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L. J. [unclear]

M. J. [unclear]

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KING 4/1 NX

FOR USE IN NORTH AMERICA ONLY

NEW YORK (UPI)--MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING SAID WEDNESDAY A LOOK MAGAZINE REPORT THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HAD PLANNED TO CANCEL THE POOR PEOPLE'S MARCH WAS IN ERROR.

THE MAGAZINE QUOTED THE REV. RALPH ABERNATHY, WHO TOOK OVER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) AFTER KING'S DEATH, AS SAYING THAT HAD KING LIVED THERE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN A POOR PEOPLE'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON.

IT ALSO QUOTED ANDREW YOUNG, AN SCLC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AS SAYING THAT ON THE DAY KING WAS SLAIN IN MEMPHIS HE HAD TOLD A STAFF MEETING HE FELT HE "MIGHT DO WELL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MOVEMENT AND LET THE MILITANTS TAKE OVER."

THE MAGAZINE SAID MRS. KING AND SCLC AIDES HAD SAID KING HAD BEEN DEEPLY DESPONDENT SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH.

MRS. KING, IN A STATEMENT ISSUED WEDNESDAY, DENIED KING HAD EVER PLANNED TO CALL OFF THE MARCH AND BRANDED THE CLAIM AS "INACCURATE AND UNTRUE."

"MY HUSBAND AT NO TIME COMMUNICATED TO ME A DECISION TO ABANDON THE CAMPAIGN," SHE SAID. "ON THE CONTRARY...MY HUSBAND SPENT DAY AND NIGHT IN THE PERIOD PRECEDING HIS DEATH ORGANIZING THE CAMPAIGN PERSONALLY IN MISSISSIPPI AND ELSEWHERE."

"I ASK IN THE INTEREST OF HISTORICAL ACCURACY AND FAIRNESS TO THE MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND THAT HIS PURPOSE AND HIS ACTIONS IN HIS LAST DAYS NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISTORTION."

ANOTHER KING AIDE, THE REV. JESSE JACKSON, SUPPORTED THE LOOK MAGAZINE STORY IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A CHICAGO TELEVISION STATION THIS WEEK IN WHICH HE WAS COMPARING THE DEATH OF KING AND THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

JACKSON SAID AT THE LAST STAFF MEETING BEFORE HIS DEATH, KING WAS VERY DEPRESSED AND THOUGHT OF CALLING OFF THE MARCH. THE MINISTER SAID KING'S ATTITUDE PARALLELED CHRIST'S AT THE TIME OF HIS CRUCIFIXION WHEN HE SAID "LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME."

(FOR USE IN NORTH AMERICA ONLY)

ANOTHER KING AIDE, THE REV. JESSE JACKSON, SUPPORTED THE LOOK MAGAZINE STORY IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A CHICAGO TELEVISION STATION THIS WEEK IN WHICH HE WAS COMPARING THE DEATH OF KING AND THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

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46 APR 17 1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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 Mr. Sullivan *JS*
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 Mr. Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Miss Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

Arrest Rewards In King Slaying Lack Recipients

By CHARLES EDMUNDSON
 More than \$25,000 in rewards offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will go unclaimed, it appeared last night.

Exec. Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert K. Dwyer said that in his opinion the FBI would be entitled to the rewards if anyone were. But the FBI has a strict rule against accepting rewards.

Frank C. Holloman, director of the Memphis fire and police departments, said the Memphis police have the same rule.

The Commercial Appeal offered a \$25,000 reward in the case. The Scripps-Howard organization, including the Memphis Press-Scimitar, offered another \$25,000.

The City Council on April 5, the day after Dr. King's assassination, adopted a resolution pledging to underwrite a total reward of \$100,000 including that of the newspapers. But the city attorney notified the council the next day that it is forbidden by law to pay a reward exceeding \$5,000.

Miss Dorothy Osracker, Ray's secretary, said no significant amounts had been offered to her knowledge, beyond those of the newspapers and the City Council.

Arrested in London June 8, Ray pleaded guilty in Criminal Court here March 10 and was sentenced to 99 years in the state prison. From his cell in Nashville Ray has written that he wants to change his plea and is reported to have hired a new chief counsel, his third.

Stoner Clears Of New Trial Bid

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 25, 1969 — National States Rights Party attorney J. B. Stoner said Tuesday he would not represent James Earl Ray in any action seeking a new trial in the assassination case of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Stoner said his only interest was in representing Ray in civil action against "national figures." He had said earlier he would file libel suits against some of the news media, but Tuesday he said that the suits, to be filed by next week, "will involve national figures but won't mention any national organizations at this time."

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

PAGE 19

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 3-26-69
 Edition:
 Author: GORDON HANNA
 Editor:
 Title:

Character:

or

Classification: MEMPHIS

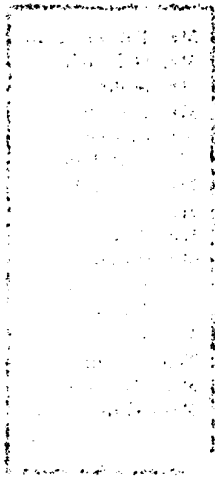
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 Mr. Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Miss Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

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

I-20 Los Angeles
 Times
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 3-27-69

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Murkin

Character:

or

Classification: LA 44-1574

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

NOT RECORDED

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70 APR 18 1969

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Ruling Of State High Court Tightens Ray's Prison Cell

By CHARLES EDMONDSON

A top prosecutor in the James Earl Ray case last night hailed a new decision by the Tennessee Supreme Court as "assuring that Ray's conviction will stand."

In the case of Robert Earl Ray, convicted of burglary at Winchester, Tenn., the Supreme Court held the conviction could not be overturned on Richmond's plea that he was pressured by his attorney to plead guilty. Justice Allison B. Humphreys, in his opinion, said "the agency of counsel, to be a denial of due process, must be such as to make the trial a sham, a mockery of justice."

The Supreme Court decision came on appeal from the state court of criminal appeals, which had ordered overruled a conviction in the county circuit court. After pleading guilty March 10, Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison. In March, Ray was moved to a newly re-opened prison, where he occupied a cell near the entrance to the prison. Ray was at saying, "I am going back to Memphis."

Emce. Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert K. Dwyer said the high court's opinion was an old doctrine applicable to anyone convicted of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"It makes us feel, of course," Mr. Dwyer said, "that we were not alone in the fact that we had been in the same position."

Mr. Dwyer said he was nothing to say, but he was in a bit of a hurry to get to the federal court, which is where

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

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Gordon Hanna
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Date: 3-27-69

Edition:

Author: GORDON HANNA

Editor:

Title:

Character:

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Classification: MEMPHIS

Submitting Office:

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 Attorney for Carl Felt, the Italian movie producer, said today that he had just signed a contract to make a movie of the life story of James Earl Ray, the assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Felt said there had been no deal made and the negotiations had fallen through.

Percy Foreman of Houston, Ray's lawyer, said yesterday that the rights had been sold for \$250,000 plus other considerations.

In New York today, Mr. Felt's attorney said there had been discussions with Ray's lawyer, but no deal had been made. He said that Mr. Felt had not signed any rights.

The lawyer said that the need to buy Ray's story. He said there was enough information in the newspapers to make a film.

Mr. Foreman said that he would receive \$250,000 from Ray for developing him. Ray pleaded guilty two weeks ago and is serving a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville.

Mr. Foreman said he would take from the film rights and from book and movie rights royalties to be paid to Mr. Huie. Mr. Foreman said that his 65 per cent share of the proceeds from Mr. Huie's writings and the movie rights would amount to \$250,000. However, he said, he would not be paid until the movie was made.

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
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 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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 The Daily World _____
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 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

MAR 25 1969

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**Lawyer Linked
To Klan Due to
Take Ray Case**

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — The office of a Sarasota lawyer today that is linked to Ray with past connections with the Ku Klux Klan and the National States Rights party, will represent James Earl Ray in the fight for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A spokesman, Edward S. Fields, said Ray was en route by automobile to Nashville where he plans to confer with Ray tomorrow morning.

Ray was imprisoned in Nashville after pleading guilty in Memphis to King's slaying and receiving a 99-year sentence.

Fields said Ray was hired to be a Ray attorney but plan to not guilty and to defend him if he wins a new trial.

The Washington Post
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) A2
 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 3/21/69

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAR 25 1969

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Ray Wants To Void Guilty Plea

James Earl Ray, confessed killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., wants to void his guilty plea and get a new trial in Memphis.

Ray's intention to seek a new hearing was stated in a letter he wrote from his cell in State Penitentiary to Judge W. Preston Battle, who on March 10 accepted the guilty plea and imposed a 99-year sentence.

Petition

"He said he's going to file a post-conviction petition and get a lawyer," Judge Battle said Wednesday in disclosing receipt of the letter. "If he does, then we'll have an evidentiary hearing."

Such a hearing would give Ray a chance to show that his legal rights were impaired to the extent that a new start in the case is warranted.

Expressing no surprise at Ray's move, Judge Battle commented: "Everybody does it." Petitions from prisoners have flooded the courts in recent years in the wake of Supreme Court decisions more sharply delineating the pretrial rights of accused persons.

Petty Foreman, the lawyer who advised Ray to plead guilty, said his connection with the case is now ended, and he has left the state.

James Earl Ray, 37, was arrested in London in 1968 and charged with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He pleaded guilty to the crime in March 1969.

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PAGE 1

NASHVILLE BANNER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Date: 3-20-69
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Author:
Editor: ALVAND C.
Title: DULKLEBERGER

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Classification: MEMPHIS

Submitting Office:

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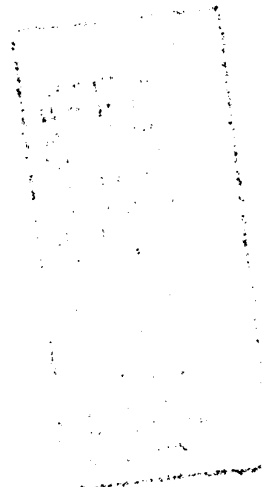
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Foreman Opinion

Foreman reiterated his personal conviction that contrary to the views of many who suspect a conspiracy, Ray acted alone.

"I think James Earl Ray was a racist. He thought he would be a hero. He completely misconceived the thinking of the white race."

"I was convinced if I didn't plead guilty I was going to the electric chair. I wish the hell I hadn't now because with what they had on me I believe the worst I'd gotten would have been life."

Ellington

Meanwhile Gov. Buford Ellington of Tennessee, referring to the theory that Ray was part of a conspiracy, said he wonders how "one man alone could do all the things he did."

Meanwhile, author Clay Blair Jr. stated dozens of questions were left unanswered by the swift proceedings. Blair has raised a host of these questions in the final chapter of his book, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray—The Man Who Murdered Martin Luther King Jr.," published today by Bantam Books.

Blair has raised additional questions since the book went to press and he has called for the appointment of a blue-ribbon Federal investigating committee, similar to the Warren Commission, to investigate the Ray case. Among the questions this committee should answer, he stated were:

● Who was the accomplice Warden Swenson says helped Ray escape in a bread box? What action has been taken against him?

sums of money were taken by selling drugs. The authorities asked how he smuggled the money out of prison and who kept it for him?

● Who were the "lookalikes" who looked up in Quincy, Ill., following his escape?

● Did Ray rob or help rob the Alton, Ill., bank on June 17, 1967?

● Why did Ray stash away money around boyhood haunts for weeks?

● Why did Ray, a fugitive with money stashed away, go to Chicago and take a job in a restaurant, the Indian Trail in Evanston?

• In Canada, Ray with the alias "Eric Starvo Galt" was a living pariah, hunted by police and with scars from

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ROY HICKMAN

● Did Ray have a name? He was named "Rashad" or "Rashad" Noori, a 19-year-old, probably an Arab.

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Man Hit By Car, Dies

Memphis (UPI) — Sam C. Trainum, 78, Paragould, Ark., died Wednesday night after he was struck by a car in front of Methodist Hospital. Police said Trainum left a restaurant and was fatally injured as he crossed the street with his wife, a patient in the hospital.



beneath Today.

It is owned by the Tribune Co., which publishes the morning Tribune newspaper. Its afternoon competitor is the Daily News, published by Field Enterprises, which also publishes the morning Sun-Times, a tabloid-size paper.

Formal Wear
Rental Service

Lad & Dad Shop

2403 Lebanon Road—Dandridge



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I-1 Los Angeles Times
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 3/20/69
 Edition: Home
 Author:
 Editor: Nick P. Williams
 Title: Murkin

Character:

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Classification: 44-1574
 Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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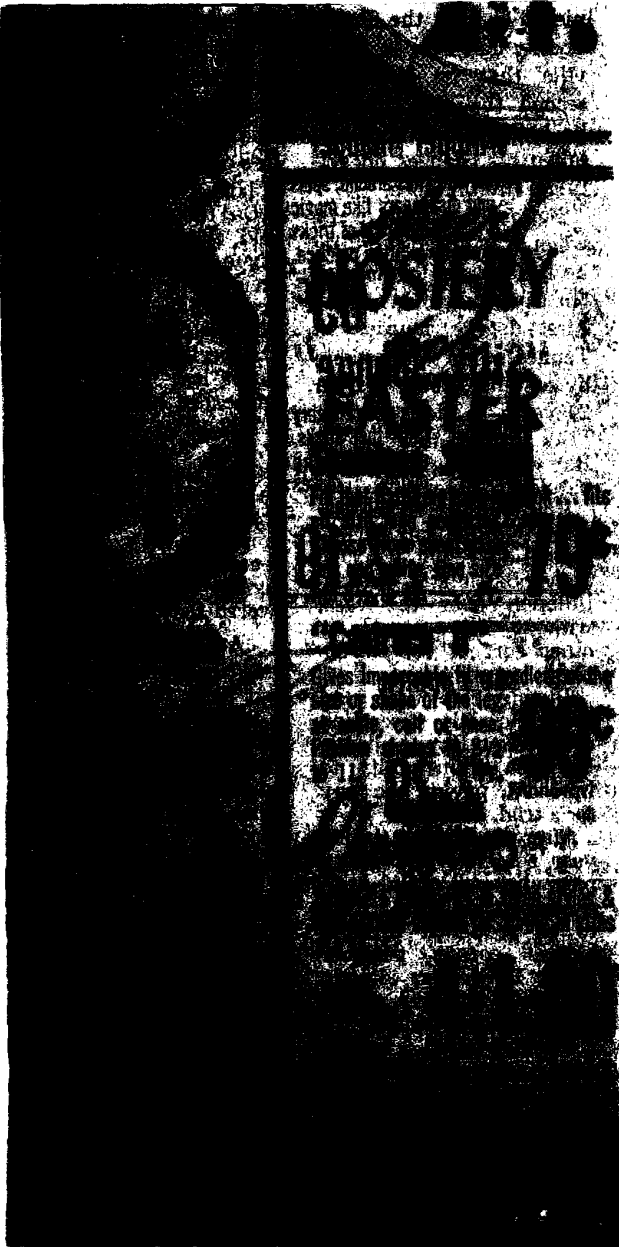
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Open Case A-8

James Earl Ray's plea of guilty and the trial that followed have brought the courtroom drama to a sudden end. But the neat wrap-up of the case does not by any means indicate that all the loose ends of the Martin Luther King assassination have been wound up. Indeed, the guilty plea and the trial that followed guarantee that public speculation about the killing will run wild for some time to come.

The evident predilection of a large part of the American public toward elaborate conspiracy theories is certain to be reinforced by the outcome of the Ray trial, which effectively prevented a full airing of the killer's motives. In essence, the conspiracy theory was endorsed by Ray himself as the basis for his defense, by means of an authorized account of the killing published in a national magazine, in which the assassin claimed to have been hired to gun down the civil rights leader. And Ray added more fuel to the conspiracy fire during his brief trial, when he pointedly refused to accept the statements of the prosecuting and defense attorneys that the plot was involved.

These suspicions will not be laid to

rest by the assertions of attorneys that they uncovered evidence of a conspiracy. Given the nature of the crime and the identity of the victim, the unanswered questions still surround the case cast a dangerous infection that will breed malignant suspicion and mistrust through this society.

Perhaps the most effective antidote would be the naming of a presidential commission to look into all aspects of the King assassination and to make a full report to the American public on its findings. Requests for such a commission have already come from a number of Negro leaders, including Dr. King's widow.

The history of the Warren Commission has shown that no such study can quiet all the speculation and the rumors. But a thorough probe by a properly selected board could provide most reasonable men with an answer to the question of whether Ray was driven by his own warped passions or whether other guilty men are now enjoying freedom under cover of the assassin's plea of guilty.

Failure to provide that answer could convert the Ray trial into a very unfortunate legal shortcut.

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
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 The Evening Star (Washington) A-8
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
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Ray

Tennessee's high court ruled that James Earl Ray, serving 99 years for killing Martin Luther King Jr., cannot invalidate his sentence by alleging he based his guilty plea on his attorney's advice. Ray is expected to press his case for a new hearing nonetheless.

Murkin

The Washington Post
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News *pg 3*
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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RAY 3/27 NX

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BY DUREN CHEEK

NASHVILLE, TENN. (UPI)--THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT HAS DEALT WHAT COULD BE A FATAL BLOW TO THE LEGAL GROUNDS ON WHICH JAMES EARL RAY WAS REPORTED TO BE BASING HIS BID FOR A NEW TRIAL.

THE HIGH TRIBUNAL RULED WEDNESDAY A CONVICTED CRIMINAL CANNOT INVALIDATE A PRISON SENTENCE BY ALLEGING HE PLEADED GUILTY ON THE ADVICE OF HIS LAWYER. A TOP LEGAL SOURCE SAID THE RULING COULD "FIT THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE LIKE A GLOVE."

BUT THE ADMITTED SLAYER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. APPARENTLY IS PLANNING TO ATTACK HIS 99-YEAR SENTENCE NONETHELESS. A MEMPHIS ATTORNEY IDENTIFIED AS RICHARD J. RYAN TRIED TO VISIT RAY WEDNESDAY, BUT WAS TURNED AWAY BY TENNESSEE STATE PRISON AUTHORITIES WHO SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY RETAINED BY RAY.

A PRISONER WHO WAS A CELL NEIGHBOR OF RAY'S IN THE PRISON SAID ON HIS RELEASE WEDNESDAY RAY TOLD HIM HE DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE IN PRISON VERY LONG. JAMES POWERS SAID RAY INDICATED HE EXPECTED TO BE RETURNED TO THE MEMPHIS JAIL SOON TO AWAIT NEW LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

RAY'S BROTHER, JERRY, HAD BEEN QUOTED IN THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN AS SAYING RAY WOULD SEEK A NEW TRIAL ON GROUNDS HE WAS "PRESSURED" INTO PLEADING GUILTY TO KING'S MURDER BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY PERCY FOREMAN.

HOWEVER, EXECUTIVE ASST. ATTY. GEN. ROBERT K. DWYER OF MEMPHIS SAID RAY SIGNED A WRITTEN WAIVER "STATING HIS PLEA OF GUILTY WAS FREE, VOLUNTARY AND WITHOUT DURESS." DWYER NAILED THE SUPREME COURT DECISION AS "ASSURING MORE THAN EVER THAT RAY'S CONVICTION WILL STAND."

THE COURT'S RULING CAME WEDNESDAY IN THE CASE OF ROBERT E. RICHMOND, WHO HAD PETITIONED FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ON GROUNDS HIS PLEAS OF GUILTY IN TWO BURGLARY CASES WERE INDUCED BY "IMPROPER ADVICE" FROM PRIVATELY RETAINED COUNSEL.

JUSTICE ALLISON B. HUMPHREYS JR. WROTE THE OPINION. THE COURT NOTED A FEDERAL RULING TO THE EFFECT THAT A PERSON TO BE DENIED DUE PROCESS BY INEFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION "MUST BE SUCH AS TO MAKE THE TRIAL A FARCE, SHAM, OR MOCKERY OF JUSTICE."

HUMPHREYS NOTED THE RULING HAS BEEN APPLIED TO A NUMBER OF SITUATIONS ARISING OUT OF CRIMINAL CASES, INCLUDING SITUATIONS WHERE A DEFENDANT ENTERED A PLEA OF GUILTY ON THE ADVICE OR URGING OF HIS LAWYER.

"IN CASES IN WHICH THIS EXERCISE OF JUDGMENT BY COUNSEL (THAT OF URGING A DEFENDANT TO PLEAD GUILTY) HAS BEEN ATTACKED, IT HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY HELD THAT THIS IS NOT A GROUND FOR INVALIDATING THE JUDGMENT," THE RULING SAID.

A LEGAL SOURCE HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF TENNESSEE CRIMINAL LAW TOLD UPI THAT IF JAMES EARL RAY USES THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY JERRY RAY, "THIS WOULD COVER HIM LIKE A GLOVE."

"THIS IS THE SAME THING THAT RAY HAS TO RELY ON," SAID THE SOURCE, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED. "AS I INTERPRET THE RULING, EVEN IF A PERSON IS ADVISED BY HIS ATTORNEY, HE IS STUCK WITH THE SENTENCE."

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man who succeeded him as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, said in Atlanta they did not believe the slaying was a one-man crime.

"This plea of guilty cannot be allowed to close the case, to end the search for the many fingers which helped pull the trigger," Mrs. King said. Abernathy said his belief in the "conspiracy has been strengthened by the courageous admission of James Earl Ray . . . and the SCLC is committed to remain alert and vigilant until justice is meted out to all the perpetrators."

Many Negro leaders in the South also were skeptical of the quick trial and sentencing of Ray.

"I believe the majority of the Negro people expected a cover-up in this case," said Dr. John Cashin, chairman of the predominantly Negro National Democratic Party of Alabama.

To Have Cell No. 4

Ray will serve his time in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville, where he will be lodged in cell No. 4, a 6-by-9-foot room containing a bunk and a combination sink and commode.

Battle said there was little point in the state seeking the death penalty for Ray because the trend in the state and the nation is "in the direction of doing away with capital punishment altogether."

Mrs. King said she also would have opposed a death sentence.

"The death penalty for the man who pleaded guilty to the crime would be contrary to the deeply held moral and religious convictions of my husband," she said.

The jury, which included two Negroes, found Ray guilty of

"I feel the
 Ray had no
 Ray and I
 certainly was
 guilty," said
 John F. Kennedy

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 The Evening Star (Washington) A-1
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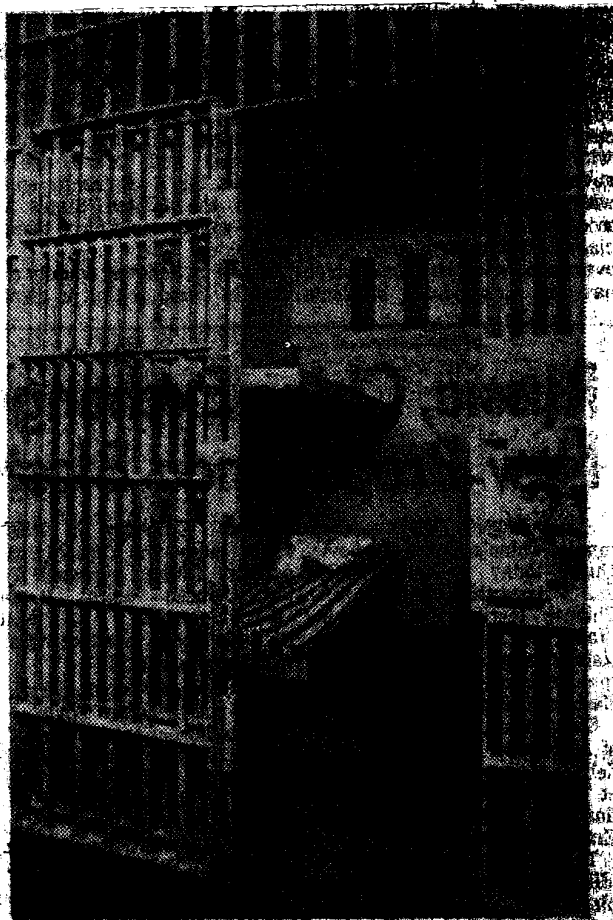
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This is the Tennessee State Prison maximum security cell which will be occupied by James Earl Ray.

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HUIE 3/29 NX

ADV FOR 6:00 P.M. EST MON MARCH 31
FOR USE IN NORTH AMERICA ONLY

NEW YORK (UPI)--AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE SAID MONDAY THAT HE NOW BELIEVES JAMES EARL RAY KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., PROBABLY UNAIDED, BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE STATUS AMONG GUARDS AND OTHER PRISONERS WHEN HE RETURNED TO PRISON AND THAT HE WOULD "YET WIN FREEDOM IN SOME DRAMATIC MANNER."

HUIE, IN THE THIRD OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON RAY IN LOOK MAGAZINE, SAID HE BELIEVES RAY STILL "IS CONFIDENT THAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES WILL CAUSE HIM TO BE FREED IN TWO TO FOUR YEARS."

"RAY THINKS HE FIRED THE FIRST SHOT IN A SOCIAL OR RACIAL CONFLICT, A SECOND CIVIL WAR, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN HIS BEING FREED," HUIE WROTE. "HE THEREFORE FEELS FULFILLED: HE BELIEVES HE IS LIKED, RESPECTED, EVEN ADMIRER."

BUT ANOTHER MAN INVOLVED IN THE CASE, BIRMINGHAM LAWYER ARTHUR J. HANES, BELIEVES RAY WAS COMMISSIONED TO COMMIT THE MURDER.

"I STILL BELIEVE THAT RAY KILLED DR. KING BECAUSE HE WAS DIRECTED TO DO IT," LOOK QUOTES HANES AS SAYING.

HANES, THE FIRST ATTORNEY HIRED BY RAY AFTER HIS ARREST IN LONDON, SAID UNLESS RAY HAD INVESTIGATED THE ROOMING HOUSE PREVIOUSLY HE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN HE WOULD HAVE AN UNOBSTRUCTED LINE OF FIRE AT KING, YET THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF HIM ENTERING THE BUILDING UNTIL 3:15 P.M. THE DAY OF THE SLAYING.

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HANES ALSO MENTIONED STATEMENTS BY TWO WITNESSES WHO REPORTED SEEING A MAN RUN OUT OF SOME BUSHES JUST AFTER THE FATAL SHOT WAS FIRED.

HUIE, HOWEVER, CITED REASONS HE BELIEVES RAY WAS THE KILLER.

HUIE SAID RAY AND HIS BROTHERS WERE CONVINCED THAT GEORGE C. WALLACE WOULD BE ELECTED PRESIDENT LAST NOVEMBER AND THAT WALLACE WOULD PROMPTLY PARDON THE MURDERER OF KING. THEY TOOK SOME COMFORT IN THE REPUBLICAN VICTORY AT THE POLLS, HOWEVER, AND ONE OF THE REASONS RAY FORCED POSTPONEMENT OF HIS TRIAL BY CHANGING LAWYERS WAS BECAUSE HE FELT HE'D HAVE A BETTER CHANCE AFTER NIXON CAME TO POWER, HUIE WROTE.

"RAY'S DECISION TO PLEAD GUILTY AND ECCEPT THE 99-YEAR SENTENCE WAS NOT EASILY REACHED," HUIE SAID. "HE FEARED THAT A GUILTY PLEA MIGHT CAUSE HIM TO LOSE STATUS 'AMONG THE PRISON POPULATION' . . . ONLY SECONDLY IS HE INTERESTED ABOUT STATUS AMONG PEOPLE WHO DON'T INHABIT PRISONS. AND HE HUNGRED FOR THE DRAMA OF A TRIAL."

RAY FINALLY DECIDED THAT "DESPITE HIS GUILTY PLEA, HE WILL NOW BE AN IMPORTANT PERSON IN PRISON," HUIE SAID, ADDING THAT RAY DELIBERATELY LEFT CLUES WITH HIS FINGERPRINTS ON THEM BEHIND IN MEMPHIS--"HIS CALLING CARD, TELLING THE FBI THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS HERE." THE CLUES INCLUDED THE RIFLE, BINOCULARS AND A BLUE ZIPPER BAG CONTAINING HIS TRANSISTOR RADIO.

"THAT WAS HIS GLORY," WROTE HUIE. "HE WANTED THE FBI AND ALL OF US TO KNOW THAT JAMES EARL RAY, THAT POOR, CONTEMPTIBLE LITTLE MAN WITH A PRICE OF \$50 ON HIS HEAD, HAD KILLED ONE OF THE GREAT AMERICANS OF THIS CENTURY."

HUIE SAID FURTHER RESEARCH ON RAY HAD CHANGED HIS OPINION THAT RAY WAS TOO I

HUIE SAID FURTHER RESEARCH ON RAY HAD CHANGED HIS OPINION THAT RAY WAS TOO INEPT TO ENGINEER THE ASSASSINATION HIMSELF, WAS NOT A GOOD ENOUGH MARKSMAN TO KILL AT 205 FEET, AND COULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN ENOUGH MONEY TO FINANCE THE PROJECT. HE ACTUALLY WAS CLEVER, THE RIFLE WAS EASY ENOUGH FOR A 12-YEAR-OLD TO USE, AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF UNSOLVED ROBBERIES THAT RAY COULD HAVE EXECUTED TO GET MONEY.

"I BELIEVE THAT ONE OR TWO MEN OTHER THAN JAMES EARL RAY MAY HAVE HAD FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THIS MURDER AND THAT MAKES LITTLE CONSPIRACY," HUIE WROTE. "BUT IF THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY, I NOW BELIEVE THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS PROBABLY THE LEADER NOT ITS TOOL OR ITS DUPE . . . AND THE RECORD INDICATES TO ME THAT HE IS A 'NIGGER HATER'."

ABOVE ADV FOR 6:00 P.M. EST MON MARCH 31
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UPI-30

(RAY)

NASHVILLE, TENN.--THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT HAS DEALT WHAT COULD BE A FATAL BLOW TO THE LEGAL GROUNDS ON WHICH JAMES EARL RAY WAS REPORTED TO BE BASING HIS BID FOR A NEW TRIAL.

THE HIGH TRIBUNAL RULED YESTERDAY A CONVICTED CRIMINAL CANNOT INVALIDATE A PRISON SENTENCE BY ALLEGING HE PLEADED GUILTY ON THE ADVICE OF HIS LAWYER. A TOP LEGAL SOURCE SAID THE RULING COULD "FIT THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE LIKE A GLOVE."

BUT THE ADMITTED SLAYER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING APPARENTLY IS PLANNING TO ATTACK HIS 99-YEAR SENTENCE NONETHLESS. A MEMPHIS ATTORNEY IDENTIFIED AS RICHARD J. RYAN TRIED TO VISIT RAY YESTERDAY, BUT WAS TURNED AWAY BY TENNESSEE STATE PRISON AUTHORITIES WHO SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY RETAINED BY RAY.

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 Across the Nation **A-25**

Court Bars Recanting

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The Washington Post Times Herald **A-25**
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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UPI-135

(RAY)

NASHVILLE, TENN. - IN A RULING WHICH A HIGH LEGAL SOURCE SAID COULD "FIT THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE LIKE A GLOVE," THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT HELD TODAY THAT A CONVICTED CRIMINAL CANNOT INVALIDATE A PRISON SENTENCE BY CLAIMING HE PLEADED GUILTY ON FAULTY ADVICE OF HIS LAWYER.

RAY WAS SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON THIS MONTH AFTER PLEADING GUILTY IN MEMPHIS TO THE MURDER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS WANTING A NEW TRIAL ON GROUNDS HIS LAWYER, PERCY FOREMAN OF HOUSTON, "PRESSURED" HIM INTO PLEADING GUILTY.

THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT RULED ON AN APPEAL BY ROBERT E. RICHMOND, CONVICTED OF BURGLARY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY. RICHMOND CLAIMED THAT HE SHOULD GET A NEW TRIAL BECAUSE HIS LAWYER, IN GETTING HIM TO PLEAD GUILTY, HAD GIVEN HIM "IMPROPER ADVICE."

"IN CASES IN WHICH THIS EXERCISE OF JUDGMENT BY COUNSEL (THAT OF URGING A DEFENDANT TO PLEAD GUILTY) HAS BEEN ATTACKED, IT HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY HELD THAT THIS IS NOT A GROUND FOR INVALIDATING THE JUDGMENT," THE TENNESSEE COURT RULED IN REJECTING RICHMOND'S APPEAL.

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James Earl Ray
Bid by Judge
to Review Sentence

James Earl Ray, the man who was sentenced to 99 years in prison for the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has asked the judge who sentenced him to 99 years in prison that he plans to seek a hearing soon to review his guilty plea in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Published reports say he now wants to withdraw the plea and stand trial for first-degree murder.

Circuit Court Judge, Preston Battle Jr. announced yesterday that he had received the letter from Ray in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. The judge would say only that Ray wants the new hearing and that he wrote that he has hired his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Texas.

Foreman, in New York City, could not be reached for comment immediately.

Ray pleaded guilty March 10.

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) A-4
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
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Ray Requested Plan

Ray was reported to have told officers who accompanied him from Memphis to the Mississippi prison that he wished he had gone on trial and taken his chances at getting a life sentence rather than the electric chair.

Under a life sentence Ray would be eligible for parole in 13 years or the 30-year sentence would take him from seeking parole for 30 years.

Mr. Stone would be Ray's third attorney. Acting Hanes, a former Mayor of Birmingham, Ala., has also been dismissed.

Mr. Stone, 44 years old, has been active in Ku Klux Klan and other white activities since boyhood. At 16, he was a Klan organizer and officer in Chattanooga, Tenn., and he has appeared as the Klansman of the Klan officer, of Tennessee.

In 1943 he formed the Stoner Anti-Jewish party and mailed out pamphlets urging removal of the Jews. In 1944 he was named in the formation of the Christian Anti-Jewish party and was its first officer. He has been active in the formation of these parties for distribution of their literature.

He wrote a book entitled "The Gospel of Jesus Christ Versus the Jews."

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Date **MAR 22 1969**

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Ex-Klan Aide
To See Ray
About Trial

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 21 (AP) — The office of J. B. Stoner said today that Stoner, an attorney with past connections with the Ku Klux Klan and the National States Rights Party, will represent James Earl Ray in his fight for a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A spokesman, Edward S. Fields, said Stoner is en route by automobile to Nashville where he plans to confer with Ray Saturday morning.

Ray was imprisoned in Nashville after pleading guilty in Memphis to King's slaying and receiving a 99-year sentence. Fields said Stoner was hired to help Ray change his plea to innocent and to defend him if he wins a new trial. Fields said that Ray originally had contacted Stoner shortly after Ray's arrest in London and that there had been correspondence between the two since. Fields said that Stoner had visited Ray in Memphis.

Stoner, who was a vice presidential candidate for the National States Rights Party, has in the past styled himself as "imperial wizard of the Christian Knights of the Klan."

He once published a Klan paper in Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta and authored a book entitled "The Gospel of Jesus Christ Versus the Jews."

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 New Trial Summed 5

Ray Eyes Ex-Klan Attorney

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 22 (UPI) — James Earl Ray, seeking a new trial in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was expected to meet with at least one attorney today in his cell at the Tennessee State Prison.

J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., who has frequently represented members of the Ku Klux Klan, said last night he plans to see Ray about the possibility of filing a libel suit against a magazine.

Arthur J. Hanes, former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., and Ray's original lawyer in the King case, said he had received a letter from Ray and also might meet with him today.

"I'm not representing Mr. Ray in any criminal case," Mr. Stoner said.

When asked if he would represent Ray in a criminal proceeding if requested, Mr. Stoner replied, "Yes sir, I would if he asked me to."

"I don't think Mr. Ray is guilty," he said. "That's one reason we plan to bring a libel suit."

'RAY A VICTIM'

"I think Mr. Ray is a victim of a conspiracy, certainly certain magazines are part of a conspiracy to libel him and to deprive him of a fair trial."

And they apparently did succeed with their libel into pressuring him into a plea when otherwise there was no apparent reason for it," he said.

Ray pleaded guilty March 10 in Memphis to the rifle-slating of Dr. King last April 4. He received a 99-year sentence agreed upon by the prosecution and defense.

Mr. Hanes, who was replaced in the Ray case by Houston attorney Percy Foreman, said he received a "very nice" letter from Ray and claimed no knowledge of Mr. Stoner's position in the case.

"I'm not intending to be his (Ray's) attorney of record or participate in any more legal actions but I may go up there and see what he wants," Mr. Hanes said in Birmingham.

ONCE INDICTED

Mr. Stoner ran for vice president in 1964 on the National States Rights Party. He once was indicted by a Federal grand jury in Birmingham and accused of trying to obstruct integration of Birmingham schools.

Asst. State Atty. Gen. Thomas Fox said Ray could seek a new trial even tho he pleaded guilty and signed a written waiver of appeal. "All he would have to do is say he is changing his mind and is seeking relief," said Mr. Fox.

Mr. Fox said there were three legal avenues open to Ray. He said Ray could apply to the trial judge to change his plea; he could file for a new trial within 30 days of the date of conviction, or after 30 days had elapsed, he could file a motion similar to a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under a post conviction criminal procedure.

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Date MAR 22 1969

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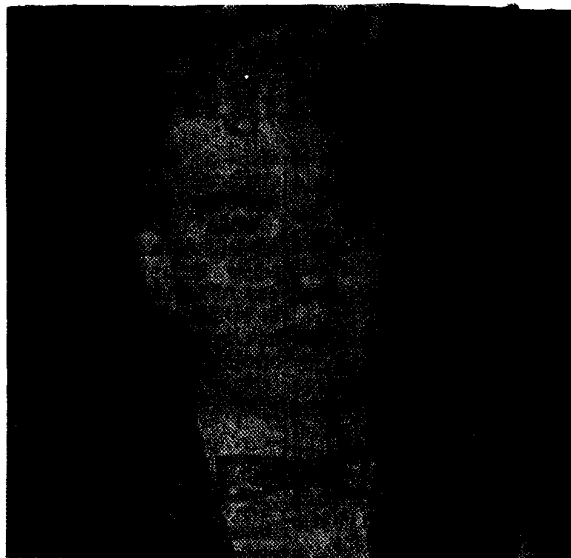
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CLEAR'S RAY



J. B. STONER

Battle said Ray also wrote that he had fired his attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston. Ray Stoner is Ray's third lawyer.

The 99-year prison sentence prevents Ray from seeking parole for 30 years. Under a life sentence, he would have been eligible for parole in 13 years.

Stoner grew up on a Walker County, Ga., farm just outside Chattahoochee, Tenn. Since boyhood he had been involved in a Klux Klan.

At 18, Stoner was an organizer and an officer of a Chattahoochee Klan and was once driven at the height of Tennessee. He has called himself a member of the Klan and probably a member of the Klan in the past.

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UPI-62

(RAY)

NASHVILLE, TENN.--ATTORNEY J. B. STONER VISITED JAMES EARL RAY IN HIS PRISON CELL TODAY AND LATER SAID RAY DID NOT KILL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BUT HAD BEEN "PRESSURED INTO PLEADING GUILTY."

STONER, ONCE THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF THE NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY AND A FORMER ORGANIZER FOR THE KU KLUX KLAN, MET WITH RAY FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY SECTION OF THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON.

HE SAID HE WAS NOT REPRESENTING RAY IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BUT WAS HANDLING SEVERAL LIBEL SUITS THAT RAY INTENDS TO FILE AGAINST SEVERAL NATIONAL MAGAZINES WHICH MADE "FALSE AND DEFAMATORY" CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

"HE (RAY) IS NOT GUILTY," STONER SAID. "HE TOLD ME HE WAS PRESSURED INTO PLEADING GUILTY" STONER WOULD NOT ELABORATE ON THE CHARGE.

RAY ESCAPED ANY POSSIBILITY OF DYING IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR WHEN HE SWAPPED A GUILTY PLEA TWO WEEKS AGO FOR A 99-YEAR SENTENCE IN THE APRIL 4, 1968 SNIPER SLAYING OF KING AT MEMPHIS.

RAY HAS WRITTEN THE TRIAL JUDGE, PRESTON ATTLE, ASKING FOR A POST-CONVICTION HEARING--TO WHICH HE IS ENTITLED UNDER TENNESSEE LAW--AND INTENDS TO ASK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE HIS PLEA AND A NEW TRIAL.

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