

Angry Claims

Ray Blasts His Former Lawyers

Memphis

Attorneys for James Earl Ray, convicted of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., filed motions for a new trial yesterday on grounds that Ray has been used by his attorneys to peddle his inside story to magazines, books and motion pictures.

In motions signed by Ray's three new attorneys, the 41-year-old convict claimed that he was forced to plead guilty to the April 4, 1968, sniper slaying because of pressure from his attorneys.

Ray's two chief attorneys in the case were Percy Foreman, the famed Houston lawyer, and Arthur J. Hanes Sr., a former mayor of Birmingham, Ala. He has fired both of the men.

JUDGE

The motions for a new trial were filed in the Shelby county Clerk of Courts Office and must be acted upon by Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin.

Faquin was assigned to the Ray case earlier this month when Judge W. Preston Battle, who had presided over Ray's short trial March 10, died of a heart attack last month.

Ray's formal motions to Judge Faquin were signed by Richard Ryan, a Memphis attorney, and Associate Counsel J. B. Stoner, a Ku Klux

Klan lawyer from Savannah, Ga., and Robert W. Hill Jr., of Chattanooga.

The motions were submitted with copies of several letters between Ray, Hanes, Foreman and author William Bradford Huie, who had a contract with Ray for his autobiography and inside story of the slaying.

One of them, dated March 9, 1969, the day before Ray's brief trial by rote in which he pleaded guilty, was from Foreman to Ray. It said Foreman's fee for defending Ray would be \$165,500, of which \$15,000 was expense money and \$500 an advance given Ray's brother, John Gerald (Jerry) Ray.

CONTRACT

The letter said the contract for a \$165,500 defense fee was contingent upon Ray's pleading guilty and "without any unseemly conduct" on Ray's part during the trial.

Ray's motion said he was deprived of his right to effective legal counsel by the conflicting interest his attorneys had in making publication contracts with Huie for Ray's inside story.

It also quoted a letter from Huie saying Ray should not be allowed to take the witness stand in his own defense because "I would have no book" if he did.

Another letter said that part of the financial agreement between Huie, Ray and Hanes, signed July 8, 1968, shortly after Ray's arrest in London, provided that Ray would be paid \$5000 a month until a total of \$35,000 was paid him by Huie.

A letter from Huie to Ray, dated March 7 this year, said that Huie paid a total of \$40,000 to Ray and his attorneys, of which \$10,000 went to Foreman and the remaining \$30,000 to Hanes.

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