

## Prison Talk of 'Bounty' on King

Dalton, Ga.

A convicted murderer who was in prison with the mysterious James Earl Ray, now hunted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, said yesterday he heard Ray say he would be willing to try to collect a "million-dollar bounty" for killing the civil rights leader.

Raymond Curtis, 40, the same age as Ray, is serving a life sentence at Whitfield county jail. Curtis said he and Ray were prisoners at the Missouri State Penitentiary when President Kennedy was assassinated November 22, 1963.

"Another boy said, 'Well, there's a million-dollar bounty to get King.' King was running his mouth pretty

good then. Ray said, 'If there is a million-dollar bounty on King, I believe I can collect it.'" Curtis said in an interview.

Curtis said he met Ray in 1955 when both were prisoners in Jackson county jail at Kansas City, Mo., again when Ray was transferred to Leavenworth Federal Prison to serve a term for forging postal money orders, and finally when both were serving armed robbery sentences at Missouri State Penitentiary. Missouri prison records confirm that Curtis and Ray were inmates at the same time.

The two saw each other "almost daily" Curtis said.

It was in the prison yard, Curtis said, that he and Ray saw television reports of Mr.



AP Wirephoto

RAYMOND CURTIS  
Prison friend of Ray

Kennedy's assassination.

A few days later, he said, a new prisoner came in and said that a \$1 million bounty had been put on Dr. King by a "K-K businessmen's association."

Associated Press