

# Fugitive Kit Costs Only \$15

Chicago Daily News

TORONTO — For less than \$15 James Earl Ray bought himself the standard Canadian international fugitive kit — a passport and two phony birth certificates.

The kit took him to England and Portugal in a two-month-long flight from Memphis, Tenn. He even picked up a second passport along the way with little trouble.

In spite of the ease in which Ray equipped himself with two false identities during a month hiding out in Toronto, Canadian officials have no intention of changing regulations.

## UPROAR BEFORE

External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp said the government does not want to interfere with the right of Canadian citizens to remain one of the most traveled peoples in the world.

Canadian immigration has weathered the storm before when this country's passports were misused by criminals and Soviet spies.

Spy Gordon Lonsdale, a Russian citizen, had a Canadian passport when he was arrested in London.

An officer in the intelligence branch of the Soviet Navy came to Canada in 1954, and in less than a year he had a passport and birth certificate, went to Britain and set himself up in business.

## EASY METHOD

There are many other stories, some alarming.

It is ridiculously easy to plunk down \$5 and get a passport in Canada.

You send in a filled-in form along with two pictures of yourself. Ray even had travel bureau clerk Lillian Spencer fill in his forms as a convenience to him. He paid \$3 extra for the service.

One requirement states you must have the signature of the sponsor. A number of occupations of acceptable sponsors are listed such as accountants, policemen, lawyers, doctors or judges.

## NEVER SAW HIM

To get around the requirement, however, it is simple to make a declaration that you have known no qualified sponsor for the required two years.

The declaration has to be notarized, but in Ray's case a notary at the travel agency signed his form without even seeing him.

If you're in a hurry you can get a passport in Ottawa with only a few hours' cursory check. Otherwise it takes about five days to a week to mail your application (no fingerprints needed) and get your completed passport.