during which \$20,000 was stolen.

A woman in the bank was quoted as having said that one of the two robbers resembled photographs of Ray.

However, other evidence indicates that Ray may have been living in Toronto at this time, staying in one of the numerous rooming houses he called home for more than a year.

No official theory to explain Ray's aliases has been advanced. He has used the names of at least four residents of Toronto. Three of the men have a close resemblance to Ray's physical appearance, while the fourth is a couple of inches shorter.

The aliases used by Ray, the F.B.I. said, were Ramon George Sneyd, Eric S. Galt, Paul Bridgman and John Willard.

Mr. Sneyd, Mr. Galt and Mr. Bridgman are all about 5 feet 10 inches in height and have dark hair. Mr. Willard is 5 feet 8 inches tall and also has dark hair. Mr. Sneyd is a Toronto police officer, Mr. Galt a supervisor for Union Carbide of Canada, Ltd., Mr. Bridgman a consultant to the Toronto board of education and Mr. Willard an insurance appraiser.

### Appear in Thirties

Although their ages rang from 35 years to 54 years, all four men appear to be in their thirties, as does Ray, who is 40.

The F.B.I. said Ray used the Galt alias in Birmingham, Atlanta and Los Angeles, the Willard alias in Memphis and Birmingham and Sneyd in Toronto.

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When Ray was arrested in London, he had a fraudulent passport in Mr. Sneyd's name.

The Canadian police believe that the use of the name of John Willard was a coincidence. But they believe that the three other names were chosen because of the physical resemblance between Ray and the three Toronto residents. Although Mr. Sneyd, Mr. Galt and Mr. Bridgman all live in northeast Toronto within a few miles of each other, the three men were not acquainted.

The Canadian police are investigating the possibility that Ray had help in picking the aliases.

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