

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Attorney Claims He Has 'New Evidence'

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — (UPI) — Claiming he has "new evidence," attorney Robert Hill says he is ready for a hearing Wednesday when James Earl Ray will begin a legal process he hopes will grant him a new trial.

Memphis Criminal Court Judge Arthur Faquin has said he will decide at the Wednesday hearing when to hear arguments on Ray's new trial motion in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

HILL TOLD UPI Saturday he was not sure if Faquin would take new evidence Wednesday, but if he does, "I do have new evidence in the case." He did not disclose the nature of the evidence.

Hill said Ray's brother, Jerry, would be available to testify if Faquin so desires, and that Jerry "had a good portion of proof and will cooperate."

Hill, a 29-year-old karate expert who walks with a slight limp because of a childhood bout with polio, said he took the case out of sympathy for Ray and "because I think Mr. Ray was done a great injustice."

ASKED WHETHER he thinks Ray is innocent, Hill stated: "Well, I believe in defending him — my personal viewpoint is immaterial, but since you have asked me, 'yes,' I do believe he is innocent."

He said although the state has charged Ray killed King because of a deep-seated hatred for Negroes, the charge was false. "I asked him about his feelings on race, and he is not a racist," Hill said.

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

PAGE 6

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