

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. DeLoach ✓
- Mr. Mohr ✓
- Mr. Bishop ✓
- Mr. Casper ✓
- Mr. Callahan ✓
- Mr. Conrad ✓
- Mr. Felt ✓
- Mr. Gale ✓
- Mr. Rosen ✓
- Mr. Sullivan ✓
- Mr. Tavel ✓
- Mr. Trotter ✓
- Tele. Room ✓
- Miss Holmes ✓
- Miss Gandy ✓

3/11/69

MR. TOLSON:

RE: JAMES EARL RAY
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

Now that Ray has been convicted and is serving a 99-year sentence, I would like to suggest that the Director allow us to choose a friendly, capable author, or the Reader's Digest, and proceed with a book based on this case.

A carefully written, factual book would do much to preserve the true history of this case. While it will not dispel or put down future rumors, it would certainly help to have a book of this nature on college and high school library shelves so that the future would be protected.

Whom do you suggest?

I would also like to suggest that consideration be given to advising a friendly newspaper contact, on a strictly confidential basis, that Coretta King and Reverend Abernathy are deliberately plotting to keep King's assassination in the news by pulling the ruse of maintaining that King's murder was definitely a conspiracy and not committed by one man. This, of course, is obviously a rank trick in order to keep the money coming in to Mrs. King, Abernathy, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. We can do this without any attribution to the FBI and without anyone knowing that the information came from a wire tap.

Respectfully,

C. D. DeLoach

CDD:CSH (3)

cc Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Bishop

See ADDENDUM... page 2

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MAR 26 1969

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3/12/69

If the Director approves, we have in mind considering cooperating in the preparation of a book with either the Reader's Digest or author Gerold Frank. The Reader's Digest would assign one of their staff writers or contract the preparation of a book out to an established author. Gerold Frank is a well-known author whose most recent book is "The Boston Strangler." Frank is already working on a book on the Ray case and has asked the Bureau's cooperation in the preparation of the book on a number of occasions. We have nothing derogatory on him in our files, and our relationship with him has been excellent. His publisher is Doubleday.

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Several Books Planned on Ray Case; First

to Be Out Next Week

By MARTIN WALDRON

MEMPHIS, March 12—(Next Edition) James Earl Ray is Memphis's biggest industry," Foreman said last fall. He succeeded Arthur J. Hanes as Ray's lawyer.

Foreman, who said he promised no fee for defending Ray on a murder charge in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, at the time also scorned the "press" and its curiosity about Ray.

Books in Preparation

Chief target of the Hanes lawyer's scorn seemed to be Bradford Huie, the author who had the rights to Ray's life and was getting hand-me-downs from the Shelby County jail. He had written two articles about Ray for Look maga-

zine, at least five books about Earl Ray and the assassination of Dr. King were in the air.

Dr. Foreman had succeeded Hanes, of Birmingham, not only as Ray's lawyer but also as a business partner of Mr. Huie.

The books on Ray assassination is ready for printing and distribution. Editor by Clay Blair, editor of the Saturday Evening Post.

Three Authors

Books said that Mr. Huie, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray," would be published next Monday or Tuesday. It will be a history of the courtroom proceedings last Monday when Ray pleaded guilty to murdering Dr. King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Mr. Frank, who has written best-sellers, among them "Stranger in the Land of Atlanta," "The Nashville Story," and "The Memphis Story," said Mr. Huie's book may be comprehensive. With a price of \$100,000, it will be a water-logged research book for Doubleday.

Mr. Huie's authors have been asked to write

Dr. King's murder was the result of a conspiracy, Mr. Frank said that he was trying to get more evidence before making a decision.

'History of Ineptitude'

"I hope my book will be a full history of the assassination of Martin Luther King and what happened on all levels. And if there was a conspiracy, I hope to know that. I will try to tell the entire unfolding story," Mr. Frank said.

"From Ray's history of ineptitude," he said, "I would assume that he was helped in the assassination or preceding it, but that it was not necessarily a conspiracy."

"If we knew the true motivation, it might well explode any idea of conspiracy," he continued. "On the other hand, you cannot apply the normal measures of logic to a man who has spent most of his life behind bars. If he did this alone, he may have been turned on for reasons lost in the depth of his own personality."

Doubts a Conspiracy

Mr. Frank, who began his research last July, said that he had not paid any money to any of the principals or to anyone else for information.

Mr. McMillan said that his book, "Portrait of an Assassin," would be a psychological study of Ray. It will be published by Little Brown & Co. Mr. McMillan said that he had a "very happy contract" and that foreign reprint contracts had already been signed by publishers in eight countries.

"I have always believed that James Earl Ray did it alone," he said. "This guy is a loner. And I have never investigated any aspect of a conspiracy, which has left me free to work on this biography."

Mr. McMillan said that he had hired a psychiatrist to help him interpret the psychological effect on Ray of his many years in prison, his background of poverty and his family life.

"Things like, what does it do to a guy to sleep in the same bed with his parents when he is growing up," he said.

Mr. McMillan said his book was to have been published four months after the end of Ray's trial. The date may be pushed forward, he said.

Mr. Squires' book to be published by New American Library, may be the second book out on Ray. Mr. Squires, who has covered the case for his newspaper, The Nashville Tennessean, said the writing should be completed in the next two weeks.

He said he hoped the book would be a "complete account of the murder of Dr. King, the arrest of Ray, the hiring and firing of Hanes and what went on in Memphis."

The book has not yet been titled.

Mr. Huie, who bought the publication rights to Ray's life story last July, originally had signed a contract calling for proceeds from a book to be split between himself, Mr. Hanes and Ray.

Disbelieves Theory

He paid an advance of \$25,000 to Ray, who signed the money over to Mr. Hanes as part of his legal fee.

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
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- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times 20
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Daily World _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Examiner (Washington) _____

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Mr. Huie, a resident of Tallapoosa, Ala., who is the author of a half-dozen best sellers, wrote in the two articles for Look magazine last fall that

Ray said there had been a conspiracy to murder Dr. King.

However, Mr. Huie said in Memphis this week that he no longer believed in the conspiracy theory.

Mr. Huie said that Ray had told him that the assassin went into a rooming house and shot at Dr. King across the street while Ray was seated in front of the rooming house in the driver's seat of a white Mustang car.

The author quoted Ray as saying that the assassin rushed down the stairs of the rooming house and hid on the floor of the back seat of the car, covering himself with a sheet while Ray drove him out of town.

"When I could not find the man, I concluded that Ray himself made the decision to kill Dr. King," Mr. Huie said.

A third article for Look was prepared this week by Mr. Huie and Mr. Foreman. In addition, Mr. Huie is completing a book on Dr. King's assassination for the Dell Publishing Company. The book, which will concentrate on activities of Ray before and after the murder, has been tentatively titled, "He Slew the Dreamer."

Although Mr. Hanes still has a claim against a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Mr. Huie's book, the Alabama author told reporters in Memphis this week that he had a contract with Mr. Foreman.



Terry Foreman

United Press International
William Bradford Huie