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# Lawyers Say Huie Hurt Ray's Defense

By Paul Valentine

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MEMPHIS, Oct. 31—Attorneys for James Earl Ray sought today to portray author William Bradford Huie as having compromised Ray's defense in the 1968 Martin Luther King murder trial for his own financial benefit.

Though Huie was financing Ray's defense, he was also pushing for a guilty plea and testified against Ray before a Memphis grand jury, the lawyers said.

In the seventh day of a federal court hearing on Ray's attempt to withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial for the murder of the civil rights leader, one of Ray's former attorneys, Arthur Hanes Sr., ac-

knowledged he had "no control" over what Huie did with information he obtained from Ray. Huie had a contract with Hanes for exclusive access to Ray prior to his guilty plea in March, 1969.

Huie acknowledged going before a grand jury in February, 1969, but said he did not bring any notes on Ray's details of the murder, according to a deposition by Huie read into the court record today. Huie reportedly told the grand jury he believed Ray alone was responsible for the King assassination.

(State prosecutors say privately that the grand jury, which had indicted Ray several months earlier, was reconvened to look into continuing allegations of a conspiracy

to kill King. They say it found no such evidence and Huie's testimony was unhelpful.)

Huie's grand jury appearance, according to Ray's present attorneys, was part of a continuing conflict of interest between Ray's legal rights and his former attorney's profit motives.

Huie, Hanes and Ray had contracted to split royalties from Huie's books and magazine articles as a way of raising defense funds.

But in order to preserve the literary value of Huie's work, Ray's attorneys said, Huie first urged that Ray not testify at trial and later pushed for a guilty plea so that no details of the case would be made public.

Huie denied this in his deposition, adding that Ray's sudden decision to plead guilty took him by surprise and greatly reduced the value of his pending book, "He Slew the Dreamer," published by Delacorte Press.

Ultimately, Huie said, he earned \$4,461 in royalties from the 212-page book.

Hanes, former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., said Huie had no influence on the preparation of Ray's defense, and Hanes was ready to go to trial on Nov. 12, 1968, when Ray suddenly fired Hanes and hired Houston criminal lawyer Percy Foreman.

Foreman also assumed the literary contracts with Huie.