

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Judge Gives Ryan Permission To Confer With Ray in Cell

By ROY HAMILTON  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Ryan conferred with Faquin in his chambers for about an hour this morning before the order was signed and filed in the Criminal Court Clerk's Office.

The courts were closed today but Faquin apparently made a special trip to the office to accommodate Ryan.

SIGNING the order was Faquin's first action in the case since taking over. He was named the alternate or "backup" judge on the case when it was assigned to Battle last year. Battle was found dead in his chambers

Monday, apparently after suffering a heart seizure.

Ray, who pleaded guilty March 10 to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis one year ago today, has asked that his guilty plea be set aside and that he be granted a new trial.

A hearing on the issue is expected in about two weeks. Faquin indicated today that all post trial hearings involving the Ray case will be held in Battle's courtroom because the Sheriff's Office security measures are designed for that courtroom.

Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin today ordered the warden of the state penitentiary at Nashville to permit James Earl Ray's new defense attorney, Richard J. Ryan of Memphis, to confer with the prisoner.

Faquin, who was named yesterday to succeed the late Judge W. Preston Battle on the case, signed the order at Ryan's request. It recognized Ryan as Ray's counsel and gave him court authorization "to visit and consult" with Ray in his maximum security cell at Nashville.

While neither Faquin or Ryan would comment, apparently the order was felt to be a necessary procedure to enable Ryan to visit with Ray. Previously he had been refused admittance, though Ray had given prison authorities a letter naming Ryan as his new defender.

THE ATTORNEY would not say when he planned to return to Nashville or answer any other questions.

However, it was reported that he will consult with Ray over the weekend.

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

PAGE 3

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR  
MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 4-4-69  
Edition:  
Author: CHAS. H.  
Editor: SCIMITAR  
Title:

Character: MEMPHIS  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:  
 Being Investigated

*Orig. one filed Bureau  
4-4-69*

44-1987-Sub-M-373  
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED *lls* FILED *lls*  
APR 7 1969  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
*gld*