

King Death Conspiracy Probed by Senate Panel

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Internal Security subcommittee is assembling evidence bearing on a possible conspiracy in the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Announcing this, Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., said the subcommittee has received some direct information that indicates to him that James Earl Ray did not act alone in the slaying of the leader of the Southern Christian Leadership conference in Memphis last April 4.

RAY PLEADED guilty to the murder of King and was taken to the state prison at Nashville yesterday to begin serving a 99-year sentence.

Eastland said in an interview he thinks "there are some things about this affair that indicate to me there may have been a conspiracy."

"In the first place," he said, "somebody had to know King was in the motel. Somebody had to know which room he was in. Somebody had to know that he was going out on the balcony, where he was shot.

"Somebody had to show Ray which room he was to occupy so that he could shoot King."

Eastland said the subcommittee staff is seeking to locate an individual member of the Southern Christian Lead-

ership conference who was reported to have said that Ray did not kill King.

THE CHAIRMAN said the subcommittee is relying entirely on its own staff resources in its investigation. He said it does not have access to any information compiled by the FBI or the Justice Department.

"I don't know whether there will ever be any hearings on this matter but we are assembling available information," he said.