

'Patriotic' Offer to Help Ray

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Savannah, Ga.

An organization calling itself the Patriot Legal Fund has offered to defend James Earl Ray if he is brought to trial on charges that he as-

sassinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Edward R. Fields, the fund's secretary, said yesterday. "We have offered to defend free of charge; pay all

legal costs, attorney fees, court costs, costs of appeal if there are any, and bonds."

Ray is fighting extradition to the United States.

Fields said the offer was

made in a letter about two weeks ago to John Tyndall, a representative of the Patriot Legal Fund and editor of the journal called "Spearhead" in London. *Associated Press*

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The King Witnesses Mystery

Memphis, Tenn.

Three key witnesses against James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, have dropped from sight and may be in protective custody, investigation showed yesterday.

A fourth witness has been confined to a mental institution, authoritative sources said. The witness was not identified.

British barrister David Calcutt, representing the United States yesterday at an extradition hearing for Ray in London, told the court that American authorities had a witness, a "Mr. Stevens," who had seen Ray enter the boarding house bathroom that King's killer used as a sniper's post.

SCURRY

Calcutt's disclosure sent reporters here scurrying to the boarding house to interview Charles Q. Stevens, who was known to have given authorities information concerning the April 4 killing of King.

But when news men reached the house they found Stevens missing and a pad-



UPI Telephoto

**CHARLIE STEVENS
 Missing**

lock on his old room, No. 6. Also missing were Mrs. Bessie Brewer, former house manager, and another occupant, Willie Anchutz, who gave officials information.

Authorities here refused to shed any light on the whereabouts of the witnesses. Frank Holloman, Memphis director of fire and police, said he could make no comment, and FBI agent Robert Jensen, questioned about Stevens, said he talked to him "a few weeks ago, but "I have no knowledge of his whereabouts at the present time."

Jensen refused all comment regarding Mrs. Brewer and Anchutz, explaining: "I'm sorry. I'm restricted and can say nothing about the case."

United Press