

# THE CONSPIRACY KILLING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

By JOHN COLEMAN

We may never know who actually fired the shot that killed the Black Civil Rights leader as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel at 6:01 p.m. on April 5, 1968. The American people were given what is known as a "prepared perception" of the shooting. That is one person was arrested and charged with the crime amid a fanfare of highly prejudicial publicity.

But in analyzing the tragedy that shocked the nation on that fateful April day in 1968, I found it riddled with anomalies in much the same way as the Sirhan Sirhan and Lee Harvey Oswald cases are riddled with as yet unexplained anomalies and unexplained circumstances, which make it highly unlikely that Ray, Sirhan Sirhan and Lee Harvey Oswald were "lone assassins."

I have always held that the assassination of Dr. King is worthy of further examination, which is why I gave an account of it in my book, *Diplomacy By Deception* first published in 1995. All three cases reek to high heaven of covert activity being involved. The American nation believes that the "lone assassin" prepared perception is the correct one and the vast majority of Americans still believe that Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan and Ray were guilty of murder.

The trouble with the lone assassin theory in the case of James Earl Ray, is that no one has yet been able to place Ray at the bathroom window of the seedy rooming house on South Main opposite the Lorraine Motel, from which the shot that killed Dr. King was alleged (but never proven) to have been fired. Having examined the reports and articles covering this case, I concluded that this most vital link was never proved and remains unproven.

Ray maintained his innocence from the very first, having been set up, he said, by a mysterious Cuban-American, who he had gone to Memphis to meet. Ray said he first met "Raoul" in Montreal, Canada, after escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary. How did Ray manage to escape from this secure facility, and how did a penniless escapee, presumably with no I.D. successfully make his way to Canada? This aspect has never been thoroughly investigated to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Ray did not explain how he was able to travel to Canada without documents and money and how it came to pass that he met "Raoul." Ray says he met the mystery man while looking to buy false identity papers, in itself something lacking in credibility. How does a penniless fugitive buy false identity papers in a foreign country which would not have come cheap? Why did Ray choose to go to Montreal and be given the necessary connections and money, and if so, by whom? Was this in preparation for setting him up as the fall guy, in much the same way as Lee Harvey was set up?

Former New Orleans attorney Jim Garrison, who came very close to ripping the cover-up lid off the

Kennedy assassination, once said that he believed there was a connection between the King and Kennedy murders. In any event, Ray said he worked a number of "jobs" for the mystery man, including several cross-border trips — one of which was to Mexico — and was then enticed back to Memphis by promises of big money. Ray said he expressed grave reservations but was persuaded by "Raoul" to return to Memphis on the guarantee of steady employment.

Forensic evidence does not fit the "prepared perception" of Ray being the lone assassin. The entry of the gunshot wound was consistent with a shot fired from a clump

was ready to throw in the towel in the face of compelling evidence that demanded his client be heard?

Legal experts say that Foreman had not coerced (some say brow beaten Ray) into giving up his right to a trial, such a trial would have shown Ray was not guilty by reason of a total lack of evidence. By coercing his client to plead guilty, Foreman committed a cardinal sin among lawyers — he got Ray to forfeit his right to appeal for a motion for a new trial. Such conduct is considered as unpardonable by trial lawyers, and even the most gauche and inexperienced junior lawyer would never blunder so badly nor done such a great wrong to his client.



of bushes on the ground opposite the Lorraine Motel balcony. Two witnesses said they had seen a man lurking there just before Dr. King was shot. The wound is inconsistent with a shot fired from the bathroom of the lodging house where Ray had a room, as alleged by the authorities.

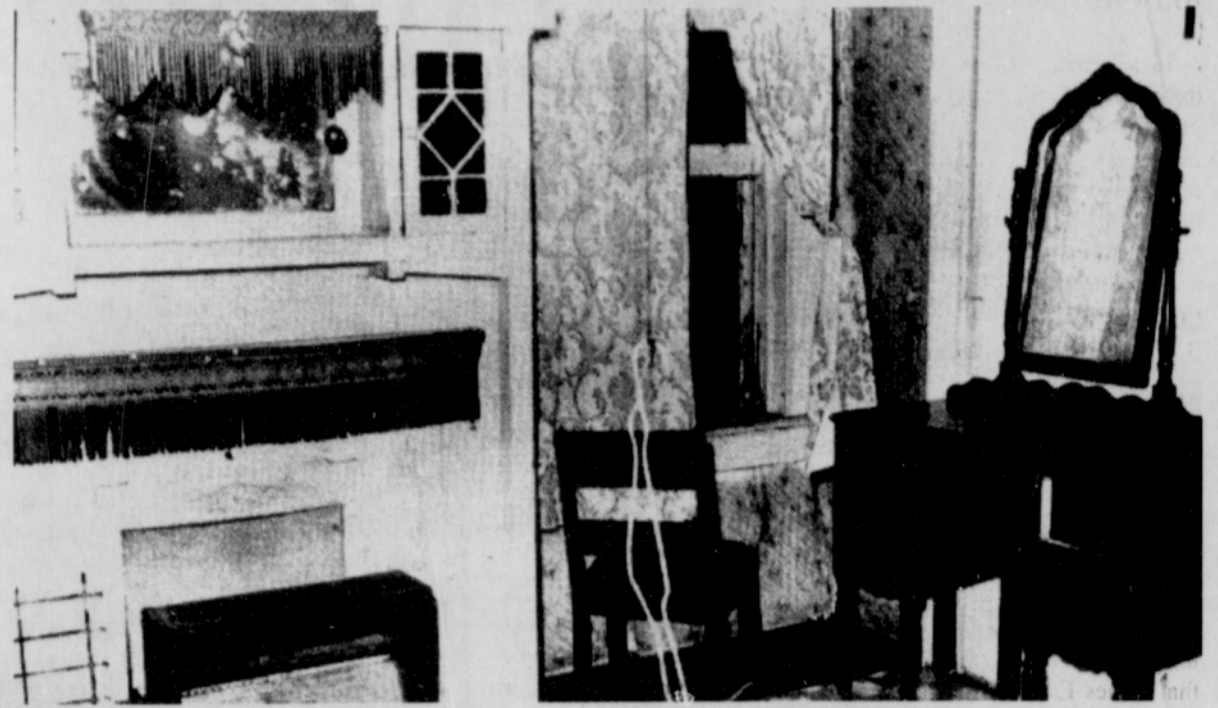
The rifle allegedly used would have had to be jammed into the bathroom wall which was not wide enough to accommodate it, if fired from the window as alleged. A mechanic whom Ray asked to fix the tire of his Mustang said he talked with Ray a few minutes before Dr. King was shot. The gas station where this occurred is four blocks away from the rooming house on South Memphis, where Ray stayed. How could Ray have been at two different locations at the same time?

Ray's trial was a complete farce and a mockery of justice. His attorney, Percy Foreman should have been disbarred from practicing law. In my opinion, Foreman turned Judas and got his client to plead guilty, in the face of literally scores of glaring inconsistencies and gaping holes in the prosecution's case. Foreman had defended 1500 people charged with capital crimes and he won most of them. How did it come about that this famous trial lawyer

That a high profile, astonishingly successful lawyer like Foreman would do such an unimaginable disservice to his client is without precedent in the history of jurisprudence in America. By getting Ray to plead guilty, Foreman accomplished the unthinkable — he got Ray to forfeit his right to a motion for a new trial; an appeal to the Tennessee Supreme Court, and, finally, a review of the case by the U.S. Supreme Court. Since it is patently obvious that Foreman was acting directly against the best interests of his client, James Earl Ray, the question that cries out for an answer is this: For whom was Percy Foreman acting?

Was Ray set up to take the blame for the heinous murder of Dr. King? Everything I examined about this case points to a conspiracy and a cover up and my personal opinion is that while Ray may have been involved in the preparation for the murder, he was not the man who shot Martin Luther King.

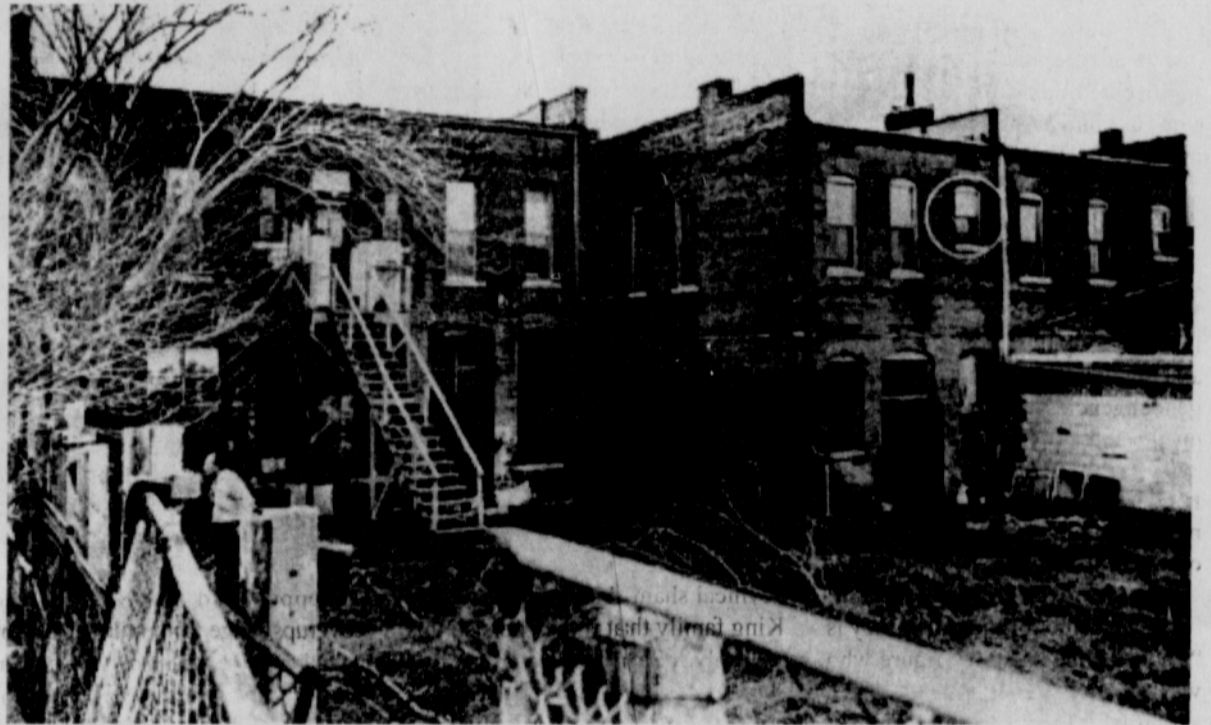
*Dr. John Coleman is the author of "Diplomacy by Deception", a book by Bridger House Publishers, Inc. that reveals covert actions by the British and American governments which throws new light on the murder of Martin Luther King.*



(Left) On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King was standing on the balcony of his motel in Memphis talking with aides and friends when a shot was fired 207.17 feet away killing Dr. King at 6:01 p.m. Many question whether James Earl Ray acted alone or was part of a larger conspiracy.

(Above) After Ray fled the scene of the assassination, police entered his room and discovered that the dresser and mirror had been moved away from the open window and replaced by a chair. Someone leaning slightly out the window could observe Dr. King's room at the nearby motel.

(Below) What most of the eyewitnesses immediately pointed to was the rear of two buildings, about eighty feet up a low slope across the street from the motel where King was staying. The buildings comprised separate wings of the flophouse where James Earl Ray, using an alias, had rented a room only three hours before the assassination. The window circled on the right is the bathroom from which the shot was fired.



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