

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray tries to escape prison

PETROS, Tenn. — James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has made a second unsuccessful attempt to escape from the maximum security Brushby Mountain Prison here, officials said yesterday.

Mark Luttrell, state corrections commissioner, said in Nashville that Ray was discovered Feb. 5 trying to make his way to an area in the ceiling of the prison gymnasium.

"We had reason to believe

he was trying to cut an opening through the roof," Luttrell said.

He said Ray has been placed in a disciplinary area.

Ray tried last spring to escape through ductwork at the prison but took a wrong turn and was forced into the prison compound when he encountered scorching steam. He was picked up in the yard near a fence surrounding the prison.

Ray is serving 99 years for the sniper slaying in Memphis in April 1968 of the civil rights leader.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2-A

MIAMI NEWS

MIAMI, FLORIDA

Date: 2/15/72

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1854

Submitting Office: MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

44-1854-736

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 16 1972	
FBI - MIAMI	

#4-

44-1854-737

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 10 1972	
FBI MIAMI	

Fraser *Lee*

8/10/72
Re *off*
90: ME
S/T 8/15/72

find out what this
is about.

RP

72-11199

COMPLAINT ☒ INVESTIGATION ☒ ARREST ABANDONED STOLEN BICYCLE AUTOMOBILE PROPERTY LOST FOUND	POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPLAINT REPORT CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLA.	CRIME CLASSIFICATION <i>Info</i> COPIES TO 204
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COMPLAINANT—(If Business, Give Firm Name) <i>W/F 73</i> <i>EMILIA D. ABBONDANDOLO</i>	ADDRESS <i>5210 MASSIORE</i>	PHONE <i>667-4794</i>
REPORTED BY <i>Comp</i>	ADDRESS —	PHONE —
CALL RECEIVED BY <i>PTM. N. GLASHEEN #33</i>	DATE AND TIME COMMITTED <i>7/28/72 TIME UNK. FRI</i>	
HOW RECEIVED <i>TELEPHONE # 445-5311</i>	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED <i>8/3/72 2³⁷ PM THURS.</i>	
REFERRED TO <i>Rec + FBI</i>	LOCATION COMMITTED—ARRESTED <i>Riviera + US-1</i>	
PERSONS ARRESTED—WANTED (Name and Address) <i>UNKNOWN</i>	COLOR & SEX <i>N/F</i>	AGE <i>45</i>
	HEIGHT <i>5-2</i>	WEIGHT <i>145</i>
	HAIR <i>Bk</i>	EYES <i>Brn</i>
	CC —	

MAKE CAR-BICYCLE <i>N/A</i>	COLOR	LICENSE NO. SERIAL NO.	STATE	MOTOR NUMBER	BROADCAST MES. NUMBER FOR TIME
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Give Complete History — Descriptive List and Estimated Value of Articles Stolen

COMP. STATES THAT ON THE ABOVE DATE SHE PICKED UP THE ABOVE W/F AT ABOVE LOCATION & DROVE HER TO DOWNTOWN MIAMI. DURING THE RIDE THE W/F TOLD HER THAT LORETTA KING PAID AN UNKNOWN NEGRO YOUTH \$5000 ⁰⁰ TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING & THAT THIS IS THE REASON KING WAS KILLED. SHE STATED THAT ALL NEGROES KNOW THIS BUT THEY ARE AFRAID TO TELL THE POLICE. ADVISED COMP THAT THIS REPORT WOULD BE SENT TO THE FBI.	VALUE
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/22/72

Officer MICHAEL GLASHEEN was interviewed at the Coral Gables Pistol Range Clubhouse located at Coral Way and S.W. 73rd Avenue and at the outset of the interview, Officer GLASHEEN was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. He was advised that he was being interviewed in connection with a complaint he had taken on August 3, 1972 from a Mrs. EMILIA D. ABBONDANDOLO of 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, regarding the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Officer GLASHEEN declined to furnish a signed statement but indicated he would willingly discuss the matter with the interviewing Agent.

GLASHEEN stated that Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO is an elderly woman estimated to be in her 70s. He described her as rather feeble minded and "hungry for attention". He stated that to the best of his knowledge she has called the FBI and the Secret Service on matters before.

GLASHEEN stated that on August 3, 1972, at approximately 2:37 p.m. he answered a call over his car radio to respond to 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, to interview a woman regarding information she had concerning the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Upon arriving at Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO's residence, he was told by her that approximately July 28, 1972, a Friday, she was in the downtown Miami, Florida, area, possibly near S.W. 8th Street or Flagler Street and she offered a Negro female who was standing at a bus stop a ride to the downtown Miami, Florida area. While riding together the two of them talked about matters such as crime in the streets and the Negro woman allegedly then told Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO that she knew something that all colored people knew but were afraid to tell the police. According to the Negro female, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's wife, LORETTA KING, had a boyfriend and she gave this boyfriend \$5,000 to see that her husband was killed. According to the Negro female, as related by Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO, the boyfriend contacted someone in a bar and a "hit" was set up on Dr. KING. According to the story, Mrs. LORETTA KING was in love with her boyfriend and wanted her husband out of the way.

On 8/21/72 at Coral Gables, Florida File # Miami 44-1854-738
by SA LEON E. FISH:bja Date dictated 8/22/72

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MM 44-1854

Officer GLASHEEN stated that from the information he received, this boyfriend of LORETTA KING's was allegedly somewhere in jail in the State of Florida at the present time.

GLASHEEN stated that to the best of his knowledge and in his opinion, even though Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO might be feeble she did not make the story up, but actually received said information from the person she picked up.

GLASHEEN stated that ABBONDANDOLO had described this Negro female as approximately 45 years of age, 5'2" in height, weighing 145 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He stated that he could furnish no further information than this.

The following descriptive data regarding Officer GLASHEEN was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	MICHAEL (No Middle Name) GLASHEEN
Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Date of birth	[REDACTED]
Place of birth	White Plains, New York
Height	6'
Weight	165 pounds
Marital status	Divorced
Years with Coral Gables Police Department	Six
Scars	Gun shot wound on right knee

100401
ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

8/28/72

SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (RUC)

MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis, the Office of Origin in this matter, is one copy each of two FD-302s reflecting investigation conducted by the Miami Division on 8/21/72 and 8/22/72, which relate to this matter.

On 8/7/72, the City of Coral Gables, Florida, made available to the Miami Office of the FBI a complaint report in which on 8/3/72, an officer from that Police Department had taken a complaint from a resident of Coral Gables, Florida, in which the resident stated that on or around 7/28/72, she had picked up an unknown Negro female near a bus stop and had driven her to the downtown Miami, Florida, area. En route, the Negro female advised that the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, CORETTA KING, had paid an unknown Negro male \$5,000 to have her husband killed. According to this unknown Negro female, all Negroes knew this fact, but were afraid to tell the police.

A review of the Miami indices fails to reflect any identifiable information with the complainant in this matter, a resident of Coral Gables, Florida, Mrs. EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (Info)
1 - Miami
LEF:nlm
(4)

nlm

RUC

File stamped
Initials CDK
Date 8/29/72

Searched CDK
Indexed CDK
Serialized CDK
Filed CDK

44-1854-739

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/23/72

Date of transcription

Mrs. EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO, 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, telephone 667-4793, was interviewed at her residence by SA LEON E. FISH of the Miami Office of the FBI, and at the outset of the interview Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO was advised that she was being interviewed in connection with a complaint regarding the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, which complaint she had furnished to the City of Coral Gables Police Department on August 3, 1972. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO declined to furnish a signed statement but stated she would willingly discuss the matter with the interviewing agent.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO advised that sometime between July 28 and August 1, 1972, at approximately 4:15 p.m., she left her residence and headed north on Lejeune Road to do some shopping. As she approached the corner of University Drive at a stoplight, she observed a Negro female standing near a bus stop heavily laden with packages and perspiring heavily. She stated that she could tell that the Negro female was exhausted. At that moment, the Negro female walked over to her car to an open window and asked Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO for a ride and where she was going. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO told her that she was going to 27th Avenue and Flagler Street and allowed the Negro female to get in.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO described this Negro female as being approximately 45-50 years of age, approximately 5'5" tall, weighing 170 pounds, medium black complexion, large lips, and possibly a maid by profession.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO stated that as the two of them began to talk, the Negro female stated that white people were not always good to black people. However, the Negro female stated that in her opinion there were many good white people. Her conversation led to the accused killer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JAMES EARL RAY. She described RAY as being not guilty. She stated that everyone in the Negro neighborhood knew that RAY did not kill Dr. KING. She advised that she knew a boy who was in jail who had been given \$5,000 by CORETTA KING, the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, and instructed him to arrange for the assassination of her husband.

Interviewed on 8/22/72 at Coral Gables, Florida File # Miami 44-1854 -740
by SA LEON E. FISH :apj Date dictated 8/23/72

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MM 44-1854

According to the Negro female, the boy was known both by Dr. KING and his wife. The boy allegedly killed KING and then gave the gun to RAY and asked him to say that he had killed Dr. KING. According to the Negro female, CORETTA KING had a "lover", named DEE or LEE, a married man who could not or would not divorce his wife to marry CORETTA KING.

ABBONDANDOLO stated that she asked this Negro female why she did not go to the police or the FBI and give them this information and the Negro female stated that she was afraid to talk about it and if she did she would be killed. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO stated that soon they reached 27th Avenue and Flagler Street and she dropped the Negro female off at that point and went on her way. ABBONDANDOLO stated that she has no way of determining the woman's name, nor has she seen her again since that date, nor does she know where the woman might reside.

ABBONDANDOLO is described as follows:

Name:	EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO
Sex:	Female
Race:	White
Date of Birth:	April 18, 1899
Place of Birth:	Paolisi, Italy
Height:	5'4½"
Weight:	138 pounds
Hair:	Reddish
Eyes:	Blue
Marital Status:	Widow
Husband:	RENDO ABBONDANDOLO, deceased doctor of law, real estate broker

8/31/72

Airtel

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P*)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Miami airtel to Bureau, 8/28/72.

Inasmuch as JAMES EARL RAY is now serving a 99 year sentence following a plea of guilty to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, and since the information contained in referenced letter appears to have no basis and fact, no action is being taken by the Memphis Office.

2 - Bureau
1 - Miami (44-1854)
2 - Memphis

JCH:jlg

(5)

44-1854-741

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 5 1972	
FBI-MIAMI	

Fish
(info)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray to Get Hearing, Could Lead to New Trial

CINCINNATI — (UPI) — The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that James Earl Ray, serving 99 years in jail for the murder of Martin Luther King, was entitled to an evidentiary hearing which could lead to a new trial.

Ever since the day after Ray pleaded guilty on March 10, 1969, to the assassination of the civil rights leader, he has been seeking a new trial and permission to change his plea to innocent.

Tuesday's decision followed oral arguments before the court in October in which an attorney for Ray contended his client had been "browbeaten, badgered and bribed" into entering the guilty plea.

Attorney Bernard Fensterwald said that Ray's former attorney, noted trial lawyer Percy Foreman, had coerced Ray into entering the guilty plea and that contention was the basis of Ray's appeal to

the court here.

"We hold that (Ray) is entitled to an evidentiary hearing," the three-judge appeals court panel said. "It is clear that the allegations which are the subject of Ray's petitions have never been tried upon their merits

or resolved by any court — allegations which — if true, plainly negate any notion of

idea that his guilty plea . . . was made voluntarily and intelligently.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

17-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 1/30/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1854

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated MIAMI, FLA.

44-1854-742

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 30 1974	
FBI - MIAMI	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Attorney: He's Patsy; King Killed by Hired Guns

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (UPI) — Two professional gunmen hired by four "wealthy, socially prominent Americans" killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an attorney for James Earl Ray said Friday. The two purportedly want immunity from prosecution so they can testify against the men who paid them.

Ray's attorney, Robert Livingston, of Memphis, said he has been contacted by an intermediary for the gunmen who say they were hired to murder the civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel April 4, 1968.

Ray, now serving a 99-year prison term for King's murder, said he was tricked into associating with the killers by buying a rifle he thought was being used in a gun-running operation. The rifle was the weapon used to kill King.

"THE GUNMEN did it strictly for money," Livingston said. "They had no feel-

ings one way or the other for Dr. King.

"The motives of the four wealthy, socially prominent Americans who paid to have Dr. King killed sprang out of hate," he said, "although they could probably rationalize what they did as consistent with national security."

The lawyer said the men believed King was part of a foreign plot to "touch off a racist revolution in the nation."

Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, pleaded guilty to murdering King, but now is seeking a new trial on the grounds that his former attorney, Percy Foreman, urged him to make the plea and accept a 99-year prison sentence.

THE SIXTH Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has held that Ray is entitled to an evidentiary hearing which could lead to a new trial, but the ruling has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Shelby County Attorney

General Hugh Stanton confirmed that Livingston contacted him about the immunity request from the purported gunmen, but said, "there is no way we can contact them — they must contact us."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 5/25/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1854

Submitting Office MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

44-1854-743
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

MAY 28 1974

FBI - MIAMI

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Agent Discounts King Plot

Lawyer Claimed Ray Was 'Patsy'

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — The FBI agent who directed the investigation into the murder of Dr. Martin Luther



King Jr. says the facts of the case don't lend themselves to "grandiose theories" of conspiracy.

"It was a relatively simple thing,"

KING

Robert G. Jensen said in a telephone interview. "A man was killed. A man was caught. In many ways, it was like any other case, but the stature of King gave it a lot more publicity than the usual case."

Robert I. Livingston, attorney for James Earl Ray, said last week that he has been in periodic contact since March with a representative of the "men who actually carried out the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." Ray, the only person charged in the case, pleaded guilty to murdering King, and is now serving a 99-year prison sentence.

"If he (Livingston) has something, more power to him," said Jensen, who now is head of security for an international motel firm. He said he had not read Livingston's claims because there was "no particular reason for me to read them."

"The facts that were developed were made public," Jensen said.

"Many people don't want to accept what the facts are because in many instances they don't lend themselves to grandiose theories. But we had to go with what facts we had. Theories and suppositions don't hold up in court."

ALLEGING A conspiracy behind the April 4, 1968, shooting of King in Memphis, Livingston said the intermediary he talked to is seeking immunity from prosecution for the slaying conspirators. He said they want to testify "in revenge" against "four Southern gentlemen" who allegedly hired them, not Ray, to kill King.

According to Livingston, eight men were involved in King's death, with Ray the "patsy." He said Ray was "... just a gullible-type sort of fellow, easily influenced and led around. He had never been a high-powered criminal all his life, just penny ante stuff..."

Jensen described the investigation as a "good case, well-worked, well-handled. I'm satisfied with the results."

It is probably true, Jensen said, that King's slaying was one of the most thoroughly investigated murders in criminal history.

"There is little doubt that it was an extensive and in-depth investigation," he said. "It was worldwide, involving the cooperation of Canadian authorities, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Scotland Yard and many, many others. We explored every angle and the only thing is that when the case developed, we could find no evidence of such a thing (a conspiracy)."

JENSEN SAID when the FBI had compiled the facts, "a representative of the attorney general's office followed through and rechecked the material."

"The case was analyzed and it will continue to be analyzed," he said. "I don't think history buffs have ever put to rest the story of Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth."

"Fifteen years from now people will ask the same questions, but my personal opinion now lies with the public record. I have no personal theories whatsoever that differ with the record of the case."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

15-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

CC-BUREAU 5/28/74

Date: 5/28/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1854

Submitting Office MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

MAY 29 1974

FBI - MIAMI

#2 - 44-1854-744

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Hired-Gun Killing of King Discounted

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — U.S. Attorney Thomas Turley Jr. discounted Saturday an attorney's claim that two gunmen hired by four wealthy persons assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



RAY

Robert Livingston, who represents convicted slayer James Earl Ray, said Friday that he had been contacted by an intermediary for two men who claimed they killed the civil rights leader and said that Ray is innocent.

The lawyer said the gunmen are seeking immunity from prosecution in order to testify against the four "wealthy, socially prominent Americans who paid to have Dr. King killed."

"Mr. Livingston may have been denied such experiences," Turley said, "but his office is contacted regularly by intermediaries of unidentified persons said to be willing and claimed to be able to solve, in exchange for immunity, crimes ranging from the so-called 'Donation of Constantine' to the murder of Cock Robin."

"AND WE have no intention," Turley said, "of running such rabbit tracks in the Ray case or any other."

"If Mr. Ray, his latest lawyer, or both have such evidence, we will be pleased to receive and pursue it," Turley said. "Meanwhile, we are not going to be made pawns in a publicity game, nor inveigled into chasing easily fabricated, self-serving rumors."

King was killed April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel near downtown Memphis. Ray was linked to the crime by fingerprints found on a rifle left in front of a run-down rooming house from which authorities said the fatal shot was fired.

Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Prison, was arrested in England 65 days after the shooting and later pleaded guilty to the murder in exchange for a 99-year prison sentence.

Ray is seeking a new trial on grounds that his former attorney, Percy Foreman, coerced him into pleading guilty. The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered an evidentiary hearing that could lead to such a trial, but the state has appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme

Court.

LIVINGSTON, who is representing Ray in his efforts to obtain such a trial, said his story about the King murder is not fabrication. He said he has met the intermediary twice in person and has talked to him by telephone several times. He said he is willing to take a lie-detector test to verify his story.

"They all think," Livingston said, "this is a hoax, a farce and a sham — a grandstand play — but if they find my dead body lying out here someplace they'll say, 'Well, maybe there was a conspiracy.'"

Livingston said the man who killed King reportedly was promised \$250,000, but received only \$100,000. "Because he did not get all the money he felt he was entitled

to may be his motive for wanting to testify against the men putting up the money," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

34-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 5/26/74
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1854
Submitting Office MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

44-1854-745
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

MAY 29 1974

FBI - MIAMI

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Path Cleared In Ray's Bid For New Trial

From Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — James Earl Ray won Supreme Court clearance Monday to seek withdrawal of his guilty plea and a new trial in the 1968 slaying of Martin Luther King Jr. The court held that his lawyers may have unduly influenced him because of a book in which they had an interest.

Without comment, the court rejected an appeal by the state of Tennessee of an order from the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that a hearing be held to determine whether Ray had been deprived of his constitutional rights to due process and assistance of counsel.

That hearing now can be held, and if the change of plea is accepted Ray would be entitled to a new trial. He pleaded guilty in 1969 to the slaying of the civil rights leader in a Memphis, Tenn., motel, and was sentenced to 99 years in state prison.

At the Tennessee State Penitentiary Ray accepted almost stoically his clearance by the court to seek withdrawal of his guilty plea.

"I've had half a dozen decisions," Ray said. "I take things as they come. I think things look pretty good. We want to get everybody on the witness stand and get everything cleared up once and for all."

Assistant State Attorney General Henry Haile said the hearing for Ray will be held before Federal Court Judge Robert McRae in Memphis, probably sometime in late summer or early fall.

Haile said the hearing will

Turn to Page 10A Col. 1

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 6/4/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1854

Submitting Office: MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

44-1854-746

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

JUN 4 1974

FBI - MIAMI

Path Is Cleared for Ray— To Seek a Change in Plea

From Page 1

"give Ray another chance to spout off before the press. I doubt seriously if it will be in the public interest."

The assassination on April 4, 1968, touched off rioting in the nation's capital and other cities.

SHORTLY AFTER he was sentenced, Ray claimed that his counsel, well-known criminal attorney Percy Foreman of Houston, had coerced him into pleading guilty in order to keep facts in the case from coming out in open court.

Ray turned his case over to Foreman after dismissing attorney Arthur Hanes, who

had signed a contract with writer William Bradford Huie for a book on the King slaying, with Hanes to get 30 per cent of the royalties. Foreman kept the agreement in effect but increased his share to 60 per cent.

Ray contended that Foreman advised him to plead guilty so that information in the case could be preserved exclusively for the book.

Judge William E. Miller, writing the Appeals Court decision that a change-of-plea hearing should be held in U.S. District Court, said:

"THE ALLEGATIONS . . . if true, would support a finding that Ray's attorneys deliberately compromised their

client's interests in order to further the financial success of Huie's works in which they themselves had a substantial interest.

"Such conduct would constitute an outrageous abrogation of the standards which the legal profession sets for itself and upon which its clients have a right to rely.

"If the allegations are correct," Miller said, Ray's lawyers "not only did not properly advise him but deliberately misled and coerced him. It is inconceivable to us how a plea entered under these circumstances could be either intelligent or voluntary."

Trial Judge W. Preston Battle questioned Ray thoroughly at the outset of the trial and Ray said that his plea was knowledgeable and voluntary.

In other actions Monday:

THE COURT ruled that Corning Glass Works violated federal law and discriminated against women by perpetuating a pay system designed to induce men to work at night at its plants in New York and Pennsylvania.

The 5-3 decision upheld a decision of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals that Corning had engaged in sex discrimination at its New York plants.

THE COURT also agreed to decide if high schools can forbid distribution of unofficial student newspapers using vulgar language but which are not obscene under criminal law.

The case, involving students at an Indianapolis school, could knock down administrative rules across the country providing for prior approval of papers distributed in high schools. The court could also decide whether students have the same First Amendment rights as adults.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Lawyers: New Data to Be Bared

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (UPI) — Evidence that may have been suppressed before James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to killing Martin Luther King Jr. will be uncovered at a hearing. Ray's attorneys said in memorandums filed in federal court Tuesday.



Ray Attorneys Bernard Fensterwald and James Lesar, both of Washington, D.C., and Robert L. Livingston of Memphis said they intend to reveal whether the prosecution withheld "statements by police officers tending to show that Ray was not at the scene of the crime when Dr. King was

shot."

The lawyers said the 32 defense questions should unravel whether Ray's earlier defense attorneys, Arthur Haynes of Birmingham, Ala., and Percy Foreman of Houston, let their interest in a book on the assassination interfere with defense counsel.

RAY, WHO is serving 99 years at the state prison at Nashville stemming from his March 10, 1969, confession to the 1968 murder at a Memphis motel, claims Haynes and Foreman lured him into the guilty plea, promising to ease Ray's financial duress and meanwhile helping Alabama author William Bradford Huie gather information for "He Saw the Dreamer."

The prosecution will aim

at showing "the utter absurdity of the conflict-of-interest claim," the prosecution's memorandums said.

BUT THE defense said it would angle its case to bring

to light testimony that could clear Ray of the murder, calling for a new trial. Ray, a

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

8-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 6/19/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification:

44-1854-747

Submitting Office: MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 19 1974	
FBI - MIAMI	

Latin Gunman Told Lawyer A Friend of His Shot King

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (UPI) — Five days after Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered, a Latin gunman told a Memphis lawyer that a friend of his, who "hired out his gun to kill Negroes," shot the civil rights leader.

Assistant Attorney General Henry Haile, of Nashville, confirmed Saturday that a transcript of the interview given Memphis attorney Russell X. Thompson was filed as evidence in connection with the King murder.

James Earl Ray confessed to the killing March 10, 1969, and is serving 99 years at the state prison at Nashville.

THERE IS to be a special federal court hearing Sept. 30 to determine whether Ray, as he claims, was coerced by his former defense attorneys into pleading guilty.

Thompson, who in 1968 represented the Legal Defense Fund of the NAACP, said a man calling himself Tony Benavides came to his office five days after the April 4, 1968 King slaying, saying he feared he would be charged with murder in the case.

Thompson said Benavides told him that "Pete," a former roommate of his in Denver, actually killed the Nobel Peace Prize winner as he stood on the balcony of a downtown Memphis motel.

"He called himself Tony Benavides," Thompson said, "but almost in the same breath he told me the name was an alias. He said another professional gunman killed King, but that he was afraid the police and FBI



Dr. King
... killed



James Ray
... hearing pending

were going to charge him with the slaying.

"HE SAID the police had picked him up the day after King's death and had taken him up to the rooming house from which they would later say the bullet that killed King was fired," Thompson said.

"He insisted he was an expert on firearms and talked about elevation, wind driftage and then said the fatal bullet could not have been fired from the window," the lawyer said.

Thompson quoted Benavides as saying that "Pete" fired the fatal bullet into King's neck from the bushes in back of the rooming house which faces the motel balcony.

"The man calling himself Benavides said his friend Pete had 'hired out his gun to kill Negroes,' Thompson

Thompson said he informed the FBI, the Shelby County attorney general and Memphis police just after the interview with Benavides. But that authorities "lost all interest" after Ray was charged.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 7/21/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Character:

or

Classification:

44-1854-748

Submitting Office: MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

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FBI - MIAMI	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New Trial for Ray Considered

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A federal judge set Oct. 22 for a special hearing to determine whether James Earl Ray is entitled to a new trial in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After a closed-door meeting with opposing attorneys, U.S. District Judge Robert McRae Jr. delayed the hearing from Sept. 30 to give defense lawyers time to look at the physical evidence the state gathered after the 1968 assassination.

Earlier in the day, McRae had ruled that defense lawyers were entitled to see the evidence despite objections by the state.

McRae also imposed strict security guidelines for the hearing, which he said would last about two weeks. He said all persons entering the 11th-floor courtroom would

be subject to search, and reporters wishing to cover the trial will have to apply to the U.S. marshal for credentials at least a week prior to the hearing.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

12-D

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 8/22/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1854

Submitting Office MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

44-1854-749

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SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 22 1974	
FBI - MIAMI	

2

Ray Goes to Court Today To Seek a Change in Plea

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray returned Monday to the cell where he claims Texas lawyer Percy Foreman talked him into pleading guilty to a crime he says he didn't commit — the 1968 murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Barring an eleventh-hour intervention by the U.S. Supreme Court, Ray will be led before U.S. District Judge Robert M. McRae Jr. at 10:30 a.m. today. McRae will conduct an evidentiary hearing to determine whether Ray is entitled to withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial in King's death.

THE PRISONER was driven by U.S. marshals to the Shelby County Jail Sunday.



James Earl Ray
... claims pressure

day night from the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville, 200 miles away. At the end of the trip, he was locked under tight security in the same maximum-security cell he occupied before the 1969 trial.

Late Monday morning, U.S. marshals drove Ray from the jail to the federal building to meet with his lawyers. Persons who saw him said he looked tired and older than his 46 years. He returned to jail seven hours later.

Ray claims Foreman pressured him into pleading guilty because the famous Houston lawyer hoped to make money off a book by William Bradford Huie of Birmingham, Ala. Ray had signed his share of royalties from the book, "He Slew the Dreamer," over to Foreman to help cover legal fees.

Though the alleged conflict forms the basis for Ray's bid for a new trial,

neither Foreman nor Huie will attend the evidentiary hearing ordered by the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. McRae ruled they could not be subpoenaed, so attorneys will present their testimony by deposition.

FOREMAN, in his sworn statement, said he recommended the guilty plea in order to save Ray from the electric chair. He also said there was no doubt in his mind that the Missouri prison escapee killed King out of hate.

Ray's current lawyers — Robert Livingston of Memphis and Bernard Fensterwald and James Lesar, both of Washington — have said they will attempt to show that Ray was set up to take the blame for murder.

Livingston said one of two professional gunmen fired the .30-06 bullet that struck down King as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel on April 4, 1968. Four other persons hired the gunmen, he said.

Ray admitted he was in Memphis on the day of the murder. He said a man he knew only as "Raoul" asked him to buy a .30-06 rifle, come to Memphis and join a gun-running venture.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

13-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 10/22/74

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Author:

Editor:

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

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OCT 22 1974

FBI - MIAMI



—Associated Press

Ray at Court

James Earl Ray, right, who was sentenced to life in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, leaves fed-

eral court in Memphis. The court is hearing evidence in Ray's claim that he was coerced into pleading guilty after eight months in a windowless "vault" that was under electronic surveillance. (See story, Page 26A.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Was Coerced Into Guilty Plea After 8 Months in 'Vault,' Court Told

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — James Earl Ray's attorneys portrayed Ray on Tuesday as a man who was badgered in 1969 into pleading guilty to killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. after being locked eight months in a windowless "steel vault" cell monitored by electronic devices.

As Ray sat impassively at the opening of a federal court hearing, he hopes will lead to freedom, Bernard Fensterwald of Washington, D.C., also accused Ray's guards of making photostatic copies of all his mail, including correspondence with his attorneys, and delivering them to the prosecutor.

"In a very true sense, this makes the Ellsberg case look like a model of judicial rectitude," Fensterwald said in reference to the case of Pentagon papers figure Daniel Ellsberg.

"THE SENDING of Ray's mail to the prosecutor is, we contend, an irreparable constitutional defect."

Fensterwald made his comments in an opening statement before Judge Robert McRae of U.S. District Court, who will decide whether Ray may withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial for murder.

Ray, sat without comment behind his attorneys, guarded on each side by U.S. marshals.

About 30 spectators, including 10 blacks, and more than 20 newsmen were on hand. Each underwent an electronic search for weapons before entering the courthouse.

RAY CONTENTS that one of his former attorneys

Percy Foreman of Houston coerced him into pleading guilty. He also alleges that Foreman and another attorney, Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala., had a conflict of interest because they held royalty rights under contracts with William Bradford Huie, who wrote about Ray's case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

26-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 10/23/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

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Classification: 44-1854

Submitting Office MIAMI, FLA.

☐ Being Investigated

44-1854-751

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OCT 23 1974	
FBI - MIAMI	

#2

Witness Was Drunk, Ray Court Is Told

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — Fifteen minutes before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, the only witness to place James Earl Ray near the slaying was so drunk he couldn't stand, a cab driver testified Wednesday.

James McGraw gave the testimony on the second day of a federal court hearing on Ray's efforts to withdraw his guilty plea to the King slaying and gain a new trial for murder.

McGraw said he was called to a rooming house across the street from the motel where King was shot April 4, 1968, to pick up Charles Quitman Stephens and found Stephens drunk in an upstairs room.

"He was laying on the bed and couldn't get up," McGraw said.

Stephens told officers he saw Ray running from an upstairs bathroom in the rooming house, from where officers theorize King was shot.

Earlier Wednesday Ray was quoted by the doctor who treated him during his stay in the Shelby County jail as saying he wasn't alone in the King death.

DR. McCARTHY DeMere said he asked Ray if he were involved in the case as Ray prepared to leave Memphis in March 1969 to begin serving a 99-year sentence in the state penitentiary in Nashville.

"Well, let's put it this way — I wasn't by myself," DeMere said Ray replied.

Because of the guilty plea, there never was any testimony whether Ray was guilty or innocent. But a former assistant in the public defender's office, Hugh Stanton Jr., testified Wednesday that he had concluded, "We didn't have much defense."

Stanton, whose father was public defender after Ray's 1968 arrest in London, now is district attorney. He and DeMere testified before U.S. District Judge Robert McRae Jr.

Explaining why he thought Ray's defense was weak, Stanton cited Ray's fingerprints on the murder weapon, Ray's presence in Memphis and the discovery of his overnight bag at the scene of the shooting.

But Stanton said he was preparing a defense for Ray until he pleaded guilty. "I was amazed and astounded" at the plea, Stanton said.

HOWEVER, STANTON said he considered as reasonable the recommendation that Ray plead guilty. "I think it was an extremely high probability that the jury probably would have given him the death penalty."

Ray claims his private attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., coerced him to enter the plea and that none of his former attorneys developed a supportable defense for him.

Stanton said that several documents collected by defense investigators could have been used in support of Ray's innocence, including statements by witnesses disputing the site from which the fatal shot came.

Authorities have discounted the possibility of a conspiracy in King's death, claiming Ray acted alone. But Ray and his attorneys are contending that he was innocent of the shooting and was the dupe of a conspiracy carried out by others.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11-B

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

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OCT 24 1974	
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#2

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Soon Distrusted Author's Motives, Ray Tells Court

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray, seeking a new trial in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., testified Friday that he signed over to his first defense lawyer 40 per cent of any money he might get from books but



William Huie
... offered \$12,000?

later became "suspicious" about author William Bradford Huie.

Ray, who now claims that he did not kill King, is asking for a new trial on the grounds that his attorneys in the first trial, Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala., and Percy Foreman of Houston, pressured him into making a guilty plea.

The 46-year-old Ray leaned forward in the witness chair and spoke into a microphone as his present attorney, James Lesar, began probing the financial arrangement between Huie and lawyers Foreman and Hanes. Hanes represented Ray from shortly after his June 8, 1968, arrest until Ray fired him the following Nov. 12. Foreman replaced Hanes and was fired the day after he entered Ray's guilty plea on March 10, 1969.

RAY SAID he first met Hanes when the Alabama attorney responded to a letter by coming to him in an English prison while he was awaiting extradition. He said Hanes gave him two documents — one granting Hanes power of attorney and the other giving Hanes "40 per cent of any revenue he might receive through the communications industry."

"I accepted and signed the documents," Ray said.

Lesar asked when Ray first heard of Huie, who eventually wrote a book on the case after Ray's conviction entitled, "He Slew the Dreamer."

"I have no recollection of ever hearing his name until I returned to the United States," Ray said.

After he was extradited and arrived in Memphis on July 19, 1968, Ray said he began to distrust Huie.

"I HAD READ a book by him, I think it was "Three Lives in Mississippi" or something like that, and I got suspicious. His technique, it would seem to me, was to get someone to incriminate themselves and then he'd give them money."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 10/26/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

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OCT 29 1974	
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#2 DPM

Rights Group Calls Ray 'Fall Guy,' Urges New Trial in King's Slaying

ATLANTA — (UPI) — The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Saturday it was convinced that James Earl Ray was just the "fall guy" for wealthy interests in King's slaying, and urged that Ray get a new trial.



RAY

The SCLC referred to Ray as a "minnow" in the case and said the new trial was needed so authorities could get to the "big fish."

Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of the civil rights leader in exchange for a 99-year prison sentence, but has since changed his story and now contends he was pressured by his attorney, Percy Foreman, into entering the guilty plea. A federal court in Memphis, Tenn., currently is holding an evidentiary hearing into Ray's charges.

IN A TWO-PAGE statement issued by SCLC headquarters, the civil rights group said it was convinced that King was killed by a conspiracy, and that Ray was just a "fall guy" for wealthy leaders of that conspiracy.

"We do not question James Earl Ray's guilt or innocence," the statement said. "That to us is immaterial without other persons involved in the conspiracy being brought to trial."

The SCLC said, "This is why we call for the new trial for Ray. To catch and punish a minnow and let the big fish get away would not be justice to any degree."

IT CONTENDED that some wealthy persons who wanted King dead "paid a huge sum of money, we believe, to a few lunatics who agreed to be the patsies to carry out the crime."

"Even though James Earl Ray was apprehended and given a 99-year sentence, this was not justice, nor was it law and order, because James Earl Ray was the fall guy," the SCLC said. "He was set up to be captured."

The SCLC statement contended that Ray cooperated at first, "but for some reason James Earl Ray has become dissatisfied with the way things have worked out for him, and as we all know he has started to talk and complain about the way he was forced to confess to this brutal murder."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

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44-1854-754

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OCT 29 1974	
FBI - MIAMI	

#2

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Effort to Get Plea Data Upheld

From Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Tuesday upheld James Earl Ray's effort to obtain evidence about the circumstances of his plea of guilty to the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The court let stand an order of U.S. District Judge Robert M. McRae of Memphis, Tenn., to make the evidence available to Ray's lawyers.

A hearing opened in U.S. District Court in Memphis last week on Ray's motion that he be permitted to withdraw his guilty plea. Ray contends he was pressured into the plea by circumstances and by his attorneys.

On Aug. 21, McRae issued an order requiring Ray's former attorney, Percy

Foreman, of Houston, Tex., and others to produce correspondence and other records.

Tennessee officials petitioned Justice Potter Stewart for a stay on grounds the judge had exceeded his authority. Stewart referred the matter to the full court.

The evidence sought included correspondence between Foreman and authors William Bradford Huie and Gerold Frank.

Ray has maintained that Foreman advised him to plead guilty to avoid a public trial in order to increase the sales of books being written about the case. Ray was to get a share of the proceeds of the books.

Ray said Foreman argued the books would sell better if they contained details which had not already come out in trial.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

16-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 10/30/74

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~~The~~ book was about the trial of the men ~~accused of~~ killing three young civil rights workers at Philadelphia, Miss.

Earlier, John and Jerry Ray, James Earl's brothers, testified that they too distrusted Huie. Jerry Ray testified that Huie offered the Ray family \$12,000 to help keep James Earl off the witness stand, and when he asked the author whether Hanes would go along with that, Huie replied:

"I'm the boss. I'm the one paying out money. I call the shots."

AS A RESULT of this conversation, Jerry Ray said he later told James, "'You don't have an attorney representing you, he's representing the book writer.' I said, 'I'd fire him and get another lawyer.'"

Jerry Ray testified he met Huie in Huntsville, Ala., early in November 1968 at Huie's request.

"He (Huie) said Arthur Hanes was having trouble with James because he (James) was wanting to get on the witness stand," Jerry Ray said. "Huie said he didn't want James on the stand because it would be public knowledge."

Jerry Ray said the writer told him if he would get his brother not to take the stand, Huie would get \$12,000 from Hanes and give it to the Ray family.

John Ray, brought to the hearing from a federal prison in Illinois where he is serving 18 years as an accessory to bank robbery, said Foreman told him he planned to show films of "cities burning while King talked."

"He said he'd turn the volume up real high and after two weeks of this, the jury would want to shoot Martin Luther King themselves," John Ray said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Didn't kill King, Ray letter says

Associated Press

MEMPHIS — James Earl Ray says he did not personally shoot Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "but I believe I am partly responsible for his death."

The statement came in a letter introduced into evidence at a U.S. District Court hearing at which Ray is seeking to overturn his plea of guilty to the slaying of the civil rights leader here in 1968.

The letter was written by Ray to Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss.) on March 14, 1969, four days after he entered his plea of guilty in the King slaying.

Asked at the court hearing yesterday what the wording of his letter to Eastland meant, Ray replied, "I assumed you could be involved in some

kind of crime and not have knowledge of it. I had no direct knowledge."

Ray's attorneys contend Ray, 46, was the "fall guy" of a conspiracy carried out by others.

Ray also testified that on the afternoon of the King assassination on April 4, 1968, he had rented a room across the street from the motel where King was murdered, believing there would be "some kind of meeting between me and another party up there."

He did not elaborate, but his attorneys have said he thought he was going to discuss the gun-running business.

Ray said he could not account for the discovery on the street nearby of his binoculars and 30.06 rifle, which the state contends

was fired from the rooming house bathroom.

Ray's fingerprints were discovered on the rifle.

Ray testified he had witnesses who could tell of his whereabouts 11 minutes before the assassination. He said he had kept the information to himself because he feared the FBI would find the witnesses and harass them.

Ray was not asked prior to the time the hearing was recessed for the day where he was at the time of King's slaying.

Ray claims his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, coerced him into pleading guilty and that both Foreman and another former Ray attorney, Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, were more interested in literary royalties on his case than in preparing his defense.

Ray said Foreman talked him into what he thought would be a "technical plea of guilty to get me out of town to the penitentiary." He said that he was unable to get Foreman to withdraw from the case, so he decided to plead guilty, then retract the plea, obtain a new attorney and reopen the case.

"I didn't want to drag out the case because I thought my health was deteriorating," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

9-A

MIAMI NEWS

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 10/30/74

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Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

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Hanes said Ray told him that on the night of April 2 his rifle was "taken" from a motel in Mississippi and that he didn't see it again "until it was thrown down" with a bundle containing Ray's personal effects and binoculars near the rooming house after the shots were fired.

HANES SAID that when the rifle was taken, Ray was left a note telling him to come to the rooming house on Memphis' Main Street at 3 p.m. April 4. According to Ray's account, Hanes said, Ray drove into the area and parked seven or eight blocks away.

"He walked to the rooming house and checked in and then his contact contacted him and asked where his car was parked," Hanes said.

According to Ray, Hanes said, the contact had him get the car and park it near the rooming house. Ray then was told to buy the binoculars, Hanes said. Ray returned to a room at the rooming house, according to Hanes' testimony.

"At 5:20 p.m. the contact told him 'Jim, you go on down and get yourself a beer at Jim's grill,'" Hanes gave as Ray's account.

HANES AND his son, Arthur Hanes Jr., were dismissed as Ray's attorneys in November 1968, two days before Ray was scheduled to go on trial.

Ray touched on the conspiracy theory only briefly Wednesday when he was asked whether he had told his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston everything about his actions in the case.

Ray said he told Foreman all the details "but I didn't tell him about anybody else, their names or addresses." He said he had no addresses but had "a couple of phone numbers."

Ray said he later was pressed by author William Bradford Huie for the names of co-conspirators.

"The conspirators, I never was associated with more

than one person," Ray said. "I don't believe I ever used the word 'conspirator' or 'conspiracy.'"

RAY SEEKS a trial on grounds that Foreman coerced his plea and his former attorneys were guilty of a conflict of interest because of their rights to literary royalties from a book about the case.

At the outset of the seventh day of the hearing, Judge Robert M. McRae Jr. said the hearing "may be disappointing in some respects" to newsmen because it was producing no sensational revelations on the King assassination.

But he said the hearing was not a trial; it was only to determine whether Ray should be allowed to withdraw his March 10, 1969, guilty plea and stand trial for the slaying of King.

"This case has been famous because everybody who has ever heard of it is an expert on whether or not there was a conspiracy," McRae said. "That's not the issue in the case."

"I BELIEVE he has testified he did shoot Dr. King. But this is not a murder case."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Said He Was Just a Bystander, Ran From Fright, Lawyer Testifies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — James Earl Ray claimed he was standing on a sidewalk outside a rooming house when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed on April 4, 1968, and ran away because he knew he was in trouble, Ray's first attorney testified Wednesday.



James Earl Ray
... led from court

Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala., testifying at a U.S. District Court hearing on whether Ray should be allowed to nullify an earlier guilty plea in King's death, said Ray told him he had gone to the rooming house and met a contact named "Raoul," talked with the man and then went downstairs and "had a beer or two."

"He was standing out on the sidewalk in front of the rooming house at 6:01 p.m. when the shot was fired," Hanes told the court. He added that Ray was scared and fled.

EARLIER, Ray had testified that when asked about a conspiracy in the slaying, he said he was "never associated with more than one person." He did not identify the person and was not asked his name.

The statement came as Ray concluded his testimony on whether he may withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial in the assassination of the civil rights leader.

Ray's current attorneys have said Ray identified Raoul as a French Canadian he met in Montreal after his escape from the Missouri Penitentiary. After King was shot, Ray fled to London with a Canadian passport. He was traced to England through passport fingerprints checked in Montreal.

Ray earlier in the hearing said he went to the rooming house under the impression he was to discuss gun-running.

HANES' ACCOUNT was the first sworn testimony to challenge police theories that Ray shot King from a bathroom in the rooming house.

Hanes said he had asked Ray repeatedly, "Did you fire the shot that killed Dr. King?"

"Invariably the answer was 'No,'" Hanes said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

14-A

MIAMI HERALD

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OCT 31 1974	
FBI - MIAMI	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray 'had names' of confederates

Combined Miami News Services

MEMPHIS — James Earl Ray has testified that he had "addresses and telephone numbers" of others involved in events leading to the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, but that he never gave most of this information to his attorneys.

He said he had kept the names of some of his witnesses secret because he thought the names might get back to FBI agents and that the FBI might harass them.

Ray said he gave one telephone number to one of his former lawyers, Percy Foreman of Houston, but that Foreman did not press him for names.

Ray is seeking to withdraw the guilty plea he entered in March 1969, contending that he was coerced by Foreman into falsely admitting the murder of the civil rights leader.

Ray claimed yesterday that he was standing on a sidewalk outside a rooming house when Dr. King was killed and ran away because he knew he was in trouble, Ray's first attorney, Arthur Hanes, testified yesterday.

Hanes said Ray told him he had gone to the rooming house and met a contact named "Raoul," talked with the man, and then went downstairs and "had a beer or two."

"He was standing out on the sidewalk in front of the rooming house at 6:01 p.m. when the shot was fired," Hanes told the court. He added that Ray was scared and tied.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5-C

MIAMI NEWS

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NOV 1 1974	
FBI - MIAMI	

Ray Acted Alone, Says Author of Book on Slaying

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (UPI) — Author William Bradford Huie, in a deposition read Thursday in federal court, said he tried to prove there was a conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but finally concluded that James Earl Ray did it alone "to get attention."



William B. Huie
... gives deposition

"I know and knew after Oct. 15 (1968) nobody else was involved (in the April 4, 1968, murder) except Ray," said the author of the book "He Slew the Dreamer."

HUIE'S DEPOSITION made Sept. 28, was read in the second week of a hearing in which Ray, who now insists he did not pull the trigger in the King slaying, is seeking a new trial. Ray contends that lawyers Percy Foreman and Arthur Hanes Sr. pressured him to plead

guilty to the King murder in order to preserve the value of Huie's book.

If the contention is true, according to Huie's testimony the move was spectacularly unsuccessful. The writer said his royalties for the book through Dec. 31, 1973, totaled only \$4,462.

Huie said he had two reasons for contacting Hanes, Ray's first lawyer, and suggesting a book on the murder. He said he wanted to find out "what happened in the murder and who was involved" and to help Ray raise money for his defense.

Huie said, "Ray assumed his story would be worth a fortune. Ray and Hanes foresaw a deal with me. Ray never bought any pig in a sack. He knew exactly what he was getting."

The only way to make money from the case, Huie said, was to prove a conspiracy. He said there was "no story" if Ray acted alone.

HUIE SAID HE first began to suspect that Ray acted alone when he realized the accused murderer was broke. "That was the first indication to me there hadn't been anyone else but Ray," he said.

Ray has testified that he never told Foreman, who engineered his guilty plea in return for a 99-year sentence, that he killed King. Huie said he thought Foreman would never even bother to ask.

"Mr. Foreman," he said, "is the kind of man who would assume a man is guilty. He'd say, 'Son, if you ain't guilty, what do you need me for?'"

Hanes testified earlier Thursday that he did not believe Foreman could have talked Ray into a guilty plea against the defendant's will.

"James Earl Ray is strong-willed," the former Birmingham, Ala., mayor said. "It's just hard for me to believe anybody could talk James Earl Ray into doing anything he did not want to do."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

20-A

MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI, FLA.

Date: 11/17/74

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Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

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Classification: 44-1854 -759

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Acted Alone In King Slaying, Foreman Testifies



Percy Foreman
... last witness

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — A federal court hearing on James Earl Ray's bid for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ended Friday. It ended after testimony was given that Ray acted alone and thought the slaying would make him "the most popular man in America."

U.S. District Judge Robert McRae Jr. did not say when he might rule on Ray's petition to withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial in the April 4, 1968, assassination. But the judge indicated he would be working on the case at least through the Christmas holidays.

At the end of the eighth day of the hearing, McRae gave lawyers until Dec. 13 to file arguments and other documents concerning the evidence.

RAY WILL resume serving his 99-year sentence at the state penitentiary in Nashville, Tenn.

McRae said he expected

the case to be appealed to the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, regardless of his ruling.

The only testimony offered Friday was the sworn statement given April 3 by **Percy Foreman**, of Houston, who was one of Ray's former attorneys. In his statement that was read into the court record, Foreman said in "my considered judgment, Ray acted alone."

Foreman describe Ray as a racist who felt the assassination of the civil rights leader would make him "the most popular man in America."

FOREMAN DENIED in the 208-page deposition that he badgered Ray into pleading guilty because he was more interested in increasing literary royalties on the case. Foreman, 72, said he did not need the money because he is worth about \$4.5 million.

Ray claims that Foreman coerced the plea and that Foreman and his first attor-

ney, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., wanted to keep him off the witness stand because of their royalty contracts with Ray and author William Bradford Huie.

He contends that the attorneys wanted to avoid a public trial that would disclose inside information obtained by Huie and damage the value of the book "He Slew the Dreamer."

Foreman said Ray never intimated "that he expected me to believe he was innocent."

"He thought everybody thought like he thought, and he thought the killing of Martin Luther King would make him the champion of the white race, that he would be the most popular man in America," Foreman said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

9-A

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