

Retrial bid fails; Ray still in jail

CINCINNATI (AP) — James Earl Ray's bid to overturn his guilty plea in the slaying of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was rejected yesterday by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The court said Ray's contention that he anticipated a re-opening of his case "is at best highly implausible."

"It is more likely that he simply reasoned that a shrewd attorney might find a way to overturn his conviction regardless of the

voluntariness of the plea," the court said in rejecting Ray's appeal for a new trial.

One of Ray's attorneys, Robert I. Livingston, said he will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the appeal.

The unanimous decision concluded that U.S. District Judge Robert B. McRae of Memphis, Tenn., was correct in February 1975 when he refused an appeal after a hearing on the events that led to Ray's March 10, 1969, guilty plea in Shelby County, Tenn.

Another of Ray's attorneys, James H. Lesar, contended that Ray did not fatally shoot King in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968. Lesar argued that former defense attorney Percy Foreman coerced Ray into a guilty plea and that Ray had been framed. However, Lesar said he had no information about who actually shot King.

The district court ruled that Ray had not proven claims that either Foreman or Ray's previous attorney, Arthur Hanes, was more interested in profiteering from books about the case than in defending him.

The appellate judges said they disapproved of the fee arrangement between Ray

Private watchlists kept Agency 'taps' disclosed

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The National Security Agency, the most secretive and reportedly the largest of all U.S. intelligence groups, until 1975 intercepted and distributed private international communications of millions of Americans, a Senate staff report said yesterday.

Telephone, telegraphic and Telex communications were intercepted over a 23-year period without warrants or without any legal or judicial decisions, the 50-page report said.

The report was one of a series from the staff of a Senate intelligence committee which has been investigating U.S. intelligence agencies for more than a year.

Names were filed in NSA headquarters at Ft. Meade, Md. of some 75,000 U.S. citizens whose communications were subject to monitoring, the report said.

"Watchlists" were maintained under "Operation Minaret" of a smaller group of citizens whose every overseas telephone call or cable was intercepted and the information relayed to the CIA, FBI, Defense Intelligence, Secret Service, Narcotics Bureau and other agencies.

Intercepts were ordered to determine "foreign connections" of black groups, antiwar dissidents and other organizations, the report said.

Much of NSA's activities were disclosed during Senate intelligence hearings, transcripts and reports released last year. The staff report was designed to collate the information, bring it up to date and point to the abuses and dangers therein.

Operation Shamrock, a special collection program that

went back even beyond NSA's secret founding in 1952 and ended only last year, intercepted millions of overseas telegrams and messages sent to and from Americans, the report said.

Since 1945, NSA and its service predecessors, got copies of every telegram or cable sent or received by ITT World Communications, RCA Global and selected files from Western Union.

"Shamrock was probably the largest governmental interception program affecting Americans ever undertaken," the report said. "Although the total number of telegrams read during its course is not available, NSA estimates that in the last two or three years of Shamrock's existence, about 150,000 telegrams per month were reviewed by NSA analysts" — 1.8 million a year.

Former NSA officials testified before the Senate committee that to the best of their knowledge "no president since Truman knew of the program."

NSA, which comes under the Defense Intelligence Agency, was established by a top secret directive issued by Truman.

Its mandate was to monitor foreign communications and and try to break codes while protecting U.S. cyphers and communications.

The agency through the years expanded its operations to act as a supplier of intelligence to other agencies on communications not only of foreigners but of Americans communicating with foreigners or with other Americans abroad.

Teamsters ratify contract

By United Press International

Teamsters Union members have ratified the agreement that ended last month's nation-wide strike of truck drivers, the Teamsters Union announced yesterday.

Negotiations to resolve two current major strikes — the 8-day-old strike by apartment house workers in New York and the 20-day-old strike of United Rubber Workers against four tiremakers — resumed in New York City and Cleveland.

Cable cars, buses and trolleys were rolling again in San Francisco, but Continental Trailways buses in the South and United Parcel Service trucks in the Midwest and Rockies remained idle.

Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons announced in Washington that some 400,000 members had voted 4 to 1 to accept the new national freight agreement negotiated during a three-day strike against about 16,000 trucking firms in early April.

The agreement provides for an estimated 33 per cent in-

crease in wages and fringe benefits over three years. The settlement was slightly higher than the 9 to 10 per cent a year the Ford administration has expected to be negotiated in most major industries this year.

Bargainers of the Building Service Employees Union carried a counter-proposal into negotiations with owners of 4,000 apartment buildings. John Sweeney, president of Local 32B of the union, said negotiations with individual landlords was a possibility if the joint talks fail.

Bargainers in the URW strike against Firestone, Goodyear, Goodrich and Uniroyal tire companies concentrated on economic issues — wages, cost-of-living provisions and pensions.

Sources said there was little likelihood of an early agreement on a new three-year pact to send the 70,000 rubber workers back to their jobs. The union has refused to reduce its demands and the tiremakers have refused to buckle under a boycott of Firestone products and other union pressure.

Wiretapped reporter sues Nixon

WASHINGTON (UPI) — New York Times reporter Hedrick Smith, acting "to further the cause of a free press," yesterday filed suit naming former President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as among those responsible for tapping his home telephone in 1969.

Smith said in a separate statement, "The practice of wiretapping has the effect of intimidating news sources and chilling the flow of in-

formation that is vital to public debate of government policy."

New York Times executive vice president James C. Goodale added in a separate statement that the paper fully supports Smith's suit and "will use every resource in the law to assist him."

Smith did not ask for a specific amount of damages, but left the matter up to the U.S. District Court, where the suit was filed.

Smith said he does not intend to profit from the lawsuit. Any awards will be used for expenses and thereafter will be donated "to further the cause of a free press," he said.

At the time of the alleged tap, Smith was diplomatic correspondent for the Times in Washington. He said the tap was put on his phone for a total of 89 days.

Smith's wife and children joined in the lawsuit, because,

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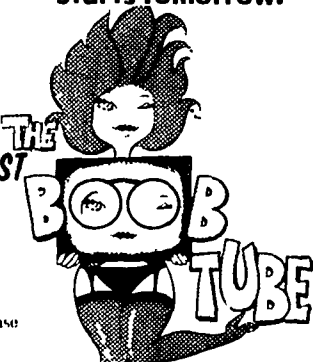


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