

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Author Seeks to Dispel Ray Misconceptions

By JAMES H. WHITE  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

James Earl Ray now regards himself as a "political prisoner" who by killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fired the "first shot in a social or racial conflict, a second Civil War, which will eventually result in his being freed."

Ray, says author William Bradford Huie, in the third of a series of articles in the current issue of Look Magazine, believes the action he took has the approval of "millions of Americans."

"HE THEREFORE feels fulfilled," writes Huie. "He believes he is liked, respected, even admired. And he is confident that political developments in the United States will cause him to be freed in two to four years."

Ray, 41, and his brothers, Jerry, 34, and John, 37, all believed that "President" George C. Wallace would promptly pardon him for the murder, the article states. Even the Republican victory by Richard Nixon gave comfort to the Ray brothers and the postponement of the trial when it was to begin Nov. 12, 1968 was calculated for polit-

ical reasons, Huie wrote. "He thought he'd have a better chance if his trial were held after Jan. 20, 1969," the article states.

IN ONE OF the letters Ray wrote to Huie, the former stated that he had nothing to fear from a Shelby County jury because "70 per cent of the voters of this county (Shelby) voted for either Wallace or Nixon." He added that he didn't fear the death penalty because "no white man has ever been given a death sentence in a racial killing."

It was difficult to convince Ray that he might get the electric chair because of racial statements made to Ray by his jailers, Huie states.

Huie said Ray feared that his guilty plea might cause him to lose "status" among prison population. "Ray first wants status among criminals and their guards," Huie writes. "I now believe he killed Dr. King to achieve such status. Only secondly is he concerned about status among people who don't inhabit prisons."

"HE HUNGERED for the drama of a trial. He sus-

tained himself with a fantasy in which he took the witness stand before the world and performed masterfully.

"He surrendered this fantasy and agreed to plead guilty. I feel sure, only after he decided that, despite his guilty plea, he will now be an important person in prison, and that he will yet win freedom in some dramatic manner."

In the Look article, Huie sets out to dispel several "misconceptions" about the Ray case.

The first misconception, Huie said, was that Ray's flight through Canada after the murder and the obtaining of a Canadian passport, by using the names of living citizens of Toronto were complex feats that Ray could have accomplished only with assistance. Huie said that after retracing this trip and studying Ray's account of it, he (Huie) believes it was within Ray's capabilities. Huie offers an elaborate account, given to him by Ray, beginning with his Mustang flight from Memphis and ending with his capture at a London airport.

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

PAGE 15

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

4-1-69

Date: CHAS. H. SCHNEIDER  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

44-1987-Sub-C-366

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>ll</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
APR 13 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*orig + me to Bureau 4-3-69*