

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Escape Attempt By Ray Disclosed

PETROS, Tenn., Feb. 14. — before King was killed in with the exception of freedom of the institution.

(UPI) — James Earl Ray, the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., bungled another escape attempt landing him back in a disciplinary cell at the maximum security Brushy Mountain State Prison.

The attempt, revealed by Corrections Commissioner Mark Luttrell late Monday, was made Feb. 5.

"He was found crawling to or from a place where he could work and not be seen," Luttrell said.

Warden Robert Moore said Ray had acquired a makeshift handsaw and was attempting to saw a hole through the ceiling of a room adjoining an auditorium where inmates were watching a movie.

The lights came on too soon, Moore said, and the guards saw Ray slipping out of his secluded work area.

Last May, Ray concocted an elaborate plan to escape that would have led him through a maze of steam tunnels to freedom.

But that attempt also went sour and nearly ended in death for the confessed killer of the civil rights worker. The tunnel Ray chose was heated to 400 degrees by the pipelines.

The warden said that even if Ray had been successful in his attempt to saw his way through the ceiling, he faced several more obstacles in his route to freedom. Ray would have had to then punch a hole through the roof of the building, Moore said, then there is a 40 foot drop to the ground that would have deposited Ray within feet of a guard tower.

"We think there might have been some help in the population working with him," Moore said. "But there is no way to implicate another prisoner. Ray was caught alone and he's not telling anything."

When Ray was confined in other prisons, he managed several escapes. One of those escapes set him free shortly

Memphis in April, 1968.

Moore said Ray went before the prison's disciplinary board on Feb. 9 and was sentenced to 30 days in a disciplinary cell. That means Ray will have no privileges other than to receive his meals and mail.

"Then depending on his behavior," Moore said, "he faces up to another 30 days in administrative restriction." Administrative restriction restores an inmate's privileges

"This is his own thing," Moore said. "I don't think he'll ever quit trying to figure a way out of here. You know he escaped four times from the Missouri prison."

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

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