

## Expected Pardon

# 'Ray's Motive Was To Elect Wallace

NEW YORK — (AP) — James Earl Ray thought assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King would help elect George Wallace president, author William Bradford Huie says, and he expected to be pardoned for the slaying after Wallace's inauguration.

Huie, an Alabaman who bought publication rights to Ray's story of his life, says Ray considers himself a political prisoner and expects to be freed within four years. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years.

Huie analyzes Ray's motives in the current issue of *Look* magazine, with information supplied by Ray, his lawyers and his family.

### Changes His Mind

Huie said last October that "powerful men probably made the decision to kill Dr. King." But he has changed his mind.

"One or two men other than James Earl Ray may have had foreknowledge of this murder, and that makes a little conspiracy," Huie said this week. "But if there was a conspiracy, I now believe that James Earl Ray was probably its leader, not its tool or its dupe."

*Look* also carries articles by Percy Foreman of Houston, who was Ray's lawyer when he pleaded guilty, and Arthur J. Hanes, one of Ray's earlier lawyers. Fore-

man agrees with Huie that Ray was the lone killer, but Hanes dissents.

### 'Ray Wasn't Alone'

"I still believe that Ray killed Dr. King because he was directed to do it," Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., wrote. "Despite his plea of guilty in court, I also feel that Ray did not carry out the murder entirely alone."

Foreman wrote:

"I don't believe there was any conspiracy, Ray thinks that the war between the races is imminent, and he wanted to fire the first shot."

Huie agreed with Foreman on that. He said:

"Ray took what he regards as a political action approved by millions of Americans. Ray thinks he fired the first shot in a social or racial conflict, a second civil war, which will eventually result in his being freed."