

**MLK, JR. FROM PAGE A1**

through the stunned city, Negroes in scattered areas also looted stores, stoned police and firetrucks and tossed several firebombs. Two policemen were injured, mainly by flying glass when a shotgun blast broke their windshield.

Four hours after King died, the city was quieting some, but police still reported sporadic outbreaks.

Police also said they found a 30.05 rifle on Main Street about one block from the motel, but it was not confirmed whether this was the weapon that killed King.

An aide who was standing nearby said the shot hit King in the neck and lower right part of his face.

“Martin Luther King is dead,” said Assistant Police Chief Henry Lux, the first word of the death.

Assistant Hospital Administrator Paul Hess confirmed later that King died at 7 p.m. of a bullet wound in the neck.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said he and others in the King party were getting ready to go to dinner when the shooting occurred.

“King was on the second-floor balcony of the motel,” Jackson said. “He had just bent over. If he had been standing up, he wouldn’t have been hit in the face.”

King had just told Ben Branch: “My man, be sure to sing ‘Blessed Lord’ tonight, and sing it well.”

A shot then rang out, Jackson said. Jackson said the only sound King uttered after that was, “Oh!”

“It knocked him down. When I turned around I saw police coming from everywhere. They said, ‘where did it come from,’ and I said ‘behind you.’ The police were coming from where the shot came.” Branch, another member of the King party, said “The bullet exploded in his face. It knocked him off his feet.” Solomon Jones, King’s chauffeur, said he saw a “man in white clothes” running from the scene. Violence erupted again shortly after King was shot. Police reported snipers firing on police and National Guard units, and several persons were reported hit by the shots. Several firebombings and other acts of vandalism also were reported. Police director Frank Holloman ordered a curfew back into effect “until further notice” as youths ran rampant, many of them with fire-bombs in their

hands.

National Guard units, which had been deactivated only Wednesday after five days on duty here, were called back to active duty and rushed to Memphis.

A bomb threat was telephoned to Methodist Hospital, and police were rushed to the scene.

Armed guards were immediately posted at St. Joseph’s Hospital, where King died.

Holloman said early investigation indicated the assassin was a white male, who was “50 to 100 yards away in a flophouse.” He said police had no definite leads but that two persons were in custody.

**A STUNNED NATION**

**By Brian Sullivan**  
NEW YORK, APRIL 4 (AP) From President Johnson to a lady weeping in Detroit, the nation reacted to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Thursday night with anguish, shock and pleas that his death would not trigger the violence he deplored.

“We have been saddened,” President Johnson told the nation on radio and television. “I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has struck Dr. King, who lived by non-violence.”

The president said he was postponing his trip to Hawaii, for a Vietnam strategy conference, until Friday. He had been scheduled to leave about midnight Thursday.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said the slaying “brings shame to our country. An apostle of non-violence has been the victim of violence.” The vice president, however, said Dr. King’s death will bring new strength to the cause he fought for.

Mrs. Rosa Parks, one of the earliest prominent figures in the modern civil rights movement, wept at her Detroit home: “I can’t talk now, I just can’t talk.”

“Martin is dead,” said James Farmer, former national director of the Congress of Racial Equality. “God help us all.”

“We kill our conscience, we cut open our soul. I can’t say what is in my heart—anger, fear, love for him and sorrow for his family and the family of black people.”

Churches opened their doors and readied special services in Dr. King’s honor. The Protestant Council of the City of New York asked that all churches remain open Friday

and Saturday so that “all citizens may bring supplication to God that the ideals of this man’s life will not be lost.”

James Meredith, who was shot in June 1966 during a voter registration march in Mississippi, said, “This is America’s answer to the peaceful, non-violent way of obtaining rights in this country.”

Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas, victim of a sniper’s bullet with President John F. Kennedy, said Dr. King “contributed much to the chaos and turbulence in this country, but he did not deserve this fate. ...”

Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the NAACP is “shocked and deeply grieved by the dastardly murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. ... It will not stay the civil rights movement; it will instead spur it to greater activity.”

Leontyne Price, a soprano for the Metropolitan Opera, and a Negro, said: “What Dr. Martin Luther King stood for and was, can never be killed with a bullet.”

Whitney Young, executive director of the National Urban League: “We are unspeakably shocked by the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, one of the greatest leaders of our time. This is a bitter reflection on America. We fear for our country.”

Floyd McKissick, national director of CORE, said that with Dr. King’s death, non-violence “is now a dead philosophy.”

“This is racism in the most extreme form, it is truly American racism,” McKissick said. “We make no predictions, but, mark my word, black Americans of all sorts and beliefs loved Martin Luther King.”

Jackie Robinson, first Negro to play in major-league baseball and now an adviser on race relations in New York state: “I’m shocked. Oh, my God, I’m frightened. I’m very concerned, disturbed and very worried. I pray God this doesn’t end up in the streets.”

**KING’S LAST SPEECH**

**By Jay Bowles**  
MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4 (AP)— “It really doesn’t matter what happens now. I’ve been to the mountaintop.”

The speaker was Martin Luther King Jr. His audience was a cheering crowd of some 2,000 supporters. It was Wednesday night.

Less than 24 hours later, the nation’s foremost

apostle of non-violence was dead, the victim of an assassin’s bullet, as he stood on the threshold of the biggest test of the theories he espoused.

King said Wednesday night that he was aware that threats had been made on his life. But he said he had seen the fulfillment of his goals of non-violence and did not worry about the future.

He said his flight to Memphis from Atlanta Tuesday had been delayed because of a baggage search which airlines officials said resulted from threats to him.

“And there have been some threats around here,” he added.

“We’ve got some difficult days ahead, but it really doesn’t matter now,” King said. “Because I’ve been to the mountaintop.”

And Andrew Young, executive vice president of King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said he had heard King make similar re-marks only once before, at Demopolis, Ala., during his 1964 Selma march.

“I don’t know whether it was premonition or not,” Young said as he stood in the door of the emergency room where the Nobel Peace Prize winner had been taken after he was felled by the bullet.

The supreme test of the theory of non-violence was to have come next Monday, when King planned to lead a massive march down the path where violence broke out last week.

It was the first time in King’s long history of civil rights activity that one of his drives had erupted into violence. He was clearly disturbed.

Young, testifying at a federal court hearing six hours before King was shot, was asked by U.S. District Judge Bailey Brown what effect violence in the upcoming march would have on King.

“I would say that Dr. King would consider it a repudiation of his philosophy and his whole way of life,” Young replied. “I don’t know when I’ve seen him as discouraged and depressed.”

But the discouragement had left King’s voice when he addressed the audience Wednesday night. “Let us stand with greater determination,” he said.

“Let us move on in these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be.”

For AP’s complete coverage marking 55 years since Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, go to <https://apnews.com/tag/MartinLutherKingJr>

**JEFFREY BASKIN II FROM PAGE A1**

seeds while they’re still young will enable them to flourish.

Baskin shares that of all the youth groups he’s come across and volunteered with, MAN UP stands out due to their belief in servant leadership, instilling hope, and demonstrating the Father’s love to every child and family they encounter. Here, you will feel the love he carries for an organization that left an indelible mark on his life.

MAN UP Mentoring, Inc.: How did you get into introduced to MAN UP Mentoring?

Jeffery Baskin II: So MAN UP Mentoring was something that my brother, Jamal, who lives in Orlando, was [helping] with through the UCF Volunteers Program, when he attended [University of Central Florida] pursuing his master’s degree. I was looking for something similar to that. He let me know he was mentoring, as well and I just fell in love with the program. It was pretty easy.

MU: What do you feel is the overall significance of MAN UP in the community and in the lives of the mentees?

JB: Each mentee will walk away with a sense of confidence in their abilities. Whatever their abilities are, they’ll have a sense of confidence. They’ll know what they’re good at. And that’s tough even for

adults.

MU: How is MAN UP different from other mentoring organizations?

JB: The organization’s foundation is rooted in family, love, and prayer. I think it was the power of both and reminding the mentees that they are fearfully, wonderfully, and uniquely made and that they are the bearers of great purpose. That’s the difference between any of the programs I’ve been a part of.

MU: What do you think is your greatest impact on the mentees?

JB: Being able to show them someone who came from a similar background. When they found out I was born and raised in Miami, and out of Liberty City, a lot of them understood that type of neighborhood and what it was like and how it’s similar to where they live. So there was kind of a badge of approval from them. It was a way for them to see that there is a way out and although they were from an inner-city neighborhood, they do not have to succumb to the ills of it.

MU: How do you think your financial support has helped MAN UP?

JB: I know they’re big on exposure so right now they are trying to raise money for a van to pick up the kids to attend their mentoring sessions, field trips, youth conferences, etc.,

They’ve been renting vehicles forever. They also want to get their own operational space so they can host meetings, workshops, trainings, events, and serve youth without restrictions. So as they continue, the goals get bigger and bigger. I just pray that I can continue to support those goals as they move forward.

MU: What are your expectations for the mentees?

JB: I want to see all the mentees pursue post-secondary opportunities after graduating from high school get into a training program, go into the military, college, those different things that may seem farfetched because of their current surroundings. To help them, we used to do mock interviews, practice an elevator speech, help them fill-out applications, discuss appropriate attire and demonstrate a can-do attitude which is so important so that we can correct them right now before they enter the workforce. After wrapping up the series, what was most exciting was seeing 90% of our mentees (of age to work) secure jobs at the nearby Publix, Universal Studios, Walmart, McDonald’s and Walgreens all while in high school. Also, just keeping prayer over the youth and for them because that continues to move and push them in a positive direction.

MU: What would you like to see

for this organization in the future?

JB: I see them being able to develop satellite locations in multiple places; I see them being able to raise funds in multiple cities; I see them being able to have all those things. I know that God wants them to know that it’s His timing when they’ll get it, but I know that I see them [promoting] on billboards and maybe starting their own type of school in some way. I ask that God gives them an abundance of blessings that will overflow and overtake them.

About MAN UP Mentoring, Inc: MAN UP Mentoring, Inc. is community-based non-profit 501c(3) charity organization primarily serving at-risk youth ages 11 through completion of high school or the equivalent across Orlando, with a focus on delinquency prevention and intervention by providing social, educational and mentoring services. Established in 2014 by Orlando natives, brother and sister duo Christopher and Samantha Wallace. Currently, it is managed by a full-time staff of volunteers and is overseen by a Board of Directors with more than 150 years of law enforcement and civilian experience, as well as advisors from the Orange County Public School System and social services.

**ANGEL REESE FROM PAGE A1**

piece of Sh\*\*”. Both were very disrespectful and way out of line.”

Angel Reese is the talk of the Final Four Women’s NCAA tournament. Unfortunately, it’s not for skills in helping to bring the championship to Louisiana. But for her “You can’t see me” and pointing to her ring finger where she will wear her championship ring. Gestures directed to Caitlin Clark, a White player on University of Iowa’s team during the last game at Dallas, Texas.

“There wasn’t any blatant disrespect hurled

at Caitlin Clark for her trash and smack talk,” emphasized President Mallory. “According to the comments I saw, Caitlin Clark was just talking trash, nothing more. But Angel Reese was ‘unsportsmanlike’ and should have been more ‘humble’.”

“Angel Reese, known as Bayou Barbie, showed the right example for my daughters and other Black females who will play high school and college sports. Yet, she was vilified in social media,” remarked President Mallory.

“It doesn’t surprise me that there is a double

standard for race in America. The narrative for Blacks is different than it is for Whites. That was the reality when I pitched in major league baseball and that’s still the reality now, some 30 plus years later,” revealed President Mallory, who represents almost 2 million Black registered voters in the sunshine state of Florida.

President Mallory said, “When Angel Reese responded to those cowards who hid behind Twitter and made negative and disrespectful comments, she was a young warrior, inspiring present and future young Black women whether it be in the sports arena or any other area of life.”

We must also recognize Caitlin Clark for her

positive response toward Angel Reese: “No matter which way it goes, she (Angel Reese) should never be criticized for what she did.”

“Let Angel Reese’s response embolden many to be a bellwether to work against and defeat the double standard for race that exists in America,” emphasized President Mallory. “If not now, when? If not me, who?”

“Be unapologetically you!” Angel Reese commanded.

“It gives me hope that our young people will stand for something, and not fall for anything,” concluded President Mallory.

**TRUMP FROM PAGE A1**

court, telling the judge he was pleading “not guilty” and had been advised of his rights. The judge warned Trump that he could be removed from the courtroom if he was disruptive. Trump made no comment when he left court just under an hour later.

Trump’s lawyer Todd Blanche said during the hearing that Trump is “absolutely frustrated, upset and believes that there is a great injustice happening” in the courtroom.

**A ‘SURREAL’ DAY IN THE CITY WHERE HE GAINED FAME**

Before he appeared in court, Trump made posts on his social media network complaining that the heavily Democratic area was a “VERY UNFAIR VENUE” and “THIS IS NOT WHAT AMERICA WAS SUPPOSED TO BE!” As his motorcade carried him across Manhattan, he posted that the experience was “SURREAL.”

The Republican has portrayed the Manhattan case and three separate investigations from the Justice Department and prosecutors in Georgia, as politically motivated. In recent weeks, he has lashed out at Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, called on his supporters to protest and warned about “potential death and destruction” if he were charged.

**TRUMP ADDRESSES SUPPORTERS**  
Appearing in front of several hundred supporters at his Florida home, Mar-a-Lago, Tuesday night, Trump repeated his claims that the investigation was politically motivated. He and attacked Bragg and the judge in the

New York case, the judge’s family and other prosecutors investigating him in other cases.

“The only crime that I have committed is to fearlessly defend our nation from those who seek to destroy it,” Trump said.

**BRAGG SPEAKS BRIEFLY**

Bragg, speaking publicly for the first time since the indictment last week, held a brief news conference after the court proceedings in which he said the hush money scheme constituted “felony crimes in New York state — no matter who you are.”

“We cannot and will not normalize serious criminal conduct,” Bragg said. The Democratic prosecutor said accurate and true business records are important everywhere, but especially in Manhattan, because it’s the financial center of the world.

Bragg was asked at the news conference why he was bringing the case now and if the timing was political. The district attorney said his office had “additional evidence” that his predecessor did not.

“I bring cases when they’re ready,” he said.

**WARNINGS AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES**

The judge on Tuesday did not impose a gag order but warned Trump to avoid making comments that were inflammatory or could cause civil unrest. If convicted of any of the 34 felony charges, Trump could face a maximum of four years in prison, but he’d likely be sentenced to less.

That could be an issue for Trump, who has already singled out his case’s judge and the

judge’s family and posted on his social media network on Wednesday that, “The people” are seeing “what is going on and they will not allow it to continue.”

Trump lawyer Joe Tacopina pointed to the chaotic mix of media and protesters outside the courthouse as the former president was arraigned on Tuesday and said that it “was an insane scene” but “there was no violence.”

“President Trump heard the judge,” Tacopina told NBC’s “Today Show” on Wednesday. “He’s not doing anything to try to incite violence.”

Asked about Trump’s comments about the judge, Tacopina responded, “It’s not an attack on the judge, or certainly, his family.”

“No one is suggesting that anything should happen to the judge or the family, and President Trump’s comments did not, in any way, shape or form, incite violence against the judge or anyone else,” he said.

**TRIAL WHILE CAMPAIGNING FOR PRESIDENCY**

Trump is due back in court in December, but his lawyers asked that he be excused from attending that hearing in person because of the extraordinary security required to have him show up. Prosecutors asked the judge to set a trial for January — weeks before the first votes will be cast in the 2024 Republican presidential primary. Trump’s lawyers asked that it be pushed to the spring. The judge did not immediately set a date.

**MIXED POLITICAL IMPACTS**

Though he faces a swirl of legal challenges, Trump is running for president again and

has sought to use the charges and other investigations to galvanize his supporters.

Most of the Republicans also running or eyeing campaigns have released statements supportive of Trump while slamming the investigations of him as politically motivated. Many Democratic elected officials have said little about the New York indictment, including President Joe Biden. Trump’s legal troubles are only expected to bolster Democratic voters’ opposition to him, but it’s unclear whether some Republicans and independent voters will see the legal problems as too much baggage.

**A NEW YORK CIRCUS**

A crowd of Trump supporters, thronged by journalists, gathered Tuesday outside the Manhattan courthouse. Republican Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and George Santos of New York, who is facing multiple investigations over lies he told while running for office, were swarmed by cameras and reporters when they arrived and spoke mid-morning. A band of anti-Trump protesters appeared with a large banner saying, “Trump Lies All the Time.”

Associated Press reporters Michael Balsamo and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.