

3/11/69

- 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 ✓

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 see...*

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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12 MAR 26 1969

*See attached Jones to Bishop 3/20/69*  
*done to change...*  
*3/20/69*  
*G...*

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ADDENDUM OF MR. DE LOACH

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.

N.Y.

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T.S.B.

G.H. L.  
H

# Several Books Planned on Ray Case; First

## to Be Out Next Week

By MARTIN WALDRON  
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, March 12—“Next cotton, James Earl Ray is Memphis's biggest industry,” Foreman said last fall when 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 hiring press and its curiosity about Ray.

**Books in Preparation**  
Chief target of the Hous-  
swever's scorn seemed to  
William Bradford Huie, the  
author who had  
the rights to Ray's life  
and was getting hand-  
memorandums from  
the Shelby County jail.  
He had written two ar-  
ticles about Ray for Look maga-

zine last week, at least five books  
about James Earl Ray and the as-  
sassination of Dr. King were in  
preparation.

Mr. Foreman had suc-  
ceeded Mr. Hanes, of Birming-  
ham, not only as Ray's lawyer  
but also as a business partner  
of Mr. Huie.

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

**Other Authors**  
Books said that Mr.  
Frank, “The Strange  
Case of James Earl Ray,” would  
be published Monday or  
Tuesday. It will be a history of  
the murder, with a  
chapter on the courtroom pro-  
ceedings last Monday when  
Ray pleaded guilty to murder-  
ing Dr. King and was sen-  
tenced to 99 years in prison.

Mr. Frank, who has  
written best-sellers, among  
them “Boston Strangler,”  
“The Millan of Atlanta,”  
“The James, a Nashville  
Story,” and Mr. Huie.

Mr. Frank's book may be  
the most comprehensive. With  
an advance of \$100,000,  
Mr. Frank plans to  
conduct research on  
Ray's life for Doub-

leday. Other authors have  
agreed to publish their  
books as to whether

Dr. King's murder was the re-  
sult 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 assassina-  
tion 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 in-  
eptitude,” he said, “I would  
assume that he was helped in  
the assassination or preceding  
it, but that it was not neces-  
sarily a conspiracy.”

“If we knew the true motiva-  
tion, it might well explode any  
idea of conspiracy,” he con-  
tinued. “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. Mc-  
Millan 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's 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
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- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

Date MAR 13 1969

44-211-5624  
ENCLOSURE

Mr. Huie, a resident of Mobile, 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.

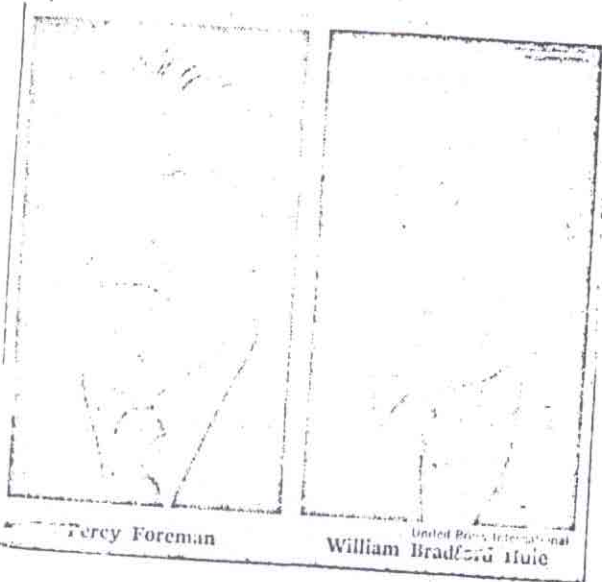
Mr. Huie said that Ray had told him that the assassin went into a rooming house and shot at Dr. King across the street while Ray was seated in front of the rooming house in the driver's seat of a white Mustang car.

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