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CINCINNATI (UPI) -- JAMES EARL RAY CONTENTS HE DID NOT ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ONLY PLEADED GUILTY TO THE MURDER BECAUSE HE WAS "COERCED" BY LAWYER PERCY FOREMAN, AN ATTORNEY FOR RAY, ACCORDING TODAY.

RAY CONTENTS HE DID NOT SHOOT KING, BUT HE ADMITS HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE ATTEMPT ARGUING BEFORE A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT THAT RAY BE ALLOWED TO DROP HIS 1969 GUILTY PLEA TO KILLING KING IN MEMPHIS, TENN., ON APRIL 4, 1968.

"THE FACT IS RAY WANTS A TRIAL," ADDED LESAR. "HE CLAIMS HE WAS THREATENED."

JUDGE ARTHUR CELENTZEL ASKED LESAR HOW RAY COULD CLAIM THAT FOREMAN "COERCED" THE GUILTY PLEA FROM HIM WHEN RAY PREVIOUSLY TOLD ANOTHER JUDGE HE WAS NOT COERCED INTO ACCEPTING THE PLEA.

"THE PROBLEM IS COERCION IS THAT THE JUDGE WHO'S DECISION WILL BE FINAL," CELENTZEL ASKED.

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Ray 'Coerced'

CINCINNATI — James Earl Ray did not shoot civil rights leader Martin Luther King and was "coerced" into pleading guilty, his attorney argued before the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

James Lesar, of Washington, told the three-judge panel that Ray had signed stipulations admitting to the 1968 sniper shooting so that he could eventually get a new trial and change his plea.

"It was a technical plea of guilty to get him out of town so he could attack the plea," Lesar said.

He quoted Ray, now serving a 99-year prison term in the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville, as saying he was "framed" and was not willingly a part of any conspiracy in regard to the King murder.

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The Washington Post A-3
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 The New York Times _____
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 The National Observer _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 2-4-76

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
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NEWSDAY 1-31
ADV FOR 1:30 A.M. EDT SUN 2-1
NEW YORK (UPI) -- FBI INFORMANTS WERE ACTIVE IN THE 1968 RIOTS THAT BROUGHT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BACK TO MEMPHIS, TENN., WHERE HE WAS ASSASSINATED, NEWSDAY SAID TODAY.
THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER QUOTED TWO UNDISCLOSED SOURCES AS SAYING SEVERAL FBI AGENTS AND AT LEAST ONE MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICER PENETRATED THE BLACK MILITANT GROUP KNOWN AS THE "INVADERS" -- A 100-MEMBER FACTION IN THE VANGUARD OF RIOTING ON MARCH 28, 1968, IN OPPOSITION TO KING'S POLICY OF NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. ONE YOUTH WAS KILLED, SCORES WERE INJURED AND 238 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BEFORE THE REBELS WERE QUelled.
NEWSDAY QUOTED THE REV. JESSE JACKSON, ONE OF KING'S AIDES AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT, AS SAYING KING NEVER WOULD HAVE RETURNED TO MEMPHIS FOLLOWING HIS ABORTED ATTEMPT TO LEAD A PEACEFUL MARCH ON BEHALF OF THE CITY'S SANITATION WORKERS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INVADER-LED DISTURBANCE.
"WE NEVER INTENDED TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN MEMPHIS," HE SAID.
NEWSDAY SAID A FORMER LEADER OF THE INVADERS TOLD ONE OF ITS REPORTERS HE LATER LEARNED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE POLICE OFFICER, WHO WORKED UNDERCOVER, POSING AS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP.
"HE HAD A 7.62 RUSSIAN AUTOMATIC RIFLE AND HE WAS ARMED EVERY TIME WE WERE ARMED," THE FORMER GANG-LEADER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. "HE WAS ALWAYS SUGGESTING ACTIONS THAT WE SHOULD TAKE. I NEVER SAW HIM PHYSICALLY ATTACK ANYONE, BUT HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST PROVOCATIVE MEMBERS OF THE INVADERS."
NEWSDAY SAID BOTH THE FBI AND MEMPHIS POLICE HAVE VERIFIED THAT THEIR AGENTS WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AT THE TIME OF THE RIOTS AND KING'S ASSASSINATION.
THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED THE REV. ROSEA WILLIAMS, ATLANTA DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOUNDED BY KING, AS SAYING THE SCLC FREQUENTLY USED INVADER GANG MEMBERS AS PARADE MARSHALS OR SECURITY GUARDS.
"THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE HURT DR. KING," WILLIAMS WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. "BUT THOSE WHO INFILTRATED OUR GROUPS, AND WE COULD NEVER IDENTIFY THEM, TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE YOUNGSTERS' FRUSTRATIONS AND NEGLECT AND TURN THEM AGAINST US."
ADV FOR 6:30 A.M. EDT SUN 2-1
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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FBI Plot On King Denied

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

Aides to the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. deny that he was taunted by the FBI into moving to the black-owned motel in Memphis where he was murdered by a sniper in 1968.

"It's a false lead," said Rep. Andrew Young (D-Ga.) of the recent speculation that an FBI plot to embarrass King caused him to move to the motel room where he was killed by a rifle bullet fired from across the street.

King was shot on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel, which catered almost exclusively to blacks, on April 4, 1968, while participating in a strike against the city by garbage workers.

A week earlier, King and two aides had spent several hours in another, white-owned motel, the Holiday Inn-Riverview, overlooking the Mississippi River.

King's reason for changing motels has been scrutinized by the Justice Department and other assassination investigators in recent weeks because of an FBI memorandum unearthed by the Senate intelligence committee.

The memo, dated March 28, 1968, detailed a plan to portray King publicly as a "hypocrite" for staying in a white motel, the Riverview, while he was leading a black protest aimed at boycotting white merchants in Memphis.

The memo suggested using a friendly media source in Memphis to publicize where King was staying, apparently to cause disillusionment among his black followers.

A Justice Department source said recently that there is no evidence that the FBI ever put the scheme into effect.

Whether it was or not, the plan had nothing to do with King's change of lodgings, according to his former aides interviewed in Atlanta this week.

Bernard Lee, now executive vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, recalled that there never was any plan for King to stay at the Riverview.

He said that he, King and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy wound up at the Riverview March 28 simply because it was the safest place to find shelter when their protest march that day erupted into violence, looting and clashes with Memphis police.

In the confusion, Lee said, they flagged down either a police car or a private automobile and at someone's suggestion—he has forgotten whose—fled to the Riverview. They remained there a few hours before flying to Atlanta, having announced preparations to return the next week for a renewed protest march.

In the interim, Andrew Young, then a top aide to King, moved with other staff members into Memphis and set up headquarters in the Lorraine.

Young said this week that it was "natural" for them to choose the Lorraine. In any city, King and his staff customarily stayed either in black-owned motels or with friends in the black community, he said.

When King returned to Memphis on April 3, Young said, it was natural for him to stay in rooms of the motel where his staff had set up headquarters.

"The FBI may have tried to exploit it (King's brief sojourn in the white motel)," Young added. "But there was nothing suspicious about Martin's staying in the Lorraine. It was natural."

James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to killing King. However, he denied at the time that he had acted alone, and has since claimed that he did not fire the fatal shot. His petition for a trial is now before the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

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Date 1-2-76

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Hearing on Ray Set

NASHVILLE, Jan. 21
 (UPI) The sixth U.S. Circuit
 Court of Appeals has
 scheduled arguments Feb. 3
 on James Earl Ray's effort to
 overturn his 1969 guilty plea to
 the sniper slaying of Dr.
 Martin Luther King Jr. The
 court scheduled the hearing of
 Ray's appeal of a lower court
 ruling denying him a new
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JACKSON, TENN. (UPI)--THE TENNESSEE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS THURSDAY REFUSED A NEW TRIAL FOR JAMES EARL RAY, THE CONVICTED ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

A THREE-JUDGE PANEL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO UPHOLD A RULING BY SHELBY COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE WILLIAM V. WILLIAMS. WILLIAMS HAD REFUSED EARLIER TO GRANT A NEW TRIAL FOR RAY FOLLOWING HIS PLEA OF GUILTY IN THE APRIL 4, 1968, MURDER.

THE APPELLATE JUDGES HELD THAT RAY'S CONTENTIONS IN HIS APPEAL WERE ALL UNACCEPTABLE--EITHER THAT THEY DID NOT RAISE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS, HAD ALREADY BEEN RULED ON OR WERE WAIVED BY THE DEFENDANT'S GUILTY PLEA.

THE STATE SUPREME COURT HAD ALSO PREVIOUSLY DENIED A NEW TRIAL FOR THE CONVICTED ASSASSIN.

RAY PLEADED GUILTY TO THE MURDER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AND RECEIVED A 99-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE. UNDER TENNESSEE LAW, A GUILTY PLEA WAIVES THE RIGHT TO APPEAL EXCEPT UNDER CERTAIN "FORMAL" CIRCUMSTANCES.

RAY'S ATTORYS HAD ASKED FOR THE NEW TRIAL, OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, A CONSTITUTIONAL HEARING, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW ALL THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AND THE SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION OF RAY.

IN ADDITION, VARIOUS PROCEDURAL ERRORS WERE ALSO CITED IN THE REQUEST FOR A NEW TRIAL.

KING DIED FROM A SINGLE BULLET AS HE STOOD ON THE GALLERY OF HIS ROOM AT THE LORRAINE HOTEL IN MEMPHIS THAT SPRING DAY ALMOST FOUR YEARS AGO. RAY, THE STATE CONTENDED, FIRED THE FATAL SHOT WITH A HUNTING RIFLE PROPPED ON THE WINDOW LEDGE OF A DIRTY BATH AT A RUN-DOWN ROOMING HOUSE ON MEMPHIS' MAIN STREET.

AFTER AN INTERNATIONAL HUNT, RAY WAS CAPTURED IN LONDON, RETURNED TO MEMPHIS TO STAND TRIAL. HE WAS DEFENDED BY FAMEL DEFENSE ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN OF HOUSTON.

RAY AND FOREMAN NEGOTIATED A PLEA OF GUILTY IN EXCHANGE FOR THE 99-YEAR SENTENCE AND THE CONVICTED ASSASSIN WAS TAKEN TO THE STATE PRISON AT NASHVILLE TO BEGIN SERVING HIS TERM.

JAMES EARL RAY

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UPI-82

(RAY)

WASHINGTON --THE SUPREME COURT TODAY DENIED A HEARING TO JAMES EARL RAY, SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ASSASSINATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., IN CONNECTION WITH A DISPUTE OVER A BOOK CONTRACT.

THE COURT ACTED IN A BRIEF ORDER, WITH NO OPINION.

RAY IS CONFINED IN BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON. PETROS, TENN.

HE SUED IN U. S. DISTRICT COURT IN NASHVILLE IN 1969 TO

AVOID A CONTRACT UNDER WHICH HE SAID ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN OF HOUSTON WOULD RECEIVE \$165,000 OF THE PROCEEDS OF A BOOK TO BE WRITTEN BY WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE OF HARTSELLE, ALA.

THE BOOK, TO BE ENTITLED "HE SLEW THE DREAMER," WOULD BE ABOUT RAY'S LIFE AND THE ASSASSINATION.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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RAY 2-15 NX

PETROS, TENN. (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY, THE SLAYER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., HAS BUNCHED ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM PRISON, AUTHORITIES SAID MONDAY.

STATE CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER MARK LUTTRELL SAID THE ATTEMPT OCCURRED FEB. 5 AND RESULTED IN RAY BEING PUT BACK IN A DISCIPLINARY CELL AT THE MAXIMUM SECURITY BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON.

"HE WAS FOUND CRAWLING TO OR FROM A PLACE WHERE HE COULD WORK AND NOT BE SEEN," LUTTRELL SAID.

WARDEN ROBERT MOORE SAID RAY HAD ACQUIRED A MAKESHIFT HANDSAW AND WAS ATTEMPTING TO SAW A HOLE THROUGH THE CEILING OF A ROOM ADJOINING AN AUDITORIUM WHERE INMATES WATCHED MOVIES.

THE LIGHTS CAME ON TOO SOON, MOORE SAID, AND THE GUARDS SAW RAY SLIPPING OUT OF HIS SECLUDED WORK AREA.

LAST MAY, RAY CONCOCTED AN ELABORATE PLAN TO ESCAPE THAT WOULD HAVE LED HIM THROUGH A MAZE OF STEAM TUNNELS TO FREEDOM.

BUT THAT ATTEMPT ALSO ABORTED AND NEARLY ENDED IN RAY'S DEATH BECAUSE THE TUNNEL HE CHOSE WAS HEATED TO 400 DEGREES BY THE PIPELINES.

REGARDING RAY'S LATEST TRY, MOORE SAID, "WE HAD A COUPLE OF MEN GET OUT THAT WAY BEFORE I BECAME WARDEN UP HERE AND I SUPPOSE RAY THOUGHT HE COULD DO IT TOO."

THE WARDEN SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE MAKESHIFT SAW, RAY HAD A HAMMER, A BLOCK AND TACKLE, AND A BIT. HE ALSO HAD SOME "PLASTIC WOOD" THAT HE USED TO CONCEAL HIS WORK.

THE WARDEN SAID THAT EVEN IF RAY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HIS ATTEMPT TO SAW HIS WAY THROUGH THE CEILING, HE FACED SEVERAL MORE OBSTACLES IN HIS ROUTE TO FREEDOM. RAY WOULD HAVE HAD TO PUNCH A HOLE THROUGH THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING, MOORE SAID, THEN THERE IS A 40-FOOT DROP TO THE GROUND THAT WOULD HAVE DEPOSITED RAY WITHIN FEET OF A GUARD TOWER.

MOORE SAID RAY WENT BEFORE THE PRISON'S DISCIPLINARY BOARD ON FEB. 5 AND HE WAS SENTENCED TO 30 DAYS IN A DISCIPLINARY CELL. THAT MEANS RAY WILL HAVE NO PRIVILEGES OTHER THAN TO RECEIVE HIS MEALS AND MAIL.

"THIS IS HIS OWN THING," MOORE SAID. "I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER GET TRYING TO FIGURE A WAY OUT OF HERE."

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RAY 2-15 NX

PETROS, TENN. (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY, LIVING UP TO HIS IMAGE AS A BORN LOSER, HAS THREE MORE WEEKS TO CONTEMPLATE HIS LATEST UNSUCCESSFUL VENTURE.

RAY, THE CONVICTED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WAS ORDERED TO SPEND A MONTH IN A DETENTION CELL AFTER GUARDS UNCOVERED HIS MOST RECENT ESCAPE PLAN.

CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER MARK LUTTRELL REVEALED MONDAY THAT THE CONFESSED SNIPER SLAYER WAS NABBED BY GUARDS AT THE REMOTE MAXIMUM SECURITY BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON AS HE ATTEMPTED TO STEAL OUT OF A SMALL ROOM INTO A MOVIE THEATER FEB. 5.

RAY IS SERVING A 99 YEAR TERM FOR THE MURDER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER IN MEMPHIS IN APRIL 1968.

A CHECK OF THE SMALL ROOM RAY WAS CAUGHT SNEAKING FROM REVEALED A SPOT IN THE CEILING WHERE A MAKESHIFT SAW HAD BEEN USED TO CARVE AN ESCAPE HATCH.

EVEN IF RAY HAD BEEN ABLE TO UTILIZE HIS STOLEN TOOLS, WHICH INCLUDED A HAMMER, A BLOCK AND TACKLE, ROPE AND THE SAW, TO KNOCK A HOLE IN THE CEILING, WARDEN ROBERT MOORE SAID HE FACED AN OBSTACLE COURSE BEFORE HE COULD VANISH INTO THE DARKNESS OF BORDERING MORGAN STATE FOREST.

MOORE SAID RAY WOULD STILL HAVE HAD TO PUNCH A HOLE IN THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING AND SCALE A 40-FOOT DROP TO THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALLS. AND, MOORE POINTED OUT, RAY WOULD HAVE DROPPED NEAR THE BASE OF A GUARD TOWER.

THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT RAY, WHO HAD BEEN WORKING IN THE PRISON LAUNDRY, STOLE THE TOOLS FROM A CONSTRUCTION CREW THAT HAD RECENTLY REMODELED THE MOVIE THEATER. MOORE ALSO SAID THAT RAY HAD BEEN WORKING ON HIS ESCAPE HATCH FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

"WE HAD A COUPLE OF MEN GET OUT THAT WAY BEFORE I BECAME WARDEN UP HERE," MOORE SAID, "AND I SUPPOSE RAY THOUGHT HE COULD DO IT TOO."

THE CONVICTED KILLER NEARLY DIED IN AN EARLIER ESCAPE ATTEMPT.

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FOR MR. TOLSON

RAY AND ANOTHER INMATE CONCOCTED AN ELABORATE SCHEME TO FLEE BUT RAY, AFTER ABANDONING HIS PARTNER, APPARENTLY MISREAD THE DIAGRAM THE OTHER INMATE DRATED AND DUCKED INTO A WRONG TUNNEL. IT CARRIED STEAM PIPES HEATED TO 400 DEGREES -- NOT FRESH AIR REACHING TO FREEDOM.

FOLLOWING THE MONTH IN THE DISCIPLINARY DETENTION CELL, WHICH STRIPS INMATES OF ALL PRIVILEGES EXCEPT FOR MEALS AND MAIL, AND DEPENDING ON HIS BEHAVIOR, RAY FACES UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 30 DAYS UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTION. WHILE UNDER RESTRICTION RAY WOULD REGAIN HIS LOST PRIVILEGES EXCEPT FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT INSIDE THE WALLS.

MOORE WAS PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT RAY'S LATEST BID FOR FREEDOM:

"I DON'T THINK HE'LL EVER QUIT TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY OUT OF HERE. YOU KNOW HE ESCAPED FOUR TIMES IN MISSOURI."

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FOR MR. TOLSON

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HOUSTON (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY BELIEVED GEORGE C. WALLACE WOULD FREE HIM FROM PRISON HAD THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT, ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN SAID SUNDAY.

RAY PLEADED GUILTY AND ACCEPTED A 99-YEAR SENTENCE IN THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BECAUSE HE EXPECTED TO BREAK OUT OF PRISON, FOREMAN SAID. RAY ONLY WANTED TO BE IDENTIFIED AS KING'S SLAYER AND NOT CAPTURED, RAY'S FORMER ATTORNEY SAID.

"AND IF HE GETS A TRIAL HE IS A GOOD CINCH TO GET THE ELECTRIC CHAIR," FOREMAN SAID.

FOREMAN, WHO ENTERED THE CASE A FEW DAYS AFTER THE 1968 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, SAID RAY NEVER TOLD HIM HE WOULD HAVE WON A WALLACE PARDON.

"MY STATEMENT THAT WALLACE WOULD PARDON HIM IS PURELY CONJECTURE ON MY PART BASED ON HIS ANTI-BLACK FEELINGS AND HIS BELIEF THAT HE WOULD BE THE WHITE HOPE OF AMERICA," FOREMAN SAID. "HE ONLY DISCUSSED HIS CHANCES OF ACQUITTAL IN LIGHT OF THE PERCENTAGE VOTES THAT WALLACE AND NIXON RECEIVED. EVERYTHING TO HIM IN POLITICS WAS WHITE AND BLACK."

"I AM CERTAIN HE BELIEVED THIS BUT I DON'T RECALL HIM SAYING IT," THE ATTORNEY SAID. "HE THOUGHT ALL WHITE PEOPLE BELIEVED IT."

RAY FIRED FOREMAN IN MARCH, 1969 AND IS APPEALING FOR A NEW TRIAL.

RAY DIDN'T CARE IF HE RECEIVED A 99 YEAR OR LIFE SENTENCE "BECAUSE HE SAID HE WOULD NOT STAY IN THE PENITENTIARY LONGER THAN TWO YEARS ANYWAY," FOREMAN SAID. "THE INFERENCE WAS HE COULD ESCAPE."

RAY WAS CAPTURED BESIDE A TENNESSEE PRISON WALL IN A FUTILE ESCAPE BID THIS YEAR.

RAY LEFT HIS FINGERPRINTS ON HIS RIFLE AND ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE SEEN LEAVING THE MEMPHIS, TENN., ASSASSINATION SITE IN 1968 BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE IDENTIFIED, FOREMAN SAID.

"IF HE WANTED TO BE CAUGHT HE NEVER WOULD HAVE BROVE OFF," HE SAID.

FOREMAN ALSO SAID HE NEVER TOLD RAY HE COULD ARRANGE A TENNESSEE STATE PARDON.

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Detective Loses Bid to Get Gun That Killed King

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Private detective Renfro T. Hays has lost a bid in U.S. District Court to get the hunting rifle used to assassinate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hays, hired to gather evidence for the defense of James Earl Ray in the slaying of King, also sought Ray's 1966 Mustang automobile and \$50,000.

U.S. District Judge Harry W. Wellford ruled Friday against Hays' pleas to get the car and the rifle as payment for his services.

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The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date 10/24/71

Detective Loses Effort to Get James Ray's Rifle

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — The rifle allegedly used by James Earl Ray to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will remain in the hands of Shelby County authorities.

The Tennessee Supreme Court refused yesterday to turn the rifle over to private detective

Renfro T. Hays of Memphis who claimed the weapon should be his as payment for investigative services.

Hays had sought possession of the rifle and a 1966 Mustang owned by Ray for services he said he rendered Ray through attorney Arthur J. Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala.

Hanes was one of several attorneys hired by Ray after his capture in 1968. Ray is currently serving a 99-year sentence at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, Tenn.

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Date **JUL 7 1971**

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Court Denies Ray Articles To Detective

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 6 (AP)—The State Supreme Court today affirmed a lower court ruling prohibiting a special investigator hired by James Earl Ray from possessing a rifle and automobile belonging to Ray.

Renfro T. Hays, one-time investigator for the confessed slayer of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., alleges two officials of Shelby County refused to return to Hays a 1966 Ford Mustang and a 30.06-caliber rifle used by Ray.

A lower court earlier had granted a demurrer in Hays' suit against county attorney general Phil M. Canale and county criminal court clerk J. A. Blackwell.

The State Supreme Court ruled that Hays' attorney failed to file an appeal bond after the demurrer was sustained, thereby precluding grounds for an appeal to the state high court.

Hays contends he is entitled to both articles, valued at \$6,000, as payment for investigating work he did for Ray prior to the Ray's trial in Memphis.

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The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date 7/7/71

Ray Stripped Of Privileges For 30 Days

PETROS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray will be stripped of all privileges and confined to a single cellblock in Tennessee's maximum security prison for 30 days.

The confessed slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. lost his status as an "honor grade" prisoner at Brushy Mountain State Prison yesterday for making an unsuccessful escape attempt Monday.

The prison's disciplinary committee imposed the punishment in its weekly hearing.

For the next 15 days, Ray will be kept in the disciplinary unit at all times except for bathing, said Warden Robert H. Moore. In the second 15-day period, he will be allowed exercise.

"At the end of the 30 days," Moore said, "he will be reassigned to administrative segregation. This means he will get back some of his privileges but he won't be able to associate with the general prison population."

Ray is serving a 99-year term for killing King in Memphis on April 4, 1968. He was recaptured after he hacked a hole in his cell and tried to escape through a stream tunnel. Heat forced him back.

Tolson ✓
Sullivan ✓
Mohr ✓
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New York Post _____
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The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

MAY 5 1971

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[Faint, mostly illegible text on a yellowed document strip, possibly a newspaper clipping or memo. Some words like "APPEAL", "TRIAL", and "ASSASSINATION" are visible.]

*Monica Gallagher
 of Dep't Adv.
 4/30/71
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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
 FOR MR. TOLSON

MURKIN

James Earl Ray nearly escapes jail

PETROS, TENN. (UPI)—James Earl Ray, serving 99 years for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was foiled early today in an attempt to escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison.

Tennessee Correction Commissioner Mark Luttrell said Ray broke out of his cell by sawing through its bars, leaving behind a dummy in his bunk to fool guards.

The guards found the broken bars, however, and a quick check of inmates showed Ray to be missing. Mr. Luttrell said Ray was caught before he could scale the walls surrounding the maximum-security prison.

Ray was sentenced to 99 years on a guilty plea to the April 4, 1968, sniper slaying of Dr. King at a Memphis motel. He was transferred to Brushy Mountain in 1970 after serving almost a year at the main state prison in Nashville.

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Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date 5/3/71

*File with
Tichler
Press Release*

King's 'Slayer' Flees Cell, Caught in Jailyard

Retros, Tenn., May 3 (Combined Dispatches)—Leaving behind a bewigged dummy in his bunk at 3 a.m. today, James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., sawed and crowbarred his way out of his cell but was captured before he could get beyond the walls of the maximum security Brushy Mountain State Prison.

The 43-year-old convict, a master of disguise who is experienced in prison breaks, was found hiding close to a building in the prison yard about 3:15 a.m. He was carrying a crowbar and two chisels, Warden Robert Moore reported. There was a burn on one of Ray's arms.

He was looking for a way to get over the wall, but made no attempt to resist capture.

Apparently Had Help

Moore said that Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence for King's murder, apparently used tools provided by another inmate to remove one concrete block and part of another and make his way from his cell into an air chamber.

Ray then removed a bar on a ventilation fan and entered the prison yard behind his cellblock.

Then, using the crowbar, he removed the cover on a manhole on a steam tunnel that went under the prison wall to an unguarded steam plant outside the prison.

Ray entered the tunnel hoping to make his way to the steam plant but "found it too hot in there for comfort—that steam tunnel is about 400 degrees Fahrenheit," the warden said. Ray apparently got the arm burn in the tunnel.

Moore said that Ray then retreated to the prison yard.

State Corrections Commissioner Mark Luttrell said that Ray used a hacksaw blade to cut through reinforced steel in the concrete wall between his cell and the tunnel.

Guards noticed the broken bars on the fan and the uncovered manhole and started a prisoner count.

Luttrell credited the warden with foiling the escape. Moore ordered guards to make Ray's cell one of those checked first. They saw what appeared to be Ray's reclined figure, but decided on a further examination and found the dummy.

Shaped From Blanket

The dummy was shaped from blankets and was adorned with hair that Ray apparently had taken in small amounts from the prison barber shop.

Ray, who was the object of a worldwide manhunt for 65 days after King's murder April 4, 1968, was arrested by Scotland Yard detectives June 8 at London's Heathrow Airport carrying

a gun in his hip pocket and two fraudulent Canadian passports.

He pleaded guilty March 10, 1969 to the sniper slaying of King, but repeatedly has sought a new trial on the grounds that he was pressured into the plea by his attorneys. The latest denial of an appeal was on Feb. 27.

Ray, born in Alton, Ill., escaped April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, where he had begun a 20-year armed robbery sentence seven years earlier. His arrest record dates to 1949.

Warden Moore said that convict Roy Morelock, a prison plumber, had provided Ray the tools for this morning's escape attempt, but did not try to escape with Ray.

"A Pro at Escaping"

"I believe," said Moore, "that Ray had been working on this escape business. He recently lost an appeal for a new trial, and that probably set him off."

The corrections commissioner, Luttrell, said that Ray would be kept under "closer surveillance" from now on.

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Times Herald _____
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The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) *4* _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date **MAY 4 1971**



James Earl Ray in custody of sheriff as he was led to Memphis jail after being brought back from London in 1968.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Just Another Prisoner

An Interview With James Earl Ray

By WILLARD YARBROUGH
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

PETROS, March 26 — Why does James Earl Ray avoid reporters? "Because," he told this reporter late yesterday, "my lawyer told me interviews could jeopardize my appeals to overturn my conviction, since something I might say could be misinterpreted or lifted out of context."

Then why did the convicted assassin of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis some three years ago grant me an exclusive interview for this newspaper? The first one, incidentally, since his apprehension in England as he attempted to board a plane to Spain in his flight from America.

He permitted the interview, as some 20 newsmen and television cameramen on annual open house day at Brushy Mountain State Prison here gnashed their teeth outside, because I asked him. It was a simple thing.

PULLED COVER OVER HEAD

Earlier, during a special visit here by this writer and WBIR-TV newsmen Carl Warner, Ray lay on his cot behind his locked door in Cellblock B and pulled covers over his head. He feigned sleep, but even then I spoke to him and got silence in return.

This time, as others of the media interviewed his cellblock mates about the most celebrated inmate among the 360 here, Ray merely knelt at his cell, told the again-covered form who I was, that I would like to interview him now or later, and to check with others about my credentials.

Fifteen minutes later, Chaplain Herbert Carlock Jr., who pastors Oak Ridge's First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, sought me out in the prison yard, said Ray wanted to talk with me and nobody else. Rev. Carlock obtained a master key and we were in Ray's cell within a minute.

WORKS SIX HOURS EACH DAY

Here's what Ray had to say:

"I decided to trust you so that I could let

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Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Walters _____
Mr. Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

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

PAGE /

THE KNOXVILLE
NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Date:

3-26-71

Edition:

HOME

Author:

Willard YARBROUGH

Editor:

RALPH L. MILLETT

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: KX 44-696

Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

1 - MEMPHIS (44-1987)

1 - BUREAU (44-38861)

A News-Sentinel Exclusive

people outside know that I wasn't crazy. Some people have thought so, since I always hide when the press come around.

"I do not cause trouble here. I work six hours a day, seven days a week. My job is serving food to my cellmates, which requires two hours at each meal, and to housekeep in our cellblock.

"Once a day I get outside the cellblock—our doors to individual cells are always open—and go to the gymnasium for exercise. I do this soon after arising around 5:30 a.m."

What does he do in-between?

"I write memos to my lawyer, Bernard Finsterwald, in Washington. He was down to see me about appeals of my conviction two weeks ago. I read Knoxville newspapers. I read magazines. I watch television."

ASLEEP BY 8 EVERY NIGHT

His 11-inch set is suspended above his cot, and lights and electricity are turned off at 11 p.m. weekdays, later on weekends. Ray couldn't care less.

"I'm in bed and asleep by 8 every night," he said. "I must sack in early because I'm up at 5:30 a.m. next day, and when I finish working and exercising I'm beat."

Warden Robert Moore and Ray's cellmates term him a "model prisoner." One longtimer in Cellblock B said cellmates don't ask Ray about the assassination that rocked the world. "We don't pry into his affairs, he doesn't talk about the slaying, and he doesn't pry into our personal affairs," said a Ray next-door neighbor.

On one cot in Ray's cell was a portable typewriter, furnished by lawyer Finsterwald. Ray is sparing with stamps and paper, since he earns only 35 cents daily for his six-hour work

chores. But he insists he wants for nothing, points out he doesn't smoke, and that he is "just another prisoner and am treated as one." He gets no special favors, expects none.

HAS GAINED SINCE TRANSFER

Now 42 and weighing around 175 pounds, he said he had gained 20 pounds since being transferred to Tennessee's maximum security prison here a year ago from the main penitentiary at Nashville.

Ray is supremely confident that his lawyer will win his case eventually, whether exoneration via a new trial or whatever, but he steadfastly declines to discuss his predicament on advice of counsel.

He is, nonetheless, somewhat nervous but quite calm when he explains he has no fear of bodily harm from fellow inmates—even the blacks whose onetime hero he stands convicted of slaying.

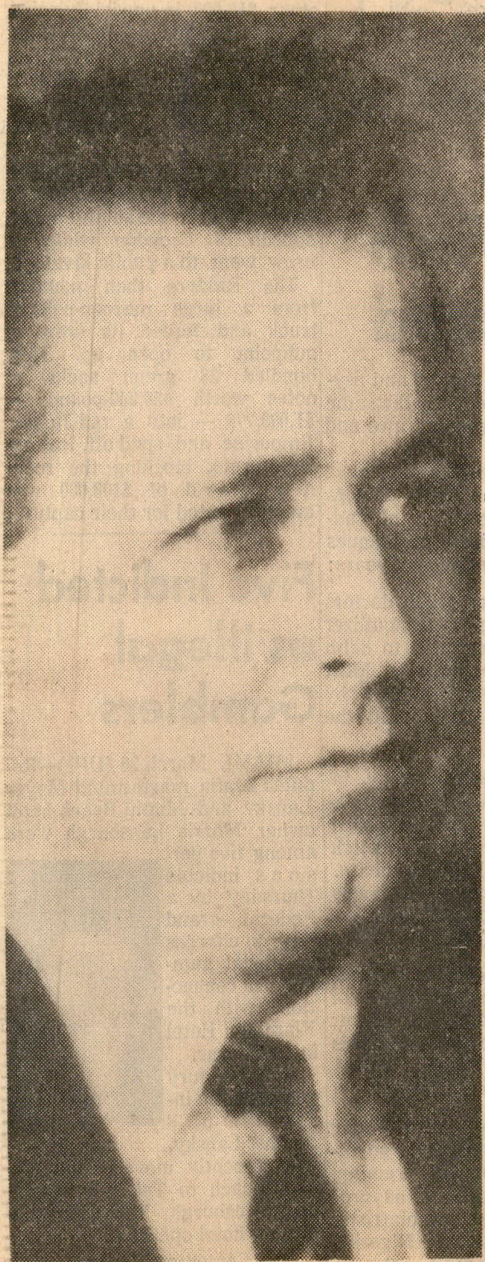
"Prisoners here, white or black, aren't concerned about such things," Ray said. "All of us are concerned about day-to-day existence and perhaps the day when we won't be locked up anymore."

URNS BACK ON NEWSMEN

By now prison guard Richard Davis, who had carried the message that Ray would talk with me, entered the cell and sat down. Behind him came the press. And Ray's only media interview was over.

He rose slowly and turned his back on them. TV cameraman Warner got one answer to one question: "I cannot talk with you because my lawyer said I could not discuss the case with the press."

State Corrections Commissioner Mark Luttrell suggested the jammed cellblock hallway be cleared, since Ray didn't want to be interviewed, and that's what happened. But earlier, Warner and a Nashville television crew let their cameras whirr as Ray lay under the covers. WBIR-TV will show its strip at 6 p. m. Saturday.



JAMES EARL RAY



WILLARD YARBROUGH

MURKIN

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Ray, a model prisoner now

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — "I do not cause trouble here. I work six hours a day, seven days a week. My job is serving food to my cellmates and housekeeping our cellblock."

With these words, James Earl Ray, who is serving 99 years at Brushy Mountain prison at Petros for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King three years ago, described his prison life.

Ray's talk with reporter Willard Yarbrough, published in the Knoxville News-Sentinel today, was the first interview he had granted a newsman since his conviction.

"I decided to trust you so that I could let people outside know that I wasn't crazy," Ray said. "Some people have thought so, since I always hid when the press comes around."

He wouldn't discuss his case "because my lawyer told me interviews could jeopardize my appeals to overturn my conviction."

Ray is housed in a minimum security section of this maximum security prison, a cellblock where inmates have free access to the corridor and can visit other cells to play cards or talk or watch television.

"Once a day I get outside the cellblock and go the gymnasium for exercise. I do this soon after arising around 5:30 a.m.," Ray said.

"I write memos to my lawyer in Washington. He was down to see me about appeals of my conviction two weeks ago. 'I'm in bed and asleep by eight every night,' he said."

Officers at Brushy agree Ray is a model prisoner, causing no trouble.

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The Washington Post _____
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 The Daily World _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____

3 / 26 / 71

Date _____

6-95
2-8-71
ATTENTION:

MR. JAMES P. TURNER

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHOS, TENN.

2-27-71

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Ray's New Trial Petition Is Dismissed By Judge

By MICHAEL LOLLAR

James Earl Ray's plea for a new trial was dismissed yesterday by Criminal Court Judge William H. Williams.

Ray's attorneys argued that the confessed slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. pleaded guilty after he was rendered "docile" and "unresponsive." They said his constitutional rights were violated when his former attorney, Percy Foreman, negotiated the guilty plea and a 99-year sentence with the late Judge W. Preston Battle.

However, Judge Williams' ruling found "great merit in plea bargaining for the defense as well as the state."

The judge said that a guilty plea induced by the defendant's own counsel is not grounds for claiming deprivation of his constitutional rights.

"In order for coercion to be illegal or unconstitutional it must be made by the state or an agency of the state.

"No agency of the state had coerced Ray to plead guilty to the slaying of Dr. King," Judge Williams said.

Ray's attorneys, Robert I. Livingston of Memphis and Bernard Fensterwald of Washington, said they will appeal to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals . . . "and to the United States Supreme Court if necessary" in an attempt to get a new trial.

The attorneys based their request on four related categories of events occurring prior to Ray's entering the guilty plea: The confidentiality of his relationship with his attorney was violated, followed by bribery and intimidation on the part of the attorney.

Plea bargaining between Mr. Foreman and Judge Battle took place, although Ray had made his mind up to plead not guilty the day before his hearing on March 10.

Ray was denied due process of law undermining any belief

he could get a fair trial on a not guilty plea. The accusation claimed Ray was subjected to "trial by the press"; he was doubtful of the judge's impartiality; crucial witnesses were unavailable and "evidence was withheld by the state."

The nature of his confinement in the Shelby County Jail rendered him docile and unresponsive for his guilty plea.

Mr. Livingston said Ray was confined in a "vault" built specially for him. The lights in his "windowless, airless cell burned continuously for eight or nine months" before Ray was brought to court to enter his plea, he said. "A high-intensity microphone inside his cell prevented him from talking in private to his attorney, and the man was unable to (use the toilet) in private."

Asst. Dist. Attys. Gen. Lloyd 'Dusty' Rhodes and J. Clyde Mason taunted the defense lawyers' claims. "After listening to him, I feel a little bit like Alice in Wonderland playing chess," Mr. Mason said. "We go two steps forward and two steps backward." He said the attorneys had only repeated claims made in previous

requests for a new trial for Ray, and "still haven't (shown) any facts nor any abridgment of any constitutional rights."

Mr. Rhodes denied Ray was mistreated in Shelby County Jail. "Extra air conditioning equipment was placed in the cell for him . . . he actually gained weight while in the cell, and was in better health for it."

Mr. Tolson _____
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Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

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

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 2/27/71
Edition: Final
Author: GORDON HANNA
Editor:
Title:

Character: ME 44-1987
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS
☐ Being Investigated

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

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 2/27/71
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: GORDON HANNA
Title:

Character: ME 44-1987
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Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS
☐ Being Investigated

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Song

Ray Reopens King Death Fight



James Earl Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Nine motions were filed here yesterday by lawyers for James Earl Ray, who demanded that they be allowed to examine the state's evidence in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Criminal Court Judge William H. Williams has set a hearing on the motions for Friday.

Prosecutors have asked Williams to reject a motion by Ray that his guilty plea and 99-year sentence in the King death be set aside. Ray is trying for a

new trial.

The defense, in turn, has asked that it be allowed to look at the rifle allegedly used in the death of the civil rights leader, any bullet clip connected to the weapon and a window sill taken from the rooming house from which the fatal shot was allegedly fired on April 4, 1968.

Another of the motions asks authorization for test firing of the rifle so scientific comparisons can be made of bullets from the gun and bullet fragments removed from King's body.

The defense said it also wants permission to look at the Memphis police radio log relating to an alleged chase of an automobile following the slaying.

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) A-2
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
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 The New York Times _____
 The Daily World _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____

Date 2-20-71

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Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Jim Bishop: Reporter

One Case Against Ray



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

10-F**MIAMI HERALD****MIAMI, FLORIDA**Date: **12/2/70**

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: **JAMES EARL RAY**

Character:

or

Classification: **44-1854**Submitting Office: **MIAMI, FLA.**☐ Being Investigated

DEC 51 1 03 PM 1970

FBI
REC'D CIV RIGHTS

After a year and a half of intensive research, I am convinced that James Earl Ray was paid to kill Martin Luther King Jr. He was not recompensed by a fictitious character named "Raoul," but by a businessman or businessmen in Atlanta or Birmingham. He took his payoff, and tried to flee to Rhodesia, with whom the U.S. had no extradition pact, when the Federal Bureau of Investigation requested its British counterparts to pick The Smiler up in England.

Consider: Ray had \$10.50 a few days before the murder at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. At the Aeromarine Supply Co. outside the Birmingham Airport, he paid about \$245 for a rifle and telescopic sight two days before the murder. He rode in a white Mustang worth \$2,000 in the retail market. He phoned an hour after buying the rifle and said it was too small. Aeromarine asked him to return in the morning to buy a heavier gun.

Price did not matter. He stood in the bathtub of a rooming house on Main Street looking at the Lorraine Motel most of the afternoon of April 4, 1968. Lodgers knocked loudly to use the facilities, but Ray remained with his rifle on the ledge, looking through binoculars and a scope. He hit King once, through the right jaw, aiming downward and to the left, nicking the top of the trachea, the bullet severing the spinal cord between the shoulder blades and dying between two vertebrae.

HE LEFT his gun, with fingerprints, his binoculars, his underwear and other items in front of Canipe's store next to the rooming house, as though the identity of the killer would not matter. He drove his Mustang north on Main, then south into Mississippi — only 12 miles away — while Memphis put out a city alarm, not an all points one. He was in Atlanta by 6 A.M., had his plane tickets and his payoff, and was gone, leaving the Mustang — loaded with fingerprints — in a parking lot.

Mr. Ray is known in penitentiary circles as a "loser." He could not rob a bank successfully if the vault door was open and all the police worked for him. Ray hated blacks, but not to the point of violence.

He bragged to fellow convicts that somebody must have been paid to kill President Kennedy and he would like to make "one big lick" like that.

IN 1959, when Ray got out of stir for ruining an easy robbery, he decided to hold up a supermarket. As a confederate, he selected a coughing consumptive. At 9:06 A.M. on July 11, the two began a comedy of errors suitable for a Charlie Chaplin movie.

They parked a car outside the supermarket. The confederate, coughing in spasms, held the customers off with a nickel plated gun. Ray grabbed a fistful of money from the cashier (about \$1,200) and dropped all but \$200 on the floor in a fit of nervousness. He asked for the manager. The boss was in the back.

Ray stuck a gun in his face and asked for the money in the safe. It was upstairs, in front. The criminal permitted the manager to walk up one aisle of canned goods while Ray went up another, aiming at

Larry Thompson is convalescing. Pinch-hitting for him today is Jim Bishop.

cans of tomatoes. The manager stooped, picked up a phone, and murmured: "Holdup. Police."

THE TWO stickup men backed out of the store, and backed into a breadman loaded with loaves, who couldn't see over the top. The bread fell everywhere on the sidewalk. Ray's companion got in the car; then Ray. Mr. Ray stepped on the accelerator, made a violent U-turn to the right, and forgot to close his door. His body flew out, but his hands hung onto the wheel.

He drove up over a hill at 80. Police arrived. They followed him at 80. At the top of the hill, the police were stunned to see James Earl Ray coming back into town at 80. He ran the car across a field and into a barn. The cops fanned out near a hummock of trees.

Ray's confederate came out, coughing and begging the police to take him back to the penitentiary. "I don't get good care when I'm out," he said. Ray escaped.

James Earl Ray, the all-time loser, made his one "big lick." It was paid for, of that you may be sure. Perhaps he is waiting for the state of Tennessee to make him an offer of parole before divulging the real story. If so, he'll wait a long, long time because Tennessee wants to forget it.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

*Put with news items**MURKIN*

Court Asked For Dismissal Of Ray's Motion For Relief

The attorney general's office yesterday asked the court to strike down a motion filed by attorneys for James Earl Ray, who charged his chances for a negotiated settlement of his case had been undermined.

The motion filed by the attorneys for the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. charged that Ray's attorney at the time, Percy Foreman, said he wouldn't negotiate with the attorney general's office because he didn't want such a settlement, but then did negotiate with the trial judge.

Ray charged that when Judge W. Preston Battle in fact entered negotiations, it removed his chance for a fair determination by the judge on whether the sentence worked out was just.

Ray contended he was "pressured" into accepting the 99-year prison sentence and was threatened by Mr. Foreman into accepting the guilty plea and the sentence.

In the motion filed by the attorney general's office yesterday after officials had talked to Foreman, the state "specifically and categorically denied" defense charges that Judge Battle violated judicial ethics when he entered negotiations with Foreman.

The state also asked that the motion for post-conviction relief be dismissed because Ray's rights under neither the state constitution nor the United States Constitution were violated.

One of Ray's attorneys, Richard J. Ryan, said that he and Washington attorney Bernard Fensterwald would seek "to have Ray brought back to Memphis for a full evidentiary hearing."

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

PAGE 44

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 12/4/70

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GORID N. HANNA

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1987

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

MURKIN

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Civil Rights

12-5-70

RAY 12-5 NY
MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)-- A HEARING TO HAVE THE GUILTY PLEA
JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED SLAYER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING,
JR., SET ASIDE, HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 26, 1971, HERE.
RAY IS SEEKING THE ACTION UNDER TENNESSEE'S POST-CONVICTION
RELIEF ACT. HE IS SERVING A 99-YEAR PRISON TERM ON A PLEA
GUILTY TO THE SLAYING OF KING ON APRIL 4, 1968.
RAY IS CURRENTLY CONFINED TO THE STATE'S MAXIMUM SECURITY UNIT
AT BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON NEAR PETROS, TENN.
THE STATE CONTENDS THAT RAY HAS NOT CLAIMED ANY IMPAIRMENT OF
HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AS REQUIRED UNDER THE POST-CONVICTION ACT.
CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS SET THE HEARING
DATE FRIDAY.
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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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UPI-38

(KING WIRETAPS)

WASHINGTON--ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY AUTHORIZED A TAP ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S TELEPHONE IN 1963 PARTLY TO AVOID POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY IN THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. AUTHOR VICTOR NAVASKY SAID KENNEDY ALSO THOUGHT THE TAP WOULD PROVE KING WAS NOT INFLUENCED BY COMMUNISTS AND THAT SUCH PROOF WOULD PREVENT THE ISSUE FROM BEING RAISED AGAINST THE PENDING CIVIL RIGHTS BILL.

THE MAGAZINE SAID NAVASKY DREW THE CONCLUSIONS AFTER A SIX-YEAR STUDY THAT INCLUDED INTERVIEWS WITH KENNEDY AND KING, BOTH OF WHOM WERE ASSASSINATED IN 1968.

NAVASKY SAID SUBSEQUENT PUBLISHED REPORTS OF EXTRAPARLITARY SEX ACTIVITIES BY KING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KENNEDY-AUTHORIZED TAPS. HE SAID THESE REPORTS STEEMED FROM ELECTRONIC BUGS INSTALLED BY THE FBI OR LOCAL POLICE WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

10/22--MB1035AED

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FOR MR. TOLSON

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RAY 9-2 AJ
NIGHT LD

BY JAMES M. EVANS

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--LAWYERS FOR JAMES EARL RAY WERE TOLD WEDNESDAY THAT IF THEY HOPE TO WIN A NEW TRIAL THEY MUST CONVINCE THE COURT THAT RAY FELT COERCED AT THE EXACT INSTANT HE PLEADED GUILTY TO THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

"WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THAT INSTANT WHEN HE STOOD BEFORE THE LATE JUDGE PRESTON BATTLE IN THIS COURTROOM ON MARCH 10, 1969, AND TOLD THE JUDGE THAT HE WAS PLEADING GUILTY OF HIS OWN FREE WILL," CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE WILLIAM WILLIAMS TOLD ATTORNEY BERNARD FENSTERWALD.

"FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE PLEADING OR 30 SECONDS AFTER CAN MAKE NO DIFFERENCE," WILLIAMS SAID. "WE MUST CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THAT INSTANT."

WILLIAMS WAS CONSIDERING A MOTION BY THE STATE TO DISMISS RAY'S LATEST PLEA FOR A NEW TRIAL UNDER TENNESSEE'S POST CONVICTION RELIEF STATUTE WHICH REQUIRES PROOF OF A DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

THE JUDGE TOLD FENSTERWALD HE COULD AMEND HIS PETITION IN THREE DIFFERENT INSTANCES, INCLUDING A CHARGE THAT ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN OF HOUSTON CONDUCTED THE PLEA NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LATE JUDGE BATTLE AND NOT THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

THE OTHER TWO AMENDMENTS CONCERNED THE STATE OF FOREMAN'S HEALTH AND THE FACT THAT LOCAL ATTORNEY RICHARD J. RYAN WAS PREVENTED FROM VISITING RAY AT THE STATE PRISON IN NASHVILLE ON MARCH 26, 1969.

WILLIAMS RECESSED THE HEARING UNTIL AN AMENDED PETITION COULD BE PROVIDED IN WRITING. FENSTERWALD SAID THEY SHOULD HAVE ONE READY BY SEPT. 15.

THE STATE'S MOTION TO DISMISS CHARGED THAT RAY'S PETITION DID NOT SUCCESSFULLY ARGUE THAT HIS RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED EITHER UNDER THE TENNESSEE OR THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL CLYDE MASON SAID THE MAIN THRUST OF RAY'S PETITION WAS THAT HE WAS DENIED EFFECTIVE LEGAL COUNSEL.

"THIS DEFENDANT HAS HAD 10 OR 11 ATTORNEYS ACTING ON HIS BEHALF AND THEY WERE ALL PRIVATELY EMPLOYED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER WHO WAS APPOINTED TO ASSIST MR. FOREMAN," MASON ARGUED.

HE ADDED THAT NOWHERE IN THE PETITION WAS IT ALLEGED THAT THE STATE OR ANY OF ITS AGENTS HAD ANY PART IN PERSUADING RAY TO PLEAD GUILTY IN EXCHANGE FOR A 99-YEAR PRISON TERM.

"WHAT YOU HAVE HERE," MASON SAID, "IF YOU TAKE AWAY THE PUBLICITY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MAN WHO LAID IN WAIT TO AMBUSH ANOTHER MAN. HE HAS GONE THROUGH 10 OR 11 LAWYERS AND THEN PLEADED GUILTY AND RECEIVED HIS PUNISHMENT."

"SINCE THEN HE HAS WORKED TO GET ANOTHER TRIAL," SAID MASON. "HE IS FACED WITH 99 YEARS IN PRISON AND HE SITS IN HIS CELL AND THINKS OF WAYS TO GET OUT. THAT'S ONLY NATURAL."

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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RAY 4/31 AJ
 BY CHARLES A. RONS
 MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--CONVICTED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY
 TESTIFIED WEDNESDAY HE HAD BEEN DENIED "DUE PROCESS" OF LAW AND THAT
 HIS GUILTY PLEA IN THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS
 INVOLUNTARY.

IN A LONG, RAMBLING TYPEWRITTEN AFFIDAVIT, RAY SAID ATTORNEY
 FOREMAN HAD URGED HIM TO PLEAD GUILTY. HE SAID RAY ALREADY
 HAD BEEN CONVICTED BY PRE-TRIAL PUBLICITY. HE SAID FOREMAN
 PROMISED HIM A PARDON "AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS,"
 THROUGH THE OFFICE OF JOHN J. HOOKER SR., A NASHVILLE ATTORNEY
 AS A POSSIBLE MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE TEAM.

RAY SAID FOREMAN TOLD HIM THE PROSECUTION "HAD PROMISED A HIGHLY
 CONSIDERABLE REWARD MONEY" TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM.
 CONVINCED HE WOULD GET ONE TRIAL, AND NO ATTENTION FROM AN APPELLATE
 COURT, RAY SAID HE DECIDED "I DIDN'T WANT THE ONE TRIAL FAWD."
 "CONSIDERING I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE, AT THE TIME, I TENTATIVELY
 AGREED TO ENTER A GUILTY PLEA TO A TECHNICAL CHARGE OF HOMICIDE," HE
 WROTE.

RAY WAS SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN PRISON ON MARCH 10, 1969, AFTER
 PLEADING GUILTY TO THE APRIL 4, 1968, ASSASSINATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
 LEADER. HE BEGAN IMMEDIATE EFFORTS TO HAVE HIS GUILTY PLEA OVERTURNED
 AND TO GAIN A NEW TRIAL.

THE STATE FILED A MOTION FOR DISMISSAL OF RAY'S PETITION FOR
 RELIEF OF HIS PLEA AND SENTENCE. RAY'S SEVEN-PAGE AFFIDAVIT, REPLIED
 WITH MISSPELLED WORDS, WAS IN ANSWER TO THAT MOTION.

RAY TOLD OF TROUBLES HE HAD WITH A SERIES OF ATTORNEYS WHO REFUSED TO
 TAKE THE STAND IN HIS BEHALF, THOUGH HE WANTED TO, AND THAT HE HAD
 AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIZ, HIS BIOGRAPHER, DELAYED EVERYTHING HE
 LEARNED ABOUT THE CASE TO THE FBI.

RAY SAID FOREMAN, WHO CAME TO SEE HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME TWO DAYS
 BEFORE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO GO ON TRIAL, TOLD HIM THAT "IF I STUCK WITH
 THEM (HANES AND HUIZ), I WOULD BE BAR-BE-CUED."

"I FAVORED TAKING THE WITNESS STAND BECAUSE I HAD TESTIMONY TO
 WHICH I DIDN'T WANT THE PROSECUTION TO KNOW OF UNTIL AS LATE AS
 POSSIBLE SO THERE WOULD BE NO TIME TO ALTER RECORDS, SUCH AS PHONE
 NUMBERS," HE SAID. "MR. HANES TURNED DOWN THIS REQUEST, SAYING I
 GIVE TESTIMONY AWAY WHEN WE CAN SELL IT."

RAY SAID HE ALSO ARGUED WITH HANES ABOUT SEEKING A TRIAL
 CONTINUANCE BECAUSE OF PRE-TRIAL PUBLICITY. HE SAID HANES REFUSED TO
 SEEK A CONTINUANCE BECAUSE "OUR CONTRACTS WITH NOVELIST HUIZ SPECIFY
 A TIME LIMIT FOR THE TRIAL TO BEGIN IF HE WERE TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO
 PROSECUTE THE DEFENSE."

RAY SAID FOREMAN, A HOUSTON, TEX., CRIMINAL LAWYER, ASSURED HIM
 TRIAL WOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH A DEAL HE WOULD MAKE LATER WITH AN
 AUTHOR. HE SAID FOREMAN SET HIS FEE AT \$150,000 AND TACKLED A
 DAVIS, 1964 MUSTANG AND HAD HIM SIGN OVER A TITLE THE PROSECUTION
 HOLDING AS EVIDENCE.

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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RAY 8/31 AJ
BY CHARLES A. ROND

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--CONVICTED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY
CONTENDED MONDAY HE HAD BEEN DENIED "DUE PROCESS" OF LAW AND THAT
HIS GUILTY PLEA IN THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS
INVOLUNTARY.

IN A LONG, RAMBLING TYPEWRITTEN AFFIDAVIT, RAY SAID ATTORNEY
FOREMAN HAD URGED HIM TO PLEAD GUILTY BECAUSE HE SAID RAY ALREADY
HAD BEEN CONVICTED BY PRE-TRIAL PUBLICITY. HE SAID FOREMAN
PROMISED HIM A PARDON "AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS."
THROUGH THE OFFICE OF JOHN J. HOOKER SR., A NASHVILLE ATTORNEY
AS A POSSIBLE MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE TEAM.

RAY SAID FOREMAN TOLD HIM THE PROSECUTION "HAD PROMISED A BITE
CONSIDERABLE REWARD MONEY" TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM.
CONVINCED HE WOULD GET ONE TRIAL, AND NO ATTENTION FROM AN APPELLATE
COURT, RAY SAID HE DECIDED "I DIDN'T WANT THE ONE TRIAL FAMED."

"CONSIDERING I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE, AT THE TIME, I TENTATIVELY
AGREED TO ENTER A GUILTY PLEA TO A TECHNICAL CHARGE OF HOMICIDE," HE
WROTE.

RAY WAS SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN PRISON ON MARCH 10, 1969, AFTER
PLEADING GUILTY TO THE APRIL 4, 1968, ASSASSINATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
LEADER. HE BEGAN IMMEDIATE EFFORTS TO HAVE HIS GUILTY PLEA OVERTURNED
AND TO GAIN A NEW TRIAL.

THE STATE FILED A MOTION FOR DISMISSAL OF RAY'S PETITION FOR
RELIEF OF HIS PLEA AND SENTENCE. RAY'S SEVEN-PAGE AFFIDAVIT, SOME
WITH MISSPELLED WORDS, WAS IN ANSWER TO THAT MOTION.

RAY TOLD OF TROUBLES HE HAD WITH A SERIES OF ATTORNEYS WHO REPRESENTED
HIM. HE SAID HIS ORIGINAL LAWYER, ARTHUR HANES SR., HAD REFUSED TO
HIM TAKE THE STAND IN HIS BEHALF, THOUGH HE WANTED TO, AND THAT
AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, HIS BIOGRAPHER, RELAYED EVERYTHING HE
LEARNED ABOUT THE CASE TO THE FBI.

RAY SAID FOREMAN, WHO CAME TO SEE HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME TWO
BEFORE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO GO ON TRIAL, TOLD HIM THAT "IF I SPOKE
THEM (HANES AND HUIE), I WOULD BE PAT-DE-CHEE."

FOR MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

"I FAVORED TAKING THE WITNESS STAND BECAUSE I HAD TESTIMONY TO GIVE WHICH I DIDN'T WANT THE PROSECUTION TO KNOW OF UNTIL AS LATE AS POSSIBLE SO THERE WOULD BE NO TIME TO ALTER RECORDS, SUCH AS PHONE NUMBERS," HE SAID. "MR. HANES TURNED DOWN THIS REQUEST, SAYING WE CAN GIVE TESTIMONY AWAY WHEN WE CAN SELL IT."

RAY SAID HE ALSO ARGUED WITH HANES ABOUT SEEKING A TRIAL CONTINUANCE BECAUSE OF PRE-TRIAL PUBLICITY. HE SAID HANES REFUSED TO SEEK A CONTINUANCE BECAUSE "OUR CONTRACTS WITH NOVELIST HUIE SPECIFIED A TIME LIMIT FOR THE TRIAL TO BEGIN IF WE WERE TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO PROSECUTE THE DEFENSE."

RAY SAID FOREMAN, A HOUSTON, TEX., CRIMINAL LAWYER, ASSUMED THE TRIAL WOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH A DEAL HE WOULD MAKE LATER WITH AN AUTHOR. HE SAID FOREMAN SET HIS FEE AT \$150,000 AND TOOK AS A RETAINER RAY'S 1966 MUSTANG AND HAD HIM SIGN OVER A RIFLE THE PROSECUTION WAS HOLDING AS EVIDENCE.

MLA IN 1017 PER

FOR MR. TOLSON

Part week

Brother of King's Slayer Freed on Bond

Jerry Ray, whose brother was imprisoned for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was released from the Chatham County jail on \$5,000 bond Monday after he was charged with aggravated assault in the shooting of a white teen-ager.

Police said the bond was posted by Jimmy Hale, operator of a Savannah garage. A

preliminary hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

Ray, 35, is charged in the shooting of a 16-year-old Athens, Ala., boy at the headquarters of the white supremacist National States Rights Party at 8 Montgomery Crossroads.

Wounded in Chest

The teen-ager, who was wounded in the chest, was re-

ported in fair condition at Memorial Medical Center.

Ray, whose brother, James Earl Ray, is serving a 99-year-sentence after pleading guilty to the slaying of King, has been working in Georgia as "security guard and campaign manager" for J. B. Stoner, an avowed white racist seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Chatham County Superintendent of Detectives, Al St. Lawrence, quoted Ray as saying that he discovered the youth trying to escape from Stoner's office with a box of papers.

Included Subscribers

Stoner said the papers included a list of some 2,000 subscribers to the Thunderbolt Newspaper, issued by the National States Rights Party.

He said they were worth more than \$1,000.

"I had information from a dependable authority just before this happened that some of their (FBI) undercover agents had lately been trying to get my files and I've been keeping an extra close watch," said Stoner.

Stoner said, "I've been persecuted by the FBI for years and years. Any white right-

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

Page 1A

Savannah Morning News

Savannah, Georgia

Date: 7/28/70

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Wallace Davis, Jr.

Title: National States

Rights Party

Character:

or

Classification: 157

Submitting Office: Savannah

☐ Being Investigated

BUFILE 105-66233

ing organization opposed to federal government's efforts to mix the races in the South are natural enemies with the FBI."

"Whether the boy was working for them, I don't know," said Stoner.

After List

"They are after our list of subscribers to the Thunderbolt. The names and addresses of subscribers are kept on

stencils used to address material mailed to them. If they got all those files of address stencils our newspaper would be out of business and my chances in the gubernatorial race would be ruined."

The father of the youth shot by Ray said his son "was shot in the right front chest. The bullet passed through the lung and liver and came out

the lower back. The cavity in his lung is still draining."

He said that the youth had been staying in different places and had been calling home "about every other night."

He said he first heard about the shooting at about 10:05 p.m. Athens time (11:05 p.m. Savannah). He said he chartered a plane out of Huntsville, Ala., and he and his wife arrived in Savannah at 4:30 a.m. Sunday.

The boy came to Georgia to work in Stoner's campaign, but Stoner said he dismissed the Alabamian about July 4 because he was "not competent enough to do office work."

Police said the boy was shot with a 38 caliber pistol through a window of the party headquarters.

Stoner said he had given the teen-ager enough money to get back home and "he was supposed to be in Alabama."

Reports Previous Attempts

Stoner said there have been previous attempts to break into his office at 8 Montgomery Crossroad and he feels the incidents are part of a "conspiracy" to keep him from publishing the "Thunderbolt."

"Jerry and I got to be good friends while I was defending his brother," Stoner said. "He has always been a very peaceful person and I trust him. He wouldn't shoot anybody unless he had to."

Stoner said the youth, not Ray, should have been arrested by county police and added that he would defend Ray at his hearing Thursday.

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

FBI Used King File in Killer Hunt

By Jack Anderson

Now that the lid has been lifted on intimate aspects of Dr. Martin Luther King's life, this column can reveal details which good taste dictated we withhold at the time of his murder.

After the Nobel prize winner was gunned down on the balcony of his Memphis motel on April 4, 1968, the FBI began painstakingly piecing together the complex strands of his life. It hopes this would lead them to his killer.

The FBI's work was made easier by the fact that it already had a substantial file on Dr. King compiled through a series of wiretaps started in 1963 at the direction of Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

This electronic snooper, first disclosed by this column, illuminated some dark corners in the civil rights leader's private life. The FBI reports showed that the minister's dynamism and courage had made him enormously attractive to many women.

One of these was the "wife of a prominent Negro dentist in Los Angeles," said a report dated Feb. 20, 1968. This information was furnished by a confidential informant who said Dr. King had been having an "illicit affair . . . since 1962 with the woman.

"The source related an incident which occurred some

time ago in a New York City hotel, where King was intoxicated at a small gathering," the report said. "King threatened to leap from the 13th floor window of the hotel if this woman would not say she loved him."

The dentist was known to be furious about the reported liaison. In fact, the information given the FBI suggested that the wife's baby might have been fathered by Dr. King.

Sifting each fact in the murder case, the FBI found that James Earl Ray, the suspected killer, had been in Los Angeles shortly before he returned east to stalk Dr. King. Could the jealous dentist, the FBI wondered, have hired Ray to slay King?

This column, at about the same time, learned the name of the dentist and we flew immediately to Los Angeles. There, in an emotional interview, the wife told us her relationship with Dr. King was "merely a friendship." Her husband loyally backed her up.

We asked her whether she had called Dr. King and she responded sharply, "I didn't call him. He called me." She said, however, he had telephoned frequently and that on at least one occasion she had seen him off at the airport.

She said Dr. King had confided in her that the FBI was watching him. But she steadfastly denied any intimacies.

Our interview and checks around Los Angeles convinced us that the dentist could not have had anything to do with Ray. The FBI came to the same conclusion.

Buckley a Traveler

While most reporters scheme and save to take those foreign trips that give stories exotic datelines, columnist William Buckley journeys at the taxpayers' expense.

The urbane Buckley, as a member of the advisory commission to the United States Information Agency, has taken three overseas trips for USIA head Frank Shakespeare.

USIA has benevolently picked up some \$3,768 in travel and other expenses while Buckley has served two masters—the USIA and the demands of his trenchant column. The junkets took the millionaire-writer and sometime politician to Vietnam, Thailand, Vienna, Russia and Eastern Europe.

Buckley commented that when he took his advisory job 13 months ago he told USIA "I wasn't going to adjourn my professional life. I write from wherever I am." The columnist spoke of all the hours he has put in for USIA on his travels, then purged, "In fact, I am an unsung philanthropist."

Town Is Ailing
 Puguay Varina N.C. as a hit

The Washington Post Times Herald *C-11*
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
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 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

Date *8-15-70*

the farming town whose people have found themselves almost without medical care. Two of its four doctors have died recently.

Parents have to drive miles for their children's appointments. The two doctors left in the area work literally night and day. Like so many small communities, it is impossible to attract young general practitioners to Fuquay-Varina.

But although the doctors have stayed away, the politicians haven't. This time, it has been a lucky thing for the town. One of the political campaigners was Rep. Nick Galifianakis (D.-N.C.).

The congressman saw both a political and a medical issue. Since then, the congressman has won the support of 127 of his colleagues for a solution to problems like those in the little town.

It would allow the federal government to pay off education loans of young doctors and dentists who go to practice in such towns and in poor urban areas for three years. The measure would cost only about \$10 million a year, but has an uphill struggle in this Congress.

Meantime, Galifianakis has his staff looking for doctors who want to practice in the pleasant rural town of Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

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Disputer of King Death

Data Languishes in Asylum

By Paul W. Valentine
 Washington Post Staff Writer

BOLIVAR, Tenn.—Grace Elizabeth Stephens, 54, an emaciated, sad faced woman in a shapeless mock, rests tranquilized in a mental asylum in this obscure Tennessee town.

Hospital records show her condition is deteriorating. She has been here more than two years.

Her lawyers now want her out before it is too late.

They say state officials railroaded her here in a secrecy-shrouded maneuver to suppress and discredit eye witness testimony by her that contradicts the official account of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

Mrs. Stephens asserts that the man she saw leaving the flop house bathroom, from which police say the fatal shot was fired as Dr. King stood on the Lorraine Motel balcony, was not James Earl Ray, the publicly proclaimed killer.

The man she saw was short, small-boned, in his 50s with "salt-and-pepper" hair, her attorneys say she has told them.

Ray was tall, in his late 30s with black hair.

Grace Stephens' potential testimony is a crucial element in a continuing attempt by attorneys to obtain a full trial for Ray; to prove he was not the triggerman in Dr. King's shooting, and to demonstrate there was a conspiracy involving probably several persons in the assassination.

The attorneys contend privately that Ray was an unwitting tool in the plot. They also maintain that the man in the bathroom may have been a "decoy" and that the real assassin fired from another location.

Authorities ranging from Memphis chief prosecutor Phil Canale to former Attorney General Ramsey Clark have maintained from the beginning that Ray acted deliberately and alone.

At stake now in the case is Grace Stephens' credibility as an eyewitness. Her attorneys acknowledge she has a history of alcoholism, but they contend she is not insane as state officials suggest by having her committed to Western State Psychiatric Hospital in Bolivar.

In a brief court appearance here last week, Mrs. Stephens sat with several attendants. She stared blankly. Her movements were slow. Stringy-haired and heavily sedated, she rolled her jaws in a repetitive, chewing motion.

Attorneys say that ordinarily she is bright, articulate and reads a great deal and that she completed three years of college.

The attorneys hope to remove her from the hospital and preserve her testimony, either in live form or by deposition, for Ray's future defense.

Ray pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in March 1969 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. At the brief courtroom proceeding in Memphis, there was little testimony—just a series of stipulations in which state prosecutors structured a case depicting Ray as the lone killer.

Criminal attorney Percy Foreman represented Ray at the time. Ray subsequently acquired new attorneys who now contend Foreman coerced Ray by "fraud" and "bribery" into pleading guilty.

In their formal bid for post-conviction relief, they say Foreman, after making a series of contracts with author William Bradford Huie, arranged to avoid a full trial because the trial would have

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____ **A-3**
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
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 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Daily World _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

Date **8-16-70**

revealed fuller details of the case and denied Huie exclusive access to the Ray story. A court ruling on Ray's motion for a full trial will probably come this autumn.

The new attorneys and investigators now concentrating on Grace Stephens are a varied group: Representing Mrs. Stephens is C. M. (Pat) Murphy of Memphis, a soft-spoken silver haired man; for Ray there are flint-eyed Ku Klux Klan counselor J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga.; veteran Memphis criminal lawyer Richard J. Ryan, and Washington attorney Bernard Fensterwald, assassination specialist, political liberal and former counsel for a Senate judiciary subcommittee. They say they are working without fee.

Working with them is Memphis private detective Renfro T. Hays, a large, arable, drawling man. He claims to have found Grace Stephens at the mental hospital here in this country town of 4,000, 70 miles east of Memphis, where state officials had "salted her away" under the surname Walden, a name she had acquired many years ago by a previous marriage.

Seeking her release this week, lawyer Murphy argued in court papers that officials ignored several legal requirements in committing Mrs. Stephens:

- The commitment proceeding was initiated by an unauthorized person—John A. Henderson, then an assistant administrator at Gaston Hospital in Memphis. Tennessee law empowers only a relative, guardian, licensed physician, head of an institution, or health, welfare, or law enforcement officer to take such action.

- Officials failed to notify Mrs. Stephens by mail of her scheduled commitment hearing.

- No notice was given to any relatives.

- Memphis prosecutors removed her medical records from Gaston Hospital where she had been held three weeks before being transferred to Bolivar.

Papers filed by the Tennessee attorney general's office deny officials acted illegally, but they give no supporting arguments.

Carlisle, an assistant prosecutor in the Ray case, said his office was "definitely not" behind the commitment action. He said he does not know who initiated it. Another source close to the prosecution who asked not to be named said the action was probably taken routinely by hospital or jail authorities because of Mrs. Stephens' alcoholic condition.

But Mrs. Stephens' lawyer, Murphy, asserts, "The reason she was placed in the psychiatric hospital was because her testimony would have been unfavorable to the position taken by the Shelby County attorney general (Memphis prosecutor) and his staff.

"She alleges that she was not mentally ill at that time and has at no time since been mentally ill. She charges further that although she was a material witness and that she informed the Memphis police . . . as to the details of her knowledge, such information was deliberately concealed . . . and she . . . was unlawfully shuttled off to the psychiatric department of the city of Memphis hospitals."

At the time of Mr. King's shooting, Grace Stephens lived in a cheap rooming house adjacent to the Lorraine Motel with her common law husband, Charles Q. Stephens. Both were

known to be heavy drinkers.

Both claim seeing a man leaving the bathroom from which the fatal shot was fired. Charles Stephens said in an affidavit ultimately used in support of Ray's guilty plea proceeding that the man he saw looked "very much like" an FBI flier of Ray.

Grace Stephens claims she also gave police a description of the man, but defense attorneys say that if police have it, they will not turn it over to them now.

A source close to the prosecution said the police did attempt to take her statement on the night of April 4, 1968, "but couldn't make any sense out of her."

After her commitment to the Bolivar Hospital, Mrs. Stephens gave a written and signed description of the man to investigator Renfro Hays. The description does not match Ray's.

In dispute is whether Charles or Grace, or both, were drunk at the time of the shooting.

Defense attorneys concede Grace Stephens' drinking history but note that her husband—whose statement prosecutors chose to use—cannot claim any greater reliability.

The attorneys also note that Grace Stephens was committed on July 31, 1968, less than two months after Ray's arrest in London, Eng-

land, while her husband continued to be held by police in Memphis as a material witness. He still lives in the Memphis area today, the lawyers say.

In the commitment papers, Memphis psychiatrist Sidney D. Vick describes Mrs. Stephens as suffering a "chronic brain syndrome—hallucinatory—see husband on ceiling—thought he was to shoot her."

Attorneys contend this may have been so because she was drunk at the time Vick examined her. By contrast, she was sober on the day of Dr. King's shooting, they insist.

Dr. Antonio Rubio, clinical director at the Bolivar

Hospital, said that Mrs. Stephens' condition, when he examined her on several occasions in 1968 and 1969, was "very close" to a sickness called Korsakoff's Disease, caused by heavy drinking.

One of the symptoms, he said is "confabulation," a tendency to invent stories to fill memory gaps. Rubio said he could not determine in any concrete way if that particular symptom was manifested in Mrs. Stephens but said there was a possibility.

At a court hearing Monday in Bolivar, attorney Murphy abandoned his strategy to win Mrs. Stephens' release on a writ of habeas corpus after he said he dis-

covered through medical records that her condition was now too "regressed" to permit her to be on her own.

Attempts to place her with relatives have failed, he said. Records indicate that she has aged at an accelerated rate in the last two years. She is given 150 milligrams daily of Mellaril, a tranquilizer, and 75 milligrams of Tofranil, an antidepressant, records show.

A court source said that in lieu of the habeas corpus action, hospital officials agreed informally Monday to cooperate with attorneys in placing Mrs. Stephens in a general hospital when bed space can be found.



Associated Press

Grace Elizabeth Stephens, 54, who testified that the sniper who fatally shot the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was not James Earl Ray, as

officially proclaimed, has been in an insane asylum in Bolivar, Tenn., for more than 2 years. Dr. King was slain as he stood in front of his

room in this Memphis hotel-motel (circle). The woman's lawyers say she was railroaded to the asylum to discredit her testimony.

Around the Nation

Brother of James Earl Ray Held in Georgia Shooting

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Jerry Ray, brother of the man imprisoned for the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was in jail yesterday in connection with the shooting of a white teen-ager, police said.

Al St. Lawrence, chief of Chatham County detectives, said police were holding the 35-year-old St. Louis man for investigation of an assault charge stemming from the shooting Saturday night outside the headquarters of the white supremacist States Rights Party.

Ray's brother, James Earl Ray, pleaded guilty to the April 4, 1968, rifle slaying of King in Memphis, Tenn. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Police withheld the name of the 16-year-old youth, who was reported in fair condition.

St. Lawrence said the youth was shot while apparently trying to remove a box of records from the party offices.

Police said the boy was just outside the office of the party when he was shot in the chest with a .38-caliber pistol fired through a window from inside.

Ray has been working with the party and is campaign manager for J. B. Stoner, a white supremacist candidate for governor in the Democratic primary. Police said the youth was also a member of the party.

• In Los Angeles, the prosecution said its star witness will testify today in the Sharon Tate murder trial that a hippie-style band controlled by Charles Manson shot and stabbed to death the actress and six other persons. The witness is Linda Kasabian, 21, a member of the Manson "family."

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The Sun (Baltimore) _____
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The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

Date **JUL 27 1970**

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UPI-118

(KING WITNESS)

MEMPHIS --ATTORNEY CHARLES M. MURPHY JR. SAID TODAY HE WILL SEEK THE RELEASE OF MRS. GRACE WALDEN FROM A STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL ON GROUNDS SHE WAS COMMITTED ILLEGALLY IN AN EFFORT TO SUPPRESS HER TESTIMONY ABOUT THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

MRS. WALDEN WAS A RESIDENT OF THE ROOMING HOUSE HERE FROM WHICH POLICE SAY JAMES EARL RAY FIRED THE SHOT THAT KILLED KING. SHE SAID SHE SAW A MAN RUN FROM THE ROOMING HOUSE BATHROOM JUST AFTER THE SHOT WAS FIRED, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT RAY.

7/25--NW703 PED

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Sullivan ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Bishop ☒
 Brennan, C.D. ☒
 Callahan ☐
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 Holmes ☐
 Gandy ☐

UPI-45

(RAY)

SAVANNAH, GA. --JERRY RAY, BROTHER OF THE ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH SHOOTING A YOUNG AMERICAN NAZI PARTY MEMBER IN THE STOMACH.

DETECTIVES SAID RAY TOLD THEM HE SHOT THE YOUTH SATURDAY NIGHT WHILE FRUSTRATING AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE RECORDS FROM THE LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL STATE RIGHTS PARTY HEADED BY ATTORNEY J. B. STONER.

STONER, A WHITE SUPREMACIST CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, SAID HE WOULD REPRESENT RAY AT TODAY'S ARRAIGNMENT PROCEEDINGS. RAY, WHO SAID HE WAS STONER'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND SECURITY MAN, WAS TO BE CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.

7/27--EV1033AED

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Brother of James Ray Is Charged in Slaying

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Jerry Ray, whose brother is imprisoned for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been jailed in the shooting of a white teen-ager at headquarters of the white supremacist National States Rights party.

Chatham County police, who arrested Ray, 35, shortly after the 16-year-old youth was shot in the chest Saturday night, said they were holding him while they investigated the shooting.

The teen-ager, described by police as a member of the party, was reported in critical condition at Memorial Hospital.

Through Window

Police said he apparently was shot with a .38-caliber pistol through a window of the party headquarters after he had removed party records and papers. The shot came from inside the building, said police.

Ray, whose brother, James Earl Ray, is serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to slaying King, has been working in Georgia as the campaign manager for J. B. Stoner, an avowed segregationist seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

"Been Around"

Long associated with anti-Negro and anti-Jewish causes, Stoner tried unsuccessfully last year to win a new trial for James Earl Ray. He was retained as

Ray's lawyer after Ray said he wanted to change his guilty plea to not guilty.

Al St. Lawrence, chief of the Chatham County detectives, said the wounded youth "had been around these people for about three or four weeks." No home address was listed for him.

Police said they could release no other details.

Ray, of St. Louis, Mo., has been working with the National States Rights party, in addition to helping Stoner, who was the party's vice presidential candidate in 1964.



—United Press International

JERRY RAY

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The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

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July 16, 1970

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ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN
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