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Ray Bjt 400 2 takes total 650
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JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. AP - During the seven years James Earl Ray was in the Missouri State Penitentiary, prison, records show he sent out \$210-thousands short of the amount he is estimated to have spent as an escaped convict and internationally hunted killer.

Estimates of his spending range from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The question of how he paid his way is crucial to various conspiracy theories, which hold that he was hired to assassinate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

His trail from prison went to Canada, Atlanta, Ga., Mexico, California, Memphis, Tenn., Canada, Portugal and finally London, where he was arrested.

In addition to \$102 sent to his brother Jerry, approximately \$108 was sent out by Ray to buy such things as legal briefs and other items from mail order houses.

The total \$210 outgo shown on the prison records could have been augmented in illegal and secret ways not known to penitentiary officials, but they discount the possibility.

After Ray pleaded guilty March 10 to slaying King in Memphis last April 4, Dist. Atty. Gen. Phil Canale of Shelby County, Tenn., said Ray had sent "a lot of money" out of the Missouri prison. Canale and federal officials say they have no evidence of a conspiracy, though Ray in remarks following his guilty plea said he disagreed with their theory.

Canale also said there was evidence Ray made money by trafficking in drugs in the penitentiary and later committed several robberies in Canada and London.

Asked to detail the 11 money Ray supposedly sent out of the prison and to whom he sent it, Canale said the figure was in the neighborhood of \$7,000. He did not say to whom it was sent.

Members of his staff involved in the investigation and preparation of evidence for the trial said the funds went to a sister, Carol Ann Pepper, St. Louis, and were deposited to a Pepper Printing Co.

In St. Louis, Mrs. Pepper was unavailable for comment. It was not immediately possible to find any business record of a Pepper Printing Co.

Records at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City show that in the seven years before he escaped on April 23, 1967, Ray had prison earnings of \$242.03 and received a total of \$667.26 from relatives and friends, for a credit total of \$909.29.

He spent \$899.03 for (1) the money order to his brother, (2) legal briefs from the West Publishing Co. and other mail order purchases, and (3) purchases in the prison canteen. The record shows a balance in Ray's prison account of \$10.36.

Warden Harold Swenson said Ray's largest purchases were a \$9.75 transistor radio and a \$4 pair of shoes.

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JEFFERSON CITY - Take 2 Ray Bjt A228: shoes 250.

"The most he ever had in his account was \$108.37 on June 19, 1963, when he received two money orders of \$50 each, and he had that only until June 24, when he sent the \$102 to his brother."

John Larry Ray, a brother, had sent \$50 and \$50 came from Phillip L. Baker, an attorney now in Independence, Mo.

Baker said he could not remember the specific details but "I was appointed to represent Ray for a federal writ of habeas corpus in which Ray complained he was deprived of his constitutional rights. I received \$100 from a brother with the request that I send \$50 to Ray, which I did."

Could Ray have made any money by dealing in drugs or operating a racket in prison?

"There's nothing to support that at all," said Swenson. "It is always possible, if you are talking about extreme possibilities, but if anyone was dealing in drugs to make that kind of money, then we'd have found out simply because we would be able to see the effects of it. If the men get whisky, we can soon spot who's drunk. If a man gets high on drugs, he can't hide it for long."

Fred Wilkinson, director of the Missouri Department of Correction, thought the drug story was nonsense.

"No one seems to have wondered where Ray would have gotten the drugs," said Wilkinson. "Do you know of any supplier who would risk sending drugs into a prison when the outside market has nowhere near the same dangers?"

Wilkinson and Swenson acknowledged that Ray could have slipped money to the outside, had he had any and had he wanted, through some corrupt prison employe. But they said no such instance ever was found.

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