

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State Opposes Ray On New Trial Bid

NASHVILLE, Dec. 20. — (UPI) — The state sought Wednesday to block a new trial for James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The state asked federal court to vacate a show cause motion filed in behalf of Ray. The motion, which was filed as a writ of habeas corpus, sought the new trial on the grounds that he was coerced into pleading guilty to King's murder in exchange for a 99-year prison term.

The state also asked for a copy of Ray's lengthy petition to more adequately prepare an answer.

Dist. Judge L. Clure Morton has not ruled on the state's requests.

Ray's motion was filed in federal court earlier this month after he exhausted appeals in state courts. Ray claims that attorneys Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman coerced him into the guilty plea so the story of the assassination could be sold to author William Bradford Huie.

The petition said that Ray had never had a trial on the murder charge. "In short," it 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."

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

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

12/21/72

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

GORDON HANNA

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

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