

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Appeal Arguments For Ray Set Today

KNOXVILLE, July 14. — (AP) — The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals will hear arguments Tuesday on whether it should consider James Earl Ray's appeal from his conviction in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray pleaded guilty in King's death March 3 and was sentenced in Memphis by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle to 99 years in state prison. Battle died a few weeks later.

Ray claimed later he was pressured by his former lawyer, Percy Foreman of Houston, Texas, into entering the guilty plea — a charge Foreman denied — and sought a new trial.

Judge Arthur C. Faquin, who succeeded Battle in handling the case, denied Ray's motion for a new trial at a May 26 hearing in Memphis.

Legal sources said it was doubtful the appellate court will rule on the question of a new trial for Ray. The court is expected to take the matter under advisement and decide only if a hearing on the appeal issue will be set for a later date.

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

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