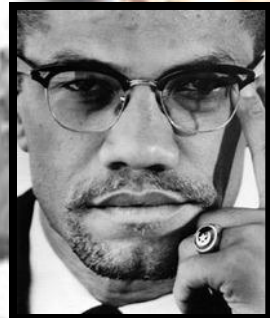


DR. HARTNELL



The American Overhaul





TODAY'S UNIT & LESSON



Unit #5:
The American Overhaul

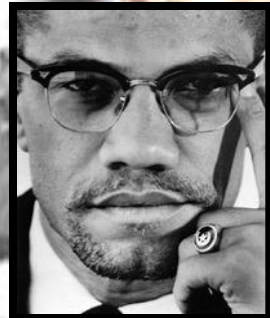
Lesson 14

(AH 5.14)



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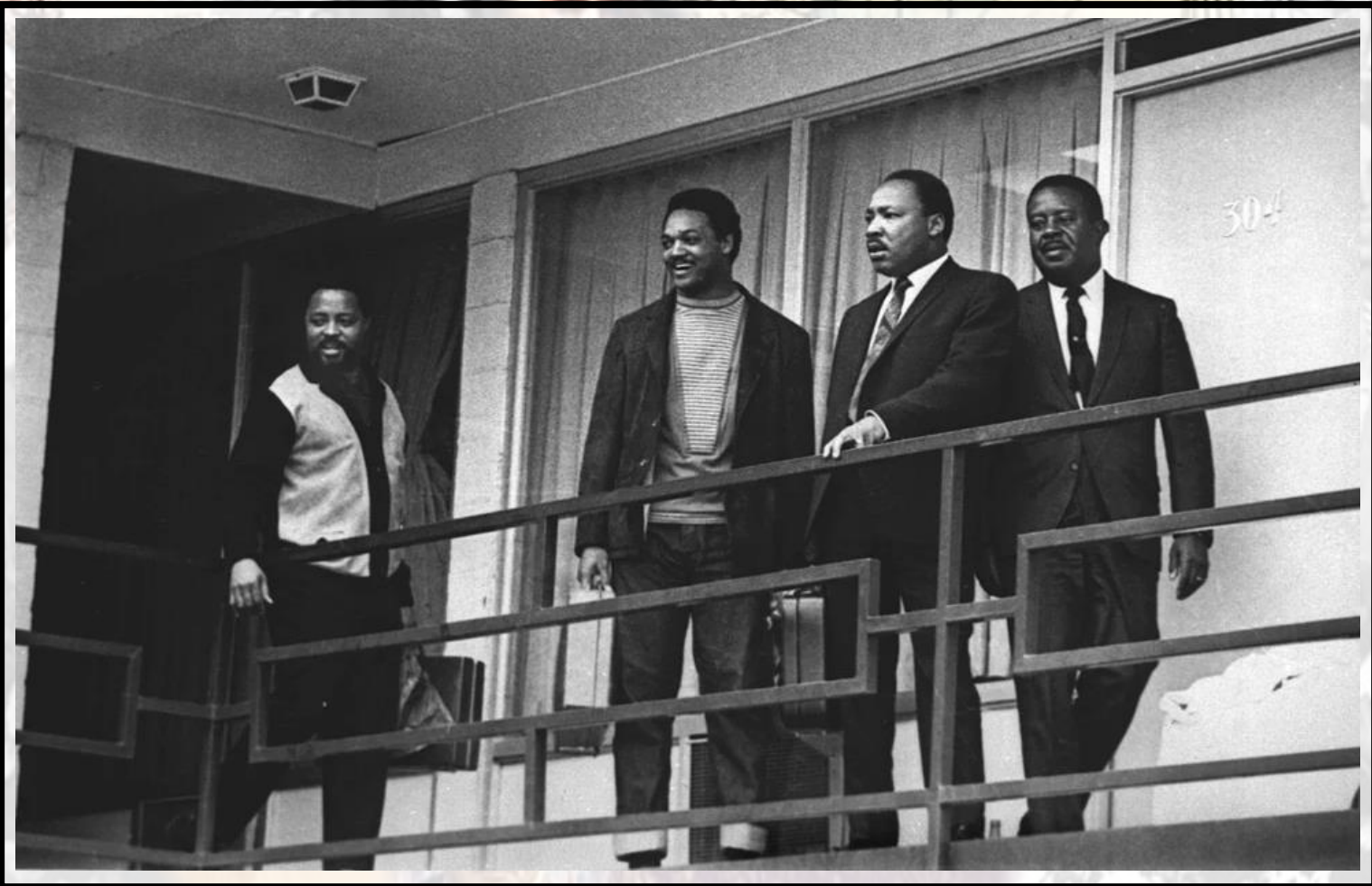
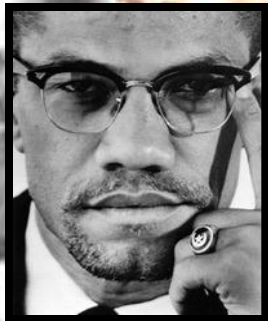
Civil Rights Battle #22:
MLK Assassination

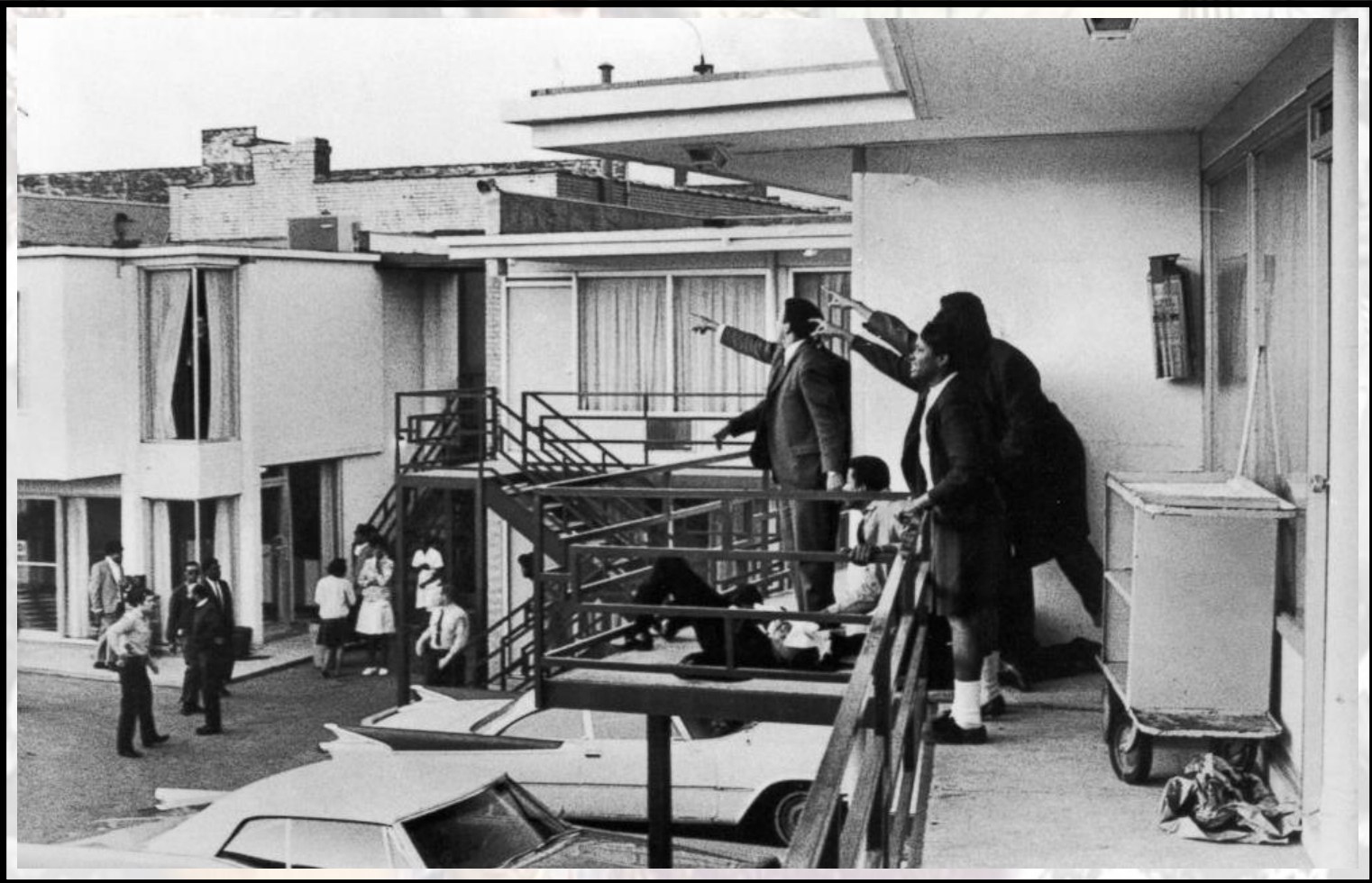
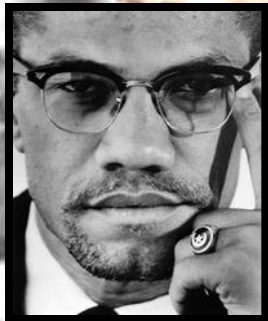
At **6:01pm CST** on **April 4, 1968** on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in **Memphis, Tennessee**, **MLK** was shot in the **throat**.

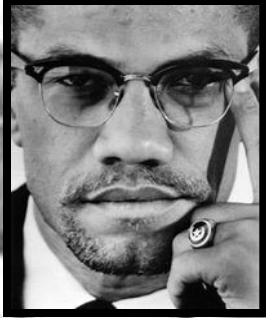
He died at **7:05pm CST**.

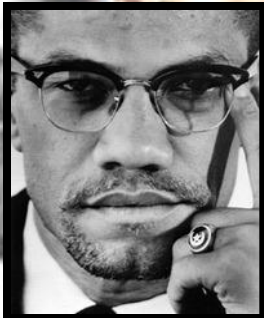
He was **39** years old.

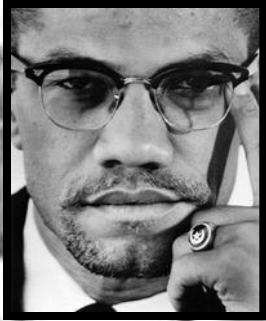


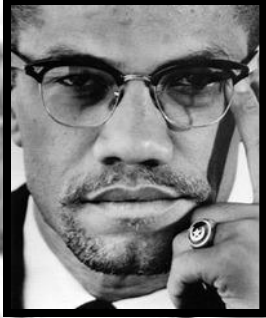


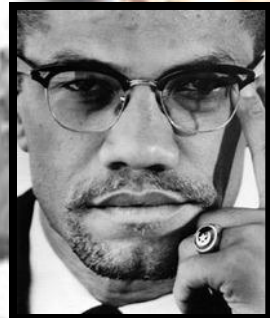












CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

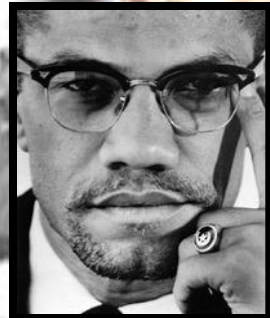


MLK was in Memphis supporting black sanitation workers on strike for pay and working conditions. The day before, he gave his *“I’ve Been to the Mountaintop”* speech.



MLK frequently stayed at the Lorraine Motel when he was in Memphis.



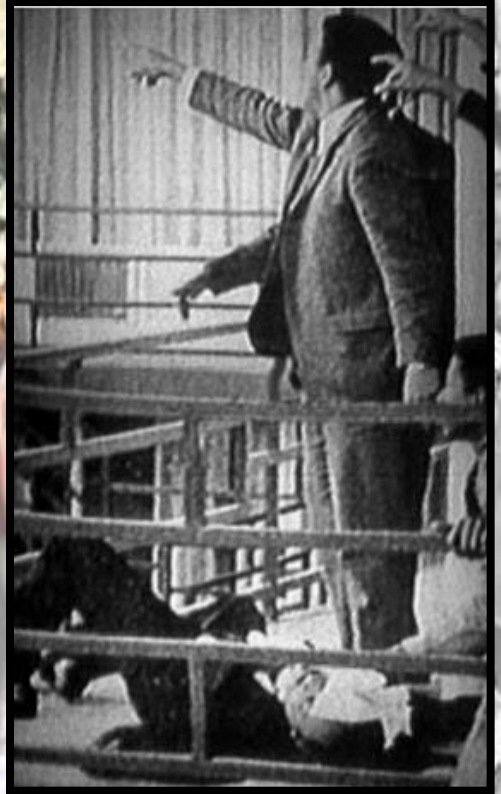


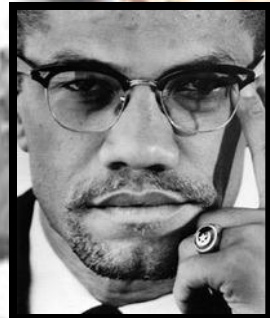
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

MLK was staying in Room 306 and was outside talking with Jessie Jackson when the shot rang out.



MLK was struck in the face by a single .30-06 bullet fired from a Remington Model 760 rifle.





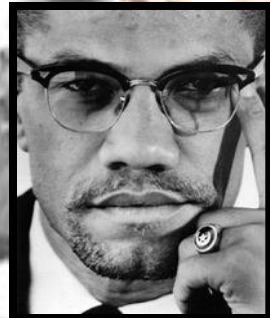
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

The **bullet entered** through **MLK's right cheek**, breaking his jaw and multiple vertebrae as it **traveled down his spinal cord**, **severing his jugular vein** and major arteries in the process, **before lodging in his shoulder.**



The force of the shot ripped MLK's necktie off.





CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

MLK was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors opened his chest and attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation. He never regained consciousness.



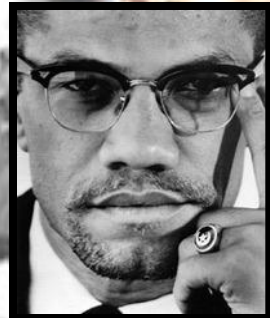
MLK's autopsy showed that his heart was in the condition of a 60-year-old man (from stress)

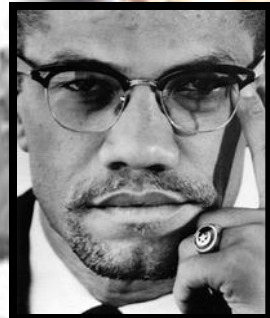




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Shortly after the shot was fired, **witnesses saw** a man, later believed to be **James Earl Ray**, **fleeing from a rooming house** (a private house where rooms are rented for living temporarily) **across the street from the Lorraine Motel.**





CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

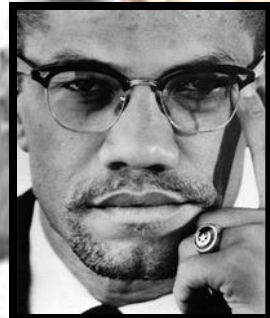


Police found a package dumped close to the rooming house site that included a **rifle and binoculars, both with Ray's fingerprints.**



Ray had **purchased** the rifle under an **alias** six days earlier.



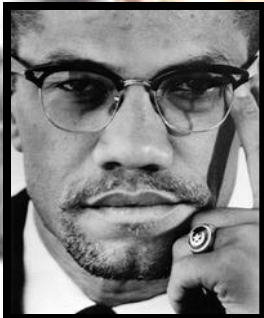


CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

A **worldwide manhunt** culminated in Ray's arrest at London's Heathrow Airport two months later.

Ray took a **guilty plea** to avoid a **jury trial**, conviction and the death penalty, confessing on **March 10, 1969** (but recanted three days later).





The American Paper for Americans

Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

SPORTS FINAL
★★★★

121st YEAR—No. 96 ©1968 Chicago Tribune

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1968

80 PAGES, 4 SECTIONS 10c

MARTIN LUTHER KING SLAIN

Sniper Fells Him at Memphis Motel Johnson Delays His Trip to Honolulu

LBJ APPEALS
FOR CALM AND
NONVIOLENCE
Conrad Spook



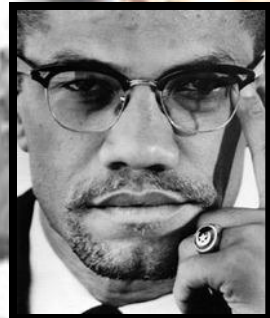
*Hit in Neck by
Bullet; Police
Hunt for Killer*

(From Tribune Wire Service)





CRB22: MLK Assassination



WANTED BY THE FBI

**CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ROBBERY
JAMES EARL RAY**

FBI No. 405,942 G



Photographs taken 1960

Photograph taken 1968
(eyes drawn by artist)

Aliases: Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim."

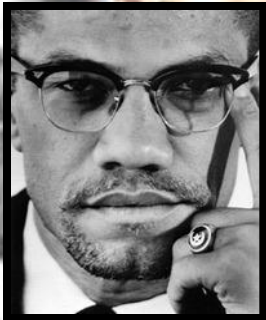
DESCRIPTION

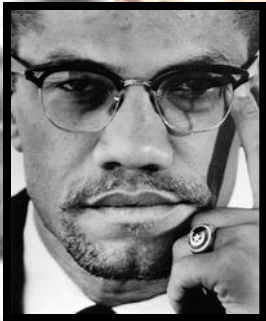
Age:	40, born March 10, 1928, at Quincy or Alton, Illinois (not supported by birth records)	Eyes:	Blue
Height:	5' 10"	Complexion:	Medium
Weight:	163 to 174 pounds	Race:	White
Build:	Medium	Nationality:	American
Hair:	Brown, possibly cut short		

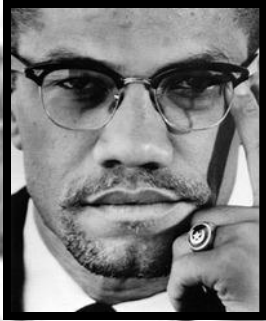


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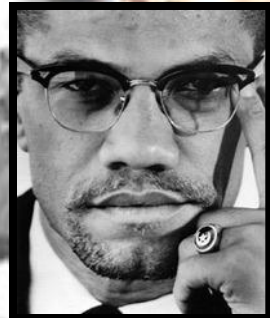


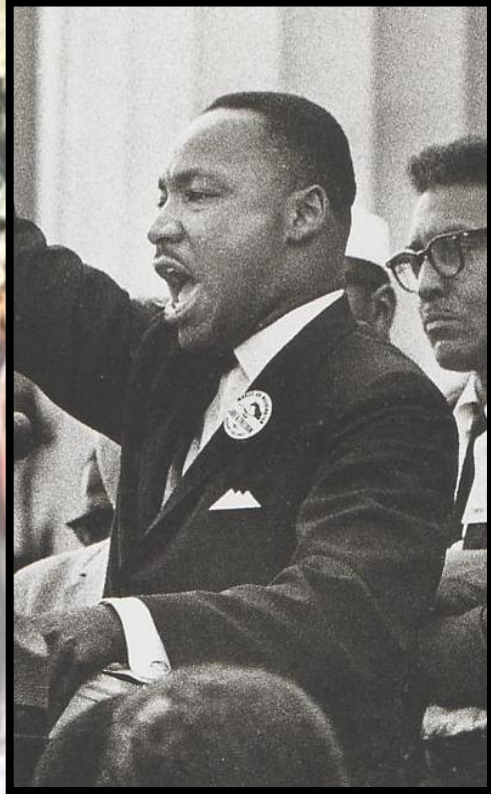
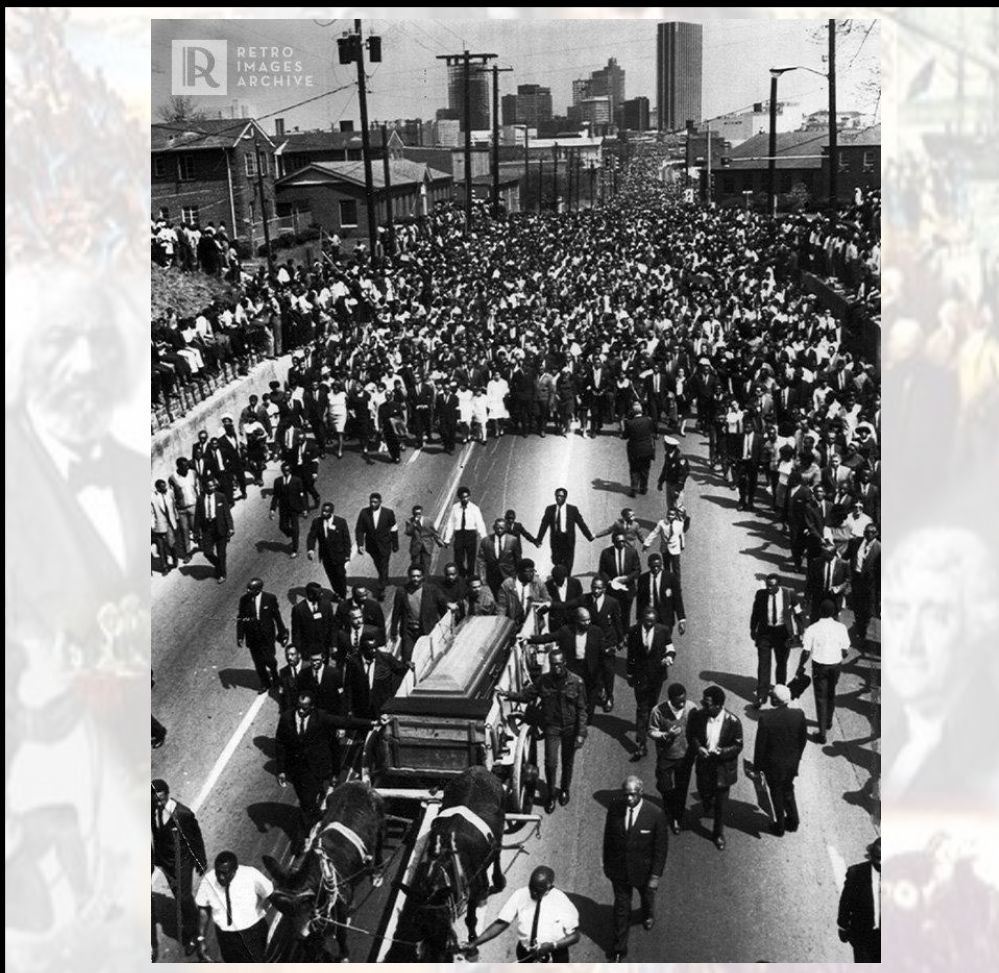
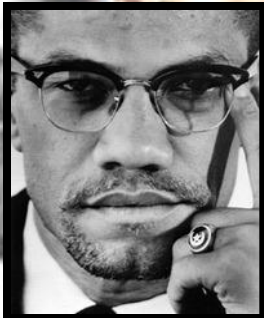
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

MLK's assassination led to a nationwide wave of riots in more than 125 cities.

Five days after MLK's death, President LBJ declared a national day of mourning.

Over 300,000 attended MLK's funeral.

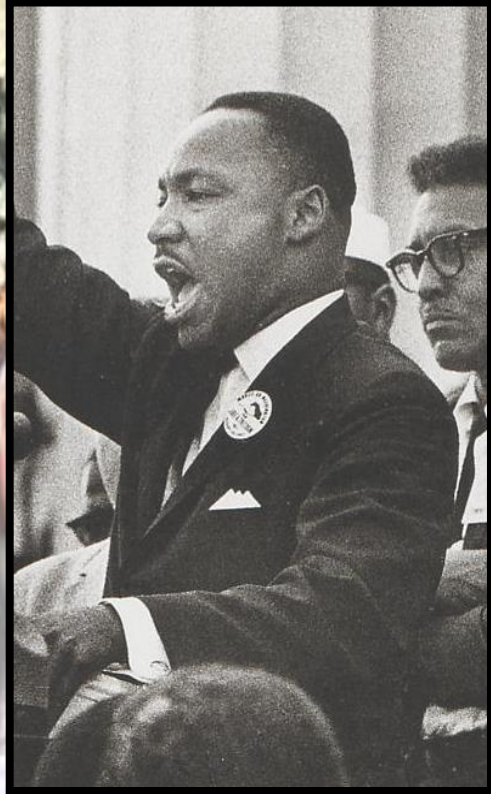
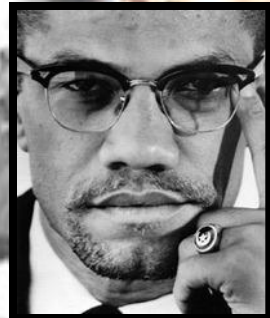




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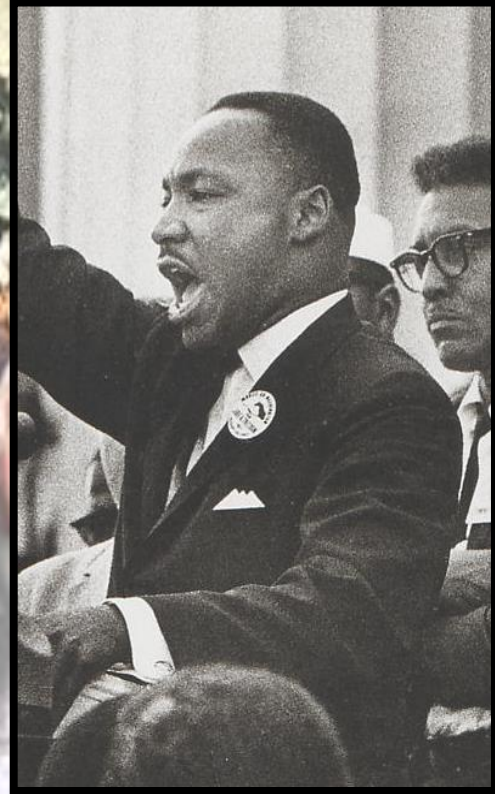
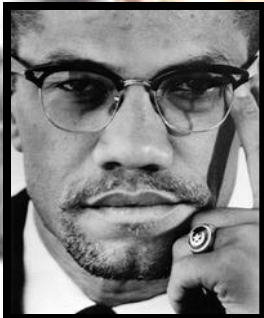


CRB22: MLK Assassination

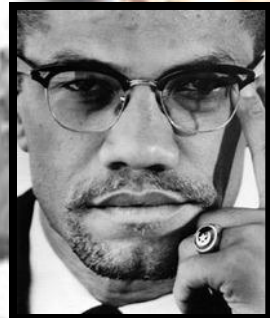


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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Who was James Earl Ray?

Ray committed a variety of crimes prior to the murder of MLK. His first conviction came in 1949 (a burglary in California) after his discharge from the U.S. Army for “ineptitude and lack of adaptability” in 1948.



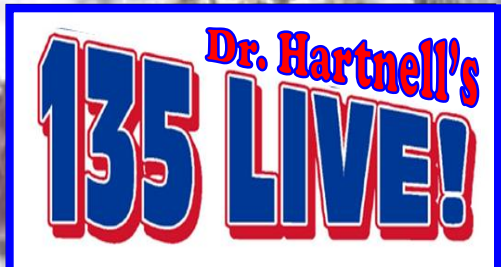
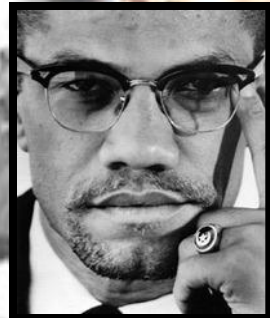


CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Ray's rap sheet (Part 1):

* **1952: Convicted of armed robbery of a taxi driver in Illinois (did two years).**

* **1955: Convicted of mail fraud after stealing money orders in Missouri (did four years).**

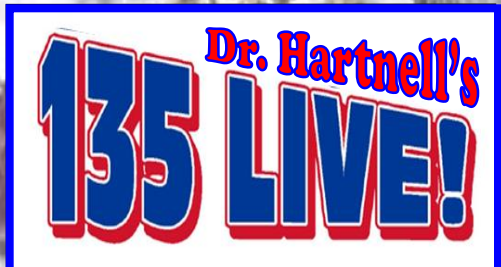
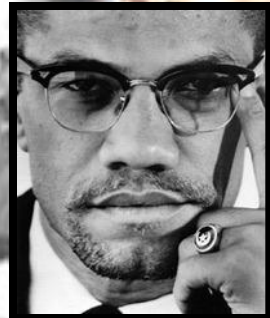


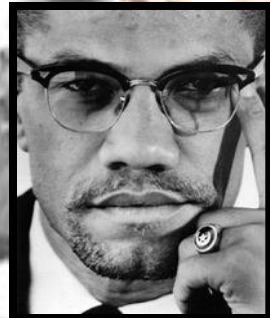


CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Ray's rap sheet (Part 2):

* **1959: Convicted of stealing \$120 in an armed robbery of a Kroger grocery store in St. Louis (sentenced to 20 years for repeated offenses).**



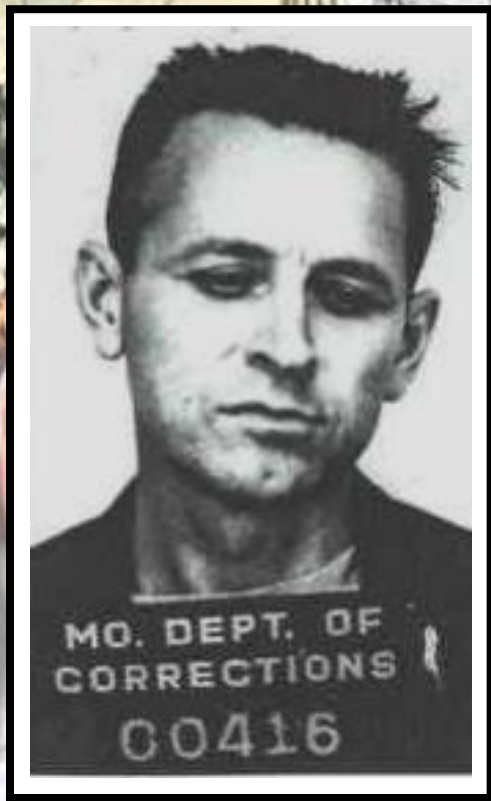


CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

In **1967**, **Ray** escaped from the **Missouri State Penitentiary** by **hiding in a truck transporting bread from the prison bakery.**



He stayed on the move throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. While in Mexico he **filmed and photographed local prostitutes.**

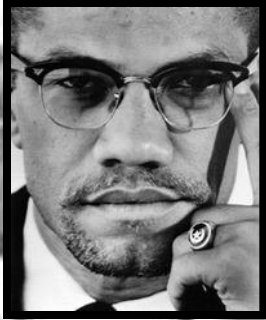




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Spurned by the prostitutes, **he** left Mexico and moved to Los Angeles where he attended bartending school.

He was a big supporter of the racist Alabama Governor George Wallace and Wallace's 1968 Presidential Campaign.

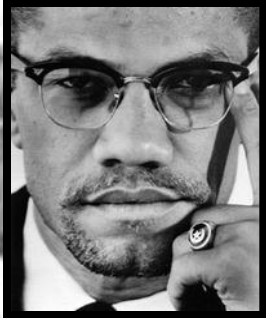




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Ray was a racist and was attracted to Wallace's segregationist platform.

He spent a lot of time in Los Angeles volunteering at the Wallace Campaign Headquarters in North Hollywood.

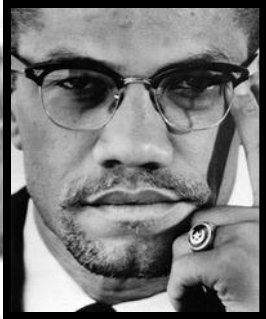




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Ray considered moving to Rhodesia (or **Zimbabwe** today), where a **white minority regime** had assumed independence from England in **1965**.

In fact, Rhodesia was Ray's intended destination after MLK's murder when he was arrested in London.

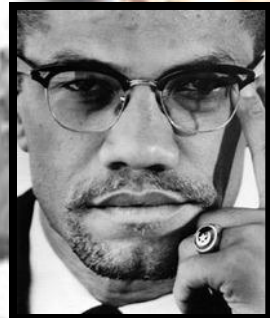




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

On **March 18, 1968**, **Ray** left LA and drove cross-country to **Atlanta**, Georgia (arriving on **March 24th**).

He checked into a **rooming house** and bought a **map of the city** (and circled churches and residences of **MLK**). The FBI found this map when they searched his room.



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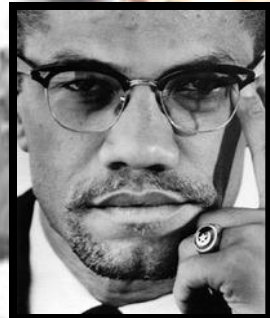




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Ray drove to **Birmingham**, Alabama on **March 30th** where **he bought** a Remington Model 760 **rifle**, 20 cartridges, a scope (which he mounted to the rifle).

He **told** the **shopkeeper** he was going on a **hunting trip** with his brother – and **used** the **alias** of **“Harvey Lowmeyer”**.

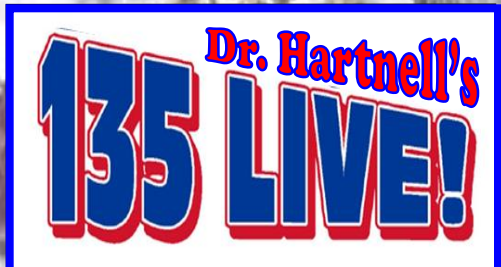
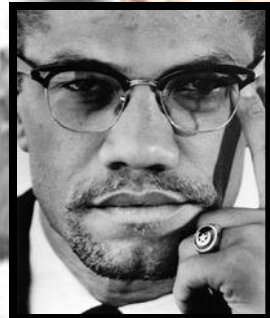


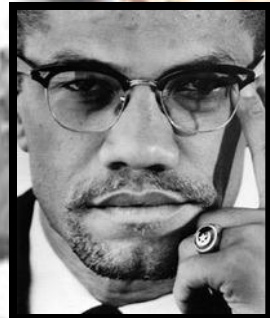


CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

After buying the rifle, he **drove back to Atlanta** where he read in the local paper that **MLK was heading to Memphis.**

Ray packed a bag and **drove to Memphis** where he checked into a rooming house near the **Lorraine Motel** (under the name **“John Willard”**).





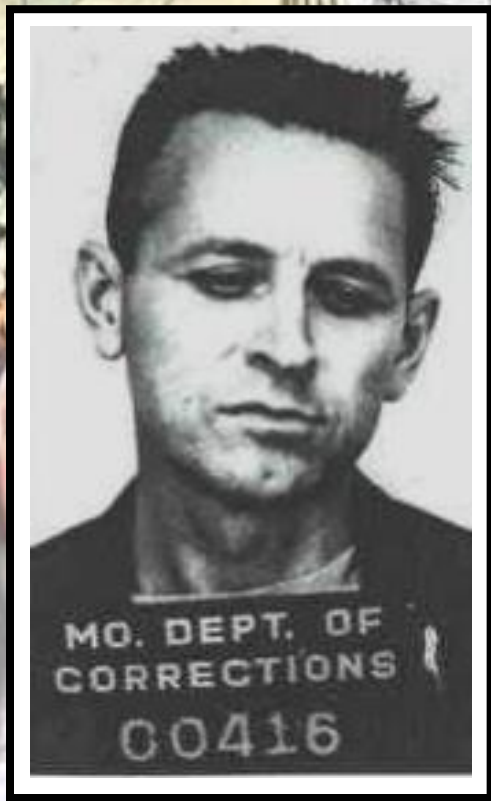
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*



After killing MLK on April 4th, Ray drove back to Atlanta, packed up his belongings and fled to Toronto (where he hid for over a month under the name “Ramon George Sneyd”).



In late May, he flew to London, went to Portugal, then flew back to London.

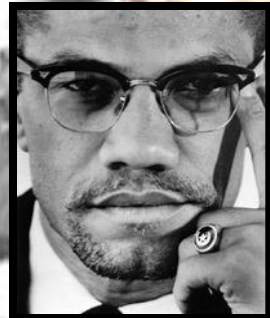




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

On **June 8, 1968**, **Ray** was arrested at Heathrow Airport attempting to leave England for Rhodesia.

As it turned out, his fake name "**Sneyd**" was on a Canadian watch list. He was extradited to Tennessee and charged with **MLK's murder**.



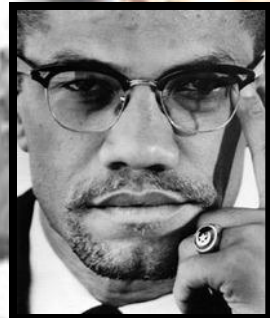
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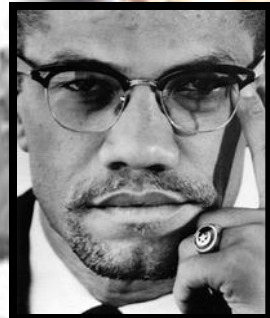
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

On **March 10th**, **Ray confessed** to the **murder** and was sentenced to **99 years in prison**.

Three days later, **he recanted his confession**. (He had pled guilty on the advice of his lawyer; Ray also thought George Wallace would become President and let him out.)



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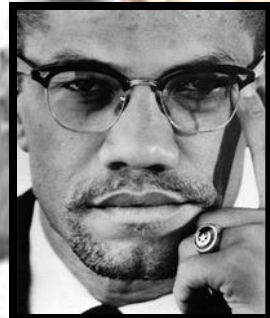
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

On **June 10, 1977**, **Ray and six others** escaped the prison in Tennessee but were recaptured three days later.



A **year** was added to **Ray's sentence**, increasing it to 100 years. He **spent the rest of his life** trying to secure a jury trial (he died in **1998** at age 70).

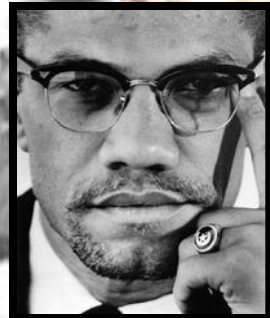




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

In December 1993, Loyd Jowers – who owned Jim’s Grill (a coffee shop on the ground floor of the rooming house where Ray stayed) – appeared on ABC News and discussed details of an alleged conspiracy involving the Mafia and the U.S. Government to kill MLK.





CRB22: *MLK Assassination*



Jowers explained that he was paid \$100,000 by Memphis mobster Frank Liberto (who had died prior to the ABC interview) to help organize the assassination of MLK.

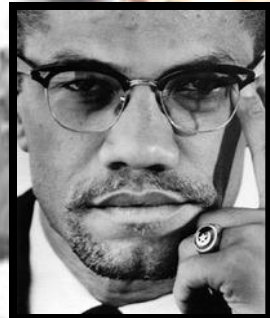




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Jowers said that James Earl Ray was a scapegoat and not the person responsible for killing MLK.

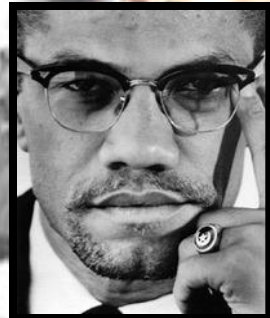
Instead, Jowers said that he hired Memphis police Lieutenant Earl Clark to fire the fatal shot.





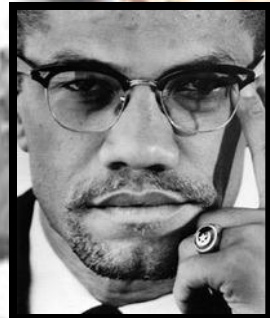
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

The **conspirators' motive was to silence MLK due to his denouncements of the Vietnam War. MLK had threatened to march on D.C. with a massive anti-war protest. In order to further the war efforts, the government orchestrated the murder and framed serial-convict Ray as the assassin.**



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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

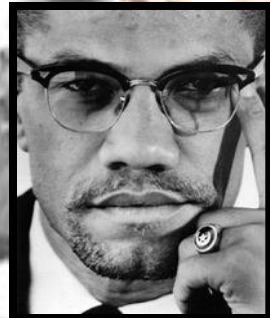


There was truth to the idea that MLK had enemies in the FBI.
The FBI's Director J. Edgar Hoover called MLK *"the most notorious liar in the country"*.



In fact, MLK had been under FBI surveillance since the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955-1956.





CRB22: *MLK Assassination*



The **FBI stalked MLK and those closest to him in an effort to “smear” the Civil Rights Movement.** In fact, they started **wire-tapping his phones in 1963.**

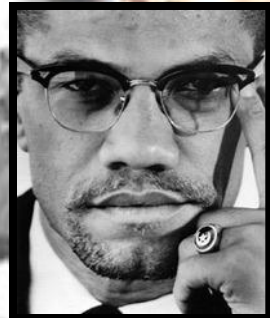


The ugly reach of that campaign by the FBI has become clearer over the years.



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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

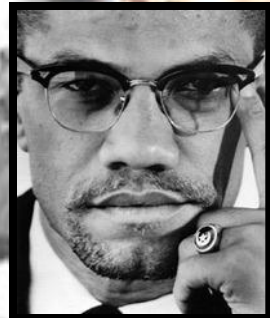
Meanwhile, in 1997, MLK's son Dexter King met with James Earl Ray and supported efforts for Ray to obtain a jury trial.

When these efforts failed, the King Family decided to file a case against Jowers.





CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

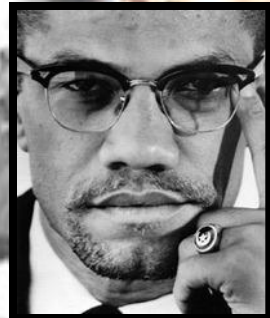


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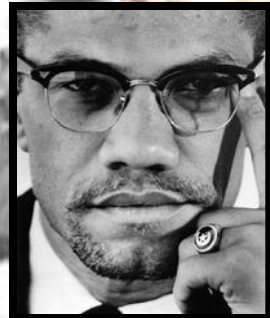


CRB22: *MLK Assassination*



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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

In 1999, the King Family filed a civil suit that alleged Jowers and others had conspired to kill MLK.



The wrongful-death lawsuit was for \$10 million, but they asked the jury for damages of only \$100 since this was “not about the money”.



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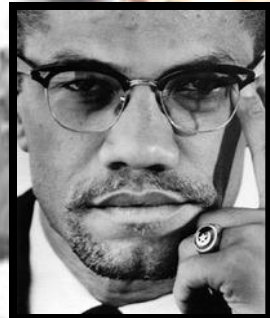




CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

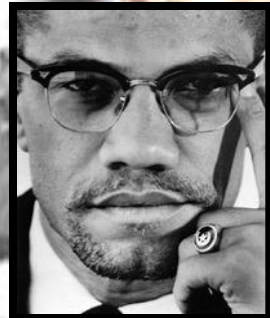
During the four-week trial, over 70 witnesses were called and thousands of documents were brought forward.

The jury took only one hour of deliberation to reach the unanimous verdict that MLK was assassinated as a result of a conspiracy.



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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

The jury found Jowers responsible and concluded that “governmental agencies” were among the conspirators.

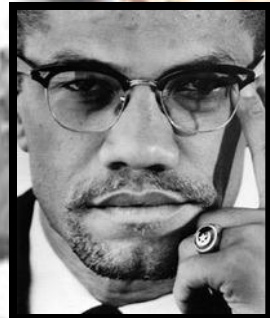
Jowers had lung cancer and did not testify during the trial.

Jowers died of a heart attack on May 20, 2000 at age 73.



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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

The **King Family** was awarded their **\$100** and saw it as vindication. **Dexter King** said:

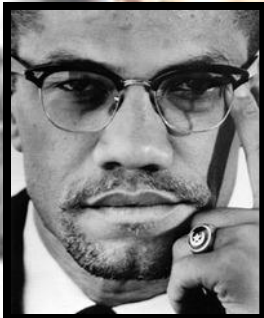


“This is the period at the end of the sentence. So please, after today, we don’t want questions like, ‘Do you believe James Earl Ray killed your father? I’ve been hearing it all my life. No, I don’t, and this is the end of it.”



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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

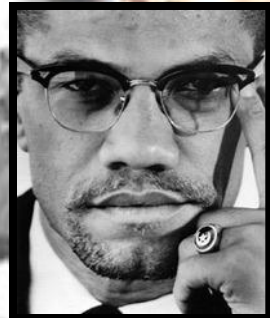
MLK's wife, Corretta Scott King, said:



“There is abundant evidence of a major, high-level conspiracy in the assassination of my husband. The jury found that the Mafia and various governmental agencies were deeply involved in the assassination. Mr. Ray was set up to take the blame.”



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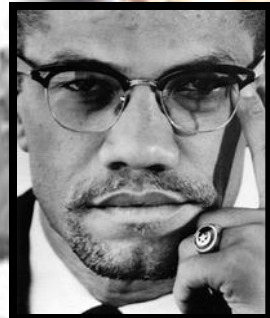
CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Later, one of Jowers' sisters said that Jowers had fabricated the story to make money. She claimed one of the news outlets offered him \$300,000 in exchange for the story and that he emebellish it in order to please them. She also admitted to corroboraing his story in exchange for money.



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CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

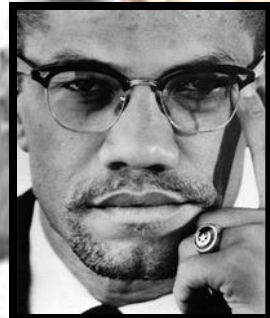


In 2000, Attorney General Janet Reno and the U.S. Department of Justice reopened the case. They concluded that no evidence of a conspiracy could be found.



The King Family still does NOT believe James Earl Ray murdered their father.



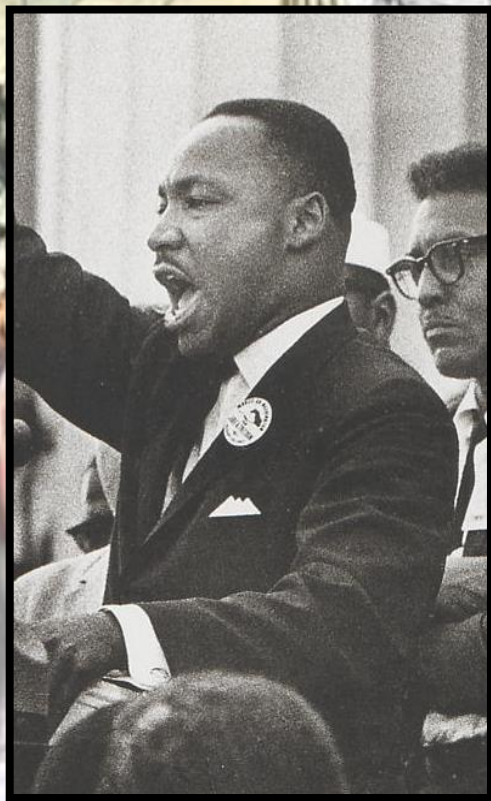


CRB22: *MLK Assassination*

Many Americans don't trust the government's conclusion on MLK's murder.



In fact, the percentage of Americans who said they could "trust the Government to do the right thing" went from an all-time high of 77% in 1964... to 36% by 1979... to 18% today.



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WHAT
DID WE
LEARN
TODAY?



135 LIVE!



FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 14 (AH 5.14)

QUESTION 1 


1. Why was MLK in Memphis, Tennessee when he was assassinated?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 14 (AH 5.14)

QUESTION 2 



2. Who killed MLK? Why did he kill MLK? Where was he arrested for the murder?



FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 14 (AH 5.14)

QUESTION

3



3. Who was Loyd Jowers? What did he confess about MLK's assassination? What did his sister later say about his confession?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 14 (AH 5.14)

QUESTION

4



4. What is the King Family's official stance on who shot and killed MLK? What did they do to try and prove it?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 14 (AH 5.14)

QUESTION

5



5. Why do you think the percentage of Americans who trust the U.S. Government has dropped from 77% in 1964 to 18% today?

! THINK

✓ CHECK

> SUBMIT



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