

# Ray plotted killing for year: book

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James Earl Ray

NEW YORK (AP) — James Earl Ray plotted for a year to kill the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and believed that Dr. King's death would help Alabama Gov. George Wallace, according to a book to be published this fall.

The book was written by George McMillan, who said he talked to members of Ray's family and to inmates who knew Ray when he was at the Missouri State Prison.

McMillan, a free-lance writer, said Monday his book quotes members of Ray's family as discounting Ray's story that he was set up by a man called "Raoul," whom he met in Montreal.

Ray, who is serving a life sentence after pleading guilty to Dr. King's assassination, has been trying to win a new trial.

McMILLAN said he also spoke with inmates at the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City. James Earl Ray escaped from that prison in April, 1967, one year before Dr. King was shot to death in Memphis.

McMillan said an inmate told him that when Ray saw Dr. King on television, he would be galvanized by the sight and say "somebody's got to get him."

McMillan also said in his book that the day after Ray es-

caped from prison, he met his brothers Jerry and Jack in a Chicago hotel. McMillan's book quoted the brothers as saying "Jimmy" told them:

"I'm gonna kill that nigger King. That's something that's been on my mind."

McMillan said Jack's reaction was: "That's crazy. You can count me out of that deal. There ain't no money in willin' a nigger."

JERRY, a night watchman now living near Chicago, was quoted as saying James went to Birmingham to establish Alabama residency and hoped to kill Dr. King in that state, believing that if caught and convicted, he eventually would be pardoned by Wallace.

"He had it in his head that it would help Wallace if King wasn't around," Jerry was quoted as saying.

McMillan's book is to be published by Little, Brown & Co.