

Mr. BEESON. While that is being done, I will describe this exhibit for the record: This is a copy of a Look magazine article. It is dated April 15, 1969. The title of the article is, Against Conspiracy. The author is Mr. Foreman, the witness today, who is captioned as attorney for James Earl Ray.

Do you recognize the article, Mr. Foreman?

Mr. FOREMAN. I do.

Mr. BEESON. Did you write the article?

Mr. FOREMAN. Yes.

Mr. BEESON. I wonder if I could direct your attention, please, to the second paragraph in the article, and if you would follow along with me, I will read that for the record:

When, last November, the brothers of James Earl Ray sought me out and handed me a letter from him, beseeching me to represent him—

Mr. FOREMAN. That language is not mine; that language is Bradford Huie's. He wrote this. I wrote it as a lawyer would write it and I did not say the letters were handed me by the brothers, but that was the way it appeared here, but it was rewritten for the public by Bradford Huie, but it was my language.

Go ahead.

Mr. BEESON. My question, as you are clearly anticipating, is an attempt to resolve the conflict in this article—which is dated 1 month after the guilty plea—and your current testimony before the committee concerning the method in which you received the letter from Mr. Ray.

You have testified today that this letter was mailed from Mr. Ray to your office in Texas, that you were notified about it by your secretary over the phone—

Mr. FOREMAN. That is correct.

Mr. BEESON [continuing]. And that you went back to your office and reviewed the letter at that time.

As you recognize in this article at least, which captions you as the author, you represented the letter was actually delivered to you through the intermediaries of Mr. Ray's brothers and not mailed by Mr. Ray directly to your office in Texas?

Mr. FOREMAN. I do so represent; that is true.

Mr. BEESON. And your explanation for that contradiction, Mr. Foreman?

Mr. FOREMAN. I wrote this article and actually my agreeing to write the article came through a vice president of Look magazine who was also a lawyer, and from him through William Bradford Huie. When I wrote the article, I was in Tennessee, Peabody Hotel, and I gave it to William Bradford Huie, and he undertook to make it more readable. This is the first time I have read the article since it first appeared. But he took poetic license there several times in telescoping and translating into idiom, but the essence of the article is true, and the bringing of the letter, it was not brought by the brothers; it was mailed to me at my office.

Mr. BEESON. Do you recall testifying about this article as well as several other matters in a lengthy, 7-hour deposition taken as part of the evidentiary hearing of the habeas corpus proceeding?

Mr. FOREMAN. No; I don't. I recall what I testified to. I have not of that deposition—but I have not re

Mr. BEESON. Mr. Chairman, I v could give to Mr. Foreman a full tr Federal habeas corpus proceedings?

For the record, Mr. Chairman, N oath as part of the evidentiary hear

Mr. FOREMAN. What page?

Mr. BEESON. I will ask you to refe

Mr. Foreman was deposed as pa the Western District of Tennessee, the habeas corpus proceedings. The Rose. It is Civil No. S-74-166. I deposition be introduced at this tir F-276.

Chairman STOKES. Without objec [The information follows:]

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Ray, James Earl Ray's brother. I was asked to come to Memphis to talk with him. I told him that I would not go to talk with James Earl Ray unless James Earl Ray himself wrote a letter asking that I come, and I did receive such a letter. It came to my office about the 8th—7th or 8th—of November, and—

Mr. BEESON. Where was your office located, Mr. Foreman?

Mr. FOREMAN. Houston, Tex. I was in Waco or near Waco, trying a lawsuit when the letter came. It was read to me over the phone.

Mr. BEESON. Who read the letter to you?

Mr. FOREMAN. My secretary. I went back to my office, and I went by appointment with Jerry and John, who called me. Jerry Ray and John Ray, brothers of James Earl Ray, called me and arranged to meet me in Memphis, and we did meet at the airport. They met me. They were already there. We went to the Admiral Benbow Motel and thence to the Shelby County Jail.

Mr. BEESON. Mr. Foreman, you said you returned to the office. You were in Waco when you were read the letter. You said you were in your office before going to Memphis; is that correct?

Mr. FOREMAN. Yes.

Mr. BEESON. Did you have an opportunity to see the letter at that time?

Mr. FOREMAN. I didn't catch your question.

Mr. BEESON. Did you have an opportunity when you returned to your office to see Mr. Ray's letter?

Mr. FOREMAN. Yes; I did.

Mr. BEESON. Mr. Ray has emphatically denied sending you a letter, Mr. Foreman, is he lying in his denial?

Mr. FOREMAN. If he is speaking, the chances are he is lying, and he is lying when he says he did not write me that letter.

Mr. BEESON. Where is the letter now?

Mr. FOREMAN. The letter with all of the files in the Ray case is in John Hooker's home in the suburbs of Nashville, Tenn., is where I last heard, delivered to my attorney, John Hooker.

Mr. BEESON. When did you deliver the letter to Mr. Hooker?

Mr. FOREMAN. When he directed that I bring him all of my files, suggested that I do so, and it was in connection with this suit that James Earl Ray had filed against Bradford, William Bradford Huie, and me; and I can't fix the time, but it was—we were served within a week after the service of citation on me in that suit.

Mr. BEESON. Have you made an effort to locate the files in the Ray case recently, Mr. Foreman?

Mr. FOREMAN. Yes; I have. John Hooker has died and his firm claims they do not have that set of files in the office. I don't know what disposition was made of it. At the same time I left my files, I left another briefcase and an overcoat, and I got the briefcase and overcoat, but not the files.

Mr. BEESON. To the best of your knowledge then, you are unaware of the location of the letter at this time; is that correct?

Mr. FOREMAN. I have no idea where any of the papers—it was a large box; I guess 2 feet by 3 feet by 12 inches.

Mr. BEESON. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we could ask the committee clerk to hand Mr. Foreman a copy of Martin Luther King exhibit F-253?

[The information follows:]

## "RAY WANTED TO WIN AGAINST CONSPIRACY"

BY PERCY FOREMAN



Dr. M. T. Hester, I a physical virus at a rate. "As I shall be long enough and I out of a when a murder as Foreman, the court log he is; he hopes from some point. He

he be preparing to divide his worldly goods of some, with me?

When, last November, the brothers Ray sought me out and handed me a letter, I did Shelby County Jail in Memphis and a guards to ask: "Jim, did you do it? Thursday, April 4, 1968, James Ray the vicinity of 422 1/2, South Main St and that is not one of the Volstead 50 son's several game preserves.

I assumed that Ray had sent for me him, but to try to save his life. I then would, spent 40 hours in conversation deservicing to bring him to believe the about the law than he did, after which in the only way I thought it could be as this so mean achievement.

Why did Ray kill Dr. Martin Luther King? In public discussion, I necessarily time of why to doctors of philosophy defined criminals, I won't write essays my rate and offer a few pointed runs.

The mouth-filling word "mass" has been popularized by people who have meaning. Others have defined it: An avert killer for him. Under the popular definition, the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy; assassinations. But they were not assassinated killings; and Lee Harvey Oswald, J. and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan were and vice, but killers.

Why did they kill? They seek to to honor of them. They wanted and headlines. Front-page pictures. A by action. A shortcut to fame. To earn them, notoriety and fame are synonym men study, plan and struggle a list these killers thought they could win? What did they have to lose? The

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main loop gave this is a lie,  
HS got had smart loop,  
but they let him lie