

Ray Attorney Says Trial Impossible

Memphis

Attorneys for James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, said yesterday "pervasive and widespread" publicity in the case has cost Ray his chance for a fair trial anywhere in the United States.

A motion filed with the Shelby county clerk of court asked that murder charges against Ray be dropped.

It said King has been "canonized" by the press and Ray had been made the object of "widespread public outrage and hatred."

ATTORNEY

Arthur J. Hanes Jr., defense attorney with his father

for Ray, filed three motions in the case. Hearings on them before criminal court Judge Preston Battle were scheduled for September 6.

The second motion asked the state of Tennessee to make available to the defense all physical evidence, from prison and Army records to ballistic tests on the bullet that killed King. It also demanded prosecution witnesses be made available for questioning.

RIFLE

The third motion filed by Hanes asked that a charge of carrying a dangerous weapon be dropped. It said Ray was extradited from England to stand trial only for murder and not for any lesser

charge.

King was assassinated April 4 by a single rifle shot which the FBI says was fired by a sniper hiding in a flophouse bathroom as King stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel 100 yards away.

Ray was the object of the FBI's most extensive manhunt until his arrest June 8 at a London airport. He waived extradition and was returned to Memphis.

Since his arraignment, at which he pleaded not guilty, Ray has been under intense security at the Shelby county jail in a suite of four air conditioned cells. His windows are sealed with steel plates.

King Suspect's Contract For His Escape Story

Memphis

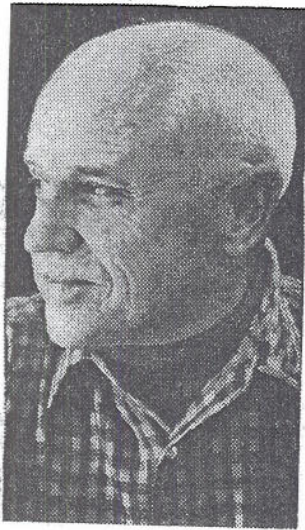
An Alabama author has signed contracts with James Earl Ray, accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King, giving him publication and motion picture rights to Ray's experiences.

The author, William Bradford Huie, said that he had paid Ray money for information which Ray had given him under the contracts, and indicated that Ray had used the funds to pay the Alabama lawyer who is defending him.

However, Huie and the lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, disagreed over what role, if any, Hanes played in negotiations toward the contracts.

ACCOUNT

Huie, a crusading anti-racist who is also the author of such steaming sex novels as "The Revolt of Mamie Stover," in a telephone interview from his home in Hartselle, Ala., said that Ray had given the writer a 10,000-word personal account of his recent experiences and that this information will be



WRITER HUIE
10,000 words

the basis for several articles Huie plans to write soon.

The question arose as to whether the transfer of this information conformed with strict guidelines ordered by the judge who will hear Ray's case. Huie was in Memphis Wednesday and talked with the judge, W.

Preston Battle, about that point.

Judge Battle has ordered all parties to the case not to release to the public extrajudicial information about the case. There have been reports here that these guidelines may be amended to prohibit further transfer of information among Ray, Hanes and Huie.

RIGHT

But Huie said he was prepared to defend in court, if necessary, Ray's right to talk to whom he pleases and to tell his story. And Hanes commented heatedly, "I'm not going to abide by anybody's order if my client is treated unfairly." Judge Battle declines to discuss the issue.

However, Huie indicated that his initial writings about Ray will not deal with the period between March 25 of this year and shortly after April 4, when Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis. Huie's contracts with Ray give him rights to Ray's experiences since he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967.

Hanes said he played no role in the negotiations and had nothing to do with the 10,000-word account Ray had written for Huie.

RECORD

That account, Huie said, is a "day-by-day" record of Ray's story, "his escape, the people he contacted, where he went, whom he saw, his way of life."

Huie said Ray's account characterizes the accused assassin as a man who led a lonely life of crime, a literate writer and a reader of books "who was used by forces he didn't understand."

He said Ray does not fit into the image of a racist who would kill a Negro in an attempt to slow down the tide of racial change.

RACISTS

He said he does not believe Ray is a racist and that "there is a great deal of difference between him" and white racists who had killed Negroes in civil rights slayings in the South.

Huie is, among other books the author of "The Klansman," a novel which is an angry attack against racism and a protest against white

OVER

supremacy. He has also written "Three Lives for Mississippi," the story of the three civil rights workers murdered in Philadelphia, Miss., in 1964.

He lives in what he calls the "middle of Wallace country," in a heavily guarded house. Despite many threats he and his teacher-wife have never been harmed, and he says that Wallace does not represent the "New South," which will soon replace his kind. Huie recently gave a \$500 prize to a young Ala-Negr who would support Wallace for president.

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