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Galt only

SURGEON 230

By GENE HANDSAKER

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HOLLYWOOD, Calif. AP - A man who identified himself as Eric Galt underwent plastic surgery in Hollywood "sometime before the assassination" of Martin Luther King, an attorney for the physician said Tuesday.

The lawyer for Dr. Russell E. Hadley said the plastic surgery was minor, of the type which would not materially change the man's appearance. He declined to give any details. Hadley referred all questions to the lawyer, Bennet Olan.

James Earl Ray, who the FBI said was known in the Los Angeles area early this year as Eric Galt, is charged with murdering Dr. King and awaits trial at Memphis, Tenn.

Olan said it was done "three or four weeks, I think" before the Negro civil rights leader was shot to death last April 4 in Memphis. He said Galt apparently asked the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the name of a qualified plastic surgeon in the Hollywood area because he told Dr. Hadley that the association had referred him.

"As soon as we discovered who the patient had been, the case was reported to the FBI," said Olan.

He said author William Bradford Huie had looked over Hadley's records after obtaining authorization from Galt. Without such authorization, he said, no one will be allowed to see the records.

The attorney said he doesn't think Hadley, a medical doctor, has been subpoenaed as a witness.

"I don't believe what he did was that relevant to the case," he added.

Olan said Galt left no impression on the doctor and that Hadley "has no independent recollection of the case."

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