

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# State High Court Refuses Ray Appeal

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Tenn., Bureau

JACKSON, Tenn., May 1. — The Tennessee Supreme Court refused here Monday to hear an appeal for a new trial by James Earl Ray, whos is serving 99 years in prison for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The panel of judges gave no explanation as to why it would not hear the case.

Ray was seeking a review

by the judges of a Feb. 24 ruling by the state Court of Criminal Appeals upholding a previous ruling by Shelby County Criminal Court Judge William A. Williams refusing the new trial.

The appeals judges in that decision held that the contentions in Ray's appeal did not rise to constitutional proportions, concern constitutional rights waived by his guilty plea, did not provide grounds enough for reversing Judge

Williams' decision, or have already been ruled upon.

A new trial based on other grounds previously had been refused by the state court.

Ray, 41, who contended his plea "was not freely and willfully given," pleaded guilty to the March 10, 1969 murder of Dr. King, before the late Shelby County Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle.

He reportedly has attempted to escape from Brushy Mountain Prison twice.

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

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