

CHRONOLOGY: ~~James Earl~~ Ray, Sirhan Sirhan, Miscellaneous

February 1969

- 1 Federal funds for RFK gravesite omitted by LBJ, now up to Nixon
- 3 Tomorrow: Sirhan. Defendant and mother to testify on their economic status.
- 4 Sirhan taking the stand.
- 4 Sirhan testifies to low income.
- 5 Mrs. Sirhan's brief day in court; Clayton Fritchey on "13 Days" by RFK on Cuban missile
- 5 Jury sworn for Sirhan trial; 6 alternates sought
- 6 Sirhan girl-watches as the trial drones on
- 6 Loch Ness monster? He put a dent in it.
- 6 James Wechsler: Questions about a prison death, suicide by hanging
- 6 Leonard Lyons: Item re Earl Warren, luncheon with JFK/LBJ
- 7 The Sirhan trial: still in search of a jury
- 7 Widow is slain in Cambridge, Mass; resembles murder co-ed recently in same place
- 7 Attorneys bare motivations for working without fee for Sirhan
- 8 SR: Review of books on RFK by Witcover, Halberstam and Ross
- 8 NYT: Wm. Bradford Huie arrested over articles on MLK case; cited for contempt of ban on pre-trial publicity. Huie told newsmen he could name others involved in MLK murder.
- 8 NYT: Jury choice lags in trial of Sirhan
- 8 NYDN: A mixed bag of hippies and grannies at Sirhan trial
- 8 NYP: A drug suspect hangs self in cell (Rafael Anef)
- 8 NYP: The Sirhan jury selection a trial to many
- 8 NOSI: Author cited for contempt in Ray case
- 8 NOSI: Manslaughter is best Sirhan hope--attorney Grant Cooper

- 9 NYT: Sirhan trial set for key appeal; 2 opening statements expected this week.
- 10 NOSI: Sirhan hopes for smile in middle of murder trial.
- 11 NYT: Roy Cohn charges Govt used wiretap
- 11 NYP: Sirhan trial focuses on alternates
- 12 NYT: Selection of jury for Sirhan trial complete. Step to limit trial hinted.
- 12 NOSI: Sirhan may enter new plea; change to "guilty" rumored
- 13 NYT: Sirhan appears set on not guilty plea
- 13 NYT: Ex-Kennedy men got \$131,000 in Ford grants; EMK favored as party leader, in poll.
- 13 NYP: Sirhan trial begins in earnest
- 13 NOSI: Sirhan mistrial demanded; newspaper story cited
- 14 NYT: Prosecutor says Sirhan stalked RFK days before the killing
- 14 NYP: The Sirhan DA offers 4 surprises; NOSI: Sirhan in trance, defense says.
- 14 NOSI: James Earl Ray trial today postponed from 3/3/69 to 4/7/69
- 15 NYT: Ray's lawyer wins 2nd delay of trial
- 15 NYT: Sirhan described as "in a trance" by Emile Zola Berman opening statement
- 15 NOSI: Busboy tells of aiding dying RFK

Chronology: James Earl Ray, Sirhan Sirhan, Miscellaneous

February 1969 (continued)

- 16 NYT: Group insists convicted Connecticut man innocent
- 17 NYP: Sirhan jury hearing more eyewitnesses
- 17 NOSI: Evans/Novak column: Nixon may rebuff J.E.Hoover, name Rogovin to head new crime-fighting division
- 17 NOSI: Sirhan menaced by RFK crowd, Jesse Unruh testifies
- 17 NEWSWEEK: Items on Mary Sirhan; on assassination of Eduardo Mondlane
- 18 NYT: Witnesses recount steps taken to protect Sirhan
- 18 NYP: Sirhan trial--The chaotic pantry
- 18 NYT: Ted Kupferman named to State Supreme Court vacancy
- 18 NOSI: Saw Sirhan target shots, jury told
- 19 NYT: Security chief tells Sirhan jury of losing track of RFK
- 19 NYP: Sirhan--the hours before
- 19 NOSI: Death pistol traced closely at Sirhan trial
- 20 NYP: Plimpton describes Sirhan after shooting
- 20 NOSI: Drew Pearson column "Officials' papers should be made public" (re RFK use of JFK papers) Sirhan Sober but frightened, cop testifies
- 20 NYT: Author Plimpton says Sirhan peaceful, ~~murderer~~ purged amid commotion at scene RFK shooting
- 21 NYT: Policeman testifies at Sirhan trial; says he was not intoxicated
- 21 NYT: Canadian is acquitted in James Earl Ray passport case
- 21 NOSI: Sirhan threat cited, Negro garbageman says Sirhan told him planning to shoot RFK
- 21 TIME: Story on Sirhan (The Man Who Loved Kennedy); also stories on Alain Delon case, France; on Democrats against Mayor Daley
- 22 NYT: Witness testifies Sirhan told him would shoot RFK (Alvin Clark of Sanitation Dept)
- 22 NYT: Ray denies owning gun or car in trial
- 22 NOSI: 46 testify; witnesses say Sirhan confided plan to kill
- 23 NYT: 4 tell of reliving RFK slaying; friends, after ordeal as witnesses, recount pain
- 23 NYT: Sirhan trial--Why the defenders are there
- 24 NYP: Sirhan trial: politics, cash play a part
- 24 MAYDAY: Article on EMK/labor plans to assault White House and RFK Memorial Foundation mentions Burke Marshall, Abram Chayes, etc.
- 25 NYT: Ballistic expert traces bullet to Sirhan's gun
- 25 NYP: Why Sirhan's lawyer had to restrain him
- 25 NOSI: Death diary shown despite Sirhan protest
- 26 NYT: Sirhan notes offered at trial say RFK must die (see references to Dallas assassination)
- 26 NYP: Sirhan diaries may be a boon to the defense
- 26 NOSI: Sirhan tells judge trial unfair
- 27 NYP: Sirhan, a day to cool off
- 28 NYT: Rumors dispelled in trial of Sirhan (story deals with moves to call certain witnesses so that lingering suspicions of a conspiracy would be publicly rebutted)
- 28 NYP: Defense team is ready, if Sirhan is.
- 28 NOSI: Fear Sirhan may misbehave on stand, attorneys declare

March 1969

- 1 NYT: Sirhan is denied demand he be executed rather than have public think his trial fair
Tries to admit guilt on all charges, judge rejects his request

Chronology: James Earl Ray (MLK)

January 1969

- 3 LAFP: James Earl Ray revisited; article voices misgivings re Huie, gullibility
- 10 LIFE: Special issue on 1968 events includes MLK assassination
- 14 NYP: Authorities study security set-up for Ray
- 18 NYT: Judge orders public defender to prepare Ray trial
- 20 NYT: Aide to MLK, Rev. James Bevel, says Ray not guilty, has evidence to free him
- 22 NYT: Foreman visits Ray in jail
- 22 NOSI: Foreman declines to say if his visit to Ray is connected with Bevel telegram saying Ray innocent, offering to help
- 24 NYT: Abernathy vouches for judgment, integrity, of Rev. Bevel, who says Ray innocent
- 24 NOSI: Top MLK aide to defend Ray; SCLC approves
- 25 NOSI: Bevel refused in attempt help defend Ray; rejected because not a lawyer
- 25 NYT: Judge says Bevel cannot defend Ray; Bevel says could prove in 30 minutes Ray is innocent
- 29 NYP: Abernathy says he knows nothing that would acquit Ray, Bevel not speaking for SCLC. Cites rumors from black leaders in Memphis, negro policemen, firemen, pulled off assignments near MLK just before the murder