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## Ex-Attorney Links Ray to Rifles for Cuban Exiles

By MARTIN WALDRON

The former attorney for James Earl Ray sald in New York yesterday that Ray went to Memphis last April 3 to try! to sell rifles to Cuban exiles and that he never knew in advance that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was to be! murdered.

"When Ray found out that Dr. King had been shot, he panicked and fled from Memphis," the lawyer, Arthur J. Heres of Birmingham, Ala.,

The lawyer said that the 41 year-old convict had confessed "under pressure" that he had killed King.

"He was afraid he might get the electric chair," said Mr. Hanes, who was dismissed by Ray last Nov. 10 on the eve of his scheduled trial for the murder of the civil rights lead-

that Ray wrote March 26 from sion and declined comment. the Tennessee State Peniten-



Associated Press

There had been speculation

sidered a motion for a new ing without success to find trial. Tennessee law provides Raoul, a blond Latin who Ray that any motion for a new trial contended had lured him into pending before a judge who the murder plot.
dies must be granted. "To me, the m

was not the rifle used to kill was the decision made to kill Dr. King, Mr. Hanes said, adding, "And the F.B.I. knew it."

amined the bullet recovered ticles they had Written about from Dr. King's body and that the slaying, said that Mr. Huie, the bullet had enough mark-ings on it to be traced to the murder weapon.

The black of the bullet had enough mark-did not have all the informa-tion imparted by Ray.

said that the rifle bullet that or more." struck Dr. King in the right jaw and severed his spinal Mr. Hanes said that Ray's cord could have been fired from cell in the Shelby County jail

month and was sentenced to 99 years in prison under an agreement with Judge W. Preston Battle, who died Monday tiary asking Judge Battle to appoint him an attorney and in Memphis yesterday, four judges met to discuss what effect Judge Battle's death would have on efforts by Ray to repudiate his guilty plea.

The judges studied a letter The judges reached no decition and that he and Ray and television and that he and Ray and to to Memphis to show to Cubans who were interested in buying could not read their lips. It was in this manner that Ray related abandoned the rifle, which had bandoned the rifle

Alabama author who bought more investigating.

The publication rights to Ray's life story, sald that he disagreed with Mr. Hanes's version of the events leading to Dr. Witnesses from Louisians.

Mr. Hule said that, while he have believed Ray had a "contact" The names of witnesses the half planned to call if ther some unlawful activity such as robbery. All evidence indicated that it was Ray's idea. indicated that it was Ray's idea Ray is known to have been to murder Dr. King and that in Louisiana at least three times he carried the idea out alone, before Dr. King was killed—in Mr. Huie sald. Mr. Huie said.

The author said that he had and in March 1968.

that Ray's letter might be con-spent thousands of dollars try-

"To me, the major questions A 30.06-calibre deer rifle still to be answored are: When found near the murder scene was the decision made to built

of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said that he had exticles they had written about Mr. Hanes, who flew to New

"A 6-year-old kid could have Ray." Mr. Hancs said. "I Ballistics experts of the F.B.I talked to him a hundred hours

## Lay on Floor to Talk

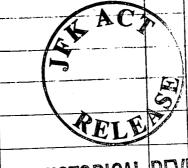
the abandoned rifle Ray bought in Memphis had been constantin Birmingham on March 30 ly monitored by closed-circuit Mr. Hanes said that Ray and television and that he and Ray

Orleans in the three to four Unable to Find Latin months preceding Dr. King's murder last April 4 could bear

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