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Adv for 6 p.m. EST today Monday Oct. 28

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NEW YORK AP — James Earl Ray's biographer said Monday the accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was tempted out of a Canadian hideout months before the killing by a \$12,000 offer to make a mystery mission to Birmingham, Ala.

At the time, August, 1967, Ray was a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary, where he had brought off a successful escape the previous April.

The assassination of King occurred in Memphis, Tenn., last April 4. Ray's trial is scheduled to begin Nov. 12.

In the first installment of a series in Look magazine, author William Bradford Huie said Ray told him the money offer came in a Montreal waterfront cafe from "a man whom Ray calls Raoul and describes to me as being a blond Latin about 36, and whom Ray took to be a seaman."

Huie said Ray told him of half a dozen meetings with Raoul, during which the proposition boiled down to this:

Ray would meet Raoul in a railroad station at Windsor on Aug. 21

and prepare to make several trips across the border from Windsor to Detroit, carrying packages with unspecified contents hidden in a car.

Ray would then sell the car and go by train or bus to Birmingham. There he would lie low, try to establish a false identity and wait for instructions by general delivery mail.

Raoul would pay his living expenses and come to Birmingham himself to buy Ray a "suitable car," Huie wrote:

"After a few weeks or months, after a little joint activity, Raoul would pay Ray \$12,000 and give him a passport and 'other identification' and help him go 'anywhere in the world.'"

Ray, Huie said, was wary of returning to the United States because he feared he might be caught and sent back to the penitentiary.

He had become intimate with a pretty Canadian government worker in Ottawa and hoped he could persuade her to provide him with an identification to obtain a Canadian passport so that he could flee to somewhere in Latin America.

Huie said Ray related that after his talks with Raoul

"I didn't know what to do."

"If I took Raoul's proposition, I had to go back to the States and risk the Missouri pen again. I didn't want to do that. I had sworn I'd never go back," Huie quoted Ray.

"But I was running out of capital again, and I didn't want to risk another holdup in Canada (earlier Ray had told Huie of an \$800 gunpoint robbery at a house of prostitution in Montreal).

"I couldn't get on a ship. I couldn't get I.D. identification. So I told Raoul okay I'd meet him in Windsor. But I didn't know then whether I'd meet him or not.

"The woman in Ottawa seemed to like me. She was my last chance. I hadn't had time to talk to her in Montreal about the passport. So now I was going to Ottawa and tell her something about myself, and if she'd help me get the passport, I wasn't going to meet Raoul."

Ray said he met the woman in Ottawa on Aug. 19 but decided that if he told her the truth about himself she would probably turn him over to the authorities.

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Hule wrote that he had interviewed the Ottawa woman, whose name and address he obtained from Ray, and that she said:

"The saddest part is that if he had told me, I guess I would have turned him down. I don't think I would have delivered him to the Mounties, but I couldn't have sworn a lie and helped him get the passport.

"When he left me, he said he had to meet a man in Windsor. But he insisted he would see me again.

He wrote me from the States. His last letter came in March of this year. He wanted to know when I was taking my vacation so that he could meet me.

"I kept his letters. But then, of course, when the stories came out, I tore them up, hoping no one would ever find out I had known him."

The first installment of the Hule account ended there.

Ray was arrested in London last June 8, carrying a fraudulent Canadian passport in the name Ramon George Sneyd.

Hule is the author of 16 books, including "The Execution of Private Slovik," "The Americanization of Emily" and "The Klansman."

He disclosed on Sept. 10 that he had bought Ray's life story and had already paid him \$25,000. Hule said he had not been permitted to visit Ray in the Memphis jail, but had received 20,000 handwritten words from the prisoner, expected another 30,000 and would polish the manuscript into a biography.

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