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Brother of James Earl Ray Held on Burglary Charge

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 28 (AP)—John Ray, 45, brother of James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., has been arrested and booked on suspicion of burglary and assault with intent to kill, police say.

Police said John Ray entered a home on the south side of St. Louis around 8 p.m. Monday, walked past the two children of Jesse Evans and began burglarizing the home. Officers said the children called their father who was visiting nearby.

Police said Evans, his brother Thomas Evans and a friend, John Lonsway, rushed to the home and began fighting with Ray. They said Ray was choking Jesse Evans when one of the other men got a shotgun.

Officers said Ray fled on foot and was arrested a short time later.

Meanwhile, the Martin Luther King subcommittee of the House Assassinations Committee authorized staff lawyers to seek a writ from the U.S. District Court in Washington to permit John Ray to testify before the full committee on Friday as scheduled.

Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey said the writ was necessary in view of John Ray's arrest.

Another brother, Jerry Ray, also is scheduled to testify before the committee.

Blakey said in a prepared statement Monday that the committee has evidence indicating a possible "Ray family conspiracy" to murder King. He said the committee's suspicions fell most heavily on John and Jerry Ray.