

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Judge Gives State 20 Days In Ray Case

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — A federal judge gave Tennessee 20 days on Thursday to show cause why the man convicted of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. should not be released from prison.

The move came two days after attorneys for James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to the murder in exchange for a 99-year sentence, filed a bulky petition seeking a federal court review of the case.

The petition, complete with photographs and affidavits, was filed in U.S. district court here after Ray exhausted state court appeals, all of which were unsuccessful.

Ray's new attorneys claim in the petition that he was coerced into the guilty plea by former attorneys Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman. The petition states that without the guilty plea author William Bradford Huie would not be able to write the exclusive story of the assassination and they would lose money.

Prison Warden Jim Rose and Attorney General David Pack were given 20 days to show cause because "of the complexity of the case." The petition asked for an evidentiary hearing within five days.

The hearing will be held before Judge L. Clure Morton.

"In short," Ray's petition said, "Ray's guilt was determined by the judge, the defense counsel and outside pressures, but not by a jury or the admission of Ray himself."

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