

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Chancellor Charles Nearn decided today that a civil lawsuit against James Earl Ray will be tried by deposition rather than oral testimony.

The suit was brought by Renfro Hays, a private detective, who claims that Ray owes him \$11,146 for investigative services performed under one of his former attorneys, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham. Hays asked the court to attach and sell Ray's car and a rifle to satisfy the alleged debt.

Chancellor Nearn set Aug. 8 as the trial date. He did not state his reason for trying the case by deposition but it was presumably based on security. In trials by deposition, witnesses are not required to appear in court but give sworn statements which are read into the record.

Ray's deposition will be taken at the prison here at Nashville, where he is serving 99 years for the Martin Luther King killing.

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

Date: 6-17-69

Edition:

Author:

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Title:

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