

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

### Battle Handled Big Work Load With Ray Case

The late Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle was handling nearly as many total cases as the average handled by each of the other four judges while, at the same time, presiding in the James Earl Ray case, statistics showed yesterday.

Criminal Court Clerk James A. 'Bubba' Blackwell released figures showing Judge Battle disposed of a total of 493 cases from September last year to March this year — compared to an average of 520 for each of the other four judges.

During the months of October, November and January, Judge Battle exceeded the average of his four colleagues.

The total cases disposed of by Judge Battle (with the average of his four colleagues in parentheses) by month were: September, 39 (53); October, 94 (69); November, 97 (62); December, 31 (36); January, 102 (94); February, 71 (50), and March, 59 (121).

In addition to disposing of other cases, Judge Battle spent a considerable amount of time over the past year researching criminal law applicable to the Ray case and handling numerous contempt of court cases against newsmen, attorneys, a magazine writer and an FBI fingerprint expert. Battle died at work in his chambers March 31 of a heart attack.

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

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