■ Assassin as Author

RAY

In an interview in yesterday's Nashville Banner, **James Earl Ray**, convicted assassin of Dr. **Martin Luther King Jr.**, said he had "no intentions of writing a book" but "some New York publisher wants me to write one and I'd do it for two reasons. First, I'd get my side into print and second, to force the attorney general to come up with evidence of the slaying." Ray pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in March 1969, 13 months after King was shot in Memphis. He recanted the guilty plea almost immediately, but has lost a round of court battles to overturn his 99-year sentence. His latest attempt to win a new trial began in March, when he wrote the Tennessee Revenue Department asking if he could keep royalties from a book. **Howard Herdon**, general counsel for the revenue department, said Ray apparently could keep any proceeds despite a 1979 law against prisoners profiting from books about their crimes. He cited an opinion by Tennessee Attorney General **William Leech** that the law applies only to crimes committed after July 1, 1979, the date the law became effective. . . . Ray, a prisoner in the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, also told the newspaper that his 1½-year marriage to the former **Anna Sandhu**, a free-lance artist, is "going pretty good. I saw her today (Monday) and things are working out pretty well."