

3-31-78

Ray Claims Photo Link

PETROS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but still protesting his innocence, said Wednesday he has made positive identification of a photograph depicting a man who is really responsible for the assassination.

The photograph was shown to him two or three months ago, Ray said. Assassinations buff Mark Lane of Los Angeles, Ray's lawyer, is debating whether to turn the photo over to the U.S. House Assassinations Committee or to a judge.

Interviewed at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, Ray said the photo depicted "Raoul," a man Ray says set him up to take the blame for the April 4, 1968, sniper slaying in Memphis of the civil rights leader. Ray says the man is a Latin with auburn hair, of medium height and build, and that he believes the name Raoul was an alias. No official investigation has ever confirmed Raoul's existence.

Asked who gave him this photograph, Ray said, "Well, I wouldn't want to go into that, because you know, the House committee would subpoena him. They have a lawyer, and we haven't decided just what to do about this matter yet." Ray said he still does not know Raoul's real name, but he thinks it can be determined through investigation.

The assassinations committee, he said, had not been told of the photograph yet.

Ray granted two interviews Wednesday at the remote

IN PRISON -- ONE TO THE U.S. HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE & ANOTHER TO CBS NEWS.

stamps in Ray's glove compartment. "The city of Memphis may have a claim to those stamps," Carlisle said, "because it was their money that was used to bring the car back to Memphis."

"If they found three stamps with the first \$2.5-million (the House approved as their budget for the investigation), maybe they can finish the book (used by savers of green stamps for redemptions for gifts) with the other \$2.5 million (expected to be spent by the end of the year)," he said.

With the turning over of the green stamps, Carlisle said, "We have turned over to them every piece of evidence in that case. They have all the evidence. I know of nothing else that could be turned over to them."

A spokesman for the S & H Green Stamps Redemption Center at 1104 E. Brooks Road said green stamps now are available only to such agencies as car dealerships where employees gain them in sales incentive programs. However, about 10 years ago, when the three green stamps were received by the homicide detectives driving Ray's car to Memphis, the stamps could have been given to them at a grocery store for a purchase as small as 30 cents, the spokesman said.

Green stamps have no numbers or codes on them, the spokesman said, to identify the store which gave them out as a bonus after a purchase.

The green stamps were found the second time investigators came to Memphis to view Ray's car, which remains impounded at an undisclosed location. During the first trip, the investigators viewed only the outside of the car, a homicide detective said.

Only about a month ago investigators again came to the city to inspect the car, the detective said.

"I don't know what else they can find. They've milked this thing dry," the detective said.

Part of the reason for the numerous visits to the city by the committee's investigators, the Memphis detective said, is the frequent turnover of employees on the investigation.

"Every few weeks some new investigators come out here and look at the same things that other ones did earlier," the detective said. "They can't seem to keep anybody."

G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel of the committee, could not be reached for comment, but his special counsel was located. When asked about the green stamps the special counsel, Charles Mathews, said: "I couldn't comment one way or the other." Blakey, who succeeded Richard Sprague after he resigned over a public feud with Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, the former committee chairman, took no comment.

INCOMPLETE