

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Court Rejects Hays' Claim

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — (AP) — The State Supreme Court today affirmed a lower court ruling prohibiting a special investigator hired by James Earl Ray from possessing a rifle and automobile belonging to Ray.

Renfro T. Hays, one-time investigator for the confessed slayer of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, alleges two officials of Shelby County refused to return to Hays a 1966 Ford Mustang and a 30.06-caliber rifle used by Ray.

The county's law court earlier had granted a demurrer in Hays' suit against county attorney general Phil

M. Canale and county criminal court clerk J. A. Blackwell.

The State Supreme Court ruled that Hays' attorney failed to file an appeal bond after the demurrer was sustained, thereby precluding grounds for an appeal to the state high court.

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