

Movie Rights

\$175,000 Offered For Ray's Story

NEW YORK — (AP) — Percy Foreman, the lawyer who advised James Earl Ray to plead guilty to the Martin Luther King Jr., assassination, said today an offer of \$175,000 has been made for the movie rights to the story.

Foreman said the offer was made by Carlo Ponti, film producer and husband of Italian actress Sophia Loren, to William Bradford Huie, Ray's official biographer.

"And I'll get 60 percent of it," Foreman said in his New York hotel.

Foreman said Look magazine has guaranteed another \$85,000 for Huie's series of articles on Ray's life, and that he is entitled to 60 percent of that also.

The Houston lawyer, who

successfully defended Candy Mossler and her nephew Melvin Powers in 1966 against a charge of murdering her husband, said Ray himself had fixed the attorney fee at \$150,000.

Ray's brother, Jerry, was quoted by the Nashville Tennessean yesterday as saying the accused slayer was placed under financial pressure by Foreman to plead guilty and take a prison sentence.

"Foreman said he would take \$150,000 if my brother pleaded guilty, but he wanted everything he would ever earn if he didn't," the Tennessean quoted Jerry Ray as saying.

Foreman described this as "a bunch of —."