

3 IN DR. KING CASE DROP FROM SIGHT

Memphis Witnesses May Be
Under Police Protection

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—Charlie Q. Stephens, who gave a deposition that was read in the extradition hearing of James Earl Ray in London today, has moved, as have two other important witnesses in the case, from the Memphis rooming house where the rifle shot was fired that killed the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Also gone from the \$10-a-week rooming house today were its former manager, Mrs. Frank Brewer, and another roomer, Willie Anchutz.

There were indications that at least two of the missing witnesses were being protected by the police.

Authorities in Memphis did not appear alarmed that the three persons and moved from the rooming house without leaving a forwarding address.

Mr. Anchutz, Mr. Stephens and Mrs. Brewer all reported seeing the accused slayer of Dr. King during the late afternoon of April 4, the day the civil rights leader was assassinated.

Landlady Has Doubts

Mrs. Brewer has said she rented the room to a man who gave his name as John Willard. The landlady who told reporters that she was frightened, said that she had not paid much attention to his looks. She said later that she was unable to recognize photographs of James Earl Ray as John Willard.

Mr. Stephens has said that he saw Willard being shown to Room 5 by Mrs. Brewer and

that the new roomer used the common bathroom several times between 3:30 P.M. and 6:01 P.M., the time that the police said the fatal shot was fired.

Mr. Stephens, a 46-year-old heavy equipment operator who retired 12 years ago because of his health has said that Willard, whom the Federal Bureau of Investigation has said was Ray, was in the bathroom when the shot was fired.

He said that Mr. Anchutz had come in from work at a moving company and had wanted to use the bathroom but had found it occupied for a long time by Willard.

Mr. Anchutz has said that he heard the shot and stepped out into the hall and saw Willard coming from the direction of the bathroom with a long object wrapped in newspapers.

Mr. Anchutz said he remarked that the noise had sounded

like a shot and that the new roomer agreed that it had.

Mr. Stephens said he also came into the hall a few seconds later and saw Willard descending the stairs to the street. In his disposition read at the London hearing today, Mr. Stephens said that Willard was carrying a long, slender object wrapped in newspapers.

Rifle Found in Street

A Remington .30-'06 model 760 rifle was found on the street near the rooming house a few moments later. The police said the rifle had been wrapped in a bedspread.

The witnesses apparently moved only recently. Mrs. Brewer was still managing the rooming house on June 8 when James Earl Ray was arrested in London under the name Ramon George Sneyd.

The rooming house is now

being managed by Mr. and Mrs. James McDonald, who said that they did not know Mrs. Brewer.

Frank C. Holloman, director of the Memphis police and fire departments, said that he had no comment on the witnesses having moved.

United Press International said, however, that the F.B.I. agent in charge of the Memphis office, Robert Jensen, said that he had talked with Mr. Stephens several days ago but that he did not know his present whereabouts.