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## Interview: Dr. William Pepper

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# 'We showed there was a government conspiracy'

*Dr. William Pepper, the attorney for the King family who tried the case surrounding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was interviewed on Dec. 13, by EIR Law Editor Edward Spannaus.*

**EIR:** Tell me what you accomplished by holding the trial.

**Pepper:** It's going to cause history to be rewritten. The jury heard about 70 witnesses over a month, they took one hour to deliberate at the end of a month-long trial, and they obviously found in our favor, that there was an extensive conspiracy—of course, that Jowers was involved, but also an extensive conspiracy by government agents to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.

**EIR:** What did you show in terms of the military, FBI—the elements that you wrote about in your book?

**Pepper:** We showed that, first of all, the 111th Military Intelligence Group was in Memphis. A Memphis Police Department [MPD] intelligence official had had them in his office. So, that kind of surveillance was going on.

**EIR:** Did you have testimony to that effect?



*Attorney William Pepper and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1967. Pepper is today the attorney for the King family, in their effort to end the cover-up of the assassination of Dr. King.*

**Pepper:** Oh, yes. The guy took the stand, he admitted it. Another former intelligence official, a former MPD intelligence officer took the stand, and confirmed that he had been working with Federal agents in the covert surveillance—which was only conducted by the Army Security Agency, and that they had the Rivermont suite of Martin Luther King bugged.

We put the captain of the fire station on the stand—first time he'd ever testified. He had never been interviewed: police, law enforcement—nobody ever talked to this guy, who was the captain of the fire station. And he confirmed that he had put the two Army psychological operations guys up on the roof, and they photographed everything. It's obvious why they never interviewed this guy—he tells you, that “you've got to go get the photographs.” Those photographs exist, photographs of the whole assassination. . . .

Prof. Clay Carson, who is the head of the King Archives project on the West Coast, who has started to receive my files, my working papers, on the search for the military involvement, took the stand, and he did a Q&A with me on the contents of the documents, a whole set of documents that I sent him, which dealt with my asking questions and obtaining information around a member of the sniper team. And probably the most riveting testimony was from a National Security Council agent, Jack Terrell, who is dying of liver cancer. His deposition was shown, and he confirmed that his best friend had told him in the 1970s that he knew something about the assassination, and provided him with details of the Memphis mission, which he came to realize was aimed at the assassination of Martin Luther King.

**EIR:** Jowers did not testify?

**Pepper:** No, he was going to be our next to last witness, and he became ill after the first week, and he wasn't back in the courtroom again.

**EIR:** So, there originally was an agreement that he would testify?

**Pepper:** Oh, yeah, agreement or not, we were going to call him. . . .

**EIR:** That's not been in the papers either.

**Pepper:** No, of course not. We were calling him; I wanted him on the stand, because I had enough on him to destroy him. But then, we were going to go out and depose him, and he sent word through his lawyer, who said, well, you can come out and depose him, but “he'll just take the Fifth Amendment.” I thought it would be a waste of the court's time. So, I instead introduced

previous testimony, his previous deposition. . . .

**EIR:** One of the things the media, these hatchetmen, are saying, is that there are inconsistencies in his story, that he has told different stories at different times.

**Pepper:** Jowers has certainly told different stories at different times. Back in the beginning, he said, “Hey, no involvement at all.” He only came on to start to tell this, when he knew we had enough witnesses to indict him. But since he’s come forward, he met with Dexter [King] and me first, and then he met with Andy [Young] and Dexter, and those two stories are very consistent.

**EIR:** What is the current status of Raoul, the gentleman you identified as Raoul?

**Pepper:** He’s still alive, he’s protected, he’ll be protected until he dies. We put testimony on the stand which was staggering. I put a Portuguese journalist up, against her will, grabbed her when she was in the court and subpoenaed her, and put her on the stand, because she had interviewed a member of the family, the family had revealed to her that the only comfort they had, was that the government was giving them protection, they sent agents, giving them advice. . . .

**EIR:** He was just a plain old auto worker, right?

**Pepper:** That’s right [laughing].

**EIR:** What did you show or prove regarding Raoul, in the trial?

**Pepper:** Who he was, that he did exist, that he was a controller of James, that he was identified by a number of independent people. Wilson’s papers have his name on them, the papers that were found in the car, and of course, he comes forth in the whole Jowers side of the story, as the one who Jowers identified, who came in and picked up some money and gave Jowers a package which was the murder weapon. . . .

**EIR:** And that identification was through photos?

**Pepper:** A photographic spread, of six photographs.

**EIR:** All the media say, “Pepper, this wild conspiracy theorist, FBI, CIA military, this vast conspiracy”—making the whole thing sound ridiculous.

**Pepper:** Why didn’t the jury find it ridiculous? The jury heard all this evidence, and no matter what they say, they cannot deny the fact that a jury heard this evidence, and a jury disagrees with them. And a jury disagreed with them in about an hour’s time, after four weeks of testimony. That speaks for itself.

**EIR:** One of the arguments you hear in the media is that they just heard one side, it was a one-sided presentation, so naturally, they found this way.

**Pepper:** Well, *what is the other side?* I’d be anxious to know

what the other side is to [Fire Department] Captain Weedon’s testimony about how he put soldiers on the roof who photographed everything. And they buried the photographs. What’s the other side to that? I could go through 70 witnesses. . . . The other side was Jowers’s defense counsel, and he tried everything he could to get this case thrown out, he made a motion for a mistrial when Jowers was absent, he made a motion for a directed verdict at the end of the proof, on insufficiency, he made a motion on the statute of limitations. They did everything they could, to have the case thrown out. The judge denied everything. You don’t read that in the papers.

**EIR:** What kind of jury was it? What was the composition?

**Pepper:** It was black and white, eight men and four women, six and six, black and white; it was a mixed jury, mixed economically, ranging from bankers to day workers.

**EIR:** And their verdict was unanimous?

**Pepper:** Unanimous.

**EIR:** Even the banker?

**Pepper:** It had to be. . . .

**EIR:** How did you finance the trial?

**Pepper:** We’re still trying to raise the funds. The family helped out some. The expenses at the end of the day will come to about \$50,000. We have recorded now about \$36,000 to \$40,000. We’re probably about \$30-35,000 in the hole. . . .

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## Documentation

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*Excerpts from William Pepper’s summation, which he delivered on Dec. 8. Subheads have been added by the editors, and obvious court reporter’s errors have been corrected. Additional transcripts of the court proceedings will be available at the Martin Luther King Center’s website, [www.thekingcenter.com](http://www.thekingcenter.com).*

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY,  
TENNESSEE FOR THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT AT MEMPHIS

CORETTA SCOTT KING, et al., Plaintiffs, Case No.  
vs. 97242

LOYD JOWERS, et al., Defendants.

**Mr. Pepper:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. . . . You know, you’ve heard a great deal of testimony here. You also have available to you a great number of exhibits that are attached to the testimony that you have heard. . . .