

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Book Fees Pay Ray's Defense, Huie Declares

\$25,000 Has Been Received With More To Come, Writer Says

By CHARLES EDMUNDSON

The legal defense for James Earl Ray, charged with killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is being financed by payments Ray is receiving for book rights to his life story, William Bradford Huie, an Alabama free lance writer, said last night.

Mr. Huie, who lives at Hartselle, Ala., and has written several best sellers, most of them made into movies, said he has paid Ray \$25,000 since Ray was placed in the Shelby County Jail July 19. He indicated he expects to pay him considerably more.

"Ray delivered to me a first installment of 10,000 words, written in longhand, a month ago. Since then he has delivered 10,000 words more."

Ray spends a great deal of his time in jail writing and is expected eventually to produce at least 50,000 words, which Mr. Huie will polish into a finished product.

Mr. Huie, who spent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in Memphis going over the murder scene at the Lorraine Motel and investigating other Memphis angles of the murder, said he has not yet gained permission to see Ray in his air-conditioned cell at the Shelby County Jail. "But I haven't given up hope. Judge Battle (Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle) did not turn me down flat when I talked to him three weeks ago."

"Meanwhile, I work through Ray's chief counsel, Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham. In return for his legal services, he has a lien on everything I pay Ray, I suppose on everything Ray has or gets."

Mr. Huie, in a telephone interview from his home in Hartselle, said, "I don't particularly like paying somebody for his story but often there is no other way of getting the truth."

Mr. Huie said he got the material for his "Three Lives for Mississippi," the story of the murder of three civil rights workers near Philadelphia, Miss., in 1964, by hefty payments to "greedy Klansmen who knew the facts."

This book is being made into a motion picture. Some of the proceeds from movie rights are going toward paying Ray for his longhand manuscript. Mr. Huie says he hopes the Ray story, too, will be made into a motion picture, possibly a documentary.

Mr. Huie also wrote a book on the murder of Emmet L. Till, a young Chicago Negro, killed in Tallahatchie County, Miss., in 1955.

Mr. Huie said he has asked and received from Gov. Albert Brewer of Alabama special police protection as a result of threats made against his life after he spoke in various parts of the country against the candidacy of former Gov. George Wallace for president.

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