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Expert Reconstructs

Dr. King's Killing

By PAUL WAGMAN
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WASHINGTON — The shot that killed the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King could have been fired from a bathroom window of a rooming house across the street from King's motel or from a bushy area in a yard behind the house, a pathologist told the House Select Committee on Assassinations today.

Dr. Michael M. Baden, the pathologist, said there were no medical tests which would be precise enough to rule out either site.

The bathroom window has been cited by prosecutors of James Earl Ray, King's convicted assassin, as the site from which Ray was alleged to have shot King as he stood on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

However, according to some other theories that have arisen about the murder, the fatal shot was fired by someone other than Ray from the backyard of the rooming house.

In another development, Mark Lane, Ray's attorney, raised new questions about the Assassination Committee's investigatory techniques. Lane said he had evidence that a St. Louis-area man had been paid by two committee investigators to lie to Jerry Ray, James Earl Ray's brother, and to another man in an effort to learn how they would respond to a subpoena from the committee.

Lane said the St. Louis-area man had

been instructed by investigators Conrad Baetz, a former Madison County, Ill., sheriff's deputy, and Melvin Waxman to tell Ray and the other man that he had been subpoenaed and that they would probably be subpoenaed, too. Lane said the man flew to Atlanta to meet with the pair and to learn whether they would plead the Fifth Amendment, who their lawyers were, and other information.

Lane, also an author, showed a reporter a copy of a check written to the St. Louis man which carried the identification "U.S. House of Representatives." Lane showed the reporter the check only on the condition that the man's name not be disclosed. He said that the man did not want publicity.

The check was for \$69. Lane said the man was paid \$50 plus \$19 expenses. Earlier this month, Lane created a small uproar when at a St. Louis press conference he and Oliver Patterson of Black Jack accused the committee of commissioning Patterson to spy on Jerry Ray. The alleged spying included alleged illegal taping of telephone conversations.

The allegations led to an investigation by the Assassinations Committee. Last week, chief counsel G. Robert Blakey reported that "on the strength of a preliminary investigation the committee categorically denies each and every allegation of wrongdoing."

Today, Lane said he was mystified by

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Blakey's statement, because, he said, the committee had never interviewed any of the people making the allegations: himself, Patterson or Susan Wadsworth, an alleged participant in some of the improper activities.

Today's testimony by Dr. Baden came in the second day of the committee's public hearings into King's death. James Earl Ray is scheduled to testify tomorrow. Ray arrived in Washington Monday night under tight security from Brushy Mountain, Tenn., State Prison.

Baden, chief medical examiner for New York City, was one of three pathologists picked by the committee to answer a variety of questions. Among them was whether King received proper medical care in the ambulance and in the hospital emergency room, and whether the bullet wound could be used to determine the origin of the fatal shot.

The other pathologists, Dr. John J. Coe, chief medical examiner of Hempden County, Minn., and Dr. Joseph H. Davis, chief medical examiner of Dade County, Fla., did not testify. Baden said there were no disagreements among them.

Illustrating his testimony with drawings and photographs, Baden said that King had been killed by a single 30.06

rifle shot which entered his right cheek about an inch from his mouth.

The bullet then passed through King's right jaw and exited from his body before re-entering it on the right side of his neck. Then it passed through the neck before lodging on his left side near the collar-bone.

The high-velocity rifle blast fractured the civil rights leader's jaw, two vertebrae and two ribs. It also did major damage to the spinal cord and large blood vessels, including the carotid artery, which brings blood to the brain.

Death, Baden said, resulted from the injuries to the blood vessels and the spinal cord.

Baden said that he had been impressed with the "vigorous medical attention" that King received after reaching St. Joseph's Hospital emergency room. He did not testify about the ambulance care.

He said King's heart was still beating when he arrived at the hospital at 6:15 p.m. But that King's brain had already been "irreparably damaged."

The pulse stopped within minutes, but Baden said physicians continued to work on King until 7:04 p.m., when they pronounced him dead.