

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The attached states that a motion for new trial concerning James Earl Ray was filed with the Clerk of Criminal Court, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, by three attorneys representing Ray.

Jesse B. Stoner is an official of the National States Rights Party with headquarters in Savannah, Georgia. Richard J. Ryan has recently been employed by Ray. It is not known at this time the significance of Robert W. Hill, a Chattanooga, Tennessee, attorney representing Ray.

Based upon available data, Bureau indices contain no information identifiable with Robert W. Hill, Jr. ✓

Department being advised.

REL:mfd

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

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TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

W.C. Sullivan

Rdy

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FBI MEMPHIS

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TO DIRECTOR 44-38861

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987

MURKIN

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR IN FINAL EDITION, MONDAY, APRIL SEVEN, CARRIED HEADLINE "RAY'S ATTORNEYS ASK NEW TRIAL." ARTICLE STATES THAT NEW DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR JAMES EARL RAY THIS AFTERNOON FILED AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL MOTION FOR A NEW TRIAL, CHARGING THAT RAY'S GUILTY PLEA WAS "A FARCE, A SHAM, AND A MOCKERY OF JUSTICE." THE THREE PAGE MOTION WAS SUBMITTED TO CRIMINAL COURT CLERK'S OFFICE BY RICHARD J. RYAN, J. B. STONER, AND ROBERT W. HILL, JR., RAY'S ATTORNEYS. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE RAY CHARGES THERE WAS CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN HIM AND HIS TWO PRIOR ATTORNEYS, ARTHUR J. HANES AND PERCY FOREMAN, OVER AN AGREEMENT WHICH GAVE ALABAMA AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE EXCLUSIVE LITERARY RIGHTS TO RAY'S STORY. RAY REPORTEDLY DECLARED IN HIS MOTION THAT HANES AND FOREMAN ACTUALLY REPRESENTED WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE. THE PETITION CONTINUED THAT IF RAY HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO TAKE THE WITNESS STAND THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO STORY OR MOVIES TO SELL AND THERE WOULD BE NO PROFITS FOR THOSE PARTIES.

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COPY OF MOTION AND ITS EXHIBITS BEING SECURED AND WILL BE SUBMITTED AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY.

ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES BEASLEY, WHO WAS ONE OF PROSECUTORS IN INSTANT CASE, ADVISED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED COPY OF MOTION AND HAD NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY MOTION AS YET. BEASLEY SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT MOTION WAS FILED AS THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL PROCEDURE IN CRIMINAL CASES. BEASLEY ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW ATTORNEY ROBERT W. HILL, JR. HE DID STATE ONE OF LETTERS IN JUDGE BATTLE'S DESK WAS FROM AN ATTORNEY, ROBERT W. HILL, JR., OF CHATTANOOGA, TENN., WHO HAD OFFERED TO ASSIST JAMES EARL RAY IN HIS TRIAL. P.

END

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