

## Earl Ray

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## Takes

## The Stand

Memphis, Tenn.

James Earl Ray testified yesterday for the first time in an effort to win a trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and said he suspected author William Bradford Huie was a source of information to his prosecutors.

Ray told a federal court hearing he became worried when Huie "wrote something linking me to the KKK," (Ku Klux Klan) and that he complained to the late Criminal Court Judge, Preston Battle. Ray said that he learned from reading Huie's articles and books that "his whole technique was to get someone to incriminate themselves and then he'd give them money. I thought maybe he was trying to do the same thing on me."

Ray said he also was suspicious of Huie because the original list of 300 witnesses was increased by about 30 after he talked with the writer.

Speaking rapidly, his voice trailing off occasionally at the end of his sentences, Ray took the stand on the fourth day of his hearing to determine whether he is entitled to withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial for murdering King on April 4, 1968. He is serving a 99 year sentence.

Ray claims he was coerced into the plea by a former attorney, Percy Foreman, of Houston, Tex., and that Foreman and another former attorney, Arthur Hanes Sr., of Birmingham, Ala., were guilty of a conflict of interest because of contracts they had with Huie for royalties on a book

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