

King Shooting Spot Disputed by Author

By William Chapman

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The shot that killed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. did not come from a rooming house window as described in the FBI's early investigation of the case, an author who has investigated the slaying said yesterday.

Harold Weisberg, a Frederick, Md., author, said documents he obtained from the FBI in a Freedom of Information suit show that the rifle allegedly used to kill King could not have been fired from the window.

Weisberg presented his argument at a news conference called by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), who said that many questions remain to be answered about the Memphis murder of the civil rights leader in April, 1968.

Weisberg described himself as an investigator for James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the assassination but who

now contends he was framed and is seeking a trial.

The police and FBI version of the slaying says King was killed by a single bullet fired from a rear window of a Memphis rooming house.

Weisberg yesterday produced a message from the FBI laboratory which reported no evidence of powder burns on the sill of the window. He said an expert on criminal evidence would testify that a rifle could not have been fired from that point without leaving powder marks.

"We have no comment," a spokesman for the FBI said of Weisberg's charges. "We stand on our documents."