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Magazine Article Says Ray Told of Being Offered \$12,000 in 1967 to Go to Birmingham

James Earl Ray, accused of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is reported to have told an interviewer that he met with a man five times in a Montreal tavern in August, 1967, and the man offered him \$12,000 to go to Birmingham, Ala., for an undisclosed mission.

Ray's reported comments are in an article by William Bradford Huie in the current issue of Look magazine. Mr. Huie says the article is based on written answers to questions he submitted to Ray, who is in a jail in Memphis, where Dr. King was slain last April 4. Ray's trial is to start Nov. 12.

Mr. Huie paid \$25,000 for the interview, which he arranged through Ray's lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham.

The article, which will be continued in the next issue of Look, does not discuss whether Ray said he had accepted the offer but says he reached Birmingham on Aug. 25, 1967. The man in Montreal is identi-

fied by Ray as a man named Raoul. The author says Ray described Raoul as a blond Latin about 35 years old; whom Ray took to be a seaman.

The two men were said to have met from Aug. 8 to 18, 1967, at the Neptune Tavern in Montreal, where Ray had fled after his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April.

According to the article, Raoul made the following propositions to Ray:

¶That Ray meet Raoul in the railroad station at Windsor, Canada, at 3 P.M. Monday, Aug. 21.

¶That Ray make several trips across the border to Detroit for Raoul, carrying packages in an old red Plymouth.

¶That Ray eventually sell the Plymouth and go by train or bus to Birmingham, and there "Ray would lie low, take no risks, pull no holdups, accumulate a little ID [identification] and wait for instructions by general delivery mail.

¶That Raoul would pay liv-

ing expenses and also come to Birmingham and buy Ray a suitable car.

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

The article says Ray was told not to ask any questions, although Raoul is said to have disclosed that he had spent some time in New Orleans and to have given a New Orleans telephone number to Ray.

He Got No Answers

Ray is quoted as having said: "Every time I tried to ask Raoul a question, he told me straight to remember that he wasn't paying me to ask questions."

Although the article is titled "The Story of James Earl Ray and the Plot to Assassinate Martin Luther King," it does not establish any plot to do so. Ray is never quoted as having mentioned Dr. King.

But the article says: "Only by understanding the insecur-

ity of a lone fugitive like Ray in today's complex society can anyone understand his involvement in the plot to murder Dr. King."

The article also gives Ray's account of how he escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City. He said he had hidden some clothes in a "bread room" of the kitchen where he worked. He said he watched a guard who was dozing and then ran 75 feet to a wall 23 feet high.

"But there is a truck tunnel through it," he is quoted as having said, "and where the wall meets the tunnel there is a water pipe that runs up about six feet. I got on top of the elbow of this water pipe, and with that hook [a four-foot hook stolen from the kitchen], using some cracks and crevices, I got to the top, then swung down and dropped.

He said he went toward Kansas City, then after five days caught a train for St. Louis. In East St. Louis, he said, a friend drove him to

Edwardsville, where he caught a bus for Chicago.

The article tells of Ray's having taken a job as a dishwasher in Winnetka, a suburb of Chicago, and having been greatly concerned about money and establishing some kind of identity. He is said to have wanted a Canadian passport

because he had read of other fugitives getting a Canadian passport and then fleeing to Brazil.

Ray said he went to Los Angeles and finally arrived in Montreal on July 18, never intending to return to the United States. The author says Ray was hopeful all the time that

he would meet a woman who would help him get a passport.

Ray was said to have met a woman, a Canadian government employe, at a resort area, the Gray Rocks Inn, on Lake Quimet, near Mt. Tremblant, in the Laurentians. Mr. Huie says he interviewed the woman and she verified their acquaintance.