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James Earl Ray conspiracy

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One possible answer, and this must certainly have occurred to them, was to do a deal with Ray whereby he would agree to allow another man to stand trial in his name. Such a man would, of course, have to be a zombie, a drug addict for example, who could be persuaded to do anything in exchange for a daily jab. Fortunately such a man was available.

In the London TIMES of March 20, this report appeared: "Denying that Ray had trafficked in drugs, Mr. Swanson (the prison warden) said anyone on drugs would have soon been spotted. 'If a man gets high on drugs, he can't hide it for long.' " The report, however, did not make clear who had suggested that Ray was high on drugs; no one however, denies an allegation that is not made.

If the second Sneyd was substituted for Ray, then the other

part of the bargain must have been that Ray would be given his freedom without much delay. No wonder Ray was so relaxed on the last time that Hanes saw him.

As for Foreman, why should he worry? He has already made \$240,000 out of marketing Ray's life story. He is generously passing on \$90,000 of that to Ray's family. Poor James, of course, won't be able to share in that, or will he?

The outline of what really occurred, is therefore not really hard to see. Hanes had to be fired because, at so late a date, a new plea obviously necessitated a new lawyer. On the other hand, the trial had to be postponed for four months since it would have looked strange if a new plea of "guilty" had been entered immediately. The idea of the new plea, however, was gradually leaked to the press at about the turn of the year, just at the

time that Ray was being consulted.

In the meantime, Mrs. Thomas had to be subpoenaed in order to prevent her talking, and she might have come in handy in order to convince the world that the man in the dock really was James Earl Ray. Unless something had gone wrong, of course, there would have been no need to call her.

A neat arrangement was then made between Foreman and W. Bradford Huie whereby they would sell Ray's life story and Foreman would get 60 percent of the loot. And there is no need to explain how Ray's brothers were persuaded to pretend to initiate the whole scheme. They are now vigorously supporting Ray in his request for a new trial, but naturally they have to go through the motions.

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