



STATEMENT TAKEN IN THE GRAND JURY ROOM ON FEBRUARY 7, 1969, FROM WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE AT 10:55 a.m. CONCERNING A POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. ALSO PRESENT IN THE GRAND JURY ROOM AND QUESTIONING MR. HUIE WERE DISTRICT ATTORNEY PHIL M. CANALE, JR., EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ROBERT K. DWYER, AND ASSISTANT JAMES C. BEASLEY.

Taken in shorthand by Loretta Bondora  
and Marjorie Fortinberry and transcribed  
by Marjorie Fortinberry.

Q. Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

A. Yes

Q. Mr. Huie, I am going to ask you if you would tell these gentlemen, first let me explain.

A. My experience in the cases where murder has been committed to try to prevent racial change (named books he has written concerning racial murders) I was heavily engaged in a Shetoba County case as well as several other cases regarding this type of murder. I know that information must be gotten from guilty men; you gentlemen understand that James Earl Ray as a suspect and a defendant does not have to talk to any representative of the law; I assumed from the beginning that James Earl Ray would never give information to any part of the law, never testify; therefore, the only way the information could be gotten from him was for a man in my position to make a deal with Ray for him to furnish me with information so I made a deal with him to tell me everywhere he went, who he saw and who gave him assistance. This was my contract with him because only by making this deal could you hope to get any information. It was a calculated risk as he had practiced deception all his life. Most of what he did tell me would not be true, a constant effort of going back at him to get the truth. It would be a considerable effort to get the truth, with that understanding this is why I have paid him money to get the truth and this is my only interest as so stated in my relationship with Ray. This was my contract with him. I should also add I made complete disclosures to Judge Battle and told him of the contract and told him of everything I planned to do. There is nothing secret about my activities.

Q. Mr. Huie, let me ask you, will you relate to these gentlemen what version Ray gave you in regard to what took place on April 4 in the rooming house at 422 1/2 South Main?

A. Ray told me that he was instructed that on the night of April 2 he was in a motel in Mississippi and his contact came and instructed him to

register in the Bessie Brewer Rooming House at 3:00 p.m. on the afternoon of April 4. He said that he came into Memphis on April 3, got a haircut in Memphis, drove around Memphis to the Rebel Motel and registered and that on April 4 in the afternoon he arrived fifteen minutes late at three-fifteen, then registered at Bessie Brewer's Rooming House. Then carried the gun into Room No. 5 then he said that he opened, oh, he also told me he went and bought the binoculars and he said he spent some time in Jim's Grill drinking beer and told me he was certain I could find evidence that people had seen him in Jim's Grill. He told me that when the shot was fired there was another man present and that when the shot was fired that he was in the Mustang in front of Canipe's, and said the other man came down the stairway, dropped the gun in front of Canipe's, jumped in the Mustang and got in back and covered himself with a sheet, took off for about eight or ten blocks; the other man got out of the car and they were to meet sometime in New Orleans later. Ray said he drove and left Memphis.

Q. Has he ever identified or said to you the name of this party or any other party that was supposed to be with him in the rooming house?

A. He has never given me any names other than the name Raoul. This is an uncommon name here but not in Canada. He said he was a Latin man, a French-Canadian, approximately thirty-five years old. He described him as a blond but after I had written it Ray told me he was more red headed than blond. This man met him in a bar in Montreal and this was the man that crossed the border with him twice with contraband and he met him in New Orleans on December 16 and told him the next job was three months off. Called him in California on the seventeenth day of March and told him to come back to Alabama. He claims he does not know this man's name other than Raoul but he has a phone number in New Orleans but has never given me the number. I think he knows the number as he has certainly made some calls to New Orleans but he has never described the man other than that. He also said the man was conservatively dressed. I have had several photographs at one time or other, photographs that the FBI has. The only reason I know is that they have shown them to other people they learned about through my investigation. Ray has never given any more of a description other than thirty-five years and a French-



Canadian and that was the man that was with him here in Memphis. Now this is Ray's account; since I have never been able to interrogate Ray; I wish I could have; and I hope today to win the right; so it has been very difficult; but in the constant interrogation of Ray which proceeded under Hanes and then ended when Hanes left, the case; and only began again when Foreman began to interrogate Ray that I began to get information again. Ray changes his stories and some of those that he told me last August is not necessarily the same information that he sent me in February and I go off and travel for the reason of trying to find the truth so I could tell Ray you didn't tell me the truth so it has been a constant battle of trying to get information out of this man which no other agency of the law can get from Ray but there has been changes in what he told me.

Q. From your experience with Ray and your own investigation of this matter what is your opinion about whether James Earl Ray fired the gun that killed Martin Luther King?

A. I have never had the slightest doubt that Ray and Ray alone killed Dr. King.

Q. He received a phone call in a motel on the night of April 2, did he ever relate or give you the name of the person that called him?

A. No sir.

Q. From your investigation and your correspondence with James Earl Ray, have you ever been able to identify or connect anybody up as an accomplice of James Earl Ray here in the city of Memphis, Los Angeles, Birmingham, or New Orleans or any other place in your investigation that would connect them with Ray killing Dr. King here on April 4?

A. No sir, the answer would be no to that.

Q. Mr. Huie, would it be a fair statement for me to say that if statements have been alleged to have been made by you as to other coconspirators with Ray in the assassination, that there was not a factual basis to that but a theory or supposition through your correspondence with Ray?

A. I have had nothing from the beginning Mr. Dwyer, I am not a detective and I am not in competition with the FBI so I have not pretended at any time to have any advantage or information other than that furnished to me by James Earl Ray which may or may not be true. I have found that a great deal that Ray told me was true as well as some things that were not true. The only advantage that I have and the only information I have is that I am the only man who has received in Ray's handwriting words from him, something like twenty or twenty-five thousand words. I have nothing

to go on whatsoever except what Ray has told me and what I can divine, guess, and assume by studying this man's record from childhood and tried to find his motivations. It is true that I have been able to come up with information that the FBI didn't have but only because Ray told me. There were areas of time that the FBI did not know where Ray was; I thought the important thing was to determine where Ray was from the day he escaped till the time he was apprehended. He hasn't given me answers to everything but there are still areas I am still interrogating. I am not responsible for what appears in the press. I have beliefs and there is one particular individual I am convinced had foreknowledge of the crime. This is only a conviction on my part but I can never name or cause the arrest of anybody until Ray signs the documents for the legal officials because I can't even publish such a name but if people have presented me as some sort of super detective, I am not. The only information I have is information that Ray has told me and what I have been able to verify or not. I have nothing to give you except what Ray has told me.

Q. You mentioned one particular person that you have reason to believe might be involved in this, are you making this statement on what you heard from Ray, you didn't have independent information only what Ray said, he never told you this person was involved?

A. No sir, only what Ray said; he only mentioned seeing this person and talking to him by phone.

Q. Would it be a fair statement to you to say that that was James Earl Ray's brother Jerry Ray?

A. That is right.

Q. Now Mr. Huie, concerning Ray's Meetings with his brother Jerry both before and after the slaying, would you relate that briefly?

A. Well first of all gentlemen, I have published two lies. The account of how James Earl Ray got out of the prison in Jefferson City is a lie which James Earl Ray has admitted because he had accomplices. Ray had two accomplices to get out of prison. He went to Chicago where his brother Jerry was living at that time. After he had worked for eight weeks to set up an identity he then went back to Quincy, Illinois. According to him he got a gun for the first time. The gun that was on him when he was arrested in London on June 8 is the gun he acquired in Quincy,



Illinois. He also acquired an automobile, a \$200 red plymouth. He told me he was in conference with his brother Jerry before he went to Canada. When he came back from Canada, he met Jerry. Spent a night at Gary, Indiana, in a motel five miles east of Gary, Indiana, after coming back from Indiana to Chicago he met Jerry. He gave Jerry the red plymouth which Jerry disposed of; then James Earl Ray got on the train and went to Birmingham and arrived on the night of August 25; registered as John L. Raynes. Later he said he stayed in Birmingham five weeks. He heard from Jerry Ray while he was there. He then went to Mexico and I was unable to find that he had telephoned Jerry. The next important moment is when James Earl Ray leaves Los Angeles and makes a hurried trip across the country to New Orleans. James Earl Ray tells me he met the same man he met in Montreal at a bar in New Orleans and described the bar where he went. There is a question of telephone calls made by James Earl Ray on that trip. Ray told me that he made three telephone calls on that trip, two of which were to Jerry Ray. The other call was to a contact in New Orleans, so Ray told me. The trip to New Orleans is important; it was at that time it was told that the next job would be eight or ten weeks later. It is important it seems to me that he did contact Jerry at that time. After the murder here in Memphis and Ray left and went to Birmingham, he has told me that he was in Birmingham for more than an hour after the murder and he went on to Atlanta. Then he tells me this is the way he went to Toronto. He abandoned the car, went to the room in Atlanta, left several things there, such as a letter from the John Birch Society which he hoped the FBI would investigate while he got away.

Q. You relate that he left the articles in the rooming house, for what purpose?

A. So that the FBI would investigate while he got away. Ray thinks entirely like a criminal; life is a continuing contest between him and the FBI. The only time this man smiles is when he thinks he left a false clue for the FBI. This is important to me that he left the clues to deliberately throw people. Then he tells me that he went to the bus station, took a bus and arrived in Cincinnati about 2:00 a.m. on the morning of April 6, Saturday; he was there about two hours and took

another bus to Detroit, then took a taxi cab to Windsor and got a train to Toronto, arrived in Toronto Saturday night April 6. There is no record that Ray was in Toronto till Monday, April 8, 5:30 p.m. At this moment I am trying to get Ray to account for thirty-six hours enroute to Toronto that he can't account for. Ray puts his attorney off when he is questioned on that; says we will get to that in a few minutes, so Ray has not given to me, either in writing or to his attorneys, as to where he was during this period. We couldn't discover any place where he stayed in Toronto. It is my belief and this Ray has not told me. It is my belief, if Ray can ever tell me that James Earl Ray met Jerry Ray in Detroit and this accounts for the time that is missing there and so there may be other times. The one thing I find through all the writings of Ray is a woman Ray met in Canada that Ray talked about his brother to, said he had to leave Monday to meet his brother. The only man on earth who is close to Ray is his brother Jerry Ray. Both John Ray and Jerry Ray had records as juveniles so it is my opinion that Jerry Ray had foreknowledge of the crime and was in contact with his brother at every strategic moment before and after the crime.

Q: Mr. Huie, in Canada and particularly in relation to this woman, did she relate to you that Ray expressed some dislike for the colored race?

A. Yes. One thing that Ray said to me from the beginning was to deny that he had any racial or political feelings. As I investigated Ray I found this to be completely untrue. He deliberately went looking for a woman to help him get a passport. This woman spent a good deal of time with me and has suffered from it. She is truly a remarkable woman and I could not believe she ever had sexual contact with Ray. Very attractive woman. As far as I could determine one of the most honest people I had ever met. She told me she lived fifteen years with a very aggressive man and she just got rid of him. Ray was so modest and nonaggressive and this was what attracted her. She told me of an evening in a nightclub in the Harkay Apartments, the Acapulco Restaurant. She told me of the only occasion he had to make a comment racial was that there was some discussion of racial difficulties in the United States. Ray made a statement to the effect You people don't know anything about Niggers, got to live with them before you know what the problem is but there was



## STATEMENT OF WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE

racism in his background which he denied to me in his early writings. One of the mistakes I have made is because I began on the assumption that Ray did not take the initiative; the decision to murder King was made by other people and that Ray was used. The longer I studied Ray and the more I traveled, the more I began to believe that Ray did take the initiative. I still think Ray was assisted but I believe the initiative and decision to kill Dr. King was made by Ray.

Q. You related to me Mr. Huie along the racial lines of your investigation revealed that racism was exhibited by Ray in Levenworth.

A. When Ray was in Levenworth other than trying to escape, this man was a model prisoner. He began his prison career in the Los Angeles County Jail and was in prison in Illinois State Prison and then for a federal offense he then went to Levenworth for three weeks. The records kept at Levenworth when he was being conditionally released are the most professional and accurate examinations of Ray ever made. One thing that you will find is that most of the time he has been assigned to the bakery. He is a very capable man when working in a kitchen. For example, he was a very successful employee of the Indian Trail Restaurant. At Levenworth he was offered what many prisoners value; he was offered the status of a honor prisoner to be assigned to the honor farm. He flabbergasted the people there at the prison by rejecting this because if he became an honor prisoner those dormitories were integrated and he didn't feel that he could sleep in a dormitory that was integrated simply because he wasn't willing to associate with black prisoners so he was returned to the kitchen because he couldn't stay in an integrated dormitory.

Q. What is your evaluation of him along psychological reports as to his motivation for this?

A. He thinks like a criminal and yearns for status among prisoners. He yearns for approval. This man wants status as a convict. He wants to be looked up to by other criminals. Ray was held in contempt because his previous crimes had been inept. He told me as a fugitive he got plastic surgery because he thought the FBI would put him in the top ten. The FBI thought he was a joke; no one was looking for him. Nobody was looking for him. The reward was \$50. Yet here's a man writing to me because he is expecting to be put in the top ten. This means a yearning. This is

what this man wants. In studying his life at Jefferson City, there is a man named Alex Borman, real name is Bennie Anderson, who held Ray in contempt in the prison class system. Ray was the kind of man you used to strike matches on. What he yearned for was status. In my opinion Ray wanted to kill Dr. King first of all for approval for some feeling of distinction for himself. This is not unusual. Man like Ray wants to commit a big crime. He thinks he has some distinction here because some of his jailers approve of his crime. In the jail in Memphis he has had some degree of approval. First of all he wants distinction as a criminal. Ray believed passionately, as he and his brothers believed, that George Wallace was going to be elected and he thought he would walk out of this jail and perhaps be given a medal. His brother feels this. He thought he would win approval. He thought a shower of gold would fall on him. The greatest disillusionment in his mind and his brother is the fact that only about \$376 has been contributed to his defense. This has been the greatest disappointment to James Earl Ray that a shower of gold did not fall on him and his brothers. This is a strange and complex man who does not think rationally. This is his motivation; he is unpredictable. He is almost like a whipped little boy. Often he is anxious to tell his lawyer I told you a lie last week now I will tell you the truth. One example of Ray, I told the story in the first issue of LOOK. I told how he got out of the prison. I told it like Ray told me. I want Ray to read this and know I am telling the story like he told it. Well since then Ray has told me through his lawyers that this is not the truth but as a convict he had to protect the men that helped him get out of prison. My interest has been to find out where he got the money for support. Whether he pulled holdups or somebody gave him the money. Ray has felt like he has had to account to me where he got the money so he told me he held up a whore house. Then later in the last few weeks he revealed to me that that wasn't true that he told me a story; that he once did that in 1959 but not in August, 1967, but had actually held up a food store in Montreal but he could not afford to have me tell that because he thought he would beat this here and he did not want a Canadian hold on him. Ray changed lawyers from Hanes to Foreman and now I have to deal with



Mr. Foreman to get information from Ray. I know them both; they have different personalities; but they are both interested in money but Mr. Foreman is a lot richer which means he is more not less. In any case, it is perfectly obvious to you gentlemen that I have been completely dependent on Ray's defense counsel because I didn't have any other way. Judge Battle never attempted to interrupt in any way my communicating with Ray through his attorney. He tells me one story then I write him that it didn't happen this way; then he tells me another one then you go and try to verify and find out it was true. I have one objective to use this guilty man as a source of information. Anyone who has any information about this case is obviously a guilty man. It hasn't been easy because I haven't seen the man myself.

Q. Mr. Huie, did James Earl Ray state to you in relation to this mysterious man, Raoul, that he was running contraband with Ray across the Canadian border?

A. Yes sir. The fact that he made a deal in Montreal to make these trips for a man. Reason this is believable is that this is standard operating procedure. Most of the heroin that comes in the United States comes by way of Montreal because it is easier. The people who bring heroin across the border use people like Ray to bring these packages in the United States. One thing they look for is a man that wouldn't be noticed and Ray is not a man who attracts attention. One reason he had plastic surgery was because he had a prominent nasal tip which he had cut off. Unfortunately he didn't have time to get the ear fixed. His story of how he made the two trips across the border with packages hidden in the red plymouth. This is believable not only to me but to Mr. Foreman. Anyone connected with the Mafia, incidentally Mr. Foreman has defended several members of the Mafia. Ray says the man would give him the packages and then the man would cross the border in a taxi cab and meet him on the other side. In Detroit there are two ways to cross the border, a tunnel and a bridge. Ray gives his account of how he goes through the tunnel once and goes back and goes across the bridge. Then he tells the story about taking something across the Mexican border. A package in an automobile tire. There is not nearly so much traffic with narcotics but there is a great deal of jewelry that is stolen in the United States that

is transported to Mexico. It is believable that a tire full of jewelry could have been taken across the Mexican border. He has a fantastic mind for detail and places as to where he stayed. You can go there and there is no trouble to find it at all. I had a diagram of where he spent the night in Acapulco. He couldn't remember the place but he drew a map but I go there, find it time after time. In all the allegations made about this man as being a poor stupid guy that has been used; this is not true. He is a clever man. there is absolutely nothing about this crime that Ray himself was not capable of carrying out. There have even been stories about how difficult the shot would be but I have set the shot up exactly like Ray from the same angle and anyone of you gentlemen that has ever fired a twenty-two could have killed Dr. King. King was not even a moving target. I let two, twelve year old boys fire the shot and they both would have been fatal shots. Any idea at all that it took a lot of planning, none of that is true; everything that was done that involves this killing, including the escape, is completely within the talents of James Earl Ray.

Q. Mr. Huie, you made a statement in Atlanta before a civic group that you could name two coconspirators, would it be a fair statement for me to say that the coconspirators that you might have revealed in that speech in Atlanta would be James Earl Ray's brother Jerry and Raoul?

A. First I made no such statement. I am a journalist myself. I am fifty-eight years old and have been in the business for a long time. I know people in Memphis and Atlanta. I have fortunately been a little more successful materially than a lot of other people. I am somewhat at their mercy because I don't want to say I don't want to talk to you. I try to help and co-operate with everyone. I may be in jail in Memphis tonight because of what I say in Memphis today. I don't want to say no comment. I have to try to be co-operative. I made a speech in Atlanta; I did not say I could name two coconspirators. I made the statement which I made to you that there was perhaps as many as two people that had foreknowledge of this crime. I believe that there are two or three things that I have not been able to explain. Ray does not smoke, never has smoked. When Ray after having stopped in Birmingham the next morning after the assassination of Dr. King; Ray was very proud of that Mustang automobile because it was by far the most expensive car he ever owned.



When the Mustang was abandoned in Atlanta, it was reeking with cigar and cigarette smoke. It was also very muddy inside. You have this sort of thing which is very difficult to explain. Ray's explanation to me was that sure Raoul was in the car; Raoul smokes. I have consequently been looking for other people and I have been waiting for Ray to come back and say he was lying and tell me who he really was. Number one I did not say that. Number two the only man whose name I know whom I feel confident was involved with James Earl Ray was his brother Jerry. The only name that I have for the alleged French-Canadian is the name Raoul that Ray has given me. The big mystery is still the trip to New Orleans.

Q. Have you ever been able to by any means to identify this person that Ray gave you named Raoul?

A. There is an enormous amount of interest in the American assassination in Europe which states that the assassination of Dr. King was planned by the CIA and that Ray was let out of prison for this reason. The point is this: There are photographs; there is a man who many people; there is a very large number of Americans that think there is a connection between the killing of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King and there are a couple of places where the same area of New Orleans is involved. At least one of the books that has been written will go into that theory. There are photographs; there is a photograph of two men who were arrested thirty minutes after the assassination of John F. Kennedy at Daley Plaza. One of those men is a French-Canadian who meets the description that Ray gives of Raoul. That photograph has been shown to Ray and he says it looks like him but he doesn't have the same type of clothes on. The man that was arrested in Dallas had French cut clothes. Ray has not identified this man. This photograph has been shown to a number of people that knew Ray such as Peter Cherpes. When photograph was shown to Cherpes, he was said to have reacted. Then he said no I don't think I have ever seen this man. There is also another photograph of two men who are suspects of one sort or another. The FBI have photographs of several men. When I revealed to the FBI that Ray had been at the Indian Trails Restaurant, the FBI showed up there with the photographs and showed the photographs. They asked about telephone calls and played tapes of different voices and asked was this the voice that called Ray. I am sure the law

agencies for this office have been doing the same thing. I am not the only person who has been showing photographs. Law enforcement agencies have been looking for the same thing but I cannot say that Ray has ever identified any of the people as far as I know.

Q. Have you by any means come across anyone who has purported to see Raoul and Ray together?

A. No sir. One of the things that have caused me to go back to Ray, particularly on the murder scene itself, such as Jim's Grill, which is a strange sort of place, Ray was absolutely certain that they could find somebody that would say he was in there. I failed in that. I wasn't able to find anyone. I wrote him a letter to the effect that I had been unable to find anyone. The answer is Ray told me before the purchase of the gun that it was decided to purchase the gun in Birmingham and that Raoul came with him to Birmingham. Ray told me where he spent the night. Mr. Hanes and I ascertained this was true. Ray told me that Raoul was with him.

Q. Spent the night where?

A. Five Points in Birmingham. To answer your question, I myself went there and Mr. Hanes was a man who had great advantages in Birmingham. He had been a former Mayor and had been a FBI agent himself earlier in his life so Mr. Hanes was very effective in finding information in Birmingham but neither Mr. Hanes or I were able to find anyone who remembers seeing Ray with anyone else. So this causes us to doubt.

Q. You mentioned that a photograph was shown to Ray in the jail, that wouldn't have come from the law enforcement agencies. Where did the photograph originate from?

A. Mr. Huie shows photographs of the arrest in Daly Plaza. The person we are referring to is the person in civilian clothes on the left in both pictures.

Q. Now Mr. Huie, as I understand you are asking Ray if this is Raoul. We would like to have these photographs if this is all right with you?

A. Huie then handed over the photographs to Mr. Dwyer.

Q. Mr. Huie you made a statement that money used by Ray came from New Orleans, did you make any statement before any club along this line?

A. Ray told me that when he came across country on a trip along with Charles Stein, met in a bar on Canal street in New Orleans that he was given \$2,000 in that bar and that his sole purpose in coming across coun



was to get money and further instructions and to determine when he was to be given \$12,000, passport and travel papers that had been promised to him. He made this trip very rapidly. He spent two nights in New Orleans. The man who came with him had been from New Orleans and was planning on staying two or three days. Ray told him he was ready to go back as soon as he made his contact. Once again try to figure out this strange business of why a man would come across country and deliberately go back to Los Angeles. I have only Ray's story. He told me he had the telephone number and called it enroute and met his contact. Ray drew me a diagram of where he had met him and told me he was given \$2,000 in twenty dollar bills. I even, since I have some reputation for paying off rascals, whenever I do it, I usually go to my bank and the money is given me in five hundred dollar packages with paper around it in twenty dollar bills. I even took such a package into Ray and asked if his money was packaged in this way and he told me it was. People that pay off in cash do not want bills larger than twenties. There has been a lot of publicity about how Ray constantly used twenty dollar bills. Ray became known as the man with twenty dollar bills. Ray told me he received \$2,000 on December 16, 1967. I couldn't imagine any other reason to come to New Orleans except to be paid. I just know that I have his statement in writing. Ray was told the next job would be eight or ten weeks off; to go back to Los Angeles and he would be called. Ray tells me on the seventeenth day of March, Martin Luther King made an appearance on March 17, and it was that night or morning that Ray left. Purpose of his trip was to get money and instructions and he got both.

Q. Mr. Huie have you asked Ray about a second Mustang being involved up on Main Street or anything in regards to that and the broadcast?

A. Yes, I asked him and he told me that he didn't know anything about a second Mustang. When he first told me about the murder, about the man running down the stairs, jumped in the car and he took off, he told me he didn't know that King had been murdered till he heard it on the broadcast. He parked his car in front of Canipe's approximately. Ray said the gun was the gun that he bought in Birmingham and he told me that the bedspread was wrapped around the gun. Told me how a Remington gun happened to be in a Browning case. From the beginning in my first letter that I

wrote Ray in London, I said you were obviously involved to a considerable extent; you bought a gun and left the gun at the murder scene; you fled to Canada and England. I said this to James Earl Ray in my initial contact with him. I wouldn't have wanted to enter into a contract with him and pay him \$10,000 as a risk. I certainly wouldn't have wanted to pay him unless I thought he knew about the murder. He never denied to me that he was involved in the murder of King. He has explained to me his involvement and he has never denied to me the things that I wrote.

Q. Do you recall now where that bedspread came from, I believe you said in California?

A. He has never told me where the bedspread came from. He told me a story about this, about why he had gotten this bed spread in California sort of a fixation with him. He liked this so when he came in some of these broken down rooming houses that he put this bedspread on the bed. Ray had brought the bedspread from California and he told me that he carried it with him wrapped around the box.

Q. Did he indicate or tell you at any time any persons he might have met after he left Memphis up until he left the abandoned car in Atlanta?

A. He wrote to me all the information he could but he said he must not give me any information that would lead to the prosecution of other people. Ray felt that he could beat this wrap in Memphis because Ray believed that it was impossible for a jury in Memphis to convict him for the murder of Dr. King. This is a man who clings to fantasies and one of the fantasies to which James Earl Ray clung was that he would never be convicted. He can't at this time be a state's witness or give information which would lead to the prosecution of other people. He says most of the things I have done have been as a result of being a loner. In the two times I have had accomplices I have gotten longer terms and they have gotten shorter terms. He distrusts accomplices. Even if he gives a name to me it is nothing until he is willing to sign something and become a witness. At this point Ray has shied away under interrogation naming people where he would be in the position of testifying against other people. Ray has become much more realistic and each of his attorneys has gone along with Ray's fantasies for a while but each have brought him up short and said now let's get down to the nitty gritty. Ray did not



believe that he was going to trial last November 12. Even now he doesn't think he is going to trial on March 3. He is a jailhouse lawyer. He is already discussing with Mr. Foreman devices by which he can get another continuance. Only when he begins to suspect that he is not going to beat the rap that I am able to get what makes any sense out of him. Then he has told certain truths that he has not told up to that point. In the last couple of weeks when he suspects he does not have vast support in Memphis that he begins to talk and I get more and more truth once again. Last August we had to deal with fantasies but now we might get more truth. He ten was going to use the device of changing attorneys. He also things he has another rabbit in his hat and will come up with another continuance. The nearer Ray gets to the reality of the situation the more truth we get.

Q. Mr. Huie, I recall that Ray has stated that he was to get \$10,000 or \$12,000, did he ever get that money or ever express resentment for not getting that money?

A. No

Q. Did he ever comment on that?

A. No. This was the strangest thing. I thought in the ~~beginning~~ <sup>beginning</sup> he would go to New Orleans but he went to Alabama. I looked for payment in the story of the strange fat man. He revealed to me that he went to Montreal. I suspected there was a second robbery.

Q. This robbery was of a food store in Montreal after the murder?

A. He has not said this to me. He said he didn't hold up the brothel but a food store. It has been suspected that he stayed in Toronto at one or two addresses for four weeks. Ray has told me that actually he spent nine of those days in Montreal on "business". He went to try to get on a ship. It is my belief he went to Montreal and pulled a second robbery; however, he has not said this up to this time. He has said that he pulled a robbery in London. One of the weaknesses in the conspir theory is that he did not get any money but he went back toward Canada and I have seen no resentment. However, I should add this man never thinks about tomorrow.

Q. Did Ray ever tell you where he got the money to pay for this Mustang automobile?

A. Yes, there is some evidence that he got the money in Birmingham. See Ray came back from Montreal.

Q. Did he give you any idea why he left Montreal and came to Birmingham?

A. The man told him to come to Alabama that he had connections, wanted him to go to Mobile, Alabama. Ray insisted that the sea air was bad for his allergies, preferred to go to Birmingham because it was larger. Told him that he wanted him to get rid of his old car and then he would come and buy him a suitable car and would provide him with living expenses and after they had pulled a few jobs he would get Ray suitable travel papers. Ray says he came to Birmingham, man communicated with him, told him to buy a car for about \$2,000. Ray managed to buy from Paisley and he startled Paisley by pulling out the money and buying right on the streets of Birmingham. Paisley walked to the bank and got change and gave Ray \$5. I also explain in one of the stories that I wrote about the fact that Ray had taken out a safe deposit box in Birmingham and I have the record of when he went in that box and he did not go to the bank and into the box on that day. The reason was that the friend Raoul had arrived in Birmingham and given him \$3,000 on the morning before he bought the car and there is evidence that someone gave him some money that morning.

Q. Whether that was for the King assassination or for the contraband nobody know, is that right?

A. Right, I believe the King assassination had been decided on by that time, but it seems this was just for contraband.

Q. Mr. Huie, you mentioned he was told to get rid of his old automobile, is this the red plymouth?

A. Yes sir. He told me that he brought the car back to Chicago, gave it to his brother Jerry, got on the train and went to Birmingham where he spent the next night in the Grenada Motel.

Q. Has he given you any telephone numbers of any coconspirators?

A. He keeps promising to do that. Says he knows the numbers. He indicated to me that as soon as the trial had begun he would.

Q. Has he told you that he met Raoul in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico?

A. Yes sir

Q. Do you have any corroborative proof?

A. He drew me a diagram of where he met Raoul. He had to buy a 1968 license in Birmingham first. He bought it on October 2 and was still there



on October 5 because he bought a camera on that date. It has been said he stayed till the seventh of October but the motel registration shows he registered on the tenth in the Saint Hotel. He met Raoul and they went back into the United States and transferred automobile title and went through two check points. At that time incidentally, Ray told me there were two people that Raoul was accompanied by another man. It was from these two men he received approximately \$2,000.

Q. Mr. Huie, I've got a newspaper clipping written by your good friend Charley Edmundson of the COMMERCIAL APPEAL and he has quoted you as saying that Ray told you he didn't know about the murder of Dr. King until March 23, 1968?

A. I told him that obviously wasn't true. One of the points I have used on Ray was that you constantly have reports in the paper that Ray was too stupid. I have deliberately taunted him with this. I have tried to use this. Then I came back at him, you knew what was going on in Memphis, knew what you were doing, knew what you were going there for. I want you to tell me when you knew Dr. King was to be killed. At that time then he comes back and I say for one thing you didn't stop in Selma on March 22 when King was there, Selma was off your route. At that time he would tell me yes that he was involved and that by that time he knew it but he was in too deep. It is true that Ray indicated to me that by the time he got to Selma he knew that the target was King.

Q. In this article that quoted you as saying you are holding material for a third article and it would bring Ray's career up past April 4. Did he give you a different version of the killing other than what you have related to us?

A. Remember that the two pieces that I wrote were last September that were published at that time as part of my plan to get information out of Ray and because I had to aim at these deadlines and because I was advised by my lawyers that I must not go past March 22 or I would be in trouble with Judge Battle. I deliberately concentrated my research up to March 22 and later I studied what happened after March 22.

Q. You mentioned about a letter and contact with him in London that was before he was apprehended, wasn't it?

A. No sir. That was after. I was in London on May 13 concerning a book. Ray reads books and had read two of my books before. Therefore Ray had some knowledge of me. I knew Arthur Hanes and when Hanes went to London, he carried my letter with him.

Q. Mr. Huie I am going to ask you a question now and I am going to caution you now about answering it. From our conversation prior with you, you informed us that every bit of handwriting of Ray's to you, upon advice of your attorney you had turned that over to Mr. Foreman who is representing Ray. We served you with a subpoena that directed you to be here as you are and bring copies of the manuscript, do you have that with you?

A. No sir

Q. Have you turned this over to Mr. Foreman?

A. Yes sir

Q. Then you are not physically in possession of a copy of that manuscript or any agents, by that I mean attorneys, relatives, etc.?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Do you have control over those documents by any agreement with Mr. Foreman?

A. No sir. I have no further control over them. I am completely dependent on Mr. Foreman for any further information I may get from Ray.

Q. Would it be an accurate statement of yours to say you are saying to these gentlemen and myself in particular that handwritings of Ray's to you delivered to you by Hanes and Foreman, used as a basis for your articles in LOOK, that you no longer have under your dominion and control by any means whatsoever. Now I am cautioning you about answering this question.

A. They are in Mr. Foreman's possession but I don't have them right now and I don't know how I could get them back today and I don't know what may happen in the future and I might tell you Mr. Dwyer that Mr. Foreman is a hard bargainer himself and I have to have his assistance.

Q. Have you told us substantially all that James Earl Ray has written to you, Mr. Huie?

A. I have asked Ray to write me a great deal about himself, previous attempts in his early life and all. I have told you substantially everything that relates to what this grand jury is interested in. At the moment I think we have covered everything.

Q. Did you say that you have related substantially all the important elements of what Ray has written to you about the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King; any confession?

A. Mr. Ray has never written a legal confession that he shot Dr. King. Mr. Ray has written I think I may have gotten in the King affair gradually. I would think that the King murder had been decided before the car was bought in Birmingham because no one would give \$3,000 to haul narcotics across the border. As for my being stupid, I wouldn't go that far but neither would I say I was smart because I spent twelve years in prison. On the dupe part I am sure under ordinary circumstances I wouldn't but



you have to take into account I was promised travel papers then for sure plus \$10,000 or \$12,000 for the job but when you get in the frame of mind you don't look at all the alternatives. I know there was no other choice but to apply for a Canadian passport. So there has been a great deal written to me but I would think we have covered it. I have a great deal of understanding about this murder as well as information about Ray as a person. I am not in a position to identify to you certain men that you can indict that you can bring to trial. I am not being helped any if the Judge rules against a motion filed today. I think I have revealed how little I have as well as how much I have. I hope that Ray will some day be a government witness and I can persuade him to do so.

Q. If you do get such information would you be kind enough to come back before this body?

A. Certainly. I did not go into this case for business reasons. I went into this to find out how and why Dr. King was killed. If I don't find the complete facts, I will have failed. I expect to continue even after the trial trying to find out how and why Dr. King was murdered. All that this King assassination has caused me was money, trouble and I may get put in jail this afternoon. I didn't go into this for money. I went into this to find out how and why Dr. King was killed. Trying to get from this man the truth.

Q. I believe you stated earlier there is no doubt in your mind that James Earl Ray was the man that pulled the trigger, is that correct?

A. There is no doubt in my mind.

Q. You stated to us that if we need your assistance in the trial you would be glad to co-operate with us, is that correct?

A. Let us say I am going to do the best I can to co-operate with both you and Mr. Foreman. I have no interest whatever except to bring to this country the truth about one of the assassinations. I paid Ray \$30,000 through Hanes. I wouldn't be surprised if I didn't have to pay some more. I have already spent about \$75,000. There has been an effort that in this case at least we could come up with the facts so that we wouldn't have to leave all these legends about an assassination. This country is sick about these legends. I had hoped I could clarify this one. It is dangerous for a large group of people to believe that something is hidden. I had hoped I could help the law enforcement agents. I wanted the truth about this case. Up until this point I have failed.

Q. You went out to Dallas to check and investigate the John F. Kennedy assassination. What was the conclusion you reached about an assassination out there?

A. Books about assassinations have an enormous appeal and sale value in the United States. A man like me earns as much money in London as in New York or Beverly Hills. Books about assassination sell. After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, I was offered in London an advance of a quarter of a million dollars to write the first book questioning the fact that Oswald killed John F. Kennedy. I went to Dallas and worked for ten days and got everything I could. I knew Robert Kennedy at that time but I concluded that John Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald and I concluded that Ruby never knew Lee Harvey Oswald so I didn't support all these reports about a conspiracy. I think Garrison is crazy. I think that all these assassinations being linked together is a most dangerous assumption. The story of the assassination of Martin Luther King is a simple story not involving a great conspiracy. I think the maximum that knew could have been maybe three or four. There is this simplicity. In many cases just fate plays a hand. Take Dr. King. Dr. King for some reason walked out on the balcony and a twelve year old boy could have killed him. Coincidence plays a very large part in this and it plays a large part in your life. The story is very simple gentlemen. I have an international reputation for simplifying. I can only tell you that it is my belief that the murder of Dr. King was a simple story and not an elaborate conspiracy. If I have conveyed the idea that there were a large number of people plotting, this is completely wrong. I started with the assumption that a Negro might have been involved in it. I talked to Dr. King before and he felt some militants wanted to see violence between the whites and the blacks. I know Negro men who might have hired a white man to do it. I cannot imagine James Earl Ray ever associating with Negro people in such a project. It is my belief that this is a simple story involving maybe no more than two men and no more than four.

Q. Do you have a transcript or a copy of the unpublished article in LOOK?

A. No sir, I haven't written it yet. First of all I want to wait until after the trial starts and the jury has been selected. I am going to publish it when I feel completely confident that I have learned all I am



going to learn from James Earl Ray. I have been handicapped by Judge Battle's not letting photographs be taken. I went to Chicago where Ray had been and what I needed was a photograph of the man that was not a mug shot. A photograph that had not been published so that the man did not know that I was referring to the assassination of King. As far as I am concerned this has been a handicap. I have been handicapped by not being able to talk to Ray. I know that this is a secret hearing and I don't mean to be critical of Judge Battle.

Q. Mr. Huie, as I understand it the only person Ray has indicated to you ever giving him instructions or money after the escape was this fellow identified as Raoul, is that correct?

A. Yes. This same person has appeared in all these places. There has to be another man. The only time he has ever admitted there is a second man was in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. There has been some indication that he has been using this man and that at some point nearer the trial he would be able to give me more information and more realistic information. This one man is the sole and only man.

Grand Juror. Q. Does he look upon you as say a friend or is he giving you this information for the purpose of providing for a defense?

A. I will try to answer this by reading from the first letter that I wrote to him. I asked him If you sell me such information will you further jeopardize yourself. I know that a great number of people are worried about the assassination. The Americans yearn to know the whole truth. To any man who helps to explain the murder of King these Americans will feel some measure of gratitude. To understand is to forgive, so I think you might help yourself by helping me. James Earl Ray regards me as a friend only in that way. I have told him that I thought that the only chance he had as an individual was to help me establish the whole truth. That if he expects any sympathy he must tell the truth. That he is now in the position of people regarding him as a paid killer and they do not understand his motive. The only way I have posed as being his friend is that I thought his best chance to survive was to lay it on the line and to tell me or somebody the entire true story of how and why he killed King. I am friendly to the man in that way. When I began working with him he was very bitter about the articles in magazines about him. Very bitter. He was also bitter that the magazines had

pictured him as a whore hopper. It is true that the magazines in the early publicity were just full of untruths. When my associate went to Lisbon he found several prostitutes willing to tell their sad story and their conversations with Ray. Ray did ask me, he wanted to file libel suits against LIFE. Some man from the Klu Klux Klan got to Ray by promising he would file a libel suit against LIFE. Ray liked the two pieces that appeared in LOOK. At least I presented him as a human being. Ray regards me as a journalist friend. In the early reports there were many errors because of the speed with which they were written.

Grand Juror Q. Whenever this case comes to trial in the event he is convicted or acquitted, your dealings or influence will probably cease?

A. I have never once pretended to Ray I would get him off. I don't see that Ray will ever be out of prison for the rest of his life. I don't think this man will ever breathe a free breath again. I don't see an execution of Ray. Mrs. King and the SCLC would be opposed. In all the prison studies of Ray nobody ever wanted or saw any way Ray could make a successful adjustment in society. Even if I were called upon to testify in his trial in the same way I have testified today, I don't see myself alienating Ray. I am maintaining an honest position. I haven't broken faith by saying anything I have said today. If I could establish something as truth then I would publish it.

Grand Juror Q. You have mentioned and I have read that some people consider Ray rather stupid. Things indicate he wasn't very smart yet some of the articles I have read concerning this particular case, there seems to be some pretty good mind behind this. You have mentioned that Ray is not stupid. In your opinion what is his intelligence record?

A. IQ 105-108, which is average; eighth grade education. It is true that his early crimes were almost ludicrously inept. He had a cruel childhood. However, in my examining the years between thirty to thirty-eight are the years of changing character called watershed years. When he made this escape he had to use a little self-discipline. James Earl Ray read books, law books and medical books. Took courses in Spanish and English composition. The man that broke out on April 23, 1967, was not the same man that went in. He had matured. You have a much more calculating mind at thirty-eight or thirty-nine when he broke out of Jefferson City than as a wild kid. He is much more calculating from the on. The idea that it takes some sort of master mind for Ray to come in and do this. This just doesn't make sense.



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Grand Juror Q. My main purpose in asking the question was that none of the crimes that he had committed in his earlier life indicated any tendency for violence.

A. I asked Dr. Peterson was James Earl Ray capable of killing for money or any other purpose. He said certainly he was a antisocial psychopath, meaning he is incapable of considering anybody else, incapable of considering the welfare of any other being. Anybody who is capable of armed robbery is capable of killing for hire. He is indicating that he is willing to kill for money. Ray had been using the gun in at least three instances before he went to Jefferson City.

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WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE