

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: **SA JOE C. HESTER**  
Date: **April 11, 1969**

Office: **MEMPHIS**Field Office File #: **Memphis 44-1987**Bureau File #: **44-38861**

Title: **JAMES EARL RAY;**  
**Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM**

Character: **CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

Synopsis: **On 3/10/69, subject appeared before Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Division III, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Memphis, Tenn., and entered plea of guilty to murder in the first degree for which he was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment. On 3/13 and 3/14/69, efforts made by FBI Agents to interview RAY at Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn., were unsuccessful. On 4/7/69, subject filed in Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tenn., a motion for a new trial.**

- P -

DETAILS:

**On March 10, 1969, the subject and his attorney, PERCY FOREMAN, appeared before Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Division III, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, and entered a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree for having murdered Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RAY was sentenced to ninety nine years imprisonment, this having previously been agreed to by RAY, by the District Attorney General, and by Judge BATTLE.**

**On March 13, 1969, and again on March 14, 1969, the subject RAY, then incarcerated at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, declined to be interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI.**

ME 44-1987

On April 7, 1969, the subject through his attorneys, RICHARD J. RYAN, J. B. STONER, and ROBERT W. HILL, JR., filed in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, a motion for a new trial. The subject asks that the Court set aside his waiver, his plea of guilty, and his conviction and that he be granted a new trial. Subject states that his waiver, plea, and conviction were the results of his being deprived of legal counsel, in violation of the 14th and 6th Amendments to the U. S. Constitution. The subject states he will show that he and his two prior attorneys, ARTHUR HANES and PERCY FOREMAN, entered into contracts with the author WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE while the subject was awaiting trial, and that these contracts established a conflict of interest between the subject and his two prior attorneys. The subject therefore asks that the judgment heretofore entered be set aside and that his case be restored to the trial calendar.

2\*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MEMPHIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>4/11/69</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>3/10/68 - 4/7/69</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA JOE C. HESTER</b>	TYPED BY <b>JAP</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CR - CONSPIRACY</b>	

**REFERENCE:**

**Report of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 12/18/68, at Memphis.**

- P -

*llh*

**LEADS:**

**MEMPHIS DIVISION**

**AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE Will maintain contact with the District Attorney General's Office, and will report further developments regarding subject's motion for a new trial.**

**COVER PAGE A\***

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
----------	-------------------------

COPIES MADE:  <b>3 - Bureau (44-38861)</b> <b>3 - Memphis (44-1987)</b>  <i>Jap</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">44-1987-Sub-A-7</div> SEARCHED _____ SERIALIZED <i>llh</i> INDEXED _____ FILED <i>llh</i>
--	--

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations
Agency					
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.					
How Fwd.					
By					

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: **SA JOE C. HESTER**  
Date: **April 11, 1969**

Office: **MEMPHIS**Field Office File #: **Memphis 44-1987**Bureau File #: **44-38861**

Title: **JAMES EARL RAY;**  
**Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM**

Character: **CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

Synopsis: **On 3/10/69, subject appeared before Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Division III, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Memphis, Tenn., and entered plea of guilty to murder in the first degree for which he was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment. On 3/13 and 3/14/69, efforts made by FBI Agents to interview RAY at Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn., were unsuccessful. On 4/7/69, subject filed in Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tenn., a motion for a new trial.**

- P -

**DETAILS:**

**On March 10, 1969, the subject and his attorney, PERCY FOREMAN, appeared before Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Division III, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, and entered a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree for having murdered Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RAY was sentenced to ninety nine years imprisonment, this having previously been agreed to by RAY, by the District Attorney General, and by Judge BATTLE.**

**On March 13, 1969, and again on March 14, 1969, the subject RAY, then incarcerated at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, declined to be interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI.**

ME 44-1987

On April 7, 1969, the subject through his attorneys, RICHARD J. RYAN, J. B. STONER, and ROBERT W. HILL, JR., filed in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, a motion for a new trial. The subject asks that the Court set aside his waiver, his plea of guilty, and his conviction and that he be granted a new trial. Subject states that his waiver, plea, and conviction were the results of his being deprived of legal counsel, in violation of the 14th and 6th Amendments to the U. S. Constitution. The subject states he will show that he and his two prior attorneys, ARTHUR HANES and PERCY FOREMAN, entered into contracts with the author WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE while the subject was awaiting trial, and that these contracts established a conflict of interest between the subject and his two prior attorneys. The subject therefore asks that the judgment heretofore entered be set aside and that his case be restored to the trial calendar.