

NOTES ON GEROLD FRANK INTERVIEW
ON WSIX--NASHVILLE [1972?]

Frank says that he was called by Doubleday the day after King was shot. Doubleday asked him to see if he thought there was a book in it. If Frank thought there was, Doubleday would commission him to write the book.

Doubleday already had a title: Conspiracy: The Story of The Men Who Plotted and Carried Out the Assassination of Dr. King.

Frank says he has spoken with and interviewed "virtually every principal in the case."

"I would have loved to find a conspiracy. What a book!"

Frank then lists various conspiratorial possibilities--Chinese communists, militant blacks, etc. No mention of any racist conspiracy.

"James Earl Ray is an almost obsessive anti-black."

Foreman suggested John J. Hooker as Tennessee lawyer. "Ray said, 'Fine, Mr. Foreman, see what you can do.' As Foreman told me, that was on a Friday. On a Monday, when Foreman came to see Ray, Ray said, 'I don't want Hooker.' His son ran for the nomination for governor on the Democratic ticket and he got every black vote in town.' That was enough to disqualify Hooker as his lawyer . . ."

Says Ray "wouldn't take Bevel." "Ray would have nothing to do with Bevel. He wouldn't talk to Bevel. He wrote a letter to Foreman saying 'I don't want to talk with this man.'"

Says Hanes told Ray: "Your fingerprints are on the rifle. The bullet can be traced to that rifle, although the marks by which a bullet can be traced were smeared, the bullet came from the shell that was in the rifle."

On why Ray claimed there was a conspiracy at the minitrial: "Also, if he could maintain the story of a conspiracy, the book which William Bradford Huie was writing based on what Ray had told him might make much more money, might be bought by the films."

On discussion of what caused guilty plea, Frank offers that Ray "signed three documents." Not clear what he is referring to.

Jim Lesar
September 5, 1974