

Ray 'Aiding Wallace,' Says Huie

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, re-

spected, 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

Continued Page 7, Col. 1

Continued from Page 1

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.