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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Snyder gives panel allegation of plot to assassinate King

By JIM ADAMS
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-4th District, said yesterday that he has turned over to the House Assassinations Committee an allegation that FBI agents and police plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said that in late February he received a letter from "a former policeman" who claims he was twice offered \$500,000 to kill King.

Snyder made his comments yesterday while taping a WHAS-TV News Conference program, which will be broadcast at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow on WHAS television and radio.

Snyder would not reveal the name of the former policeman making the charge, or the names of three FBI agents and several policeman who allegedly were involved in the plot. Snyder also declined to name the police force that the man worked on for more than 20 years.

Snyder made no connection between the offer allegedly made to the policeman and the actual killing of King.

"I have always had confidence in the major law enforcement agencies of this country, and I had to assume that what they determined (about the slaying) was accurate," Snyder said. "Now I think this is something that needs to be investigated."

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, last night confirmed that Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation, but refused to answer questions about it.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," he said by telephone from Philadelphia.

King was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, and James Earl Ray was convicted of killing him. The House committee last fall began investigating the assassinations of King and President John Kennedy. The committee's funding expires March 31.

Snyder, who voted against the committee initially, told The Courier-Journal in an interview last night that he will vote to continue funds for its investigation solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

Snyder said he had no explanation for why the policeman brought the charges to him, rather than directly to the committee. The policeman asked Snyder to put him in touch with the committee, the congressman said.

He said the former policeman had attempted to turn a tape recording of the \$500,000 offer over to Ray's attorneys, but finally was asked by one of the attorneys' investigators "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

Asked if he believes the man's allegation, Snyder said, "I don't know. But I think charges such as this need to be investigated."

Snyder said he has discussed the charges with U.S. Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member on the committee. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be "a solid citizen." Devine could not be reached last night.

Snyder told WHAS, "I have talked to him (the policeman) personally and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen."

He told the television station, "He (the former officer) was approached to assassinate Martin Luther King. He names three FBI officers, he names three or four prominent people at that time in the police department. He indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder, that he taped those items. One of them (the tapes) was stolen, the other he still has."

Snyder said the man went to Washington and either appeared before the committee or was interviewed by its staff. Snyder said the committee has the tape. Asked if he has a copy of the tape,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Section B,
Page 1,
"Courier-
Journal",
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Kentucky

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ENCLOSURE

Communication Airtel Date 3-21-77

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One cassette & 2 copies news article in Courier-Journal

House Select Committee on Assassinations (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

100-816 Springer

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**ITEM(S)
CANNOT
BE
SCANNED**

DESCRIPTION

Cassette

FORTY FIVE MINUTES

AMPEX 370
LOW NOISE/HIGH OUTPUT CASSETTE

SIDE WHAS-TV "News
Conference"
LOW 3/20/77 LS. KY. CASSETTE

45
22.5 MINUTES
EACH SIDE

45
22.5 MINUTES
EACH SIDE

AMPEX 370