

RAY 5/21 AJ  
NIGHT LD

BY JAMES M. EVANS  
MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY GOES BACK INTO COURT  
MONDAY IN HOPES OF RADICATING THE RED INK IN WHICH HE SIGNED AWAY  
HIS RIGHTS TO DRAW A 99-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

RAY SIGNED WAIVERS TO HIS RIGHTS OF APPEAL, NOT ONLY TO HIGHER  
STATE COURTS BUT THE U. S. SUPREME COURT WHEN HE PLEADED GUILTY  
ON MARCH 10 TO THE APRIL 4, 1968, SLAYING OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE  
WINNER, COURT RECORDS SHOW.

BUT A QUIRK OF FATE--THE DEATH BY HEART SEIZURE OF JUDGE W.  
PRESTON BATTLE--MAY PUT RAY BACK INTO COURT TO FIGHT ANEW MURDER  
CHARGES IN THE DEATH OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER THAT HAS ALREADY  
CARRIED RAY FROM LONDON TO MEMPHIS AND TO THE COLD GREY WALLS OF  
THE STATE PRISON AT NASHVILLE.

CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE ARTHUR C. FAQUIN JR. WHO INHERITED THE  
RAY CASE AFTER BATTLE'S DEATH ON MARCH 31, WILL BE TOLD THAT HOUSTON  
ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN "PRESSURED" RAY INTO PLEADING GUILTY.

THE PRISONER'S THREE NEW ATTORNEYS--ROBERT W. HILL JR. OF  
CHATTANOOGA, J. B. STONER OF SAVANNAH, GA., AND RICHARD J.  
RYAN OF MEMPHIS--WILL ARGUE THAT FOREMAN AND THE PREVIOUS LAWYER ON  
ENDCASTYURORNER BIRMINGHAM, ALA.,

THE PRISONER'S THREE NEW ATTORNEYS--ROBERT W. HILL JR. OF  
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THE CASE, FORMER BIRMINGHAM, ALA., MAYOR ARTHUR J. HANES SR., USED RAY  
TO PEDdle HIS INSIDE STORY TO MAGAZINES, BOOKS AND MOTION PICTURES FOR

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RAY TO PEDdle HIS INSIDE STORY TO MAGAZINES, BOOKS AND MOTION PICTURES  
FOR THEIR OWN FINANCIAL GAIN.

RAY HAS ALSO FILED A U. S. DISTRICT COURT SUIT IN NASHVILLE  
ASKING THAT CONTRACTS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HUIE--ARRANGED BY HANES  
AND THEN SWITCHED TO FOREMAN--BE VOIDED. A HEARING ON THAT MATTER  
IS SCHEDULED TUESDAY.

THE LATEST TWIST WAS COMPLICATED BY THE DEATH OF BATTLE, WHO  
SUFFERED A HEART SEIZURE AT HIS DESK THE DAY HE RETURNED FROM A VACATION  
FOLLOWING APPARENT SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE.

AFTER ENTERING HIS GUILTY PLEA, RAY WAS SPIRITED FROM THE SHELBY  
COUNTY JAIL HERE EARLY MARCH 11 AND TRANSPORTED BY AUTOMOBILE CARAVAN  
TO THE STATE PRISON IN NASHVILLE.

TWO DAYS LATER, ON MARCH 13, HE WROTE BATTLE STATING THAT HE HAD  
FIRED FOREMAN AND INTENDED TO CHALLENGE THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH HE WAS  
JAILED.

ON MARCH 26, HE WROTE BATTLE AGAIN, THIS TIME ASKING FOR A NEW  
TRIAL.

BOTH LETTERS WERE AMONG BATTLE'S EFFECTS IN HIS OFFICE WHEN HE  
DIED.

FAQUIN MUST FIRST DECIDE WHETHER RAY'S WAIVER IS VALID. IF IT IS,  
THE HEARING WOULD END THERE. IF NOT, HE MUST DETERMINE WHETHER RAY'S  
LAST LETTER TO BATTLE CONSTITUTES A NEW TRIAL MOTION.

IF IT DOES, THEN RAY WOULD SEEM ASSURED OF A NEW TRIAL UNDER A  
TENNESSEE LAW WHICH AUTOMATICALLY GRANTS MOTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION  
BY A JUDGE WHO DIES OR IS DECLARED INSANE.



A NUMBER OF LEGAL AUTHORITIES IN THE STATE SAID HIS LAW WOULD APPLY IN THE RAY CASE. BUT THE STATE, REPRESENTED BY DISTRICT ATTY. GEN. PHIL CANALE, SAID IT COULD NOT.

CANALE, IN ANSWERING PETITIONS FILED BY RAY'S ATTORNEYS, SAID THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD THAT FAULTS OR MISTAKES MADE BY DEFENSE ATTORNEYS ARE NOT GROUNDS FOR A NEW TRIAL.

RAY, 41, A MISSOURI PRISON ESCAPER AT THE TIME KING WAS SHOT TO DEATH, HAS BEEN A MAN OF INDECISION SINCE HE WAS ARRESTED IN LONDON EARLY LAST JUNE.

HE FIRST REFUSED TO WAIVE EXTRADITION AND WENT THROUGH TWO COURT HEARINGS. THEN CHANGED HIS MIND.

FLOWN BACK TO MEMPHIS, RAY FIRST PLEADED INNOCENT AND THEN, AFTER FIRING HIS FIRST LAWYER, HANES AND HIRING FOREMAN, HE ENTERED HIS GUILTY PLEA, APPARENTLY IN A TRADE-OUT EFFORT TO ESCAPE THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.

RAY WAS BROUGHT HERE FROM NASHVILLE THURSDAY NIGHT IN A CONVOY OF 11 TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL CARS SPEEDING 70 MILES AN HOUR IN THE 200-MILE TRIP.

HE IS BEING HELD UNDER SPECIAL GUARD AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL.



UPI/110

(RAY)

Murkin RPI  
FBI

MEMPHIS--CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE ARTHUR FAQUIN TODAY TURNED DOWN A REQUEST FOR A NEW TRIAL BY JAMES EARL RAY, THE ADMITTED KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

FAQUIN RULED THAT RAY "KNOWINGLY, INTELLIGENTLY AND PROPERLY" PLEADED GUILTY TO THE KING SLAYING DURING HIS TRIAL MARCH 10. AFTER ACCEPTING A PRE-ARRANGED 99-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE, RAY CHANGED HIS MIND AND SAID HIS LAWYER HAD PRESSURED HIM INTO PLEADING GUILTY.

FAQUIN SAID THERE WAS AMPLE EVIDENCE FROM THE MINUTES OF THE TRIAL THAT THE GUILTY PLEA WAS PROPER.

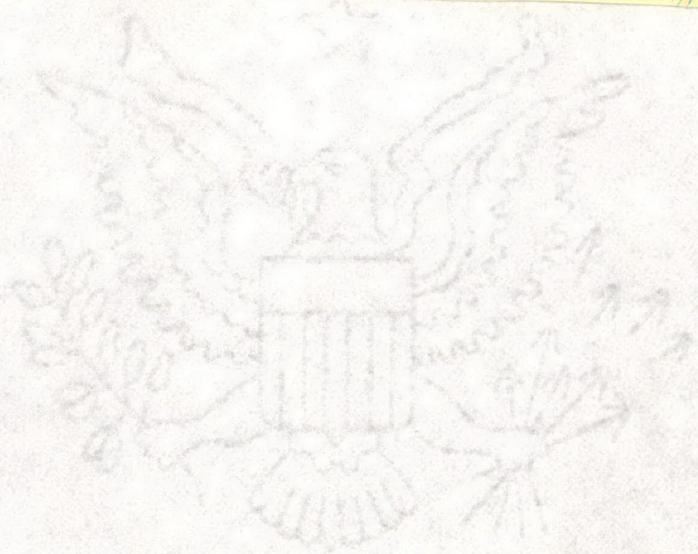
RAY, WEARING A BROWN CHECKED SPORT COAT, OLIVE TROUSERS AND A YELLOW TIE, SAT QUIETLY DURING THE HEARING, CONFERRING ONLY ONCE WITH HIS ATTORNEY. HE WAS BROUGHT HERE FROM THE STATE PRISON AT NASHVILLE UNDER HEAVY GUARD LAST THURSDAY.

FAQUIN INHERITED THE CASE WHEN THE TRIAL JUDGE, W. PRESTON BATTLE, DIED MARCH 31.

5/26--SW217PED

*DeLoach*  
*Rosen*  
*Long*

*AT*



MURKIN

*P.R. Folder*

# **RAY LOSES PLEA FOR NEW TRIAL IN KING KILLING**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—James Earl Ray, admitted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was denied a new trial today.

Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. held that the evidence showed Ray had voluntarily and in good faith entered a guilty plea to the slaying. Under Tennessee law, the judge held, such a plea precludes a motion for a new trial, for post-conviction remedies or an appeal.

Faquin, who succeeded the late Judge W. Preston Battle in the case, further held that Ray waived all rights to file a motion for a new trial or for an appeal. He ordered Ray returned to the state penitentiary at Nashville to continue serving his ~~99~~ <sup>99</sup> year term.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen *R* \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) *21* \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date 5/26/69



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SGS  
295A

RAY 5/26 AJ  
SUB RAY, MEMPHIS 250A FOR 8TH PGH BONG: LATER HE XXX  
LATER HE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM MEMPHIS TO THE STATE PENITENTIARY  
IN NASHVILLE WHERE HE WAS PLACED IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.  
PICKUP 9TH PGH: FAQUIN WAS XXX  
F937PES..

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



MURKIN p/r Faldon

OS/A

RAY 5/26 NX

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY GOES TO COURT TODAY TO ASK FOR A NEW TRIAL, CONTENDING HE MADE A BAD DEAL IN PLEADING GUILTY TO THE MURDER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

RAY WANTS CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE ARTHUR C. TAQUIN JR TO OVERTURN HIS 99-YEAR SENTENCE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF KING. RAY, 41, WAS BROUGHT HERE FROM THE STATE PRISON AT NASHVILLE THURSDAY UNDER HEAVY GUARD.

CHARGING THAT ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN USED RAY FOR PERSONAL GAIN, ATTORNEYS ROBERT W. HILL JR., CHATTANOOGA; J. B. STONER, SAVANNAH, GA.; AND RICHARD J. RYAN, MEMPHIS, ARGUE THAT RAY WAS "PRESSURED" INTO PLEADING GUILTY.

ROBERT K. DWYER AND JESSE CLYDE MASON, BOTH ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL, CONTEND RAY, IN PLEADING GUILTY, SIGNED WAIVERS AND IS NOT ENTITLED TO APPEAL FOR A NEW TRIAL.

LEGAL SOURCES IN THE CITY SAID RAY MIGHT TESTIFY DURING THE HEARING, THUS SUBJECTING HIMSELF TO CROSS-EXAMINATION BY DWYER, AN EXPERT AT QUESTIONING.

NONE OF RAY'S ATTORNEYS WOULD CONFIRM OR DENY THE REPORT.

THE STATE WAS EXPECTED TO ASK TAQUIN, WHO TOOK OVER THE CASE WHEN JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE DIED MARCH 31, TO DISMISS THE MOTIONS WITHOUT ARGUMENTS.

GA730AED

*Defail  
R. Spick*



*Murkin*  
*P.R. Folger*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Lang*

213A

RAY 5/25 AJ  
NIGHT LD

BY JAMES M. EVANS

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HE IS BEING HELD UNDER SPECIAL GUARD AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL.

UH255PES..



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

222A

RAY 5/25 AJ  
1ST LD RAY 213A  
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MONDAY IN HOPES OF VOIDING HIS 99-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE AND WINNING  
A NEW TRIAL IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
PICKUP 2ND PGH 213A; RAY SIGNED  
UH322PES

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

223A

RAY 5/15 AJ  
CORRN RAY MEMPHIS 213A 6TH PGH BCNG: RAY HAS ALSO, READ IT  
X X X BETWEEN HIMSELF AND AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE--ARRANGED  
BY HANES, ETC. (INSEERTING AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD)  
UPI, ATLANTA  
UH323 PES..



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach ✓  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop Bya  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen Rosen  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

1052A

RAY 5/24 NX  
 MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--FOLLOWING A 15 MINUTE VISIT WITH HIS BROTHER JAMES EARL RAY, JERRY RAY OF ST. LOUIS BITTERLY CHARGED THAT TWO FBI AGENTS THREATENED HIM FRIDAY FOR HIS REFUSAL TO DISCUSS AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY IN THE DEATH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

THE YOUNGER RAY, VISITING HIS IMPRISONED BROTHER AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL, SAID TWO MEN, WHO CLAIMED TO BE AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT A STATEMENT HE MADE LAST YEAR SUGGESTING A CONSPIRACY IN THE CASE.

"I DIDN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING," SAID RAY, AS HE WALKED WITH ATTORNEY J.B. STONER OF SAVANNAH, GA. "YOU DON'T TALK TO YOUR ENEMIES--YOU TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS."

"THEY ASKED A QUESTION ON THE CONSPIRACY STATEMENT. I WOULDN'T ANSWER IT AND THEY THREATENED TO BRING ME BEFORE A FEDERAL GRAND JURY. THEY SAID IF I DIDN'T TALK THEN, I WOULD BE IN CONTEMPT," HE SAID.

RAY SAID HE WAS ADVISED BY STONER, ONE OF JAMES EARL RAY'S THREE ATTORNEYS, TO REMAIN QUIET.

HE SAID ONE OF THE AGENTS SHOWED AN IDENTIFICATION CARD WITH THE NAME "JOE C. HESTER" PRINTED ON IT.

ROBERT G. JENSEN, SPECIAL AGENT OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI, SAID AN AGENT BY THAT NAME IS ASSIGNED HERE.

"WE ARE MAKING INQUIRIES ALL THE TIME INTO ALL SORTS OF THINGS," JENSEN SAID, "BUT I'M SORRY I CANNOT COMMENT ON ANYTHING ON THE RAY CASE UNTIL IT IS OVER."

JAMES EARL RAY WAS RETURNED HERE FROM NASHVILLE THURSDAY NIGHT TO AWAIT A HEARING MONDAY ON A MOTION FOR A NEW TRIAL IN THE KING ASSASSINATION.

BA557AED

FOR MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



310A HFR  
LAWYERS 5/24 AJ  
WITH RAY  
ADV FOR AMS MON MAY 26  
BY GLENN STEPHENS  
NASHVILLE  
RESTARTING

Murkin  
P.R. Falden

310A HFR  
LAWYERS 5/24 AJ  
ADV FOR AMS MON MAY 26  
BY GLENN STEPHENS  
NASHVILLE, TENN.

(UPI)--CIGAR-SMOKING J. B. STONER, A  
KLANSMAN SINCE 1940, CALLED THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WHO WAS SLAIN  
BY AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET IN MEMPHIS LAST YEAR "MARTIN LUCIFER  
KING."

SELDER, PALE, ROBERT W. HILL BEGAN STUDYING JUDO AT FIVE,  
CLAIMS TO BE ONE OF SEVEN PERSONS IN THE WORLD WHO CAN BURST A  
BALOON FLOATING IN THE AIR WITH A KNUCKLE. AND SAYS HE IS THE  
HIGHEST-RANKED AMERICAN IN BANDO, A MYSTERIOUS ORIENTAL METHOD OF  
FIGHTING DERIVED BY WARRIORS FROM WATCHING ANIMALS IN COMBAT.  
RICHARD J. RYAN, 55, STOCKY WITH GRAYING HAIR, DREW A FLICKER  
OF ATTENTION WHEN HE MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL RACE FOR THE TENNESSEE  
LEGISLATURE SEVEN YEARS AGO.

THESE THREE MEN WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT  
BACKGROUNDS, PERSONALITIES, AND INTERESTS NOW SHARE A COMMON BOND.  
THEY ARE THE "LEGAL TRINITY" FOR JAMES EARL RAY.

THEY REPRESENT RAY IN HIS EFFORTS TO WIN A NEW TRIAL ON CHARGES OF  
KILLING KING AS WELL AS IN A FEDERAL COURT LAWSUIT IN WHICH RAY  
SEEKS TO VOID THE CONTRACTS HE HAD WITH TWO PREVIOUS ATTORNEYS,  
NOTED HOUSTON TRIAL LAWYER PERCY FOREMAN AND FORMER BIRMINGHAM  
MAYOR ARTHUR HANES SR., AND WITH ALABAMA AUTHOR  
WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE.

HILL APPEARS TO BE THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR RAY, OVERSEEING BOTH  
THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ASPECTS OF THE CASE. STONER APPARENTLY IS  
CONCERNED MAINLY WITH THE CIVIL ACTIONS AND RYAN WITH FILING MOTIONS  
IN MEMPHIS IN CONNECTION WITH RAY'S NEW TRIAL BID, ON WHICH A  
HEARING IS SCHEDULED MONDAY.

HILL, 29, COMES FROM A BLUE-BLOOD CHATTANOOGA FAMILY. HE IS A  
SECOND COUSIN TO BILL BROCK, THE MILLIONAIRE CANDY MANUFACTURER  
AND CONGRESSMAN FROM TENNESSEE'S THIRD DISTRICT.

HILL HAS PRACTICED KARATE SINCE HE WAS FIVE. HE RELAXES NOW BY  
SMASHING A BRICK WITH HIS FOREHEAD OR SLAMMING HIS MUSCULAR HAND  
THROUGH 16 INCHES OF CONCRETE. HE'S CONSIDERED AN EXPERT ON  
WEAPONS--FROM CLUBS TO PISTOLS--AND CLAIMS TO HAVE ONCE TIED A WORLD'S  
RECORD IN A PISTOL DRAWING CONTEST.

HE WILL LOOK YOU STRAIGHT IN THE EYE AND TELL YOU HE WOULD LIKE TO  
TAKE ON A MOUNTAIN LION, BOAR, TIGER OR RHINOCEROS WITH A POISON-TIPPED  
SPEAR. YOU GET THE FEELING HE ISN'T PUTTING YOU ON.

"I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PROFICIENT IN MORE WEAPONS THAN ANYONE  
ELSE," HE SAID. "I HAVE THREE STYLES OF SWORD FIGHTING, FOUR STYLES  
OF KNIFE FIGHTING AND I ALSO STICK FIGHT."

"I CAN LET YOU POINT A GUN AT ME AND AS SOON AS YOU SEE MY HAND  
MOVE YOU CAN PULL THE TRIGGER AND I CAN DRAW AND FIRE BEFORE YOU  
PULL THE TRIGGER."

"I CAN HAVE BROKEN FOUR INCHES OF CONCRETE THAT WAS HELD AT  
NINE FEET IN THE AIR BY JUMPING FROM THE FLOOR AND KICKING IT."

HIS SPECIALTY IS "INVISIBLE" PUNCHING. "YOU COULD HAVE A  
HUNDRED PEOPLE AROUND YOU AND HIT AND KILL HIM, AND NO ONE  
WOULD SEE THE PUNCH," HILL SAID.

OF THE BANDOS, HE SAYS, "IT'S A PHILOSOPHICAL ART. IT TEACHES  
THAT LIFE IS A STRUGGLE, AND ORDER TO SURVIVE YOU NEED DISCIPLINE--  
DISCIPLINE OF THE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT."

HILL STRUGGLED THROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEFORE SUDDENLY SHOOTING  
TO THE TOP OF HIS CLASS AT THE EXCLUSIVE BAYLOR SCHOOL IN CHATTANOOGA,  
CAPTURING TOP HONORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHATTANOOGA AND FINISHING  
FIRST IN HIS CLASS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE LAW SCHOOL,  
WHERE HE EARNED A DOCTORATE.

THE SERIOUS-MINDED LAWYER EARNED KARATE'S HIGHEST PROFICIENCY  
RATING, THE FIFTH DEGREE BLACK BELT AND BECAME BORED WITH THE ART,  
OPENING THE WAY TO HIS INTEREST IN THE BANDOS.

STONER GREW UP ON A WALKER COUNTY, GA., FARM OUTSIDE CHATTANOOGA  
AND BECAME AN ORGANIZER FOR THE KU KLUX KLAN AT 16.

HE WAS A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS IN THE THIRD DISTRICT IN 1952  
AND FORMED HIS OWN POLITICAL PARTY, THE "STONER ANTI-JEWISH PARTY."  
ABOUT THE SAME TIME, HE AUTHORED A 32-PAGE PAPER-BOUND BOOK ENTITLED,  
"THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST VS. THE JEWS."

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BOOK CLAIMED IT WAS "DUTY" OF WHITE  
CHRISTIAN AMERICANS TO HATE JEWS, THAT NORTH AMERICA WAS FOR "WHITE  
GENTILES" ONLY, THAT NEGROES SHOULD BE RE-SETTLED IN AFRICA,  
AND THAT ORIENTALS SHOULD BE RE-SETTLED IN THE ORIENT.

STONER'S CAMPAIGN NETTED HIM BUT 934 VOTES.

STONER, WHO NOW RESIDES IN SAVANNAH, GA., RAN FOR VICE PRESIDENT  
UNDER THE BANNER OF THE NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY IN 1964. HE  
HAS REPRESENTED MEMBERS OF THE KLAN IN COURT ON MANY OCCASIONS.

HE WAS ONCE QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE ONLY THING I FIND WRONG WITH  
HITLER IS THAT HE DIDN'T EXTERMINATE ALL THOSE SIX MILLION JEWS  
HE'S CREDITED WITH."

FOLLOWING A VISIT WITH RAY AT THE PRISON IN MARCH, STONER  
PULLED ON HIS CIGAR AND TOLD REPORTERS HE DID NOT THINK HIS ASSOCIATION  
WITH THE KLAN OR THE NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY WOULD HURT  
RAY'S CASE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER:

"THE NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY DIDN'T LIKE MARTIN LUCIFER  
KING AND I DIDN'T LIKE MARTIN LUCIFER KING, AND I'VE NEVER SHED  
ANY TEARS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM."

UNTIL HE BECAME INVOLVED IN THE RAY CASE, THE LAST TIME RAYN  
GENERATED EVEN A SMALL RIPPLE OF PUBLICITY WAS IN CONNECTION WITH  
A FIGHT AGAINST REZONING. HE WANTED TO KEEP APARTMENTS OUT OF AN  
AREA NEAR HIS HOME IN THE MEMPHIS SUBURB OF BARTLETT AND HE WON.

HE WON'T SAY HOW HE CAME TO BE INVOLVED IN THE RAY CASE. "IT  
IS MY POLICY NOT TO GRANT INTERVIEWS," HE SAID.

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RAY 5/24 NX

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--FOLLOWING A 15 MINUTE VISIT WITH HIS BROTHER JAMES EARL RAY, JERRY RAY OF ST. LOUIS BITTERLY CHARGED THAT TWO FBI AGENTS THREATENED HIM FRIDAY FOR HIS REFUSAL TO DISCUSS AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY IN THE DEATH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

THE YOUNGER RAY, VISITING HIS IMPRISONED BROTHER AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL, SAID TWO MEN, WHO CLAIMED TO BE AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT A STATEMENT HE MADE LAST YEAR SUGGESTING A CONSPIRACY IN THE CASE.

"I DIDN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING," SAID RAY, AS HE WALKED WITH ATTORNEY J.B. STONER OF SAVANNAH, GA. "YOU DON'T TALK TO YOUR ENEMIES--YOU TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS."

"THEY ASKED A QUESTION ON THE CONSPIRACY STATEMENT. I WOULDN'T ANSWER IT AND THEY THREATENED TO BRING ME BEFORE A FEDERAL GRAND JURY. THEY SAID IF I DIDN'T TALK THEN, I WOULD BE IN CONTEMPT," HE SAID.

RAY SAID HE WAS ADVISED BY STONER, ONE OF JAMES EARL RAY'S THREE ATTORNEYS, TO REMAIN QUIET.

HE SAID ONE OF THE AGENTS SHOWED AN IDENTIFICATION CARD WITH THE NAME "JOE C. NESTER" PRINTED ON IT.

ROBERT G. JENSEN, SPECIAL AGENT OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI, SAID AN AGENT BY THAT NAME IS ASSIGNED HERE.

"WE ARE MAKING INQUIRIES ALL THE TIME INTO ALL SORTS OF THINGS," JENSEN SAID. "BUT I'M SORRY I CANNOT COMMENT ON ANYTHING ON THE RAY CASE UNTIL IT IS OVER."

JAMES EARL RAY WAS RETURNED HERE FROM NASHVILLE THURSDAY NIGHT TO AWAIT A HEARING MONDAY ON A MOTION FOR A NEW TRIAL IN THE KING ASSASSINATION.

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UPI-32

(RAY)

MEMPHIS, TENN.--JAMES EARL RAY, THE MAN WHO ADMITTED KILLING  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, WILL BE HERE MONDAY FOR A HEARING TO DETERMINE  
WHETHER HE WILL GET A NEW TRIAL.

5/21--JE1022-

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FOR MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



UPI-32

(RAY)

MEMPHIS, TENN.--JAMES EARL RAY, THE MAN WHO ADMITTED KILLING  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, WILL BE HERE MONDAY FOR A HEARING TO DETERMINE  
WHETHER HE WILL GET A NEW TRIAL.

5/21--JE1022-

MURKIN P.R. Folder

DeLoach  
Rosen  
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# Ray's Surprise Letter Reopens Conspiracy Quiz

By Paul Scott

WASHINGTON—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is probing dark new hints of a conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The unannounced FBI inquiry was ordered by Director J. Edgar Hoover after Senator James Eastland (D. Miss.), chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, turned over a letter he received from James Earl Ray, the convicted King slayer.

In a two-page handwritten communication drafted in his prison cell, Ray suggested a conspiracy in King's death by alleging that others in addition to himself were involved.

Significantly, Ray did not try to deny his own participation in the assassination of

King, who was slain last year in Memphis as he left his motel room.

## Ready to Talk

While he gave no specific details in his letter to Senator Eastland, Ray clearly indicated that he was ready to talk if certain conditions for his safety could be agreed upon.

In privately discussing Ray's surprise letter with other members of his Subcommittee, Senator Eastland reported that he decided to turn it over to the FBI after his staff investigators were unable to make any breakthrough in the case.

In addition to requesting the FBI to quiz Ray about the content of the letter, Senator Eastland also suggested the G-men might want to ask the admitted slayer of King the following questions:

How did you know that King was going to be in the Lorraine Motel on the day of the slaying?

How did you know the location of King's room?

How did you know King

would come out on the balcony where he was shot?

How did you know exactly where to go to get a room from which to fire the fatal shot?

Senator Eastland also wants Hoover to check on Ray's eyesight to determine if it was good enough to have permitted him to fire the fatal shot.

## Effect on New Trial

What effect the new FBI inquiry will have on Ray's request for a new trial is conjectural.

Ray's letter, however, has given the FBI the reason they need for questioning the convicted assassin on several aspects of the mystery shrouded case.

For example, the FBI would like to determine if Ray had ever had any direct or indirect contacts with persons close to King including one of his long-time advisers and speech writers.

This "ghost," known to the FBI as one of the top secret Communists in the country, was the chief architect of the "Poor People's Campaign" that King was to have led in the nation's capital only days after he was assassinated.

Still incomplete is an FBI investigation of Ray's contacts made in New Orleans before King's assassination and after Ray had escaped from prison.

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*Murkin  
P.R. Folders*

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Senator Eastland has taken the position that someone inside the motel had to finger King for the assassin.

Since Hoover knows more about the unpublished activities of the late Dr. King and his associates, Senator Eastland believes he is in the best position of anyone in the country to determine if others were involved in the slaying.

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
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New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

*N.Y. DAILY COLUMN - 1*

Date MAY 19 1969

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*Murkin*  
*P.R. Folder* ✓

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RAY 5/19 AJ

NASHVILLE, TENN. (UPI)--STATE CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER HARRY S. AVERY SAID MONDAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION OF A PLOT TO KILL JAMES EARL RAY.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH WSM-TV HERE, AVERY SAID THAT HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL WHILE HE AND OTHER PRISON OFFICIALS WERE INTERVIEWING THE CONVICTED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HE ADDED THE IDENTITY OF THE CALLER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND THE CONSPIRACY HAS "SOME FOUNDATION."

HE SAID THE INCIDENT OCCURRED MARCH 12, THE DAY AFTER RAY PLEADED GUILTY AND RECEIVED A 99-YEAR SENTENCE, AND HAD A LOT TO DO WITH THE DECISION TO KEEP RAY IN MAXIMUM SECURITY AT THE STATE PRISON.

AVERY WOULD NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF HIS INFORMER OR OTHER DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

ONE OF RAY'S ATTORNEYS, ROBERT W. HILL JR., CHARGED MONDAY THAT AVERY WAS KEEPING RAY IN MAXIMUM SECURITY IN ORDER TO GET HIS STORY FOR A BOOK.

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FOR MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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RAY 5/17 NX  
 NASHVILLE, TENN. (UPI)--THE BLEAK GREY WALLS OF CELL NO 4 IN THE  
 STATE PRISON'S MAXIMUM SECURITY BUILDING HAVE TAKEN ON A GRIM AURA OF  
 PERMANENCE FOR JAMES EARL RAY, THE CONVICTED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN  
 LUTHER KING JR.

STATE CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER HARRY S. AVERY DISCLOSED FRIDAY THAT  
 THE SIX-BY-NINE FOOT SPARCELY FURNISHED CELL WHICH HAS SERVED AS RAY'S  
 HOME SINCE MARCH 11 WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE RAY AS LONG AS AVERY IS  
 COMMISSIONER.

"AS LONG AS I'M COMMISSIONER AND AS LONG AS I'M IN A POSITION TO  
 GIVE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT IT, HE (RAY) WILL BE KEPT IN MAXIMUM SECURITY,"  
 AVERY SAID.

RAY IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE HIS CELL, WITH DEATH ROW AT ITS BACK, ONLY  
 WHEN HE CONFERS WITH HIS LAWYERS, BECOMES SICK, SHOWERS OR EXERCISES.

ALTHOUGH PRISON OFFICIALS HAD INDICATED BEFORE THAT RAY WOULD REMAIN  
 IN THE SMALL CELL INDEFINITELY, FRIDAY WAS THE FIRST TIME IT WAS  
 REVEALED THAT A FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED.

"I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE THAT MAY  
 CHANGE MY POSITION, BUT CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO PLACE HIM IN  
 ANY OTHER LOCATION," SAID AVERY.

AVERY'S REMARKS TO UPI ON RAY'S TENURE IN CELL NO. 4 CAME DURING AN  
 INTERVIEW CONCERNING A REPORT IN THE NASHVILLE BANNER THAT THE  
 CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER WAS GOING TO WRITE A BOOK ABOUT RAY.

THE BANNER REPORTED THAT ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS AVERY HAD  
 INTERVIEWED RAY FOR A BOOK HE PLANNED TO WRITE.

AVERY CONCEDED THAT HE MIGHT "SOMEDAY" WRITE AN ARTICLE CONCERNING  
 RAY, BUT SAID HE HAD NO PLANS TO WRITE A BOOK AT THIS TIME.

AVERY SAID HE WOULD NOT WRITE A BOOK ABOUT ANY SUBJECT AS LONG AS HE  
 IS COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS.

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UPI-161

(RAY)

NASHVILLE, TENN.--JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WILL REMAIN IN MAXIMUM SECURITY AT THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON "AS LONG AS I HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT," STATE CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER HARRY S. AVERY SAID TODAY.

~~AVERY MADE THE STATEMENT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH UPI WHILE DISCUSSING A NASHVILLE BANNER NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT HE HAD INTERVIEWED RAY ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS FOR A BOOK HE PLANS TO WRITE.~~

ALTHOUGH PRISON OFFICIALS HAD INDICATED THAT RAY WOULD REMAIN IN HIS SMALL, ISOLATED MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL INDEFINITELY, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT A FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE.

5/16--EG806PED

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

MURKIN P. R. Folder ✓

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FOR MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



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RAY 5/14 NX

NASHVILLE, TENN. (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY HAS NORMAL INTELLIGENCE, DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FEARFUL, BUT HIS CHANCES FOR PRISON AND CIVIL ADJUSTMENT ARE "GUARDED," A STATE PRISON REPORT SHOWED TUESDAY.

THE CONVICTED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE CRIME WITH A TEAM OF INTERVIEWERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, MINISTERS AND OTHERS DURING THE TWO MONTHS HE HAS BEEN LODGED IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WING OF THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON.

HE SAID HE PREFERRED TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT HE HAD TO MAKE TO THE COURT.

"THIS MAN WAS EXTREMELY GUARDED IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS," THE REPORT SAID. HE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE APPREHENSIVE, BUT CERTAINLY NOT COMMUNICATIVE. ALL HIS ANSWERS WERE BRIEF AND HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON ANY OF HIS ANSWERS."

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PORTION OF THE REPORT SAID THAT "TESTS INDICATE BRIGHT, NORMAL INTELLIGENCE (BUT THE) PROGNOSIS FOR PRISON AND CIVIL ADJUSTMENT APPEARS GUARDED."

AFTER THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RELEASED THE REPORT, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WING OF THE PRISON.

CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER HARRY AVERY SAID THAT THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS WAS COMPLETED AND RAY COULD RECEIVE FAMILY VISITORS AND HAVE MAIL PRIVILEGES.

ROBERT W. HILL JR., OF CHATTANOOGA, ONE OF RAY'S ATTORNEYS, SAID "I DON'T HAVE ANY DOUBT BUT THAT SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ON AN INDEFINITE BASIS WOULD BE CRUEL AND UNUSUAL TREATMENT."

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WELDON W. COX PERMITTED NEWSMEN TO SEE THE REPORT, BU SAID THAT MUCH OF THE INFORMATION CONCERNING RAY'S BACKGROUND WAS UNVERIFIED.

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FOR MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



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RAY 5/14 NX

(MURKIN P.R. Folder)

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*DeLoach*  
*Rosen*  
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UPI-117

(RAY)

NASHVILLE--JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, HAS COMPLETED HIS CLASSIFICATION PROCESS AT THE TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY BUT WILL REMAIN IN MAXIMUM SECURITY, THE STATE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

WELDON V. COX, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN RAY WILL BE MOVED FROM HIS SMALL, ISOLATED CELL WHERE HE HAS BEEN HOUSED SINCE MARCH 11.

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(1,650) (PICTURE)

# MEMPHIS A YEAR LATER: HOW MUCH CHANGE?

BY H.D. QUIGG

UPI SENIOR EDITOR

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)-- ONE YEAR AND SIX DAYS AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS MURDERED HERE, THE TALL, SLIM NEGRO WHO WAS STANDING BESIDE HIM WHEN HE WAS SHOT STRODE INTO MEMPHIS' NEW, MODERNISTIC CITY HALL THAT OVERLOOKS A MAGNIFICENT STRETCH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

AT THE ENTRANCE, HE PASSED SOME VERSE GRAVEN ON THE WHITE MARBLE WALL, FROM "THE CITY," BY THE ANCIENT GREEK POET ALCAEUS:

"NOT BY HER HOUSES' NEAT  
"NOR BY HER WELL-BUILT WALLS,  
"NOT YET AGAIN  
"NEITHER BY DOCK NOR STREET  
"A CITY STANDS OR FALLS  
"BUT BY HER MEN."

THE LEAN MAN, A BAPTIST PRESCHER WITH A NEAT MUSTACHE AND BLACK-RIM GLASSES, TOOK THE ELEVATOR HE HAD TAKEN BEFORE -- A YEAR AGO -- TO MAKE FIERY SPEECHES TO THE CITY COUNCIL ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF

THE LEAN MAN, A BAPTIST PRESCHER WITH A NEAT MUSTACHE AND BLACK-RIM GLASSES, TOOK THE ELEVATOR HE HAD TAKEN BEFORE -- A YEAR AGO -- TO MAKE FIERY SPEECHES TO THE CITY COUNCIL ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF CITY GARBAGE WORKERS, IN WHOSE CAUSE KING CAME TO MARCH DURING THEIR PROLONGED STRIKE.

THIS DAY HE GOT OFF AT THE SECOND FLOOR AND WENT TO THE OFFICE OF MAYOR HENRY LOEB, ONE OF THE ADVERSARIES OF THE STRIKERS DURING THOSE TRYING DAYS OF EARLY 1968.

THE MAYOR STOOD. HE IS 6-FEET-5, WITH 240 POUNDS SVELTLY DISTRIBUTED OVER A HUGE FRAME, A MOVIE-HANDSOME FACE -- A MAN OF BLUNT SPEECH SOFTENED BY FOLKSY EXPLETIVES. HE LIFTED HIS RIGHT HAND, SO DID THE PASTOR OF THE MONUMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH, WHO REPEATED:

"I, SAMUEL B. KYLES, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR..." IT WAS THE OATH OF OFFICE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY HOSPITAL BOARD.

"IT WAS A BLOCKBUSTER WHEN THE MAYOR NOMINATED HIM, AND THE COUNCIL PASSED HIM 10-3," SAID A LONGTIME OBSERVER OF MEMPHIS GOVERNMENT. "THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED A YEAR AGO -- A MILITANT-TYPE MINISTER IN THIS CITY JOB. IT SHOWS SOME CHAGE AND IMPROVEMENT IN A YEAR."

THIS WAS AT THE MAYOR'S WEEKLY THURSDAY-AFTERNOON "OPEN HOUSE," IN WHICH ANYBODY CAN GO IN AND TALK ABOUT ANYTHING TO HIM. AFTER KYLES' SWARING-IN, A DISCUSSION GROUP FROM AN INTEGRATED HIGH SCHOOL ARRIVED AND THE FIRST QUESTION WAS:

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT RACE RELATIONS?"

"THINGS LIKE HOUSING, RECREATION, JOBS, AND THIS OPEN HOUSE DAY," LOEB REPLIED. "THE REASON I HAVE THIS DAY AND THAT I ANSWER EVERY LETTER IS THAT MEMPHIS IS TRYING TO BETTER MEMPHIS. YOU SAW THE REVEREND KYLES GOING OUT THE DOOR. I JUST APPOINTED HIM AND I TOLD HIM TO DO THINGS FOR MEMPHIS--NOT JUST THE BLACK PEOPLE."

LATER, YOUNG JOE ORGILL III, HEAD OF A WHOLESALE HARDWARE COMPANY, WAS SWORN IN FOR THE HOSPITAL BOARD, AND A LOCAL OBSERVER SAID: "HERE YOU HAVE A WEALTHY MEMBER OF THE LANDED ARISTOCRACY AND KYLES, A MILITANT PREACHER WHO RAISED HIMSELF BY HIS OWN BOOTSTRAPS, AND THE MAYOR SAID HE WAS SURE THEY COULD GET ALONG TOGETHER."

"THE REV. H. RALPH JACKSON (ONE OF THE MORE OUTSPOKEN NEGRO LEADERS) GOT UP IN CITY HALL ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION AND SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE, NO IMPROVEMENT, IN THE LAST YEAR AT ALL.

"HELL, THAT'S WRONG. THEY RAISED THE SANITATION WORKERS AND THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, AND THEY'RE TEARING DOWN SLUM HOUSES. IN MY OPINION THEY'VE ALL DONE QUITE A BIT."

THE OBSERVER WAS A WHITE MAN.

KYLES HIMSELF WAS INTERVIEWED LATER THAT DAY. "AT THE BEGINNING," HE SAID, "THE ASSASSINATION DID MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY. THEY GOT TOGETHER RIGHT QUICK AND CAME UP WITH A 'MEMPHIS CARES' ORGANIZATION. THEY HAD A BIG PUBLIC MEETING IN THE STADIUM.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS WOULD ANSWER, 'MEMPHIS CARES.' THEY WANTED THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT MEMPHIS CARED. THEY DIDN'T GET TOO MUCH DONE BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T CARE TOO LONG.

"OVER-ALL, ON THE YEAR AND AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE SLAYING, I THINK THAT SOME FEW WHITES HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED. MORE BLACKS HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED."

SAMUEL BILLY KYLES, 34, HAD BEEN IN MEMPHIS 10 YEARS AS HE STOOD ON THE MOTEL BALCONY WITH THE REV. DR. KING ON APRIL 4, 1968.

"WE WERE PREPARING TO GO TO MY HOUSE FOR DINNER," HE RECALLED. "IT WAS ALMOST AS IF (JAMES EARL) RAY WERE WAITING FOR ME TO WALK AWAY, BECAUSE WHEN I TURNED HE SHOT. THE RAY GUILTY FLEA? THE BLACK COMMUNITY HERE FEELS IT WAS A WHITELASH--THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A TRIAL."

THE HOSPITAL BOARD OF FIVE MEN NOW HAS TWO NEGROES, KYLES AND DR. HOLLIS F. PRICE, PRESIDENT OF LE MOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE. THIS IS MORE NEARLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION BREAKDOWN OF MEMPHIS--ABOUT 39 PER CENT BLACK, 61 WHITE OUT OF NEARLY 700,000 PERSONS--THAT IS THE CITY COUNCIL, WHICH HAS 3 NEGROES OUT OF 13 MEMBERS. AS FOR WHITE "INVOLVEMENT" NOW, KYLES SAID: "OUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HISTORICALLY HAS HAD A HANDS-OFF POLICY--BUT SINCE THE ASSASSINATION THEY ARE VERY SENSITIVE AND CONCERNED ABOUT ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE BLACK COMMUNITY. THEY'VE BEEN QUITE INTERESTED. YOU JUST CAN'T IGNORE 40 PER CENT OF MEMPHIS AND EXPECT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. HOUSING AND JOBS ARE CRITICAL HERE.

"THE CLIMATE OF THE CITY? WELL, THE KILLER FELT SAFE. THE THING THAT BOTHERED ME SO MUCH IS THAT WE'D BEEN HOLLERING FOR YEARS ABOUT HOW GOOD RACE RELATIONS WE HAD IN MEMPHIS. 'THE CITY OF GODD ABODE'--I THINK A BLACK MAN COINED THE PHRASE. BUT THE SANITATION STRIKE THAT LASTED OVER TWO MONTHS SHOWED THE REAL HATRED THAT EXISTED IN MEMPHIS.

"HAS THERE BEEN ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THAT? I'D LIKE TO THINK THERE HAS. THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE WORKING QUIETLY AND CONFIDENTLY TO MAKE JOBS, HOUSE THE ILL-HOUSED, FEED THE HUNGRY."

THIS DISPATCH IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO ASSESS MEMPHIS, WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED "A SORT OF MICROCOSM OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY" BY CHARLES HOLMES, WHO ACTS AS A PUBLICIST IN MANY CITY FUNCTIONS. IT IS A REPORT ON SOME INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS ABOUT WHAT EFFECT THE KING MURDER HAS HAD IN THE COMMUNITY IN A YEAR. THOSE OPINIONS IN SOME INSTANCES ARE AT SHARP VARIANCE. THERE ARE OPTIMISTS AND PESSIMISTS AND FATALISTS.

MEMPHIS IS CELEBRATING ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY. FOR YEARS IT HAD PRIDED ITSELF ON ITS RACE RELATIONS. THEN IT FOUND SUDDEN DIVISIONS AND UNSUSPECTED PROBLEMS DURING THE SANITATION STRIKE AND AFTER ITS WORLD-TRAGIC CLIMAX.



FIRE AND POLICE DIRECTOR FRANK HOLLOWMAN SAYS THAT WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE ON JAN. 1, 1968, THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, HE STARTED A PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS THAT ENCOURAGED POLICEMEN TO MIX WITH PEOPLE, MAKE CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY.

"THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS HERE TO SERVE THE CITIZENS, WHITE, BLACK, YELLOW," HOLLOWMAN SAID. "AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THEY ARE ALL FIRST-CLASS CITIZENS. BUT IT TAKES TIME TO GET THIS PHILOSOPHY ACROSS. WHY? IF YOU'VE GOT A STATE OF MIND THAT'S EXISTED FROM TIME ON BACK, YOU DON'T HAVE A HAND AND END IT."

JESSE H. TURNER, A HANDSOME MAN WITH RIMLESS GLASSES, SITS IN AN OFFICE AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE TRI-STATE BANK AND SAYS OF THE KING SLAYING: "I THINK ANY IMPRESSION MADE ON THE WHITE COMMUNITY IS SUPERFICIAL. THEY HAVE COMMITTEES. I DON'T THINK THE COMMUNITY ITSELF IS DEDICATED TO ANY CHANGE."

"A FEW WHITE PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED, BUT THE NUMBER IS SO SMALL AND THE OPPOSITION SO MASSIVE THAT THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN MINIMAL. TO A MAJORITY OF FOLKS THE KILLING WAS A SHOCK--BUT THAT WAS SHORT-LIVED."

TURNER FOR EIGHT YEARS WAS PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) AND HE STILL IS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF NAACP. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL COUNTY COURT, AN ADMINISTRATIVE BODY.

ASKED WHAT HE FELT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, HE REPLIED: "IT'S A MOST UNPREDICTABLE SITUATION. OUR COMMUNITY HAS JUST NOT COME TO GRIPS WITH THE SITUATION--JOBS, FACILITIES, INTEGRATION, JUSTICE. AND I DON'T THINK THEY INTEND TO COME TO GRIPS--TO TREAT NEGROES AS THEY WOULD WHITES."

IN HIS OFFICE IN THE CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH SAT ITS PASTOR, THE REV. JAMES M. LAWSON JR., 40, WHO THINKS HIS NONVIOLENT CREED IS MORE RADICAL THAN THE "SO-CALLED MILITANTS." HE HAD JUST BEEN GIVEN THE ANNUAL AWARD OF THE MEMPHIS CATHOLIC COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS FOR FURTHERANCE OF BROTHERHOOD AND UNDERSTANDING.

HE IS THE MAN WHO GOT MARTIN LUTHER KING TO COME HERE TO SUPPORT THE SANITATION STRIKE. HE WAS A MAIN ORGANIZER OF THE ANNIVERSARY MARCH THIS YEAR AND THE MAN WHO CALMED THE CROWD AFTER TEAR GAS EXPLODED. HE BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN RACE-RELATIONS PROGRESS IN THE LAST YEAR BUT:

"MEMPHIS IS STILL ESSENTIALLY A TOWN RACIST IN MOOD, LOOKING TO THE PAST AND STILL EXCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF THE BLACK AND THE POOR. THIS BECOMES FAR MORE PROBLEMATIC THAN OTHER CITIES BECAUSE MEMPHIS IS VERY LOW ON THE ECONOMIC SCALE."

"THE PLANTATION THEORY OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE MOST PART STILL DOMINATES. WE HAVE MADE SMALL BEGINNINGS IN TERMS OF BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE WAKING UP AND TRYING TO REMAKE THE CITY INTO A HUMANE PLACE."

"EVEN BEFORE, DR. KING WAS KILLED, THERE WERE MEANINGFUL CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE WHITE AND BLACK LEADERSHIP."

DID THE ASSASSINATION ACCELERATE THESE?

"OH, YES, DEFINITELY. BUT IT FELL OFF."

THE RACIST DEMEANOR WAS NOT CRACKED."

JUDGE ODELL HORTON OF CRIMINAL COURT--THE SECOND NEGRO IN TENNESSEE HISTORY TO BECOME A JUDGE ON THAT LEVEL--SAID HE BELIEVES WHITE PEOPLE WERE HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THE KING PHILOSOPHY AND CONCEPTS.

"THEN, AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, THERE WAS SO MUCH BROADCAST AND PRINTED THAT PEOPLE BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND NONVIOLENCE AND PEACEFUL PROTEST. IT MEANT SOMETHING TO PEOPLE, AND THERE'S BEEN A GREAT OUTPOURING OF INTEREST, SYMPATHY, AND CONCERN."

"PEOPLE WHO HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED BEGAN TO GET INVOLVED--BEGAN TO TALK WITH NEGROES AND INVITE THEM TO HOMES AND MEETINGS, ATTEMPT TO REALLY FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON. THERE'S BEEN A REAL UPSURGE OF INTEREST IN PROBLEMS OF THE POOR."

"THE MAYOR IS A VERY AVAILABLE MAYOR, A FINE THING. HE'LL SEE ANYBODY."

"WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN? I'M AN OPTIMIST. CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN JOBS, HEALTH, SCHOOLING, HOUSING, ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGROES."

NOW TO JOHN T. FISHER, A YOUNG WHITE BUSINESSMAN WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMPHIS MANPOWER COMMISSION, WHICH WAS CREATED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND IS TRYING TO COORDINATE URBAN EFFORT.

"THE EFFECT OF THE ASSASSINATION? MEMPHIS IS DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS. I DON'T THINK SUCH AN ACT CAN TAKE PLACE IN A TOWN AND LEAVE IT THE SAME PLACE. THE MURDER AS A PART OF THE LOCAL TRAUMA OF THE TIME JUST FUSED IT ON EVERYBODY."

"H. RALPH JACKSON IN HIS SPEECH SAID THINGS HAD NOT CHANGED. I DECLINE TO GET INTO THAT DEBATE. I ASSUME THAT THERE ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF POOR PEOPLE IN MEMPHIS WHOSE LIVES HAVE NOT CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. I WOULD TEND TO ACCEPT HIS STATEMENT THAT THEY'VE NOT CHANGED."

"I'D HAVE TO ADD THAT THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE CHANGED A LOT. AND I THINK THE FACT THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STEPPED OUT AND RAISED \$4 MILLION IN 90 DAYS INDICATES THAT. PRIMARILY IT WAS A BUSINESS COMMUNITY SUBSCRIPTION IN MAY, JUNE, AND

"I'D HAVE TO ADD THAT THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE CHANGED A LOT. AND I THINK THE FACT THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STEPPED OUT AND RAISED \$4 MILLION IN 90 DAYS INDICATES THAT. PRIMARILY IT WAS A BUSINESS COMMUNITY SUBSCRIPTION IN MAY, JUNE, AND JULY. THE ASSASSINATION GAVE A REAL SWIFT IMPETUS TO THE GREATER MEMPHIS PROGRAM."

"THE DANGER LIES IN TRYING TO SAY THAT THAT'S ENOUGH--OR THAT THE CHAMBER HAS BEGUN TO WORK IN WAYS OF TOTAL COMMUNITY. TO TRANSLATE IT INTO SAYING THAT SOME POOR GUY IS NO LONGER HUNGRY IS WRONG. NO ONE IN THE GREATER MEMPHIS PROGRAM IS UNDER ANY ILLUSION IT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. THAT'S WHY WE'RE WORKING."

(ADVANCE --WORLD HORIZONS FOR 5/11 RELEASE)

UN302AED

*A-7*

## Ray Lawyer Maps U.S. Court Suits

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)—Attorney J. B. Stoner says he will file federal court lawsuits charging government agencies, magazines and individuals with conspiring to deprive James Earl Ray of his constitutional rights.

Stoner made the announcement following a two-hour meeting yesterday with Ray at the state penitentiary, where Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Earlier yesterday, Stoner was recognized by the Shelby County Criminal Court in Memphis as co-counsel for Ray in criminal matters.

Stoner refused to identify the parties to be named as defendants and had no comment when asked whether the Justice Department or the FBI would be named.

*Murkin*  
*Balden P.R.*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Long*

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) *A-7* \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date MAY 9 1969

**DUPE**



MURKIN

P.R. Folder

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Attorney For Ray Accepted By Judge

Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. yesterday issued an order recognizing that J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., is serving with Richard J. Ryan of Memphis as a criminal lawyer for James Earl Ray.

Mr. Stoner, an official of the National States Rights Party, had previously been considered an attorney for Ray only in civil matters. He had been the first lawyer to see Ray after his transfer to the state prison in Nashville. However, state Corrections Commissioner Harry Avery said the Georgia lawyer had indicated he represented Ray only on civil matters, and wasn't allowed to see Ray again.

"The warden of the state prison or any other person having control of the prisoner is hereby directed to permit Stoner to consult with the defendant," the judge said.

Ray, who pleaded guilty on March 10 to murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was sentenced to 99 years, is seeking a new trial. A hearing will be held May 26 before Judge Faquin.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— PAGE 29

— COMMERCIAL APPEAL

— MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5-9-69

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Suits to Be Filed In Ray's Behalf

J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., attorney for James Earl Ray, said today he would file federal court suits charging government agencies, magazines and individuals with conspiring to deprive Ray of his constitutional rights.

Stoner spent about two hours with Ray in his state prison cell at Nashville yesterday.

Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. issued an order in Memphis that Stoner is serving with Richard J. Ryan of Memphis as one of Ray's defense attorneys.

Stoner refused to say who the defendants would be, nor would he comment on when or where the suits would be filed.

**STONER**, long associated with the National States Rights Party and Ku Klux Klan activities, said Ray and he primarily discussed the filing of the suits and touched briefly on the May 26 Memphis hearing which will determine whether Ray will receive a new trial in the murder of King.

"Ray seems to be getting along very well considering where he is," said Stoner.

He declined to repeat anything that Ray told him and would not say if Ray had requested any personal effects such as magazines or writing paper.

**STONER** was the first attorney to meet with Ray after his transfer to Nashville from Memphis March 11. At that time, Stoner told newsmen he was representing Ray only in civil matters.

Faquin will hold a hearing May 26 on a letter written by Ray to the late Judge W. Preston Battle and a motion, signed by Ryan, Stoner and Hill, that was filed on April 7, one week after Battle's death.

Ray had been in the state prison less than a day when he repudiated his guilty plea in the King assassination, claiming that he had been "pressured" by his previous attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

MEMPHIS  
PRESS-SCIMITAR

PAGE 15

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: 5-19-69  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: CHAS. H.  
Title: SCHNEIDER

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS  
☐ Being Investigated



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## Canale Believes Ray Appeal Null

James Earl Ray forfeited the right of appeal when he pleaded guilty in Criminal Court here to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale said in a motion filed yesterday.

The attorney general cited a Tennessee Supreme Court opinion holding that an "attempted appeal after a plea of guilty is a complete nullity" and asked Judge Arthur C. Faquin to dismiss Ray's motion for a new trial. Judge Faquin will hear the motion May 26.

A plea of guilty precludes appeal both in the state and the United States Supreme Court, the attorney general said. But the state acknowledged informally that Ray can ask for a habeas corpus hearing if his new trial motion is refused. The right to a habeas corpus hearing is guaranteed in the state's Post-Conviction Act.

Meanwhile in Nashville, state penitentiary personnel completed Ray's prisoner classification but ruled he must continue to live alone in a single maximum security cell, as he has since March 11.

An unidentified prison guard was quoted as saying Ray's life would be in danger if he mingled with other prisoners.

Ray was found by psychologists to be of "bright, normal intelligence." He refused to make any statement to them regarding the killing of Dr. King at the Lorraine Motel April 4, 1968.

The classification notes Ray never had "a great deal to do with religion." His prognosis for adjustment to prison or civil life "appears guarded."

Weldon W. Cox, deputy commissioner of corrections, said fitting Ray into a prison occupation presents a "special case. He may be qualified to be a carpenter, plumber, or what-not, but we may not be able to fit him into any of those programs."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

MEMPHIS 17  
PRESS-SCIMITAR

PAGE

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5-14-69

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: CHAS. H.  
SCIMITAR

Character:

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Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

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# State Tells Court Ray Waived Right

By ROY B. HAMILTON  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

The state today contended that James Earl Ray waived his right to a new trial and appeal when he pleaded guilty and accepted a 99-year prison term in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The state filed its answer opposing Ray's motion for a new trial before Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin. Robert K. Dwyer, executive assistant attorney general, filed the state's reply.

Judge Faquin will hear arguments on the issue May 26.

Accompanying the state's motion was a copy of a petition for waiver and acceptance of the guilty plea signed by Ray and his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston.

The last sentence of the petition reads, "I hereby waive any right I may or could have to a motion for a new trial and-or an appeal."

Ray now claims he was pressured into pleading guilty March 10 by his former counsel.

He wrote a letter to the

late Judge W. Preston Battle, who presided at the guilty plea proceedings, asking for a new trial shortly before Battle's death.

Ray is expected to be returned to Memphis from the state penitentiary at Nashville for the May 26 hearing.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

MEMPHIS 3  
PRESS-SCIMITAR

PAGE

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: 5-13-69  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: CRIS. H.  
SCHNEIDER

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS  
☐ Being Investigated



*Murkin  
PR Folder*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Hearing On Retrial To Be As Scheduled

The hearing on a motion for a new trial for James Earl Ray will be held May 26 as scheduled, two of his attorneys said here yesterday.

Attorneys Richard J. Ryan of Memphis and J. B. Stoner of Augusta, Ga., said they expected the attorney general's office to file an answer to their motion for a new trial before the end of the week.

The attorneys said they were informed by Exec. Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert K. Dwyer that the reply to their motion awaits only the arrival of a letter from Ray's former attorney, Percy Foreman of Dallas, before being filed in the criminal court clerk's office.

Judge Arthur C. Faquin has scheduled the hearing of arguments on a new trial for Ray in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for 9:30 a.m. May 26. Ray pleaded guilty to the murder March 10 but almost immediately repudiated his guilty plea.

Mr. Stoner, who identified himself as vice chairman of the executive committee of the National States Rights Party, declined to be interviewed. After seeing Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Ryan introduced Mr. Stoner to Judge Faquin.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 5

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5-8-69

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GORDON RAYNA

Title:

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Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

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MURKIN  
P.R.  
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## Author Dims Theory Of Conspiracy

Author Gerold Frank, reconstructing the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King for a book, said last night it "appears more and more to be less and less a conspiracy."

Mr. Frank, author of "The Boston Strangler," "I'll Cry Tomorrow" and "Beloved Infidel," played down the conspiracy theory in a question and answer period with members of Sigma Delta Chi, a professional journalism society.

Many of those in the audience of the Region Three SDX meeting at Highway Inn-Midtown were newsmen who were involved in covering the lengthy story from the assassination to the imprisonment of James Earl Ray for the killing.

Mr. Frank said his original deadline for the book on the King slaying was September, 1971, "but it just seems to keep

going and keep going." He was then asked if he thought Ray would live that long.

"I don't suppose I know any more about that than anyone else," he answered.

In his talk and in his answers, he used the fact that Ray has not been silenced by any co-conspirators as a factor in favor of the no-conspiracy theory.

Another factor, he said, was Ray's courtroom statement that indicated the killing resulted from a conspiracy which prompted no underworld retaliation.

A third was the site and time chosen for the fatal shooting — a bathroom at the end of a dead-end hall at a time when persons are coming in from work and logically would be using the bathroom.

Mr. Frank thinks that Ray "is street bright," smart enough to survive in the world of the criminal.

"With Ray, all we know are his failures. We don't know how successful some of his robberies were, just as we don't know how many women were not attacked by the Boston strangler."

In discussing his research on the King killing and investigation for other books, he noted that frequently criminal acts follow no logic and events cannot be explained rationally but rather as coincidences.

In an afternoon session, closed-circuit television coverage of the Sirhan trial was explained by a Los Angeles newsman.

"We proved that television can cover a trial of national importance without disrupting the court," said Howard Williams, editorial director of KNXT-TV.

Mr. Williams directed the installation of a closed-circuit television system for the trial of Sirhan Sirhan, the convicted assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy.

An auxiliary courtroom was set up four floors beneath the real one. Three television monitors were placed in it.

In a talk yesterday morning to Sigma Delta Chi members, a University of Arkansas law professor predicted that the Tennessee Supreme Court will reverse the conviction of two Memphis reporters held in

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— PAGE 28

— GLOBE NEWS

— MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5-3-69  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: GLOBE NEWS  
Title:

Character:  
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Classification:  
Submitting Office:  
☐ Being Investigated



contempt in the King murder case.

Jerome F. Leavelle of the Little Rock Division of the University of Arkansas School of Law said stories written by Roy Hamilton of the Memphis Press-Scimitar and Charles Edmundson of The Commercial Appeal did not constitute a "clear and present danger" to the administration of justice.

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Edmundson were convicted for contempt by the Judge Battle Sept. 30.

Judge Battle died before passing sentence.

The three-day conference ends tonight with a dinner and a talk by John Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville Tennessean, on the inconsistency of justice in the Sirhan, Ray and Clay Shaw trials.

Other speakers today include Kenneth Starck, assistant professor of journalism at Southern Illinois University and former education editor of The Commercial Appeal, and Frank Angelo, managing editor of the Detroit Free Press and national vice president of SDX.



**CASE DISCUSSION** — Author Gerold Frank (left) and Charles Edmundson, a reporter for The Commercial Appeal, discussed the James Earl Ray case last night at the Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism society, conference at

the Holiday Inn-Midtown. Mr. Edmundson reported the case for The Commercial Appeal, and Mr. Frank is gathering material for a book about the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

— Staff Photo by Fred W. ...

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Chattanooga Lawyer Says Ray Was 'Dupe', Thinks New Trial Is Assured

NASHVILLE, April 22. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray was the dupe in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and is virtually assured of winning a new trial, his attorney said Tuesday.

Robert W. Hill of Chattanooga, told newsmen after a three-hour-and-15-minute conference with Ray at the state penitentiary that he discussed with Ray the new trial motion

which will be heard by Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin, in Memphis, May 26.

Hill said they also discussed in passing the conspiracy aspects of the case.

"He (Ray) has no real knowledge of any conspiracy that I know of," Hill said. "He flatly just doesn't know. He doesn't have that much knowledge of what actually happened."

The slender, young attorney did not say who he thought had "duped" Ray and declined to say what type of alibi Ray will claim in the event a new trial is granted.

Ray has been confined to an isolated maximum-security cell in the state prison here since March 11, the day after he pleaded guilty in Memphis to King's murder in exchange for a 99-year sentence.

Hill and two other attorneys, J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., and Richard Ryan of Memphis, are representing Ray. Hill is involved with Ryan in the appeals in criminal court at Memphis and with Stoner in a federal lawsuit filed here.

The federal suit seeks to void contracts Ray has with two former attorneys, famed lawyer Percy Foreman of

Houston and former Birmingham Mayor Arthur Hanes, and with author William Bradford Huie.

Hill emerged from the prison clutching what appeared to be sheets of lined notebook paper on which he said Ray had made notes as well as a torn sheet from a Look magazine article which Foreman had written.

Hill said he did not yet know what the notes contained but said Foreman had violated professional ethics in the Look article by stating that no client came to him unless he was guilty.

Accompanying Hill were two private investigators from Chattanooga who are working with him on the Ray case.

Hill said he did not think it would be necessary for Ray to

attend the hearing in Memphis next month.

"There is no reason that he should be there because all that we will be discussing are points of law."

Hill said Ray had been interviewed by FBI agents since his confinement here but he did not know whether Ray cooperated and answered their questions.

If a new trial is granted, Hill said, Ray has no particular desire to testify but would be

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 26

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

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Classification:

Submitting Office:

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Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
 L. J. G.

James Earl Ray was the dupe in the murder of Martin Luther King Jr., and is virtually assured of winning a new trial, his attorney, Robert W. Hill, said.

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The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News P-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date APR 23 1969

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*MURKIN*  
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James Earl Ray was the dupe in the murder of Martin Luther King Jr., and is virtually assured of winning a new trial, his attorney, Robert W. Hill, said.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
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Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
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The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date 4/23/69



05/77 RAY NASHVILLE, TENN. (UPI) -

RAY IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF WINNING A NEW TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

ROBERT W. HILL OF CHATTANOOGA TOLD NEWSMEN FOLLOWING A THREE-HOUR AND 15-MINUTE MEETING WITH RAY THAT HIS CLIENT WAS THE DUPE IN THE KING MURDER AND HE WAS CONVINCED RAY WAS INNOCENT.

HILL SAID THERE HAVE BEEN ON INCONSISTENCIES IN RAY'S STATEMENTS TO HIM AND THAT GUILTY CLIENTS USUALLY CROSS THEMSELVES UP.

"EVERYTHING I HAVE FOUND SUPPORTS WHAT RAY HAS TOLD ME," HILL SAID.

THE ATTORNEY SAID RAY DENIED FIRING THE FATAL SHOT WHICH KILLED KING AS HE STOOD ON THE BALCONY OF A MOTEL IN MEMPHIS.

POLICE SAID RAY'S FINGERPRINTS WERE ON A 30.06 DEER RIFLE FOUND NEAR THE ROOMING HOUSE WHERE THE SHOT WAS FIRED. ALTHOUGH THE FATAL SLUG WAS TOO DAMAGED FOR DEFINITE BALLISTIC TESTS, THE FBI ESTABLISHED THAT THE BULLET COULD HAVE BEEN FIRED BY THE WEAPON.

RAY PLEADED GUILTY TO THE MURDER MARCH 10 AND RECEIVED A 99-YEAR SENTENCE. HILL AND TWO OTHER ATTORNEYS, J.B. STONER OF SAVANNAH, GA., AND RICHARD RYAN OF MEMPHIS, ARE REPRESENTING RAY IN HIS BID FOR A NEW TRIAL AND IN A CIVIL SUIT TO VOID CONTRACTS RAY HAD WITH TWO FORMER ATTORNEYS, PERCY FOREMAN AND ARTHUR HANES SR., AND AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE.

HILL SAID HE DISCUSSED WITH RAY THE NEW TRIAL MOTION WHICH WILL BE HEARD IN MEMPHIS MAY 26 DURING THE MEETING AT THE STATE PRISON. HE ALSO SAID THEY DISCUSSED IN PASSING THE CONSPIRACY ASPECTS OF THE CASE.

"HE (RAY) HAS NO REAL KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CONSPIRACY THAT I KNOW OF," HILL SAID. "HE FLATLY JUST DOESN'T KNOW. HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT MUCH KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED."

THE SLENDER, YOUNG ATTORNEY DID NOT SAY WHOM HE THOUGHT "DUPED" RAY AND DECLINED TO SAY WHAT TYPE OF ALIBI RAY WILL CLAIM IN THE EVENT A NEW TRIAL IS GRANTED.

BA748AEST

*DeLoach*  
*Rosen*  
*Long*

FBI

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**MURKIN**

*MURKIN  
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*for*

*Long*

UPI-179

(RAY)

NASHVILLE, TENN.--JAMES EARL RAY WAS THE DUPE IN THE MURDER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., AND IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF WINNING A NEW TRIAL, HIS ATTORNEY SAID TODAY.

ROBERT W. HILL OF CHATTANOOGA TOLD NEWSMEN FOLLOWING A THREE-HOUR AND 15-MINUTE CONFERENCE WITH RAY AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY THAT HE DISCUSSED WITH RAY THE NEW TRIAL MOTION WHICH WILL BE HEARD IN MEMPHIS MAY 26.

HILL SAID THEY ALSO DISCUSSED IN PASSING THE CONSPIRACY ASPECTS OF THE CASE.

"HE (RAY) HAS NO REAL KNOWLEDGE OF ANY CONSPIRACY THAT I KNOW OF," HILL SAID. "HE FLATLY JUST DOESN'T KNOW. HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT MUCH KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED."

THE SLENDER, YOUNG ATTORNEY DID NOT SAY WHO HE THOUGHT HAD "DUPED" RAY AND DECLINED TO SAY WHAT TYPE OF ALIBI RAY WILL CLAIM IN THE EVENT NEW TRIAL IS GRANTED.

RAY HAS BEEN CONFINED TO AN ISOLATED MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL IN THE STATE PRISON HERE SINCE MARCH 11, THE DAY AFTER HE PLEADED GUILTY IN MEMPHIS TO KING'S MURDER IN EXCHANGE FOR A 99-YEAR SENTENCE.

HILL AND TWO OTHER ATTORNEYS, J.B. STONER OF SAVANNAH, GA., AND RICHARD RYAN OF MEMPHIS, ARE REPRESENTING RAY. HILL IS INVOLVED WITH RYAN IN THE APPEALS IN SHELBY COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT AT MEMPHIS AND WITH STONER IN A FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILED HERE.

THE FEDERAL SUIT SEEKS TO VOID CONTRACTS RAY HAD WITH TWO FORMER ATTORNEYS, FAMED TRIAL LAWYER PERCY FOREMAN OF HOUSTON AND FORMER BIRMINGHAM MAYOR ARTHUR HANES SR., AND WITH AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE.

4/22--EG814PES



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 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Murkin*  
*P.R. Faldor*

*Long*

UPI-169

(RAY)

NASHVILLE, TENN.--JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WILL BE KEPT IN MAXIMUM SECURITY AT THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON UNTIL IT IS "SAFE" TO MOVE HIM ELSEWHERE, STATE CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER HARRY AVERY SAID TODAY.

RAY HAS BEEN HOUSED IN AN ISOLATED CELL IN THE PRISON'S MAXIMUM SECURITY BUILDING SINCE MARCH 11, THE DAY AFTER HE PLEADED GUILTY TO KILLING KING IN EXCHANGE FOR A 99-YEAR SENTENCE.

RAY HAS BEEN UNDERGOING CLASSIFICATION WHICH NORMALLY TAKES FOUR TO SIX WEEKS. OFFICIALS SAID EARLIER A DETERMINATION WOULD BE MADE WHEN RAY'S CLASSIFICATION IS COMPLETED ON WHETHER HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MINGLE WITH THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION.

4/21--GE704P

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Foreman, Huie Seek Dismissal Of Ray's Suit

NASHVILLE. — (UPI) — A new motion filed in U.S. District Court here seeks dismissal of a suit by James Earl Ray against attorney Percy Foreman and author William Bradford Huie.

The motion by Nashville attorney John J. Hooker claims Ray's suit was filed in the wrong district court since he is not a resident of Middle Tennessee.

IT ALSO SAYS Ray's suit, which seeks to invalidate contracts with Foreman, attorney Arthur Hanes of Birmingham and Huie, "fails to state a claim against" Foreman upon which relief can be granted.

Hanes, former Birmingham mayor who was Ray's first attorney after he was arrested for the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has said he plans to answer the suit soon.

IN THE SUIT, Ray, now serving a 99-year prison term, claims he was "pressured" into pleading guilty to the King slaying by both Hanes and Foreman.

Ray seeks to halt publication next month of a book written by Huie about the slaying of King in Memphis last year.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

MEMPHIS  
PRESS-SCIMITAR

PAGE 8

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date:  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

4-30-69  
CHAS. H.  
SCHNEIDER

Character:  
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Newsmen Await Sentencing

An attorney for two Memphis newsmen convicted of contempt of court in the James Earl Ray case said today he will postpone Supreme Court action until the men are sentenced.

Armistead Clay, counsel for Roy Hamilton of The Press-Scimitar and Charles Edmundson of The Commercial Appeal, has appealed the conviction through lower courts which have refused to review the action because of the absence of sentence.

Judge Arthur Faquin, who took over the Ray case with the sudden death of Judge W. Preston Battle March 31, is scheduled to pass sentence after a hearing May 23.

Faquin, however, said he might delay the hearing until after May 26 when he is scheduled to rule on Ray's motion for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray pleaded guilty before Battle March 10 and was sentenced to 99 years in the state penitentiary at Nashville.

Interview Summary 2-22-69

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 5

MEMPHIS PRESS-  
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 4-29-69  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: CHAS. E.  
Title: SCHNEIDER

Character:  
or  
Classification: MEMPHIS  
Submitting Office: 44-1987

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Hooker Sr. Named Foreman Counsel

NASHVILLE, April 26.—(AP). — John J. Hooker Sr. will represent Texas attorney Percy Foreman and author William Bradford Huie in a federal court suit filed against them by James Earl Ray, admitted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hooker, a prominent Tennessee attorney who lives in Nashville, said Saturday that both Foreman and Huie had contacted him about handling the case during the past week.

Ray, who pleaded guilty to murdering King in return for a 99-year prison sentence, is seeking to void contracts with his former attorney and the Alabama novelist and magazine writer.

Ray has charged in the suit that they were more interested in making money than they were in protecting him and that they pressured him into pleading guilty to the murder charge.

The suit also seeks to block publication of Huie's book about Ray which Ray claims is based on information he gave Foreman and his first attorney, Arthur Haynes of Birmingham, Ala., a third defendant in the suit.

In separate legal action in Memphis, where the murder and trial took place, Ray is seeking to reverse his guilty plea and win a new trial. A hearing on the new trial motion is scheduled May 26.

Hooker, whose son John J. Hooker Jr., made an unsuccessful bid for the Democratic nomination to the governorship of Tennessee in the last election, said Saturday he plans to file briefs on his clients' behalf "within the next few days."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 9

Sec. 3

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

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☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Ray Is Not Upset At Sirhan Verdict

James Earl Ray and his attorneys are not frightened by the death verdict found by a Los Angeles jury in the case of Sirhan Sirhan, one of Ray's lawyers said last night.

Reached by telephone in Chattanooga, attorney Robert W. Hill Jr. quoted Ray as saying, "I'd as soon be executed as to be kept the rest of my life in solitary imprisonment."

Mr. Hill said the possibility of Ray's receiving the death sentence if a pending motion for a new trial is granted "has entered fully in our calculations. There will be no thought of dropping our new trial motion because of what has happened to the slayer of Senator Robert Kennedy."

Ray, charged with the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. April 4, 1968, should know the answer to his new trial motion a month from tomorrow. Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin, who was given the case after the death of Judge W. Preston Battle, will hear the motion the morning of May 26.

Mr. Hill said he doubts if he will attend the hearing.

"It is a simple motion and only one lawyer is needed to argue it. I do not doubt the motion will be granted."

Mr. Hill said he does not go so far as to say Ray had nothing to do with the crime. "I do say he did not kill King and did not knowingly participate in any conspiracy of which he knew the consequences and the magnitude."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 36

MEMPHIS PRESS-  
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

4-25-69

Date:

Edition:

Author: CHAS. H. SCHNEIDER

Editor:

Title:

Character:

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Classification:

MEMPHIS

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

MURKIN  
P. R.

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# Prison to Keep Ray Isolated for Safety

NASHVILLE. — (UPI) — An isolated cell in the maximum security section of the Tennessee State Prison will be James Earl Ray's home until prison officials determine it is "safe" to move him elsewhere.

State Corrections Commissioner Harry Avery said he believes it is safer to keep Ray where he is — at least for the present.

Ray has been in the maximum security building since March 11, one day after he pleaded guilty to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray received a 99-year sentence which he is now trying to overturn.

"I DON'T KNOW any place we plan to move him," said Avery when asked if officials plan to keep Ray in

maximum security.

Ray has been undergoing a classification process which normally takes four to six weeks. Officials said earlier a decision would be made when the process is finished whether Ray would be allowed to mingle with the rest of the prison population which includes 824 Negroes — nearly half of the inmates.

AVERY, asked whether he thought Ray would be in danger if he were allowed to mix with the other prisoners, replied:

"I personally don't know, but as a matter of caution I think it is better now to keep him where he is. I don't know what the future will bring. He will be kept there until such time as we think it will be safe for him to take some other assignment."

An unidentified prison guard was quoted earlier this month by a Nashville newspaper as saying Ray would be dead within two years if he were to be released from the maximum security unit.

"The temptation to kill the man who killed Martin Luther King will be too great for some of our prisoners out here," the guard was quoted as saying. "They'll get him and there's nothing we can do about it."

THE GUARD said racial hatred might not be the only factor endangering Ray.

"Some people are saying Ray just killed King so he could gain stature among the prisoners," the guard said.

"I think there are some people out there who would try to kill Ray for the same reason."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 5

MEMPHIS PRESS-  
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

CHAS. H.  
SCHNEIDER

Character:  
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Classification:  
Submitting Office:

☒ Being Investigated

4-22-69

MEMPHIS

44-1987



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*S. J. Kelly*

Richard J. Ryan, an attorney for James Earl Ray, said in Nashville, Tenn., that the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is "encouraged over the prospects of a new trial." He visited Ray for two hours in his prison cell to discuss hearings next month in Memphis which will determine whether letters Ray wrote the late Judge Preston Battle constitute a new trial motion. Judge Battle presided at the original trial.

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date 4-19-69

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*Senay*

At Memphis, Tenn., Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. set a hearing for May 26 on James Earl Ray's motion for a new trial for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray has charged that his previous attorneys were actually representing writer William Bradford Huie and their own financial interests. Lawyer Percy Foreman charged a fee of \$165,000 which funds to come from books on Ray written by Mr. Huie, plus movie rights.

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date 4/17/69



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MURKINPress Release  
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At Memphis, Tenn., Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. set a hearing for May 26 on James Earl Ray's motion for a new trial for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray has charged that his previous attorneys were actually representing writer William Bradford Huie and their own financial interests. Lawyer Percy Foreman charged a fee of \$165,000 which funds to come from books on Ray written by Mr. Huie, plus movie rights.

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
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 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date 4/17/69

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# Decision Remains On Scope Of New Trial Hearing For Ray

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 39

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

4-17-69

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

GORDON KENNEDY

Title:

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Classification:

MEMPHIS

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

A prosecutor in the James Earl Ray case said yesterday no decision has been made on how limited the May 26 hearing on Ray's motion for a new trial will be.

Criminal Court Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr. yesterday set the hearing date.

Ray pleaded guilty March 10 to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but within 24 hours told a member of the sheriff's patrol he would seek a new trial. He claims he was pressured into pleading guilty by his attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, whom he has fired.

Ray's new chief counsel, Richard Ryan of Memphis, represented Ray at a brief conference with members of the attorney general's staff yesterday in choosing a date to hear the motion for a new trial.

Exec. Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert K. Dwyer and Asst. Atty. Gen. James C. Beasley represented the state.

Mr. Dwyer said no decision has been reached on whether to limit the hearing strictly to a motion for a new trial, or to permit—or even invite—the defense to move also for relief



under the Tennessee Post-Conviction Act.

When he pleaded guilty, Ray signed a waiver of a new trial and told the court he understood there was no appeal after a guilty plea. If the state chooses to limit the hearing to this, it would have a presumed advantage on that narrow issue.

But if a new trial were denied, Ray could petition the

next day for a hearing under the Post-Conviction Act and be assured of getting it. Mr. Dwyer indicated the state may try to settle both issues at the same hearing.

Judge Faquin will decide whether Ray will be required to support his new trial motion by affidavits or will be brought back from Nashville to testify in person. It is expected that Ray will ask to be brought

back and it is considered likely such a request would be granted.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Clyde Mason is scheduled to succeed Mr. Beasley to assist Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale and Mr. Dwyer in the Ray case. Mr. Beasley assumes the office of county attorney Monday.

At his home in Hartselle, Ala., magazine writer William Bradford Huie termed "non-sense" Ray's accusation that Mr. Huie worked with Ray's first attorney, Arthur Hanes of

Birmingham, and then with Mr. Foreman, to prevail on Ray to plead guilty in the King slaying.

Ray supplied Mr. Huie with a handwritten account of his wanderings before the King slaying, which Mr. Huie used in preparing a book. He Slew the Dreamer, to be published next month.