

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Spirited To Petros, Brushy Mountain Cell

By LARRY BRINTON

James Earl Ray was secretly transferred early today to the remote Brushy Mountain State Prison from Nashville's penitentiary where he had been locked in solitary confinement for the past year.

Unlike in past transfers of the notorious convict, the State Highway Patrol or the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification were not called in to assist in the pre-dawn shift of the convicted killer to the prison at Petros.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence in the April 4, 1968, sniper-shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was advised only 30 minutes before his 4 a.m. transfer, according to State Corrections Commis-

sioner Lake Russell. Official news of the transfer of Ray was withheld from the news media for almost four hours after he was placed in a Brushy Mountain cellblock.

'Proper Plan'

"We thought it was time to put him in the proper place," the commissioner declared. He pointed out that the Petros institution is now the state's maximum security prison.

Not only did prison officials keep the transfer of Ray hidden from other state law-enforcement agencies, the Brushy Mountain warden was not even advised of the situation until the admitted slayer and his seven-man guard force arrived there about 6:30 a.m., it was learned.

Russell said Ray will receive no "special" treatment, but that "we will always be extra careful with him." The commissioner did not elaborate on the statement.

No Resentment

Ray, according to Russell, did not seem resentful of the transfer.

Earlier at a federal court hearing, Russell and Warden W. S. Neil testified they intended to keep Ray at the Nashville prison until his various court appeals had been exhausted. This was to be done, they pointed out, because of the time consumed in transferring Ray from Brushy Mountain to Nashville or Memphis, where hearings have been held in the case.

There was no explanation why there was a sudden change of plans.

Russell said Ray will be kept in an "individual" cell at the Eaststate prison, but will still be in the same area as the general convict population.

Work Assignment

Ray will be given a work assignment "to be determined later," the commissioner said.

Only two cars were used in the pre-dawn transfer, it was reported. Ray was accompanied in one of the vehicles by Warden Neil, Capt. James Vandever and Capt. Walter Howard. In the second car was Sgt. William Doss, Transportation Officer Willis Copping, Cpl. Ray Bowman and Asst. Deputy Warden R. E. Evans.

In some of the previous transfers of Ray from the Shelby County Jail to the Nashville prison, several carloads of state law enforcement officers were employed.

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

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