

S.F. EXAM - 20 APR 68
\$100,000

For King Assassin

MEMPHIS — (UPI) — Wanted posters no longer read "dead or alive," but rewards still are offered. The rifle slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King has a \$100,000 price tag.

That dangling enticement is one of the biggest reasons for hope the assassin will be located. It has enlisted countless amateur detectives into the massive manhunt for the suspect, James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard and other names.

The man who gives authorities the tip that results in the apprehension of the assassin probably could lay claim to the money.

But he will have to wait several years before the money is really his. He may have to share it with others. And he may have to go to court to get even a bit of it.

The Memphis city council has agreed to underwrite rewards up to \$100,000. The Commercial Appeal, a Memphis newspaper, and the Scripps-Howard newspapers, have offered \$25,000 each.

City businessmen have pledged another \$25,000. The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees has offered \$10,000 and at least one Memphis firm has put up \$1500.

The offers stipulate the money would go to the person who gives "information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons" responsible for the slaying.

How King Suspect Escaped

Jefferson City, Mo.

James Earl Ray escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary here just one year ago probably hidden under a batch of bread, Warden Harold Swenson said yesterday.

Ray, wanted for the April 4 murder of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, escaped the prison on April 23, 1967.

He was admitted to the state penitentiary in 1960 from St. Louis, following conviction there for auto theft and first degree robbery which brought him a sen-

tence totaling 20 years.

"He was reported missing at the 5 p.m. count," Warden Swenson said.

"We never proved this to an absolute certainty, but we completely believe he was concealed in a bread box — a wooden box in which we take bread to other prisons."

The warden said the batch of bread in question was being driven to a prison farm, called Renz farm, about five miles from the main prison.

"There is evidence — we never did find conspirators

— that he was hidden with the bread on top of his body. The bread arrived in bad condition at the farm."

Warden Swenson, who is in charge of 2000 convicts, said Ray "was a constant disciplinary problem. He was always trying to hide out. We found him hidden, inside the prison walls, two or three times."

"He always seemed to work alone. If he hid or did anything he never seemed to have anybody with him."

Reuters

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