

(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. . . more more

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

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

4-23-69

Date:  
Edition:  
Author: GORDON HANNA  
Editor:  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification: MEMPHIS  
Submitting Office:  
 Being Investigated

*Original to  
Bureau  
4-23-69*

44-1987  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

44-1987-Sub-C-386