

Eastland Gathers King Slaying Facts

Washington

Chairman James O. Eastland (Dem-Miss.) of the Senate Judiciary Committee, expressing doubt the assassination of Martin Luther King was "the work of one man," said yesterday he was assembling all the facts in the slaying.

"There has been and there are now some questions in my mind on this incident," Eastland said. "I have doubts that this killing was the work of one man."

Eastland said he was acting as chairman of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee. The statement did not say he was launching an investigation into the killing, but said he was "assembling all available facts . . . in an effort to answer some questions in my mind."

The Mississippi Senator said that James Earl Ray, who began serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to the murder, indicated there was a conspiracy with a "blond Latin" man who provided the assassin with funds.

were there Communists involved? were there communists involved," Eastland said.

Eastland said he wanted to know how Ray knew that Dr. King was going to be in the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis where the shooting took place: how Ray knew the location of Dr. King's room, how Ray knew Dr. King would come out on the balcony where he was shot: and how Ray knew where to get a room which gave him the angle to fire the fatal shot.

Eastland added he was also puzzled as to who assisted and advised Ray in the intricacies of international travel.

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