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Ray Tells of Addresses

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. — James Earl Ray has testified that he had "addresses and telephone numbers" of others involved in events leading to the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, but that he had never given most of this information to his attorneys.

He said he had kept the names of some of his witnesses secret because he thought the names might get back to FBI agents and that the FBI might harass them.

Ray said yesterday he gave one telephone number to the lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, who pleaded Ray guilty to King's murder, but that Foreman did not press him for names.

RAY IS SEEKING to withdraw the guilty plea he entered in March 1969, contending that he was coerced by Foreman into falsely admitting the murder of the civil rights leader.

A hearing on the question before U.S. District Judge Robert M. McRae Jr. is drawing to a close. McRae has indicated it will take him several weeks to reach a decision.

Ray, after about 10 hours of testimony, did not give details of the "conspiracy" to assassinate King.

The most detailed information came from Arthur Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., who was Ray's lawyer until he was dismissed on the eve of Ray's scheduled trial in November 1968. Foreman replaced Hanes as Ray's attorney.

Hanes, a former FBI agent and once a contract employe of the Central Intelligence Agency, was reluctant to tell Judge McRae what Ray had told him, but the judge ruled that he must do so.

HANES SAID that he had asked "James Earl Ray a hundred times: 'Did you fire the shot that killed Dr. King?' and his invariable answer was 'No' "

He said that Ray told him that he had come to Memphis in April 1968, at the direction of "Raoul," who has been described as a blond Latin whom Ray met in Canada in 1967 after Ray had escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Ray said in statements smuggled from the Shelby County jail by Hanes in 1968 for the Alabama author William Bradford Huie, that "Raoul" had promised him $12,000 and new identity papers to help him on some major crime that "Raoul" never specified.

Ray's current attorneys have said Ray identified Raoul to them as a French Canadian he met in Montreal after his escape from the Missouri Penitentiary, the Associated Press reported. After King was shot, Ray fled to London with a Canadian passport. He was traced to England through passport fingerprints checked in Montreal.

HANES TESTIFIED that Ray had told him that while he was on his way to Memphis he spent the night of April 2, 1968 — two days before the assassination — in Mississippi.

"James Earl Ray told me that the gun he had bought . . . was taken from him at a motel in Mississippi, and that he never saw it again until it was thrown down on the street in Memphis tied to his suitcase," Hanes said. A rifle which Ray bought in Birmingham was found outside the murder scene in Memphis.

The lawyer said that Ray had told him that he was given "a note with the address of a rooming house in Memphis and told to be there at 3 o'clock" on the afternoon of April 4. He said that Ray parked his car seven or eight blocks from the rooming house at 422½ South Main St. and walked to the building.

HE SAID THAT after Ray had rented a room as directed, he was told to go get the car and park it in front and then to buy a pair of binoculars.

After this had been accomplished, Ray was told to leave the rooming house and to go to a nearby saloon and drink beer while "Raoul" bathed, shaved and changed clothes, Hanes said.

Hanes said that Ray, after drinking several beers, was standing on the sidewalk outside the rooming house about 6 p.m. when the shot that killed Dr. King was fired.

"Raoul" came out of the rooming house and threw the rifle and Ray's suitcase down on the sidewalk, Hanes said. "Jimmy said he knew somebody had been shot, and he knew he was in trouble and he fled," Hanes said.

Ray earlier in the hearing said he went to the rooming house under the impression he was to discuss gun running, the AP reported.