

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Asked For Dismissal Of Ray's Motion For Relief

The attorney general's office yesterday asked the court to strike down a motion filed by attorneys for James Earl Ray, who charged his chances for a negotiated settlement of his case had been undermined.

The motion filed by the attorneys for the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. charged that Ray's attorney at the time, Percy Foreman, said he wouldn't negotiate with the attorney general's office because he didn't want such a settlement, but then did negotiate with the trial judge.

Ray charged that when Judge W. Preston Battle in fact entered negotiations, it removed his chance for a fair determination by the judge on whether the sentence worked out was just.

Ray contended he was "pressured" into accepting the 99-year prison sentence and was threatened by Mr. Foreman into accepting the guilty plea and the sentence.

In the motion filed by the attorney general's office yesterday after officials had talked to Foreman, the state "specifically and categorically denied" defense charges that Judge Battle violated judicial ethics when he entered negotiations with Foreman.

The state also asked that the motion for post-conviction relief be dismissed because Ray's rights under neither the state constitution nor the United States Constitution were violated.

One of Ray's attorneys, Richard J. Ryan, said that he and Washington attorney Bernard Fensterwald would seek "to have Ray brought back to Memphis for a full evidentiary hearing."

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

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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