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King-Ray 450, 2 takes total 600

NEW YORK AP - Author William Bradford Huie says James Earl Ray thought that by murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. he would help former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace win the presidency

Huie says Ray now considers himself a political prisoner and that certain political developments in the United States will lead to his being freed from prison in two to four years.

Ray, Huie says, thought Wallace would be elected and then promptly pardon him.

His comments are contained in the current issue of Look magazine. He says they are based on information supplied by Ray, his lawyers and members of Ray's family.

Huie also writes that he thought last October that "Powerful men probably made the decision to kill Dr. King." Now, he says, he has found no confirmation of this.

"I believe," Huie says, "that one or two men other than James Earl Ray may have had foreknowledge of this murder, and that makes a little conspiracy. But if there was a conspiracy, I now believe that James Earl Ray was probably its leader, not its tool or its dupe."

Discussing Ray's view of himself as a political prisoner, Huie writes:

"When, early in the presidential campaign of 1968, he shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ray took what he regards as a political action approved by millions of Americans. Ray thinks he fired the first shot in a social or racial conflict, a second Civil War, which will eventually result in his being freed.

"He therefore feels fulfilled: He believes he is liked, respected, even admired. And he is confident that political developments in the United States will cause him to be freed in two to four years.

"James Ray, who is 41, along with his brothers Jerry, 34, and John, 37, believed that George C. Wallace would be elected president on Nov. 5, 1968, and that President Wallace would promptly pardon the murderer of Dr. King. James Ray thought that by murdering Dr. King, he would aid Wallace's cause."

Huie writes that the Ray brothers "figured they had gained something" with the Republican victory. One reason Ray changed lawyers on the eve of his trial set for Nov. 12, 1968, Huie writes, was that he thought he'd have a better chance after the inaugural date.

Huie quotes Jerry Ray as saying, "Jimmy's friends are just bound to have more power after Nixon becomes President."

Huie, arguing against what he called the misconception that Ray was not a racist, said that on April 5, 1958, Ray was released from the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., with this item in his report:

"On Sept. 12, 1957, he was approved for our Honor Farm but was never actually transferred to the farm due to the fact that he did not feel that he could

live in an Honor Farm Dormitory because they are integrated."

Huie also said persons who knew Ray in Canada, Mexico and California reported bitter anti-Negro actions or remarks by Ray.

Huie also said a psychiatric examination in 1966 at the Fulton State Hospital in Missouri strongly suggested he would have been capable of murder. He was diagnosed as a "sociopathic personality, antisocial type with anxiety and depressive features."

In the same issue, Look carries articles by Arthur J. Hanes, a former Ray lawyer, and Percy Foreman, Ray's lawyer when he pleaded guilty to murder of King at Memphis and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

"I still believe," Hanes writes, "that Ray killed Dr. King because he was directed to do it. Despite his plea of guilty in court, I also feel that Ray did not carry out the murder entirely alone.

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"On balance, both my son and partner, Arthur Jr., and I feel that, at the very least, Ray was helped. This means that we believe there was what the law calls a conspiracy."

Foreman writes:

"I think Ray believed Dr. King was a Communist; that his crusades opened the Pandora's box of riot; and that, though he preached nonviolence, by indirection he created Black Muslims, Black Panthers and Invaders.

"Ray thinks that the war between the races is imminent, and he wanted to fire the first shot. The shooting of Dr. King, to hi, was the Pearl Harbor of that war. He didn't tell my any of this: 'It is what I believe he thinks.

"I don't believe there was any conspiracy."

In another article, Lock quotes the Rev. Ralph Abernathy as saying Dr. King had told him and his wife Coretta shortly before his assassination that he would not lead the Poor People's Campaign on Washington. He and other King aides were quoted as saying Dr. King had become weary and despondent over criticism.

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