

SFChronicle  
**King Slaying**

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# Testimony That Ray Was Alone

**Memphis, Tenn.**

Author William Bradford Huie, in a deposition read yesterday in federal court, said he tried to prove there was a conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but finally concluded that James Earl Ray did it alone "to get attention."

"I know and knew after October 15 (1968) nobody else was involved (in the April 4, 1968, murder) except Ray," said the author of the book "He Slew the Dreamer."

Huie's deposition, made September 28, 1974, was read in the second week of a hearing in which Ray, who insists he did not pull the trigger in the King slaying, is seeking a new trial. Ray contends lawyers Percy Foreman and Arthur Hanes Sr. pressured him to plead guilty to preserve the value of Huie's book.

If the contention is true, according to Huie's testimony the move was spectacularly unsuccessful. The writer said his royalties for the book through Dec. 31, 1973, totaled only \$4461.

Huie said he had two reasons for contacting Hanes, Ray's first lawyer, and suggesting a book on the murder. He said he wanted to find out "what happened in the murder and who was involved" and to help Ray raise money for his defense.

Huie said, "Ray assumed his story would be worth a fortune. Ray and Hanes foresaw a deal with me. Ray never bought any pig in a sack. He knew exactly what he was getting."

The only way to make money from the case, Huie said, was to prove a conspiracy. He said there was "no story" if Ray acted alone when he realized the accused murderer was broke. "That was the first indication to me there hadn't been anyone else but Ray," he said.

Ray has testified he never told Foreman, who engineered his guilty plea in return for a 99-year sentence, that he killed King. Huie said he thought Foreman would never even bother to ask.

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