

16 San Francisco Chronicle

☆☆ Thurs., Mar. 13, 1969

State Senate Unit Buries An Honor for Dr. King

Sacramento

A resolution honoring the late Martin Luther King Jr. for his contributions to humanity was killed by the State Senate rules committee yesterday after one Senator linked him to Communist leaders.

The resolution, which already had cleared the State Assembly, asked Governor Ronald Reagan to proclaim April 4 as Martin Luther King Day in honor of the slain civil rights leader.

It hailed King as "the Nation's leading advocate of social justice through loving, nonviolent action." King was slain April 4, 1968.

The resolution died on a 3-2 vote in the committee after Senator H.L. Richardson (Rep-Arcadia) submitted a manila folder filled with

written testimony denouncing King and his acquaintances and backers.

BIRCHER

The package submitted by Richardson led Senator John G. Schmitz (Rep-Tustin), a member of the John Birch Society, to say the resolution "honors an image that isn't."

Schmitz quoted from one of King's books that said the civil rights movement should create crises to achieve its objectives.

"King's method is called nonviolence," Schmitz said, "but by his words it is to foster crises and create tensions."

Richardson's testimony said King received money and support "from top identified Communist leaders."

After Richardson's package of evidence was submit-

ted and Schmitz made his statements, Senator Jack Schrade (Rep-San Diego), moved to take the resolution under submission — a method of delivering the death blow to a measure.

ALTERNATE

Senator Joseph Kennick (Dem-Long Beach), offered an alternate motion to send the resolution to the Senate floor for more consideration.

Kennick and Senator Stephen P. Teale (Dem-Railroad Flat) were the only two favorable votes in the five-member committee. Senate Leader Hugh M. Burns (Dem-Fresno) and Senator John F. McCarthy (Rep-San Rafael), joined Schrade in the voting to take the measure under submission

United Press

A Report That Ray Regrets His Plea

Nashville, Tenn.

James Earl Ray regrets pleading guilty to killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and is considering trying to overturn his 99-year sentence, the Nashville Tennessean said in a copyright story last night.

The Tennessean, quoting prison sources and others who have talked with Ray since he was sentenced Monday morning in Memphis, said Ray believes the worst he would have received, had

he pleaded not guilty would have been a life sentence.

"When I went to court Monday I was convinced if I didn't plead guilty I was going to the electric chair. I wish the hell I hadn't now, because with what they had on me I believe the worst I'd gotten would have been life," a prison source quoted Ray as saying.

The newspaper said prison sources stated Ray has already made inquiries about how to get a lawyer.

United Press