

F B I

Date: 3/12/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (P)

MURKIN
(OO: ME)

Re San Antonio teletype to Director and New Orleans 3/11/69, no copy Memphis, wherein information was set forth that indicated the possibility that one FREDERICK LEROY CARLIN, San Antonio, Texas, was possibly enroute to New Orleans to kill New Orleans District Attorney JAMES GARRISON.

Enclosed for Memphis is one Xerox copy of referenced teletype for completion of Memphis files.

For information of Bureau and receiving offices, Detective JAMES LAVERGNE, Detective Bureau, New Orleans Police Department, was telephonically advised of the contents of referenced teletype, at which time LAVERGNE stated he would take appropriate action, including notification to District Attorney JAMES GARRISON. By LAVERGNE's request, a letter of confirmation is being forwarded to Superintendent JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO (NA), New Orleans Police Department.

No further action anticipated by New Orleans.

- ② - Bureau
2 - Memphis (Encl. 1) (44-1487)
1 - San Antonio (44-1242)
1 - New Orleans
EJC:sab
(7)

REC-30

MAR 14 1969

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

66 MAR 19 1969

MARK 449869

MAR 14 10 58 AM '69

(3)
 FROM: LSP
 TO: SAC, NEW YORK (100-378)
 FROM: NEW YORK (100-378)
 TO: DIRECTOR (100-378)
 SUBJECT: [illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

REFERENCES REFERRED FOR COMPLETION OF MEMBERS' TYPES:
 RECORDED FOR MEMBERS IS ONE-VOICED COPY OF

[illegible]

(10: 77)

REF ID: A66000

10: 11: 12: 13: 14: 15: 16: 17: 18: 19: 20: 21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26: 27: 28: 29: 30: 31: 32: 33: 34: 35: 36: 37: 38: 39: 40: 41: 42: 43: 44: 45: 46: 47: 48: 49: 50: 51: 52: 53: 54: 55: 56: 57: 58: 59: 60: 61: 62: 63: 64: 65: 66: 67: 68: 69: 70: 71: 72: 73: 74: 75: 76: 77: 78: 79: 80: 81: 82: 83: 84: 85: 86: 87: 88: 89: 90: 91: 92: 93: 94: 95: 96: 97: 98: 99: 100: 101: 102: 103: 104: 105: 106: 107: 108: 109: 110: 111: 112: 113: 114: 115: 116: 117: 118: 119: 120: 121: 122: 123: 124: 125: 126: 127: 128: 129: 130: 131: 132: 133: 134: 135: 136: 137: 138: 139: 140: 141: 142: 143: 144: 145: 146: 147: 148: 149: 150: 151: 152: 153: 154: 155: 156: 157: 158: 159: 160: 161: 162: 163: 164: 165: 166: 167: 168: 169: 170: 171: 172: 173: 174: 175: 176: 177: 178: 179: 180: 181: 182: 183: 184: 185: 186: 187: 188: 189: 190: 191: 192: 193: 194: 195: 196: 197: 198: 199: 200: 201: 202: 203: 204: 205: 206: 207: 208: 209: 210: 211: 212: 213: 214: 215: 216: 217: 218: 219: 220: 221: 222: 223: 224: 225: 226: 227: 228: 229: 230: 231: 232: 233: 234: 235: 236: 237: 238: 239: 240: 241: 242: 243: 244: 245: 246: 247: 248: 249: 250: 251: 252: 253: 254: 255: 256: 257: 258: 259: 260: 261: 262: 263: 264: 265: 266: 267: 268: 269: 270: 271: 272: 273: 274: 275: 276: 277: 278: 279: 280: 281: 282: 283: 284: 285: 286: 287: 288: 289: 290: 291: 292: 293: 294: 295: 296: 297: 298: 299: 300: 301: 302: 303: 304: 305: 306: 307: 308: 309: 310: 311: 312: 313: 314: 315: 316: 317: 318: 319: 320: 321: 322: 323: 324: 325: 326: 327: 328: 329: 330: 331: 332: 333: 334: 335: 336: 337: 338: 339: 340: 341: 342: 343: 344: 345: 346: 347: 348: 349: 350: 351: 352: 353: 354: 355: 356: 357: 358: 359: 360: 361: 362: 363: 364: 365: 366: 367: 368: 369: 370: 371: 372: 373: 374: 375: 376: 377: 378: 379: 380: 381: 382: 383: 384: 385: 386: 387: 388: 389: 390: 391: 392: 393: 394: 395: 396: 397: 398: 399: 400: 401: 402: 403: 404: 405: 406: 407: 408: 409: 410: 411: 412: 413: 414: 415: 416: 417: 418: 419: 420: 421: 422: 423: 424: 425: 426: 427: 428: 429: 430: 431: 432: 433: 434: 435: 436: 437: 438: 439: 440: 441: 442: 443: 444: 445: 446: 447: 448: 449: 450: 451: 452: 453: 454: 455: 456: 457: 458: 459: 460: 461: 462: 463: 464: 465: 466: 467: 468: 469: 470: 471: 472: 473: 474: 475: 476: 477: 478: 479: 480: 481: 482: 483: 484: 485: 486: 487: 488: 489: 490: 491: 492: 493: 494: 495: 496: 497: 498: 499: 500: 501: 502: 503: 504: 505: 506: 507: 508: 509: 510: 511: 512: 513: 514: 515: 516: 517: 518: 519: 520: 521: 522: 523: 524: 525: 526: 527: 528: 529: 530: 531: 532: 533: 534: 535: 536: 537: 538: 539: 540: 541: 542: 543: 544: 545: 546: 547: 548: 549: 550: 551: 552: 553: 554: 555: 556: 557: 558: 559: 560: 561: 562: 563: 564: 565: 566: 567: 568: 569: 570: 571: 572: 573: 574: 575: 576: 577: 578: 579: 580: 581: 582: 583: 584: 585: 586: 587: 588: 589: 590: 591: 592: 593: 594: 595: 596: 597: 598: 599: 600: 601: 602: 603: 604: 605: 606: 607: 608: 609: 610: 611: 612: 613: 614: 615: 616: 617: 618: 619: 620: 621: 622: 623: 624: 625: 626: 627: 628: 629: 630: 631: 632: 633: 634: 635: 636: 637: 638: 639: 640: 641: 642: 643: 644: 645: 646: 647: 648: 649: 650: 651: 652: 653: 654: 655: 656: 657: 658: 659: 660: 661: 662: 663: 664: 665: 666: 667: 668: 669: 670: 671: 672: 673: 674: 675: 676: 677: 678: 679: 680: 681: 682: 683: 684: 685: 686: 687: 688: 689: 690: 691: 692: 693: 694: 695: 696: 697: 698: 699: 700: 701: 702: 703: 704: 705: 706: 707: 708: 709: 710: 711: 712: 713: 714: 715: 716: 717: 718: 719: 720: 721: 722: 723: 724: 725: 726: 727: 728: 729: 730: 731: 732: 733: 734: 735: 736: 737: 738: 739: 740: 741: 742: 743: 744: 745: 746: 747: 748: 749: 750: 751: 752: 753: 754: 755: 756: 757: 758: 759: 760: 761: 762: 763: 764: 765: 766: 767: 768: 769: 770: 771: 772: 773: 774: 775: 776: 777: 778: 779: 780: 781: 782: 783: 784: 785: 786: 787: 788: 789: 790: 791: 792: 793: 794: 795: 796: 797: 798: 799: 800: 801: 802: 803: 804: 805: 806: 807: 808: 809: 810: 811: 812: 813: 814: 815: 816: 817: 818: 819: 820: 821: 822: 823: 824: 825: 826: 827: 828: 829: 830: 831: 832: 833: 834: 835: 836: 837: 838: 839: 840: 841: 842: 843: 844: 845: 846:

11/11/77

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2. 1950-1951

Quint - 2/18/60

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAR 10 1969 *mks*

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI MEMPHIS

551PM URGENT 3-10-69 MEN

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 2P

et
MURKIN

hady
7
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE APPEARING IN COMMERCIAL APPEAL DATED MARCH EIGHT, SIXTYNINE, STATES IN REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE NINETY-NINE YEAR SENTENCE IF RAY AGREES TO GUILTY PLEA COULD BE SERVED COMPLETELY IN FIFTY YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS. A CONVICTED MAN WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE AFTER FORTYEIGHT YEARS AND SIX MONTHS. WITH MAXIMUM GOOD AND HONOR TIME THE TERM OF NINETY-NINE YEARS COULD BE REDUCED TO THIRTYTHREE YEARS. *al*

MEMPHIS FILES DISCLOSE COPY OF PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF JAMES EARL RAY FROM ENGLAND. IT INDICATES THAT RAY WAS CHARGED WITH THE CRIME OF MURDER AND CONVICTED OF THE CRIME OF ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE (ROBBERY FIRST DEGREE BY MEANS OF A DANGEROUS AND DEADLY WEAPON). THIS DOCUMENT REQUESTS THAT JAMES EARL RAY BE RETURNED TO PROPER AUTHORITIES OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE AND/OR THE STATE OF MISSOURI. *44-38861-5611*
MAR 12 1969

KANSAS CITY REPORT DATED MAY FIFTEEN, SIXTYEIGHT, IN INSTANT CASE, PAGE ONE TWO EIGHT, SETS FORTH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TRANSCRIPT OF SERIAL RECORD. THIS TRANSCRIPT CARRIES MISSOURI

54 MAR 20 1969 *GR*

12 000005 07008

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATION
DIVISION 5710

MAR 10 7 41 PM '69

INTERVIEW OF SENIOR STAFF, IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF
ONE, BUT ONE TWO FIVE, THIS POLICE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
F. B. I.

WITNESS GILIA REBOAN, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, SIXTYEIGHT, IN THE

OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.

THAT THE FBI IS INTERESTED IN THE VIOLENCE OF THE STATE
IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. THIS DOCUMENT BEGINS THE
CHINESE OF THE STATE WITH AGENCY (MORRIS RING) BEHIND SA STATE OF
WAS AND CHARGED WITH THE STATE OF THE STATE AND CONSIDERED OF THE
EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF THE STATE. IT INDICATES THAT

WITNESS LITTE DISCLOSED COPY OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR
COURT OF THE STATE TO INTERVIEW THE STATE.

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END

END OF PAGE 10-1081 SB

TO DIRECTOR

FROM DIRECTOR 10-10-68 MEM

END OF PAGE 10

RECEIVED

MAR 10 1969

COMMUNICATION SECTION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

PAGE TWO

STATE PRISON NUMBER FOR JAMES EARL RAY, WHICH IS ZERO ZERO FOUR ONE SIX. THE SENTENCE BEING SERVED ON THIS RECORD DISCLOSES THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS RECEIVED ON MARCH SEVENTEEN, NINETEEN SIXTY, TO SERVE SENTENCE OF TWENTY YEARS. FULL TIME WAS LISTED AS BEING MARCH SIXTEEN, NINETEEN EIGHTY, WITH THREE-QUARTERS TIME MARCH SIXTEEN, NINETEEN SEVENTYFIVE. BASED ON FACT THAT JAMES EARL RAY ESCAPED IN NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, IT WOULD APPEAR BASED ON THIS RECORD HE OWES A MINIMUM OF THIRTEEN YEARS ON THE ORIGINAL SENTENCE.

MEMPHIS DIVISION NOT AWARE OF ANY ADDITIONAL SENTENCES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED BECAUSE OF HIS PRIOR ATTEMPTED ESCAPES.

P.

END

GMJ

FBI WASH DC

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B*

INVI MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED BECAUSE OF HIS BEING ALLEGEDLY ESCAPED.

REPHRASE DIVISION NOT MAJOR OF THE ADDITIONAL SENTENCES
ADDED ON THE ORIGINAL SENTENCE:

WAS ALLEGEDLY PLACED ON THIS RECORD IN ONE OF THE OTHERS OF INTEREST
INVI MAY HAVE BEEN ESCAPED IN NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN. IT
OCCURRED LINE SEVEN SIXTYEVEN. NINETEEN SEVENTEEN. DURING ON
THE FIRST OF BEING SEVEN SIXTYEVEN. NINETEEN EIGHTY. WITH INVI-
NINETEEN SIXTY. TO SEVEN SENTENCE OF INVI MAY. BOTH LINE
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ONE SIX. THE SENTENCE BEING SEVEN ON THIS RECORD
INVI MAY MAY BE SEVEN MAY. WHICH IS SEVEN SEVEN SEVEN
INVI MAY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *RD*

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: March 11, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen ☒ _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

clm

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King.

Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard, Civil Rights Division, met with Messrs. Rosen and Martindale in his office, together with his Deputy Robert Owen and Attorney David Norman. He was interested in two matters:

Item 1 re James Earl Ray (Murder of Martin Luther King)

The first matter concerned the disposition of the Federal conspiracy warrant presently outstanding concerning James Earl Ray, who was sentenced to 99 years in Tennessee.

Leonard stated the President would be going to take the position in a future press conference that the Federal Government was continuing to give intensive interest to the possibility of the existence of a conspiracy. Because of this, Leonard felt the Department ought to decide on the action which should be taken at this time and possible future procedure. *4*

After discussing such possibilities as the dismissal of the warrant, filing the Federal warrant as a detainer against the state process, interviewing Ray immediately or postponing such an interview, and the possibility of calling him before a Federal grand jury, the following decision was reached by Leonard.

He felt that, insofar as the timing was concerned, the most desirable procedure at this time without making any commitments by the Federal Government beyond what the President would say was to try to interview Ray at the earliest possible time. In this connection, he asked that we contact the SAC at Memphis (Jensen) and have him get in touch with Canale, the District Attorney, to determine whether the circumstances are such as to allow an interview with Ray at this time to determine whether he will give any information concerning possible conspirators.

*tel to SAC Memphis
3/12/69 - clm*

AR:ige
(6)

REC-110

MAR 14 1969

CONTINUED - OVER

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RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 11 5 34 PM '69

MAR 11 3 55 PM 1969

MAR 12 6 54 AM '69

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

MAR 12 3 23 PM '69

REC'D DeLOACH
F B I

RECEIVED TOLSON
F B I

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: New York letter to Bureau dated 3/11/69.
Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated and captioned as above.
The LHM contains information received from [Illegible] regarding [Illegible] activities in New York City.

It is requested that you advise the Bureau of any further information received regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,
[Illegible Signature]

Enclosure
[Illegible]

[Illegible]

1 - Bureau
1 - New York
1 - [Illegible]
1 - [Illegible]
1 - [Illegible]
1 - [Illegible]
1 - [Illegible]

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

If approved, we will instruct the Memphis Office to immediately take the necessary steps to determine whether Ray can be interviewed. This will involve the possibility of clearance from Attorney Percy Foreman.

✓

OK - N

Item 2 re Murder of Three Civil Rights Workers in Mississippi

The second matter concerned informant James Jordan, who is presently serving a four-year sentence after pleading guilty to Federal Civil Rights charges in connection with the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi. Jordan was the primary Government witness responsible for the conviction of seven other subjects in Federal Court. There are three subjects to be re-tried in Federal Court and Jordan's testimony is essential to successful prosecution.

The U. S. Board of Parole has passed Jordan over until September, 1970, although he will be eligible for release on good time in June, 1970. The Civil Rights Division strongly feels that Jordan, who has been a model prisoner, should be favorably considered for parole in view of his cooperation with the Government at the prior trial and in view of the need for his testimony when the three subjects are re-tried. The Civil Rights Division has been unable to make any arrangements through consultation with the Parole Board but Robert Owen has been invited to appear before the Parole Board in the near future and plans to do so. In addition, Leonard requested that Special Agent in Charge Joseph A. Sullivan, New York, who dealt with Jordan during the investigation in Mississippi, be permitted to appear with Owen merely for the purpose of pointing out the fact that Jordan was most cooperative with the Federal Government.

Leonard was advised that his request would be taken under consideration. He stated he was most emphatic in his feeling that Sullivan's testimony before the Parole Board would be most effective in not only retaining Jordan's cooperation but in setting the facts before the Parole Board inasmuch as he would be an impartial witness whereas Owen acted as a prosecuting attorney.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the necessity for continuing to maintain Jordan as a cooperative witness in bringing about a favorable prosecution against the three remaining subjects to be re-tried in Federal Court, favorable consideration should be given to Mr. Leonard's request that Sullivan be allowed to appear before the U. S. Board of Parole and limit any comments to the fact that Jordan was most cooperative with the Government.

R *W* *G.H.* *H* *✓* *nm*
JRM

PLAINTEXT

3/12/69

TELETYPE

URGENT

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

TO SAC MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861) — 5612

MURKIN

FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION DESIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO ANY INFORMATION BEARING ON POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER. DEPARTMENT DESIRES THAT INTERVIEW BE CONDUCTED WITH JAMES EARL RAY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IN AN EFFORT TO ELICIT ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING SUCH CONSPIRACY.

YOU SHOULD CONTACT DISTRICT ATTORNEY PHIL CANALE TO DETERMINE WHETHER CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD PERMIT INTERVIEW WITH JAMES EARL RAY AT THIS TIME. ALSO CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH PERCY FOREMAN, THE ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTED RAY, TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO RAY'S BEING

CONTACTED BY FBI TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT RAY WILL FURNISH ANY POSSIBLE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

CLM:cs (4)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAR 12 1969

TELETYPE

55 MAR 19 1969

TELETYPE UNIT

22 MAR 1969

TELETYPE

REC'D - ROSEN
FBI

MAR 13 1969

REC'D - ROSEN
FBI

COMMUNICATION SECTION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 12 7 16 AM '69

MAR 12 9 51 PM '69

REC'D - ROSEN
FBI

MAR 12 10 05 AM '69

MAR 12 1 27 PM '69

REC'D - DELOACH
FBI

COPIES MADE, DATE 5/4/78 BY
RE: *mt. Kenya*
FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO HQ IN REQUEST DATED 5/3/78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

MAR 12 11 33 AM 1969

REC'D - TELETYPE UNIT
FBI

Y - WILSONS

Y - WILSONS

TELETYPE SAC MEMPHIS
RE: MURKIN

HANDLE AND SUTEL BUT DO NOT MAKE ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS
TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW WITHOUT SPECIFIC BUREAU AUTHORITY.
THIS WILL CONFIRM BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL ON MARCH ELEVEN.

- 2 -

F B I

Date: 3/11/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBO (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles tels 2/28/69 and 3/3/69; Memphis
 airtel to Los Angeles dated 3/6/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies
 of a Letterhead Memorandum concerning GREG BIRMINGHAM's
 registering as ERIC S. GALT at Shangri Lodge, Panorama City,
 California, 3/14/68.

Information copies are being furnished Memphis
 and New Haven.

REC 43

44-38861-5613

MAR 13 1969

MAR 13 1969

1cc: AAG Criminal Division
Form 6-941cc: AAG Civil Rights Division
Form 6-94
1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

- ③ - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) (RM)
 1 - New Haven (Enc. 1) (RM)
 2 - Los Angeles

TJA/gja
 (7)

70 MAR 19 1969

Approved: _____

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

MAR 13 10 11 AM 1969

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 13 10 15 AM '69

MAR 13 1969



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

March 11, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY *edk*

On February 28, 1969, ~~Leo Mc Namara~~ personally appeared at the New Haven, Connecticut Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He advised that on March 14, 1968, he and ~~Greg Birmingham~~ flew to Los Angeles, California, and registered at the Shangri Lodge, 9510 Van Nuys Boulevard, Panorama City, California. According to Mr. Mc Namara, Birmingham registered under the name of ~~Eric S. Galt~~.

The records of the Shangri Lodge for March, 1968 were located at Bekins Records Center, 215 North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, California on March 3, 1969 and were reviewed by Special Agents of the FBI. No record for Eric S. Galt, ~~Gregory Birmingham~~, or Leo Mc Namara for March 14, 1968 was located. *CONN*

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.

- 1* -

44-38861-5613

ENCLOSURE



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

March 11, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY

On February 28, 1969, Leo Mc Namara personally appeared at the New Haven, Connecticut Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He advised that on March 14, 1968, he and Greg Birmingham flew to Los Angeles, California, and registered at the Shangri Lodge, 9510 Van Nuys Boulevard, Panorama City, California. According to Mr. Mc Namara, Birmingham registered under the name of Eric S. Galt.

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- 1* -



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

March 11, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY

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F B I

Date: 3-12-69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN.

There are enclosed original and one copy each
of newspaper clippings in captioned matter.

3 BUREAU (Enc.) (AM)
1 MEMPHIS
RGJ:BN
(4)

REC 11

44-38861-1516

25 MAR 13 1969

6 ENCLOSURE

Approved: _____

60 MAR 18 1969

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

MAR 13 1969

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 13 2 54 PM 1969

MAR 13 2 56 PM '69

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

(9)
MURKIN
J. MURKIN
(3) BUREAU (WFO) (YH)

of membership of the group in the captioned matter.
There are no other references in the file.

MURKIN

FROM: WFO (44-1981) B

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38867)

VIRGIL

VJ

3-13-69

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Leaving Marks End To Extended Precautions

James Earl Ray got plenty of exercise during the 7 months and 19 days he spent in the Shelby County Jail—often walking the 35-foot length of his cell block and back on his hands.

Sheriff William N. Morris, who gave newsmen their first peek at Ray's maximum security quarters yesterday afternoon, said Ray also did 75-100 pushups at a time and stood on his head, in addition to countless walking trips up and down the long, narrow cell.

To anyone expecting a plush layout, the cellblock would have been a bit of a disappointment. It was a regular maximum security block, consisting of six individual cells, a long bullpen area and a narrow barred walkway along the outside wall. Only a few minor changes had been made.

A row of glass-covered safety bulbs hardly the glaring floodlights mentioned in several petitions from one of Ray's lawyers—had been installed in the barred walkway. A TV set also was in the walkway, visible through the bars to Ray and the two guards who were in the cell with him at all times.

"He watched a lot of TV," said Capt. B. J. Smith, the man in charge of the special guard detail for Ray. "His favorite was 'The FBI' on Sunday nights. He had some pretty good comments about the crimes."

Two closed circuit TV cameras were mounted in the cell, one through the end wall and the other in the middle of the long wall. One covered the bullpen area and the other focused on the center pair of the six individual cells. Ray used either of these cells. Each of the six cells has a metal bunk attached to the wall and a metal combination commode and wash basin. A test of the TV cameras showed only an indistinct image of anyone using one of the toilets. A shower stall at the end of the bullpen had a curtain which hid the occupant from view of the camera.

The furnishings were simple—a built-in table and bench along the long side, three chairs and a card table at which Ray sat to confer with lawyers Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman. Sheriff Morris said the microphones on the TV cameras would not pick up conversations from the card table, but were turned off for good measure when one of the lawyers was in the cell.

A black wall-type telephone affixed to the bars in the center of the cell connected the guards to a small office outside the area. A supervisor was on duty there at all times, watching the two TV monitors. There also was a monitor in the sheriff's office.

The sheriff said the security precautions also included welding up windows and food slots in each of the six cells and putting steel plates over the windows. The addition of the plates made an air-conditioning system necessary.

The security was planned at a series of conferences between state, federal and local officials, the sheriff said, and he was reluctant to give any one person credit for the various ideas.

He said Lt. John Brown of the Federal Bureau of Prisons had been assigned to the jail on a regular basis since last July ("He also has given us a lot of advice and help on the rest of the jail.") and J. J. Clark, a federal prisons supervisor from Washington has been a frequent visitor.

Captain Smith and 12 men—half deputies and the rest city policemen—were assigned to the guard detail. In almost all cases, one policeman and one deputy were in the cell together with Ray. The guards, who worked eight-hour shifts, stripped and put on special coveralls before entering the cell.

Ray and his guards ate the same food as the rest of the prisoners, three trays being brought to the cell in a special locked steel box. "There was no way to know who would get which tray," the sheriff said.

The guards kept a minutely detailed record of Ray's activities—when he ate, what he ate, how he liked what he ate, when he slept and for how long, as well as what visitors he had.

The log also showed Ray's comments on things he read and watched on TV. He was allowed newspapers and magazines which told about his case.

"He expressed displeasure

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

PAGE

15

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

3-12-69

Edition:

Author:

GEORGE HANNA

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

MEMPHIS

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-3886

with a lot of stories," said Captain Smith, "especially those that dealt with his family or his previous crimes."

The log showed Ray was a good eater (he gained about 15 pounds in jail despite his regular exercise) and averaged better than eight hours sleep a night.

Captain Smith said Ray talked a little bit about his escape from prison in Missouri. "He said this was one place he sure couldn't escape from."

"We had a written procedure for everything, for shaving, for taking a shower, just everything," Sheriff Morris said. "Ray seemed to adjust well to this. He seemed to like doing things the same way. Of course life in confinement wasn't new to him."

Captain Smith said Ray was sometimes moody, but rarely a discipline problem.

"When he was unruly, when he wouldn't do what he was told, we'd confine him to one of the individual cells, but without the door being locked. Or we'd cut him off from the commissary wagon (which sells ice cream, sandwiches and other items) or take away his newspapers and magazines. He wasn't much of a problem. His chief complaint was that he missed the sunshine (the car trip to Nashville yesterday was the first time Ray had seen sunlight since last July)."

There was no writing on the cream-colored walls.

"He was a very neat prisoner," the sheriff said.

The sheriff said the total cost of the special cell was low. He said the TV cameras and monitors cost less than \$3,000, the metal plates on the windows \$440, the central air-conditioning about \$1,300 and the locked food server \$35.

With Ray gone, what will happen to the cellblock?

The sheriff said it may be used as a quarantine area or for special medical care of inmates on a limited basis. In any event, the plates will remain on the window, just in case.

With his famous prisoner safely in Nashville, Sheriff Morris was willing to talk about Ray's return from London. Ray was flown nonstop from London to the Millington Navy Base in a U.S. Air Force jet transport. He was whisked to the jail in the Jackson, Miss., Police Department's armored car, escorted by carloads of machinegun-toting officers. This was in marked contrast to his departure early yesterday in a single police car, wearing a deputy's helmet and jacket to successfully fool cameramen.

The sheriff said he didn't remember just who thought up using Thompson's Tank (so named for Jackson Mayor Allen Thompson). It was driven to Memphis and serviced at J. Tom Moore and Co. on Airways, where it was built.

"It cost us \$16, and they drove it all over the south end of town, but nobody noticed I had fear of that jet landing and all the military standing by us and there was a dead battery in Thompson's Tank"

The sheriff said the arrival of the plane and the caravan was closely timed. "We had been in radio contact with the plane for hours and they had figured the prevailing winds and everything."

When the plane landed, Morris and other officers boarded and the charges were read to Ray. A card advising him of his rights was then read, and recorded in case there was ever any question that Ray had not been warned. Two doctors, one who had accompanied Ray on the plane and the other who had gone to Millington with the sheriff, compared notes. Ray was dressed in bullet resistant pants and vest and hustled to the armored car. Nine minutes had elapsed.

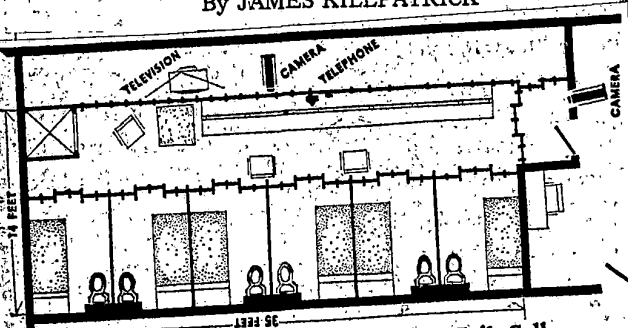
There were three alternate routes for the trip to the jail and no one but the sheriff knew which one would be used until the last minute. The most direct route, Navy Road to Highway 51 and right on Second Street to the jail, was the choice.

The spotlights atop Thompson's Tank which blinded spectators and masked Ray's entry into the jail were an afterthought. "We didn't even know it had them," the sheriff said. "About 45 minutes before we went to Millington somebody suggested we use them. It turned out to be the most effective thing we had."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Nagging Doubts Remaining That Dr. King Was Killed As Result Of Conspiracy

By JAMES KILLPATRICK



Layout Of Ray's Shelby County Jail Cell

nation of Dr. King here last April 4 was the work of some sort of conspiracy.

Most seemed to agree with Dr. King's widow, who said in

ked at James Early
ng there in the court-
I don't think a man
could plan and exe-
a crime by himself."
v. Mr. Kyles said his
in the courtroom and
unity to discuss the
ly with the prosecu-
e him much more
go along with the
guilty plea procedure
a procedure which has been criticized
by many Negroes who though
a full-scale trial would bring
out more of the facts.

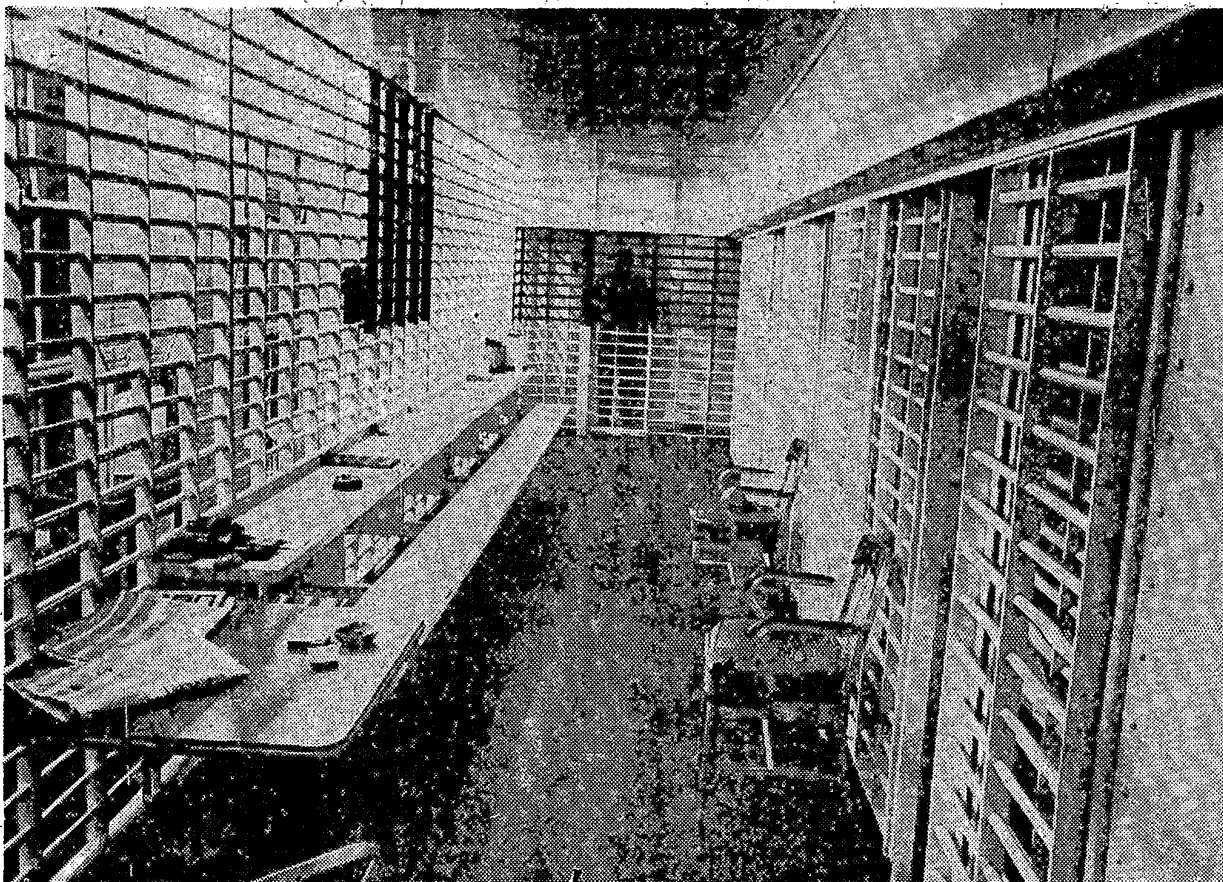
"I don't think there was any

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

PAGE 15

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.



James Earl Ray's Cell — Minus Its Famous Prisoner — Looking Toward Door

69
INNA

HIS

The attorney general said after the trial that race was the motive, the Rev. Mr. Kyle agreed that "Ray may be a racist, he probably is."

He said Mr. Dwyer had told him in confidence about several incidents which seemed to support the racist theory. "There were certain events in his life which had to do with color. Hewas a Wallace type." The Rev. Mr. Kyles also said that the "bad press" Dr. King received could well have led Ray to think he would be lionized for killing him. "I was told he was very disappointed that white society did not come to his rescue."

Several other Negroes were less pleased with the judicial process used.

"No, it wasn't justice," said Mrs. Corrine McWilliams, assistant manager of the Afro Lunch Room at 926 Kerr. "It looked like they had it already made up."

"There should be more of an explanation given to the public," said Allen Sims, 37, of 538 West Mitchell. "The public, particularly the black people, have been shortchanged by what has taken place in the Ray trial."

"I don't like the way he went out because it was a conspiracy and everybody knows that," said another woman in the lunchroom. She whispered so that a well-dressed white man at the end of the counter wouldn't hear.

Mrs. Maxine Smith, executive secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP, said, "It was not the 99-year sentence, but how he got it. It leaves a lot of questions unanswered and they may remain forever unanswered. Personally I don't believe he did it by himself."

Mrs. Smith said the negotiated settlement might have been an effort to prevent tension in the community during a long trial. In expressing her approval of the sentence, but not

the procedure, Mrs. Smith said she was completely opposed to capital punishment. This echoed the statement of Dr. King's widow, Mrs. Coretta King, who said the death penalty would be contrary to the teachings of her late husband. "The execution of Mr. Ray, who has not yet told the full story, would not serve the ends of justice."

It was learned that the attorney general consulted with Mrs. King and leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference about the compromise sentence. He was told they did not wish a death penalty, but would reserve judgement about the conspiracy angle.

There was surprisingly little dissatisfaction with the length of the penalty, although several Negroes said they never had expected Ray to get what he deserved.

"I don't think that many people were concerned with what happened to Ray. What they really wanted to know was who else was involved in the killing," said Mr. Sims.

Ray's attorney, Mr. Foreman, who told the court he had never expected to do more than save Ray from the electric chair, said he was convinced there was no conspiracy. He said Ray's statement to court about the conspiracy was intended to keep that angle alive so that stories he could sell would be more valuable. "He didn't want to kill the golden goose."

William Bradford Huie, the author who paid \$35,000 for Ray's story and has converted the handwritten notes into a magazine series, with a book and possible a movie in the future, said he was not surprised at Ray's statement.

"He always has contended there was another person in the rooming house with him (a statement which apparently will appear in Huie's third and final magazine article)."

Ray himself was having nothing more to say at present.

A court attachment was issued yesterday on the rifle and the automobile James Earl Ray used in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Renfro T. Hays, a private investigator who worked on the case for Ray's former attorney, Arthur J. Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala., got the attachment from Chancellor Charles Nearn.

The attachment is the latest development in all \$11,000 lawsuit Mr. Hays has filed to fees he claims were owing when Ray fired Hanes last November and hired Percy Foreman, the famed Houston trial lawyer.

Chancellor Nearn said the attachment against a 30.06 Remington pump action rifle, a 1966 white Mustang and also \$7,500 in cash which is deposited in Union Planters National Bank.

The bulk of the money is the last installment of \$35,000 author William Bradford Huie paid Ray for information about the crime.

Ray's brothers, Gerald Ray and John Ray, both of St. Louis, were at the hearing yesterday but did not participate.

Assistant public defender Hugh Stanton Jr. stood in for Foreman.

Chancellor Nearn told Mr. Stanton he could file a motion to quash the attachment. Mr. Stanton said he would confer with Foreman.

Mr. Hays' attorney, C. M. Murphy, argued that since the \$7,500 was in an account which Mr. Foreman has access to there was danger of it being removed.

The attorney general's office has the rifle. The car is being held in a Fire Department building but the attorney general has not disclosed the exact location.

Senate Launches Conspiracy Study Into King's Death

Ray Now In Cell

By GREGORY JAYNES

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee has launched an investigation into whether the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of a conspiracy.

"We are collecting all of the information on this subject we can," Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) told Morris Cunningham, chief of The Commercial Appeal's Washington Bureau yesterday.

"There always has been and there is now a question in my mind as to whether this killing was the work of one man," said Eastland. "We are securing all available information."

Ray pleaded guilty Monday and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. His attorneys denied the possibility of a conspiracy.

Federal investigative agencies long have contended that Ray acted alone. However, it was reported Tuesday that the Justice Department is taking another look at the case, in the light of Ray's courtroom hint that he did not agree with the theories of former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and J. Edgar Hoover that there was no conspiracy in the case.

Atty. Gen. Phil Canale said Monday Ray's motive for killing Dr. King was essentially a question of racism. "We have no proof other than James Earl Ray acting alone, killed Martin Luther King," said Mr. Canale.

Ray had nothing to say yesterday. Wearing chains, he ignored shouted questions from newsmen and entered the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville, trying to hide his face with manacled hands.

Ray left Shelby County under conditions so different from his heavily armed arrival last July that he was able to ride right by newsmen without being noticed.

Wearing a sheriff's deputy's helmet and jacket, Ray walked from the back door of the Shelby County Jail at 12:50 a. m. yesterday, loitered on the back steps a minute while a deputy finished his cigaret then got into a regular patrol car. The car had arrived minutes earlier and three of the four men entered the jail. Ray switched places with one of them, was handcuffed to a deputy and moved out.

Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. said Ray seemed to enjoy playing the role. He waved to a local TV cameraman as the car drove out and newsmen waved back. "Don't get cold out there" Ray yelled as he passed by unnoticed.

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

PAGE /

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

3-12-69

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

GEORGE HANNA

Character:

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Classification:

Submitting Office:

MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

44-38861- ENCLOSURE

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The car was met by another sheriff's unit at Third and North Parkway. Sheriff Morris left a few minutes later and caught up with the caravan near Southwestern. Ray was taken to the sheriff's substation on Hemcrest Lane and waited there until nearly 5 a. m. talking with officers. He then was taken to the highway patrol station on Highway 70 where he was given into state custody at 5:20 a. m.

Ray rode to Nashville in an unmarked car with state Safety Commissioner Greg O'Rear, TBI chief W. E. 'Bud' Hopton and two other officers. Seven cars of heavily armed state troopers escorted them.

For the confessed killer, the sound of a cell door slamming was nothing new. He has been in and out of prisons all his adult life.

On the heels of that, William Bradford Huie said last night he now believed there was no conspiracy and that Ray acted alone.

In a television interview with NBC Mr. Huie said: "The first story that Ray told (wrote) me was that he was sitting in the Mustang, parked on Main Street. He said that Raoul (the mystery blond Cuban mentioned in previous Huie articles) fired the shot, ran down the stairs and dropped the gun and jumped into the backseat of the car, covering himself up with a sheet."

Mr. Huie also said that Ray had insisted that Raoul had made the decision to kill Dr. King. The Alabama author said he was convinced for a long time that Ray had been a hired participant in the conspiracy, but that he was unable to verify many of the things Ray told him.



Ray Arrives At Prison, Flanked By Greg O'Rear And Highway Patrol Inspector Mickey McGuire.

44-38861-

F B I

Date: 3-12-69

Transmit the following in _____
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(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P
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There are enclosed original and one of
newspaper clippings in captioned matter.

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Special Agent in Charge

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FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1981) P

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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3-13-69

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RAY

PLEADS

GUILTY!

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

PAGE 1

MEMPHIS PRESS-
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

3-11-69

Edition: CHAS. R. SCHWEIDE

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

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Classification:

MEMPHIS

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

Sentenced To 99 Years

James Earl Ray pleaded guilty today to murder in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray took the stand shortly after 9 a.m.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle asked the defendant if he understood what he was doing in pleading guilty, if the decision was of his own free will and if he understood that he waived all rights to appeal.

Ray said he understood.

Percy Foreman, Ray's defense lawyer, told the court, "I've never had hopes of anything except . . . to save this man's life."

Ray was the only person in court to suggest others may have taken part in the April 4, 1968 sniper slaying of the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Ray pleaded guilty in a deal with the prosecution that he will be sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville, instead of taking the chance that a jury might sentence him to death in the electric chair.

A jury of 12 men, two of them Negroes, was selected from the first 12 names on the jury list. Each juror agreed to the deal, and all 12 were sworn in at 10:05 a. m. CST, only 20 minutes after the trial began.

Ray's guilty plea put an end to reports that he had balked at the deal, evidently arranged by his attorney.

The guilty plea was the first confirmation of the deal, rumored since Foreman asked for a hearing late last week.

The guilty plea came on Ray's 41st birthday.

Judge Battle twice asked Ray if he was pleading guilty because he did shoot Dr. King last April 4th at the Lorraine Motel and believed that a jury trial would show that to be the case.

"Yes, sir," Ray replied softly.

Atty. Gen. Phil Canale told the jurors that his office had found no evidence that anyone other than Ray was involved in the crime.

Canale said there had been widespread rumors that Ray was a "dupe" or "fall guy or member of a conspiracy."

Canale said his office had examined over 5,000 pages of investigative documents, examined hundreds of physical bits of evidence and sent representatives on trips totaling thousands of miles without finding any evidence whatsoever of a conspiracy. But he promised the jurors prompt and vigorous investigation that might later indicate someone other than Ray was involved.

"It took me months to prove to myself . . . that it was not a conspiracy," Foreman added.

A jury was selected from a venire chosen two weeks ago. A spokesman for the court said the jurors had no idea what case they would be hearing when they reported this morning.

Five men were called to testify that King was, indeed murdered. Those called to testify included:

—The Rev. Samuel B. Kyles, a Memphis Baptist minister with whom King was to have had supper on the eve of his death.

—Chauncey Eskridge of Chicago, an attorney and close friend of the late civil rights leader.

—Dr. Jerry T. Francisco, the Shelby County coroner, who discussed the single rifle wound which King received.

—Inspector N. E. Zachary, chief of Memphis homicide officers.

—Robert Jensen, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Memphis.

Foreman said he had cross-examined Ray in private for more than 50 hours and reached the same conclusion as FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that Ray was not part of a conspiracy.

Foreman praised Canale for not trying to "get scalps on his belt" or "build a notorious reputation to run for some higher office" by refusing Ray's plea and seeking a conviction which could carry a greater sentence.

"You are blessed with a judge and prosecuting attorney who are able to look at this case without being caught in the backwash of publicity," he said.

Ray, neatly dressed in a blue suit and matching tie, stood as Judge Battle asked him if he was acting of his

ISOLATED CELL AWAITS RAY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)

—James Earl Ray will be housed in an isolated cell in the maximum security building — location of the death chamber — when he is brought to the state prison here, officials said today.

own free will and had been informed of his rights.

"Yes, sir," he repeatedly replied.

Asked if he had been promised anything other than the recommended 99-year sentence, Ray said, "No, not that I know of."

After both Canale and Foreman said there was no evidence of a conspiracy, Ray stood and told Judge Battle he did not want to change the stipulations but added, "I don't agree to all these theories."

Asked by the judge with whom he did not agree, Ray mentioned FBI Director Hoover and former U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark. Ray spoke so softly his words were almost inaudible and the full meaning of his comment was not clear.

Foreman dismissed the incident, telling Ray his opinions about Clark and Hoover had no bearing on the case. There was no elaboration.

Despite the guilty plea, under Tennessee law, the prosecution still must put on its case to prove to the jury the basic facts surrounding King's death.

Ray stood up. "Your honor, I'd like to say something. I agree with all these stipulations, but I don't agree with these theories on the conspiracy."

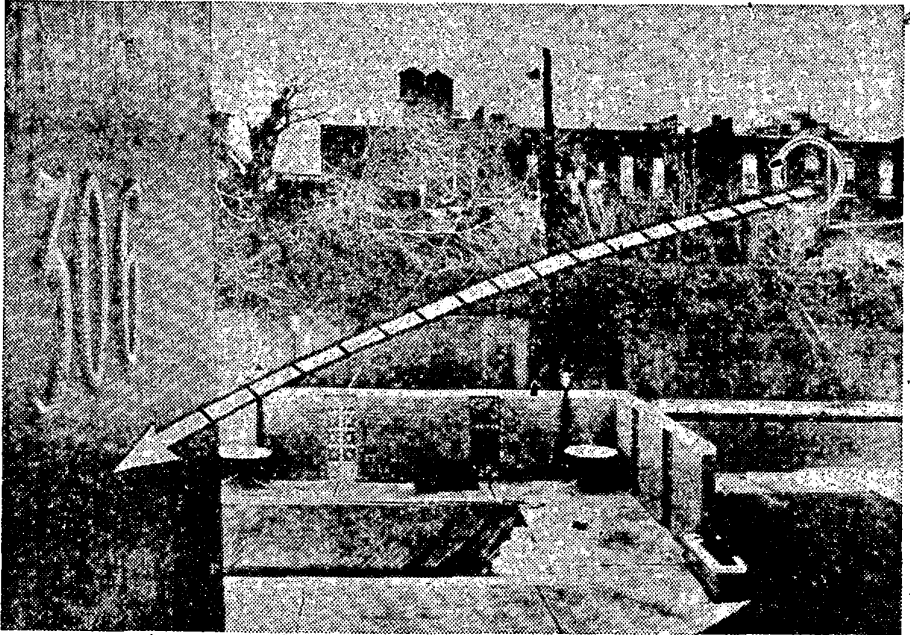
Judge Battle asked Ray if he was trying to change his guilty plea. Ray said "No sir," and spoke no more about the conspiracy.

Ray waived all rights for appeal, for a new trial or for any other legal maneuvers.



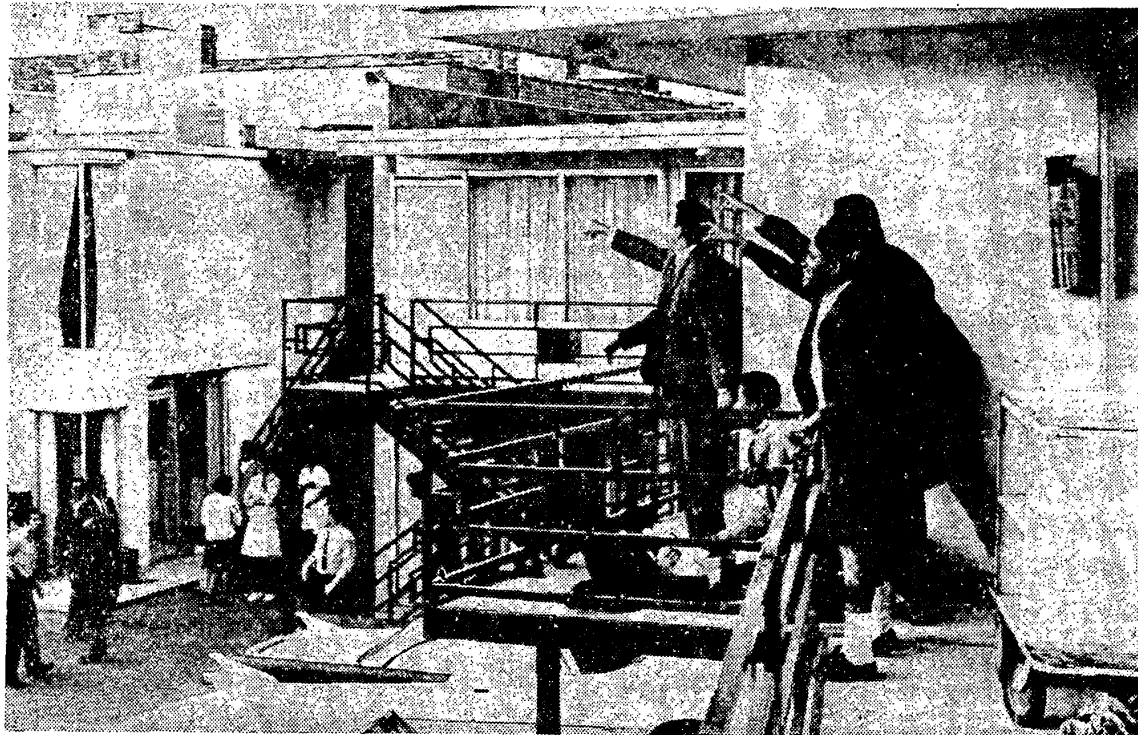
THE TARGET

View through a simulated telescopic gunsight made from the flophouse bathroom window sill shows the scene the sniper saw as he squeezed off the shot that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April 4.



PATH OF THE BULLET

Dr. King's room looked toward the building from which a sniper's shot came, killing the civil rights leader. Window circled is that of common bathroom believed to be the room from which the bullet came.



KING LIES ON BALCONY AS AIDES POINT

Dr. King's aides stand over the mortally wounded Dr. King and signal to police below the direction from which the assassin's bullet came. (Photo by Joseph

Louw of the public broadcast Laboratory by courtesy of Life Magazine. Copyright Time, Inc., 1968)



JAMES EARL RAY JAILED

Sheriff William N. Morris is shown with Ray after he arrived in Memphis under tight security after he was arrested in London June 8. Ray is handcuffed and wearing a bullet proof apron.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Panelists Surprised To Get Duty On Celebrated Case

The jurors who approved the 99-year sentence for James Earl Ray were surprised when they found themselves on the celebrated case. They had been on jury duty for about two weeks and most of them had been through the guilty plea process several times.

Joe Stovall Jr. of 1859 Lanier Lane, a carpet department manager for Sears, said he had thought about the Ray case, but when it was postponed to April 7 he dismissed it from his mind.

"I certainly went along with what the court said. I feel the prosecuting attorney had an ironclad case against Ray and if it had gone to trial he certainly would have been found guilty."

Miller Williamson of 836 Alice, one of two Negroes on the panel, said, "I wasn't surprised at the plea. Since he pleaded guilty I was happy to go along with the recommended sentence."

"I thought the trial would drag on for a while... I have no comment on Ray's plea," said James R. Pate of 765 Kippley, a wholesale grocery com-

pany employee. He said he had no reservation about the sentence, but was surprised when Ray spoke out in court about a conspiracy.

James W. Ballard of 1679 Vera Cruz, a hardware supply salesman, said it was "just another jury trial to me." And Johnnie Shaw of 1227 Springdale, a laborer, said he was surprised at the rapid movement of the case. "But he did plead guilty."

Other members of the jury

were:

Gus Cariota of 1209 Theodore, an International Harvester employee; James N. Abraham of 2510 Lock Meade, an IH engineer; Amos G. Black Jr. of 1558 Rolling Hills Drive, a commercial printing plant foreman; J. Paul Howard of 1614 Paula Cove, an embalmer; Robert S. St. Pierre of 2728 Henley Drive, a Pace Corp. engineer; John W. Blackwell of 4624 Deluth, an FAA air traffic controller, and Richard Lee Counsellour of 1420 Favell.

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

PAGE 17

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Holloman Calls Chase A Hoax

By THOMAS BEVIER

Police know who transmitted a radio report of a chase between a white Mustang and a blue Pontiac shortly after the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Police Director Frank C. Holloman yesterday said there is no doubt the broadcast was a hoax and that the chase never happened. He made the explanation after the James Earl Ray case was disposed of in Criminal Court earlier in the day.

But he declined to identify the broadcaster other than to say he was a white teenage boy who used a citizens band radio.

"It was strictly a prank," he said. "We know who did it but we don't have enough evidence to prosecute."

Although the reported chase has been discounted before, police had not said definitely that it was a hoax.

Mr. Holloman gave only sketchy details about the report and refused to discuss any other aspects of the case.

Dr. King was shot at 6:01 p.m. About half an hour later, Police Lt. R.W. Bradshaw was stopped by a person with a citizen's band radio in his car near Jackson and Hollywood and listened to transmission. Lt. Bradshaw relayed the information on his police car radio.

The broadcaster reported to be in a blue Pontiac chasing a white Mustang up Jackson and Austin Peay Highway. He said the person in the Mustang was shooting at him.

"At the time we conducted a complete investigation Holloman said, "and were completely satisfied that there was nothing to it."

He said the report did not result in other police being diverted from the assassination investigation.

He said several citizen's band operators heard the transmission. There is no doubt that the broadcast was made "from a stationary position," he said.

The police director declined to say whether police had talked to the boy they found did it or his parents.

"The logical conclusion is that he heard the report of Dr. King's death and made the broadcast," Mr. Holloman said.

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

PAGE 17

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 3-11-69

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE HANNA

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Character:

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Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated



THE PRINCIPALS—Answering questions after yesterday's trial were (from left) Sheriff William N. Morris, Judge W. Preston Battle, Atty. Gen. Phil Canale at table, Asst. Atty. Gen. Jim Beasley (partially hidden) and Exec.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert K. Dwyer. This picture of Ray (below), made in 1959 by St. Louis police when he was held for armed robbery, looks most like him today, it was generally agreed.

—Staff Photo by Eamonn Sellers

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Visage Gives Conspiracy Theory Credence

By ROBERT SAMSOT

He shuffles across the courtroom like a myopic, small bear, looking down at the floor and wearing what Mrs. Bessie Brewer was probably talking about when she described that "silly little grin."

Then testimony starts and he sits there as if he's watching a movie as the guilty plea is entered.

Hunched over, one foot crossing a knee, he takes it all in — or maybe it all passes over — as the men in front of him stand up and agree he pulled the trigger and killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April 4, at the same time murdering one of the black man's major symbols of hope and at least wounding the whole concept of nonviolence.

This is James Earl Ray, his hair never combed right, his tie hanging half as long as it should, his pants bagging and his coat slung like it was made for a man with one shoulder missing.

This is the man Phil Canale says ran contraband across two United States borders, who jumped the pen in Missouri to head for a life of infamy.

This guy who looks like a prime target for a circus barker went all over the country, Mr. Canale says, followed Dr. King closely for almost a month and coolly took a room in Mrs. Bessie Brewer's unrenovated rooming house at 422½ South Main and sat in a bathroom waiting for his target to get in the right spot of

his telescopic sight.

It is hard to put this information in the courtroom flapping his foot on his knee.

Prosaic start as a "poverty-stricken child" leading on through a reputation as a troublemaker; reputation lasting through a career in the Army, general discharge in 1948 citing his "ineptness and lack of adaptability to military," career of small-time crime, usually unsuccessful.

Crime career spectacular, in a way, fits the man who sat in the defendant's chair yesterday, but seemingly not the man who killed Dr. King. In several holdups, caught; in another, forgot to close his car door and fell out as he swerved the car around a corner.

In prison for 20 years on robbery charges, earned a nickname for himself: "The Mole," however, never made it out the other end of his tunnel until 1967. It was No. 3 that was magic. He was out, somewhere, everywhere, it seemed.

Headquartered in Birmingham in a rundown rooming house. There, Eric Starvo Galt was born, the man who was graduated from a bartenders' school on the West Coast, took dancing lessons in New Orleans. There are other trails that Galt ran. A few have become cold. Most have been mapped. Mr. Canale talks about "thousands of miles" his assistants have logged. In his white Mustang, with the red and white Alabama license plates, Eric Starvo Galt — Harvey Lowmeyer — Harvey Lowmyer — John Willard — Ramon Sneyd — Raymond Sneyd — Who Knows — James Earl Ray was many things.

He was the guy who bought a hammer and pliers at a hardware store in Los Angeles, a pair of shorts and a T-shirt at another store there, the man who had "Turista" stickers on his car down in Mexico, the fellow who drove around and probably heard about Ar-

mation together with the picture of James Earl Ray sitting in the courtroom, flapping his foot on his knee, the steel pot of Alabama, the "Heart of Dixie" state.

Mr. Canale says "I think race had a lot to do with it." To Mr. Canale, "It" has meant the James Earl Ray case for just a little less than a year now.

"Proof," he says, "would show James Earl Ray had been in close proximity to cities where Martin Luther King was speaking. Selma, Los Angeles, Memphis.

An Atlanta map Ray had showed the one church and headquarters for Dr. KING circled.

"It may have been accidental or coincidental," Mr. Canale says. . . "In my opinion he was staying pretty close to Dr. King." Records, he said, show the guy with the wrong-way hair buying the first rifle on March 29 in Birmingham — bringing the rifle back because it was "inoperative" and exchanging it for the one used — checking into Memphis at the Rebel Motel, then Bessie Brewer's and firing that fatal shot April 4.

But Mr. Canale stands up in court and tells everyone that there's no proof of conspiracy, despite the fact a lot of holes remain unfilled.

No conspiracy. That's what he says.

This gets James Earl Ray hot.

Ray wants the conspiracy lane open.

And as long as he looks straight ahead with that sort of scratch-my-head look while a friend of Dr. King's is identifying a morgue picture showing the right jaw torn open by the shock of the shot, it's got to keep making sense that this man who shuffles out of the courtroom with one shoulder higher than the other and his head down had to have help.

Unless James Earl Ray all of a sudden last April 4 got lucky.

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

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List Off Agreed On Facts 5 Witnesses Prove Case

By JAMES KILLPATRICK

Five witnesses, and a long stipulation of agreed-on facts, were used by the attorney general's office yesterday to prove its first-degree murder case against James Earl Ray.

This is a summary of testimony:

The Rev. S. B. Kyles Jr., pastor of Monimental Baptist Church, and a friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for 10 years said he had gone to the Lorraine Motel to pick up Dr. King and take him to his home for "soul food." He said he spent about 45 minutes in Room 306 with Dr. King and about 6 p.m. they decided to leave.

"Dr. King went out on the balcony, then came back in, I believe to get his coat. We came out together and stood on the balcony together for about three or four minutes. I turned to my right, said I was going to get my car. I got five or six steps away and heard what I know to be a shot. I turned back and saw Dr. King on the floor with a tremendous wound in his right side."

The Rev. Mr. Kyles said the rifle bullet tore away the lower right side of Dr. King's face and cut through his necktie. "I remember the tie especially, because he couldn't find it before and he thought somebody had played a trick on him and had hidden it."

Chauncey Eskridge of Chicago, an attorney for Dr. King, testified he had left Room 306 and was standing in the parking lot. "Dr. King came out and said, 'Tell Jesse we are ready to go.' He went back in, then came out again putting his coat and said, 'OK, start the car.' I heard a 'zing' by my left ear and I turned to the rear and looked. When I looked back, he was down."

Both the Rev. Mr. Kyles and Mr. Eskridge said they looked in the direction of the shot and saw no one. Exec. Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert K. Dwyer said later this was intended to answer the story of Solomon Jones, Dr. King's chauffeur, that he saw someone run from bushes at the rear of the rooming house "with something white on his face."

Dr. Jerry Francisco, county medical examiner, said he performed an autopsy on Dr. King's body about 8:47 the night of the killing. He said his examination showed Dr. King died shortly after being struck.

"There was a large sound on the right side of the face. The bullet had gone through the neck, severed the spinal column and lodged near the surface of the skin near the left shoulder."

Dr. Francisco said the bullet traveled a downward path. He said he visited both the bathroom of the rooming house and the area at the rear of the building. He said the bathroom location "was more consistent with the angle of the wound."

N. E. Zachary, then inspector of the police homicide squad, told of finding a bundle wrapped in a bedspread in front of the Canipe Amuse-

ment co. at 424 South Main shortly after the shooting. He said he posted a guard over the bundle, which included a 30-caliber Remington pump rifle in a Browning Arms box and a blue zipper suitcase.

Inspector Zachary identified items taken from the zipper bag as A pair of binoculars, a binoculars case, the box the glasses came in, two cans of Schlitz beer, a shaving kit, a tee shirt, a pair of undershorts, a hair brush, a transistor radio, a pair of pliers, a hammer, a paper bag, and a copy of the April 4 issue of The Commercial Appeal. Some cartridges were in the box with the rifle.

Robert G. Jensen, special agent in charge of the Memphis division of the FBI, said he received the items found by police at about 10 p.m. on the night of April 4 and sent them to the laboratory in Washington.

Mr. Jensen said the next day agents found a registration card at the Rebel Motel on Lamar for the night of April 3. He said the card was in the name of Eric S. Galt and showed Galt was driving a white Mustang.

The FBI agent said the rifle was traced first to the manufacturer, then to Aeromarine Supply Co. in Birmingham, where it had been sold. The Mustang was found abandoned in Atlanta on April 11 and tourist stickers on the window led investigators to Mexico, Mr. Jensen said. The pliers and hammer were traced to a hardware store in Los Angeles and the laundry marks on the underwear were tracked first to the West Coast, then to Los Angeles.

Mr. Jensen said the FBI's investigation extended into Canada and England.

"Did it lead to the arrest of James Earl Ray?", Mr. Dwyer asked.

"It did."

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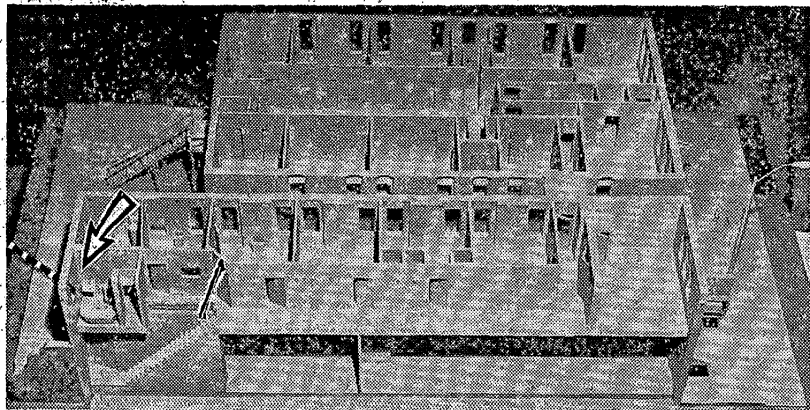
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Courtroom Model Of Rooming House Where Shot Was Fired

Sheriff's Office Photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Battle And Others Hold Night Session; Security Tightened

Change Possible

Suspect In King Slaying
May Plead Guilty, Get
99-Year Sentence

By THOMAS BeVIER

Lights burned late in the Criminal Courts Building last night as the principal parties in the James Earl Ray case made last-minute preparations for today's special hearing.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle arrived at the building early in the evening after Ray had met more than an hour with his attorney, Percy Foreman. Atty. General Phil Canale was also in the building, but none of the parties involved would confirm or deny that they had met together.

Today's hearing, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. in Judge Battle's courtroom, was arranged at Mr. Foreman's request, who asked that Ray be present. It is generally believed that the attorney general's office has agreed to let Ray plead guilty of the April 4 murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to accept a 99-year sentence for the slaying of the civil rights leader.

As newsmen from across the country began arriving yesterday there was increased speculation that Ray had changed his mind about pleading guilty. There was no official confirmation of this, but Ray does the unexpected.

It is reported that Ray had changed his mind about pleading guilty.

The intense security that has prevailed at previous Ray hearings will grow even more intense today. More than 100 police and sheriff's deputies will be on hand to the court area. Last night police bodyguards were assigned to the homes of Judge Battle and Mr. Canale. Last November, he fired Birmingham attorney Arthur Hanes, Sr., who had represented him since he was arrested in London and hired Mr. Foreman.

There have been reports that Mr. Foreman also has had trouble with Ray.

Ray has a reputation for firing attorneys. It started in 1959 in St. Louis when he was being tried for armed robbery. Just before closing arguments in the trial, Ray asked the judge to fire his court-appointed attorneys. The judge refused the demand, but after the trial, which resulted in a 20-year sentence, Ray handled his own appeal and lost it.

Ray was serving that term when he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1967.

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Included among spectators at today's hearing probably will be Ray's brothers, Gerald Ray and John Ray, both of St. Louis. They were reported to be in Memphis last night.

In Atlanta, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who succeeded Dr. King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has sent telegrams throughout the country calling a Tuesday night meeting "to determine a fitting commemoration for April 4." Dr. King was killed on that day.

Dr. Abernathy has previously said the SCLC would not stage a national demonstration in Memphis on the date. Dr. King's widow has expressed no interest in attending the trial.

If Ray should plead guilty, his incarceration could pose as many problems for state prison officials as it has for Shelby County authorities.

In Nashville, it was learned, prison officials have been studying Ray's security arrangements here with an eye toward a modified duplication.

Such arrangements over a period of years would prove extremely costly, but prison officials fear that a "celebrated" prisoner such as Ray would be a target for jealous inmates.

Half of Judge Preston Battle's courtroom will be open to the public on a first-come-first-served and seated basis when James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., makes his appearance at 9:30 a.m. today. Charles Holmes, Sheriff Department information officer, said the line will form at 8 a.m. on the northwest corner of Washington and Third. Those seeking entrance into the courtroom must submit to a search and provide identification.

'Bosom Of Court' To Turn To 6 Contempt Proceedings

Contempt of court proceedings against six persons cited for violating court orders on pretrial publicity in the James Earl Ray trial will be disposed of April 11, Judge W. Preston Battle announced yesterday.

At a press conference following Ray's trial, Judge Battle was asked to comment on the contempt proceedings specifically and the press in general.

"The contempt proceedings are still in the bosom of the court," the judge said. "We are over the big hump now. We've now got a little hump to get over. I think I will save any statement I may have on the conduct of the press until I dispose of these proceedings."

April 11 is a Friday. The judge said he would continue the proceedings through the next day if necessary to "wrap these matters up."

On Sept. 30, Judge Battle ruled that two reporters—Charles Edmundson of The Commercial Appeal and Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar—and two other men were in contempt of court. Others cited were Arthur Hanes Sr., then attorney for Ray, and Renfro Hays, a private investigator who worked for Mr. Hanes. No punishment was set pending "future action" of the four.

Since then, Judge Battle has cited author William Bradford Huie and FBI fingerprint expert George Bonebrake to show cause why they should not be held in contempt.

Mr. Huie was cited for his two articles in Look magazine and Mr. Bonebrake for statements he made to a law enforcement clinic about Ray's fingerprints.

It was apparent to newsmen who had previously covered Ray in court that yesterday's session was to be unusual, but few were prepared for the suddenness with which it started and ended. It was all over in less than three hours.

Two bed sheets provided the tipoff that the evidence would be presented at the same session as the change of plea was heard.

The sheets covered what turned out to be two detailed scale models of the area around the Lorraine Motel and the rooming house at 422½ South Main from which Ray admits shooting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Percy Foreman took one look at the sheets and said "It looks like the Last Supper."

When the sheets were removed, it was obvious Mr. Foreman was impressed with the detail of the work. Rightly so. It was but one indication of the exacting detail the attorney's general office was prepared to offer if the case had gone to trial.

"Damn things must have cost us \$20,000," Mr. Foreman muttered to public defender Hugh Stanton Sr.

John and Jerry Ray, the defendant's brothers, were the first persons allowed in the courtroom after the press had gone through the security check.

Looking almost identical in their dark blue suits and well receding hairlines, they registered no emotion throughout the trial.

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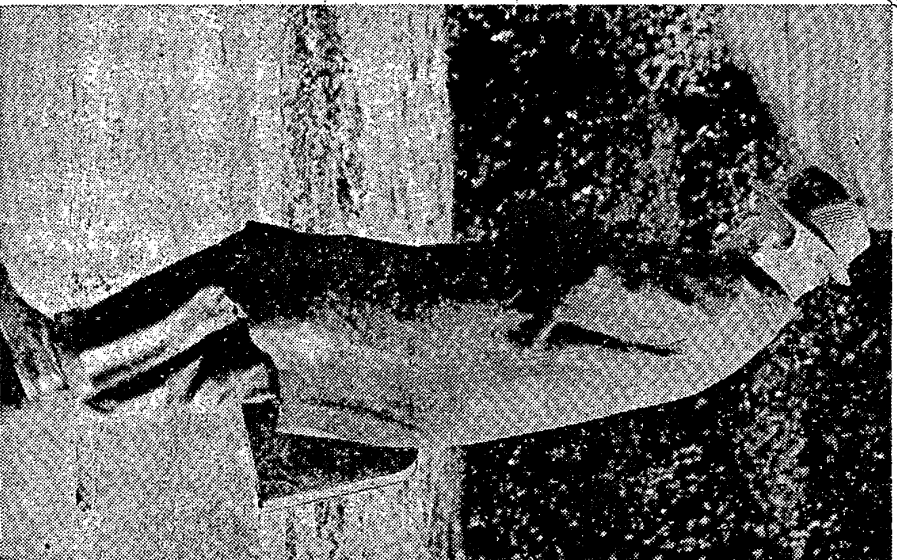
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—Staff Photos by Berney Sellers

Percy Foreman: The Case Is Closed

Racism Motive Is Cited As Ray Pleads Guilty, Gets 99-Year Sentence

By ANGUS McEACHRAN

James Earl Ray's motive for killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was essentially a question of racism, Atty. Gen. Phil Canale said yesterday.

The comments came shortly after Ray, as expected, pleaded guilty to the murder of Dr. King in Memphis on April 4 and was sentenced to 99 years in the state penitentiary in Nashville.

The hearing, which took about three hours, was almost anti-climactic after the sensational slaying that touched off national rioting, the international search and capture of Ray and the world wide question: Was there any conspiracy in Dr. King's death?

Conspiracy was still very much a part of yesterday's proceedings if only because of what was left unanswered.

It took only five minutes before Judge W. Preston Battle for Ray to change his plea to guilty and a jury to be sworn in, hear proof of his guilt, as required by state law in murder cases.

The jury, including two Negroes, agreed in advance to set the punishment at 99 years, making Ray eligible to appear before the parole board in 30 years. Mr Canale said the normal parole time for 99-year sentences of this type is 49½ years.

For Ray, who was celebrating his 41st birthday, the outlook that he would ever be freed appeared bleak.

In Nashville, Warden Lake Russell said Ray would be placed in one of 42 cells in the squat, one-floor maximum security building.

"We have designated no particular cell for Ray," the warden said "We don't have any penthouses. The cells are equipped all the same. They have a bunk, a lavatory and a commode."

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Harry S. Avery, state corrections commissioner, said no date had been set for transferring Ray to Nashville.

"I've given some thought to how we would bring him, but I don't want to comment," Commissioner Avery said.

Yesterday's proceedings opened with statements from Mr. Canale and Percy Foreman, Ray's attorney that there was no evidence Ray was involved in a conspiracy.

"There are a great many rumors going around that James Earl Ray was a dupe in a conspiracy, or was involved in a conspiracy. I want to say right now that we have no proof other than James Earl Ray acting alone, killed Martin Luther King," Mr. Canale said.

Mr. Foreman said it took him many hours of investigation and interviews with his client before he came to the same decision.

I don't want to get into personalities, but from his background and some other things we believe race was the motive in this crime," Mr. Canale said.

He said Ray could have financed the murder himself "because he is believed involved in at least four bank robberies and we believe he was smuggling contraband from Canada and Mexico."

The contraband, he said, was jewelry from Mexico and drugs from Canada.

The attorney general assured the jury "that I stand ready at any time to act on any evidence" of conspiracy.

At that point, Ray got to his feet. Your honor," he said, "I would like to say something. I don't want to change anything that I have said, but I just want to enter one other thing. The only other thing that I can't agree with Mr. Clark."

The reference appeared to be to Ramsey Clark, United States attorney general at the time of the assassination, who has always maintained there was no conspiracy.

"Mr. Who?" the judge asked.

A - Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. I agree with all these stipulations and I'm not trying to change anything.

Q- You don't agree with

those theories?

A- Mr. Canale's, Mr. Clark's and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's about the conspiracy. I don't want to add something on that I haven't agreed to in the past.

Q- Your answers to these questions that I asked you, would be still the same? Is that correct. I think the main question I want to ask you is this: are you pleading guilty to murder in the first degree in this case because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King under such circumstances that would make you legally guilty of murder in the first degree under the law as explained to you by your lawyer?

A-Yes sir, making me guilty.

Q- All right, sir, that is all. You may swear the jury.

Ray waived all rights for appeal, for a new trial, or any other maneuvers (although he could at some date change his mind and file a writ in federal court) and said he had been promised nothing but the 99-year sentence.

Judge Battle also touched on the question of conspiracy at the end of the proceedings.

"It has been established that the prosecution at this time is not in possession of enough evidence to indict as a co-conspirator in this case. Of course, this is not conclusive proof that there was no conspiracy; it merely means that as of this time there is not sufficient evidence available to make out a case of probable cause.

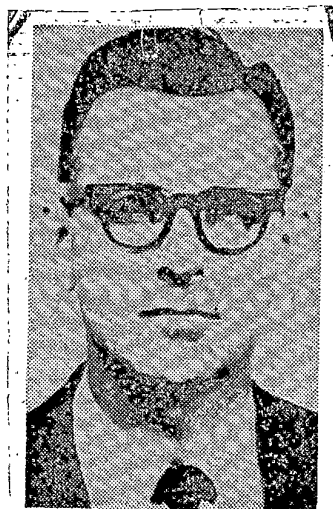
"If this defendant was a member of a conspiracy to kill the decedent, no member of such conspiracy can ever live in peace or security or lie down to pleasant dreams, because in this state there is no statute of limitations in capital cases such as this..."

The Justice Department in Washington released a statement within hours of the hearing saying "the investigation into the original allegations of a conspiracy is still open." The original federal warrant filed by the FBI charged Ray with conspiring with a man alleged to be his brother in the assassination.

The judge concluded by saying he thought Memphis had "wrongfully and irrationally" been blamed for the death of Dr. King since "neither the decedent nor his killer lived here, their obits merely intersected here."

Looking down his half-rimmed glasses, Judge Battle also made judicious note of a quote in Time magazine, saying "...We have not done badly for a decadent river town."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



James Earl Ray

Top Security To Guard Ray

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray will be housed in an isolated cell in the maximum security building — location of the death chamber — when he is brought to the state prison here, officials said Monday.

State Corrections Commissioner Harry S. Avery said he and Warden Lake Russell have been planning for some time the "exceptional" safeguards required for Ray's incarceration.

Following Ray's arrival here, he will be placed in the maximum security building until he is classified, a process that normally takes about six weeks, Avery said.

"At the end of the duration, we will determine whether there will be any special arrangements to be made other than the maximum security building," Avery said.

"We will not put him in a cell with others. He will be processed as others are processed except that he will be in the maximum security building."

The maximum security building houses the prison's toughest convicts as well as the death room and electric chair.

When inmates first arrive at the prison, they normally go to the classification building, which is equipped with six-man cells. They are then interviewed; their records studied and a decision is made on what type of employment they will be assigned, if any.

Avery said two guards normally watch the cells in the maximum security building around the clock and he did not think any additional guards would be required. He also said there were no plans to watch the cell via closed circuit television, a tactic employed at the Shelby County jail in Memphis.

The commissioner said Ray's food would be served to him in his cell and there was an exercise area where Ray would exercise alone.

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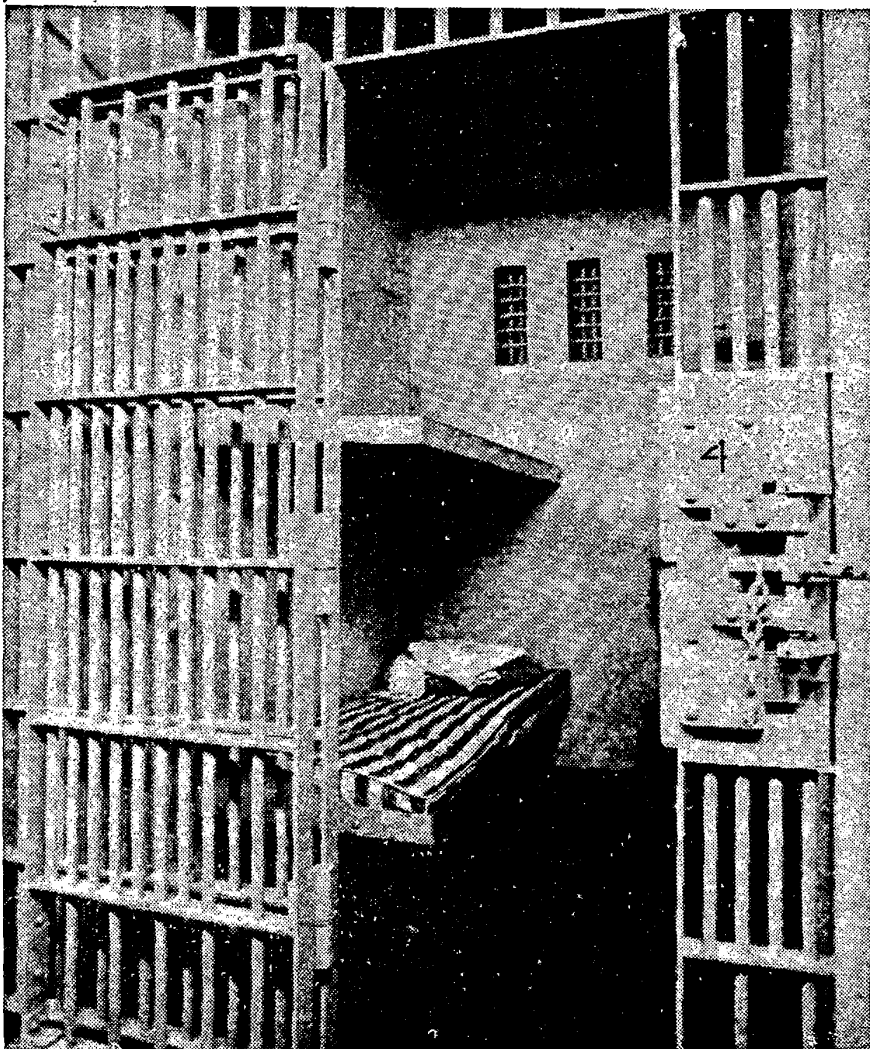
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Maximum Security Cell Where Ray Will Be Confined . . . —UPI Telephoto