

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Prison Pallor Is Undisturbed As Hearing Grinds Through History To Unspectacular End

By RICHARD LENTZ

James Earl Ray, a trace of the familiar, leoparded grin playing at the corner of his mouth, ambled a wkywardly under guard into Criminal Court yesterday.

Three hours and 13 minutes later, he was quickly from the court still under guard, his motion for a new trial in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. struck down by Judge Arthur C. Faquin Jr.

It was a singularly unspectacular hearing.

Attorneys for defense and prosecution rattled the disinterred bones of an ancient criminal case pausing now and then to wobble Latin phrases through the air.

Ray, pale from prison stays in London, Memphis and Nashville since June 8, sat quietly. He was sandwiched between his attorneys and two deputies who blocked view of the prisoner from most of the courtroom audience.

Heads popped up as he walked in. They saw a 41-year-old man, pale, dressed in brown-checked sports coat and olive trousers with a white shirt and tie. Once he sat down, they saw only an occasional glimpse of poorly trimmed hair, with small patches of hair jutting toward prominent ears.

J. B. Stoner, a National States Rights Party attorney from Savannah, Ga., wanted to cross-examine the only witness, Criminal Court Clerk J. A. 'Bubba' Blackwell before the state had finished its questioning.

The judge said no.

Defense attorney Robert W. Hill Jr. of Chattanooga had his problems with Judge Faquin, who had obviously researched

the case in depth.

"In Swang versus the United States..." Mr. Hill began.

"That's Swang versus the State of Tennessee," Judge Faquin corrected gently, perhaps remembering his own bobbies during the hearing, when he identified Mr. Hill variously as "Clarence Hill" and "Mr. White."

"I don't know where I got Mr. White," said the judge in good humor.

Later, Mr. Hill cited another case, giving 167 as an identifying number.

"That's 176," said the judge. Memphis attorney Richard J. Ryan, the third member of the Ray defense team, made

no courtroom presentation. He conferred sporadically with Mr. Hill and Mr. Stoner.

Judge Faquin, who said he drew on briefs submitted by both sides, galloped through a 30-minute summary of his reasons for rejecting the motion for a new trial.

There was no audible gasp when it became clear he was rejecting the motion.

Procedures surrounding the hearing were more relaxed than those at previous court sessions dealing with the Ray murder charge. Washington Street in front of the Criminal Courts building remained open to traffic.

The watch houses which had been at the four corners of the building before did not appear yesterday and newsmen and spectators attending the hearing were subjected to less stringent check-in and search procedures than before.

The hearing drew far fewer news media representatives than the earlier court sessions, but among those at the courts building were two who are preparing books on the case, Gerald Frank, author of "The Boston Strangler" and William Bradford Huie, who became involved in controversy surrounding the case when he paid Ray for an account of his involvement in the King murder.

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

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IGNORED — Robert V. Hill Jr., a Chattanooga attorney who conducted most of the defense arguments in James Earl Ray's trial for appeal, walks un-

noticed away from a crowd of newsmen and photographers gathered around prosecutor Robert Dwyer outside the courthouse.