

# CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.  
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See JER to JL 10/6/75

Dear James Earl Ray:

September 27, 1975

My colleague, Ernest Leiser, wrote you on August 18th seeking to arrange an interview with me as part of a broadcast on the assassination of Martin Luther King. That broadcast is scheduled to be carried November 30th. It will be an hour and it will be part of a series, totalling four hours, dealing with the assassinations of President Kennedy, Senator Kennedy and Dr. King, and the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace.

I would like now, personally, to ask you to sit for an interview to answer questions about your role in the King case.

We have, as you know, heard from your attorneys saying that you agree with their recommendations against such an interview. And Miss Kartiganer has just received your personal letter reinforcing that.

Still, I would like you to reconsider.

There are two reasons why I feel an interview is important:

First, we have already talked to a number of people -- including your brother, Jerry; Art Hanes and his son; Huie, and others -- about you. But the only time we now see and hear you is in that interview in prison, talking to our correspondent and others about your conditions of solitary confinement. We have no real, first-hand chance to meet James Earl Ray to find out what kind of person he is.

Second, we have many versions of what happened on April 4, 1968, and how you were involved. They come from your supporters and your adversaries. Obviously, however, there is only one person who can tell your story - and that is you.

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Robert's  
& manuscript

September 27, 1975

I know that this is not an easy decision for you to reach. But I hope you will consider it in your own interest, and in the interest of the truth in this case, to agree to an interview.

Sincerely,

*Dan Rather*  
Dan Rather  
CBS News Correspondent

Mr. James Earl Ray  
#654-77  
Station A, Unit 1  
Tennessee State Penitentiary  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

*P.S. If there is anything you  
need or want, please let me  
know. DR*