Playboy Magazine

Lie Detector Test —'Ray Killed King'

Chicago

A lie detector test indicates James Earl Ray killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and acted alone, Playboy magazine interviews said yesterday in a story in the magazine's September issue.

The polygraph test was the first Ray has taken since he was arrested June 8, 1968, Playboy said. It said the questioning was done at Brushy Mountain penitentiary in Tennessee June 22.

The key sequence is:

Q: Did you kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

Q: Do you know for sure who killed Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

Officials of John E. Reid and Associates, the polygraph firm that handled the test, said Ray's involuntary responses indicated he lied, Playboy reported.

The next sequence is:

Q: Did anyone ask you to kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Rav: No

Q: Did you arrange with anyone to kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No

Q: Did anyone give you money to kill Martin Luther King Jr.?

Ray: No.

The experts said that on the

basis of the polygraph reading, "he is telling the truth on the above listed questions."

Playboy's authors, summarizing the findings, said "the polygraph tests indicate that Ray did, in fact, kill Martin Luther King Jr. and that he did so alone."

Ray, informed of the results of the examination, was quoted as saying he does not believe liedetector tests are accurate.

"Senator Sam Ervin, I think, called it a medieval contraption or something," Ray said. "See, when I took the test, I had a headache all day. I took a bunch of aspirin. I don't know if that would affect the test or not. They also asked me a series of (control) questions about other robberies — a lot of those questions can cause certain anxiety if you're accused of them.

"I think it's best to answer questions when you're not hooked up and all that stuff — machines."

Half of the interview was conducted after Ray was recaptured in June after he escaped briefly from Brushy Mountain.

Ray said he escaped in hopes of "making some sort of arrangements to turn myself in an exchange for a trial."

He said he was aware that type of negotiation seldom works and hoped to entice Attorney General Griffin Bell "into some type of friend of the court arrangement with my lawyer."

United Press