

U.T. OCT.
DAILY 6,
Beacon 1978

Friend of King to officiate at Ray wedding

NEW YORK (UPI) — James Earl Ray's fiancée said yesterday on national television that Rev. James Lawson, described as Dr. Martin Luther King's best friend, will marry the couple.

Knoxville TV courtroom artist Anna Sandhu, who said she is marrying King's convicted assassin because she knows he's innocent, appeared on NBC's "Today" show.

Miss Sandhu, 32, said she met Lawson in Washington. She quoted Lawson as saying he "would be very honored" to marry the two.

She also said Ray never proposed to her, and it was a "mutual decision" to marry.

"We just talked about it and decided to do it," she said. "It wasn't an agonizing decision."

She said she believes Ray will be released before he serves out his 99-year-sentence for the murder of the civil rights leader.

Miss Sandhu said she first met Ray last fall when he was on trial for escaping from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros.

She did extensive research on his case, talking to people who knew him, and determined he was innocent, she said.

She also said the two have never been alone together.

"We just sit at a table. We hold hands. James is very romantic—romantic in an old-fashioned way," she said.