

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Asks New Trial in King Murder

James Earl Ray today asked for a new trial under Tennessee's Post Conviction Act, renewing his contention that he had been "pressured" into pleading guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In the petition for a writ of habeas corpus, filed in the criminal court clerk's office, Ray asked the court to order the warden of Brushy Mountain Prison at Petros, Lewis Tallett, to return him to Memphis for a hearing into the legality of his restraint.

Ray asked that he be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea and be granted a new trial on a plea of not guilty.

The petition was filed by Ray's present attorneys, Richard J. Ryan of Memphis and J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga. With them at the time was Ray's brother, Jerry Ray of St. Louis.

A hearing is expected to be

set in about 30 days or so, after the state has an opportunity to file its answer to the pleadings.

Ray is not likely to be present, however, since the initial hearing will be concerned with the merits of the allegations and whether a full hearing, with the defendant present, should be granted.

Ray charged his rights and effective representation by counsel were violated at his guilty plea trial before the late Judge W. Preston Battle March 10, 1968, when he was sentenced to 99 years.

He claimed his two prior attorneys, Arthur Haynes of Birmingham and Percy Foreman of Houston, entered into contracts with author William Bradford Huie while he was in the Shelby County Jail awaiting trial.

Under the agreements, he was to sell the publishing

and movie rights concerning his case "for substantial sums of money."

Ray maintained the contracts established "a conflict of interest" between himself and his lawyers, that there would have been no story or

movie to sell if he had been allowed to take the witness stand where his testimony would have brought out "all facts in this case" and become a matter of public record.

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