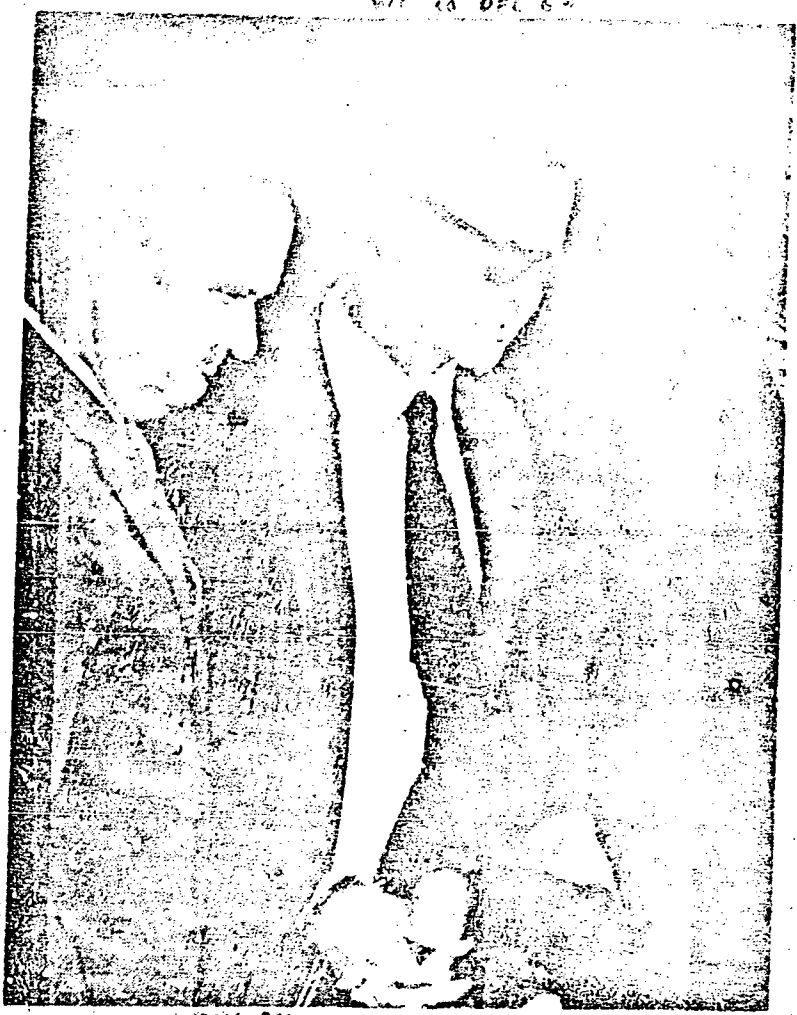


WIP 10 DEC 69



### Ray Complains

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—James Earl Ray complained that his confinement was wrecking his mental health and asked U.S. District Judge William Preston Battle to move him out of the Tennessee state prison's maximum security division.

A prison psychiatrist advised 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 called Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a nigger.

Ray said he didn't care "I don't care how they treat me, but I don't care how they treat me."

Ray said he had been confined in a cell for 23 hours a day for the past 18 months. He said he had been in the cell for 18 months and had been in the cell for 18 months.

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 6x8-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  
Ray

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

was to sue of

### 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

5

## 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 record in Ray's conviction for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Appeals Court will rule July 15 in Knoxville 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.

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Wash Post  
27 JUN 1969

UP TO THE  
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## 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 directing state prison officials to permit him to communicate with Ray in person rather than by telephone.

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 corrections commissioner directed them to permit Hill access to his client within the same room or office.

20 June 69

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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.

2r44oesed June 14

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Disclosed Tennessee and  
Governor's Office

KA

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

Mr. Avery's spokesman, called  
in an interview with Jan Miller,  
WVMA radio newsman, after  
the Nashville banner said the  
information was contained in  
a confidential report to Gov.  
Bulford Harrison.

Ray is in maximum security  
at the Tennessee State Peniten-  
tary, 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 banner said that in a re-  
port given Mr. Avery as stated  
he had contacted three other  
views with Ray at the prison  
about possibility of solving the  
king slaying as well as in  
other matters for crimes and  
possibly others.

Governor Harrison dismissed  
Mr. Avery's report by the  
International Association of  
Chiefs of Police, which was  
highly critical of the state  
of the penal system. Mr. Avery  
quoted the Governor as saying  
his dealings with Ray were the  
basis for the statement.

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NY Times  
01 JUN 1969

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

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Fired state corrections commissioner 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 Luther King Jr., for which Ray is serving 99 years in state prison.

Avery, contacted by telephone while on a fishing trip at Cookeville, Tenn., says Ray "commented at some length about it (the offer), but I don't intend to say anything about his comments . . . since he has attorneys 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 purchasing it, I would see that every 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 security.

Wash Star

3 APR 1969

## Corrections Chief Fired in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 29. King Jr. "would write in his own handwriting his story of the crime."

UPD — Tennessee Corrections Commissioner Harry S. Avery, accused of using his position to gather facts about James Earl Ray for a book, was fired today by Gov. Buford Ellington.

Ellington said only that Avery was dismissed after an investigation "regarding recent events in the Corrections Department." He refused to answer questions concerning the details of the dismissal.

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 propitious 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 the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

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.

Wash Post

30 MAY 1969

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# Ray Loses Bid for New Trial

By Paul W. Valentine  
Washington Post Staff Writer

NASHVILLE, 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

27 MAY 1968

#### 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 \$30,000 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's Lawyers Move 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 today Ray had "knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently" pleaded guilty.

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Ray: "No."

27 May 69

WASH. ST. STAR

## 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 Battlo 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 Battlo 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 TO GIVE 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 pudgy, 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

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NY Times

27 MAY 1969



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

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2  
was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, was prepared to call Mr. Foreman and William Bradford Huie, the Alabama author who bought publication rights to Ray's story, to rebut any charges by Ray.

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

May Go to Higher Courts  
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

ask for 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.

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 that 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.

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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 2. — James Earl Ray's contention that he was a dupe in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is likely to be aired for the first time in a public hearing Monday in Memphis. 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 Bradford Huie, the Alabama author 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

new trial. His Texas attorney had told him that he was sure to be sentenced to death unless he pleaded guilty. Ray had told his first lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, that he did not shoot Dr. King. Ray said he went to Memphis April 3, 1968, with a "contact" who had said that a group of Cuban refugees wanted to buy black market rifles, presumably for use in an invasion of Cuba. Ray said that the rifle he had bought in Birmingham was to have been a model to show the Cubans.

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.

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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. Hayes, Ray's first attorney; Rev. James Bevel, a top official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; newspaper reporter, Charles Edmundson 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

Monday.

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

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

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# 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 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 a 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 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 mandate from the Supreme Court 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 their process-the March hearing, Judge Faquin will hear Ray's motion for a new trial.

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 Hammond 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

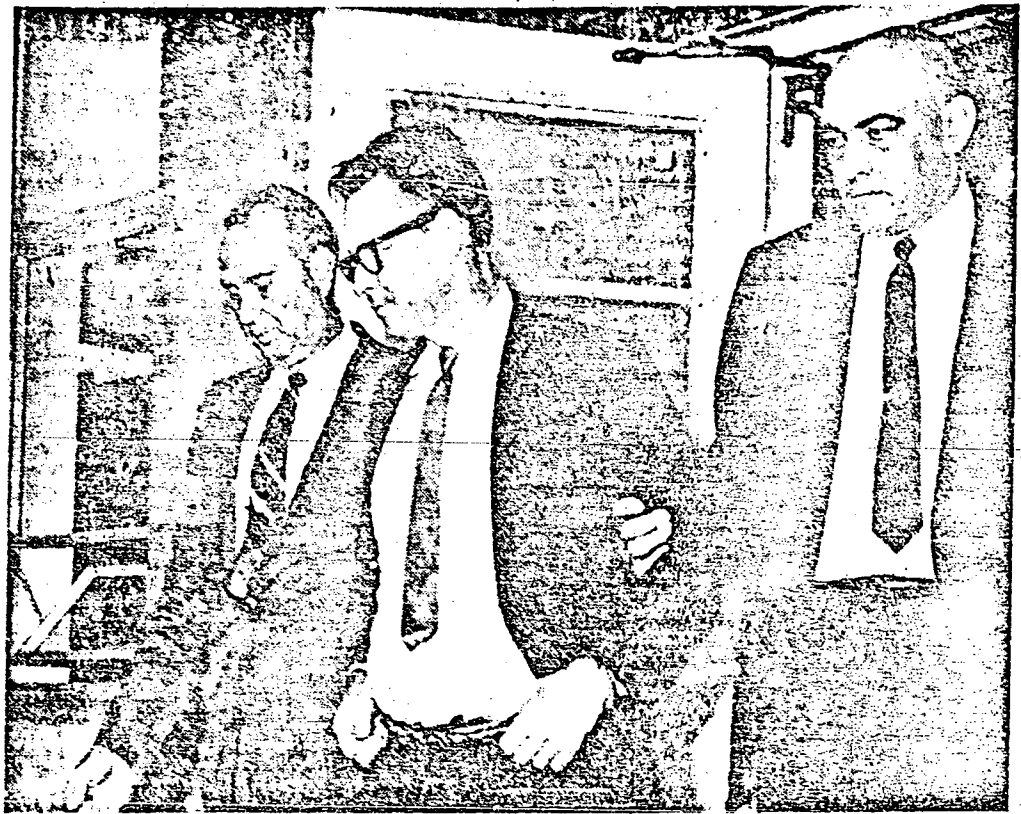
24 MAY 1969

201-5532732

# James Earl Ray's Charges Dropped

James Earl Ray, the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, has had his charges dropped by a Tennessee judge. The judge, James F. Quinn, announced the decision after a hearing in Nashville. Ray, who is currently in state prison, has been held there since he was arrested in London in 1968. He was charged with the murder of King in Memphis in April 1968. The judge's decision is based on the fact that the state has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Ray was the person who shot King. The judge also noted that the state's case against Ray was weak and that the evidence was circumstantial. Ray's attorney, Roy James Love, a top official in the defense team, expressed his relief at the decision. He stated that his client has been in prison for over a year and a half, and that the state's case against him was never strong. The judge's decision is expected to lead to Ray's release from prison. He has been in the state prison since he was arrested in London in 1968. The judge's decision is based on the fact that the state has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Ray was the person who shot King. The judge also noted that the state's case against Ray was weak and that the evidence was circumstantial. Ray's attorney, Roy James Love, a top official in the defense team, expressed his relief at the decision. He stated that his client has been in prison for over a year and a half, and that the state's case against him was never strong. The judge's decision is expected to lead to Ray's release from prison. He has been in the state prison since he was arrested in London in 1968.

WP 24 MAY 69 KA 4



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 seeks a new trial.

United Press International

Wash Post

if he didn't (plead guilty)

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 seeking 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

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

MAY 23 1969  
**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.

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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(KA)

WP 21 MAY 69

**Ray Threatened**  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. —  
Harry S. Avery, State Commissioner 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 killed if he was ever taken from maximum security.

21 May 69  
201-0832732  
Wash Post

Ray Threatened *JK*

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44-KA

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 1967, 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."

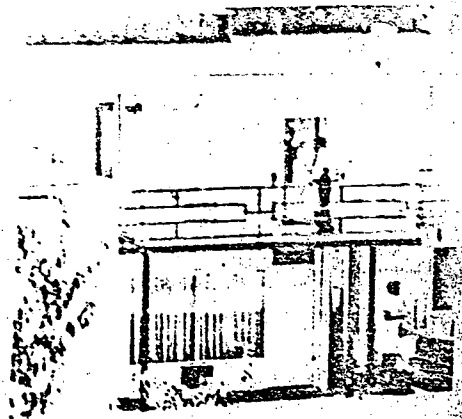
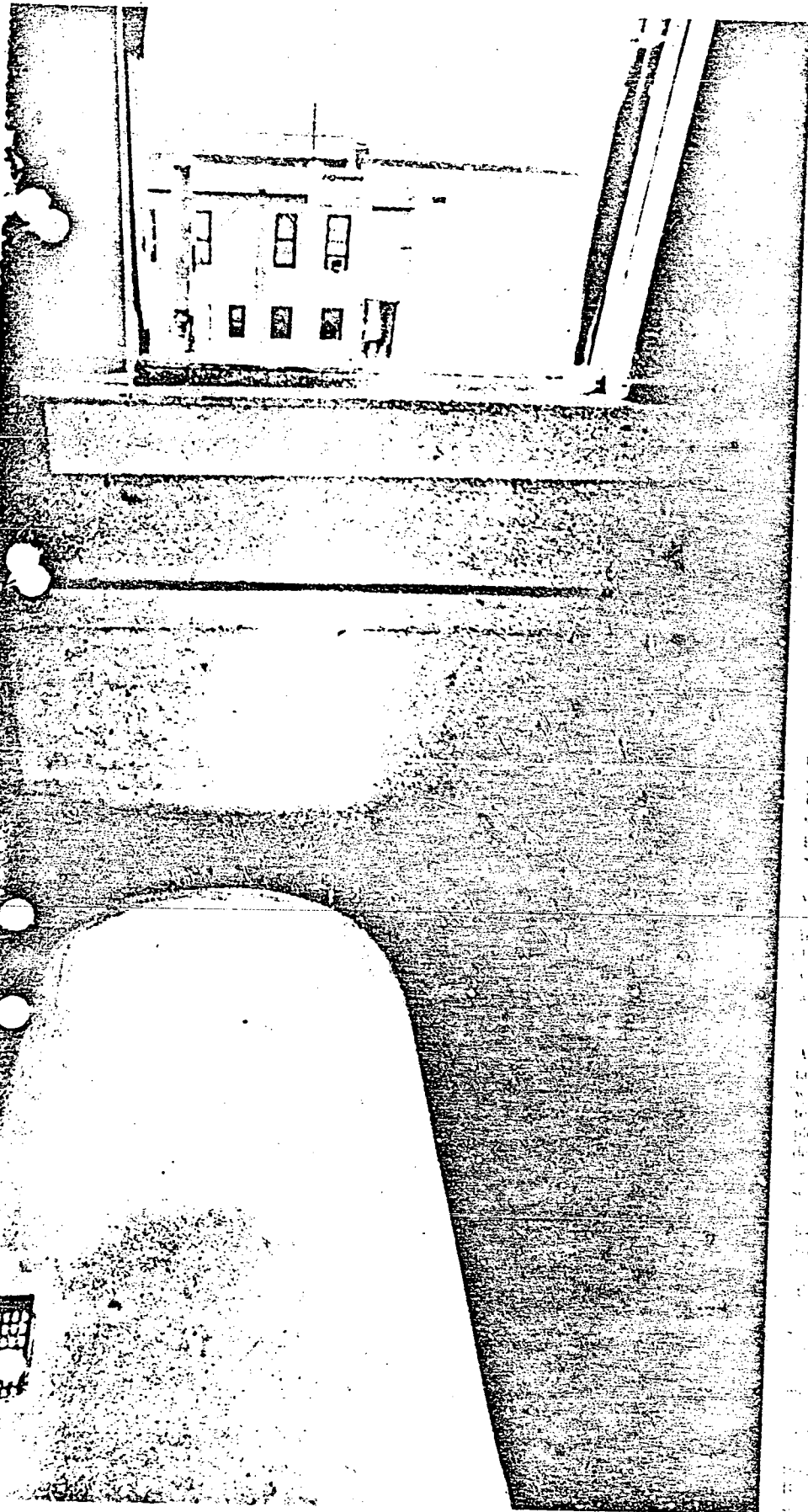
The Ray brothers believe that Jimmy is supported not only by millions of individual Americans but also by certain newspapers and newsmen. On November 1, 1968, when he thought the trial might start on November 12, Jerry Ray came to Alabama and talked with me. One of his worries, he said, was that "nobody 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 King. 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.

Mouth after mouth, 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 a 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 10 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 achieve such status. Only secondarily is he concerned with status among people who don't inhabit prisons. He put on more the drama of a trial. He sustained himself with a fantasy in which he took the witness stand "before the world" and performed his fantasy. He surrendered this fantasy and agreed to plead guilty. I feel sure, only after he decided to accept 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 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?
4. What was the motive?
5. What was Ray and his possible assistants?

Ray's guilty plea continues to raise questions about the assassination of Dr. King. I know partial answers to these questions, but I cannot give you complete answers. Ray was arrested September 4, 1969, in London, England. He was charged with the murder of Dr. King on September 4, 1968.

Robert J. ...

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 had to 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, 1963, when, at Ray's request, I first saw him in London and became his attorney, and November 10, 1963, 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 Aeronautics 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 she 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 raise 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 res 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 5,777 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 misconception 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:

**T**HE 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 1/4th 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 room 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 .214-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."

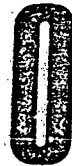
On Saturday, March 30, Ray went back to the Aeromarine Company and exchanged the rifle he had bought on Friday for a heavier rifle: a Remington .30-06 slide-action rifle, with a 2-to-7-power variable Redfield scope. This rifle package, with 20 Peters High Velocity, 150-grain, Soft Point cartridges, cost 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 SCLC staff meeting in Atlanta, it was announced that Dr. King would return to Memphis on April 5. 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 73 in Mississippi, Ray practiced with his new rifle. He fired several of the Peters Soft Point cartridges he had bought in Birmingham, and several .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 122 1/2 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 5E at the rooming house. About 4:30 p.m., he purchased Bushnell binoculars and came from 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

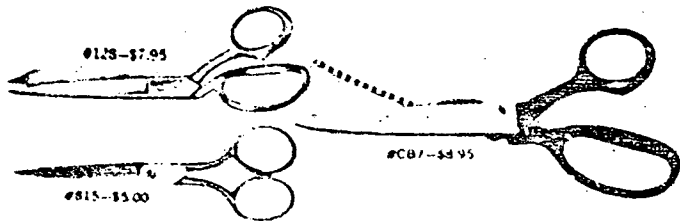


Encourage her. Give her cutter-uppers she'll appreciate. Wiss scissors and shears. She'll most likely know about Wiss quality. If she doesn't, she'll find out when she uses them. And uses them. And uses them.

Be generous. Give her a pair of

Available at department stores, fabric shops and hardware stores everywhere.

Wiss Bent Trimmers (#128), a pair of Pinking Shears (#CB7), and a pair of Sewing Scissors (#815) If you don't feel that generous, give her any one of the three. For that matter, any pair of Wiss scissors or shears makes a very fine gift, indeed.



**WISS**

WILLIAM BRADSHAW HUIE continues

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.

**H**E TOLD ME many stories about a 30-odd-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 an 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 and Negro actions or remarks by Ray were reported to me by persons who knew him in Canada, Mexico and California.

Another 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 defiled 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 backside 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 NGIE CONTINUED

having killed Dr. King. It's true that there is no previous murder in his record. But in 1950, 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. Huie 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  
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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 5:11 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.

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Memphis, Lake 2, Ray's getaway, AQO: 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: "We 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 W. 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 6:27 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."

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AP News Special, 300, 2 takes, total 1,000

BY WILLIAM J. JENSEN

AP Communications 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

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MEMPHIS-1-10-68, 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 8:55 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 19 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.

"WHEN, 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 J. Hines, Ray's first attorney; Rendra T. Hays, a private investigator, and two Mem-

phis newspaper reporters, 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  
211-0832732  
Wash Star

*James Earl Ray*  
**Ray Pleads Guilty**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 15 (AP)—The 35 Arthur P. Quinn Jr. today set May 20 to hear 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 Stone, who presided over Ray's trial on March 10.

Tennessee law also provides that any new trial motions that are pending before a judge who dies must automatically be granted. Battle died of a heart attack on March 20.

Ray's attorneys argued at once that he should be granted a new trial immediately after the judge's death. They claimed that he was pressured into pleading guilty and wanted a new trial.

17 Apr 69  
WJF

201-6832782



APRIL 15 (AP)—

James Earl Ray Jr. today asked the court to allow a motion to dismiss his case for a new trial in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

Robert N. Dyer, executive assistant counsel for the defense, said there was a strong possibility that Ray himself would appear at the hearing.

The question of Ray's eligibility for a new trial is unclear under Tennessee law. The attorney's motion was filed on March 10 in the state court and was denied by a 30-year-old judge.

Normally, anyone who enters such a plea is entitled to a hearing or new readings, 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 11.

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 and Judge Davis told him that he would enter a new trial motion for him. Both motions were denied in an oral hearing.

John Farnham, who was Ray's attorney in the state court, said he had assumed responsibility upon the state's denial.

In a court hearing yesterday, Ray's attorney, James Earl Ray Jr., said he was pleading guilty because he wanted a new trial. He wrote two letters to that effect to Judge Davis and Judge Davis told him that he would enter a new trial motion for him. Both motions were denied in an oral hearing.

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NY Times

17 APR 1969

24-1532722

## Court Asked To Void Ray Contracts

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

At the same time the attorney asked for nullification of Ray's contract with William Bradford Huie, Alabama attorney for the story of Ray's life. Several stories relating to the contract have appeared in local magazines.

Robert W. Hill Jr. of Chattanooga, Tenn., asked a preliminary injunction against Deory Foxman of Houston, Tex., the lawyer, and Huie. He asked for an ex parte hearing on the injunction against Ray and all of his agents and powers of attorney he entered with Ray.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for King's death, now is seeking a new trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

## Attorney Says He Has New Evidence

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—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.

Attorney Robert Hill noted that Criminal Court Judge Arthur England has said he will decide in 10 days whether or not he will hear arguments on Ray's request for a new trial.

Hill said he wasn't sure whether England would take new evidence at that time or if he would have new evidence in the case. The nature of the evidence is not clear.

Hill said Ray's health is poor and he would be available to testify, but that deoxy "was a poor source of proof and will deteriorate."

Hill filed a petition in U.S. District Court in Nashville on Monday charging that Ray was "imprisoned and pleading guilty to a crime he did not commit." He said Ray's health is poor and that he might be "in a state of mind that would not be able to make up his mind." Hill said he would the contract voided in the contracts that Ray signed with trial attorneys. He said he would like to see the contracts voided and that he would like to see the contracts voided and that he would like to see the contracts voided.

13 Apr 69  
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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray was charged in Tennessee and that his former lawyer and his biographer were unable to interest in money than in his right to a fair trial.

Ray asked yesterday that an estimated \$1 million worth of contracts with his biographer, William Bradford Huie of Hartsville, Tenn., and his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tenn., be nullified.

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

The suit was filed by Robert J. G. Chalmers, one of Ray's lawyers in civil matters. He later yesterday had obtained a federal court order to see Ray's lawyer, Harry S. Avery, state court clerk, commissioner, refused to let the attorney enter the prison.

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

Ray's suit contends he was converted by Foreman into a "company attorney" — the same name he used in a new firm.

WP 12 Apr 69

27-0832732

## 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.

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

Richard S. Burnett, of the Tennessee Supreme Court, filed the only way Ray can seek relief is through a habeas corpus petition claiming that his constitutional rights were violated. Burnett maintains that, because of rights to a normal appeal, such as a new trial system, by entering a guilty plea.

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

The motion filed today was entitled an "unfiled 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. Stoner, a Ku Klux Klan lawyer, from Savannah, and Robert W. Hill of Chattanooga.

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Wash Post

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JUDGE ARTHUR FAQUIN

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### Ray Acquires Srd. Lawyer, New Judge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray has hired his first defense attorney, and a six-year-old 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 retained Richard G. Ryan of Memphis.

Ray's lawyer said he will try to get Ray the new hearing of the case, but says he doubts it.

The 6th U.S. Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr., 41, is the only judge in the area who has served in the military and without honor, was named yesterday to replace Justice W. Preston Battle Jr., who died Monday of a heart attack.

211-0832732

# Secret Letter to Judge by Ray Is Discovered

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — [Ray] was in Memphis to call the city's attention to a new trial would be granted, do not automatically guarantee a new trial.

But the judge's personal garage workers. The second letter, dated March 19, 1969, was written before giving a guarantee a new trial 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.

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

The four judge panel of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals said it would have to determine whether the letter constituted a motion for a new trial.

Ray's attorney, James A. Blackwell, who is in custody of Battle's official 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, however, had revealed that he had received a secret letter.

Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett of the Tennessee Supreme Court said, however, that it's

02 Apr 69  
Wash Star

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

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— Judge W. Preston Battle has ruled of a 10-0 bench ruling that the possibility that Tennessee may have to give James Earl Ray a new trial by jury he now says he wants.

The court's decision, who acquitted Ray of guilty of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and sentenced him to 99 years in prison, was announced in his chambers last night.

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

## State Law Explained

Charles C. Burgett, a Tennessee appellate court judge, said that Ray's plea is considered an admission of a new case. "It makes no difference at all," Burgett said, adding that the opinion of this kind of court is filed with another judge.

Criminal Court Clerk Charles A. Blackwell said that no matter what a new trial for a writ of habeas corpus was on the merits. He said Ray would not be given a new trial if Battle's decision that to a new trial if Battle's death not signed the minutes of the



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 Densley, an assistant district attorney general who was one of the prosecutors in Ray's case.

Densley said he had tried unsuccessfully to reach Battle during the night and instead found him still on 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 state doctor was given as the cause of death after an autopsy by Dr. Jerry T. Francisco, the county medical examiner, was held the postmortem on Dr.

Ray's four other criminal cases, including the slaying and several others, spent several hours in Battle's chambers last night. They were packed with boxes filled with papers which a court official said would be locked in a safe. "We don't want Ray to tell us he wrote something to Battle and it disappeared," Densley said.

## AUTHOR SAYS RAY SAW SLAYING AS HIDING WALLAC

NEW YORK (AP)

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

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

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

01 Apr 69  
Wash Star

201-0832732



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 Defender's Cut  
 MEMPHIS—District At-  
 torney Phil Canale says that  
 lawyer Percy Foreman  
 nets \$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 de-  
 fenders office.  
 Foreman has said he ex-  
 pects to net about \$150,000  
 on his share of proceeds  
 from books and a movie  
 about Ray and the assassina-  
 tion of the Rev. Dr. Martin  
 Luther King Jr.  
 Canale says he will now  
 want to carry out a proper  
 reimbursement for services  
 from the public defender,  
 Canale said. The public de-  
 fender's office gathered mat-  
 terial for Ray's defense and  
 turned it over to Foreman.

26 MAR 69  
**Ray Attorney Expects  
 To Sue National Figures**

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Attorney J. B. Stoner says he will raise a "bombardment" next week when he files suits on behalf of James Earl Ray against "national figures."  
 The suits which he filed 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 this time.  
 Stoner said that he had been representing Ray in civil action "since last fall, sometime in September or October."  
 He said that 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.  
 Stoner indicated there would be no libel suits in the immediate future.

26 Mar 69  
 WS

## 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 13 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.

*Handwritten:*  
A. J. Ryman  
U.S.

Ray's Accusations  
Of Guilt, Lawyer Says

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 22 (UPI)—Attorney J. B. Storer visited James Earl Ray in his prison cell today and later said Ray was innocent of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been "pressured into pleading guilty."

Storer, 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 his trial."

Asked whether it would be stand to in court, he said: "According to the information I give me it will stand up very well substantially."

Storer 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."

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

WF  
23 Mar 69

# Ray Pleads Guilty, Says Attorney

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)—James Earl Ray, accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., pleaded guilty to the murder of King yesterday and later said he was "pressured into pleading guilty."

Sooner, vice president of the National States Rights Party and a former organizer for the Ku Klux Klan, met with Ray for more than two hours in the maximum security section of the Tennessee State Prison.

He said he was not representing Ray in criminal matters but was handling several libel suits that Ray means to file against several national magazines which made "false and defamatory" charges against him.

"He (Ray) is not guilty," Stoner said. "He told me he was pressured into pleading guilty." Stoner 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 two-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 wanted 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.

James represented Ray in the initial phases of the case, but Ray dropped him last February because he was to be tried and fined named 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. Stoner 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 shot while he stood on a motel balcony.

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

Police Chief Henry Lee, supporting earlier statements made by Police Capt. H. A. Cochran, said: "We are not sure, really, there was a conspiracy. Nobody can say that with certainty. It certainly seems with Cochran that Ray made as many bluffs as it is hard to know if 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 death sentence, exchanging the first rifle back and a telescopic site mounted on the gun, and personally buying his getaway car.

Cochran said Ray could have

selected the rooming house from a number of places of Birmingham, where the fatal shot was fired in each yesterday and later said he was "pressured into pleading guilty."

"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 bundled 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.

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# 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 presi-

dential 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

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The state attorney general, Robert H. McCall, today announced that he had received a letter from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that Ray wanted the new hearing and that he wrote that he had hired his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

McCall reported that he now wants to withdraw the plea and stand trial for first-degree murder.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle Jr. announced today that he had received the letter from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that Ray wanted the new hearing and that he wrote that he had hired his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

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 19. The 39-year sentence was pronounced by the judge 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 attorney that had filed since his arrest in London June 8, would be in line with such plans.

In any case, legal authorities said Ray probably will have to file a writ of habeas corpus, claiming his rights to a new trial were violated.

When Ray pleaded guilty, the judge pronounced him at least 30 years in prison. Such a plea involved no probation or parole, and cannot be set aside by state courts, he answered.

Battle also asked Ray at that time if this plea of guilty was made on your own free will, made of your own free will, made with your full, unclouded understanding of its meaning and consequences?

"Yes, sir," Ray answered.

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# Ray Pleads Guilty Plea Accepted by Judge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The 34-year-old man who pleaded guilty to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today in Memphis, Tenn., said he had been serving his term in prison and he plans to seek a hearing soon to review his guilty plea in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Published reports say he now wants to withdraw the plea and stand trial for first-degree murder.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle Jr. declined yesterday that he had received the plea from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that he wants the new hearing and that he wrote that he has tried his best to verify Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

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

Ray pleaded guilty March 10, 1969.

The 34-year-old man who pleaded guilty to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today in Memphis, Tenn., said he had been serving his term in prison and he plans to seek a hearing soon to review his guilty plea in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Published reports say he now wants to withdraw the plea and stand trial for first-degree murder.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle Jr. declined yesterday that he had received the plea from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that he wants the new hearing and that he wrote that he has tried his best to verify Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex.

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

Ray pleaded guilty March 10, 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 inmate of the Missouri state penitentiary.

The meaning of the number eluded the authorities until weeks after Ray's capture June 8 in London. It was discussed yesterday.

James Deasly of the Shelby County attorney general's staff said Ray dropped the radio, a brand of Magnatone and the case with the radio in it and the radio in a high manhole on a street on a highway near the courthouse 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. Deasly said the radio was turned over to the FBI the day of the slaying.

Fred Williamson, director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, said that if the number had been made public perhaps someone would have made an association between the two.

William Stenson said Ray had Ray in the radio in the penitentiary camera on April 21, 1967—two days before he escaped.

It cost \$2.75. In accordance with prison practice, Ray engraved his number on the case with an electric stylus to establish ownership.

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# Ray's Cite Tools 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. last April 4, James Earl Ray was caught in London after he fled to escape a 99-year sentence for armed robbery in Missouri. The clue was on a transistor pocket radio which was hand-etched with the high numerals 00118.

00118 was the identification number 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 shot Dr. King. He dropped the radio, a set of binoculars and a case which included the radio

property to prevent theft or arguments over ownership. 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.

Ray bought the radio in the Missouri penitentiary of... on April 21, two days before he escaped. Prison he... is for inmates to etch Bi... their numbers on personal Go...

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# Ray Case Puzzles Trial Judge

By Richard Gaiser  
ST. LOUIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Judge W. Preston Battle said today that he knows the full truth still is not known about James Earl Ray and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But he said he is convinced that a trial would not have provided the answers, and defended his decision to accept a guilty plea from Ray in return for a 99-year sentence.

"Like others, I would truly like to know how Ray actually found the spot from which to fire," the judge said in an interview. "How did Ray know where Ray shot? How did he determine the type of weapon to be used? What are the details of the actual purchase and selection of the weapon? Was he alone on surveillance of the Lorraine Motel?"

He said that the defense attorneys, who he thought were "quite capable of doing their job," did not provide answers to these questions. "I was convinced then and

am now that the defense attorneys did not provide answers, but none of them did so and evidence.

"There has been much talk of a conspiracy, but no one saying so has yet produced a single shred of evidence or named an associate or conspirator," he said.

Was these questions puzzling him, why did Battle accept the defense attorneys' agreement to allow Ray to change his plea and take a 99-year sentence? Ray could have been sentenced to death if he had been found guilty. "I was convinced then and

am now convinced now that the defense attorneys did not provide answers, but none of them did so and evidence.

"It is an error to assume that the prosecution would have had a chance to cross-examine Ray about his finances, or how he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary, or about persons who gave him any aid before or after the slaying of Dr. King."

"That assumes Ray would have taken the stand. I don't very seriously that defense counsel would have risked placing Ray in such a position. In fact, as I understand it, this all along has been one of the main problems between Ray and various men who have acted for the defense. They counseled against it, and he kept wanting to take the risk."

See RAY, A3, Col. 2

# Aspects of Ray Case Puzzle Judge

## RAY, From A1

"Suppose he had taken the stand. The public should understand that this would not guarantee that this would have cast light upon these puzzling questions. In an adversary proceeding, each side tries to make the best case, and so some things may be exaggerated, some minimized, or obscured."

The judge could have refused to accept the defense-prosecution agreement.

"It was entirely in my power to do so," Battle said. "But my conscience told me that I should accept the plea of justice to accept the agreement."

"Had there been a trial, there could always have been the possibility, in such an emotionally charged case, of a hung jury. Or, though it may appear far-fetched now, he could have perhaps been acquitted by a jury."

Prosecutor Paul Canale

said in a television interview today that Ray accepted the deal because he thinks he will "be free in two years," United Press International reported. Canale said Ray made one remark to his attorney, Percy Foreman, but did not indicate whether he expected to gain his freedom through the courts or through a prison break.

Battle said he thinks that some of the unanswered questions ultimately will be answered by him. He said he thinks that Ray has enjoyed the notoriety and will periodically discuss various details of the crime.

The judge was taken aback by some of the public response to the Moore 10 proceeding at which the plea-and-punishment agreement was made official.

"I must admit I was irritated at it being called a 'mistrial,'" he said. "It was not a trial."

The record indicates a rather careful proceeding in which Battle attempted to avoid any impasse that could be interpreted as judicial error or seized upon as grounds for appellate review.

He reportedly examined

Ray as to Ray's understanding of the agreement and whether he was doing this of his free choice.

"The law requires only two things in such a proceeding," the judge said. "One is that we present the body of the corpus delicti, and the second is that evidence be presented establishing that the defendant was involved with the crime."

"This was accomplished through the witnesses who appeared and testified to the last living moments of Dr. King and to the nature and cause of death. The evidence relating Ray to the slaying was stipulated and read in open court by the State, and this described the chain of evidence which would have been introduced in a trial."

KA

Wash Post

17 MAR 1969

201-0532792

By HARRY HIRSON

...plea, then — Defense and prosecution lawyers agreed to the guilty plea that sent Ray to Nashville for 99 years for murder of a police officer.

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

Defense attorneys led 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 "air-tight" 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 Stanton Sr. was approached to name Texas 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 in which...

But Stanton said "he told me to let's wait for it."

Nevertheless, the Memphis attorney told Stanton...

...my told Stanton...

...Stanton...

...A few weeks later...

...Candle "couldn't stand to be in a position of claiming a deal because of all this publicity," Stanton said.

The day after the plea, the writer called Stanton and he telephoned Foreman in Memphis with the news. But Foreman was skeptical that Ray would go along.

When he first mentioned the subject to his Memphis client, Ray replied, "Mr. Foreman, you don't know the law, so I might take my chances with a trial."

"Rather Face My Chances"

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

"We quickly ascertained that all of this testimony and the testimony of the accomplices and unidentified persons didn't exist," Stanton said.

Referring to early reports of a white man in some cases below the rooftop, he said that Ray lay in ambush in the alley, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Stanton said.

"A man would have to jump a 10-foot wall to get to the roof from that side, and it could be rather awkward."

An early theory that the death rifle with the initials "R" may have been concealed in a trunk for King also was discarded when it came out that the rifle were in the trunk, which 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, which had been dumped in a trash can in a moment of panic. The spotted paper on the items was traced from the trash can across from King's motor...

Deathly Case Building

Supporters of the... the prosecution... rifle in a Birmingham... gets some... inter-telephoned... to expect it... across from King's motor...

Let me... extremely... that Ray had been...

...because... on the bolt... early... the delay... building...

...concluded... away... trial...

...to begin... running... the hour...

...about Feb. 21... into Cam... and for... guilty to...

Foreman carried with him a letter, signed by Ray, authorizing him to seek the plea.

Summary of Stayings

County Atty. Gen. James Foreman... 2,500... of the state's evidence... Ray to the... the defense would have to agree.

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

"One or three days later," Stanton recalled, Foreman returned with Ray's approval and for assurance that of Ray's brothers, John and Jerry.

Members 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 the state to request last January's special hearing.

Member Since Alive

However, the scenario wasn't quite so simple for the family. As the trial progressed, Ray developed some thoughts and tears rippled across the courtroom that he would settle the deal.

Foreman spent 24 hours with Ray last Sunday going over the stipulations which detailed the terms of the state's case against him.

A 45-minute session with Car and that evening tied up any la...

daughter three—and Ray was ready for the 99-year stay of the red-haired Tennessee state prison at Nashville.

Candle later summed up why he had accepted the plea: "In the first place, the state has never indicated an intent to appeal case when the defendant is offered to plead guilty to a lesser maximum punishment."

Ray will not be eligible for parole hearing until 1964, he'll be 71. Had a Ray served a life term, he could be eligible for a parole in only five years—by 1961.

Candle said the state had not concluded the hearing... Ray was a lone killer, one 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 if he were dead.



# Another Account

By [Name]

A brother of James Earl Ray's was quoted by the New York Times as saying that the feeling there over Ray's trial was "one of frustration." The source said that if there had been a trial it might have shed some light on the suspicion around St. Louis, Mo., in the country that Ray was part of a conspiracy.

One who shares this suspicion is Sen. James O. Eastland, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee is investigating the murder and the possibility of a conspiracy.

Another who believes there was a conspiracy is the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, a close friend of Dr. King and the director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's "Operation Breadbasket" in Chicago.

Comment: There were told justice was done by giving a puny, sick man a 99-year sentence in exchange for the assassination of our black prophet," Sen. Jackson said. "But for the American judicial system would not allow even an insensitive and unscrupulous inquiry into the murder of a world leader."

Rep. Odion Reid (R-N.Y.) said in a statement placed in the Congressional record that the court alone should have decided whether Ray was part of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King, "not on the basis of a few public statements by the defense, but in accordance with procedures in criminal prosecution and conviction, with a jury of investigation, not to a pre-arrest confession to the judge, but to hearing the full testimony, including an unbiased judge."

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Wash Post

201-6932732 14 MAR 1969



WP 13 MAR 69

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# 7

# 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, 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 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 — a plea 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, 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. CST and transferred to State authorities near the county line.

He traveled the 200 miles to Nashville in an eight-wheeled trailer that pulled up to the State Prison shortly after 8 a.m. 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

showed." Warden Lake Russell said Warden Russell and State Corrections Commissioner Harry Avery said Ray would be isolated. There will be no prisoners in adjoining cells.

Avery said he and Russell had been planning for some time the "exceptional" safeguards required for Ray's incarceration. Although most convicts are taken to the classification building immediately on arrival at the prison, Ray will remain in maximum security throughout the classification process, which normally takes about six weeks.

"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.

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.

The backs and sides of the cell are 3-inch-thick, steel-reinforced concrete, painted green. Besides the bunks, the only furniture is a metal combination sink and commode.

There are 18 heavy bars across the front of the cell. Once a day Ray will be taken outside to an exercise area enclosed by high walls.

Twice a week he will step out his cell door and take a dozen

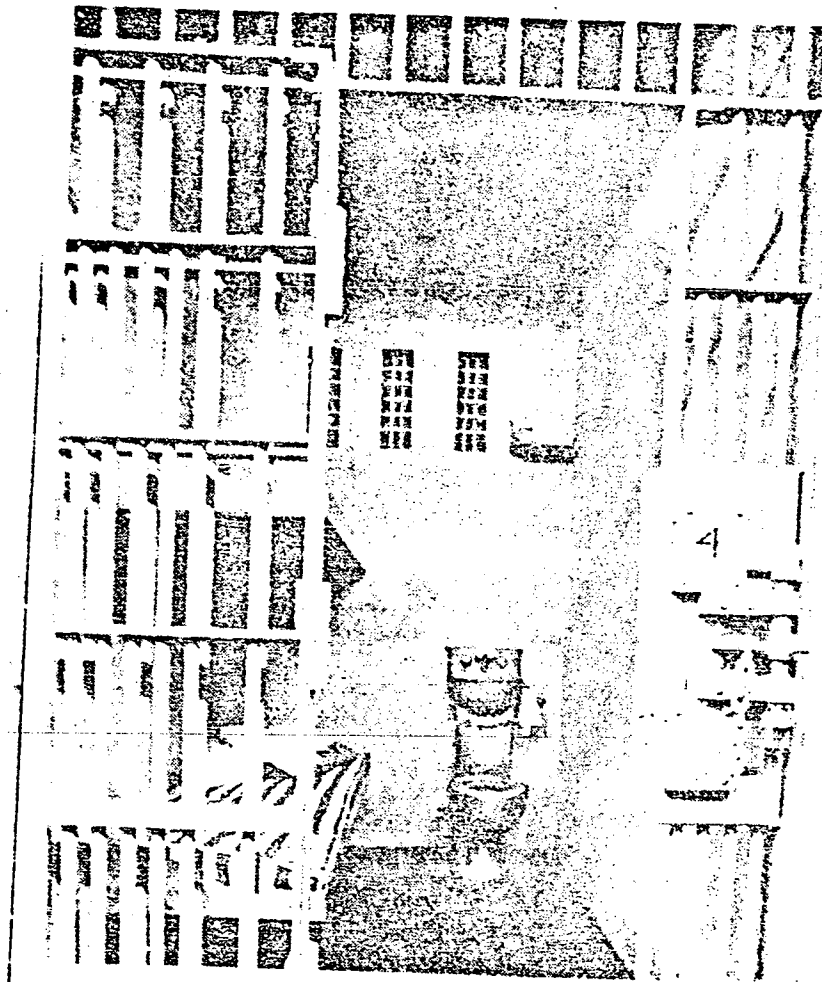
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Wash Post

12 MAR 1969

29-1532732

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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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K.P.

12 March 69

201-6532732

MEMPHIS, March 11 — Public outrage in cities throughout the country today was 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. The sentiment expressed concerning the American speaking, reflected that the day 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 conviction (N.Y. Times), said the case Judiciary Committee, a full investigation of the trial and all persons involved.

The Atlanta spokesman voiced his protest and day's trial and conviction of the man property of Dr. King were taken by Ralph D. Abernathy, James Earl Ray, Floyd D. Miller, and William H. Patterson, Jr., and James Earl Ray, Atlanta, Ga., said.

James Earl Ray, widow of the assassinated leader, said: "The minute this is but a re-echo of the King. This trial must not be allowed to go on the case, to end the search for the many fingers that helped pull the trigger."

All churches must press the issue in Tennessee and the U.S. Government to continue until all persons responsible for this crime have been apprehended. No man can ever be the conscience of a nation."

Continued on page 11



—United Press International  
**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.

KA

12 March

...from page 2

...creative direc-  
 ...National Association  
 ...of Colored  
 ...James Earl Ray's  
 ...action  
 ...of years  
 ...for the murder of  
 ...Martin Luther King, Jr.  
 ...only that the trigger man  
 ...in the notorious crime is a  
 ...in a more photo-  
 ...the nation which  
 ...without opposition to  
 ...of Dr. King and  
 ...is the real culprit."

...said "I think that  
 ...of the American public  
 ...James Earl Ray was  
 ...but a patsy. Sure he was  
 ...in a conspiracy, a  
 ...conspiracy and a  
 ...conspiracy in  
 ...greater part of this  
 ...society has  
 ..."

...Ray, James D. Abernathy, who  
 ...Dr. King as president  
 ...Southern Christian Leader-  
 ...Conference (SCLC) said:  
 "The Southern Christian Lead-  
 ...and hence is opposed to  
 ...and therefore  
 ...to refuse to impose it upon  
 ...Ray. The admission of guilt  
 ...James Earl Ray cannot be  
 ...to obscure the real ass-  
 ...Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
 ...of the proudest Americans  
 ...who served black  
 ...was a victim of  
 ...by the admission of  
 ...Ray. The SCLC is  
 ...to remain  
 ...until justice is  
 ...of the perpetra-  
 ..."

...Patterson, Com-  
 ...and Chairman of  
 ...Civil Rights Congress,  
 ...the "conspiracy" taste  
 ...James Earl Ray, the  
 ...murderer of Dr.  
 ...King, Jr., was tried  
 ...almost  
 ...of the con-  
 ...of mon-  
 ...at present there  
 ...scale a con-  
 ...and leadership of  
 ...organizations  
 ...the enforcement  
 ...constitutional rights and

...an equal...  
 ...leads.

...accepting  
 "The...  
 ...and national  
 ...who are  
 ...will not attain equality of oppor-  
 ...under the...  
 ...continued... "It is un-  
 ...doubting... that Ray has  
 ...close the case of...  
 ...Dr. Martin Luther King, James  
 ...Americans and their black trust  
 ...every effort to expose this  
 ...conspiracy and its... to the  
 ...of this nation and the peace  
 ...of the world."

...according to script.  
 In the proceedings Monday in  
 Tennessee's Shelby County Crimi-  
 ...Court, Memphis Attorney  
 ...General P.M. Canale, Ray's at-  
 ...Percy Foreman, and  
 ...Judge W. Preston Battle partici-  
 ...in the deal whereby Ray  
 ...pleaded guilty and was sentenced  
 ...to 99 years imprisonment, escap-  
 ...ing a possible death penalty if he  
 ...went to trial.

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

...In an action starting even in  
 ...Monday's extraordinary proceed-  
 ...ings, 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 evi-  
 ...dence violated.

...Wondering 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 prosecutor, told  
 ...each of the jurors the defense  
 ...attorney and each of them would  
 ...accept it. Each juror needed ap-  
 ...proval.

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

...And so, what began Carroll had  
 ...presented as Waterbury justice  
 ...became the script for Shelby  
 ...County Court.

...Sentence first.  
 Verdict afterwards.

...transcript shows  
 ...I want to change any-  
 ...I have said  
 ...I want to add anything  
 ...either.

...I have to say is  
 ...I exactly accept the theories  
 ...of Mr. Canale. In other words, I am  
 ...to accept these theo-  
 ...of Mr. Canale's."

...Judge asked him "You  
 ...agree with whose theo-  
 ...?"

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

...attorney general Ram-  
 ...sey 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 con-  
 ...spiracy was involved.

...This was the theory that Ray  
 ...and 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.

...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  
 ...of 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 cor-  
 ...respondent reported:  
 "The moment when the court-  
 ...room sat expecting Ray to re-  
 ...pudiate 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  
 ...in killing Dr. Martin Luther King?  
 ...Did other persons help you in  
 ...planning and carrying out the  
 ...murder of King?"

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

201-1512-112

*Handwritten:* The Nation

From A1

would have been...  
...in 1974 year

...criticism of...  
...The New York Times...  
...the decision...  
...showing breach of...  
...the American...  
...involved in the...  
...however, said...  
...in exchange for...  
...based on a...  
...considerations...  
...of Mrs. King...  
...SCLC leaders...  
...Justice Department...  
...Washington...  
...there was no evi...  
...conspiracy that...  
...against Ray was...  
...might have...  
...the government...  
...in the judge...  
...if he had gone...  
...trial...  
...before a jury.

...It is known...  
...negotiated...  
...and...  
...Prosecutor...  
...Judge...  
...and...  
...he would...  
...less a sen...  
...because...  
..."the crime...  
...Prosecutor...  
...to court...  
...also...  
...that the...  
...requirement...  
...was non...  
...Foreman...  
...in a weak...  
...gaining...  
...it was...  
...because...  
...he knew...  
...the case...  
...against...  
...Ray was...  
..."alright"...  
...and...  
...could...  
...have...  
...been...  
...presented...  
...Ray...  
..."might...  
...have...  
...written...  
...the...  
...government...  
...in the...  
...judge...  
...if he...  
...had...  
...gone...  
...to...  
...trial...  
...before...  
...a jury.

...The approach...  
...to Mrs. King...  
...was made...  
...by the...  
...Tennessee...  
...Prosecutor...  
...Phil Canale...  
...through...  
...her lawyer...  
...Canale...  
...also...  
...consulted...  
...it was...  
...reported...  
...here...  
...directly...  
...with...  
...officials...  
...of...  
...SCLC...  
...the...  
...civil...  
...rights...  
...organ...  
...zation...  
...Dr. King...  
...led...  
...at...  
...the...  
...time...  
...of...  
...his...  
...murder.

...Dr. King...  
...was...  
...shot...  
...on...  
...the...  
...evening...  
...of...  
...April...  
...4...  
...as...  
...he...  
...stood...  
...on...  
...a...  
...balcony...  
...of...  
...the...  
...motel...  
...at...  
...which...  
...he...  
...was...  
...staying...  
...in...  
...downtown...  
...Mem...  
...phis.

...He (Canale)...  
...wanted...  
...to...  
...get...  
...the...  
...general...  
...feeling...  
...about...  
...the...  
...arrangement...  
...a...  
...highly...  
...placed...  
...official...  
...said...  
..."Mind...  
...you...  
...what...  
...they...  
...said...  
...was...  
...not...  
...controlling...  
...We...  
...often...  
...consult...  
...with...  
...the...  
...family...  
...and...  
...relatives...  
...about...  
...the...  
...arrangement...  
...even...  
...in...  
...real...  
...time...  
...words."

...A rifle...  
...found...  
...outside...  
...a...  
...rooming...  
...house...  
...across...  
...the...  
...street...  
...from...  
...the...  
...motel...  
...balcony...  
...stayed...  
...to...  
...Ray's...  
...eventual...  
...arrest...  
...in...  
...the...  
...murder...  
...London...  
...on...  
...June...  
...6...  
...1968.

...He said...  
...Mrs. King...  
...and...  
...SCLC...  
..."generally...  
...agreed"...  
...with...  
...the...  
...decision...  
...to...  
...avoid...  
...a...  
...trial...  
...through...  
..."some...  
...of...  
...the...  
...SCLC...  
...officials...  
...said...  
...they...  
...wanted...  
...to...  
...assert...  
...their...  
...right...  
...to...  
...claim...  
...that...  
...there...  
...was...  
...a...  
...conspiracy...  
...behind...  
...the...  
...murder."

...However...  
...Justice...  
...Department...  
...officials...  
...and...  
...the...  
...FBI...  
...as...  
...well...  
...as...  
...the...  
...Tennessee...  
...prosecutors...  
...insist...  
...that...  
...there...  
...is...  
...no...  
...evidence...  
...that...  
...Ray...  
...had...  
...any...  
...accomplices.

...After...  
...Ray's...  
...sentencing...  
...on...  
...Monday...  
...Mrs. King...  
...made...  
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...criticism...  
...of...  
...the...  
...arrangement...  
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...said...  
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...have...  
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...trial...  
...which...  
...would...  
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...us...  
...to...  
...relive...  
...the...  
...feebly...  
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...events...  
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...his...  
...death...  
...But...  
...we...  
...cannot...  
...this...  
...is...  
...but...  
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...Prosecutor...  
...Canale...  
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...a...  
...conspiracy...  
...comes...  
...to...  
...light...  
..."the...  
...conspirators...  
...will...  
...be...  
...promptly...  
...and...  
...vigorously...  
...prosecuted."

...Dr. King's...  
...successor...  
...as...  
...head...  
...of...  
...SCLC...  
...the...  
...Rev...  
...Ralph...  
...David...  
...Abernathy...  
...issued...  
...a...  
...statement.

...The...  
...final...  
...plea...  
...of...  
...guilty...  
...to...  
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...a...  
...20-year...  
...sentence...  
...which...  
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...parole...  
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...straight...  
...life...  
...sentence...  
...before...  
...the...  
...trial...  
...ended."

By Paul W. Valentine  
...Mrs. King...  
...and...  
...SCLC...  
...officials...  
...agreed...  
...to...  
...avoid...  
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...trial...  
...through...  
...the...  
...Tennessee...  
...Prosecutor...  
...Phil...  
...Canale...  
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...her...  
...lawyer...  
...Canale...  
...also...  
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...SCLC...  
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...organ...  
...zation...  
...Dr. King...  
...led...  
...at...  
...the...  
...time...  
...of...  
...his...  
...murder.

*Handwritten:* King's Speedy Sentencing  
SCLC Official

*Handwritten:* KA

WP 12 MAR 69

(KA)



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

Associated Press

RAY'S DEFENSE

... Defense ... agreed ... plea ...

The plea, which cut short what was expected to be an intensely dramatic trial, climaxed three days of testimony and cross-examination.

Defense attorneys sought 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 their first-time 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 S. Stinson, Sr. was appointed to defend James Earl 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," Stinson recalled in an interview yesterday.

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

Defense Gathered

Foreman was convinced no public prosecutor would dare to litigate a case so sure to be divided as a split trial.

But Stinson said "he told me to go and find out what it would be like."

Meanwhile, the Stinson attorneys

they told Stinson that they would accept a plea of guilty to the charge of first-degree murder.

Stinson on that day, however, was still undecided. He was asked to discuss a plea of guilty with his chief lieutenant, Jim Canale, who was noncommittal.

A few weeks later, Stinson learned that Canale had accepted a plea of guilty to the charge of first-degree murder, and the result of the guilty plea must come from the defense.

Canale "couldn't stand to be in a position of executing a man because of all this publicity," Stinson said.

The day after Canale was white-haired, Stinson had telephoned Foreman in London with the news. Ray Foreman was skeptical that Ray would go along.

When he first mentioned the subject to his London client, Ray replied, "Mr. Foreman, you can't know the facts of this case. Take my chances with a trial."

"Rather Take My Chances"

However, two following investigations resulted in the defense by Criminal Justice Judge W. Preston Battle, who was recalled to hear the case, were interviewing several witnesses in the Memphis area.

"We quickly concluded that all of this is a matter of testimony. The only witnesses and another one might exist," Stinson said.

Returning to London, Stinson said a white man in some cases below the rooming house was being Ray at midnight, and that Dr. Martin Luther King was, Stinson said.

"A man would have to jump a 10-foot wall in order to get away from those windows, and would be rather awkward."

An early theory that the death rate with Ray's gun, it may have been convenient for finding also explained when it came out that the rifle were in the house, they obviously had not intended to leave behind, such as clothing and beer cans.

Foreman began to see what prosecution conclusions that the incriminating rifle was wrapped in a piece of cloth, had been dumped in the street in a moment of panic, and spotted police on the scene, and asked from the witness across from King's motor.

Deathly Case

Supporters of the defense had purchased a rifle in a firm's store, and some months later, telephone records showed that it had been sold to the defense.

Let me know if you have any other information that Ray had bought the rifle.

... became ... on the ... early ...

... concluded ... to get away ...

... trial ... to begin ...

... later, about Feb. 21, Foreman ...

Foreman carried with him a letter signed by Ray, authorizing him to seek the plea.

Summary of St. Clair

Deputy Atty. Gen. James Foreman ...

... days later, Foreman ...

... three days later, ...

... interested parties, ...

Deer Source Alive

However, the scenario wasn't quite ready for the canle. As the hearing moved, Ray developed ...

... spent 2 1/2 hours with ...

... session with Car ...

damp in there—and Ray was ready for the 20 mile drive to the red brick Tennessee state prison at Nashville.

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

Ray will not be eligible for parole hearing until next March, he'll be 71. Had a key imposed a life term, he could be eligible for a parole in only 1 1/2 years—in 1961.

Canale said the state has not concluded the guilty plea. 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 if he were dead.





# RAY'S ACCOUNTS

WASH. POST

A brother of James Earl Ray's was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told him "the only one in the room" the source said that if

The statement by John there had been a trial it might have shed some light on the suspicion around St. Louis, Mo., in the country that Ray was part of a conspiracy.

One who shares this suspicion is Sen. James O. Eastland, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He

The Justice Dept. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are investigating the possibility of a conspiracy.

Another who believes there is a conspiracy is the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, a close friend of Dr. King and the director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's "Operation Breadbasket" in Chicago.

The Justice Department said there is a conspiracy charge pending against Ray—a charge that was filed in the Federal court in Memphis, Tenn., after Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. The department announced the "conspiracy" charge is still open.

John Henry, brother of James Earl Ray, told the Associated Press that he entered the courtroom in Memphis, Tenn., in 1969 and said Ray was still trying to figure out what to do.

But John Henry Ray told the Associated Press that there was someone else in the courtroom with him.

Ray's attorney and the news outlet that there is no evidence of a conspiracy.

Ray's attorney and the news outlet that there is no evidence of a conspiracy.

Ray's attorney and the news outlet that there is no evidence of a conspiracy.

Ray's attorney and the news outlet that there is no evidence of a conspiracy.

Ray's attorney and the news outlet that there is no evidence of a conspiracy.

KA

Wash Post

AP-6932732 14 MAR 1969

JK

### Decree by U.S. Supreme Court in Civil Rights Conspiracy

James Earl Ray's brother and sister-in-law were charged yesterday with conspiring to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a unanimous decision.

The court's ruling, handed down in a 9-0 decision, was a landmark victory for the federal government in its effort to prosecute the assassination of Dr. King. It cleared the way for the government to proceed with its case against James Earl Ray, who is currently on trial for the assassination of Dr. King.

The court's decision was based on the evidence presented at the trial of James Earl Ray's brother, John Earl Ray, and his sister-in-law, Bernice Bernice Ray. The evidence showed that they had conspired to assassinate Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

The court's decision was a significant victory for the federal government because it allowed the government to proceed with its case against James Earl Ray. Without this decision, the government would have been unable to prove its case against James Earl Ray.

The court's decision was also a landmark victory for the civil rights movement because it showed that the federal government was willing to prosecute anyone who conspired to assassinate Dr. King. This was a message that was long overdue.

The court's decision was based on the evidence presented at the trial of James Earl Ray's brother, John Earl Ray, and his sister-in-law, Bernice Bernice Ray. The evidence showed that they had conspired to assassinate Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

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NY Times

14 MAR 1969

241-0832732

WP 13 MAR 69

71  
# XA

# 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 where 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, 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 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

201-6532132

# Ray Is Transferred in Chains To State Prison at Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 10 (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, 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. and transferred to State authorities near the county line.

He traveled the 200 miles to Nashville in an eight-car motorcade that pulled up to the State Prison shortly after 8 a.m.

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

There was not steps to his left and take a shower."

Warden Luke Russell said Warden Russell and State Corrections Commissioner Harry Avery said Ray would be isolated. There will be no prisoners in adjoining cells.

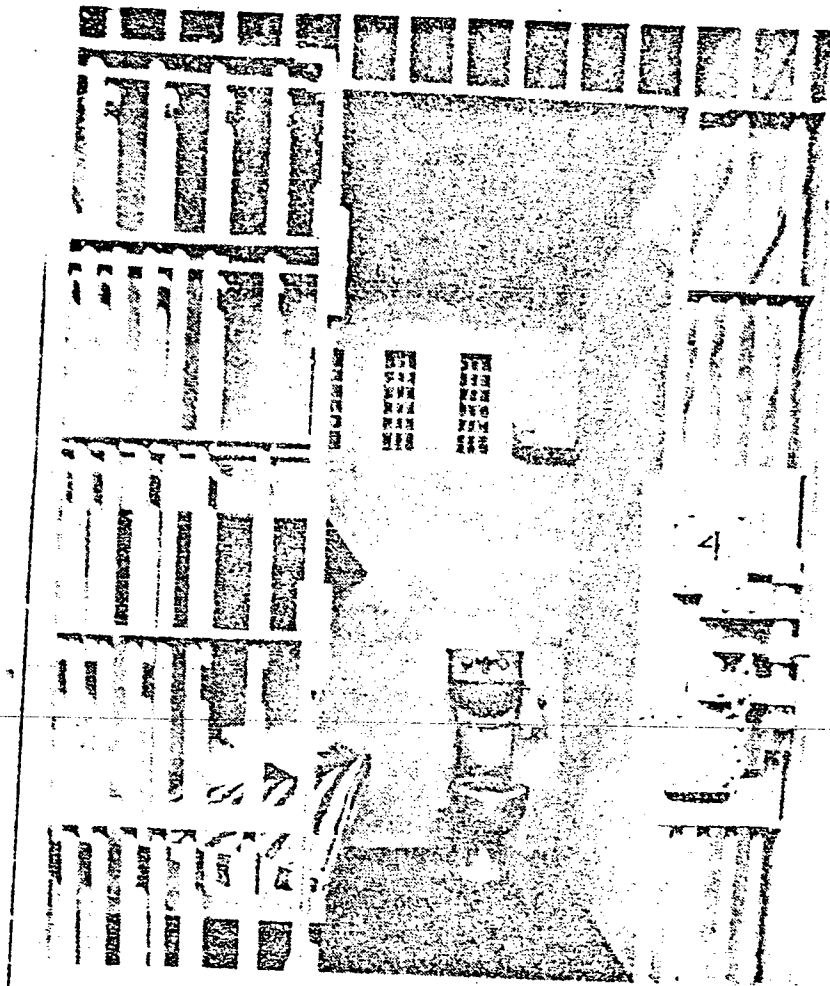
Avery said he and Russell had been planning for some time the "exceptional" safeguards required for Ray's incarceration.

Although most convicts are taken to the classification building immediately on arrival at the prison, Ray will remain in maximum security cell throughout the classification process, which normally takes about six weeks.

"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.

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

WKS 12 MAR 69

### 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 denials in one part of 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, a sentiment expressed eloquently by African-American spokesmen, reflected the belief Ray was only the triggerman of a nationwide 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 reports from New York, charged that the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, against a full investigation of the trial and all persons involved.

Spokesmen voted by trial and Ray's trial and conviction and sentence yesterday of Dr. King were the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, James Earl Ray, Fred D. Cook, William L. Patterson, and Mrs. Coretta King, widow of the assassinated leader, said:

"This is but a re-run of the trial of Dr. King. This trial must not be allowed to ease 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 to continue 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

KA

12 March



...relative drive... National Association... James Earl Ray's... action... for the murder of... Luther King, Jr... that the trigger man... crime is a... in a more rhetorical sense, the nation which... violent opposition to... of Dr. King and his people is the real culprit."

...Floyd S. Buckles, builder of "Small Ray" and former head of... 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... conspiracy and a... conspiracy in which the greater part of this... society has participated."

...Ray, Elton D. Alernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) said:

"The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is opposed to... and therefore... to wish to impose it upon... Ray. The admission of guilt... that Ray cannot be... to obtain the real assassin, Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the greatest Americans who ever lived, who served black and white alike, was a victim of... by the admission of... Ray. The SCLC is... to remain... until justice is... of the perpetrators."

William L. Patterson, Communist leader and Chairman of... Civil Rights Congress, said in his... laste with... James Earl Ray, the... murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was tried... is in itself almost... of the... of... At present there, ... seal a... leadership of... organizations... the constitutional rights and

human rights... laws.

...The... governments... who are determined... will not attain... of... continued... "It is undoubtedly fortunate that Ray has been convicted, but this does not close the case of our murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, James American and their black trust extend every effort to cause this conspiracy and its... 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, escaping a possible death penalty if he went to trial.

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

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

'Wonderland Justice'

The first 12 jurors called from

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

Canale, the prosecutor, told them of the deal with 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 Lewis Carroll had presented as Wonderland justice became the script for Shelby County Courtroom.

"Sentence first. Verdict afterwards."

...transcript shows... I want to change any... I have said... want to add anything... either.

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

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

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

That 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.

Ray made it clear, according to the transcript, that he was buying only a guilty plea, not a double 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 still 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 in killing 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.

201-0512-102

# Delayed Decision

From AI would have been...  
 ...and criticism of...  
 ...The New York...  
 ...which said the decision...  
 ...the full case in pub...  
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 ...the American...  
 ...involved in the...  
 ...however, said the...  
 ...to dispense with the...  
 ...in exchange for Ray's...  
 ...the crime was too great...  
 ...Prosecutor Canale, accord...  
 ...to court sources, also said...  
 ...the 99-year requirement...  
 ...Justice Department...  
 ...Foreman was in a weak bar...  
 ...because he knew the case...  
 ...against Ray was "airtight" and...  
 ..."might have noticed the...  
 ...if he had gone to trial...  
 ...before a jury...  
 ...Dr. King was shot with a...  
 ...on the evening of April 4...  
 ...as he stood on a balcony of...  
 ...the motel at which he was...  
 ...staying in downtown Mem...  
 ...phis...  
 ...A rifle found outside a...  
 ...rooming house across the...  
 ...street from the motel balcony...  
 ...led to Ray's eventual arrest in...  
 ...London on June 8, 1968...  
 ...At the time of his arrest...  
 ...and subsequently—there were...  
 ...widespread rumors that Ray...  
 ...had been the instrument of a...  
 ...conspiracy to assassinate Dr...  
 ...King. These rumors were en...  
 ...couraged by Ray himself in...  
 ...interviews with the writer...  
 ...William Bradford Huie, who...  
 ...paid Ray more than \$20,000...  
 ...for exclusive rights to his...  
 ...story. And at the time of his...  
 ...sentencing on Monday, Ray...  
 ...said in court he could "not ac...  
 ...cept" the official theory that...  
 ...there was no conspiracy...  
 ...However, Justice Depart...  
 ...ment officials and the FBI, as...  
 ...well as the Tennessee prose...  
 ...cutors, insist that there is no...  
 ...evidence that Ray had any...  
 ...accomplices...  
 ...Prosecutor Canale said that...  
 ...if any evidence of a conspira...  
 ...cy comes to light "the conspir...  
 ...ators will be promptly and...  
 ...vigorously prosecuted."

*Miss King, SCLC Opposed*  
*Disposition of Ray Case*

By Paul W. Valentine  
 ...and criticism of...  
 ...The New York...  
 ...which said the decision...  
 ...the full case in pub...  
 ...a shocking breach of...  
 ...the American...  
 ...involved in the...  
 ...however, said the...  
 ...to dispense with the...  
 ...in exchange for Ray's...  
 ...the crime was too great...  
 ...Prosecutor Canale, accord...  
 ...to court sources, also said...  
 ...the 99-year requirement...  
 ...Justice Department...  
 ...Foreman was in a weak bar...  
 ...because he knew the case...  
 ...against Ray was "airtight" and...  
 ..."might have noticed the...  
 ...if he had gone to trial...  
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 ...Dr. King was shot with a...  
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 ...rooming house across the...  
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 ...Prosecutor Canale said that...  
 ...if any evidence of a conspira...  
 ...cy comes to light "the conspir...  
 ...ators will be promptly and...  
 ...vigorously prosecuted."

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

Associated Press

**Special Section**

**Trial, From A1**

... would have been chaotic for...  
 ... It is known that during de-  
 ... these negotiations with court  
 ... and prosecution officials,  
 ... Ray's attorney, Percy Fore-  
 ... asked Judge W. Preston  
 ... whether he would im-  
 ... pose the lighter sentence.  
 ... Judge Battle reportedly re-  
 ... fused that proposal and said  
 ... he would impose no less a sen-  
 ... tence than 99 years because  
 ... the crime was too great."  
 ... Prosecutor Canale, accord-  
 ... ing to court sources, also felt  
 ... that the 99-year requirement  
 ... was non-negotiable.  
 ... Foreman was in a weak bar-  
 ... gaining position, it was said,  
 ... because he knew the case  
 ... against Ray was "airtight" and  
 ... Ray "might have gotten the  
 ... chair" if he had gone to trial  
 ... before a jury.  
 ... Dr. King was shot with a  
 ... rifle on the evening of April 4  
 ... as he stood on a balcony of  
 ... the motel at which he was  
 ... staying in downtown Mem-  
 ... phis.  
 ... A rifle found outside a  
 ... rooming house a few blocks  
 ... from the motel balcony  
 ... led to Ray's eventual arrest  
 ... on June 4, 1968.  
 ... At the time of his arrest—  
 ... and subsequently—there were  
 ... wide-spread rumors that Ray  
 ... had been the instrument of a  
 ... conspiracy to assassinate Dr.  
 ... King. These rumors were en-  
 ... couraged by Ray himself in  
 ... interviews with the writer,  
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 ... paid Ray more than \$20,000  
 ... for exclusive rights to his  
 ... story. And at the time of his  
 ... sentencing on Monday, Ray  
 ... said in court he could "not ac-  
 ... cept" the official theory that  
 ... there was no conspiracy.  
 ... However, Justice Depart-  
 ... ment officials and the FBI, as  
 ... well as the Tennessee prose-  
 ... cutors, insist that there is no  
 ... evidence that Ray had any  
 ... accomplices.  
 ... Prosecutor Canale said that  
 ... if any evidence of a conspira-  
 ... cy comes to light "the conspira-  
 ... tors will be promptly and  
 ... vigorously prosecuted."

**Mrs. King, SCLC Charged  
 Disposition of King Case**

By Paul W. Valentine  
 Mrs. Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) were charged today with plotting to avoid a trial for the slaying of Dr. King.  
 Court officials in Memphis today charged that Mrs. King and SCLC leaders conspired to avoid a trial for the slaying of Dr. King.  
 The Memphis County Grand Jury returned the charges today.  
 The charges are the first of their kind against Mrs. King and the SCLC.  
 The charges are based on a letter from Mrs. King to the Memphis County Grand Jury on April 10, 1968.  
 In the letter, Mrs. King asked the grand jury to return a verdict of "not guilty" for the slaying of Dr. King.  
 The letter also asked the grand jury to return a verdict of "not guilty" for the slaying of Dr. King.  
 The charges are based on a letter from Mrs. King to the Memphis County Grand Jury on April 10, 1968.  
 In the letter, Mrs. King asked the grand jury to return a verdict of "not guilty" for the slaying of Dr. King.  
 The letter also asked the grand jury to return a verdict of "not guilty" for the slaying of Dr. King.

... the slaying of Dr. King...  
 ... Mrs. King made no  
 ... mention of the ar-  
 ... restment. She said, "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 this is but a respite."  
 ... She went on to urge that  
 ... both Tennessee and Federal  
 ... authorities continue their in-  
 ... vestigation "until all who are  
 ... responsible for this crime are  
 ... punished."  
 ... Dr. King's successor as head  
 ... of SCLC, the Rev. Ralph  
 ... Abernathy, issued a  
 ... similar statement.  
 ... Ray's formal plea of guilty  
 ... to murder in the first degree  
 ... earned a 99-year sentence,  
 ... but he has him from parole  
 ... probably until the year 2012, if  
 ... when he would be 99 years  
 ... old.  
 ... It had been given a tri-  
 ... life sentence, before

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

*2150*  
*The Reader*

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 exchange 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. Podgorny 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.H. Novikov; USSR Minister of Fish Industry A.A. Ishkov; USSR Minister of Power and Electrification P.S. Repozhinskiy; USSR First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade N.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*

44-22

# 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

24-583273 2

**The Evidence  
Camey Plot,  
May 15 Told**

By Paul W. Valentine  
Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, March 15—Ray and Cavanaugh slightly, while they pleaded guilty today to assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and received a sentence of 99 years in prison.

In an unheralded quiet development of the case, Tennessee State Judge Paul H. Canale said the jury of 12 white men and two Negroes also that they believed there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the slaying of the 35-year-old civil rights leader.

Ray said he only learned his death sentence in the only hearing since the 1968 conviction. He said he had no idea of the official charges until the day he was sentenced to the 99-year term.

The youngest noted defense lawyer in the country, Canale, said he had no idea of the charges until the day he was sentenced to the 99-year term.

Canale said he had no idea of the charges until the day he was sentenced to the 99-year term.

An Washington Post Staff Writer Department said its investigation into the "conspiracy" is still open but that there is no evidence of conspiracy at this point.

(The original Federal warrant dated April 17, 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 14-hour, 30-minute hearing in "Society Security Courthouse," Ray, who turned 41 today, was led back to his tightly secured jail cell.

Officials said Ray will 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 snail-paced odyssey—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 odyssey, but a few new facts came to light. Prosecutors said that during his year of freedom, Ray, disguised as James Earl Ray, had plastic surgery performed on his nose in St. Louis and had a second nose job in New York, according to Dr. Canale.

Ray, 41, said he was always getting caught, learned his lesson.

His admission of that checked boxes of elaborate negotiations between Trotman and Canale's office.

Ray, in effect, exchanged his plea for a 99-year prison term and thus avoided a possible death sentence by going to trial. His trial had been set for April 7.

Justice Department law, even though 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 an unlit 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 12 1/2 years. Under the 99-year term,

he becomes eligible in 49 1/2 years—at age 90. (Although other sources said he would be eligible after 20 or 23 years, Canale said to 49 1/2.)

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

...the hearing...  
...the hearing...  
...the hearing...

...and...  
...and...  
...and...

...also...  
...also...  
...also...

...at the end of today's hearing...  
...at the end of today's hearing...  
...at the end of today's hearing...

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.

In 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 80 spectators were sequestered, including their scribes, 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

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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. At 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 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

# Ry Pleads Guilty to the Murder of Dr. King and Is Sentenced to 99 Years in Prison

From Page 1, Col. 4



Judge W. Preston Battle, center, who presided at the brief trial of James Earl Ray, reading a statement to newsmen after Ray was sentenced yesterday. Flanking him are Sheriff William Morris, left, and Phil M. Canale, the Shelby County Attorney General.

Ray would be sentenced to a term of 99 years in prison for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

Ray, who was long in the courtroom, said he believed that in a long interview after the murder, he had given a full and true account of his actions.

Ray said he had no other explanation for the murder of Dr. King and that he was proud of his actions.

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Ray had said that he doubted and black checkered suitcase, called from a regular jury venire expenditure of more than \$50,000. He said he had no other explanation for the murder of Dr. King and that he was proud of his actions.

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## King's Remains in Court On Possible Conspiracy

The official will transfer anything I don't want to add  
stions this evidence before something into it.  
Judge W. Preston Battle and  
James Earl Ray, concerning the  
possible conspiracy in the as- the theory?  
sassination of the Rev. Dr. Mr. Canale, the prosecutor,  
Martin Luther King Jr. Mr. Thornton (unknown to re-

Ray: Your honor, I would porters), Mr. Ramsey Clark.  
like to say something, too, if I mean on the conspiracy  
I may. thing. I don't want to add  
something into it which I

Battle: All right. haven't agreed to in the past.

Ray: 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 exact-  
ly accept the theories of Mr.  
Clark (former Attorney Gen-  
eral Ramsey) Clark, who had  
discounted 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

241-6532732 11 MAR 1969

## Ray Will Face Trial by Jury Some Guilty Pleas Entered

By MARTIN WELDRON

MEMPHIS, March 8—James Earl Ray's trial, has had Ray's lawyers and the state not announced his position publicly to the murder of the Rev. Dr. King, but he was reported today Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. he to have some reservations still will have to face a trial by about accepting a guilty plea if a jury. However, the trial Ray planned to ask to testify would be a very short one, and he is being involved in a lasting no more than two or three days, and would follow having fired the fatal shot. almost a script.

For several months last year, the jury would have to see Ray appeared to be trying to keep any conditions that the establishment of such a defense. While state and defense lawyers had been Bradford Huie, the Ala. agreed on and that had been known author who bought pub- approved by the trial judge. If Huie's rights to Ray's life a 99-year sentence were agreed story, wrote in Look magazine upon, it would mean Ray might that Ray contended he had have to remain in prison at been hired to perform some least 50 years.

A Tennessee court official not know until a few days be- explained how a guilty plea for for Dr. King was shot on April murder is handled. He said that he was to murder.

The plea of guilty is entered. There was a report today that a 12-member jury is chosen. Ray had reluctantly accepted usually the first 12 to qualify.

Evidence of Prosecution an agreement for a 99-year sentence to avoid the possibility. The prosecution would see of being convicted and sent evidence that the murder had been committed and that Tennessee executes con-

the defendant was responsible. If no punishment had been done, but no death penalty has agreed on by the state and the been carried out in the state defense lawyers, the jury then in more than seven years.

would retire and reach a verdict. Despite the lack of official dict and fix the punishment, confirmation that Ray would which could include a death sentence, there was much sentence.

If a punishment has been recommended where Ray is con- agreed to, such as the 99-year sentence. It is reported to the telephone company put jury by the judge and under covers of telephones into serv- normal circumstances, the jury see. And security at the jail accepts the recommendation. All doors lead-

All of this procedure must be into the courthouse were approved by the trial judge. Locked, armed guards were sta- much as if it were a play and forced inside in, and the streets the judge were the direction. In front and back of the court- Judge W. Preston Battle, who house were blocked to traffic

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NY Times

211-6532737 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

MEMPHIS, March 7—(AP)—A federal judge today scheduled a court hearing for James Earl Ray, the man charged with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and hinted that he would receive a sentence of 33 years in prison.

Judge W. Preston Battle today requested a court hearing for Ray in reply to questions from the attorney for James Foreman, who would not appear at the hearing.

On the report that Ray would be allowed to plead guilty, Mr. Battle said that he would not plead guilty to the murder of the Rev. King, beyond that he could not see Dr. King's murder and must because of the judge would receive a sentence of 33 years in prison.

Judge Battle said that the Charles Holman, a Memphis attorney, had been requested by State University official and Ray Foreman, the Houston has been acting as press and lawyer who has represented Ray to Judge Battle, said that Ray, an escaped Missouri convict, had authorized a statement that the unnamed man would tell that his court appearance had been requested but that no further information would be given to the purpose of the hearing. The judge was reported to be very upset that Mr. Foreman met in Memphis speculation had arisen about his meeting with Garfield and Johnnie's partners of the case.

Continued on Page 12, Column 1

After Mr. Foreman took over, the trial was scheduled for April 12. It was reported for April 12 since Mr. Foreman had been in Memphis.

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Mr. Hays appeared before a Memphis grand jury last month. He has been charged with a battle for control of the case while it was pending trial.

Ray, who was serving a 99-year sentence for robbery and for being a trained assassin, was paroled from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City in the spring of 1967.

Ray's 33-year sentence might be a 10-year sentence, said his lawyer, Foreman, in Tennessee. The Tennessee Attorney General's office said that persons sentenced to life imprisonment was 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 six-story hotel in Memphis's 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 member of the 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

21-6832732

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 7 (AP)—James Earl Ray, charged with the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been granted a hearing in Criminal Court Monday. The Huntsville (Ala.) Press-Banner said there was no chance Ray will be sentenced to death in exchange for a 99-year sentence instead of a possible death penalty.

Asked about this, Ray's lawyer, Percy Foreman of Huntsville Times said, however, that "It's none of your business."

Shelby County Attorney Phil Canale refused to comment and State Attorney General

## Ray Hearing Set; Guilty Plea Hinted

RAY, From A1

The newspaper at Huntsville said the state was prepared to accept the guilty plea. But the Times said such a sentence would have to be imposed by a trial jury.

The story, said, however, that plans call for the jury to be empaneled and each juror will be asked if he can abide by the court's recommendations.

After a prima facie case involving only a few witnesses, the court would accept a plea of guilty and recommend the sentence of 99 years. Under this procedure, the Times said, the jury

would be allowed to leave the courtroom to examine the sentence.

Previously, it has been estimated that the trial might last several months.

Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis last April 4, after he had come here to lead a demonstration in behalf of city garbage workers who at that time were on strike. He is accused of shooting Dr. King from a rooming house opposite the Lorraine motel, where Dr. King was standing on a balcony.

The trial of his leader was scheduled at the motel pending a scheduled assassination march in behalf of the city striking workers, most of them Negro-

men. The walkout, seeking a union contract and a pay increase, was settled soon after Dr. King's death.

Ray was arrested in London last June 8, after a worldwide manhunt, led by Scotland Yard, detectives and returned to Memphis in secrecy, after denying British legal proceedings to face a murder charge in Dr. King's death.

Since his return, Ray has been held in a specially arranged, unconditioned cell at the Shelby County Jail under tight security.

Time scheduled to go on trial in November, Ray won a postponement after he fired Arthur Hanes, former Birmingham, Ala. mayor, as his

defense lawyer on the eve of that proceeding.

Subsequently, he hired Foreman to take his case, and Foreman won delays until March 3 and then April 7, on grounds that he still had not had time to study the case completely.

KA

# Ray's Defense

... on Ray, who is ...  
 ... the slaying of ...  
 ... Martin Luther ...  
 ... with a ...  
 ... money Hule paid the ...  
 ... for his personal ac- ...  
 ... of the case has been ...  
 ... by Ray to finance his de- ...  
 ...

Ray went into court today ...  
 asking for permission to be ...  
 photographed in his cell, ...  
 where he has been held under ...  
 the highest security. The pho- ...  
 tographs would be published ...  
 by Look and would bring Ray ...  
 as much as \$5000, which he ...  
 used by Ray to finance his de- ...  
 fense.

Hule was taken into custody ...  
 when he stepped from the ...  
 grand jury hearing room, ...  
 where he had testified for 2 1/2 ...  
 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 manu- ...  
 script as the basis for the arti- ...  
 cles in Look.

A spokesman for the maga- ...  
 zine in New York said Look ...  
 had the "best of confidence in ...  
 Hule and stands ready to help ...  
 him in any way possible."

Hule ran afoul of 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 pub- ...  
 licity said Hule's magazine ar- ...  
 ticles were in probable viola- ...  
 tion of the regulations.

KA

W/P JAN 31 1969

## Author Pays Last \$5000 For Manuscript by Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 30—(UPI)—Author William Bradford Huie as the basis for a three-article series which Huie on Wednesday gave in Look magazine describing Houston attorney Percy Foreman's travels and activities prior to his arrest on charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Foreman's client, James Earl Ray, dismissed Hanes Nov. 10 and hired Foreman, who subsequently gained a post-ponement of the trial from Nov. 12 until March 3. Hanes Sr., of Birmingham, is understood to have obtained a lien to use the checks as payment of his legal fees.

The 20,000-word manuscript

KA  
Wash Post

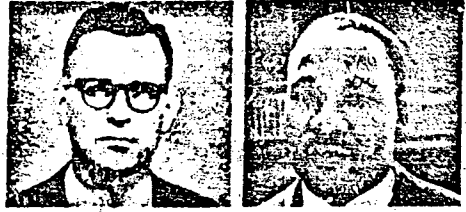
31 JAN 1969

211-6832732



# KA

WVF 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  
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 I to begin as  
scheduled March 3 "if hu-  
manly 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

JAN 18 1969



PERCY FOREMAN

... gets trial deadline

KING'S ASSASSINATION

Wash Post 18 JAN 1969

201-6532732

UNCLASSIFIED   
  IP...   
  CONFIDENTIAL   
  SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: *Jim Kesler*  
*CI/SO*

EXTENSION:    NO.    DATE: *06 JAN 69*

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)    DATE:    OFFICER'S INITIALS    COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.	TO:	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1.	<i>CI/R+A Miss Smith</i>			<i>JK</i>	<i>Can you give me, and the            date, the publication            date on a book COCK            wrote (in India?) on the            CIA?</i>  <i>The Nation</i> <i>24 June 1961</i> <i>special issues devoted to CIA</i>  <i>file KING ASSASSINATION</i>
2.					
3.	<i>DC/CI/R+A</i>			<i>DP</i>	
4.					
5.	<i>CI/SO / JWK</i>			<i>N/A</i>	
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.	<i>Jani</i>				
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

Fensterwald 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 Arthur Fred Cook of Englewood, N.J.

#### 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 Fensterwald, former counsel to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that investigated wiretapping and electronic surveillance.

Wash Post

03 JAN 1969

201-1532772

KING  
ASSASSINATION  
p. 6

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Wash Post

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