

MISSISSIPPI KLANSMEN ABSOLVED IN SLAYING

Atlanta (UPI) - The White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan have been ruled out, at least for the present, of any part in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Sources close to the FBI investigation said yesterday the Klan, accused in the past of plotting murders in Mississippi, apparently had no part in the assassination in Memphis, April 4.

The only possibility the White Knights may have /been/ involved is if a new member of the Klan group, not yet identified by FBI informants, took part in the slaying.

The FBI deems that possibility very remote, it was learned, because of the extensive FBI infiltration of the White Knights during the past four years.

Elimination for the present of the White Knights from the investigation was made after members were checked for their whereabouts on the day of the slaying.

Sources said it took the FBI four days to account for the activities of each of the nearly 500 Kluxers on that Thursday.

No rumors or tips from within the White Knights ranks have come to the FBI to indicate the Klan had any knowledge that Dr. King was to be murdered.

"This state (Mississippi) was turned upside down in four days," a source close to the investigation said.

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See also file, Martin Luther King, 23 Apr 68 ff.