

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court To Study Appeal By Ray

The U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati yesterday took under advisement arguments on James Earl Ray's appeal of a district court decision denying his writ of habeas corpus.

Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to the 1968 murder of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but has since renounced the guilty plea. He is serving a 99-year sentence in the State Penitentiary in Nashville.

His attorney, Bernard Fensterwald Jr., told the Cincinnati judges that Ray was "brownbeaten and bribed . . . and deprived of effective counsel all the way down the line." Therefore, he said, Ray is entitled to an evidentiary hearing, reopening the case.

U. S. Dist. Judge L. Clure Morton of Nashville denied Ray's writ of habeas corpus last March, refusing his request for the hearing.

Asst. State Atty. Gen. Henry Haile argued the case "is conclusive on the issue of Ray's voluntary admission of guilt."

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

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COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 10-10-73

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GORDON HANNA

Title:

Character:

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Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

44-1987 Sub C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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OCT 11 1973	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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