

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Pressure' Cited In Plea By Ray

Attorneys for James Earl Ray yesterday sought a new trial for their client, who pleaded guilty March 10, 1969, to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was sentenced to 99 years in the state penitentiary.

In their petition filed in the Criminal Court Clerk's office, attorneys Richard J. Ryan of Memphis and J. B. Stoner of Savannah, Ga., said Ray had been "pressured" into the guilty pleas by his former lawyers, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham and Percy Foreman of Houston.

They also maintained he had been denied due process of law and that a conflict of interest arose between Ray and his attorneys over movie and publishing rights to the story of his case.

Ray asked that his guilty plea be withdrawn and that he be allowed to enter a plea of not guilty. He made the request under Tennessee's Post Conviction Act.

In outlining Ray's arrangements with author William Bradford Huie to tell his story, the petition charged "that the said prior attorneys (Mr. Hanes and Mr. Foreman) actually represented William Bradford Huie and their own financial interests and not his."

Ray claimed Mr. Foreman told him he would be executed if his case was ever brought to trial and urged him to plead guilty because he could be pardoned "in about two years if he kept his mouth shut in the prison because he knew who the next governor would be."

The suit claims Mr. Foreman told Ray he "must not take the witness stand in his expected trial because if he did take the witness stand then he (Mr. Huie) would have no book."

"Petitioner would have no story to sell and no movies with publishing rights to convey if he were allowed to take the witness stand; that such an action on his part would allow all facts in this cause to become a matter of public record for the free use of all," the petition said.

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

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

4/14/70

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

GORDON HANNA

Title:

Character:

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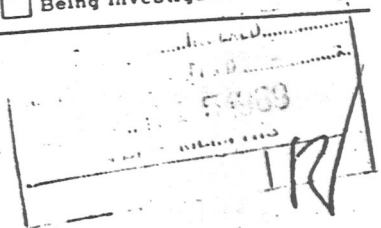
Classification:

Submitting Office:

MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

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