
Brother of Ray Freed in Shooting

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Jerry William Ray, brother of the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is a free man today, and the 17-year-old youth he was accused of shooting begins serving a one-year probated sentence.

A Superior Court jury, which included one Negro, deliberated less than two hours yesterday before acquitting Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, of aggravated assault in the July 25 shooting of Steven Donald Black of Athens, Ala.

Black, who lay in critical condition for nine days with a chest wound following the shooting, pleaded guilty immediately after Ray's acquittal to a charge of theft by taking.

The 35-year-old Ray claimed he shot the youth in self-defense after Black attempted to steal records from the Savannah headquarters of the National States Rights party.
