

Kowalski's Thuggery

Another method used to discredit key witnesses, particularly Jowers and Wilson, is that they would not cooperate with the Justice Department investigation; this is used to conclude that they were unreliable and that they had something to hide.

EIR interviewed Wilson shortly after he was contacted by Kowalski in 1998. When he met Kowalski, intending to give him the documents found in Ray's abandoned car, Kowalski was abusive and threatening, and mostly questioned Wilson about his relationship with the King family and Pepper. Wilson said he felt that he was now a target of Kowalski's investigation—a belief that was reinforced when Kowalski threatened to indict Wilson for obstruction of justice and when Kowalski called Wilson's home to scream at Wilson's wife that her husband was a liar.

The Verdict of History

Following the release of the Kowalski report, Martin Luther King III issued a statement on behalf of his family (see box), noting that they stand by the verdict in the civil trial, and that they regard that trial as having revealed the truth about the assassination of Dr. King. And as Dr. Pepper told *EIR* in the accompanying interview, he expects that more and more information will continue to come out over the years, confirming the accuracy of the findings of the Memphis trial. Following that trial, Pepper told *EIR* that the verdict would "cause history to be rewritten"—and no cover-up by the Justice Department's permanent bureaucracy can alter that judgment.

Interview: William Pepper

Government Ignored Evidence in MLK Death

William Pepper is the attorney for the King family. He was interviewed on July 4 by Edward Spannaus.

EIR: What are your comments on the latest Department of Justice report on the King assassination?

Pepper: My overall comments are that they really just skewed it to their desired results, they chose whom to believe and whom not to believe, and they did it with the full intention—it seems pretty clear—of just sustaining the official line.

And I don't know what more one can say about it. It's not unexpected, I thought they were terribly harsh with respect to [former FBI agent Donald] Wilson, unfair, and we now know they used storm-trooper tactics against that family in order to get those documents. . . .

They seem to have buried their own scientific report. They supposedly did a scientific analysis of the documents, but they really didn't deal with the results in any detail at all.

King Family Pans U.S. Government Probe

Here is the statement of the family of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., issued following the U.S. Justice Department's release of its report on its "limited investigation" of recent evidence regarding the assassination of Dr. King:

1. We initially requested that a comprehensive investigation be conducted by a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, independent of the government, because we do not believe that, in such a politically sensitive matter, the government is capable of investigating itself.

2. The type of independent investigation we sought was denied by the Federal government. But in our view, it was carried out, in a Memphis courtroom, during a month-long trial by a jury of 12 American citizens who had no interest other than ascertaining the truth. (*Kings v. Jowers*)

3. After hearing and reviewing the extensive testimony

and evidence, which had never before been tested under oath in a court of law, it took the Memphis jury only 1.5 hours to find that a conspiracy to kill Dr. King did exist. Most significantly, this conspiracy involved agents of the governments of the City of Memphis, the state of Tennessee, and the United States of America. The overwhelming weight of the evidence also indicated that James Earl Ray was not the triggerman and, in fact, was an unknowing patsy.

4. We stand by that verdict and have no doubt that the truth about this terrible event has finally been revealed.

5. We urge all interested Americans to read the transcript of the trial on the King Center website at <http://www.thekingcenter.com>, and consider the evidence, so they can form their own unbiased conclusions.

Although we cooperated fully with this limited investigation, we never really expected that the government report would be any more objective than that which has resulted from any previous official investigation. In a reasonable period of time, when we have had an opportunity to study the report, we will provide a detailed analysis of it to the media and on the aforementioned website.