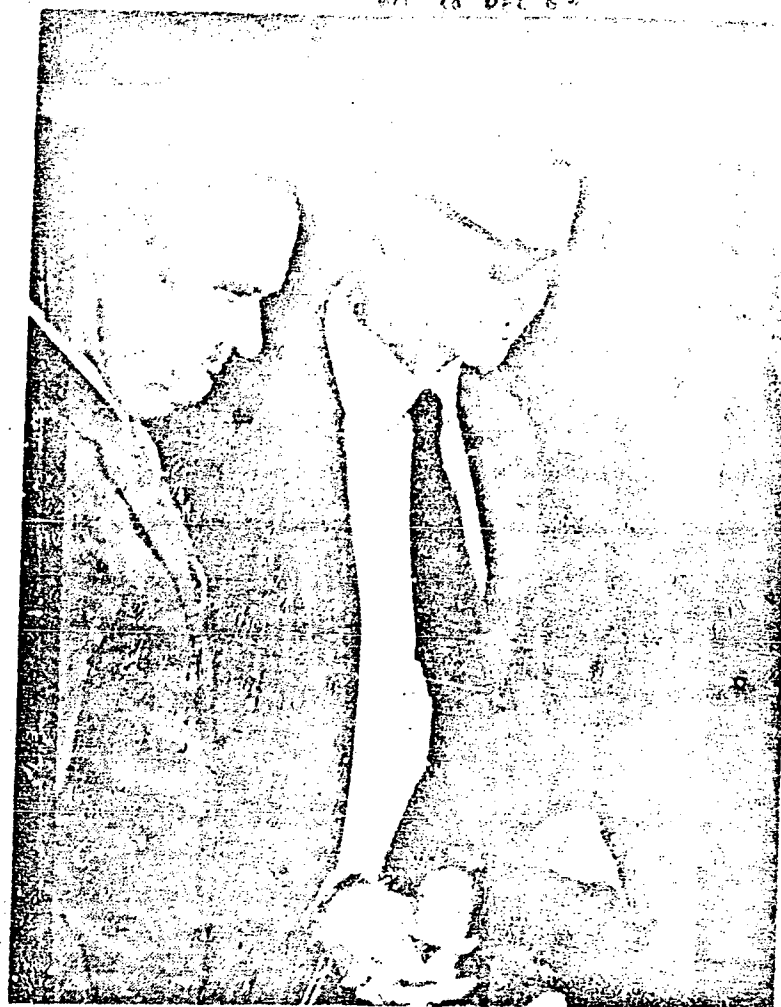


WIP 10 DEC 69



### Ray Complains

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—James Earl Ray complained that isolation was wrecking his mind and health and asked U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant to move him out of the Tennessee state prison's maximum security division.

A prison psychiatrist stated that permitting Ray to remain in with other prisoners would jeopardize his health.

He said some of the inmates were willing to take the chance of going down with Ray because of the person who killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray said he didn't care "I don't care if I go down with them, but I don't want to go down with them."

Ray said he had been in the prison for 10 months and that he was being treated like a criminal. He said he was being treated like a criminal and that he was being treated like a criminal.

RAY-201

United Press International

James Earl Ray, handcuffed and closely-guarded, enters federal court for hearing.

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1994  
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM**



30 Dec '69  
Wash Post

## Court Tells Ray's Jailers Not to Enforce Idleness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A federal judge has ordered state prison officials to find something to occupy James Earl Ray's time while serving a 99-year sentence for slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After a hearing yesterday on Ray's petition for release from maximum security confinement, U.S. Dist. Court Judge William E. Miller told prison officials to come up with a plan incorporating "recreation, work and exercise" for the prisoner by Jan. 12. Ray, who pleaded guilty last March 10 to the sniper slaying of King, testified he would rather face the possibility of being killed by another convict than to spend "99 years in solitary."

### Viewed as Inhuman

He contended that the conditions of maximum security confinement amounted to cruel and inhuman treatment in violation of his constitutional rights.

The state opposed Ray's bid for permission to mingle with other prisoners, contending his life might be endangered and his chances for escaping would be greater.

Ray spent almost two hours on the witness stand, describing life in his 6x9-foot cell at the penitentiary here.

Judge Miller asked Ray what kind of work he would like to perform.

"I wouldn't mind doing dishes, digging ditches, anything," Ray replied, adding that he preferred "to be outside as much as I can."

### Silent on Specific Job

Ray did not specify any particular job, however, saying "It is

bad to ask for anything in a penitentiary, that way you'll never get it."

W. S. Neil, the penitentiary warden, suggested that Ray might help guards serve food to other convicts in maximum security and lend a hand with janitorial duties within the maximum security building.

Judging by Ray's expression, he was less than satisfied with the proposal.

"Enforced idleness can be cruel punishment," Miller said, "particularly when it is only to protect him from bodily harm." He said he would reserve final judgment until he reviewed the prison officials' plan.

Mr. Ober

CI STAFF

2B23

Filed 03 DEC 1968  
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Jaw

20 Dec '69  
Wash Star

### ***Ray Is Refused Review of Denial Of a New Trial***

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 15 (AP)—The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals refused today to review denial by a Memphis judge of a new murder trial for James Earl Ray on the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Presiding Judge Mark A. Walker of Covington announced the court's decision after it had deliberated the matter less than four hours. Defense Attorney J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., said the ruling will be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis March 10 to the slaying last year of Dr. King, and was sentenced by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle to 99 years in state prison. In seeking a new trial, Ray claimed he was pressured by his former lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., into entering the guilty plea. Foreman denied the charge.

KA

Wash Post

16 JUL 1969

King Assassination  
Motel Sued Over  
Memorial Debt

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)—A writ of attachment was issued yesterday against the motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot to death.

Chancellor Charles Rond issued the writ on the Lorraine Motel to satisfy a \$1,421 debt in connection with a memorial to the slain civil rights leader.

PPG Industries, Inc., formerly known as Pittsburgh Plate Glass, Co., filed the suit against motel owner Walter Bailey. The company said it contracted with Bailey to enclose with glass the balcony on which King was standing when shot.

The company asked for a decree to settle the debt and that if payment is not made, the motel be sold to satisfy the claim.

16 July

AP 27 JUN 69  
**Court Grants  
Ray Review  
Of His Trial**

COVINGTON, Tenn., June 26 (UPI) —Chief Judge Mark A. Walker of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals has granted a petition submitted to him Wednesday by attorneys for James Earl Ray to have the court review the trial record in Ray's conviction for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Appeals Court will rule July 15 in Knoxville on whether it should consider an appeal by Ray for a new trial.

The petition claims that Judge Arthur C. Faquin erred in granting a state request to quash a defense motion for a new trial at a hearing in Memphis May 26. The petition says Faquin should have allowed Ray a new trial on the grounds that presiding Judge W. Preston Battle died before ruling on a new trial motion.

27 JUN 1969

Wash Post

## Ray Is Granted Review Of Record at His Trial

COVINGTON, Tenn., June 26 (UPI) —Chief Judge Mark A. Walker of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals has granted a petition submitted to him Wednesday by attorneys for James Earl Ray to have the court review the trial record in Ray's conviction for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The petition says Judge Arthur C. Faquin should have allowed Ray a new trial on the grounds that presiding Judge W. Preston Battle died before July 15 in Knoxville on ruling on a new trial motion.

44-KA

Wash Post

27 JUN 1969

UP TO YOU (X)

## Order Lets Ray Lawyer Communicate in Person

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 19 (UPI) — An attorney for whom had been used only James Earl Ray obtained a court order Wednesday that he be placed in a sound-proof room and Hill must talk with him by telephone with a heavy glass partition separating them. U.S. District Judge William E. Miller ordered a U.S. marshal to serve an order on the state prison warden and convinced the prison physician, corrections commissioner and other officials that the state must permit Hill access to his client within the same room or office.

20 June 69

A026

RAY bylyyx

MEMPHIS AP - A hearing may be held Monday to review the recent denial of a new trial for James Earl Ray in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, a member of Ray's new team of attorneys said even if no hearing were held, he believes Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin Jr. will at least issue a ruling on Ryan's request for a review.

Ray, who entered a guilty plea March 10 to the slaying of King, was refused a new trial May 26 by Faquin. The judge ruled the admitted slayer is not entitled to a new trial since he voluntarily entered the guilty plea to King's death.

The attorney's move Friday to bring the Faquin decision up for review could take the case to the western division of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

If Faquin denies the request, Ryan said he plans to ask the appellate court to accept a direct appeal. If the appellate court blocks down the appeal, Ryan said, other legal routes are open.

Ray currently is serving his 99-year sentence in the state prison in Nashville.

2r44osad June 14

KA

# Dismissed Tennessee and Governor's Office

NASHVILLE, May 31 (AP)—  
Gov. Averett announced Thurs-  
day the State Corrections Com-  
missioner, continuing to insist  
that he had failed to place in  
a trust fund any money taken  
away by James Earl Ray.

Mr. Averett's statement came  
in an interview with Ben Miller,  
AP/WAN radio newsmen, after  
the Nashville Banner said the  
information was contained in  
a confidential report to Gov.  
Burl T. Battle.

Ray is in maximum security  
at the Tennessee State Peniten-  
tiary, serving 99 years after  
pleading guilty to first-degree  
murder in the assassination of  
the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King  
Jr. in Memphis April 4, 1968.

The governor said that he re-  
ported to Mr. Averett as saying  
he had requested three inter-  
views with Ray at the prison  
since assuming office, the  
king playing as well as in  
other matters for crimes and  
possibly others.

Governor Battle dismissed  
Mr. Averett after a report by the  
International Association of  
Chiefs of Police, which was  
highly critical of the state  
of the penal system. Mr. Averett  
quoted the Governor as saying  
his dealings with Ray were the  
basis for the statement.

KA

NY Times  
01 JUN 1969

APR 21 1969  
**Avery Tells  
Of Offer  
Made to Ray**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —  
Fired state corrections commis-  
sioner Harry S. Avery says he  
told James Earl Ray he would  
"go and get" any money Ray  
had "stashed away" and deposit  
it in a trust fund for him.

The offer, Avery said last  
night, was part of his attempt to  
"get at the full truth" in the  
assassination of Dr. Martin Lu-  
ther King Jr., for which Ray is  
serving 99 years in state prison.

Avery, contacted by telephone  
while on a fishing trip at Cooke-  
ville, Tenn., says Ray "com-  
mented at some length about it  
(the offer), but I don't intend to  
say anything about his com-  
ments . . . since he has attor-  
neys trying to get him a new  
trial."

Avery, fired Thursday by Gov.  
Buford Ellington, said he  
"talked to Ray at great length"  
after Ray, who pleaded guilty  
March 10 to killing King, was  
brought to the prison.

Avery said Ray told him "a  
conspiracy existed" in the King  
death, but refused to elaborate  
on what, if any, details Ray  
might have given him.

"I told him that if he wanted  
to tell me the full truth about  
this in his own handwriting and  
if anyone was interested in pur-  
chasing it, I would see that ev-  
ery nickel that anyone paid was  
placed in his trust fund," Avery  
said.

Avery had said previously he  
believed a plot existed at the  
prison to kill Ray should he be  
released from maximum securi-  
ty.

Wash Star

3 APR 1969

## Corrections Chief Fired in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 29. King Jr. "would write in his (UPD) -- Tennessee Corrections Commissioner Harry S. Ellington, Jr. "would write in his own handwriting his story of the crime."

Avery, accused of using his position to gather facts about James Earl Ray for a book, was fired today by Gov. Buford Ellington. Ray is serving a 99-year term in the Tennessee state prison at Nashville.

The controversy over Ray was not Avery's first. He also had been criticized for using a prison inmate as his chauffeur, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police had issued a highly critical report on the Commissioner's office and state prison operations.

Avery said he had no plans to write a book about Ray, "at this time." He added "Some situation might arise that I would think it would be preposterous for me to write an article about penology or law enforcement work."

Robert W. Hill of Chattanooga, one of Ray's attorneys, charged two weeks ago that Avery offered to "look after" Ray if the admitted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Wash Post

30 MAY 1968

# Ray Loses Bid for New Trial

By Paul W. Valentine

Washington Post Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 26

James Earl Ray, whose fate has been clouded by the death of the judge in his case, lost a bid today for a new trial in the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. said Ray had "knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently" pleaded guilty.

His attorneys said they will appeal the denial by Judge Faquin, successor to the late Judge W. Preston Battle.

Ray, 41, wearing a drab jacket and pale yellow tie, was pale and unsmiling throughout the three-hour hearing. He did not testify. He was whisked from the courtroom and readied for his return to the State Penitentiary in Nashville.

Faquin, 44, granted the prosecution's motion to deny Ray a hearing on the new trial issue. He said Ray waived his rights to appeal or new trial last March 10 when Judge Battle sentenced him to 99 years imprisonment in exchange for the guilty plea to the 1968 killing.

## Died of Heart Attack

Battle died March 31 of a heart attack, five days after Ray had petitioned him for a new trial. Tennessee law provides that new trial motions pending before deceased judges must be granted automatically.

Prosecutor Jesse Clyde Mason argued today, however, that the March 10 proceeding was not, technically speaking, a trial but a guilty-plea hearing in which there was no dispute over the facts. Since there was no original trial, there can be no motion for a "new" trial, he said.

Judge Faquin agreed, noting that a guilty plea amounts to a "judgment by confession," from which there is no appeal or review under common law.

Throughout the hearing, Ray, under heavy guard, rarely talked with his attorneys, J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., Robert A. Hill Jr., of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Richard J. Ryan, of Memphis, Tenn.



James Earl Ray is led back into the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville after he was denied an appeal for a new trial for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

United Press International

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Wash Post

22 MAY 1969

#### Outspoken Segregationist

Stoner, 41, an outspoken segregationist, has represented Klux Klansmen in the past and ran for U.S. Vice President in 1964 on the ultra-right National States Rights Party ticket.

Behind Ray's unsuccessful move today is his contention that his legal interests were subverted by the financial interests of free-lance writer William Bradford Huie and the two defense attorneys earlier assigned to Ray's case.

Ray has charged that attorney Percy Foreman persuaded him to plead guilty in order to avoid a full trial because a trial would have revealed the details of the case to the public and denied Huie his exclusive access to the Ray story.

Ray submitted copies of contracts and letters between Foreman, himself and Arthur Hanes Sr., Birmingham, Ala., attorney who also represented Ray earlier. The documents showed that Hanes had been paid at least \$50,000 and that Foreman demanded a \$150,000 fee, much of it from book and magazine firms for which Huie was writing.

Today, Ray's new lawyers unexpectedly withdrew the Foreman-Hanes allegations from the new trial motion but said they may reinsert them later.

#### Legal Technicalities

Today's hearing turned instead on legal technicalities. The defense maintained that Ray's March 10 guilty plea was defective because state prosecutors failed to sign his waiver of rights and because Ray did not respond to one of Judge Battle's questions about whether he was "pressured" into pleading guilty.

Faquin dismissed the arguments, noting that prosecutors are not required to sign the waiver and that even if Ray failed to answer one question, he had denied being "pressured" in other questions.

A transcript of the disputed portion shows that Judge Battle asked two questions in a row before Ray answered:

Battle: "Has anything besides this sentence of 99 years been promised to get you to plead guilty? Has anything else been promised you?"

Ray: "No."

# Ray Learns He For New Trial

by Paul W. Valentine  
Washington Post Staff Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — May talked with his attorneys, J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., Robert J. Hall Jr., of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Richard J. Ryan, of Memphis, Tenn.,

Stoner, 44, an outspoken segregationist, has represented Ku Klux Klansmen in the past and ran for U.S. Vice President in 1964 on the ultra-right National States Rights Party ticket.

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Judge Faquin agreed, noting that a guilty plea amounts to a "judgment by confession," from which there is no appeal or review under common law.

Throughout the hearing, Ray, under heavy guard, rarely

interjected. He was "pressured" into pleading guilty. Faquin dismissed the arguments, noting that prosecutors are not required to sign the waiver and that even if Ray failed to answer one question, he had denied being "pressured" in other questions.

A transcript of the disputed portion shows that Judge Battle asked two questions in a row before Ray answered:

Battle: "Has anything besides this sentence of 99 years been promised to get you to plead guilty? Has anything else been promised you?"

Ray: "No."

27 May 69

## Ray Loses Bid For New Trial In King Death

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray was returned to his maximum-security prison cell after losing a bid for a new trial in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"This hearing was only the beginning," said Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, one of Ray's three new lawyers. Ryan said he will take the case to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. of Criminal Court in Memphis held yesterday that Ray waived any right of appeal when he entered a guilty plea March 10 in the shooting of King.

"It is the opinion of this court that the guilty plea entered was properly . . . knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily entered,"

Faquin said in a written order. "Judge Battle had ample evidence in finding that the defendant was fully advised and has waived, intelligently and understandingly, his rights to a motion for a new trial."

Judge W. Preston Battle died three weeks after accepting Ray's plea of guilty in exchange for a 99-year prison sentence.

Ray sought a new trial on grounds he was coerced by his former lawyers into pleading guilty. He charged that his original lawyers were more interested in writing and selling stories about the death of King than in seeing that he received a fair trial.

Ray, 41, was whisked out of Memphis last evening and escorted to Tennessee State Prison here by police cars.

Wash Star

27 MAY 1969

# RAY FAILS IN MOVE FOR SECOND TRIAL

Judge in Memphis Rules He  
Gave Up Right of Appeal  
When Pleading Guilty

By MARTIN WALDRON  
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 26—  
Criminal Court Judge Arthur  
C. Faquin Jr. ruled today that  
James Earl Ray gave up his  
right of appeal on March 10  
when he pleaded guilty to the  
murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin  
Luther King Jr.

The judge threw out Ray's  
request for a new trial and  
ordered the pardon. 41-year-  
old convict returned to the Ten-  
nessee State Penitentiary at  
Nashville to continue serving  
his 99-year sentence.

During the session Ray,  
whose weight has risen from  
170 to almost 150 pounds in  
two months of solitary con-  
finement at the penitentiary,  
sat quietly behind his lawyers.

State prosecutors introduced  
into evidence a signed state-  
ment by Ray requesting that he  
be allowed to plead guilty in  
return for the 99-year sentence  
and agreeing that he would  
neither appeal the sentence nor  
ask for a new trial.

## Legal Technicalities

Judge Faquin said that such  
agreements were legal and  
binding in Tennessee. He cited  
numerous Tennessee court deci-  
sions in behalf of this position.

Today's hearing, which had  
held the promise of being a  
forum for Ray's story that he  
was nothing more than a dupe  
who pleaded guilty because of  
pressure, never got beyond  
legal technicalities.

At the start of the hearing,  
Ray's three attorneys withdrew  
allegations that Ray's former  
lawyer, Percy Foreman, of  
Houston, had browbeaten Ray  
into pleading guilty.

Judge Faquin offered to  
throw open the hearing to  
allow Ray to state his position,  
but the attorneys representing  
him declined the offer. They  
would not explain why the al-  
legations about the pressure had  
been withdrawn.

Robert K. Dwyer, the prose-  
cutor, who just this morning

Continued on Page 13, Column 3

KA

NY Times

27 MAY 1969

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## Ray Fails in Plea for New Trial; Judge Orders Him Back to Jail

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2. a full hearing under a post-conviction act that allows Tennessee convicts to seek leniency while they are serving prison terms. Mr. Stoner indicated that the lawyers planned to follow all three courses if necessary.

Ray had said that he was forced to plead guilty to produce magazine, book and movie rights sales for Mr. Hue and Mr. Foreman.

May Go to Higher Court. Judge Faquin told Ray's lawyers, who included J. B. Stoner, of Savannah, Ga., an outspoken racist, that they could ask higher courts to direct him to grant Ray a new trial.

Failing that, he said, they could file a writ of habeas corpus seeking a new trial by alleging fraud or they could seek

They contended at today's hearing that Tennessee law required that Ray be given a new trial because he had asked for it before the death of W. Preston Battle, the judge who sentenced him to 99 years. The judge died three weeks after the sentencing, and before the time of applying for a new trial had expired.

But Judge Faquin ruled that Ray's case was not governed by this law because he had waived his right to appeal or to ask for a new trial.

Ray is expected to be returned to the penitentiary tomorrow morning.

NY Times

27 MAY 1969

## SK King Death Probed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A brother of the man convicted of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. says FBI agents questioned him about whether a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of the civil rights leader.

Jerry Ray, younger brother

of admitted assassin James Earl Ray, said men identifying themselves as FBI agents approached him at the jail where he was visiting his brother.

The elder Ray, who pleaded guilty March 10 to King's death and was sentenced to 99 years, will appear at a hearing Monday on his motion for a new trial.

"I didn't tell them anything," Jerry Ray said he told the agents on advice of an attorney. "They asked a question on the conspiracy statement. I wouldn't answer it and they threatened to bring me before a Federal grand jury. They said if I didn't talk to them, I would be held in contempt."

Investigators have maintained that a conspiracy was not involved in King's death.

Asked about the younger Ray's report, Special Agent Robert G. Jensen, Memphis FBI district chief, confirmed that his men questioned Jerry Ray but would not comment on his charge of threats. "We're making inquiries all the time into all sorts of things," he said.

KA

Wash Post

25 MAY 1969

# Ray's Contention of Being Dupe Is Likely to Be Aired Tomorrow

By MARTIN WALDRON  
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, May 27.—James Earl Ray, who said that the Earl Ray's contention that he is a dupe in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, pleaded guilty to death unless he is likely to be thoroughly. Ray had told his first lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, that he did not shoot Dr. King. Ray is seeking a new trial on the ground that he was coerced into pleading guilty to the slaying of the civil rights leader. The State of Tennessee, which is opposing a new trial, expects to call as witnesses Percy Foreman, the Houston lawyer who Ray says browbeat him into pleading guilty, and William Bradford Huie, the Alabama attorney to whom Ray sold a version of Dr. King's murder.

## Two-Day Hearing

Prosecutors expect the hearing before Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. to last two days.

Meanwhile, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are continuing an inquiry into the slaying of Dr. King, who was shot to death April 4, 1968, at a Memphis motel. The F.B.I. is trying to construct a day-by-day account of Ray's activities from the day he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary April 23, 1967, until he was arrested in London June 8, 1968.

Last month, F.B.I. agents finally located the motel in Birmingham, Ala., where Ray had stayed for two days while he was buying the rifle that Memphis police found at the murder scene. He had registered as Eric Starvo Galt, one of several aliases he was using.

Ray's brother, Gerald Ray of Chicago, said an F.B.I. agent tried to interview him in Memphis this week about statements he had made about a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. Gerald Ray said the agent, Joe C. Hester, told him that he might be called before a Federal grand jury for questioning.

## Warrant Still Outstanding

The F.B.I. declined to comment. But officials of the agency said after James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in March that the investigation would remain open. A Federal warrant charging Ray with conspiring with a man "alleged to be his brother" to deprive Dr. King of his civil right is still outstanding.

When he pleaded guilty March 10, Ray said he was guilty of murdering Dr. King, but he refused to stipulate that there was no conspiracy.

Ray fired Mr. Foreman as his lawyer a few days after the guilty plea and asked for a

Ray's request for a new trial was complicated by the death of Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle. He died March 31.

## Two Major Points

Ray had written the judge a letter in which he said he planned to file a motion for a new trial even though he had waived the right March 10 when he pleaded guilty.

Tennessee law provides that proper motions pending before a judge at the time of his death must be granted.

Thus, Judge Faquin will have two major points to decide at the hearing:

“Was the letter in itself a motion for a new trial?”

“Was Ray actually coerced into pleading guilty?”

Ray's newest attorneys, who are handling the hearing, include J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga. He has been an attorney for various Ku Klux Klansmen and for the National States' Rights party, a racist political group.

KA

NY Times

25 MAY 1969



James Earl Ray, escorted by two Tennessee patrolmen, is led from the state prison in Nashville for a trip to Memphis and a hearing into his conviction for murdering Dr. Martin Luther King. Ray is seeking a new trial.

United Press International

## 7 Ray Trial Contempt Cases Dropped

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 23

(AP)—The judge who will hear James Earl Ray's bid for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dismissed contempt of court charges against seven persons today in connection with the Ray case.

Ray entered a guilty plea March 10 in the murder of King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison by Judge W. Preston Battle.

Judge Arthur Faquin, who took over after Battle's death, acted at the recommendation of a special bar association committee.

The committee had recommended that, because of Battle's death, four persons whom Battle had held in contempt should either be granted new trials or the charges should be dismissed.

The four were Arthur J.

Hanes, Ray's first attorney; Roy T. Hays, a private investigator, and two Memphis newspaper reporters, Charles E. Johnson of The Commercial Appeal and Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

The committee had recommended contempt proceedings against the three others. They were George Bonebrake, an FBI firearms expert; author

William Bradford Huie and the

Rev. James Bevel, a top official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Ray, bound in chains and escorted by 25 armed guards in an 11-car police caravan, was returned yesterday to the Shelby County Jail cell where he lived from last July until he entered the state prison March 11.

Judge Faquin will hear Ray's appeal for a new trial Monday.

KA

Wash Post

24 MAY 1969

## 7 Freed of Contempt in Trial of Ray

By MARTIN WALDRON  
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, May 23 — A test of the extent of a judge's right to prohibit pretrial publicity was avoided today when Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. of the Criminal Court dismissed eight contempt citations arising from the murder trial of James Earl Ray.

The late Judge W. Preston Battle, who accepted Ray's plea of guilty to the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had held seven persons in contempt, one of them twice, for discussing or for publicizing details of the state's case against Ray. Judge Battle died in March shortly after sentencing Ray to 99 years in prison for slaying the civil rights leader.

"The clear and present danger to a fair trial, which made necessary the promulgation of orders regarding pretrial publicity, now no longer exists," said Judge Faquin, who took over Judge Battle's docket. "It steps by rule and regulation coerced into pleading guilty at would be unfair and unwise to test the validity of an order of such import or to try the

violators with a record created after the necessity for such orders has been eliminated."

Two of those cited by Judge Battle were Memphis newspaper reporters who had written articles about interviews with Ray's former attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, and a private detective.

Scripps-Howard Newspapers, Inc., which owns both Memphis daily newspapers, had said it would appeal the contempt citations to the Supreme Court if possible to try to determine the extent of a judge's power to regulate what newspapers may print.

In citing the seven for contempt, Judge Battle had said that he was following a man in the 1960 case of Dr. Samuel Sheppard of Cleveland, who was granted a new trial because of publicity surrounding his first trial.

The Court said in that case that judges "must take such steps by rule and regulation coerced into pleading guilty at would be unfair and unwise to test the validity of an order of such import or to try the

Judge Faquin wiped the record clean today. He granted, on his own initiative, motions for new trials for the seven men and then dismissed the entire proceedings.

This left no record that could be appealed.

Those who had been found in contempt by Judge Battle were Mr. Hanes; Ronfro T. Hays, a private detective; the two reporters, Charles Edmondson of The Memphis Commercial Appeal and Roy Hammons of The Memphis Press-Scimitar; William Bradford Huie, the author, who was cited twice for articles he wrote for Look magazine; the Rev. James T. Bevel, a civil rights leader; and George Bonebreak, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Ray was in the Shelby County Jail in Memphis today awaiting a hearing Monday on his request for a new trial. He has contended that he was coerced into pleading guilty at the March hearing. Judge Faquin will hear Ray's motion for a new trial.

KA

NY Times

24 MAY 1969

201-5532732

# Death Sentence Dropped

James Earl Ray, a top official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was sentenced to death by a Tennessee court for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. The sentence was dropped Thursday by the state court, which had been asked to do so by Ray's attorney, Roy Harris. Ray, 37, was arrested in London in 1967 and extradited to the U.S. in 1968. He was charged with the murder of King, which occurred in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Ray was found guilty of the murder in a trial that lasted from July 1969 to March 1970. He was sentenced to death on March 10, 1970. The state court's decision to drop the sentence was based on the fact that Ray had been found guilty of the murder of King, and the state court had no authority to overturn the death sentence. The state court's decision was a surprise to many, as it was widely expected that Ray would be executed. The state court's decision was based on the fact that Ray had been found guilty of the murder of King, and the state court had no authority to overturn the death sentence. The state court's decision was a surprise to many, as it was widely expected that Ray would be executed. The state court's decision was based on the fact that Ray had been found guilty of the murder of King, and the state court had no authority to overturn the death sentence.

WP 24 MAY 69



James Earl Ray, escorted by two Tennessee patrolmen, is led from the state prison in Nashville for a trip to Memphis and a hearing into his conviction for murdering of Dr. Martin Luther King. Ray seeks a new trial.

United Press International

Wash Post

...to reach...

### High Fee Denied

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Attorney Percy Foreman has called "a bunch of bull" a report that he demanded everything James Earl Ray would ever earn if he had to defend Ray on an innocent plea in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray's brother, Jerry Ray, was quoted in a copyrighted story in the Nashville Tennessean as saying Foreman had made the demand if Ray is reported looking a new trial—with a new attorney.

"Foreman said he would take \$150,000 if my brother pleaded guilty," Jerry Ray said. "But he wants everything he (Ray) would ever

if he didn't (plead guilty)."

Foreman, contacted in Houston by the Tennessean, said: "That's a bunch of bull. How is some man doing 99 years gonna make anything?"

The Tennessean said Foreman stated he took over the same financial arrangements that existed between Ray and his first attorney, Arthur Hanes.

24 May 69  
WP

201-0532732

**Ray Amends Suit**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Attorneys for James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., filed an amended suit that charges Ray's civil rights were violated by two lawyers and a writer.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court by Ray's latest lawyers, Robert W. Hill Jr. and J. B. Stoner.

Named as defendants were Arthur Hanes, the first lawyer to take the case; Percy Foreman, who replaced Hanes and represented Ray when the guilty plea was entered; and William Bradford Huie, Ray's biographer.

By Staff Writers and News Associates

23 May 69  
Wash. Post

201-0832732

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From staff reports and news dispatches.

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Wash Post

23 MAY 1969

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**Ray Threatened**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —  
Harry S. Avery, State Com-  
missioner of Corrections,  
says prisoners in the State  
penitentiary have threat-

ened to kill James Earl Ray,  
the admitted murderer of  
the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr.

Avery said word of the  
threat came in a telephone  
call and "had a lot to do"  
with his decision to keep Ray  
in a maximum security cell  
after his normal six-week  
stay, which was finished at  
the end of April. Avery said  
he was told Ray would be  
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21 May 69  
201-0832732  
Wash Post

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Wash Post

21 MAY 1969

201-6532732

# WHY JAMES EARL RAY

BY WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE



## MURDERED DR. KING

*This is the third in a series of articles on James Earl Ray and the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by William Bradford Huie, the eighth-generation Southerner who solved the murder of Emmet Till and was a friend of Dr. King. At the time of his first two reports, Mr. Huie believed that the evidence then available to him pointed to a conspiracy. There remained, however, unanswered questions that led him to months of further investigation and the current conclusions he presents here.*

IN THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON at Nashville, James Earl Ray now regards himself as a political prisoner. When, early in the presidential campaign of 1968, he shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ray took what he regards as a political action approved by millions of Americans. Ray thinks he fired the first shot in a social or racial conflict, a second Civil War, which will eventually result in his being freed. He therefore feels fulfilled; he believes he is liked, respected, even admired. And he is confident that political developments in the United States will cause him to be freed in two to four years.

James Ray, who is 41, along with his brothers Jerry, 31, and John, 37, believed that George C. Wallace would be elected President on November 5, 1968, and that President Wallace would promptly pardon the murderer of Dr. King. James Ray thought that by murdering Dr. King, he would aid Wallace's cause. When Wallace was not elected, all three Ray brothers took comfort in the Republican victory. They figured they had gained something. The trial was set to begin on November 12, 1968. One of the reasons why James Ray changed attorneys on the eve of his trial, thereby forcing a postponement of several months, was that he thought he'd have a better chance if his trial were held after January 20, 1969.

Jerry Ray, who told me that his own police record began when he was a juvenile, said of the delay: "Jimmy's friends are just bound to have more power after Nixon becomes President."

James Ray wrote to me that he didn't have much

to fear from any jury in Shelby County, Tenn., because, in his words, "70 percent of the voters of this county [the Memphis area] voted for either Wallace or Nixon." He added that certainly he didn't have to fear a death sentence because "no white man has ever been given a death sentence in a racial killing."

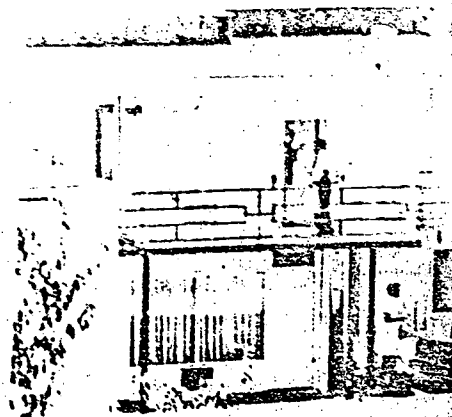
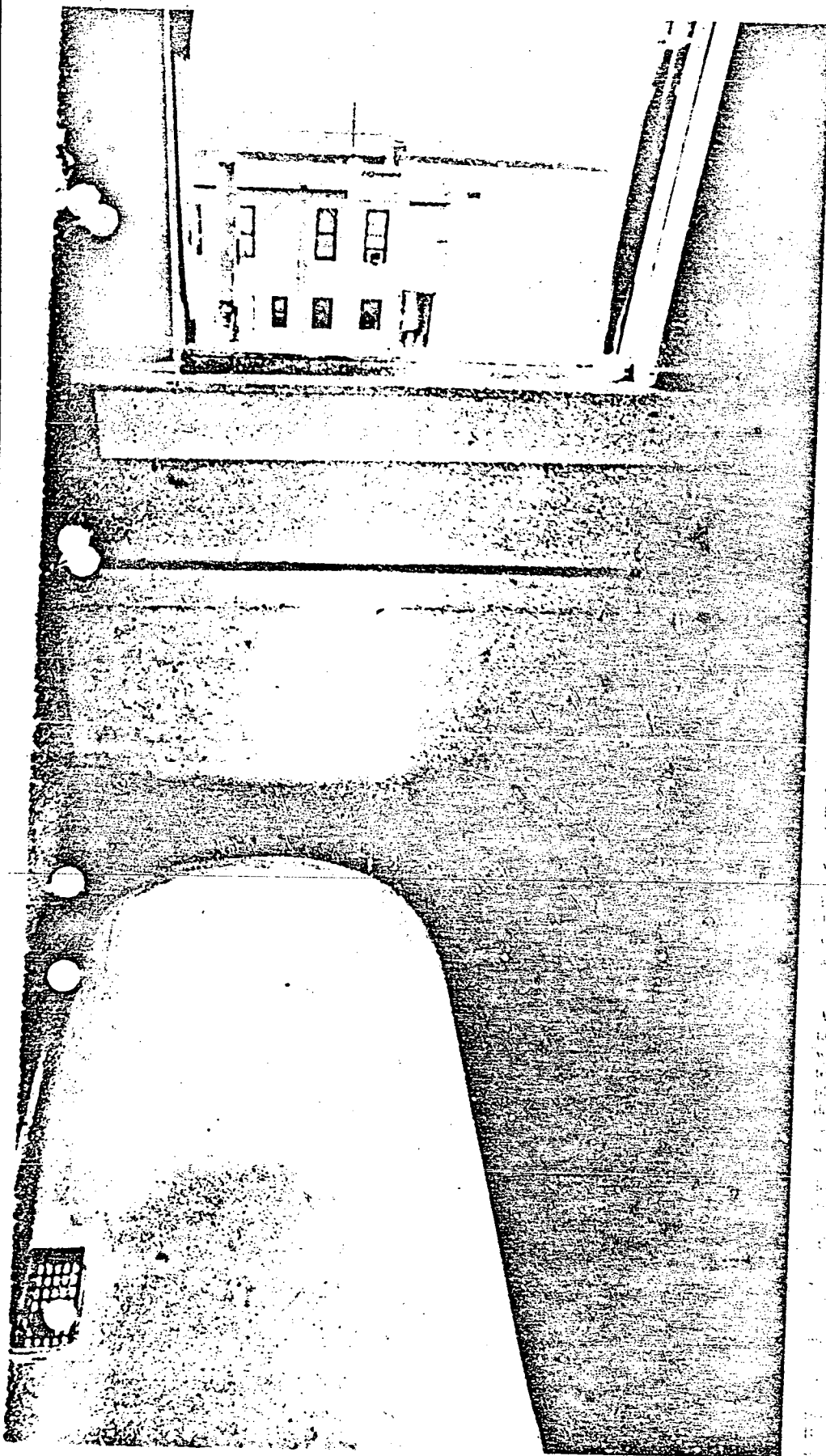
The Ray brothers believe that Jimmy is supported not only by millions of individual Americans but also by certain newspapers and newsmen. On November 1, 1968, when he thought the trial might start on November 12, Jerry Ray came to Alabama and talked with me. One of his worries, he said, was that "nobody but liberal reporters" could get a seat assigned in the courtroom for the trial. Jerry wanted me to use my influence to get "some conservative reporters like Paul Harvey and Fulton Lewis assigned seats, so we can have some friends who'll tell Jimmy's side of it."

One reason why it was hard to convince James Ray that he was likely to get the electric chair if he went to trial was that in his environment, in his heavily guarded cell, he received some of the approbation he had killed Dr. King to get. A deputy sheriff told him: "That jury ain't gonna turn you loose till they've fined ya two dollars for shootin' a coon outa season."

To counter such advice, Ray had to be told: "Boy, you pay attention to these half-assed jailers and you'll wind up in the chair. These guards and deputies are nigger-haters like you, and they'll . . . in your ear about how you saved the white race by killing Martin Luther Coon. But jailers don't sit on juries. If you go to trial, three or four of your jurors will be Negroes, and the eight or nine white men or women damn sure won't be jailers or bailiffs. That jury will burn yore ass, and you better believe it, and let me make a deal if you want to go on living."

In August, 1968, when I began work on this case—when I began sending in questions to Ray via his lawyers and receiving his answers—Ray gave this account of the actual murder: he said that he carried the rifle to Memphis, and that at 3:15 p.m. on April 4, he rented the room at the rooming house. He said that he bought the binoculars about 1:30 p.m. But he said that when the shot was fired at 6:01 p.m., he was in the Mustang, on Main Street; that the "other man" came running down the stairs, threw the rifle on the sidewalk, jumped into the back seat of the Mustang and covered himself with a sheet, while he (Ray) drove away. Eight blocks from the murder scene, Ray said that the "other man" jumped out at a traffic light, and he (Ray) drove on to Birmingham and Atlanta.

Month after month, I sought evidence to support this account, while I urged Ray to reveal more about the "other man." I found no supporting evidence I could believe. I had to conclude that, in all likelihood, the "other man" wasn't there, that Ray



*Dr. King occupied Room 309, now kept as a museum, on the upper floor of the Lorraine Motel. The bullet traveled 255 feet to its target on the balcony.*

alone went to the rooming house and shot Dr. King. I told both James and Jerry Ray last fall that, in my opinion, James Ray had no defense to the charge of murder. I told them further that if James Ray went to trial pleading not guilty, he would be in grave danger of the electric chair. Since he was a habitual criminal, widely suspected of being a hired killer, he couldn't count on the solid support of white supremacists, not even of Ku Klux Klan members or sympathizers (who do not kill for cash).

Ray's decision to plead guilty and accept the first-year sentence was not easily reached. He feared that a guilty plea might cause him to lose status "among the prison population." As a criminal who has spent 13 years in prison and who knows he will spend more years there, Ray first wants status among criminals and their guards. I now believe he killed Dr. King to have such status. Only secondarily is he concerned about status among people who don't inhabit prisons. And he indulged too the drama of a trial. He sustained himself with a fantasy in which he took the witness stand "before the world" and performed masterfully. He surrendered this fantasy and agreed to plead guilty. I feel sure, only after he decided that despite his guilty plea, he will now be an important person in prison, and that he will yet win freedom in some dramatic manner.

Ray's pleading guilty to murdering Dr. King does not answer all the questions that continue to trouble me and many Americans. These questions are:

1. Who, if anyone, assisted Ray, financially?
2. Did Ray make the decision to kill Dr. King?
3. When was this decision made?

For the last, why was it made? What were the motives of Ray and his possible assistants?

Ray has answered the first two questions. He said he decided to kill Dr. King on August 7, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

I know partial answers to these questions. I know that Ray did not kill Dr. King alone. I know that Ray did not kill Dr. King on August 7, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

Ray said he decided to kill Dr. King on August 7, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. I know that Ray did not kill Dr. King alone. I know that Ray did not kill Dr. King on August 7, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

(Continued on page 103)

and Mexico, I was har-ri-scapped by what I now regard as several misconceptions. Other people, I realize, will disagree with me emphatically, and in detail I believe, however, that if this tragedy is to be understood, if ever all the questions are to be answered and the answers widely accepted, these misconceptions must be dispelled.

The first misconception is that Ray's flight through Canada after the murder and his obtaining a Canadian passport by using the names of living citizens of Toronto were complex feats that he could have accomplished only with assistance. After retracing this trip, and studying Ray's account of it, I believe the feat was within his capabilities. No assistance was necessary. Here's how he did it:

*Leaving Memphis I had to drive slow and careful so as not to attract attention or get arrested for speeding. I drove south into Mississippi for a while, then turned east across Mississippi and Alabama, through Birmingham to Atlanta. I got to my room in Atlanta about 6 a.m. on April 5th. I parked the Mustang and left it and sure hated I didn't have time to sell it for at least \$1,000. Upon leaving my room, on the table I left a letter to me from the John Birch Society telling me how to get information about the English-speaking countries of Africa. I wanted the FBI to investigate this letter while I got away.*

*I took a bus from Atlanta to Cincinnati. It was due to leave Atlanta about 11:30 a.m., but it left about 1 p.m. I arrived in Cincinnati about 1:30 a.m. of the 6th of April. I had about an hour and a half layover, so I went to a tavern as I didn't want to stay in the bus station. I think the taverns close there at 2:30 a.m. I arrived at Detroit about 8:00 a.m., still the 6th of April. I then caught a cab to a train station, where I was told I'd have to take a cab to Windsor, Canada. I got a shave in a barbershop across from the train station. I remember I had trouble as the barber said he didn't shave customers any more.*

*I took a cab to Windsor and got there about 10 or 11 a.m. The train left for Toronto about 20 minutes after I got there. I arrived in Toronto about 5 p.m. on the 6th of April [Saturday], and I rented the room at 102 Ossington about 6 p.m. for \$10. The people who ran the rooming house were immigrants [Polish]. The woman couldn't speak hardly any English and the man not much better. I never gave them a name as they never asked me for one.*

*On Monday I went to the newspaper office and went through the old files looking for two names to use to apply for a passport. I got about ten names from the paper, including Paul Edward Bridgman and Ramon George Sneyd. [Ray got these names from births reported in 1932. He wanted men about his own age. Ray was born in 1928, but he thought he looked younger than that, so he claimed 1931 as his birth year. Using the Toronto telephone directory, he confirmed that the men he had selected from the birth reports were still living, and in Toronto.]*

*Posing as an employee of the Bureau of Internal Affairs, Passport Division, I then telephoned some of these men to see if they had ever had a passport. I couldn't use the name of anyone who had ever had a passport as his picture would be on file. Bridgman told me that he had had a passport about eight years ago, but Sneyd said he had never had a passport. [The real Sneyd and the real Bridgman remember the telephone calls about their passports. Bridgman thought the call was "strange" because it came during the early evening, after normal working hours for government employees.] At that time I thought that the man applying for a passport had to have another man who'd swear that he had known him [the applicant] for two years. So I let Sneyd apply for the*

continued on page 106

"ON BALANCE, I FEEL RAY WAS HELPED."

# FOR CONSPIRACY

BY ARTHUR J. HANES

FORMER ATTORNEY FOR JAMES EARL RAY



WHY DID James Earl Ray murder Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? I still believe that Ray killed Dr. King because he was directed to do it. Despite his plea of guilty in court, I also feel that Ray did not carry out the murder entirely alone. On balance, both my son and partner, Arthur, Jr., and I feel that, at the very least, Ray was helped. This means that we believe there was what the law calls a conspiracy.

Between July 5, 1968, when, at Ray's request, I first saw him in London and became his attorney, and November 10, 1968, when he discharged me, my son and I, separately and together, talked with Ray for more than one hundred hours. It was a baffling experience because Ray never gave us his confidence on critical issues. Preparing his defense was like preparing for moot court in law school. We worked, but we had no defendant to work with us.

At all times, Ray was courteous and respectful. Of moderate size, with a sensitive, nonassertive personality, he is a man who would go unnoticed anywhere. Probing for motivations, I often attempted to discuss race or politics with him. He is well informed, but his views are neither extreme nor bitterly held. I never heard him express or saw him display resentment, hatred or malice toward anyone.

At each conference with Ray, we had to consider first a written list of topics he had prepared, some relevant to the case, some not. His questions were serious to him, and he seemed interested in my responses. He showed most interest in such personal matters as my bringing him shirts and ties for his courtroom appearances. On a human-to-human basis, we seemed to be close. But when I began asking the questions, he changed in attitude and demeanor. He insisted that his accomplice, Raoul, actually fired the fatal shot, but when I questioned him about Raoul, he became tense and devious. Each time I saw him, I felt I had to make a new start at trying to gain his confidence. I never met a man quite so alone, quite so certain that he was his only keeper.

I believe his Raoul story to this extent: I think he met somebody like Raoul in Montreal in August, 1967, and I think Raoul may be Ray's name for one, two or three persons who directed or assisted him between August, 1967, and his escape through Canada.

Here are some of the reasons why my son and I feel that there was direction or help:

1. My son spent a week studying the rooming houses, the businesses and the people in the area of the murder. Unless Ray actually walked through and

had at least some time to study the rooming-house complex from which the fatal shot is alleged to have been fired, we can't believe that Ray could have known that he would have an unobstructed line of fire at Dr. King from the room he rented, or from the bathroom the state claims the shot was fired from. Since there is no evidence that Ray ever entered this house until 3:15 p.m. on the day of the murder; and since when he did enter it, he didn't go through the house looking out of various windows, but merely indicated what room he wanted, we believe that someone must have told him which house to enter and which room to rent.

2. Twenty feet below the bathroom window from which the shot is alleged to have been fired, there is a vacant lot, which at that time was covered with bushes 12 to 15 feet high. Dr. King's chauffeur, Solomon Jones, told reporters a few minutes after the shooting that "just after the shot was fired, a man with a sheet over his head ran out of the bushes heading south." Another witness, "Cornbread" Carter, said that he saw "the man" fire the shot from the bushes and then "take off."

From a concealed position in a firehouse just south of Bessie Brewer's rooming house, police were watching the area of Dr. King's room, trying to protect him from what they thought was the most serious threat to him: possible attack by Negro militant Negro policeman who could recognize the most dangerous of these militants was at a peephole and actually saw Dr. King fall. Both firemen and policemen who were in the back of the fire station heard the shot, and they all thought that it came from the bushes, not from any window 20 feet above the bushes. So I find the "bushman theory" of this shooting hard to dismiss.

3. The star state witness is Charlie Stephens, 46 years old, who lived in the room next to the bathroom. He said he heard the shot and saw a man who looked like Ray run out of the bathroom. But Stephens' common-law wife, Grace Hays Stephens, said that Charlie was drunk and saw nothing; that she saw the man run out of the bathroom, and he wore an Army jacket and was much shorter and lighter than Ray, weighing no more than 125 pounds. (Ray is 5'11" and weighs about 160 pounds.)

4. When Ray's abandoned Mustang was found and searched in Atlanta, in its trunk was a man's clothing, much too small for Ray. It would fit a man who weighs 125 pounds. Moreover, the car's ashtrays brimmed with cigarette butts, and Ray does not smoke. And in the back seat was a sheet, like the one Solomon Jones' bushman was wearing.

5. The state has no conclusive ballistic evidence. A .30-06 bullet was recovered from Dr. King's cervical vertebra, but no ballistics expert could say positively that that bullet was fired from the Remington rifle purchased by Ray at the Aeromarine Supply Company in Birmingham and found on the sidewalk near

continued on page 106

the Main Street entrance to the rooming house.

6. When the man who fired the shot emerged from the rooming house onto Main Street, Ray's Mustang was parked to his right. Yet, according to witnesses in the ground-floor Canipe Amusement Co. who saw the rifle dropped, the man with the gun turned left, or south, away from the Mustang, dropped the rifle, and continued walking south.

7. Two white Mustangs were parked on Main Street near the entrance to the rooming house. The one that did not belong to Ray was said to have a "whiplash" antenna, indicating radio-broadcast equipment. Within a few minutes after Dr. King fell there were mysterious radio reports about shots being fired from a Pontiac at a fleeing Mustang. I listened to police recordings of these reports, and they remain a mystery to me. All I know is that they could not have emanated from the Mustang owned by Ray.

which had only an ordinary car radio.

8. I know the father and son who own and operate the Aeromarine Supply Company in Birmingham. They sold two hunting rifles to Ray, and talked with him on successive days. They told me that the man who bought these rifles "seemed to know very little about guns."

9. Finally, in all my conversations with Ray, I kept asking myself: Why would this man have killed Dr. King? He was doing all right as a fugitive. He was staying out of jail, finding girls, drinking a little beer and vodka, driving his Mustang to places like Acapulco, New Orleans and Los Angeles, apparently enjoying himself, and paying his way with various illegal activities. Why then would he gravely jeopardize himself by the senseless murder of a world-famous figure? As far as I have been able to learn, he got no big final payment for it, and may not have ex-

pected any, though he has made contradictory statements on this point. So I simply can't think of any motive that clearly satisfies me in this case.

This is not to imply that I think I can disprove that Ray killed Dr. King. I'm as puzzled as anyone else. The state had a formidable circumstantial case against Ray. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, for which I once worked as an agent, has done its usual masterful job. I admire Mr. Foreman, who is a great criminal lawyer. I know and respect Mr. Huie, with whom I have spent many hours puzzling over this case; and certainly he writes persuasively about Ray's motivations.

But as of this moment, I simply cannot agree that James Earl Ray was not helped in murdering Dr. King. There are too many unanswered questions in my mind. In months to come, I hope that Mr. Huie, with Ray's help, can answer these questions.

# WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE CONTINUED

## RAY TOLD HUIE: "I WAS GOING TO FRANCE TO TRY TO GET IN THE MERCENARIES."

passport and let Bridgman be his witness, and I'd be both Sneyd and Bridgman. So I applied for birth certificates in both these names.

I then told the Polish lady on Ossington Street that my name was Paul Bridgman. I wrote it out for her on a piece of paper, because I expected that I had applied for the birth certificate under that name. Then I went to the Dundas Street address and rented a room as Ramon George Sneyd. I told the Chinese lady I worked nights. I was going to spend days at Dundas Street as Sneyd, and nights at Ossington Street as Bridgman.

I then went to Brown's Theatrical Supplies on Yonge Street and bought a makeup kit. This was so I could apply for the passport as Sneyd, then I could change my appearance and go back to the passport office as Bridgman and sign as a witness for Sneyd. In this way I could be Bridgman vouching for Sneyd.

In the meantime I had been stopped by a policeman and given a jaywalking ticket so I had to destroy all my Galt I.D. [This included his Alabama driver's license and all other papers identifying him as Eric S. Galt.] I then went to the travel agency and applied for a passport for Ramon George Sneyd. It was there and then that I found out that I had gone to a lot of extra trouble. If you don't have anyone to swear they have known you for two years, you can still get a Canadian passport simply by swearing that you are a Canadian citizen. I did this and was told I'd get my passport in about two weeks.

I didn't need Bridgman any more, so I checked out of the Ossington Street room and kept the Dundas Street address for Sneyd's passport to be mailed to. Then I went to Montreal to check on some ships to use the passport deal fell through. In Montreal I got a room on Notre Dame West, all the way across town from Notre Dame East where I had lived in August, 1967. If I didn't get the passport, I was going to re-skip passage on a ship that sailed around the coast of South Africa and try to slip in at one of the stops. I found a Scandinavian line that had ships going to Mozambique. The price for a ticket was \$600. But they wanted a passport number, so I gave up on that.

While I was in Montreal the police must have had a tip that I might be there because several people were arrested. I remember reading in a paper where two males were arrested in a white car with a dog. For this reason I never left the room except for meals and when I went to the shipping office. I returned to Toronto after being gone nine days, and next day I called the travel agency and was told that my passport had just arrived. When I picked up the passport I found the name was spelled wrong. [It was SNEYA instead of SNEYD. Ray prints when he writes, and his triangular D can easily be mistaken for an A. On his application for the passport, the D in Sneyd looks like an A.] There wasn't time to get it changed, so I had to leave Toronto with a faulty passport.

When I got back to Toronto from Montreal I had about \$800. I wanted to go to an English-speaking country in Africa, so I could get employment, but the price of a round trip ticket was \$820. You can't get in one of those countries without a round-trip ticket. So I bought a round-trip ticket to London, but I didn't expect to stay in England because it has too close police and other ties with the U.S.

Upon my arrival in England I called the Portuguese Embassy and asked them how long it would take to get a visa. They told me one day. I then used my return ticket to Canada to go to Portugal that day. In Portugal I spent all my time looking for a ship to go to Angola. I finally found one. The price was 3,777 escudos one way, about \$130. The ship was leaving in two days. I then went to get the visa and was told it would take seven days. I then returned to England as I was getting short of money. [In London, he held up a food store and got about \$300.]

I was going from England to France to try to get in the mercenaries. But they were having riots in France, and planes were not landing there. I finally contacted a newspaper reporter who told me the mercenaries had an office in Brussels. He gave me the address. I then bought a ticket to Brussels, and I was going there when I was caught at the London airport. They shook me down and found the .38. I also had a blueprint on how to make a silencer for a pistol.

That is a remarkable account and, as far as I can determine, a true one. The man who wrote it requires no assistance to travel anywhere. Ray had spent seven years in the Missouri State Penitentiary studying how to escape from prison and from the United States. He had read books and listened to other prisoners. In July and August, 1967, three months after his escape from the Missouri prison, he

had practiced that trip from Detroit to Windsor to Toronto to Montreal.

Ray has an amazingly retentive criminal mind. He can draw an accurate diagram of any place he has ever visited. He knows his way around. He may have had assistance in his escape after the murder, but he probably didn't need it, and I now don't believe he had it. He's too proud of having done it alone.

The second misperception is that Ray's finding the rooming house in Memphis from which he shot Dr. King, the precise timing, his "knowing where King would be at a certain time," and his escape from a murder scene crawling with police and police cars—that all this required assistance, that "one man just wasn't capable of doing all this by himself, he just had to have somebody to help him."

But did he have to have help? Here is the progression of events, along with an explanation partially based on Ray's statements to me:

THE FINAL DECISION to kill Dr. King, made by Ray or someone else, appears to have been reached on March 16 or 17. Dr. King was in Los Angeles on those days, his movements and statements reported by newspapers, radio and television. On Saturday the 16th, he addressed the California Democratic Council in convention at Anaheim and "called for the defeat of President Johnson." On Sunday the 17th, he spoke at the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles. The subject: *The Meaning of Hope*. He said that hate had become the national malady, that he had seen hate on too many faces, "on the faces of sheriffs in the South and on the faces of John Birch Society members in California." He closed by saying: "Hate is too great a burden to bear. I can't hate."

Literally while Dr. King was delivering that sermon, at a post office three miles away, Ray was filing a card changing his mailing address from the St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, to General Delivery, Atlanta, Ga. Next morning, Dr. King left Los Angeles for Mississippi, and Ray left too. Ray, driving the Mustang, stopped in New Orleans; then on March 22 he was at the Flamingo Motel in Selma, Ala., when Dr. King was 40 miles away recruiting for the Poor People's March. Dr. King returned to Atlanta. Ray spent the night of March 23 in Birmingham; then on March 24, he paid a week's rent on a room in Atlanta at 113 14th Street.

On March 21-27, Dr. King was in the New York area. Ray used these days to locate and observe Dr. King's home, his office at state headquarters, and his

continued

church, Ebenezer Baptist. On a map found in Ray's Atlanta prison by the FBI after the murder, all three of these locations were circled. Ray's fingerprints were on the map. On Thursday, March 28, Dr. King led striking garbage workers in Memphis on the march that a few young black militants turned into a riot. On the same day, Ray or someone else decided he should buy a rifle.

Ray told me that he decided to buy the rifle in Birmingham, rather than in Atlanta, because "I had I.D. in Alabama." On March 29, Ray drove to Birmingham, registered as Eric S. Galt at the Travelodge, Five Points; then went to the Aeromarine Supply Company at the Birmingham Airport and, as Harvey Lowmyer, bought a .243-caliber rifle with a Redfield scope. (He said he had come to Birmingham to buy the rifle because "I had I.D. in Alabama.") Yet he bought the rifle under an alias for which he had no identification. (Dr. King, on the 29th, returned to Atlanta deeply depressed because, for the first time, a few marchers led by him had resorted to violence. Newspapers, radio and television publicized his pledge to return to Memphis "next week.")

On Saturday, March 30, Ray went back to the Aeromarine Company and exchanged the rifle he had bought on Friday for a heavier rifle: a Remington .30-06 slide-action rifle, with a 2-to-7-power variable Redfield scope. This rifle package, with 20 Peters High Velocity, 150-grain, Soft Point cartridges, cost Ray \$265.85. Dr. King held a staff meeting at the Ebenezer Baptist Church during which he considered calling off the Poor People's March in the face of the "rising tide of hate in America."

On Sunday, March 31, Dr. King preached at the

Washington Cathedral, and Ray drove back from Birmingham to Atlanta.

On Monday, April 1, after an 8:45 staff meeting in Atlanta, it was announced that Dr. King would return to Memphis on April 3. Ray left Atlanta late that afternoon, drove northwest and spent the night in a motel near Florence, Ala.

On Tuesday, April 2, Dr. King rested at his home, while Ray moved to a motel near Corinth, Miss. On a side road leading off of U.S. Highway 33 in Mississippi, Ray practiced with his new rifle. He fired several of the Peters Soft Point cartridges he had bought in Birmingham, and several Army .30-06 cartridges he had acquired somewhere else.

ON WEDNESDAY, April 3, Dr. King flew to Memphis on a plane that was delayed while it was searched after a bomb threat. He went to the Lorraine Hotel and Motel and was given Room 306. He had stayed at this place before, always in one of the new, more comfortable motel rooms fronting on Mulberry Street. Photographers took pictures of him, and on television that evening, the number 306 could be seen above Dr. King's head.

Ray came into Memphis on the morning of April 3. I assume he scouted the murder scene and could note that the doorways of all the Lorraine Motel rooms are visible from the back windows of the rooming house, which has its entrance at 122½ South Main Street. Ray got a haircut, purchased a shaving kit at a Rexall Drug Store, then registered as Eric S. Galt at the Rebel Motel inside the Memphis city limits.

At 3:15 p.m. on April 4, as John Willard, Ray

rented Room 306 at the rooming house. About 4:00 p.m., he purchased Bushnell binoculars and came to the York Arms Company a few blocks away on South Main Street. He took the rifle and the binoculars to his room. At 6:01 p.m., when Dr. King came leisurely out of his room and leaned on a railing, Ray killed him with one Soft Point bullet, which mushroomed on contact.

Did Ray have help in arranging this? He may have. But again, he could have done it without help.

The third misconception is that the fatal rifle shot could have been fired only by a practiced, experienced, expert marksman.

The Aeromarine Supply Company sold me the same rifle, same ammunition, same scope mounted in the same manner, that they sold Ray. Then I reconstructed the shot that killed Dr. King.

The distance was 205 feet. Dr. King was standing to Ray's right at an angle of about 20 degrees. He was standing, because of the terrain, about 15 feet below Ray. So Ray was firing down and to his right. Dr. King, unlike John Kennedy, was not a moving target. He was standing still. Ray was firing from a bathroom, with the rifle at rest on the windowsill. Through the scope, Dr. King appeared to be standing no more than 30 feet from the end of the rifle barrel.

I hadn't fired a heavy rifle in 25 years. On my first shot, I hit a circle the size of a silver dollar. Any 12-year-old boy familiar with a .22 could have killed Dr. King from that position with that weapon.

Ray had Army training. He was in the Military Police. He had practiced with guns. So the shot was easy for him.

The fourth misconception is that Ray is stupid continued

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# Every mother likes to cut up a little

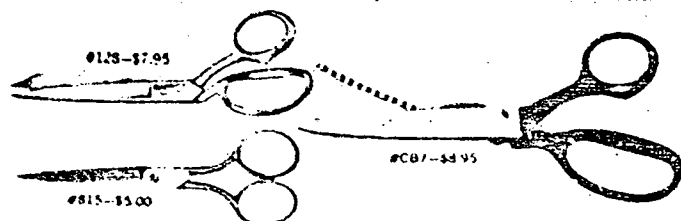


Encourage her. Give her cutters she'll appreciate. Wiss cutters and shears. She'll most likely know about Wiss quality. If she doesn't, she'll find out when she uses them. And uses them. And uses them.

Be generous. Give her a pair of

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**WISS**

## WILLIAM BRADSHAW RAY

and inept. It's true that some of his earlier crimes were ludicrously inept. He couldn't pull a simple holdup without running down a blind alley or losing his shoes or dropping his wallet as he ran. But during his seven years in the Missouri State Penitentiary, he evidently matured as a criminal. His escape from there on April 23, 1967, was well planned and well executed. He somehow persuaded at least two men who are still there to take the risks of aiding his escape. Instead of being inept, Ray has become crafty.

The fifth misconception is that Ray could not have supported himself and his travels between April 23, 1967, and June 3, 1968, and therefore must have had financial assistance.

In Montreal about August 1, 1967, Ray held up a food store and got \$1,150. In reply to my written queries, he first told me that he got this money by holding up a whorehouse, and I published his account of it. Then he told me that it had really been a food store, and that he told me it was a whorehouse because he didn't want a "hold" waiting for him in Canada when he got out of prison in Tennessee.

**I** TOLD ME many stories about a 30-year-old French-Canadian or "Latin" named "Raoul" whom he met in Montreal. Ray said he twice carried narcotics for him across the border at Windsor-Detroit and was paid \$750. Then Raoul came to Birmingham and gave him \$3,000 to buy the Mustang and some camera equipment. Later, according to Ray, he met Raoul in New Orleans and in Laredo. There were probably several Raouls, accomplices of Ray in hold-ups and other money crimes. Ray bought a large quantity of marijuana in Mexico and disposed of it in some fashion.

But there is nothing in Ray's behavior to indicate, nor has he ever claimed, that either he or Raoul or anybody else got any money for the last big job he was supposed to pull. I believe that Ray wanted to murder Dr. King for reasons other than money.

Since Ray apparently got no money after the murder, in seven months of dealing with him, I waited for him to show some sign of feeling that he was cheated, that he didn't get what he had been promised. Instead of bitterness or resentment, Ray has evidenced only an expanding self-satisfaction.

Ray seems to have spent about \$12,000 between April 23, 1967, and June 3, 1968. There were a number of unsolved robberies of banks, loan companies and supermarkets in the areas through which Ray moved. Getting that much money would have been as easy for him as killing Dr. King from 205 feet.

I can't prove that no one gave him money to kill Dr. King. But I can prove that he could have gotten it in other ways.

The sixth misconception is that Ray, having been in prison so much of his life, is not a "racist" or "nigger-hater" and therefore could have been motivated only by money.

The record indicates to me that he is a "nigger-hater," even though he never evidenced this to Mr. Hanes. On April 5, 1953, Ray was released from the Federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., with this item in his report: "On September 12, 1957, he was approved for our Honor Farm but was never actually transferred to the farm due to the fact that he did not feel that he could live in an Honor Farm Dormitory because they are integrated. He was therefore never given Honor status. He was assigned to our bakery where he has remained until his Conditional Release."

Bitter anti-Negro actions or remarks by Ray were reported to me by persons who knew him in Canada, Mexico and California.

A seventh possible misconception is that Ray is not a killer and is therefore probably incapable of

continued

"RAY WANTED TO WIN RECOGNITION."

# AGAINST CONSPIRACY

BY PERCY FOREMAN ATTORNEY FOR JAMES EARL RAY



IF, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, I ever summon a physician, and he arrives at my bedside and asks, "Are you sick?" I shall use my remaining energy to leave my bed and throw the fool out of my house. So when a man accused of murder sends for Percy Foreman, I show him the courtesy of assuming he is guilty and that he hopes I can save him from excessive punishment. Else why would

he be preparing to divide his worldly goods, or hope of same, with me?

When, last November, the brothers of James Earl Ray sought me out and handed me a letter from him, beseeching me to represent him, I didn't fly to the Shelby County Jail in Memphis and run a gamut of guards to ask: "Jim, did you do it?" Because on Thursday, April 4, 1968, James Ray was prowling the vicinity of 422½ South Main with a deer rifle, and that is not one of the Volunteer State of Tennessee's several game preserves.

I assumed that Ray had sent for me not to spring him, but to try to save his life. I then, over several weeks, spent 10 hours in conversation with him, endeavoring to bring him to believe that I knew more about the law than he did, after which I saved his life in the only way I thought it could be saved. I consider this no mean achievement.

*Why did Ray kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?*

In public discussion, I normally leave the question of why to doctors of philosophy. If they won't defend criminals, I won't write essays. Here, I break my rule and offer a few pointed remarks.

The mouth-filling word "assassination" has been popularized by people who have forgotten its meaning. Others have defined it: An assassin is a secret killer for hire. Under the popular but incorrect definition, the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, Dr. King and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are called assassinations. But they were not assassinations, they were killings; and Lee Harvey Oswald, James Earl Ray and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan were and are not assassins, but killers.

Why did they kill? They each wanted the world to hear of them. They wanted credit. Top billing. Headlines. Front-page pictures. A by-line. Self-realization. A short-cut to fame. To exercise the ego. To them, notoriety and fame are synonymous. What other men study, plan and struggle a lifetime to achieve, these killers thought they could win with lead.

What did they have to lose? They were social re-

jects; dropouts from the school of achievement, all of them afflicted by burning pride. They had energy, nerve, ambition, but they had more motor than brakes. And a defective steering apparatus. They belonged to the race of men that don't fit in.

They killed neither secretly nor for hire. True, after killing President Kennedy, Oswald fled. The instinct of self-preservation momentarily overcame that of self-realization. But Oswald was a pamphlet peddler. He had boasted to his wife of trying to murder Gen. Edwin A. Walker. Had he lived, he would have boasted of killing a President.

For a few hours, I represented Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby. He was a frustrated showman, successful only at showing off the backsides of itinerant girls. To perform before 50 million television viewers was a chance he couldn't resist.

Sirhan tells us in his diary that "we believe that the glorious United States of America will eventually be felled by a blow of an assassin's bullet. . . ."

Before he fled the murder scene, James Earl Ray, carefully watched by three witnesses, deposited on the sidewalk the murder rifle that he had wrapped in his own laundry-marked bedcover to protect his fingerprints on the rifle from obliteration. He also left a canvas bag containing his laundry-marked shirt and underwear, along with a transistor radio clearly bearing his identification number as a prisoner at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Both rifle and bag he could have carried a few feet further and placed in his white Mustang. But that might have prevented his identification. He wanted to escape, but he didn't want to lose credit. As further precaution against such dreaded loss, he left his fingerprints in the side room that he had rented, and his palm print in the bathroom from which he fired the shot. All this by a man to whom fingerprinting had become a way of life.

A jury must consider the mental state of a defendant in determining his degree of guilt. So a defense lawyer must present his client's thinking as to the act charged. Had I not obtained a waiver of the death penalty for Ray, it would have been my duty to offer testimony as to Ray's beliefs about his victim, even though none of these was my own.

I think Ray believed Dr. King was a Communist; that his crusades had opened the Pandora's box of riot; and that, though he preached nonviolence, by indirection he created Black Muslims, Black Panthers and invaders. Ray thinks that the war between the races is imminent, and he wanted to fire the first shot. The shooting of Dr. King, to him, was the Pearl Harbor of that war. He didn't tell me any of this; it is what I believe he thinks.

I don't believe there was any conspiracy. James Earl Ray wanted to win recognition. He hoped that by killing Martin Luther King, he could make the rest of his futile, boring life exciting.

WILLIAM BRADSHAW NGUE CONTINUED

having killed Dr. King. It's true that there is no previous murder in his record. But in 1949, Ray was given a thorough, six-weeks' psychiatric examination at the Fulton (Missouri) State Hospital. He was diagnosed as a "sociopathic personality, antisocial type with anxiety and depressive features."

The superintendent of the hospital at Fulton is Dr. D. B. Peterson. I asked him if James Earl Ray is capable of planned killing for money.

"Certainly he is," replied the Doctor. "Any man who commits armed robbery indicates that he may be willing to kill for gain if necessary. There is very little difference between armed robbery and planned killing for money."

I then asked: "Is Ray capable of killing in the hope of winning distinction? Approval? Is he capable of killing in the hope of relieving his anxiety, enhancing his self-respect?"

"Perhaps. He is so consumed with self-consideration that he is incapable of respecting the rights of any other individual."

When the misconceptions have been dispelled, at least partially, these questions still remain:

*Was there a conspiracy?*

Well, there are large conspiracies and little conspiracies. In large conspiracies, rich and/or powerful men are involved. Small conspiracies involve only little men. Last October, after working with Ray for two months, I thought that powerful men probably had made the decision to kill Dr. King. To date, I have found no confirmation of Ray's insinuations about this. Nor have I found believable evidence of any link between the murders of Dr. King and President Kennedy.

I believe that one or two men other than James Earl Ray may have had foreknowledge of this murder, and that makes a little conspiracy. But if there was a conspiracy, I now believe that James Earl Ray was probably its leader, not its tool or its dupe.

*Is there a chance that other questions may yet be answered?*

Yes, I think so. Remember that there are still many fundamental unanswered questions.

And finally: *What was Ray's real motivation?*

*Why did he want to kill Dr. King?*

A clue to the ultimate answer, I think, lies in this circumstance. On April 21, 1967, two days before his escape from the Missouri State Prison, Ray bought a six-transistor Channel Master radio in the prison commissary. He carried this radio with him when he broke out, and listened over it for the announcement of his escape. He then carried it with him on all his travels and adventures for over a year.

After he shot Dr. King, Ray rushed down the stairs, and threw the rifle on the sidewalk. Then, deliberately, he threw down beside the rifle a blue zipper bag in which there were several items, including his old companion in loneliness, the transistor radio. Ray knew that it clearly bore his prison I.D. No. 00116. He also left his fingerprints on the rifle, on the binoculars and in the room upstairs. In short, he purposefully left his calling card, telling the FBI that JAMES EARL RAY WAS HERE. That was his glory. He wanted the FBI and all of us to know that James Earl Ray, that poor, contemptible little man with a price of \$50 on his head, had killed one of the great Americans of this century.

*This is the state of our knowledge up to this point. But, more than a year after the murder of Dr. King, there still remain certain basic, nagging, unanswered questions, the result in good part of the deliberately elusive silence of James Earl Ray, who in this respect if no other is a remarkable man. Mr. Ngue plans to continue his investigation, communicating with Ray, face to face if possible, and, as he uncovers further answers, will report on them in LOOK.*

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An AP News Special

Ray's Getaway Bjt, 400, 2 takes, 260 total

With Wirephoto

By BERNARD GAVZER

Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP

- There was no all-points bulletin issued to stop James Earl Ray the night he shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and fled Memphis in a white 1966 Mustang. Police Chief Henry Lux, who for months had the impression that an automatic alarm had been broadcast, confirmed in an exclusive interview that no such bulletin was issued.

The widespread belief among law enforcement officers and consequently the public that a bulletin had been issued and that Ray had apparently escaped with ease in spite of it contributed to the suspicion that he might have been part of a conspiracy rather than a lone killer.

The judge in Ray's trial said in an interview afterward he was mystified over how Ray eluded the roadblocks that would have been established following an all-points alert. A hearing on Ray's motion for a new trial is scheduled for May 26.

Since there was no bulletin, there were no roadblocks or checkpoints established at the nearest escape routes to neighboring Arkansas and Mississippi or in Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia or Kentucky. Or anywhere.

"The first Memphis police radio transmission mentioning a white Mustang was logged at 6:11 p.m., April 4, 1968," said a Shelby County authority with intimate knowledge of the state's evidence.

King was shot at 6:01 p.m. Ray apparently was on the street and on his way within minutes. Had he begun his flight in the Mustang as late as 6:05 p.m., by 6:11 he would have been on the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge leading to Arkansas or no more than 10 minutes away from the Mississippi state line.

Chief Lux, in explaining the failure to issue an all-points bulletin, said: "At this time, we did not know for sure or have any proof that a white Mustang was involved. We had broadcast that the suspect was believed to be in a white Mustang. This wasn't enough to put out an all-points. To do that, you usually have to indicate that a warrant has been issued and that you will extradite. Otherwise, the receiving states are not going to act on it."

Another explanation, given by Memphis police as well as police officials in other areas, was that the local situation was hectic and tense and that authorities were concerned about rioting and disorder.

In his trial before the late Judge E. Preston Battle, Ray drew a 99-year sentence March 10 under an agreement to plead guilty. Ray later repudiated the agreement and, following Judge Battle's death, was granted a hearing on his motion for a new trial.

During a series of exclusive interviews just before he died of a heart attack, Judge Battle said there were questions about the Ray case which troubled him, the chief one being Ray's flight.

MORE

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Memphis, Lake 2, Ray, 401away, AQQA: flight. 450

He said: "To me, the escape seems miraculous. I don't see how he got from here to Atlanta in that white Mustang with an all-points bulletin out." Ray's abandoned Mustang was confiscated by the FBI in Atlanta April 11, 1968.

Investigation into this question showed that even a year after the slaying there were authorities in some neighboring states who still had the impression that there had been such a bulletin.

A spokesman for the Virginia State Police said:

"He passed on an all-points bulletin." Georgia informants said they couldn't remember a specific message but "somehow we knew there was a Mustang." South Carolina sources said the details were now blurred but "we definitely remember an all-points bulletin."

But in none of these states, or any others, were there any unusual or nonroutine patrol actions, such as the setting up of roadblocks.

Chief Lux at first seemed certain an alarm had been broadcast to neighboring states. He explained:

"We have a direct telephone line to the Shelby County sheriff's office. It's automatic procedure to call the sheriff's office."

The sheriff's office has two-way radio communication with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and state police in Arkansas and Mississippi. That's how, according to Chief Lux, the adjoining states were alerted.

But Sheriff William M. Norris, questioned about his role the night of April 4, said:

"I never received any communication that night regarding a white Mustang or any request to transmit an alert to any other police agency."

The Tennessee Highway Patrol reported that it logged a statewide broadcast at 6:22 P.M., TO BE "on the alert for a late model Mustang, driven by a white male, with dark hair, neatly dressed, in connection with the slaying of Martin Luther King." But no roadblocks were established nor did the patrol issue an all-points to other areas.

"The reason we did not put out an automatic all-points is that the Memphis Police Department did not request it," said a highway patrol spokesman.

How was the Tennessee Highway Patrol informed?

So far as can be reconstructed, the information was supplied by Claude Armour, who was then Gov. Buford Ellington's special assistant for law enforcement. Armour once served as commissioner of police in Memphis.

Armour recalled he was informed by Fire and Police Director Frank C. Holloman, although he is not certain, and that he in turn notified Ellington. The Memphis police log indicates that at 6:26 p.m., there was a message, "Car 100, contact Gov. Ellington by phone." Car 100 is Holloman's.

Armour did contact the governor. "I recommended that he immediately alert the National Guard for dispatch to Memphis in case of disorders. I also recommended that the State Highway Patrol be alerted for the same assignment."

Armour assumed a blockade would be established.

"There is a blockade system that has all been planned out and goes into effect on a single signal," he said.

When Police Chief Lux was apprised of some of this information, he checked records, then said:

"You are correct. There was not an all-points bulletin put out on the white Mustang."

ML154ped May 13

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May 1961

Ray, JET

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AP - NEWS SPECIAL

AP - News Specials Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - The prime suspect in a hoax radio broadcast that misled police the night Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered denies he made the broadcast.

"I never did it," he said in an exclusive interview. "I can prove it."

If he can, authorities will have another riddle to untangle before they can say beyond a reasonable doubt that the broadcast was a hoax and that killer James Earl Ray was in no way connected with it.

Ray is serving 99 years. His motion for a new trial will be heard May 26. So far as is known, he has never made any comment about the broadcast.

The spurious call-giving a frantic description of a white Mustang making a high-speed getaway-began about 25 minutes after Dr. King was shot April 4, 1968. It occupied the attention of at least three police squads, turning them toward an area five to six miles east of the shortest, quickest route out of Memphis-the route Ray actually took in a 1965 white Mustang.

The suspect now is a college freshman at a school far from his Memphis home. He has been questioned by Memphis police and the FBI. But the Federal Communications Commission-to the surprise of at least one FCC commissioner-never has made any inquiry.

No charges have been placed against the student.

Confronted in the dormitory of his school, he at first refused to discuss police interest in him. He agreed only after an exchange of several long distance telephone calls to his family and a lawyer. He agreed to talk with the understanding he would not be identified.

"I'm very upset about this," he said, nervously shifting about as he spoke. "I don't like the FBI or anybody else thinking I had anything to do with this. I don't like your coming after me."

"Why have police concentrated on you?" he was asked.

"I don't know why. There are other ham radio operators in my area. I don't know why they came to me. I haven't been able to put this out of my mind for a year," he said.

Authorities were able to get a clue as to the probable location of the transmitter because of details provided by two main sources: a 25-year-old steamfitter who was receiving the broadcast in his red Malibu convertible and a TV repairman who is a ham operator. There is some conflict in their reports. The steamfitter, in his version, said:

"I had my two-way citizen's band radio on. This is a short distance, low power radio communication. I was monitoring Channel 15. I'm sure I was receiving from a mobile unit because of the way the strength of the signal changed."

The TV man, whose sobriquet on the air is "Lily White," said the messages came from a fixed base station, and added:

"I monitored that from the beginning to the sign off. There is more to it but I won't tell the full story until the U.S. Supreme Court has James Earl Ray firmly under lock and key. There is something unknown, and I'm worried about the unknown." He refused to say anymore.

Although the student is frightened and worried, he apparently knows radio communication and the problem of anyone now trying to prove when the fake broadcast began. Location of a transmitter can be determined when there is a signal on which two receivers can make a fix. But the false broadcast lasted only 12 minutes and no opportunity existed at the time to make such a fix, nor was there any need to since no one had any reason to doubt it was valid.

"I was at home that night," the student said. "I was never at my rig, which is down in the basement."

MORE

RECEIVED May 14

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MEMPHIS-1400 1, Ray Bit, 4014: basement.

"I was working on a term paper about 8:30 p.m., give or take 10 minutes, a friend called and said King was shot and all hell would break loose. I agreed. I went back to my term paper. I never got on the air at all."

The student's home is located in the general area described as the scene of the high-speed chase.

He said he knows two respected, substantial citizens of Memphis who could testify it wasn't his voice.

"These two men heard it all, from beginning to end, and they know my rig and my voice. They could testify it wasn't me. I have never given their names to anyone, not the Memphis police or the FBI."

The Associated Press has a slight clue as to their identity but has been unable to locate the men.

The misleading broadcast began at 8:35 p.m.—about the time the student said he took a break from his studies. This was a crucial time during which King's killer made good his escape. The easiest way out of the state was to head for Interstate 55 and either go across the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge to Arkansas or go south into Mississippi, trips requiring from 10 to 15 minutes. Ray, it is now known, went to Mississippi.

The false broadcast was picked up by the steamfitter, who asked that his name not be published. He has been questioned by police and the FBI.

"I was eastbound on Jackson Ave. in my convertible. The top was down. I was alone. It had been about 15 minutes since the radio report that King was shot, and about three or four minutes later there was the report on commercial radio that the suspect might be in a white Mustang.

"THEN, ON MY CITIZEN'S BAND UNIT, I heard someone saying, 'Can someone give me a land line to the police department?' That's our jargon for a telephone call.

"A base station answered and said he'd be glad to put in a call for the police, what was the message.

"The answer was, 'I am chasing the white Mustang with the man in it that shot King.' Then there was some interference and the base station asked for a repeat and got one three or four times but couldn't read it. I could. I have fine copy all the way."

The steamfitter then saw a police car stopped at a traffic light.

"I pulled up alongside and hollered, 'I have a man on the radio who says he's chasing the white Mustang with the man who shot King.' The cop looked at me funny and the patrolman who was riding shotgun got out and got in with me. He pulled into a parking lot and I turned up the volume so that the other officer could hear it."

The officer, Lt. R. W. Bradshaw, in police car 160, relayed the information coming over the citizen's band radio to the police dispatcher. The dispatcher, in turn, broadcast it over the police network. A recording of this exists. But there is no known recording of the voice of the person making the original broadcast.

At least two police cars, 38 and 42, were put into action in a hunt for the phantom Mustang. At one point, the mysterious broadcast also described gunfire coming from a blue Pontiac whose occupants reportedly were firing at the Mustang. But no one, that night or since, has come forth with any evidence of any real vehicles being at those places. It was a sham, all the way.

The FCC, asked to explain its failure to investigate the alleged hoax, agreed that such a hoax would be a violation but said that in this instance it was decided that the incident already was being investigated by the FBI and local police and there was no necessity for it to become involved. However, one commissioner said while he would not initiate an inquiry he certainly would support a call for one.

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## FBI Asked About Plot, Ray's Brother Reports

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Memphis newspaper reporters, brother of the man convicted of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., says FBI agents questioned him yesterday about whether a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of the civil rights leader.

Jerry Ray, younger brother of admitted assassin James Earl Ray, said men identifying themselves as FBI agents approached him at the jail where he was visiting his brother.

The elder Ray, who pleaded guilty March 10 to King's death and was sentenced to 99 years, will appear at a hearing Monday on his motion for a new trial.

### Asked to Explain

Jerry Ray said he was asked to explain why he said last year there was a conspiracy in King's death.

"I didn't tell them anything," Jerry Ray said he told them, on advice of an attorney.

"They asked a question on the conspiracy statement. I wouldn't answer it and they threatened to bring me before a federal grand jury. They said if I didn't talk then, I would be held in contempt."

Investigators have maintained that a conspiracy was not involved in King's death.

Asked about the younger Ray's report, Special Agent Robert G. Jensen, Memphis FBI district chief, said, "We're making inquiries all the time into all sorts of things."

Jensen declined to confirm that his men questioned Jerry Ray, but said one of the agents named by Ray was under his jurisdiction.

In another development yesterday, Judge Arthur Faquin Jr. of Criminal Court, who will preside at Monday's hearing, dismissed contempt of court citations against seven men in the Ray case.

### Cited Under Ban

The late Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, who accepted Ray's guilty plea, had imposed a strict publicity ban on the case. He issued the citations for alleged violations of the ban by Arthur C. Hanes, Ray's first attorney; Rendro T. Hays, a private investigator, and two Mem-

phers, Charles Edmundson of the Commercial Appeal, and Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

Faquin, who took over the case after Battle's death in March, acted at the recommendation of a special bar association committee on publicity which Battle had created.

24 Apr 69  
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Wash Star

**James Earl Ray  
Ray Pleads May 26**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 15 (AP)—The 35 Arthur P. Quinn Jr. today set May 26 as a date for a motion by James Earl Ray for a new trial in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The question of Ray's eligibility for a new trial is unclear under Tennessee law. Ray entered a guilty plea to King's murder on March 10 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Normally, anyone who enters such a plea forfeits rights to appeals or new hearings, said Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, who presided over Ray's trial.

Tennessee law also provides that any new trial motions that are pending before a judge who has been automatically be granted. Battle died of a heart attack on March 21.

Ray's attorneys said he most immediately after he pleaded guilty that he was pressured into doing so and wanted a new trial.

17 Apr 69  
WJF

201-6832732

APRIL 16, 1969  
 MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—

Robert K. Dyer, executive assistant to a lawyer, said there was a strong possibility that Ray would appear at the hearing.

The question of Ray's eligibility for a new trial is unclear under Tennessee law. The attorney, a former plea on March 10 to Dr. King's murder and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Normally, anyone who enters such a plea forfeits rights to appeals or new hearings, and Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Davis pointed that out to Ray when the plea was made. However, Tennessee law also provides that any new trial motions that are denied before a judge who dies must automatically be granted. Judge Davis died of a heart attack on March 21.

Almost immediately after he pleaded guilty Ray said he was pleading guilty because he wanted a new trial. He wrote two letters to that effect to Judge Davis. Judge Davis at that time said he would not grant a new trial because Ray had pleaded guilty.

John Farnham, who was Ray's lawyer in the first trial, said he was assuming responsibility upon Dr. King's death.

In a court case yesterday, Judge Davis said in New Orleans that Ray's plea attorneys had not been given a chance to be heard. He said that the House of Representatives had a bill to give Ray a new trial.

KA

NY Times

17 APR 1969

24-1532732

## Court Asked To Void Ray Contracts

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 11 (AP)—A lawyer for James Earl Ray, asked U.S. District Court Judge William H. Miller today to void Ray's contract with the lawyer who recently sent him when he pleaded guilty to the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

At the same time the story was asked for millionaires of Ray's contract with William Bradford Huie, Alabama author, for the story of Ray's life. Several stories related to this contract have appeared in Look magazine.

Robert W. Hill Jr. of Chattanooga, Tenn., asked a preliminary injunction against Henry Sherman of Houston, Tenn., the lawyer, and Hutto. He asked for an injunction on an affidavit against "any and all of such non-lawyers of attorney as related with Ray."

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the slaying, now is facing a new trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

## My Attorney Says He Has New Evidence

CONTINUOUS, 242 (UFD)

— James Earl Ray's new attorney says he believes his client is innocent in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that he is prepared to present "new evidence" at a hearing Wednesday.

Assistant Robert E. Hume noted that Criminal Court Judge Arthur Taylor has said he will decide in Memphis that white be white. Taylor agrees as Ray's attorney has said a year later.

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13 Apr 69  
W.S.

201-532732

Memphis, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray was charged in federal court today that his former lawyer and his biographer were made interested in money than in his right to a fair trial.

Ray asked yesterday that an estimated \$1 million worth of assets from his biographer, William Bradford Huie of Martinsburg, and his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, be sequestered.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in Tennessee State Prison after pleading guilty to a murder charge in the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

The suit was filed by Robert J. C. Chambers, one of Ray's lawyers in civil matters. After yesterday, that obtained a federal court order to see Ray, and Harry S. Avery, state court clerk, commissioner, refused to let the attorney enter the prison.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge William B. Bryant issued the order after Avery said Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, who is running a new trial for Ray, is the only attorney of record in the case.

Ray's suit contends he was persuaded by Foreman into pleading guilty—the same plea he used in a new trial.

WP 12 Apr 69

2-1-0832732

# Ray Files For Trial in King Slaying

By Jim Squires

Special to The Washington Post

MEMPHIS, April 7 — James Earl Ray formally requested a new trial today on grounds he was deprived of effective legal counsel because his attorneys had conflicting interests in making publication contracts with author William Bradford Huie.

In a motion filed by three new attorneys, Ray claimed he was pressured into pleading guilty March 10 to murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that he now wishes to stand trial. He said the hearing was a farce, a sham and a mockery of justice.

The three-page motion alleged that Ray's former attorneys, Percy Foreman of Houston and Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, had acted for Huie and their own "financial interests" and had not represented Ray.

Chief Judge Arthur Gibson must now decide whether the motion is a proper one for the court to consider. Gibson, appointed to handle the case after the death of Judge Preston Battle, took no action and declined to comment on the motion.

William S. Burnett, of the Tennessee Supreme Court, says the only way Ray can seek relief is through a habeas corpus petition claiming that his constitutional rights were violated. Burnett maintains Ray waived all rights to a formal appeal, such as a new trial motion, by entering a guilty plea.

If Gibson agrees with Burnett, he can dismiss Ray's motion without scheduling a hearing. Ray could then submit a claim as a habeas corpus petition and could be granted a hearing.

The motion filed today was entitled an "amended motion for a new trial" and was merely a legal follow-up to two letters containing similar charges Ray wrote Judge Battle before his death.

The motions were signed by attorneys Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, J. B. Stoner, a Ku Klux Klan lawyer, from Savannah, and Robert W. Hill of Chattanooga.

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Wash Post

8 APR 1969

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JUDGE ARTHUR FAQUIN

## Ray Acquires 3rd Lawyer, New Judge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray has hired his third defense attorney, and a new judge has been named to preside over what promises to be a complicated pre-trial hearing in the case.

Ray, who pleaded guilty March 10 to killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a year ago to day, and was sentenced to 99 years in prison, yesterday hired his new lawyer, Richard G. Hays of Memphis. Hays is expected to try to get Ray the new hearing of the case, Ray says he wants.

U.S. District Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr., 46, is one of the nation's top judges. He is a member of the American Bar Association and with a good sense of humor, was named yesterday to replace Judge W. Preston Battle Jr., who died Monday of a heart attack.

## Second Letter to Judge By Ray Is Discovered

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Last April 4 of King, who was in jail, said after Battle's death letters even if construed as motions, do not automatically guarantee a new trial.

Memphis to call the city's attention to a new trial would be motions, do not automatically guarantee a new trial.

The second letter, dated March 19, 1969, was discovered by a search of the files of the Memphis Police Department.

The new trial plea is one of the rights Ray waived in pleading guilty, along with his right of appeal to other state courts, said Barnett.

In open court, Ray was asked repeatedly by Battle whether he understood that such a plea precluded appeal. He said he did.

Ray has claimed since, however, that he was pressured into his guilty plea.

The contents of Ray's letters were revealed by Criminal Court Judge James A. Blackwell, who for a reversal of the 99-year sentence, petitioner received in papers to be filed as part of the court's records.

Earlier Letter Known

Battle had acknowledged receipt of a March 19 letter from Ray and had divulged some of its contents, including Ray's request for a new trial. The judge today, but none would say, had revealed that he had read it. Ray, however, was given a second letter.

Chief Justice Hamilton Barker of the Tennessee Supreme Court said, however, that Ray's letter was not a motion for a new trial.

Whether this statement constitutes a request for a new trial would have to be determined judicially.

The four judges handling the case said they had received some of the contents of the second letter, but none would say whether they had revealed that he had read it. Ray, however, was given a second letter.

Charles Gibson, a clerk of the Tennessee Supreme Court, said he had seen the letter, but he did not say whether it was a motion for a new trial.

Ray's letter was found in the files of the Memphis Police Department, which was searching for a letter from Ray to Battle.

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02 Apr 69  
Wash Star

211-0532232

# Change in Ray Case Is Dead New Trial Now More Likely

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Judge W. Preston Battle has ruled of a 10-2 vote, ruling the possibility that Tennessee may have to give James Earl Ray the trial by jury he now says he wants.

The 66-year-old jurist, who has presided over the trial of the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and sentenced him to 99 years in prison, was in his chambers last night.

After the trial Battle disclosed that Ray had written from the state penitentiary advising he wanted to withdraw his plea and stand trial.

State Law Enforcement

Charles C. Johnson, a Tennessee state court judge, said Ray had written a letter to the state penitentiary asking for a new trial.

Johnson said he would have to wait until Ray had been given the opportunity to stand trial.

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JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE

March 10 hearing where the guilty plea was made.

But Battle said that was a detail the judge had completed.

## Prosecutor Finds Body

Battle's body was found by James Battle, an assistant district attorney general who was one of the prosecutors in Ray's case.

Battle said he had tried unsuccessfully to reach Battle during the night and had not found him still in the chambers in the Criminal Court-county jail building when leaving for home. He said he opened the door to the chambers and found Battle slumped over his desk.

A heart attack was given as the cause of death after an autopsy by Dr. Jerry T. Francisco, the county medical examiner, was completed.

Ray's four other criminal cases, including the slaying and kidnapping of a U.S. senator, were still pending.

Several hours in Battle's chambers were spent last night.

They were packed with boxes filled with papers which a court official said would be locked in a safe.

He wrote something "to the effect that we don't want Ray to tell us."

He wrote something "to the effect that we don't want Ray to tell us."

He wrote something "to the effect that we don't want Ray to tell us."

## AUTHOR SAYS RA SAW SLAYING AS HIDING WALLAC

NEW YORK (AP)

James Earl Ray thought a assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would be a great idea, according to George Wallace president, author William Bradford Huie says. Ray exposed Wallace would then pardon him, according to Huie.

Huie, an Alabamian who bought publication rights to the story of Ray's life, says Ray considers himself a political prisoner and expects to be freed within 10 years. He pleaded guilty to the slaying and was sentenced to 99 years.

Huie said last October "Powerful men" made the decision to kill King. But he has changed his mind. "One or two men other than James Earl Ray may have had knowledge of this murder, a that makes a little conspiracy," Huie said this week. "But if there was a conspiracy, I now believe it James Earl Ray was probably the leader, not his tool or dupe."

01 Apr 69  
Wash Star

201-0832732

# Defender's Cut

MEMPHIS—District Attorney Phil Canale says that if lawyer Percy Foreman gets \$150,000 for his work in the James Earl Ray case, he should consider repaying the State of Tennessee for work done by the public defender's office.

Foreman has said he expects to get about \$150,000 on his share of proceeds from books and a movie about Ray and the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I assume he will now want to carry out a proper acknowledgment for services from the public defender," Canale said. "The public defender's office gathered material for Ray's defense and turned it over to Foreman."

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THE EVENING STAR  
Washington, D. C., Wednesday, March 25, 1969

## Ray Attorney Expects To See National Figures

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Attorney J. B. Stoner says he will raise a "big name" next week when he files civil suits on behalf of James Earl Ray against "national figures."

The suits which he will file for Ray, now appealing for a new trial in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "will involve national figures but won't mention any national organizations at this time," Stoner said yesterday.

Stoner said he would file the suits against the national figures "as soon as I can get them prepared, no later than next week."

He said his action will be backed "by undisputed facts of such a strong nature that I'd public record," rather than reveal the names of the defendants at the present time.

Stoner said that he had been representing Ray in civil action since last fall, sometime in September or October.

Meanwhile, in Memphis, Tenn., the \$50,000 in reward money offered in the slaying of King which cannot go to the FBI—may go unclaimed.

The newspaper Commercial Appeal, offered a reward of \$25,000, the Scripps-Howard organization (including the Memphis Press-Scimitar) offered another \$25,000 and the Memphis City Council announced a pledge to underwrite a total reward of \$100,000. Later, the city attorney advised the council that it is in violation of the law to pay a reward exceeding \$5,000.

26 Mar 69  
WS

261-0532732

## New Trial Plea by Ray Called Near

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — A motion seeking a new trial for James Earl Ray will be filed in Memphis "possibly this week," according to Ray's brother, who said Ray would plead not guilty to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"A decision will be made within the next three days on exactly what the petition will say and who will file it," said Jerry Ray in a copyrighted story in the Nashville Tennessean yesterday. "We are considering two attorneys."

The lawyers were identified as J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., the 1974 vice presidential candidate for the National States Rights Party, and A. J. Ryman of Memphis.

### Ray Visited in Prison

Stoner visited Ray in his cell at the Tennessee State Prison Saturday where he is serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to King's murder. The Georgia lawyer said Ray was innocent and had been "pressured into pleading guilty."

Jerry Ray, who also visited his brother Saturday, said he delivered "evidence" to support a claim that Ray's former attorney, Percy Foreman, had "pressured him" into pleading guilty, according to the Tennessean.

Ray said the evidence, described as personal contracts between his brother and Foreman, will be used in the petition for a new trial.

Foreman said he advised Ray to plead guilty "because I believed he would be electrocuted if he didn't." He said Ray "thought he'd be electrocuted, too" and sent Foreman a letter officially requesting the plea.

### Letter Shown to Judge

"I have the letter and I showed it to the judge (W. Preston Battle) and the prosecuting attorney," Foreman said.

Jerry Ray said Foreman told his brother he would take \$150,000 if he pleaded guilty, "but he wanted everything he (Ray) would ever earn if he didn't (plead guilty)."

Foreman, contacted in Houston, said: "That's a bunch of bull. How is some man doing 99 years gonna make anything?"

The Tennessean said Foreman stated he took over the same financial arrangements that existed between Ray and his first attorney, Arthur Hanes. He said the original contract called for author William Bradford Huie to receive 40 percent of all pictures, book and magazine rights to Ray's story with Ray and Hanes splitting the rest. He said Ray was to sign over his share to Hanes as attorney's fees.

### Second Agreement

Foreman said that when Ray decided to plead guilty he suggested to Ray that the fee be adjusted and Ray signed a second agreement to pay him \$150,000, a figure suggested by Ray. The picture rights to Ray already have been sold for \$175,000, plus 15 percent of the receipts, Foreman said.

Memphis police said Saturday King's murder was so ineptly carried out it was hard to believe there was a conspiracy.

2/10/69  
U.S.

## Ray Pleads Not Guilty Of Murder, Lawyer Says

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 10.—Stoner, who says that Ray intends to file a writ against magazines which "Stoner visited James Earl Ray made 'false and defamatory' in his prison cell today and charges against him. Later said Ray was innocent of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but had been 'persuaded into conspiracy, pleading guilty.'

Stoner, once an organizer for the Ku Klux Klan and the 1954 vice presidential candidate for the National States Rights Party, also claimed to have new information in the Ray case. He declined, however, to elaborate on his charge that pressure was applied.

He said he couldn't divulge the nature of the evidence because "I might need it later on for my trial."

Asked whether it would be stand to in court, he said: "As a leading to the information given me it will stand up very well substantially."

Stoner saw Ray for more than two hours in the maximum security section of the Tennessee State Prison and said he "seemed to be in good spirits for a man in this particular hotel."

Stoner said he was not depicting Ray in any particular way but was handling several

WP

23 Mar 69

201-0832732

# Ray Pleads Guilty, Says Attorney

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)—Ray, but Arthur Hanes Sr., selected the rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired in Memphis, where the fatal shot was fired in April 4, 1968, and later snatched from Ray during for as-  
Ray did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but had been "pressured into pleading guilty," Hanes represented Ray in the initial phases of the case, but Ray dropped out before the first trial was to be held and hired famed criminal lawyer Percy Foreman.

Foreman advised Ray to enter a guilty plea, a move which Ray apparently regretted almost as soon as he made it. Sencer said Ray had written to him the first day after he was transferred here from Memphis, where the trial was held.

"He (Ray) is not guilty," Sencer said. "He told me he was pressured into pleading guilty." Sencer would not elaborate on the charge.

Ray escaped any possibility of death in the electric chair when he swapped a guilty plea two weeks ago for a 99-year sentence in the April 4, 1968, sniper slaying of King at Memphis.

## Wrote to Judge

Ray has written the trial judge, Preston Battle, asking for a post-conviction hearing to which he is entitled under Tennessee law—and intends to ask for an opportunity to change his plea and a new trial.

In trading his guilty plea for the life sentence, Ray waived the right to appeal but legal authorities said there were other ways he could keep his case alive. He apparently intends to pursue them.

Ray has not said who his attorney would be in such proceedings.

Hanes represented Ray in the initial phases of the case, but Ray dropped out before the first trial was to be held and hired famed criminal lawyer Percy Foreman.

Foreman advised Ray to enter a guilty plea, a move which Ray apparently regretted almost as soon as he made it. Sencer said Ray had written to him the first day after he was transferred here from Memphis, where the trial was held.

## Hint of Conspiracy

During the brief trial Ray hinted strongly that a conspiracy was involved in the slaying of King, who was gunned while he stood on a motel balcony.

Memphis police said yesterday the murder was no lonely execution but that it was hard to believe there was a conspiracy.

Police Chief Henry Law, supporting earlier statements made by Police Capt. W. A. Cochran, said: "We are not saying there was a conspiracy. Nobody did. We say that with certainty. If certainly agree with Cochran that there were many blacks who were in Memphis and there was a conspiracy behind the plot or that he had any help in Memphis."

Cochran said he was "amazed that so many people still insist on the conspiracy theory."

He said Ray bluffed in purchasing the first rifle and exchanging it, presumably having a telescopic sight mounted on the gun, and personally buying his getaway car.

Cochran said Ray could have

selected the rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired in Memphis, where the fatal shot was fired in April 4, 1968, and later snatched from Ray during for as-

"When you drive past (the motel), those windows of the rooming houses stare right at you," Cochran said. "All you had to do was drive around on Main Street to find the 'for rent' signs."

He also pointed out that the name of King's motel and his room number had been printed in the morning newspapers of April 4. He said Ray apparently had no idea when King would appear on the balcony, but was prepared for a long wait.

"He took his toilet articles, his underwear and a half a dozen cans of beer (into the rooming house). He never even got a chance to open the beer."

"Dr. King appeared on the balcony long before Ray expected him to and when he did Ray made his decision to shoot in a hurry," Cochran said.

After the shooting Ray hastily huddled up all his belongings into a bedspread — then panicked and dropped the bundle when he got outside and saw a policeman talking on his car radio.

"You could go to any beer joint and pick up a man with intelligence enough to do what Ray did," Cochran said.

23 Nov 69

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APR 22 MAR 69

## Ex-Official of Klan Offers Aid to Ray

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 21 (AP) — The office of J. B. Stoner said today that Stoner, an attorney with past connections with the Ku Klux Klan and the National States Rights Party, will represent James Earl Ray in his fight for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A spokesman, Edward S. Fields, said Stoner is en route by automobile to Nashville where he plans to confer with Ray Saturday morning.

Ray was imprisoned in Nashville after pleading guilty in Memphis to King's slaying and receiving a 99-year sentence. Fields said Stoner was hired to help Ray change his plea to innocent and to defend him if he wins a new trial. Fields said that Ray originally had contacted Stoner shortly after Ray's arrest in London and that there had been correspondence between the two since. Fields said that Stoner had visited Ray in Memphis.

Stoner, who was a vice pres-

idential candidate for the National States Rights Party, has in the past styled himself as "Imperial Wizard of the Christian Knights of the Klan." He once published a Klan paper in Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta and authored a book entitled "The Gospel of Jesus Christ Versus the Jews."

22 Mar 69

201-0532732

Ray, who had been scheduled to go on trial in the case April 7, abruptly switched plans and pleaded guilty March 10. The 35-year sentence was prearranged by the state and Foreman, and Ray began serving his time in the state prison the next day.

Ray was quoted as telling officers who returned him from the Shelby County Jail here to Nashville that he now had second thoughts, wishing he had gone to trial.

Today, the Nashville Press-Scimitar reported that Ray will ask to withdraw the guilty plea and go to trial as previously planned. The disclosure of Foreman, the second suspect that had been since his arrest in London June 8, would be in line with such plans.

In any case, local authorities said Ray ultimately will have to face a war of wits against citizens and rights lawyers here.

When Ray pleaded guilty, he had been threatened but at least on what he realized such a plea involved and preconviction remedy, in criminal hearings and, at the state courts, Ray answered that he did.

Battle also asked Ray at that time "Is this part of your own free will, made with your full knowledge and understanding of its meaning and consequences?" "Yes, sir," Ray answered.

Foreman, in New York City, could not be reached for comment immediately.

Ray, who had been scheduled to go on trial in the case April 7, abruptly switched plans and pleaded guilty March 10. The 35-year sentence was prearranged by the state and Foreman, and Ray began serving his time in the state prison the next day.

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Battle also asked Ray at that time "Is this part of your own free will, made with your full knowledge and understanding of its meaning and consequences?" "Yes, sir," Ray answered.

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# Ray Pleads Guilty

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The 34-year-old man who shot Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. pleaded guilty today to the death of the civil rights leader. The judge sentenced him to 99 years in prison, and Ray began serving his term in the state prison the next day.

Ray pleaded guilty to the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The judge sentenced him to 99 years in prison, and Ray began serving his term in the state prison the next day.

Published reports say he now agreed to the plea "to save this man's life." First-degree murder in Tennessee is punishable by sentences ranging from 20 years to life in prison.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle Jr. declined yesterday that he had received the original to seek parole in 30 years from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that Ray wants parole in 11 years and seven months — either if he gets maximum good behavior time.

Legal authorities said Ray probably will have to file a writ in New York City, for habeas corpus claiming his rights somehow were denied. No such writ is on file in the office of the Criminal Court clerk.

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Wash Star

20 MAR 1969

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—In  
 his flight from the scene of the  
 Martin Luther King assassination, James Earl Ray abandoned  
 a pocket radio in a plastic case  
 bearing his number as an in-  
 mate of the Missouri state peni-  
 tentiary.  
 The meaning of the number  
 eluded the authorities until  
 weeks after Ray's capture June  
 8 in London. It was disclosed  
 yesterday.  
 James Deasley of the Shelby  
 County Sheriff's general's staff  
 said Ray dropped the radio, a  
 pair of binoculars and the case  
 with the radio in it and the  
 binoculars in a doorway near the  
 entrance to a room from which he  
 shot the civil rights leader.  
 That was Ray's number at the  
 Missouri prison, where he was  
 serving 99 years for robbery  
 when he escaped April 23, 1967.  
 Deasley said the radio was  
 turned over to the FBI the day  
 of the slaying.  
 Fred Williamson, director of the  
 Missouri Department of Corre-  
 ctions, said that if the number  
 had been made public perhaps  
 someone would have made an  
 identification between the two.  
 Sheriff Harold Stenson said  
 Ray had Ray in the radio in the  
 penitentiary on April 21.  
 That was two days before he es-  
 caped. It cost \$2.75. In accord-  
 ance with prison practice, Ray  
 engraved his number on the case  
 with an electric stylus to estab-  
 lish ownership.

KA

## Ray Still Took Weeks to Unravel

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 17 (AP)—Within minutes after the house from which he fired the shot that assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., James Earl Ray was arrested. Authorities had in their hands a clue to the identity of the man who had been turned over to the FBI by James Earl Ray—but with other physical evidence they failed to decipher it until that same evening. The number after Ray was caught in London, he said, were discovered through tests at the FBI or soon.

The clue was on a transistor radio which was hand-etched with the numbers 00118. High numerals 00118, said the identification of James Earl Ray in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City. He was serving a 20-year sentence when he escaped April 23, 1967.

The radio was among effects abandoned by Ray after he escaped on April 21, two days after he shot Dr. King. He dropped his rifle, a set of binoculars and a practice is for inmates to etch their numbers on personal belongings which included the radio.

Ray's number, 00118, as etched into the back of his radio, Ray paid \$9.75 for it. There was some speculation that he bought the radio to carry with him on his escape. Since secrecy surrounded the search for evidence in the King case there was no way for anyone at Missouri State Penitentiary to know that the radio contained Ray's inmate number. There were published reports of a radio, but none mentioned the etched numerals.

KA

Wash Post

18 MAR 1969

211-0532732



Wash Post

# By JIMMY HIRSON

ST. LOUIS, Tenn. — Defense and prosecution lawyers agreed to the guilty plea that sent James Earl Ray to prison for 99 years for slaying Martin Luther King.

The plea, which cut short what was expected to be an intensely drawn trial, climaxed three months of intricate legal maneuvering and investigation.

Defense attorneys said in the compromise saying privately that they believed the case against Ray was so overwhelming he would be convicted and executed, despite the general national trend against capital punishment.

The prosecution felt that even with the all-night case, Ray would escape the chair precisely because of this trend. Tennessee hasn't held an execution in 10 years.

## First Probe

The first probe toward a guilty plea began Dec. 12 when Shelby County Public Defender Hugh Stewart Sr. was approached to name Tennessee lawyer Percy Foreman in Ray's defense.

"We came back to my office and talked about the case for one or three hours. I said it looked like this guy did it, and maybe we ought to try for a plea," Stanton recalled in an interview yesterday.

The idea of such a move had never occurred to Foreman, Stanton said, adding that Foreman had said, "You'll never be able to plead this case guilty. There's too damn much publicity."

## Witnesses Gathered

Foreman was convinced no public prosecutor would force the nation's attention to be directed on a trial of Ray.

But, Stanton said, "He told me to let him know."

Meanwhile, the Stanton attorney

had stated that he was not sure whether or not he would see what he expected to see.

Stanton said that he had been told by a source that Ray had been in the chief bedroom of the rooming house where the slaying took place.

A few weeks later, Stanton learned that Ray had been in the chief bedroom of the rooming house where the slaying took place, and the prosecution's guilty plea must come from the defense.

Canale "couldn't afford to be in a position of offering a deal because of all this publicity," Stanton said.

The day after Canale was, the white-haired, middle-aged lawyer telephoned Foreman in London with the news. But Foreman was skeptical that Ray would go along.

When he first mentioned the subject to his husband, an official Ray replied, "Well, Foreman, you don't know the facts, and I don't take my chances with a trial."

"Rather Face My Chances"

However, two full-time investigators assigned to the defense by Criminal Justice Judge W. Preston Battle, who was recalled to hear the case, were interviewing nearly 20 witnesses in the Memphis area.

"We quickly ascertained that all of this testimony, the testimony of the witnesses, and the circumstances just didn't exist," Stanton said.

Referring to early reports of a white man in some ways below the rooming house where Ray lay in ambush, Stanton said, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Stanton said:

"A man would have to jump a 10-foot wall to get to the rooming house. It's not a rather awkward feat."

An early theory that he dealt with the gun, that he may have been concerned about for finding a way to get away when it came out that the rifle were in the rooming house, obviously had not intended to leave behind, such as clothing and beer cans.

Foreman began to receive prosecution conclusions and the incriminating items, a package wrapped in a paper bag, had been dumped in a trash can in a rooming house, a spotted piece of paper, a piece of wood, from a rooming house across from King's motel.

Daily Case Building

Supporters of Ray, who had been put in a Birmingham hotel, gave some help in the early inter-telephone interviews to expect to it in the early days of the case.

Let me say that Ray was extremely nervous and that Ray had been in the

rooming house where the slaying took place, and the prosecution's guilty plea must come from the defense.

Canale later summed up why he had accepted the plea: "The first place, the state has never included in trying a capital case when the defendant is offered to plead guilty a 99 percent maximum punishment."

Ray will not be eligible for parole hearing until 1999, when he'll be 71. Had a Ray served a life term, he could be eligible for a parole in only five years—1961.

Canale said the state had not concluded the hearing yet. Ray was a lone killer, and that it has no evidence "at this time" that he was part of a conspiracy.

Obviously if Ray was part of a plot, Ray alive is a better source for later information than a man were dead.

## Summary of Staying

County Atty. Gen. James Stewart Jr. was waiting a 5,000 word summary of the state's evidence leading Ray to the slaying, to which the defense would have to reply.

Three days later, Canale—who had interviewed witnesses from Los Angeles to a Shenandoah County, Va., Foreman.

"Three or three days later," Canale recalled, Foreman returned with Ray's approval and for insurance, that of Ray's brothers, John and Jerry.

Some of the interested parties, such as the Justice Department and the case to King, were told of the impending move, and on March 10, Foreman went before Judge Battle to request last January's special hearing.

## Never Sees Ray Alive

However, the scenario wasn't quite so simple for the family. As the slaying unfolded, Ray developed a "thump" in his chest and tears rippled down the courthouse that he would settle the deal.

Foreman spent 12 hours with Ray, Ray's family going over the stipulations which detailed the terms of the state's case against him.

A 10-minute session with Car and that evening tied up any la

daughter there—and Ray was ready for the 100 mile drive to the red brick Tennessee state prison at Nashville.

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# Another Account

By [illegible]

A brother of James Earl Ray, who was quoted by the Ray said yesterday that he had a "isolated Press" saying that killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told him "the feeling there over Ray's was not the only one in the country that Ray was part of a conspiracy." The source said that if there had been a trial it might have shed some light on the story by Manuel Chast of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, in the country that Ray was part of a conspiracy.

The statement by John Ray, who carries this suspicion, was part of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King, James O. Eastland, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, in the country that Ray was part of a conspiracy. The source said that if there had been a trial it might have shed some light on the story by Manuel Chast of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, in the country that Ray was part of a conspiracy.

The judge at Ray's trial, who has been investigating the case, said that there is no evidence of a conspiracy. But Ray, who believes there was a conspiracy, is the Rev. James L. Jackson, a close friend of Dr. King and the director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's "Operation Breadbasket" in Chicago.

Charge Pending The Justice Department said that it was "charge the court." Comment: "There were told justice was show the FBI to enter the case and capture Ray after he was sentenced to life in prison for the assassination of our black prophet," Jackson said. "But for justice, the American judicial system would not allow even an insensitive and unscrupulous inquiry into the murder of a world leader."

John Ray, who was sentenced to life in prison for the assassination of Dr. King, said that he entered the conspiracy because he was still young and wanted to take a place in the world. He said that he wanted to testify.

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KA

Wash Post

14 MAR 1969

JK

Conceded by U. S. Supreme Court  
to Communist Conspiracy

James Earl Ray's brother, who yesterday he was told that there was a conspiracy in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to which Ray pleaded guilty in 1969. The brother, John Larry Ray, was interviewed by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which quoted him as saying Ray was sure that Ray had been attacked by conspirators in Canada.

That would have been after Ray's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary on April 25, 1967. "I am not the only one in the family," Ray is quoted as saying. "I told my brother that he should take care of himself. I had been in the Missouri State Penitentiary for 10 years. The newspaper quoted the brother as having said, 'I am proud of what he has done.'"

Reason for Calling It.  
James Earl Ray was sentenced to 99 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The guilty plea has been represented as the only way Ray's lawyer, Peter Houston, felt Ray could receive the clemency and parole he desired. By the Missouri Penitentiary, secretaries, he said he had a second thought and would like to see his chance on a trial.

Under the 10-year term, he will be eligible to see parole in 1977. But he was sentenced to life, he could have seen it parole in 1972—unless if he were given maximum good behavior time.

KA

NY Times

14 MAR 1969

201-6532732

WP 13 MAR 69

# Eastland, Diggs Seek Probe Of Plot Aspect in King Death

By William Greider  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Two disparate Congressional figures—Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi and Negro Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr. of Michigan—each called yesterday for a deeper look into who killed the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Eastland, who chairs the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, said he is convinced that James Earl Ray must have had some assistance in the murder. "I'm assembling the available evidence," the Senator said. "There are some questions in my mind."

Diggs, an eighth-term Congressman from Detroit, said he is sending a telegram to President Nixon asking him to reactivate the Warren Commission or appoint a similar blue-ribbon group to explore the death of Dr. King.

The civil rights leader was slain last April by a sniper while he stood on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn. On Monday, Ray pleaded guilty and received by prior agreement a 99-year sentence, but the defendant told the court he could "not accept" theories that he had no co-conspirators in the crime.

Eastland said he will have a staff assistant gather information on the case, but does not plan any subcommittee hearings or field investigations.

"There are some questions in my mind," he said. "How did they know King was in

the Lorraine Motel? How did they know where his room was? How did they know when he was leaving? I'm not accusing anyone, but it appears to me that somebody inside the hotel must have given information."

The Senator said he has "no direct information" on the case and no access to FBI or Justice Department evidence.

"If Ray did it, he was given information by someone inside that motel, that's all I'm saying," Eastland said. "How could he come into that city—a white man looking for King? It couldn't be done. Someone had to tell him."

Ray's earliest known appearance in Memphis was on April 3, the day before the killing, when he checked into the motel. The next day he switched to the hotel from which he fired the fatal shot.

Diggs said he also believes that a conspiracy lies behind Dr. King's death. A full-scale investigation by a presidential commission "might relieve tensions" surrounding the murder, he said.

I'm asking the President either to reactivate the Warren Commission or form one similar to it," Diggs said. "The kinds of doubts that have been generated as a result of Ray's own testimony on co-conspirators leaves a very important responsibility to be taken care of."

Diggs said that because the Justice Department reportedly was a party to the arrangement by which Ray's trial was

settled Monday, "I don't think it has a strong motivation to carry on an investigation."

"It's very difficult for me," he continued, "to believe that this man (Ray) could have all these experiences without some assistance—the passport, the cars, the money, all the rest of it. There's never been a satisfactory explanation."

From Hartselle, Ala., author William Bradford Huie—who has interviewed Ray for a forthcoming book—said the convicted assassin "is just smart enough, in his criminal mind, to put everybody on."

Huie, who retraced Ray's story of travels before and after the shooting, said Ray "does not want the case to die out—he wants the dramatic action to continue. The last thing he wants is to drop from the public eye."

## Ray Tested on Mingling With His Fellow Inmate

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 12 (UPI)—James Earl Ray is undergoing six weeks of tests to determine whether he will be permitted to mingle with other inmates of the Tennessee state prison.

Ray, 41, entered the prison Tuesday morning to begin a 99-year sentence for the assassination of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April 4. He pleaded guilty to escape a possible death penalty.

The prison has 1938 inmates, 824 of whom are Negroes.

13 March 69

211-0832732

# Ray Quoted as Now Wishing He Had Undergone Full Trial

By the Associated Press

James Earl Ray, quoted as wishing now he had elected to undergo a full trial for the Martin Luther King assassination, has joined in his regrets today by the U.S. Justice Department.

A source in the department said the feeling there over Ray's abrupt guilty plea "is one of frustration." The reason: a sudden move by Ray and his full-fledged trial, had one been lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

In Nashville, the Nashville Tennessean said in a copyright story that Ray disclosed second thoughts about the guilty plea within hours of his sentencing in Memphis to an agreed 99 years in prison. Ray also has inquired about how he could hire a new attorney, the paper said.

## "Wish I Hadn't Now"

The story said unidentified official sources quoted Ray as saying:

"When I went to court Monday I was convinced if I didn't plead guilty I was going to the electric chair. I wish the hell I hadn't now because with what they had on me I believe the worst I'd gotten would have been life."

Under Tennessee law a life prisoner could be eligible for parole after 13 years 7 months, or even earlier if he earned maximum good behavior time. Under a 99-year sentence a prisoner must serve at least 30 years.

The Tennessean said a prison source further quoted Ray:

"My attorney and my brother told me about six weeks ago that the best thing for me to do was to plead guilty if we could work out a deal to keep me out of the chair. They told me they thought this could be done."

## Government Informed

"I was thinking about it and every day they thought I would plead guilty. Last week I just told them if they thought this was best and what I ought to do, then I would plead guilty."

Ray was reported to have asked escorting officers during his trip from the Memphis jail to

the Nashville penitentiary how he could hire another lawyer.

In Washington, Justice Department sources acknowledged the government was informed in advance that Ray would plead guilty and take 99 years.

But they denied the government was involved in any way with decisions leading up to the sudden move by Ray and his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

The only federal action pending against Ray is an FBI charge issued in Birmingham, Ala., April 17, 1968, accusing him of conspiring "with a man alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights in that state.

The charge was brought under an 1870 Reconstruction era statute and conviction would have carried a maximum 10-year sentence.

After Ray was apprehended

last June in England, he was returned to Tennessee to face the more serious murder charge.

The government's only intrusion in the case since came Monday — after the trial ended — when the Justice Department announced the "conspiracy allegation is still open."

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, some senators joined newspapers across the country in insisting the conspiracy question be held open.

## Probe by Senate Unit

Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., said his Senate Internal Security subcommittee is investigating direct information of conspiracy in the King slaying. "There are some things about this affair," Eastland declared, "that indicate to me there may have been a conspiracy."

After entering his plea of guilty Monday, Ray stood up and said he disagreed with the theory that no conspiracy was linked with the assassination. He did not elaborate.

Ray's original attorney, former Birmingham, Ala., mayor Arthur Hanes Jr., disagreed meanwhile with Foreman's belief as expressed in court Monday that no conspiracy existed. Hanes was interviewed on the CBS evening news with Walter Cronkite.

Hanes said there was no question in his mind that "there was a plot involved" in the killing. "Ray," said Hanes, "was a dupe."

The Alabama lawyer said the assassination "had to do not only with national politics, but international politics."

In Atlanta, the Rev. Andrew Young, executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which King headed, said his organization was not consulted concerning Ray's guilty plea.

"We do want the investigation continued because we believe Ray was at most merely a tool or pawn," Young said. "We would hope that for the good of the country, the Justice Department would continue to investigate the case."

13 - march 69

201-0532132

## Ray Is Transferred in Chains To State Prison at Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 12 (AP) — James Earl Ray today was led in chains into the Tennessee State Prison to begin serving a 99-year term for murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray was assigned Cell No. 4 in the maximum security building. Warden Russell and State Corrections Commissioner Harry Avery said Ray would be isolated. There will be no prisoners in adjoining cells.

Ray, who switched his plea from guilty to not guilty Monday and accepted a prearranged sentence, was removed from his Shelby County jail cell at 5:30 a.m. The cell measures 6 by 9 feet. Like the 23 other cells on the section, it has two bunks, but only one is ever used on this corridor, because only one man is housed in each cell. Although most convicts are taken to the classification building immediately on arrival at the prison, Ray will remain in maximum security process, which normally takes about six weeks.

The backs and sides of the cell are 3-inch-thick, steel-plated concrete, painted green. The backs of the cell are furnished with a metal commode, sink and commode. There are 18 heavy bars across the front of the cell. "At the end of that duration, we will determine whether there will be any special arrangements to be made other than the maximum security building," Avery said.

Once a day Ray will be taken outside to an exercise area enclosed by high walls. Twice a week he will step out of his cell door and take a decent building," Avery said.

Secured by a waist chain connected to heavy handcuffs and ankle manacles, Ray stepped briskly into the cluster of white, red-roofed buildings that form the State Prison on the outskirts of Nashville. State Safety Commissioner Greg O'Rear and Highway Patrol Inspector Buckley McGuire walked at either side of Ray, and all three were surrounded by heavily armed guards.

Ray, wearing a dark checked sport coat, dark pants and a white shirt open at the neck, bent over from the waist and shielded his head with his hands to avoid photographers. He ignored shouted questions by newsmen as he walked quickly from the unmarked car that had carried him from Memphis.

Ray, 41, strode past a guard's post through the main gate of the prison, where he will spend at least 30 years. He walked across a small courtyard and into the maximum security section.

"Everything went fine," O'Rear said of the transfer. "There was not a minute of trouble."

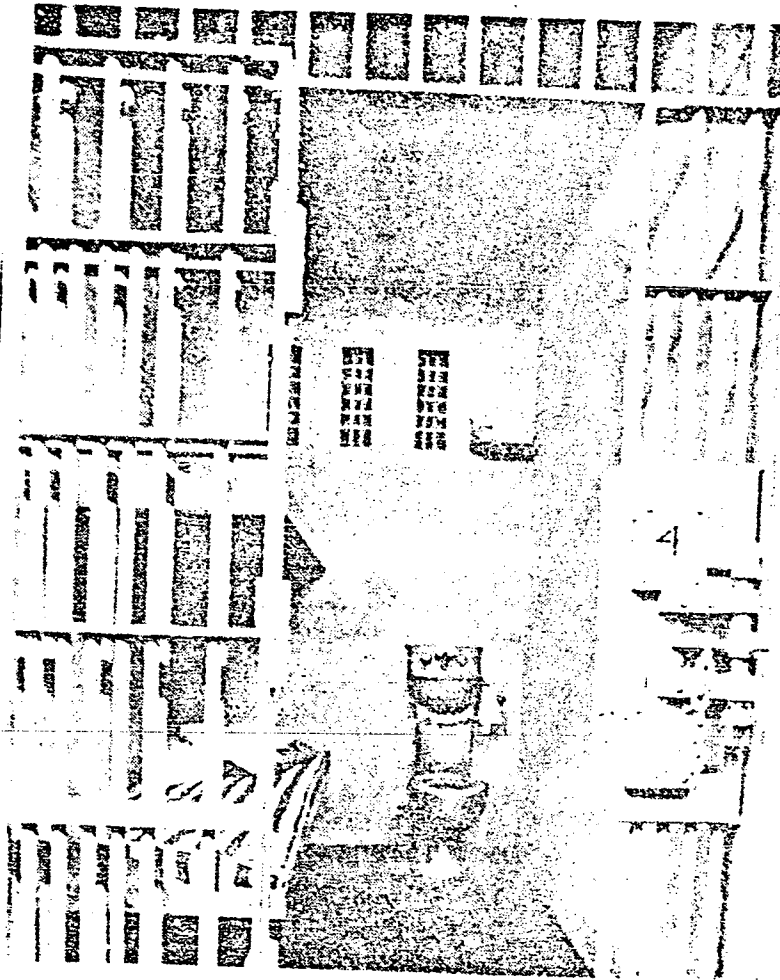
O'Rear said Ray was quiet during most of the trip, although he "talked a little

Wash Post

12 MAR 1969

27-1532732

KA



Associated Press

James Earl Ray's maximum security cell in Tennessee State Prison at Nashville.

APR 12 1969

# RAY'S BIOGRAPHER NOW HAS DOUBTS OF CONSPIRACY

NEW YORK (AP)—William Bradford Huie, biographer of James Earl Ray, said yesterday that he now doubts that the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of a conspiracy.

Huie, who interviewed Ray after his capture and wrote a series of magazine articles hinting at a conspiracy, said in an NBC television interview that he concluded early this year that Ray made the decision to kill King himself.

Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of King in a Memphis, Tenn., courtroom Monday.

Although he has now concluded that Ray himself made the decision to kill King, Huie added, "But I do not know this and Ray insists otherwise. Ray has a strange mind and a sharp one."

"He takes great satisfaction out of the fact that we still have doubts. That we still have unanswered questions. He wants continuing drama in his life," Huie said.

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12 March 69

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NEW YORK, March 11 — Public outrage has spread throughout the country today as the extraordinarily brief trial, conviction and sentence yesterday of James Earl Ray on charges of the killing last April of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, expressed concern by the American speaking, reflected that Ray was only the triggerman of a hideous conspiracy, and that the proceedings Monday in Memphis were an attempt to cover up other participants in the conspiracy.

The New York Times, which deplored the "rush to judgment" by the federal judge in New York, charged that the federal judiciary "has failed to conduct a full investigation of the trial and all persons involved."

Other speakers vowing to continue the trial and to demand a full property investigation of Dr. King were Rev. Ralph D. Abernethy, Rev. Floyd D. Patterson, and Rev. Vernon L. Patterson.

Rev. Vernon L. Patterson, who is the widow of the slain minister, said:

"This is but a rehearsal of the trial. This must not be allowed to end the case, to end the search for the many fingers that helped pull the trigger."

"Full disclosure must press the case in Tennessee and the U.S. government to continue until all those responsible for this crime have been apprehended. No man can run the conspiracy."

Continued on page 11



REV RALPH ABERNATHY tells newsmen at an Atlanta news conference that authorities should continue to investigate the possibility of a conspiracy in the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Abernethy said "The admission of guilt" by James Earl Ray cannot be allowed to obscure the real assassin.

KA

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12 March

Continued from page 1

...creative director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said "James Earl Ray's actions were a direct result of years of persecution for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ... only that the trigger man in the infamous crime is a s... .. in a more rhetorical sense, the nation which provided violent opposition to the aspirations of Dr. King and his people is the real culprit."

Paul J. Hoffmann, builder of "Black Day" and former head of CHA, said "I think that most of the American public knows that James Earl Ray was nothing but a patsy. Sure he was involved in a conspiracy, a genuine conspiracy and a genuine racist conspiracy in which the greater part of this country's white society has participated."

Rev. James D. Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) said:

"The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is opposed to a guilty verdict and therefore we refuse to accept it upon its face. The admission of guilt by James Earl Ray cannot be used to obscure the real assassin, Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the proudest Americans who ever lived, who served black and white alike, was a victim of conspiracy by the admission of James Earl Ray. The SCLC is determined therefore to remain in a non-violent until justice is done and the death of the perpetrator is averted."

William L. Patterson, Communist Party and chairman of a former Civil Rights Congress, said: "The 'conspiracy' issue was raised by James Earl Ray, the assassin of the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was tried as a lone wolf, as in itself almost a caricature of the character of the confederate. At present there is a small group of people who are seeking a complete and total leadership of the white race, organization, and the enforcement of the constitutional rights and

human rights of the colored people."

Ray's defense attorney, "The defense attorney will not attain equality of opportunity under the criminal law," continued Patterson. "It is undeniably fortunate that Ray has been convicted and that we can close the case of our murdered Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ... Americans and their black trust extend every effort to expose this conspiracy and its violence to the unity of this nation and the peace of the world."

Proceeding according to script, in the proceedings Monday in Tennessee's Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis Attorney General P.M. Canale, Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, and Judge W. Preston Battle participated in the deal whereby Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment, ensuring a possible death penalty if he went to trial.

The proceedings went according to script, as one reporter put it.

In an action starting even in Monday's extraordinary proceedings, the jury was coerced into accepting the verdict before the proceedings were begun. The jury was thus made a party to the deal, its right to hear the evidence violated.

"Wonderful justice" The first 12 jurors called upon

a regular jury venire already on duty in the courtroom were picked and then a group into the courtroom and seated in the box.

Canale, the prosecution, told them of the deal and the defense attorney and asked if they would accept it. Each juror nodded approval.

Foreman, the defense attorney, asked each juror individually if he would go along with the deal. Each juror agreed.

And so, what began as a trial and presented as a "wonderful justice" became the script for Shelby County Court.

"Sentence first. Verdict afterwards."

...transcript shows

"I want to change any-

...I want to add anything

...I have to say is, I don't exactly accept the theories of Mr. Canale. In other words, I am not ready to accept these theories of Mr. Canale's."

The judge asked him "You don't agree with whose theories?"

Ray replied: "Mr. Canale's, Mr. Canale's, and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's theories of the conspiracy."

Former attorney general Ramsey Clark and J. Edgar Hoover had decided less than one day after the murder of Rev. King, according to defense attorney

Percy Foreman, that no conspiracy was involved.

This was the theory that Ray and he would not accept as part of a guilty plea for everyone else.

He was not required to accept, as part of the deal for his life, that he alone was responsible for the murder.

Ray made it clear, according to the transcript, that he was buying only a guilty plea, not a guilty plea for everyone else.

Judge Battle said: "I think the main question that I want to ask you is this: Are you pleading guilty to murder in the first degree in this case because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King under such circumstances that it would make you legally guilty of murder in the first degree under the law as explained to you by our lawyer?"

Your answer is this yes?"

Ray replied: "Yes, sir."

Then a New York Times correspondent reported:

"The moment when the courtroom sat expecting Ray to repudiate the agreement that had been in the works since Feb. 21, passed without Ray's pressing forward."

But the question which Judge Battle asked, and which Ray answered was not the "main question."

The main question was this:

"Were you part of a conspiracy to murder Dr. Martin Luther King? Did other persons help you in planning and carrying out the murder of Dr. King?"

But Judge Battle did not ask it. Ray did not answer it, and it remains unanswered today.

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WP 12 MAR 69

(KA)



James Earl Ray is led in chains to State Prison in Nashville.

Associated Press

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

The prosecution felt that even with their airtight case, Ray would escape the chair precisely because of this trend. Tennessee hadn't held an execution in 10 years.

The first of such a wave had never occurred to Foreman, 33, until last, adding that Foreman had said, "You'll never be able to prove this case either." There's too damn much publicity,"

3. Confidentiality of the information

"When he first mentioned the subject to his father, an elderly, gray-haired, balding man, he replied, 'Well, I guess, you can't know the facts. I don't take my chances with a trial.'"

"We quickly concluded that all of this was a fabrication, testimony that was untrue and another conspiracy didn't exist," Stanton says.

Foreman began to give a presentation concerning the information coming from the wrapped in a speech. Foreman had been charged with the task in a manner of speaking, as the spotted police officer had been earned from the police department across from the police station.

the day they had been

### SUMMARY of STUDY 2

Three days later, Peasley—who had interviewed witnesses from Los Angeles to London—handed the testimony to Devanan.

men of our interested parties, such as the Justice Department and the State Department, were told of the big move, and on March 7, Foreman went before the Senate to request last January's special hearing.

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[illegible]

A source in the State Department:

201-0932732 14 MAR 1969

Decided by U. S. District Court  
as Criminal Conspiracy

of the above categories:

During the early 1960s, the  
University of Wisconsin  
that the 2 was a Communist  
in the administration of the Rev.  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to  
which they showed loyalty in  
the early 1960s.

The mother of the Larry Ray, was interviewed by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which quoted him as saying: said he was sure that Ray had was associated by conspirators in Canada.

This would have been after  
1945 or the first the Russian  
Sat. Documentary on April 20,  
1945.

He said that the only one in the family who was interested in him was his mother. "My father and I were always going to live in the South," he said, "but I was turned out by the Social Institute of Investigation." The newspaper quoted the brother as having said he had "heard nothing of what he

Season for College, 1914.  
James Earl Ray was con-  
fined to 22 years in the Peni-  
tentiary for Permanent.

The busy plea has been re-  
sounding to the only man, Ralph  
Hagel, since January 1  
last, but Hagel could scarcely  
be called an expert on the  
subject. He was vice  
president, second in com-  
mand, and was No. 1, but  
not a member of a frat-  
ernal order.

ending the 30-year term, he  
is to be eligible to serve another  
term. He was sentenced  
there. He cannot have served  
time in 1952—unless if he  
is given maximum good be-  
havior time.

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

[illegible][illegible]

"I have learned a lot of things from you in this place. Now when I finally go to the New World to a place as good as yours, I will show them some things that I have learned from you."

NY Times

14 MAR 1969

201-0832732

WP 13 MAR 69

# Eastland, Diggs Seek Probe Of Plot Aspect in King Death

By William Greider  
Washington Post Staff Writer

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"There are some questions in my mind," he said. "How did they know King was in

the Lorraine Motel? How did they know where his room was? How did they know when he was leaving? I'm not accusing anyone, but it appears to me that somebody inside the hotel must have given information."

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"If Ray did it, he was given information by someone inside that motel, that's all I'm saying," Eastland said. "How could he come into that city—a white man looking for King? It couldn't be done. Someone had to tell him."

Ray's earliest known appearance in Memphis was on April 3, the day before the killing, when he checked into the motel. The next day he switched to the hotel from which he fired the fatal shot.

Diggs said he also believes that a conspiracy lies behind Dr. King's death. A full-scale investigation by a presidential commission "might relieve tensions" surrounding the murder, he said.

I'm asking the President either to reactivate the Warren Commission or form one similar to it," Diggs said. "The kinds of doubts that have been generated as a result of Ray's own testimony on co-conspirators leaves a very important responsibility to be taken care of."

Diggs said that because the Justice Department reportedly was a party to the arrangement by which Ray's trial was

settled Monday, "I don't think it has a strong motivation to carry on an investigation."

"It's very difficult for me," he continued, "to believe that this man (Ray) could have all these experiences without some assistance—the passport, the cars, the money, all the rest of it. There's never been a satisfactory explanation."

From Hartselle, Ala., author William Bradford Huie—who has interviewed Ray for a forthcoming book—said the convicted assassin "is just smart enough, in his criminal mind, to put everybody on."

Huie, who retraced Ray's story of travels before and after the shooting, said Ray "does not want the case to die out—he wants the dramatic action to continue. The last thing he wants is to drop from the public eye."

## Ray Tested on Mingling With His Fellow Inmate

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 12 (UPI)—James Earl Ray is undergoing six weeks of tests to determine whether he will be permitted to mingle with other inmates of the Tennessee state prison.

Ray, 41, entered the prison Tuesday morning to begin a 99-year sentence for the assassination of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April 4. He pleaded guilty to escape a possible death penalty.

The prison has 1938 inmates, 824 of whom are Negroes.

13 march 69

211-0832732

# Ray Quoted as Now Wishing He Had Undergone Full Trial

By the Associated Press

James Earl Ray, quoted as wishing now he had elected to undergo a full trial for the Martin Luther King assassination, was joined in his regrets today by the U.S. Justice Department.

A source in the department said the feeling there over Ray's abrupt guilty plea "is one of frustration." The reason: a full-fledged trial, had one been held, might have shed light on questions which have led to widespread suspicion around the country that Ray was only one figure in a conspiracy.

In Nashville, the Nashville Tennessean said in a copyrighted story that Ray disclosed second thoughts about the guilty plea within hours of his sentencing in Memphis to an agreed 99 years in prison. Ray also has inquired about how he could hire a new attorney, the paper said.

## "Wish I Hadn't Now"

The story said unidentified official sources quoted Ray as saying:

"When I went to court Monday I was convinced if I didn't plead guilty I was going to the electric chair. I wish the hell I hadn't now because with what they had on me I believe the worst I'd gotten would have been life."

Under Tennessee law a life prisoner could be eligible for parole after 11 years 7 months, or even earlier, if he earned maximum good behavior time. Under a 99-year sentence a prisoner must serve at least 30 years.

The Tennessean said a prison source further quoted Ray:

"My attorney and my brother told me about six weeks ago that the best thing for me to do was to plead guilty if we could work out a deal to keep me out of the chair. They told me they thought this could be done."

## Government Informed

"I was thinking about it and every day they thought I would plead guilty. Last week I just told them if they thought this was best and what I ought to do, then I would plead guilty."

Ray was reported to have asked escorting officers during his trip from the Memphis jail to

the Nashville penitentiary how he could hire another lawyer.

In Washington, Justice Department sources acknowledged the government was informed in advance that Ray would plead guilty and take 99 years.

But they denied the government was involved in any way with decisions leading up to the sudden move by Ray and his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

The only federal action pending against Ray is an FBI charge issued in Birmingham, Ala., April 17, 1968, accusing him of conspiring "with a man alleged to be his brother" to violate King's civil rights in that state.

The charge was brought under an 1870 Reconstruction era statute and conviction would have carried a maximum 10-year sentence.

After Ray was apprehended,

last June in England, he was returned to Tennessee to face the more serious murder charge.

The government's only intrusion in the case since came Monday — after the trial ended — when the Justice Department announced the "conspiracy allegation is still open."

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, some senators joined newspapers across the country in insisting the conspiracy question be head open.

## Probe by Senate Unit

Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., said his Senate Internal Security subcommittee is investigating direct information of conspiracy in the King slaying.

"There are some things about this affair," Eastland declared, "that indicate to me there may have been a conspiracy."

After entering his plea of guilty Monday, Ray stood up and said he disagreed with the theory that no conspiracy was linked with the assassination. He did not elaborate.

Ray's original attorney, former Birmingham, Ala., mayor Arthur Hanes Jr., disagreed meanwhile with Foreman's belief as expressed in court Monday that no conspiracy existed. Hanes was interviewed on the CBS evening news with Walter Cronkite.

Hanes said there was no question in his mind that "there was a plot involved" in the killing. "Ray," said Hanes, "was a dupe."

The Alabama lawyer said the assassination "had to do not only with national politics, but international politics."

In Atlanta, the Rev. Andrew Young, executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which King headed, said his organization was not concerned concerning Ray's guilty plea.

"We do want the investigation continued because we believe Ray was at most merely a tool or pawn," Young said. "We would hope that for the good of the country, the Justice Department would continue to investigate the case."

13 - march 69

201-6532132

## Play Is Transferred to Chains No State Prison, as Nashville

11 (U) - James Earl Ray took "a conversation" steps to his left and take a  
 12 (U) - led to show him that he was a showed.

Warden Russell said Ray was assigned Cell No. 414 in serving a 99-year term for murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray, who switched his plea to guilty Monday and accepted a prearranged sentence, was removed from his Shelby County jail cell at 5:30 a.m. The cell measures 6 by 9 feet, like the 23 other cells in the section. It has two bunks, but only one is ever used, the corridor, because only one man is housed in each cell. Avery said he and Russell had been planning for some time the "exceptional" safeguards required for Ray's incarceration. Although most convicts are

County jail cell at 5:30 a.m. The backs and sides of the cell are 3-inch-thick, stocken concrete, painted white. Although most convicts are taken to the classification building immediately on arrival, they will remain in the prison, Ray will re-

He traveled the 200 miles to Nashville in an eight-car motorcade that pulled up to the

Secured by a waist chain  
connected to heavy handcuffs  
and ankle manacles, Ray

and ankle manacles, Ray stepped briskly into the cluster of white, red-roofed buildings that form the State Prison on the outskirts of Nashville. State Safety Commissioner Greg O'Far and Highway Patrol Inspector Buckley McGuire walked at either side of Ray, and all three were surrounded by heavily armed guards.

Ray, wearing a dark checked sport coat, dark pants and a white shirt open at the neck, bent over from the waist and shielded his head with his hands to avoid photographers. He ignored shouted questions by newsmen as he walked quickly from the unmarked car that had carried him from Memphis.

Ray, 41, strode past a guard's post through the main gate of the prison, where he will spend at least 30 years. He walked across a small courtyard and into the maximum security section.

"Everything went fine," O'Keefe said of the transfer. "There was not a minute of trouble."

O'Rear said Ray was quiet during most of the trip, although he "talked a little."

Wash Post

12 MAR 1969

251-1532732

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James Earl Ray's maximum security cell in Tennessee State Prison at Nashville.

Associated Press

RAY'S BIOGRAPHER  
NOW HAS DOUBTS  
OF CONSPIRACY

NEW YORK (AP)—William Bradford Huie, biographer of James Earl Ray, said yesterday that he now doubts that the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of a conspiracy.

Huie, who interviewed Ray after his capture and wrote a series of magazine articles hinting at a conspiracy, said in an NBC television interview that he concluded early this year that Ray made the decision to kill King himself.

Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of King in a Memphis, Tenn., courtroom Monday.

Although he has now concluded that Ray, himself, made the decision to kill King, Huie added, "But I do not know this and Ray insists otherwise. Ray has a strange mind and a sharp one."

"He takes great satisfaction out of the fact that we still have doubts. That we still have unanswered questions. He wants continuing drama in his life," Huie said.

38  
K.A.

12 March 69

201-0532732

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, March 11 — Public outcries against the country today and extraordinarily brief trial, conviction and sentence yesterday of James Earl Ray on charges of the killing last April of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A sentiment, expressed eloquently by African-American spokesmen, reflected the belief Ray was only the triggerman of a long-term conspiracy, and that the trial proceedings Monday in Memphis were an attempt to cover up other participants in the conspiracy.

The New York World, impressed by these views, urged Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to launch a full investigation of the trial and all persons involved.

Other spokesmen voting against Ray's trial and conviction also urged properly and the killing of Dr. King were the work of Ray, D. Abernathy, James Earl Ray, Fred D. Scheraga, William L. Patterson, and James Earl Ray.

Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain leader, said:

"This is but a re-run of the King. This is a political case, must not be allowed to close the case, to end the search for the many fingers that helped pull the trigger."

"All concerned must press the case in Tennessee and the U.S. Supreme Court until all who are responsible for this crime have been apprehended. No man can escape the consequences of his actions."

Continued on page 11



REV RALPH ABERNATHY tells newsmen at an Atlanta news conference that authorities should continue to investigate the possibility of a conspiracy in the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Abernathy said "The admission of guilt" by James Earl Ray cannot be allowed to obscure the real assassin.

—United Press International

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A 10

12 March

and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and "James Earl Ray's trial is one of the court's actions to further the cause of justice, to provide for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Now, only that the trigger man in this monstrous crime is a sinner executed. In a more rhetorical sense, the nation which persecuted violent opposition to the repudiations of Dr. King and his people is the real culprit."

Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) said:

William L. Patterson, Commissioner and chairman of the National Civil Rights Congress, said that the "unfortunate" taste with which James Earl Ray, the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was treated by the prison was in itself almost a "microcosm" of the conflicting character of non-violence. At present there is no national scale of conduct, and the leadership of national business organizations is "concerned with the enforcement of the constitutional rights and

[illegible]

in the proceedings Monday in Tennessee's Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis Attorney General P.M. Canale, Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, and Judge W. Preston Battle participated in the deal whereby Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment, escaping a possible death penalty if he went to trial.

In an action stretching even to Monday's extraordinary proceedings, the jury was coerced into accepting the verdict before the proceedings were begun. The jury was thus made a party to the deal, its right to hear the evidence violated.

The first 12 minutes of the 15 min.

Canada, the prosecutor, told them of the deal with the defense attorney and asked if they would accept it. Each juror needed approval.

And so, what Lewis Carroll had presented as "Wonderland" pastime became the script for Stanley County Court.

Verbindungsnummer:

"I don't want to change days," he said.

"The only thing I have to say is, I don't exactly accept the theories of the Church. In other words, I am not bound to accept these theories that Mr. Clark's."

Ray replied: "Mr. Canale's, Mr. Clark's, and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's about the conspiracy."

Percy Foreman, that no conspiracy was involved.

This was the theory that Ray said he would not accept as part of a plea that he was guilty.

He was not required to accept, as part of the deal for his life, that he alone was responsible for the murder.

Hay made it clear, according to the transcript, that he was buying only a gully plan, not a gully plan for everyone else.

Single Little said: "I think the main question that I want to ask you is this: Are you pleading guilty to murder in the first degree in this case because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King under such circumstances that it would make you legally guilty of murder in the first degree under the law as explained to you by our lawyer?"

Ray replied: "Yes, sir."

"The moment when the courtroom sat expecting Ray to renege on the agreement that had held him in the works since Dec. 21, passed without Ray's pressing button."

But the question which Judge Kettle asked, and which Ray answered was not the "main question."

The main question was last:

"Were you part of a conspiracy in killing Dr. Martin Luther King? Did other persons help you in plotting and carrying out the assassination of King?"

But Judge Battle did not ask it.  
They did not answer it, and it  
remains unanswered today.

had been given a life sentence, he:

[illegible]

WP 12 MAR 69

(KA)



James Earl Ray is led in chains to State Prison in Nashville.

Associated Press

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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*The Russian*

TASS REPORTS JAMES EARL RAY SENTENCING

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1119 GMT 11 Mar 69 L

[Text] New York March 11 TASS--James Ray who assassinated Martin Luther King has been sentenced to a 99 year prison term. The trial was held in Memphis, Tennessee, where Martin Luther King, leader of the Negro movement of the United States, was killed almost a year ago. Ray pleaded guilty to the charge of murdering Martin Luther King.

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According to the press, all the trial was a kind of a "deal" between the prosecution and the defense. Their aim was to save Ray from the death penalty. It has been officially announced at the trial that only one man was involved in the assassination of Martin Luther King. The authorities, thus, disregarded the opinion of many representatives of the public that the Negro leader had fallen victim to a racist conspiracy.

USSR, CANADA SIGN JOINT RADIO-TV AGREEMENT

Moscow in English to Eastern North America 2200 GMT 11 Mar 69 L

[Text] The Soviet Union and Canada have signed an agreement in Montreal containing recommendations to expand cooperation in the sphere of radio broadcasting and television. The recommendations foresee a greater exchange of radio and television programs, as well as exchanges of creative workers for joint program production.

TEXT OF JOINT SOVIET-URUGUAYAN COMMUNIQUE

Moscow IZVESTIYA 7 Mar 69 pp 1, 2 L

[Text] From 27 February through 4 March 1969 a Uruguayan Government delegation led by Chairman of the General Assembly of the Republic of Uruguay Alberto Abdala paid an official visit to the USSR. Among the delegation were: delegation deputy leader and Deputy Director General of the Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Joaquin Costanzo; Ambassador Denis Barreiro; and acting Uruguayan charge d'affaires in the USSR R. Piris [transliterated].

Vice President A. Abdala was received by Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium N.V. Podgornyy and Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers A. N. Kosygin, and he paid a visit to Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium N.A. Iskhendrov and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of the Union I.V. Spiridonov. The vice president laid wreathes at the Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Talks took place between the Soviet and the Uruguayan sides in which the Soviet side was represented by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Deputy Chairman N.A. Iskhendrov; Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers V.M. Novikov; USSR Minister of Fish Industry A.A. Ishkov; USSR Minister of Power and Electrification P.S. Repovodtsev; USSR First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade M.R. Kuzmin; USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs V. H. Vinogradov; USSR Ambassador to the Republic of Uruguay I.K. Kolosovskiy; and USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs collegium member D.A. Zhukov.

The talks, which took place in a friendly atmosphere and a spirit of mutual understanding, discussed questions of Soviet-Uruguayan relations.

211-0832732

# Mrs. King Urges Conspiracy Probe

From News Dispatches

ATLANTA, March 10—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow and his successor said today they now believed more strongly than ever that a conspiracy brought about his assassination last April.

Coretta King and the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as head of the Southern Chris-

tian leadership conference, said the search must continue for persons they say acted with James Earl Ray in a plan to kill Dr. King.

"For the moment, we have been spared a trial which would compel us to relive the fearfully tragic events of his death. But we realize that this is but a respite," Mrs. King said in a statement.

Mrs. King added that "all concerned people must press the State of Tennessee and the U.S. Government to continue until all who are responsible for this crime have been apprehended."

See REACT, A11, Col. 8

THE WASHINGTON POST  
Tuesday, March 11, 1969 A11

## Mrs. King, Abernathy See Plot

REACT, From A1

Earlier, Mr. Abernathy said that Ray's admission of guilt strengthens his belief that there was a conspiracy.

Both Abernathy and Mrs. King reiterated their stand that the death penalty for Ray would be contrary to the moral and religious convictions of Dr. King.

"Retribution and vengeance have no place in our beliefs," Mrs. King said.

"My husband believed that we must separate the man from the deed. In that spirit, I look beyond James Earl Ray to the racism which pervaded — and still poisons — the climate of America.

"It was the real killer. It incited violence against a man who was the very essence of nonviolence."

The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., father of the slain civil rights leader, said he had no comment on Ray's plea.

The Rev. James Orange of SCLC, who was with Dr. King when he was slain, said, "I am trying to stay out of this. I think they should set that man free." He declined to elaborate when asked why he felt Ray should be set free, saying he had no further comment.

11 March 69

221-5832732

# The Evidence Can't Be Told

By Paul W. Valentine  
Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, March 10—

Ray and answering slightly, said that they pleaded guilty today to assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and received a sentence of 99 years in prison.

In an unbroken quiet courtroom, the case, Tennessee State Two Hundred Fifty-Seven, was the first of its kind since the trial of the two Negro men that had been convicted and that there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the slaying of the 35-year-old civil rights leader.

Ray, 35, was taken from his cell in the prison in the only instance in which the state has ever allowed a defendant to plead guilty in a capital case.

The assistant state attorney general, John H. Johnson, said that he had no doubt that the official transcript of the proceedings would be a complete and accurate record of the proceedings.

Johnson said that the transcript would be a complete and accurate record of the proceedings. He said that the transcript would be a complete and accurate record of the proceedings. He said that the transcript would be a complete and accurate record of the proceedings.

An American Civil Liberties Department said its investigation into the recent slayings of a conspiracy "is still open but that there is no evidence of conspiracy at this point."

(The original Federal warrant dated April 10, 1968, charged that a man named Eric Starvo Galt, later identified as Ray, had conspired with "an individual whom he alleged to be his brother" against King.)

After the 10-hour, split hearing in "Snicker Circuit" Courthouse, Ray, who turned 41 today, was led back to his tightly secured cell.

Officials said Ray probably be transferred to the State Penitentiary in Nashville in a few days.

Today's hearing marked the quiet, unemotional end of Ray's exile yet at times sounded ominous—from his 1957 prison escape in Missouri to Dr. King's assassination here last April 4 and his flight through Canada and across the Atlantic to England where he was arrested last summer.

Most of today's testimony was a retelling of the edginess, but a few new facts came to light. Prosecutors said that during his year of freedom, Ray, disguised as a white man, had played the saxophone in a band in St. Louis and had a brief affair with a white woman.

Ray, 35, said he had been a member of the Black Panther party and that he was always getting caught, called himself a "nigger."

His admission of that climaxed weeks of elaborate negotiations between Testman and Canale's office.

Ray, in effect, exchanged his plea for a 99-year prison term and thus avoided a possible death sentence by jury. It took his trial and ended for April 7.

James T. McInerney, law, said that he must be imposed by a jury in capital cases, even when the defendant pleads guilty.

The special jury was empaneled yesterday after each member said he would agree to the prosecutor's recommendation of a 99-year sentence for Ray. The panel then heard brief testimony from five witnesses who established a prima facie case that Dr. King was shot to death from a rooming house window as he was standing on a balcony at the Negro-owned Lorraine Motel in downtown Memphis.

Despite the negotiations, it was not clear why Ray did not seek a straight life sentence, rather than the tougher 99-year term. Under a life sentence, he would have become eligible for parole in 12½ years. Under the 99-year term,

he becomes eligible in 49½ years—at age 84. (Although other sources said he would be eligible after 20 or 23 years, Canale stuck to 49½.)

Canale, 51, told newsmen there was no bargaining for the life sentence. Foreman, 55, relaxing in his undershirt at his hotel room later, agreed.

"There is an answer to why I didn't try to get Ray a life sentence," he said, "but I'm not going to give it."

He said Ray told him during the negotiations, "I don't care how many years I get."

Asked why he thinks Ray killed Dr. King, Canale told newsmen, "There is evidence Ray was a racist." He declined to elaborate.

He acknowledged that Ray had considerable money at his disposal before and after the assassination but insisted

that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy. He said that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy.

He said that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy. He said that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy.

He said that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy. He said that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy.

He said that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy. He said that the money was not evidence of a conspiracy.

Canale also said he consulted local Negro leaders and representatives of Mrs. King and of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Dr. King was president, before agreeing to the guilty plea and sentence. The Los Angeles Times reported.

At the end of today's hearing, presiding Judge W. Preston Battle, 60, warned that if

evidence should ever emerge that Dr. King's death resulted from a conspiracy, "no member of such a conspiracy can live in peace or lie down to pleasant dreams" because the State has no statute of limitations on prosecuting such cases.

His 55 years in the criminal courts, said the Judge, have taught him that Hanlet was right when he said, "For murder, though it have no tongue, will speak with most miraculous organ."

The Judge also cautioned that the prosecution statement that it has no evidence of a conspiracy "is not conclusive." It merely means that as of this time, there is not sufficient evidence available.

In solving the murder of Dr. King and bringing Ray to justice, Battle said in his soft Southern accent, "We have not done too badly for a 'decadent river town'—a sarcastic reference to a description of Memphis in a Time magazine article a week after Dr. King's death last year.

Today's hearing started at 7:45 a.m. after 50 newsmen and about 30 spectators were sequestered, including their aides, before entering the small, low-ceiling courtroom.

Ray, wearing a loose dark suit, blue necktie and light blue shirt, was brought in under close guard.

He walked with a heavy swaying stride and had a slight smile on his face.

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Wash Post

11 MAR 1969

711-652732



United Press International  
James Earl Ray: "I am pleading guilty."



United Press International  
Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, talks to newsmen.

# RAY ADMITS GUILT IN DR. KING DEATH; SUGGESTS A PLOT

Judge Sets 99-Year Term  
After a Jury of 12 Men  
Agrees to Arrangement

## A CONSPIRACY DISPUTED

Both Prosecutor and Defense  
Doubt That There Was One  
Despite Slayer's Protest

By MARTIN WALDRON  
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, March 10.—James Earl Ray pleaded guilty today to murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was sentenced to serve 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville.

The sentence was imposed by Judge W. Preston Battle in Criminal Court after a brief presentation of evidence against the defendant to a jury of 12 men.

The jury had agreed in advance to the arrangement by the state and the defense for a plea of guilty.

Both the prosecutor, Memphis Attorney General P. M. Canale, and Ray's counsel, Percy Foreman, told the court that there was no evidence Ray had been involved in a conspiracy.

Ray himself refused to admit these statements. In a tense moment in the proceedings, Ray leaped to his feet and declared that he did not intend that his plea of guilty should include a finding that there was no conspiracy.

### Had I Lived Death

Had Ray pleaded not guilty and been convicted of first-degree murder in the full-scale trial that had been scheduled for April 7, he could have been sentenced to death.

If he had received a life sentence he would have been eligible for parole in 13 years. Under the 99-year sentence, he will not be eligible for parole until he serves half his term.

The disagreement between Ray and the lawyers appeared to many observers to leave unresolved the question of whether a conspiracy was involved in the killing of Dr. King last April 4 at a motel here.

Mr. Foreman said it had taken him a month to become convinced that there was no conspiracy. The Texas lawyer said it had taken former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and J. Edgar Hoover, the di-

Continued on Page 16, Column 1

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1939

# Y Pleads Guilty to the Murder of Dr. King and Is Sentenced to 99 Years in Prison

From Page 1, Cont.

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 or Transportation  
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Judge W. Preston Battle, center, who presided at the brief trial of James Earl Ray, read a statement to newsmen after Ray was sentenced yesterday. Flanking him are Sheriff William Morris, left, and Phil M. Canale, the Shelby County (Memphis) Attorney General.

Ray had escaped from the Missouri State Prison with the aid of killing the civil rights leader, although the prosecution did have some evidence, a rear door. He was wearing a rumpled blue suit, a tattered, explained briefly to the jury, in turn, it as big as a

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

The official in the trunk was saying anything I don't want to add  
stays in and stays behind something onto it.  
Judge Mr. Preston Battle said, "You don't agree with  
James Earl Ray concerning the execution of the Rev. Dr.  
Martin Luther King Jr."

The official will transcribe anything I don't want to add along with the tape before it comes onto it.

Judge Mr. Parker: Bailie and J. C. Earl say something about possible conspiracy in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. Earl: I meant Mr. Canale (the Canale, the prosecutor), the chairman (anytime to re-

Ray: Your Honor, I would, perhaps, Mr. Ramsey Clark, like to say something, too, if I mean on the conspiracy I may.

Battle: All right.

Reyn: I don't want to change anything that I have said. I don't want to add anything onto it either. The only thing I have to say is I don't exactly accept the theories of Mr. Clark (former Attorney General Ramsey) Clark, who had discredited the conspiracy theory. In other words, I am not bound to accept these theories of Mr. Clark.

(A whispered conversation followed between Ray and his attorney, Percy Foreman.)

Ray: And Mr. Hoover (FBI director J. Edgar Hoover) I agree to all these stipulations. I am not trying to change.

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Wash Post

241-6832732 11 MAR 1969

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[illegible]

The jury would have to see Ray sentenced to be trying to keep any concerns that the stability in such a defense. Wilshire and defense lawyers had John Bradford Huie, the Alameda spread on and that had been found author who bought published by the trial judge. If human rights to Ray's life a 50-year sentence would be given story, wrote in Look magazine upon, it would mean Ray might that Ray contended he had have to remain in prison at least 40 years to perform some least 50 years. A criminal act but that he did almost a script.

A 12-member jury is chosen. There was a report today that usually the first 12 to qualify, Ray had reluctantly accepted.

had been committed and that Tennessee executes con-  
the defendant was responsible. **Deadly men in an electric**

Despite the lack of official confirmation that Ray would plead guilty, there was much activity today at the Memphis

figure, it is reported to the telephone company put  
by the judge and under covers of ten phones into serv-  
normal circumstances, the jury is. And security of the jail  
accepts the recommendation. was increased. All doors lead-

WILLIAM W. WOODWARD, JR., 1000 15TH ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

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211-6532732

9 MAR 1969

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# Court Schedules Hearing at Request of Lawyer for Dr. King Murder Suspect —Sent for 33-Year Term Hinted

AP Wire Service

Memphis, March 7—(AP)—A court hearing today requested by James Foreman, Jr., lawyer for James Earl Ray, would not be held until after the report that Ray was offered a plea bargain in Memphis. Ray said that if this were that Ray would plead was "self Ray's attorney" reply to the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many because of the fact he would receive a sentence of 99 years that the case was not a years in prison. He discussed publicly. Judge Battle said that the Charles Holman, a Memphis resident, had been requested by State University official who Ray Foreman, the Houston has been acting as press and lawyer who has represented other to Judge Battle said that Ray, an escaped Missouri convict, had authorized a statement since last Nov. 12. Judge Battle said that the statement that the accused had asked that Ray be scheduled but that no further proceed but the judge refused to reveal information would to state the purpose of the released. The judge was in hearing. Ray's lawyer reported to be very upset that Mr. Foreman met in Memphis speculation had arisen about his meeting with Garfield and John Lee, partners of the case. Continued on Page 12, Column 1

After Mr. Foreman took over, the trial was scheduled for April 7 after Mr. Foreman had been released. The articles that appeared in a book magazine that said on March 1, 1968, when James Earl Ray, 35, was released, that he had told him that he had been told by a friend, Charles, named John, to assassinate Dr. King. Mr. Ray reported that Ray had said he had traveled to Birmingham, Ala., Los Angeles, New Orleans and to several cities in Mexico while awaiting final instructions on the matter. According to the author Ray said that he had first been approached by Raoul, the alias of Charles, in Montreal in the summer of 1967 but he had not been told by Raoul that Dr. King was to be murdered until early in 1968. Mr. Ray appeared before a Memphis grand jury last month. He has been charged by the grand jury with the murder of Dr. King, the civil rights leader, and with the murder of the Rev. James Ray, who was serving a 99-year sentence for robbery and for being a convicted criminal. Ray was released from the State Penitentiary at Joliet, Ill., in the spring of 1967. A 10-year sentence might be given, but it is unlikely that he will be released in Tennessee. The Tennessee Attorney General's office said that persons sentenced to life imprisonment were eligible for parole after 10 years, but a defendant with a life sentence would not be eligible for parole until half his sentence had been served. Dr. King was slain by a rifle shot fired from a 16-day hotel in Memphis, south side at 4:05 p.m. on April 4. Ray, who was using various aliases, including Eric Starvo Galt, was arrested last June in London and was extradited to the United States in July. Until Nov. 12, when his trial was first scheduled to start, Ray was represented by Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., a former Mayor of Birmingham and a former attorney for the Ku Klux Klan. Mr. Foreman, a successful criminal lawyer who has a long series of successful courtroom appearances in behalf of persons charged with murder, took over the case after Ray dismissed Mr. Hanes in court.

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KA

NY Times  
8 MAR 1969

24-6832732

1. What is the purpose of the study?  
 2. What are the research questions?  
 3. What is the significance of the study?  
 4. What are the limitations of the study?  
 5. What are the conclusions of the study?

Shelby County Attorney, only way Ray can escape the  
Phil Canale refused to risk "death sentence."  
ment and State Attorney Gen- See RAY, 38, Col. 3

2A-0832732

# RAY, 37, 38 CHARGE ON CONSPIRACY

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 7 (AP) — James Earl Ray, who is charged with the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, was arrested today for conspiracy with a former associate to defraud the federal government.

Ray was taken into custody today after he had testified for 2½ hours on the Ray case.

He had been subpoenaed by the jury earlier this week and had been told to bring with him a 20,000-word handwritten manuscript which he received from Ray. He used the manuscript as the basis for the article in Look.

A spokesman for the magazine in New York said Look had the "best of confidence" in Ray and stands ready to help him in any way possible. He said Ray ran a set of rules and regulations laid down by "Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, the man who will sit in judgment on the Ray case."

A special lawyers committee appointed by Battle to help enforce the rules on publicity said Ray's magazine articles were in probable violation of the regulations.

Ray went into court today asking for permission to be photographed in his cell, where he has been held under the highest security. The photographs would be published by Look and would bring Ray as much as \$5000, which he used by Ray to finance his defense.

Ray was taken into custody today when he stepped from the grand jury hearing room, where he had testified for 2½ hours on the Ray case.

He had been subpoenaed by the jury earlier this week and had been told to bring with him a 20,000-word handwritten manuscript which he received from Ray. He used the manuscript as the basis for the article in Look.

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KA

W/P JAN 31 1969

## Author Pays Last \$5000 For Manuscript by Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 30—Hule was used by Hule as the basis (UPI)—Author William Bradford Huie for a three-article series which for Huie on Wednesday gave ran in Look magazine describing Houston attorney Percy Foreman's travels and activities. Huie said it was the last in a 10 and hired Foreman, who series of payments—more subsequently gained a post- than \$30,000—which were payment of the trial from made earlier to Ray's former Nov. 12 until March 3. Hanes counsel, Arthur Hanes Sr., of is understood to have obtained Birmingham. a lien to use the checks as pay- ment of his legal fees. The 20,000-word manuscript

KA  
Wash Post

31 JAN 1969

211-6832732

# KA

WFP JAN 23 1969



JAMES EARL RAY



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**Q.** Doesn't the U.S. Justice Department plan to arrest shortly the men who financed the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.?—K. Y., Rye, N.Y.

**A.** Two prominent New Orleans businessmen reportedly contributed \$25,000 to intermediaries who arranged for James Earl Ray to murder Martin Luther King. These men expected the assassination would cause a war between blacks and whites in this country with the eventual subjugation of the black population.

How much the Justice Department knows of the plot and the personalities involved is difficult to tell at this point. On March 3rd, when James Earl Ray stands trial in Memphis, the plot may begin to unfold. Ray, of course, was a pawn of limited intelligence, unaware of his true financial backers or their diabolical motivation.

Wash Post

26 JAN 1969

211-0832732

and  
life and  
which makes  
valuable than

to report again on Feb. 14  
on whether the defense  
would be able to make the  
deadline.

### Ray Deadline

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—With  
the illness of attorney Percy  
Foreman slowing prepara-  
tion for the defense of  
James Earl Ray, Criminal  
Court Judge W. Preston Bat-  
tle made it plain that he  
wants Ray's trial for the  
murder of Dr. Martin Lu-  
ther King 1 to begin as  
scheduled March 3 "if ha-  
zardously possible."

Battle, in a hearing to de-  
termine the defense's readi-  
ness for trial, directed Pub-  
lic Defender Hugh Stanton  
to prepare to defend Ray if  
Foreman is unable.

He then ordered Stanton



PERCY FOREMAN

... gets trial deadline

1/2 JAN 18 1969

KING'S ASSASSINATION

Wash Post 18 JAN 1969

201-6532732

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# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

*Jim Resler*  
*CI/SO*

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

*06 JAN 69*

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. *CI/R+A Miss Smith*

*JS*

2.

3. *DC/CI/R+A*

*DP*

4.

5. *CI/SO / JWK*

*N/A*

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

*Can you give me, and the  
date, the publication  
date on a book COCK  
wrote (in India?) on the  
CIA?*

*The Nation*

*5-4 June 1961*

*special source devoted to CIA*

*file KING ASSASSINATION*

FORM 3-52

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*201-0582772*

Pensterwald said "the United States is fast becoming a banana republic" and "assassinations are becoming a regular part of our political process."

He said the new committee "ultimately hopes to force the Federal Government into the thorough and honest inquiry which it has avoided since Nov. 22, 1963."

Among the directors of the committee are Jim Garrison, the New Orleans district attorney who has been conducting an investigation of President Kennedy's assassination, and author Fred Cook of Englewood, N.J.

He said the committee is for people who are tired of the greatest men who have ever lived.

#### Assassination Unit

Formation of a new national committee to investigate assassinations was announced. It will have its headquarters in Washington.

The executive director of the committee is Bernard Pensterwald, former counsel to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that investigated wiretapping and electronic surveillance.

Wash Post

03 JAN 1969

RM-1532722

KING  
 ASSASSINATION  
 FILE

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 and...

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Wash Post

03 JAN 1969  
 21-653273X

3 Jan 69

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22/12/1968

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