

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ray's Suit Dismissed By McRae

Federal Judge Robert M. McRae Jr. today dismissed a suit filed on behalf of James Earl Ray seeking a ban on publication of certain information regarding the case. McRae made the dismissal with prejudice saying, "There is not enough proof to go forward in this matter."

J. B. Stoner, Ray's attorney, said the decision would probably be appealed.

Ray, in a deposition read in court today, said his two former attorneys, Percy Foreman of Houston and Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., conspired along with author William Bradford Huie to further their own financial interests in handling his defense.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the admitted slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, gave the deposition in the Tennessee prison at Nashville.

Ray's present attorneys, Stoner of Savannah, Ga., and Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, said their client entered into contracts with Hanes and Huie and later with Foreman through which he would furnish information to Huie for publication in magazine articles, books and movies.

"We contend that in a criminal case in case in which a man has been charged with murder . . . even though no one has been electrocuted in Tennessee for several years . . . on their face, these contracts jeopardized the criminal defense for the plaintiff (Ray)," said Stoner. "The only reason Ray signed the contracts was that they were imposed on him by his attorneys and he was given no alternative under the circumstances other than to sign."

Referring to articles published by Hanes, Huie and Foreman in an April 15, 1969 issue of Look Magazine, Stoner said, "We think the articles show very clearly that the defendants, (Foreman, Hanes and Huie) were always more interested in

publicity activities and in making money through these activities than in representing the plaintiff in his criminal case . . . an obvious conflict of interests."

Ray was imprisoned in London when he signed the first of a series of contracts and agreements, Stoner said. Others were signed while he was locked in the maximum security section of the Shelby County Jail, Stoner said.

"These are involuntary contracts, since he was locked up, at the mercy of his attorneys," he added.

John J. Hooker Sr. of Nashville, representing Foreman and Huie, said he has had "considerable difficulty in trying to decide what this suit is about."

"Mr. Ray first charges that his civil rights in some way were violated," Hooker continued. "As I read the statutes, any conspiracy to violate someone's rights must involve force, intimidation or threat. But there is not one line in Mr. Ray's statement to suggest that anybody threatened, attempted to intimidate or apply pressure to Ray."

Hooker said Ray took the initiative in seeking representation by Hanes and that "Huie was in it because he is a widely published writer who wanted to discover the truth about the murder of Dr. King. Foreman was in the case at the request of Ray's brother."

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**STRATEGY TAKES**  
Pausing briefly before entering a hearing on a suit filed in behalf of James Earl Ray in Federal Court today were, from left, Percy Foreman of Houston, Arthur J. Hanes Sr. and Arthur Hanes Jr. of Birmingham, Ala., and William Bradford Huie, author of Harassment, Ala.

—Press-Scimitar Staff Photos by James R. Reid



**RAY'S NEW ATTORNEYS**

J. B. Moore of Savannah, Ga., left, and Richard J. Ryan of Mobile presented the case of James Earl Ray today. Although not present, Ray testified through a deposition taken at the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville.