

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dismissal Ruled In Suit By Ray

By ROBERT KELLETT

A federal court suit seeking to void a series of contracts between James Earl Ray and his former attorneys and to forbid publication of certain information in connection with the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King was dismissed yesterday.

United States Dist. Judge Robert M. McRae Jr., acting on a motion from attorneys for the defendants, told Ray's current attorneys: "I do not see that this proof would ever ripen into that proof of fraud that would cause this court to void these contracts."

Ray, the convicted slayer of Dr. King, did not appear in court, but said in a 118-page deposition that he had been pressured into signing the contracts which pledged revenues from writings by Alabama author William Bradford Huie first to attorney Arthur Hanes and later to attorney Percy Foreman.

Attorneys Richard J. Ryan of Memphis and J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., representing Ray, said that the actions of the attorneys contributed to conflicts of interest and the contracts which they received from Ray were involuntary.

John J. Hooker, Nashville attorney representing Mr. Foreman and Mr. Hanes, argued that no evidence had been presented that Ray was pressured to sign the contracts and made reference to more than 20,000 words which he wrote in long hand and sent to Mr. Huie to assist in preparing magazine articles and a book.

Mr. Hooker asked the court to "let him (Ray) explain how with all these writings in his own handwriting he can claim he was overreached."

Arthur Hanes Jr., who represented his father, sought to emphasize that his father had done everything possible to properly represent Ray before he was dismissed two days before a trial was scheduled Nov. 12, 1968.

Ray's deposition included two direct denials that he killed Dr. King.

Mr. Hooker, questioning Ray in Nashville, asked: "Did you or not, on April 4, 1968, fire a shot that fatally wounded and killed Dr. Martin Luther King?"

"No, sir," was the reply from Ray.

In his next question, Mr. Hooker asked: "You deny that you fired any such shot into the head or some part of the body of Dr. Martin Luther King on that particular date or any other date?"

"Yes, sir, that's correct," was the second answer.

Mr. Stoner indicated that Judge McRae's decision will probably be appealed.

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

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 12/2/69
Edition:
Author:
Editor: GORDON HANNA
Title:

Character:
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Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS
 Being Investigated

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