

Page 14—S.F. Examiner ***** Wed., July 17, 1968

Letter to Brothers

Ray Financial Questions

Chicago Daily News

CHICAGO — A letter written by James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, has raised some puzzling questions about the condition of his wallet.

Ray, in a short, handwritten note, asked his two brothers, John and Jerry, to send \$600 to Birmingham Attorney Arthur J. Hanes, who has agreed to represent him.

The letter was mailed from the London prison where Ray is held under maximum security pending extradition, possibly tonight.

Ray promised his brothers he would "straighten it up with you when I get back."

The request implies that Ray may have an independent source of money.

'BOUNTY' PROMISED?

Reports have circulated that King was shot for a "bounty" ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 promised by a shadowy association of "southern businessmen."

However, John Ray noted, "if he was supposed to be

paid so much money for that killing, why does he have to ask us for \$600?"

When arrested June 9 in the London airport, Ray had \$168 in his pockets, obviously not enough to pay a lawyer for a murder case.

CASH FOR COURSES

FBI reports said Ray took a four-week course in bartending in Hollywood last winter. Officials at the school said Ray paid \$225 cash for the course.

Shortly before that, he reportedly paid \$465 in cash for a 50-hour dance course at the National Dante Studios in nearby Long Beach.

In August, 1967, in Birmingham, Ala., he rented a room in a \$22-a-week boarding house. Officials said he also rented a safe deposit box at the Birmingham National Bank, and FBI agents said Ray spent about \$4000 during the autumn months he lived there — apparently without working. He also bought a white Mustang, giving the owner his asking price of \$1995.

Even Ray's brothers

conceded he had to have a source of income to spend cash like that.

"He didn't like to spend a penny," John said. "I used to call him the Scotchman because he was so tightfisted."

PICTURE CHANGES

The financial picture on Ray changes drastically after the slaying.

He reportedly arrived in Toronto April 8, where he took a \$10-a-week room in a small rooming house. Eleven days later he shifted to a \$9-a-week room, where he paid for his first week with a \$20 Canadian bill.

In the meantime, he was obtaining a passport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and arranging for a round-trip flight to London.

On May 6, Ray took off, after paying \$345 in cash for the 21-day excursion ticket — the cheapest air route across the Atlantic.

In London, he immediately cashed in the return portion of his ticket and bought a passage to Lisbon.

There, he checked into the third-rate, \$2-a-day Hotel

Portugal on the Lisbon waterfront.

RETURNS TO ENGLAND

Ray checked out of the Hotel Portugal May 17 and turned up again May 28 at the Earl Court Hotel in London, where he paid \$5 a day for a cell-like room.

Speculation is that Ray had received money in Lisbon, via a Swiss bank, and that he was embarking on another trip to the treasure chest when he was arrested.