

Page 8—S.F. Examiner ☆☆☆ Fri., Apr. 19, 1968

Suspect's Record

Sentenced To 20 Yrs.

ST. LOUIS (Mo.) — (UPI) — A man identified as James Earl Ray, sought as the suspected killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Dec. 17, 1959, in St. Louis circuit court on armed robbery charges, police records show.

At the time, records showed that Ray was 30 years old and was living in St. Louis.

Ray and another ex-convict, James Owens, were charged with the \$190 robbery of a store on the St. Louis south side.

Ray denied the charge previously on Oct. 19, 1959. At the same time, he faced two other felony charges, robbery and driving an automobile without the owner's consent.

A jury in the court of



James Earl Ray as he appeared in 1960.

Judge John Casey deliberated 20 minutes before convicting Ray.

Casey assessed the punishment under the Missouri habitual criminal act. When Ray was being taken to the courtroom, he attempted to escape by jumping into a third floor elevator.

A deputy handcuffed Ray and brought him to the courtroom.

Ray made three attempts to escape from the state penitentiary. In 1961 he made his first unsuccessful attempt and in 1966 he escaped from his cell, but was found hiding in a ventilation shaft.

He escaped for the third time in April of last year, after serving seven years of his 20-year term.

Suspect Had Eight Names

Do any of these names sound familiar? The FBI says the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King has used them all:

- James Earl Ray.
- Eric Starvo Galt.
- Harvey Lowmyer.
- John Willard.
- James McBride.
- James Walton.
- W. C. Herron.
- James O'Conner.