

Payoff Hinted

Ray Paid to Kill King, His Brother Infers

Chicago Sun-Times

CHICAGO — The brother of James Earl Ray hinted broadly today that Ray might have been hired to kill Dr. Martin Luther King.

He said Ray had no animus against Negroes, but that he obviously had received a large financial payoff recently.

He appealed to Ray to surrender.

At the same time, the brother voiced doubts that the country's most-wanted fugitive is still alive. And Jerry Ray, 32, said other members of his family also fear the accused assassin of the Rev. King may be dead.

The brother works as a maintenance man at a Chicago country club.

"MOST WANTED"

Ray described his brother as "the hottest man in the country . . . the most wanted man there ever was.

"If he is still alive, I urge him to surrender to the FBI or to contact someone in the family and ask them to make surrender arrangements."

Jerry Ray described himself as "the closest person to my brother," but said the last time he saw him was in prison last year. That visit was shortly before James Earl Ray escaped from the prison at Jefferson City, Mo.

PAYOFF

In discussing the killing of Dr. King, Ray said he found it difficult to believe his brother pulled the trigger because he "never was a man of violence."

"Check his record of all the trouble he's ever been in, and you'll find he never fired a gun or pistol-whipped anyone or slapped anyone



JERRY RAY
Suspect's brother

around," the brother said. "That wasn't his style."

But Ray conceded his brother could have been "used," as he put it, by persons conspiring to kill Dr. King.

The brother obviously had received a large payoff at some point, Ray said.

"Look at all the money he came into all of a sudden," he continued. "Buying Mus-

tangs, taking dancing lessons, taking trips to Mexico. Look at the mileage he put on his car.

"You don't get that kind of money from sticking up grocery stores, and my brother wasn't the kind to stick up currency exchanges."

James Earl Ray never displayed animosity toward Negroes, according to the brother.

"My brother wasn't about to shoot a man because he was colored," he said.

Asked what caused his brother to go wrong, Ray said, "it's the old routine — a broken family, poor and in need."

He said if the brother "makes contact with the people who used him, he will be dead."

He also said he feared some "trigger-happy ex-con" might kill his brother "because there's such a big bounty on his head."

And at another point, "if he's still alive, the FBI's going to get him, you can be sure of that."

Ray's Brother Quits Job, Disappears

CHICAGO — (AP) — Jerry Ray, brother of the man sought on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has quit his job at a north suburban golf club and disappeared, the Chicago Tribune said today.

Ray's disappearance was reported a few hours after he appealed through an interview with another Chicago morning newspaper, the Sun-Times, for his brother,

James Earl Ray, to surrender.

The Tribune quoted an official at the Sportsman Country Club near Northbrook as saying Jerry Ray quit his job at the club a day after his photograph appeared in a national magazine.

Ray had used a Wheeling post office address but lived in a room at the club, the paper said.